

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

Author! Author! 2017
Saturday, May 20, 1–3 p.m.

**Emma Krumbee's Soda Fountain
and Ice Cream Parlor**

Come one, come all to the Second Annual "Author! Author!" Afternoon, and join us in conversation with and about the poetry and writings of this year's Welsh-American author, Lake Crystal native, Susan Thurston. A prolific writer and educator, Susan's work has been published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Los Angeles Review, Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*, Minnesota Monthly, Fox Cry Review, Rag Mag and several anthologies.



Susan Thurston when she spoke last year.

Since her novel *Sister of Grendel* was featured at last year's Prynawn Llawen, she will read from her poetry in May.

To familiarize yourself with Susan and her writing before we meet, go to: www.goodreads.com/author/susanthurstonwrites.com.

If you didn't get a copy last year, you can purchase a copy of *Sister of Grendel* on Amazon (www.amazon.com/Susan-Thurston/e/B01CH3EC3S) and from The Black Hat Press (<http://www.lulu.com/us/en/shop/susan-thurston/sister-of-grendel-a-novel/paperback/product-22539537.html>). Several copies of *Sister of Grendel* and *Wild Bone Season* (her chapbook) will also be available for purchase on May 20.

We have purposely chosen a location and time of day to allow members of both the Minnesota Welsh Society and the St. David's Society of Minnesota to attend the reading, as Susan has roots in both the Mankato and Twin Cities areas.



MAY 2017

Volume 29, Issue 2

The event will be held in the Soda Fountain and Ice Cream Parlor section of Emma

Krumbee's General Store, 311 Enterprise Dr. E., Belle Plaine, MN 56011. (U.S. Hwy 169 & Co. Rd. This is on the other side of the parking lot from Emma Krumbee's Restaurant.

If you'd like to eat lunch at Emma's before our gathering, please notify Sally Evans (stpaulsally@gmail.com, or 1.678.485.7306) by May 17. Sally will notify the restaurant manager to ensure that space is set aside for you and your group.

Whether you eat lunch at home, on the way, or at Emma's, plan to arrive at the General Store Ice Cream Shoppe by 1 p.m., so there will be time to choose a beverage and treat...pie, cake, cupcakes, ice cream, other pastries, coffee and tea will all be available! This will also give you time to visit and meet new friends before Susan begins her conversation with us.



Whether you live in the Metro area or Mankato/Lake Crystal area, if you would like to attend but need a ride, please contact Sally Evans (contact info above). No promises are made, but we'll do the best we can to see that any who wish to attend, are able to do so.

St. David's Day celebration remembers memory of Welsh icon Meredydd Evans

The St. David's Society of Minnesota celebrated St. David's Day 2017 with a noon meal on Sat., March 4, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Northeast Minneapolis.

As guests arrived and checked in, they could hear recordings of Meredydd singing Welsh folk songs, purchase Welsh CDs, music and books on sale, and purchase raffle tickets for two large baskets of Welsh items.

Mae Howells Anderson offered the table grace. After the meal, attention turned more fully to the life and legacy of the 20th century Welsh giant, Dr. Meredydd Evans, born in Tanygrisiau, Gwynedd, more recently of Cwm Ystwyth, Ceredigion. After hearing a recording of Merêd and his wife, Phyllis Kinney, sing "Robin Goch" ["Red Robin on the Doorstep"], Ilene Alexander gave some introductions and Mary Mergenthal shared bits of her personal friendship with Merêd and Phyllis, including humorous bits from their short visit to St. Paul years ago.

David Evan Thomas played his new arrangement of "Cyfri'r Geifr" ["Counting the Goats"] and spoke about the couple's important role as music creators and collectors.

Donald Barbee sang "Ffarwel I Langyfelach Lon" [Soldier's Farewell] a capella, followed by an interesting presentation by Jean Greenwood on Merêd's importance as a social activist.

Based on the new book "*Cynheiliaid y Gân: Bearers of Song*," edited by Sally Harper and Wyn Thomas, a bilingual collection of essays honoring the memory of Merêd and Phyllis, Janice Barbee spoke of the "Song of Language."

Part II of the program was by guest Cai ab Alun who linked the traditional Welsh music Merêd and Phyllis collected to his experiences living and making music in Wales. Currently residing in Elmore, Minn., with his partner and toddler son, he spoke fervently of Meredydd's importance for the ongoing use of Welsh, especially of Merêd's campaigns, even as he aged. Cai also stated that he worried that no one had yet stepped in to take Merêd's place, risking Welsh use stagnating.

Cai sang songs brought to prominence by Merêd: "Bachgen bach o dincer" [A little tinker lad];



Cai ab Alun demonstrated the Welsh pibgorn at the St. David's Day celebration of the Society on March 4.

"Y cariad cyntaf" ["First love]; and "Beth yw'n haf i mi" [What is summer to me?]. He sang with his guitar and also demonstrated the Welsh pibgorn.

To close the program, Laurel Bradshaw, who works with language learners in the area, read "Cofio Merêd," written by Tecwyn Vaughan Jones for the papur bro in Tanygrisiau, the town where Merêd was born and lived as a child.

The text relates to the dedication of a slate marker for "Bryn Mair," the house where he lived. Laurel also read the translation of that text, a project of the local Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Conversation], accomplished with her assistance.

Bob Minish, a former president of the Society, presented an Outstanding Service Award to member Ron Adams, long the treasurer of the Society, one of the initiators of the Society Investment Fund, and ongoing monitor of those funds.



Ron Adams, longtime treasurer and investor for the Society, received an Outstanding Service Award.

Photos by Ilene Alexander.

Potluck picnic, fun and games, elections of officers/Board members, annual reports...all on Sat., June 24...Rosebrook Park in Roseville 11:30–2:30 p.m.

Rosebrook Park, where we've held our picnic and annual meeting the last two years, is at 2590 Fry, Roseville, 55113. It is west of Snelling Ave., south of Co. Rd. C., east of Fairview Ave.

Traveling on Fairview, turn east on Oakcrest (*at residence with high wooden fence around yard*) until you reach Fry. Turn left and you will soon reach the park.

Traveling on Snelling, turn west on Co. Rd. C. Either drive to Fairview and use the direx above, or find a way to turn around in the shopping center lot on your right (Lunds/Byerlys) so you can get back on Co. Rd. C, heading east. Get into the right lane. Just before Snelling, turn right onto the service road. Pass Sunset Living Center, then continue onto Oakcrest. You'll reach Fry quickly. Turn right.

Traveling on Co. Rd. C, follow the last part of the directions above.

Well-Read Dragons report

The group met on April Fool's Day to discuss *Land of My Neighbours* by Barry Pilton. It claims to be a farce set in the Welsh valley of Abernant, but more than one member didn't find much comical about it. Some were disturbed by Pilton's lack of respect for his characters. One member, who had read the book but was unable to attend, apparently, would have disagreed with those present. That would have made discussion more lively, as it usually is.

For August 5, the group will read and discuss *Addlands* by Tom Bullough. The story takes place on a farm in Radnorshire over seven decades, WWII to the present. It includes family feuds, details of farm life and lovely description of the land around Builth Wells.

Visitors are always welcome, whether or not they've been able to read the book. The group meets in the **Party Room at Davanni's, 3673 Lexington Ave., Arden Hills 55126**, not far south of 694 (*check for construction beforehand if using 694*) and just south of Cub foods.

Also at the August meeting, we will be making choices for October–August 2018. The group meets bi-monthly.

Questions? Contact David Conradi-Jones, dae29cj@gmail.com or 612.247.1107.

Please bring:

A dish to pass for the potluck lunch;
Plates, tableware and beverages will be supplied by the Society.

Rosebrook Park has a refrigerator with top freezer, stove, and microwave, all available to us.

Board and Officer positions open:

Secretary: 2-year term;

Board positions:

2 positions with 2-year terms.

If you are interested, have questions, or have a suggestion of whom might serve, please contact Ilene Alexander, stdavidsofmm@gmail.com, 612.237.6121.

An invitation from Wisconsin

The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin extends a special invitation to our Welsh friends to attend our annual gymanfa weekend on the first weekend of May.

Our event, with a pan-Celtic flavor this year, takes place on May 5–7 at Christ Lutheran Church in Spring Green, home of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesen Welsh Center.

There is a pub night on Friday, and Saturday events include a tour of the cemetery and grounds of the Welsh chapel associated with the Lloyd-Jones clan (Frank Lloyd Wright's family), a Welsh flea market, eisteddfod, prynhawn llawen, catered dinner, and concert.

The Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu starts at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Please see website (<http://wggaw.org>) for more details.

We would love to welcome out-of-staters to our festival in this lovely part of the country!

Hwyl fawr,

Dan Proud, for the WGGAW Board of Trustees

Scholarships available

Scholarships are available from the St. David's Foundation. The newly constituted board of directors of the St. David's Foundation of Minnesota held an organizational meeting recently.

Betty Kinsey, who has been Secretary and a board member since the Foundation was formed, continues in those positions. The St. David's Society Board elected Bob Minish as President to succeed the late Don Anderson. Ron Adams was elected to serve as Treasurer after Mae Anderson resigned.

The most recent scholarships awarded by the Foundation were two \$250 scholarships for two St. David's members who attended Cwrs Cymraeg in 2015. The Foundation's assets, which currently are approximately \$8500 are invested primarily in CD's. At current interest rates the Foundation's ability to provide scholarship funds from the interest it receives will be very limited. The Board is considering shifting \$5000 that is in one CD when it matures into a conservative equity investment in a mutual fund. That could significantly increase the amount available for future scholarships.

If any members of the Society have opinions about whether the Foundation should invest \$5000 in a mutual fund, please contact any member of the Foundation's Board at the mailing or email address listed in the St. David's directory.

A few quiz questions about Wales

Please determine your answers without Google! Use that to get more details later.

1. Which American president (with Welsh roots) sent Lewis & Clark on their expeditions?
a. Madison; b. Monroe; c. Adams; d. Jefferson
2. Where are many bilingual Welsh-Spanish?
a. Andorra; b. Columbia; c. Argentina; d. Paraguay
3. Hillary Clinton's father, Hugh, of Welsh origin, is buried here among Welsh people.
a. Philadelphia; b. Little Rock; c. Scranton
4. This Welsh pirate was knighted in 1680 and made Governor of Jamaica.
a. Davey Jones; b. Bluebeard; c. Captain Kidd;
d. Henry Morgan

Answers on page 7.

Where/when/why to donate to the St. David's Society Foundation

The St. David's Foundation awards scholarships to members or children/grandchildren of members who desire to learn more about their heritage or contribute to its preservation.

Such endeavors include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance at one of the North American Welsh language courses, Cwrs Cymraeg, sponsored by Cymdithas Madog [Society of (Prince) Madog]; or Welsh Heritage Week. Both are week-long courses that focus on language and culture;
- Attendance at NAFOW, the North American Festival of Wales, if such attendance would not be possible without financial assistance. NAFOW is always held over Labor Day weekend at various venues in the U.S. and Canada. NAFOW 2017 will be held Aug. 31–Sept. 3 in Rochester, N.Y. (*See calendar on back page.*);
- Research in Wales.

**To donate to the
St. David's Society Foundation,
contact Ron Adams,
3680 Independence Ave. S. #12,
St. Louis Park, MN 55426,
cymraeg@comcast.net, for application and
further information.**

**Why donate to the St. David's Society?
The St. David's Society uses donations to aid
the general fund, which is used for room
rental for events, production costs for
this newsletter, and other needs.**

**To donate to the St. David's Society of
Minnesota, send a check or money order
to the Society Treasurer:
Sally Evans,
10027 Portland Ave. S.,
Bloomington, MN 55429.
For info, contact Sally at
stpaulsally@gmail.com.**

Arise, Sir Bryn Terfel

Welsh opera star, Bryn Terfel, was knighted by the Queen March 7

From North Wales Daily Post, by Tony Jones

Opera star Sir Bryn Terfel has been knighted by the Queen for a glittering career that has seen him acclaimed by critics and audiences across the globe.

The Welsh bass-baritone, known for his signature roles of Figaro in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and the title role in Verdi's *Falstaff*, was honoured during a Buckingham Palace investiture ceremony.

Sir Bryn has lived up to the promise first recognised on a national scale when he won the 1989 Cardiff Singer of the World Lieder prize.

He said after the ceremony: "In the past 15 years I've been given a CBE, the Queen's medal for music, I was the second recipient of that, and now the knighthood, which is incredible, it shows how dedicated you have been within your profession."

It's only on days like this you feel like a tiny, tiny spot within the lake of (what) people do for their country, it's amazing."

He added: "It's a very emotional morning, hopefully I can use it to be even more influential within Wales with music and I look forward to the next ten years."

Sir Bryn, from Pantglas, Gwynedd, was born in 1965, and has been singing on stage at eisteddfodau from the age of four.

He studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and made his stage debut with the Welsh National Opera in 1990.

The renowned singer has appeared in all the major opera houses of the world performing music as diverse as Mozart and Wagner, Puccini and Stravinsky, Verdi and Britten.

Looking back at the highlights of his career, Sir Bryn said: "I did a couple of series of "Sweeney Todd" with Emma Thompson the actress, we did concerts



Queen Elizabeth knighted Welsh bass-baritone on March 7, 2017. He now can rightfully be called Sir Bryn!

in New York and here in London at the English National Opera.

"It's undoubtedly a highlight because it's a piece I love to perform—but to perform it with Emma, it's astounding how much of an artist she is and dedicated and hardworking.

"I did the (Wagner's) *Ring Cycle* here at the Royal Opera House and at the Metropolitan Opera, which for my voice type, bass-baritone, is by any yardstick the longest roles written for the bass-baritone voice, so that was an Everest for me." The opera star, whose repertoire also includes folk songs and show tunes, will be appearing at the Royal Opera House's production of Wagner's comic opera *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*, which opens on Saturday.

He added: "Singing with Shirley Bassey at the opening of the Rugby World Cup in Cardiff was also a highlight.

"The power of rugby in Wales is quite astounding and 80,000 people singing the Welsh national anthem in harmony is a sight to behold both visually and orally."

New leader for Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center

Gwenith (Closs) Colgrove has assumed the role of President of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre in Wymore, Neb. Gwenith was born and raised in Wymore, Nebraska, on a family farm owned by her family since 1878. She is very proud of being a part of the Bethel Welsh Community located south of Wymore. Gwenith's father, Ellsworth Closs, passed away in 2000 and his family dedicated the memorial gifts to support the creation of a Welsh Museum. The museum honors the heritage of many Welsh families who immigrated to the Wymore area.

Gwenith has been the featured soloist at many Welsh functions and has competed on the national level, singing in Welsh. Gwenith follows the hard work and dedication of Berwyn Jones and Martha Davies, who brought the museum to the forefront throughout the U.S. and the United Kingdom. She wants to bring the mission of the museum to local and national groups. Please plan a visit to the museum, the schoolhouse in the park and the newly erected archival building. The website for the Welsh Museum is: welshheritageproject.org. Please contact Gwenith at (402) 432-3656 or by email: gcolgrove@neb.rr.com for more information or to schedule a visit.



Gwenith Closs Colgrove

Pobl Y Paith—People of the Prairie: The Welsh in Nebraska

A 20-minute documentary film that tells the story of Welsh immigration to the Great Plains.

gpwhp@windstream.net—402-421-8192

DVDs or Blu-Ray discs available free, or watch online:

WWW.WELSHHERITAGEPROJECT.ORG

— OBITUARY — Harvey Glommen

Harvey H. Glommen, 88, of Blaine, died Jan 23, 2017. He lived his life as an expression of his love for God by loving and serving his fellow man.

He had been a faithful member of the St. David's Society for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Ina Mae Glommen; four children, Brent, Barbara, Beth and Brenda; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

His memorial service was held at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View on January 29.

Diolch yn fawr to two Minnesota Public Radio hosts

Shortly before St. David's Day, **Julie Amacher** highlighted Karl Jenkins' "Cantata Memoria: For the Children," written to remember the 116 children and 28 adults buried alive Oct. 21, 1966, when over 9,00 tons of mining debris went downhill in a landslide, burying the Pantglas Junior School.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, Karl Jenkins was commissioned to write this impressive and memorable cantata for large vocal and orchestral forces. The voices include children and adults. The stars featured include bass-baritone Bryn Terfel, soprano Elin Manahan Thomas, and harpist Catrin Finch.

Editor's note: This stunning CD is available at Target.com for a very modest price. Not available in Target stores.

Later that same week, **Lynne Warfel**, who is Welsh, played some more of that CD and remembered that when she came home from school on the day of the disaster, her grandmother was crying, because she had lived in Aberfan.

On Sat., March 4, for her weekly MOVIE MUSIC SPECIAL, Warfel played movie music with a Welsh connection, including Ben Hur: "Parade of the Charioteers"; Ben Hur: "Love Theme" (both by Kenneth Alwyn); as well as "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and "Lost Weekend: Love Theme" (both by John Williams).

Editor's note: If you're not a regular listener to KSJN, it's at 99.5 FM. There are often references to Wales and to Welsh musicians, Bryn Terfel and Catrin Finch most often, though not solely, featured.

An interesting fact, is that Catrin Finch studied with Elinor Bennett, who has visited Minnesota several times. Catrin is also the daughter-in-law of Elinor and her husband, Lord Dafydd Wigley.

They have relatives in the Lake Crystal area. Catrin was the Official Harpist to the Prince of Wales from 2000 to 2004 and is Visiting Professor at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and the Royal Academy of Music.

Summer language courses available in New York and Colorado

Cwrs Cymraeg

Cwrs Cymraeg 2017—Cwrs Y Seintiau [Welsh Course 2017—The Saints' Course] will be held July 16–23 at Siena College in Albany, N.Y. This will be the 41st year for the annual Cwrs Cymraeg sponsored by Cyfeillion Madog [Friends of (Prince) Madog].

You can find more about the cwrs, its broad levels of instruction, the language tutors coming from Wales and North America. The week is packed with language instruction at all levels, many laughs, lots of conversation and relaxation, as well as other Welsh activities, an Eisteddfod being one of them.

More info at <http://www.madog.org/gwefan/index.php/cwrs-cymraeg/cwrs-cymraeg-eleni>

Quiz answers (from p. 4)

1. Jefferson
2. Argentina
3. Scranton, Pa.
4. Henry Morgan

Welsh Heritage Week

Welsh Heritage Week 2017 will be held at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo., July 23–30. Welsh language lessons, folk dancing, clogging, hymn singing, harp lesson, Welsh literature, and more. It is sponsored by the Welsh Harp & Heritage Society of North America, Inc. For info: contact Beth Landmesser, hwyl@ptd.net or 570-814-768

Please note:

Members of the St. David's Society of Minnesota, or children or grandchildren of members, are eligible for a scholarship for either course from the St. David's Society Foundation. (See p. 4.) Contact Bob Minish, rminish@hinshawlaw.com or (763) 571-6162.

Cymdeithas Madog (sponsors of Cwrs Cymraeg) also offers scholarships, including the Naomi Mergenthal Scholarship, plus a Matching Scholarship in which Cymdeithas Madog will match whatever contribution the local Society can provide.

Membership Application or Membership Renewal form St. David's Society of Minnesota

www.stdavidsofmn.org www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

PLEASE PRINT

Name (for family memberships, please include all names)

Address (city, state, zip) _____

Primary phone number _____

E-Mail Address _____

_____ Please save postage. Notify me by email when the newsletter is available and I will view it online.

May we "Friend" you on our FaceBook Page? (We send event invitations via FaceBook and other social media sites.)

Membership Categories and 2017–'18 rates

- _____ Single Annual (July 1–June 30) \$25
_____ Partner/Family Annual (July 1–June 30) \$40
_____ Lifetime Membership:
(one-time payment) \$225

Checks payable to ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MN.

Please mail this form & your check to:

Sally Evans, Treasurer
10027 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420

Send questions to: stpaulsally@gmail.com

St. David's Society of Minnesota
992 Dayton Ave. S., Unit 2
St. Paul, MN 55104

Visit us on the web and Facebook:
www.stdavidsofmn.org
www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sun., May 14, Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Conversation], 1–4 p.m.

Note new time: More structured learning at 1 p.m.; Sgwrs at 2 p.m.

8844 Stevens Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420 Contact: Laurel Bradshaw, llawryf@yahoo.com

Sat., May 20, Author! Author!, 1:00 p.m. Soda Fountain and Ice Cream Parlour,
Emma Krumbiee's General Store, Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Hear Susan Thurston read her poetry. (*See p. 1 for more info.*)

Sun., May 21, Merlins Rest Pub, 3–6 p.m., 3601 E. Lake St., Mpls., 55406

Sun., June 3, Well-Read Dragons, 11:30, Davanni's, 3673 Lexington Ave., Arden Hills 55126.

Sat., June 24, Society potluck picnic, 11:30–2:30. Conversation, food, games
(+ *electon of officers and Board members*)

Aug. 31–Sept. 3, North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW)

Rochester, N.Y. Featuring the 86th Welsh Gymanfa Ganu and much more.

Contact Mary Morris Mergenthal for a hard-copy flier or **IHQ@thewnaa.org**