

**VIRTUAL GET-TOGETHERS**

<http://z.umn.edu/StDavidsGatherings>

**Well-Read Dragons Book Group**

When: **Saturday, June 3 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Zoom Link: <http://z.umn.edu/StDavidsGatherings>

**Sgwrs Cymraeg, Welsh Conversation Group**

When: **Monthly on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of**

**Each Month** from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Zoom Link: Contact Laurel Bradshaw, teacher of Welsh & conversation facilitator, at [llawryf@yahoo.com](mailto:llawryf@yahoo.com)

**SAINT DAVID'S DAY (DYDD GWYL DEWI) 2023**

March 1, St. David's Day, is a special day for the Welsh and for Welsh Americans; it's the day we honor the patron saint of Wales, celebrate Wales and our Welsh roots, culture and art. This year, the Society marked Saint David's Day on February 25 with a hybrid *Prynhawn Da* at St. Anthony Lutheran Church. The gathering began with a light catered



Baron Dafydd Wigley of Caernarfon

Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

lunch, tea, Welsh cakes, and other treats brought by members. Members and their guests spent the first half-hour catching up on all that has happened since last summer's picnic. Everyone then moved to the Church Community Room for a fascinating and (always) entertaining presentation and discussion with the Right Honorable Lord Dafydd Wigley. The afternoon ended with a musical presentation of "Who Plays the Harp" – a poem written by Society member Shannon King, set to music by Society member David Evan Thomas, and performed by Society member Donald Barbee. Articles covering Lord Wigley's presentation and the musical performance can be found on Pages 2 and 3.



Photo Credit: Laurel Bradshaw

**Welsh Lessons and Conversation Groups Have Resumed Online and Live!****Second Sundays, Beginners Welsh**

**4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**On Zoom**

Lessons are based on *Dysgu Cymraeg Cwrs Mynediad* materials. The most recent unit completed is Unit 8.

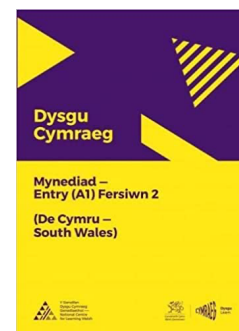
**Fourth Sundays, Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced Welsh Conversation**

**2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

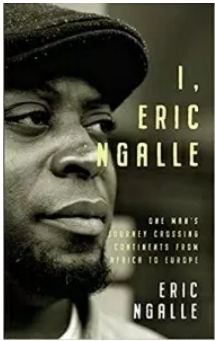
**Live (in Richfield) and via Zoom**

Meetings begin with conversation and translation follows. Beginner students are reading and translating *Seimon Prys, Detectif*. Intermediate/Advanced students are working on *O Law I Law* by Basil Davies.

Laurel sends out a Zoom link before each session. Email [llawryf@yahoo.com](mailto:llawryf@yahoo.com) if you wish to be on the Zoom email list.



## Well-Read Dragons Book Group



<https://cdn.shopify.com>

You are cordially invited to join the Society's book group on Zoom to discuss *I, Eric Ngall: One Man's Journey Crossing Continents from Africa to Europe* by Eric Ngalle Charles on **Saturday, June 3, from 11:30am – 1:00pm**. The Zoom link can be found on Page 1.

In *I, Eric Ngall*, Mr. Ngall Charles chronicles his journey from Cameroon to South Wales where he lives today. After his passport was stolen, his plans to study economics in Belgium were derailed. Eric spent nearly two years living as an illegal immigrant in Russia, and nearly a decade seeking sanctuary as a refugee before reaching south Wales, where he studied modern history and popular culture at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Recipient of a 2017 Creative Wales Award for his migration, trauma, and memory work, Eric Ngalle Charles sits on the board of Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

You can find more information about this book on the St. David's Society of Minnesota website, <https://waleslitexchange.org/books/i-eric-ngalle>, and on the Parthian Books website, <https://www.parthianbooks.com/products/i-eric-ngalle-a-migrant>. You do not have to have read (or finished) the book to participate. Questions? Contact Ilene Dawn Alexander at [ilene.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.dawn@gmail.com).

### St. David's Day Program, Part 1 – Lord Dafydd Wigley's Ties to Minnesota

Lord Dafydd Wigley delighted St. David's Day Luncheon guests with the remarkable story of his discovery of Wigley family links with Minnesota, from Mrs. Evan E. (Maimie) Wigley and her son Richard E. "Dick" Wigley (who served as a Minnesota State Representative from 1971 – 1985), to his nephew, Paul, and Paul's wife, Becky, who were able to join us on February 25 via Zoom. Society members living in Blue Earth County and Lake Crystal, Minnesota are no doubt familiar with the emigration of three Wigley brothers, cousins of Lord Wigley's grandfather, from Wales to Minnesota, in 1857 or 1858, with Evan E. Wigley - the grandson of one of the three brothers - and with Richard Wigley's service as Blue Earth County Commissioner (beginning in 1877), and his service as a State Senator from 1885-1887. Though the Wigleys of Minnesota were predominantly farmers in the Lake Crystal area, Wigley descendants have also made a name for themselves in the music world: Dick Wigley's son, Paul, is a former choral director at Lakeville High School, an active member of the Minneapolis Commodores, and a leader in the Barbershop music community.

Daughter Sarah Wigley is currently a Clinical Associate Professor of Voice and Musical Theatre Coordinator at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. When she lived in Minneapolis, Ms. Wigley performed professionally at the Guthrie Theatre, the Skylark Opera, the Mystery Cafe, the Minnesota Centennial Showboat, and the Minnesota Opera. Mike Wigley, another descendent of the original Wigley brothers, lives with his family in Plymouth, Minnesota, and Dick Wigley's nephew, Dr. Bruce Jones, is a Professor Emeritus of Automotive Science at Mankato State University, where Earle Wigley was not only inducted into the MSU Hall of Fame, but also taught history and social studies some decades ago. Lord Wigley closed this portion of his presentation with equally fascinating facts about family travel to and from Wales, his industrial exploits on this side of the pond, and two other famous Wigley descendants who will be featured in a future newsletter. For now, I'll note that Lord Wigley's wife, world-renowned harpist Elinor Bennett, traveled to Minnesota with her husband and not only graced all who attended the 2014 NAFOW in Minneapolis with glorious performances, she also played solo concerts in St. Paul and Plymouth, Minnesota.

Guests were then treated to a brief history of Wales, covering developments that put Wales where it finds itself today, followed by a review of national values that forged Wales' political identity and a "State of the Union" of Wales, highlighting its current government and implications of recent political developments that shape the daily lives of the people of Wales today and will continue to shape lives of the Welsh in the future. A summary of these remarks will be the subject of Installment 2, to be shared in our next Issue.

[Editor's Note: Dafydd Wigley served as Plaid Cymru Member of Parliament (MP) for Caernarfon (a royal town, community and port in Gwynedd, Wales) from 1974 until 2001 and as Assembly Member for Caernarfon from 1999 until 2003. He led Plaid Cymru from 1981 to 1984 and again from 1991 to 2000. In 2010 he was granted a life peerage by the late Queen Elizabeth and took his seat in the House of Lords as Baron Wigley of Caernarfon in January 2011.]

## St. David's Day Program, Part 2 – *Who Plays the Harp*

The Saint David's Society of Minnesota is incredibly lucky to have many artistic members, and three of these rounded out our Lovely Afternoon on February 25 with a musical premiere of "Who Plays the Harp", a collaboration of society members Shannon King (lyrics) and David Evan Thomas (composer). The concert opened with a brief introduction of the poem by Shannon, followed by a recitation of the poem by member Sally Evans. David Evan Thomas shared his thoughts on the poem and members Donald Barbee and David Evan Thomas delivered a masterful performance of the piece. The premier concert was very well received, and a wonderful way to celebrate our first live St. David's Day luncheon and program in three years! The poem is printed, with express permission, below, and Shannon's article discussing how the poem and the musical piece came to be can be found on Page 4.



Photo Credit: Janice Barbee

### *Who Plays the Harp* By Shannon King

*In memory of the Welsh settlers of 1865 in Patagonia*

Who plays the harp in Patagonia?  
I would like to know.  
Is it Morgan le Fay?  
Who stowed away  
and brought her music, too?  
Is it Eirlis Griffith or Merridith,  
in the teashop in Trelew?  
  
Who sings to the harp in Patagonia?  
Do Owain, Blodwen and Lewis  
sing in the chapel  
where Clara leads the choir?  
Do they sing songs of Y Wladfa  
remembering folks in Aberdare?  
Do the jackass penguins bray?  
When the good folk of Gaiman  
kneel in their pews to pray?  
And when Rachel Jenkins long ago  
led the men to dig,  
Did they sing Cwm Rhondda or Crugybar?  
And dance a little jig?  
  
Who listened to the harp in Patagonia  
in those times so far away?  
Not only good people of Y Wladfa  
but I would like to think  
the Patagones, as well,  
Tehuelche and Mapuche,  
who riding along their trails one day  
heard beauteous sounds never heard before  
and stopped quite still to listen.  
And when the tremolos faded, they prayed,  
"Oh! Let these people stay!"





## ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT FEATURE #1:

### A True Tale of Serendipitous Surprises that Ended in a Song

By Shannon King



The 34-inch Teifi Harp sought by EB  
Photo Credit: <http://harpcolumn.com>

Two years ago my poem, "Who Plays the Harp" was published in this newsletter. How the writing of it came about, and what I learned along the way, is an interesting story-- to me-- and I hope will be, to you.

It started when I saw an ad in the St David's Society newsletter saying, "Harps Wanted in Patagonia." My thought upon reading this was, "Who the heck plays the harp in Patagonia?" It piqued my curiosity, so I decided to find out. Well, of course, I decided to ask Mary Mergenthal, who knows All. And she told me there were a group of Welsh settlers who settled in Patagonia in the 1800's. That made me even more curious, so I went to Wikipedia and found the whole story, complete with the names of the settlers, the ship, and some of their trials when they first arrived.

One of the things that grabbed my attention was that the first town they settled they named "Rawson." Now that is a family name on my mother's side of the family, and I suddenly recalled a memory of my grandmother showing me a letter written by a relative who was travelling in Patagonia. In the letter, he said, "There's a statue in the middle of this town of one of our ancestors, so we must have done something right." Or words to that effect. So that made me wonder if it could possibly be true, and, if so, how could that come about. And I decided to see if I could find out.

My knowledge of the Rawson branch of the family was that my grandfather's grandmother, "the snooty one," Elizabeth Prudence Rawson, was "snooty" because she was in a line from Edward Rawson who was a Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Company (1651 to 1658). And there was a book that traced the family all the way back. Well, I won't bore you with the details, but I found a direct line from his brother, Cornelius, to a Rawson in Argentina, Guillermo Rawson, who had become Secretary of the Interior for Argentina. And it turned out that he was the one who granted the Welsh permission to settle on that land. And he was the one they named the town after. (Considering the state of that land, I don't really think they should have been that grateful.)

So there is one part of this story. Now, after I wrote the poem, I sent it to Mary Mergenthal and she said she thought Elinor Bennett, a well-known harpist in Wales, would also like to see it, so she wrote and asked her. Then Elinor wrote back and told her that she was the one who had written the Want Ad for Harps in Patagonia! And that one of her students was now teaching the harp to a student in Patagonia, and they would probably like to see the poem, too. So I sent it to them, and it turned out that the young girl in Patagonia was playing a harp that had been donated as a result of that ad! (And she lives in Rawson.) So I really enjoyed this whole series of unlikely events!

And then, to top it all off, I sent the poem to David Evan Thomas and he composed a delightful song from it. And if you're interested, here is a link so that you can hear the song: [https://soundcloud.com/jonny-broom/who-plays-the-harp?utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/jonny-broom/who-plays-the-harp?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing).

And hopefully, one day, when we all meet in person, someone will sing it then, too.

[Editor's Note: This article was originally written for publication in June of 2022, before musical gatherings were thought advisable. How delightful that Shannon's fondest wish was granted!]



## ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT FEATURE #2:

### Members Holly Windle and Richard Rames in GSVLOC's *The Sorcerer*



Richard and Holly have entertained members of the St. David's Society for years, at Society events and in performances with The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. Undaunted by the blustery weather we endured between March 10 to April 2, 2023, the intrepid duo braved the elements and delivered - as they always do - energetic and delightful performances as townspeople caught up in the Sorcerer's shenanigans.

A mid-March review of the cast's performance noted that "[m]ost of the performers are villagers and aristocrats and the sound they all make together is superb." (Rob Dunkelberger, The Stages of MN, March 19 Post.) I could not agree more!



Holly was kind enough to share the photos of her and Richard in full costume this year and also as they appeared in their first performance of the same operetta. In Holly's own words: The first time around, she played "the kid that got mismatched with the oldest man in the chorus – Warren Loud."

#### SPRING WELSH WORDS AND PHRASES

<b><i>Y Gwanwyn</i></b>	Spring	<b><i>Ebrill</i></b>	April
<b><i>Blodyn</i></b>	Flower	<b><i>Mai</i></b>	May
<b><i>Cennin Pedr</i></b>	Daffodils	<b><i>Heulwen</i></b>	Sunshine
<b><i>Coeden</i></b>	Tree	<b><i>Bwrw Glaw</i></b>	Rain
<b><i>Glaswellt</i></b>	Grass	<b><i>Enfys</i></b>	Rainbow
<b><i>Pili-pala</i></b>	Butterfly	<b><i>Braf</i></b>	Nice or Pleasant



Banner Credit: <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-illustration-green-grass-spring-banner-flowers-vector-illustration-image65137078>

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Mark Your Calendars – The Society’s Annual Meeting and Picnic is Coming Up!

This year the Annual Picnic will fall on **Sunday, July 30, 2023 from 4 - 6 pm**. We will again meet at Pavilion B in the Wabun Picnic Area of the Minnehaha Regional Park for a potluck. The Society will supply water and snacks, and we will look forward to the wonderful array of dishes and treats that members always bring to share! Attendees will hear a review of the year’s activities, approve the board roster and financial reports, and engage in games and our usual lively conversation. Look for more information to come. For a map of the park, with Pavilion B marked, view this link: [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/minnehaha\\_park\\_picnic\\_map\\_CORRECTED\\_2022.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/minnehaha_park_picnic_map_CORRECTED_2022.pdf)

We have three board members whose terms expire this year, including the president, who has served for 6 years. We could use some fresh faces and ideas! Please consider joining the board or becoming an officer. We meet about every other month on Zoom. Contact Janice Barbee at [janicegwb@yahoo.com](mailto:janicegwb@yahoo.com) if you are interested or would like more information.

### Côr Cymry Gogledd America, Wales Tour 2023

The North American Welsh Choir will return to Wales from **June 26 through July 9, 2023** under the direction of Dr. Mari Morgan, Artistic Director and Conductor. The choir will experience the warmth, beauty and diversity of the country that means so much to the Welsh throughout North America and the world and sing glorious music (to include three newly commissioned pieces) in venues ranging from landmark, national institutions to sacred spaces. The choir is always looking for new members. If you are interested, or if you know someone who is, please visit <https://corcymrygogleddamerica.com>.

### Exultate Chamber Choir & Orchestra, *Gelert* is Coming to Minnesota

The beloved legend of the faithful dog Gelert has been told to Welsh children for hundreds of years. Perhaps the traditional folk tale has been handed down in your family. In October 2022 as part of the North Wales International Music Festival, composer Paul Meall and librettist Grahame Davies presented the world premiere of their new community opera “Gelert,” which picks up the story as King Llewelyn the Great looks back upon the tragic day he killed his trustworthy dog, Gelert, in a mistaken fit of rage. For you see, upon returning from the hunt and finding Gelert dripping in blood standing by his son’s overturned cradle, he assumed the worst. Only after hearing his baby’s cry and finding the dead body of the wolf nearby, did Llewelyn realize the awful mistake that would haunt him for the rest of his life.

Davies’ libretto, masterfully written in rhyme in both Welsh and English, was premiered in both languages at Saint Asaph cathedral (*Eglwys Gadeiriol Llanelwy*) in the small city of Saint Asaph, North Wales, in the very church Meall attended as a boy. After experiencing both performances, Exultate Chamber Choir and Orchestra’s artistic director Thomas Rossin pledged to bring “Gelert” to the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. “We are thrilled to announce public performances of ‘Gelert’ on Friday and **Saturday August 4-5, 2023 in the Twin Cities area** along with amazing opportunities to meet the renowned Welsh creators Meall and Davies,” Rossin said. Plans are underway to make this event one that highlights the strong traditions of story and music so vital to the Welsh heritage and connection to the North American Welsh community.

Auditions to join the GELERT Choir were announced earlier this month so you have an opportunity to be a part of this marvelous experience. The preparation is minimal as the score is not difficult to learn. Your commitment is to attend three rehearsals and 2 (perhaps three) concerts. Interested? Go to the following website: <https://exultate.org/gelert-project-2023/>. More information to follow.

## IN MEMORIAM – ST DAVID’S SOCIETY LOSES TWO MEMBERS TO LONG-TIME ILLNESS

**Karen Conradi-Jones**

**June 5, 1944 – April 2, 2023**

**St. Paul, MN**



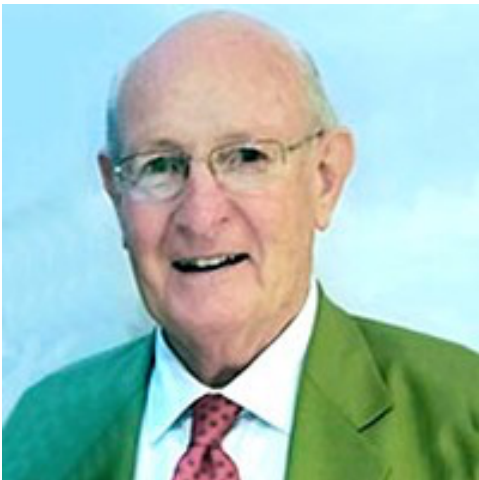
Born June 5, 1944 to Edith and Conrad Conradi in Sioux Falls SD, Karen died Sunday April 2, 2023 at Shalom Home, St. Paul after a long journey with heart failure. A graduate of Macalester College and a medical social worker for over 30 years, Karen was an advocate for the care of all people as well as a breast cancer support group leader. She enjoyed traveling, seeing her grandchildren grow up and keeping in touch with many friends. She is survived by her loving husband David Conradi-Jones, children: Meredith Leary Johnson & Matt Johnson of St. Paul MN and grandsons Jack and Cole Johnson, Lezley Jones of San Jose CA, Ward & Salta Jones of Conroe TX and granddaughter Aizhana Jones. Also survived by brother Gary Conradi, his wife Kathy in Sioux Falls SD; nieces Deborah Herrboldt, Rebecca Bauman, Beth Conradi, nephew William Conradi, many great-nieces and nephews, and dear Kentfield and Conradi cousins. Our heartfelt

thanks to the full nursing staff at Shalom Home in St. Paul as well as Allina Hospice care teams. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 17, at Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Memorials preferred to Pilgrim House, attn. Congregational Care 1212 W Hwy 96, Arden Hills MN 55112, or a charity of your choice.

**Austin Evans**

**February 10, 1936 - April 7, 2023**

**Mound, MN**



Austin Evans passed away on Friday, April 7, 2023, surrounded by family in Madison, Wis. Austin was born in Cardiff, Wales, on Feb. 10, 1936. He and his wife, Diane, and their two boys immigrated to Orono, Minn., in 1975. Austin is survived by his two sons, Philip (Joan) of Madison, and Roger (Michele) of Eden Prairie; four grandchildren, Austin (Danielle), Anna (Joseph) Garcia-Menocal, Shelby, and Bethany; and sister, Gill (Peter) Madley of Shrewsbury, UK. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Harold and Mercia Irene; his brother, David; and wife, Diane. A memorial service was held at Ridgewood Church in Minnetonka, MN on Friday, April 28, 2023. A light lunch followed. A visitation was held from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Memorials may be made to Kenya Children's Fund ([kenyachildrensfund.org](http://kenyachildrensfund.org)). Online condolences may be made

at [gundersonfh.com](http://gundersonfh.com). Gunderson East Funeral & Cremation Care 5203 Monona Drive Madison, Wisconsin.

### **Memorial Donations May Be Made to the Society or the Society Foundation As Follows:**

**St. David’s Society of Minnesota** – Please make your check out to the Society, write “Memorial honoring \_\_\_\_\_” on the Memo Line, and mail your check to Pam Rose, 8514-13th Ave S., Bloomington, MN 55425

**St. David’s Society of MN Foundation** – Please make your check out to the Foundation, write “Memorial honoring \_\_\_\_\_” on the Memo Line, and mail your check to Ron Adams, 3600 Wooddale Ave. S, #213, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416



## ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT FEATURE #3:

### Let's Go to Lincoln!

By Karen Wojahn

It isn't often that a large event featuring Welsh culture is held within driving distance of Minnesota, but for the first time in its history, the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, over Labor Day weekend. The Minnesota Welsh Association (MWA) has chartered a coach bus from Minnesota to the headquarters hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. The bus will depart Minneapolis on **Thursday, August 31**, make a stop in Mankato, and then continue on to Nebraska. We will return to Minnesota on **Monday, September 4**.

What will happen at the festival? This year's event features world-class Welsh entertainment and seminar presentations, a theatre production, vendors, and community singing. We'll also have our own special opportunity to visit the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, the archive for Welsh America in Wymore, Nebraska. The Grand Concert and 91st National Gymanfa Ganu, a hymn-singing festival, will be under the direction of award-winning Welsh composer Robat Arwyn.

The seminar lineup includes presentations on the "History of the Welsh Language in 10 Words;" and "The Black Chair," a retelling of the story of Welsh poet Hedd Wyn, who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele during World War I. Nebraska native and former TV talk show host Dick Cavett will Zoom in to the festival and share memories of interviews with Welsh celebrities. Additional seminar topics will focus on language, history, music, genealogy, and politics in Wales today.

The festival will be held at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, with additional events held at the Nebraska State Capitol building and Saint Paul United Methodist Church. Hotel reservations can be made now at a discounted rate of \$114 - \$134 per night. To receive this rate, call (888) 236-2427 and use the group name "North American Festival of Wales."

To see the schedule details and register for the festival, visit [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org).

Questions? Contact Karen Wojahn ([karen.wojahn@gmail.com](mailto:karen.wojahn@gmail.com) or [mwabus@restenergy.net](mailto:mwabus@restenergy.net), or (507) 822-0960.)

### 2023 North American Festival of Wales

Registration is now open for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 30 through September 3, 2023.

Register through: [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org)

The festival hotel is the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, located at 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Festival rates:

Rooms: \$114-\$134+ tax per night

Parking: \$11.25 per day

Call now to book your room: 1-888-236-2427 Group name: North American Festival of Wales.

The festival hotel is located ten minutes from the Lincoln Airport; there is a hotel shuttle to the Lincoln Airport. Taxi transportation from the Lincoln Airport to the hotel is typically \$15.00-\$19.00.

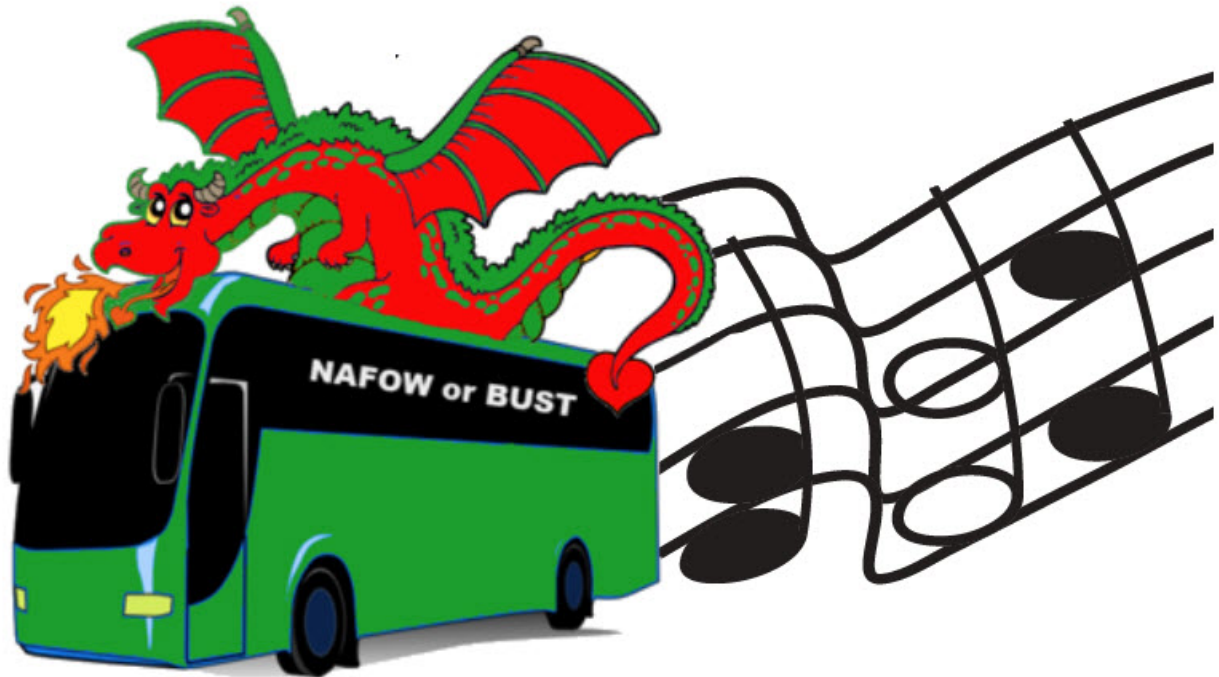


*Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska*

The festival hotel is only forty minutes from Omaha. The Lincoln Amtrak station (also known as Haymarket Station) is a short cab ride away.

[Editor's Note: Bus Registration Form is found on Page 7.]

**Minnesota Welsh Association Bus to the  
North American Festival of Wales  
Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug 31–Sept 4, 2023**



Go to <http://festivalofwales.org> to

1. Register for the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW), and
2. Book your hotel room

Then leave the driving to us! Fill out the form below, detach, enclose a check, and send to:

**KAREN WOJAHN  
48070 380TH STREET  
Windom, MN 56101  
(507) 822 - 0960**

**Bus will have two pickup and drop off points, one in the Metro area and one in Mankato.**

Bus leaves Minnesota August 31 and returns to Minnesota September 4. More information to follow.

*Note: The August 31 Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre Tour will be offered to the bus group on Friday.*

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Passenger Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Options:** ☐ MWA Members - **\$50.00/Passenger** ☐ Non-Members - **\$75.00/Passenger**  
☐ Become an MWA Member (Individual - \$15/yr; Household \$20/yr) + Member Bus Rate-  
**\$65 or \$70/New Member Passenger**

*Questions? Contact Karen Wojan at [nwabus@restenergy.net](mailto:nwabus@restenergy.net)*

## **UPDATE FROM THE BOARD – PAST EVENTS** Submitted by President, Janice Barbee

### **Talk by Hywel (Taff) Roberts on *The Legendary King Arthur & His Welsh Connections***

November 19, 2022 at **St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church**

Our board member Hywel (Taff) Roberts and cinematographer Blake Darst are in the process of producing a documentary in Wales on the warrior Arthur and his strong Welsh connections. The earliest evidence of Arthur that we have is from a poem by Taliesin, a Welsh poet from the 6th century, followed by Aneurin, another Welsh bard from the 7th century. Then, the story of who Arthur was changed dramatically after the Norman conquest of the isles in 1066. Hywel showed us fascinating excerpts from the documentary and promised more to come after the documentary is finished.

### **An Evening with John Dingley**

November 20, 2022 at the **Celtic Junction Arts Center**

Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre and the St. David's Society of Minnesota cohosted "An Evening with John Dingley" at the Celtic Junction Arts Center. John Dingley has a long history with our Society, and is an accomplished actor, singer, poet, stone mason, glass engraver, storyteller, and author. He sang songs in his lusty tenor voice, recited poems, told many funny stories, showed us slides of Wales, and gave us a preview of his upcoming book on how to feed the world, including the use of vertical farming. It was an evening full of variety!

### **Holiday Tea**

December 3, 2022 at **University Lutheran Church of Hope**

After celebrating our Holiday Tea on Zoom for the past two years, several of us were happy to meet in person again in the place where we have been celebrating for several years pre-COVID. We were greeted by the Mari Lwyd, a paper horse from an old Welsh tradition that Ryan Ander Evans and his new wife Sarah made. We learned to sing a few beautiful Welsh carols, led by David Evan Thomas and Ryan, and sang along to their guitar duet. Shannon King, David Richards, and Gail Manning chose readings about Christmas by Minnesota writers, presented by David. About 15 people came and we shared treats and caught up on each other's news from couches and chairs near the piano, fireplace, and the treat table. We've started a new tradition with the Mari Lwyd and Ryan has promised to bring her back next year!

### **National Library of Wales – "Bob Dylan and Dylan Thomas: The Two Dylans"**

May 15, 2023 on **Zoom**

Owen Rhys Roberts from the National Library of Wales introduced Bob Dylan expert K G Miles, and Jeff Towns, owner of Dylan's Bookshop in Swansea, who took those of us who attended "on a tour of the connections, coincidences, shared passions and associations that bind these two cultural icons, one from Wales and one from America, together."

### **St. David's Society of Minnesota Foundation Update**

The Society's Foundation has two new Board Members, Kay Thomas and Sally Evans. The new Board held its first meeting on April 26, 2023 and have assumed the following roles:

President – Kay Thomas, [kthomas@umn.edu](mailto:kthomas@umn.edu)

Secretary – Sally Evans, [stpalsally@gmail.com](mailto:stpalsally@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Ron Adams, [cymraeg@imaginarytower.org](mailto:cymraeg@imaginarytower.org)

They welcome additional Board members and invite you to join them. If interested, please send an email to one or more officer (above).



**IF YOU ARE NOT A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA,  
AND YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!**

Annual Society memberships expire with the Society's fiscal year, on June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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](https://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 Membership Categories and Rates**

☐ Individual Annual (July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023): \$25

☐ Partner/Family \* Annual (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$40

☐ Individual Lifetime (one-time payment): \$225

☐ Partner/Family\* Lifetime (one-time payment): \$300

\* Partner/Family Rate covers 2 adults and may include children under the same roof under 18 years of age

**Organization Membership Categories and Rates**

☐ Affiliated Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$50

☐ Supporting Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$75

☐ Sustaining Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$100

Please make checks out to: **ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MN**

Send membership status questions to: [pamrosearch@hotmail.com](mailto:pamrosearch@hotmail.com)

Mail this form and check to: **Pam Rose, Treasurer and Membership Chair**  
**8514-13th Ave S.**  
**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 ([stpaulsally@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsally@gmail.com)) 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



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