

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

Minnesota Festival of Song in Mankato, September 22

The Minnesota Festival of Song, sponsored by the Minnesota Welsh Association, will again be held at First Presbyterian Church in Mankato, 220 E. Hickory St.

Singing will convene at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, September 22, with "our own" Danny Proud as director. Dan now lives in Madison, Wis. He is a member of the Board of Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, Wymore, Neb.; and Welsh Heritage Week, an international language and cultural course held annually.

The St. Peter Choral Society, under the direction of Sara McKay, will once again be the performing choir.

Tea/coffee and Welsh cakes/other treats will be served following the singing. This will be a good time to meet other Minnesota Welsh co-hosting the 2014 NAFOW with us. *See next column.*

Twin Cities singers are encouraged to share rides. There will not be a bus from the Twin Cities. Any willing to pick up others or needing a ride are asked to call Mary Morris Mergenthal at (651) 644-1650.

LOTS of help will be needed Labor Day weekend 2014.

**It's not too early to add your name
to the list.**

**Please contact either of the
2014 NAFOW co-chairwomen:**

• **Kay Gavin, 651.484.1778,
kaywgavin@hotmail.com**

or

• **Mary Morris Mergenthal, 651.644.1650,
mary.mergenthal@gmail.com**

**Scheduling will not be done until about
St. David's Day (March 1, 2014), when all
have had chance to register for seminars
and special events.**

Tasks to be filled?

Greeters, ushers, tearoom servers.

BOTH MEN AND WOMEN NEEDED!

AUGUST 2013

Volume 35, Issue 4



North American Festival of Wales 2014 plans proceed

**Headquarters Hotel: Hyatt Regency
on Nicollet Mall, next to Loring Park.
All Thursday–Saturday events at hotel.**

Sunday worship service and 83rd National Gymanfa Ganu, August 31, 2014:

Westminster Presbyterian Church,

The Rev. Neal Lloyd preaching in morning.

**Meirwyn Walters, Esq., directing at afternoon
and evening cymanfaoedd.**

**Harpist Elinor Bennett, playing music composed
for her by David Evan Thomas at evening cymanfa.
Wisconsin organist Steven Jensen at the console.**

Opening Ceremonies: Thursday afternoon, Aug. 28, 2014:
Apollo Male Chorus and more;

Opening Concert: Thursday evening, Aug. 28, 2014:
Tramor—John Good and friends, from Phoenix, Arizona.

Seminars: Friday & Saturday, Aug. 29–30, 2014:
Many fascinating subjects, details next month.

**Presenters—four from Wales, including Elinor Bennett
and her husband Dafydd Wigley. Details in coming issues.**

Tours: Thurs., Aug. 28; Fri., Aug. 29; Mon., Sept. 1
Organized and narrated by our own tour pro, Ruth Jones.
Details in coming issues.

Grand Banquet: Fri., Aug. 29:
Special music by harpist Elinor Bennett and Blue Riband
winner at the 2013 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

Grand Concert: Sat., Aug. 30:

Only Men Aloud from Wales!!!!

Directed by Tim Rhys-Evans, MBE.

**More details on each item + details on registration in
future issues. Meanwhile, mark your 2014 calendar
and tell your friends!**

St. David's Society news

Annual Meeting report

A group of about 20 members gathered on Pam Rose' lawn on July 13 for the annual meeting of the St. David's Society of Minnesota. President Pam Rose called the meeting to order. Minutes of the 2012 meeting were approved. Treasurer Ron Adams presented the 2013 Comparative Statement showing a net worth balance as of June 30, 2013, of \$16,994.48, compared to \$13, 576.83 as of June 30, 2012. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

New officers were elected, see page 3 and 11.

The meeting was adjourned and all enjoyed a tasty potluck meal.

Investment help needed

In one sense, our Society is performing on a tightrope without a net. Ron Adams is watching over our investment portfolio. No one is prepared to step in if Ron were unable to do that for us, whether temporarily due to an accident or illness or for a longer time if Ron moves or is no longer able to perform the task.

We need someone to step forward who is willing to take instruction in practical investment. The knowledge you would gain could help your own long term financial well-being, and you would be contributing a valuable service to the Society.

Anyone interested in learning more, please contact Treasurer Ron Adams or President Mary Mergenthal. Contact information on page 11.

Archivist needed

For many years, Mae Howells Anderson has been collecting and organizing St. David's Society archival materials, i.e., photos, newsletters, minutes. She has records from 1911!

The Society needs someone to give Mae a break. The duties, she says, are not overly time-consuming now that she has things in order and properly filed. Even the space needed is not extensive.

Mae will be happy to give more information to anyone interested in exploring this position, one of great help to those who follow us. Saving and organizing the many documents from the 2014 North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) will be an important part of this task.

Perhaps you're not able to help at the time of the 2014 Festival due to work or family commitments. This is a way to help: organize items set aside by others.

The St. David's Society Board recently talked about the need to digitalize this information. Perhaps that's where your skills lie.

For more information: contact Mae Anderson, 612.789.8923, andymae2@juno.com.

Going to Toronto?

If you are planning to attend the 2013 NAFOW in Toronto on August 29–Sept. 1, please let either Kay Gavin, 651.484.1778, kaywgavin@hotmail.com; or Mary Mergenthal, 651.644.1650, mary.mergenthal@gmail.com know so preliminary arrangements can be made for staffing our 2014 NAFOW promotion exhibit and for a group photo for our next newsletter.

We need to hear from you

What activities would you be interested in attending and/or helping to offer to our membership? What activities might increase membership and especially bring in a new generation of members? What would get younger people in your family involved?

Along with activities the Society currently offers (St. David's Day Banquet, Spring Gymanfa, Christmas Tea, and Book Club) we've set up a brief survey to suggest some additional types of activities—and we've provided room for you to offer your suggestions.

The survey can be accessed with this short URL — <http://z.umn.edu/stdavid>.

A paper copy can be sent at your request if you contact Society Secretary, Pam Rose, 952.854.4743, pamrosearch@hotmail.com.

St. David's Foundation funds available

The St. David's Foundation of Minnesota holds funds to be used for the study of the Welsh language and culture. St. David's Society members, their children and grandchildren may apply.

Contact Don Anderson, Foundation President, at 612.789.8923, for an application form. You will need to explain what course of study you hope to attend, or what other appropriate need you have for scholarship money.

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2014.

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.

July picnic provides chance to visit, hear Society reports and elect officers

On the lovely summer afternoon of July 13, about 20 St. David's Society members met at the home of President Pam Rose in Bloomington for a short annual meeting and a pleasant and tasty picnic.

Treasurer Ron Adams gave his report, indicating a balance of \$16,994.48.

Outgoing officers, Karen Conradi-Jones and Karen Kidwell, were thanked.

Officers for 2013-'14 are:

Mary Morris Mergenthal, president;

Bill Kimes, vice-president;

Pam Rose, secretary;

Ron Adams, treasurer;

Directors:

Ilene Adams;

Janice Barbee;

Judith Evans Warner.

There's room for at least one more director. Let Mary Morris Mergenthal know if you'd like to hear more.



Judith Evans Warner thanks outgoing president with a plate adorned with a leek design.



Photos by Nancy Powell
***David Conradi Jones and
Ron Adams sported Welsh
attire for the Society picnic.***

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.**

Garage sale nets \$800 for NAFOW

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items and helped at the garage sale. Despite three days of rain off and on, and even hail on Friday, we took in \$740. Kay took a few items to a consignment store and so far we've made another \$10 from those sales.

Audrey McClellan made up a lovely basket for the garage sale consisting of a tea cup & saucer, lemon straw cookies, English breakfast tea, and two of the children's books she has authored. Instead of selling this at the garage sale, we raffled it off at the St. David's Society annual meeting and picnic on July 13. Society members very generously bought \$50 in tickets so this amount was added to the total sales. John and Adele Davis won the basket.

So, the grand total to date is \$800.

The local hosts for the North American Festival of Wales in 2014 in Minneapolis are responsible for the Opening Ceremony on Thurs. afternoon. We were planning on using the garage sale proceeds to sponsor the Apollo Male Voice Chorus, which will be performing at this ceremony. However, one of our members has personally offered to sponsor the male chorus instead, allowing us to use the proceeds of the sale for some other aspect of the festival.

We are so grateful to all of our members who have generously donated their items, their time, and their money to support our efforts to bring a great festival to Minnesota.

Thank you all so very much.

Kay Gavin & Mary Mergenthal
Co-Chairpersons NAFOW 2014

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre

Wymore, Nebraska
Welsh Centre of the Great Plains

WELSH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Wymore, Nebraska
October 4–6, 2013

• GRAND OPENING • WELSH AMERICAN ARCHIVE!

Welsh Genealogist Darris Williams
Welsh Love Spoon Carving
Herding Dog Demonstration
Tales of the Welsh Pioneers
Gymanfa Ganu
Noson Lawen

Register at www.WelshHeritage.org

News of the Well-Read Dragons

By Alexis Pogorelskin,
Duluth, Minnesota

The Rape of the Fair Country by Alexander Cordell.

The town of Blaenavon located in a once booming industrial valley in south-eastern Wales boasts a museum devoted to Alexander Cordell, author of *The Rape of the Fair Country*. There Cordell set that novel and the two others in the "Mortymer Trilogy," which recounts a Welsh family living through the tumultuous second quarter of the 19th century in Wales. Cordell never surpassed the title of the first novel of the trilogy, nor the drama of its story.

The website of BBC.Wales includes a tour guide's remarks on *The Rape of the Fair Country* as she walks the streets of Blaenavon. The novel is "incredibly important," she insists, because it "paints a fairly accurate picture of the way things really were in industrial [south Wales] ... the desperation in which people lived ... the love that shown through, despite all the dirt, noise, and injury. I find it incredibly moving and you can imagine the novel as you walk these old streets."

Iestyn Mortimer narrates the story, but the novel belongs to his older sister Morfydd, who defies their conservative father. That defiance is but rehearsal for a larger role. She renounces the forces of exploitation and cruelty that abound in a society torn by protest against the unfairly distributed wealth of industrial growth. In this crucible of change and pain, the Welsh must rediscover themselves as a people and frame their future.

Cordell may have been an unlikely chronicler of Wales, coming from a British colonial background (he was born in Ceylon in 1914) and a career in the military. He found his real calling only in the 1950s when the memory of his mother from the Rhondda Valley called him back to Wales. *The Rape of the Fair Country* leaves no one who reads it unchanged. It has haunted this writer for five decades.



Remember to contact 2014 NAFOW
co-chairpersons to be listed with hundreds of others
who will usher/greet/take tickets/etc.

Kay Gavin, 651.484.1774,
kaywgavin@hotmail.com
Mary Morris Mergenthal, 651.644.1650,
mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

Well-Read Dragons picks for 2013–2014

Sat., Oct. 5, 2013 —

***The Gospel of Us* by Owen Sheers**

A 2012 novella made into a play and movie.

Available at bookfinder.com.

Sat., Dec. 7, 2013 —

***Turf or Stone* by Margiad Evans**

A 1934 novel conveys a stark story with brilliant language.

Available at bookfinder.com.

Sat., February 1, 2014 —

***Testimonies: A Novel* by Patrick O'Brian.**

Set in North Wales; O'Brian's first U.S. published novel.

Several library copies at www.mnlink.org.

Available at bookfinder.com.

Sat., April 5, 2014, 2014 —

***Into Suez* by Stevie Davies.**

The novel spans from 1947 to the Suez crisis and beyond from the viewpoint of Nia, the daughter of a South Wales mother and an RAF soldier.

Available at bookfinder.com.

Sat., June 7, 2014 —

***One Moonlit Night* by Caradog Prichard.**

A 2009 novel set in Bethesda, North Wales, in the 1910s.

Available at bookfinder.com.

Sat., August 2, 2014 —

***Dai Country* by Alun Richards.**

A 2009 novel set in South Wales between 1930 and 1970.

Available at bookfinder.com.

Sat., Oct. 4, 2014 — ***Beyond the Pampas:***

***In Search of Patagonia* by Imogen Rhia Herrad.**

A 2010 travel memoir. 2015 is the 150th anniversary of the Patagonia Welsh colony. From the *New Welsh Review*:

"This is an entrancing journey to the ends of the earth in search of an ideal. It's a journey that takes off in unexpected directions, leading the author to a new perspective on her own life and those in the remote reaches of Patagonia. It traces the indigenous peoples of that vast, inhospitable territory."

Available at bookfinder.com.

Bookfinder.com includes several sources such as E-bay, Abe Books, Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Alibris, Half.com and others.

The Well-Read Dragons meet in a private room at Davanni's restaurant in Roseville (west of Fairview Ave. and Rosedale on Perimeter Rd.). Please arrive close to 11:30 a.m. to purchase lunch before the discussion. Those lunch purchases make it possible for us to use this room.



Alexis Pogorelskin talks about what Rape of the Fair Country meant to her, while Kay Gavin listens.



Photos by Ilene Alexander.
Vern Drilling and Bob Minish

Dragon News

News of Society members & friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending a get-well cards to Karen Conradi-Jones, Fran Lewellen, Jack Morris, and Trilby Busch. The editor sent Betty one, too, on behalf of us all in light of her recent surgery.

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.



WELL-READ DRAGONS IN THE NEWS. The Welsh newspaper, Ninnau, recently included an article about the Well-Read Dragons reading *Stanley*, about explorer Henry Morton Stanley, his Welsh birth and involvement in both sides of the American Civil War! The article was submitted by Marveen Minish and appeared in the May-June issue.



Leave it to Mae Howells Anderson to find the **FIRST REFERENCE TO WELSH CAKES EVER** ...in the Bible. I Kings 19 tells of Elijah fleeing from Jezebel. Beginning in v. 4: "...he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep, Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water."

Pice ar y Maen, the baked treat now called Welsh Cakes, means literally, "cakes on a stone."



The next Cwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Course] sponsored by Cymdeithas Madog [Madog's Fellowship] will be held at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, July 20-27, 2014.

More information will be forthcoming on the website, www.madog.org. Readers can also join CM's Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/cymdeithasmadog) and follow them on Twitter (@CMadog) for the latest updates.

Female Archdruid named

The first woman to become archdruid led the 2013 National Eisteddfod ceremonies in Denbigh, Wales. Christine James was also the first Welsh learner to hold the post.

She won the Crown at the 2005 National Eisteddfod for a collection of poems inspired by art at the National Museum Cardiff.

Originally from Tonypany in the Rhondda Valley, Ms. James was brought up in an English-speaking household and learned Welsh at school in Porth and at Aberystwyth University.

She is a senior lecturer at Hywel Teifi Academy, Swansea University, and lives in Cardiff.

"The Gorsedd as a body has been fairly conservative over the years but things are a-changing, to quote a famous song."

Membership News

New Address:

Sara A. (Sally) Evans
79 Western Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55102-4626
Home: 651-224-1503
Cell: 678-485-7306
E-mail: stpaulsally@gmail.com

Molly Daniel Raben
2716 - 6 3/16 Ave.
New Auburn, WI 54757
Home: 715-924-3525
E-mail: mraben@charter.net

E-mail Changes:

Steve Hughes: sthugs@live.com
Dorothy Moe: djmoe18@gmail.com

Check your knowledge

- 1 - Which is the highest lake in Wales and where is it located?
- 2 - Beside what river does Tintern Abbey lie?
- 3 - What is the highest peak in South Wales?
- 4 - What German was a prisoner at Abergavenny from 1942-1945?
- 5 - Who was the first ruler to be recognized as Prince of Wales by an English king?
- 6 - Name three island that lie off the north Wales coast between Conwy and Criccieth.

Answers on following page.

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

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

Vice-President Bill Kimes, 763.862.3130, '15
jbkimes@msn.com

Secretary Pam Rose, 952.854.4743, '15
pamresearch@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

Judith Evans Warner, 763.522.1612, '16
judithewarner@aol.com

Investments — Ron Adams
Archivist — Mae Howells Anderson, 612.789.8923
Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey, 612.871.7587
Past-President — Pam Rose
Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin, 651.484.1778
Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal

Officers of St. David's Foundation —
Don Anderson (pres.), 612.789.8923;
Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey

**Please check your mailing label.
Memberships were due July 1, 2013.**

Quiz answers...see previous page for questions.

- 1 - Llyn y Cwrt, in Snowdonia (2,500 feet).
- 2 - The River Wye
- 3 - Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons (2,907 feet)
- 4 - Hitler's deputy, Rudolph Hess
- 5 - Llywelyn ap Gruffydd — y Llyw Olaf, the "Last Prince," see "The Last Prince" (by Henry III in 1267)
- 6 - Anglesey, Puffin Island, Holy Island, Bardsey Island, Ynysoddeu y Gwylanod, St. Tudwal's East and St. Tudwal's West. (*Perhaps even the Isle of Man and Ireland!*)

Next Deadline: October 10

MAIL COPY TO: **Mary Mergenthal**
2393 Bourne Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55108-1618

OR E-MAIL TO: **mary.mergenthal@gmail.com**

**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.**

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

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

Diolch yn fawr.

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

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

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Coming Events:



**AWST
AUGUST**

Calendar design by Dan Proud.

COMING EVENTS

Minnesota Festival of Song — Sun., Sept. 22, 1:30 p.m.,
First Presbyterian Church of Mankato, 220 E. Hickory.

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