



Message from the WNAA President



*WNAA President
Jeanne Jones
Jindra*

Annwyl WNAA Members and Friends,

I hope you all had the opportunity to read through the February issue of HWYL so you know of the outstanding activities and events we have planned for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln, NE!

We have four new dedicated WNAA board members who, along with the rest of the board, have been working hard to plan every last detail of the festival. We have added an Open-Air Welsh Fair outside the hotel on Wednesday evening with food, drinks and entertainment, so plan to

check in early for this. If you sign up for the Thursday tour to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center, you will return in time to walk to the Nebraska State Capitol Building for the Opening Ceremony and Flag Raising. Then it's back to the Cornhusker Marriott in time for dinner, and then a quick walk across the street to Saint Paul United Methodist Church for the Opening Concert featuring Dylan Morris and Urdd Eisteddfod winners.

Friday and Saturday during the day you will certainly find many interesting seminars and Cinema Wales offerings. And we are excited that the Welsh Folk Dancing workshop is returning to NAFOW this year. Our Theater production is a brand-new, one-man show, Carwyn, by Owen Thomas and Director Gareth Bale. The WNAA and the North America Wales Foundation joint Heritage Award Banquet on Friday evening is for everyone, and we hope you will attend to help us honor the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center. Soloist Lisa Dafydd will entertain.

There will be Informal Singing each night, the popular Silent Auction, Marketplace, and Eisteddfod Competitions. The Grand Concert will definitely be grand this year with a line-up of talent from Wales under the musical direction of Robat Arwyn.

On Sunday there will be two Gymanfa sessions, with a complementary Afternoon Tea in between.

The hotel accommodations are sure to sell out, so check www.nafow.org and reserve now for this year's festival. Now is a great time to visit Nebraska if you have never been. We've done all the planning for you!

Diolch yn fawr iawn!
Thank you very much!
Jeanne Jones Jindra
President, Welsh North American Association

2023 North American Festival of Wales

Registration is now open for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln, NE, August 30 through September 3, 2023.

Register through: www.nafow.org

The festival hotel is the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, located at 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Festival rates:

Rooms: \$114-\$134+ tax per night

Parking: \$11.25 per day

Call now to book your room: 1-888-236-2427
Group name: North American Festival of Wales.

The festival hotel is located ten minutes from the Lincoln Airport; there is a hotel shuttle to the Lincoln Airport. Taxi transportation from the Lincoln Airport to the hotel is typically \$15.00-\$19.00.



Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

The festival hotel is forty minutes from Omaha. The Lincoln Amtrak station (also known as Haymarket Station) is a short cab ride away.

2023 Festival Book Advertisements

It's not too late to submit your ad for the NAFOW program book, so promote your Welsh organization or business by placing an advertisement in the program booklet now!

What a great way to get the word out! Full, half and quarter page ad sizes are available, and a limited number can also be printed in full color.

On the festivalofwales.org website, click on ABOUT THE FESTIVAL and choose ADVERTISE AT NAFOW. Fill out your ad information online, or mail in the advertising form. The deadline for placing a festival book advertisement is August 1, 2023.

FYI from IHQ



WNAA Executive Secretary Megan Williams

Time is running out! If you are thinking of coming to Lincoln, please make your hotel reservation now. We only have a few weeks left where the rooms will be available at the discounted group rate. Go to www.nafow.org.

Plans are well under way and we look forward to welcoming you to Lincoln. We have world-class entertainment traveling in from Wales for a weekend you won't forget.

The concerts and gymanfa couldn't be in a more convenient location, a church just across from the

headquarters hotel.

Volunteers at the Great Plains Welsh Project have been working tirelessly to welcome you on the Thursday tour and we look forward to celebrating all their hard work at the joint banquet with the North America Wales Foundation on Friday evening.

Tickets to all events are still available and you get something extra this year, for free join us Wednesday evening as Lincoln welcomes Wales!

Hwyl am y tro, Megan Williams—Executive Secretary

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Website: festivalofwales.org

WNAA 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.

Sponsors Wanted

To continue to bring top-tier talent from Wales and present a quality Welsh festival, we need your help! We are looking for sponsors for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales.

We have an extensive and exciting program lined up for Lincoln and are looking for sponsors ranging from \$250-\$2,500. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and would like to know what opportunities are available, please contact Megan Williams: wnaahq@gmail.com.

WNAA, PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886



Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held Saturday 8:30 a.m., September 2, 2023 in Lincoln NE in conjunction with the 2023 North American Festival of Wales.

HWYL is published in the fall, winter and spring by the Welsh North American Association.

Editor: Jan Jones Batty

Direct comments or inquiries to:
editor@theWNAA.org

Welcome to NAFOW 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska from the Venue Chairs

Submitted by Gwenith Closs-Colgrove



Croeso! For the first time in its 100-year history, Nebraska and Lincoln are excited to host the North American Festival of Wales. It is truly a privilege to highlight our state and share the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and the Arvonian Historic Preservation Society with North America's Welsh community.

We take immense pride in the story of Welsh immigration to the Great Plains. Thanks to the Homestead Act of 1862, many of our ancestors were able to achieve their dreams of farming their own land, much more than they ever could have cultivated in their native Wales.

Our Welsh ancestors brought with them a spirit of perseverance and worked together with neighbors from other ethnic groups to build successful communities. Here, we also recognize and honor the Native nations who were the first to live on the Great Plains.

We hope you can visit the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, the Archive for Welsh America, our historic one-room school, and Bethel Cemetery—all located in Wymore, Nebraska. On your trip to Arvonian, you will travel through the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas.

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project is honored to be awarded the Heritage Medallion for 2023. This dream of starting a museum and archive began in 2001 and we have come a long way thanks to the support of many in the USA, Canada, and Wales, by way of memberships, donations, and gifts of unique artifacts. As we move into a new era for our organization, our future is bright.

Gwenith Closs-Colgrove, President, Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, Wymore, NE

Susan Evans Atchison, Chairperson, Arvonian Historic Preservation Society, Arvonian, KS



NAFOW Omaha Airport Shuttle

A NAFOW shuttle between Omaha Eppley Airfield and the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel has been arranged for \$25 per person each way. Sign up before August 1.

Arrivals: Transporting you from Omaha Eppley Airfield to the host hotel, Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel:

- Tuesday (8/29) - leave at 3:30 p.m. (arrive 4:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday (8/30) - leave at 3:30 p.m. (arrive 4:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday (8/30) - leave 6:30 p.m. (arrive 7:30 p.m.)
- Thursday (8/31) - leave 12:00 p.m. (arrive 1:00 p.m.)
- Thursday (8/31) - leave 3:30 p.m. (arrive 4:30 p.m.)

Departures: Transporting you from the host hotel, Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, to Omaha Eppley Airfield:

- Monday (9/4) - leave 8:00 a.m. (arrive 9:00 a.m.)
- Monday (9/4) - leave 11:00 a.m. (arrive 12:00 p.m.)

[Click here](#) for details and reserve a seat.

NAFOW Lincoln Airport Hotel Shuttle

The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel has a complimentary shuttle bus from the Lincoln airport to the hotel. Call the hotel at 402-474-7474 upon arrival at the airport.

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project Museum Hours

The museum in Wymore will be closed on Saturday and Sunday during NAFOW so that volunteers can attend NAFOW events.

The museum will be open on Labor Day Monday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for NAFOW travelers who would like to visit. Volunteers will also be on hand for visitors wanting to tour the one-room school or Bethel Cemetery.

Roommate Wanted

Are you looking for a roommate for NAFOW, or a roommate for the Monday tour? If so, contact Megan Williams as soon as possible, at wnaahq@gmail.com

NAFOW Bus Service from Minnesota to Nebraska



It isn't often that a large event featuring Welsh culture is held within driving distance of Minnesota, but with the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) being held in Lincoln, Nebraska, over Labor Day weekend, the Minnesota Welsh Association (MWA) decided to take action.

The MWA has chartered a coach bus from Minnesota to the NAFOW headquarters hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. The bus departs Minneapolis on Thursday, August 31, makes a stop in Mankato, and then continues to Nebraska. The bus returns on Monday, September 4. The bus ticket price is nominal and MWA Board members are excited about making this trip a fun experience for the passengers. Note: The tour to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre will be available to the group on Friday.

For more information about the Minnesota bus, check out: <https://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com/>

Minnesota Welsh Association Bus to the North American Festival of Wales
Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug 31-Sept 4, 2023



NAFOW 2023 Special Events

Welsh Quilt Raffle

Submitted by Gwenith Closs-Colgrove



The master quilter is Connie Backus-Yoder. Connie lives in Lincoln, NE, and has made over 80 quilts and does this from her love of creativity; she honors many

with her one-of-a-kind works of art. Backus-Yoder taught herself to sew, and creates her own patterns, doing things her way. And, in her own way, she drifted into art quilts around 2004. She was featured in a national online gallery of The Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts; she makes pieces only for family and friends and she sews only by hand. Connie is a person of strong faith and through this gift, she has enriched many with the message in each individual quilt. Gwenith Closs-Colgrove, a close personal friend, suggested Connie create a quilt for the North American Festival of Wales to be held in Lincoln, NE, over Labor Day 2023. Gwenith told her about Wales, its mountains, green valleys and the legend of the Red Dragon. From those descriptions, Connie depicted Wales and what it means to all those associated with this ancient land.

First-Timer's Welcome

Submitted by Myfanwy Davies

We love making new friends and are delighted to welcome first time attendees at the North American Festival of Wales.



Anyone attending for the first time will receive a special greeting at the Registration Desk. A special flag will be attached to your name tag so everyone knows you are new and can help if you seem lost.

You will also receive a gift bag and a welcome letter from Karen Wojahn and Myfanwy Davies. Hopefully one of those ladies will be around to welcome you in person and go over hints in the letter. The Festival has become very big, and very busy, and could be overwhelming at first, but a few minutes in the tea room reading the Schedule of Events will go a long way toward a new attendee seeing as much as possible.

And the fun doesn't stop there. We are arranging a Welcome Breakfast for first time attendees, probably on Friday morning. Coffee and pastries are supplied, you will also meet other first timers and can ask questions about the Festival and any of the events.

So, if you haven't attended a NAFOW in person, or you have a friend who might be interested, please consider joining us in Lincoln, Pittsburgh or Ottawa. We'll be glad to see you.

Open Air Event—Lincoln Welsh Night



This year you get something extra, for free! Join us for an open air concert on Wednesday night where Lincoln welcomes Wales. This concert features award-winning young vocalists Triano! You will also get to hear from some of our other headline performers who will give full concerts later in the weekend. We will enjoy music by Celtic Band Paddywack and pay homage to Nebraska's history as we enjoy a performance by Native American dance troupe Many Moccasins. Do a little shopping and enjoy food and beverage with a Welsh twist!



North American Festival of Wales
Kicks off with a Free Outdoor Concert

August 30, 2023 ~ starting at 5:00pm
at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

More details at www.nafow.org

Award-winning singers from Wales are joined by some of Lincoln's best including the Many Moccasins Dancers and the Celtic band Paddywack. Refreshments will be available for purchase





Opening Ceremony and Flag Raising

Join us for a formal opening of the festival on Thursday, August 31, at the Nebraska State Capitol, a short walk from the host hotel.

There will be an official welcome from the Welsh North American Association, local host societies, the State of Nebraska and the city of Lincoln. Music will be performed by the award-winning Urdd singers.



Corgi Event



Come see the corgis on Saturday at NAFOW. Here is a little about the group from their website, omahacorgicrew.com:

“At its inception in December 2011, the Omaha Corgi Crew was not much more than a group of friends who all shared a love of vertically-challenged herding dogs with big

hearts. As the name suggests, the Omaha Corgi Crew is based in Omaha, Nebraska and the surrounding area.

We are not a rescue, nor a breeder, but our membership includes both. We often advocate and assist in the purchase, adoption, and responsible re-homing of our favorite breed. If there is a corgi or mix in our area in need of a loving home, we're happy to step in and help out.”

Photo courtesy of Laura Sheree Photography

2023 NAFOW Eisteddfod Competitions

Submitted by Ian Samways

We encourage you to participate in this time-honored tradition; enter a competition and show off your talents at the 2023 North American Festival of Wales Eisteddfod!

See the online guidelines (<http://festivalofwales.org/eisteddfod-competition.html>) for full information on all entry requirements. (Please carefully review all relevant guidelines available at the site before entering!) All winners will receive cash prizes.

Here are this year's categories:

Visual Arts - Your anonymous entry is displayed at NAFOW and adjudicated by a secret ballot public vote (one vote per person). Entries might include fabric art, painting, sculpture, collage and so forth. This year's theme is "Roots/Gwreiddiau." Entry deadline is August 21, 2023. *Sponsored by the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin*



2022 NAFOW Visual Arts Entries

Poetry Composition (Welsh Language Poem and English Language Poem) - This year's theme, for both competitions, is likewise "Roots/Gwreiddiau." Anonymous submissions must be received via email by July 30, 2023. Returning as adjudicators this year are Menna Elfyn and Eurig Salisbury (Welsh) and Robert Dayton and Pat Edwards (English). Winners receive the David Llewelyn Williams Prizes. *Sponsored in 2023 by Robert Dayton, Patricia Morris and the Calgary Welsh Society.*

Stage Competitions (Recitation) — Saturday, September 2 at NAFOW 2023 (in-person). Advance registration is highly encouraged, but walk-ins are accepted as time permits. Recitation from memory is encouraged but not required. Give it a shot!

- Welsh Language Recitation (WNAA Eisteddfod Committee Award) Welsh learners are welcome—just let us know! This year's set piece is "Y Pethau Bychain" by Eurig Salisbury.
- English Language Recitation (St. David's Society of Minnesota Award). This year's set piece is "When all my five and country senses see" by Dylan Thomas.

Stage Competitions (Singing) — Saturday, September 2 at NAFOW 2023. Entry deadline is August 21, 2023.

- Solo Hymn Singing (Rachel Christopher Memorial Award). Each competitor performs a hymn in Welsh. *Sponsored by Huw Christopher.*
- Solo Voice/Semi-Professional (The Welsh North America Prize). Our signature competition, open to residents of the Americas, with the opportunity for a generous cash scholarship to compete at the 2024 National Eisteddfod of Wales. Each competitor performs (from memory) two contrasted selections drawn from art song, oratorio or operatic repertoire, at least one of which must be in Welsh. *Sponsored in 2023 by Ian K. Samways.*



2022 NAFOW Eisteddfod Concert

Limerick Composition - A fun competition open to Festival attendees in Lincoln! An expert panel narrows down the submissions to a set of finalists, who are then adjudicated by popular vote at the Noson Lawen on Sunday, September 3. Pick up the "lead-in" lines at the Registration Desk. *Sponsored by Alan and Greta Upshall.*

Registration for the NAFOW 2023 Eisteddfod is now open at <http://festivalofwales.org/eisteddfod-competition.html>!

Welsh Marketplace

Be sure to take in the Welsh Marketplace—plenty of Welsh items to buy; books, clothing, jewelry and more! Stop by the tables staffed by many Welsh organizations; learn about what they do and how you can get involved.

Don't forget the Silent Auction. There are many treasures to be had! One-of-a-kind collectibles, books and odd items. If you have something to donate, go to our website, find the donation form on the Additional Highlights page, fill it out and bring it along with your item.



Seminars for NAFOW 2023

For details about each seminar go to the festivalofwales.org website.



Jonathan Fairchild

The Roots Beneath Your Feet - Immigration and the Homestead Act of 1862



Pamela Petro

"Hiraeth Is Good For You"



Robert Humphries

The Welsh Experience on The Great Plains and Beyond

From Wales to the Heart of America: The Journey of John Evans



Gillian Hodgkinson

Some VERY Interesting "Lords of Llaneugrad" Anglesey



Peredur Owen-Griffiths

Welsh Democracy in 2023 - An Insider's View



Michael Hieber

Rachie and Composer Caradog Roberts



Ifor ap Glyn

A history of the Welsh language in ten words Hedd Wyn (1887-1917) and the Black Chair



Laurel Bradshaw and Danny Proud

Welsh Folk Dancing

Dick Cavett via Zoom



Dick Cavett performed in movies, in Broadway and off-Broadway plays and musicals, and has been spotted in countless television specials and documentaries. He is best known for The Dick Cavett Show that ran on several networks from 1968 to 1996, usually in a format of interviewing famous guests. Dick was nominated for thirteen Emmys and won three.

Mr. Cavett's maternal grandfather, Rev. R. R. Richards was from Carmarthen, Wales. He will present his recollections from interviews with famous celebrities, many of them of Welsh descent.

NAFOW Welsh Meetups

Be sure to join in on these additional NAFOW events:

Welsh Language I & II—Join Dan Rowbotham for lively sessions in the Welsh language.



The Friday session is for absolute beginners with an emphasis on speaking. This level is for anyone who needs a comfortable environment to begin learning Welsh.

Next Steps in Welsh, which is suitable for those with some knowledge of the language and want to practice and improve, is on Saturday. This class will follow on from "Beginners" and you are encouraged to attend both, but it is not a requirement.

Say Something in Welsh Meetup Speakers and learners of all levels of Welsh are welcome to stop by and say "sut mae!"



We will also host informal Welsh chat sessions for learners and speakers of any level. Say Something in Welsh is a free online course based entirely on speaking.

Ysgol Gan This is an informal singing practice session led by Karen Wojahn. You will learn some of the hymns we will sing on Sunday afternoon and evening. This is your opportunity to hear some Welsh verses pronounced and to practice your part, whatever it may be, with joyful abandon. Fun and enlightening.

Late Night Singing

If you haven't had enough singing during the day, finish every memorable evening singing Welsh hymns and old favorites following scheduled evening events.



Noson Lawen Join in for a relaxed Sunday evening to end the weekend's festivities.



We will sing folk songs and enjoy short, open-mic performances by festival attendees, including the long-anticipated voting on the winning limerick.

Other NAFOW Seminars

Be sure to join in on these additional NAFOW events:

Tax Breaks for Investors Take this opportunity to learn about significant permanent changes in the tax law that have major implications for US taxpayers over age 70 who have any kind of retirement account. Led by Dr. David Allen, Professor Emeritus at City University of New York, where he taught a variety of courses in economics and American government.

Celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of a Hidden History *presented by Heddwch Nain Mam-gu*

It's time to celebrate with Heddwch Nain Mamgu in the USA and Wales. The research and work discovering this hidden history has been amazing and this year, 2023, we hope we will have exciting news to share.

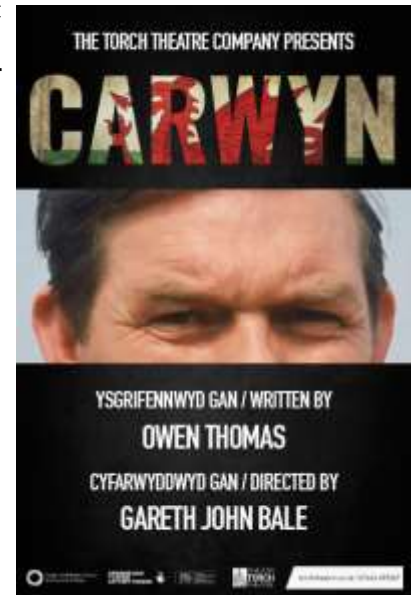
The Hidden History: In 1923, 390,000+ signatures were gathered from Welsh women and the petition was given to American women in New York City in 1924. The goal was to encourage American women to rally Congress to join The League of Nations. Did we find the chest with the 390,000+ signatures? Where is it now? Join us to find out.

Silent Auction An annual highlight of the festival is the silent auction. If you have a "like new" Welsh item (or maybe an antique) and want to find a good home for it, consider donating it to the NAFOW silent auction.

Consider items that will fit in someone's suitcase for the journey home. Popular auction items are books, household décor, framed art, Welsh woolens and more.

Estimated value of each item should be at least \$10.00.

Children's Activities hosted by the Urdd Gobaith Cymru



Cinema Wales

The lineup for Cinema Wales has been confirmed. Each film will be shown on Friday and Saturday at NAFOW. Check your program booklet, or the website, for times.



Men Who Sing

Directed by Dylan Williams, 77 mins. This humorous and melancholic portrait of a male voice choir begins when the filmmaker's father,

widower Ed, 90, sells the family home and arranges his own funeral. His only remaining solace is Tuesday night practice, but with an average age of 74 and suffering a haemorrhaging of the bass section, his beloved choir is facing a crisis of its own. They must act or face extinction. So the hunt begins to find 'brown haired men' in their 40s and 50s who can take the choir forward. As their search intensifies we come closer to them. Whilst Ed finds new meaning, Merf deals with his own bad news by focusing on the choir's revival and Gwyn laughs at his prostate cancer diagnosis and walks on the wing of a plane to raise money. Finally, they raise themselves and travel to Northern Ireland to perform for the first time in 20 years.

Shown courtesy of Backflip Media, Cwmni Da, SAC

Efaciwis, Pobol y Rhyfel, Episode 1 52 mins. (Welsh and English with subtitles) Evacuees, the People of War ~ #1 in a series looking at the experience of evacuees in Wales, and the history as a country that has offered shelter to people who are homeless due to war.

Shown courtesy of Wildflame Productions, SAC

Efaciwis, Plant y Ryfel, Episode 3 52 mins. (Welsh and English with subtitles) Evacuees, the Children of War ~ #3 in the series follows eight children who leave their modern life in the city and travel to Llanuwchllyn in 1939, living the experiences evacuees in Wales during WWII. *Shown courtesy of Wildflame Productions, SAC*

The Welsh Valley that Won the Lottery 47 mins.

In May 2022 more than 400 people in the south Wales valley of Rhymney shared a lottery win of 3.7 million pounds. At a time of dire economic crisis, the windfall was utterly transformative.



From Betty who won £3,984 to retired steel-worker Ted, who won £370,000; the money has been a godsend, and the impact on this tight-knit community is huge. For some the money is life changing, for others it is lifesaving. For mother of seven Mary, who has taken to growing her own fruit and veg to feed her family, the win means a trip to Devon for the first family holiday in 14 years. Former DJ John Price fulfills a lifelong dream as he tears up the valley in his new quad bike.

In a place where people have always struggled to make ends meet, what happens when they share a prize a multi-million pound prize? Narrated by Cerys Matthews.

Shown courtesy of Firecrest Films

What the WNAA Board Does For You

Brave the Cold, For One Thing!

In April, the WNAA Board of Directors met in Lincoln, Nebraska to iron out the details of the upcoming North American Festival of Wales.

The board toured the hotel with an eye toward placement of seminars, Cinema Wales, gathering spots for banquets and late-night singing, as well as the more mundane topics of where to put the WNAA office and registration table.

The group also walked across the street to Saint Paul United Methodist Church to see the sanctuary where concerts and the gymanfa ganu sessions will be held. It is made for a gymanfa ganu with a sloped floor and curved seating. Everyone will be able to see the director!



Board members took a bus ride to Wymore to visit the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. Everyone had plenty of time to tour the building and tornado-safe storage room for Welsh archives. Megan Williams was grateful there were no tornadoes on this visit. Museum volunteers were on hand to provide a warm welcome and explain the workings of the museum and how collections are curated.

At the museum, the group enjoyed a Welsh lunch of pasties, Welsh teacakes and a hot cup of tea on a blustery day. Members assembled outside in front of the mural, for a group photo—it was cold!

After the museum, it was on to the Pleasant View one-room schoolhouse; the inside has been lovingly restored to reflect the era when one-room schoolhouses provided rural education on the Great Plains. A fundraising campaign is under way to replace the siding on the outside, and there are even plans to add an outhouse!

The board then returned to the warm bus for a short ride to Bethel Cemetery. The NAFOW Wymore tour includes a stop at this historic cemetery where reenactors will bring historic Welsh settlers to life



(there's a pun there, sort of). Once again, only the bravest of the brave assembled on the steps of the former Bethel Church for a photo. It was still cold and now windy!

The final stop on the board's tour was Homestead National Historical Park in Beatrice. This museum commemorates the passage of the 1862 Homestead Act. The introductory film allowed us time to warm up and learn more about homesteading and the kind of life these brave settlers led. Then, the group viewed many interesting displays depicting pioneer life.

It was a full day, and provided a taste of what's in store for NAFOW 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska!

The WNAA Legacy Society

Submitted by Betsy Teti

Inaugurated in 2010 by the WNGGA Board, a planned giving initiative was established to assist in ensuring the future of the organization. Initially, a focus was placed on educating members on the importance of making a will and information was shared with those who indicated interest. The Legacy Society was announced to the membership with a full page ad in the Festival program for that year and an article appeared in HWYL. There were nine founding members.

The Legacy Society consists of those supporters who have designated a special gift, through bequests, trusts, or other arrangements, to benefit WNAA in the future. These generous gifts will ensure WNAA's prosperity and vitality well into the 21st century.

It is not necessary to re-write one's will in order to make a bequest to WNAA. A lawyer can prepare an addendum to or codicil for your will. It is not a difficult process, but it does require some paperwork. Every designated gift will be very helpful to the future of WNAA.

The Legacy Society has continued to grow and we are most grateful to those wonderful Legacy Society members who will positively impact WNAA far into the future. Their generosity is so appreciated!

Please consider becoming a member of the Legacy Society. Your gift will help with the important work of WNAA in keeping Welsh heritage alive for so many.

If you have already named WNAA in your will or would like additional information, please contact Dr. Megan Williams, Executive Secretary, wnaahq@gmail.com 607-279-7402 or me: Betsy Teti, Board of Trustees, WNAA, betsytet@gmail.com

Can o Gymru

A virtual St. David's Day competition for Welsh youth soloists was organized by Megan Williams and Edward Morus Jones. They were evaluated in two age groups; below are our winners and a little information about them.



Ages 7 through 11



First Place Iwan Marc Thomas is a 5 five pupil at Ysgol Gynradd Llanedi a small school of 30 pupils in rural Carmarthenshire. He has had singing lessons by the well-known soprano Miriam Bowen since he was four years old. He competes regularly in eisteddfodau and amongst his many successes is winning the years 3 and 4 solo at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Denbigh in 2022. He also won 1st prize at the prestigious Eisteddfod in Pontrhydfendigaid and the prize for the most promising performer in the junior section at the eisteddfod in Llandudoch, Pembrokeshire. In his leisure time he plays hockey for the under ten years team in Swansea which comes under the wing of Swansea University hockey Club. He also has piano lessons and enjoys gardening, cycling, walking, and reading.



Second Place Gruffydd Davies is eight years old and has been competing in local Eisteddfodau since he was two. His favourite thing is football and he plays for Ffostrasol Football Club. He enjoys performing on stage, singing, acting and is also learning to play the piano and the harp. He was given the opportunity to play one of the lead roles in Lloergan, the show which opened the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron last August, playing the role of Rhys.



Third Place Celyn Davies is ten years old and has been competing in local Eisteddfodau since she was three. She enjoys drama, reciting, singing and is also learning to play the tenor horn. She also enjoys reading, swimming and running.



Third Place Elin Mair Ganwyd Elin Mair MacDonald yn y Gaiman, Patagonia, sy'n rhan o'r Wladfa Gymreig. Mae Elin yn 8 oed, ac ym mlwyddyn 3 yn Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman. Mae hefyd yn astudio cerddoriaeth yn Ysgol Gerdd y Gaiman. Mae'n hoffi canu, dawnsio a chwarae offerynnau fel y cello, y ffidil a'r delyn. Mae'n ferch i Hector Mac Donald (cyfansoddwr) a Cinthia Zamarreño (athrawes yn Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman) ac mae ganddi ddwy chwaer fach, Seren Wen ac Alaw Haf.

Ages 12 through 16



First Place Leisa Mair Lloyd Edwards is 16 years old and lives with her parents and sister in the village of Groeslon near Caernarfon in North Wales. She is a Year 11 pupil at Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle, Penygroes and currently studying for her GCSE exams. Leisa's favourite subjects are Welsh and Music. She started singing whilst in primary school and enjoys her weekly singing lessons with her tutor Sian Wyn Gibson at Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias in Caernarfon. She has been taking part and competing in Eisteddfodau for a number of years. She recently won the under 16 solo competition at the Wales Young Farmers Eisteddfod 2022. She is a member of the Glanaethwy Choir and enjoys performing in concerts as well as competing at the National Eisteddfod, Cor Cymru and the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. She has also been accepted as a member of the 2023 National Youth Choir of Wales and looking forward for the planned residency and concerts this summer. Leisa is also a keen pianist and currently preparing for her Grade 8 practical examination.



Second Place Leusa Siân Francis is 13 years old and lives in Caernarfon, North Wales where she attends Syr Hugh Owen Secondary School. She loves singing in concerts and Eisteddfodau and recently took part in her school's production of 'Hairspray'. She plays the piano and tenor horn, and also plays the tuba in both the school and county bands. She is also a member of Côr Ieuenticid Môn choir. She enjoys playing football and hockey and plays for Caernarfon Town Football Club Girls' U14 Team and Caernarfon Hockey Club. Her singing teacher is Ann Peters Jones and she thanks her for teaching her this song and encouraging her to participate in this competition. She also thanks her drama teacher Llio Japheth for helping her with the staging aspects for this song.



Third Place Cari Lovelock is 12 years old and lives with her Mum, Dad, big sister Nel and our dog Frank in a small village called Llannerchymedd on the island of Anglesey. She goes to school in the nearby village of Bodedern. Her singing teacher is also the headmistress of the school. She has been singing since she was four years old and has taken part in many different singing competitions. She is a member of Adran Bro Alaw which performs ensemble pieces and shows and also competes in the Eisteddfod. She plays the piano and harp. In her spare time she like to spend time with her family and take Frank for a walk.

NAFOW-Nebraska Welsh Heritage Tour



Our Thursday tour takes visitors south of Lincoln. We will visit the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, a museum which commemorates the passage of the 1862 Homestead Act.

One hour south of Lincoln is Wymore, home of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre. Known today as the “Welsh Capital of the Great Plains,” Wymore was home to a significant Welsh community. We will have lunch at the Welsh Heritage Centre, which contains a museum of Welsh immigrant life and the Archive for Welsh America. The tornado-proof archive is the only repository in North America for the Welsh-language newspaper, Y Drych, which dates back to 1851.

Following the museum visit we will tour the restored one-room Pleasant View Schoolhouse, once attended by many Welsh-American children; and Bethel Cemetery, final resting place of many of the original Welsh settlers and site of the former Calvinistic Methodist Church, the community’s largest Welsh church.



2022 National Gymanfa Ganu CD Available

A recording of the 90th National Gymanfa Ganu in Philadelphia, 2022 is now available. This two CD set was recorded at Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, September 4, 2022. The conductor was Mike Williams from London, and the organist was David Enlow.

This recording includes the (often amusing) introductory remarks by Mr. Williams to each hymn as well as the hymns. It also contains special music selections by baritone Todd Thomas, soprano Katherine Crusi, and violinist Bronwyn Livezey, as well as the organ postludes for both the first and second sessions. The 2 CD set is \$20.00 and available for purchase on the website or at NAFOW.



We Need Your NAFOW Registration Software Feedback

The new WNAA database and software is now in place. It will help us track membership, communication and NAFOW registration. Since this is the first time we are using the software for NAFOW registration software, we’d love your feedback. Was it easy to use? Do you have any suggestions for additions or changes? We look forward to hearing from you. Please direct your comments to wnaahq@gmail.com. Diolch yn fawr!



NAFOW-Kansas Welsh Heritage Tour



Join us for an overnight round trip tour to learn how the Welsh helped settle Kansas. Our coach bus will leave Lincoln, Nebraska on Monday morning and travel southwest through Manhattan, KS to enjoy the scenic Flint Hills before arriving in Arvonia KS overlooking Melvern Lake.

Enjoy lunch at the Township hall and learn about the Welsh who settled Arvonia. Our group will tour the restored Arvonia School and Calvinist Methodist Church, where we will sing a hymn or two to honor those Welsh pioneers. Those with limited mobility will have the use of a golf cart. After leaving Arvonia, we will travel to Emporia KS and check into our hotel. We will enjoy a catered dinner at the Lyon County History Center, and have time to peruse their display of Welsh artifacts.

After a restful overnight stay, we’ll enjoy a visit to Howe House and Welsh Farmstead for a breakfast of Welsh teacakes, scones and more, and a tour of the house. Time permitting, we will stop at the Osage County Museum. We will have lunch on our way back to Lincoln NE and arrive at the Marriott Cornhusker hotel late in the afternoon.



Affiliated Welsh Organizations

Welsh Society of Northwest Ohio

Submitted by Sue Grusenmeyer

The Welsh Society of Northwest Ohio was founded in 1990 and currently has 85 members. It meets at the Gomer Congregational Church which is across the street from the Gomer Welsh Community Museum at 7365 Gomer Road in Gomer, Ohio. The museum is open the second Sunday of the month from 2-4:00 p.m. in March through December, or by appointment.



The society celebrates Welsh culture in northwest Ohio which began when Welsh immigrants established the small village of Gomer in the 1830s in northern Allen County along the banks of the Ottawa River and Pike Run. Pike Run Cemetery, known as Tawelfan (a peaceful place) is nearby.



*At the May Welsh Tea
Above: Barb Kienitz and her mother, Gloria Sherer, an original member of the society.
Below: A sumptuous feast of treats*

The society held a Welsh tea at the beginning of May. The theme was "History of Quilts" and a light meal, scones and tea were served to 50 in attendance. St. David's Day is celebrated with an annual dinner and sing, and the annual gymnanfa ganu takes place on the first Sunday of October at the Gomer United Church of Christ.

To join, notify Tim Larimore, Secretary, 5050 Sherrick Road, Elida, OH 45807 or send a message on their Facebook page.



At left, the Gomer Welsh Community Museum, and the Welsh Christmas display at the museum.



Welsh Heritage Week 2023

From the welshheritageweek.org website "It is an annual one-week course in Welsh language, traditional hymn singing, folk music, folk dance, and good fun with people of all ages from all over North America. Anyone who wants to have a good time learning about Welsh culture is welcome!"



It's not too late to sign up! If you have any questions, you contact Beth Landmesser, 570-815-7689 or hwyl@ptd.net. You can also follow Welsh Heritage Week on Facebook.



*Left: Charing of the Bard ceremony at the 2022 Welsh Heritage Week
Right: Learn to play the harp!*

Notes to Affiliated Welsh Organizations

- If you would like us to profile your Welsh organization in an upcoming issue of HWYL, contact: editor@theWNAA.org.
- If you wish to promote NAFOW 2023 to your group, you can copy a poster and download a press release PDF from our website. Point to ABOUT THE FESTIVAL and choose Press Kit.
- VERY IMPORTANT: Check the AFFILIATED WELSH ORG'S link on our website (festivalofwales.org) and make sure your AWO information is up to date.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**North American
Festival of Wales
Lincoln, Nebraska**

August 30 - September 3, 2023
Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel
Room Rate: \$114 - \$134
www.nafow.org

Featuring Robat Arwyn, Ifor ap Glyn, Dylan Morris,
Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards, and Steffan Lloyd Owen



Contact List Cleanup

Postage and printing costs continue to rise! If you or someone you know had a change of address, or you know someone who should be removed from our list, let us know.



We would also like your email address. HWYL's first issue of the year is printed for those wishing mail delivery, and subsequent issues are sent via email only. Also, we send occasional email updates.

Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter exclusively by email. Direct corrections to our mailing address (above) or to: editor@theWNAA.org