

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

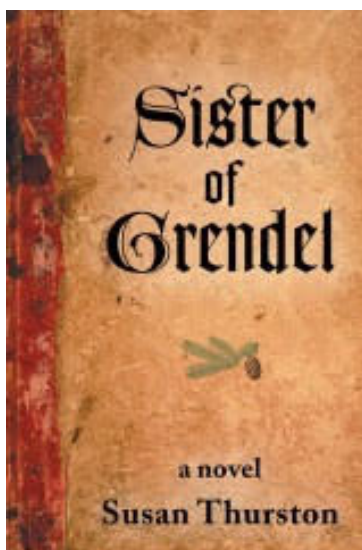
St. David's Society News



Join us on 23 April 2016
for a Happy Afternoon –
a *Prynhawn Llawn* – a lyrical celebration,
with plenty of time for treats and visiting

APRIL 2016

Volume 37, Issue 2



Susan Thurston, a Minnesota-Welsh writer, will read selections from her work, including her just released novel, pictured above. And, singer-songwriter Tim Gustafson will sing folk songs with and for us.



On Saturday, April 23, from 2–4 p.m., readers will want to be at University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. SE, Dinkeytown in Minneapolis.

This is the same venue as the Christmas event, only this time we will gather in the Chapel on the first floor. (Plenty free parking just off the back door, the one attendees should enter, and from there you will head down the hallway to your left for the Chapel. *Further directions included on page 4 of newsletter.*)

The program will feature selections from folk music and contemporary literature, hymn singing, and other sorts of word play. As a line in *Sister of Grendel* puts it: “The world is full of song.”

One of our guest performers will be Susan Thurston, a local writer and poet, who will present selections from her new novel *Sister of Grendel*. Susan grew up in the farming community of Lake Crystal, Minnesota, and learned four-part harmony as a child attending the Welsh Presbyterian churches near Cambria and Judson – areas dominated by Welsh-Americans, including her family with their English and Welsh origins. Thurston’s novel reimagines the ancient epic *Beowulf* through the eyes of the defeated Grendel’s sister Rehsotis; the siblings are Anathians, possessing refined language and intelligence, great physical strength, and longevity.

Our other primary guest performer will be Tim Gustafson, a member of Fireroast Mountain Boys. Tim plays lead guitar, bass guitar, and harmonica for the Boys, and banjo in his spare time. He earned a doctorate with a focus on medieval literature. Through English studies and seminary work, Tim has long been linked to the singing of folk tunes from the British Isles. He has performed with a number of local bands, and has recorded five CDs – including one composed with young summer campers and released as “Pot Lasagna and Other Tasty Menu Items, by Gus and the Canoe Lodge Band.”

Hot tea will be ready for singers, listeners and speakers. If you are able, please bring something sweet or savory for the treat table. Signs or welcoming faces will tell you where to take these and where to gather for the afternoon’s festivities.

The Well-Read Dragons will do some digging at April book gathering, and then some world travelling with the June selection by travel writer Jan Morris:

Strong feelings will certainly be expressed about the subject and writing style of *The Dig* by Cynan Jones at the Dragons’ April meeting. The searing novel is built on the interlocking fates of a badger-baiter and a farmer struggling through lambing season. Jones writes of loss and isolation with carefulness. A good read for a good discussion.

Gathering again on June 4, that Saturday’s focus will be on *Contact! A Book of Encounters* by multi-genre Welsh writer Jan Morris. In this collection, Morris reflects back on over half a century of meeting interesting people on six contents.

See the Dragon’s webpage for timing and location details: <http://z.umn.edu/dragons>.

Society members and friends celebrate patron saint's death and life in creative ways

The St. David's Society Board members planned a lively and creative celebration of the tradition date of St. David's death.

After entering the Itasca Ballroom, attendees were directed to visit any (or all) of four "adventure stations" focusing on Welsh culture. Featured were Roald Dahl, whose centenary is this year, Welsh Rugby in light of the 6 Nations competition in February and March, traditional and contemporary Welsh music, and sites within Wales' 2016 Year of Adventure. The slides and informational materials for each station were created by Janice Barbee and Ilene Alexander.

After the meal, those present were pleased to enjoy a pleasant and knowledgeable program by the Crosstown Band, led by Preston Weber.

As part of the intermission those who purchased raffle tickets for a basket of Welsh goods awaited the good news of winning: That winner was Melvyn Jones, who helped launch *Sgwrs*, the conversation group that meets one Sunday afternoon each month.



All photos on these pages by Ilene Alexander.

Preston Weber, conductor of the Crosstown Band, charmed the audience with his comments on the band's music and with his direction of Hen Wlad fy Nhadau, which we all sang. David Evan Thomas had arranged "Prelude on Rhosymedre" (Vaughan Williams) for the ensemble as well. We wish Mr. Weber well in his internship in Ireland this spring, which he'll complete as part of his work as a Music graduate student at the University of Minnesota.



Melvyn Jones won the raffle. His prizes included this apron sporting the Welsh phrase "Paned?" [Cuppa?], a stemmed glass, a photograph from outside Carrog, North Wales, and a sampling of spirits from Penderyn.

If you were not able to attend the luncheon and to pick up your 2016 directory there, please contact membership chairperson, Judith Evans Warner if you would like one.

Call (763) 522-1612 after 5 p.m.
or
email judithewarner@aol.com.

(Also, if you want to glimpse the luncheon program and activity stations, the materials - including a music playlist - are stored at z.umn.edu/std16.

Janice Barbee, a member of the Board, shared the task of emceeing the event.



IN MEMORIAM: Enid Griffin

Enid Frances Larson Griffin, who died at age 86 on Jan. 16, 2016, was proud to reside at the 1928 home built by her parents, growing up and living the majority of her life in the St. Anthony Park area of St. Paul. She was a student at Guttersen Elementary School there and graduated from Murray High School in 1947.

Enid attended Yankton College in South Dakota and spent time in Germany working to help rebuild the country's infrastructure damage suffered during World War II.

Politically active, Enid championed the fight for the disenfranchised, working women, home midwifery and much more.

Enid extensively worked within local county and state social services, taking great pride in her brief service as a prison chaplain for the Ramsey County Jail. She was active in the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Sons of Norway and the St. David's Society.

She was preceded in death by her loving and patient husband of more than 60 years, Russell. Enid is survived by four daughters, Fran (Dan) Bebernes, Bonnie (Rick) Shoebottom, Millie (Brian) Webb and Lu Griffin (Mike Hesano); four sons, Al (Nancy), Glenn (Cheryl), Jim (Jenna) and Ben (Stephanie Hughes); 20 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Sat., April 9, 1 p.m., at First Christian Church, 610 W. 28th St., Minneapolis.

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Members Margaret Provost and Mary Mergenthal visited during intermission.



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Minnesota Welsh Cheer on Wales in Rugby Matches

On two Saturdays in March, a delegation from the St. David's Society met at Kieran's Irish Pub to cheer the Welsh team in live broadcasts of two 6 Nations matches. For those of us on this side of the pond, these were early morning matches – 10 am for the match with England, played at Twickenham, and 8:30 am for the match with Italy.

Our team almost beat England, losing 25–21. Later the Welsh team won against Italy by a wide 67–14 margin, which made for a very happy crowd in both the local pub and in the Cardiff home stadium.

In the Wales-England match, it seemed everyone in the pub was cheering for Wales, whether they were Welsh or not.

In the end, England won the Grand Slam after winning each of its 5 matches. Wales placed second in the tournament, with three wins, one draw, and that one painful loss to England.

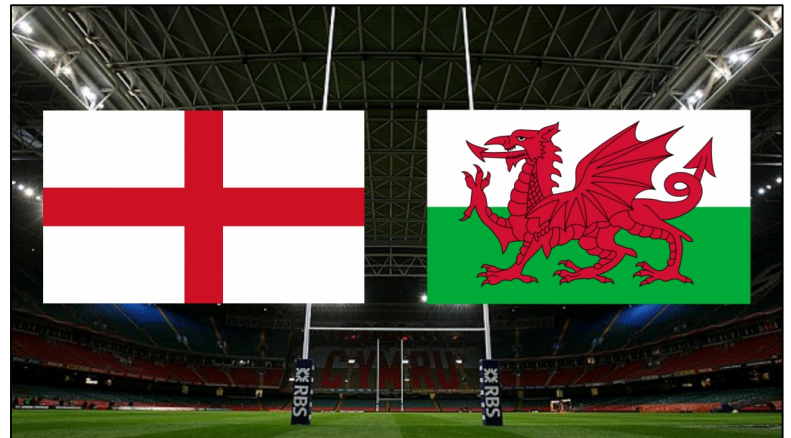




Photo by Ilene Alexander.

Planting pot near Bridgend Flannel Mill, South Wales.

Dragon News

News of Society members & friends



David Conradi-Jones was sent a get well card.



Please let Sunshine Chair, Betty Kinsey, know when you know of a member who is ill or has suffered a loss, or is rejoicing over a birth, marriage or something else. You can reach her at (612) 671-7587 or <mailto:mnbkinsey@hotmail.com>.

Prefer to receive the newsletter online?

Notify our membership chair at judithewarner@aol.com.

She will notify you when the next issue is available on the Society's web page. Help the Society save printing & mailing costs. Plus you'll see photos in color!

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UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE – GETTING THERE

From the North Take I-35W South from I-694. Take the exit at 4th St. SE. At the first light, turn right, take an immediate right on 8th Ave. Proceed 4 blocks to 8th Street, turn right again, crossing over I-35W. Proceed to 12th Avenue, turn right. Now, turn left on 7th Street and look for the church on your right.

From the East Take I-94 West to the Huron Blvd. exit. Follow Huron Blvd. to University Ave.; turn left. You will be moved over to the right and onto the one-way 4th Street, passing the big sports arenas. When you get to 15th Ave. SE, turn right. Go two blocks to 6th Street; turn left. Go two blocks and see the church on the right.

From the South Take I-35W northbound. Follow it on across the Mississippi River bridge. Take the first exit, University Ave. Turn right on University Ave. Make an immediate turn left on 10th Ave. SE. Proceed north past 4th, 5th, & 6th Streets; turn right on 7th Street. You will see the church on your right after a short 2 ½ blocks.

From the West Take I-394 eastward into the city. Take the exit for east-bound I-94. Pass through the tunnel and favor the left lanes, as you take the left exit for I-35W about a mile after you leave the tunnel. Take I-35W northbound. Follow it on across the Mississippi River bridge. Take the first exit, University Ave. Turn right on University Ave. Make an immediate turn left on 10th Ave. SE. Proceed north past 4th, 5th, & 6th Streets; turn right on 7th. You will see the church and parking lot on your right after a short 2 ½ blocks.

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Pastures outside of Llangurig, Wales. Would that readers could see the verdant green. Remember, online viewers can, indeed, see the green.

Photo taken at the Mid Wales Arts Centre, outside Caresws in mid-Wales.

Facebook Users

Please send a short e-mail to Judith Evans Warner at judithewarner@aol.com to let her know that you are on Facebook so she can “friend” you. Our events will be posted on the Society’s Facebook page and you will get detailed information via Facebook as well as through our newsletter.

You can also learn the latest news about St. David’s events via a regularly updated blog post: z.umn.edu/tempstds.

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the St. David’s Society or the St. David’s Foundation. Gifts can remember or honor a Welsh friend or relative.

You are also encouraged to remember the St. David’s Society or Foundation in your will.

For information, please contact Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506.

Archivist — Ilene Alexander

Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey, 612.871.7587

Investments — Ron Adams

Membership — Judith Evans Warner, 763.522.1612

Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthall, 651.644.1650

Officers of St. David’s Foundation — Betty Kinsey, Bob Minish, and Ron Adams.

President Judith Evans Warner, 763.522.1612, ‘17 judithewarner@aol.com

Vice-President Ilene Alexander, 612.237.6121, ‘17 ilene.dawn@gmail.com

Secretary — position open —

Treasurer Sara (Sally) Evans, 678.485.7306, ‘17 stpaulsally@gmail.com

Directors Suzanne Ackermann, 651.429.0636, ‘17 suzyack110@gmail.com

Janice Barbee, 763.544.9396, ‘17 janicegwb@yahoo.com

Wendy Worner - (651) 436-7420, ‘16 wworner@earthlink.net

Please...when attending St. David’s Society events, eschew cologne, aftershave, etc., to be respectful of members with fragrance allergies and to allow their attendance/enjoyment.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE ALL SOCIETY EVENTS FRAGRANCE-FREE.

Diolch yn fawr.

St. David's Society of Minnesota
4200 45th Ave. N., #302
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

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www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

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Calendar of Coming Events

Well-Read Dragons — Sat., April 2, 11:30 a.m. Davanni's in Arden Hills, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., 55126. Book of month: *The Dig* by Cynan Jones. (Looking ahead: 4 June will be the reading of Jan Morris' *Contact! A Book of Encounters*.) For more information, please contact dae29cj@gmail.com.

Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh language conversation] — Sun., April 10, 1 p.m. *Note new time this month only*. Home of Melvyn Jones, 1439 Grantham St., St. Paul, 55108 (near Hwy. 280 and Como Ave.). Please address questions about the group to Laurel at llawryf@yahoo.com; about directions to Melvyn at (651) 645-1245.

Prynhawn Llawn and Gymanfa Ganu — Sat., April 23, 2–4 p.m. University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. SE, Dinkytown, Mpls. Ample free parking behind building. Enter from door facing parking lot. For more information, please contact us via stdavidsofmn@gmail.com.

Pub conversation — for May, June, July and August meetings, the group is looking for a new central location. To be sure you get the announcements, please contact: stdavidsofmn@gmail.com.

ALL WELCOME TO EACH AND EVERY ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY EVENT!

**If you need a large-print version of the newsletter,
please call Mary Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650.**