

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

Spring Gymanfa Ganu to be held in Chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church, downtown Minneapolis, May 17

The Spring Gymanfa Ganu [Welsh Hymn Sing] will be held on Sun., May 17, at 2 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapel, 1200 S. Marquette Ave., downtown Minneapolis, 55103.

Singing will be directed by Trilby Busch from south Minneapolis. She has been a member of our



Trilby Busch,
director for Welsh
hymn sing on
May 17.

Society for many years. She's the author of the 2012 book, *Darkness Visible: A Novel of the 1892 Homestead Strike*. It's a gripping story of tensions in a wage dispute between Carnegie Steel and unionized workers in the gritty milltown of Homestead, Pa. Locally, her determined efforts have focused on saving historic Minneapolis properties from demolition.

Local Gymanfa attendance numbers need bolstering. Try to bring a friend or family member who has not attended before or has not done so for a long time. All are welcome, whether or not they're fantastic singers and whether or not they have ever attended before.



Please bring your red and green gymanfa hymnal, if you have one. There will also be loaner copies and hymnals for sale.



In addition, you'll have a chance to purchase CDs of the 2014 National Gymanfa Ganu at Westminster last fall (in the sanctuary with 1600 singers from around the world). Plan to purchase a CD for anyone you missed in earlier purchases; to save for your children or grandchildren; or to introduce your local choir director to the music.

Price is \$15.00 per CD. We hope to be able to accept credit cards that day, but please come prepared with cash or check in case our plans don't materialize in time.

APRIL 2015

Volume 37, Issue 3



Our accompanist, **Ryan Jones**, grew up on his family's farm in Butternut Valley Township, northwest of Lake Crystal, Minn., where his family has been farming for five generations. Some of his ancestors were among the first of the Welsh settlers in Blue Earth County. Ryan has been piano accompanist for the annual Gymanfa Ganu in Mankato for several years.

He also is the organist at First Presbyterian Church in Lake Crystal on occasion.

Ryan is the conservation engineer for several soil and water conservation districts in the Mankato area.

He lives in Lake Crystal with his wife and two children.



Photo by Ilene Alexander
**Ryan Jones at the Westminster
Chapel organ in May 2014.**

**If you are able, please bring a sweet or savory
item for the treat table.
Fruit, ready to serve, is also welcome.**

**Directions for getting to the church and
for parking are on the following page.**



Directions to the Sunday, May 17, Gymanfa Ganu

How to get to Westminster May 17

From the West:

→ Hwy. 394 to "Downtown/Hospital" exit. Follow the exit to 12th St. (one-way heading East). Follow 12th St. for about 8 blocks. Once you go by the church and cross over Marquette Ave., go to 2nd Ave. and take a right. Follow the street in front of the Convention Center until you come to Marquette Ave.

* Take a right on Marquette and go one block to Alice Rainville St. and then one-half block further. Parking lot is on the left, next to the church.

→ Take 94 East to the 4th St. Exit. Take 4th St. into downtown until you get to 2nd Ave. S. Take a right on 2nd Ave. and follow the street in front of the Convention Center until you come to Marquette Ave. * Then follow directions above.

From the North:

→ Hwy. 394 to "Downtown/Hospital" exit. Follow the exit to 12th St. (one-way heading East). Follow 12th St. for about 8 blocks. Once you go by the church and cross over Marquette Ave., go to 2nd Ave. and take a right. Follow the street in front of the Convention Center until you come to Marquette Ave.

* Then follow directions above.

From the South:

→ Take 35W South to the 11th St. Exit. Take a left on 2nd Ave. and follow the street in front of the Convention Center until you come to Marquette Ave. * Then follow directions above.

From the East:

→ Take 94 West to the 11th St. Exit. Take a left on 2nd Ave. and follow the street in front of the Convention Center until you come to Marquette Ave. * Then follow directions above.

Parking at Westminster May 17

The church has kindly given us permission to use its surface parking lot. It's in the middle of the block on Marquette Ave., between 12th and Alice Rainville Streets. (Alice Rainville St. was formerly 13th St.) **This lot is next to the church and next to the entrance we will use. That entrance is also the handicapped entrance, with elevator just inside.**

The entrance is on Marquette Ave. (a one-way going North).

Note: none of the Nicollet Ave. entrances will be unlocked.

Summer picnic & annual meeting Sat., July 25

Rosebrook Park in Roseville

We'll meet at a brand new park—**Rosebrook Park**—2590 Fry Ave., Roseville, 55113, near the southwest side of intersection of Snelling Ave. & Co. Rd. C West, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (north of Rosedale Shopping Center, behind Sunrise of Roseville, south of Byerlys). It's a brand new building with lovely facilities, handicapped parking nearby and some more parking spots close-by...more in easy walking distance. See www.cityofroseville.com/220/Rosebrook-Park for a map.

The kitchenette includes plug-ins, microwave, refrigerator, and freezer. (Note: there is no oven.) More on the special program in a picnic/annual meeting communication in early summer.

Nominees are needed for some leadership positions.

Please notify **Mary Mergenthal**, 651-644-1650, mary.mergenthal@gmail.com if you'd like to know more. It's perfectly fine to indicate you're willing to serve or to suggest another member. We still need a secretary and two Board members (each two-year positions).



North American
**Festival
of Wales**

the Welsh North American Association

Headquarters hotel is **The Hyatt Regency Columbus**, 350 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Festival rates are the same price the Hyatt offered in Minneapolis last year!

Sept. 3–6, (Thurs.–Sun.) single, double, triple & quad rooms are \$119+tax until our block fills.

Read this article on *Hiraeth* sent by Maria Bartholdi: <http://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2012/09/18/dreaming-in-welsh/>

For those wanting paper forms, write:

WNAA International Headquarters
Box 14886
Trumansburg, NY 14886.

Phone: 607-279-7402; Fax: 877-448-6633;

E-mail: IHQ@theWNAA.org.

NAFOW is sponsored by the Welsh North American Association (WNAA) and hosted by the Welsh Society of Columbus.

Prefer to receive the newsletter online?

Notify Kay Gavin at kaywgavin@hotmail.com.

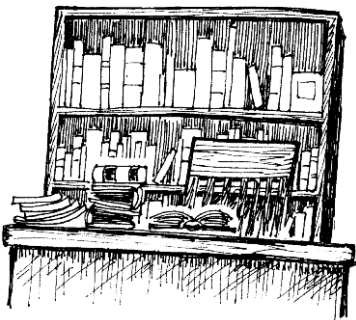
**She will notify you when the next issue is available on the Society's web page.
Help the Society save printing & mailing costs.**

The Well-Read Dragons invite you to join the fun

Faith, Hope and Love

By Bob Minish

The February selection for the Well-Read Dragons, *Faith, Hope and Love* by Llwyd Owen, provoked a wide-ranging discussion, from sex to religion. It was named the Welsh Book of the Year for Welsh Book of the Year in 2007.



Art by Dan Proud

Austin started off this somewhat atypical exchange among some of the staid members of the St. David's Society, by saying that before we began our discussion, he wanted to relate an anecdote about George Will. Austin then told of watching a program a few years ago when Will was part of a panel that gave a review of a new book. Will said that he thought the book was very well-written except for the RSS. When asked what he meant by RSS, Will said, "the 'required sex scene, of course.'" The RSS in *Faith, Hope and Love* demonstrated that the differences between the sexes extends even to reading and remembering. All the men had a vivid recall of the RSS. Most of the women hardly recalled it and some did not remember the RSS at all. But, even from the male perspective the sentiment was that the book would have been equally fine with a less detailed RSS.

The focus then shifted to I Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." The religious symbolism featured in the title carries through the entire book. Other examples include the prodigal son; redemption; death and resurrection; rebirth; being imprisoned, whether in a real structure or in the outside world; freedom and the Holy Ghost. Illustrations that precede each chapter alternate between a gravestone when the chapter is about Alun Brady, the main character after he was released from prison; and a Celtic Cross when the chapter is about his previous life.

Owen's description of scenes of life in Cardiff, such as the Three Arches Bar and Roath Park, Austin assured us, were very accurate. One example of Owen's accuracy in using externals to add to the realism of a particular scene is when Alun is at his dying grandfather Paddy's bedside and picks up a book of poetry by Jim Dodge that Paddy had been reading: "I reach for a book from a pile on his beside table, and it falls open on a page with its top left corner tucked in.

The Acceptance of death
Clear down in our hearts
Is the faith we bring to life
That love may go on."

Wikipedia identifies Jim Dodge as a poet and novelist living in Sonoma County.

Owen uses both the Prologue and an Epilogue to good effect. The illustration that precedes both is a fish, another Christian symbol. The Prologue is entitled "The Beginning

The next meeting will be Sat., June 6, 11:30 a.m., at Davanni's in Arden Hills, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., 55126. If you're new to the group or to this area, Davanni's is south of I-694, just past the large CUB Foods store on west side of Lexington.

Title for that discussion will be *American Interior* by Gruff Rhys. The book is available at AbeBooks, Amazon and Alibris and electronic versions.

Learn about Prince Madog who discovered America in 1170! (But didn't make our history books!) Read about John Evans, who followed in Prince Madog's footsteps in 1792. The author of this book, a distant relative of John Evans, comes to America in 2012 to see what he can verify. The subtitle of the book hints at its style and hilarity: *The quixotic journey of John Evans, his search for a lost tribe and how, fuelled by fantasy and (possibly) booze, he accidentally annexed a third of North America.*

It's a funny tale. Read it and join the group that day. You're welcome to attend even if you have not been able to read the book. This discussion is bound to be fun and the fellowship around the table is always pleasing.

of the End" and describes an accident scene with emergency vehicles and flashing lights and attendants assisting someone called Al Brady. The Epilogue, entitled "A True Life Sentence" depicts Al's condition some time after the accident, when, like his grandfather Paddy, Al longs for his daughter to touch him and "Make me feel again. Or else put an end to this, I beg you." To find out about Al's life before and after prison and how he ended up the way he did is a good read, indeed.

Interesting links:

Elizabeth Feigh sent this article by Fiona Macrae for *DailyMail.com*, March 18, 2015

Are the WELSH the truest Brits?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3000998/are-Welsh-truest-brits-English-genomes-contain-German-French-dna-Romans-left-notrace.html#1xzz9d joinw>

Dan Proud sent an interesting *BBC iWonder* entitled:

Should St. David be the saint of Britain?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zqtx6sg>

Bob Minish sent this Cardiff dining suggestion written by Anucyia Victor for *MailOnline*, January 22, 2015.

The Clink—upscale restaurant in Cardiff prison!

Instead of being helmed by a celebrity chef, all dishes in Cardiff's "The Clink" are cooked and served by inmates.

The Clink was rated on TripAdvisor as top out of 946 restaurants in Cardiff: more than 380 satisfied diners left glowing reviews.



Photo by Mary Morris Mergenthal

Cwm Ystwyth [Valley of Afon Ystwyth, the Ystwyth River, which begins in Aberystwyth]. These were once busy homes of lead miners. Now only a handful of people live there. A few weeks ago, the valley's best-known resident, Meredydd Evans, died at age 95. He was mourned all over Wales because of his efforts to save Welsh folk music. At NAFOW 2014, harpist Elinor Bennett presented a BBC documentary she had hosted talking with Merêd and his wife, Phyllis Kinney.

In case you're interested in Hillary Clinton's Welsh roots

Jack Nesbitt of Kansas City, Mo., sent this link from the April/May 2015 issue of Irish American: <http://irishamerica.com/2015/03/hillary-clintons-celtic-roots/>

Here are some bits of Megan Smolenyak's report:

"Until now, many genealogists who have researched Hillary Clinton's ancestry have attached her Welsh grandmother, Hannah Jones, to the wrong parents.

"...it's rather surprising that Hillary Rodham Clinton exists at all. First there's the matter of her father's near-miss marriage of 1937. In July of that year, Hugh Ellsworth Rodham applied for a license declaring his intention to wed Catherine Meisinger, a fellow resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Had he married her, his offspring would have been part-Irish since his fiancée had Irish heritage, but Hillary only entered into the picture because he instead chose to marry Dorothy Emma Howell several years later. Curious what became of Catherine, his almost-wife,

I learned that she married a Welsh immigrant and lived to the age of 96.

"Meandering back another generation, I came to realize that other genealogists who had researched Hillary Clinton's ancestry had attached her Welsh grandmother, Hannah Jones, to the wrong parents (two girls named Hannah Jones were born in Scranton, Pa., circa 1882-1883 and they latched on to the wrong one).

"On the surface, the English Rodham and Welsh Jones families were quite similar. Both had emigrated to Scranton in the early 1880s—the Joneses arriving about two years earlier than the Rodhams—and in both cases, the husbands had come first and the wives and children later. Thirty-one-year-old Isabelle "Bella" Rodham impressively made the cross-Atlantic journey with eight children between the ages of one and 11 in tow."

4 There's lots more in the link, if you care to search for it.

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

President Mary Mergenthal, 651.644.1650, '15
mary.mergenthal@gmail.com
cell: 612.670-8510

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, 612.237.6121, '15
ilene.dawn@gmail.com

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

Sara (Sally) Evans, 678.485.7306, '16
stpaulsally@gmail.com

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

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, 2014.**

Next Deadline: August 15

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.**

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.

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.

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

Visit us on the web & Facebook:
www.stdavidsofmn.org
www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Y Gwanwyn/Yr Haf [Spring/Summer] COMING EVENTS



Pub conversation, food & drink — Saturday, May 2, 4 p.m. NOTE NEW DATE.

Merlins Rest, 3601 Lake St. E., Minneapolis. On-street parking & in lot across 36th Ave.



Spring Gymanfa Ganu, Sunday, May 17, 2:00 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapel, downtown Minneapolis. Free parking lot off Marquette, with handicapped parking. Handicapped entrance off that lot. Directions on page 2.



Well-Read Dragons, Saturday, June 6, 11:30 a.m., Davanni's in Shoreview.

American Interior by Gruff Rhys. Directions on page 3.



Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh Conversation], Sunday, June 7, 2 p.m., location tba.

Contact Melvyn Jones, (651) 645-1245, melvyn.wj@gmail.com.



Summer picnic & Annual Meeting, Saturday, July 25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Rosebrook Park, near SW corner of intersection of Co. Rd. C West and Snelling Ave. in Roseville.

www.cityofroseville.com/220/Rosebrook-Park

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