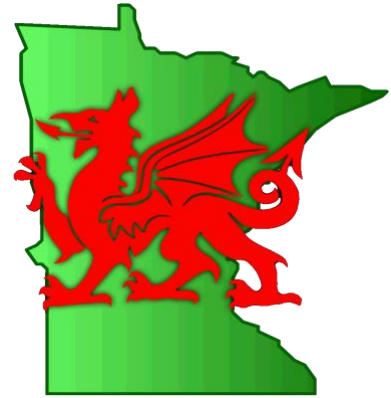


# St. David's Society News

Ionawr – January 2025

Volume 43, Issue 1



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## Celebrate St. David on His Feast Day

At St. Anthony Park Lutheran **Saturday, March 1, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**, we'll celebrate the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of Wales.

Enjoy homemade *Cawl Cennin* [leek soup], plus sandwiches from D'Amico's.

Meat or vegetarian options for both.

Registration details closer to the date.

We'll enjoy a zoom program arranged by Board member Hywel Roberts, a Welsh ex-pat now from Winona.

"Meet" Welsh guest, **Daniel Morden**. He will be presenting the tales of the *Mabinogion* [an ancient collection of Welsh stories and folk tales].

Morden has been a professional teller of traditional tales since 1989. He has travelled all over the world from the Arctic to the Caribbean sharing and collecting stories.

Daniel has appeared at the National Theater, the Hay Festival, and The National Storytelling Festival of America in Tennessee. Word of Music, Art and Dance, many theaters, art centers, festivals and thousands of schools. In 2017 he was awarded the Hay Festival Medal for his services to storytelling.

Daniel has written several award-winning anthologies of traditional stories, *Dark Tales from the Woods*, and *Tree of Leaf and Flame* on the *Mabinogion*.

### It's the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Plaid Cymru — The Party of Wales.

David Evan Thomas is devising a musical program to honor that important event. [Plaid=Plide=Party; Cymru=Cuhmree=Wales].

St. Anthony Park Lutheran is just east of Hwy. 280 on the #3 bus line. There is a parking lot across from the side of the church (Luther Place). Please use that door.



Re: The logo above. It's not a daffodil, as your editor first thought. Adam Price, previous leader of Plaid Cymru, wrote:

"The Plaid logo is a poppy, a hardy flower as happy growing on the slopes of Snowdon, as in suburban gardens or in the cracks of a Valleys street. It is the only poppy indigenous to Europe, a symbol of Wales' heritage as one of the oldest of all European nations."

## Holiday Tea: poetry; singing, treats; and camaraderie

This annual event was held Dec. 14 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Attendees sat around the fireplace to enjoy a range of holiday-themed poetry read by Janice and Don Barbee, Sally Evans, Jean Greenwood, Shannon King, Gail Manning, and David Richards.

David did considerable research into Christmas and winter poetry to organize the program. At the piano was “our own” inimitable composer and accompanist, David Evan Thomas.

After the pleasing program, all enjoyed sweet and savory treats with tea and coffee.



*Photo above, Sally Evans; photo on right, Janice Barbee.*

***Shown at Holiday Tea: (above) David Richards, program designer and one of the readers; and (right) Gail Manning, Mary Morris Mergenthal, Beth Upton, and Kay Thomas.***

### Saint David & Other Welsh Religious Figures Quiz

- 1 – Name either St. David’s mother or father, or both!
- 2 – In 1800, a weaver’s daughter, Mary Jones, walked 25 miles, barefoot, to buy a Bible from which leading Methodist preacher, publisher, and editor?
- 3 – By what other name are the Calvinistic Methodists known in Wales?
- 4 – Which well-known female Methodist hymn writer, wrote in Welsh, and lived 1776–1885?
- 5 – Who wrote the hymn-tune “Cwm Rhondda”?

*Answers on next page,.*





St. David's Cathedral [*Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi*] is an Anglican church in St. David's, Britain's smallest cathedral city. In 1123, Pope Calixtus II bestowed a papal privilege upon St David's, making it a center of pilgrimage for the Western world; the Pope decreed that "Two pilgrimages to St David's is equal to one to Rome, and three pilgrimages equal to one to Jerusalem." *Photo by Visit Wales.*

**May 4, 2:00 p.m., Spring Gymanfa Ganu of St. David's Society of Minnesota**, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Naomi Karstad directing, David Evan Thomas accompanying. Welsh cakes and Leek Soup follow. Contact Mary Morris Mergenthal for info. 612-670-8510 [mary.mergenthal@gmail.com](mailto:mary.mergenthal@gmail.com)

**Aug. 27–31, North American Festival of Wales**, Ottawa, Ontario. <http://www.nafow.org/>

**Sun., Sept. 28, Minnesota Welsh Festival of Song**, First Presbyterian Church, Mankato. Mari Morgan directing. The North American Welsh Choir sing. <https://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com>

### ***NINNAU*—a newspaper for all Welsh people everywhere**

*NINNAU* is available in both hard copy and electronic editions). News of Welsh people everywhere. *NINNAU* means "us" or "we also" and is pronounced "nin-eye." Dr. Megan Williams is the editor and publisher.

***NINNAU & Y Drych***, P.O. Box 712, Trumansburg, NY, 14886. Phone: 607-279-6499. Mailed: \$30/year. E-subscriptions: [ninnaupublications@gmail.com](mailto:ninnaupublications@gmail.com) \$20.

### **Quiz Answers — See previous page.**

- 1 – Sant, King of Ceredigion, was David's father; (St.) Non his mother.  
 2 – Thomas Charles.                      3 – Presbyterians.                      4 – Ann Griffiths.  
 5 – John Hughes (1873–1932). Welsh and English words  
 ("Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah") by William Williams, Pantycelyn (1717–1791).



## Kristin F. Johnson enjoys more publishing success

Member Kristin F. Johnson, St. Paul, completed seven book events this past fall, launching *pickles and paradise: poems for pickleballers*. She wrote and illustrated this enjoyable book. It's published by KFJ Books.

Her book *Fearless* for middle graders (pub. 2022) continues to do well and has sold over 10,000 copies and won two awards. It's set in St. Peter after the 1998 tornado. Johnson is a St. Peter native and Gustavus Adolphus alumna.

*Fearless* was included in the Brainerd Libraries Battles of the Books this summer, which means it was read by over 400 kids in Northern Minnesota. She had fun signing books (and some shirts) when she drove up for the final "battle."

"*pickles...*" is available at independent bookstores such as The Red Balloon in St. Paul, Big Hill Books in Bryn Mawr (*that's Welsh, readers!*) and Comma in Linden Hills.

The slogan of Northfield, Minnesota, has always been "The City of Cows, Colleges, and Contentment." Now it also sports the "**Contented Cow**," recently taken over by new management and turned into a Welsh pub. <https://www.contentedcow.com/>



## Trilby Busch makes special visit to Pittsburgh

Last March, member Trilby Busch, Duluth, traveled to Pittsburgh with her daughters' families, to attend the opening of an exhibit at the Heinz History Center: "A Woman's Place: How Women Shaped Pittsburgh."

The mostly-women Munhall High School rifle team, which had 17 straight championship seasons, was featured in the exhibit. [Munhall, a borough near Pittsburgh, was Trilby's hometown.] Trilby donated her varsity rifle sweater and the 10X-100 target that made her national top scorer in 1960.

In addition, Trilby has been elected to the WPIAL [Western Pennsylvania Inter-Scholastic Athletic League] Hall of Fame for her rifle career. This the first award for rifle competition.

Trilby says: "Go, Munhall, rah, rah, rah!"

*Ed. Note: See p. 22 in Jan.–Feb., 2025, issue of NINNAU for more from Trilby.*



## Spotlight: Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre in Wymore, Neb., is the only cultural resource in the United States dedicated to interpreting the legacy of immigrants from Wales on the Great Plains.

Several of our members have sent family archival material to GPWHP for preservation. One of the individual Welsh records the Archive holds is that of longtime StDS member, Betty Kinsey.

Current members involved with GPWHP include AdaMae Lewis, Vice-President and Iowa GPWHP Board representative; Mary Morris Mergenthal, Minnesota rep. on the Advisory Board, and Danny Proud, Wisconsin rep. on Advisory Board.

The organization is now partnering with the National Library of Wales to digitize items in the Archive for Welsh America.

Thanks to grants and generous donations, over \$50K of the \$175K needed to make the planned 2,200 square-foot addition to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre a reality been raised.

If you could consider helping financially with this huge project or have any questions, contact: **Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, PO Box 253, Wymore, NE 68466.** Please indicate on your donation: Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project EXPANSION

For more info and to give online: <https://greatplainswelsh.org/index.html>  
Other contacts: **phone: (608) 558-3095**  
**or email: [director@greatplainswelsh.org](mailto:director@greatplainswelsh.org).**

**Director is Welsh native Robert Humphries, now from Wisconsin.**

GPWHP regularly hosts virtual seminars on Welsh culture and history.  
Check GPWHP's YouTube channel:  
[youtube.com/@GreatPlainsWelsh2000](https://youtube.com/@GreatPlainsWelsh2000)



### Ellen Rau

Ellen Ann Rau, 82, longtime St. David's Society member, died Dec. 18, 2024. She was born Jan. 10, 1942, in Rushford, Minn. She lived in Roseville at the time of her death.

Ellen went to North St. Paul High School, where she spent time in Finland as an exchange student. She graduated from Macalester College, where she played the drums with the bagpipe band. Ellen earned her bachelor's degree in Speech and Theater, with a minor in Spanish and English. She later earned a Master's Degree in Spanish from the University of Wyoming.

Lovingly known as Señora Rau, Ellen taught High School Spanish at both Totino Grace and St. Francis High Schools. She found solace in the outdoors and especially loved watching birds. Ellen was an avid reader, enjoyed theater, musicals and travelling. Ellen was a devoted grandma.

She was preceded in death by parents, Walter and Winifred (Jones) Richardson. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Dennis; twin children, Susan Rau Fritts (Jason) & David Rau; three grandchildren; sister, Mary Gwen (Dex) Endorf, former StDS member, now of Phoenix.

Betty Kinsey is a surviving cousin.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to Dennis Rau, 2555 Hamline Ave., Apt. 213, Roseville, MN 55113.

**Membership Info** (also found on our website: <https://stdavidsofmn.org>)

Individual Annual (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025) — \$25 Partner/Family Annual

(July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025) — \$40

*(2 adults & may inc. children under age 18 under same roof)*

Individual Lifetime (one-time payment) — \$225

Partner/Family Lifetime (one-time payment) — \$300

**Please make checks payable to ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MN**

**Mail to: Pam Rose, Treasurer**

**8514 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.**

**Bloomington, MN 55425**

**Please be sure to indicate name(s), address, phone number, email.**

Also, please indicate if you have no email or seldom use it and if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email or USPS mail.

**3425 Wisconsin Ave. N.  
Crystal, MN 55427**