



# St. David's Society of Utica

## Newsletter - September 2015



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat. & Sun. Sept. 26 & 27**

#### **REMSEN BARN FEST**

Our booth will have Welsh items for sale. Volunteers are still needed to help at the booth and/or make Welsh teacakes. Please call Stew or Esther Williams 725-3391

**Sunday Oct. 4th, 3 p.m.**

#### **FALL GYMANFA GANU**

#### **New Hartford Presbyterian Church**

Conductor is Hugh Jones with Jim Hanosh on organ and Jeanne Jones on piano. Rev. Dr. Susan Riggle will give invocation and benediction and Rev. Richard Riggle is soloist. Te bach (refreshments) will follow with a sale of Welsh goods.

**Sunday, Dec. 27th**

#### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

#### **New Hartford Methodist Church**

Festive fun for adults and children. Talent performances, games and great food will again be enjoyed by all. If you missed last year, plan to attend this year! There's a rumor that Santa will be paying a visit!



More information on our society and future activities are on the web site, [www.saintdavidssociety.org](http://www.saintdavidssociety.org),

### *June Board Meeting at Ebenezer's Café*



*Left to right: Esther Williams, Stewart Williams, Hilda DuChene, David Dudgeon, Lynda Dudgeon. ( Story page 2).*

## Scholarship Winners 2015-16

Eight scholarships were awarded to students connected to members of the Utica Society according to scholarship chair and co-president, David Dudgeon. He notes there was an outstanding group of applicants this year.

"The understanding, promotion and perpetuation of the Welsh-American culture is a primary mission of St. David's Society. Awarding scholarships to those who appreciate their Welsh heritage is a means for accomplishing this goal," says Dudgeon.

Scholarships went to the following individuals:

**Lauren J. Pugh**, daughter of Nora and Mark Pugh, is in her third year at the State University of New York – Poly in Marcy studying Biology & Pre-medicine. She resides in Whitesboro.

**Rebecca G. Williams**, the daughter of Jay and Lillian Williams will be starting her first year at Hamilton College in Clinton with a major in History. She resides in Clinton.

**Caitlin P. Green** is beginning her first year at the University of Rhode Island and will be studying Human Development and Family Studies. She is the daughter of Thomas and Kimberly Green of Manlius.

**Avery R. Jones** will be starting her first year at SUNY at Canton to work toward a career in Dental Hygiene. She is the daughter of Gwynn V. Jones of Rome.

**Emily J. Rhoades** of New Hartford is in the first year at Siena College with a major in English and Education. She is the daughter of Laura and William Rhoades.

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**Alexandra L. Wynne** is in her third year at Ithaca College majoring in Integrated Marketing Communications. She is the recipient of a special scholarship presented by the family of L. John Blumberg in his memory. Alexandra is the daughter of Douglas and Jill Wynne of Hol-

land Patent.

**Krista Rounds**, of Whitesboro is a second year student at SUNY at Geneseo majoring in Biology. She is the daughter of Daniel Rounds and Karen Rounds-Cleary.

**Jordan M. Lanahan**, the son of Keith and Sharon Lanahan of Deerfield is a Sociology major at SUNY Poly in Marcy.

## Trust Fund Needs Replenishing

St. David's Society of Utica maintains a trust fund that is used to carry out our mission to preserve Welsh heritage among the people in the Mohawk Valley area. Part of the fund is used each year to award scholarships to deserving students connected to members of the society.



During the last several years, the interest rate on this fund has not provided much income. As a result we need to work diligently to replenish it through

donations from members.

We therefore ask that you to consider an annual donation to the fund so the society can continue to provide scholarships to students of Welsh heritage who are pursuing higher education. This would be much appreciated and well utilized.

Donations may be sent to St. David's Society of Utica, NY, care of Cindy Gilbert, Treasurer, 3 Woodstock Court, New Hartford, NY 13413.

## June Board Meeting at Ebenezer's Café & Creamery

*Photo page 1*

**The Utica St. David's Society Board of Directors held their June meeting at Ebenezer's Café' and Creamery restaurant in Sherrill—a yearly tradition when spouses of members and other guests are invited along.**

Ebenezer's is the only restaurant in Central New York with a Welsh theme, operated by people of Welsh descent. It was founded by Evan and Kathy DuChene over 20 years ago along with Evan's mother Hilda DuChene who acts as the advisor to ensure Welsh authenticity. Many of the desserts are based upon recipes of her father, Jack Griffiths who emigrated from Tywyn, North Wales.

The ambience of Wales surrounds you in the dining room with its unique wallpaper, plaques, and pottery on the walls all imported from Wales. The gift counter has over 50 different moderately priced gifts also imported from Wales.

Welsh items are sprinkled on the menu such as the local favorite, bread pudding with custard sauce, and their special rice pudding. Of course it could not be Welsh

without a daily 2-3 p.m. tea time of homemade scones, whipped cream, strawberry jam and a pot of tea.

According to co-owner Kathy DuChene, Ebenezer's has a fair number of out of town guests with Welsh ancestry. It is word-of-mouth advertising that brings guests from Wales, Canada and U.S. states as distant as California.

Ebenezer's is located on 624 Sherrill Road only five minutes from exit 33 on the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90). Its proximity to nearby local attractions such as Oneida Lake, Lake Ontario, the Adirondack Mountains, two gaming casinos, the Boxing Hall of Fame and the Baseball Hall of Fame account for many of the visitors.

Directions can be found on their website, <http://www.ebenezerscafeandcreamery.com>

The meeting agenda included discussion of our Scholarship Program for graduating High School Seniors and plans for our Fall Gymanfa Ganu (10/4), Christmas Party (12/27) and informational/sales booth at the Remsen Barn Fest (9/26-9/27).

### DID YOU KNOW——

**Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch is a village in Anglesey, North Wales? The train station name was given to Remsen in 2011, which can now boast the longest train station name in the whole world!**

On a beautiful summer's day, two English tourists were driving through Wales. At Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch they stopped for lunch. One of them asked the waitress: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?" The girl leaned over: "Burr... gurr... King," she said.

# Norman Williams is honoree at Spring Gymanfa

Norman Williams was honored for his many contributions to our Welsh-American heritage at the Spring Gymanfa Ganu held in May at the Westminster-Moriah- Olivet Presbyterian church, Utica.

Norman, born 1919, was raised in Utica. He was active in both national and local affairs through the original Moriah church until interrupted by military service in World War II. After the war he worked for General Electric and relocated to the Syracuse area where he served as President of the Syracuse St David's Society. Upon retirement he returned to the Utica area and resumed his activities in the Utica area organization. He was on the national board of directors of the Welsh North American Association for five years and president of the Welsh National Gamanfa Ganu Association, Inc. from 1982-1984.

About 130 attended the service conducted by Jay G. Williams III with Susan Bartholomew on organ and Jeanne Jones on piano. Jenni Larchar was the featured soloist. A Te bach followed the service.

The host church pastored by Rev. Robert Umidi has a rich Welsh tradition. Both the Moriah and Olivet Churches were originally formed by the Welsh. In the early 1800's Welsh immigrants were among the largest ethnic groups in Utica.



*Honoree Norman Williams with conductor Jay G. Williams III*

## Membership is a Gift that Keeps on Giving

Membership in St. David's Society of Utica is still a bargain. A lifetime membership costs only \$25.

Think about the benefits you receive as a member of the society. Now imagine the joy and pleasure your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews will receive by also becoming members.

Each year, we read the essays that are a part of the application for scholarships awarded by the society. In these essays, applicants say what their Welsh heritage means to them.

The sentiments expressed have a common theme. It is that these young lives have been touched in a positive way by their connection to

Welsh culture, whether it's the stories told them by parents and grandparents about the decision to come to America, or about singing songs at the Gymanfa Ganu, or eating Welsh tea-

**"A lifetime membership costs only \$25"**

cakes. It may not have seemed they were listening and watching, but they were. They were impressed by your influence.

We all want to make sure our Welsh heritage is remembered and revered and one way to help make that happen is to keep the connection with St. David's Society among those in the

next generations.

So, why not make a gift of a membership to someone you love. They will appreciate your gesture and will assure younger folks remain connected to their heritage.

Send a check for \$25 to St. David's Society of Utica for each membership to the Membership Chair, Patricia Williams, 4 Fairlane Drive, Whitesboro, NY 13492. Be sure to include the name of the new member, address, phone and e-mail address.

It is a gift that will keep on giving for many, many birthdays and holidays.

### American-Welsh newspaper was founded in Utica

Do you know about Ninnau, newspaper for the North American Welsh community? Published monthly, it costs just \$20 a year and is packed with information about articles related to Wales and the American-Welsh.

Until 12 years ago there were two Welsh-

American newspapers - the Ninnau ( meaning "us") and Y Drych ( meaning " the mirror") but they merged in 2003 to form the current " Ninnau and Y Drych" ( the full title.)

'Y Drych' was the oldest Welsh-American newspaper, founded in 1850 in Utica by John Morgan Jones, owner and editor. It was a totally Welsh language newspaper until gradual transitioning into the English language in the 1930's and 40's.