

St. David's Society News

CHWEFROR 2019

Volume 39, Issue 1

St. David's Day Banquet promises to be lively

Send in your registrations now for our annual **St. David's Day Banquet, Saturday, March 2, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.** We will be celebrating folk dancing and folk singing. *The Belles of the North*, a Minneapolis Morris Dance group, will be performing. Join us for good company, good food, and a good time!

The Belles of the North

The Bells of the North is a women's Cotswold Morris Dance team based in Minneapolis. They were founded in 1979, making them the second oldest team in Minnesota. In addition to dancing, Morris traditions from villages in the Cotswolds of England, they also dance their very own tradition, Minneapolis-on-Mississippi.

They celebrate the onset of spring and dance up the sun on May 1. From mid-April through early September, catch them dancing outdoors around the Twin Cities on a Wednesday evening, on occasion at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival with Minnesota Traditional Morris, and also at the mighty fine local pub, Merlins Rest.



The Belles of the North, a women's Cotswold Morris Dance team based in Minneapolis, will bring happy energy to our St. David's Day banquet on March 2. Details on this page and registration form on yellow sheet inside.



This statue of St. David stands to the left of the altar in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The funeral of John McCain was held there on Sept. 1, 2018; as was the memorial service for President George H.W. Bush on Dec. 5, 2018.

— Thanks to Kay Gavin for providing the photo.

Twin Cities Welsh welcome winter and the holidays

On Sat., Dec. 8, members and friends of the St. David's Society of Minnesota gathered at University Lutheran Church of Hope for the annual Holiday Tea.

Being a Welsh event, there were music, poetry, and stories, of course, as well as Welsh cakes, dragon cookies, and bara brith [speckled bread] with tea and coffee.

The entire group sang some familiar songs and was introduced to the annual unfamiliar Welsh carol by resident musicologist: David Evan Thomas. "Ewyllys Da [Good Will]" was written by W.S. Gwynn Williams, who was one of the founders of the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen, Wales, in 1947, and became its first musical director.

The St. David's Chorus sang a challenging round: "Canwn Lan [Sing High]" by David Evan Thomas. The Welsh national instrument was not overlooked: member Esmé Evans played the harp during the social time after the program.

The group was introduced to several new poets: President Janice Barbee read "Star of Bethlehem," by Alun Llywelyn-Williams; David Evan Thomas brought laughs as he read "The Nativity Play," by Gwyn Thomas; and Bob Minish read two poems by Denise Levertov.

Vice-president Ilene Alexander closed the program urging members to share memories of holidays in their childhood homes, building on words drawn from the late Martha Davies's translation work.



St. David's Society member Esmé Evans played the harp during the Minnesota Holiday Tea social time.



Bob Minish was one of several who read Welsh poetry at the Minnesota Holiday Tea.

—Photos taken by Ilene Alexander.

Well-Read Dragons read Dylan Thomas and Aberfan next

The next meeting of the Well-Read Dragons will be **Sat., Feb. 9**, 11:30 a.m. at Davanni's, south of Cub, on Lexington, just south of Hwy 694. The date was postponed a week so those who wished could attend the memorial service of Society member and Dylan Thomas specialist, William Kimes.

Discussion will focus on the book that came closest to the screen plays Dylan Thomas wanted to write: ***Rebecca's Daughters***. It's a rollicking, yet thoughtful, presentation of the historic Rebecca Riots in South Wales.

In the mid-19th century, wealthy landowners built toll gates at close intervals on roads poor people had to use to get what little crop they had to market and to buy what little they could afford to buy. There was no reason for this, other than greed.

So men dressed as women burned the tollbooths, without their identity being discovered. It was a long battle, but by the end of the book the government has appointed a Royal Commission to look into the injustices of the Tollgate System. And lovers are united, and there's hope for the future! What more can a reader ask?

On **April 6**, the group will discuss ***Aberfan*** by Gaynor Madgwick, Y Lolfa, 2016. Marveen Minish, book club member who nominated this book, said, "I thought I was knowledgeable about the Aberfan tragedy when a coal tip slid down and covered a school, killing most of the children therein. Madgwick was a childhood survivor of the disaster. Reading her book showed me how little I did know."

Available from the publisher, Abe Books, or Amazon.

Looking ahead:

June 1 – *Rice Paper Diaries* by Francesca Rhydderch, Seren Books.

Aug. 3 – *Remember No More... Bad Blood Runs in Families: A DS Kite Mystery* by Jan Newton, Honno Welsh Women's Press, 2017. This is also the meeting when member select books for Fall 2019– 2020.

Anyone is welcome to these bimonthly meetings. Some books are available at local libraries. Other must be purchased online, or borrowed from a member who has purchased and finished the book in question.

Contact Mary Morris Mergenthal, 651-644-1650, mary.mergenthal@gmail.com, for more information.

Bits & Pieces

Opera *Blodwen* coming to Billings in May

Blodwen was composed by Dr. Joseph Parry and Richard Davies in 1878. Following the pattern of romantic-Italian opera, this story takes place in 14th century Wales and includes a wedding, lovers, dying heroes and a dramatic final twist.

It was the first opera written in the Welsh language, and will be sung in Welsh at the upcoming Billings production.

The opera's stirring music shows Parry at his dramatic best: heroic and romantic solos, exciting ensembles, powerful choruses and, of course, the famous 'Hywel a Blodwen' love duet.

Local music lovers who attended the recital of Welsh singer Jeremy Huw Williams at the University of Minnesota last year, will be interested to know that he will be singing the lead baritone role in Billings! His accompanist, Paula Fan, will be part of the production as well.

Production details: May 10–12 and May 17–19, 7:30–9:30 p.m., in the Roebing Theatre at NOVA Center for the Performing Arts, 2317 Montana Ave., Billings, Montana, 59101. Tickets are \$21, \$16, and \$10 and can be ordered now at (406) 591-9535; admin@novabillings.org, or at the link on our Society's web page or Facebook page. (Find those addresses on mailing page of this newsletter.)

Contact editor, Mary Morris Mergenthal (*born in Billings over seven decades ago!*) if you're interested in sharing transportation to this one-of-a-kind musical event. mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or 651-644-1650.

Address changes

Kristin Johnson

4908 Columbus Ave. S.
Mpls, MN 55417

In the last issue, it was mentioned that Treasurer Sally Evans might be moving out-of-state and that a new treasurer would then be needed before the July annual meeting. Sally has asked us to clarify that this is no longer the case and that she intends to complete her full term.

All welcome at Welsh language group

The Welsh Language group meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month from about 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We alternate locations between St. Paul and Bloomington. The meeting on Feb. 10 will be at 8844 Stevens Ave. S. in Bloomington.

We are not a class! Learners of any level or ability at learning Welsh are welcome. Come meet with others who are learning Welsh. A typical meeting includes Welsh conversation, practice drills with sentences and vocabulary, and working on translating a Welsh book.

Beginners are welcome, and we will support you in your studies. For more information, email Laurel Bradshaw at llawryf@yahoo.com.

The St David's Society Foundation has a budget of \$400 for scholarships to attend Welsh-related activities. An example could be the registration fee or other expenses incurred to attend the North American Festival of Wales in Milwaukee over Labor Day Weekend.

Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship should contact Bob Minish, President of the Foundation. Please direct questions to: stdavidsofmn@gmail.com. Recipient will be expected to provide a written account about the event attended that may be used in the Society's Newsletter.

In Memoriam

Carolyn Anderson

Carolyn M. (Rees) Anderson, 86, a long-time member of our Society, died peacefully in an Edina Care Facility December 13, 2018.

Carolyn was proud of her Welsh heritage, was a regular attendee at our gatherings and lent her strong alto singing voice to society Gymanfa sings for many decades. One of the great highlights of Carolyn's life was a trip that she took to Wales with her daughter Krissy shortly after her retirement.

She was a long-time building manager in downtown Minneapolis, where she welcomed students from all over the world in the 1960s-1980s.

Carolyn had a beautiful trained contralto voice that she kept in practice well into her retirement years. She sang in Westminster's Choir before her marriage to Harold. After her marriage, since Harold was reared in the Catholic tradition, she found her way to Holy Childhood Catholic Church in St. Paul's Midway area, where she sang under the direction of master Choir Director/Organist Bruce Larson. After Harold's death, she returned to her Presbyterian roots, where she immersed herself in the music of Trinity Grace Presbyterian Church in the uptown area for many more musical years.

She was every choir director's dream—not only responsible and reliable—but a sightreader with perfect pitch who could switch between alto and tenor according to the choir's need for balancing parts. Carolyn continued to find her way to the choir loft at Trinity Grace to sing each Sunday after she was no longer able to "process" or "recess" with the rest of the group.

Carolyn had beautiful qualities of friendship. She was truly interested in people and had many opportunities to hear the stories of interesting people, many of whom had emigrated from countries in conflict—initially as a manager of rental properties in downtown Minneapolis; later with her neighbors in two different Minneapolis senior facilities. Many of her tenants had need for moral support from time to time and Carolyn was there for them, willingly providing such help.

Carolyn was one of those wonderful souls who had a way of contributing to the creation of community wherever she lived—and was always a presence for social justice in a world that is too often rampant with racism. She believed in the message of love of the world's great religions and committed herself to living her faith.

She was preceded in death by her husband Harold Anderson. She is survived by her daughters, Laura (Austin) Ushie, Kris Anderson, three grandchildren, and many who called her mama and grandma.

Her daughter, Kris Anderson, can be reached at: 26 W 25th Street, Mpls 55404.

Her memorial service was held Sat., Jan. 26, at Thomson Dougherty Funeral Home in Minneapolis.

Memorials can be made payable to the St. David's Society Foundation, c/o Ron Adams, 3680 Independence Ave. S. #12, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

Bill Kimes

Dr. William H. Kimes, 82, Professor Emeritus, died on Christmas Day after a year-long illness.

He taught Theatre Arts and Communications at Hamline University for 38 years; performed many roles at Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, and Square Theatre in St. Paul, and summer stock at the Court Theatre in Beloit, Wis.

Chicago-born, he was a man of wit and wisdom, an admired educator and actor and a lifelong Cubs fan.

In the St. David's Society, he will be remembered for his delightful performances of Dylan Thomas favorites: "Child's Christmas in Wales" and "Under Milk Wood."

He is survived by his wife, Janice; their daughters, Leslie (Kevin Moore) and Alison (Joshua Chen); and four grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother and two sisters-in-law.

Bill and Jan celebrated their 60th anniversary in June.

A celebration of Bill's life was held Sat., Feb. 2, 11:00 a.m., at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood, St. Paul.

Memorial donations may be made online to hamline.edu/KimesScholarship or mailed to Hamline University Institutional Advancement, MS-C1917, 1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104; Park Square Theatre William H. Kimes Theatre Education Fund, 20 - 7th Pl. W, St. Paul, MN 55108; or the St. David's Society Foundation, c/o Ron Adams, 3680 Independence Ave. S. #12, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

Janet Lund

Janet Campbell (Thomas) Lund, 89, of Minneapolis, died Jan. 13, 2019.

She was preceded in death by sisters Audrey (Ruikka) and Jean (Icenogle), and brother Keith "Bud." She is survived by husband Dean; daughters Julie Lund (Carlos Madrid), Margaret Lund (Chris Steller), and Erika Lund; five; and three nieces.

Janet was born in Minneapolis on June 10, 1929. She grew up in South and SE Minneapolis, attending Marcy School; Marshall High School, where she was a cheerleader, an outstanding student and babysat for the Humphreys in her free time; Hamline University; and what's now the U of M Humphrey School.

She went to England with SPAN (Student Project for Amity among Nations), worked in Naples for NATO and in D.C., moved with Dean to Alaska to help with statehood, then back to Minneapolis to stay—except for two years with their young family in Tanzania.

Janet was active in the DFL and women's and antiwar movements, leading to a career at the State Capitol, where she ran the Legislative Coordinating Commission for many years. In 2004, after retiring, she was a delegate to the 2004 DNC.

Janet kept connected to the world by traveling, studying Italian and Swahili, and hosting students from Costa Rica, India, Spain, the Czech Republic and Vietnam. She made quilts for babies in Glendale, collected "good gossip" for a neighborhood newspaper column, and read books constantly. She was a great maker of friends, on her own and through groups like Somali Women in MN (SWIM), St. David's Society of Minnesota, and Prospect Park Women's Study Club. Famous for her Soup & Bread parties, Janet loved to host family and friends at home on Orlin Ave. SE; at the cabin she and Dean built on Tank Lake on the Iron Range; and at Walker Place, where they made a new home in 2018.

A celebration of life is being planned in February. Memorials preferred to SPAN or Planned Parenthood MN/ND/SD. Readers may also want to consider a memorial in her memory to the St. David's Society Foundation, c/o Ron Adams, 3680 Independence Ave. S. #12, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

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.

Membership Categories and 2017-'18 rates

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

_____ Single Annual (July 1-June 30) \$25

Please mail this form & your check to:

_____ Partner/Family Annual (July 1-June 30) \$40

Sally Evans, Treasurer

_____ Lifetime Membership: (one-time payment) \$225

606 7th Street SE, Apt. 1B

Minneapolis, MN 55414

Send questions to: stpaulsally@gmail.com

Calendar of Minnesota and Wisconsin Events

Feb. 9, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons, Davanni's, Arden Hills, 55126. Discussion of *Rebecca's Daughters*, Dylan Thomas. mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

Feb. 10, 2:00 p.m., Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Language Conversation Group], 8844 Stevens Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420. Laurel Bradshaw, llawryf@yahoo.com

Feb. 10, 4-6 p.m., Pub Gathering, Merlins Rest, 3601 E. Lake, ilene.dawn@gmail.com

March 2, 11:30-3 pm., St. David's Day Banquet, Radisson Hotel, 2540 N. Cleveland, Roseville, 55113 (near Hwy. 35W and Hwy. 36). See p. 1 & yellow reservation form included here.

March 10, 2:00 p.m., Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Language Conversation Group], 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, 55108. Laurel Bradshaw, llawryf@yahoo.com

April 6, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons, Davanni's in Arden Hills, 55126. Discussion of *Aberfan*, Gaynor Madgwick. mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

Continued on next page.

St. David's Society of Minnesota
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f www.stdavidsofmn.org
www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

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Calendar of Minnesota and Wisconsin Events

April 14, 2:00 p.m., Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Language Conversation Group], 8844 Stevens Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420. Laurel Bradshaw, llawryf@yahoo.com

May 12, 2:00 p.m., Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Language Conversation Group], location tba. Laurel Bradshaw, llawryf@yahoo.com

June 1, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons, Davanni's, Arden Hills, 55126. Discussion of *Rice Paper Diaries* by Francesca Rhydderch.

Aug. 3, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons, Davanni's in Arden Hills, 55126. Discussion of *Remember No More...Bad Blood Runs in Families: A DS Kite Mystery*, Jan Newton.

Aug. 29–Sept. 1, North American Festival of Wales, Milwaukee, Wis. www.nafow.org or (607) 279-7402.

