

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

It's our 100th birthday!

Be sure you're at the celebration March 6!

January 2010

Volume 32, Issue 1



The centennial St. David's Day celebration of the St. David's Society of Minnesota will be a noon plated dinner on Sat., March 6, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1330 Industrial Blvd., in Northeast Minneapolis. It's just south of I-35W on the west side of Industrial Blvd. (Exit # 22). There's parking directly outside the ballroom door on north side of hotel.

It will be a grand affair. Many thanks to Team 100, led by President Judith Evans Warner, for its work to make this a reality.

**Who could you bring as a guest?
A friend who's Welsh? Your grandchild? Your son or daughter? Someone who loves folk music, whether or not they're Welsh?**

Cost of the St. David's meal and program is \$25 for any adult entrée; \$12.50 for children 12 and under.

See yellow insert for menu choices.

Please call Mary Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650, if you need a ride. Every effort will be made to secure one. If you'd be willing to pick someone up in your area, please call Mary as well.

LATE-BREAKING NEWS:

As we went to press, it was learned that Welsh politician **Dafydd Wigley**, will likely be present to bring centenary greetings directly from Wales.

In 1974 he became one of Plaid Cymru's first three Members of Parliament elected at a General Election. He led the Plaid Cymru party from 1991–2000 and served as Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon from 1999–2003.

BE ON HAND TO WELCOME HIM TO OUR PARTY!



Following are some features of the day:

11 a.m. — Reception begins.

Registration and membership.

Harp music by Catherine Victorsen.

See page 2.

Punch, Welsh cakes and fellowship.

Archive display & historical displays.

12:30 — Banquet begins.

Emcee: Ellis Jones.

1:45 — Program begins.

Greetings from Wales

Dafydd Wigley

Featured entertainment: Tramor, Welsh folk group, Phoenix, Ariz.

See page 2.

Tramor plays for dancing by Traed y Ddraig,

our own folk dance group.

Short period of group singing.

Music provided; no need to bring hymnals.

If you'd like to stay at the hotel March 5 and/or 6, the special weekend rate is \$74.95.

You do not need to say you're with this group.

Call (612) 331-1900.



Registration is NECESSARY.

See yellow insert in this issue.

Forms must be received by February 15.

Tramor, a Welsh duo from Phoenix, will entertain you in Welsh style at our centennial St. David's meal Sat., March 6



John Good

Born in Cwmafan, Wales, surrounded by music and poetry and instructed in classical music since childhood, John is a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and poet.

He grew up in a Welsh-speaking family and will share the language and its sounds.

He received a master's degree in music composition at 21 and has practiced his trade—arranger, performer, studio musician, teacher—in Europe and the United States, ever since.

He will sing and play whistles, flutes, Welsh bagpipes, guitar and harmonica.

Of his 30 years in America, John says, "In San Francisco it was Jazz; in L.A., New Wave; and in Phoenix, well, it's back home to the songs, folk tunes and harmony of Wales and her Celtic cousins!"

John's goal is to strengthen a fledgling, Welsh cultural presence in the Southwest and North America, by creating regional focal points, where American and Welsh-born people with an interest in their heritage, culture and language would come to reconnect with their own living history.



Billy Parker

Billy Parker grew up in musical family in New Jersey. He began playing mandolin at age 12 when he realized that if he played an instrument, he could stay up as late as everybody else at the many late-night jam sessions held at his family home.

Billy is one of the best and most versatile mandolin players in the Southwest.

Since the early '80s, he has consistently worked in bluegrass bands across Montana and Oregon, entertaining with national acts such as Bill Monroe, David Bromberg and Faron Young. He moved to the Phoenix area in the mid '90s and has been in demand in the studio and on stage ever since, performing in diverse venues including bluegrass and jazz festivals across the U.S.

Billy now lives in Chandler, Ariz., with his wife Brenda and daughters, Emily and Kelsey.

***Who could you bring as a guest?
A friend who's Welsh? Your grandchild?
Your son or daughter? Someone who loves
folk music, whether or not they're Welsh?***

2

**Hear a bit of Tramor the night before, too, at Potluck & Poetry.
John will present "1500 Years of Welsh Poetry in an Hour"**



Enjoy harp music as you enter the ballroom to celebrate St. David's Day

We welcome local harpist Catherine S. Victorsen back for the March 6 St. David's luncheon this year. Some will remember her fine presentations of Welsh music in previous years.



Catherine S. Victorsen

Ms. Victorsen's teachers have included Edward Druzinsky (principal harp with the Chicago Symphony), Lucille Lawrence, Marjorie Tyre, Nancy Allen, and Frances Miller.

She was winner of the 1999 National Welsh Eisteddfod Instrumental Competition and has attended the Tanglewood and Aspen Music Festivals. Ms. Victorsen was the solo harpist of the Philharmonic Orchestra in Regensburg, Germany from 1984-1991. While in Germany, she recorded a program of Irish harp music entitled *The Songs of the Irish Harpers* with vocalist Fran O'Rourke for West German Radio in Cologne.

Ms. Victorsen maintains an active private studio, and is a professional freelance musician throughout the Twin Cities.

In case you're wondering...

- **Why do we celebrate St. David's Day?**
David is the patron saint of Wales.
He died March 1, 589.
- **Why is this year's celebration special?**
The first celebration of St. David's Day in Minneapolis was in 1910.
The Society itself was formed the following year.
- **Where will we celebrate St. David's Day?**
At the Ramada Plaza Hotel,
1330 Industrial Blvd., NE Minneapolis.
*South of I-35W on west side of Industrial Blvd.
(Formerly a Sheraton Hotel.)*
- **When will we celebrate St. David's Day?**
Saturday, March 6. Reception begins at 11 a.m.
*Harp music, punch, Welsh cakes, silent auction.
Cash bar.
Plated meal begins at 12:30.
3 menu options.*
**YOU MUST INDICATE PREFERENCE ON
ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM AND
RETURN TO TREASURER BY FEB. 15.**
- **What follows the meal?**
More opportunity to peruse the silent auction.
Music by Tramor, Welsh folk group (*see p. 2*).
Greetings from Dafydd Wigley of Wales (*p. 1*).
- **Can I attend if I've never come before?**
Of course, and feel free to bring a friend,
a cousin, a grandchild, or your uncle!

Potluck & Poetry . . .

Come to meet John Good and Billy Parker from Phoenix at the Cultural Wellness Center in Minneapolis the night before the St. David's celebration described above.

Bring a dish for the potluck meal we'll enjoy.

Please bring your own table settings, as well. Beverages provided.

After the meal and a time to chat with old and new friends, hear a most interesting presentation by John Good, "**1500 Years of Welsh Poetry in an Hour.**" *Those who had the pleasure of hearing this in Wymore, Neb., in October assure you it is intriguing. Most likely, if we so request, the men will share some music with us as well.*

Where's the Cultural Wellness Center?

1527 E. Lake St. at the corner of Bloomington Ave. and Lake St. in the Franklin Bank Building on the first floor. Please enter from the parking lot behind the building. Park anywhere that is marked "Franklin Bank Building." There is also free parking on 16th St., one block east of Bloomington and just south of Lake Street. (*Do not park in the Bloomington Lake Clinic parking lot adjacent.*)
Call CWC at (612) 721-5745, for directions if you are not able to use MapQuest using zip 55407-6700.

. . . & Pints later?

Those who wish, could move down the street later to share a pint with "the boys" at Merlins Rest, 3601 Lake St.

Floyd Lewellen celebrates 100!

Our Society is celebrating 100 years, but longtime St. David's Society member, Floyd Lewellen, got there first. His 100th birthday was November 7, 2009.

On his birthday, he celebrated at Edina Care Center, where he now resides. Only a few months ago, Floyd was still living in his home. His daughter, Fran, also a longtime Society member, lives nearby. Her brother, Foster from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, attended the party as did other friends.

A few days earlier, Minnesota Zoo volunteers held another party, celebrating not only Floyd's long life, but his long service to the zoo. He started in 1985 and stopped helping officially only last year. He had donated nearly 6,000 hours of volunteer service time over 24 years after he retired from Naegele Outdoor Advertising.

Floyd worked at the zoo's former library until it closed. After that, he helped with mailings.



Floyd Lewellen

Sing Welsh hymns at Augsburg College on St. David's Day itself

All are invited to join students and faculty of Augsburg College in Minneapolis for morning chapel at **10:20 a.m.** on **Mon., March 1.**

The entire 20-minute service will be given over to the singing of favorite Welsh hymns, with singing led by Mary Morris Mergenthal.

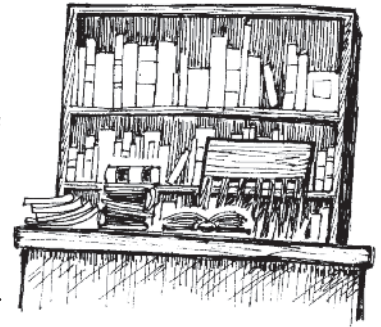
After the service, as students run to their next class, tasty pasties will be available for all to enjoy in the skylighted foyer adjoining the chapel.

The chapel is located at Riverside Ave. and 22nd Ave. S. Street parking is limited, so sharing rides is encouraged. Parking is also available in the Fairview Hospital ramp across the street.

The Well-Read Dragons

By David Conradi-Jones

At the Dec. 5 meeting, we discussed the book *Baghdad Barcarolle*, by Holly Windle, a member of the St. David's Society. She joined us for the discussion.



The book is about Beatrice Ohanessian, a classical pianist who led a fascinating life in Iraq. She was of Armenian heritage which she and her family held dear. She successfully promoted Western classical music in an essentially Mid-Eastern society. She was able to separate music from politics. She travelled extensively in Europe and the United States. Her biography is filled with contacts with international diplomats and renowned composers and musicians.

She lived her final years in Minneapolis, where she and her sister joined their brother. Her parents had died in Iraq. She became involved with the Shubert Club while Holly was working there. Holly had access to much of her works in addition to many personal interviews and visits.

Holly's writing style is clear and easy to read. She communicated the personality of Beatrice as well as facts of the story. The stress of living in Baghdad was felt, as well as the joys of her accomplishments. The meeting ended with Holly signing many of the books brought by the members. Holly added that she has given thoughts to writing a mystery novel. If so, we are looking forward to a good read.

Our next book club meeting will be Feb. 6. We will discuss *Falls the Shadow*, by Sharon Kay Penman. It is available at most libraries. As usual, we will meet for lunch at noon at the Urban Harvest, 2311 18th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, with discussion beginning at 12:30 p.m.

All St. David's members and their guests are welcome to join us. Call David Conradi-Jones at (651) 639-1688 with any questions.

The title of this article is the new name of the Society book group. We had many suggestions, so used IRV to determine the winning name, one submitted by Bob Minish.

**Visit us on the web:
www.minnesotawelsh.org**

“One Christmas was so much like another...”

Our 2009 Christmas Tea was memorable and delightful

Many who attended the Christmas Tea held on Sunday, Dec. 6, commented on what a pleasant afternoon it was. Thankfully, last year’s December rain wasn’t repeated. In fact the weather was quite mild.

We enjoyed the use of a new venue for us—University Lutheran Church of Hope. In the parlor were goodies and tea, along with visiting, and carol singing with member Heather Owen at the keyboard.

In the circular chapel down the hall, guests were favored with a vocal solo by member Steve Hughes and duets sung by Steve and his high school-aged son, Hayden, both with piano accompaniment by Jan Kimes, and with their own guitar accompaniment.

After the musical portion of the program, guests were in for a remarkable presentation of *Child’s Christmas in*



Photos by Don Anderson.

Where in Wales were your people from? ...or you?

We’ll have banquet guests from North and South Wales. Be sure you’re there to meet them.



Not from Wales? No matter.

Be sure to come to learn and to enjoy!

Wales by Dylan Thomas. Reader was member Bill Kimes and his reading was memorable, indeed. His wife, Jan, played background music at several points, adding to the enchantment of the afternoon.

Many thanks to all who made arrangements for the day; to the Kimes and Hughes families; to Heather Owen; and to all who attended and brought treats for all to enjoy.



Above: Bill Kimes from Blaine;

Left: Steve and Hayden Hughes from Excelsior.

Spring Gymanfa Ganu

Sunday, April 18, 2 p.m.

Location TBD.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

INVITE A FRIEND NOW.

*Joseph Corbin,
Reedsburg, Wis.,
directing*



Be sure you're at the centenary banquet!

Sat., March 6, at noon (exact times on p. 1)

The Ramada Plaza Hotel,
1330 Industrial Blvd., in NE Minneapolis.

✓ Welsh Folk Music

✓ A Welsh politician

✓ Welsh Cakes

✓ Welsh Folk Dancing

✓ Harp Music

✓ Silent Auction

Use the yellow sheet to register **NOW**.

The treasurer **MUST** receive your reservation
and payment by Feb. 15.

YUM!

Tossed Garden Salad
**Tilapia with
Crabmeat Stuffing**
White Wine Sauce
Fresh Market Vegetables
Rice Pilaf

YUM!

Tossed Garden Salad
**Roasted Rosemary
Pork Loin**
with Dijon Sauce
Roasted Red Potato
Dilled Carrot Slices

YUM!

Tossed Garden Salad
**Roasted Vegetable
Cannelloni**
Tomato Basil Sauce
Drizzled with Pesto Cream
Fresh Vegetables

Birthday Cake for dessert!

St. David's Society member elected WNGGA Board president

Ada Mae Lewis of Ames, Iowa, was elected president of the Board of Trustees of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association (WNGGA) during the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) in Pittsburgh, Pa., in September. The WNGGA seeks to preserve and promote Welsh heritage, has a membership of over 2,500 and sponsors the annual NAFOW in the U.S. or Canada.



Ada Mae Lewis

Ada Mae encourages everyone to attend the 2010 NAFOW in Portland, Ore., Sept. 2-5, 2010.

She has been president of the Board of Cymdeithas Madog, the Welsh Language Institute in North America, Inc. and the Iowa Welsh Society. She is also co-vice-president and a member of the Endowment Fund Board of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project.

Dr. Lewis owns Lewis Biologics Consulting, Inc., a consulting firm working with companies needing to understand the regulations of the USDA. She and a partner own the consulting firm Consultants for Veterinary Biologics.

She is a passionate gardener and has a stream in her front yard inspired by the curving stream at the entrance of The National Botanic Gardens in Wales, at Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire.

Ada Mae has three children, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and three dogs.

Editor's note: On the way to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project gala in Wymore, Neb., in October, your editor and Society members Karen Titrud and Kay Gavin stopped for tea with Ada Mae. Her garden is a wonder, even after a light freeze. Imagine summer! This is a huge, delightful project — and the tea was delightful, too. She has invited the Society to come down. Kay, Karen and Mary enthusiastically vote "yes!"

**Please consider a tax-deductible
contribution to the
St. David's Society
or
the St. David's Foundation.**

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
Don Anderson, (612) 789-8923, or
Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955.**

Scholarship Reminder

The St. David's Foundation committee will honor requests for scholarships received by March 1, 2010. There are funds available for eligible persons in the St. David's Society who wish to pursue studies in Welsh music, literature, language or dance.

Several members have taken advantage of this opportunity over the past years and now enjoy personal satisfaction in the rewards of helping to promote and sustain their Welsh heritage.

Contact Don Anderson, (612) 789-8923, or Betty Kinsey (612) 871-7587 for information and application forms.

Order your 2009 Gymanfa Ganu O Corau compact disc

Order a digital CD of the 2009 *Gymanfa Ganu O Corau* from the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association.

Director: Mary Morris Mergenthal
Accompanists: Karen Jones Wojahn
Ryan Jones

\$8.00, inc. postage & handling

Send check or money order to:
Janet Zehnder, MGGA Treasurer,
1402 Foothills Blvd.
Albert Lea, MN 56007.

A Brief History of the Welsh in Minnesota Second edition. **Just \$7**

**IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE,
THIS IS THE IDEAL YEAR TO PURCHASE
A BOOK ABOUT OUR SOCIETY.**

**2011 WILL BE THE SOCIETY'S
CENTENARY YEAR...THIS WILL BE OUR
CENTENARY ST. DAVID'S BANQUET.**

AVAILABLE AT ST. DAVID'S EVENT OR BY MAIL.

Shipping & Handling included.

Marveen Minish
331 Pearson Way NE, Mpls, MN 55432.

Checks to St. David's Society of Minnesota.



Dragon News

News of Society Members & Friends



SUNSHINE REPORT:

Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending get well cards to the following: Kristin Johnson, H1N1;

Karen Wojahn, H1N1 and pneumonia; Joyce Jones Harlow, hospitalization; Mike McClellan, hip replacement; and Margaret Evans Warner, hospitalization for surgery.

In addition, she sent birthday greetings from the Society to Floyd Lewellen for his 100th birthday.

Please let Betty know when you know of a member who is ill, has suffered a loss, or is rejoicing over a birth, marriage or something else. You can reach her at (612) 871-7587.



GOLDEN CHRISTMAS LETTERS

The Star Tribune on Christmas Day featured an article picked up from the Mankato Free Press. It included a fine photo of Ellis and Janet Jones, St. Peter, members of our Society, and the story of their annual Christmas letters, which this year hit the 50-year publication mark. Llongyfarchiadau, Ellis and Janet, for recording your life so faithfully and for contributing so richly to the lives of so many of us.



LLONGYFARCHIADU!

We're happy to announce that Ryan and Malia Jones of Belle Plaine, Minn., are the proud parents of Phena Mary Jones. She was born December 18, 2009, and weighed in at 8 lb. 4 oz. and 22.5 inches. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Welsh on stage in Minneapolis!

The local Classical Actors Ensemble will present a staged reading of Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2, a conflated text, on Mon., Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m. at Intermedia Arts Theatre, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., in Minneapolis (55408).

Hear Glendower and Lady Mortimer speak Welsh!

Attend to cheer for these actors who discovered our Society through the web page.

July Pilgrimage to Wales

If you are interested in a spiritual pilgrimage to Wales this July, contact The Rev. Dr. Jerry Doherty at doher4@aol.com or (615) 439-4675.

The title of the pilgrimage is "Thin Places in Celtic Wales: Where Time and Eternity Meet."

Help build our archives

Use our centennial St. David's event as opportunity to check your closets and drawers for photos, programs or clippings pertaining to our Society in past years. **Please contact Archivist Mae Anderson, (612) 789-8923 or andymae@juno.com.**

Remember that we have cannot store general Welsh historical items, though those may be of interest to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. For those items, please contact berwynjones@windstream.net.

Welsh Organizations in the U.S.

Cymdeithas Madog —

Sponsors one-week residential language course every July focusing on modern spoken Welsh. Seven levels of instruction. Scholarships available. Administered by a Board of Directors. **2010 cwrs will be July 25–Aug. 1 at Cardiff University...IN WALES!**
president@madog.org

Welsh Heritage Week —

A week of everything Welsh, including: language lessons; folk dancing; clogging; hymn singing; harp lessons; and Welsh literature. **2010 cwrs will be July 18–25 at Keuka College in Keuka, N.Y.** That's where WHW started 30 years ago.
www.welshheritageweek.org
hwyl@ptd.net

Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc. —

Stated goal: "Preserve and develop Welsh religious and cultural heritage." Annual dues, \$10.
2010 North American Festival of Wales, Sept. 2–5 in Portland, Oregon.
Box 410, Granville, OH 43023;
(740) 587-3936, WNGGAHQ@gmail.com

Welsh-American Genealogical Society —

Assistance in searching Welsh roots. \$10.00/year.
60 Norton Ave., Poultney, VT 05764-1029;
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com~vtwags/

National Welsh-American Foundation — Augments and supplements work of local societies with grants, scholarships, preservation of books, etc.

\$15/Individual & \$20/Family/year.
143 Sunny Hillside Rd., Benton, PA 17814-7822;
NWAF@pix.net; (570) 925-6923;
www.wales-usa.org.

Membership news

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS:

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**Use the form below
for renewals or
gift subscriptions.**

Next Deadline: March 10

MAIL COPY TO: **Mary Mergenthal**
2393 Bourne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108-1618

OR E-MAIL TO: mary.mergenthal@comcast.net

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

President Judith Evans Warner, (763) 522-1612, ('11)
Vice-President **THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE!**
Secretary Marveen Minish, (763) 571-6162, ('10)
Treasurer Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955, ('10)

Directors

Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)
Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('12)
Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688
Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778, ('11)
Fran Lewellen, (612) 824-5903, ('10)

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Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin

Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal

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T-shirt & Bag Sales — Karen Kidwell & Judith Warner

Web Master — Kristin Johnson

Officers of St. David's Foundation —

Don Anderson (pres.), Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey

**When does your subscription expire?
Check the mailing label on this issue.**

St. David's Society of Minnesota MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

If family membership, include all names to be listed.

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Membership category: Single Annual (\$15) _____; Couple/Family Annual (\$22) _____

Supporting Annual (\$50) _____; Life (\$175) _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (Make check payable to St. David's Society of Minnesota, note "membership")

Mail to: Kay Gavin
2737 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113

or contact Kay at: kaywgavin@hotmail.com

Membership year is July 1–June 30.

You may pay for multiple years in advance.

Diolch yn fawr.

*St. David's Society of Minnesota
2737 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113*

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

St. David's Day centennial celebration
Saturday, March 6, noon
Plated dinner, Ramada Plaza Hotel, NE Minneapolis



By Eleigh Johns

Register by Feb. 15
using yellow form inside.

Visit us on the web: www.minnesotawelsh.org