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A Letter from Our President

Mary Lou Pritchard

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Slate of Officers for 2013-2014

September 29—Save the Date!

Sunday, September 29, is the date for our 2013 Gymanfa Ganu.

This will be a special farewell event, the last Gymanfa with Geraint Wilkes conducting and Diana Warner accompanying. It will also be the last time Beth Franz will oversee the te bach. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to be with us!
Spring is arriving. I am hopeful that your mind is also turning to our annual gathering of the St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska. We have a marvelous meal and program planned for you and your family. Reservations are needed for both the meal and the children’s activities, so please return your registration by March 25.

Our own Jerry Owen will be sharing childhood stories from the Welsh mining village of his youth. Then John Good, a Wales native now living in Arizona, will perform with his duo, Tramor. John is a celebrated multi-instrumentalist, singer, poet and story-teller. We are surely in for a wholly authentic Welsh treat!

Please note the NEW location: our luncheon will be held at Eastridge Presbyterian Church. The parking lot is located along 56th Street a few blocks north of A. Street. Many thanks to church and society members Joan Longacre and Jean Owens for suggesting this venue for us. The main entrance is at ground level and you may take the elevator to the basement room where all of our activities are located.

The new year seemed to bring with it a “change in the wind.” Have you sensed it? It is certainly a red-letter year for the society in that our autumn gymanfa (hymn sing) will see the retirement of three pillars on which that event has solidly rested for more than two decades. Our song leader, Geraint Wilkes, our accompanist, Diana Warner and our te bach hostess, Beth Franz have announced that the 2013 Gymanfa Ganu will be their last to serve in the capacities mentioned. We are planning even now for an event that will celebrate and honor each one’s contribution with a send-off worthy of all they have invested in us. If you have photos, memories, well wishes to share, please contact me so that we can include them in the program. Mark your calendar now for Sunday, September 29 beginning at 2:00 pm at Northeast United Church of Christ.

Your society board also has a consideration for which we welcome your input. When the St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska was organized as a non-profit corporation, it was registered as a 501(c)4. Many member-based social organizations have this status. The alternative status of 501(c)3 is designed for groups whose programming extends beyond their membership to the community. Among the advantages of having a 501(c)3 status is the opportunity to apply for grants and that contributions we receive would be tax-deductable. Neither is the case for the (c)4 status. We are now gathering information about the process of changing our status, which we are finding to be long, complex and very costly. And so we welcome your input on this matter. Feel free to contact any of the board members between now and April 6 or bring your information to our meeting.

I leave you with words from Frank Lloyd Wright, the great American architect, writing about his Welsh immigrant grandfather: “He was in league with the stones of the field and he taught his children to work hard until the valley blossomed like a garden. His New Wales. He planted a small world with the world that is again within other worlds without end.”

Dal ati! Daliwch ati! Keep at it! Don’t give up!

Dymuniadau gorau. Best Wishes,

Lori
Nebraska Academy of Sciences Recognizes Mary Lou Pritchard

St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska member Mary Lou Pritchard received the 2012 “Friend of Science” award from the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. Since 1948 she has served the Academy in various capacities, most recently as chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

In 1971, she was the Founding Curator of the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology. Over the succeeding 25 years she directed the growth of its collections, library, and research endeavors into an internationally acclaimed Center for the discipline.

In 1995, after 47 years of dedicated service to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she retired as Professor and Curator Emerita, School of Biological Sciences and State Museum. In 2002, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree. Meanwhile, she has continued as a volunteer in the Manter Laboratory.

All Hallows Celebrated

All Hallow’s in the Holler was the theme for the 2012 All Hallow’s Eve ‘n Song program on Sunday, October 28 held at St. David’s Episcopal Church of Lincoln.

About 50 persons gathered to mark the change of season. This third annual celebration looked to the southern states for Welsh stories and traditions.

The multi-talented Weinert family performed a mummer’s play set in American Appalachia entitled, “How the Valley Got Her Echo.” Kathy Disney shared the legend of Welsh Prince Madog and his landing at Gulf Shores, Alabama in 1170. Lori McAlister shared a bit about Jefferson Davis, the president of the confederacy during the Civil War.

Landon Beard, a member of the Lincoln High School Theatre Department reprised his first-person portrayal of James W. Bush, a black Union Army veteran buried in Lincoln’s historic Wyuka Cemetery.

Melodee Landis and Bill Behmer provided lively folk music with Bill sharing a bit about the British Isles origins of southern music.

Seasonal treats like nuts, apples and cider were served along with hot tea and soul cakes. Soul cakes were traditionally made to offer those going door-to-door requesting a gift on behalf of those who had died the year preceding this souling season.

It is good to be mindful of the condition of your own soul as we recall the saints at this turning of the Celtic New Year.
January 6, 2013, marked the Fifth Annual 12th Night Revel held at St. David’s Episcopal Church on behalf of the St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska.

This year’s theme took us to Merlin’s Isle or Bardsey Island off the north coast of Wales. Hostesses Kathy Disney and Lori McAlister each took it in turn to share tales of Bardsey Island across the centuries. Kathy portrayed contemporary poet, Christian Evans, a part time inhabitant of the island today.

We watched interesting footage of Welsh bass-baritone, Bryn Tyrfel, as he fulfilled his dream of singing in the chapel on Bardsey. It was no small feat to get a grand piano moved out to the island and installed specifically for his performance.

Lori told tales belonging to myth and legend regarding the mysterious location of Merlin’s island of Avalon. We learned that many of the elements in the Harry Potter series have their roots in the famed “13 Treasures of Britain” which were in the care of Merlin and said to be secured in his cave.

The Weinert family gave a smashing performance of an original tale written in the mummer’s tradition entitled, “Merlin Meets His Match.”

Those gathered sang “All Ye Mountains Praise the Lord” to the tune of Nos Galan (aka Deck the Halls) and “The Old Year Now Away is Fled” to the tune of Greensleeves.

The newly formed trio, Celtic Pilgrims, rounded out the afternoon with lively instrumental music.

Many thanks to Leah Bjerrum, Leslee O’Bradovich, Rosalind Morris, Evelyn Romans, Mary Cronk and Kim Drapal for their assistance with the lovely te bach that followed the revel. What a fantastic way to wrap up the Christmas holidays!
Reservation Form

St. David’s Day Annual Luncheon & Program
Eastridge Presbyterian Church—1135 Eastridge Drive, Lincoln

10 a.m. Te Bach & Marketplace * 11 a.m. Annual Meeting * Noon Luncheon
1:30 p.m. A Concert of Welsh Music, Song & Poetry with Tramor!

Enclosed is my check to cover the following:

___ Adult Luncheon @$15
___ Child’s Luncheon @$6.50
___ Membership dues for 2012

Total amount enclosed

FREE Kids crafts by reservation
Number of children attending: ___

Date: April 6 2013
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Information for 2013 Membership Card—please print:

Name(s) ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________

Phone(s) (_____) ____________________________ (______)
Email ____________________________________________
(Optional) Welsh Family Name(s)________________________

___ Check if you wish to receive a printed membership card

Make check payable to St. David’s Welsh Society and mail to:
Judy Temme * 2709 35th Street * Columbus, NE 68601-1482
Mary Faith Owens Tiedgen Schroeder, 79, of Enid, Oklahoma, passed away on Jan. 23, 2013. She was born July 23, 1933 in Carroll to Owen P. Owens and Ora Davis Owens.

In her youth, Faith attended country school where her brothers and cousins made up the majority of the students. Mary Faith was the valedictorian of the 1950 class of Carroll High School. She then pursued a teaching degree at Wayne State, Kearney State, and the University of Nebraska.

Faith was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She made countless friends throughout her life's journey. She will be dearly missed.

Survived by children, Denise (Thayne) Carpenter of Enid, Okla., Kim (Barry) Hegel of Lincoln, Scott (Cheryl) Tiedgen of Highlands Ranch, Colo.; her brothers, Hayden (Gen) Owens of Fennimore, Wis., Lowell (Margorie) Owens of Baltimore. Stanley (Ethel) Owens of Omaha; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death, parents, two husbands, son and brother, Orvid (Jean) Owens of Lincoln.

St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska will conduct its business meeting prior to the luncheon on April 6. Here is the proposed slate of officers for 2013-2014:

President - Lori McAlister
Vice Pres. - Leslee O’Bradovich
Secretary - Leah Bjerrum
Treasurer - Mary Wilson

St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska
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www.mathiaslink.com/welsh

PLEASE NOTE: If there is a date on your address label, that indicates when you last paid membership dues. If you wish to continue receiving mailings from the Society, make sure your membership is up to date. Thanks!