



St. David's Society of Utica

Newsletter - September 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL GYMANFA GANU

**Sunday, October 12
3:00 PM**

New Hartford Presbyterian
Church
45 Genesee Street
New Hartford

Conductor— *Jay Williams*
Organist— *Andrea Radesi*

A 'te bach' (tea and Welsh
cakes) will follow the hymn
sing. Everyone is encouraged
to invite friends who enjoy
singing!

REMSSEN BARN FEST

**Saturday, Sept. 27th, 10-6
Sunday, Sept 28th, 10-5**

*To volunteer at our booth
or contribute Welsh cakes,
please call Stew Williams
315-725-3391*

Gymanfa Ganu
(Welsh Hymn Sing)
2.30 pm, Sun. Sept. 28th
The Stone Meeting House
(Capel Cerrig)
Prospect St, Remsen

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Three students of Welsh heritage have received scholarships from the St. David's Society. These students have strong ties to active members of our society and are honored for their appreciation of their Welsh heritage.



Calvin Rhoades

Calvin is the son of Laura & Bill Rhoades & grandson of Cindy & Jon Gilbert. He is a biology major at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica, finished his sophomore year with a 4.0 GPA and was named to the President's List. He will return to SUNY Poly this fall, hopes to be able to graduate with his Bachelor's degree a year early in the spring of 2026 and is considering graduate school for an advanced degree.

He works part time at the FX Matt Biergarten & gift shop in Utica during the summer & throughout the school year.



Emma Ruganis

Emma is the daughter of Lorraine and Scott Ruganis. She completed her sophomore year at the University of Rochester and named to the dean's list for the fall semester and the president's list for the spring semester with a 4.0 GPA.

During the summer she worked at Panera Bread before returning to the University of Rochester for her junior year, majoring in chemistry.



Grace Ruganis

Grace will be starting her Freshman Year this fall at Otterbein University to pursue a BFA in Musical Theater with a minor in dance. Grace has been performing in Musical Theater and dancing throughout her life. Her most recent roles include *Kira* in *Xanadu* at New Hartford High School, *Dorothy* in *Wizard of Oz* at Utica University, and *Cinderella* at Rise Performing Arts.

Grace is currently performing as *Hope* in Stagedoor Manor's production of *Urinetown*.

DONATIONS

As our fall events begin with the Remsen Barn Festival and Gymanfa Ganu, we would encourage you to consider a donation to the society to help with our expenses.

Donations can be made: (1) "In Memory of" (2) "In Honor of", or (3) to the Scholarship Trust Fund (see form on page 4). Your donation will be mentioned in our Gymanfa Ganu bulletin. Please mail the form to our Treasurer, Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Ct., New Hartford, NY 13413.

Thank you from the St. David's Society Executive Committee.

REMSEN BARN FESTIVAL—2025!

The Remsen Barn Festival began as a simple farm tour but has grown through its 52-year history to become one of the biggest craft shows in the area. Be sure to stop by the St David's Society booth, where we will be selling traditional Welsh cakes and a variety of Welsh items, many bearing the Welsh red dragon emblem.



Special Attraction!

Don't miss the Gymanfa Gannu on Sunday, Sept 28th, 2:30 pm at **Capel Cerrig** (The Stone Meeting House), Prospect Street, Remsen.



Debbie & Steve Nicotera
Remsen Barn FOTA—2024

St. David's Society of Utica cheers on Boilermaker Runners

The 15K Boilermaker Road Race in Utica is the largest 15K in the United States. Well over 10,000 runners were greeted and cheered on by the St. David's Welsh Society of Utica led by co-president, Stewart Williams.

Our presence seemed appreciated by all and many interesting comments were heard. Runners from Wales, England and Ireland were especially glad to see us with occasional shouts of “*Cymru am byth*” (Wales Forever), and one young woman even said the full name of Llanfair PG as she ran by. Many Americans slowed to tell us of their Welsh heritage and thank us with one young woman proudly announcing that she was 90% Welsh!

In the photo, the three runners are members of our local society, (Ken Williams, Rachel Williams and Emma Ruganis). Rachel attends Duke University and Emma attends the University of Rochester and are both local scholarship recipients. Note that the race winds through Utica and ends at the Utica Club Brewery where a cold beer or root beer awaits all who finish!



Ken, Rachel and Emma

CONTACT INFORMATION

Members are requested to keep us updated with contact information so we can better keep in touch.

So if you haven't told us already, please send your street address, phone number and email address to our membership secretary:

Mary Lou Rosecrants
2888 Austin Road, Clinton, NY 13323
315-794-4996

Scholarships Available

Students who are applying to colleges or technical schools need to check out the Scholarship program provided by St. David's Society of Utica. For an explanation of eligibility and application procedures, visit our website at

SaintDavidsSociety.org or scan this QR code:





Rugby Watch Party 2025

A traditional Rugby Watch Party was enjoyed on Saturday, March 8 at the F.X. Matt Brewing Company on Var-ick St. in Utica. Food, fellowship & fun was provided!

The event was well attended, with local fans cheering as the Welsh team played Scotland in the Six Nations Championship. Although Wales did not prevail this time, the match was full of excitement, and we look forward to next year.



Enlli By Candlelight

Enlli is named for Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island), an island located off the coast of North Wales.



On Sunday May 25, members of the Welsh community in Remsen celebrated an “Enlli by Candlelight” service. Leaders were Shirley Jones Tolbert and Andrea Jones Racha. Vicky Allen played the organ and everyone joined in singing patriotic American and Welsh music with some

selections by the Remsen Chorus along with a brief history of “*Capel Enlli*”. A time for silence and remembering was followed by drinks and Welsh tea cakes. We also celebrated the church's new windows and exterior painting.

Got suggestions for future activities?

The St David's Society committee welcomes ideas about what sort of activities its members would like to see organized. Getting together for events creates lasting memories and meaningful connections, so we look forward to your input. You can contact any committee member or email to: info@saintdavidssociety.org

DONATIONS (for the Gymanfa Ganu program)

In ☐ Memory or ☐ Honor of _____
(Check one)

From _____ Amount: \$ _____

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Awarding scholarships has been a tradition of our St. David's Society for many years and will continue to happen with your help, so please consider donating this year. Contributions go into a Trust Fund which is used to provide assistance to students for this coming school year and in the future.

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!

St. David's Society of Utica

c/o Mary Lou Rosecrants
2888 Austin Rd.,
Clinton, NY 13323

