



<http://www.ripon.edu/academics/faculty/nortonm/cymanfaoedd.html>



**6th Welsh Weekend for Everyone
and
2012 State Gymanfa Ganu**

**First Presbyterian Church
148 N Park Street
Reedsburg, Wisconsin
May 4 - 6, 2012**

The **Sixth Welsh Weekend for Everyone** (*Chweched Penwythnos Cymreig i Bawb*) will be held in Reedsburg, WI, on May 4-6 at First Presbyterian Church, 148 N. Park St. From the pre-weekend Friday night fish fry and social gathering to the 80th State Gymanfa Ganu, the weekend event promises a variety of activities for participants of all

ages to learn, sing, and socialize in a Welsh atmosphere. The weekend is being organized by members of the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin and the Cambrian Heritage Society.

Those who arrive in Reedsburg by Friday evening (May 4th) will have a chance to join a traditional **Friday night fish fry at the Voyageur Inn**, the designated weekend hotel. It is anticipated that the group will want to join in a little singing and merriment after supper. On Saturday morning participants will be encouraged to visit Reedsburg's **Pioneer Log Village and Museum**. At the village school house they will be able to participate in some lessons *yn Gymraeg* (in Welsh).

All will gather at First Presbyterian Church at 12:30 p.m. to begin the afternoon and early evening program. Although registration at the door is possible, frugal participants will want to register in advance (registration received before April 30) by going to <http://www.ripon.edu/academics/faculty/nortonm/cymanfaoedd.html> . More details of workshops, displays, and the gymanfa ganu will be posted on the website.

The afternoon program will begin with a session of **workshops** for adults with a choice of Welsh heritage, food, or music themes while children gather for their own activities in another area. Then everyone will have an opportunity to socialize and view a number of displays including the "Welsh in America" panels from the Welsh Tourist Board, Joe Whitmore's display of love spoons and how he makes them, and memorabilia from the recent royal wedding. This "**poster session**" event is new to the Welsh Weekend this year and promises to promote lots of fun and fellowship.

A second workshop session will follow the poster session with more about Welsh music and heritage and a food session devoted to soup and bread making. The soup will be the main dish at the **supper** to follow.

Weekend participants who bring t-shirts or other items will be able to have the weekend logo printed on them.

The same logo will be incorporated into the chair to be awarded to the winner of the "**Eisteddfod**," a literary competition of prose or poem. This year's theme is "Do the Right Thing," inspired by the heroic actions of Reedsburg citizens to stop government deportation of local Ho Chunk tribe members in 1873. More information on the Eisteddfod can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

After supper we've planned a lively, informal **Noson Lawen** – a Welsh-style variety show. Weekend participants are encouraged to come prepared to sing, play instruments, tell stories, or provide other entertainment for the group. Children who participate in the children's workshops will perform in the Noson Lawen. The Eisteddfod Chair will be awarded to the winner of the weekend eisteddfod by the adjudicators with traditional pomp and ceremony. (*continued on page 2*)

Chweched Penwythnos
Cymreig i Bawb



(6th Welsh Weekend – continued from page 1)

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, the 80th State **Gymanfa Ganu** will be held at First Presbyterian Church. Geraint Wilkes will be the director. Since he will be retiring from directing cymanfaedd soon, be sure that you do not miss this opportunity to participate and share his extraordinary hwyl (a stirring feeling of emotional fervor). The organist will be Steve Jensen, who is recognized as one of the finest gymanfa ganu accompanists in the nation. The singing will be followed by a te bach (refreshments) in the fellowship hall.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



Directions / Addresses for Weekend Events

First Presbyterian Church, 148 N Park St, Reedsburg – one block north of Hwy 23/33 in Reedsburg

Voyageur Inn, 200 County Road H, Reedsburg – Friday night fish fry at 6 p.m. on May 4th

Pioneer Log Village, two miles east of Reedsburg on Hwy 23/33 – Tour at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 5th

Lodging information provided on page 3 of this newsletter



Peniel Restoration Project Update



Many are aware that last year a local group began restoring the Peniel Chapel near Pickett, Wisconsin. Thanks to many generous donations, the following projects have been completed.

- Complete exterior painting of the chapel
- Two new inside doors to the fellowship area
- Two new outside storm and screen doors
- New locks on the doors
- Roofing repair
- Ceiling repairs in the fellowship and sanctuary areas
- Cracks repaired in the landing in front of the chapel
- A new sign in front of the building

The next project is the repair of the foundation on the northeast part of the building. This will be a big expense, but is necessary for the future preservation of the building. Eventually new roofing will also be needed.

The roots of Peniel Chapel were derived from prayer meetings begun in the area in 1850. The church was established in July, 1856, and building commenced immediately with the chapel being completed by the end of 1856. The opening meeting was held in March, 1857.

The gymanfa ganu was started by the establishment of singing schools, held once a year beginning in 1904. As an

outgrowth of the singing schools, Peniel held its first annual Gymanfa Ganu in 1923.

The people of Peniel would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the restoration project. This year (2012) will mark the 90th annual Gymanfa Ganu at Peniel Chapel. With the improvements to the chapel, we hope there will be cymanfaedd for many years to come.

If you would like to donate to help restore this important landmark of Welsh-American culture, please contact Jean White at 920-922-9424 or email at tjwhite65@charter.net. Donations may be sent to Jean at 1769 Creek Vu Drive, North Fond du Lac, WI 54937. The Peniel restoration committee includes Mary Kinyon, Tom and Jean White, Tom and Laurette Guy, Carolee Schultz and Darlene Kairis.

In Memoriam

Wisconsin Welsh mourn the passing of the following from our community:

- Joseph P. Corbin..... Reedsburg
- Elizabeth Davies Madison
- William Hugh Evans Markesan
- William (Bill) Hughes Madison
- Laverne Williams Humphrey Racine
- Enid D. Luetscher Milwaukee
- Margaret McKowen West Allis
- Eloise Morris..... Waukesha
- E. Mae Reese Milwaukee
- Phyllis Williams Cambria

Please send additional names of those who should be included in the Memorial List to Hugh Davis (with the subject of "WGGAW Memorial" on the e-mail or envelope) at 661 Cardiff Dr, Hartland, WI 53029 or hjdavis1@gmail.com.



Sunday, May 6 – Gymanfa Ganu

6th Welsh Weekend At a Glance

Friday, May 4th, 6pm

Gather at the Voyageur Inn for dinner, song and fellowship. The Inn has a fish fry that Joe and Kim Corbin, our hosts for the weekend, highly recommend.

Saturday, May 5th

9:30 am – Tour of historic Pioneer Log Village; meet at Voyageur Inn for the tour. Option to participate in Welsh language class in the log school.

LUNCH on your own

Afternoon Workshops beginning at 12:30 pm at First Presbyterian

Workshop Session 1

Strand 1: FOOD – soup making or tea brewing

Strand 2: MUSIC – Harp or hymn singing

Strand 3: HERITAGE – Genealogy or Welsh National Anthem & Flag

Poster Session: Welsh love spoons, royal wedding memorabilia, plus more!

Workshop Session 2:

Repeat of all workshops

3:30 pm – Eisteddfod

SUPPER – Partake in food prepared during the workshops

6:30 pm – Noson Lawen – A merry evening of song, recitations, stories, and fun

Sun, May 6th, 2:30 pm

80th Annual State Gymanfa Ganu at First Presbyterian Church

Te bach follows the singing

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Saturday's program will feature sessions and activities especially for children, including a huge 3-D castle puzzle!

The 80th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh hymn sing) will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2011, at 2:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 148 N Park Street, in Reedsburg. First Presbyterian was founded in 1857. Its pastor is Rev. Joseph Corbin, who is on the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin's board of trustees. The director for the gymanfa ganu will be Geraint Wilkes of Hartland. The organist will be Steve Jensen of Milwaukee, one of the preeminent gymanfa ganu accompanists in North America (see related article on page 6). Special music is being planned for the event.

Geraint Wilkes, Loyal Friend to the Wisconsin Welsh Community

Mr. Wilkes has indicated that this year's event will be his last turn at directing the State Gymanfa Ganu as he has begun to cut back on conducting. Formerly of Aberystwyth, Wales, Geraint has given selflessly to the Welsh-American community for over 20 years. He has conducted numerous cymanfaoedd, made countless presentations, and performed an abundance of solos. Each of his activities has been punctuated by his characteristic wit and charm.

In a 1996 article, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel stated, "Since coming to Milwaukee in 1990, Wilkes has been a kind of troubadour ambassador, building a bridge between the old and new worlds by directing Welsh songfests from New York to California and throughout Canada."

We are profoundly fortunate that Geraint came to Wisconsin and wish to thank him for his years of service to our community. Be sure that you do not miss this opportunity to celebrate Geraint's career and contribute your voice to a rousing gymanfa session!

Lodging Options for Friday and/or Saturday

Voyageur Inn: Designated hotel for the 6th Welsh Weekend is offering a spectacular 2-night special, \$149 double occupancy, two beverage tickets, two breakfasts, and two lunches. Yes, that's right, that's for TWO DAYS for TWO PEOPLE. The Inn has a lovely indoor pool, whirlpool, restaurant and lounge, and a delightful Norman Rockwell exhibit in the hallways. 800-444-4493 or 608-524-6431.

Quality Inn: 2115 E. Main St., Reedsburg, WI, 608-524-8535.

Super 8 Motel: 1470 East Main St., Reedsburg, WI. Advertises 17 and under FREE. 608-524-2888.

Eisteddfod Entries Sought

All are encouraged to submit an entry for this year's Welsh Weekend Eisteddfod. The eisteddfod theme this year, "**Do the Right Thing**," was inspired by the courageous actions of Reedsburg citizens to prevent the deportation of local Ho-Chunk tribe members in 1873. The local newspaper reported at the time, "Our people were mad when it was first known, and as the day progressed they got madder and madder, and about six o'clock in the evening a writ of habeas corpus was sworn out." The deputy sheriff who delivered the writ to government troops at the train station was, according to the paper, "accompanied by quite a large number of our usually quiet but now thoroughly aroused citizens, determined to see the writ obeyed." The heroic actions of Reedsburg's citizens that day helped to convince the U.S. government to abandon its inhumane policy of forced Indian relocation.

Entries – either an essay of 750 words or less or poem of less than 50 lines on the theme in Welsh or English – must be turned in by 2:30 p.m. on Saturday to allow time for adjudication. Each entry must be submitted under a ffugenw (pen name) and not list the writer's actual name anywhere on the document. The adjudicators are eager to read lots of poems and essays, so please enter!

Harvest for the Soul of a Nation

by Cytser *

An agricultural harvest at the end of a growing season provides a livelihood for growers and sustenance for the nation that depends upon them. There is another type of harvest, an intellectual and spiritual one, whose yield is an educated populace ready to expand and share the culture that has nourished it. In Wales the support and growth of Welsh-medium education and Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig have nurtured the culture of the nation. A harvest rooted in Welsh culture and brought to fruition by dedicated educators is the bounty I shall explore and celebrate.

The hardiness of Welsh culture and language despite attempts to drive it into extinction is impressive. During the early 20th century the use of the "Welsh Not" in schools associated speaking Welsh with humiliation and corporal punishment. The climate for Welsh in school improved very slowly until the formulation of the Education Act of 1944. The Act included the "critical clause: 'children shall be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents'." (Williams, p. 11) This simple statement made it possible for schools to be set up to teach pupils all subjects through the medium of Welsh. The seed sown by that statement in the Education Act of 1944 found fertile ground in Wales and Welsh-medium schools sprung up around the nation.

Unfortunately there was virtually no special financial support for Welsh-medium schools and the resources they required. Those dedicated to them recognized, of course, that cultural enrichment is not a luxury to be enjoyed only by wealthy nations or privileged students. John Greenleaf Whittier is quoted as stating

"If thou of fortune be bereft
and in thy store there be but left
two loaves, sell one and with the dole
buy hyacinths to feed thy soul."

I know this quotation well because my mother, whose grandparents had emigrated from Wales in the 19th century, quoted this whenever she sought to emphasize the importance of learning about science, history, art, languages, or literature. Parents and teachers in Wales worked extraordinarily hard to establish and maintain Welsh-medium schools for all interested children despite financial hardships.

Gradually Welsh-medium education became available in more areas and could accommodate more children. Eventually even those children with special educational needs were not forced to give up their native language because special-education programs became part of Welsh-medium education. Evaluations of student learning have shown that children in Welsh-medium schools achieve at levels equivalent to or above those of counterparts in English-medium schools, so enrollments in Welsh-medium schools continue to increase. Reliable public transportation and school choice mean that families often have a variety of schools available for children to attend. Continuing favorable educational outcomes in Welsh-medium schools promote their popularity.

Now all schoolchildren in Wales must study the Welsh language through age 16. In addition to language study, children are also given the opportunity to learn about Welsh culture, history, geography, plants, and animals as part of Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig,. The philosophy of this curriculum is expressed beautifully in "Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig Policy" of St. Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School, Dinas Powys. Their policy document states

(at) "St Andrews Major Primary School we are proud of our heritage and through studying the 'Welsh dimension' in all areas of the curriculum pupils are made aware of the special nature, culture, history, language and ethos in Wales. When entering our school visitors should be aware that ours is a school in Wales. Opportunities for including reference to Wales in all subjects are identified through planning, resources and use of local references." (Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig Polity, p. 2)

This curricular advancement in place across Wales is promoting a bountiful cultural harvest of pride. Advances such as Welsh language study in all schools and Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig are likely linked to the increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers from 20.8% in 2001 to 21.7% in 2004 (Wikipedia, "Welsh language", p.1). Instruction in the Welsh language is also offered in many university courses. Bangor University and Aberystwyth University have particularly extensive offerings in areas ranging from education to history and geography. At any age learners can expand their cultural and linguistic horizons.

The establishment of flourishing Welsh-medium education and learning about Welsh through Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig were a challenge to all who labored to bring these improvements about. All who treasure Welsh connections rejoice in the bountiful intellectual harvest they given Wales and the world.

* *Cytser was the ffugenw (pen name) used by the author, Mary Williams-Norton*

WISCONSIN 2012 GYMANFA GANU SCHEDULE

"Deuwch, Canwn i'r Arglwydd"

"Come, Sing Unto the Lord"

May 6 Reedsburg 2:30 p.m.

80th Annual State Gymanfa Ganu at First Presbyterian Church, 148 N Park St. Session followed by te bach.
Director: Geraint Wilkes, Hartland. Organist: Steve Jensen, Milwaukee. Contact: Rev. Joe Corbin, 608-524-8404.
Church is located one block north of Hwy 23/33 (E. Main St.) in Reedsburg.

June 10 Rewey 2:30 p.m.

Gymanfa Ganu at Carmel-Peniel Welsh Presbyterian Church, Peniel Road. Session followed by te bach.
Director: Geraint Wilkes, Hartland. Pianist: Barbara Brown, Mt. Horeb. Contact: Jane Kemnitzer, 608-574-4352
Directions: Take Hwy 151 southwest past Mineral Point to Cty A (left turn off 151). Go right (west) on A to Jones Branch Road. Turn left and proceed to Peniel Road. Turn right on Peniel. Chapel is about 1 mile.

July 15 Redgranite 2:30 p.m.

Gymanfa Ganu at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Hwy 21 and Bonnell Ave. in Redgranite. Session followed by te bach. Director: Trefor Williams, Milwaukee. Organist: Rev. Tom White, North Fond du Lac. Contact: Rev. Dorothy Heckner Mendonca, 920-566-4666. Church is fully accessible and air conditioned.

August 5 Three Lakes 7:00 p.m.

Gymanfa Ganu at Union Congregational Church - United Church of Christ, Corner of Forest St. and Hwy 45. Director: Rev. Joseph Corbin, Reedsburg. Organist: Gary Stebbeds, Three Lakes. Contact: June McDuffie, 715-546-2772

August 26 Pickett 2:30 p.m.

90th Annual Gymanfa Ganu at Peniel Chapel. Session followed by te bach. Co-directors: Ann Lemmenes, Waupun and Marilyn Schröder, Milwaukee. Organist: Rev. Tom White, North Fond du Lac. Pianist: Sarah Conrad, Eldorado, WI. Contact: Rev. Tom White, 920-922-9424 or tjwhite65@charter.net.
Directions: 1 mile west of Hwy 26 on County Road FF between Oshkosh and Rosendale.

September 16 Wild Rose 2:30 p.m.

Gymanfa Ganu at Wild Rose Presbyterian Church, 501 Jackson Street. Director: Ann Lemmenes, Waupun. Organist: Rev. Tom White, North Fond du Lac. Session followed by te bach. Contact: Alyson Janke, 608-296-2096

October 14 Cambria 2:30 & 6:00 p.m.

68th Annual Gymanfa Ganu at First Presbyterian Church, corner of Florence and Towyn (121 W Florence St.). Supper served between sessions. Director: Pastor Wally Kukuk, Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Organist: Adam Kukuk, Elyria, OH. Contact: Tom Williams, 920-348-5746. Church is fully accessible.

November 11 Wauwatosa 2:30 p.m.

Christmas Gymanfa Ganu at Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, located one block north of North Avenue at 2366 N. 80th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Session followed by te bach. Contact: Beverly Schwabe, 414-771-7772.

Note: Events in italics are run independently from the WGGAW by the individual churches.



Joe Corbin Injured

Rev. Joseph Corbin, WGGAW board member and popular gymanfa ganu director, was injured in a fall from a tree stand this past November. Joe broke his leg and subsequently battled a serious infection. After exploring many healing options and attempting several, Joe opted for amputation of his lower leg. We wish Joe the best in his recovery and expect him to be up and about for this year's Welsh Weekend.

Steve Jensen Honored

In the fall of 2011, the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) conducted an evaluation to select a small pool of accompanists to participate in the NAFOW, including playing for the National Gymanfa Ganu, on a rotating basis. Steve Jensen of Milwaukee, our organist for the 2012 State Gymanfa Ganu, was one of only three accompanists selected from all of North America. Congratulations, Steve!

Other Welsh Events

Ontario Welsh Festival
April 27-29, 2012
Niagara Falls
www.ontariowelshfestival.ca

Cwrs Cymraeg
July 22-29, 2012,
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.madog.org

North American Festival of Wales
Aug 29 – Sep 2, 2012
Scranton, PA
www.nafow.org

WGGAW Membership and Contributions Form

You can support the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin (WGGAW) by joining or renewing your association membership. Gifts received prior to April 1 will be recognized in this year's Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu program. **Contributions are tax deductible.** Categories of giving:

- Bardd/Bard — \$100.00 or more
- Noddwr/Patron — \$25.00 to \$99.99
- Cyfaill/Friend — \$5.00 to \$24.99

Gift given in Memory of _____

Gift given in Honor of _____

I wish to donate anonymously. Please do not include my name in the bulletin. _____

Name _____

Address/City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check if this is an address (or other) change _____

Mail this form to: Dick Myers, WGGAW Treasurer, 1052 Stratford Court, Racine, WI 53406-7002