

# St. David's Society News

## 2014 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival September 28

SEPTEMBER 2014

Volume 36, Issue 4



## The came, they sang, they listened, they LOVED IT!

Nearly 600 visitors from all over the U.S. and Canada and Wales came to NAFOW (North American Festival of Wales) Labor Day weekend. The Hyatt Regency on Nicollet Mall reverberated each night after the spirited "informal singing," led by our own Karen Jones Wojahn from Windom, gathered singers and their hymnals (or their memories) in the Nicollet Promenade.

On Sunday, Westminster Presbyterian Church across the Mall was filled with melodic Welsh hymns as well. Some 400 NAFOW visitors joined the morning service there, where the Rev. Neal Lloyd, formerly a member here, preached.

During the run-up to Sunday, attendees chose from a variety of offerings: seminars on many Welsh-related topics; concerts (the local Apollo Men's Chorus that kicked off the weekend); and the wildly-popular Only Men Aloud on Sat., Aug. 30; the Eisteddfod Winners' Concert, in which Sally Evans performed her winning Welsh-language poem and Dan Proud sang a hymn for the adjudicators.

That same day, two Readers' Theatre performances of Under Milk Wood were a popular item. It was directed by Bill Kimes, with Society readers including Bill and Jan Kimes, Austin Evans and John Dingley.

One appreciated aspect of the weekend was the many, many Society volunteers. On his evaluation, one attendee commented on "the cadre of volunteers—all friendly and efficient." Fair praise for a wonderful group!

Friday evening, the Heritage Award medal of the National Welsh-American Foundation was presented to Mary Morris Mergenthal.

For many attendees, the highpoint of the weekend was the 83<sup>rd</sup> National Gymanfa Ganu. All singers were pleased to welcome Meirwyn Walters to the director's podium again (he was here for the "National" in 1999 and in Mankato once after that); the organ brilliance of Steve Jensen from Milwaukee shone on the 20-rank Möller organ at Westminster. (Steve also played here in 1987 in St. Paul.)

The 2014 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival sponsored by the Minnesota Welsh Association will be held Sunday, September 28, at 1:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 220 E. Hickory, Mankato, 56001.

Singing should be spirited since many got "warmed up" at the recent North American Festival of Wales in Minneapolis and the Rev. Joseph Corbin of Reedsburg, Wis., will be at the helm. We in the Twin Cities have enjoyed his spirit and ability several times and look forward to joining him there as well.

Accompanists will once again be Karen Wojahn of Windom at the organ and Ryan Jones of Lake Crystal at the piano.

Performing choir will be the Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus.

For more information, check:

<http://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com> or

[www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation).

## Society holds annual meeting June 20 in Falcon Heights

After potluck lunch on a lovely June afternoon, 16 members of the Society represented the total membership of 120 at the 2014 Annual Meeting. Dorothy Moe served as secretary *pro tem*.

Called to order by President Mary Mergenthal, members accepted the Financial Statement presented by Treasurer Ron Adams and reviewed how proceeds of the 2013 garage sale are being used and will be used for NAFOW expenses.

The storage of Society archival materials at the Minnesota Historical Society Library was explained.

Sally Evans told how she and others are building a Society FACEBOOK page to assist publicity for NAFOW and for future Society events.

Before election of officers, Mary shared concern that next year the Society will lose a large number of its officers and Board members and that we only have a vice-president currently because Judith Evans Warner offered to fill the position *pro tem*, until a replacement can be elected/appointed.

Two members offered to fill new positions on the Board: Sara (Sally) Evans and Wendy Worner. Both were affirmed by acclamation and thanked. *The full Board list, with terms, can be found on page 11.*

# 2014 North American Festival of Wales

Hyatt Regency Hotel Minneapolis, August 28–31



Photo by Kay Gavin

**Marcia Richards, Mankato; Trilby Busch, Minneapolis; and Barbara Leedy, Grand Rapids, Mich.** Marcia and Trilby are wearing the bright red sashes that identified volunteers. The sashes were made by Carol Christianson from Windom, Minn.



Photo by Kay Gavin

*It was with regret that we had to say goodbye to Dai, Dylan, Delyth, and Dilys at NAFOW 2014. The women who won them at the Silent Auction in the Marketplace were thrilled to get them and promised to give them a good Welsh home. Delyth and her cousin are shown here with Elizabeth and Bob Feigh, St. Cloud, and, center, John Dingley. Their sale earned a bit of profit for the Society.*

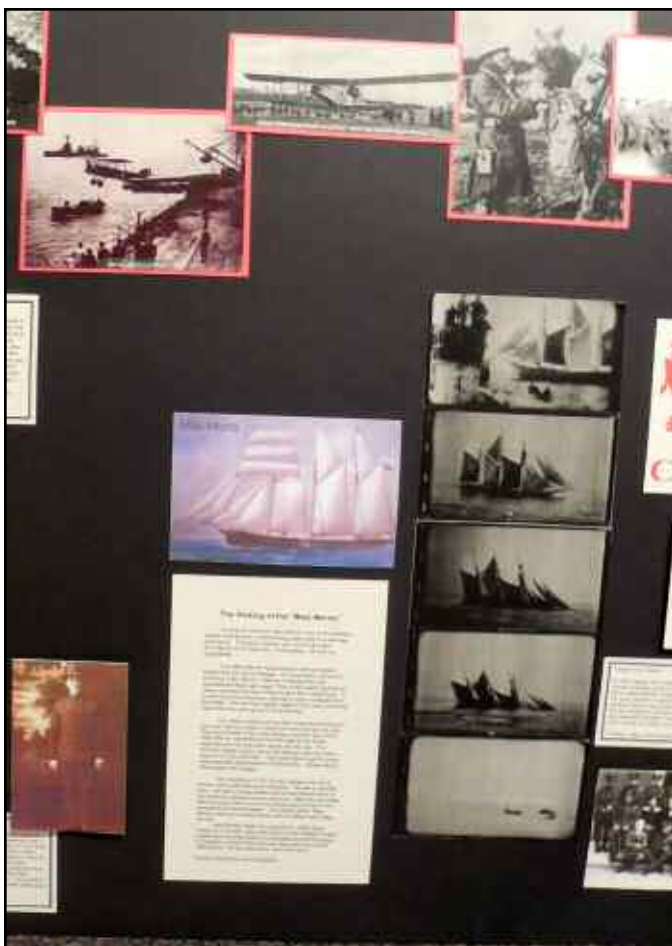


Photo by Ilene Alexander

**David and Karen Davis** above, of St. Paul, were just two of many looking for Welsh cakes and tea in the Tea Shop.

Photo by Ilene Alexander

*To mark the centenary of World War I, Kay Gavin gathered memories about the war. The extensive display included this series of photos of the sinking of the "Miss Morris," a beautiful Welsh schooner, a sailing ship. It was sunk by a German submarine, whose captain took pictures of the ships that they sank. He did allow the crew to get into their lifeboat before the ship was sunk, and they survived and returned to Wales. The Welsh Captain was Capt. W.O. Morris of Porthmadog, North Wales. He was Dorothy Moe's grandfather. The year was 1916.*





Photos this page by Ilene Alexander  
**Member Don Barbee, telling one of his inimitable jokes as master of ceremonies at the Opening Ceremony on August 28. Other features at that event were the Apollo Male Chorus, a local group that once enjoyed the services of Welsh composer William Rhys-Herbert as accompanist. In addition, young Morgan Campagnon, grandson of Judith Evans Warner, spoke about his heritage and John Dingley told one of his entertaining stories.**

**Judith Evans Warner did extraordinary work to make the Tea Shop and Market Place inviting. There were signs and displays everywhere + this invitation to enter. She also sold chances on a traditional Welsh wool spread. A woman from Montana won it and the Society made some profit.**



**Tramor, from Phoenix, Ariz., played an entertaining and melodic opening concert on Thursday night. The group also hosted the Open Mic Night on Friday, shown here, and Pub Night at Brit's on Saturday Night. Performers were Billy Parker, banjo (left); John Good, flute, voice and more (center); and John Piggott (right) harp and primary jokester during their concert.**

Photo by Ilene Alexander

*Colin Thomas, a Welsh-born producer and writer for screen, gave a seminar "Putting Welsh History on Television" and a related one, "The Dragon and the Eagle." His Y Ddraig a'r Eryr/The Dragon and the Eagle, is an interactive e-book that combines video, music, maps and text. The English language version was launched at NAFOW.*

### Just in...

Colin wrote today saying: "The enhanced ebook, "The Dragon and the Eagle", on Welsh emigration to the U.S.A. which I launched at the Festival, is now available on the Apple app store (Dragon&Eagle) at \$10. Thud Media and I plan to make it also available in an Android and Welsh language version in the near future.

"The starting point for this project was a direct family connection—Herbert Davies, my great-great-grandfather, was the captain of the brig *Triton* which took emigrants from Cardigan to New York in the 1840s."

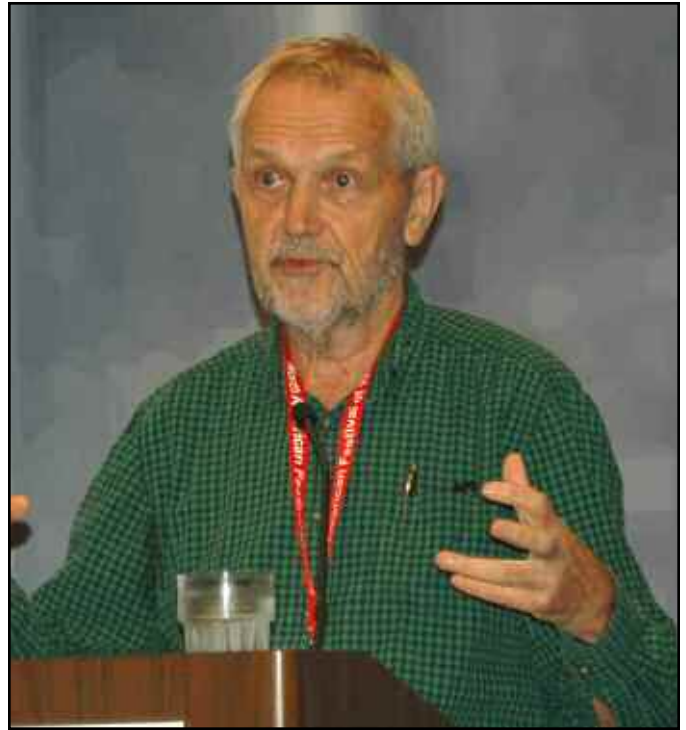


Photo by Ilene Alexander

*Joshua Owen Mills sang his way to the unique accomplishment of winning both the Osborne Roberts and Towyn Roberts prizes at the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh, Wales, in 2013. A generous gift from a charitable organization associated with the founder of the National Welsh-American Foundation (NWAf) made it possible for him to travel to Minneapolis. He performed a stunning program at the Heritage Award Dinner on Friday night and sang again Sunday at the Gymanfa Ganu at Westminster (shown here).*

### National Eisteddfod results:

#### Adult Recitation:

Mairwen Thornley (Richmond Hill, Ontario)

#### Welsh Learner's Recitation:

Sally Evans (St. Paul) &

Nic Schumer (Pittsburgh, Pa.) (tied)

#### English Language Recitation:

Nancy Wright (New York, N.Y.)

THIS NEW COMPETITION WAS THE SUGGESTION OF AND WAS FUNDED BY THE ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA.

Hymn Singing: Nancy Wright (New York, N.Y.)

Solo Voice: Carys Rees-Baker

(Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.)

Solo Voice/Semi-professional (David Morris Award):

Margaret Rees-Baker (Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.)

If you would like to see these  
NAFOW photos in color,  
go to our web page:  
[www/stdavidsofminn.org](http://www.stdavidsofminn.org).  
Click on "newsletter."



Photo by Ilene Alexander

***Elinor Bennett from North Wales, harpist extraordinaire, gave three popular seminar presentations. In addition, at the Sunday service at Westminster Presbyterian, she sang and played the harp. At the evening Gymanfa Ganu session, she premiered "Diadem," composed by our own David Evan Thomas.***

***Her husband, Dafydd Wigley, a member of the House of Lords, also presented three popular seminars. The one considering the Scottish independence vote was particularly popular. Would that we could speak to him now that the vote has been held.***



Photo by Ilene Alexander

***Carys Rees-Baker of Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., left, won the Eisteddfod contest for solo voice. Her mother, Margaret Rees-Baker, won her first Eisteddfod competition in Minneapolis in 1999. Now, in 2014, she won the Solo Voice/Semi-professional (David Morris Award). The David Morris Award funds her trip to compete in the 2015 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol in Wales. Margaret sang at the Gymanfa Ganu as well.***



Photos this page by Beth Landmesser.

*David Evan Thomas gave a special gift to Mary Mergenthal to recognize her NWA honor. Here he is playing his arrangement of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, the Welsh National Anthem. Clearly Mary, below, was touched by the gift.*



## BELOW

Photo by Beth Landmesser.

*The big hit for many was the Grand Concert by Only Men Aloud. Members of their fan club came from England just to hear them... again! Led by founder and musical director Tim Rhys-Evans MBE, the group performed everything from Men of Harlech to Cwm Rhondda to Moon River to Tydi A Roddaist. Applause was enthusiastic, to say the least!*





# 83<sup>RD</sup> National Gymanfa Ganu—2014

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, August 31**

Photos by Beth Landmesser.

*Westminster Presbyterian Church offered a warm welcome to NAFOW guests at its morning service on August 31, where the Rev. Neal Lloyd, formerly of St. Paul, preached. In the afternoon, over 600 singers swelled the lovely spaces of the church with the sound of Welsh hymns. They were ably and soul-fully led by Meirwyn Walters from Massachusetts.*



*Hymns were ably accompanied by Steve Jensen, Milwaukee, on the magnificent 20 rank Moller organ.*

## Gymanfa trivia

Minneapolis hosted the National Gymanfa Ganu in 1978, with David E. Thomas in charge. Lyn Harry, from Ontario, directed and Steve Jensen played the organ. In 1987, the National Gymanfa was held in St. Paul, with Mae Howells Anderson in charge. Iwan Edwards, from Quebec, directed. In 1999, it was back to Minneapolis, with Dr. Ellis Jones and Mary Morris Mergenthal in charge. Meirwyn I. Walters directed and Karen Jones Wojahn played the organ.



**Order a CD of highlights of the 2014 83<sup>RD</sup> National Gymanfa Ganu.**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, Minn., August 31, 2014.**

**Meirwyn Walters directing — Steven Jensen at the organ.**

Send a check for \$15.00 payable to the St. David's Society of Minnesota to:  
Ron Adams, Treasurer; 3680 Independence Ave. S. #12, St. Louis Park, MN 55426-3747.

# Making connections at NAFOW Minneapolis

*By Martha A. Davies*

*for Ninnau & Y Drych, November/December issue*

There was something in the air—call it synergy or the Holy Spirit—but we made so many new friends at NAFOW Minneapolis. Even in the hotel elevator, complete strangers would want to know about our group and naturally, we shared our Welsh spirit with them.

At the Only Men Aloud concert we sat next to a young couple who live in St. Paul. He's English. They'd bought tickets online because they like watching Only Kids/Boys Aloud on YouTube. It was fun to share our festival with such enthusiastic new friends.

The Marketplace was a constantly shifting galaxy of new friends. An old friend brought a new friend over to share her amazing story with us. Her eyes were wide as she related that being at NAFOW was like opening a door into a new world where people are lovingly preserving something beautiful. I wish I could remember her exact words but her spirit of awe and delight will remain with me forever and a day.

Another young woman stopped by our Marketplace table and asked about her Welsh family. I saw that her nametag was inked and not printed and she shared that she had found out about NAFOW from an ad in an Irish festival booklet. So I took her over to meet Kay Gavin to report this good feedback. I mentioned that our new friend was researching her blacksmith ancestor who lived in Tracy, Minnesota, and immediately Kay gestured to the woman standing right there who happened to live in Tracy. I left the two women happily chatting about their family histories. That kind of coincidence was par for the course at this festival. I'm still working on connecting Stan's family with Marcia's but that's for another day.

I'd been a little dubious about sharing our festival Sunday service with the home church congregation. When I arrived the church was nearly full but a woman near the back moved over to make room for me and welcomed me to Westminster Church. As we were about to sing

Aberystwyth I shared with Carla that Aber is the center of my Welsh universe and we had a good chat after the service. And goodness, it was marvelous to hear the Rev. Neal Lloyd preach. I'd never met Neal, though our times in Minnesota overlapped for two years, many years ago. For years my Minnesota Welsh friends had referred to Neal in awed tones and now—here we were in the same place at last!

How lovely it was to meet Tegwen who, at the registration desk, greeted a stranger who became a pal for the duration of the festival. And how amazing it was to see Rachel Jeffries whom I'd known years ago when we both lived in Ames, Iowa--so long ago that we didn't recognize each other until our third encounter at the festival. And I rejoiced to see Karen, my old friend from Cor Cymry America, and her husband, Charlie, who now are ranchers in Montana. Bonnie, also from Montana, sat next to us at a meal, noticed we are from Lincoln and asked, "Do you know Ken and Mary Alice Jones?" Yes, Ken is the cousin of my husband Berwyn.

So many families staged their reunions in connection with NAFOW. My spirit was warmed to meet the family members who accompanied our friends Ellis, Danny, Dick, Rachel, Mary of Wis., Myfanwy and so many others. Bringing our families along is a key to the survival of NAFOW. Wonderful to see Chad, the Iowa Welsh Society president, at the festival along with his wife and young sons. What a delightful scene: Meirwyn Walters conducting with his young son singing in the tenor section and his wife, daughters and mother present. And our late friend, Joyce, was with us in blessed memory as her family and her many friends attended the festival.

At the late night singing my heart nearly broke with gladness at the sight of Tom singing with three young men from Peniel Chapel in Wisconsin. I didn't take any photographs but these scenes are in my mind's eye and I will cherish them. Thanks to Mary, Kay and all those who made this festival a reality.

**Order a CD of highlights of the 2014 83<sup>RD</sup> National Gymanfa Ganu.**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, Minn., August 31, 2014.**

**Meirwyn Walters directing — Steven Jensen at the organ.**

**Send a check for \$15.00 payable to the St. David's Society of Minnesota to:**

**Ron Adams, Treasurer; 3680 Independence Ave. S. #12, St. Louis Park, MN 55426-3747.**



## Well-Read Dragons meet Oct. 4

After a summer hiatus, the Well-Read Dragons will reconvene **Sat., Oct. 4, at Davanni's in Arden Hills, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., 55126, (651) 481-7100. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m.** NOTE: This is NOT the Davanni's where we met some time ago.



Art by Dan Proud.

At this meeting, we will discuss ***Dai Country* by Alun Richards**. This 2009 novel is set in South Wales between 1930 and 1970. It is available at [bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com).

At this meeting, we will determine our reading list for 2015. This gives us time to order books or find them in libraries. The group meets every other month on the first Saturday of the month. There is always an enthusiastic, interested group of members and friends of the Society who gather. Whether you're a "regular" or a "newbie," feel free to bring a suggestion for one of our 2015 six titles. If you have a title to suggest, please send it to Ilene Alexander, [ilene.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.dawn@gmail.com). Please include a brief description of the book, the number of pages, and the likely availability of the title (e.g., is it any either of the county library collections?) Ilene will then compile a list of possibilities for us to consider on October 4.

Looking ahead, **our book for Dec. 6 is *Beyond the Pampas: In Search of Patagonia* by Imogen Rhia Herrad**. A 2010 travel memoir, 2015 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Patagonia Welsh colony. Also available at [bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com).

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

### RIGHT

Photo by Ilene Alexander.

*Austin Evans is not reading the next Well-Read Dragons book aloud, though he's a vital part of that group (as is Ilene, the photographer). He's reading his part in the Readers' Theatre presentation of *Under Milk Wood* at NAFOW 2014. Bill Kimes directed the play. Others from the Society who participated were: John Dingley and Jan Kimes.*

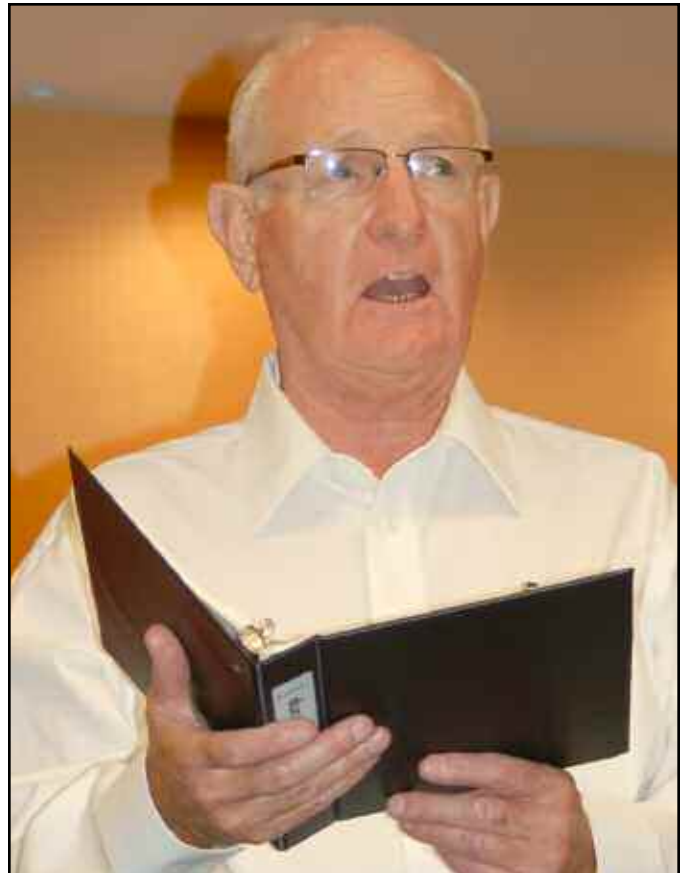
*A popular event for members,  
friends and family*

## Informal Pub Gathering at Merlins Rest

**Saturday, October 18 – starting at 4 p.m.**

Merlin's Rest sits on the corner of E. Lake St. and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Minneapolis (about one mile west along Lake Street from the Mississippi River). They have free wi-fi, good food and tasty pints. For directions, check their website - <http://merlinsrest.com>.

There's a parking lot across the street (on 36<sup>th</sup> Ave.) plus on-street parking is plentiful. Let Ilene Alexander know if you're planning to attend ([ilene.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.dawn@gmail.com)), and we'll have a St. David's table set up!



**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.**

## **Holiday Teas in Glenwood...all welcome**

The Ann Bickle Heritage House, built in 1913, is on the National Registry of Historical Places. It is located in downtown Glenwood, Minn. Ann Bickle, who was Welsh, founded Minnesota's first hospital auxiliary—the first in the country. The house and its furnishings were saved in 1988 by a group of nine women who established the Ann Bickle Heritage House. Shortly after that, the St. David's Society of Minnesota donated several pieces of Gaudy Welsh China to the house. They are proudly displayed as "on permanent loan" from us.

This year's theme is "An Old Fashioned Christmas." These events, which include an opportunity to tour the house, are always a delight. Tea will be offered Saturdays, Nov. 8, 15, and 22, with two teas each of those days: 10 a.m.–noon; and 1–3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be reserved in advance. Call (320) 334-6006.

**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.**

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## **IN MEMORIAM: Mike Gavin**

Michael Ernest Gavin, 87, of Roseville, Minn., died May 31, 2014. He was the husband of Kay Gavin, active Society member and co-chairperson of the recent NAFOW.

Mike was born in St. Paul and attended Washington High School, then Vo Tech in St. Paul.

WWII was declared over when he was in basic training. He was sent to Japan as a military policeman with the U.S. Army.

He worked for Pittelkow Sheet Metal for most of his career. He was a proud member of Sheet Metal Local #10 for over 60 years. He was also active with Sheet Metal Retirees—Rusty Tinnors.

He married Kay Ries July 27, 1973.

He was a life member of Harley Owners Group and enjoyed many trips to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. He was also a member of the Vikings Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club.

He is survived by his wife Kay; his daughter Sue Gavin (Tom Ekstrand); son Mick Gavin (Barb); two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; stepsons Brad and Brian Moe; a step-granddaughter; and a step-greatgrandchild.

He was predeceased by his parents Michael F. Gavin & Emma Schuette; sisters Margaret Stroop (Jim) and LuVerne Companion (Jim).

The family is grateful to the Health Partners Hospice staff who were so supportive and caring and also Our Lady of Peace. Memorials are preferred to either of those organizations or to Feline Rescue, a no-kill cat rescue agency.

### **A note of thanks:**

Thank you!

Many thanks to those who offered prayers and sent cards and condolences during my husband, Mike's, final illness and death. It is wonderful to have friends who support and care about you at a time like this. It was very much appreciated.

A special thank you to Mary who took over the bulk of the planning, correspondence, and meetings for NAFOW during this time. She did it graciously and with her usual enthusiasm, without concern for the extra time spent, to make the festival a great event. She very much deserved the prestigious NAWF award given to her at the Friday night banquet. Well done, my Welsh friend!

Kay Gavin

## IN MEMORIAM: Louise Morrison

Louise P. Morrison, died June 7, 2014, just a month shy of her 92nd birthday.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dr. John Morrison in 2009; parents, Thomas and Grace Phillips; sisters Gertrude Rieck, Ruth Draper and Gracie Phillips; and brother Tom Phillips.

She is survived by her beloved nieces and nephew: Julia Cadwalader, Margaret Weaver and Sara Kerr of AZ; Gwen Rieck, Marilyn Warwick and Wayne Rieck of IA; many grand nieces and nephews; and brother in law, Robert Morrison of CA.

Louise was very proud of her Welsh heritage. She left Deep River, Iowa, for New York City to be an opera singer and it was there she met her husband John. They traveled extensively internationally and were particularly supportive of the Cambodian Community.

A memorial service was held June 13 at Messiah Episcopal Church in St Paul, with burial at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

## IN MEMORIAM: Claire Richards

Claire Wallis Richards, 24, died July 6, 2014, of melanoma. She grew up in the Uptown area of Minneapolis. Following graduation from Southwest High School in 2008, Claire matriculated to Boston University, earning her degree in physics in 2011 and the friendship and respect of many.

Claire was a Research Assistant at the Immune Disease Institute/Boston Children's Hospital. She moved to Chicago in August 2013 to begin medical school at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Claire was diagnosed with melanoma in June 2010 while a student at BU. Following surgery, Claire was cancer-free until an isolated tumor was discovered and removed in January 2013. In October 2013, a systemic reoccurrence was observed that proved to be both aggressive and resistant to the rapidly evolving treatments of immunotherapy and target therapies.

Claire's passions included performing and listening to music, swing dancing and mathematics.

Claire is survived by her parents, Gail Manning and David Richards of Minneapolis; brother Hayden Richards, also of Minneapolis; exchange siblings Xav of Emage, Belgium; and Agnese of Riga, Latvia.

Claire's memorial service was held July 11 at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis. Memorials may be directed to the Stay Out of the Sun Foundation, which exists to fund melanoma research and education at the Mayo Clinic.

## IN MEMORIAM: Tom Parry

James Thomas "Tom" Parry, 82, of Long Lake, was tragically killed on June 6, 2014.

He was born to James and Susan Parry in Mount Holly, N.J., on March 20, 1932.

Tom graduated from George School, Newtown, Pa., received his BSIE from Iowa State University, MBA from Carlson School - U of M, and an MA in Religion and Theology from United Theology Seminary. He served with the U.S. Air Force as a captain during the Korean Conflict.

Tom was employed as an industrial engineer at Honeywell for 31 years. He was past-president of the following: Golden Valley Rotary; District Governor Rotary; Zuhrah Shrine Pipe Band; Suburban Shrine Club; National Sojourners; St. Andrew's Society, St. David's Society; and the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

He was a member of VFW Post 7051, American Legion Post 523, Lake Harriet and Mound Masonic Lodges, Zuhrah Shrine and St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.

He was preceded in death by parents, brothers-in-law, George Lamborn and George Ellison; and stepson, Thomas Macdonald. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Barbara Macdonald Parry; children, Elizabeth (Barry) Lowe, James (Jennifer) Parry, Susan (Jim) Johnson; and their mother, Jane Parry; step-children, Mary (Kevin) Macdonald-Hatcher, David (Ellen) Macdonald; 9 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and sisters, Suzanne Lamborn, Doris (Charles) Davenport.

Memorials preferred to St. Mark's Church. A Masonic Service was held at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel. His memorial service was held June 17 at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Minneapolis.

Some will remember Tom Parry as the man who always wore his tartan kilt to our St. David's event. He also donated the St. David Society of Minnesota President's Stone.

This piece of ancient dolomite is from the ruins of the bishops' palace, St. David's Wales, and was brought to the U.S. by Tom Parry in September 1990. It was presented to the St. David's Society of Minnesota at the annual St. David's Day Banquet, 27 February 1993, as a symbol of heritage. The wearing of it by the society president provides a direct link to Wales and to St. David, thus symbolizing the high trust and honor placed in the office of president of the St. David's Society of Minnesota.



# Dragon News

## News of Society members & friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending get well messages to Barbara Leedy, Shannon King and Marla Gladen; and messages of support due to health issues to Claire Richards. In addition, cards of sympathy were sent to Kay Gavin, Barbara Parry, Janice Barbee, the family of Louise Morrison, plus Gail Manning and David Richards.

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.



SUSAN HUNTER WEIR, was awarded the prestigious Steve Murray Award on May 15, in recognition of her leadership and dedication to heritage preservation in Minneapolis.

The award was presented at a gala luncheon at International Market Square. This was the 24th Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Awards ceremony and was sponsored by co-partners Preserve Minneapolis and The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Committee.

Sue is best known for her preservation work on the Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery at the intersection of Cedar Ave. and Lake St. in South Minneapolis. She was instrumental in forming the nonprofit, Friends of the Cemetery, which has raised over \$900,000 for the restoration of the historic iron fence surrounding the site. Her work has helped transform the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis from a dilapidated and forgotten relic of the past to a center of community life in the neighborhood, hosting music events, tours, lectures and Cinema in the Cemetery.

She has served on the Minneapolis Heritage Commission since 2011.

All of her work with the cemetery is voluntary. She also volunteers at all levels of educational institutions throughout the area imparting her appreciation of the past and her commitment to preserving it for the next generation.

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.

## New members

*Please add these names to your St. David's directory that was available at the St. David's banquet. If you did not get a directory and want one, contact Mary Mergenthal, mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.*

### Suzanne Ackermann

5676 Aspen Ln.  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
651-429-0636  
suzyack@aol.com

### Barbara Powell Sherman

1461 Edgcombe Rd  
St. Paul, MN 55116  
651-235-4340  
roberts497@yahoo.com

*Welcome, Suzanne and Barbara!*

## 94 years after her death, Maud Powell finally wins a Grammy

This year at the January 26 Grammy Awards, Lifetime Achievement awards went to bands like The Beatles and The Isley Brothers—long overdue, you could say. But they look like young punks next to another Lifetime Achievement recipient: Maud Powell.

A woman with Welsh blood, who studied with a Welsh tutor, Powell was born in Illinois in 1867. She picked up the violin as a young child and really never put it down. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, classical music in America was scoffed at by Europeans. But Powell became the first American-born violinist—man or woman—to change that by winning over European audiences. She toured, playing her violin for audiences across the U.S. In those days, if a woman made music, she usually played the piano, and she did it in parlor rooms or at dinner parties—not in the spotlight on a stage.

Rachel Barton Pine is a violinist who has long been inspired by Maud Powell, even releasing her own tribute recordings of Powell's work. Barton Pine says that though she grew up a big fan of music history, she never encountered Powell until she was 20 years old, and received a copy of Powell's biography in the mail from its author, Karen Shaffer.

"It was a real revelation—not just because of how she was the greatest woman violinist in the world during her lifetime, and playing the works of black composers when white instrumentalists just didn't do that," Barton Pine says. "It was the values by which she lived her life, playing concerts for communities that had never before had a classical concert, and using the recording technology as a further way to spread great music all over the place to people who had not yet had a chance to fall in love with it."

Rachel Barton Pine is one of the people who accepted the Lifetime Achievement Grammy on behalf of Maud Powell, who died in 1920.

*Editor's note: Apologies for the extreme tardiness of this interesting NPR piece. Somehow, NAFOW and local news got the inches in the March and May issue.*

## OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

**President** Mary Mergenthal, 651.644.1650, '15  
mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

**Vice-President** Judith Evans Warner, 763.522.1612, '16  
*pro tem* judithewarner@aol.com

**Secretary** Pam Rose, 952.854.4743, '15  
pamrosearch@hotmail.com

**Treasurer** Ron Adams, 952.237.0506, '15  
cymraeg@comcast.net

### Directors

Ilene Alexander, 651.645.4475, '15  
ilene.dawn@gmail.com

Janice Barbee, 763.544.9396, '15  
janicegwb@yahoo.com

Sara (Sally) Evans, 678.485.7306, '16  
stpaulsally@comcast.net

Wendy Worner - (651) 436-7420, '16  
wworner@earthlink.net

Investments — Ron Adams

Archivist — Ilene Alexander, 612.237.6121

Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey, 612.871.7587

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## COMING EVENTS

**2014 Minnesota Welsh Festival of Song** — Sun., Sept. 28,  
1:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 220 E. Hickory, Mankato, 56001.  
The Rev. Joseph G. Corbin directing. *See page 1.*

**Well-Read Dragons** — Sat., Oct. 4, 11:30 a.m., Davanni's in  
Arden Hills, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., 55126, NOT the Davanni's used  
previously. *See page 9.*

**Informal gathering at Merlins Rest** — Sat., Oct. 18, 4 p.m.  
**and onwards** — Merlins is on corner of E. Lake St. and 36th Ave.  
in Minneapolis. *See page 9.*



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