

2026

Presented by the  
Puget Sound Welsh Association



Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant  
St. David's Day Celebration

Saturday, February 28th 2pm - 4pm  
Ballard First Lutheran Church  
2006 NW 65<sup>th</sup> St Seattle

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## Program

Welcome & Introductions.....	Joel Ware IV, PSWA President
Moment of Remembrance .....	Joel Ware IV
Congregational Singing: <i>Rhys</i> (89).....	Paul Kawabori & Steven Luksan
Our Program Today.....	Joel Ware IV
Songs and Airs.....	Paul Kawabori & Sons
Congregational Singing: <i>Calon Lan</i> (66).....	Paul Kawabori & Steven Luksan

### ***Brief Break (Buy your raffle tickets!)***

Songs and Airs.....	Paul Kawabori & Sons
Announcements.....	Joel Ware IV
Congregational Singing: <i>Cwm Rhondda</i> (40).....	Paul Kawabori & Steven Luksan

### ***Refreshments and Tea (Buy your raffle tickets!) in Fellowship Hall***

Raffle Drawing .....	Chris Mooreddrall
Limerick Contest Finalists & Selection of Winners.....	Ellen Webber
<i>Noson Lawen</i> .....	Laura Lovell, Coordinator; Steven Luksan, Accompanist
Congregational Singing: <i>Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau</i> .....	Paul Kawabori & Steven Luksan

### **Paul Kawabori**

Paul Kawabori is the son of long-time Puget Sound Welsh Association member and supporter Judy Kawabori and is a former member of the North American Welsh Choir. A Washington native, Paul began his musical journey at an early age, performing as a soloist with the Northwest Boychoir, Issaquah Village Theatre, Seattle Opera, Tacoma Opera, and the Seattle Symphony. A versatile and expressive performer, Paul is drawn to music that tells a story, spanning genres such as pop, jazz, gospel, rock, world, and classical. He continues to sing, write, and perform music in his own distinctive style, and he also serves his community as both a contemporary and classical Christian music worship leader.

### **Steven Luksan**

Steven has accompanied our own Nerys Jones in concert and has also performed as an accompanist for the North American Welsh Choir. He is a pianist with the Seattle Opera and serves as accompanist for the Seattle Mannskor (The Norwegian Male Chorus of Seattle). In addition, Steven is the Artistic Advisor for the Northwest Edvard Grieg Society and the founder and Artistic Director of the Saltwater Music Series in Des Moines, Washington, a concert series dedicated to showcasing local and lesser-known chamber music.

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## Why We Celebrate St. David's Day

Dewi Sant, as abbot and bishop, was the heart of the Welsh Church in the 6th Century. He was buried in St. David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. So respected was he that medieval pilgrims believed that two pilgrimages to St. David's were equal to one pilgrimage to Rome. Many legends recount how the leek came to be the national emblem of Wales. One popular legend is that St. David advised the Welsh on the eve of a battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps to distinguish friend from foe. Apparently, this helped secure a great victory. On this day, Welsh school children dress in traditional dress and Welsh people all over the world wear a leek or a daffodil on their lapel.



## **The Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA)**

- Conceived as an umbrella group to coordinate Welsh groups in Puget Sound.
- Dedicated to preserving the history and promoting the cultural heritage of the Welsh in the Puget Sound region and surrounding area.
- Organizes and coordinates social events for members and the public, highlighting Welsh customs, heritage and music.
- Interacts and coordinates with other Welsh societies in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia; Portland, Oregon; and Boise, Idaho.
- Maintains contact with over 150 members and 500 interested people.
- Publishes the quarterly *Y Ddolen* (The Link), with articles discussing aspects of Welsh heritage, history, current news and upcoming events.
- Presents a program celebrating the life of *Dewi Sant* (St. David), the patron Saint of Wales (Feast Day March 1st).
- Participates in Welsh Heritage Day at Black Diamond Museum, held in early June.

**Check out our active Facebook group or our website [Pugetsoundwelsh.org](http://Pugetsoundwelsh.org) for future events.**

**Virtual Pub get togethers over Zoom.** If you have an idea for a presentation or a passion about a particular Welsh related subject, let us know. These popular events have drawn participants from all over, including from Wales.

**South Sound Night Out of Hwyl.** In person get-togethers are going strong. Talk to Chris Mooreddrall for details, or check our Facebook page.

**Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day** This June event at the Black Diamond Museum is always fun with a presentation and activities.

**Summer picnics in both Seattle and the South Sound.** Watch for future information.

**Language learners group:** There has been a lot of interest in restarting some kind of meetings for people interested in learning and/or practicing their Welsh language skills. If you are interested in getting on the email list or have ideas about how to organize it talk to a board member. We welcome your input!

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