



NAFOW 2018 - WASHINGTON D.C.



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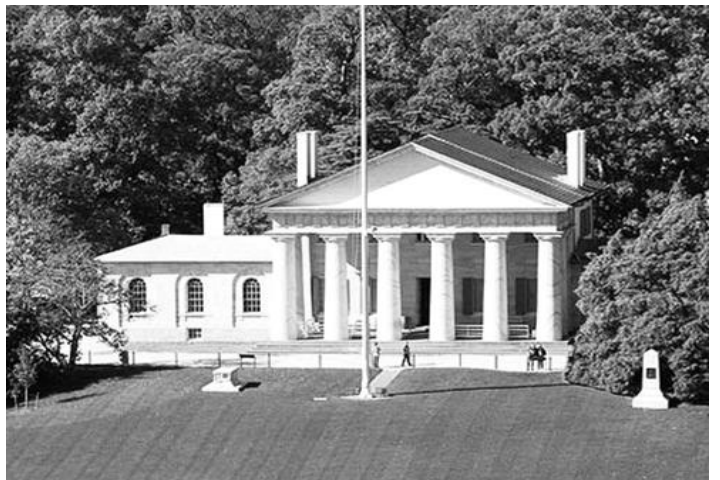
The NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES was held in Washington in 2007. Prior to that, the National Gymanfa Ganu was held only once in Washington in 1957. Recognize anyone in this crowd?



Include a visit to Mount Vernon



or nearby Arlington National Cemetery and the Custis-Lee mansion overlooking the Potomac



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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

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From the **2017** National Gymanfa Ganu:
 a two-CD set with all 32 hymns plus
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 WNAA Bookstore, click on "Publications."

FYI from IHQ

By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

ANOTHER FESTIVAL is over and what a great weekend it was in Rochester! Advanced registrations were lower than some years, but we had a steady stream of walk-in registrations as well as members of the Rochester community joining us for the Grand Concert on Saturday night and 50 members of Third Presbyterian join us for the 86th National gymanfa ganu. We had attendees from the United States, Wales and England and from thirty-six states and provinces of the US and Canada! The highest number of attendees were from New York with Pennsylvania in second place and Ontario in third followed by Ohio; and the highest seminar attendance in recent years.

With NAFOW 2017 behind us, we are switching gears and working on plans for 2018. We are excited to return to the D.C. area, and our local hosts, the Washington Welsh Society, have lots of great program elements in store.

Thanks to all who attended the festival and to everyone who completed the questionnaire. The feedback is important to us and we do listen! I invite those interested in sponsoring parts of the 2018 festival to consider doing so before the end of 2017.

A Tribute To Myra Thomas Lawrence

MYRA THOMAS LAWRENCE is a living legend in the Welsh American and Welsh International communities. Growing up in Wales, she became immersed in Welsh culture. When her career took her out of Wales, her love of Wales and Welsh culture went with her. She was active in the Welsh community in California, served as a trustee of the Welsh North American Association, as a Director of the North American Wales Foundation and served on its Advisory Board. She participated in Welsh activities on both sides of the Atlantic, and in 1990 she was elected to the Gorsedd of the Bards of the National Eisteddfod of Wales. In 1993 she was awarded the Heritage Medallion, the highest honor of NAWF. While Myra's travel has been curtailed in recent years, her commitment to Welsh American and International activities has not diminished. This summer, she informed WNAA, Cymru a'r Byd (Wales International) and NAWF of her wish to donate gifts of \$100,000 each to WNAA and NAWF and £100,000 to Cymru a'r Byd. Myra's generosity will bring joy to her and opportunities to those who will enhance our activities as a community for many years to come.

The officers and trustees of WNAA mourn the loss of
 two of its former presidents.

Rev. Robert Hughes of Akron, Ohio, who served
 2008-2009, passed away September 17, 2017.

Barbara E. Leedy of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who
 served 2013-2015, passed away October 3, 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NAFOW 2017

CATRIN BRACE RECEIVES HERITAGE MEDALLION AT GRAND BANQUET

THIS YEAR'S Grand Banquet featured the presentation of the North America Wales Foundation (NAWF) Heritage Medallion to Catrin Brace. By now this occasion has become a familiar highlight of the Festival, bringing together WNAA and NAWF to celebrate, honor and enjoy the achievements of individuals with a special place in Welsh-American life. The assembled crowd stood as David Enlow played "Men of Harlech," bringing to the podium the key players in the organization of this event. Hywel Davies, in his role as Master of Ceremonies, introduced them, the Canadian and US anthems were sung, the blessing was asked by the Rev. Dr. Stacy Evans and dinner was served.

The presentation of the Heritage Medallion to Catrin Brace was made by Dr. Evans, in his capacity as President of NAWF. Catrin has been a familiar face at the Festival for fifteen years, as she brought us Cinema Wales as well as numerous exhibits of the history of Welsh America. Her career has taken her to many countries to promote Wales to the business and tourist industries. It is hard to think of anyone who has done more to bring to the world the



message that "Wales is Great!" One example of her remarkable contribution is the collaboration she initiated with Swansea University, Yale University Press, and Visit Wales to publicize the Richard Burton Diaries. Welsh stars of stage and screen read from the diaries and carried out press interviews at events in Los Angeles and New York. This was the biggest promotion of Wales ever in North America; traditional media coverage alone reached 300 million people. She has worked tirelessly with Welsh societies and communities around the US and Canada to

promote this message. Over the years, she produced several booklets and an exhibition about the Welsh in North America which Welsh societies distributed and promoted widely at their own events. She thanked all Welsh societies present for their support, and she concluded by calling upon Welsh associations and societies in North America to continue the work of raising the profile of Welsh culture and the Welsh arts in the USA and Canada, remarking, "And if you want my help I'm willing to give it".

The Heritage Medallion has been presented every year since 1987. Following Catrin's speech she was joined on stage by past recipients present at the banquet; they are, left



to right, Hywel Davies, AdaMae Lewis, Joan Owen Mandry, Ellis Jones, Dale Richards, representing The St David's Society of Pittsburgh, Bob Roser, Catrin, Beth Landmesser and Hefina Phillips. While not present, Myra Thomas Lawrence was very much in our thoughts as we gratefully accepted and acknowledged her major gift to both WNAA and NAWF.

Then we were introduced to Steffan Lloyd Owen. A prodigiously talented and personable performer, he is already greatly accomplished as he pursues his musical studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He won the prestigious Osborne Roberts Blue Riband awarded to the best soloist under the age of 25 at the 2016 National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny. Each year, NAWF provides an opportunity for the Blue Riband recipient to perform at NAFOW the following year. Steffan thrilled his audience with his program, further enhanced by a lovely duet sung with his partner Gwen Elin. Steffan will be performing at NAFOW in Alexandria next year with his trio who have been receiving rave reviews in Wales.

The evening ended with a rousing rendition of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau"

Beth Landmesser photos

2017 GRAND CONCERT

(excerpts from an article in NINNAU by Dafydd Evans of Manhattan Beach, California)

ROCHESTER is a beautiful city of historical significance, a very musical and cultured city, home to the world-renowned Eastman School of Music.

The star of the show was the venue itself, the Hochstein School of Music's large performance stage and auditorium, formally the sanctuary of the Rochester Central Presbyterian Church. After reconstruction and upgrades, it

provides an excellent place for musical training and education and is a very impressive performance stage and concert hall. No seat is more than fifty feet from the stage. The Grand Concert featured the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir, and Welsh soloist John Owen-Jones, a major star of the musical theater world.

John Owen-Jones is an incredibly successful singer/actor who has played leading roles in major musicals in London's West End, and on New York's Broadway. He is the longest performing and youngest actor in the role of the 'Phantom' with over 2,400 performances in Andrew Lloyd Webber's hugely successful "Phantom of the Opera." He was also Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables" London and on Broadway.



The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir proudly draws on the great Welsh tradition of singing Welsh hymns, and an eclectic selection of choral music. Though the choir has a core of Welshmen and singers with Welsh connections, it is also made up of men from other backgrounds. Their dynamic conductor is William Woloschuk, of Ukrainian ancestry, with an impressive music education, training and experience in the art of choral directing. The Principal Accompanist is Matthew Coons who holds a BA degree in music from the University of Toronto.

The concert opened with John Owen-Jones and the choir singing a great song of Welsh defiance 'Yma O Hyd' ('We are Still Here') by the living Welsh patriot and occasional NAFOW performer, Dafydd Iwan, accompanied by a Celtic drum and guitar. A rousing start to a fine night of music.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN ROCHESTER

(Excerpts from an article published in NINNAU by Huw Christopher, Pasadena, California, WNAA Trustee and Member of the Sunday Activities Committee).

THE SUNDAY MORNING worship service of the 2017 Festival was held at the Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester. Thanks to the gracious welcome of the Pastor, John Wilkinson, and Music Director, Peter A. DuBois, our service was combined with their congregation's service.

The service was led by various members of the staff of the church including the pastor, the associate pastor and the parish associate. They led the traditional liturgical readings and prayers including the Old Testament text for the day from Exodus 3:1-15. Festival Accompanist David Enlow, played the organ. Many of the traditions of WNAA morning worship service were included.

All of the hymns chosen from the Presbyterian hymnal were set to Welsh tunes, so the congregation was exposed to more of our Welsh hymn singing tradition. For the offertory and postlude, David Enlow chose two of the preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The soloist was the winner of the NAFOW Eisteddfod Hymn Singing Competition, Joseph Corbin of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, who sang, "Mae D'Eisiau Di Bob Awr," re-minding us, in the midst of Hurricane Harvey and all the political unrest in the world, that we need the assurance of God's presence every hour.

Our traditional memorial was incorporated into the service, led by Executive Secretary Megan Williams and assisted by two young people from the congregation, Maddie and Sophie Veitch, who, in accordance with tradition, placed a rose into one of the vases as Megan read the name of each member of the WNAA who had died during the past year. This part of the service concluded with singing "In Memoriam" with two stanzas in Welsh and two in English. The words and music of this traditional hymn were included in the bulletin along with the New Testament text for the day from Romans 12:9-21, that was read in Welsh by WNAA Trustee Edward Morus Jones from Ynys Mon in North Wales.



Dr. Barry Morgan, the recently retired Archbishop of Wales, who also presented seminars at the Festival, delivered the sermon, based on the text from Exodus 3 and also on the words of Jesus in Luke 4:14-21 and titled it, "Setting People Free." In his sermon, he reminded us that God has always been in the business of wanting to set people free and that our main purpose as the children of God is to join Him in the task of setting people free in our own day. He reminded us that Welsh people, especially with the suppression of the Welsh language for so many generations, could easily identify with those who need to experience being set free.

The church acknowledged the suffering of so many from Hurricane Harvey and designated that all of the loose offering that morning would be given to the hurricane relief work through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

A reception followed in the church cloisters.

Beth Landmesser photos

THE 86TH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU

By Kay Thomas

FOR MANY, the national Gymanfa Ganu, which closes the North American Festival of Wales each year, is the highpoint of the Festival. This year was no exception. Closing a wonderful festival with the singing of Welsh Hymns and forming a glorious choir where all can participate is an experience that makes even the non-Welsh marvel.



Meirwyn Walters and David Enlow *Beth Landmesser photo*

Under the able direction of Meirwyn Walters, the church rang out in song. Mr. Walters, who has directed three other nationals, Minneapolis in 1999 and 2014 and Buffalo/Niagara Falls in 2004, graciously stepped in at the last minute when health issues kept Dr Haydn James from traveling to the U.S. David Enlow was *accompanist extraordinaire*, making a wonderful team to direct us in song. The Third Presbyterian Church was a perfect venue for the singing. We were warmly welcomed by the staff and the congregation, many of whom stayed on to enjoy the Gymanfa singing with us.

Special music was provided by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir under the direction of William Woloschuk and accompanied by Matthew Coons at the afternoon session. Elizabeth Shoemaker, winner of the David Morris Award in the Eisteddfod, also sang. In the evening session special music was provided by Gwenith Closs Colgrove, who was the Eisteddfod solo voice winner.

Dr. Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales from 2003 to 2017, gave the invocation and the benediction at each session.

SUMMING UP THE SEMINARS

By Jeanne Jones Jindra

AT ROCHESTER someone asked me how NAFOW plans the seminars that are a staple at the festival and if we have a different theme each year. That is difficult to answer; it changes with each festival venue. Our aim is to present the highest quality presenters on a wide-range of topics, keeping within our limited budget. Over the past years, WNAA has been approached by speakers who want to participate and will often cover the cost of travel. This year,

eight of our fourteen presenters came from Wales; that brings authenticity to seminars and more Welshness to the festival!

Thursday's workshop was conducted by Gruffydd Jones and Berian Elias and covered the concept behind the *People's Collection Wales* and how to utilize its website for genealogical research. These Field Officers from the National Library of Wales also presented two seminars on the *People's Collection Wales* site.

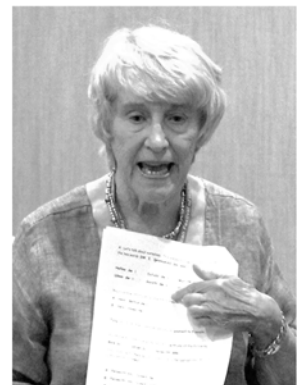
Dr. Barry Morgan, recently retired Archbishop of Wales, was invited to preach at the Sunday Morning Service in Rochester, and he also presented seminars on R. S. Thomas and the state of the Church in Wales.

Welsh-Canadian Michèle Henderson brought thirteen family members to NAFOW as a way to honor the legacy of her third great-grandmother in her seminar "Patagonian Dreams." Catherine Roberts Davies and family were among the first immigrants from Wales to settle in Chubut, however, Catherine died three weeks after landing in the uncolonized land. The seminar, and companion film, *Patagonian Bones*, made by Argentinian filmmaker Ricardo Preve, tell the story of a twenty-year quest to identify a set of human remains, found along the coast in 1995 near where their ship, *Mimosa*, had anchored.

Of local interest, Jim Cassarino from Green Mountain College in Vermont presented "The Welsh-American Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod Established in New York State". Despite "Americanization" of the eisteddfod, the Welsh communities in America worked hard to keep the tradition alive and relevant.

David Evan Thomas, from Rochester, led the theater production this year, *Time and Tide: Lady Rhondda and the Lusitania*. With Holly Windle portraying Lady Rhondda, members of the St. David's Society of Minnesota, told the story of Margaret Mackworth, one of the Welsh survivors of the sinking of *RMS Lusitania*.

Susan Jones Graff helped us "Solve the Mystery of the Missing Welsh Quilts", and introduced *The Quilt Index* (www.quiltindex.org). The goal of the index is to document all Welsh quilts made in North America.



Hefina Phillips teaching
Welsh

Dr. Jerry Hunter was back from Bangor University to present his research on Rev. Robert Everett and the Welsh-American abolitionist movement in upstate New York.

We hosted two Welsh authors this year; Angela John's seminar was "Before Stardom: Burton, Hopkins and Sheen" and focused on all the talent that came from the area of Port Talbot in Wales. Jane Blank presented two different seminars, "The Holy Grail and the Shadow of Nanteos" and "Fact and Fantasy: Writing a Historical Novel."

Another NAFOW favorite, Phil Cope, was back to give seminars on Paul Robeson and his relationship with Wales, and Wales at the Olympic and Paralympic games.

We also present what we call “regular” seminars each year. Hefina Phillips is our go-to person to teach Welsh Language I & II, Gymanfa conductor, Meirwyn Walters, assisted by Karen Wojahn on piano, taught the Ysgol Gan, or Singing School, and WNAA Treasurer, David Allen, drew a big crowd to learn about “Investments & Legacies”. Seminar attendance was high this year and being able to interact with the presenters is always an added bonus.

WNAA NEWS

MEET THE NEW TRUSTEES

AT THE Annual General Meeting, the members of WNAA elected two new trustees: Gwen Giffin Carter of Spring Hill, Florida, and Katherine DeFrancis of Chevy Chase, Maryland, both filling vacancies in the eastern region of the U.S.

Gwen is a member of the St. David’s Society of the Suncoast, and she has been attending NAFOW for ten years. Both sides of her “Mum’s” family were from Wales so she has been brought up with Welsh customs, music and a love of the country. She has visited Wales five times.



Katherine DeFrancis was born and raised in Landoverly, Carmarthenshire, with parents from Bridgend and Neath. She moved to New York City in 1989 but never lost her Welsh connections. Katherine is President of the Washington Welsh Society. Since joining in 2007, she has helped re-energize the society with social activities, created an online presence through a web site and social media engageent and elevated the St. David’s banquet. Katherine produces film and visual media projects in the US and UK. She works with other Welsh people in the business, and is always on the lookout for young talent to introduce to the US. She still has family and a home in Wales, and visits frequently.



TRUSTEES ELECT OFFICERS

AT ITS MEETING following the AGM, the board of trustees elected officers for two-year terms. Will Fanning of Orange, California, was elected president. David Matthews of Calgary, Alberta, was elected vice president and David Allen of Owego, New York, was elected treasurer. Jeanne Jones Jindra of Rio Grande, Ohio, who was elected in 2016, is serving her second year as secretary.

“PASSING THE BATON”



In the traditional ceremony at the end of the Afternoon Session of the Gymanfa Ganu, David Allen, Co-Chair of the Rochester Festival, passes the official flag and other signs of office to Katherine DeFrancis, Chair of the 2018 North American Festival of Wales in Washington, DC.

Beth Landmesser photo

PRECIOUS MOMENT.....

.....A MEETING OF TWO CONDUCTORS



After the Gymanfa Ganu, Meirwyn Walters met young Trevor Llewellyn Livezey who had conducted hymns at the late-night singing. *Beth Landmesser photo*



WNAA

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
CYMDEITHAS CYMRU GOGLEDD AMERICA

November 1, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of WNAA,

Since 1929, when our founders gathered on Goat Island in the middle of the Niagara River to sing Welsh hymns over the roar of Niagara Falls, the Welsh North American Association has striven to preserve, develop and promote Welsh cultural heritage and traditions.

Many of you recently returned from this year's memorable Festival of Wales in Rochester and are relishing memories of conversations with old and new friends, highlights of the festival and the historic venues for the concert at *Hochstein School of Music*, and for the *Gymanfa Ganu* at *Third Presbyterian Church*.

Looking ahead, the Washington DC Welsh Society, Executive Secretary Megan Williams, and the officers and trustees of WNAA are already busy planning our next Festival, Aug 30-Sept 2, 2018, in Washington, DC. "We'll keep a welcome in the hillsides, we'll keep a welcome in the vales" ... and we'll keep a welcome for you, your family and your friends at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center for the Festival of Wales 2018.

The Annual Appeal Season is at hand, and these memory-making gatherings could never take place without the support of members and friends like you. On page 2, you read of a munificent gift from Myra Thomas Lawrence, and in previous issues of *Hwyl*, you may have read of recent bequests to WNAA. These sums go to our Endowment, which acts as a buffer against unexpected expenses, while our operating costs are covered by Festival revenue and the donations from our members and friends.

I hope you will consider sending a generous tax-deductible gift today which will help to cover organizational expenses in the lead up to next year's festival. Your donation helps support our mission to preserve, develop and promote Welsh cultural heritage and traditions.

To donate by credit card, click on the WNAA website: www.thewnaa.org, then select the "Make a Donation" button. Alternatively, you may mail a check payable to WNAA and send it to:

WNAA International Headquarters, PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886



Diolch yn fawr iawn,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William L. Fanning". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William L. Fanning
WNAA President



WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
P O Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886

EVERYBODY WINS!

By Laura Jenkins Gorun, chair of NAFOW 2015 in Columbus

IF YOU ATTENDED NAFOW in Rochester, you may have observed raffle tickets being sold at the WNAA table in the Marketplace or as you entered one of the evening events. And, perhaps, you noticed a magnificent quilted rendition of *Y Ddraig Goch* adorning the WNAA table, or a girl carrying around a lovespoon and selling raffle tickets. You may even have caught me carving free the last of the caged balls within the decorative links of the chain Dave Western carved that connects the two sides of the lovespoon.

This year, two elaborately crafted works of art were donated to WNAA and raffled off to raise funds to support continued NAFOW programming. Both winning tickets were drawn during Saturday night's amazing Grand Concert.

One prize was a beautiful, meticulously crafted quilt displaying *Y Ddraig Goch* (the Red Dragon), created and donated to WNAA in Calgary last year by Tracy Burr of the Calgary Welsh Society. Circumstances prevented a raffle, however, at NAFOW in Calgary, so it traveled on to Rochester, where I got to admire it up close at the WNAA table, until Saturday evening, when Elaine Westlake from Calgary drew the winning ticket, which belonged to Barbara

Jones. I know Barbara will cherish it. Congratulations, Barbara!

The other prize was a Pacific Cherry Lovespoon, designed and carved collaboratively by David Western of Victoria, British Columbia, and Laura Jenkins Gorun of Worthington, Ohio, i.e. me. With a North American Welsh theme, it features what appears to be two spoons connected by a carved chain. Both sides include symbols of Wales: leeks, daffodils and dragons. Dave's side includes maple leaves for Canada, and my side includes stars and stripes for the US. Dave meticulously carved most of the chain, except freeing that last ball and connecting to my side.

After two years, countless hours, and thousands of miles, I brought it to Rochester, and on Saturday night I had the honor of drawing the winning ticket. It belonged to Bill Thomas, who seemed positively giddy as I handed him the spoon, and he told me of how he'll cherish it, and that I should come down to Southeast Ohio to visit it sometime. Congratulations, Bill!

So many said to me, "Oh, I'll never win..." but I reminded them that 100% of the ticket sales went directly to WNAA, so, regardless of probability, EVERY ticket purchased supports this wonderful Festival, celebrating our shared Welsh culture and heritage and keeping it alive across North America. A win for us all!