

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News



JANUARY 2016

Volume 38, Issue 1

St. David's Day celebration

March 5, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ramada Plaza Hotel

Itasca Ballroom

1330 Industrial Blvd. NE

Minneapolis 55413

11:30 a.m. – Register

12:00 p.m. – Welcome

12:15 p.m. – Luncheon Served

1:15 p.m. – Crosstown Community Band

PHOTO ON P. 2

3:00 p.m. –Festivities end

Registration form is on yellow insert.

If you are reading issue online, be sure to print your registration form...a separate document, also available at our web page: www.stdavidsofmn.org.

Why March 5?

It's close to March 1, date of death of St. David, the patron saint of Wales, who is said to have died March 1, 569.

Where is the hotel & where do we park?

The Ramada Plaza Hotel is just south of Hwy. 35W. We'll be in the same room as last year, the Itasca Ballroom, with access from the parking lot on the Industrial Blvd. side of the hotel, or the main lobby. Parking reserved near that door. Less walking if you enter that way, rather than through the main hotel door.

More on the March 5 St. David's Day celebration

Cost – \$27.50 adults; \$10.00 children
(under 13)

Make checks payable to St. David's Society of Minnesota.

Menu choices –

Grilled Chicken Piccata – topped with a lemon and white wine butter sauce with capers over gemelli pasta

Grilled Flank Steak – topped with chimichurri sauce and served with mashed potatoes

Ravioli (vegetarian) – vegetable ravioli with creamy sundried tomato basil sauce topped with parmesan cheese

Chicken Fingers (children's menu) – with vegetable sticks and choose either mashed potatoes or french fries

All meals include –

Salad

Dessert – Sticky Toffee Pudding Cake

**Send registration form (enclosed) to arrive by Friday, February 26, to:
Judith Evans Warner, President
St. David's Society of Minnesota
4200 45th Ave. N., Apt. 302
Robbinsdale, MN 55422**

Questions:

Please call Judith at (763) 522-1612 (after 5 p.m.) or contact Ilene at ilene.dawn@gmail.com

Author and Welsh native John Dingley pleases crowd

By Mary Morris Mergenthal

At least 25 members and friends gathered in the party room at Kay Gavin's apartment complex in Roseville on Sat., Jan. 23, to enjoy conversation, tasty soup, Welsh cheese and crackers provided by the Board, and animated, thoughtful readings by longtime friend of the Society, John Dingley.

John came to Minnesota from his family's hill farm near Builth Wells, Powys, in South Wales. His first introduction to Society members was shortly after he arrived, when he spoke at a St. David's Day Banquet at the Normandy Inn in downtown Minneapolis.

Since then, he's been a beloved part of celebrations of all sorts with his energetic conversation, his passionate concern about ecology, geology, and threatened species, and, of course, his high tenor voice at the end of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.



Photo by Ilene Alexander.

*John Dingley, St. Paul, who came to Minnesota 40 years ago from Builth Wells, Powys, Wales, mesmerized the audience as he read passages from his first book, *The Timeless Cavern*, Marged Evans and the Pebbles of Time. He also shared stories and poetry from his newest title, *A Visit Home*, which was available for purchase and signing. Both are available from John's web page.*

A Man of Rock

**His was a life of splintered rock,
dressed for shape and chiseled sleek.
Quarry hewn and rubble picked.
Sinewed muscle pitching off to fit,
Not a statue's stone cold flesh.**

Opening stanza of one of John's poems.

Crosstown Community Band will play at the St. David's Day luncheon. They'll play Vaughan Williams's "Prelude on Rhosymedre" and David Evan Thomas is composing an adaptation of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" for the group.



Society members celebrate winter—*Dathlu Gaeaf*

By *Ilene Alexander*

For 40-some St. David's members and friends, the mid-December afternoon for our annual *Dathlu Gaeaf*—or Winter Celebration—provided an opportunity to make (and eat) Welsh Cakes, to sing old and new Welsh carols as well as folk songs, to hear a sampling of Welsh poetry, then to chat together while eating said Welsh Cakes and other sweet and savory treats selected from the Te Bach table. The event was held on December 12 at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Dinkeytown.

The music featured Esmé Evans providing Celtic Harp music as guests arrived, carols and winter songs selected by David Evan Thomas for sing-along, and two piano duets thanks to Laurel Bradshaw and Gail Erickson.

With the Well-Read Dragons' early December gathering

featuring Welsh poets and poetry, the *Dathlu Gaeaf* wove in a selection of the group's favorite pieces.

Hearty thanks to Gail Manning and David Richards for leading the Welsh Cake making—from arranging ingredients, to coaching assembly of the dough, and on to baking the cakes that found their way to the Te Bach table—which featured everything from the usual Bakers' Square pies to the new treat of a hot cup of *cawl*, or stew of Welsh lamb and winter vegetables.

We've collected the songs, poems, and recipes from the afternoon into a program that's available at [HTTP://Z.UMN.EDU/2015TEA](http://Z.UMN.EDU/2015TEA). Thanks to the Board for its planning, and to all participants for the lovely afternoon.

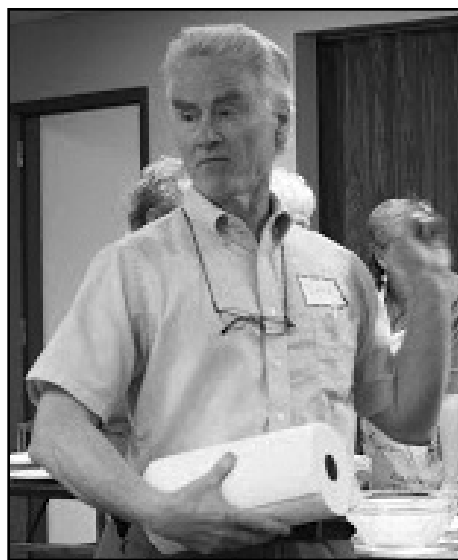


Lara Gardner, Eau Claire, Wis., and Gail Manning, Minneapolis, hard at work on baking.



David Evan Thomas, a master of music but claiming to be a novice at the Welsh language, nonetheless rose to the occasion and instructed singers on Welsh pronunciation for Christmas folk tunes.

David Richards and his wife, Gail Manning, were the masterminds behind the Welsh cake portion of the program.



Laurel Bradshaw and her friend Gail Erickson played enjoyable Christmas duets.



Photos by Ilene Alexander.

Well-Read Dragons enjoyed poetry, now turn back to novel by Sheers

At the December meeting, members of the group read a variety of Welsh poetry in English aloud. The variety and level of participation was heartening. So was the fact that some new members particularly interested in poetry by Dylan Thomas came to share their favorites.

All are always welcome to come to participate or to simply enjoy the comments, and the pre-discussion conversation.

- **Next meeting will be Sat., Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m. ALL ARE WELCOME, WHETHER OR NOT YOU'VE HAD CHANCE TO READ THE BOOK**
Order your lunch, then proceed to the meeting room. You will be called when your order is ready. The total of our orders allows us to use the room.

- **Well-Read Dragons meets at Davanni's in Arden Hills, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., 55126.**
Davanni's is south of 694, just south of CUB

Title for that discussion will be *I Saw a Man* by Owen Sheers. Sheers is arguably this group's favorite contemporary Welsh author. This book has been described as: "An utterly stunning novel of love, loss, the insidious nature of secrets, and the transformative power of words."

Title for April 2 is *The Dig* by Cynan Jones.

This is a searing novel, built of the interlocking fates of a badger-baiter and a farmer struggling through lambing season. The story unfolds in a stark rural setting where man, animal and land are at loggerheads. Jones writes of isolation and loss with resonant carefulness, and about the simple rawness of animal existence with an unblinking eye. This is pure, pared-down rural realism, crackling with compressed energy, from a writer of uncommon gifts.

• **Where to get the books:**

Both of these titles are available at local libraries.

Both are also available for purchase online at Abe Books and Amazon Books. Both sites ship quickly.

Prefer to receive the newsletter online?

Notify 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!

Interested in a possible scholarship to study Welsh or Welsh subjects?

All members or children/grandchildren of members are encouraged to contact leaders of the St. David's Society Foundation for applications:

Betty Kinsey, 2615 Park Ave., #519, Mpls 55407

Mae Anderson, 1918 John St. NE, Mpls 55418

"Small in stature, but a forensic giant."

Annie Dickie Oleson grew up on a southern Minnesota farm near Waterville and became the country's first woman endorsed by a major party in a U.S. Senate race. (*Stress is this editor's.*) Two years after the 19th Amendment opened polling places to women, she was chosen to challenge Republican Sen. Frank Kellogg.

Her nomination made the front page of the New York Times on June 21, 1922. "I was and am ready to accept on equality with men whatever the fortunes of politics may offer," she said. "...it is for the common people I stand."

Spending less than \$500, Oleson crisscrossed the state in a Ford sedan contributed by supporters. She was the mother of a 14-year-old daughter and wife of the school superintendent in Cloquet. She begged reporters to call her Annie Dickie, her maiden name, rather than "Mrs. Peter Oleson."

Why is the editor taking space in the Welsh newsletter telling about this woman with a Scandinavian name? Read on...

Annie Dickie was born in 1885 on a farm in Le Sueur County. She began public speaking lessons at 12. Her ancestors included Welsh immigrants who formed a colony in Ohio that stressed education, according to Dolores De Bower Johnson's profile of her in *Women of Minnesota*.

She gave dazzling speeches around the country. "Small in stature," the Washington Herald said, "she proved herself a forensic giant."

Unfortunately, the title "first woman to win a U.S. Senate seat" wasn't awarded until 1922, when Rebecca Felton was elected in Georgia. Earlier, Jeannette Rankin had been elected to the House from Montana, but couldn't serve because the 19th Amendment had not yet been ratified.

Thanks to Karen Titrud for pointing out this interesting article from the Star Tribune, Sun., Nov. 15, 2015. "Fiery orator blazed path for women" by Curt Brown, introduced readers to Minnesotan Annie Dickie Oleson, the first woman endorsed by a major party to run in a U.S. Senate race.

A real St. David's Society of Minnesota connection: Betty Kinsey, who grew up in Ottawa Township, LeSueur County, remembers her father talking about Annie Dickie Oleson. Her father was born one year earlier than Annie.

Dragon News

News of Society members & friends

Don Anderson, Melvyn Jones, Judith Evans Warner and David Davis, get well greetings. Good wishes to **Don and Mae Anderson** and **Vern Drilling**. Condolences to **Mae Anderson**

and **Sally Evans**.

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) 871-7587 or mnbkinsey@hotmail.com.

Richard Rames and **Holly Windle** will both appear in the Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company presentation of *Iolanthe* Feb. 26–March 20. For times and ticket info for matinee or evening performances, call (651) 255-6947 (Mon.–Fri., 11 a.m.–1 p.m.) or order online at gsvloc.org. All performances are at Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis.

IN MEMORIAM: Wilma Evans

Wilma G. Evans, 87, of St. Paul, died peacefully at home on Jan. 24, 2016. Wilma was the mother of active Society member Sally Evans, who is also treasurer of the Society.

Artist, dancer, scholar, friend, lover of music, literature and verse, Wilma raised 14 children to possess the same *joie de vivre* that she expressed her entire life. Wilma studied at Hunter College, and was a student of sculpture at the Art Students' League of New York. At the Art Students' League, she was celebrated as a young artist of note. Her work was shown and acquired by art institutions in New York and Chicago.

While at Black Mountain College, in Asheville, N.C., Wilma studied dance with Merce Cunningham, fine art with Josef Albers, and weaving with Anni Albers. There she met and married John Evans, her husband of 62 years. Together they raised a family, first in Alexandria, Va., then Colorado Springs, Co., and finally St. Paul. In her forties, still having and raising her children, Wilma returned to college at the University of Minnesota. She completed undergraduate and graduate work in French and English literature, Women's Studies and Art, using photography as her medium.

Forever passionate about fine arts, she became a docent at the Weisman Museum to continue learning and sharing her love for modern art. She also began studying and producing watercolor paintings, which became her art practice for over 20 years. She joined her son, Tony (also a Society member) and daughter-in-law at Lorton Data, where she worked until the age of 81.

Wilma is preceded in death by her brother, Samuel; husband John; and son Joseph. She is survived by 14 children, 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was Jan. 29, with interment at Fort Snelling Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Little Sisters of the Poor.

IN MEMORIAM: Don Anderson



Donald I. Anderson

Donald Irvin Anderson, 89, of Northeast Minneapolis, died January 2, 2016.

Don was an active member of the St. David's Society for decades. At the time of his death, he was the president of the St. David's Society of Minnesota Foundation. In addition, the Society counted on Don's strong bass voice at many of its events. He had served as president of the Society.

Don was born on Jan. 17, 1926, at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, the son of Ernest and Ella (Westby) Anderson. He was raised on a farm near Renville, Minn., graduated from high school in that rural area, and earned an Electrical Engineering Degree from the University of Minnesota.

Don entered the U.S. Navy in 1944, and became a Radio Man, Petty Officer, and World War II veteran. After his service in the Navy, Don was employed by Electric Machinery Manufacturing Co. of Minneapolis. He retired in 1993 after 46 years. Don and Mae were united in marriage on June 18, 1966.

Don was past president of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, (Chapter 11), and a board member of the Windom Park Citizens in Action neighborhood organization. He played trombone in the Northeast Community Band and sang in various choirs. Photography was always a special interest.

He is survived by his spouse of 49 years, Mae Anderson; son, Jerome (Holly) Anderson; sister, Virginia Cleath; two grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

His funeral service was held at Salem Covenant Church in New Brighton on Jan. 13, with interment at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens.

Memorials to Salem Covenant Church or St. David's Society of Minnesota Foundation. Please send the latter to St. David's Society Foundation treasurer Mae Anderson, 1918 Johnson St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

Don will be remembered as a humble and caring person. Blessed be his memory.

To all my dear Welsh friends,

I want to thank you all for your kind words about Don and your expressions of concern and sympathy for me at this difficult time. Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers.

Mae



Pier at Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales

Photo by Ilene Alexander

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.

Next Deadline: March 15

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

OR E-MAIL TO: mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

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Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey, 612.871.7587

Investments — Ron Adams

Membership — Judith Evans Warner, 763.522.1612

Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal, 651.644.1650
mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

Officers of St. David's Foundation —

President, position open

Betty Kinsey, secretary; Mae Anderson, treasurer

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.

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.

Please check your mailing label. Memberships were due July 1.



St. David's Society of Minnesota

St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales

www.stdavidsofmn.org

www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

St. David's Society members celebrate & cultivate all things Welsh - in literature, history, music, dance, art, or ideas, traditional & contemporary.

Membership Application or Member Renewal Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name (for family memberships, please include all names)

Address (city, state, zip)

Phone (primary phone number, please)

E-Mail Address

Please save the postage—notify me via e-mail when the newsletter is available and I will view it on-line

May we “Friend” you? FaceBook Page (we send event invitations via FaceBook and other social media sites.)

Membership Categories and 2015-16 Rates

Single/Annual (July 1-June30) \$15

(in 2016-17 the fee will be raised to \$25)

Partner/Family Annual (July 1-June 30): \$22

(in 2016-17 the fee will be raised to \$40)

Lifetime Membership (one time payment): \$175

(in 2016-17 the fee will be raised to \$225)

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

Mail your membership form and check to:

Judith Evans Warner, President
St. David's Society of Minnesota
4200 45th Avenue North, Apartment 302,
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Send questions to: judithewarner@aol.com

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

Visit us on the web & Facebook:

www.stdavidsofmn.org



www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Well-Read Dragons [Society book club] — **Sat., Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m.**, Party Room at Davanni's in Arden Hills, 3673 N. Lexington, south of I-694 and CUB. Please plan to eat lunch there.

I Saw a Man by Owen Speers.

ALL WELCOME!

Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh language conversation] — **Sun., Feb. 21, 2 p.m.**, 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, 55108. Please address questions about the group to Laurel at llawryf@yahoo.com

ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

Pub conversation — It's hoped that the next meeting can be combined with watching a rugby game. Details were not firm at press time. For info, please contact: ilene.dawn@gmail.com

ALL WELCOME!

Celebration of St. David's Day — **Sat., March 5, 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**, Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis 55413. Registrations due Fri., Feb. 26. See p. 1 for details and yellow insert for registration. **Online readers, be sure to print separate registration doc.**

EVENTS ELSEWHERE:

Cwrs Cymraeg 2016 — July 17-24 - University of Alabama, Huntsville. www.madog.org. Apply for scholarships until April 1. Contact Society member Maria Bartholdi, mbartholdi@gmail.com.

Welsh Heritage Week 2016 — Dates and location tba.

NAFOW, North American Festival of Wales 2016 — **Sept. 1-4** - Calgary, Alberta. www.nafow.org