

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

Come to Edina Dec. 5 for a Tapestry of Readings and Carols

The annual Christmas Tea will be held **Sunday, December 5, 2:00 p.m.**, at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, 5730 Grove St., in Edina.

From Hwy. 100:

- Take the 50th & Vernon exit and turn right (west) to Tracy (a light at the top of the hill).
- Turn left (south) to Groveland;
- Right (west) to church. There are parking lots both above and below the church.

From Crosstown:

- Take the Tracy exit; at the top of the ramp turn left onto Tracy (north);
- Go through two stop signs to Groveland;
- Turn left (west) to church.

Held in the Sanctuary, a **Tapestry of Readings and Carols** will be hosted by David Evan Thomas and Jan and Bill Kimes. A free will offering will be taken.

As always enjoyed, a tea with sweets will follow in the Fellowship Room where we will gather to greet friends and guests.

For your holiday shopping again this year, Welsh theme items will also be on sale. All proceeds from such sales benefit the Society.

Need a ride to the Christmas Tea?

Please contact Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, or pamresearch@hotmail.com.

Welsh cakes & Christmas goodies

All who attend are asked to bring a plate of Welsh cakes or Christmas goodies to share. Of course, thinking of all dietary needs, plates of cheese and crackers or fruit are also welcome.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

If you'd be willing to help in the kitchen before the event and during the social hour, please contact President Judith Evans Warner at (763) 522-1612 or judithewarner@aol.com.

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Audition notice for *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas

Saturday, December 4, 2010

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. by Appointment Only

Hamline United Methodist Church
1514 Englewood Avenue, St. Paul
One block east of Snelling Avenue at the
Hamline University campus.

Auditioners should use the south entrance at the rear of the church and follow posted signs inside the building.

Free parking will be available in the posted church lot on the east side of the building or on the street.

If unable to attend that day and to arrange another time, please contact the director
Bill Kimes: (763) 862-3130 or jbkimes@msn.com.

Seeking 3 adult men and 2 adult women. Each actor/reader will play several roles. Some facility with dialects will be useful and occasional Welsh words and phrases will be coached. Auditions will consist of readings from a variety of characters in the play. Scripts will be provided. Rehearsals after the first of the year will be arranged to accommodate individual schedules.

The performance as a dramatic reading of the play will be presented on Friday, March 4, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. as part of the 100th Anniversary celebration of the St. David's Society of Minnesota. Bill Kimes is a long-time Society member and Professor Emeritus of Theater Arts at Hamline University.

Performance will take place at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, site of the St. David's banquet the following day.

This is the same hotel we used in 2010.

Kay Gavin elected to WNGGA Board



Kay Gavin

Kay Gavin, Roseville, was elected to the Board of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association in September. The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association [WNGGA] sponsors the annual North American Festival of Wales. Her experience in Welsh genealogy and her work as membership secretary of our the St. David's

Society of Minnesota give her unique experience to bring to the Board. WNGGA President, Ada Mae Lewis, of Ames, Iowa, is also a member of our Society.

Longtime member Ellis Jones, St. Peter, Minn., was the executive director of WNGGA for several years.

The Twin Cities has hosted the national gathering (then called "The National Gymanfa Ganu") three times. Each year hosting duties were shared by the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association.

In 1978, the Labor Day weekend event was held in Minneapolis at the Curtis Hotel with Lyn Harry of Hamilton, Ont., conducting. That was the first year seminars were added to the program. They are now an integral part of each year's event. David E. Thomas of Edina was the chairperson.

In 1987, Welsh people from all over the world gathered in St. Paul, at the Radisson Hotel. There the gymanfa itself was held at the Ordway Theatre, with Iwan Edwards of Lachine, P.Q., conducting. Mae Howells Anderson of North Minneapolis was the chairperson.

In 1999, "The National" was held in Minneapolis at the Hotel Hilton, with Ellis J. Jones, St. Peter, and Mary Morris Mergenthal, St. Paul, serving as co-chairpersons. That year Mary organized the first-ever children's choir to sing at the gymanfa itself, held in Central Lutheran Church. Conductor was Meirwyn Walters from South Hamilton, Mass., who directed at the recent State Gymanfa Ganu in Mankato.

In 2011, the National Festival of Wales will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Crowne Plaza City Center, September 1-4.

Support the National Gymanfa Ganu Association

The next page gives a brief overview of the 2010 National Festival of Wales in Portland, Ore. Any who wish to keep this part of Welsh culture alive need to realize that the big Labor Day weekend event is sponsored by the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association [WNGGA].

Membership in the WNGGA helps give the organization a stable financial base for future planning.

Membership fees:

Individual annual — \$10.00;

Life (under 65) — \$150.00;

Life (over 65) — \$100.00;

Life (first of 3 payments) — \$50.00;

Life (second of 3 payments)—\$50.00;

Life (third of 3 payments) — \$50.00.

Mail membership payment to:
WNGGA International Headquarters
The Dr. Stacy Evans, Exec. Director
Box 410, Granville, OH 43023, OR
go to www.wngga.org to pay on-line.

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.**



Members and friends of our Society who attended the North American Festival of Wales in Portland, Ore., on Labor Day weekend included: (front, left to right) Janet and Ellis Jones, both St. Peter; Betty Kinsey, Kris and David Jones, all from Minneapolis; (2nd row) Elizabeth Feigh, St. Cloud; Dorothy Moe, Foreston; and Nancy Craig, friend of Marcia Richards; (back) Kay Gavin, Roseville; Larry Moe, Foreston; and Marcia Richards, Mankato. Not pictured, but attending, were: AdaMae Lewis, Ames, Iowa; Martha Davies, Lincoln, Neb.; and Austin Evans, Mound.

AdaMae is the president of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, which sponsored the event. Martha Davies and her husband, Berwyn Jones, were honored by the National Welsh American Foundation at the Friday evening banquet.

NAFOW held in Portland, Oregon Labor Day weekend

As can be seen by the photo above, a good number of our members enjoyed the annual North American Festival of Wales, featuring the 79th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu.

At the opening concert they enjoyed Seattle-based harpist Bronn Journey and his wife, Katherine Journey. The Grand Concert featured Côr Godre'r Aran from Llanuwchllyn, Wales, accompanied and directed by Eirian Owen.

On Sunday, Ms. Owen directed one gymanfa session and Rhiannon Evans Acree, California, directed the other.

In addition there were bus tours and a multitude of seminars available for registrants.

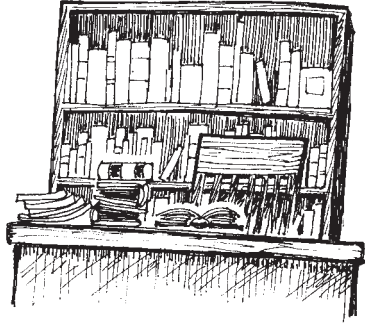
Elizabeth Feigh from St. Cloud says, "It's hard for me to pinpoint a highlight of the Festival. All in all it was a great event, from the informal encounters and conversations in the elevator, to the fun, nightly pub talent offerings and the brilliant conducting and musical direction of Eirian Owens. I particularly enjoyed the seminar led by the author Rhys Bowen. She has written several series of books for both teens and adults. She had many interesting stories to tell concerning her research, writing style, (she uses no plot or outline!!) and connections through her husband to the royal family.

There is a group wanting to film her "Constable Evans Mysteries." However, Wales wants to portray itself as 'modern and edgy' and a policeman in a quaint Welsh village isn't fitting with that image. What a shame!"

News of the Well-Read Dragons

By David Conradi Jones

The "Well Read Dragons" met on October 2 to discuss *The White Lane* by Kate Roberts [1891–1985]. This is a fascinating memoir of Robert's childhood and early life in a little village near Caernarfon in the early 1900s.



The book was unique because the English translation was accompanied side-by-side with the Welsh.

She gives detailed descriptions of her loving family, but certainly shows the very hard work required by all. She also talks about the many others in the community who were usually very interesting and colorful. Near the end of the book, she acknowledges that she left out some experiences and people because she wanted to stay away from any ugliness or meanness.

School was definitely an important part of the family's life as well as the involvement in chapel. She comments that it was culture acquired in chapel more than religious education.

No doubt, Roberts was a keen observer with excellent memory but she could retell these stories from her childhood because this is what the family did in the evenings; retell all the stories and keep the memories alive, especially the happy and funny. The ability to tell a good story was a highly regarded talent.

She states that everything significant in her life stopped happening when her younger brother died in WWI. That was how she felt, but she certainly went on with her life to become a celebrated Welsh author. Her works are all meaningful and enjoyable. We read her *Feet in Chains* some years ago,

Our next book is the 3-act play, "The Corn is Green" by Emlyn Williams. Instead of our usual meeting place of Urban Harvest, we will meet Sat., Dec. 4 at noon at the home of Kay Gavin, 2737 N. Aglen Av., Roseville. We'll have a light lunch and then watch the movie, "The Corn is Green," starring Kathryn Hepburn.

All interested persons are welcome to join us.

Please call David Conradi-Jones at (651) 639-1688 with any questions.

Dragon News

News of Society Members & Friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending notes of support to Janice Barbee and family (her mother-in-law was in hospice); Ralph & Betty Crewes (Ralph was ill); Mary Mergenthal & Betty Eide (falls); Helen Beggs (in hospital); and the families of Barbara Rames and Ifron Burns (expressing the sympathy of the Society on their losses).

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.



Members in the news? Please inform Mary Morris Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650 or mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.

Membership

Deceased Members: Ifron Burns
Barbara Rames

Address Changes/Additions:

Vern Harman

11891 Flanders Circle NE, Blaine, MN 55449
(763) 780-1657, lvharman@gmail.com

Karen Kidwell

New e-mail: karenxkidwell@gmail.com

Wendy Worner

13220 – 10th St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082-1916
(651) 436-7420, wworner@earthlink.net

New Members:

Stephen Lewis Daniel

5141 Morgan Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1025
(612) 927-0510, stephendaniel@earthlink.net

Gwendolyn Griffiths

645 Falcon Ridge Rd., Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 730-8242
gwendolynanngriffiths@yahoo.com

This You Tube site
features many readings & concerts by
Welsh bass-baritone, Bryn Terfel.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GR4ed1FLnt0>

Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu a melodic success

The 75th gymanfa ganu of the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association was held Sun., Sept. 26, at First Presbyterian Church in Mankato.

This was September, not March or April. Who would have thought that roads closed due to flooding would have added excitement to the trip. The bus driver had planned on one detour, but that one was closed so he had to take yet another. For those of us on the bus, it was a relief to have someone else worry about that while we read or visited.

The St. David's Society hired a luxury "kneeling bus" complete with bathroom so members could ride down and back in ease. BTW...it really was called a "kneeling bus." The step knelt down for easy entry and exit.

Meirwyn Walters of South Hamilton, Mass., led the 300 singers in an afternoon of musical praise. He was ably supported by Karen Jones Wojahn at the organ and Ryan Jones on the piano.



Conductor Meirwyn Walters directed with authority and conviction.

Singers got to rest their voices while The Minnesota Valley Chorale and the Riverblenders performed...often singing in Welsh!

A CD of the event is available for \$10 per copy, including postage and handling. Please use the form below.

MINNESOTA GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION 2010 CD ORDER FORM

TO: Janet Zehnder, MGGA CD Sales, 1402 Foothills Blvd., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Please send _____ (No.) copies of the MGGA 2010 *Gymanfa Ganu* CD to the address below.

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10 per CD includes postage & handling. Make payment to "MGGA.")

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____

IN MEMORIAM: Ifron Burns

Ifron Joyce (Harrison) Burns died September 15, 2010. She was a lifetime member and former president of the St. David's Society.

She was born in Edmonton, Alberta, on Nov. 7, 1924. She came to the States as a war bride. Tragedy left her a single parent in 1961. She retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield in 1988. She dedicated her life to her children, and served others through her involvement in church, community, group activities, visiting nursing homes, and Meals on Wheels. Her home was open to all. She loved God, life, music, travel, and people.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Francis Burns; son, Kevin Michael; mother, Ada Jenkins Harrison; father, Alfred Harrison; sisters, Sylvia and Alwyn; and brother, Thurston. She is survived by her brother, A. Barry Harrison, Canada; children: Roger, Glynis, Gwynne Mahan (William), Joyce, John (Michaela), Timothy (Connie); 12 granddaughters, two grandsons, one great-granddaughter.

A memorial service was held September 23, 2010, at Summit Assembly of God Church.



Ifron Burns

IN MEMORIAM: Barbara Rames

Barbara Lewis Weir Rames, of Minneapolis, died peacefully at home on September 2, 2010, at the age of 90. She held a B.A. and a M.S.W. from the University of Minnesota (the degrees separated by about 20 years) and worked as a social worker in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

After her retirement, she continued to work in the schools as a volunteer, encouraging reading in particular. She was a great lover of poetry, which she could recite by memory.

Barbara will be remembered, by all in the St. David's Society who knew her, for her ever-present smile and kind and gentle spirit.

She is survived by three sons, Peter Rames, River Jackson, and Richard Rames (and his partner, Holly Windle).

She has four granddaughters: Sapphire Jackson (in California), Billie, Mary and Molly Joy Rames-Schulz (in New Mexico), and one great-grandson, Isaiah (in Calif.).

Her memorial service was held October 9, 2010, at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis.



Barbara Rames, left, with Holly Windle and Barbara's son Richard.

Order a Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu CD, whether you were able to attend or not.

While you're at it, order two or three for Christmas gifts.

See form on reverse side.

Next Deadline: January 10, 2011

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

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

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

President Judith Evans Warner, (763) 522-1612, ('11)
Vice-President THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE!
Secretary Marveen Minish, (763) 571-6162, ('10)
Treasurer Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955, ('10)

Directors

Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)
Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('12)
Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688
Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778, ('11)
Fran Lewellen, (612) 824-5903, ('10)

Investments — Ron Adams
Archivist — Mae Howells Anderson
Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey
Past-President — Mary Mergenthal
Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin
Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal
General Sales — Marveen Minish
T-shirt & Bag Sales — Karen Kidwell & Judith Warner
Web Master — Judy Herbert

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

**2011 is our
Society's centennial year.**

**What better way to educate yourself
on our history than by purchasing
*A Brief History of the Welsh in
Minnesota, Second Edition*, at the
Tapestry of Readings & Carols
on Sunday, December 5.**

Cost is just \$7.

**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
Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955.**

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")

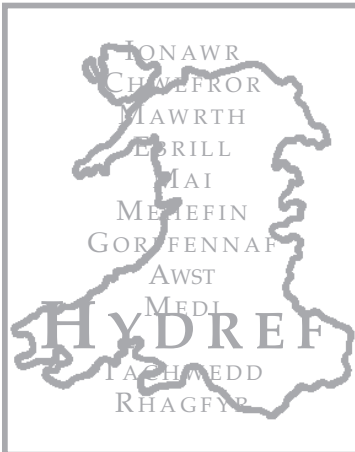
Mail to: Kay Gavin
2737 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113
or contact Kay at: kaywgavin@hotmail.com

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



COMING EVENTS:

Tapestry of Readings & Carols — Sunday, December 6, 2 p.m.
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, 5730 Grove St., in Edina.

Auditions for “Under Milkwood” — Sat., Dec. 4. See page 1.

“Under Milkwood” Performance — Friday, March 4

St. David’s Day Banquet — Saturday, March 5

Visit us on the web: www.minnesotawelsh.org

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