



The Welsh Society of Western New England

Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. Feb 13, March 13,
April 10 - Pub Trivia Nights
- Join us!

Sat. Feb 23 - Live Stream
Rugby (see below)

**MARCH - David, Daffodils,
Dues!** Treasurer Mary
Pallos reminds us that our
dues are due! Please send
yours in by March 1st or
bring to March 2 luncheon.
See page 14

Sat. March 2 - St. David's
Day Luncheon

Sat. March 9 - Live Rugby
& Genealogy

Sat. April 13 - Genealogy
Workshop

Sat/Sun. April 27-28 -
Daffodil Fest, Meriden, CT

Sun. May 19 - **SAVE THE
DATE:** NOSON LAWEN

Website: WelshWNE.org / Email:
WelshWNE@gmail.com / FaceBook: [WSWNE](https://www.facebook.com/WSWNE)

Annual St. David's Day Luncheon

Sat., March 2, 2019: 11:00AM - 3:00PM at the
Nutmeg Restaurant, East Windsor, CT

DIRECTIONS TO THE NUTMEG ON PAGE 11

Join us to celebrate St. David's Day at 11AM for pre-lunch conversation & drinks from the cash bar, with hors d'oeuvres including a cheese platter and vegetable cruditee. Gather with old friends and meet new ones. There will be time to shop at our tables: Welsh t-shirts, mugs, ties, music, books and more. You can also win bags filled with Welsh goodies or a tray with artwork by Jodi Russell from Wales. Have your photo taken with two members in Welsh National dress and find your Welsh roots on our map!

**Our presenter this year will be Ms. Diane
Owen of the Washington DC Welsh Society.**



Ms. Owen is a descendant of Welsh immigrants, and has learned to speak fluent Welsh.

Her talk is entitled, **"BECOMING A WELSH SPEAKER IN AMERICA"**.

Lunch will be served promptly at 12:00 noon, following a video message from the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford. There will be a brief Annual Meeting during which the Board for 2019-2020 will be nominated. If you are interested in joining the Board, please email us at WelshWNE@gmail.com.

Before we depart, we will sing the Welsh National Anthem. You can follow along with the words on the screen, or better yet, learn it before March 2nd!

Please return the RSVP form (pg 16) by Monday, Feb. 25.

RUGBY - 6 NATIONS CUP - 2019

Rugby's greatest championship, between Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France and England, will take place over seven weekends in 2019, beginning on Friday, Feb 1st. Want to see some of the games? Check our schedule:

COMPLETED **Wales v France** Score not available at press time.

COMPLETED **Italy v Wales** Score not available at press time.

Feb 23rd (Saturday) 11:45am - **Wales v England** (watch the BIG ONE live with us: email WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP).

March 9th (Saturday) 9:15AM - **Scotland v Wales** This is also Genealogy Workshop day which will begin at 11:00am. Join us for both or either event! **Must RSVP to WelshWNE@gmail.com.**

March 16th (Saturday) 10:45 AM (TBC) - **Wales v Ireland**



Read more at <http://rbs6nations.com> (times: EST)

Spring 2019

Kicking off this month is **WALES WEEK IN NEW ENGLAND**, with similar promotions taking place in London, New York, Washington, New Mexico, Los Angeles, Ottawa, Newcastle England, and Paris, among others around the world.

It's our chance to promote Wales and Welsh history and culture globally. Here in New England there are Welsh events being held as follows:



- **Welsh Society of Western New England:** Genealogy Workshop, Pub Trivia, St. David's Day Luncheon, and watching the 6 Nations Rugby games live.
- **Rhode Island Welsh Society:** St. David's Day Lunch.
- **Poultney Area St. David's Society:** St. David's Day Dinner
- **UK Gourmet, Bethel, CT:** daily promotion of Welsh products and food
- **The Copper Kettle:** promotion of delicious Welsh Cakes
- **Cymrodorian Boston:** St. David's Day Event

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

Our Genealogy Workshop meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets at 10:15am - 5:00pm. Come for the whole day or part thereof. For info and to RSVP, email WelshWNE@gmail.com.

- Sat., March 9 - Regular Workshop, beginning at 11:00 - 5:00 (watch Wales v. Scotland Rugby live 9:15-10:45am). Come for all day or part thereof.
- Sat., April 13 - Regular workshop
- Sat., May 12 - Regular Workshop

PUB TRIVIA NIGHT with the RED DRAGONS TEAM

Please come and join us as part of the team! RSVP to WelshWNE@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Feb 13, March 13, April 10 & May 8 at the Yarde Tavern, 1658 King Street, Enfield, CT. 6PM for dinner from the menu. Trivia starts at 7PM and if you can, wear red!

2nd ANNUAL NOSON LAWEN for DYLAN DAY



Sun., May 19, 2019: 5:00-8:00PM

TapHouse Grill, 1506 Riverdale Street,
West Springfield, MA

NOSON LAWEN, literal translation "Happy Evening", has roots in rural Wales when families would gather together in a home for entertainment. We'll share Welsh

fables, stories, poetry, readings, singing and music, in both the Welsh & English language, while having a meal and drinks together (on your own from the menu). Everyone is welcome to contribute to the evening, sign up by emailing WelshWNE@gmail.com, advising what you will sing, play, or read (so far we have Welsh poetry in English and Welsh, songs, music, & literature, but we need more), or just join us to listen and enjoy.

WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?

Genealogy Presentation and Christmas Tea

Five WSWNE members celebrated our monthly genealogy workshops with a Christmas Tea in December 2018 following a great presentation by Dave Robison, WMGS, on "Effective On-Line Search Strategies." Tea was served with bara brith, scones, mince pies and jam tarts, all home-made!



Beth Roberts-Brown, Susan Davies Sit, Lowri Jones, Evan Williams and Susan Jenkins Meers

Welsh Government's Invitation to the British Consul

On December 6, 2018, 3 Board members, plus member Don Sit who kindly drove us into NYC, attended a holiday cocktail party at the residence of the British Consul at the invitation of the Welsh Government. The British Consul, Anthony Phillipson, (who is also Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for North America) and his wife Julie greeted us warmly. Mr.

Phillipson was very enthusiastic about WSWNE and will be contacting the British Consul in Boston to make her aware of our Society.

Representatives of the Welsh Government, plus VisitWales.com, were also on hand, with a

video of majestic Wales as well as hors d'oeuvres with a Welsh flavor: Glamorgan sausages, delicious lamb chops, and slices of Welsh Rarebit.



Don Sit, Susan Davies Sit, Susan Jenkins Meers, and Beth Roberts-Brown with the British Consul General and his wife, Anthony and Julie Philipson

Representatives from Cardiff City Football Club were being congratulated for reaching the Premier League of British Football, and they told us about the far-reaching efforts by the club to garner supporters from around the world, especially the USA and China. Cardiff City football games are shown in the USA on TV weekly, and anyone interested in watching them with the club representatives should contact WelshWNE@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch.

We also met old friend Illtyd Barrett there, whom some may remember from the Welsh restaurant in Brooklyn, the Sunken Hundred (now sadly closed.) We also touched base with the New York Welsh group and discussed with them our Genealogy Workshops and the upcoming projects, Wales Week in New England and Wales Week around the World.

SLATEWORKS by Margaret Lloyd

The opening reception for WSWNE member Margaret Lloyd's art exhibition was held on December 6, 2018 in the Burnett Gallery of the Jones Library in Amherst, MA. Margaret emigrated with her family to a Welsh community in upstate New York at a young age, and still maintains close ties to Wales.



Margaret Lloyd with her "Slateworks"

Margaret engraves and paints on specially prepared roofing slate, which is quarried either in Wales, New York, or Vermont. The artwork includes landscapes inspired by Wales, slate fences and cromlechs found in Wales, and even an engraving of a pair of 1930's hobnail boots worn by a Welsh slate quarryman.

In the mid 1800's, a large slate mining industry developed around Fairhaven, VT and Granville, NY. Many hundreds of Northwest Wales slate miners settled there, and the area became a hub of Welsh immigration. Though demand for roofing slate has fallen off, the stone is still quarried for architectural, landscaping, and decorative uses, and active slate quarries continue to operate in both the USA and Wales.

Margaret Lloyd welcomed everyone to the exhibit, and then discussed her work and answered questions. Refreshments were available, including Welsh cakes baked by the artist, and Celtic harpist Sarah McKee played several Welsh songs. The reception was well-attended, and several members of WSWNE were present to support the artist. All pieces in the exhibit are for sale.

Margaret's book, *Travelling on My Own Errands: Voices of Women from The Mabinogi* is her fourth collection of original poetry, excerpts from which she delightfully read at a recent WSWNE luncheon.

Additional information about the artist can be found at margaretlloyd.net.

HISTORY OF WALES' NATIONAL ANTHEM

"Cometh the hour, cometh the man." Great moments are as much a matter of lucky timing, as deeds and people. It's not as if anybody had ever written a patriotic song about Wales before, nor as if James James set out to write a great anthem. He ran a pub in Pontypridd, where he regularly encouraged dances, playing a harp. In late 1855 he composed a little jig in 6/8 time; a spritely, happy little number.

His father, Evan, a mill worker, certainly liked it. He jotted a little poem called Glan Rhondda to accompany it, and slowed the beat to a more-



The oldest known copy of "Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" is preserved in the National Library of Wales.

comfortable and august 3/4 time. A few days later, it was sung by an acquaintance, Elizabeth John, in the vestry of Maesteg's Capel Tabor to her fellow choir members. It made quite an impression upon those present, and with that, it probably would have been forgotten, following hearty congratulations and compliments to the James' and enquiries of when they were going to write another.

But the mid-nineteenth century was a time of great Welsh nationalism. Burns and Scott had recently awakened a Scottish romanticism, and a movement was building among Brits of Welsh origin to rediscover their heritage also.

To that end, the Llangollen eisteddfod three years later included a competition for the best collection of unpublished Welsh airs.

The submission of Thomas Llewelyn of Aberdare included Glan Rhondda, which the adjudicator, John Owen (or "Owain Alan" as he liked to call himself - a feature of the Welsh movement was its followers' adopting Welsh-language pseudonyms,) published in a song book called Gems of Welsh Melody. He changed the name to the song's first line: "Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" — "the old nation of my fathers," although it's typically called "Land of my Fathers" in English.

In a world without recordings, the only way to make music was to play it, and the ability to read music was widespread, even among people of low education. Gems of Welsh Melody was a great success, selling rapidly and widely, and spreading the popularity of the new song.

**Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri;
Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwladgarwyr tra mad,
Dros ryddid collasant eu gwaed.**

**Gwlad, gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad.
Tra môr yn fur i'r bur hoff bau,
O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau.**

It must have been a source of almighty pride toward the end of Evan James' life when Robert Rees, who under the pseudonym Eos Morlais was one of the foremost tenors of the day, sang it as part of a patriotic tribute at the Bangor eisteddfod of 1874.

More than forty years after he first plucked it on his harp, The Gramophone Company, looking to record Welsh for the first time, chose it to be sung by the great Madge Breese on March 11th, 1899. The new technology was very imprecise, and needed the sound to be bellowed down a horn to make a proper impression upon a wax cylinder. Madge Breese had the lungs, and Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau's "Gwlad Gwlad" refrain provided a suitably stirring crescendo.

Sadly, James James did not live quite long enough to witness the event that surely would have reduced a humble pub manager and amateur musician to tears of joy. He died in 1902. In 1905, the New Zealand rugby team was touring Great Britain. As they prepared to play Wales, an administrator of the Wales Rugby Union responded by asking a Welsh team member named

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Teddy Morgan, evidently considered to have a have a fine, strong voice, to lead the crowd with the national anthem of Wales. In principle, that should have been God Bless the Prince of Wales (written for the marriage of Edward VII), but Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau was the one Teddy Morgan chose, and the crowd sang lustily.

That day is the first in recorded history that anybody had ever sung a national anthem. The next time you see Americans rising and placing their hands on their hearts as a great celebrity prepares to sing The Star-Spangled Banner before the Superbowl, take a moment to reflect that it's James, father and son, and Teddy Morgan and Wales, who started it all.

Throughout the following decades, it was normal to commence all international sports fixtures with God Bless the Prince of Wales, God Save the Queen, and Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. Of course the opposing team's supporters had to sing their songs too. Only in 1975 was it felt that this was all a bit much to ask of a crowd that had assembled, after all, to watch a match, not sing. Only the national anthem of Wales would be sung from then on. Which was it to be? After lengthy argument, Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau was the one selected. Few people in Wales these days are familiar with God Bless the Prince of Wales any more.

flyingwithdragons.net (March 1, 2018), Diolch yn fawr.

NOTE: Gwlad Gwlad is available to purchase on the following platforms. We are counting on everyone to be ready to sing:

Apple - *Gwlad Gwlad* in the iTunes Store

Android - *Gwlad Gwlad* in the Google Play Store

A version for Desktop PC can also be purchased on the eto Music Practice website. (See library.wales and check out "View Archives")

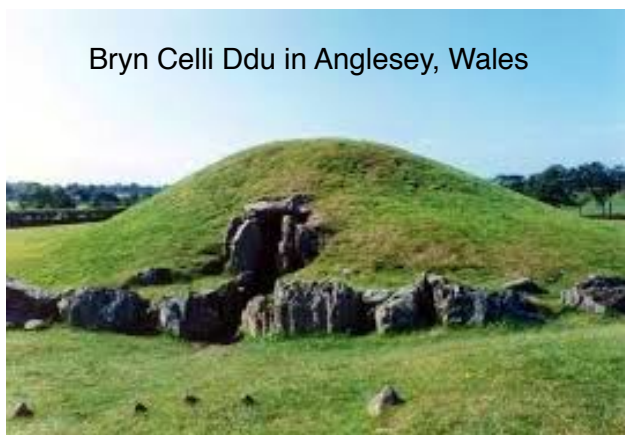
OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD

To keep up with news, both from Wales and around North America, please subscribe to NINNAU, the North American Welsh newspaper. 6 issues for \$30. per year at NINNAU.com. It is well worth it.



BURIAL CHAMBERS OF WALES

My wife and I recently returned from a lovely ten-day visit to Ireland, where we visited a number of places we'd always wanted to see. One of them was Newgrange, a large, well managed passage tomb and burial chamber a little over an hour north of Dublin in the Boyne Valley (Bru na Boinne). It dates from around 3200 BC and is actually the premier site of three, although Knowth and Dowth are still being developed. It was first uncovered in 1699



Bryn Celli Ddu in Anglesey, Wales

by a Williamite 'settler' named Charles Campbell and was finally carefully excavated and restored in the 1960s. It contains much Neolithic stonework art, both inside and out. The internal burial chamber is lighted by the sun shining into the passage on the few days surrounding the Winter Solstice, an event so popular that there's a raffle

for tickets to attend. Upon returning from Ireland I purchased a book entitled Newgrange by Stout & Stout. I learned that these passage tombs are scattered throughout the coastal areas of western Europe, as well as Spain and Portugal. In particular, there are passage tombs in Brittany, Orkney, and Wales. Inasmuch as I knew nothing about the tombs in Wales nor had seen any indication on our 2014 trip to Wales, I started researching them. There are two on the coast of Anglesey, almost looking across the Irish Sea at Dublin and Newgrange.

Barclodiad y Gawres, which translates as 'Apronful of the Giantess', is near Aberfraw. It dates from about 3000 BC and was fully excavated in 1952-3, when the entrance was rebuilt and it was re-roofed with concrete and turf. It has five significantly decorated stones, one of which is covered with spirals, including the shoulders of the stone, just like the most significant stone inside the burial chamber at Newgrange. It also contains two cremated skeletons. Once upon a time, if you wanted to see it, you'd get the key from the nearby

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Wayside shop in Llanfaelog. Unfortunately, the tomb was subject to vandalism, so now you need to make an appointment to visit it during the April-October timeframe. It is cared for by Cadw, the Welsh Historic Monument organization.

Bryn Celli Ddu, which translates as 'The Mound in the Dark Grove', is near Llanddaniel Fab. It was excavated in 1928-9 and is the centerpiece of Cadw's Neolithic Scheduled Monuments. It was originally a 'henge' (like Stonehenge) about 3000 BC and was converted to a passage tomb around 2000 BC. The mound is now smaller than the original. It also contained a number of decorated stones, the most significant of which was a Pattern Stone covered with sinuous serpentine shapes winding all over it. Like Newgrange, it is aligned so that the inner burial chamber is lighted by the sun shining into the passage on the few days surrounding the Winter Solstice. The original now resides at the National Museum in Cardiff, and a replica is now in the tomb itself.



Interior of Bryn Celli Ddu

If anyone has more information on these tombs, I would very much like to know. I have yet to find any books written about them. Perhaps Cadw can shed some light on the subject.

By C. Dale Games, WSWNE member (413) 530-7919, cdgames@earthlink.net

Directions to:

Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 S Main St, East Windsor, CT 06088

From Hartford, CT and points south:

- Drive on I-84 East, then take Exit 53 to merge to US44 East.
- After 1.04 miles, take left onto Main St., Route 5/44 East.
- After 7.47 miles you will arrive at The Nutmeg Restaurant on right.

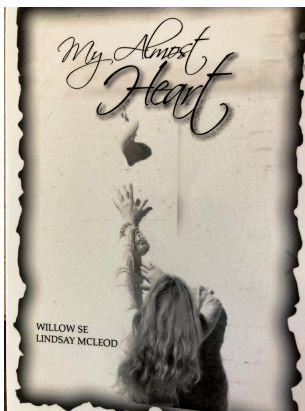
From Springfield, MA and points north:

- Drive I-91 South. Exit 44 to East Windsor, CT on Route 5.
- Drive 4.21 miles and the Nutmeg Restaurant will be on your left.

WELL-READ DRAGONS

My Almost Heart by Willow Se (Shân Williams) and Lindsay McLeod

Review written by Steve Richard



Although I have dabbled with Dylan Thomas, I must confess that despite my Welsh heritage, I have not adopted the reading of poetry as one of my sources of artistic enjoyment. No excuses really other than perhaps laziness in not being prepared to understand and absorb the overall poetic genre.

Along comes “My Almost Heart”. An initial flick through the pages and I’m pleased to see that I’m not having to grapple with multiple impenetrable verses of archaic and obscure wordage. I’m also taken with the small photos and images presented like side-dishes to the main course of each poem.

The poems... ahhh... the poems... they are bursts of vibrancy. They are short, yet they weave words into wonderful tapestries of what it means to live, love, regret and understand. You don’t have to be familiar with every single word, but when read as a whole, they entwine, they embellish and create a wonderful emotional synergy.

Don’t ask me what my favourite poem is. It’s like music... your mood and circumstance dictate how you respond. I can only say that you will often find yourself dipping into them. Read a few poems, savour them, and come back a bit later for another course! You will be glad that you encountered “My Almost Heart”.

Paged

*“Slumber sings its lilting lullaby
drifting us to dreamy realms
as the scroll falls from our fingers
imprinted stories overwhelmed
where curling cloudbursts cry
for sorrow lost in the deluge
until the words wash off the paper
and shape a place for me and you.”*

Willow Se, a Celt, is a published children’s author, prize winner for prose, and lead vocalist with FfashionablyLate. She is a romadic of many lands. *My Almost Heart* is published by Balboa Press, ISBN 978-1-5043-1365-0, and is available on amazon.com. A signed copy has been donated to us, and will be available at the St David’s Day Luncheon; one lucky winner will go home with the book.

The Marmalade Murders by Elizabeth Duncan

Why Wales? I get asked that a lot.

Do I have family there? Sadly, no. Friends? Happily, yes, I do now.

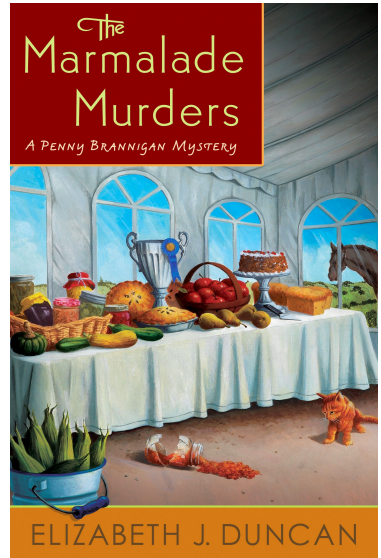
In the spring of 2004 I fell in love with the North Wales town of Llanrwst. Situated on the bank of the River Conwy, with its thirteenth century teahouse, three-arched seventeenth century bridge, cobbled town square, and grey stone buildings with slate roofs, Llanrwst struck a nostalgic chord. What a perfect setting this charming place would make for a book, I thought. At the time, I had no intention of writing a book, but then ... a few months later, and out of nowhere, I started writing *The Cold Light of Mourning*, which became the first book in the Penny Brannigan mystery series.

That was over ten years ago, and I've come to know my bit of North Wales well. I spend five months there each year, exploring those lush green hills and forests, enjoying the natural beauty of the area's rugged good looks, and looking for the right location to hide a body or stage a murder. Although I've fictionalized the town as Llanelen, local landmarks, including Conwy Castle (*A Killer's Christmas in Wales*), Gwrych Castle (*Murder Is for Keeps*), St. Gwrst Church (*The Cold Light of Mourning*), the Llechwedd Slate Caverns near Blaenau Ffestiniog (*Slated for Death*), and Lake Sarnau (*Murder on the Hour*), to name just a few, have all figured prominently in the novels.

Fortunately for me, North Wales has become not just a big part of my writing, but the best part of my life.

Elizabeth J. Duncan is the author of the Penny Brannigan mystery series and Shakespeare in the Catskills mysteries. A former journalist, public relations practitioner and college professor, she divides her time between Toronto, Canada and Llandudno, North Wales. She is a two-time winner of the Bloody Words Award (Bony Blithe) for Canada's best light mystery. Her books are available at all online and brick-and-mortar bookstores.

www.elizabethjduncan.com



Elizabeth has donated a signed copy of *The Marmalade Murders*, the ninth book in the Penny Brannigan series, as a prize at our St. David's Day luncheon. The tenth book in the series, *Remembering the Dead*, will be published in September by Crooked Lane Books.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2018-2019)

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Susan Davies Sit (CT) (860) 987-7097 *WelshWNE@gmail.com*

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Chaplain: VACANT due to relocation out of area

Past President: Dr. Tom Bernard (MA)

Founder: John Dixon (MA)

Membership List, Email Manager, Newsletter Production: Mark Spencer (MA)

Honorary Member: Trey McCain (MS & WALES)

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WSWNE Membership Form

PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (check made out to WSWNE, membership year begins March 1st but can be prorated by the treasurer.)

___\$100 (Red Dragon), ___\$50 (Daffodil), ___\$25 (Miner's Lantern), ___\$10 (Student)

Membership benefits are the same; amount reflects level of support.

Today's date: _____ **Names (list household members):**

Address _____

Home phone # _____

Cell phone # _____

Email address (**PLEASE PRINT**) _____

Newsletter Spring, 2019 For Treasurer's use only: Date received: _____



RSVP: ST. DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON March 2, 2019

at the Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 S. Main St, East Windsor, CT

SEE DIRECTIONS TO NUTMEG ON PAGE 11

Lunch Menu

Leek & Potato Soup with Fresh Baked Rolls

Choice of Entree:

Salmon in a Basil Jacqueline Sauce OR

Chicken Francaise OR

Vegetarian Eggplant Parmesan OR

Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus (add \$3) OR

Children's meal: Chicken Fingers & Fries

Apple Strudel followed by Coffee or Tea

All above served with vegetable and potato

Members: \$29; Guests: \$32; Children under age 10: \$16.50
(Prime Rib plus \$3). Includes hors d'oeuvres, lunch, tax and tip.



Names: _____

Contact phone#: _____

Menu Choices: # _____ SALMON
_____ CHICKEN
_____ PRIME RIB (+\$3)
_____ VEGETARIAN
_____ CHILDREN'S MEAL (age 10 & under)

_____ MEMBERS @ \$29 (or Prime Rib \$32) = \$ _____

_____ GUESTS @ \$32 (or Prime Rib \$35) = \$ _____

_____ CHILD @ \$16.50 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

TICKET QUESTIONS? InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com

Return by Monday, February 25, 2019. Check payable to WSWNE to:
Mary Pallos, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033