



St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska Newsletter
March, 2011



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No. 1

**The St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska's Annual
Luncheon and Program Commemorating
St. David (Gwyl Dewi Sant)**

Come to Celebrate the Welsh Culture and Heritage!
Saturday, April 2, 2011

First United Methodist Church
2723 N. 50th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
(50th and St. Paul Streets)

Jim Lytton, Music Director
Diana Herbert Warner, Accompanist
Zach Hurst, Harpist

The program is free and open to the public.

The schedule:

10:00—11:00	Complimentary tea, coffee, and Welsh cakes Welsh Marketplace—Display of Welsh items and Welsh bakery
11:00	Business meeting
Noon	Luncheon followed by program

Program presented by Zach Hurst of Lincoln
Group singing
Moments in Memoriam

**Zach Hurst of Lincoln will perform
a wide variety of musical selections,
several with a Welsh/Celtic feel.**



Zach Hurst

St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska 2011 Business Meeting, Luncheon and Program

Our annual luncheon is a highlight for many who look forward to enjoying time with other family members and friends, old and new. By continuing this celebration we are preserving the ideals, customs, and dreams of our ancestors.

Entrances to First United Methodist Church are on the north, east, and with elevator access at the southeast entrance. The church is fully accessible to all. Parking is available north of the church and on the street. A map is included in the newsletter.

The kids craft table will be staffed by Leslee O'Bradovich and Nina Burgess. Kids can make their own red dragon and design their own love spoon! Maddie McAlister will demonstrate simple tea cake making, and recipes will be available for basic tea cakes and fancier Angelsey Cakes. The Marketplace will feature Welsh and Celtic-themed jewelry, books, decorative items, etc., from Harp and Dragon (Courtland, New York); Walden's Jewelry (Omaha); Soul Desires Holy Hardware (Omaha), and A Novel Idea Bookstore (Lincoln). Many lovely and unique items gathered at one event for your shopping convenience! It's never too early to start Christmas shopping. **If you can't come for the entire time, come and go as your schedule permits. A reservation will be needed if you are planning to attend the luncheon at 12:00 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.**

Enclosed in this newsletter is a page of individual invitations to our luncheon and program. Please cut out and share them with your family and friends. We guarantee that they will have an enjoyable time!

Luncheon Menu

This year we are offering a children's meal; a vegetarian meal will be available upon request.



Adult menu: Creamy leek soup, apple stuffing boneless chicken thigh with apple cider reduction sauce, rice, asparagus, spinach salad/Mandarin oranges, rolls/butter, bread pudding/ala caramel topping, tea/coffee.

Children's menu: "Mac'n Cheese" with hotdog, apple slices with peanut butter cup, dinner roll, cookie, and juice.

Please complete the enclosed yellow reservation form and mail to: Stanley Owens, 11027 Washington St., Omaha, NE 68137, (402) 339-4929. Payment must accompany luncheon reservations and **must be received no later than Saturday, March 26.** Checks should be made payable to: "St. David's Welsh Society." If you have to cancel, please do so before Wednesday, March 30. We hope to see you Saturday, April 2!



James J. Lytton, ChM., was born in Omaha, Nebraska and grew up in the Kansas City area. He has a BMus. from Westminster Choir College, a MMus. from Southern Methodist University, and has earned the Choirmaster certificate (ChM.) through examinations from the American Guild of Organists. His organ teachers have included Bill Lemonds, Mary Krimmel, Donald McDonald and John Hooker. He has studied choral conducting with George Lynn, Robert Carwithen, Gregg Smith, Helmut Rilling and Lloyd Pfautsch. He has taught school and served churches in several states and the District of Columbia. He has prepared choirs to sing in Carnegie Hall in New York City and the National Cathedral in Washington. Jim is currently the Dean of the Lincoln chapter of the American Guild of Organists and served as the director of the Cathedral Choir at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ for four years. He makes his home in Lincoln with his three cats, Gracie, Dietrich and Franz.



Diana Herbert Warner will accompany us on piano. Diana is a transplanted sunflower, having moved from Wichita, Kansas, to Nebraska in 1970. She is a graduate of Wichita State University, with both Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees. She is a retired radio station owner, spending time with her seven grandchildren and also doing a lot of volunteer work, mostly with arts organizations. Diana is a recent winner of the "Heart of the Arts" award, given as a Mayor's Arts Award under the auspices of the Lincoln Arts Council. She traces her Welsh heritage to her grandfather, Osmond Arthur Herbert, who came to America as an infant in 1870.

April 2, 2011, Music Program by Zach Hurst

The luncheon will be followed by an enjoyable music program provided by Zach Hurst. Zach is a sophomore at Lincoln Southeast High School. He began his journey in music at the age of six, taking piano lessons from Tamara Wyman. By the age of eight he found the harp irresistible and together with his parents made the commitment to commence harp lessons. He studies privately with Heidi Beran. By the age of 13 Zach started playing professionally, performing at weddings, wine tastings, Christmas performances and other special events. As a member of the school orchestra, Zach was invited to play with the Lincoln Youth Symphony in their 2009 season finale concert.

As a participant in the Midwest Harp Festival and Competition in Tulsa, Oklahoma the last three years, Zach has placed each year in his competition division. The same Festival has provided the opportunity to participate in Master Classes and workshops with Mary Bircher of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, and renowned harpists Jan Jennings, Elizabeth Richter and Faye Seeman. He has also participated in Master Classes with Australian harpist Alice Giles, Julie Ann Smith of the San Diego Symphony and Paraguayan Dr. Alfredo Ortiz. In his spare time Zach enjoys dirt biking, jet-skiing and snowmobiling.

Welsh tidbit: According to *Wikipedia*, in 2003 the United States officially recognized St. David's Day as the national day of the Welsh, and on March 1 the Empire State Building was floodlit in the national colors of red, green and white.



St. David's Welsh Society sweatshirts and T-shirts

will be available at our April 2 luncheon. In recognition of our 100th birthday, we still have a few sweatshirts and T-shirts with the red, yellow and green St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska logo on the front. Join with us in wearing and advertising the St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska. T-shirts are \$15, and sweatshirts are \$20-\$25, plus tax.



Annual Dues

As you are all aware, costs continue to rise. St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska is experiencing these same increases with luncheon costs, paper, ink, postage, etc. We want to continue bringing you entertaining programs, informative newsletters with interesting stories about our members, events in your area and our Welsh heritage. With this in mind, we find it necessary to consider increasing our annual dues. We will propose:

“Increase individual dues from \$7.50 to \$10, and increase family dues from \$15 to \$20”

Sustaining dues (\$25) and Life Membership (\$300) will remain the same. **This proposal will be voted upon at the annual meeting on April 2, 2011, and will be effective in 2012 if approved.**

Memberships for This Year are Due Our membership year is January 1 through December 31.

Individual -----	\$ 7.50	Husband and Wife -----	\$15.00
Sustaining -----	\$25.00	Life -----	\$300.00

Your dues assist the Society in doing its work—preserving, developing and promoting our Welsh cultural heritage.

To be listed in the 2011 Directory, dues need to be paid by Friday, March 25, 2011. The Directory will be distributed to those attending the luncheon. (Please indicate if you are not able to attend the luncheon and the directory will be mailed to you.) **Please check your mailing label.** The date printed above your name indicates the date your dues were last paid. If no date is shown, your dues were paid in March, 2010, and are now due.

To update your address, phone number or e-mail address, please contact our treasurer, Stanley Owens, 11027 Washington Street, Omaha, NE 68137; 402-339-4929; or Sowens77@peoplepc.com.

Welsh Culture in Fine Form in Nebraska Centennial Gymanfa Concert

By Lori McAlister; photos by Stephen McAlister

The final quarter of the year 2010 was a very busy and exciting time for the St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska. The group that was formed in Omaha, Nebraska in 1910 had a marvelous series of events throughout the year to mark the occasion. As with most society-sponsored events, no admission was charged and donations received were applied to the expenses of presenting the events. What follows is a recap of our winter programs.

October 24

The Centennial Gymanfa Concert event was made possible by receipt of grant funding from the Nebraska Arts Council, generous underwriting gifts from St. David's Society membership, the commitment of the society board members and the generosity of those in attendance. This event was the pinnacle of a year's worth of programming designed to highlight the work of St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska in the year of our centennial. It consisted of an authentic presentation of a traditional Welsh Gymanfa Ganu, or "hymn sing," along with elements of performance. The program presented was most fitting for such an auspicious anniversary and exceeded everyone's expectations!



Centennial Gymanfa Concert 2010

We held this event at First-Plymouth Congregational U.C.C. Church – the “first church of the arts” in Lincoln. We featured the strength of the First-Plymouth music program in personnel and in place. We hired the Plymouth Brass Quintet to perform and invited members of the sanctuary choir to both perform and participate in the group sings. A young harpist, Zach Hurst (age 15) graced us with several instrumentals. We commissioned a special arrangement of the notable hymn tune, *Cwm Rhondda* by Assistant Music Director Jeremy Bankson and enjoyed the improvisational magic of Tom Trenney, head music director, on the mighty Lied organ. Our crowd size was more than double the average attendance of past gymanfa. Nearly 300 souls

gathered in the historic nave of the church to experience the depth, breadth and pure joy of Welsh music. Our faithful accompanist of many years is Diana Herbert Warner of Lincoln. Our song leader was once again the venerable Geraint Wilkes from Waukesha, Wisconsin. Geraint is a native of Aberystwyth, in mid-Wales. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1990 and has since lead hundreds of Welsh song events. He has a long-time investment in Welsh culture in Nebraska and presented his own tribute to two personal friends and noted leaders in the society: Ellsworth Closs and Orvid Owens, both deceased. Geraint said that in 20 years of living in the United States and after leading approximately 500 Welsh events in that time, our event ranked in the top five! He commented on the completeness of the program, exhibiting the three traits of an authentic Welsh presentation (theatrical, spiritual and emotional). He said that he would not have changed a thing, everything seemed just right, and if he never directed another event – he could die happy! (This is high praise from a man who counts among the high points of his own career singing at the investiture of King Charles as Prince of Wales in 1967.)

It was a special treat for us to have three daughters of the society as featured vocalists. Gwenith Closs Colgrove travelled from her home in Wyoming to offer her own tribute to her father and to all her family present. Gwen has been generous with her talent and commitment to the Welsh society of her home state. She soloed on Welsh language pieces that she had prepared for Eisteddfod competitions. She then joined forces with Sue (Owens) Hedrick of Lincoln and Cynthia (Longacre) Switzer of Atlanta, Georgia, to present “God be with You” in gorgeous three-part harmony!

Society president Joan Longacre did a first-class job organizing the tea that followed this glorious production. And by definition, there was nothing “small” about our reception! Beth Franz worked her magic in decorating the tables in Pilgrim Hall. We have many wonderful volunteers that participate in hospitality at our events. Space limits my naming each one, but suffice it to say, we have an amazing team!

The energy and response of attendees was palpable! Long-time society members were extremely proud of the way the Welsh were presented and represented that day. Even our caterers were caught up in the excitement of those attending the tea that followed the program. It was a great day for the Welsh (and those who love them) in Nebraska. All counted it a success in every way. What we experienced through this process was collaboration between the creative community and the heritage community to synthesize a tremendous experience for everyone who took part in any aspect of the day. It was informative and transformative in ways that only live and interactive art can be.

All Hallows' Evensong and 12th Night Revel

October 31

The first annual All Hallows' Evensong was held at St. David's Episcopal Church. At the invitation of rector Father George Benson, Society Vice President and friend Kathy Disney created a seasonal, historical experience that would provide the "book end" to the 12th Night Revel that is held on the second Sunday in January. Fr. George commented that the congregants at St. David's Episcopal Church had enjoyed learning about the cultural heritage of our common saint and they were interested in more!

Once again, a wonderful array of talented folks donated their time to celebrate the folk culture of Celtic lands. A group of Nebraska Wesleyan College students brought to life a Souling Play which featured our dear Mary Lwyd in the part of "Dick the Horse." It was noted the commonalities between several of the customs associated with winter starting with harvest and running through Christmas, New Year's Day and 12th Night. Any old excuse to go door-to-door and collect food, drink and money! Connie Moon made the trip from Kearney to sing and play the violin for us. Lori and Kathy teamed up with Greg Weinert and Steve Enersen to present Robert Burns' "Tam O'Shanter" in reader's theater.

Together, we bid the worn season of summer farewell and welcomed in the fall. We examined traditions of old and made the connections between our current practices of bobbing for apples, trick or treating and Christmas caroling. We honored a myriad of Welsh saints and learned a bit about the "saints' lives" or hagiography. Once again, Stephen and daughter Madeline McAlister provided invaluable tech support with power point and photography of the event.

The tea that followed the performance featured Soul Cakes, which were often given to the wondering bands singing and acting from door to door. Soul cakes served a number of purposes ranging from being an offering for departed souls who might visit on November Eve, All Saints Day (Nov. 1) or All Soul's Day (Nov. 2) to being a gift to those living who offer prayers on behalf of departed souls. Joan Longacre and Jo Bomberger lead the charge to provide hospitality.

January 9, 2011

Our Third Annual 12th Night Revel on behalf of the St. David's Welsh Society was held at St. David's Episcopal Church. This year the theme was "Masqueing and Mumming." Lori McAlister and Kathy Disney, your mavens of Festivale Obscura, crafted an afternoon full of mirth with a touch of mayhem. Though the weather outside was frightful with blowing snow, 65 hearty souls gathered to welcome in the New Year. Appropriately enough, it is the nature of winter weather in the northern hemisphere that inspired so many of our forefathers' customs of bleak mid-winter. And so, we walked through the arcs of timeless entreaty with the hope that the sun would return to full strength and that days would begin to lengthen once again!

The entire Weinert family provided the cast for "A Tale of Old Christmas," an old mummer's play. Greg and Heidi, along with their three children, Malcolm, Cambria and Tristin, took us through the requisite events of epic battle, death, resurrection, and a collection! Greg portrayed a Welsh embodiment of Father Christmas called Siôn Corn (or Chimney Johnny). We were struck again by the close similarity between the mummer's plays of Christmas and the soul caking plays of harvest time. The male voice quartet of CounterPointe joined us for the second year. Wales native Nina Burgess shared stories of growing up in Wales and memories of last year's trip to Wales for Christmas with her young son, Samuel. Kathy performed an original one-woman drama poignantly in the theme of mask-wearing. Curt Donaldson joined Scott and Gary Kruce as our three kings as well as delivering his weather prediction for the year as our Empirical Ethereal Prognosticator. And holding us all together was Brent Shaw, Music Director of First United Methodist Church—Lincoln, along with Michele Dobszewicz on the hand drum.

We selected a Lord and Lady of the Greenwood, and after a brief coronation they were put to work on our "wishing tree." Though little more than a bare branch at the start, the little tree was soon in full leaf with the good wishes of all those present for the year ahead.



All too soon, we drew our revel to a close. We gathered the whole room standing in a circle, and taking hands we sang "Auld Lang Syne." We then retired to tea, which featured a King's Cake in honor of the day. Thanks to Joan Longacre and Jo Bomberger for organizing the hospitality, and thanks to Stephen and Maddie McAlister for the weather all the technical difficulties encountered. We were bereft of the carefully prepared Power Points; however, those Welsh story-telling genes saved the day! In fact, one of our attendants told me he actually preferred the old-fashioned presentation. We are also indebted to Dick Longacre, Stephen and Madeline McAlister for their unflagging support behind the scenes.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention every board member of the St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska. Without their support at every turn, we would not be the active organization that we have shown ourselves to be; not bad for our advanced years! Joan Longacre, President; Stanley Owens, Treasurer; Leah Bjerrum, Secretary; Shirley Lederer, Newsletter Editor; Morgan and Marj Bevan (Historian), Jean Owens, Mary Lou Pritchard and Rosalind Morris. See www.mathiaslink.com/welsh for more information on St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska, or phone Lori McAlister, Vice President, at 402-742-0477.

Diolch yn fawr! Thanks very much!

A big “thank you” is extended to contributors who helped to make our October 24, 2010, centennial concert possible.

Ruth Beach	Mark and Mildred Gardner	Stanley Owens
Morgan and Marjorie Bevan	Jean Henderson	Mary Lou Pritchard
Leah Bjerrum	Adah Ruth Jenkins	Judith Schmidt
Don and Helen Brittin	Helen Leonhardt	Dick and Judith Temme
Delmar Davis	Dick and Joan Longacre	David Youmans
David and Paula Evans	Stephen and Lori McAlister	Leta Youmans
Beth Franz	Rosalind Morris	

Thank you to **everyone** who provided financial support before and at the concert. A special thank you is extended all of the “unsung heroes,” who graciously volunteered their time and expertise working behind the scenes to provide technical support, serve as ushers and greeters, set up and serve at Te Bach, bake Welsh tea cakes and provide cookies, tea and coffee. Because of all of these special people, our 2010 centennial concert was a great success!

At Last—the Welsh Language is now Official in Wales!

On December 7, 2010, the Welsh Assembly unanimously approved a set of measures to develop the use of the Welsh language within Wales. On February 9, 2011, this measure received Royal Approval and was passed, thus making the Welsh language an officially recognized language within Wales. The Measure: confirms the official status of the Welsh language; creates a new system of placing duties on bodies to provide services through the medium of Welsh; creates a Welsh Language Commissioner with strong enforcement powers to protect the rights of Welsh speakers to access services through the medium of Welsh; establishes a Welsh Language Tribunal; gives individuals and bodies the right to appeal decisions made in relation to the provision of services through the medium of Welsh; creates a Welsh Language Partnership Council to advise Government on its strategy in relation to the Welsh language; allows for an official investigation by the Welsh Language Commissioner of instances where there is an attempt to interfere with the freedom of Welsh speakers to use the language with one another. Since 2000, the teaching of Welsh has been compulsory in all schools in Wales up to age 16.

St. David’s at The Durham Museum, 2010

Stanley Owens bearing our Welsh flag



This was the third year for St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska members to host a display at The Durham Museum in Omaha. On the first Friday of each December, the museum invites local ethnic groups to share information, holiday traditions and performances at this wonderful festival.

It is always a joy to enter the great hall of the 1929 Union Station. It gleams in art deco elegance with their spectacular towering real Christmas tree at center stage. It’s a great way to learn how the world celebrates this joyful time of year. Stan Owens, treasurer, bore the Welsh Dragon in the parade of nations. Joan Longacre, president, and member Leslee O’Bradovich set up a table featuring a small tree hung with Welsh holiday symbols, an authentic wool cape and hat from Wales, information about the society, and a few items for sale including Dylan Thomas’ *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*

(books and CD recitation) and Welsh tea cakes—always a big hit! Lori McAlister, vice president, donned her traditional Welsh woman costume and husband, Stephen McAlister, made the rounds taking photos. It is an honor to represent the Welsh at this event. We always connect with people having some Welsh ties and you can sense their pride at seeing us (and themselves) in this international setting.

Down Memory Lane Dr. Oliver and Vera Grace

Dr. Oliver Davies Grace and his wife, Vera (Johansson) Grace, joined St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska decades ago. Oliver served on the board as treasurer from 1981-1992. He remembers his first board meeting at the old King's Restaurant at 10th and South Streets in Lincoln.

Oliver's maternal and paternal grandparents came from eastern Wales, and England. His Welsh ancestry is on his maternal side. His Welsh grandfather, Edward Gomer Davies, was apprenticed to a doctor in Wales before coming to the United States, where he took up farming in New York. His grandmother, Margaret, lived in an area of Wales about 50 miles south of where his grandfather was raised. She migrated to New York and later met Edward in a farm area north of New York City. After they were married, the local doctor convinced his grandfather to go back into medicine, so he began practicing in small towns in New York, traveling by horse and buggy. He wrote poetry, sometimes for birthdays, and many of his writings are preserved at the library at the University of Idaho Boise.

These Welsh-born grandparents lived in several areas of Wisconsin. Oliver's mother, Gladys Davies, was born in Wisconsin, went to South Dakota State University, and became a pharmacist. Her siblings included two brothers and three sisters. One brother became a civil engineer in California, the other a dentist in Woonsocket, South Dakota, which is south of Huron. Three of the four girls went to college. The oldest became a nurse. Another earned her PhD at the University of Nebraska, taught at Central High School in Omaha. Another sister worked as a clerk in a Yankton post office until she retired.

Oliver's parents met while they were attending South Dakota State University. His father, Oliver Joseph Grace (of English descent), graduated with a degree in animal science and was employed at several agricultural experiment stations. Oliver's sister was born in Fort Morgan, Colorado, and Oliver was born in Washington, D.C. His father purchased land near Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and later worked as a county agent in Kimball, where Oliver started kindergarten. He was also involved with irrigation projects east of Yellowstone National Park, and worked for the University of Nebraska Experiment Station at North Platte until 1930. In the 1930s the family went back to the farm near Akron, Colorado. Oliver remembers the dust storms. He attended grade school in the country and high school in Akron. During this time his mother continued to correspond with her cousins in Wales and kept copies and notes for a written family history.

Vera was an infant when she came from Sweden to the United States with her aunt. She was raised in Illinois with this aunt and cousins. She had a master's degree in chemistry and a PhD in microchemistry. She was teaching a graduate-level course in biochemistry at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine when she and Oliver



met; they married in July, 1948. Vera continued to teach until their children, Kerstin and Edward, were born. Oliver worked for the Food and Drug Admin.

Oliver worked at the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1964 until he retired in 1982. In the summer of 1964, he was co-author of a research paper that was being presented at a conference in Germany. Vera, Kerstin, and Edward traveled several weeks ahead of Oliver to visit Vera's relatives in Sweden. When Oliver arrived, they went on a "circle hopping trip" by plane, boat, and train through several countries. They traveled through Switzerland, Germany (including a visit behind the Iron Curtain), and toured Paris, Amsterdam and London. In England they visited Shakespeare's home, and saw the castle where Oliver's paternal grandmother worked as a second cook.

When they arrived in eastern Wales, they stayed two nights in the area of his ancestral home. They found the church that his Davies ancestors attended; his family had put a window in the church. Headstones in the church cemetery had been laid against the wall, so they were unable to locate family graves. They visited his ancestors' water-driven woolen mill and toured the house, which was being converted to a bed and breakfast. In north Wales, they saw Caernarfon Castle, which later was the setting for the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. They drove to Edinburgh and toured Scotland before returning to Lincoln in time for the children's school term. Years later Oliver again visited eastern Wales and other historical areas with a Kiwanis group.

Oliver's beloved wife, Vera, passed away on December 11, 2010. Her obituary is on the following page. During her lifetime she made several trips to Sweden to visit relatives. She was well known for her handicrafts, and made the beautiful wall hanging with Welsh family mementos that hangs in Oliver's apartment. It includes one of his old watches from college days, a piece of Welsh horse harness, photos of his grandparents, and many other interesting and beautiful pieces. Oliver has many other family mementos including some of his mother's mortar and pestle sets and bells from Wales. One bell has a raised inscription "Chiantel Fondeur 1878." During World War II, Oliver was a government employee in New Hampshire. He was not yet married, and when he had time off, he typed their Welsh family history from the notes his mother had made when corresponding with her Welsh cousins. His daughter, Kerstin, has this precious family history book.

Dr. Grace resides in an apartment at Eastmont Towers in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In Memorium

Vera Hanawalt Grace was born May 24, 1913 in Skafta, Smaland, Sweden to Karl and Matilda (Andersson) Johansson. At the age of 6 months her aunt, Anna Hanawalt, brought her to the United States. She grew up in Galva, Ill. with her aunt and her cousins, Ella, Belle and Bill. After high school, Vera attended Milwaukee Downer College and then went on to receive a Master's Degree in chemistry and a PhD in microbiology from the University of Illinois. In 1940 she became a naturalized U.S. citizen. Vera was a Research Assistant Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Illinois when she met her husband Oliver. They wed July 17, 1948.

Vera belonged to numerous professional and honorary societies and was active in many local community organizations. Especially dear was her PEO group (Chapter DM) which she joined in the early 60s. She was also an active member of the Women's Circle at Warren Methodist Church. Vera also belonged to AAUW, Faculty Women's Club, Handweavers Guild of Lincoln, Lincoln Spinners Guild, the auxiliary of the Nebraska and American Veterinary Medicine Associations, St David's Welsh Society and the Norden Club. She held a variety of positions with these groups. Vera was very interested in handicrafts including needlepoint, spinning and weaving. She won several awards at the Nebraska State Fair for needlepoint and weaving pieces. As an avid Big Red fan, Vera and Oliver were football season ticket holders for over 50 years and supported all the other Nebraska teams.

Vera is survived by her husband, Oliver; son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Elizabeth Grace of Overland Park, Kan.; and daughter, Kerstin Lanser of Brookfield, Wis. They also have four grandchildren: Matthew and Benjamin Grace of Overland Park and Eric and Amanda Lanser of Minneapolis, Minn., and Jennifer Lanser of Chicago. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews in Sweden. Memorial Services were held on December 16, 2010, at Eastmont Towers Chapel in Lincoln.

Olin Edward Morris, 95, of Lincoln, died Saturday, February 5th. Olin was born in Randolph, Iowa, on June 26, 1915, to Charles Edward Morris and Clara Anna (Gude) Morris. Olin grew up in Union, Neb., where he attended Union Elementary and High Schools. He moved to Murray, Neb. after marrying Evelyn Mead, the love of his long life, in 1938.

Olin and Evelyn celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary on June 12, 2010. Olin and Evelyn moved from Murray to Lincoln in 1987 and became active members and supporters of the Eastridge Presbyterian Church. In 2007, they moved



from their home in the Eastridge neighborhood to Gramercy Hill retirement community where they resided until their recent move to the Independence House at Northview.

Olin served in World War II, deployed to Leyte Island in the Philippines. After returning from the war, he resumed his employment as a Federal Employee in Omaha, and as his career progressed, he led the Finance and Accounting Office at the U.S. Army's XIV Corps headquarters, and later, he was a Budget and Accounting Analyst at the Naval Reserve Training Center at Fort Omaha, retiring in 1973. In 1963 he received the second highest award given to the Department of Army civilian employees.

Olin led an active civic life. He was a 30-year volunteer fireman, Scout Master of Troop 471, member of Masonic Lodge #6, Mayor (Chairman of the Town Board) of Murray for 10 years, an elder and treasurer of the Murray Presbyterian Church, President of the Cass County Historical Society for seven years, and served on the District 56 School Board. After moving to Lincoln, volunteered for the Lincoln Food Pantry, Heritage School at State Fair Park, the State Capitol, Earth Wellness Festival, the annual LARSP book sale and the Lincoln Public Schools grandparents program. He also worked as a Precinct Inspector for Lancaster County elections and was active in the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). He and Evelyn received the AARP Community Service Award in 2005.

Olin touched the lives of many people with his generosity and his sense of humor. He loved to entertain with Evelyn as he accompanied her on the guitar and they sang their song "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You." He wrote over 90 poems, frequently marking some important event in the lives of his children and grandchildren.

Olin is survived by his loving wife Evelyn, sons James O. Morris and his wife Margie of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and David C. Morris and his wife Jerilyn Grace of Lincoln, daughter Marilyn Jean Morris Horn and husband Robert of Durham, Conn. He will be missed by his five grandchildren, Alison Morris (Gareth Hinds), Jason Horn (Jennifer Moore), Nathan Morris, Ashley Horn, and Samuel Morris; brother Bernard N. Morris of Papillion and sister Ruth L. Ross of Nehawka; nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents. Memorial services were held on February 12, 2011, at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Each year at our St. David's Day observance we remember those members of the Society who passed away during the year. If you know of others, please send information about them to Joan Longacre, 6325 O St., #511, Lincoln, NE 68510; or longacre@inetnebr.com; or call 402-486-2417.

St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska's 2011 Gymanfa Ganu

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 16, at Northeast United Church of Christ, 6200 Adams Street, Lincoln. Geraint Wilkes will be our guest conductor, Heidi Beran will be the harpist, and Diana Warner will be the pianist. Te Bach will follow. More details will be announced in our next newsletter.

Welsh Heritage Festival

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre at Wymore, Nebraska, is planning their 4th Welsh Heritage Festival for October 7-10, 2011, in Wymore, Neb. Events will include a Gymanfa Ganu, cemetery crawl, noson lawen, a concert, new exhibits and new Welsh films. Advance registration is required. For details, please check their website at www.WelshHeritage.org or write the Welsh Heritage Center at P.O. Box 253, Wymore, NE 68466.

North American Festival of Wales

The 80th Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 1-4, 2011. This annual Labor Day weekend national event includes Welsh music, singing, dancing, classes, seminars, tours, movies, eisteddfod competitions, and Gymanfa Ganu. Check their website for highlights from the 2010 event and registration information for this year's festival: www.wngga.org. The 2011 festival headquarters is the new **Crowne Plaza Cleveland Hotel City Centre**, which is located in the heart of downtown Cleveland and overlooks beautiful Lake Erie. Special rates for the festival, including reduced parking, are now available.

North American Welsh Newspaper

Consider subscribing to the North American Welsh newspaper, *Ninnau, Incorporating Y Drych*. It features news of Wales, Welsh North Americans, Welsh events in the United States and Canada, Welsh recipes, genealogical information, a terrific literary section, and much more. Yearly subscriptions are \$20.00; it is published every two months. Paid subscribers can obtain a password and read the publication online. Mail to: *Ninnau Publications*, 11 Post Terrace, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-2498. E-mail: ninnaupubl@cs.com.

Calendar of Events — 2011



- March 1 (Tues.)** **St. David's Day** Dydd Gwyl Ddewi Hapus i Chi! (Happy St. David's Day!) Celebrate by joining your Welsh friends for coffee or tea.
- March 6 (Sun.)** **Welsh heritage Sunday** Encourage your pastor to observe this Sunday by including one or more hymns that use a Welsh hymn tune.
- Mar. 17 (Thurs.)** **St. Patrick's Day** Welsh: *Padric* (the Welsh missionary who became patron saint of Ireland)
- April 2 (Sat.)** **St. David's Luncheon and Program** at First United Methodist Church, 2723 N. 50th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska (50th and St. Paul Streets), 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- May 1 (Sun.)** **St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska luncheon review meeting** Officers of the Society and all interested persons will meet at Eastmont Towers, 6315 "O" St., Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Aug. 21 (Sun.)** **St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska planning meeting** Officers of the Society and all interested persons will meet at Eastmont Towers, 6315 "O" St., Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Sept. 1-4** **North American Festival of Wales** The 80th Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. Check www.wngga.org for highlights from the 2010 event and registration information for this year's festival.
- Oct. 16 (Sun.)** **St. David's Gymanfa Ganu** Northeast United Church of Christ, 6200 Adams St., Lincoln, Nebraska, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Geraint Wilkes, Welsh tenor, will be the guest conductor, and Heidi Beran, professional harpist and teacher, will play the harp. Te Bach will follow.
- Oct. 30 (Sun.)** **Welsh All Hallow's Eve In-Gathering** St. David's Episcopal Church, 8800 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2-4 p.m. with seasonal refreshments following.
- Nov 21 – Jan 2** **"Festival of Prairie Cultures"** Welsh items will be on display at the Homestead National Monument of America, Beatrice, Nebraska.
- Dec. 3 (Fri.)** **"Ethnic Christmas Traditions"** at The Durham Museum, Omaha, Nebraska.

Welsh Events in Other Areas

Many activities are planned for the following Welsh Societies. Please contact them for their events:

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project – Berwyn Jones at www.welshheritage.org

Iowa Welsh Society – Patricia McCaughey, President. E-mail mccaugheyj@q.com, or Ada Mae Lewis at lewis@isunet.net.

St. David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City – Judith Brougham, President, pres@Welshkc.org

St. David's Society of the State of Kansas, – Paula Evans, 620-256-6687

St. David's Society of Minnesota – Judith Evans Warner, President, 763-522-1612

Colorado Welsh Society – John Merklings, President - coloradowelshsociety.org

2011 North American Festival of Wales – The 80th Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu will be held on September 1-4 in Cleveland, Ohio. Check their website, www.wngga.org, for additional information.

Organizations Promoting our Welsh Heritage

Welsh-American Genealogical Society (WAGS) – 60 Norton Ave.; Poultney, VT 05764-1029. WAGS serves as a common link for Welsh genealogical researchers in the US and throughout the Welsh world. Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtwags>; e-mail: wagsoff1990@yahoo.com

Wales Tourist Board – Plan a trip to Wales! www.visitwales.com

National Welsh-American Foundation (NWAFF) – Rev. Dr. Stacy Evans, PO Box 410, Granville, Ohio 93023. E-mail exec_dir@wngga.org

Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association – c/o Dr. John Ellis, P.O. Box 215, Hartland, MI 48353-0215

Website: www.wngga.org; e-mail: wngga@comcast.net

Cymdeithas Madog – Residential language courses focusing on modern spoken Welsh. Website: www.madog.org; e-mail: president@madog.org

The Midwest Genealogy Center – in Independence, Missouri, is one of the nation's preeminent resources for family history. It is part of the **Mid Continent Public Library** system; access www.mcpl.lib.mo.us for a wealth of resources.

Selling Welsh products

The Harp and Dragon, 25 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045; 607-756-7372, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily; fax 607-756-0366; e-mail harpdrag@HarpAndDragon.com. Anne Habermehl, proprietor. Access their catalog:

www.harpanddragon.com.

Hiraeth Celtic Goods, 77 Cranberry Drive, Duxbury, MA 02332; 781-585-6592, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. EST, Monday–Friday. See their online catalog at www.hiraethcelticgoods.com. Place orders at orders@hiraethcelticgoods.com.

Policy Statement

At our St. David's Day observances, or any other event sponsored by the St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska, our intent and purpose is to honor our Welsh heritage. The Society welcomes greetings and /or announcements from related organizations but strongly recommends that any such additional input be planned ahead and coordinated with/communicated to the president of this Society so that it may be added to the program or agenda of the meeting. Such input shall be limited to two minutes or a short written equivalent. Further, *all monetary collections or donations accruing from these meetings shall be for the benefit of the St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska.*

2010-2011 Society officers and newsletter editor

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