

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

AUGUST 2010

Volume 32, Issue 4



## **MGGA to hold 75<sup>th</sup> gymanfa September 26**

On Sun., Sept. 26, at 1:30 p.m., the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first Gymanfa in 1935. The Gymanfa will be held at **First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory S., Mankato.**

**The Visiting Conductor will be Meirwyn Walters, Boston, Mass.** He directed the 1999 National held in Minneapolis and the 2004 National in Niagara Falls (Buffalo), New York. He has been the director for many other cymanfaoedd in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York.

Two performing choirs will provide special Welsh music. The Minnesota Valley Chorale under the direction of Rodney Urtel, Mankato, will perform "In Memoriam" by Caradog Roberts and "Yr Arglwydd Yn Fy Mugail" ["The Lord is My Shepherd"], also by Caradog Roberts.

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus under the direction of Derek Glenna, Twin Cities, will sing the male chorus version of "Morte Chryste" and the rousing march "Men of Harlech." Several members of the Riverblenders, as well as members of the Minnesota Welsh community, have fond memories of the Chorus' triumphant entry into the 1978 Noson Lawen [Merry Evening] with its rendition of that song (1978 National Gymanfa Ganu held in Minneapolis).

There will be an exhibit of pictures from the past years for persons to view when visitors go to the lower level of the church for Te Bach following the Gymanfa.

A large attendance is expected as information about the Gymanfa is being distributed to over 80 churches throughout the area.

- **Make your trip to Mankato a green one!**
- **Ride to the State Gymanfa Ganu in a bus!**
- **Meet at St. David's Episcopal Church, 13000 St. David's Road, Minnetonka.**
- **The bus will leave St. David's promptly at 11:30 a.m. & arrive at the church in Mankato at 1 p.m. The bus has a bathroom.**
- **We won't be able to stop for lunch, so eat before you come or bring a bag lunch.**
- **Price: \$20.00 per person.**
- **To reserve your spot, send the insert in this newsletter and a check payable to the St. David's Society of Minnesota to:**

**Pam Rose  
8514 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.  
Bloomington, MN 55425**

- **DEADLINE: Sept. 15.**  
**We need 20–25 riders to make this a "go."**
- **Feel free to bring friends.**
- **We plan to return to St. David's about 6 p.m.**
- **Questions?**  
**Contact Pam, (952) 854-4743 or**  
**pamresearch@hotmail.com.**

### **IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO TAKE THE BUS:**

Turn east off Highway 169 at the Downtown Mankato exit. Continue over bridge to stop light. Turn right on to Broad Street and go 3 blocks. The church is on the right at the intersection of Broad and Hickory Streets.

# June picnic games provide lots of laughs



Photos by Judy Herbert

**Left: Vern Drilling (the eventual winner) and Karen Kidwell head around the room in the Welsh cake on a spoon race.**  
**Right: Dorothy Moe carries her Welsh cake as Mike Gavin looks on.**



**Helen Beggs (center) keeps her wind-up red dragon from going off the table. Kay Gavin, shown behind her husband Mike (right) won the dragon race.**

## Election report from Annual Meeting

**President** Judith Evans Warner, (763) 522-1612, ('11)  
**Vice-President** THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE!  
**Secretary** TBD from Board membership, ('12)  
**Treasurer** Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)

### Directors

Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('11)  
 Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, ('11)  
 Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778, ('11)  
 Judith Herbert, (651) 433-4870 ('12)  
 Bill Kimes, (763) 862-3130, ('12)  
 Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, ('12)  
 Susan Hunter Weir, (612) 874-9233, ('12)

## PLAN AHEAD FOR AN ARMCHAIR JOURNEY

### “Wales: Land of Song”

Join filmmaking musicians Monty and Marsha Brown for a memorable journey to Wales on **Thurs., Feb. 24, 2011.**

- ◆ Osseo Senior High Cafeteria
- ◆ Soup & sandwich, 5 -6:45 p.m.  
*Included in price.*
- ◆ \$6.50
- ◆ Choose 3:30 or 7:30 showing, with meal afterwards or before.
- ◆ Dist. 279 students & the children's chorus will also entertain.
- ◆ Call (763) 391-7114 for tickets.

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

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

## Mayor Ryback appoints Sue Hunter Weir to Heritage Preservation Commission

St. David's Society member, Sue Hunter Weir, has been appointed to the City of Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. The group serves as a citizen advisory body to the Minneapolis City Council. The group holds public hearings twice each month. The public is welcome to attend and highly encouraged to participate.

Weir won't have much to learn, this editor suspects. She already spends scores of hours researching and beautifying the Cedar Avenue and Lake Street Cemetery.

Susan also writes a regular column on Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery in the Alley Newspaper and reports on the history of the Welsh Church in the same publication.

In addition, she spent time preparing a history display for the Society's 100<sup>th</sup> St. David's Day banquet in March, using material collected by Society archivist, Mae Howells Anderson.

## Bryn Terfel opens Met season

Welsh internationally acclaimed bass baritone, Bryn Terfel, will star in New York City's Metropolitan Opera's 2010 opening night performance of "Das Rheingold" by Richard Strauss on Sept. 27.

The live telecast will be on Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. EST. There will be high definition telecasts in over 1,000 theatres around the world.

## David Evan Thomas wins Eisteddfod by Mail

David Evan Thomas won the recent NINNAU & Y Drych Eisteddfod by Mail music competition with a composition entitled "From the Land of Song" for piano and cello.

David's bardic name was "Myfanwy Valentine," the latter name perhaps a nod to the memory of Lewis Edward Valentine, Welsh politician and Welsh language activist in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The adjudicator said, "This piece is a challenge for any musician, but I do so hope that many audiences have the opportunity to listen to the work, as it is really exciting to hear Welsh melodies being the basis for such a wonderful composition."

**Llongyfarchiadau, David! [Congratulations!]  
We'd be happy to be your test audience anytime!**

The music adjudicator was Delyth Hopkins Evans of Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion. Some may remember that she sang here with Parti Ceredigion some decades ago.

Another Society member, **Shannon Pearl King**, also entered, using the bardic name of "Gildas." She wrote two new verses for the popular hymn-tune BLODWEN.

The Welsh adjudicator awarded no prize in that contest, but that doesn't mean we couldn't try out Shannon's verses some day.



Photo by  
Scott Streble

**David Evan  
Thomas**

# Could you receive the newsletter online?



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



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



# News of the Well-Read Dragons

By Bob Minish

The Book Club had a brief diversion from Wales to Canada for the August meeting. Under the misconception that Robertson Davies was a “Welsh-Canadian mystery writer” we agreed that instead of everyone reading the same book, each could select one of his books of their choosing. While we all agreed that we enjoyed his writing, we decided to stick with our focus on Wales. In the future, anyone who makes a recommendation for a particular book must show that either the book or the author has a strong connection with Wales.

A new Society member, Ilene Alexander, joined our discussion. Ilene has a good friend who is Mary’s neighbor and had read *Fifth Business* [1970], the first book in Davies’ *The Deptford Trilogy*. This novel utilizes Davies’ interest in Jungian psychology. Ilene found it to be a compelling read and is planning to read the other two volumes in the Trilogy. Ilene will be spending five months in England, in the Manchester area, teaching academics how to teach. She plans to make frequent trips to Wales on weekends.

Kay Gavin read *What’s Bred in the Bone* [1985], which is the second volume in *The Cornish Trilogy*. Davies wrote the first volume of the Trilogy, *The Rebel Angels*, after he retired from the University of Toronto. Judy Herbert and Elizabeth Feigh both read *The Cunning Man* [1994], which was his last novel. Elizabeth thoroughly enjoyed the book and found it to be “clever, informative, with dry humor sprinkled throughout.” Judy thought that a great deal of that book must have been autobiographical, an observation supported by a Wikipedia article I found on the Internet.

After recounting Davies’ conversion from the Presbyterian Church to Anglicanism, the Wikipedia article states, “Davies later used his experience of the ceremonial of High Mass at St. Mary Magdalene’s in his novel *The Cunning Man*.” That book together with *Murder and Walking Spirits* and the novel in progress at the time of his death in 1995 would have been another trilogy, *The Toronto Trilogy*. Mary Mergenthal also read *Fifth Business*, though she had not finished it by the time of the meeting. Eileen refused to tell her how the novel ended. Marveen and I both read *Leaven of Malice*, [1954] which was his second novel. His first three novels are known as the *Salterton Trilogy*. We would echo Elizabeth’s comment about the dry humor. Not surprisingly, this book won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humor. Drawing from his experience as a journalist, Davies has one of the characters, a newspaper editor, follow “his professional habit to turn first to the column of Births, Marriages and Deaths—Hatch, Match and Dispatch as he called it . . .”

Albeit we took a diversion from Wales to Canada, all agreed that Robertson Davies deserves his reputation as a “brilliant novelist.” He is quoted as saying “I don’t



want a word-processor. I process my own words. Helpful people assure me that a word-processor would save me a great deal of time. But I don’t want to save time. I want to write the best book I can, and I have whatever time it takes to make that attempt.” Davies was also a playwright, a role that indirectly provides a link to Minneapolis. In the 1950s he helped to start the Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada and, according to the Wikipedia article, he “collaborated with the Festival’s director, Sir Tyrone Guthrie, in publishing three books about the Festival’s early years.”

In keeping with our decision to return our focus to Wales, we changed the original selection for December. Instead of *The Council of the Cursed: A mystery of Ancient Ireland* by Peter Tremayne, we will now be reading a play, which we have not done before. Our December selection is *The Corn is Green* by Emlyn Williams. According to an article in the New Welsh Review, “Williams’s play is a reworking of the Pygmalion story . . .” Interestingly, the play is also said to have “some significance in African American culture,” and literature, including “James Baldwin’s lengthy description of the rehearsals and performance of *The Corn is Green* in his fourth novel, *Tell Me How Long the Train’s Been Gone* (1968)”.

**Our next meeting will be on Sat., Oct. 1, at Urban Harvest in Minneapolis at noon (for those who want lunch) and at 12:30 for the discussion. The October selection is *Y Lon Wen—The White Lane* by Kate Roberts, trans. By Gillian Clarke.**

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

## Well-Read Dragons reading list

**OCTOBER 1 — *Y Lon Wen—The White Lane***  
by Kate Roberts, trans. by Gillian Clarke

**DECEMBER 3 — *The Corn is Green***  
A semi-autobiographical play by Emlyn Williams, the basis of the 1945 play starring Bette Davis as the schoolteacher.  
(Kathryn Hepburn in a later version.)

**FEBRUARY 5 — *Twenty Thousand Saints***  
by Fflur Dafydd, winner of the Prose Medal at 2006 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

**APRIL 2 — *Stranger Within the Gates***  
A collection of short stories by Bertha Thomas.

**JUNE 4 — *Real Wales* by Peter Finch**

**AUGUST 6 — *History on our Side: Wales & the 1984–’85 Miners’ Strike* by Hywel Francis**



***Llewellyn Kingman Sanchez Werner***

## **Piano prodigy named Llewellyn wows 'em in Iraq**

Llewellyn Kingman Sanchez Werner played recently with the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra in Baghdad. Werner says he wanted to show Iraqis that "the U.S. has a lot of wonderful things to offer." [Karim Kadim / Associated Press]

A 13-year-old piano prodigy from Los Angeles has become the first American guest musician to play with the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra in Baghdad.

Llewellyn Kingman Sanchez Werner, who is already in his third year studying piano and composition at New York's Juilliard School, got a standing ovation from the audience of 250 at the Rasheed Hotel.

"It was just amazing," said the teen. "We connected well with this orchestra."

His father, Llewellyn Werner, and his investment firm have been working in Baghdad along with the U.S. Department of Defence for three years.

His mother, Martha Sanchez Werner, credits her son with having a strong social conscience, having played last year in Rwanda as well.

As for arriving in the dangerous region, the teenager said he was "a little scared" ahead of the trip.

"As soon as I arrived, I felt safe," he said, adding that he had never worn a bulletproof vest before.

Llewellyn says he didn't want to miss the opportunity to bring something different from the U.S. to the Iraqis.

"Several mistakes from my country have been made in terms of the invasion and occupation ... me being here is one way to show the U.S. has a lot of wonderful things to offer."

## **New Members**

### **Ilene D. Alexander**

992 Dayton #2  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 645-4475  
ilene.dawn@gmail.com

### **Joe & Kim Corbin**

330 - 2nd St.  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
(608) 524-8404  
jcorbin@rucls.net

### **Molly M. Darnell**

5700 Boone Ave. N. #231  
New Hope, MN 55428  
(763) 533-5977

### **Mary H. DeLeeuw**

21436 460th Ave.  
Volga, SD 57071  
(605) 826-4338 home  
(605) 690-7338 cell  
harmar@itctel.com

### **Jean McKenzie Johnson**

166 Birnamwood Dr.  
Burnsville MN 55337  
(952) 882-9791

### **Edward D. & Barbara J. Jones and Jacalyn A. & Cara L.**

5919 Centerville Rd Apt. 2021  
North Oaks MN 55127  
(651) 762-7261

### **Margaret Mary Provost**

2255 Nevada Ave S. #11B  
St. Louis Park MN 55426  
(952) 544-9611

## **Address Changes/Additions**

### **Danny Proud**

New e-mail: derrrproud@att.net

## **Deceased Members:**

Constance Hughes Odanovich

# Dragon News

## News of Society Members & Friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending cards of sympathy to Donna Green on the death of her husband Ron; the Provost family on the death of their wife and mother Mary; Gretchen Hughes, niece of Constance Odanovich at time of Connie's death; and Kay Gavin, who had shoulder surgery in May.

**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.**



Kay Thomas was pictured in the Summer 2010 issue of Macalester Today. She and others with a Mac connection attended the EducationUSA Triennial Workshop in Prague in March. Kay is the director of International Student and Scholar Services at the University of Minnesota.



Thanks to **Kristin Johnson** for her able service as St. David's webmaster for several years. Thanks, also, to **Judy Herbert**, who now serves in that capacity.

## Welsh news from my grandsons

My grandsons from Tacoma, Wash., have been with me all summer (with their parents in tow). Two Welsh tidbits:

Nearly 3-year-old Olav is a huge fan of fire engines and trains. His dad discovered an old BBC children's cartoon called "Fireman Sam" ["Sam Tân"] set in Pontypandy [*a combination of Pontypridd & Tonypandy, about five miles apart in South Wales*]. Check it on YouTube or at the library. You can even choose the Welsh-language version.

11-year-old Jennings is always reading books with tons of information about this and that. He recently reported: Queen Elizabeth I was fluent in French, Spanish, Italian, Latin, German, Greek, and knew some WELSH and Portuguese. He also reported some disgusting facts about Elizabeth, but I'm not telling.

## IN MEMORIAM:

### Constance Hughes Odanovich

Constance "Connie" Catherine (Hughes) Odanovich, 94, of Shoreview, died peacefully at home May 28, 2010. She graduated from Lake Crystal High School in 1933. After receiving a two-year degree from Mankato Normal School, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse near Mapleton, Minn.

She completed her four-year degree and taught in Wayzata, where she met her future husband.

She married Joseph Odanovich on June 19, 1942, at Virginia Beach, Virginia. She taught reading and geography to army privates during the war.

Following the war, Connie taught in Crosby-Ironton, Minn., until the couple moved to the St. Paul area in 1952. She taught at several St. Paul schools. Some of her former grade school students stayed in touch with her until her death.

She was very proud of her Welsh connections in Butternut, Minn.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of over 60 years, Joe, parents and two sisters, Jean Wood and Lillian Hendricks.

Her funeral service was held at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, June 2, 2010, with interment at Lake Crystal, Minn., Cemetery.

## IN MEMORIAM: Mary Provost

Mary M. Provost, 83,, of Golden Valley died May 1, 2010. She was born July 8, 1926, and grew up in Minneapolis and Lake Minnetonka. Mary graduated from Washburn High School in 1944 and attended the University of Minnesota. She loved Golden Valley and was involved in the community for 48 years.

She is survived by Robert Provost, her husband of 58 years, and by daughter Margaret and son Paul (Donna), both of St. Louis Park; and son Peter (Karen) of North St. Paul. She is also survived by six grandchildren; and two brothers, Thomas and William Maple.

Bob and Mary were our Society's link to Pat and Gwilym Williams, from North Wales, longtime friends of our Society.

Her memorial service was held May 9, 2010, at The Cremation Society of Minnesota,

6 Minneapolis Chapel.



## AVAILABLE NOW

AT COMING EVENTS OR ORDER BY MAIL.

*A Brief History of the Welsh in Minnesota*  
Second edition.

Just \$7

### "Proudly Welsh"

Red, green & white magnetic ribbon for car or refrigerator.

Just \$5

Shipping & Handling included.

Marveen Minish

331 Pearson Way NE, Mpls, MN 55432.

Checks to St. David's Society of Minnesota.



**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.

## Next Deadline: November 1

MAIL COPY TO: Mary Mergenthal

2393 Bourne Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55108-1618

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

## OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

**President** Judith Evans Warner, (763) 522-1612, ('11)

**Vice-President** THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE!

**Secretary** , ('12)

**Treasurer** Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)

### Directors

Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('11)

Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, ('11)

Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778, ('11)

Judith Herbert, (651) 433-4870 ('12)

Bill Kimes, (763) 862-3130, ('12)

Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, ('12)

Susan Hunter Weir, (612) 874-9233, ('12)

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

## 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](mailto:kaywgavin@hotmail.com)

**Membership year is July 1–June 30.**

You may pay for multiple years in advance.

*Diolch yn fawr.*

*St. David's Society of Minnesota  
2737 N. Aglen Ave.  
Roseville, MN 55113*

**Return Service Requested**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

# **The Society needs your help!**

- **If your renewal date is earlier than today's date (or close), your membership has run out. You will no longer receive news of Society events.**
- **Use the form on the back of this page to send your renewal to Kay Gavin.**
- **Whether it's renewal time or not, if you're willing to receive this newsletter on-line, please let Kay Gavin know. This saves us postage & printing costs.**

**To reach Kay Gavin: e-mail [kaywgavin@hotmail.com](mailto:kaywgavin@hotmail.com);  
call (651) 484-1778; or write 2737 N. Aglen Ave., Roseville 55113.**