



# HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## CALGARY 2016



NAFOW, the North American Festival of Wales comes to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, September 1 through 4, 2016. At our headquarters hotel, the Calgary Westin, you will be in the downtown heart of the “the gateway city to the Canadian Rockies” close to many world-renowned attractions.

Festival rates are available at \$125 Canadian +tax per night for Single, Double, Triple or Quad rooms. Extend your stay and take advantage of great Festival room rates. Early booking is recommended as extended stay rooms are subject to room availability.

Reserve rooms at this rate online at [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org) (click “NAFOW Accommodations”) or telephone the Westin, toll free 1-800-WESTIN1 and provide the NAFOW reservation code: “North American Festival of Wales 2016.”

Early reservations are strongly recommended, as Calgary is a top destination! The Westin will hold our block of rooms open until *August 10 or until it is filled*, whichever date comes first. Please don't assume that rooms will be available if you wait to reserve. Our block could easily sell out early. Don't be disappointed, reserve now! *Parking* is included for overnight guests.



## EXTEND YOUR STAY IN HISTORIC BANFF

IN 1883 when the Canadian Pacific Railway pushed its way through the Canadian Rockies, three of its workers discovered the, now famous, Banff Hot Springs. These hot springs and the majestic surrounding areas were to become Canada's first National Park in 1885.

In 1985, the United Nations declared Banff National Park, one of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks, a World Heritage Site. Banff remains one of the most popular tourist destinations in Canada and the world.

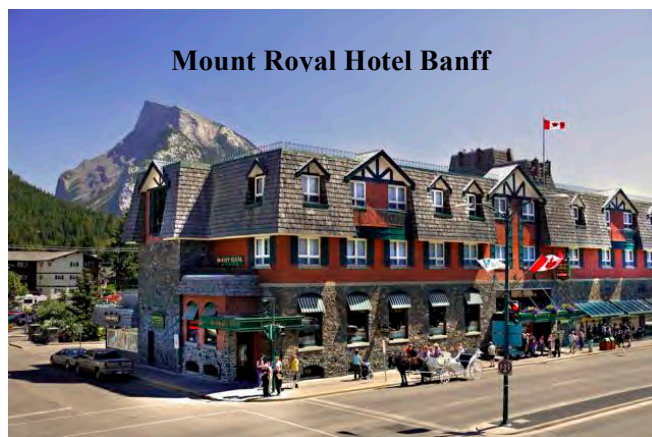
### VISIT THIS WORLD FAMOUS RESORT! BOOK “THE TWO-NIGHT BANFF TOUR”!

The tour, from Monday September 5 to Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, includes:

- early Monday morning pick-up and transportation from the Westin Hotel, Calgary
- 2 nights, Monday and Tuesday, at the Mount Royal Hotel in Banff
- Monday and Tuesday lunches
- a group dinner on the Tuesday evening
- tours and admissions for a full day on Monday and a ½ day Tuesday
- a discounted Calgary airport shuttle bus rate which departs the Mount Royal 5 times a day
- If booking the this tour, please **do not** book a departure from Calgary on Wednesday **before noon** as travelling from Banff to Calgary for a departure time before noon will not be possible.

*Price for above based on double occupancy: C\$550  
Single supplement price for the above is C\$160*

You also have the opportunity to extend your stay at the Mount Royal Hotel for C\$140 per night.



**WNAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2013-2014**

President: Ian Samways, Pennsylvania  
 Vice President: Will Fanning, California  
 Secretary: Helen Steinle, British Columbia  
 Treasurer: David R. Allen, New York  
 Past President: Barbara Leedy, Michigan  
 Systems Coordinator, Gerri Baker Perry, Washington

**US EAST**

Robert Dayton, Pennsylvania  
 Richard Donohoe, S. Carolina  
 Lincoln Hartford, Wisconsin  
 Gareth Howell, Virginia  
 Jeanne Jones Jindra, Ohio  
 Beth Landmesser, Pennsylvania  
 Danny Proud, Wisconsin  
 Dale Richards, Pennsylvania

Kay Gavin, Minnesota

Evans Paschal, Washington

Kay Thomas, Minnesota

**CANADA**

Gwen Dodson, Ontario

David Matthews, Alberta

David Llewelyn Williams,

British Columbia

Lezlie Wood, Ontario

**US WEST**

Susanna Adkins, California  
 Huw Christopher, California

**WALES**

Edward Morus Jones,

Ynys Môn

**BOARD ASSISTANTS:**

Joan Owen Mandry, Ohio;  
 Elaine Westlake, Alberta

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Megan Williams

P O Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886, Phone 607-279-7402  
 Email wnaahq@gmail.com

**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.*

**HWYL** is published quarterly by the  
 Welsh North American Association.

Editors: David Matthews and Richard Donohoe  
 Direct comments or inquiries to [editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org)

**FYI from IHQ**

*By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary*

THANK YOU!

Diolch yn fawr!

A huge thank you to all who helped to make the 2015 North American Festival of Wales a success. Those who attended the festival in Columbus were able to enjoy high quality entertainment and great Welsh 'hwyl' because of the sponsorship and hard work of many involved. Laura Jenkins Gorun and her local committee worked so hard and added special touches for us all, like the great demonstrations and gifts for those who went on the tours. The sponsors, volunteers and board of trustees all helped to make the weekend work and I say THANK YOU very much. I also want to thank those who spent time helping

in registration, you made my job easier. Diolch yn fawr! Well, what a wonderful time Columbus was and believe it or not, I have already been to Calgary to start working on the 2016 festival! I met with Local Committee chairs David Matthews and Elaine Westlake. Board members Gerry Baker Parry, Will Fanning and Jeanne Jindra travelled up and met me there. We toured the Westin (headquarters hotel), met staff, worked on the program and also visited Knox United church where the Grand Concert and 85<sup>th</sup> Gymanfa Ganu will be held.

Calgary is a great destination and the Westin hotel really is top notch, it will be a treat for all who get to stay there. We anticipate higher than usual booking because of this fantastic destination so PLEASE reserve your hotel room early. A reminder that passports are required for travel to Canada. The hotel booking details are found in *Hwyl* but I want to point out to our American and British attendees what a deal the \$125 CAD rate is. With current exchange rates, this is approx. \$100 US and 70GBP.

We will have two registration forms this year, one in CAD and one in US. Pricing and registration details will be made available by the beginning of February. The Grand Concert and Gymanfa will be held at Knox United Church, a 2 block walk from the Westin. Transportation will be available for those who need it, details to follow.

We have organized an add-on tour to Banff. The 'package' is for 2 nights but additional nights at the Mt. Royal hotel can be added at the negotiated group rate. These bookings will be done through IHQ and can be made starting in Feb. The tour is very likely to sell out, so early booking is advisable. If booking the add on tour, please do not book a departure from Calgary on Wednesday **before noon** as travelling from Banff to Calgary for a departure time before noon will not be possible.

I am happy to answer questions anyone has and can be reached via email: [IHQ@thewnaa.org](mailto:IHQ@thewnaa.org) or 607-279-7402.

I had a wonderful time in Calgary and am so glad we picked it as the venue for the 2016 North American Festival of Wales. I hope to see you there!!!

### **COLUMBUS GYMANFA GANU CDS FOR SALE**

**FULL EVENT, 4 CD SET: \$25 +\$3.50 SHIPPING**

**HYMNS SANG AT BOTH SESSIONS ONLY:**

**2 CD SET \$15 + \$2.50 SHIPPING**

TO ORDER: Send your request to:

Shawn Fenton

18 Sue Drive, Germantown,

Ohio 45327

*Please state which sets and the number of sets you wish to order and accompany your request with a check made out to Shawn Fenton.*





## THE LEGACY SOCIETY KEEPS GROWING!

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that we welcome and thank our newest Legacy members:

**Ellis Jones, St. Peter, MN**

**Audrey Roberts, Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

**Amy Titus & Gareth Howell, Falls Church, VA**

How truly exciting it is to watch the Legacy Society grow as more and more of us feel that deep commitment to 'keep a welcome in the hillsides' by keeping Welsh culture, language, history and SONG alive not only for our generation but for the many generations to come!

If you have any questions about the Legacy Society and how easy it is to join just by including WNAA in your estate planning, just call:

Executive Secretary Megan Williams 607-279-7402 or  
E/mail Board Trustee, [SusannaAdkins@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:SusannaAdkins@SBCGlobal.net)

.....

### NAFOW COLUMBUS: MONDAY TOUR



## LAURA GORUN, CHAIR, NAFOW 2015

WHAT A FESTIVAL....what a year! After a year-and-a-half of research and careful planning, the local committee was finally able welcome NAFOW to Columbus! As many arrived amidst torrential downpours, it was wonderful to greet so many friends, old and new, even while running to help resolve one issue or another. At least the beautiful Ohio September sun prevailed over those occasional showers.

From the beginning, the major challenge was how to offer a glimpse of Columbus effectively within the Festival. Sure, we had our share of challenges that may have interfered with some of our plans. Still, it seemed, much like the sun after those downpours, that what we'd planned prevailed, even when forces beyond our control made us revert to "Plan B."



Looking back, I am grateful beyond more words than I could fit on this page, including: everything my small, but determined local committee managed to accomplish; the excellent partnership, flexibility and support from WNAA; the patience and efforts of the local volunteers; and all who did the myriad little things – and many big things – just to help us make this year's Festival special. And how special it was!

I came away inspired and amazed at this wonderful cultural heritage that is ours to celebrate, and I hope most everyone else did, too. We were especially delighted at how beautifully everything finally came together for Sunday's Gymanfa Ganu in the spectacular setting of our historic Southern Theatre. I really can't imagine a better conclusion to the Festival. And we were thrilled to see so many visitors from Wales, including many great scholars and amazingly talented performers that had been arranged. I hope you all departed inspired and enriched by the Welsh culture and heritage that we share.

As rewarding as it has been to help in some of the organization of the NAFOW, I find that now I am looking forward to returning my focus on creating lovespoons, *and* to enjoying next year's NAFOW in Calgary!

## ATTRACTING *and* RETAINING MEMBERS

IN ACCEPTING the National Welsh-American Foundation's 2015 Heritage Medallion, AdaMae Lewis warmly thanked the foundation and all the people who have worked with her in various organizations for nearly thirty years. Then she spoke passionately about the importance of societies communicating with their members to keep them engaged, explaining that some Welsh societies are in crisis due to declining membership and inactive members.



AdaMae went on to talk about how our organizations need to use modern media, including Facebook, Twitter, online discussion forums, websites, and up-to-date email lists to keep in touch with members, to keep them interested and to attract new members. These are the methods many people use in daily communication, and young people, especially, use these forms of communication, so it is the best way for them to find out about our organizations.

She also spoke about the importance of newsletters for networking internally and externally. A newsletter, in both print and digital format, keeps the organization connected with members who plan to attend events and also with those who cannot attend but remain interested, nevertheless.

Then she spoke about reaching out personally and the importance of welcoming everyone at an organization's events. Oldtimers may know everyone, but new people will not, and they need to be welcomed warmly.

It is also important to plan meetings often enough – at least three times a year -- to develop real friendships among members. Not seeing each other periodically promotes lack of interest and negatively impacts attendance.

Share the larger Welsh-American community with your members. Tell them about events like Cwrs Cymraeg, the Welsh language course sponsored by Cymdeithas Madog; about Welsh Heritage Week, NAFOW, the Malad Valley Welsh Festival, the Ontario Welsh Festival, the Fredericksburg Welsh Festival; events of other societies, local and state *cymanfoedd*, etc. Attending some of these events is a great way to make friends from all over the USA, Canada, and Wales, and network to the advantage of your organization.

You can share your events in the North American Welsh newspaper, *Ninnau & Y Drych*, which AdaMae

encourages everyone to subscribe to. Each issue includes a Calendar of Events where you can learn about other organizations' up-coming activities.

Another way to share the larger Welsh-American community is to participate in WNAA's Affiliated Welsh Organizations, the AWOs. Belonging allows you to share the successes and concerns of your organization with other member societies and to learn from each other. Lifetime society membership is a mere fifty dollars.

It is also important to plan meetings that accommodate the needs of members, taking into consideration, time of day, travel distance, conflicts with other events as well as types of events, especially events organized to reach out to potential members. Once they develop acquaintances and make friends, they may be curious enough to attend other society events and join the organization.



But, AdaMae cautioned, while organizations should value the larger Welsh-American community, they must cherish the members in their local groups.

Thank members for their ideas and their volunteer activities. A good place to do that is in the newsletter.

Thank your officers, as well as members and volunteers, who have worked for the organization. It's amazing how much more willing someone is to volunteer when they hear a thank you.

Thank all donors upon receipt of gifts.

Encourage volunteering. Often you just need to ask someone to help with a specific task, and you will likely get a positive response.

AdaMae concluded that all of this requires time and effort and commitment, but will be well worth it, and wonderful as well, if we are able to continue to celebrate and honor our Welsh heritage successfully.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS OFFICERS

AT ITS MEETING on September 2, the day before NAFOW opened in Columbus, the WNAA Board of Trustees elected officers for two-year terms. To succeed Barbara Leedy, Ian Samways of Pittsburgh was elected president, Will Fanning of Orange, CA, was elected vice-president, Helen Steinle of Qualicum Beach, BC, was re-elected secretary and David Allen of Owego, NY, was re-elected treasurer.

Ian, who is a patent agent, has been attending NAFOW since, to use his words, it "stopped by" Pittsburgh in 2009. His interest in Welsh culture, especially as a part of his heritage, began to manifest itself when he enrolled in St. David's Society of Pittsburgh's informal Welsh language course in 2008. Since then, he "hasn't looked back" having attended seven NAFOWs, three National *Eisteddfodau* in Wales, the Ontario Welsh Festival in Niagara Falls and numerous Welsh-themed events in and around Pittsburgh.

He has served on the WNAA Board of Trustees since 2012 and, at the same time, served as President of St. David's Society of Pittsburgh from 2012 to 2015.

Will, who retired in 2009 from executive leadership positions with the Walt Disney Company, attended his first NAFOW in Minneapolis (1999) at the invitation of his special friend Myra Thomas Lawrence. Since then, Will and his wife Donna have attended every Festival but one. He has served on the WNAA Board of Trustees since 2009 and chaired the Future Venues Committee for the past five years, negotiating contracts for Headquarters Hotels. Will has sung with the Welsh Choir of Southern California since 1999, and served as the Choir's Stage Manager for more than 50 concerts in the United States, Canada and Wales. His Welsh heritage stems from his Grandfather Richard Ison Jones, whose family immigrated to Colorado in the 1870's. He proudly keeps a photo of "his Jones family" in the back of his Hymnal so they can attend every Gymanfa Ganu with him. Will is currently the Lay Leader for Anaheim United Methodist Church and loves to attend the annual Gymanfa Ganu and Welsh Tea at Bryn Seion Welsh Church, Beavercreek, Oregon.



## WNAA ELECTS NEW TRUSTEES

The 1987 National Gymanfa in St. Paul, Minnesota provided an awakening for Danny Proud. He discovered Welsh music, the language, the culture, and the local and national Welsh-American communities. Since then Danny has been active and a leader in Welsh societies in Minnesota and Wisconsin and in organizations such as Welsh Heritage Week, Cymdeithas Madog, the North American Welsh Choir, and the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center. He has directed cym-faoedd canu in the Midwest, edited various newsletters and newspapers (including assisting with *Y Drych* in the 1990s), and has performed with various choral groups, Welsh/Celtic folk bands, and the folk dance group Traed y Ddraig in Minnesota. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin with his wife Robin and enjoys retirement from a career in technical writing in the computer industry.



Edward Morus Jones becomes our board representative from Wales. Hailing from Llandegfan, Edward was a teacher and headmaster for 18 years. Over the years he has written and recorded many songs and albums for children and has written shows plays and musicals. He sings with the renowned Cor Godre'r Aran Male Voice Choir in the Bala area. Edward is a familiar face to many NAFOW attendees who have attended Ysgol Gan seminars and participated in late-night hymn-singing.



Evans Paschal is a retired electrical engineer who worked in academia, designing and building instruments to study the Earth's magnetosphere. He grew up in Washington state and attended his first NAFOW in 1993 in Bellevue, WA. He and his wife Carol were members of the Seattle Welsh Choir and founding members of the North American Welsh Choir. He's a life member of the Puget Sound Welsh Association and the WNAA. A devotee of Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, Evans put together the program booklets for the NAFOWs in 2003, and 2011 through 2015. He loves part-singing, especially in Welsh, and the highlights of the year for him are the June gymanfa ganu at Bryn Seion in Beavercreek, Oregon, and the North American Festival of Wales, wherever it may be.



## COWBOIS CYMRAEG COLUMBUS

*Cledwyn and Julie Haydn Jones*

WHENEVER WE HUM that thrilling tune, Molianwn Holl yn Llon, (celebrate) we think of all the fun times at NAFOW in the friendly city of Columbus, Ohio! When we arrived in our white Stetson cowboy hats we realized how privileged we were to have been chosen as delegates to represent Cymdeithas Cymreig Calgary Welsh Society at the North American Festival of Wales. Remember, NAFOW 2016 will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada!



We believe we can best describe our experiences by using five Welsh words as headings.

- cymdeithas : community
- dawn : talent, gift or exceptional ability
- dysgu : learning and teaching!
- rhagoriaeth : excellence
- hwyl : good mood (it also means a sail and we certainly had wind in our sails in early September!)

In terms of appreciating a deep sense of community we can cite several examples. At the Marketplace and Tea Room we enjoyed talking to many people at various display booths, voluntary organizations and companion Welsh Societies from the U.S. and Canada. We talked to many people with a shared Welsh heritage - from Pasadena to Pittsburgh, Vancouver to Toronto, Columbus to Trelew, Patagonia and Calgary to Aberystwyth.

We were amazed by the quality of the *perfformwyr dawnus*, the gifted performers – harpist, organist and incredible vocalists. We laud the musicians and clog dancer from 'Calan' and the local Ohio musicians who helped Calan when two of its members had problems at the U.S. border. We salute too the excellent Cor y Penrhyn from Bethesda, North Wales, led by the dynamic Owain Arwel Davies who also conducted the superb Gymanfu Ganu. Then there was the folk opera "That was Bob" - the story of the iconic farmer and restaurant entrepreneur Bob Evans, which was directed by Dr. Greg Miller featuring Red Brush Band and a fine group of actors and singers. It was a superb concert - *Britannia waives the rules and rose to a true Welsh crescendo....*

The seminars and workshops were very interesting and well attended. We concentrated on 'dysgu mwy' learning more about Welsh films, particularly those from BBC

Wales and S4C - "Jack to a King" about the fall and rise of Swansea Football Club, "Mamwlad" on the life of poet and humanitarian Cranogwen, "Set Fire to the Stars" regarding the turbulent visit of Dylan Thomas to the U.S. with his 'minder' the academic Dr. John Malcolm Brinnin and the search by Griff Rhys Jones for those elusive Welsh dressers. Other seminars we attended were fascinating too, including Y Wladfa, a 150 year history of the Welsh colony in Patagonia explained incisively by Edward Morus Jones and the issues of flooding and drought in Patagonia analysed clearly by Dr. Hywel Griffiths

We believe that NAFOW 2015 was the epitome of 'rhagoriaeth' - truly the Columbus festival was excellent! We appreciate the hard work of all the volunteers from Columbus and central Ohio, from efficient registration workers, competent tour guides, the WNAA officers and trustees and in particular the leadership of Barbara Leedy and the Executive Secretary, Dr. Megan Williams.

The overwhelming sense throughout the festival was one of 'hwyl' - the good mood created by the enthusiasm for everything Welsh! From the early morning coffee chats (or 'paned o de') to the late night sing-songs (our informal Gymanfu Ganu)) ending at midnight, a good time was had by all. Please remember to join us in Calgary from September 1-4, 2016, for more learning and fun with the Cowbois Cymraeg Calgary!

*Pob hwyl i chwi ffrindiau....*

## AWOs MEET IN COLUMBUS

WNAA's AFFILIATED WELSH ORGANIZATIONS, AWOs, met on Friday Morning, September 4. The purpose, as always, was to meet and greet each other and to discuss what is happening in local societies and share it with all attendees.



This year there were at least twenty societies represented. It was a great turnout, and we used the entire hour-and-a-half talking about the societies' events and future plans. Two honored guests attending were Arturo Roberts, editor emeritus of NINNAU, AdaMae Lewis, past president of WNAA, a member representing the Iowa Welsh Society and the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, and 2015 recipient.... *[continued Col 2, page 7]*



## MAKING LEMONADE

THERE is an old saying: *When life hands you lemons, make lemonade*. This year, the WNAA Board of Trustees learned how to make lemonade at the North American Festival of Wales.

It was the night before NAFOW opened, and the registration desk had just closed for the night. Now it was time to have a little supper and turn in early before the excitement started the next day. Everyone involved in the planning was excited about the Opening of the Festival.

Suddenly, Executive Secretary, Megan Williams received a call informing her that two of the four members of the band, Calan, had been turned back at Immigration at Chicago O'Hare due to a visa problem.

After exhausting every avenue the Program Committee could think of to try and get them into the country; we turned our thoughts to the Opening Concert.

Calan was to be the entertainment for the opener. After discussing the problem with the two remaining members of Calan, we had less than twenty-four hours to come up with PLAN B. Calan suggested they call Hayes Griffin, a friend of theirs who lives in Columbus, to help them out. He came at 10:00 the next morning and spent the day learning the songs. But there were not enough songs for a full concert, so what else could we do?

Two of this year's seminar presenters; Edward Morus Jones and Dr. Steve Jones, are very talented musicians and agreed to help us out. One last addition to the program and we would be in good shape. 2015 Festival Chair, Laura Gorun, suggested a local Celtic band. The Kells Band kindly agreed and the program was set.

Time for bed, but not much sleep. The next day was filled with last minute details, such as setting up time for sound check and getting all the new equipment sorted out with the sound people.

The Opening Concert was very well received, and everyone had a good time. *Diolch yn fawr* to all the Board



members and entertainers who helped make the Opening Concert such a success.

And that is how the Board of Trustees makes lemonade when life hands us lemons. We hope to keep the lemonade stand closed next year in Calgary.

### AWOs [continued from page 6]

.... of the Welsh North-American Heritage Medallion..

To begin the meeting, each of the reps introduced themselves and whom they represented. The societies represented ranged from coast to coast and across Canada.

They will be listed in a forthcoming article in *Ninnau*. The time was well spent with each member detailing what they are doing in their home societies. Just to list a few things, some of the ideas included pub nights, casual conversation nights, picnics, Noson Lawens (*nosweithiau iawen*), limerick competitions, sporting events and meetings with guest speakers.



Last year in Minneapolis, Arturo spoke on several points he would like to see happen and how. Among them were submitting articles to *Ninnau* in enough time to have them published, sending in ads for upcoming events, sending in articles on local events and even human interest stories. Some of the ideas brought forth for discussion and implementation included:

- Using the Facebook page created by Megan to ask questions and exchange ideas. Information can be shared quickly on this site. The WNAA AWO page can be brought up with a search in Facebook.
- Each society should have someone present at their meetings to solicit new members
- Each society could have eisteddfod competitions to attract new faces, young and old and have the winners attend NAFOW to compete. This year's competitions attracted a good number of participants
- The biggest suggestion was for societies that have newsletters to share them with other societies. This will be encouraged and worked on by the AWO Committee.
- Create a manual for all societies to have for reference.

Thanks to all the previous liaisons who have helped develop The AWO Committee and their wonderful ideas: Ellis Jones, Ada Mae Lewis, Berwyn Jones, Hywel Davies and Mona Everett. Thanks, also, to all the representatives who attended this meeting for their contributions to the discussion and their dedication to NAFOW and Welsh culture.

*Information for this article was furnished by Dale Richards, chair of the WNAA AWO Committee.*

## A GREAT DAY AT THE NAFOW EISTEDDFOD!

ON SATURDAY, September 5, Hywel Griffiths of Cardiganshire sat down next to Joan Owen Mandry of Ohio to co-adjudicate the Adult and Learner's Recitation competitions at the NAFOW Eisteddfod. It was an honor and privilege to have Hywel, the chaired Bard from the 2015 National Eisteddfod of Wales in Meifod, offer his time and expertise, joining several others likewise outstanding in their respective disciplines.

In the morning recitation competitions, hosted by David Llewelyn Williams, we had three repeat winners from Minneapolis in 2014! Mairwen Thornley, from outside Toronto, did a superb rendition of the set piece "Cofio" by Waldo Williams prevailing in a close three-way competition. In the Learner's Recitation, Nic Schumer from Pittsburgh won with the set piece, "Y Sipsiwn" by Eifion Wyn. In the English Language Recitation competition, Nancy Wright of New York City came first out of five with a passionate delivery of the powerful set piece, "Welsh History" by R.S. Thomas.

In the Hymn Singing competition, Carol Ellis of Shamokin, PA, won in a field of five. Her rendition of "Gwahoddiad" carried the day. Nancy Wright finished second with a spirited version of "Bryn Myrddin". Adjudicators were Karen Jones Wojahn and James Cassarino.

In the Solo Voice competition, Julie Connair from Hartville, OH, took first place with her excellent renditions of "Ffarwel Mari" by J. Lloyd Williams and "Italian Street Song" by Victor Herbert. Gwenith Closs-Colgrove from Nebraska reached second with "Y Nefoedd" by T. Osborne Roberts and "O Divine Redeemer" by Charles Gounod.



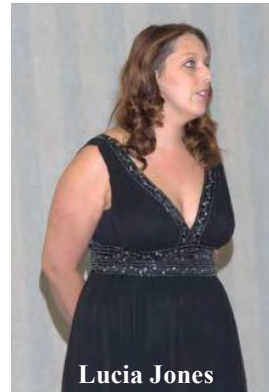
Rebecca Roy

The adjudicator, soprano and Festival soloist Meinir Wyn Roberts provided a unique perspective, as a big winner in her own right at the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

The signature competition of every NAFOW Eisteddfod is the Solo Voice/Semi-Professional, offering the David Morris Memorial Award and a generous cash prize, \$3500 for travel to compete in the next year's National Eisteddfod of Wales. We owe an immense

debt of gratitude to the late David Morris and the current prize sponsors, Siân and Gareth Ioan.

Minnesota's David Evan Thomas joined Meinir to adjudicate this year's well-contested competition in a field of five entrants. In the end, the winner was Rebecca Roy from Downingtown, PA, who impressed us all with "Gwynfyd" by Mairion Williams and Tchaikovsky's "Farewell, You Native Hills and Fields". Coming in second was the scintillating effort of Sarah Mayo, from Houston, TX, with "Ar Hyd Y Nos" and Aaron Copland's "Ching-a-ring Chaw". Best wishes



Lucia Jones

to Rebecca as she travels to Abergavenny in 2016!

The long, but invigorating day, ended with the Winner's Concert, where all six of our first-place in recitation and singing winners, and the second-place winners in singing, performed to the delight of the audience.

As chair the NAFOW Eisteddfod again this year, Ian Samways, WNAA's president and a David Morris Award winner himself, personally thanked the Eisteddfod Committee and those individuals who worked to publicize and promote the event, accompanist David Enlow, all the adjudicators and all the competitors who made it an engaging and affirming day of performance!

A final word of thanks goes to Eisteddfod founder Alan Upshall who supported the event from the audience and offered extra help when it was needed.

This year's competitions demonstrated that all of us may well be a Bard or Archdruid at heart, given our immeasurable love and admiration for Wales, its culture and its hallowed traditions. We look forward to supporting and cheering you on next year in Calgary.....when you take the stage yourself!

### The Evening Gymanfa Ganu at the Southern Theatre, Columbus





## COLUMBUS SEMINARS TEACH AND DELIGHT

CHOOSING which seminars to attend at this year's NAFOW wasn't an easy task, with a solid lineup of presenters offering topics ranging from Welsh genealogy, cinema, poetry, and even whimsical storytelling. And with six of the eleven presenters coming from Wales, the choice was even harder.

Darris Williams was back this year offering tips on Welsh genealogical research in two different seminars, and also in a popular Thursday workshop.

Dr. Jerry Hunter, Pro-Vice Chancellor at Bangor University, well-known for his research on Welsh language periodicals produced in America during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, used quotations from these to illustrate the vibrant Welsh-American culture in Ohio at the time.

Aberystwyth University sponsored a lecture by Dr. Hywel Griffiths on *Flooding, Drought and Adaptation in*



*Patagonia*. An added bonus to his audiences was learning he was the Chaired Bard from the 2015 National Eisteddfod at Meifod.

Peter Stevenson, from the Aberystwyth Arts Center, fascinated us with two sessions based on storyteller Myra Evans and her encounter with poet Dylan Thomas.

Ian White, a gregarious Scotsman, presented a visual trip around Wales in his *Welsh Slideshow and Quiz*. Ian also had stunning photography for sale at his MarketPlace table.

From all appearances, Dr. Stephen Jones presented *Welsh Cinema & Ethnic Identity* from his academic side, but he lost that persona when he was called on as a fill-in act for the Opening Concert.

Dr. Jennifer Johnstone, from Kent State University, faced stiff competition in her Friday seminar spot from Hefina Phillips' Welsh Language class and Jerry Hunter, but those who found her speaking on *Welshness and Choral Membership*, presenting fieldwork collected in North Wales and at previous NAFOW's, were delighted with her wit and solid research.

Peter Griffiths stepped away from his MarketPlace table to present his first seminar on *Cynghanedd* and its

influence on his writing style. He also read selections from his book, *Tongue Tied*.

Jim Cassarino from Green Mountain College joined us again to present his talk on the Welsh-American hymn singing tradition, but he placed special emphasis on the Ohio Welsh communities.

NAFOW favorite, Edward Morus Jones, not only led the *Ysgol Gan*, but he also gave a seminar on Patagonia-150 years. And if sitting in on a seminar wasn't to one's liking, Sian Frick taught the art of Welsh Folk Dance on Friday afternoon, encouraging many to get on their feet.

Welsh actor and poetry reader, John Ogwen, delighted his audiences with examples of poetry from over the centuries, along with anecdotes from his fifty years in the entertainment industry.

David Allen helped explain investments & legacies in a coffee talk. And a talented cast from University of Rio Grande presented the story theater production "That Was Bob", a toe-tapping account of the life of restaurateur Bob Evans, weaving stories and songs to illustrate his unique character.

Information for this article was furnished by Jeanne Jones Jindra, Director of the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at Rio Grande University and chair of NAFOW's Seminars Committee.

## NAFOW SILENT AUCTION

THIS YEAR, for the first time, NAFOW offered a Silent Auction. Nineteen items were displayed for bidding on a table in the Market Place. It was a great success, not only as a NAFOW fund-raiser, but also in hearing the excitement of personal stories as people bid on items that carried a special meaning to them. From a bidder's discovery of a book of old, photos of the family's Welsh village... to lively bidding for 'Dragon's Tooth' award-winning vintage wine ...to a bidder's delight with the winning bid for the framed Ddraig Goch print, it was interesting and great fun.

Diolch yn fawr to the following Board members who donated the items for auction: Huw & Rachel Christopher, Robert Dayton, Will & Donna Fanning, Lincoln Hartford, Jeanne & Lou Jindra, Dale Richards, D. Llewelyn Williams, Susanna Adkins, and '31 Gifts' company representative, Sara West. [And thanks to Susanna Adkins who introduced this idea]



## THANK YOU!

from seminar presenter and author of *Tongue Tied*, a novel about what it means to be Welsh.

D'you believe cows can  
fly...take wing?

Well, I did at NAFOW  
somehow sing!

Seriously though...

I sincerely, dearly,  
thank all those

Who kindly, blindly,  
bought my prose;

In MY mind it takes  
some beating,

But the proof  
of the pudding  
is in the eating!

*Diolch yn fawr unwaith  
eto.*

Thank you very much once again.....*Peter Griffiths*



### WNAA is grateful to the following who have made donations since NAFOW 2015.

Peggy Morgan Speakman

*in memory of Joseph C. Speakman*

Lisa Crownover Zacharias

*in memory of Joseph C. Speakman*

Lisa Crownover Zacharias

*in honor of Peggy Morgan Speakman*

Becky Crownover

*in honor of Peggy Morgan Speakman*

The Davis & Jensen families

*in memory of Gary Davis*

Melissa Pippin

*in memory of Mary Elizabeth  
& Dwight W. Jones*

Patricia Wynne Shaffer

*in memory of father, Elmer G. Wynne*

Margaret E. Lloyd & family

*in memory of Lewis Parry Lloyd*

Megan Lloyd

*in memory of Lewis Parry Lloyd*

Lincoln Jones Hartford

*in memory of Jan Jones Hartford  
In memory of Anna Lucene Hartford*

Helen Jones Peterson

*in memory of Fred & Jennie Jones  
in memory of Mary Kelly*

Becky Crownover, Pickerington, OH

Betty Darst, Dayton, OH

Katherine De Francis, Chevy Chase, MD

Carol Baldini Grove, Chardon, OH

## 2016 NAFOW CO -CHAIRS

ELAINE WESTLAKE was born in the coal mining village of Nantyffyllon, Glamorgan, South Wales when mines were still operating! She emigrated to Canada on the same day as the Aberfan disaster - October 21, 1966.

After spending time at home with her three children, she returned to the teaching profession and spent over 20 years working with Special Needs and Grade One students in the Edmonton area. Ten years ago, on her retirement, she returned to Calgary to be closer to her five grandchildren.

Elaine is passionate about her Welsh roots and quickly became active in Calgary Welsh Society where she has served as President for the past five years. She says, "It's been wonderful attending NAFOW for the past six years and we were honoured and delighted when the WNAA asked us to host NAFOW 2016 in Calgary."

We look forward to welcoming guests from the US, Wales and Canada to our lovely city and surrounding areas, including the beautiful Rocky Mountain Parks."

BORN IN ABERYSTWYTH, David Matthews was raised in Borth, Ceredigion before moving to live in Pembrokeshire for his secondary schooling. After teacher-training in Trinity College, Carmarthen and two years of teaching in England, he immigrated to Manitoba, Canada in 1967.

He and his wife Mona are retired teachers who spent 37 years of their life working with the First Nations Tlicho people in the North West Territories. There they raised their three children.

In 2006 they moved to Calgary. David joined the Calgary Welsh Society and today is vice-president, website manager and newsletter editor.

His connection with the WNAA and NAFOW have helped make retirement another exciting time of his life.

Elaine and David along with the more than 150 members of the Calgary Welsh Society await to greet you, our friends from the USA, Canada and of course, Wales. The city of Calgary and the majestic Canadian Rocky Mountains also await you!





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:



November, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of WNAA,

How wonderful to celebrate yet another incredible, memory-making experience at this year's National Festival of Wales in Columbus, Ohio!

I'm sure, like me, many of you are still reminiscing over the great conversations with long-time and new friends, learning so much in the enriching seminars and films, admiring the talented competitors and winners in our own eisteddfod, learning dance steps, shopping in the Marketplace, and especially joining our voices in singing as only the Welsh can sing...! To add to all that we were wonderfully entertained by Côr y Penrhyn (directed by Owain Arwel Davies), Calan Musical Ensemble, National Eisteddfod winner Meinir Wyn Roberts, harpist Glain Dafydd and of course the Edwards family....soprano Gwawr, along with dad Dafydd and sister Menna, all in the midst of their own, much-heralded trip to visit family in Ohio. What an incredible list of gifted musicians!

It is exciting to know that plans are already well underway for the 2016 Festival in one of Canada's most scenically beautiful areas, Calgary, Alberta. So, if you weren't able to be with us this year, you won't want to miss our next North American Festival of Wales, Sept 1 – 4, 2016 in Calgary!

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 to WNAA. For credit card donations, just click on the WNAA website: [www.thewnaa.org](http://www.thewnaa.org), then click on the "Make a Donation" button. Alternatively, you may mail a check payable to WNAA and sent to

WNAA International Headquarters  
PO Box 1054  
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Whichever way you choose, please join us in our important, continuing goal to bring Welsh enrichment whenever and wherever we gather together!



Diolch yn fawr iawn,

Ian Samways  
WNAA President

## A SMALL ALBERTA FARMING COMMUNITY AND ITS WELSH CONNECTIONS TO THE USA

THE YEARS 1900–1902 marked the beginning of a steady influx of Welsh immigrants to the central Alberta farming area known as Wood River. Most came from the USA - Nebraska, the Dakotas, Minnesota and from Washington. The name Wood River was chosen by a Mr Bullock in memory of his home-town in the south part of Nebraska along the Platte River.

Some of the USA connections include an Andrew Harper from Cardigan, Wales, who became an American citizen in 1886 and lived in Carroll, Nebraska. He moved with his wife Annie Jones to Alberta in 1901. Will and Elsie Jones arrived in 1902 coming from Winside, Nebraska. A John Jenkins immigrated with his parents to Pennsylvania in 1869, moved in 1984 to Kansas but decided in 1902 to seek his fortune in Canada. Arriving with his wife and four sons in February, they had to live in a tent in -30F temperatures on a hillside now known as 'Jenkins Hill'.

The stories go on! The above information is taken from the book *From Wales to Wood River – A Short History of the Welsh Who Settled This Area* - 1980.

### A SNIPPET OF CALGARY'S WELSH HISTORY



**Fall and Winter Catalogue Cover  
Pryce Pryce-Jones Department Store  
Calgary: 1912 - 1913**