



HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ELLIS JONES HONORED

THE EDITORS OF HWYL and the Officers and Trustees of the Welsh North American Association are honored to dedicate this issue of HWYL to its founder in celebration of his 85th birthday, November 13, 2016.



ELLIS J. JONES is a native of the Welsh settlement of Cambria, Minnesota. As a child, he was involved in community singing competitions reminiscent of the Eisteddfodau held in Wales. While attending Gustavus Adolphus College, he sang in the Gustavus Male chorus. He became a member of the Gustavus faculty in the Department of Economics and Management in 1958 and he retired from that position in 1998. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, church choir membership, participation in a local Barbershop Quartet, and work with a national professional organization, Ellis was highly involved in the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association.

Over the years, Ellis has done much for the Welsh

North American Association as well. He served as President of the WNGGA from 1992 to 1994, as Executive Secretary of the organization from 1998 to 2003 and as a local venue chairperson for the 1999 NAFOW held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Under his tenure, the *Hwyl* was established as a newsletter for members of the North American Welsh Association. In 2004, Ellis received from the National Welsh-American Foundation the Heritage Medallion for distinguished service to the Welsh-American Community. Ellis is a member of the Legacy Society.

Ellis and his late wife, Janet, have two children, Karen Wojahn and David Jones, both of Minnesota, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

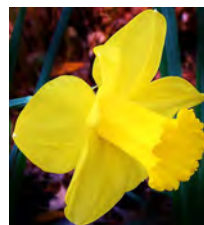
The current iteration of HWYL began in the fall of 2010; the branding of the 2003 North American Festival of Wales was adopted and Ellis Jones's guidance was sought. In an email to Kay Gavin, then a member of the Publications Committee, he responded:

"During the 1992 or 1993 National Gymanfa Ganu at a coffee break, a meeting was held between Executive Director Nelson Llewellyn, Patricia Powell Viets (daughter of Mr. Powell, longtime editor and publisher of Y DRYCH), and me. At that meeting, it was proposed that a regularly issued newsletter be prepared for distribution to WNGGA members. After an extended discussion, it was agreed that the name of the newsletter would be **HWYL**.

"Mrs. Viets agreed to put together the first issue with input from Nelson and me. The publication was to be issued regularly to help WNGGA members across the continent keep aware of what was going on in WNGGA. (NOTE: With later issues, Mrs. Viets decided she didn't have time to do the work so it fell to me to put copies together and Nelson had them printed and distributed.)

"The basic premise under which I worked was, and still is: The cohesiveness of any organization is affected by the strength of its internal communications network."

Basic Guidelines followed that are rigorously observed by the editors of **HWYL**.



Diolch yn fawr, Ellis,
a Phen-blwydd Hapus!

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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.

HWYL is published quarterly by the
 Welsh North American Association.

Editors: David Matthews and Richard Donohoe
 Direct comments or inquiries to editor@theWNAA.org

FYI from IHQ

By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE that this is the fifth time I am writing an FYI column following a festival – how time flies. Yet again, a very successful festival, and one which we will look back on with great memories and smile.

To reiterate something I said at the Annual General Meeting in Calgary, one aspect of my job as Executive Secretary that I really enjoy is getting to know a new group of people each year, working with the local venue committee. It was just wonderful getting to know David Matthews and Elaine Westlake so well. The Calgary Welsh Society went above and beyond to make the festival a success and to make us all feel so welcome; in doing so, it made my job and time at the festival that much more enjoyable, *Diolch yn fawr!*

At the same time that we can look back at Calgary and smile, I can also say that work on Rochester is well under way and we all want nothing more than to provide

everyone with another memorable experience. Several members of the Executive committee met in Rochester at the end of October, toured the hotel and spaces that will be used and we are all excited for NAFOW 2017!

Please don't wait to make your hotel reservations. Details of how to do so can found below. Rochester is a wonderful city, so much to offer, and within easy reach for those coming from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Ontario. For those who are thinking of flying to Rochester, it has a great airport with lots of connecting options. The hotel offers a FREE shuttle pick-up from the airport. Mark your calendars now, I look forward to seeing you in Rochester!

Go to VisitRochester for maps and ideas to explore the city.



Reserve by phone – 585-546-1234 – or reserve online at www.nafow.org

Group rate: **\$119 + tax for Single/Double/Triple/Quad**

Business plan rooms from: **\$139 + tax per night**

Group rates good **August 26, 2017 -September 6, 2017**

When making reservations by phone, use group name:
NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES 2017

Overnight Parking **\$4 per night** for registered guests.

COMPLIMENTARY HOTEL SHUTTLE SERVICE

Collect your luggage and go to the Courtesy Phone section on the Lower level (Baggage Claim) or call 585-546-1234. During peak NAFOW arrival times, the shuttle may operate on a set schedule, details to follow.

TAXI SERVICE

The Hyatt Regency is approx. 10 min from the Rochester airport. By taxi, the cost is around \$20.



1953

2017

COMING BACK TO ROCHESTER

ON SEPTEMBER 5 and 6, 1953, 2000 Welsh folks from across the continent and around the world converged on Rochester for the 22nd **Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu**. In the program, Lynn Watkins, president of the sponsoring committee, wrote:

"There is a certain sense of challenge in bringing the Gymanfa Ganu to Rochester, one of the truly great musical centers in America. To the Eastman Theater of the University of Rochester, have come the greatest of musical artists, the finest of choral groups. The Eastman School of Music of the University is one of the outstanding schools of its kind in the country. Rochester knows its music thoroughly. You will meet this challenge of Rochester's musical tradition, my fellow Welshmen, at this coming Gymanfa Ganu...You will carry on the precious, priceless heritage of your race – the heritage of music in song. Reach deep into your Cymric souls and sing with the harmony and the *hwyl* of the unconquered and unconquerable people you are."

On August 31 – September 3, 2017, the 85th **Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu** returns to Rochester, after sixty-four years as the centerpiece of the expanded **NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES**.

Rochester was one of America's first boomtowns. It rose to prominence as the site of flour mills along the [Genesee River](#) and then as a major hub of manufacturing. Several of the region's universities, notably the [University of Rochester](#) and [Rochester Institute of Technology](#), have renowned research programs. In addition, Rochester is the site of many important inventions and innovations in consumer products. The Rochester area was the birthplace of such corporations

as [Kodak](#), [Bausch & Lomb](#), and [Xerox](#) that conduct extensive research and manufacturing in the fields of industrial and consumer products.

Like Buffalo, Rochester is close to Welsh-American populations in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio and Welsh-Canadian populations in Ontario.

The Welsh were hardly noticeable as a community early on. Though there were a few Welsh-born residents scattered around the area, there was no Welsh church or Welsh organization. By 1900, there were only fifty-nine Welsh-born residents in Rochester, but after World War I, the Welsh industrial economy took a nosedive, and many workers left Wales for better prospects.

Many of them must have come to Rochester because by the 1922 there were a sufficient number of Welsh residents with a sufficient level of Welsh identification to create what is believed to be Rochester's first Welsh organization, the Welsh Cambrian Society. Within three weeks of its founding, the fledgling society held its first St. David's Day Banquet on March 1 at the Osborn House, a popular meeting, convention and travelers' hotel in downtown Rochester. In later years the banquet was held at Sibley's Tea Room and the Monroe YMCA with 100 to 200 members in attendance.

By 1939 the Society claimed 400 members and a Junior Welsh Society. The young people studied the Welsh language and sang Welsh folk songs. Another group, the Cambrian Glee Singers, made its first public appearance in 1923.

Twenty years later the 22nd Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu was held in Rochester and, in the 1970s, the St. David's Society of Rochester was formed at Nazareth College under the leadership of Dr. Richard Loomis. As the members of the Cambrian Society aged and their children moved away or assimilated into the greater American community, the Welsh Cambrian Society appears to have dissolved and been forgotten, and there is no current contact for the St. David's Society.

The host committee for the 2017 North American Festival of Wales in Rochester is made up of representatives of active Upstate Welsh societies, chaired by David Allen, president of the Welsh Society of the Southern Tier.

WERE YOU THERE?

1953 Was sixty-three years ago. Many people living today would have been children, teenagers, even college students or graduates at that time. If you were there or have any recollection of the National Gymanfa Ganu of 1953, David Allen would like to hear from you and honor you at the Festival next year. Contact David Allen at 607-687-7438 or at cymry@stny.rr.com.

A PEEK INSIDE NAFOW 2016

NAFOW 2016 CALGARY REFLECTIONS

By Elaine Westlake [2015 NAFOW co-chair]

IT WAS IN 2013 that Will Fanning came to Alberta looking at Calgary and area as a possible NAFOW venue. Would the WNAA Board accept us? They did and planning began at the local level. Excitement was building by NAFOW 2015 when 13 CWS members wearing matching white cowboy hats and red shirts were in Columbus promoting NAFOW 2016 Calgary. But it was



a whole year away. However, before we knew it, final opening ceremony rehearsals were underway, our volunteers received reminders about jobs and times and we were moving into the Westin. Early concerns about suitability of our venues, delegates coming this far north west in Canada had been replaced by excitement and optimism. And NAFOW 2016 didn't disappoint! It was a wonderful celebration of all aspects of Welsh culture.

Our venues, the Westin Hotel and Knox United Church, were praised by many attendees. The Westin staff were friendly and helpful. People liked the easy proximity of hotel facilities. Beautiful Knox Church, with its stunning stained glass windows, was an easy 5-minute walk or a short bus-ride from the Westin. Knox was the perfect place for the Saturday Grand Concert, the two Sunday Gymanfa Ganu sessions and the lovely bilingual church service where Knox, CWS and the WNAA partnered together.

Our opening ceremony, with a welcome from First Nations representatives, its children's choir and vignettes depicting people of Welsh descent who contributed to the founding of our city and province, set a great tone. We were proud to honour the late Betty Evans during the ceremony. Iona, a pan-Celtic band followed, and they helped get us into a real celebratory mood.

Our Grand Concert, featuring Cor Meibion Colwyn with conductor Tudor Eames, performed to a packed Knox Church. We were treated to a wonderful evening of singing in the best male voice choir tradition and their standing ovation was richly deserved! Tudor also conducted our two Gymanfa Ganu sessions where he encouraged us to "sing our hearts out". We also sang heartily at our late night community singing sessions. One can never get enough of those wonderful Welsh hymns!

Our varied and interesting seminar sessions were very well received and all the tours were a huge success.

Calgary Welsh Society was fortunate and grateful to have over 50 members and friends work volunteer shifts at the registration desk, in the Market Place, and greeting, informing and assisting attendees.

The friendliness of delegates, visitors, presenters and hotel and church staff created such a wonderful atmosphere throughout the weekend. It felt like being with one big happy NAFOW family!

I attended my first North American Festival of Wales six years ago and I was hooked! I feel more Welsh at NAFOW than I do on my return visits to Wales, so it's an annual event I wouldn't miss.

We, in the Calgary Welsh Society, are delighted that NAFOW 2016 was a huge success. I hope to see you all at NAFOW 2017 in Rochester, New York!

MAINTAINING ONE'S HERITAGE – A SHARED CHALLENGE!

THE FIRST NATIONS in Canada face a similar challenge to the Welsh when it comes to ensuring the growth and continued use of their mother tongues and ways of life.



Dallas Arcand Jr. Kathleen Johnson Duane Mark

The Calgary Welsh Society invited Stoney Nakoda educator, Duane Mark, to help open the festival with a prayer of welcome. Later, Dallas Arcand Jr. performed a traditional hoop dance which brought accolades from the approximately four hundred people attending the opening ceremony.

SONGS OF PRAISES

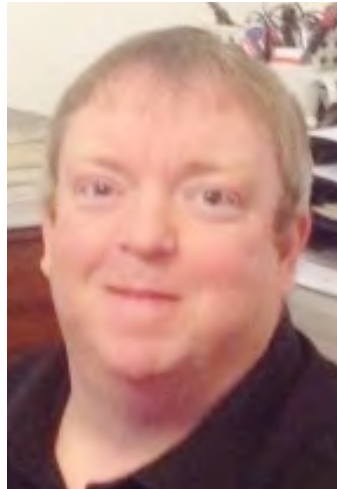
THE GYMANFA GANU REVERBERATES!

THE CENTERPIECE of the NAFOW, the 85th National Gymanfa Ganu, was held on Sunday, September 4 at Knox United Church in Downtown Calgary, in the customary two sessions at 2:00 in the afternoon and 7:00 in the evening with Tudur Eames, Musical Director of Côr Meibion Colwyn, conducting and Steve Jensen of Milwaukee accompanying on the church's large pipe organ with its four manuals and 5000 pipes.

In the customary pattern, each session included fourteen hymns in sets of four and three interspersed with announcements and special music. Côr Colwyn, the festival choir from North Wales performed at each session along with Robert Lewis, nineteen-year-old tenor from Montgomeryshire, who performed at the Grand Banquet, singing in the afternoon session and Rigby Jones of Santa Ana, California, Winner of the David Morris Memorial Award at the 2016 NAFOW Eisteddfod, singing in the evening session.

Popular hymns in the afternoon session included *Gwahoddiad*, *Penpark*, *I Sing as a Bird (Rwy'n Canu)*, *Pantfedwen*, *Sanctus* and *Morte Christe*. Popular hymns included in the evening session were *Calon Lân*, *Arwelfa*, *Rachie*, *Blaenwern*, *Rhys* and, of course, *Cwm Rhondda*, which traditionally concludes the Gymanfa Ganu.

Singing outside the box, or in this case the book, three hymns that are not included in the hymnal were inserted in the Program Book and included in the singing: *Berwyn*, with a tune by Caradog Roberts, the composer of *Rachie* and *In Memoriam*; *Bro Aber*, a mid-20th Century hymn; and *St. Clement*, with a tune by late 19th Century English composer Clement C. Scholfield and text by late 19th Century English hymn writer John Ellerton, both clergymen, with Welsh verses translated by R. D. Roberts.



Tudur Eames



Steve Jensen

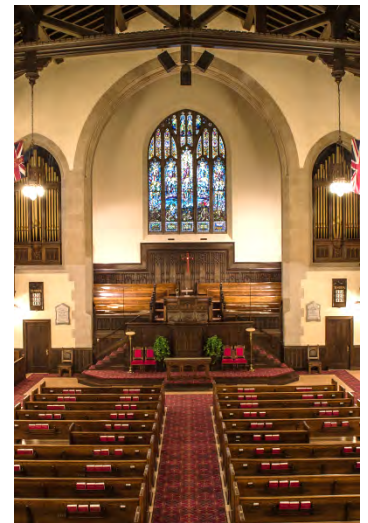
Following the benediction, the customary closing ceremony took place, with the flag passed from the chairs of the Calgary festival to the chair of the 2017 Rochester festival followed by a rousing rendition of *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* and, hands linked, a heart-warming rendition of *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*.

NEW WORDS FOR FAMILIAR WELSH TUNES

by Huw Christopher

AT THE Morning Worship Service at the Knox United Church as part of the North American Festival of Wales in Calgary, Alberta this year we sang a response to the petitions of the Prayers of the People to the familiar Welsh tune, *Cwm Rhondda*. The words of the response were "May we follow where you lead us; God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer!" The words

of that response came from the concluding lines of a patriotic hymn entitled, "For this Land in all Its Wonder." It was written by a Presbyterian pastor in Wilmington, Delaware, the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, and was used by permission from her book of hymns, *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship*. This was the first of her two books of contemporary hymns, most of which are set to familiar hymn tunes. More information about her hymns can be found at her website, www.carolynshymns.com. A cursory glance at the hymn index on her website makes clear that she enjoys setting new words to many of our very familiar and beloved Welsh hymn tunes. If you are looking for new words to sing to some of our Welsh hymn tunes as a choir or congregation you may want to check out the collection of hymns on her website.



2016 NAFOW EISTEDDFOD

THIS YEAR, we had another excellent set of Eisteddfod competitions at the North American Festival of Wales in Calgary. Among other things, in our first ever Solo Voice competition for youth, four signed up and impressed the crowd; all then performed again for a very appreciative audience at the Eisteddfod Winners' Concert. We may be trying that one again!

We are also proud to announce that Rigby Jones, of Santa Ana, CA, won the Solo Voice (Semi-Professional) competition along with the David Morris Award. This includes a generous cash scholarship that will permit her to travel to compete at the 2017 National Eisteddfod of Wales on Anglesey!

Many thanks to the hosts and adjudicators who helped with our competitions, to Steve Jensen NAFOW's accompanist, and especially to the competitors. NAFOW is, surely, deep with talent, and this year was no exception!



Congratulations to all of our winners, who are listed below:

Adult Recitation: Nesta Davies, Abergele, Wales.

English Language Recitation: Glyn Long, Bozeman, MT

Solo Voice Youth: Jane Davies, Calgary, AB

Hymn Singing: Gwyn Jones, Conwy, Wales

Solo Voice (Adult): Jack Owen, Allison Park, PA

Solo Voice/Semi-professional (David G. Morris Memorial Award): Rigby Jones (Santa Ana, CA)

Adjudicators: Robert Dayton, Tudur Eames, Cledwyn Haydn-Jones, Julia Haydn-Jones, Ceri Jones, Eirian Wyn Lewis, Robert Lewis, Karen Wojahn

Hosts: Danny Proud, Ian Samways, and David Llewelyn Williams

EISTEDDFOD YOUTH SONG COMPETITION A GREAT SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS to the four competitors who captivated a very appreciative audience with their first-class singing. Two of the competitors, Ian Gressler and



Katheryn Freestone travelled over three hundred kilometers from Drayton Valley, Alberta to participate. The other two competitors, Jane Davies and Elizabeth Harper, were Calgary 'locals'. It was wonderful to experience their youthful enthusiasm and the very high standard of their performances.

Fourteen-year-old Ian Gressler hails from a very musical family with a strong patriarchal Welsh connection. The family's influence was such that a niece, nine year-old Katheryn, heard about the eisteddfod and, as aunt Trudy Gressler reports, 'wanted in on the action'. Indeed, it was Ian's sixteen year-old sister, Rhiannon, who accompanied Katheryn and Ian beautifully on the harp. Rhiannon also competed in the adult song competition.

Jane Davies and Elizabeth Harper also have this wonderful love for music. They are both members of Laura Styler's music program and singing classes in Calgary. Readers may recall that Laura was a past winner of the David G. Morris Memorial Award. Both Jane and Elizabeth were also a part of the children's choir that played a very active role in NAFOW's Opening Ceremony.

This was the first time in many years that the Youth 'Singing Solo' category [fifteen years and younger] has been included in the NAFOW eisteddfod. It proved to be an excellent decision.

THE TRAGEDY OF ABERFAN!

ON OCTOBER 21st, a minute's silence was held across the United Kingdom and in many other parts of the world to remember those who lost their lives and the families who suffered as a result of the tragedy that took place those fifty years ago.

These clippings, collected and prepared by Joyce Williams of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories of Canada, were displayed at NAFOW's Aberfan workshop and Marketplace.



Joyce was a nurse in Morriston when her husband, Merlyn, called her with the news. They quickly returned to Joyce's home town to assist in any way they could.

Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Pryce-Jones

THE FULL HOUSE at NAFOW's opening ceremony was introduced to one of Calgary's pioneer entrepreneurs, Albert Pryce-Jones, by Calgary Welsh Society member, David Gaskin.

Son of Pryce Pryce-Jones of Newtown, Wales, Albert opened a high-end department and catalogue store in Calgary in 1910.

Very successful in its first years, the store closed in 1916. Several factors may have contributed to this including its rather poor location outside of 'downtown Calgary', competition from the newly built Hudson Bay Company store, and the onset of World War 1.

In October 1916, Albert Pryce-Jones became the commander of the 113th Infantry Battalion, the Lethbridge Highlanders.



TO OUR RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

DIOLCH YN FAWR!

AT THE AGM IN CALGARY, three of WNAA's trustees retired: Kay Gavin of Roseville, MN, David Llewelyn Williams of Vancouver, BC and Lezlie Wood of Ottawa, ON. In addition, the term of our secretary, Helen Steinle of Qualicum Beach, BC, ended. We sincerely appreciate their contributions to the Welsh North American Association and their continuing dedication to promote Welsh culture in North America.



NEW LEGACY MEMBERS!

WELCOME newest Legacy Society members: Danny and Robin Proud! The Proud family lives in Madison Wisconsin, and Danny is actively involved in the Cambrian Heritage Society, as editor of Newyddion Cymreig, in the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin and serves as a member of the WNAA Board of Trustees.

It truly is exciting to see The Legacy Society grow and now celebrate **twenty-six** members and **four** Legacy benefactors whose bequests have been received and greatly appreciated.

So, do take a moment to think about also joining Legacy; to be a participant in supporting Welsh culture, language and presence for the future. It's quite easy:

- 1) Decide what monetary bequest is comfortable for you.
- 2) Discuss updating your will or estate plans regarding this bequest with your attorney or financial advisor.
- 3) Communicate your decision to join The Legacy Society ... no formal paper work, no stated amount needed ... to:

Megan Williams, WNAA Executive Secretary;
IHQ@thewnaa.org, or PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886; phone 607-279-7402

A reachable goal: **30** Legacy members by close of 2016.

LET'S DO IT!

WNAA'S NEW TRUSTEES

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of WNAA, members elected four new trustees. Illustrated profiles of each of them follow:

MYFANWY DAVIES

Myfanwy Davies of Ottawa has rejoined the Board where she previously served as Trustee, Chair of the Scholarship and Grant Committee, Secretary, and Chair of the 2004 Buffalo NAFOW. Myfanwy has been involved with the Ottawa Welsh Society, the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society and the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association for many years, serving as President of each of those groups. She sang with the North American Welsh Choir and currently sings with Merched Dewi.



DILYS RANA

Dilys Rana grew up on a farm in North Wales and moved to the United States in her early twenties. She maintains strong ties to her homeland with frequent visits to Wales and active involvement in Chicago's Welsh societies. She is currently president of The Cambrian Benevolent Society of Chicago, which was organized in 1853. She lives with her husband in a suburb of Chicago, close to her three children and their families.



ELAINE WESTLAKE

Elaine was born in the coal mining village of Nantyllyllon, Glamorgan, South Wales when the local mine was still operating! Along with her young family, she emigrated to Canada on the day of the Aberfan disaster, Oct. 21, 1966. After completing a B.Ed in Special Education, she taught for the next 25 years. Upon retirement, she returned to Calgary to be closer to her five beautiful grandchildren. She also enjoys participating in Calgary Welsh Society events.



KAREN WOJAHN

Karen Jones Wojahn has served as accompanist for the annual Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festivals since the 1970s and she was organist for the 1999 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis. More recently, she has led the late-night singing at NAFOW and accompanied the Ysgol Gân. She is the Worship and Music Ministry Coordinator, organist and adult choir director for the American Lutheran Church in her southwestern Minnesota town of Windom. She and her husband Michael have three grown children and three granddaughters.



DON'T BE LATE!
BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM
SOON!
SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

WNAA'S NEW SECRETARY

AT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES meeting following the Annual General Meeting in Calgary, Jeanne Jones Jindra was elected Secretary of WNAA.

Jeanne is the Director of the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande in southern Ohio. She is active on the Board of Trustees of the Welsh-American Heritage Museum locally; is a member of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio; is publicity chair for the National Welsh-American Foundation; and has served as seminar chair for the North American Festival of Wales on the Board of Trustees of the Welsh North American Foundation for the past 5 years. Her father gave her the gift of her Welsh heritage early in her life, as all of her paternal great-grandparents emigrated from Cardiganshire to Ohio in the mid 1800's. She and her husband, Louis Jindra, enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and tending to their vineyard.





WNAA WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
CYMDEITHAS CYMRU GOGLEDD AMERICA

November 1, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of WNAA,

Have you recovered from the “Canadian Rockies high”? Or are you still "ramping down" from this year's North American Festival of Wales in Calgary, Alberta? Thank you to all who helped put on an excellent Festival that we'll all remember for years to come!

Our founders gathered outdoors on Goat Island in 1929, singing over the roar of Niagara Falls while trying to recapture the feeling and essence of their distant Welsh homeland. I suspect they had little idea that fully 87 years later we'd still be doing them and Wales proud. For that, we owe so much to the hard work and dedication of people like our great friend Ellis Jones of Minnesota, who served us as President (1992-1994) and Executive Director (1998-2003), celebrated in this issue on the occasion of his 85th birthday. His love of Wales and contagious enthusiasm clearly served us so well, and as we move closer toward our Festival's own 90th anniversary, I can scarcely think of bigger shoes for us all to fill.

And yet... *you* all are truly the main reason for our ongoing success! It's impossible to thank you enough for your support of the WNAA and our Festival over the years, to keep Welsh culture alive and thriving in North America! We're already well into our planning for the next Festival, Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency in Rochester, New York, and we look forward to seeing you there, along with friends and family members who have never attended before. Every manner of help is always welcome; thus, 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, then click on the “Make a Donation” button. If you wish to send a check instead, make it payable to WNAA and mail it to

WNAA International Headquarters
PO Box 1054
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Thank you again for your support, and let's “keep a welcome” for another 87 years and beyond!



Diolch yn fawr iawn,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ian K. Samways".

Ian K. Samways
WNAA President

MORE SCENES FROM NAFOW 2016
Photographer: Beth D. Landmesser

