



The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Welsh News from Wisconsin

<https://wggaw.org>

Spring 2024

Greetings from our President

It's wonderful to be back in full swing in 2024! There have already been a few events in Wisconsin to celebrate our patron saint, St. David. This newsletter will fill you in on the remaining events for the year. As always, plans are still unfolding, so check back to our website, <https://wggaw.org> from time to time.

This year's Welsh Weekend for All will be a lot of fun, and a great celebration of Welsh culture. We are holding it in Baraboo, Wisconsin where there is much to do! Consider spending Friday exploring the area.

- If you are into outdoor activities, Devil's Lake State Park, Parfrey's Glen, Mirror Lake State Park, Balanced Rock Trail and Pewit's Nest Gorge are nearby.
- History enthusiasts will enjoy Circus World Museum, the Al Ringling Mansion and the Aldo Leopold Foundation.
- Animal lovers can visit the International Crane Foundation.
- And there are many more parks and places to see!

Join the group on Saturday afternoon at the Al Ringling Theatre for a tour and pipe organ concert. After, we will convene at First Presbyterian Church for a tea break and the opportunity to judge the Visual Arts Eisteddfod submissions.

Eisteddfod performances begin (see page 3 for eisteddfod guidelines), followed by a presentation by Robert Humphries. The bard, winner of the eisteddfod, will be chaired.

In the evening, we will have Pub Night at the Al Ringling Brewing Company. Danny Proud will lead us in singing our Welsh favorites. Bring your guitar or penny whistle and join in!

The 90th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu takes place on Sunday afternoon. Rev. Joe Corbin will lead us and Ann Lemmenes will accompany on the organ.

Please take the time to read about all the great opportunities we Wisconsinites have to celebrate our Welsh heritage and come join in. We look forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones!

Croeso! Jan Jones Batty, President of WGGAW

Sunday, May 5, 2024 90th State Gymanfa Ganu

As part of our Wisconsin Welsh Weekend for All, the 90th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh hymn sing) will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 416 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913.

This church is conveniently located and fully accessible.

Rev. Joe Corbin is our director, and Ann Lemmenes will accompany on the church's pipe organ.



*First Presbyterian Church,
416 Ash Street, Baraboo*

About the WGGAW

The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin (WGGAW) sponsors and conducts the State and Christmas cymanfaoedd which take place at various churches around the state. It also supports and promotes other Welsh events held in Wisconsin.

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.

Board of Trustees

President.....	Jan Jones Batty
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Welsh Weekend for All—Saturday, May 4, 2024

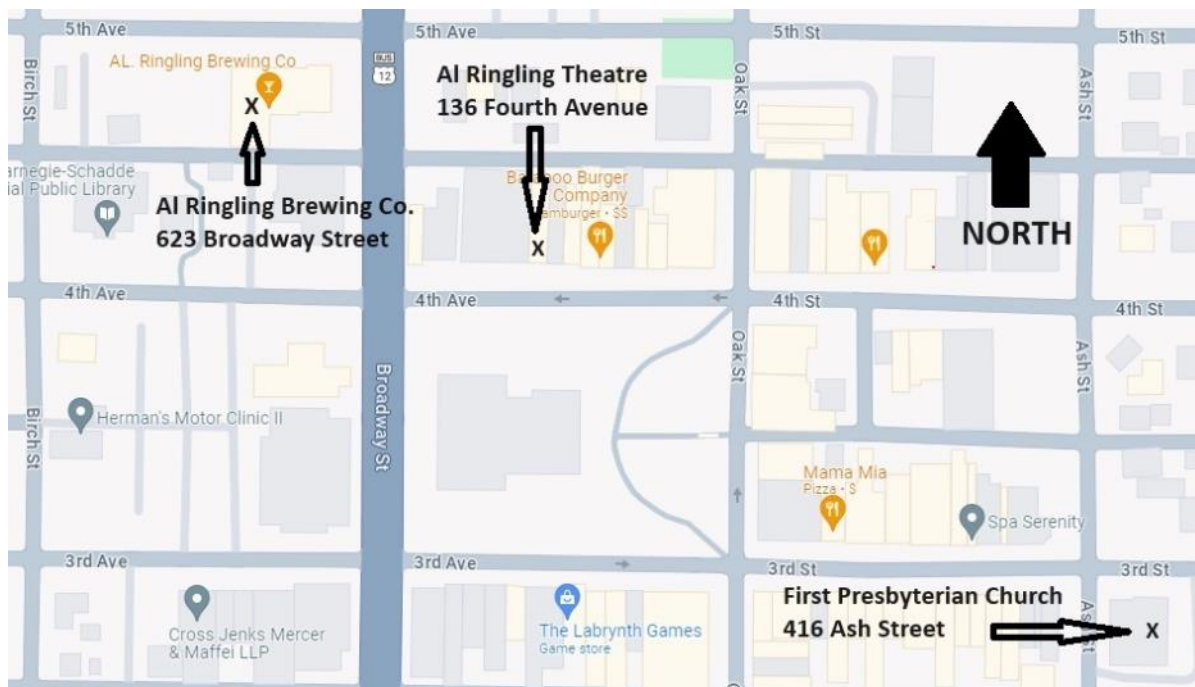
1:00 Al Ringling Theatre, 136 Fourth Street, Baraboo WI 53913 www.alringling.org
Tour of the historic theater and pipe organ concert

2:30 First Presbyterian Church, 416 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913 www.presbybaraboo.com
Enjoy a tea break and judge the Visual Arts submissions before we start the afternoon’s activities
3:00 Eisteddfod performances
4:00 Presentation by Robert Humphries “Welsh Settlers on the Baraboo River”
4:45 Chairing of the bard and other awards

6:00 Al Ringling Brewing Company, 623 Broadway Street, Baraboo WI 53913 www.alringlingbrewing.com
Enjoy pub night at this historic restaurant with a definite circus atmosphere. Danny Proud will lead us in singing all our Welsh favorites. Order your dinner from the pub menu.

Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu—Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:00 First Presbyterian Church, 416 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913
Worship Service with Communion, led by Rev. Joseph G. Corbin
2:30 90th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu
Director: Rev. Joseph Corbin, Organist: Ann Lemmenes; te bach to follow



State Gymanfa Ganu: Our Talented Director

Rev. Joseph G. Corbin. Retired in 2020 after 41 years in church related work, 28 years as an ordained minister, he now serves as a supply pastor, most recently for 2.5 years at First Presbyterian Church Weyauwega, WI.

On Sunday May 5, 9:00 a.m, Joe will preach at the First

Presbyterian Church Baraboo prior to this year’s gymanfa.

Joe received his formal training at The University of Wisconsin, School of Music, where he studied vocal performance. He earned a B.A. in Music and a M. Div. degree from The University of Dubuque, Iowa.

Joe is well-known for directing Cymanfaoedd Canu and St. David’s Day festivities throughout Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He has also helped lead many of the late-night informal sings at NAFOW gatherings.

In fall 2024 he will direct in Mankato MN and Oak Hill OH.

Joe serves as a board member on the Welsh North American Association, the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin and the Peniel Welsh Chapel Association.

2024 Eisteddfod

We welcome your entries for this year's Eisteddfod! The theme for this year is "Circus/Syrcas" or "Circle of Life/Cylch Bywyd." 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 "The Circus" delivered in English or "Y Dychweliad" delivered 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 six minutes.

Prizes

All entries are judged on the criteria of how well they capture the theme of "Circus/Syrcas" or "Circle of Life/Cylch Bywyd," the extent to which they incorporate Welsh components, and the quality of the work. Winners are determined by adjudication, except for 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 Love Spoon prize.
- The **Music** winner receives the Baton prize.

Winners must be present at the Eisteddfod ceremony on Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Baraboo 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 the First Presbyterian Church in Baraboo. 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 "Circus/Syrcas" or "Circle of Life/Cylch Bywyd." 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 "Circus/Syrcas" or "Circle of Life/Cylch Bywyd" theme. (See **Deadlines for Submissions** below.)
- **Recitation** performers will deliver the poem "The Circus" in English or "Y Dychweliad" 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 during the Eisteddfod on Saturday afternoon.

NOTE: If you wish, you may drop off your Visual Arts entry at the church at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Literary Arts and Visual Arts entries will be displayed on Saturday afternoon and Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church. Winners will be announced during the Eisteddfod Ceremony on Saturday afternoon at the church.

Deadlines for Submissions

Submit Literary Arts entries, Music selections, and Visual Arts descriptions no later than midnight, April 28, 2024 to Bron Wentzel (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.

2024 Wisconsin and Illinois Gymanfa Ganu Schedule

Te Bach to follow each Gymanfa Ganu

Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu

May 5, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 416 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913

Director: Rev. Joe Corbin; Organist: Ann Lemmenes

Annual Chicago Gymanfa Ganu

May TBD, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

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

Contact: Dilys Rana dilyswr@gmail.com

Rewey Gymanfa Ganu

June 9, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

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

Director: Chris Guy; Pianist: Barbara Brown

Contact: Dale Hughes hugheslaw@jvl.net

Wild Rose Gymanfa Ganu

July 23, 2024, 2:00 p.m. (note time)

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

Director: Rev. Joseph Corbin; Reed Organist: Rev. Tom White

102nd Peniel/Town of Eldorado Gymanfa Ganu

August 25, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

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

Director: Ann Lemmenes; Reed Organist: Rev. Tom White; Pianist: Sarah Conrad

5th Annual Mineral Point Gymanfa Ganu

September 29, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

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

Held in conjunction with the Mineral Point Cornish/Celtic Festival, September 27-30, 2024

Website: www.cornishfest.org

79th Annual Cambria Gymanfa Ganu

October 13, 2024, 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: Kathy Crusi; Organist: Steve Jensen

Christmas Gymanfa Ganu

November TBD, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Location TBD

Cambria Gymanfa Ganu Director Kathy Crusi



The Cambria Gymanfa Ganu board is pleased to announce the selection of Kathy Crusi as director of its 79th annual gymanfa ganu.

At the North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia in 2022, Kathy was a featured soloist at the opening concert and the gymanfa ganu sessions, and she also directed the late-night hymn singing.

Kathy is a graduate of The University of Akron with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance. She has appeared frequently at events for The Welsh Society of Philadelphia. In 2018 she won the David Morris Award at the North American Festival of Wales eisteddfod competition which gave her the privilege of competing in the Welsh National Eisteddfod in Llanrwst, Wales in 2019. For the past 24 years Kathy has taught private voice lessons and was the recipient of "One of the Top 12 Best Voice Teachers in Philadelphia" for the last eight years in a row.

She recently wrote and recorded a Christmas song, "Silently She Waited," which can be enjoyed on YouTube. It has beautiful videography and was sung in three voices; probably all sung by her through the magic of technology. Her wonderful recordings of "Breath of Heaven" and "Ave Maria" are also available.

Nine years ago, Kathy didn't even know what a gymanfa ganu was. Since then, she has jumped into the Welsh world with both feet, discovering her Welsh heritage on her father's side. Her great-great-grandfather was a coal miner who came to Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Now she's learning to sing in Welsh and has a repertoire of Welsh solos.

We look forward to Cambria's Gymanfa Ganu and her leadership. And yes, she will sing a few solos for us. Join us on October 13, 2024 at Cambria First Presbyterian Church, 121 West Florence Street, Cambria, WI.



2024 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

In 2024 the Peniel Welsh Chapel will continue the faithful tradition of music it has had for 168 years. The chapel, built in 1856, is beautiful today as the result of many renovations and updates in the last few years.

The highlight of the year will be the 102nd annual Gymanfa Ganu. This year the event will be held on Sunday, August 25th at 2:30 p.m. Our director will be Ann Lemmenes from Waupun. Reed Organist will be Tom White and Pianist will be Sarah Conrad. Musical events will be held during the summer. The chapel is handicap accessible.

Volunteers are a big part of our activities and we invite anyone who would like to be a part of our program of music and activities to contact Tom White, president of the group, at tjwhite65@charter.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.



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

April 20 – “New Generation Singers” from Central Wisconsin Christian School, Waupun.

May 18 – “Men of Praise” a capella men’s group from Waupun.

June 22 – “Imagine That!” Kay Loberg and Judy Paulson (violin and guitar) from Sturgeon Bay present a variety of the best-loved folk, country and pop songs from the 40s thru 70s featuring their signature harmony blend and upbeat style.

July 20 – “Old Time Country Gospel Hour” featuring Rev. Joe Corbin and Justin Booth with Lynette Booth on keyboard. Come join in singing old time favorites, and hear about country greats who wrote and performed gospel music and hymns.

September 14 – A “Merry Evening of Song” (Noson Lawen) - Recitation, Rhymes and Rhythms (and some play readings written by Olwen Welk and Ilah Morgan) will fill the Chapel. Come and be a part of the fun and fellowship.

Peniel Chapel Welsh Weekend

August 24, 2024 (Saturday)

Saturday at the Chapel

1:00 p.m. “Shaking the Branches” family history sharing

3:00 p.m. Welsh Dancing led by Danny Proud

4:30 p.m. Meal *

6:00 p.m. The Peniel Quartet

August 25, 2024 (Sunday)

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

12:30 p.m. Lunch *

2:30 p.m. 102nd Annual Gymanfa Ganu

Director: Ann Lemmenes; Reed Organist: Rev. Tom White; Pianist: Sarah Conrad

* Contact Tom White to make meal reservations: tjwhite56@charter.net

In Memory of ...

We are sad to report the passing of the following members of the Welsh community since May 2023. 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: rbatty@wi.rr.com

Martin R. Dable (Waukesha, WI)

Rev. Gerald Goodrich (Hartland, WI)

Lari Suzanne (York) Hoffman (Ft. Atkinson, WI)

James “Jim” Spofford Reeve II (Muskego and Green Bay WI)

Doreen (Williams) Thomas (Cambria WI and Wheaton IL)

2023 Christmas Gymanfa Ganu

By Jan Jones Batty and Ann Lemmenes—full article originally published in the January/February 2024 issue of Ninnau.

On November 12, the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin (WGGAW) held its annual Christmas Gymanfa Ganu at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Redgranite. Rev. Jennifer Czarnota provided a welcome and devotions for the afternoon and WGGAW's Dale Hughes was the session moderator.

This year we celebrated the contributions and memory of Edward D. and Barbara Jane Jones, who were very involved members of the church and encouraged the WGGAW to hold an annual gymanfa ganu there. The first was held in 2001.

Ed and Barb were both descendants of farm families that emigrated from Wales in the 1800s. Ed, a veteran who piloted B-17s during WWII, earned a PhD in Plant Pathology. He established the Uihlein Seed Potato Research Farm near Lake Placid, NY during his career at Cornell University. Barb earned a BS/RN degree. She worked in the same field as Ed while raising their four children in Ithaca, NY. In retirement, they returned to central Wisconsin and settled on Big Hills Lake.

During the gymanfa ganu, their son David Rees Jones presented recollections of his parents and family life. Respect was a big element in their growing up. His sisters and brother, and Barb's sister Sandy Jones Stanicek, were in attendance, as were their children and grandchildren.



(many were Welsh) and the rest were from the WGGAW Christmas hymnal. Three of the songs had descants led by

About half of our songs were in the church's hymnal

(many were Welsh) and the rest were from the WGGAW Christmas hymnal. Three of the songs had descants led by

Lori Page, our soloist, who chose to play the clarinet on "Good Christian Men, Rejoice." Lori also sang "Bless This House" and "Gesu Bambino" accompanied by Ann. On "Watcher, Tell Us of The Night" (Aberystwyth), Ann divided us into two groups and had us face each other. One side sang lines one and three and the other side sang lines two and four. So, the song came alive with the Traveler talking to the Watcher and the Watcher responding to the Traveler.

Ann brought out her large hand-held drum which she made under the direction of a Native American. It had a bass sound. We then sang "Twas in The Moon of Wintertime," the Huron carol, while she led us softly playing the drum. She explained that the song was written by a Jesuit priest to tell the Christmas story in Native American terms. Mighty Gitchi Manitu, Rabbit skins, beaver pelts... etc. It was sung in unison with the men on verse two and the women on verse three and all on verse four with a haunting descant in the hymnbook sung by Lori. Very effective. A new favorite for many of us. Of course, we sang Stille Nacht in German, English and Welsh and the third verse a cappella.

Hymns were organized by Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Angel Proclamation and ended with Diadem at the request of the Ed and Barbara Jones family. "Deck the Hall" was sung after the benediction.

The te bach in the fellowship hall left us wanting for nothing – there were plenty of sandwiches, accompaniments, and sweet treats to overfeed us for our journey home. Tea, coffee and lemonade flowed.

The Jones family had several displays of their family memorabilia as well as a slide show of family pictures, including their early Welsh ancestors who settled in central and southwestern Wisconsin. There was a surprise free drawing for a basket of Welsh goodies provided by Linda Evans.

Many thanks to Dale Hughes for initiating and planning this event; Sandy Jones Stanicek and the Jones family for organizing the recollections of Ed and Barb and setting up the presentation; Jenny and her church crew for a wonderful te bach; and to Ann, Tom and Lori for sharing their musical talents.

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 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.

2023 Welsh Weekend

By Jan Jones Batty, originally published in the July/August 2023 issue of Ninnau.

The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (WGGAW) held its traditional Welsh weekend the first weekend in May.

Those who were able to obtain tickets gathered at All Saints' Cathedral in Milwaukee for an early Afternoon High Tea. What a treat!

At 4:00 p.m. we met at nearby Immanuel Presbyterian Church for Welsh events. Gwenith Closs-Colgrove of Lincoln, Nebraska opened the afternoon's activities with a talk about the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, home of the Archive for Welsh America in Wymore, Nebraska. She also extended an invitation to everyone to attend the North American Festival of Wales which will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska this upcoming Labor Day weekend.

Carolee Schultz presented updates about the improvements to Peniel Welsh Chapel near Oshkosh, the success of last year's 100th gymanfa ganu anniversary, and invited everyone to come to the events they have planned for this year.

Next on the agenda was an eisteddfod based on the theme Dŵr/Water. This theme was suggested by the late Mary Williams-Norton, a WGGAW board member, and we held this year's competitions in her honor.



Above: Joe Corbin, Florence Case, Kim Corbin and Bron Wentzel

There was one entry in the Recitation category, Rev. Joe Corbin of Omro, and his presentation of "Pentref Llanfihangel" in Welsh was deemed worthy of a prize. We had two competitors in the Music category. Rev. Joe Corbin sang "Rock of Ages" in Welsh while accompanying himself on the guitar. Florence Case of Antigo, which is in the northeast corner of Wisconsin, attended with her three daughters. She sang "Songs of the Night." Florence was the winner of The Baton. There were two entries in Visual Arts – "Waves of Welsh," a painting by Kim Corbin, and a moody black and white photo of a nearby marsh by Ann Lemmenes. Kim was the winner of The Crown for this category.

competitors in the Music category. Rev.

The Chair, awarded for the Literary category, is the most coveted. This year's chair was procured by Bron Wentzel, lovingly



Above: Danny Proud, Rhys Humphries and Robert Humphries enthusiastically chair, Kim Corbin as the 2023 bard.

restored, and adorned with daffodils on its back, and a draig goch on the seat. Entries were submitted under a pseudonym (ffugenw). Competitor Cymreig Bachgen Buwch (Bron Wentzel) submitted a prose entry in English – "What is the Weight of Water" and competitor Yr Un Sy'n Caru Coffi Bore (Kim Corbin) contributed the poem "Welsh Water of Wisconsin." In a ceremony that can only compare to the most solemn at the National Eisteddfod, Kim was presented her chair amidst cries of Heddwch/Peace! Robert Humphries made the announcement and Danny Proud and Rhys Humphries held the sword and scabbard.



Above: Danny Proud gave a quick Welsh language presentation.

Time was quickly running out for our Welsh activities at the church, but we managed to squeeze in a Welsh language presentation by Danny Proud, who taught us the pronunciation of the parts of the city name LlanfairPG and the words to Ar Lan y Môr. In what can only be described as Welsh

Genealogy on Speed Dial, Jan Batty presented some tips for researching your relatives in Wales.

A short distance away, we reconvened at County Clare Irish Inn and Pub for a hearty meal and a Noson Lawen. Danny Proud accompanied us



on folk tunes and Robert and Kathy Evans performed a medley of Welsh tunes as a clarinet duet. During the evening's events, Dale Hughes discovered a Welsh bartender, Blake, who joined us for some singing. He also unabashedly showed us his tattoo of a Mari Lwyd.

Continued on page 8

Cwrs Cymraeg

Wisconsinites have no excuse not to dig into their Welsh language. Cwrs Cymraeg is coming to Wisconsin!

July 21-28, Cwrs y Pedwar Llyn (Course of the Four Lakes) will be held at Edgewood College in Madison. Beginner through advanced levels of learning are offered, and scholarships are available.

But it isn't all work and no fun. Extracurricular activities include games, dance, movies, pub night and music, as well as a mid-week day trip.

Cwrs Cymraeg 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. Register online for Cwrs Cymraeg.

Website: www.madog.org

Email: president@madog.org



Welsh Heritage Week

On July 28 to August 4, 2024, Welsh Heritage Week will take place at Nant Gwyrthyrn, Wales, with an optional tour week in Wales on August 4 to August 11, 2024.

The first week includes stays in Nant Gwyrthyrn and visits to Plas yn Rhiw, Criccieth Castle, a Puffin Island Boat Trip off the island of Anglesey and Capel Salem.

The second week provides the opportunity to visit the National Eisteddfod, a trip to Caerphilly Castle, the National Wool Museum, Cardigan Castle and Swansea, to name a few sites.

It's best to visit the website, learn about these and all the other planned events and register for WHW.

Website: welshheritageweek.org

Email: Beth Landmesser at hwyl@ptd.net

Left: 2023 Cwrs in Vermont. Tutors and students.

Right: The younger set performs at 2023 Welsh Heritage Week.



2023 Welsh Weekend (cont'd)

On Sunday afternoon, we gathered at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee for the 89th Annual Wisconsin State Gymanfa Ganu. After welcome remarks by WGGAW President Jan Jones Batty, and devotions by Rev. Teresa Larson of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, we began by singing the national anthems of the United States of America and Wales.



Director Robert Evans

Robert Evans of Bourbonnais, Illinois, a relative newcomer to conducting cymanfaoedd, led us through three sets of hymns. Many were sung in the "Welsh sandwich" tradition. We were accompanied on the pipe organ by the incomparable Steve Jensen at his home console (E. G. & G. Hook and Hastings et al Op. 1045 – 1881, 83 Stops, 73 ranks, approx. 4600 pipes).

Special music was provided by soprano soloist Gwenith Closs-Colgrove of Lincoln, Nebraska who sang two selections by contemporary Welsh composer Robat Arwyn. These selections were "Yfory – Tomorrow" and "Anfonaf Angel – I send you an angel."



Soloist Gwenith Closs-Colgrove accompanied by Steve Jensen.

After stretching our vocal cords, we retreated to a te bach with a variety of treats, tea and coffee to refresh us. We met old friends and made new ones that afternoon. Many thanks to the WGGAW board members, volunteers and members of Immanuel church who helped make this weekend a success.

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!

\$20 per year for email version / \$30 per year for printed version / \$35 per year for both

Order Ninnau at: **Box 712, Trumansburg, New York 14886** ninnaupublications@gmail.com

North American Festival of Wales August 28-September 1, 2024 in Pittsburgh PA

In 2024, the North American Festival of Wales returns to Pittsburgh, PA. A fantastic lineup of entertainment, seminars, competitions, tours and other activities await you!

On Wednesday evening, there is a special event 'Call Mr. Robeson' presented by Nigerian-born Tayo Aluko. Paul Robeson was a famous actor, singer and civil rights campaigner. As Mr. Robeson became more radical and outspoken, he found a strong connection with the Welsh, championing their protests of poverty and destitution.

The Thursday evening Welcome Concert is headlined by Mal Pope, a well-known television host, personality and performer born in Brynhyfryd, Swansea, Wales. He shares stories of his friendship with Elton John and other notables in the arts during his Golden Anniversary in the entertainment business.

There's isn't anything much better than a Male Voice Choir—unless it's two of them! The Côr Meibion Aberhonddu (Brecon Male Choir) and Côr Meibion Dyfnant (Dunvant Male Choir) share their talents over the course of the festival weekend.

Solo talent includes Mared, from Llanefydd in North Wales. In 2021 Mared's debut bilingual folk/pop album, 'Y Drefn,' was awarded Welsh Album of The Year. Since then she has performed her original music with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, at Sony Hall in New York and, with her band, to sold-out shows across London and Wales.

Festival tours include a "City of Steel Highlight" tour on the Explorer, the world's first green passenger riverboat, including at stop at the Heinz History Center.

A second tour "A Day Out with Frank Lloyd Wright" takes visitors to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob—both residences that integrate with their natural surroundings according to Wright's design.

Seminar topics include "Rewriting the History of Medieval Wales," "Amy Dillwyn," "Singing the Hymns of Caradog Roberts," "Welsh Identity in North America Today," "Annie Hughes Griffiths," "The Flooding of Cwm Tryweryn," "The American Order of True Ivorites," "The History of the American Gorsedd" and much more.

A special addition to the schedule is presenter Dr. Grahame Davies who was a member of the royal household for twelve years as Deputy Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, later King Charles III. Dr. Davies will talk about "The Welsh Connection to the Coronation" and "Star Poets from Seren."

There is the opportunity to take in the traditional Eisteddfod competitions on Saturday, and the Welsh marketplace, tea room and silent auction all weekend long.

The National Gymanfa Ganu, directed by Jon Rogers, Musical Director of the Dunvant Male Choir, and accompanied by organist David Enlow, round out the busy weekend.

To register to attend, visit www.nafow.org.



“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 28, 2024

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+
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2023 North American Festival of Wales—Lincoln NE

Wisconsin was well-represented at NAFOW 2023 in Lincoln, NE

WGGAW Vice President **Joe Corbin** was busy at NAFOW. He led us in worship at the Sunday morning church service—his sermon topic was “Rooted in Faith and Hope.” In the evenings, he did more than his fair share of directing at the late-night singing gatherings, as did **Ann Lemmenes, Tom White, Josh Giese** and **Devin Scherck**.



Our own **Steve Jensen** accompanied the eisteddfod rehearsals and concert on Saturday, as well as the church service and both sessions of the 91st National Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday.

Danny Proud and **Joe Corbin** were eisteddfod competitors.

Above: Steve Jensen at the console during the gymanfa ganu.

In the seminar department, **Robert Humphries** delivered two topics—“From Wales to the Heart of America: The Journey of John Evans” and “The Welsh

Experience on the Great Plains and Beyond.” **Danny Proud** teamed up with Laurel Bradshaw of Minnesota to lead a workshop in Welsh Folk Dancing.

At the NAWF banquet on Friday evening, **Danny Proud** and **Jan Jones Batty** joined a group photo of former NAFOW chairpersons.

Behind the scenes, **Jan Jones Batty** and **Laura Batty** staffed the registration desk and **Jan Jones Batty, Joe Corbin** and **Danny Proud** served on the 2023 Welsh North American Association board which plans the festival.



Above: Joe Corbin directs late-night singing at the hotel.



Above, back row: Eisteddfod participants Joe Corbin (2nd from left), Steve Jensen (2nd from right) and Danny Proud (right) from Wisconsin.

Right: Joe Corbin and Bron Wentzel (far right) greet Bronwen the corgi.



Above: Some of the Wisconsin contingent posed for a photo after the Sunday morning worship service.

Below: Robert Humphries fields questions after one of his seminar presentations.

