



HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

‘WEST’ ...in the 19th Century, countless people left their homeland of Wales to seek their fortune in the United States of America and Canada.... “a taste of the past into the present”

The theatre production **‘WEST’** features actors Gareth John Bale and Gwenllian Higginson,

IN THE 19TH CENTURY COUNTLESS PEOPLE LEFT their homeland of Wales to seek their fortune in the United States of America. Many wanted adventure, the chance to own their own land or simply the chance to start again. Along the way they faced many dangers and tribulations. Some succeeded, some gave up and some fell by the wayside. Those who made it went on to establish roots and bloodlines that grow and flow through the United States of America to this very day.

At the centre of their lives was the chapel whose various guises feature as the inspiration and setting for this new play.



This new play by award winning Welsh Playwright Owen Thomas stars acclaimed Welsh actors Gareth John Bale and Gwenllian Higginson. It explores this bold decision through the eyes of one couple. ‘West’ will receive its first public performance at the North American Festival of Wales, something that the creative team are hugely excited by.

This play is brought to you by the writer and actor from last years celebrated performance at NAFOW of ‘Grav’, the play about the life of Welsh icon Ray Gravell. ‘Grav’ recently completed it’s fifth National tour which included

performances in London and a very special performance for the Welsh National Rugby team in the Principality Stadium as part of the build-up to the recent Six Nations Wales versus England match. Bale and Thomas hope ‘West’ will bring a taste of the past into the present.

A Reading from ‘Nye and Jennie’
with Gareth John Bale and Gwenllian Higginson

Aneurin Bevan and Jennie Lee were comrades and flatmates who together fought and preached for socialism as they saw it; he the Tredegar firebrand on the Labour backbenches, she the miner’s daughter from Fife who became a Socialist MP. This is a reading from the story of a partnership that became one of the outstanding political marriages of the twentieth century.

ROOMS ARE FILLING FAST!!

**MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW
AT THE NAFOW RATE!!**

HILTON MILWAUKEE CITY CENTRE

Room rate: \$125+ tax per night

Book offline at Hilton 1-800 HILTONS using the group name “2019 WNAA North American Festival of Wales”

Parking for hotel guests \$5 overnight, visitors \$10 per day

NAFOW EVENTS will be held in the Hilton with the exception of:

Saturday’s **Grand Concert** and
Sunday’s **Gymanfa Ganus**

BUS TRANSPORTATION

MOTOR COACH SERVICE will run from the Hilton hotel to the Grand Concert and Gymanfa Ganu. Tickets are \$10 are good for transportation all weekend. Tickets must be booked in advance. If you need accessible motor coach transport, please email Megan Williams, ahead of time: wnaahq@gmail.com

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MISSION

The Welsh North American Association strives to preserve, develop and promote our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions, including the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, and to do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these goals.

FYI from IHQ

By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

THINGS ARE STARTING TO GET BUSY here in Trumansburg as plans for the 2019 festival and our 90th anniversary celebrations are coming together! I traveled to Milwaukee in April for a successful pre-planning meeting with our dedicated Board of Trustees. We toured the venues and hotels, worked on plans for this year and next and even sang a few Welsh hymns and arias.....

Registrations have been coming in for the festival and I can't stress how helpful advanced registrations can be. A few important things which are highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter; we are off site for the Grand Concert and the gymanfa ganu. A motor coach (yes, not school bus)

shuttle service is available to travel to both those venues. Tickets are \$10 for the weekend and need to be purchased ahead of time. Rooms at the Hilton are filling quickly and I would encourage anyone who hasn't yet made reservations to do so now.

This festival marks 90 years since the first 'national' Gymanfa Ganu was held on Goat Island and we look forward to celebrating with all of you. The special anthem commission for this weekend, written by Robat Arwyn and Mererid Hopwood, is going to be a beautiful way to mark the occasion and something we can all participate in; starting with a practice at Ysgol Gan on Friday afternoon.

Festival sponsorship is still needed and if you are willing to help support the Grand Concert, please get in touch via email: wnaahq@gmail.com or call 607-279-7402.

Diolch yn fawr!



TOURS UPDATE

**Have you booked your tour yet?
 Seats are filling up quickly**

Thursday Tour #1 : August 29, 2019 ~ 'What's Wright about Milwaukee' Price: \$90.00 Entry fees & catered lunch are included in the price.

Thursday Tour #2 ~ August 29, 2019 ~ Quilts and Cars Price: \$60 Entry fees are included in the price. Lunch not included.

Monday Tour #3 : September 2, 2019 ~ Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Price: \$120 Entry fees, transportation & lunch are included in the price.

Monday Tour #4: September 2, 2019 ~ Wisconsin Sampler Price: \$85 Entry fees, transportation, lunch & beer tasting are included in the price.

Filling up Quickly!!

Book now! "First-come, first-served!"

2019 Milwaukee Gymanfa Ganu Immanuel Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING join us in this beautiful church for this traditional celebration of song and praise. Hymns will be sung in both Welsh and English in this, our 88th annual National Cymanfa Ganu.



Director Mari Morgan WILL SERVE as the conductor for this, the 88th National Cymanfa Ganu and the Grand Concert!

Dr. Morgan says she is honored to be invited to be the Conductor of the 90th anniversary NAFOW Cymanfa Ganu at Immanuel Presbyterian Church with Steve Jensen at its organ.

Dr. Mari Morgan is one of the most experienced and favored *cymanfa ganu* conductors in North America today. Originally from Llanelli, Wales, Mari has conducted *cymanfaoedd ganu* in communities across the U.S. and Canada. In 2008, she was the guest conductor of the NAFOW *Cymanfa Ganu* in Chicago, IL, and the Ontario Welsh Festival *Gymanfa Ganu* in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. In 2016, Mari directed the New Zealand Welsh Festival *Cymanfa Ganu* at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Wellington.

Grand Concert

Dr. Mari Morgan founded the North American Welsh Choir (*Côr Cymry Gogledd America*) in 1998 becoming its Artistic Director and Conductor. The choir’s major debut was at the 1999 ‘National Gymanfa Ganu’ Grand Concert.



Twenty years on, *Côr Cymry Gogledd America* choristers of old, as well as a host of talented new singers, have answered Mari’s call to sing together again in order to

honor the generations who have celebrated and cherished their Welsh heritage and identity. *Côr Cymry Gogledd America* will celebrate its twentieth anniversary by performing at the 90th Grand Concert in the Helen Bader Concert Hall, and the Cymanfa Ganu.

“It is going to be a marvelous musical party!”

Dr. Mari Morgan has received the 2017 ‘Robert Morris Award’ from the Welsh Society of Philadelphia; the National Welsh-American Foundation’s prestigious Welsh Heritage Medallion during NAFOW 2009; and also nominated to be the ‘Leader of Welsh People from Overseas’ at the 2000 National Eisteddfod in Llanelli, Wales. Mari holds degrees from the University of Wales, Cardiff; Trinity College of Music in London; and from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Festival Accompanist

STEVEN JENSEN BEGAN PLAYING the piano and organ at the age of 9. He had his first regular church job at the age of 13. During grade 9-12 he studied at Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI. He continued his organ study during college at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.



The first Cymanfa Ganu that he played for was in 1977 in Fort Atkinson, WI. 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 Steven has played for many local and state Gymanfaoedd. He is currently employed as a Compliance Officer for US Bank in Milwaukee, WI and serves as Organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

Sunday Worship Service

JOIN US IN THIS traditional church service in English and Welsh, which includes the reading of the roll of departed members and placing of memorial roses in the vases on the altar. The presiding minister at the Sunday Worship Service will be Rev. Joseph G. Corbin.

Rev. Joseph G. Corbin continues serving as pastor for 26 years at First Presbyterian Church, Reedsburg, WI, in addition to being Stated Supply at Peace Presbyterian Church, Mauston WI for the past two years. He studied vocal performance at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, School of Music and received a BA in Music from the University of Dubuque, IA. He completed his M.Div. at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.



TAX BREAKS FOR INVESTORS

David Allen

An Informal Discussion & Coffee: Tax Breaks for Investors ~ Investing in your Favorite Charities

SIGNIFICANT PERMANENT CHANGES in the tax law have major implications for US taxpayers over the age of 70 who have any kind of retirement account. Only a very few financial advisors and accountants are alerting their clients to these changes. Taking advantage of them could benefit both you and your heirs very significantly. These changes affect everyone who gives any kind of contributions to charity or who plans on leaving some of their estate to a charity. It will be worth your while to take the time to attend this session presented by our Treasurer, David Allen.



David Allen, Treasurer of WNAA, lives in Owego, New York. He received his PhD from Columbia University and was a Fulbright Scholar to Belgium and a Danforth Graduate Fellow. David is a Professor Emeritus at City University of New York, where he taught a variety of courses.

WELSH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Hefina Phillips

HEFINA PHILLIPS BRINGS HER PASSION and spirit teaching you the “language of Heaven”. She will teach two levels of the Welsh language.

Welsh I ~ Instructor Hefina Phillips has named this seminar *Absolute Beginners*, and she will emphasize the structure of the spoken language of Welsh. This level is for anyone who needs a comfortable learning environment to begin learning Welsh.



Welsh II ~ *Next Steps in Welsh* is suitable for those with some knowledge of the language and who want to practice and improve. Welsh II is on Saturday morning. This class will follow on from “Beginners” and you are encouraged to attend both, but it is not a requirement.

Hefina Phillips was born in the Swansea Valley and Welsh was the only language spoken in her home in Cwmgiedd. She was educated at Cardiff University’s Welsh Department and says she was fortunate to have studied under Saunders Lewis.

She has taught at the annual *Cymdeithas Madog* Course since moving to North America as well as being re-

sponsible for starting Welsh language classes in the Toronto area. Hefina feels that to have been born Welsh is the utmost privilege and she does all she can to share her love of Wales and its beautiful language. She admits that her other passion is for her grandchildren.

SAY SOMETHING IN WELSH

Diane Owen

DO YOU SPEAK WELSH or want to learn "yr hen iaith"? Speakers and learners of all levels of Welsh are welcome to stop by our table and say “*sut mae!*” We will also be hosting two informal Welsh chat sessions for learners and speakers of any level on Friday and Sunday. Say Something in Welsh is a free online course based entirely on speaking. Created from the belief that language acquisition is a natural process at which anyone can succeed, it has no reading or writing components. Rather, through built-in revision, each lesson builds and expands on the spoken language skills taught in the previous lessons. Northern and southern dialect versions available! Use it online or download it to your favorite device, and make sure to spend time on the friendly forum where learners can get help and encouragement from each other: www.saysomethinginwelsh.com.

YSGOL GAN

Mari Morgan

LED BY MARI who will be also conducting Cor Cymry Gogledd America and leading the Cymanfaoedd Canu, this is an informal singing practice session where you will learn some of the hymns we will be singing on Sunday afternoon and evening. This is your opportunity to hear some Welsh verses pronounced and to practice your part, whatever it may be, with joyful abandon. It should be fun and enlightening.

TWMPATH FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP

AS WELL AS A CONCERT BAND, *Calennig* is an experienced Twmpath Dawns (Welsh Ceilidh) band. For this Pat and Ned put on their calling hats leading the dancers expertly through the Welsh favourites.



Pat teaches the Eisteddfod competition dances for all levels of ability accompanied by the band.

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MARKETPLACE

MARKETPLACE IS AN OPPORTUNITY for vendors from Wales and across North America to sell Welsh and other Celtic items: clothing, jewelry, trinkets, music, books, tours, educational packages and other items of ‘Welsh interest’.



The Welsh Market Place has become a very popular feature of the North American Festival of Wales. Open daily, people will have the opportunity to

browse through colorful stalls and meet people from far and wide.

Reserve a table in the NAFOW marketplace online!!

Print all pages of the form, read carefully, and mail to the address on the form, to arrive no later than August 1, 2019. Contact: marketplace@nafow.org

SILENT AUCTION

On a table in the Marketplace, people will, once again, be able to examine items of interest and sometimes ‘of antiquity’. This is the *Silent Auction* where people may place a bid on an item which may have caught their attention.



TEAROOM

The **TEA ROOM** will be open daily, offering Welsh tea and *picau ar y maen* [Welsh Cakes]. The tearoom gives attendees a chance to ‘catch up’ with old friends and ‘make’ new ones.

AFFILIATED WELSH ORGANIZATIONS

Affiliated Welsh Organization Round Table ~ In this annual meeting representatives from affiliated Welsh organizations have an opportunity to meet with other local Welsh representatives to establish lines of communication and share ideas.

LOVESPOON RAFFLE

David Western has, once again, donated a wonderful lovespoon to be raffled! Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be available in the Marketplace. Drawing will take place at the Grand Concert on Saturday evening.



The Welsh North American Association

LEGACY SOCIETY

A few years ago, the **Legacy Society** was formed as an opportunity for individuals to support Welsh culture, language and tradition into the future through planned giving. It is thrilling that the number of Legacy members is still growing. Membership requires only a stated commitment; the amount is held with the donor until beneficiaries are announced by the executor or family member. There is no minimal amount as all amounts are supportive.

Soon, the WNAA’s Festival of Wales (NAFOW) will be gathering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Here we will sing beautiful Welsh music, enjoy fascinating lectures, plays and films, shop in the delightful marketplace, make new friends and catch up with friends we see only once a year...and here we will create wonderful memories to take home as a legacy for our children, other family members and friends.

This exposure reminds us of the importance in keeping cultural gifts alive, to assure that a culture’s enriching contributions are enjoyed for generations to come. This is the desire and plan for those participating in the **Legacy Society**...so that generations to come will know and experience the wonder of *Cymru am byth!*

If you haven’t joined **Legacy** yet, you may request additional information, have your questions answered, and participate by contacting:

Dr. Megan Williams
 P.O. Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY, 14886
 Phone: (607)279-7402 Fax: (877) 448-6633
 Email: IHQ@theWNAA.org



2019 NAFOW EISTEDDFOD

Ian Samways

THIS YEAR’S EISTEDDFOD COMPETITIONS at the *North American Festival of Wales* (NAFOW) have been updated and expanded to offer even more opportunities to showcase your talents! This marks the 25th anniversary of our first Eisteddfod, founded by Alan Upshall at the *National Gymanfa Ganu* in Bellevue, WA, in 1994. Thus, we are excited to keep the NAFOW Eisteddfod active and thriving well into the future, in doing our part to support an important cornerstone of Welsh culture.



There will again be three competitions for recitation: Welsh Language, Welsh Learner’s and English Language and four for singing: Solo Voice (Youth), Hymn Singing, Solo Voice (Adult), and Solo Voice [Semi-Professional]. As an eighth stage competition, we are also now reviving ***Instrumental Solo, for unaccompanied solo instrumentalists using any instrument.*** Applicants will perform one musical selection, written by a Welsh composer and/or relating to Wales.



**COMPETITORS
FROM A RECENT
EISTEDDFOD**

The ***new Visual Arts Competition*** was proposed by Eisteddfod Committee member (and 2019 NAFOW Local Venue Co-Chair) Danny Proud, based on a similar (and successful) venture at the annual Welsh Weekend of the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin. Entrants are invited to submit visual artistic submissions (painting, sketch, sculpture, etc.) based on a Welsh theme, for popular adjudication at the Festival.

Finally, the ***new Hymn Composition Competition*** in honor of Daniel Protheroe, originally proposed by Mari

Morgan (Director of *Côr Cymry Gogledd America*), will borrow a page from traditional eisteddfodau in Wales, inviting the creation of an original hymn set to the meter used by Protheroe in his well-known “Milwaukee”.

In other notable changes for 2019:

- The former Solo Voice/Semi-Professional Competition, offering a generous cash prize for travel to compete at the 2020 National Eisteddfod of Wales, has a new “working title”. The prize, previously named for David Morris, is now the ***“Welsh North America Prize”*** to reflect a change in sponsorship as well as to remind of its importance in maintaining strong connections between North America and Wales.
- The Solo Voice (Youth) Competition, for singers age 15 and under, will no longer require any pieces sung in Welsh. Instead, in an effort to encourage participation, entrants may choose 1 or 2 pieces to be performed in any language, as long as the song has a clear connection to Wales.

A huge diolch yn fawr / thank you goes out to fellow Eisteddfod Committee members David Matthews, Danny Proud, David Llewelyn Williams and Karen Wojahn, as well as Mari Morgan, Gerri Baker Parry and Megan Williams, for their hard work and invaluable contributions.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON ALL COMPETITIONS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE EISTEDDFOD SECTION OF THE NAFOW WEBSITE (www.nafow.org).
 You will also find there our online entry portal (for everything except Hymn Composition).

And a peek into the past....



Competitions for children under 15 included vocal solo, violin solo and pianoforte solo. Other competitions included mixed quartets, duets, choirs, ‘open instrumental’, poem writing [not exceeding 50 lines], map drawing, plain sewing, fancy sewing [fine linen center piece], essay writing and more....

DISPLAY OF ANCIENT AND RARE MAPS OF WALES

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE of the North American Festival of Wales is excited to announce a special exhibit at NAFOW 2019 in Milwaukee. Through the cooperation of The American Geographical Society (AGS) Library at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, we procured copies of a few of the many rare and ancient maps of Wales that are in its collection. Many thanks to Senior Academic Librarian Jovanka R. Ristic for helping us make this happen.

From its promotional materials: “The AGS Library is one of North America’s foremost geography and map collections. Formed in the early 1850s the Library is dedicated to promoting the collection and dissemination of geographic information in all formats and from all time periods.” Overall, the collection contains more than 520,000 maps dating from 1452 and includes major national and international topographical maps, navigational maps and thematic maps. Learn more about this collection on the library’s website – uwm.edu/libraries/AGSL/.

It was a rare treat to look at all these maps! When we



arrived, Jovanka had them all laid out for us in two groupings. The rare maps are stored in a separate secure and climate-controlled environment. There we found more than 20 maps of Wales depicting topography, cities, geology and administrative districts. The remainder of the collection is more accessible, and there was plenty to view.

The Library has the complete collection of maps of Wales from the Ordnance Survey of England and Wales from the early 1900s until 1914 (pre-World War I) and many maps of regions in Wales, cities and more.

It was time to decide what we should order for our display, and the decision was not easy. Next August you will see

the full, five-map collection from the 1830s by C & H Greenwood, published by Greenwood & Co. London.

The five maps are Monmouth, Glamorgan/ Brecon/ Radnor, Flint/ Denbigh/ Montgomery, Anglesey/ Carnarvon/ Merioneth and Cardigan/ Pembroke/ Carmarthen. There is also a 1645 map of Cardiganshire (with a two-page explanation in French), a 1645 map of Montgomeryshire (with a two-page explanation in Latin), an 1811 topographical map of Wales (by John Cary), a huge 1914 map of Cardiff, and a huge 1920s era South Wales Coalfield map.



The Library also has an “Adopt-a-Map” program, and one of its featured maps is a 1676 John Speed map of Wales from his atlas *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*. The map includes 16 small inset bird’s-eye views of Welsh cities and towns, and the main map shows relief pictorially, and includes a ship, two sea monsters, and a decorative compass rose of the Irish Sea. You can “adopt” the conservation of this map for \$300. Many other maps are also on the adoption list.

To make the maps at the NAFOW display accessible, we had them printed on a durable fabric. You will be allowed to take the map down from its display and examine it on a table. We’ll have some magnifying glasses available!

We’re pleased to showcase this gem of Milwaukee and encourage you to contact the Library if you are interested in research, would like a tour of its facility, or would like to order your own digital or hard copies (on paper or fabric) of historic maps of Wales or other places.

DON’T FORGET TO BRING YOUR HYMNBOOKS TO NAFOW 2019!

USE THEM FOR LATE-NIGHT SINGING AND AT THE GYMANFA GANU.

[Hymnbooks will be on sale in the Marketplace]

**LATE NIGHT SINGING
and
NOSON LAWEN**

JOIN THE CROWD for the immensely popular **Late-Night Informal Singing** on Thursday and Friday. This is a wonderful way to finish each memorable day - singing Welsh hymns and old favourites.

On Sunday night, the ever-popular **Noson Lawen** will be a relaxing occasion to end the weekend's activities. Join in and sing folk songs and enjoy 'open-mic' performances by festival attendees for special events.



The accompanist for both these gatherings will be **Karen Jones-Wojahn**. Karen is a retired elementary teacher and a trainer for family day care providers. She is a member of the St. David's

Society of Minnesota, and a board member of the Minnesota Welsh Association and the Welsh North American Association.

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