

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant **St. David's Society News**

Annual picnic and annual meeting set for Sat., July 16

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the annual picnic with a potluck meal, games, visiting and a brief annual meeting.

Where? Richfield Veterans Park Picnic Shelter, near the intersection of Portland Avenue and 64th Street. We'll have a group of sheltered tables in the lovely large park. Our table will have clear Welsh labeling.

When? Saturday, July 16, 1:30–5:00 p.m.

What to bring: A dish for the potluck meal (your choice), your own plates and flatware. The Society will provide beverages and glasses.

Annual meeting, too: Not long, but important. We need to review the treasurer's report and elect officers and Board members. If you'd like to learn more about serving with this energetic planning group, please call Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, or Susan Hunter Wier, (612) 874-9233.

What else will happen?
GAMES & SURPRISES!

Is it on a bus line? You bet!

Anything to do before or after our event?
The 100-acre park includes a mini-golf course, large playground, walking and biking paths, and the Honoring All Veterans Memorial. In addition, there is a Farmers' Market at the park 8 a.m.–noon.

Need a ride? Or able to offer one?
Call Pam Rose at (952) 854-4743.

Directions to Richfield Veterans Park:
The park is large and easily found on a city map. It is east of Portland Ave., just south of Hwy. 62.

MAY 2011

Volume 33; Issue 3



WELSH MOVIE NIGHTS CONTINUE

***Under Milkwood* on May 9**

In March, members and friends enjoyed the dramatic reading of *Under Milkwood* at our St. David's Day celebration.

On Monday evening, May 9, at 6 p.m., we'll be able to enjoy the Dylan Thomas production on film at Merlins Rest, 3601 E. Lake St. (near the Mississippi River).

Dinner and beverages are available before and throughout the movie. Parking is available in a lot across 36th St.

This will be our final film for this season.

Our apologies to any who showed up for the April film, only to find out that technical problems at Merlins didn't allow us to show *The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain* that evening. Rest assured, it will be shown at a later date.

Those who plan St. David's Society events have fun doing so.

They meet other members and make friendships that last.

If you'd like to see how you could help, call Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688; Ruth Jones, (612) 926-1377; or Susan Hunter-Weir, (612) 874-9233.

**If your mailing label has a yellow mark, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE.
See p. 10 for info on Life Memberships & p. 11 for the renewal form.**

President Judith Evans Warner, standing, is shown at the 2011 Spring Gymanfa Ganu at St. David's Episcopal Church with new Society member, Martha Hatcher. Since we met there for a similar event two years ago, Martha has been resolute in having us bring a gymanfa there again.



Well over 100 attended Spring Gymanfa Ganu April 10

Publicity pays! President Judith Evans Warner sent news releases to many media outlets. St. David's Episcopal Church in Minnetonka, where the event was held, provided warm welcome and many attendees.

The Wayzata Women's Chorus, off to Llangollen, Wales, in July for the International Eisteddfod, brought the crowd to tears and spontaneous clapping.

Though there were many, many visitors, all sang enthusiastically under direction from Mary Morris Mergenthal and organ accompaniment by David Mertesdorf, Minneapolis. He also provided lovely arrangements of Welsh melodies for prelude, offertory and postlude.

Thanks to Society bakers, there was no shortage of Welsh cakes at the Te Bach.



Margaret Heinsohn, Two Rivers, Wis., renews acquaintances with Ellis Jones, St. Peter, Minn. Margaret's son, center, drove here to Minnetonka, much to her delight. It was good to have her back.

Shall we bid to host the North American Festival of Wales in 2014?

You are welcome to join other Society members to consider the pros and cons of such a decision for 2014. This will be very preliminary conversation about changes now that the National Gymanfa Ganu (which we've hosted three times) is the North American Festival of Wales. Now much more of the decision-making is the domain of the WNGGA Board of Directors. But, of course, we still would have plenty to do—particularly hospitality during the event. The date of the 2014 event, wherever it is held, is Labor Day weekend.

We'll meet at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul (2323 Como Ave., 55108, about mile east of Hwy. 280) at 7 p.m., Wed., June 15. The church is on the #3 bus route.

NOTE: This is not a time to organize committees or hand out specific responsibilities. This invitation was not initiated by the Society Board of Directors, though they know of it. At this point, the invitation is to all interested parties from Kay Gavin (a member of the WNGGA Board) and Mary Morris Mergenthal.

Tea and goodies will be served.

Please...when attending St. David's Society events, eschew cologne, aftershave, etc., to be respectful of members with fragrance allergies and allow their attendance/enjoyment.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE ALL SOCIETY EVENTS FRAGRANCE-FREE.

Diolch yn fawr.

**Visit us on the web:
www.minnesotawelsh.org**

2011 National Festival of Wales in Cleveland

September 1–4

Featuring:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Opening concert by Moch Pryden, "Pryderi's Pigs," the premiere Welsh-American band.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Seminars & Tours.

Grand Banquet in evening.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Seminars & Tours.

Grand Concert featuring Welsh male voice concert Hogia'r Ddwylau, from the area of the Menai Straits, Ilid Jones, director.

2011 NAFOW Eisteddfod

For information, performance requirements and entry form, see box below.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Worship service

80th National Gymanfa Ganu,
Ilid Jones conducting.

Registration materials for NAFOW and the Eisteddfod will be sent to WNGGA members. Others must request them from WNGGA International Headquarters.

- atwww.nafow.org
- (740) 587-3936 (phone)
- (877) 448-6633 (fax)
- exec_dir@wngga.org
- Box 410, Granville, OH 43023

Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival details announced

Plan to join singers from all over the state at the Minnesota 2011 Welsh Hymn Festival on **Sun., Sept. 25, at 1:30 p.m.** The event will be held in its usual location: **First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Hickory and Broad in Mankato.** The event is organized and hosted by the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Ass'n.

Visiting conductor will be Patricia Bowers Schultz of Kansas City, Kansas. Those who have sung under her direction urge all to attend.

If you were at our own Spring Gymanfa in April, you will remember our pleasure at the fine performance by the **Wayzata Women's Chorus.** That group will compete in the 2011 International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, North Wales, in late July–early August. It will also be the performing choir in Mankato on Sept. 25.

There is no charge, but an offering will be received. If you have a National Gymanfa Ganu hymnal, please bring it. If you don't have one, copies of hymns to be sung will be available.

This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends who enjoy music to join you.

If you would like to attend but would appreciate the opportunity to share a ride or join others on a bus, please contact Pam Rose, (952) 854-7473 or pamresearch@hotmail.com. Presumably we won't have a repeat of last year's unusual fall flooding to make the trip more interesting.

There will be tea, goodies and time for visiting after the singing.

SEPTEMBER				1	2	3	
				NAFOW in Cleveland			
4	Nat. Gymanfa @ NAFOW	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		
Hymn Festival in Mkto.							

Head to Wisconsin for hymn singing this summer or fall

June 12, 2:30 p.m. Gymanfa Ganu at Carmel-Peniel Welsh Presbyterian Church, Peniel Road, Rewey, Wis. Session followed by te bach. Director: Geraint Wilkes. Contact: Jane Kemnitzer, (608) 574-4352.

Directions: Take Hwy 151 southwest past Mineral Point to Cty A. Go right (west) on A to Jones Branch Road. Turn left and proceed to Peniel Road. Turn right on Peniel. Chapel is about 1 mile.

July 10 Redgranite, 2:30 p.m., Gymanfa Ganu at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Hwy 21 and Bonnell Ave. in Redgranite, Wis.. Session followed by te bach. Director: Trefor Williams, Milwaukee. Contact: Rev. Dorothy Hecknen Mendonca, (920) 566-4666. Church is fully accessible and air conditioned.

August 28, 2:30 p.m. Gymanfa Ganu at Peniel Chapel, Pickett. Session followed by te bach. Director: Jay Williams, Clinton, New York. Contact: Rev. Tom White, (920) 922-9424 or tjwhite65@charter.net .

Directions: 1 mile west of Hwy 26 on Co. Rd. FF between Oshkosh and Rosendale.

September 18, 2:30 p.m., Gymanfa Ganu at Wild Rose Presbyterian Church, 501 Jackson Street.

Director: Ann Lemmenes, Waupun.

Te bach to follow session.

Contact: Alyson Janke (920) 622-3515

October 9, Cambria, 2:30 & 6:00 p.m., Gymanfa Ganu at Cambria Presbyterian Church, corner of Florence and Towyn. Supper between sessions. Church is fully accessible. Director: The Rev. Joe Corbin, Reedsburg.

Contact: Tom Williams, (920) 348-5746.

November 13, 2:30 p.m. Christmas Gymanfa Ganu, Olivet Congregational United Church of Christ, 313 W. Prairie St., Columbus, Wis 53925.

Session followed by te bach.

Director: Rev. Tom White, North Fond du Lac.

Contact: Hugh Davis, (262) 751-5030 or

hjdavis1@gmail.com.

Fourth Welsh Heritage Festival October 7–10

Wymore, Nebraska

Friday evening, 5:00–9:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express Conference Center, Beatrice.
Registration, mixer, buffet supper

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Welsh Heritage Centre, 7th and E Streets,
Wymore Museum, Library, Garden & Gift Shop open.
Welsh Films in theater.

Wymore Community Center 8th and E Streets,
Folk Dance Rehearsals
Old-time Crafts Demonstrations
Ames British Foods Store
Living History display
from Homestead National Monument
RR Museum

Saturday 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express Conference Center, Beatrice
Gala Concert –
Heidi Beran, Harp
John Good, Flute, bagpipe, whistle & more
Welsh Folk dancers
Late Hymn Singing?

Sunday

Wymore United Presbyterian Church: Sunday Worship
Bethel Welsh Cemetery,
Spirits of the Pioneers tell their stories.

Sunday 12:30 p.m. – Lunch Buffet

Wymore Community Center

Sunday 2:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. – Gymanfa Ganu

Wymore United Presbyterian Church,

Sunday 6:00–10:00 p.m. – Mixer, Buffet Supper Noson Lawen Late Hymn Singing?

Holiday Inn Express Conference Center, Beatrice

Monday 9:00 a.m. – Coffee & kolaches

Gift shop, museum, library, garden, theater open
Welsh Heritage Centre

Welsh Language Lesson

Reminiscences of Country School

Welsh–American quiz

Boys against the girls

Pleasant View Schoolhouse, Wymore

Noon – Ffarwel! Da bo chi! [Farewell! God go with you!]

For details & registration fee: <http://welshheritage.org/> or berwynjones@windstream.net

Make your hotel reservations now: at the Holiday Inn Express, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Phone (402) 228-7000, and ask for the Welsh Festival group rate, \$89.95 per night, breakfast included.

All the evening events will be held in their Conference Center, a short walk from your hotel room at night.

Thanks to the St. David's Society

Bob & Marveen Minish

What a wonderful boost to my recovery at the Masonic Home from a knee replacement when Marveen showed me the Outstanding Service Award that the St. David's Society had presented to us. The lovely glass bowl with the etchings by John Dingley will have an honored place in our home. When Marveen and I took our first trip to Wales in 1980, little did we know how all things Welsh would become an integral part of our lives. That trip was memorable for a visit to the ruins of the stone cottage that was the home of Marveen's great-great-grandparents and their family before they left for America in 1844. Not long after that trip Marveen saw her doctor, David Williams. When she told him about our trip he encouraged her to join the St. David's Society of Minnesota.

Marveen came home from the first event she attended and told me with some excitement about singing hymns in four-part harmony. I remember my exact words in response were: "They get together and do what?" Although we had enjoyed a concert by the male chorus at Llandudno, participating in four-part singing was not even on my radar screen. Marveen attended many events on her own, but eventually got me to join her at a St. David's Day banquet at the Normandy. I think I've been attending those ever since.

When the St. David's Board decided to set up a foundation to provide scholarships, they needed help to get it organized and to obtain tax exempt status. That was the first of several occasions when I could use my legal background to help the Society. In 1987 Marveen served as secretary for the local St. David's Committee that planned the National Gymanfa in St. Paul. From the Noson Lawen, when Walter Carlock began to play the harmonica and everyone spontaneously began to sing, to the final Gymanfa session in the Ordway, I thoroughly enjoyed the entire event. From then on Marveen did not have to coax me to attend St. David's activities. When Marveen began to handle the sales table we had to get to some of the events early to set up. Others were there early too and I realized the time and effort that many members of the Society put forth to ensure that the events ran smoothly.

In 1999, the Society once again began to plan to host the National Gymanfa. Marveen again served as secretary for the local committee. She came home from a committee

meeting and said that their treasurer had resigned. I said that if they couldn't find anyone I would be willing to fill in. She said she had already volunteered me. This was a great opportunity to get better acquainted with the dedicated members of the Society.

My transformation into an honorary Welshman was complete when Tom Parry approached me at the St. David's Luncheon in 2004 and asked me to join the board and follow him as president. I replied that I wasn't Welsh and I couldn't sing. Tom said that didn't matter. When I had served as president of my Rotary Club, Tom had been the District Governor so he knew that I had experience in leading a volunteer organization. I have long believed that if one has belonged to an organization they have an obligation to give of their time and effort to ensure that the organization continues to thrive. So, it was an easy decision to say yes to Tom.

And, as I have often found, the rewards from getting more involved in an organization are great indeed. I will always be a booster for all things Welsh because of the many pleasant moments I have spent with the members of the St. David's Society. The experiences Marveen and I have shared through participating in St. David's activities and in getting to know its members have enriched our lives and strengthened our marriage. We, along with all members of the Society, have benefited from the dedicated efforts of many stalwarts of the Society, all of whom are deserving of the honor bestowed upon us.

Check your knowledge of Wales

- 1 - In what town did Mrs. Ogmore Pritchard live?
- 2 - Which town in north Wales was the home of Hedd Wyn?
- 3 - Who created a rabbit near Denbigh?
- 4 - Which town is known as the "the town of books"?
- 5 - Which English author, an enthusiastic traveller and linguist, published a journal of a walking tour he made of Wales in 1854, and what was its title?

Answers on page 6.

Prefer to receive the newsletter online?

Notify Kay Gavin at 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.**

Dragon News

News of Society Members & Friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending greetings to Helen Beggs, who is ill, and get-well greetings to Kay Gavin, who recently had knee replacement.

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.



KAREN & DAVID DAVIS are proud new grandparents. Garrett Conal Murray was born April 8, 2011. He lives in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., with his parents, Naomi and Conal, and his sister Elisa.



KENT WILSON JONES, his farm and his home (in rural Lake Crystal, Minn.), were featured in the August 2010 issue of Mankato Magazine. John Humphrey Jones (no relation to Kent) homesteaded the farm in 1855.

Fferm Fach

yn y Coed [Little Farm in the Woods] is a nationally registered historic farm site because of its importance in Midwestern Welsh history. For many years, Welsh folk from Cambria and Judson (the closest villages), Lake Crystal, Mankato, and Lime Springs, Iowa, met at the farm for a large meeting and gymanfa ganu. The event was called Y Cwrdd Mawr [The Big Meeting].

Welsh language & culture programs this summer

Cwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Course], July 17–24, 35th annual event, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Va., www.madog.org

Welsh Heritage Week July 17–24, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ont., Canada. Contact Hugh Davis, 661 Cardiff Dr., Hartland, WI 53029 www.welshheritageweek.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH COURSES.

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the St. David's Society or the St. David's Foundation.

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.

News of the Well-Read Dragons

By Karen Conradi-Jones

The Well-Read Dragons met on April 2 to discuss *Stranger Within the Gates* by Bertha Thomas.

This is a collection of short stories written in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Her last book was published in 1912.

Members of the group discussed different selections in the book and noted the author's attention to detail, subtle humor, and fanciful elements.

Learning about the author is also interesting, as Thomas was half Welsh and half English. She never lived in Wales, but certainly showed knowledge of and sensitivity to the Welsh culture and people. Some of her work addresses the topics of class differences and the mix/clash of cultures. She frequently explores the different roles of woman and while not labeled a feminist, her work "Latest Intelligence from the Planet Venus" certainly fills that bill. It's about a society where women are the leaders and they are debating the possibility of voting rights for men. The satire is witty and timely. Today's women and men need to remember the fight for suffrage that was going on over a hundred years ago.

Please join our group on June 4 at the usual meeting place, Urban Harvest in NE Minneapolis. Come at noon for lunch. At 12:30 we'll begin discussion of *Real Wales* by Peter Finch.

Also on the agenda for June 4, is selecting books to read during the rest of 2011 and the first half of 2012.

If you have questions, please contact David Conradi Jones, (651) 639-1688.



Don't peek...

go back to page 6 & answer the questions first.

Check your knowledge of Wales:

- 1 - Llaeggub ("bugger all" backwards).
- 2 - Trawsfynydd in North Wales.
- 3 - Beatrix Potter, who wrote and illustrated Peter Rabbit and other early stories in Grenynog.
- 4 - Hay-on-Wye, on account of its many second-hand book shops.
- 5 - George Borrow, *Wild Wales*.

Llongyfarchiadau! Congratulations

Why do we offer Life Memberships, and why should you want one?

The St. David's Society of Minnesota decided to offer life memberships as an option a few years back. The rate for the life memberships was set at \$175.00, or about ten years of individual membership renewals.

The decision was made to set up a reserve fund with the receipts from the life memberships. We invest this fund. The idea is to stretch out the money in the fund for use over many years.

As a life member, you will receive the newsletter and be a member of the St. David's Society for as long as we have a valid address to send your mailings to.

Advantages to the society

We have a fund that is expected to provide a reserve and also annual income for the life of the St. David's Society.

Having reserves gives us the potential of more "clout" with outside sources if we have the need to handle a special project, such as obtaining a proper venue for a Welsh choir or chorus to perform in Minnesota.

Having the "perpetual" income gives us a base income that assures that the work we do in support of Welsh education will continue

Advantages to the members

For everyone, life memberships prevent those embarrassing renewal notices in the mail. They also help prevent a lapse of membership due to inattention to renewal dates and notices. This happens more often than you might think.

For younger members, life memberships give individual members the ability to save money over someone who chooses to renew membership every year for over ten years.

For older members, life memberships give individual members the ability to make a gift to the society as an ongoing source of income for that time in the future when the member is no longer able to contribute.

The rules for a life membership are simple.

A life membership is for one person. It is not for a couple, and it is not for a legal entity such as a corporation. Your living trust can own a life membership, but it cannot be passed on.

Two notes

Some people with current family memberships have chosen to take out two life memberships. Others who now own a life membership also provide gift memberships every year to a spouse, partner, offspring or other loved ones. This is not a requirement. It is a definite benefit to your St. David's Society and a thoughtful thing to do for others.

If our mailings to you start being sent back by the post office, we will attempt to locate you. Until we find out where you are, you will not receive your newsletter and may be dropped from the active membership list.

Next Newsletter Deadline: August 15

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

OR E-MAIL TO: mary.mergenthal@comcast.net

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")

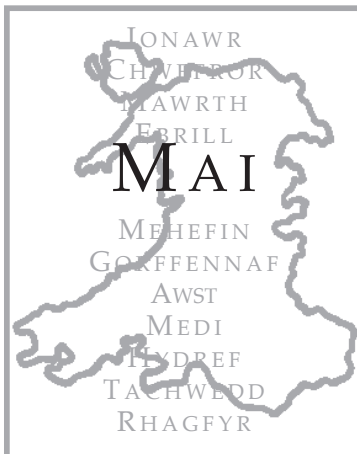
Mail to: Kay Gavin
2737 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113
or contact Kay at: kaywgavin@hotmail.com

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 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113*

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL



YOU & YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT SOCIETY EVENTS:

Mon., May 9, 6 p.m., "Under Milkwood," film at Merlins Rest.

Sat., June 4, 12:30 p.m., Book Club at Urban Harvest.

Wed., June 15, 7 p.m., meeting to begin consideration of bidding to host
the National Festival of Wales, Labor Day weekend, 2014.

Sat., July 16, 1:30–5 p.m., Picnic & annual meeting,
Richfield Veterans Park.

Sat., Aug. 6, 12:30 p.m., Book Club at Urban Harvest.

Sept. 1–4, National Festival of Wales, Cleveland, Ohio.

Sun., Sept. 25, 1:30 p.m., Welsh Hymn Festival,
First Presbyterian Church, Mankato.

Oct. 7–10, Welsh Heritage Festival, Wymore, Neb.

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