



HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

M^cCULLOUGH FAMILY GIFT

By AdaMae Lewis. Photo: Beth Landmesser

The family of Joyce M^cCullough and the late Gaylord McCullough, Conesville, Iowa, has made a donation to WNAA in their honor. Joyce, a life-time member of the Association and member of the Iowa Welsh Society, spoke during the Annual General Meeting of the WNAA membership during the recent NAFOW in Toronto, and told how each of her 10 children joined together to make this donation possible. To be known as the 'Gaylord and Joyce McCullough Family Bequest,' the donation is to be used to sponsor the accompanist each year at NAFOW.



Joyce McCullough and family present check to treasurer, David Allen.

Joyce said the accompanist was chosen as the recipient of the gift because without an outstanding accompanist, the NAFOW would not be a success. Joyce also sponsored the accompanist at the 2013 NAFOW.

Three of Joyce's daughters, Donna Brun, Denise McCullough, Deb Smith, daughter-in-law Sheryl

McCullough, and friend Elaine Prom accompanied her to Toronto to the Festival. The seven other donors are Dianne Lauber, David McCullough, Donald McCullough, Doris Keldgord, Darlene Schweitzer, Dayle Pretz and Daniel McCullough.

Megan Williams, Executive Secretary of WNAA, said this is the largest gift from a living member in the history of the Association. David Allen, WNAA Treasurer, said the income from the donation should be enough to endow the accompanist in perpetuity. WNAA extends its gratitude and thanks to the family for their generous gift in honor of their parents.

DIOLCH YN FAWR!

By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary, WNAA

This year's North American Festival of Wales was an overwhelming success. It was a wonderful weekend, enjoyed by so many. It was also a financial success, so it will fund the overhead and operating costs of the Association for the next 12 months. The Festival would not have been possible without the help and support of so many, so, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I say, "Diolch yn fawr!"

We had a wonderful, dedicated local committee under the strong leadership of Betty Cullingworth. They are experienced in running their own annual event in Ontario and their teamwork shined. Each individual worked hard, yet made it all seem so effortless. The local committee helped so much with advanced planning and contributed a huge amount of support which made the weekend possible. We were very lucky this year, once again, to receive so many sponsorships and donations, all which helped cover the costs of running the Festival. Thank you so much to those who donated. The sponsors were listed in the program book and acknowledged on posters at the Festival but, once again, I would like to take a minute and thank them all. In addition, all Festival donations, memorials and general gifts made a substantial contribution. Collectively, sponsorships and donations accounted for one third of all festival related income.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of those who attended because, without you, we would not have a Festival! Members and friends traveled from across the US, Canada and Wales to join in the fellowship and friendship which is "NAFOW". So to those who worked hard, sponsored, donated, came and enjoyed, thank you so much because each and every one of you helped to make this Festival possible. Until we meet again.....

NAFOW 2104: Minneapolis, Minnesota RESERVE EARLY!

Headquarters Hotel: Hyatt Regency –Nicollet Mall

Hotel bookings: 1-888-421-1442

Code "North American Festival of Wales 2014" *or*

Book on-line at www.NAFOW.org and
click on the accommodation link.

Festival Rates: \$119+ night singles, doubles, & triples

Regency rooms from \$159

Rates will be available from August 22 thru

September 6, 2014, depending on availability.

See back page [p.10] for hotel and city attractions!!

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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

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THE COST OF RUNNING A FESTIVAL

*By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary, WNAA
 Photos: Beth Landmesser*

Planning a successful North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) takes a lot of work and a lot of money! Many elements of the festival have an obvious cost, like paying for entertainment and printing program books, but many more costs may not be so obvious, but I believe it is something important for members and supporters of WNAA and NAFOW to understand.

To run a successful Festival, we need to make use of function rooms in our headquarters hotel. One large room might normally rent for as much as \$10,000, and we use dozens of rooms of different sizes. To get the hotel to waive its rental fee, WNAA needs to guarantee a certain

number of room nights and a certain amount spent on food and beverages. If there is a cash bar as part of an event, WNAA is obligated to meet a certain number of sales. If we don't, we have to pay the difference. By staying at the Festival hotel and by joining in group meals and functions, you are helping WNAA meet these obligations. Food and drinks purchased in the hotel separate from NAFOW functions do not count towards our contractual obligation. If we don't meet the required minimums, we are subject to financial penalties, which, as a non-profit, we cannot afford.



Clive Phillips of Cor Meibion Pontarddulais, conducting 'with hwyl'!

Hotels also charge for other things we use. For example, using an easel or borrowing a flipchart comes with an associated cost, and some hotels won't let us bring our own easels and flipcharts. The hotel supplies hot water for the tearoom at our expense. It isn't just the hot water, it is labor, the cups and saucers, spoons, milk and sugar, and washing the dishes, all supplied and done by the hotel. Even though the tea and Welsh cakes are donated, we only break even charging \$3. The cost of the hot water is negotiated in the contract and is discounted from what the hotel would actually charge if it weren't.



The Three Welsh Tenors in the Opening Concert

If the *Gymanfa* is in a hotel, we have to hire an organ; if it is in a church, we have to pay a rental fee. We pay for an accompanist, a conductor, seminar speakers, singers, projectors, speakers, piano rentals and tuning, microphones, signs, advertising, and shipping all the Association's things to the festival. Running a Festival is expensive. The Festival pass is there to help offset some of these overhead costs and to help provide attendees with a professional and enjoyable experience. It also allows us to keep the cost of meal tickets, tour tickets and concert tickets lower. I would like to reinforce the message on the front page thanking those who came this year because attendance is the main driver measuring a Festival's success and enabling us to plan for the future.

An Appeal From The President

Dear Members and Friends of WNAA,

What an incredible experience we had at our 2013 North American Festival of Wales...and what a warm Toronto welcome we were given at the beautiful Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

It's fun to take a moment and think back just a few weeks ago to ... meeting long-time friends, making new friends, listening to the incredible Cor Meibion Pontarddulais, the awesome Three Tenors and very talented Catrin Davies, singing with great *hwyl* at the Gymanfa and into the wee hours, brushing up on the Welsh language, congratulating the Eisteddfod winners, enjoying excellent films and seminars, finding unique items at the marketplace, and even learning a few Welsh dance steps! What a wonderful opportunity we have each year to share our love for all things Welsh.

It is exciting to know that plans are already well under way for the 2014 Festival. If you weren't able to be with us this year, you won't want to miss the next North American Festival of Wales, Aug 28–31, 2014, in the city of lakes: Minneapolis, Minnesota!

These memory-making gatherings could never occur without support from friends like you! During this Annual Appeal Season, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. You may make your contribution through the WNAA website: www.thewnaa.org, and click on 'make a donation' button. Alternatively, you may use the return envelope in this issue of HWYL for credit card or check made payable to WNAA and mail to:

WNAA International Headquarters
PO Box 1054
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Join us in our exciting, continuing goal to bring Welsh enrichment wherever we assemble together!

Diolch yn fawr iawn,



Barbara E Leedy, President WNAA



Barbara Leedy

WNAA Elects New Officers and Trustees

By AdaMae Lewis Photo: Beth Landmesser

The Welsh North American Association (WNAA) Board of Trustees elected three officers at their August 28 meeting during the recent North American Festival of Wales in Toronto. Barbara Leedy of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was elected president, Ian Samways of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was elected vice-president and David Allen of Owego, New York, was re-elected treasurer. Eight trustees were elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting, held August 31. AdaMae

Lewis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees recommended by the Committee. The slate was elected unanimously.



Some of the newly elected and returning trustees at the AGM.

Lezlie Wood of Ottawa, Ontario, was re-elected to a second three-year term and David Llewelyn Williams of Vancouver, British Columbia, was elected to a three-year term. Lezlie and David join sitting trustees Myfanwy Bajaj and David Matthews representing Canada on the Board.

Jeanne Jones Jindra of Rio Grande, Ohio, was re-elected to represent the area east of the Mississippi. Newly elected trustees representing the same part of the U.S. are Rev. Robert Dayton of Sarver, Pennsylvania, Dale Richards of Verona, Pennsylvania, Beth Landmesser of Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, and Gareth Howell of Falls Church, Virginia.

Kay Gavin of Roseville, Minnesota, was re-elected to represent the area west of the Mississippi.

To be nominated for an officer position, one must have been a member of WNAA for at least three years, and to be nominated as a trustee one must have been a member for at least one year. Officer terms are for two years and all but the president can be re-elected a second term. Trustees serve terms of three years and can be re-elected once. Former trustees must leave the Board for at least two years before they can be considered for re-election.

Trustees completing their second three-year term and leaving the Board were Richard Donohoe of Charleston, South Carolina, and Nancy Wright of New York City. AdaMae Lewis left the Board as Immediate Past President and Hywel Davies became the Immediate Past President.

Memorials [since August 15, 2013]

John R. Jones in memory of David R. Jones & Ellen Iola Jones
Jack Owen in memory of John R. Owen Jr.

St. David's Society of St. Petersburg in memory of Emerson Hughes

Donations [since August 15, 2013]

Larry Owen Griffiths, Lenexa, KS	friend
Meinir Heilbrun, San Diego, CA	contributor
Robert Scholle, Irvine, CA	contributor
Nancy Reese, Shulkill Haven, PA	supporter
Kayla & Joel Ware, Seattle, WA	supporter
St. David's Society of the Slate Belt	donor

THE OPENING CEREMONY

By David Llewelyn Williams

This year's Opening Ceremony, conceived with much attention to detail by Hefina Phillips, presented a novel and cheerful welcome. A backdrop, which featured Welsh symbols together with the Toronto CN Tower and Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, had been specially designed for the event by Tara Thomas.



The ceremony began with three children presenting, in turn, the Canadian, American and Welsh flags, followed by singing the three National Anthems, led by Gaynor Jones Low. The tone of the event was firmly established by the ladies choir, Merched Dewi and friends, conducted enthusiastically by Betty Cullingworth, who sang "I'r Wyl" based on Dafydd Iwan's song "I'r Gad" with words composed by Hefina. Here's the first verse and chorus:

*It gives us greatest pleasure to welcome you up north
Despite the border crossings, we know it's really worth
The hassle and the worry of passports and so forth,
And now that you are with us, we all can sing, with
force, We all can sing with force.
I'r Wyl! I'r Wyl! Dewch Gymru hen ac ifanc, (clap,
clap) Dewch i'r Wyl!*



After this spirited start, we were entertained by young members of Dewi Sant Church attired in historical costumes of famous Ontario Welsh citizens who discussed their roles in Canada's history. Others sang solos or duets



or played the harp, impressive contributions from the future of the Welsh community in Toronto!

A solo by Gaynor Jones Low centered this portion of the program, which concluded with words of welcome from Betty Cullingworth, the Local Venue Chair, who also acknowledged the creative hard work of Hefina Phillips, accompanist David Low, designer Tara Thomas, and all the others who had contributed to make the performance a success.



Gaynor Jones Low and David Low

The afternoon ended with a performance of Hefina's version of "We'll keep a welcome" performed by Sheryl Clay and the Ladies choir.

*We'll keep a welcome in Ontario;
We're delighted that you came
To share with us your love of Cymru
And keep alive the burning flame.*

These verses brought an exceptional introduction to the Festival to a close and we all left in an inspired positive mood for the Opening Concert by The Three Welsh Tenors.

Thanks to photographers Lynette Jenkins [for Merched Dewi Choir photo] and Andy Greiner [for photos of the children].

SINGING WITH HWYL AND HIRAETH

by Huw Christopher, Tustin, California

During the intermission of the Opening Concert of the North American Festival of Wales with the Three Welsh Tenors, my wife and I spoke with a visitor from Toronto who was attending the concert with her daughter who was starting to learn Welsh. She said, "I have never heard the national anthems (the Canadian and American anthems with which the concert opened) sung with such *hwyl*." Well actually she did not use the word *hwyl* but her reference to enthusiasm and passion certainly spoke in the direction of that Welsh word.

I was reminded of her words on Sunday afternoon when Clive Philips referred to his experience of playing the organ for the Vancouver, B.C. *Gymanfa Ganu* in 1980 and experiencing hymn singing like he had never heard previously. It was good at the end of the evening session on Sunday when he could say that we again had overwhelmed him with our enthusiastic singing, this time, of course, under his conducting. It is great that for him too we had not lost the *hwyl* when we gather for our annual National Festival.

As I enjoyed the privilege of being at my first Festival in several years to share in the *hwyl* of singing out of our Welsh heritage, I appreciated the way in which Edward Morus Jones reminded us at the *Ysgol Gan*, as well as at the Informal Hymn Singing that he led, that as important as how enthusiastically we sing is to appreciate what we are singing. Certainly this is more of a challenge to have this *hiraeth* of the words than just the *hwyl* of the music for people who, like myself, cannot understand all of the Welsh words we love to sing so enthusiastically.



Singing with hwyl and hiraeth at the Sunday Gymanfa Ganu in Toronto, accompanist, Alan Thomas in the foreground.

Our *cymanfa* hymnbook, of course, helps in part where some of the Welsh words are translated into English, but this is not always the case when different English words from the Welsh words are set to the same familiar tune. He and the Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies in our Sunday Morning Worship Service would remind us that the hymns we love to sing come out of the most important *hiraeth* that the writers felt, not for their native land, but for the God who is the source of life and music. This is what we continue to recognize each time we gather for a *cymanfa ganu* and begin and close our time together in prayer. In this way we affirm that we are not participating in a concert but celebrating our own *hiraeth*, our own longing for the God whom the writers of the hymns sought to worship through their words as much as their music. I do not know whether the person with whom my wife and I spoke returned on Sunday but I hope that if she did she went away not just appreciating the *hwyl* of our singing but also the *hiraeth* of the words we sang.

A Successful and Memorable Journey - Elizabeth Shoemaker

During the summer of 2012, I began learning two vocal pieces to perform for the David G. Morris award at the North American Festival of Wales Eisteddfod. I entered the competition for the experience, with little thought of actually winning. When I was given first place and the scholarship to compete at the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh, Wales in August 2013, I was completely shocked. However, the judges did tell me that I needed to work hard on my Welsh pronunciation. Over this past year, I took on the challenge to learn, memorize, and be able to perform five vocal pieces in Welsh. The categories I entered included Oratorio, Art Song, Welsh Song, and Operatic ages 19 through 25.



Elizabeth in Wales!

To prepare for the National Eisteddfod, I had many people help me. First, was my mom's cousin, Glynn Morris, a well-known singer in Wales and England. He has won first place at the Eisteddfod several times. He helped me with my pronunciation and music. I was also able to go up to Wilkes-Barre, to stay with our family friend, Meryl Davis, and learn the Welsh pronunciation. I'm truly thankful to both Glynn and Meryl for their help.

My mom and I flew to Wales on July 27th. The preliminaries were held in quaint chapels in the town of Denbigh. The Maes, (the Eisteddfod field), was outside of the town in a field. From the preliminaries the judges choose three competitors to compete on the big stage on the Eisteddfod field. I was not chosen to compete on the big stage from any of my competitions, but I am very happy with how I did. I had several people, including a well known Welsh tenor, come to me and say I should have made it to the stage.

I certainly wasn't discouraged by not being chosen to go on in the competitions. I was the only competitor who didn't speak Welsh. Going from having a lot of work to do on my Welsh pronunciation, to singing four songs in Welsh and having no negative comments from the judges is a huge accomplishment. It's only by the grace of God that I could do it!

My journey to the National Eisteddfod was definitely a challenge for me, but because of it I've become a better singer! I'm so thankful to the sponsors of the David G. Morris Memorial Award for the opportunity to compete in the National Eisteddfod and to everyone who has helped me, supported me, and prayed for me. In my eyes this journey was definitely a success and a memory that I will always keep with me. I am forever grateful!

WNAA'S NEW TRUSTEES

The Rev. Robert Dayton, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, has been a Presbyterian Minister for 38 years in Pennsylvania and Hong Kong. He is an active member of Puppeteers of America and director of Pastime Puppets. Bob is a Board member of the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh and was active in the New Castle Welsh group when it was in active status. He has attended eight NAFOWS and is interested in



Welsh poetry and promoting Welsh heritage and culture.

Dale Richards, a retired educator, was publicity chair for the 1989 Pittsburgh National and on the planning team and seminar presenter for the 2009 NAFOW. He is co-chair for the Welsh Nationality Room in University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, and co-coordinator for the local Welsh language class. Dale is secretary and informal archivist for the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh, and he has done TV interviews on behalf of the society. He is a member of the Order of the Ivorites and speaks to groups about Wales. He was a member of the local choir and can work with diverse groups.



David Llewelyn Williams is Professor Emeritus of Physics from University of BC. He was born in Prestatyn, North Wales. He is executive member and membership secretary of the Vancouver Welsh Society. He has also been their newsletter editor since 2001. His interest is in Welsh poetry and culture and the English poetry of R. S. Thomas. He regularly contributes to the newsletter. See the society newsletter for his articles [www.welshsociety.com].



Contributing Photographers: Many thanks to Beth Landmesser and Ian Samways who have contributed photos for use in this issue of Hwyl!

If you have an exciting NAFOW photograph that you may wish to share with Hwyl readers, please send it to the editor!

AWOs MEET DURING NAFOW

By AdaMae Lewis

The Affiliated Welsh Organizations (AWO) of the Welsh North American Association (WNAA) met during the recent North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) in Toronto. There were representatives from member societies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Virginia, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York and Washington, DC. These groups are members who have paid a \$50 one-time membership fee to become an AWO and are listed on the WNAA website. People looking for local societies can find them at www.nafoworg/WNAA_NAFOW/wnaa_awo. There are member AWOs in the USA, Canada, Wales, Australia and New Zealand.



*AWO member,
Robert J. Jones.*

Participants discussed successful events such as trivia quiz nights and weekend events with language classes, presentations and afternoon teas. Films have been successful several places, but finding films and the equipment that will play the films from Wales were limiting factors. Some societies' members and officers have provided programs for nearby societies. Pub-crawls have been found to be a good way to recruit new members for some societies.

Societies in less populated areas, or where the members are widely separated, have to deal with driving long distances, which precludes evening events without an overnight stay. In these areas, carpooling to provide rides for members who no longer drive was discussed.

Some have promoted their societies by printing their logo on clothing. Ordering on Zazzle.com allowed them to order as needed, so they do not have a stock of unwanted items and sizes.

The group expressed interest in keeping in touch to communicate easily and share information or ask questions of other groups. For instance, if a musical group is performing at a venue and would like to do another performance in a certain area, the information could be circulated quickly. AdaMae Lewis, who moderated the meeting, agreed WNAA would investigate possibilities for communicating among the AWOs and re-activating an AWO Liaison to maintain communication among WNAA and member groups. Contact Megan Williams, Executive Secretary, WNAA International Headquarters, wnaahq@gmail.com, with questions and comments. For those who have not attended this meeting during NAFOW, it is a great opportunity to share your societies' questions and successes. Look for the meeting to be held on Friday morning, August 29th, at the 2014 NAFOW in Minneapolis.

NAFOW EISTEDDFOD

A North American Festival of Talent

by Ian K. Samways. Photographs: Ian Samways

Eisteddfodau are spirited occasions where individuals share their artistic gifts and "win" by establishing and outdoing their own personal bests and benchmarks. This year's NAFOW Eisteddfod proved this truism in spades, with a wealth of talent from the U.S. and Canada that impressed adjudicators and spectators alike.

The Eisteddfod opened on Friday morning, August 30, with the recitation competitions. The presence of Gwyneth Morus Jones was sorely missed. Gwyneth often adjudicated these competitions in the past and, sadly, passed away last December. We honored her memory with some opening remarks on her tremendous impact on our *eisteddfod* over the years, and through the outstanding work of this year's recitation adjudicators, Myfanwy Bajaj and Joan Owen Mandry.

In the Adult Recitation competition, Anne-Marie Sheridan from near Ithaca, NY, put on a very expressive interpretation of "*Hedd Wyn*" by R. Williams Parry, but David Llewelyn Williams of Vancouver, BC, won out in the close competition. David also shared with the



Alan Thomas, *eisteddfod* competitors and Alan Upshall

audience a brief explanation of the poem's organization into two parts evocating an historical *eisteddfod* in Blackpool, England.

Conversations with Welsh learners last year led to the introduction of a new category this year: Learner's Recitation for Adults, specifically geared to learners who may not yet be fully conversant in Welsh but who are, nonetheless, prepared to tackle the intricacies of poems in Welsh. Lynn Jencks of Chicago won with a passionate rendition of the poem "*Y Gwew*" (The Cuckoo) by Ceiriog, and Nancy Wright of New York City placed a respectable second with her own evocative and well-delivered effort.

On Saturday, August 31, the focus switched to singing. Alan Thomas stepped in as our masterful accompanist. We were also privileged to welcome as adjudicators the Three Welsh Tenors, Aled Hall, Rhys Meirion, and Alun Rhys-Jenkins, their accompanist Caradog Williams, and the Rev. Cerwyn Davies.

For the Hymn Singing competition, each competitor sang one hymn in Welsh. Caradog and the Rev. Davies

adjudicated. John Owen of Idaho, a longtime NAFOW Eisteddfod veteran, prevailed in a close competition with Nancy Wright. In the Open Solo competition, all three Welsh tenors adjudicated, John Owen met his namesake... Jack Owen from Pittsburgh. John from Idaho won again in a close contest, each having sung two pieces in Welsh.

The signature competition for each NAFOW Eisteddfod is the David G. Morris Memorial Award competition, officially the "Solo/Semi-Professional" category. The winner receives a \$3500 cash scholarship to travel to the following year's National Eisteddfod of Wales. The three tenors adjudicated the Morris competition, and each of this year's two entrants brought forward examples of outstanding personal achievement, each singing two pieces in Welsh.

In the end, Rhys Meirion took the lectern to award the prize to Laura Styler of Calgary, Alberta, while Nancy Wright earned a hard-fought second. Laura is a native of the Pontypridd area in Wales, teaches voice in Calgary and is an active member of the Calgary Welsh Society; she remarks, "I am so privileged to be able to go back to my homeland of Wales and compete in the Eisteddfod. I am looking forward having my friends and family there



Laura Styler with Rhys Meirion

to support me... a feeling of '*hiraeth*' is what I feel toward this opportunity!"

Saturday's Eisteddfod Concert lived up to its billing as a seminal NAFOW event. All competitors took the stage and offered stellar performances. In one very memorable moment, Nancy Wright led the entire audience in a rousing rendition of "Jerusalem." The concert closed with outgoing *Eisteddfod* Committee Chair, Alan Upshall, awarding Nancy and John Owen special certificates to recognize their longstanding support of the NAFOW Eisteddfod; Nancy, for her commitment to competing every year in one or more competitions, and John, for his long-term support – he won the men's solo voice competition in our first *eisteddfod* in Bellevue, Washington in 1994 – and eight other competition victories.

Outgoing WNAA President Hywel Davies then took the stage to commend Alan with immense gratitude and appreciation for his development of our *eisteddfod*.

Alan looked back over the years and said, "It has been a delight to work with the many competitors, adjudicators, accompanists and local organizers who have all contributed to the success of the NAFOW Eisteddfod, and I thank them all for keeping this essential component of Welsh heritage a viable part of the annual NAFOW program."

TORONTO NAFOW Gives Boost to Welsh Learners

By Lynn Jencks Photo: Beth Landmesser

In the spring issue of HWYL this year, I shared my reflections on the wonderful connections I made at NAFOW in Scranton with Welsh speakers doing the Say Something in Welsh online program. I also shared my hopes for renewing those connections and meeting new Welsh learners in Toronto, and I wasn't disappointed!

This year, I was part of a team of volunteers, including Mary, Anne Marie, Bronwyn, and Gillian, who staffed a Say Something in Welsh table in the Marketplace, with a vision of facilitating Welsh learners and speakers of all abilities – from “planning on starting” hopefuls to fluent and native speakers – to connect and encourage each other. We certainly gave out a lot of information about Say Something in Welsh, a free online program we all love and are passionate about, but more importantly, we got to practice our Welsh and make new friends in the process.

A definite highlight was the Scrabble board we had at our table, where we encouraged passersby to add a Welsh word to the layout. Our most avid player was definitely Caradog Williams, the three tenors' accompanist, a seasoned Scrabbler who cheerfully added a word whenever I caught him walking by the table. Besides connections made at the table during Marketplace hours, we hosted two late-afternoon meet-ups to chat in Welsh, making great connections not only with our friends from last year's meet-ups, but also getting to know other Say Something in Welsh learners we hadn't met in Scranton. We also encouraged a whole new group of beginning learners. Not only did they have the courage to come to our meet-ups to have a first go at chatting in Welsh; they also came to an informal “taster” of, where as a group they gave a go at a beginning Say Something in Welsh lesson.

For my part, there were two especially rewarding aspects of the Toronto festival. Cheering on new learners was definitely one of them. The other was the heart-warming encouragement I received from all manner of native speakers and advanced Welsh learners who stopped by the table and kindly stuck with me in my many pauses to search for words. It was the NAFOW community who initially gave me the encouragement to begin, and this year I once again returned home from the festival with renewed passion for taking the next step in my own journey as a Welsh learner. A big “*diolch yn fawr iawn*” to all!



Welsh New Zealand is Calling You!



For generations, the Welsh have emigrated to far off places with a dream of another way of life. We've immigrated in droves to many countries around the world and settled in areas with landscapes and communities that reminded us of *home* – the ocean, the mountains, the lush green pastures, the plentiful rivers, the warm community, culture and song. One of those countries is New Zealand. It has welcomed the Welsh for years, and still does today.

Kia ora! Hello! Croeso! The Welsh of New Zealand invite you to visit their beautiful country and to sing at their National Cymanfa Ganu Festival in Rotorua, October 25-26, 2014. Welsh from far and wide will gather at the historic Maori meetinghouse on the shores of Lake Rotorua for some memorable festivities. There'll be much sharing of talent and song including the cymanfa ganu itself on Sunday afternoon, conducted by Mari Morgan.

Rotorua is a fitting place to host the 2014 NZ National Cymanfa Ganu Festival being located in the center of the heartland of the Maori heritage and culture. After singing, one of the strongest links between Wales and New Zealand is rugby. All Welsh rugby fans know the New Zealand team, *The All Blacks*, and the Maori *Haka* war dance. Frightening and intimidating their opponents is the reason but, of course, we Welsh aren't fazed!

Throughout New Zealand there are many Welsh influences to enjoy. The majestic fjords of **Milford Sound** named for Milford Haven in Wales, called by Rudyard Kipling “the eighth wonder of the world”. Then there are the Bryn Derwyns in the Northlands and spectacular Queenstown in the south settled by William Gilbert Rees.

Good food and drink are plentiful in New Zealand. Its wineries benefit from the temperate climate and in one case, some very capable Welsh management. A Welshman is at the helm of New Zealand Opera Company and a woman of Welsh heritage is the country's Chief Justice.

As one proud Welsh-American said after touring New Zealand with Mari Morgan in 2011, “New Zealand for me is paradise on earth!”

If you'd like to see New Zealand for yourself while having fun traveling with others, exploring new places and meeting new people, all with Welsh *hwyl* - visit morgansongjourneys@gmail.com or call 201-602-8027 and request your Welsh New Zealand brochure today from Mari Morgan at MorganSong Journeys. **You're invited!**

A STORY WITH A MORAL

for your local Welsh Society

by David Allen

Our Society is based in the Southern Tier of New York. We were one of the sponsoring societies for the Scranton Festival. It generated a lot of interest and attendance from our area. Toronto was a six-hour drive across an international border and one of North America's biggest cities! Most of our members would not undertake such a trip. But we had an idea. What about a bus that would pick you up locally and take you to the front door of the hotel? Maybe that would get people interested in going.



How to estimate the number of people interested was a guessing game. There is a fine balance in finding the point at which the bus was viable and affordable. In the end, thirty-seven people signed

up, most of whom said they would *not* have gone to Toronto without the bus. Thirty-seven extra registrations is a big deal for WNAA. The viability of our Festivals is all about numbers. Thirty-seven people from Northeast Pennsylvania and the Southern Tier of New York made a big difference to the success of NAFOW. We had people from Philadelphia and New Jersey and Ohio who were willing to drive to Wilkes-Barre to catch the bus, so they wouldn't have to do the whole journey on their own. The moral of the story is that *all* Welsh societies should think of ways to organize transport to the Festival.

Next year we will *not* organize a bus trip all the way to Minnesota; we have a better idea. We will use the same pick up points, but the bus will take us to an upstate New York airport with non-stop service to Minneapolis. Members can drive to the bus pick up area and take the bus to the front door of the airport. WNAA will negotiate a discounted group fare for the flight. In Minneapolis, there is a shuttle to and from the airport.

The point of all this is that people want travel made easy. Take the anxiety out of travel and people will sign up. Our guess is that people will gladly travel to Minneapolis for a great festival if we offer a worry free travel experience. If you are within busing distance – Wisconsin, for example -- think about a bus. If you are farther away, think about a bus/plane combination. Discounted options are available for groups of ten or more. WNAA is also investigating a “Festival airline” with discounts available. Details will follow.

Feel free to contact Megan Williams at IHQ who helped organize and coordinate this past year's bus. IHQ@thewnaa.org or 607-279-7402.

TORONTO'S TEAM APPROACH

by Betty Cullingworth

As the venue of the 2013 North American Festival of Wales, Toronto decided to adopt a team approach as venue hosts. Every year the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association sponsors the Ontario Welsh Festival (OWF) so the structure and implementation of Festival organization is firmly in place. The Board of the OGGGA ably assisted by a few other very capable volunteers met many times over the course of the year to ensure that the festival would be staged as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Members of the team volunteered to undertake the organization of areas with which they had considerable experience (i.e. organizing the marketplace, the tearoom, the opening ceremony, tours etc.) and that helped to make the whole more than the sum of its parts and allowed for a successful implementation of the Festival vision.

Of course, the WNAA board members with Megan Williams in a leadership role play a critical role in the basic framework and implementation of the weekend events. Without them, there would be no festival.

But it is helpful for local communities to remember the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child”. When considering whether to act as venue hosts for a NAFOW festival, consider the skill sets of all your local potential committee members. That makes the Festival planning not only more manageable but a lot more enjoyable too.

HELP COMMEMORATE WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY AT NAFOW 2014

by Kay Gavin

The 100-year anniversary of the start of “The Great War,” World War I, will be observed in August, 2014. Many commemorations are being planned honoring those who served.

At the 2014 North American Festival of Wales in Minneapolis, we would like to honor your Welsh ancestors who participated in the war by displaying their stories and pictures. If you have a Welsh ancestor who served in WW1, we would like to hear from you.

Please write about your serviceman in 100 words or less: name, birthplace and date, where served, rank achieved, brief history of his life, burial place and relationship to the writer. Include *copies only* of a picture of the soldier, letters he may have written while serving or any memorabilia you may have.

Send your stories to: Kay Gavin, 2737 Aglen St., Roseville, MN 55113-2046 or by e-mail to kaywgavin@hotmail.com by March 1, 2014.

Thank you for helping us honor those who served.

[The official website in Wales: www.walesremembers.org]

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Experience the newly renovated Hyatt Regency Minneapolis:

- *perfectly situated downtown on Nicollet Mall
- *Minnesota culture and Scandinavian heritage décor
- *Lobby floor, check-in area, and bathrooms feature granite quarried locally from a century old Minnesota company
- *StayFit™ Athletic Club is a 32,000 sq.ft. facility, free to all hotel guests and features a heated indoor pool.

*Beginning of downtown skyway system, connecting sixty-nine full city blocks over eleven miles.

*Close to Sculpture Garden and the Walker Art Center and ethnically diverse restaurants.

*Attractions within five-to-ten-mile radius: Guthrie Theater, Minnesota History Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Science Museum of Minnesota, American Swedish Institute, Museum of Russian Art, Mill City Museum Minnesota State Fair (Aug. 21 – Sept. 1, 2014) and the Mall of America (one of the most visited tourist attraction in the world).

WALKING THE COASTAL PATH OF WALES

In support of *cancer research and associated service in Wales, the United States and Canada*, WNAA members, David and Mona Matthews ask for your support for their plan to walk this 1400km/870 mile, four-month journey in the Spring of 2014. For further information email David at dawi_rae@yahoo.ca.

