

DRAGON TALES

October 2019–January 2020

*The Welsh Society of Central Ohio—Cymdeithas Gymreig Canolbarth Ohio
Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio*

WSCO's 71st Annual Gymanfa Ganu

By Kelsey Wright

On Sunday, October 20th, 2019, WSCO held its 71st annual Cymanfa Ganu at the Chapel of the Central College Presbyterian Church in Westerville.

The Gymanfa was well-attended, and the chapel seemed full by the 2:30 start time.

Guests were greeted by ushers Ken Evans, Bob Penry, Anne Powell Riley, Charlotte Prior, and Mike Schroeder.

Organist James D. Hildreth opened the event with a prelude that included Variations on Maldwyn by Raymond H. Haan and Partita on Hyfrydol by Robert J. Powell.

Then conductor Andrew Penry led the attendees in the Star-Spangled Banner.

This was followed by welcomes from pastor



*WSCO members singing Calon Lân at the 2019 Gymanfa.
Photo Credit—Tegwyn Lantz.*

CONTINUED "GYMANFA" ON 7

Flag Raising at the Statehouse 28 February

By Ken Evans, Event Chair

We kick off our 2020 St. David's Day celebrations with the Welsh Flag Raising at the Ohio Statehouse in downtown Columbus on the southeast corner of Broad & High Streets on Friday, February 28th.

Meet on the West Plaza or, if the weather is bad, just inside the east doors (the West doors are now permanently closed for security). We

CONTINUED "FLAG" ON 3

St. David's Day Celebrations 29 February

By WSCO Board

The 2020 St. David's Day luncheon will be held Saturday, February 29, 2020. Once again we will gather at Worthington Hills Country Club, 920 Clubview Blvd. South, Columbus, OH 43235.

The club is located west of Rt. 315, north of Hard Road. (614) 885-9516, info@worthingtonhills.com.

The meal choices for the luncheon are Chicken Piccata served with parmesan, capers and lemon butter sauce or Red Wine Braised Short Ribs.

The side dishes will be Baby Carrots and Fingerling Potatoes, with Leek Soup to start the meal

and Crème Brulee as dessert. A Vegetable Plate is also available. Adult meals are \$28.00 and children's meals are \$10.00.

There was so much positive feedback from the seminar presented by Bob Penry in 2019 on genealogy and tracing our Welsh roots that we've asked him to do a part two to his talk this year. The seminar is free and open to members and non-members alike.

We are also excited to announce we will have a display of Welsh quilts. They were made by Board Member Jeff Johnson's

CONTINUED "FLAG" ON 3

Carol Sing and Madog Intern Farewell at Oak Hill

By Kyle Wright

On December 8th 2019, The Welsh-American Heritage Museum held its annual Advent Carol Sing at 3 p.m.

The former Welsh-Congregational Church was filled to capacity for the event, with many WSCO members present along with a large contingent of Oak Hill locals.

Outgoing Madog Center intern Dan Rowbotham MCed the event in his last

few days in America before departing back to Wales to begin his new job running communications at a Welsh culture center in Ceredigion. He read scripture in Welsh and offered an emotional message of gratitude.

Oak Hill High School's choir, directed by Brittany Ruth, performed several holiday songs, including Hallelujah. Some of the pieces were ably sung in



The Oak Hill High School choir performs a song. Photo credit—Kyle Wright.

CONTINUED "CAROL" ON 5

WSCO Members Enjoy Successful Welsh Language Classes

By Kyle Wright

From August to November WSCO members spent every Saturday morning learning a little of the Welsh language in classes taught by Madog Center intern Dan Rowbotham.

The traveling classes went from Columbus metro libraries all across the city: Northern Lights, Dublin, Hilliard, downtown, and Reynoldsburg.

The average attendance was around sixteen, but on a few occasions, there were twenty eager learners crammed into library meeting rooms. The three-hour classes went over basic conversational Welsh including topics like greetings, time, animals, activities, travel, and food.

Rowbotham was an excellent teacher, whose instructional style is very interactive and fun. Members were often seen wiggling like Jell-O between the arms of two others who made the bowl, singing and dancing the Welsh version of Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes (Pen, Ysgwyddau, Coesau, Traed),



WSCO members, many wearing their best Welsh-themed shirts, pose for a photo on the last day of the Welsh-language class at the Dublin library.

twiddling cootie catchers while reciting Welsh colors and numbers, and shouting Bingo and then regretfully mispronouncing Welsh

months, days, or numbers. The open

CONTINUED "CLASSES" ON 3

CLASSES

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and inclusive atmosphere helped everyone learn the basics.

The final classes dealt with phrases useful for travel in Wales and a list of Dan's favorite places, many of which members spoke fondly of from their own travels in Wales.



WSCO members holding signs of Welsh greetings for a photo in the Welsh-language class at the Dublin library.

DAVID'S

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grandmother when she lived in Oak Hill, Ohio.

Registration begins at 9:30AM. The seminar will start at 10:15AM. The annual meeting will be at 11:15AM and lunch will be served at 12:15PM.

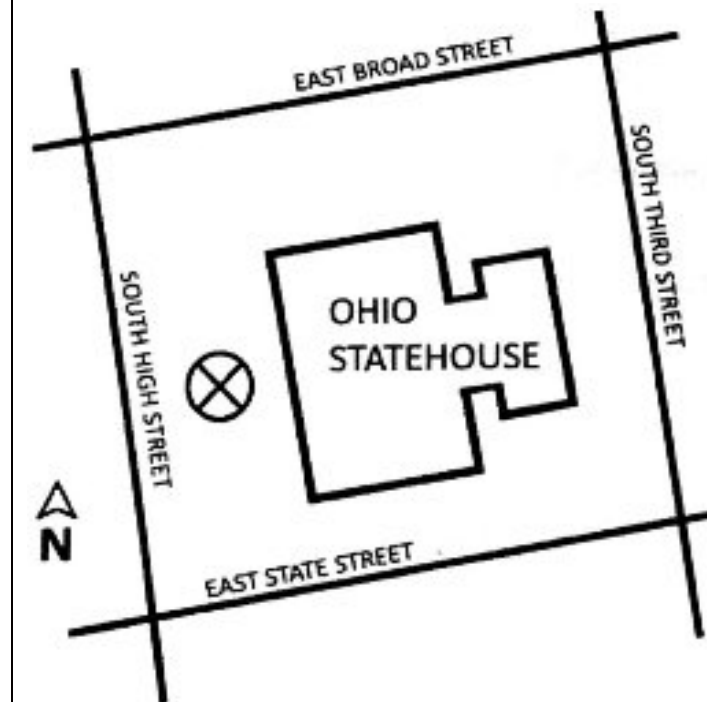
Pre-registration is required for meals. A reservation form can be found with this newsletter. Please make checks payable to WSCO and email any questions on where to mail checks and reservation forms to: info@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org..

Reservations with payments must be received no later than Friday, February 14, 2020.

FLAG

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will raise the Welsh flag at noon and sing the Welsh and U.S. National Anthems on the West Plaza. There are possibilities to tour the statehouse before and after the flag raising.



Statehouse

There are regular tours every hour between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Meet in the Map Room near the 3rd Street entrance. (614)728-9234 or 1-800-644-6123.

Visit www.ohiostatehouse.state.org for general information about the Statehouse.

Supreme Court of Ohio

65 South Front Street [at State Street]. To schedule a 1-hour tour, call 614-387-9223. Visits are scheduled weekdays from 9AM to 4PM.

Fond Farewells

Evan Edward Davis

Evan Edward Davis was born Jan. 1, 1934.

He was the son of the late E. E. and Imogene Davis. He lived, and was educated in Oak Hill, Ohio. As a young man, he was stricken with polio. He survived the disease, but struggled with its after-effects, which caused him to have difficulty walking. The perseverance he showed in coping with these difficulties was to be the hallmark of all his endeavors throughout his life.

He graduated from The College of Wooster in 1957 and joined his father in both the refractory and the banking business. He served as a director of the bank from that time until 1974, when he became its president.

In 1991 he was elected Chairman of the Board. In 2005 he became Director Emeritus, before his retirement in 2007. Within this same time frame, he was also an important member of the Board of Trustees at the University of Rio Grande, as well as serving on the boards of Holzer Hospital Jackson, and Oak Hill Financial, Inc.

He was a founding member of the Welsh-American Heritage Museum in Oak Hill, as well as the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande. He was a great supporter of Oak Hill Local Schools, contributing time and financial aid to establish facilities that replaced the original high school and its athletic grounds.

Even more remarkable than these things, were countless anonymous donations to the people of this area, the sort of grass roots-level contributions that help to keep the wheels turning in small communities where prayers can so often go unanswered.

A devoted husband and supportive father, he passed peacefully in his home the morning of Dec. 24, 2019, and is survived by his wife, Elizabeth F. Davis; children, Beti, Tim, and Evan John; grandchildren, Rhys, Connor, Lily and step-grandchild, Ethan; his sister, Charlotte Specht; nephews, Richard and Tim Specht; and niece, Jane Specht; and numerous other family members and close friends.

Marietta Jo Riggs-Schumann

Marietta Jo Riggs - Schumann, born October 14, 1928 to James and Ethyl (Forsythe) Wright in Terre Haute IN.

She graduated from Wiley High School in Terre Haute. She married Rex S. Riggs September 19, 1948 and they had two daughters Marianne and Lizabeth. After Rex's passing in September 1988, she married Paul O. Schumann May 5, 1990.

Marietta was employed for many years in the banking business, starting out as a teller, later as branch manager, and loan officer working for Peoples Savings and Loan,

Buckeye Federal Savings and Loan, and BancOhio (now PNC). She loved singing (especially hymns) and enjoyed cooking, sewing, and Welsh dancing. She was a long time member of the faith community of Indian Springs Church of Christ until it closed, and was later involved at Upper Arlington Christian Church, and then Northwest Christian Church.

Marietta was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers Max, Ross, and Paul Wright, husbands Rex Riggs and Paul Schumann, and daughter Lizabeth Riggs. She is survived by daughter Marianne Riggs Kesler (John) and four grandsons Jerah, Jordan, J. Benjamin, and Brendan Kesler and their families.

Also by Paul's children Denise Wright (Lee) and Stan Schumann (Debbie), and Paul's three grandsons Kyle Wright, David and Alex Schumann, and their families.

Doris Greene Weate

Doris Greene Weate, 91, October 23, 2018 at Wesley Glen Care Center.

Graduate of Junction City Jackson High School (1945) and was enlisted as a Nurse cadet at the White Cross Hospital School of Nursing (1948).

Retired from Riverside Methodist Hospital with 39 years of service. Member of Maize Manor United Methodist Church, Joy Circle United Methodist Women, Lorraine Chapter #1 O.E.S. (Past Matron), Thea Court #5 Ladies Oriental Shrine (Past High Priestess), Shrine Mother of Doris" Golden Butterfly Class-1994, Thebes Temple #87 Daughters of the Nile. Doris loved her family, the Buckeyes and the Reds.

Preceded in death by husbands Robert L. Greene and Merrill Weate, son Steven L. Greene, sister Barbara Cheeseman, brother Robert Rarick and grandson Daniel Greene.

Survived by sons Richard L. (Linda) Greene, Thomas E. (Anona) Greene, Timothy R. (Jodi) Greene; step-daughter Virginia "Ginny" Burt; brother-in-law Royce Cheeseman; grandchildren Donald, Cory (Mary), Stacie (David), Katie, Taylor (Patrick), Brian (Amy), Steven (Maggie), Nathan (Alisa), Jonathan, Brianne, Meghan (Dan), Cody, Damian, Randy (Chris), Ric (Michele), Ronald; numerous great and great great grandchildren, nieces and nephews..

CAROL

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Welsh, of which many of the choir members were quite proud.

Mrs. Claus made her yearly Christmas reading of a book about the magic and joy of the Christmas season, with the help of Rowbotham in a whimsical elf hat. The audience was encouraged to participate in the reading with a series of choral responses.

Following the event was a têt bach with Welsh cakes and cookies.



Mrs. Claus reads a Christmas story.



The dragon at the door of the museum at Oak Hill.



Madog Center intern Dan Rowbotham makes a speech of gratitude during the carol sing. Photo Credit—Kelsey Wright.



Welsh Love Spoons on Display in the Museum at Oak Hill. Photo credit—Kyle Wright.

Membership Matters

Basic WSCO Membership Information

Membership Benefits include:

- Subscription to WSCO’s newsletter Dragon Tales
- A vote at the Annual Meeting (except children under 16)
- Advance notice of WSCO Events
- Membership roster
- Great new friends!

WSCO General members are also welcome to silently observe WSCO Board Meetings.

Note - to present an item for discussion at a Board meeting, arrangements must be made in advance with the current President.

Annual Memberships (membership period Jan 1-Dec 31)

\$25 for an Individual or Family Unit (parental unit and dependent children), due by January 1st or each year.

Annual memberships begin the day they are received by WSCO (if received between January 1st and September 20th), or those received September 21st through December 31st will be applied to the next membership year and will begin on January 1st of that next year.

Please note - memberships not current as of January 31st may not be included in the annual member roster, and membership must be current to vote during the Annual Meeting.

Lifetime Memberships (begin on date received)

\$175 for an Individual or a Family Unit or three annual installments of \$75 each.

Or, \$30 one time for individuals over 80 years old.

Membership Application

Current WSCO Membership Application and other information is available on the Membership page on WSCO’s website, and questions can be emailed to info@WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org, or call (614)500-7998.

Membership Chair – Shawn Hitching

Welcome to New Members

WSCO sends a big Croeso! (Welcome!) to all our new members!

Members can find the WSCO Constitution on the website at:

www.WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org.

Members without access to Internet can request to have a copy mailed by leaving a message at WSCO’s Information Line: (614)500-7998

GYMANFA

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Malcolm Davis and WSCO President Kathy Chamblin.

The first set of hymns sung included Sanctus, Diadem, Rhys, and Rachie and they were followed by Hildreth on organ with Valerie Adams-Hildreth on flute in the first of a series of truly beautiful special musical sets that included music by Douglass Townsend, Jeffery Howard, David Evan Thomas, and Wilbur Held.

The second and third set of hymns, again with Penry conducting and Hildreth on organ, included Penpark, Calon Lan, Ebenezer, Blodwen, Arglwydd, Dyma Fi, and Cwm Rhondda.

The offertory followed, and the main event ended when Chamblin read the list of WSCO members who had passed away in the year: Melba Advent-Davis, Janet Jones Allison, Alice A. Brooks, Myron Cherry, Sian Williams Stow, D. Richard Thomas.

The event ended with a rendition of both the Welsh national anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, and God Be With You. WSCO board member Bob Penry lead the benediction.

The event was followed with a te bach that was organized by Cathy Beacom, Kathy Chamblin, Eve Goodwyn, Mary Ellen Morgan, Laura Thomas, Dianne Wafe, and Cindy Williamson, who donated special cookies.

Attendees chatted for several hours while snacking and drinking tea.



Andrew Penry directs at the 2019 Gymanfa. Photo Credit— Tegwyn Lantz.



Welsh Tea Cakes and Cookies with the red dragon at the Tê Bach following the Gymanfa. Photo Credit— Tegwyn Lantz.

WSCO Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for July, August and December, from 7pm to 9pm and usually take place at the Glenwood United Methodist Church, 2833 Valleyview Dr. (at Hague Ave.) Columbus, Ohio, in room 4.

Meetings are open to all adult WSCO members. Anyone wishing to put an item on the agenda or speak before the Board should contact the President at least one week in advance of the meeting

Current WSCO Board Members

Cathy Beacom, Kathy Chamblin, Ken Evans, Eve Goodwyn, Jeanne Jones Jindra, Jeff Johnson, Tegwyn Lantz, Mary Ellen Morgan, Bob Penry, Charlotte Prior, Mike Schroeder, Anne Powell Riley, Diana Wafe, Dianne Williams, Homer Williams, Cindy Williamson, Kelsey Wright, Kyle Wright.

WSCO Officers

President – Kathy Chamblin

Vice-President – Mike Schroeder

Treasurer – Tegwyn Lantz

Recording Secretary – Diana Wafe

WSCO Contact Information

PO Box 12023
Columbus, OH 43212

Phone: 614-500-7998

Email: info@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org

Web: <http://www.welshsocietyofcentralohio.org>

Facebook: Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Dragon Tales

The newsletter of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio is published three times a year, about 3-4 weeks before each of our annual events.

Editors – Kelsey Wright and Kyle Wright

Submissions

Submissions for Dragon Tales can be made to: newsletter@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org.

Please include your name, phone number, and email address; or leave a message at 614-500-7998 and include your name and phone number.

Submissions must be received by Board Meetings in January, June, and September to appear in the next issue.

Upcoming Events

WSCO Flag Raising

28 February 2020, at the Columbus Statehouse

WSCO St. David's Day

29 February 2020, at Worthington Hills Country Club

Madog Center St. David's Day

7 March 2020, noon

Radnor Center St. David's Day

7 March 2020, noon at the Radnor Church of Christ

Welsh-Language Discussion Group Meetings

All WSCO members are welcome to attend our informal practice sessions. These monthly meetings will last about an hour and half. Sessions operate on a rotating "reservationist" format where the person who reserves the room/location for a particular month will choose the main focus for that day. For information on attending, email info@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org.

Upcoming Sessions

- 1 February 2020, noon at the Hilliard Library
- 7 March 2020, 9 a.m. at the Hilliard Library
- 4 April 2020, 9:30 a.m. at the Hilliard Library

President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to share my heartfelt appreciation for the current and previous board members who I have gotten to know over the past several years. Next month will be my final board meeting to work with this amazing team of volunteers. I have greatly admired their passion and dedication for our society which is reflected in each event that they have organized.

If you haven't already, I strongly encourage you to volunteer with us. Not only will you gain invaluable experience but you will also have new friends to treasure as I have.

Best wishes to you and your family for a blessed New Year. See you at the WSCO St. David's Day luncheon on Saturday, February 28, 2020!