



# The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Welsh News from Wisconsin

<http://wggaw.org>

Spring 2023

## Greetings from our President

Welcome to 2023! The board of directors of the WGGAW is excited to sponsor several Welsh events in Wisconsin this year and help promote many more.

Our first big event is the Welsh Weekend for All, including the 89th Annual State Gymanfa Ganu. This year's site is Milwaukee. On Saturday May 6, join us for high tea and Welsh camaraderie, a special presentation about the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, the return of the Eisteddfod competitions, Welsh workshops (as time permits) and the opportunity to share your talents at the Noson Lawen and pub night. On Sunday May 7, we are pleased to hold our annual State Gymanfa Ganu at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Our organist is the incomparable Steve Jensen who has accompanied numerous cymanfaoedd at the national level, and is accompanying us in his home church. This year's director is Robert Evans from Illinois. We are very fortunate to have Gwenith Closs-Colgrove of Lincoln, Nebraska with us for our special music. She will perform two numbers by Welsh Composer Robat Arwyn. Details about the Welsh weekend are in the pages that follow.

Those of you inclined to take a short road trip do not want to miss the Chicago Gymanfa Ganu on May 21. Find details on this long-time annual event in this newsletter.

At the June 11 Rewey Gymanfa Ganu, near Mineral Point, we will honor the memories of Geraint Wilkes, who conducted every year but one, and his close friend and musical collaborator Trefor Williams. Join us at this quaint Welsh chapel in the quiet rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin.

After a successful celebration of its 100th anniversary, Peniel Welsh Chapel near Oshkosh continues to provide a full schedule of events for the summer and fall. Come see the improvements made to the chapel and enjoy the activities of their Welsh Weekend on August 26th and 27th.

And don't forget, the North American Festival of Wales is practically in our back yard in Lincoln, Nebraska this Labor Day Weekend. Plenty of talent coming from Wales.

The two-session Gymanfa Ganu tradition continues in Cambria, Wisconsin on October 8, with a home-cooked meal served between sessions. More on this event and its director on the following pages.

To cap off the year, and introduce the Christmas season, the Christmas Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Redgranite, Wisconsin. We will recognize the contributions of the late Ed and Barbara Jones to the Redgranite Gymanfa Ganu tradition.

We are confident that the Welsh world in Wisconsin is back in full swing. Please come out and join us for many of these Welsh activities. We look forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones!

Croeso! Jan Jones Batty, President of WGGAW

## Sunday, May 7, 2023 89th State Gymanfa Ganu

As part of our Wisconsin Welsh Weekend for All, the 89th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh hymn sing) will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1100 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee, WI. This church is conveniently located and fully accessible.

Robert Evans is our director, and Steve Jensen will accompany on the church's pipe organ. Special music is by Gwenith Closs Colgrove.



**Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
1100 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee**

The Immanuel Presbyterian Church organ has 83 stops, 73 ranks and approximately 4600 pipes.

It was built in 1881 for the Milwaukee Exposition Hall by the EG&G Hook Company of Boston and brought to the church and rebuilt on site after an 1887 fire destroyed the sanctuary and its organ.

## Welsh Weekend for All—Saturday, May 6, 2023

Participants in the Welsh Weekend for All are permitted to park in the lot behind Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1100 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee, WI. Entrance to the parking lot is from Astor Street at the south end of the church. All Saints' Cathedral and County Clare Irish Pub are within walking distance.

- 2:00 Afternoon Tea—in the British Tradition, All Saints' Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. Reservations are required. Call 414-271-7719; \$15 per person or \$100 for a table of 8. Includes: Olive nut, egg salad, chicken salad, liver pate, smoked salmon, cucumber, crab salad, PB&J, seafood salad, sweet treats and hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages.
- 4:00 Welsh Workshops, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1100 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee, WI. Meet in the Peaceable Kingdom room on the lower level; handicapped accessible; no charge. Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and Archive for Welsh America, presented by Gwenith Closs-Colgrove Eisteddfod competition (see next page for details). Welsh Language, presented by Danny Proud (as time permits). Tips for Researching your Welsh Relatives in Wales, presented by Jan Jones Batty (as time permits).
- 6:30 Dinner and Noson Lawen, County Clare Irish Inn & Pub, 1234 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee, WI. We will meet in the Joyce Room for dinner and a the Noson Lawen singalong. Still working out the menu details. Bring your favorite instrument or talent to share. Always a great, spontaneous evening of fun! Check back to our website, wggaw.org regarding the menu details.

## Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu—Sunday, May 7, 2022

- 2:30 Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1100 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee, WI. 89th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu—Conductor: Robert Evans, Organist: Steve Jensen; Special Music: Gwenith Closs Colgrove; te bach to follow. Ann Lemmenes and Marilyn Schrader will bring china teacups, saucers and teapots for a real taste of Wales!

### State Gymanfa Ganu: Our Talented Director, Organist and Soloist



This year's director is **Robert Evans** of Bourbonnais, Illinois who is 100% Welsh. He is a graduate of Northwestern University with Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees, and doctoral work completed at the University of Illinois. He has been a music educator, conductor, clarinetist, and adjudicator in Minnesota and Illinois and has taken

performance groups to appear in Wales and England. Currently, he teaches on the music faculty of Olivet Nazarene University where he directs the Concert Band, co-teaches the Clarinet Studio, and teaches Advanced Conducting.



Our organist, **Steve Jensen**, began playing the piano and organ at the age of nine. He had his first regular church job at the age of thirteen. During grades 9-12 he studied at Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin. He continued his organ study during college at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

His first Gymanfa Ganu was in 1977 in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. The conductor was Lyn Harry of Canada. Mr. Harry requested that Mr. Jensen play the following year at the National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis in 1978. Since then Steve has played for many local, state and national Cymanfaoedd.

Mr. Jensen is currently employed as a consultant for Froedtert Health and serves as Organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



**Gwenith Closs-Colgrove** was born and raised on a Welsh family farm south of Wymore, NE which was, at one time, home to many Welsh immigrants coming for land in the late 1800's. Her great-grandfather came to Nebraska in 1878.

Gwenith was baptized and attended the Calvinistic Methodist Church locally known as Bethel. In the early days, all services were conducted in Welsh. Her father, Ellsworth Closs, who passed away in 2000, was the last Welsh speaker from this community.

Music was always a part of the Closs household and Gwenith began studying voice at Kansas University, later Doane College and most recently the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has been fortunate to sing in the U.K. and at Carnegie Hall in New York City as a member of many audition choirs.

In 2016, Ms. Colgrove, took over the role of President of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and Archive for Welsh America. Since its inception in late 2000, the museum has grown exponentially with the assistance of many dedicated volunteers. The Archive now houses the only microfilm copies of Y Drych dating back to the 1850's and many one-of-a-kind artifacts that have graciously been donated to us from many societies and individuals with a Welsh background.

Gwenith is married to Gary Colgrove and they have two sons and six grandchildren. Her goal is to ensure that all future generations are aware of this wonderful Welsh heritage and carry it forward.

## 2023 Eisteddfod

We welcome your entries for this year's Eisteddfod! The theme for this year is "Water" or "Dŵr." You may submit entries in any of the categories of competition: Visual Arts, Literary Arts, Recitation, and Music. (See General Rules for Submissions and Deadlines for Submissions below for details.)

- The **Literary Arts** category includes original poems (50 lines or less) and essays (750 words or less).
- The **Visual Arts** category includes, but is not limited to: original paintings, photography, ceramics, textiles, and sculpture.
- The **Recitation** category consists of recitation of the poem "Pentref Llanfihangel" delivered in English or in Welsh, and may be read or memorized. Text will be sent when you register (see Registration below).
- The **Music** category may include voice and/or instrumental on one piece, limited to a maximum of 6 minutes.

### Prizes

All entries are judged on the criteria of how well they capture the theme of "Dŵr/Water," the extent to which they incorporate Welsh components, and the quality of the work. Winners are determined by adjudication, with the exception of the Visual Arts category, in which the winner receives the most votes cast by attendees at the weekend.

- The **Literary Arts** winner receives the Bardic Chair, the highest honor.
- The **Visual Arts** winner receives the Crown prize.
- The **Recitation** winner receives the Microphone prize.
- The **Music** winner receives the Baton prize.

Winners must be present at the Eisteddfod ceremony on Saturday night at the County Clare Irish Inn & Pub to receive their prizes. The Eisteddfod Committee acknowledges the significant thought, effort, and time that goes into the creation and performance of the submissions, and all entrants will be recognized and thanked for their efforts.

### General Rules for Submissions

Competitions will take place late Saturday afternoon at First Immanuel Presbyterian Church or at the Noson Lawen in the evening at County Clare Irish Inn & Pub. See Deadlines for Submissions below.

- In **Literary Arts** you must submit your entry using a pseudonym (*ffugenw*) rather than your actual name. Entries must be original, created specifically for the Eisteddfod. Poems must be 50 lines or less, in English or Welsh. Essays must be 750 words or less, in English or Welsh.
- **Visual Arts** submissions must be created specifically for this competition, with the theme "Water/Dŵr." Media can be paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, textile items (quilts, fiber crafts, knitting, weavings, etc.), or sculpture. Submit a brief description of how the piece was created and how it is connected to the Water/Dŵr theme. (See Deadlines for Submissions below.)
- **Recitation** performers will deliver the poem "Pentref Llanfihangel" in English or in Welsh, from memory or by reading. Text will be sent to you after you send in your registration (see Deadlines for Submissions below). Recitations will be late Saturday afternoon at the church.
- In the **Music** category soloists or groups may sing and/or play instruments. Please send in music in advance if an accompanist is needed (see Deadlines for Submissions). Performances will take place at the Noson Lawen on Saturday night.

Literary Arts and Visual Arts entries will be displayed on Saturday afternoon and Sunday at the First Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Winners will be announced on Saturday evening, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Noson Lawen at County Clare Irish Inn & Pub.

### Deadlines for Submissions

Submit Literary Arts entries, Music selections, and Visual Arts descriptions no later than midnight, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to Bron Wentzel ([crawfishcats@netwurx.net](mailto:crawfishcats@netwurx.net)). For more information, call Bron (920-988-8090) or Danny Proud (608-212-3793). Recitation competitors are urged to notify Bron of your intention to compete so that copies of the text can reach you beforehand.

## North American Festival of Wales August 30-September 3 in Lincoln, Nebraska

For the first time in its history, the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) will be held in Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 30 - Sept., 2023. Many early Welsh settlers made their home in this midwestern state and there is much to explore.

This year's event features world-class Welsh entertainment and seminar presentations, a theatre production written and directed by a BAFTA-Cymru winning playwright and actor, vendors, community singing, and an opportunity to visit the Archive for Welsh America in Wymore, Neb.

Known as the "Land of Song," music is an important part of Welsh culture. NAFOW is excited to welcome musical guests Gwawr Edwards, Rhys Meirion, Steffan Lloyd Owen, Dylan Morris, Leisa Dafydd and Triana. Urdd, Wales' largest national youth organization, is sending four winners of the youth Eisteddfod, a music and poetry competition. The Grand Concert and 91st National Gymanfa Ganu, a hymn-singing festival, will be under the direction of award-winning Welsh composer Robat Arwyn.

Daytime activities include a presentation of the play Carwyn, written by Owen Thomas, directed by Gareth Bale and starring Simon Nehan. Well-known Welsh poet, TV presenter and former National Poet Ifor ap Glyn headlines the seminar lineup with presentations on the "History of the Welsh Language in 10 Words;" and "The Black Chair" about Welsh-language 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 in the heart of downtown, 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.

Thursday attendees will have the opportunity to visit Wymore and the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, home of the Archive for Welsh America, as well as the Bethel Cemetery and the Homestead National Historical Park. An add-on overnight tour to the Welsh settlement of Arvonnia, Kan. leaves the morning of Monday, Sept. 4. The full festival schedule and registration details are available on the website.

This event is presented by The Welsh North American Association, the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, and the Arvonnia Historic Preservation Society.

For additional information and updates, visit [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org).



### Bus to Nebraska

Over Labor Day Weekend, the 2023 North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) will be in Lincoln, NE. Hundreds of us are figuring out how to make the 564 mile trip from Milwaukee, 8 hours on the road, and nowadays about the same by plane! Imagine a trip where you can leave your car at home, sit in comfort in the company of good friends, do some singing, and arrive at the hotel without bothering about parking or making connections to get to Lincoln. Consider taking a coach!

In Minnesota, the Welsh society has set up a NAFOW bus trip that leaves from Mankato. They have paid for the trip using their treasury funds, and people can sign up for a bus at a nominal fee, much less than having to drive or fly by themselves.

If you are interested, please contact Danny Proud (608-212-3793) or at [derrproud@att.net](mailto:derrproud@att.net).

### Remembering Mary Williams-Norton

Submitted by Danny Proud

One of the first Welsh-Americans in Wisconsin I came to know was Mary Williams-Norton from Poynette. Our friendship developed through many shared experiences: frequent *cymanfaoedd canu* (even though she was "not a singer"), organizing and teaching beginning Welsh at the Wild Welsh Winter Weekends in Madison in 2006 and 2007, representing the Welsh at various public events, organizing programs for the Cambrian Heritage Society of Madison, and promoting the eisteddfod at WGGAW state Gymanfa weekends, just to name a few. I was shocked and saddened at her sudden passing last September 27, 2022.

Mary was a fierce advocate for pethau Cymreig—all things Welsh—and made connections with Welsh educators that resulted in classroom exchanges with schools and a trip to north Wales. She sewed Welsh-themed pillowcases, produced dragon T-shirts, baked innumerable Welsh tea cakes (*pice ar y maen*), and found or made chairs every year for the eisteddfod ceremony at our Wisconsin Welsh Weekend for All (Mary's name to promote the expanded State Gymanfa Ganu to a multi-faceted Welsh weekend).

Perhaps her greatest contribution to our community was maintaining the website for WGGAW, with its many pictures, event listings, and links to resources that connected the Welsh around the region, the country, and internationally. Many people outside Wisconsin have relied on the website for connections to organizations, events, people, and Welsh materials.

With Mary's passing we also note the dissolution of the Cambrian Heritage Society of Madison. She was a powerful presence and engine in our midst for the promotion and celebration of our precious Welsh heritage.

## 2023 Wisconsin and Illinois Gymanfa Ganu Schedule

Te Bach to follow each Gymanfa Ganu

### Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu

May 7, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1100 N. Astor Street,  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Director: Robert Evans; Pipe Organist: Steve Jensen;  
Special Music: Gwenith Closs-Colgrove

### Annual Chicago Gymanfa Ganu

May 21, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 744 Fair Oaks Avenue,  
Oak Park, IL 60302

Director: Robert Evans; Accompanist: Nicki Como

### Rewey Gymanfa Ganu

In remembrance of Geraint Wilkes and Trefor  
Williams

June 11, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Carmel Peniel Presbyterian Church near Rewey WI  
1449 Peniel Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565

Director: Chris Guy; Pianist: Barbara Brown

### Wild Rose Gymanfa Ganu

July 23, 2023, 2:00 p.m. (new time)

Wild Rose Presbyterian Church, 501 Jackson Street,  
Wild Rose, WI 54984

Director: Rev. Joe Corbin; Organist: Rev. Tom White;  
Special Music: Ann Lemmenes

### 101st Peniel/Town of Eldorado Gymanfa Ganu

August 27, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Peniel Welsh Chapel, W9644 Zoar Road, Oshkosh, WI  
54904

Director: Rev. William Rhys Locke; Reed Organist: Rev.  
Tom White; Pianist: Sarah Conrad

### 4th Annual Mineral Point Gymanfa Ganu

September 24, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High Street, Mineral  
Point, WI 53565; Cornish tea to follow

Director and Conductor Team: Marilyn Schröder and  
Ann Lemmenes

Held in conjunction with the Mineral Point Cornish/  
Celtic Festival, September 29-October 1, 2023

Website: [www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org)

### 78th Annual Cambria Gymanfa Ganu

October 8, 2023, 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. (new evening  
start time); Supper served between sessions (\$)

Cambria First Presbyterian Church, 121 West Florence  
Street, Cambria, WI 53923

Director: William Woloschuk (see below); Organist:  
Steve Jensen

### Christmas Gymanfa Ganu

In remembrance of Ed and Barbara Jones

November 12, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church/United Church of Christ,  
887 Bonnell Ave (south of Hwy 21), Redgranite, WI  
54970

Director: Ann Lemmenes; Accompanist: Rev. Tom White

## Cambria Gymanfa Ganu Director William Woloschuk



Born in Sudbury, Northern Ontario, William Woloschuk began his musical career after receiving his first piano lesson at the age of seven and completed his graduate studies in choral conducting from the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. He studied under the tutelage of Volodymyr Kolesnyk (Kyiv State Opera, Kyiv, Ukraine). From 1997-2000, William was Artistic Director for the South Florida Men's Chorus – Fort Lauderdale, FL, and for fifteen years was Dean of Music for St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Montreal. In the summer of 2004, William attended the Kunstuniversität in Graz, Austria, where he studied under Professor Emeritus Rodney Eichenburger.

William founded Counterpoint Choral in 2001 and was its Artistic Director for six years. In August 2006, William enthusiastically accepted the position of Principal Conductor and Artistic Director for the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir (TWMVC).

In November 2007, William conducted the World Premiere Performance of Hilda Morgan's orchestral arrangement of "Nidaros," incorporating additional material by Bob Marshall, featuring TWMVC with the Northumberland Orchestra in Cobourg, Ontario. William debuted at Carnegie Hall where the TWMVC performed this stirring piece in September 2008 and again as Guest Conductor of the Ontario Philharmonic in November 2009. In September 2017 TWMVC was invited to perform at the NAFOW (North American Festival of Wales) Gala in Rochester, New York as the featured guest choir. Feedback was extremely positive for TWMVC's overall performance and high praise was awarded for the choir's Welsh diction.

William has greatly impressed the North American Welsh community with his ability to empower the "Welsh soul" into the choir's performances even without his being Welsh.

## 2023 Peniel Events

All events take place at: Peniel Chapel, W9644 Zoar Road, Oshkosh WI  
6 miles north of Rosendale and 1/2 mile west of Route 26 on County FF

The Peniel Welsh Chapel Association celebrated many milestones in 2022. The most important was the 100th Annual Gymanfa Ganu. The Association also fast-forwarded various projects: maintenance, handicap accessibility and interior and exterior renovations. We were blessed to complete these projects debt-free because of an estate gift and because of generous donors like you.



In 2023, the Peniel Welsh Chapel Association moves forward to our new chapter in history. Of course, we will continue the tradition of the annual Gymanfa Ganu held the fourth Sunday in August. This year, Rev. William Rhys Locke from Wales will be directing. We also continue to welcome non-profit Christian music groups to perform and minister to us May through September. Volunteers also keep the Welsh heritage alive through presentations and displays. This year we will concentrate on organizing written historical information, photos, video and audio files. We welcome any volunteers to help with this huge project. Contact Carolee Schultz at 920-858-0320 or [joynjesus4you@yahoo.com](mailto:joynjesus4you@yahoo.com).

Direct donations to Lynette Booth, Treasurer, 893 Harmel Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902, call her at 719-427-9239 or email her at [boothlynette@hotmail.com](mailto:boothlynette@hotmail.com).

### Saturday Events at Peniel Welsh Chapel—6:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow

May 13 – New Generation Singers

June 24 – Bell Quartet of Covenant United Methodist Church of Fond du Lac, WI

July 29 – Drowsy Maggies Celtic Band

September 16 – Kenny Yahnke Artist Tribute Show – Gospel music of Elvis, Johnny Cash and other legends of the past. Planned for outdoors; we will meet inside in the event of inclement weather.

### Peniel Chapel Welsh Weekend

#### August 26, 2023 (Saturday)

1:00 p.m. Zoar Cemetery Walk

2:30 p.m. Presentation on Wales by Rev. William Rhys Locke, Minister of Saron Chapel, Crynant, Wales

4:30 p.m. Meal

6:00 p.m. The Peniel Quartet

#### August 27, 2023 (Sunday)

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

12:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. 101st Annual Gymanfa Ganu

Director: Rev. William Rhys Locke, Minister of Saron Chapel, Crynant, Wales; Reed Organist: Rev. Tom White; Pianist: Sarah Conrad



*From 2022:  
Top: Our cooking instructors Joe and Kim Corbin and Bron Wentzel  
Upper: Tom White at the reed organ.  
Right: A Welsh tea party in Oshkosh*



## Cwrs Cymraeg

On July 16 – 23, 2023 Cymdeithas Madog holds its one week Welsh language learning course, the Queen City Course, at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont. Burlington has an international airport, and Amtrak train service is available from New York City to Burlington.

This Cwrs is a program of Cymdeithas Madog, the Welsh Studies Institute of North America, Inc., a tax-exempt, non-profit organization dedicated to helping North Americans learn, use and enjoy the Welsh language

This non-profit founded soon after the first-ever course of its kind was held in North America and onsite in Poultney, Vermont in 1977 in the former Green Mountain College.

Siop Siarad online conversation sessions 3rd Saturdays  
Website: [www.madog.org](http://www.madog.org)  
Email: [president@madog.org](mailto:president@madog.org)



*2019 Cwrs Cymraeg at Hamline University in the Twin Cities, MN. Tutors and students assembled for a photo.*

## Welsh Heritage Week

On July 23 –30, 2023, Welsh Heritage Week will take place at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There will be a special pre-WHW group trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 22nd.

Each year, WHW offers attendees a variety of Welsh activities. Language and poetry classes are available for the literati and you can brush up on your Welsh pronunciation in the Ysgol Gan. If you are musically inclined, you can join the choir and band, and even



have the opportunity to learn to play the harp; all instruments and levels of ability are welcomed. Dancers have the opportunity to learn their steps.



Each day there is a different event: pub night with folk singing, noson lawen, staff concert, twmpath,

eisteddfod and gymanfa ganu. Something for everyone!

Website: [welshheritageweek.org](http://welshheritageweek.org)  
Email: Beth Landmesser at [hwyl@ptd.net](mailto:hwyl@ptd.net)

## 50th Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu MP3 File Available

Contact WGGAW Treasurer Dick Myers if you would like a copy of the MP3 file of the 50th State Gymanfa Ganu held May 1, 1983, at Plymouth Congregational Church in Oshkosh.

Gwyn Walters directed, Steve Jensen was the organist, and Carice Griffith Anderson accompanied some hymns. Olwen Welk directed the Wisconsin Welsh Singers in some numbers. The local committee was Lucille Bean, Lee Morgan, Olwen Welk, and C. Sidney Jones.

There are 29 hymns included, with solos by David Williams, Rev. Thomas Johns, Marian Simons and Betty Payne, and Larry Conrad.

## Remembering Contributions



**Rewey Gymanfa Ganu:** On June 11, we will recognize the contributions of the late Trefor Williams, and the late Geraint Wilkes. More information about them will be in the program that day.



**Christmas Gymanfa Ganu at Redgranite:** On November 12, Ed and Barbara Jones will be remembered as organizers of this gymanfa ganu and tireless supporters of the WGGAW. We will learn more about them as we usher in the Christmas season.

## 2022 Christmas Gymanfa Ganu

By Jan Jones Batty—originally published in the January/February 2023 issue of Ninnau.

On Sunday, November 13, The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin ushered in the holiday season with its annual Christmas Gymanfa Ganu. Although the Wisconsin weather was unseasonably warm during the previous week, we had a drop in temperature and a dusting of snow on Saturday to put us in the mood.



*Above: Nativity Lutheran Church  
Left: Dennis Jon Wolfgang  
Lower left: Joshua Giese  
Below: Joshua Giese and Tom White sing a duet*



This year, organist Dennis Jon Wolfgang invited us to hold our event at Nativity Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Dennis provided beautiful organ preludes and postludes and accompanied us all the way through.



After a welcome from WGGAW President Jan Jones Batty, and devotions from Rev. Thomas White, director Joshua Giese guided us through the Thanksgiving season with the opening hymn “Now Thank We All our God.” We continued with three sets of Christmas-themed hymns from the Evangelical Lutheran hymnal and the WGGAW Christmas gymanfa ganu hymnal.

Dennis Wolfgang had arranged a tenor soloist for our special music, but when we heard he developed bronchitis, Josh and Tom (two of the four members of the Peniel Quartet) quickly put together a duet. After concluding the afternoon service with “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” we were ready for te bach!

Many thanks to Ann Lemmenes and Marilyn Schröder (the Lemmenes sisters) for bringing proper teacups, teapots and cozies, and a delicious Welsh tea. We had plenty of goodies to enjoy, and lots of fellowship with new and not-so-new friends. There were a fair number of newcomers, and we hope they will join us for future Welsh events.



Thanks to Dennis and the members of Nativity Lutheran for a warm welcome and helping us put together another successful gymanfa ganu.

### Important Mailing Information

#### Got Email?

Our newsletter is quite an expense to mail – we’d love to send it to you via email. Send your email address to Jan Batty at [rbatty@wi.rr.com](mailto:rbatty@wi.rr.com) and include your name, home address and phone number and request to get off our snail mail list! Diolch yn fawr!

If you get our annual newsletter in the U.S. mail and would like to get updates on Welsh events throughout the year, please send Jan Batty your email address. You will continue to receive the annual newsletter in the U.S. mail but will get periodic email updates on upcoming events.

#### Don’t Want Our Newsletter?

Do you want to stop receiving our newsletter altogether?  
Call Jan Batty at 414-861-2202 or email your request to [rbatty@wi.rr.com](mailto:rbatty@wi.rr.com).

### North American Welsh Newspaper

Read Ninnau to learn what is going on with the Welsh in North America, along with articles about Welsh culture, sports, government, music, poetry, book reviews, genealogy, language, eisteddfod, history and more!

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## 2022 Welsh Weekend

By Ann E. Lemmenes, originally published in the July/August issue of Ninnau.

It may have taken three years, but the Welsh Weekend in Fond du Lac finally happened. Covid cancelled it the last two years, but not in 2022. And good things are worth waiting for!

Saturday morning, we met at The Historic Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Fond du Lac for a tour. Vickie, our enthusiastic guide, was so full of information. Showing us St. Margaret's statue, she proclaimed St. Margaret was fending off a huge snake, but seeing the wings I told her I think it really is a dragon. (Obviously not the Welsh dragon as it wasn't red.) The statue came from a church school that closed. The tongue lifts out. The story goes that the boys would hide messages to the girls under the snake's tongue. So cool!

Of course, I was intrigued by the sarcophagus (tomb) supporting a full life-size figure of their first bishop. This was similar to those in the Llandaff Cathedral in Wales where I took organ lessons in 1971.

The 25 angels flying in the ceiling were carved in Germany in 1893 and were recently cleaned, which lightened them making them more visible against the dark ceiling.



**Mary Williams-Norton (above) and Ann Lemmenes (below) cuddling baby goats.**



Then off to LaClare's Creamery for a fabulous lunch, tour and time to cuddle with the baby goats. Then we sang "Oes Gafr Eto," The Welsh Goat folk song, with cute colored goat cards, "Robin Ddiog," "Ar Hyd Y Nos" and "The Ash Grove."

Saturday night's concert was in an incredible concert hall at the Fond du Lac High School. The choir was accompanied by a divine orchestra. Rev. Tom White and Devin Scherck sang in the South Shore Choir. What a superbly inspiring program!

Heavenly goosebumps! French horns, cellos and harp were so outstanding. They performed Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" which I invite you to watch on YouTube with a different performing group. So worth it.

Later that night an unexpected surprise was a Jazz ensemble performing in the lobby/bar area at the art deco Hotel Retlaw where many of us stayed. They were unbelievably good.

Sunday's Gymanfa Ganu was energetically directed by THE Rev. Tom White and expertly accompanied by Steve Jensen on the pipe organ. The first half of hymns were classic strong robust Welsh hymns ending with Ebenezer.

Then to showcase the marvelous pipe organ, Steve Jensen treated us to "Partita on 'Ebenezer'." He explained that Dr. Behnke, his organ teacher at Concordia College, had recorded his improvisation on the Welsh tune Ebenezer and then asked Steve, his student, to transcribe it for publication. (Writer's note: I have this arrangement and have played it, but never knew Steve's connection with it. Amazing!)

The Peniel Quartet, Rev. Tom White, Devin Scherck, Josh Giese and Christopher Guy graced us with 'special' music. They performed "Our God Is Our God" arr. by Joseph M. Martin and later wowed us with the popular Welsh men's choir arrangement of "Morte Christe!" A going joke is the fact that the sum of the three young men's ages was less than Rev. Tom White's age, but this year that is no longer true. Modern math!



The second half of hymns started with "Joyful" a memorial hymn which was Mary Kinion's favorite. Mary recently passed and had attended every August Peniel gymanfa ganu near Pickett/Oshkosh since the first one a hundred years ago. Peniel is celebrating its 100th gymanfa this year. The rest of the hymns were sentimental lighter well-loved favorites until Blodwen and Cwm Rhondda raised the roof!

After all the singing, The Te Bach was welcomed by all the singers. Lots of treats were brought to be shared. Daffodils and dragons, a teapot, china cups and saucers were on all the tables. Behind the scenes, I had six young men from the Blaedeian House helping to set up the tables and make the tea. They stood at the island in the kitchen and drank tea from china teacups and saucers. Wish I had a picture of that!

Diolch yn fawr Nancy Elliman for connecting us with The Cathedral for this gymanfa ganu and the Blaedeian House assistance. You were instrumental in organizing the event and doing publicity with churches and newspapers. Many long hours were involved, and you even talked me into doing a twelve-minute radio interview! People came. It was a Wisconsin Welsh Weekend to be remembered for a long time.

## In Memory of ...

We are sad to report the passing of the following members of the Welsh community since May 2022. Please remember them fondly; they all treasured and promoted their Welsh heritage.

Please call or email Jan Jones Batty with additional names to include in the Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu bulletin. (414) 861-2202 rbatty@wi.rr.com

Hugh Evans (March 24, 2023 Greendale, WI)

Lari Suzanne (York) Hoffman (November 12, 2022 Ft. Atkinson, WI)

Marion Hoffman (March 30, 2023 Park Ridge, IL)

Rhiannon E. Humphries (May 26, 2022 Spring Green, WI)

Janet Jones (September 24, 2022 Chicago, IL)

Dean G. Mickle (November 4, 2022 Wales, WI)

Janet A. Morgan (January 18, 2023 Dodgeville, WI)

Mary R. Pain (May 13, 2022 Menomonee Falls, WI)

Leslie Rachel Proud (November 8, 2022 St. Louis, MO)

Marjorie Davies (nee Wickert) Schowalter (October 17, 2022 Muskego, WI)

Jerome "Joe" Williams Trewyn (September 18, 2022 Greenfield, WI)

Trefor Jones Owen Williams (July 13, 2022 Milwaukee, WI and Trefor, Wales)

Mary Edith Williams-Norton (September 27, 2022 Poynette, WI)

### About the WGGAW

The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin (WGGAW) sponsors and conducts the State Gymanfa Ganu and the Christmas Gymanfa Ganu which take place at various churches around the state.

If you are interested in hosting a gymanfa ganu at your church or joining the WGGAW Board, contact Jan Jones Batty, President of WGGAW, at 414-861-2202 or rbatty@wi.rr.com.

### The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin Board of Trustees

President..... Jan Jones Batty  
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Honorary Life Board Member: Mary Davis

### "Deuwch, Canwn I'r Arglwydd"

### "Come, Let Us Sing To The Lord"

- If you are interested in supporting the work and programs of The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
- If you would like to honor or memorialize someone and would like recognition in the May Gymanfa Ganu bulletin

**Please complete the following form and check made out to WGGAW by April 22, 2023**

**The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.**

**SEND TO: Dick Myers, Treasurer—1998 W. Hidden Reserve Court, Mequon WI 53092**

Donation levels:     \_\_\_ Bardd/Bard \$100.00+  
                           \_\_\_ Noddwr/Patron \$25.00 to \$100.00  
                           \_\_\_ Cyfaill/Friend \$5.00 to \$25.00

Recognition:         Please indicate if you would prefer to remain anonymous (circle one).   **Yes No**

**In Memory of or In Honor of:** (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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