Volume 41 | Issue 3

# Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

#### Mehefin/June 2022

# St. David's Society News



#### **VIRTUAL GET-TOGETHERS**

http://z.umn.edu/stDavidsGatherings

#### Well-Read Dragons Book Group

When: Saturday, **August 6**, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom Link:

http://z.umn.edu/stDavidsGatherings

#### Sgwrs Cymraeg, Welsh Conversation

When: 2nd and 4th Saturdays, from 10:30am - 12:30pm. See description below.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### A Live Production of "West" is coming to the Twin Cities!

Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church 2323 Como Ave., St. Paul

Welsh actors Gareth John Bale and Gwenllian Higginson – the actors who first performed a reading of the play *West* at the North

American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) Milwaukee in 2019 and performed a second reading on Zoom two years ago – are coming to the Twin Cities to perform it live!

WEST

West, written by Welsh playwright Owen Thomas, explores the lives of two 19th Century Welsh people who fall in love and decide to leave Wales in order to build a new life in the New World. Written in a lyrical, poetic style, the play focuses primarily on themes of immigration and details the hardships of the couple's adventure.

West was a hit at NAFOW 2019 and performances by Gareth and Gwenllian throughout their UK tour have been equally well received. We are fortunate to be in a position to bring the play to the Twin Cities, between its west coast Hollywood Fringe Festival premiere and the actors' return to Wales and we hope you will join us! A reception with light refreshments will follow the performance.

Free-will offerings will be accepted and appreciated. Please come with proof of vaccination and a mask, and enter the church at the Luther Place office entrance. Parking is available on the street or directly across from Luther Place.

#### WELL-READ DRAGONS BOOK GROUP

Meet the Society's book group on Zoom to discuss *Salt*, by Catrin Kean on Saturday, August 6, from 11:30am – 1:00pm.

*Salt* was named Wales Book of Year in 2021, taking the main prize at the English language awards which run in parallel with the Welsh language awards, organized by Literature Wales.

Goodreads and Amazon offer the following synopsis of the book: Cardiff in 1878 is grimy, crowded and grey, and Ellen dreams of escaping her dreary life as a domestic for the sea. But when she falls in love with Samuel, she is able to fulfil her destiny by running away with him. Life at sea is brutal and dangerous, and when circumstances bring her home, the hardships of working-class life and racism begin to poison their lives.

You can find more information about this book and a list of all books the group has read since 2004 on the Book Group page of the <u>St. David's Society of Minnesota</u> website. Questions? Contact Ilene Dawn Alexander at ilene.dawn@gmail.com.

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#### SGWRS CYMRAEG, WELSH CONVERSATION

Welsh conversation gatherings are open to learners and would-be learners of the Welsh language. Conversations are held monthly on Zoom, on 2nd and 4th Saturdays, from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Contact conversation facilitator Laurel Bradshaw at llawryf@yahoo.com to obtain the Zoom link.

Yr Haf	Summer	Canol Haf	Midsummer
Gwyliau	Holidays	Heuldro'r Haf	Summer Solstice
Traeth	Beach	Castell Tywod	Sand Castle
Sbectol haul	Sunglasses	Siwt Ymdrochi	Bathing Suit
Hufen iâ	Ice cream	Salad Ffrwythau	Fruit Salad
Garddio	Gardening	Blodyn yr Haul	Sunflower
Pili-Pala	Butterfly	Colibryn	Hummingbird

#### REPORT ON PAST EVENTS

### **Dr. Owain Rhys Roberts**

Submitted by President, Janice Barbee

On Sunday, March 20th, Society members were treated to a fascinating presentation by Dr. Owain Rhys Roberts, Director of Collections and Public Engagement Programs and Deputy Chief Executive and Librarian of and for the National Library of Wales.

Dr. Roberts, who has worked with the National Library since 2009 in a variety of roles ranging from collection digitization and archiving to NLW collection access management (physical and digital) and public outreach and participation activity management, brought us up to date on resources available to the public, in person and digitally, and opportunities for supporting the Library as it adapts to an increasingly digital landscape. Following the presentation, Dr. Roberts sent links to digital resources, all of which can be found on the St. David's Society of Minnesota website and the NLW website:

- 1. Search online collections (<a href="https://www.library.wales/discover/library-resources/library-resources">https://www.library.wales/discover/library-resources/library-resources</a>)
- 2. Research your family history (<a href="https://www.library.wales/information-for/family-historians/help">https://www.library.wales/information-for/family-historians/help</a>)
- 3. Sign up to receive the NLW newsletter (at the bottom of the homepage: <a href="https://www.library.wales/">https://www.library.wales/</a>
- $\textbf{4. Support NLW financially (} \underline{\textbf{https://www.library.wales/about-nlw/work-with-us/support-us}\textbf{)}$
- 5. Become a digital volunteer (<a href="https://www.library.wales/about-nlw/work-with-us/volunteer/distance-volunteering">https://www.library.wales/about-nlw/work-with-us/volunteer/distance-volunteering</a>)

#### UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

Items Submitted by President, Janice Barbee

#### SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Every summer Society members meet to reconnect after a busy summer and elect board members and officers. This year the Annual Picnic will fall on **Saturday**, **August 6**, **2022** from 4 - 6 pm. We will again meet at Pavilion B in the Wabun Picnic Area of the Minnehaha Regional Park. The Society Board will supply water and snacks, and you may bring something to share if you'd like. Attendees will vote to approve the board roster and financial reports in addition to the engaging in our usual lively conversation. An exciting new addition to the agenda: Bocce Ball (the Welsh version)!

#### ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY FOUNDATION

We announced in the Winter Newsletter that the St. David's Society Foundation has, over the past several years, had three board members: Bob Minish, Ron Adams, and Ilene Alexander. Bob and Ilene have resigned from the board, leaving Ron as the sole member of the Foundation Board. The Foundation is still looking for at least two persons willing to serve on the board and/or willing to discuss what can and should be done to maintain the foundation's funds and operate the Foundation in accordance with its by-laws and Minnesota's non-profit foundation policies and regulations.

If you are interested and willing to step into this important role, please contact Society President, Janice Barbee, at <a href="mailto:janicegwb@yahoo.com">janicegwb@yahoo.com</a>. Diolch yn fawr iawn/Thank you very much!!

#### E-MAILED VS. U.S. MAILED NEWSLETTERS

In a recent Society Board meeting, the cost, time and effort required to print and mail the quarterly newsletter was brought up for discussion. The Board also discussed the fact that some Society members do not use computers, surf the internet and/or have an email account. Board members wish to ensure that members who are in this group still receive a hard copy of the newsletter by U.S. mail.

If the newsletter is mailed to you and you are willing to receive the newsletter by email, *or* if you are receiving the newsletter by email and would prefer that a hard copy be mailed to you, you can update your preferences by contacting Pam Rose, Treasurer and Membership Chair at <a href="mailto:pamrosearch@hotmail.com">pamrosearch@hotmail.com</a>.

The Board encourages all members who can read or print the newsletter sent by email to consider receiving the newsletter electronically. Thank you.

#### ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

# Member Writes Middle Grade Adventure Story Submitted By Mary Morris Mergenthal

Long-Standing St. David's Society of Minnesota member Kristin F. Johnson is the author of a new book: *Fearless, A Middle Grade Adventure Story*. The book is currently available on <u>Amazon</u> in all

formats and from **Barnes & Noble** (ebook and paperback).

One reviewer says: "Fearless is a heartwarming, sometimes suspenseful, often humorous story about a young girl navigating between who she thinks she is and who she wants to be, and her mettle is tested when confronted with the opportunity to rescue a puppy-mill dog, living in captivity.

"I was immediately drawn in by Jessie's spunk in the midst of a traumatic family experience (her Army mother is MIA).

"I also loved the teasing camaraderie between Jessie and the friends she makes in her new town. I could easily imagine myself at that age, wanting to be Jessie's

friend—out to save the world (one dog at a time)."

Johnson has had several books published in the *Day of Disaster* series from Lerner Publishing — *Ho Chi Minh: North Vietnamese President* and *The Endurance Expedition*.

## David Evan Thomas Suite "From the Land of Song" Included In Latest Album Released by Laura Sewell Submitted By David Evan Thomas

Laura Sewell, eminent Twin Cities cellist, has released a solo CD, Threescore, which includes "From

the Land of Song," a suite of five Welsh folk songs by David Evan Thomas. A student of renowned cellist Jacqueline du Pré, Sewell studied at Juilliard and the Cleveland Institute of Music. She was the founding cellist of the Lark Quartet. Sewell is accompanied by three pianists on the album: Sonja Thompson, Ivan Koniev and Ora Itkin. Other works on the album: Paul Schoenfield's "Six British Folk Songs" and "Banchetto Musicale" by Stephen Paulus. *Threescore* (Innova 033) is available on the American Composers Recordings Forum's Innova label by going to https://www.innova.mu/albums/laura-sewell/threescore. It can also be purchased davidevanthomas.com store bv entering the

https://davidevanthomas.com/product/threescore/.

following link

THREESCORE

# IF YOU ARE NOT A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS FAST APPROACHING!

Annual Society memberships expire with the Society's fiscal year, on June 30th. Below is the annual renewal form which you can print or copy, fill out and send to Society Treasurer and Membership Chair Pam Rose as soon as possible. Membership dues are used to support Society activities – from arranging and paying for Society speakers and events to sponsoring (and co-sponsoring) special events featuring Welsh and Welsh-American performers, musicians, writers, and scholars. Members are always welcome to make a sustaining gift donation in any amount. And, if you know an individual or family who would enjoy the programming and activities that the Society provides, you are encouraged to consider sending in a gift membership for them. **Thank you in advance for your ongoing interest and support.** 

#### 2022-2023 Membership Application/Membership Renewal Form St. David's Society of Minnesota

www.stdavidsofmn.org www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn



#### PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

Name (for Partner/Family* memberships, please include all names):				
Address (including city, state & zip): _				
Phone Number(s) for Directory:				
E-mail Address:				
I do not use or seldom use email.	Please send communications by post.			
Individual and Partner/Family Mem Individual Annual (July 1, 2022—Partner/Family * Annual (July 1 Individual Lifetime (one-time partner/Family* Lifetime (one-time Partner/Family Rate covers 2 adults a	- June 30, 2023): \$25 , 2022 - June 30, 2023): \$40 ayment): \$225			
Organization Membership Categoric ——Affiliated Organization Member ——Supporting Organization Member ——Sustaining Organization Member	(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$50			

**Bloomington, MN 55425** 

#### A REQUEST TO MEMBERS

The St. David's Society of Minnesota newsletter has always been an essential means for Society members to learn about Society news and events, connect with each other and to Wales, and learn about Wales and our Welsh heritage.

We are committed to maintaining this tradition and request your help: If you notice something interesting in the news - about Wales or Welsh activities here in the United States – *or* if you are inspired to write about something you think will interest other Society members, please send the information, news item or article to me (<a href="stpaulsally@gmail.com">stpaulsally@gmail.com</a>) and we'll include it in an upcoming issue. *Diolch yn fawr iawn*! Thank you, especially to everyone who contributed items for this edition! Your ideas, contributions and support are sincerely appreciated.

Sally Evans, Editor



Rocky Mountains June 2022 - Banff, Alberta, Canada - Sally Evans

St. David's Society c/o Janice Barbee 3425 Wisconsin Ave. N. Crystal, MN 55427