

# Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

## St. David's Society News



*The Spring Gymanfa Ganu will be held Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m., at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church.*

### Come to Lake Harriet UMC April 29 to sing 4-part praises

The Spring Gymanfa Ganu will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m., at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55410. It's in the Linden Hills neighborhood and is on the 46 bus line. An elevator and handicapped-accessible facilities are available. Handicapped parking is clearly marked on either side of the main entrance.

Singing will be directed by Mary Morris Mergenthal.

#### Please bring:

- your red & green Gymanfa hymnal, if you have one;
- something for the treat table, if you can;
- a friend, if at all possible.

The event is free, though an offering will be received to help defray expenses. Please invite friends, neighbors, any who like to sing. **This event and others like it in the next two years play an important role in helping us spread the news about Welsh hymn singing. This will encourage local attendance at the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) which we will host in Minneapolis August 28-31, 2014.**

Te Bach will be served following the singing. Members are asked to bring treats for the table, either sweet or savory. [*Te bach*, lit. "small tea," but normally much more generous at a Welsh event.]

If you will need a ride, please call Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743.

**North American Festival of Wales**

**Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Minneapolis**

**August 28-31, 2014**

MARCH 2012

Volume 34, Issue 2



### Calling all crafters

Do you quilt, knit, crochet, make greeting cards, paint, do photography, or engage in other types of crafts? We need you! We would like to sell homemade crafted items at the North American Festival of Wales in the marketplace area when the festival comes to Minneapolis August 28-31, 2014. We don't have a budget for supplies, but we know that most everyone who does crafts has an ample supply of "stash" that they probably wouldn't mind contributing to our projects. We have acquired quite a bit of daffodil material that we thought could be made into cloth napkins, placemats, tea cozies, and also a quilt to raffle. We have patterns for knit and crochet tea cozies.

Do you have other ideas that would be Welsh related?

We'd like to gather for an initial meeting this spring with anyone who would be interested in being involved with this project. Being that the Welsh North American Association (WNAA) is monetarily in charge of the festival, the local societies do not garner any proceeds from the event itself. This will be a way for the St. David's Society of Minnesota and the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association (MGGA), co-sponsors for the NAFOW 2014 to raise funds for the local societies.

Please call or e-mail Kay Gavin at 651-484-1778 or kaywgavin@hotmail.com if you would like to help out in this manner. We have about 2 1/2 years until the NAFOW so we should be able to accomplish a lot in that period of time.....and, it will be fun!

### Spring Choral Festival

**Saturday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wooddale Church**

**6630 Shady Oak Rd., Eden Prairie 55344**

Included will be a composition by Lane Skoglund-Anderson based on Welsh hymntune RHYS. This was written to honor the memory of Diane Evans, deceased wife of Austin Evans. It will be performed with orchestra accompaniment.

**The event is free. All are welcome.**

## St. David's Day weekend provides varied ways to celebrate Society's namesake

Tradition has it that St. David, the patron saint of Wales, died March 1, 589. Welsh people have celebrated the day for centuries. Minnesotans of Welsh descent and their friends enjoyed a varied celebration in 2012.

On Friday evening, March 2, member Trilby Busch told of the reasons for writing her new book, *Darkness Visible: A Novel of the 1892 Homestead Strike*, and described the process of preparing the book. She amplified her interesting presentation with photos and drawings from the strike and the town, plus images of people who were her models for characters in the story. Trilby was propelled to write the book because her great-grandfather was one of many killed in the aftermath of the strike.

In this strike, Andrew Carnegie "broke the backs of unions for 40 years." It was noted as one of the "Ten Days That Unexpectedly Changed America" in the 2006 PBS mini-series.

Books are available by contacting Trilby, (612) 377-7032. After March 12, the paperback will be available on the website [darknessvisiblenovel.com](http://darknessvisiblenovel.com) and on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). E-books will be available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), and on the Apple platforms, the Barnes and Noble Nook, the Sony eReader, the Kobo and the Diesel Bookstore.

This interesting event was held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Northeast Minneapolis, as was the luncheon the following day.

After perusing the Silent Auction items, guests enjoyed a tasty lunch of Cockie Leekie Soup, Cornish Beef Pasties and vegetables.



*Don Anderson was Master of Ceremonies for the Saturday luncheon at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Northeast Minneapolis.*



*On Friday evening, March 2, Trilby Busch talked about her new historical novel; **Darkness Visible: A Novel of the 1892 Homestead Strike. Her great-grandfather died in the aftermath of the strike.***

Mary Morris Mergenthal was presented with the Society's Outstanding Service Award: a magnificent cut-glass bowl made by local Welshman John Dingley. Mae Howells Anderson presented the award.

Janice Barbee shared a variety of Welsh Internet shorts, accompanied by oh's, ah's and laughter.

Austin Evans announced the good news about Wales' big rugby victory. [See page 4.]

Then composer and performer, David Evan Thomas, and the Novello Singers, presented a well-received program called "From Cardiff Bay to Downton Abbey: Music of Ivor Novello (1893-1951)."

Welsh-born Ivor Novello, composer of many WW I-era songs, including "Keep the Home Fires Burning," was featured in a lively musical remembrance. In addition, luncheon guest Lili Beth Frentz read a letter from Novello to her grandfather, who was a noted singer in Minneapolis in his time. Novello's birth name was David Ivor Davies.

The afternoon closed with a game of Welsh Bingo in which each winner called out "Welsh" in order to claim a small Welsh prize. To add to the fun, every time a Welsh hymn tune was mentioned the people at one table sang the tune.

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/Thank you.



*The Novello Singers (left to right): Kathryn Criston, Donald Barbee, Janice Barbee, and Richard Rames. They were ably accompanied by David Evan Thomas (not pictured).*

*Photos by Laurel Bradshaw*



*Mary Morris Mergenthal (left) was recognized for outstanding service to the St. David's Society. The award (a cut-glass bowl fashioned by John Dingley) was presented by Mae Howells Anderson.*



*Society President Pam Rose led the group in a lively round of Welsh bingo to close the day's activities. Winners received small Welsh prizes. There were lots of hoots and hollers, to say nothing of lots of singing during the game.*

### Welsh Internet Shorts

**Richard Burton on mining, 4:55**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkddEkM7FQw>

**Welsh sheep**

**(What Welshmen do when they're bored.), 3:23**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkddEkM7FQw>

**Welsh Travelogue (with Welsh men's choir from Swansea singing Abide With Me), 4:34**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCKEa53J2Bk>

**St. David's Day Parade, Cardiff 2010, 1:17**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcSyFjPv8Jo>

**The Big Welsh Challenge (Learn Welsh), 1:53**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/bigwelshchallenge/>

**Visit us on the web:  
[www.stdavidsofmn.org](http://www.stdavidsofmn.org)**



## Wales wins 20<sup>th</sup> Rugby Triple Crown

Wales seized its 20th Triple Crown Feb. 25, 2012, in dramatic fashion by topping England 19–12, after a hugely controversial ending to a gripping contest at Twickenham Stadium, southwest of central London.

The Triple Crown is awarded to whichever of the four national rugby teams in Britain (Wales, England, Ireland, Scotland) wins all of its games against the other three.

## Ann Lemmenes to direct fall Gymanfa

The MGGGA has announced that Ann Lemmenes, Waupun, Wis., has accepted its invitation to direct the 2012 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival (Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu) on Sunday, September 23, 1:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Mankato.

She is a retired elementary teacher and director of music at her church. This will be her fourth appearance at the Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival, having previously directed in 1998, 2000, and 2006. Additional details including her list of hymns will be announced during the coming months.

## MGGGA considers name change

At its April 14 meeting, the MGGGA Board of Directors will receive a unanimous recommendation of the organizations' Executive Committee that the official name of the organization be changed from The Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc. to The Minnesota Welsh Association, Inc.

The recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee at its January 14 meeting and follows the lead of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association in its decision last September to change to Welsh North American Association. The major reason for the suggested changes has been recognition that "many people, inside as well as outside the Association have difficulty with the meaning and pronunciation of Gymana Ganu."

If the recommendation is approved, numerous changes will need to be made including filing amendments with the Minnesota Secretary of State and other legal entities.

## Anthony Hopkins composer?

Anthony Hopkins has been knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, and has played Richard I, Richard Nixon, monarchs, statesmen, geniuses and heroes. He won an Academy Award playing one of the most notorious movie villains in history: Hannibal Lecter, the criminal cannibal with an affinity for Bach.

Now, Hopkins is making his own music. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra of England performed original classical music written by Anthony Hopkins last year in the U.K. A recording of those live performances, called *Composer*, was recently released there and rocketed to the top of the U.K. classical charts. Hopkins told National Public Radio's Scott Simon recently that he's been writing music for some time, improvising on pianos and writing bits on manuscripts for more than 50 years.

"I just did it for the sheer fun of it," Hopkins says. "My wife, Stella, said [I] should take this and orchestrate it and get it performed by a major symphony orchestra. It took me about a year to put all the pieces together."

Growing up in Wales, Hopkins found his entry into the arts when his mother bought an old cottage piano for £5, and he started music lessons.

"She, of course, wanted me to be a concert pianist, and I had different plans," he says. "I just wanted to be a composer; I became an actor by default, really. I got a scholarship to a college of music and drama, hoping to take a scholarship in music. But I ended up as an acting student, so I've stuck with that for the last 50-odd years."

"When you're a certain age and becoming conscious that you're inadequate in school—which I was—it's a lonely feeling," Hopkins adds. "You feel isolated and bullied and all the rest of it. I was pretty strong, so nobody bullied me, but I did feel isolated. And I look back on it all now as the greatest gift that I could have been given, because it was the rocket fuel that sort of drove me to do something with my life. So life and destiny are very peculiar. God has a great sense of humor. Here I am, composing at the age of 74."

**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 Don Anderson, (612) 789-8923, or Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506.**

# The Well-Read Dragons read a bloody book

By Bob Minish

Although the term “bloody” was used often during the February meeting of the Well-Read Dragons Book Club, no one was swearing. The title of the book, *Written in Blood*,



published by Honno Welsh Women's Press, accurately describes much of the content of the short stories that the publisher characterizes as “crime fiction with a twist.”

All of the stories were written by “Women from Wales.” The authors ranged from “writers published for the first time” to “established writers new to criminal activity.” The 15 stories provided a lively discussion for one of our larger gatherings. Though some readers admitted to enjoying this kind of fiction, others found the book to be a “downer.” There was gore enough for anyone. Austin Evans, who joined us for the first time, admitted that he may now think twice when he visits Wales this summer before indulging in a pork pie, which he traditionally does on every visit. In the story “Pork Pies,” by Maggie Cainen, the rent collector tried once too often to take liberties with one of the tenant's daughters and ended up being butchered and fed to the communal pig. No doubt the final paragraph of the story, “Funny things, pork pies: I've never been able to stomach one since,” will haunt Austin for some time.

There was general agreement among us that women readers as well as women authors seem to handle blood and gore better than most men. In the Introduction, Lindsay Ashford states that “Women, in particular, seem to be drawn to the bloody, the sordid and the downright gruesome. This first struck me when I was a lecturer, teaching a module on serial killers. The female students far outnumbered the men and they wanted to know every gory detail of a murderer's handiwork.”

Blood and gore as well as other sordid and disgusting behavior abounded in these stories. At least six stories included instances of sexual abuse, three of which involved father/daughter incest. In several, the ending brought a twist that was payback time for a victim. William, a n'er-do-well in “The Emerald Earring,” by Sue Anderson,

persuaded Lizzie, his lover, to become a companion for his elderly and very wealthy aunt and steal various valuables that he sold to indulge his expensive tastes. She finally turned the tables by leaving a letter that explained how her nephew “had led Lizzie astray, seduced her into a life of crime and broken her heart.” What William didn't know is that “he hadn't seen more than a fraction of the stuff she'd taken from the house. Once Lizzie had learned what to look for she was perfectly able to help herself to as much as she could find. And he would get the blame.”

Not all the stories were set in Wales or in Britain. “Within a Whisker” by Beryl Roberts is set in downtown Johannesburg. Once again the final twist brings a comeuppance to the main perpetrator. The lucky one who ends up with the money is a chambermaid in a cheap motel. The author describes an aspect of life in “Jo'burg” that I had never envisioned. “Property owners in Jo'burg live under conditions of continuous curfew and permanent siege behind the plush drawn curtains of their urban mansions. Black, white and mixed-race upper-class residents, who want to keep what they own, are forced to live, discreetly armed, inside virtual castles, fortified by barred windows, locked doors and padlocked gates.” When I asked if anyone knew if that was really the case, Austin said that when he lived in Kenya for 18 months, it was very much the case there. The complex where he lived had armed guards patrolling 24/7.

The book has biographies of all the authors. Maggie Cainen recently did an MA in Creative Writing at Swansea. Sue Anderson is a teacher who came to Wales twenty years ago and only then began to write. Beryl Roberts was born in the Rhondda and graduated from UCW Aberystwyth. She spent half of each year from 2003–2007 in South Africa, where she taught English to black township teenagers.

**Our next meeting is Sat., April 7, at 11:30 a.m.** We meet at Davanni's in Roseville, in a private room conducive to discussion. Before discussion we purchase lunch (and those purchases make it possible for us to continue to use this room). So don't eat a big breakfast!

**Instead of one selection for April 7 everyone is free to choose any book, whether fiction or nonfiction, about Prince Madoc and/or the Welsh Indians. We had a similar exercise a couple of years ago on King Arthur. Each person will tell about the book he or she selected and what it has to say about the Madoc legend.**

*If you are interested in coming, you're welcome even if you haven't been able to read the book.*

**Prefer to receive the newsletter online?**

**Notify Kay Gavin at [kaywgavin@hotmail.com](mailto:kaywgavin@hotmail.com).**

**She will notify you when the next issue is available on the Society's web page.  
Help the Society save printing & mailing costs.**

## IN MEMORIAM: Floyd Lewellen

The St. David's Society of Minnesota's oldest member, Floyd Lewellen, died February 2, 2012. He was born November 7, 1909, in Shenandoah, Iowa.

He worked as a bookkeeper at General Outdoor Advertising, followed by Naegle Outdoor Advertising.



*Floyd Lewellen*

He retired from Naegle at age 75.

After his retirement, Floyd became a very active volunteer at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley, serving there for another 25 years. Initially he worked in the library, moving later to the membership office.

He enjoyed woodworking, animals, and visiting with friends. He and Florence traveled to Alaska several times.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Florence (to whom he was married for 61 years); and five siblings. He is survived by his children, Frances of Minneapolis and Foster of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

## Dragon News

### News of Society members and friends



**SUNSHINE REPORT:** Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending cards to Ada Mae Lewis, surgery; Joe Corbin, surgery; Carolyn Rees Anderson, surgery;

Judy Adams, surgery; Denis Dailey, cancer hospice; Joe Corbin, death of father; David Evan Thomas, death of father; Fran Lewellen, death of father; Robert Minish, knee replacement; Karen Conradi-Jones, hospitalized.

Please let Betty 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.



**Bob Minish**, ever alert for news bits on Wales, saw a report in Endless Vacations about the Wales Coast Path, an 870-mile walking trail that traces the entire coast of Wales. It opens officially on May 5. Along the way there are coastal villages, medieval castles and ancient churches. You could also spot bottlenose dolphins or Atlantic gray seals! [walking.visitwales.com](http://walking.visitwales.com)

## Membership News

### Deceased: Floyd Lewellen

### New Members:

**Philip J. Lowry, Megan A. & Evan T.**

813 11th Ave. S. #8  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
E-mail: [plowry1176@aol.com](mailto:plowry1176@aol.com)  
Telephone: 612-281-2713

**Christopher Maddox**

4400 Upton Ave. S. #306  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
E-mail: [christophermaddox@yahoo.com](mailto:christophermaddox@yahoo.com)  
Telephone: 612-703-1665

### Address changes:

**Martha Hatcher**

5300 Woodhill Rd #215  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**Eleigh Johns**

P.O. Box 8064  
Rochester, MN 55903

**Jean McKenzie Johnson**

1700 Lexington Ave. S. #204  
St. Paul, MN 55118  
Telephone: 651-600-3051

**J. Thomas Parry**

2040 W. Wayzata Blvd #110  
Long Lake, MN 55356  
E-mail: [jtparry@centurylink.net](mailto:jtparry@centurylink.net)  
Telephone: 952-473-0672

### E-mail changes:

**Robert L. Mathews:** [rmathe6@aol.com](mailto:rmathe6@aol.com)

## Katherine Jenkins to appear on "Dancing With the Stars"

Katherine Jenkins from Neath, Wales, is arguably the world's most prolific classical-popular crossover artist. Readers will be able to see her in a new role: as partner of professional dancer Mark Ballas on Dancing With the Stars starting Mon., March 19, 7 p.m., on ABC.

The Welsh mezzo soprano has sold in excess of seven million albums since launching her career in 2004. An internationally recognized figure, Katherine, at the age of only 31, has become an ambassador and inspiration for millions of people around the world.

When she was 23, Katherine signed what was said to be the biggest ever UK classical recording deal; she has broken records becoming the fastest selling mezzo soprano ever, has released eight studio albums, has won two Classical BRIT



**Katherine Jenkins,  
world-famous  
Welsh soprano.**

## Jenkins from previous page

awards and broken countless records with her albums going platinum around the world. She has performed with Placido Domingo and Andrea Bocelli, had lunch with and performed for the Queen and other members of The Royal Family as well as Prime Ministers and dignitaries around the world.

Katherine's unique and timeless vocals have defined the genre. Known for her interpretations of popular songs, operatic arias and hymns, Katherine is also known for her long-standing work with the British Forces Foundation, for which she is a trustee and has made various trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to entertain the troops. This support for the troops has led her to being referred to as the Forces' Sweetheart.

## Officers and Representatives

**President** Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, '13  
**Vice-President** Bill Kimes, (763) 862-3130, '13  
**Secretary** Susan Hunter Weir, (612) 874-9233, '13  
**Treasurer** Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)

### Directors

Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('12)  
Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, '13  
Judy Herbert, '13  
Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955, ('13)

Investments — Ron Adams  
Archivist — Mae Howells Anderson  
Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey  
Past-President — Judith Evans Warner  
Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778  
Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal  
Web Master — Judy Herbert

Officers of St. David's Foundation —  
Don Anderson (pres.), Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey

## Next Deadline: May 10

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

OR E-MAIL TO: [mary.mergenthal@comcast.net](mailto:mary.mergenthal@comcast.net)

## Events of interest

**Welsh Weekend for Everyone**, May 5–6, Reedsburg, Wis. First Presbyterian Church, 148 N. Park St.

**Saturday** — workshops on Welsh genealogy, heritage, foods, music; displays, including "Welsh in America" panels from British Tourist Authority supper; Eisteddfod (theme: "Do the Right Thing"); and Noson Lawen.

**Sunday** — Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu, Geraint Wilkes directing. **Info. and registration:** [www.ripon.edu/academics/faculty/nortonm/cymanfaoedd.html](http://www.ripon.edu/academics/faculty/nortonm/cymanfaoedd.html)

**Cwrs Cymraeg 2012**, "Cwrs Halen y Ddaer," a week-long Welsh language course, July 22–29, at University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Contact Cwrs Cymraeg 2012 registrar, Wayne Morrissey, by e-mail at [registrar@madog.org](mailto:registrar@madog.org) with questions about the course. Cymdeithas Madog, the sponsoring organization, will be providing more details about tuition, the venue, course scheduling and accommodations during coming months. Check [www.madog.org](http://www.madog.org) periodically for updated information.

*"Cwrs Halen y Ddaer" means Course of the Salty Earth*

This issue is set in Cambria typeface.

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## St. David's Society of Minnesota MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If family membership, include all names to be listed.

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

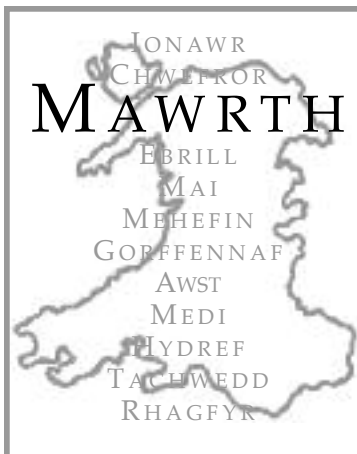
Mail to: Kay Gavin  
2737 Aglen St.  
Roseville, MN 55113-2046  
or contact Kay at: [kaywgavin@hotmail.com](mailto:kaywgavin@hotmail.com)

**Membership year is July 1–June 30.**  
You may pay for multiple years in advance.  
*Diolch yn fawr.*

St. David's Society of Minnesota  
2737 Aglen St.  
Roseville, MN 55113-2046

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Spring Gymanfa Ganu** — Sunday, April 29, 2:00 p.m.,  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave. S.,  
Minneapolis, 55410. Mary Morris Mergenthal directing.

**Annual meeting & picnic** — Saturday, July 21. Time & place TBA.

**If you know of a location, private or public, that might be available for 20–40 people for our picnic/annual meeting July 21, please call Society President Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743.**

**North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW)** — Aug. 30–Sept. 2,  
2012, Scranton, Pa.

**Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival** — Sunday, September 23, 2012,  
First Presbyterian Church, Mankato.

**North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW)**

**August 28–31, 2014**

**HYATT-REGENCY HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS!**

**If you need a large-print version of the newsletter,  
please call Mary Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650.**