



ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY!

It is that time of year again – time to gather in person and catch up with friends, longtime and new, at the Society's annual potluck gathering. Please reserve **Sunday, August 11, 2024** from **4 pm to 6 pm** and plan to join us at **Minnehaha Regional Park Wabun Picnic Area, Pavilion B** with a dish or treat of your choosing to share. The Society Board will supply water and paper products and we will look forward to the wonderful spread that members traditionally bring!

During the Annual Meeting, attendees will hear a review of the year's activities, approve the Board Roster and financial reports, try their luck at a pub quiz, and engage in our usual lively conversation. We will also invite each person to share a memorable experience of a trip to Wales or tell us about a place they would like to visit in Wales. A map of the park, with Pavilion B marked, can be viewed by clicking this link:

https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/minnehaha_park_picnic_map_CORRECTED_2022.pdf

For those who receive our newsletter by mail, a copy of the map is included with your newsletter.

2024-25 Slate of Officers:

Janice Barbee, President – term expires 2026

Pam Rose, Treasurer & Membership – term expires 2026

Ron Adams – term expires 2025

Hywel Roberts – term expires 2025

David Richards – term expires 2025

Shannon King – term expires 2025

New **Sally Evans** – term expires 2027

UPCOMING VIRTUAL GET-TOGETHERS

Sgwrs Cymraeg, Welsh Conversation Group

Welsh Conversation Groups are suspended for the summer, as everyone focuses on summer travel and adventure. If you would like to join the group in the fall, contact Laurel at lawryf@yahoo.com. Beginners are always welcome!

Well-Read Dragons Book Group

When: **Saturday, August 3, 2024**, 11:30AM - 1PM

Zoom Link: <http://z.umn.edu/StDavidsGatherings>

Details are provided in the article to the right of this box.

Chris Martin's Visit to Wales

Saturday, September 7, 2024 1- 3PM on Zoom

Poet Chris Martin, St. David's Society of Minnesota Foundation Grant recipient, will share details about his visit to Wales, discoveries about his Welsh ancestors, and connections made with Welsh poets.

Photos of Wales

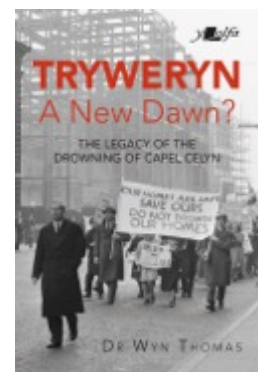
Saturday, October 5, 11am - 12:30pm

Janice Barbee will show photos from her recent trip to North Wales, including *Beddgelert*, Bodnant Gardens, *Ynys Llanddwyn*, the Big Pit Mine, and the Great Orme Copper Mine.

Well-Read Dragons Book Group

Too hot for you? You may want to stay in and read *Tryweryn: A New Dawn? The Legacy of the Drowning of Capel Celyn*, by Dr. Wyn Thomas, which will be discussed on **August 3, 2024**. Mary Morris Mergenthal will lead the discussion! Well-Read Dragons meets from **11:30 am - 1:00 pm**, and the Zoom link is provided to your left.

Based on over 20 years of research, *Tryweryn* has been described as a definitive account of the controversial flooding of *Cwm Tryweryn* (Tryweryn Valley) in North Wales in the 1960s to increase the city's water supply. Dr. Thomas lays out the constitutional journey of the Tryweryn Reservoir Bill; the impact that the construction of the *Llyn Celyn* reservoir had on those directly affected; the political advances that the Welsh nation subsequently experienced, and the outpouring of Welsh cultural expression which also resulted from *Cwm Tryweryn's* contentious drowning.



Were the decisions made designed to stymie the growth of political Welsh nationalism and to send a message that Wales “rightfully” belonged in the family of British nations? Whatever the truth may be, the flooding of *Cwm Tryweryn* is said to have begun the process of devolution and in no small measure to have led to the creation of Welsh Assembly. As with all books this group reads, the account comes highly recommended: Gwenno Robinson, of [The Welsh Agenda](#), reports that “Thomas is thorough and comprehensive in his approach throughout the book, seeking to understand the why and the how,” and our beloved Lord Dafydd Wigley states, “This detailed study casts new light on a hugely significant political event which was arguably, a turning point in Welsh history.” [Book Descriptions & Review Sources: Amazon and *Y Lolfa*] Questions? Please contact Ilene Dawn Alexander at ilene.dawn@gmail.com.

BOARD UPDATE & PRESIDENT’S REPORT

By Janice Barbee

First, as president, I wish to thank:

- **Ryan Ander-Evans**, who is leaving the board, for his service, and especially for creating a wonderful resource for our members and others - *Today’s Harlech*, which can be viewed at: <https://www.todaysharlech.com>, and via the link on the Society’s website (under *Links to Enjoy*): <https://stdavidsofmn.org/>.
- **Our current Board members** for their service to the Society, for the ideas and resources they bring to plan events, for keeping records and producing reports, for storing and lugging supplies, for greeting and serving people, for washing dishes, etc., etc.!
- **Ilene Alexander**, for organizing and leading the Well-Read Dragons Book Club and offering excellent resources to further appreciate each book
- **David Evan Thomas**, for choosing the music and accompanying us on the piano for the St. David’s Celebration
- **Sally Evans**, for putting together the newsletters, seeing to the printing and mailing
- **Laurel Bradshaw** for offering Welsh conversation sessions to Welsh speakers and learners every month
- **Robert and Barbara Sherman**, for making and bringing Welsh cakes to events
- **David and Karen Davies**, for arranging space in their condo for our St. David’s Day Celebration
- **Bob Minish**, for his expertise and support to revise the Society Bylaws
- The **St. David’s Society Foundation and its officers**, Kay Thomas (Chair), Ron Adams (Foundation Treasurer), and Sally Evans (Secretary), for their work in contributing to special events and providing resources for members
- **Mary Mergenthal**, for sending out congratulations, get well, sympathy and birthday cards to members, for her continuing support to the Board and for her always welcome ideas

And to **all our members** who contribute when and how they can. (Please forgive me if I’ve forgotten someone.) It does take a village!

Second, because no one came forward until the last minute to fill the open space on our board created by Ryan Ander-Evans, who is leaving the board this year, a change to Society Bylaws was deemed necessary to ensure that the Society is not required to have seven board members in the event that seven individuals are not available to serve. The law governing non-profits in the State of Minnesota requires a minimum of three board members overall, so we are asking members to approve a change to the Bylaws to officially reduce the number we require to three. We will strive to have at least five members on the board, but with our aging membership and four board members ending their term next year, the board thought it best to make this change for the long-term. We also propose changes that authorize alternate meeting and voting methods.

Please contact Janice Barbee at janicegwb@yahoo.com if you are interested in becoming a board member or would like more information. Board service doesn't take a lot of time – we hold about four meetings a year on Zoom – and it's a great chance get to know other board members and exercise your creativity in planning events!

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS (BOARD MEMBERS, MEETING PROVISIONS AND VOTING METHODS) AND VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the proposed changes to the Bylaws. You can vote at the annual meeting or, if you are not able to join us, feel free to send an “I approve the Bylaws, as amended” or “I do not approve the Bylaws, as amended” to the Society President by e-mail or snail mail. Mail-In votes will be counted after the Annual Meeting. Unreturned ballots will be counted as votes approving Bylaws, as amended.

Janice Barbee
3425 Wisconsin Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55427
janicegwb@yahoo.com

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws are in **bold** type (headers excluded):

AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF THE SAINT DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, INC.

This Instrument constitutes the **Amended and** Restated Bylaws of the Saint David's Society of Minnesota, Inc., effective August 11, 2024.

Article I: CORPORATE SEAL

The Corporation shall not have a seal.

Article II: MEMBERS

Section 2.1 The Membership of the Corporations shall consist of one class of Members. Natural persons who pay the annual dues and who support the purpose of the Saint David's Society of Minnesota shall become Members. The annual dues shall be fixed at a meeting of the membership by a majority vote, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Section 2.2 Membership shall terminate at the end of one year, pending renewal. A Member shall not be expelled or suspended, and a Membership may not be terminated or suspended before the end of the stated term, other than for nonpayment of dues or fees, except when a Member is given:

- not less than fifteen (15) days' prior written notice of the expulsion, suspension, or terminations, and the reasons for it, and
- an opportunity to be heard, orally or in writing, not less than five (5) days before the effective date of expulsion, suspension or termination by a person authorized to decide that the proposed expulsion, termination, or suspension not take place.

Section 2.3.1 A regular meeting of voting Members shall be held annually at such day and time as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Section 2.3.2 Unless otherwise required by law or the Articles or Bylaws of this Corporation, notice of all Member meetings must be given notice at least fifteen (15) and not more than sixty (60) days before the meeting. The notice must contain the date, time and place of the meeting, and an agenda, including any nominations for Directors and Officers and any proposed changes in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.

Section 2.3.3 If a regular meeting of voting Members has not been held during the proceeding fifteen (15) months, at least twenty-five (25) Members with voting rights or ten percent (10%) of the Members with voting rights, whichever is less, may demand a regular meeting of the Members by written notice of demand given to the President or the Treasurer of the Corporation. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the demand, the Board shall call a regular meeting of Members to be held on notice no later than ninety (90) days after receipt of the demand at the expense of the Corporation. If the Board does not call a meeting within thirty (30) days after receipt of the demand, those Members making the demand may call a meeting.

Section 2.4 Unless otherwise provided by law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, a quorum for a meeting of Members shall consist of those Members in good standing who attend a duly called meeting of the Members and are entitled to vote at the meeting. If a person holding a family membership is present at the meeting, that person's family membership shall be counted as two members being present for purposes of a quorum.

Section 2.5 Except where a larger portion or number is required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, the Members may take action by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present at a duly held meeting.

Section 2.6 All individual Members over the age of 16 shall be entitled to one vote on any matter properly presented to the Members. Family Memberships shall be entitled to two votes on any matter properly presented to the Members, but each family member vote must be made personally. Voting by proxy **shall not be permitted, but absentee voting shall be allowed so long as ballots submitted in writing are retained in the written records of the Society for the time period required by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Statute. Voting shall be permitted at a meeting, including at a meeting held via any form of electronic communications allowed by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Statute. Absentee votes may be submitted via U.S. first class mail, or via any form of electronic communications allowed by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Statute. When Society members are not present at meetings at which matters to be voted on by the membership are presented, and were provided written notice of the vote and specific matters to be voted upon, all unreturned ballots shall be counted as ballots in favor of the matter voted upon.**

Article III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3.1 The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by or under the direction of a Board of Directors of not less than **three (3)** nor more than **seven (7)** natural persons elected by the Members. All Officers shall be Directors; all other persons elected as Directors shall be Directors at large. Each Director must be a member in good standing.

Section 3.2 Directors at large shall serve for a term of **three (3) years and shall be so elected that approximately one-third (1 /3) of the Directors at large shall be elected each year.**

Section 3.3 At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the Directors then in office shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but if less than a quorum of Directors is present at

a meeting, they may not vote on official Board business, but a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting without further notice.

Section 3.4 Except where otherwise required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a duly held meeting shall be sufficient for any action.

Section 3.5 Any action, other than an action requiring membership approval, may be taken by written action signed by the number of Directors that would be required to take the same action at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which all Directors were present provided that all Directors shall be notified immediately of the effective date, except that failure to provide such notice does not invalidate the written action.

Section 3.6 The Board of Directors shall have regular meetings at least four times per year at such places and times as it shall establish by resolution. **Meetings may be held via any form of electronic communications allowed by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Statute.**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to all members of the Corporation, except that the Board of Directors may, in their discretion, meet in executive session. Only members of the Board of Directors shall vote at meetings of the Board. The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to all members of the Corporation. Notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors must be given at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, fax, or electronic communication.

Section 3.7 A Director may resign at any time by giving written notice of their resignation to the Corporation at its registered office. The resignation is effective when received by the corporation unless a later date has been specified in the notice.

Section 3.8 A Director may be removed from office by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a duly held meeting; provided that not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) business days' notice of such meeting stating that removal of such Director is to be on the agenda for such meeting shall be given to each Director.

Section 3.9 In the event of death, removal or resignation of a Director, a successor to fill the unexpired term shall be elected by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a duly held meeting.

Section 3.10 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time upon request of the President or any two (2) Directors, provided that any such request shall specify the purpose or purposes for the meeting. The Directors who call the meeting shall set the date for the special and shall give not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) business days written notice of the time, place, and purpose of such special meeting.

Section 3.11 **A meeting of the Board of Directors may be conducted via any form of electronic communications allowed by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Statute.**

Article IV: OFFICERS

Section 4.1 The Officers of the Corporation shall be President, Vice President, Membership Coordinator, Treasurer, and such other Officers as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, appoint. The Officers shall each serve a three-year term.

Section 4.2 The duties of the Officers of this Corporation shall be as outlined in each subsection below:

- **President:** The President shall coordinate general active management of the business. The President will be expected to preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the members and ensure that minutes are taken at each meeting. They shall also perform such duties as may be required by law and as determined from time to time by actions taken by the Board of Directors during regular or specially called meetings.
- **Vice President:** The Vice President shall work in cooperation with the President to maintain general active management of the business of the corporation and will perform the duties of the President in the President's absence. The Vice President may also perform such duties as may be determined from time to time by actions taken by the Board of Directors during regular or specially called meetings.
- **Membership Coordinator:** **The Membership coordinator shall maintain and update the membership database; communicate with members about membership renewal, including updates regarding individual and family membership fees; and provide requested lists and updates as needed for conducting Society business and events.**
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have charge of the corporate treasury, receiving and keeping the monies of the Corporation, and disbursing corporate funds as authorized. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors or by the President. Specifically, the Treasurer shall: (1) keep accurate financial records of the Corporation; (2) deposit money, drafts, and checks in the name of and to the credit of the Corporation; (3) endorse deposits for notes, checks and drafts received by the Corporation as ordered by the Board; (4) disburse corporate funds and issue checks and drafts in the name of the Corporation, as ordered by the Board; and (5) provide at each meeting of the Board a written account of transactions by the Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may establish an audit committee to review the performance of the Treasurer at any time and shall establish an audit committee to audit the books of the Corporation within thirty (30) days of the date that any new person assumes the duties of Treasurer. The Treasurer shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the annual Form 990 Information Return and shall send it to the IRS via certified mail, return receipt requested, on or before the due date, if such Information Return is required by Internal Revenue Service regulations.

Section 4.3 All Officers shall be Members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4.4 An Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Corporation. The resignation is effective without acceptance when the notice is given to the Corporation at its registered office, unless a later effective date is named in the notice.

Section 4.5 Any Officer may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a duly held meeting of the Board of Directors for which the notice stating such purpose was given.

Section 4.6 A vacancy in an office because of death, resignation or removal may be filled by the Board of Directors.

Article V: COMMITTEES

Section 5.1 Standing Committees

The Corporation shall appoint such other committees as may from time to time be deemed necessary by resolution of the Board of Directors. These committees may consist of persons who are not also members of the Board and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board.

Article VI: STANDARD OF CARE

Section 6.1 It is the responsibility of each Officer and Director of this corporation to discharge his or her duties as an Officer or Director in good faith, in a manner the person reasonably believes to be in the best interests of this Corporation, and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Article VII: AMENDMENTS

Section 7.1 These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Society by a majority vote, provided the proposed amendment was published with the call for the meeting.

Third, the following is a recap of events held since our last newsletter. Thank you to everyone who attended and everyone who helped to make the events a success!

END

UPCOMING EVENTS (August – December, 2024)

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Sunday, August 11, 2024, 4 - 6 pm, Minnehaha Regional Park

Come and celebrate with us if you can! Details are provided on Page 1. Annual Reports and Minutes of the Annual Meeting will be covered in the next edition of the Newsletter!

Chris Martin's Visit to Wales

Saturday, Sept. 7, 1 - 3 pm, on Zoom

Poet Chris Martin will report on his visit to Wales, made possible in part by a grant awarded by the St. David's Foundation. Join us to hear about his travel adventures, his connections with Welsh poets and discoveries about his ancestors made along the way.

Photos of Wales

Saturday, October 5, 11 am - 12:30 pm, on Zoom

Janice Barbee will share photos from her recent trip to Wales, including places such as *Abergavenny, Conwy, Bettws-y-Coed, Beddgelert, Bodnant Gardens, Ynys Llanddwyn, the Big Pit mine, and the Great Orme Copper Mine.* You won't want to miss this!

More to Come (Dates to be Determined)

- In **November**, join us for a gathering at a Twin Cities pub.
- In **December**, we look forward to presenting a great program at our annual Holiday Tea.
- Look for a *cymanfa* in the **spring of 2025!**



Mark Your Calendars!

OTHER WELSH HAPPENINGS

NAFOW 2024

The North American Festival of Wales will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from the August 28 through September 1, 2024. Registration is now open, and a full schedule can be found on the North American Festival of Wales website.



North American Festival of Wales
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 28-September 1, 2024

The Westin Pittsburgh

Room Rate: \$139

Featuring special guests Mal Pope, Mared, Urdd Singers,
Dunvant & Brecon Choirs, plus the Wednesday evening
production of "Call Mr. Robeson".



THE MINNESOTA WELSH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FALL GYMANFA

As the Association approaches its 95th Anniversary Gymanfa, Reverend Joe Corbin will us in four-part hymn singing, and the Riverblenders of Mankato – Celebrating 50 Years of Harmony in 2024 – is the Special Musical Guest! If you would love to attend, but driving is an issue, please contact Sally Evans (at 612.600.0520 or stpaulsally@gmail.com) and we'll work on carpool options!



**Singing
of Welsh Hymns**
(English and Welsh in 4-part congregational singing)

2024 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival
Sunday, September 22nd at 1:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory, Mankato MN
Free and open to the public—Te Bach (refreshments) follow

mnwelshassociation.weebly.com www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation

PAST EVENTS (January – June 2024)

Pub Gathering & Poetry Reading – January 27, Merlin's Rest Pub (Minneapolis, MN)

About 15 people came together for good food, drink, and poetry. We were all delighted to listen to several poems by Chris Martin, new member, poet, and visiting professor at Carleton College. Chris' Welsh roots are in *Gwytherin*, a small town in north Wales where his family (the Hughes's) lived on a sheep farm called Craig Bach for hundreds of years. His seventh great-grandparents are buried in the graveyard there under a 2,000-year-old yew tree. Chris read poems from a project that is in conversation with the "Legendary Poems" of Taliesin, and a short excerpt of a novel-in-progress that is set in both Minneapolis and *Gwytherin*.

Chris is the author of four award-winning collections of poetry and a recent work of nonfiction, *May Tomorrow Be Awake: On Poetry, Autism, and Our Neurodiverse Future* (HarperOne, 2022). He is also the co-founder of Unrestricted Interest, an organization devoted to neurodivergent listening, languaging, and learning. Chris received a travel grant from the St. David Society Foundation to visit Wales and connect with his roots and a few Welsh poets. We will hear about his adventures in September (*See Upcoming Events on Page 1*). A fine poet to add to our talented membership!

St. David's Day Celebration – March 3, Zvago St. Anthony Park (St. Paul, MN)

At our annual celebration of Wales and all things Welsh, we met at the condo of members David and Karen Davies – a beautiful and roomy space. We had a lunch of sandwiches catered by D'Amico's, and then heard from the Rt. Hon. Liz Saville Roberts who joined us by Zoom to talk about what is going on in Wales today and her work as a Plaid Cymru MP (Minister of Parliament). *Plaid Cymru* is the Welsh nationalist political party, committed to Welsh independence from the UK. The event ended with some singing of Welsh songs and, of course, the Welsh national anthem, *Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*.

Cymanfa Ganu (Welsh Hymn Sing) & Cawl Cennin (Not a Society Event) – March 10, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (St. Paul, MN).

Long-time member Mary Mergenthal offered and organized this *cymanfa* (a gathering for Welsh hymn singing) with her church members. Longtime Society member Karen Wojahn of Windom, MN directed, and the church's organist, Joshua Lindgren, accompanied about 100 singers in four-part harmony. Immediately after the singing, authentic Welsh tea, Welsh cakes, and Welsh leek soup (*cawl cennin*) were served.

Well-Read Dragons Book Group – Books Discussed on Zoom:

February 3 & April 6, 2024: *The Long Field*, by Pamela Petro

June 1, 2024: *Whaling*, by Nathan Munday

From Janice Barbee: A personal highlight was that on April 6, Pamela Petro, author of *The Long Field*, joined us for a fascinating conversation. Her book explores the very Welsh notion of "hiraeth." ("It is like the bone-deep longing felt for something, a home, a lover, a language, your younger self - that you left behind."). Even if you missed the discussions, you might want to read this wonderful book!

From Shannon King: *Whaling*, by Nathan Munday is an exciting adventure story based on historical fact. It takes place in 1790. Nantucket whalers are invited to found the port of Milford Haven in Wales. We learned what the arrival of these hardy Quakers – immigrants to America a century before – meant for the local people, and the meaning of the beached whale that preceded them. As two cultures rubbed against each other, distrust grew, driven by the local preacher. I really liked Munday's unique writing style, interspersing notes from historical journals with his fictionalized story. If you have not read this book, I highly recommend it.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

My First *Cymanfa Ganu* Experience

Article and Photos Submitted by Susan Gantriis



The St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church's Spring *Cymanfa Ganu* was well attended by approximately 100 people. It was great to see so many folks. Organized by Mary Morris Mergenthal, the afternoon began with Cathy Victorsen playing a number of Welsh tunes. A seasoned performer, she has played the harp for more than 30 years, both concert pedal as well as Celtic harps. I was mesmerized watching her play and, because harp solos – not to mention Welsh harp solos – are a rare happening (the harpist is often tucked away near the back of an orchestra or ensemble), it was a special treat to be able to see someone so experienced playing tunes up close.

During the event attendees were seated in the sanctuary, organized by sections based on vocal range. That allowed for a wonderful blend of voices, creating a rich and balanced experience. Karen Wojahn, from Windom MN, directed the singing and Joshua Lindgren, director of Worship and Music at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church was the organist for the event. Having grown up with many Danish traditions, by attending the Spring *Cymanfa*, I had an opportunity to experience something from my husband's heritage. I can now understand the wonderful memories and sense of camaraderie a *Cymanfa* creates.

The Welsh cakes and tea served at the end of the program provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to gather, connect and share conversation. As the harmonious notes of the hymns still resonated in the air, voices mingled, a time to celebrate, music, friendship and the joy of coming together. Traditional Welsh Leek soup was served to many of us who stayed after enjoying tea and cakes. A savory delight, the aroma of leeks, tender and green, was a real treat.

I look forward to attending another *cymanfa* again soon, and to being able to share and learn more about Welsh traditions and my husband's heritage.



More Spring *Cymanfa* Photos!

Submitted by and Mary Morris Mergenthal



Some of the many who gathered for an afternoon of beautiful music and song

Photo Credit: Kay Thomas, St. David's Society Foundation President

Karen Wojahn brought charm and precision to her directing ... as only she can and

Harrison, Atticus and Chris Martin outside the church, Dragons and all!



Photo Credits: Left - Kay Gavin Right – Mary Austin Speaker

NAFOW 2025 – Twmpath Anyone?!

Submitted by Danny Proud and Laurel Bradshaw

Do the Welsh names *Ffansi Ffarmwr* or *Pwt-ar-y-Bys* mean anything to you? They happen to be very familiar names within the Welsh dancing world—to dancers and musicians who live to dance, who revel in the magic of Celtic folk tunes combined with the whirling, turning, elegant bowing and curtsying which make up Welsh folk dancing; and to *twmpath* magicians, the people who not only dance or play music at Welsh folk dance sessions (*twmpaths*), they teach and lead others in the art of the dances.

One of those magicians lives in our midst, and her name is Laurel Bradshaw. I met Laurel years ago, back in the late '80s/early '90s, soon after she relocated to the Twin Cities. Laurel joined the St. David's Society and organized our first Welsh folk dance troupe, *Traedy Ddraig* (Feet of the Dragon). Gaining certification as a Welsh folk dance instructor through the Folk Dance Society in Wales, Laurel continued dancing and calling (leading) dances over several years at Welsh Heritage Week. In Minnesota, we soon had a group of dancers (some of whom are still around)! We had so much fun learning, practicing and performing *Ffansi Ffarmwr*, *Pwt-ar-y-Bys*, and many more dances at Celtic Festivals, at the International Festival in St. Paul, at local fairs, retreats and on special occasions.



Though our dancers aged and, in some cases, moved away, and as interest waned, intrepid Laurel has taken to leading folk dance sessions at Welsh Heritage Week, at the Great Plains Heritage Center in Wymore, Nebraska, at the Cornish Gathering in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and at the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW). All who participate have a rollicking, fun time, regardless of age and ability. And this is where you come in - you are warmly invited to step into this magical world in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where Welsh folk dancing will again be featured.

Laurel will teach some easy Welsh folk dances at one of the hour-long dance sessions. Participants will dance to live music played by a session band organized and led by Danny Proud, who has danced and accompanied dancers at Welsh Heritage Week for two decades.

We gave this workshop at last year's NAFOW in Lincoln, Nebraska and we are excited to be asked to do it again this year. Won't you please join us in the dance? We certainly hope so!



*Postcard of a Welsh dance team practicing at Strata Florida, near Llangollen.
Photo Source: <https://welshhat.wordpress.com/types-of-costume/welsh-dance-costume/>*

Happy Birthday to Longtime Society Members

Submitted by Mary Morris Mergenthal

Two of our oldest members had birthdays in July. **Betty Kinsey** turned 97. Her hometown was Ottawa, Minn. (near St. Peter). She remembers going to the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu in Mankato then, as well as often later. She lives in Minneapolis and worked for 40 years as an accounting supervisor at The Pillsbury Company in downtown Minneapolis. She's been a member of the St. David's Society of Minnesota for about 78 years. For some 25 years, she was the secretary of this organization, faithfully recording all meetings. She attended the National Gymanfa Ganu (now NAFOW) many times. She has an amazing story to tell about the bus this area hired to go to the "National" in Salt Lake City in 1949. (Short version: The bus got a flat tire in the desert!) Should you want to send a belated card, you can write to Betty at 2615 Park Ave. #519, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

David Davis, originally from Lake Crystal, Minn., southwest of Mankato, turned 94. He was a professor of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota for 30 years and lives in St. Paul. When we hosted NAFOW in 2014, he served on an organizing committee. His wife, Karen, has always been a faithful member as well. They hosted our 2024 St. David's Day event at their former residence. They now live at 1440 Midway Pkwy, Apt. 323, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Not to be outdone, are longtime members **Adele Davis and Ellis Jones. Adele**, who was born and still lives in Minneapolis, will turn 96 come Oct. 20. She and her late husband, John (Jack) joined the Society in the early 1970s. Adele worked for many years at Sears (Lake & Chicago) and retired from there. Her big hobby was quilting, and she created an amazing number of quilts and gave many as gifts. She is still doing some machine sewing at her new memory care unit. She recently moved from Village Shores in Richfield to Havenwood of Richfield. Mail is being taken by her daughter, Society treasurer, Pam Rose, 8514 13th Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55425.

Ellis, who is also from Lake Crystal originally, has lived in St. Peter for decades, and will turn 93 on November 13. Ellis graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College there in 1952 and is professor emeritus in Economics and Management at Gustavus. Ellis served on the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association [WNGGA] Board of Trustees from 1987–1996 and was president of the WNGGA 1992–1994. In 1998, he was appointed executive director of the WNGGA. He was vice-chairperson of the 1978 National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis and co-chairperson of the same event in 1999, also held in Minneapolis.

And “Happy Birthday” to our past president Judith Evans Warner who just celebrated another year on July 26th. If you’ve recently celebrated a special birthday of note (or have one coming up) and we overlooked you, apologies. Please inform Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.



And We Honor Two Society Members Who Recently Passed

Remembering Larry Moe

Submitted by Mary Morris Mergenthal



Larry and Dorothy at Lake Superior

Larry Wayne Moe, 75, died unexpectedly on Jan. 27, 2024, in Alamo, Texas. He was born on May 26, 1948, in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Larry had an adventurous spirit and lived his best life alongside his wife of 39 years, Dorothy. They lived for some years in Foreston, Minn., and most recently in Mora, Minn. Dorothy has been a member of the St. David’s Society of Minnesota for many decades.

Larry and Dorothy sailed Lake Superior in their own sailboat, explored the world via cruise ship and plane, and shared a love of golf. Larry was an active individual who enjoyed playing golf, tennis and cards including bridge and was involved in the various men’s leagues around Alamo Country Club. Larry enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and visited his mother often when back in Minnesota during the summers.

Because of Dorothy’s continuing family connections to *Dolwyddelan*, North Wales, they made many visits to the Snowdonia area. Larry was always behind the wheel (right-side) and happily so. He also accompanied Dorothy and other Minnesota Welsh to many North American Festivals of Wales, most recently to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2023.

Larry’s loud, robust laugh was a defining characteristic, and those who knew him could always tell when he was nearby. One thing his friends could count on, Larry always “told it like it was.”

Larry attended Technical High School and later went on to serve in the Army. After his military service, Larry obtained his insurance license and later joined his father in their family insurance business, where he worked until his retirement in 2006.

In his leisure time, Larry had several hobbies, particularly golf and tennis and he was known to have a mean serve. Larry was a great woodworker and made many pieces that he shared with others. Golfing was his main passion and allowed him to engage in friendly competition and socialize. Larry wore many hats: self-taught sailboat captain, sudoku master, and Tetris expert.

Larry is survived by his wife of 39 years, Dorothy, his mother, Joyce Moe and eight siblings. He is also survived by his daughter, Christine (Moe) Kaspar and two stepsons Peter (Mandi) Herwig and David (Shari) Herwig. Five grandchildren also survive. Larry was preceded in death by his father, Wayne Moe, and a nephew.

A Celebration of Life event was held Feb. 17, 2024, in Saint Augusta, Minn.

Photo 1: Larry in Beddgelert
(Photo Credit: Dorothy Moe)

Photo 2: Larry in the Welsh Mountains
(Photo Credit: Dorothy Moe)

Larry & Dorothy at NAFOW 2023
(Photo Credit: Laurie Williams, MWA President)



Remembering Nancy Powell

Submitted by MaryAnn Powell, Nancy's Sister

Nancy Lee Powell was born December 10, 1942 in Brooklyn, New York. She was the first child of her parents, Luther and Dorothy Powell. Her father was teaching at Drew Seminary in Patterson, New Jersey, and was out of town as the due date approached. Because there was still plenty of time, Dorothy was surprised to hear Luther's car pull up. He came home early saying that something told him to get home. Nancy came that night, prompting a mad dash into New York City. Nancy arrived at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn N.Y. Luther and Dorothy hadn't even had time to pick out a name, so Nancy's Birth Certificate reads Baby Powell.



Photo Credit: MaryAnn Powell

Nancy was the oldest of 5 siblings - Robert, the twins MaryAnn and Douglas, and Jim - 10 years younger. Being a minister's kid, she grew up at Drew Seminary (Patterson, New Jersey), McCormick Seminary (Chicago, Illinois), and Storm Lake, Iowa, where she graduated from high school. She went on to college and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln, Nebraska. While in college, she was so upset that "girls" were not allowed to play on the men's team though she could beat most of them. She formed her own team.

After graduation, Nancy headed for the University of Minnesota to undertake graduate work in sociology. She took a job with Hennepin County as a social service worker and stayed with them until she took early retirement.



*Nancy tending her beloved prairie.
Photo Credit: MaryAnn Powell*

Nancy had many interests and many talents. She loved playing tennis and coached the neighborhood kids. She found her little Mayview farm house in Minnetonka in the middle of a snow storm and she fell in love with the property. Two of her favorite additions to the property were the prairie she put in and watched throughout the year, and a Little Free Library, which she kept stocked with books for the neighborhood kids.

Nancy was an excellent photographer and had a special talent for taking photos of children. She loved to travel - and took wonderful photos as she did so. She put together slide presentations of trips taken to China, Tibet, Portugal, Morocco, Chile, Galapagos, Belize,



*Nancy, in the 1970s, with her camera.
Photo Credit: Jim Powell*

Wales, and England.

Nancy's musical talents were expressed by playing the piano and singing. She had an amazing Soprano voice. She sang with the North American Welsh Choir and traveled to Wales, where she sang in some amazing Cathedrals.

Nancy was passionate about her Welsh Heritage, and she had an extensive library covering Wales and all things Welsh. She was a longtime member of the Saint David's Society of Minnesota and she enjoyed attending Gymanfas where she could sing and visit with old friends.



Nancy with her brother Jim's dog Zach, hiking in the Beartooth Mountains
Photo Credit: Jim Powell

Nancy also loved to go to Saint Paul and do research - at the University of Minnesota and, with a group of like-minded friends, at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Nancy and her very good friend, Vern Drilling, not only traveled to Wales with the Welsh Choir, they traveled all over Southern Minnesota and Iowa, taking pictures of old churches, graveyards, researching, and talking to people. Nancy compiled all of her research about Welsh churches together in a book.

Forever interested and curious, Nancy was often heard to say that she had many other pieces of information to follow up on. Her research was beautifully organized and she kept extensive notes. Somehow she also found time to work with local community organizations and historical societies.

She was a special friend to all who knew her. Kind, generous, and always interested in you and your heritage. She was also a fiery redhead, with a strong sense of justice and fairness, and she tried with all her might to right the wrongs she saw in the world. She was one of a kind.

She is truly missed.

Missing Nancy Powell

Submitted by Vicki Erickson, one of Nancy's Neighbors

All I can say is that Nancy loved people, neighbors and gatherings. And she always loved staying in touch with neighbors' kids; she always took photographs of the children with their families as they grew up. She loved staying involved. She adored parties, neighborhood events, and so many other things. She was our mentor who kept us all connected. She loved animals, birds, and - of course - her prairie!! We would visit together and we had great talks ... and cookies. She loved her sweets! Her loss is surely felt here. That's all I can say about our dear Nancy Powell.



Nancy Powell Remembered

Submitted by Robert (Bob) Minish

Nancy Powell often appeared quiet and unassuming. But beneath that quiet exterior was an extraordinarily thoughtful, considerate and dedicated person. She was a respected historian who pursued early Protestant church history in the Midwest. Marveen and I met Nancy when she wanted information about Marveen's great-great-grandfather, Reverend John Evans of Lime Springs, Iowa, for her church history research. We and Nancy became better acquainted when she and Vern Drilling joined our St. David's Society Well-Read Dragons book club.

One major accomplishment of Nancy's was the preservation of a beautiful stained glass window with its own rich history that she discovered in a church building in Wayzata that was about to be sold and torn down. The window had originally been in the church building for Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. When Plymouth Church built its present building in the early 20th Century, Plymouth donated the window to a new church in Wayzata. Nancy thought the window should be saved and given back to Plymouth Church. She knew that Marveen and I were members of Plymouth, so she contacted me and sent me a photo of the window. I passed that information on to Plymouth's Senior Minister, Jim



Gertmenian. Jim learned that the funds for getting that window originally came from the grandfather of Gary Reiersen, the head of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Gary led the fundraising to obtain the window and install it in an addition to Plymouth's church building.

The area in the church where the window is located is the Jones Common Area, named in honor of Vivian Jones. Reverend Jones was originally from Wales and served as the Senior Minister at Plymouth for many years. Marveen and I brought Nancy to the dedication ceremony for the window and I was able to introduce Nancy as the one responsible for Plymouth being able to preserve that part of its rich history.

Nancy's interest in church history led her to join an organization of accomplished historians with expertise in Minnesota's 19th Century history. A friend of mine, who is also a member of that group, Bruce Kohn, wrote a book, *Dakota Child, Governor's*

Daughter: The Life of Helen Hastings Sibley, about the daughter of Henry Sibley by his Dakota Indian wife. Bruce told me how Nancy was a real inspiration for him when he showed her an early draft of the book. She helped him locate additional research that was very useful. In her own quiet way, Nancy was an inspiration for all who knew her.

On an especially personal note, I'd like to share that when I was president of the St. David's Society, Nancy and Vern Drilling presented me with a t-shirt in honor of my Viking ancestry. It has a bunch of runes, and the words: "If you can read this, then you are Norwegian." Another fond memory is that Nancy once wore a sweatshirt with "Drew University" written on it to a book club meeting. Drew is a university in Madison, New Jersey. I think she said her father taught there, which I found to be a very interesting connection.

When I joined what became the Popham Haik law firm after law school, I was sent to attend a training course for new hires held by one of the of the big accounting firms out east. Where was the course taught? At Drew University. In one month on Drew's beautiful campus surrounded by accountants, I learned enough to be very useful to firm litigators that sued accounting firms for aiding and abetting securities fraud! I told Nancy that I had nothing but good memories from my month at Drew.

And I have nothing but good memories of Nancy.

My - and Our - Friend, Nancy Powell

Submitted by Sally Evans

There is so much I could say about time spent with Nancy over the years that I knew her, but I will keep this (fairly) short. I first met Nancy on the North American Welsh Choir's first tour of Wales in 2002. Nancy and I did not spend much time together outside of rehearsals and concerts - we were not close in age, I was busy memorizing music and spending time with my father (also a choir member) and my brother (choir videographer), and Nancy and Vern Drilling (also a choir member) had places to go and things to do. I remember that they made the most of their time in Wales!

I again met Nancy at an Annual Picnic, not long after I had joined the St. David's Society. I quickly learned of her love of history and of Welsh history in particular, yet I did not connect the dots about our earlier meeting until I was watching the Wales choir DVD with my father and saw myself standing and singing right next to her! Very slowly, over the course of many conversations, I got to know Nancy better. And the more I got to know her, the more I grew to value the time we were able to spend together.

Nancy was a very independent and private person, and I was this ever-moving ball of wildfire. She was early to bed and early to rise, and I was an intractable night owl. And our friendship worked because Nancy was also very patient, very generous and very kind. It also helped that we both had a sense of humor about ourselves and about life. Our conversations ranged from aspects of Minnesota history to places she had traveled to; from things she was reading to results of her research.

When COVID-19 hit, Nancy was the person who checked on me the most – and I am not surprised because I had the honor of seeing Nancy advocate for Vern when he was being told things by persons charged with his care that demonstrated they had no idea who Vern was and what he was capable of. I had experienced something similar with my father and we bonded while looking for solutions that worked for Vern as well as his caregivers. What I admired most was the way that Nancy refused to let anyone put Vern into a limiting box and how she looked for every opportunity to ensure that Vern was given opportunities to play the piano and engage with life in a way that honored him. I feel certain that the people she advocated for throughout her professional career were equally happy to have Nancy in their corner.

As my legal career picked up, Nancy and I got together less often, but whenever we did meet we made the most of the time available to us. Some of my fondest memories are time spent eating delicious food, talking about our goals and how we were working to meet them, sitting in the sun and looking out at the prairie she created, and walking or just listening to the birds. What I think what I will miss the most, though, is being able to call Nancy and talk about things we were wrestling with in life and being able to talk with her about multifaceted matters of human history in a frank and respectful way. That said, I do hear her voice from time to time and I know she has made a lasting impact on my life that will never fade. And I have yet to drive by a lovely prairie that I don't feel that Nancy is there, enjoying the seasonal exuberance, beauty and stillness that prairies so reliably deliver. So I know she is still with me and that brings me comfort and joy.



At St. David's Cathedral with Nancy and the North American Welsh Choir, 2002
Photo Credit: <https://corcymrygogleddamerica.com/history>

SAINT DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA FOUNDATION

Did you know that the St. David's Society of Minnesota has a foundation that exists to award scholarships and grants to Society members and to the children and grandchildren of members who desire to learn more about their heritage or contribute to its preservation. These scholarships and grants are made possible because of generous gifts from past and present Society members and memorial gifts we have received and invested.

To make a donation to the Foundation, please send your check, along with any information you would like to communicate regarding the donation, to The St. David's Society Foundation, c/o Ron Adams, Treasurer, 3600 Wooddale Ave. S., #213, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. To inquire about criteria for receiving a scholarship or grant, or to receive a copy of the Foundation Scholarship or Grant Application, please contact Sally Evans, Secretary, at stpaulsally@gmail.com.

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OR GIFT SOMEONE YOU LOVE A MEMBERSHIP!**

2024-2025

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David's Society of Minnesota**

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PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

Name (for Partner/Family* memberships, please include all names): _____

Address (including city, state & zip): _____

Phone Number(s) for Directory: _____

E-mail Address: _____

_____ I do not use or seldom use email. Please send communications by post.

Individual and Partner/Family Membership Categories and Rates

_____ Individual Annual (July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024) \$25

_____ Partner/Family * Annual (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) \$40

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

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

* Partner/Family Rate covers 2 adults and may include children under the same roof under 18 years of age.

Organization Membership Categories and Rates

_____ Affiliated Organization Member (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) \$50

_____ Supporting Organization Member (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) \$75

_____ Sustaining Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024)\$100

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

Send membership status questions to: pamrosearch@hotmail.com

Mail this form and check to: **Pam Rose**

Treasurer and Membership Chair

8514-13th Ave S.

Bloomington, MN 55425



A REQUEST TO MEMBERS

The St. David's Society of Minnesota newsletter has always been an essential means for Society members to learn about Society news and events, connect with each other and to Wales, and learn about Wales and our Welsh heritage.

We are committed to maintaining this tradition and request your help: If you notice something interesting in the news - about Wales or Welsh activities here in the United States - *or* if you are inspired to write about something you think will interest other Society members, please send the information, news item or article to Mary Morris Mergenthal, who will return as editor of the newsletter (mary.mergenthal@gmail.com). *Diolch yn fawr iawn!* Thank you, especially to all who contributed items for this edition!

Your ideas, contributions and support are sincerely appreciated.

Sally Evans, Editor



St. David's Society
c/o Janice Barbee
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Crystal, MN 55427