



# St. David's Society of Utica

## Newsletter - September 2017



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Gymanfa Ganu

October 1, 2017, 3 pm  
Plymouth Bethesda Church  
500 Plant St., Utica  
(just off Oneida Square)  
Conductor: Jay Williams III  
Soloist: Jenni Larchar  
Organist: Sue Bartholomew  
Pianist: Jeanne Jones

#### Remsen Barn Festival

September 23 & 24, 2017  
(Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5)  
To volunteer at Welsh Booth  
Call Ted: 315-338-3538  
To contribute Welsh cakes  
call Linda Walters: 315-735-9896

#### Welsh Heritage Day

November 18, 2017, 1pm  
Oneida County History Center  
1608 Genesee St, Utica  
Slide show, Welshcake demo,  
genealogy assistance, displays

#### Christmas Party

December 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 1.30pm  
FUMC New Hartford social hall  
105 Genesee St  
All welcome to entertain  
Bring dish to pass.

Those who wish to learn more about the St David's Society in Utica and our activities can visit our website, [www.saintdavidsociety.org](http://www.saintdavidsociety.org) or call 315-338-3538.

### Wales on show at MVCC's Spring International Festival



L to R: Cindy Gilbert, Janet Washburn, Norm Jones and David Dudgeon hand out brochures and share Welsh cakes with students and staff

The Welsh society table at Mohawk Valley Community College's International Festival saw a steady stream of visitors in April when society members answered questions about Wales, Welsh customs, cuisine and travel opportunities.

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### Scholarship Winners for 2017-18

Eight scholarships have been awarded to students connected to members of St. David's Society of Utica. "There was an outstanding group of applicants this year," says President Ted Engle. He notes the understanding, promotion and perpetuation of the Welsh-American culture is a primary mission of St. David's Society and awarding scholarships to those who appreciate their Welsh heritage is a means of accomplishing this goal. Scholarships ranging from \$400 to \$500 went to the following individuals:

Connor A. Dorsino, son of Michael and Jennifer Dorsino of Floyd, will be starting his first year at Mohawk Valley Community College where he will major in graphic design.

Courtney L. Doxtader, daughter of Thomas and Linda Doxtader of Utica, is in the second year of the dental hygiene program at

*(Continued on page 2)*

Society members handed out brochures from the Visit Wales Travel Association to students who were interested in travel and studying in Wales, as well as Ireland, Scotland and England. Some of the local students had Welsh roots and were familiar with Wales due to conversations with their parents and grandparents although others learned about Wales for the first time.

Not surprisingly many were already well aware of Wales's prowess in international soccer and rugby and were familiar with famous Welsh film stars Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Christian Bale. They were not acquainted with earlier stars like Richard Burton and Ray Milland or famous poets and authors such as Dylan Thomas or R.S. Thomas.

The aim of the MVCC International Festival is to "showcase cultures from around the world" with table displays, demonstrations, and performances by students, staff and cultural organizations from the greater Utica community. In addition to display tables there was an international fashion show, ethnic dancing and singing presentations and an international food buffet

Central New York was a site of early immigration from Wales to the United States and our area still has a large number of people with Welsh ancestry. The students at MVCC however, come from a varied background. While the majority are from NY State there are also international students from Asia, South America and increasingly Eastern European Countries such as Bosnia, Belarus, and Croatia.

#### OBITUARY



**Norman E. Williams**, former president of the *National Gymanfa Ganu Association* passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. He was born on December 15, 1919 in Utica, New York, son of Ellis and Margaret Jones Williams.

His father, Ellis Williams, came from Porthmadog, North Wales in 1906 and immediately became involved in the Welsh Moriah Presbyterian Church of Utica, NY serving as an elder for over fifty years. Norman also became involved in the Moriah Church and Welsh traditions at a young age. He was interested in the music activities in particular. Norman was a graduate of Utica Free Academy and Colgate University. His involvement with the local Welsh community was interrupted by World War II. He served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946. After discharge from military service, he married Marian Tibbits of Utica. Norman then relocated to the Syracuse New York area

where he was employed at General Electric. He retired from General Electric in 1981. While in the Syracuse area Norman and Marian were members of the Marcellus Presbyterian Church. Norman became involved in the local Syracuse Welsh Society and served as President of the Central New York (Syracuse) St David's Society. After his retirement from General Electric, he returned to Utica, NY where he was member of Moriah-Olivet Church and more recently the New Hartford Presbyterian Church. Norman again became involved in the St. David's Society of Utica serving as president. In national affairs he was on the executive board of the *Welsh North American*

*Association* for five years and served as president from 1982 to 1984 of the *National Gymanfa Ganu Association*. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, he was honored by the St David's Society of Utica at the Spring Gymanfa Ganu for his many contributions to Welsh-American activities both on a local and national level. He leaves two daughters and sons-in-law, Susan W. and Cecil Castle of Troy, PA and Margaret Williams and W. Daniel Stricker of Syracuse. He was Taid to seven grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Marian, brother Thomas Owen Williams and his wife Alice, many close cousins, and sisters-in-law Alice and Evelyn Tibbits and brother-in-law Arthur H. Tibbits.

SUNY Canton.

Sydney R. Gape, daughter of William and Annette Gape, will be attending Nazareth College of Rochester in the museum studies and art history programs.

Avery R. Jones will be starting her third year at SUNY Canton to work toward a career in dental hygiene. She is the daughter of Gwynn V. Jones of Rome.

Brandon T. Pugh, son of Nora and Mark Pugh, will begin his second year at Clarkson University with a major in Electrical Engineering. He resides in Whitesboro.

Emily J. Rhoades is in her third year at Siena College with a major in English literature and writing as well as communication. She is the daughter of Laura and

William Rhoades of New Hartford.

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

Rebecca G. Williams of Clinton will be starting her third year at Hamilton College with a major in History. She resides in Clinton and is the daughter of Jay G. Williams III and Lillian V. Williams.

St. David's Society Scholarship Chair David Dudgeon says donations to the scholarship fund may be sent to St. David's Society Trust Fund in care of Treasurer Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Court, New Hartford, NY 13413.

## Young organist soloist performs at Spring Gymanfa Ganu, Illion

Our Spring Gymnfa Ganu was held May 7 at the First Presbyterian Church in Illion, where the guest soloist on the organ was 12-year old Dominic Fiacco of Poland NY.

Dominic studies organ with Stephen Best and piano with Sar-Shalom Strong both of Hamilton College, and has already developed a strong regional following.

He performed on the church's Casavant Freres pipe organ that was installed in 2006 and features three manuals 37/51 ranks and 2858 pipes. Dominic played selections of Sonata No. 4 from Felix Mendelssohn and Symphonies Nos. 6 and 7 from Charles-Marie Widor.

Leading the congregation of more than 200, singing hymns in both Welsh and English, was conductor Jay G. Williams III. Jay is a practicing attorney in Clinton, NY, a lay minister, and author of two books on Welsh Americans. In addition to being a member of the St David's Society, Jay is a life member of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

The organist was Susan Bartholomew of Remsen, NY who is organist and musical director for the church. She is also a CPA and a member of the Utica St David's Society and the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society. Our pianist was Jeanne Jones of New Hartford. Jeanne is a private music teacher in the Utica area and former president of the Utica B Sharp Musial Club.



*Stephen Best and soloist Dominic Fiacco*

Host pastor, the Rev. Rick Riggle, gave the invocation, benediction and read the 98th Psalm. Rainer Morgan Rzucidlo read the 98th Psalm in Welsh and Mary Lou Rosecrants read the names of our deceased members in the past year during the memorial service.

A te bach was held in the adjacent Fellowship Hall following the gymanfa. This was organized by Shirley Tolbert and assisted by Della Williams, Linda Walters, Janet Washburn and Cindy Gilbert and included tea cakes and bara brith.

## Song Fest marks Capel Enlli anniversary

A song fest celebrating the 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Capel Enlli not too far from Remsen, was held May 2 by the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society.

Capel Enlli (Ynys Enlli is Welsh for Bardsley Island) was a Calvinistic Methodist chapel founded by Welsh immigrants from primarily the Llŷn Peninsula in North Wales. It was

from that island just off the North Wales coast near Aberdaron that Saint Cadfan ventured to help Christianize Wales in the fifth century.

The chapel is no longer a functioning church but well maintained by the local historical society - a good historical reminder of the contributions of Welsh immigrants to this frontier area in the early 1800's.

early musical education in this area. Hugh is a graduate of Syracuse and George Washington Universities and a retired civilian employee of the US Army at the Pentagon. He is now a self-employed Energy Consultant and also organist and music director of Oneida FUMC. Hugh also performed several soloist selections at the event.

Organizer of the fest and the following te bach was Shirley Tolbert, a member of our society.



*Hugh Jones and Cathy Roberts Martin*

The song fest was led by Cathy Roberts Martin of Remsen, a graduate of Canton College, and member of the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society. Cathy is also involved with other musical endeavors such as the *Steuben Players* theater group, the blue grass band *Cincinnati Creek*, and the Remsen Community Choir.

The accompanying organist was Hugh Jones of Canastota, originally a Remsen native who received his

Society president, Ted Engle, notes that Capel Enlli is a good example of the numerous structures that once dotted the landscape of Upstate New York when this area was settled. Only a few such buildings still survive in such good condition but there are many cemeteries still present which bear the name of other Llŷn Peninsula locations such as the nearby Pen-y-caerau cemetery.

**SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM**

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 making a donation 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: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to St David's Society of Utica, NY)

***Please mail to: Treasurer: Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Court, New Hartford, NY 13413***