



St. David's Society of Utica

Newsletter - April 2019



Upcoming Events

SPRING GYMANFA GANU

Sunday, May 5th, 3 p.m.

1st Presbyterian Church

7696 Stokes Westernville Road

WESTERVILLE, NY

Conductor - Tristan Jones

Vocalists - Gene & Joseph Falvo

Organist - Sue Bartholomew

Pianist - Jeanne Jones.

WELSH HERITAGE DAY

April 27th, from 1 p.m.

Oneida County History Center

(featuring Welsh cooking, music and quilts and historical displays)

BOOK READING & SIGNING

Saturday, June 1st, 1-2 p.m.

Utica Public Library

David Lloyd

"The Moving of the Water"

(Welsh American Immigration experience)

REMSEN STEUBEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Enlli Song Fest, May 19th at 3 p.m.

French Rd Song Fest, July 14th at 2 p.m.

NELSON WELSH CHURCH

Gymanfa Ganu - Sept 8th at 3p.m.

REMSEN BARN FEST—Sept 28-29

SUMMER PICNIC

Watch for postcard with details

More information about future events

can be found on our website

www.saintdavidssociety.org

or 315-768-7115.

Fall Gymanfa Ganu Features Harp Music



Left to right: **Peggy Behrendt, Sue Bartholomew and Timothy Behrendt.**

The Fall Gymanfa held October 7th 2018 in Clinton United Methodist Church was attended by more than 100 people. The event was televised by WKTV in Utica and excerpts shown on the night and morning news.

Jay G Williams III led the singing in both Welsh and English accompanied by Sue Bartholomew on the organ and Jeanne Jones on piano.

A special treat was a harp solo performed by Peggy Spenser Behrendt of Cold Brook, NY accompanied by her husband Timothy Hume Behrend on

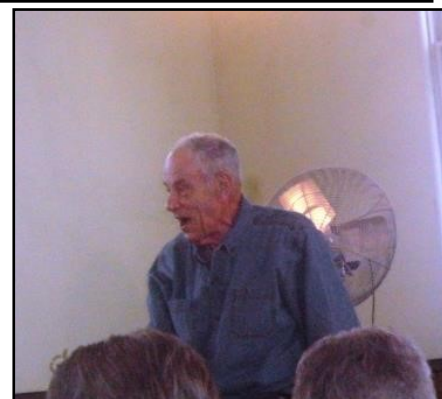
(Continued on page 2)

ST DAVID'S DAY DINNER

The Utica St. David's Society held its annual meeting and St David's Day dinner March 3rd at Hart's Hill Inn, Whitesboro.

After-dinner entertainment was provided by storyteller Hugh C. Humphreys of Hamilton.

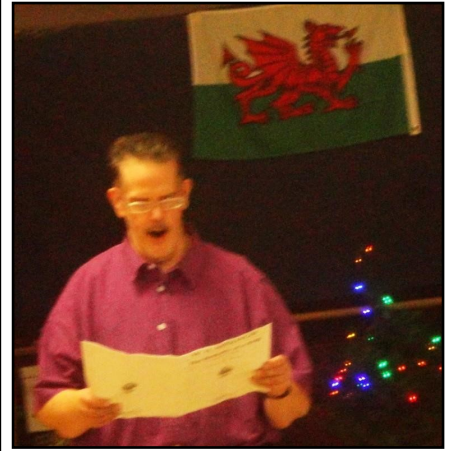
RIGHT: *Hugh Humphreys narrates a story*



Music, magic and games at Christmas party



Magician Travis Knight with assistant Dylan Ruganis



Steve Grotevant sings Christmas carols

More than 60 people enjoyed a variety of events and good food at the annual Christmas party, hosted by Ralph and Lois Humphreys Stew and Esther Williams organized the event again this year and recruited David and Lynda Dudgeon to serve on the planning committee.

Attendees included members, their children and their grand-children. President Lynda Walters welcomed the guests and recognized the Honorable James Griffith, a member with long local Welsh roots, who recently was reelected as County Judge for the third consecutive time.

The party included a dinner of pizza, cold cuts, and many choices of delicious cakes and other deserts. In addition, the committee planned a wide variety of events to entertain children and adults alike.

The first entertainer was Steven Grotevant of the Tabernacle Baptist Church who sang Little Town in Bethlehem accompanied by Rainer Rzucidlo on the piano. Steve also

sang "All through the Night" and led the group in a melody of Christmas Carols concluding with the Twelve Nights of Christmas. Steven studied voice with Wayne Burlingame and Jim Hanosh and was a welcome addition to this year's event.

After the music, Esther and Stew recruited magician/comedian Travis Knight of Liverpool who entertained with magic tricks and twisting balloons into animal shapes.

Several children also entertained. Dakotah Dudgeon, accompanied by grandfather David, played a melody on the flute. The Tolbert children (Evan, Conor, and Daniel) accompanied by their grandmother Shirley, performed various magic tricks. There also were gingerbread men to decorate and coloring projects for younger children.

We finished with an indoor snowman building contest. The 6 entries were all so good that the judge Stew Williams was forced to proclaim a 6-way tie and awarded gifts to all of the teams.



GYMANFA (Continued from page 1)

harmonica and guitar. They played Welsh folk melodies as well as selections from Antonin Dvořák's classic New World Symphony.

Peggy and her husband have recorded and appeared regionally as Harp & Harmony. They also founded and run

the Shawangunk Nature Preserve - a non-profit deep-ecology, learning and cultural center in Cold Brook, NY.

Following the Gymanfa there was a Te Bach hosted by Sharron Lanahan, Diane Roberts and Della Williams in the adjoining Social Hall. Esther Williams sold Bara Brith, Welsh flags, and other gift items.



Pub Rugby Party

SCOTLAND 11: WALES 18

Our Society held its first Welsh Rugby party. March 9th at the "The Celtic Harp"

with four televisions tuned into the Wales-Scotland Six Nations Rugby Match. During the match the restaurant served various platters of foods while the group watched the game or mingled around the room.

Over 40 members and guests enjoyed the party and the Wales team certainly did their part in winning a tough victory against a very determined Scotland team.



DONATIONS INVITED

Our society maintains a trust fund used to preserve Welsh heritage among people in the Mohawk Valley area. A part of this fund is used to provide scholarships to students of Welsh heritage who are pursuing higher education. A memorial in the Gymanfa Ganu program is one way of donating (or you can donate directly to the scholarship fund.

A donation form is on the back of this page

Scholarship Applications

A reminder that scholarship applications are due June 1st., The application procedure is described on our website

www.saintdavidssociety.org

If you have questions contact David Dudgeon by E-Mail: ddudgeon@twcny.rr.com or text

The Welsh Dragon is raised in Utica on St. David's Day

Twenty society members braved chilly weather to attend the annual St David's Day Flag Raising ceremony March 1 at Utica City Hall.

Mayor Robert Palmieri raised the flag with the assistance of Society president Linda Walters and County Judge James Griffith. Robert Jones led the group in singing the Welsh national anthem. The mayor was then presented with tea cakes baked by Cindy Gilbert and Janet Washburn.

The events were covered by local television broadcast journalist Jennifer Seelig of WUTR and WFXV with showings on the evening news.

The mayor spoke of the many contributions of the Welsh settlers to this area. The initial settlers were farmers and stone workers but with Utica being a port city on the Erie Canal, the area became famous for publishing of Welsh newspapers and hymnals that were read throughout the United States.



ABOVE: Mayor Robert Palmieri talks with members of the St David's Society.

RIGHT: President Linda Walters during television interview



MEMORIAL DONATION for Spring Gymanfa Ganu program (due by April 29th)

In Memory of _____

From _____

Amount _____

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

From _____

Amount _____

Clip form and send with donation to: Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Ct, New Hartford, NY 13413

Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your support!