



Salem Home-Coming Association  
c/o Christine Pryce Webler  
1017 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60202

NAME  
ADDRESS LINE 1  
ADDRESS LINE 2  
CITY, STATE ZIP

### OUR SISTER SALEM CHURCH

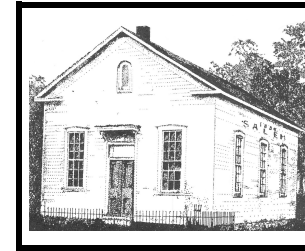
We would like to commemorate a special relationship that we've formed with a sister church just a four-hour drive north. In the small town of Freedom, NY, sits another quaint, one-room church house built in the Greek Revival style. Like ours, this church was founded by Welsh immigrants, and it too is called "Salem." The congregation meets just once a year for a service and singing, in both English and Welsh.

Last year, our president was able to visit and meet many of the members of the Salem Welsh Church of Freedom. And at our last reunion we were blessed to have the company of their president, Lynda Tucker, and her husband. It is a blessing to find another group of people of such similar history and tradition who are preserving all that in such a similar way. We look forward to growing the bonds between our churches, and we encourage you to consider attending their annual service on the first Sunday of June at 11am. You can find information of the church and its history at their website ([www.salemcemeterysociety.com](http://www.salemcemeterysociety.com)).



### 177<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### 2016 GATHERING



## Salem Home-Coming Association

Sunday – August 7, 2016 @ 11AM

Please join us for a Service, Picnic, and  
Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh Songfest)!

#### Annwyl gyfeillion ac aelodau Salem (Dear friends and members of Salem),

This year promises to be an exceptional Home-Coming. Both new and long-time friends will be coming together to make this reunion truly special. From Delta, PA (just across the state line from Cardiff, MD), the award-winning Rehobeth Welsh Choir will be joining us to share their beautiful voices. From Pittsburgh, Rev. Randy Bush, Senior Pastor at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, will be bringing the Good News. From Shamokin, PA, the inimitable Carol Ellis will be returning with her great love for all things Welsh. And, we will be continuing the popular tradition of a picnic lunch featuring a pig roast, generously managed by Salem 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Brian Medellin (from Harrisburg, PA).

This year's theme is *Hiraeth*—a distinctly Welsh word that roughly translates to “homesickness,” but has much more depth and nuance to it than that. *Hiraeth* gives us a chance to reflect on the memories in our minds, heirlooms in our homes, and nostalgia in our hearts that connect us with Salem and the Welsh culture. Thank you to Salem's Welsh-born member, Fred Long, for suggesting the theme.

Certain housekeeping matters will also be addressed at this year's Business Meeting. We'll be taking a vote on the Bylaws Committee's recommended updates to the Association's original founding documents from 1927. We'll also be shifting the budget review process to an earlier time-line, so that the membership can review and approve the proposed budget before funds are spent.

We need volunteers to help set-up, run, and clean-up at the event, and we are trying to organize a workforce for the day. In the past, we need many hands to do several tasks, and we look to all of you, our faithful friends, to help us where you can. If you are interested in helping in any aspect, please contact any of our officers (see inside). As always, the Salem Home-Coming Association appreciates your thoughts and welcomes your expressions of support or suggestions for improvement. **We encourage participation so we can keep the Salem tradition alive for generations to come!**

As always, **our Homecoming celebration will occur the first Sunday of August (7<sup>th</sup>) from 11:15am to approximately 4pm.** We would be grateful if you would join us for this year's celebration.

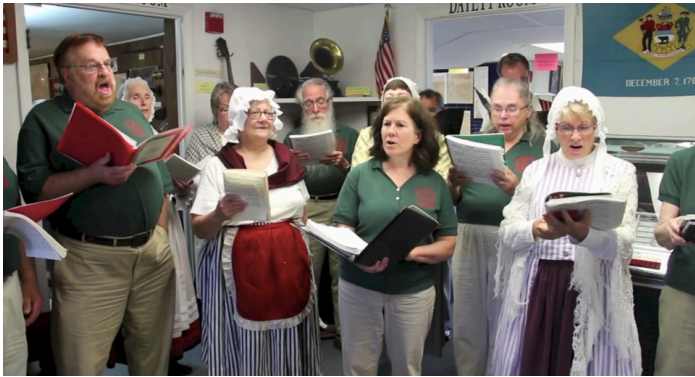
Pob hwyl (All the best),  
John Rhoades  
President, Salem Home-Coming Association

# CÔR CYMRAEG REHOBOTH (Rehoboth Welsh Choir)

Côr Rehoboth began in 1984, started by members of Rehoboth Welsh Chapel (Capel Cymraeg Rehoboth) in Delta, Pennsylvania. They are a mixed-voice choir dedicated to maintaining the tradition of Welsh harmonic singing. They are one of a handful of Welsh language choirs remaining in North America. The choir's performances enrich and educate listeners with the depth and beauty of the Welsh language, culture, and choral tradition.

In 2013, Rehoboth Welsh Choir completed a successful performance tour in Wales, and we're planning a return visit for the summer of 2017. In recent years the choir has sung at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, the Maryland Folk Life Festival, and at Carnegie Hall. Notable wedding performances include the nuptials of Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones in November 2000. The choir won a special recognition prize at the National Eisteddfod in Wales during a 1992 tour to that country. Rehoboth Welsh Choir has twice hosted the North American Festival of Wales when it was held in Harrisburg, PA.

Salem is thrilled to host Côr Rehoboth at this year's Home-Coming. We're excited to enjoy their beautiful voices and meet with choir members to learn about their experiences and knowledge of many things Welsh.



## THE REVEREND DR. RANDALL BUSH

Reverend Bush serves as Senior Pastor at Pittsburgh's East Liberty Presbyterian Church, also known as the Cathedral of Hope. He has fulfilled that responsibility since 2006. Before that he was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Racine, Wisconsin, and earlier served at Lomagundi Presbyterian Church in Zimbabwe. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Rev. Bush earned a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Marquette University.

Salem is honored to host such a mindful and dedicated servant of Christ's gospel of justice and reconciliation. We look forward to the impact of his words and the kindheartedness of his presence.

## BYLAWS UPDATE

Salem is an institution of tradition. We take that very seriously. So, when we decided to take on the task of reviewing the Salem Home-Coming Association's Bylaws, adopted in 1927, we wanted to take careful time in considering any potential amendments. After 2 years of review, and thanks to the hard work of several dedicated Salem members, we plan to ask for the membership's approval of several amendments to the organization's bylaws, which will incorporate many necessary updates that both include language to satisfy our non-profit status and help Salem's operations.

Due to length, we cannot include the extensive proposed changes in this newsletter. However, you can find the document with the potential amendments on our website home page (<https://salemhomecoming.org/>), and we will have paper copies at the Reunion's Business Meeting. Thanks to Jan Davis, Shirley Longnaker, Ann Makin, and Bill McHenry for their work.

## Salem Homecoming Association Annual Meeting August 2, 2015

John Rhoades, president, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their interest and support.

### Secretary's Report:

A motion to approve the minutes for the August 3, 2014 Annual Meeting as printed was made by Bill McHenry. Carol Ellis provided the second. Motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report:

- A motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed in the 2015 program was made by Christine Pryce Webler and seconded by Dale Richards. Motion carried.
- It was noted that the \$2,616 received from the Kermit Thomas bequest, Pittsburgh Foundation, was used to help finance the replacement of siding on three sides of the church building, cost \$7,400.
- The fee for the pastor, The Reverend Derek Davenport, who conducted our morning worship service, was set by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at \$150 and mileage. These expenses will be covered.
- There was a question as to when the treasurer's records were last audited. No date was available.

### President's Report:

- Wales – PA Project** – Salem's historical records are on loan to the Wales- PA Project and the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh so they can be scanned and posted on line. The loan was authorized by the board. Some of the historical information can be accessed through our website, [SALEMREUNION.WORDPRESS.COM/WALES-PA-PROJECT/](http://SALEMREUNION.WORDPRESS.COM/WALES-PA-PROJECT/). More will be available as the scanning process continues.
- Corresponding Secretary's Role** – The role of the corresponding secretary will be reviewed and restructured. The option of having a company print and mail the mailings will be investigated. A quote for the cost of these services will be obtained by the president. The quote will be given to the board for review and approval.
- Tax Status** - The IRS has been contacted through the office of U.S. Representative Keith Rothfus, 12<sup>th</sup> District. It appears the IRS cannot find record of our non-profit status. It may be necessary to reapply for 501(c)(3) status. The cost of applying and the benefits of the status will be considered before any application for non-profit status is submitted. If an organization has assets under \$50,000 it is eligible to file an annual electronic notice Form 990-N instead of an annual information return. As a church, we qualify for certain unique tax treatment, which we are exploring.
- Eisteddfod** – An Eisteddfod is a traditional Welsh competition, for poetry reading, vocal presentations, instrumental performances, etc. It was proposed that an Eisteddfod be held on the Salem grounds on September 12, 2015. It would be in conjunction with the Britsburgh celebration being held in Pittsburgh to celebrate Queen Elizabeth being the longest reigning British monarch. It was decided that a less formal format would require less planning and be more doable. The Noson Lawen (Merry Evening) was suggested. Noson Lawen is not a competition but a celebration of things Welsh. It would be an open microphone format with participants performing for the joy of it. The Noson Lawen would be followed by a Te Bach, a traditional Welsh afternoon tea. Bill McHenry moved that the decisions related to the Noson Lawen be referred to the board. Carol Ellis provided the second. Motion carried.
- Christmas Cards** – Christmas cards were sent from the Salem Homecoming Association in 2014. John Rhoades and Christine Pryce Webler covered the cost of the cards and postage. The body voted to send Christmas cards this year, 2015, with the cost not to exceed \$200. The card should include information about all events planned by the association in 2016.

### Unfinished Business:

Last year's issue of a ground hog under the church has been resolved.

### New Business:

The Bylaws for the association were adopted in 1927 and need to be updated. Copies of the proposed amended Bylaws were distributed. After an extended discussion it was decided that members needed additional time to review the changes and supply input. Bill McHenry moved that the vote be tabled and a four person committee be appointed by the board to review and amend the Bylaws. The committee's proposed amended Bylaws would then be given to the board for approval. Once approved by the board the amended Bylaws would be presented at the annual meeting for action. The motion was seconded and carried.

### Election of Officers:

Nominations were taken from the floor for each office.

<b>President</b>	<b>John Pryce Rhoades</b> –
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Brian Medellin</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Bill McHenry</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Janice Davis</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Christine Pryce Webler</b>
<b>Co – Treasurers</b>	<b>Sally Griffith McWhorter</b>
	<b>Scott Griffith</b>
	<b>Bob Makin</b>
	<b>Barb Evans</b>
	<b>Mary Jeanne Davis</b>
	<b>George Merritts</b>

Nominated by Christine Pryce Webler, Seconded by Ann Makin. Motion carried.  
Nominated by Sally Griffith McWhorter, Seconded by Bob Makin. Motion carried.  
Nominated by Dale Richards, Seconded by Sally McWhorter. Motion carried.  
Nominated by Bill McHenry, Seconded by Carol Ellis. Motion carried.  
Nominated by Brian Medellin, Seconded by Bob Makin. Motion carried.  
Nominated by Ann Makin, Seconded by Bill McHenry. Motion carried.

Nominated by Bill McHenry.  
Seconded by Ruth Stormer. Motion carried.

The officers and trustees were elected by unanimous vote to serve for 2015 – 2016.

Honorary trustee, Jack Pryce, retains his position.

John Rhoades declared the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,  
Janice L. Davis  
Recording Secretary

WALES-PA ARCHIVING WORK

For those who attended last year’s reunion, Salem member, Nic Schumer, made a short presentation about the Wales-PA Project. The Project is a partnership between the People’s Collection Wales (a project funded by the Welsh Government) and several Welsh-American groups across Pennsylvania, with the St. David’s Society of Pittsburgh acting as the lead organization. The Wales-PA Project digitizes historic documents and pictures that both chronicle the experiences of Welsh immigrants and commemorate the significance of the Welsh to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Salem has been honored as a focus for this project, and we have entrusted our historical documents and pictures to them. Many of our documents can already be viewed at the People’s Collection Wales website (which can be found through our website [www.salemreunion.org](http://www.salemreunion.org)). The Wales-PA Project is in the process of recruiting a student archivist who will expedite digitization. The Project invites anyone who may have any documents or pictures related to Salem or Welsh heritage, which they are willing to temporarily entrust to the group, to bring those materials to this year’s reunion so that they can be added to the online collection.

FORMING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNION COMMITTEE

Although the Salem Welsh Methodist Church stopped functioning as an active place of worship in the early 20th Century, a group of dedicated former members decided that there was too much history attached to that quaint, one-room church house to let all that tradition and community be lost. So, in May 1920, the Salem Home-Coming Association was organized at a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Evans on East Homer St., Ebensburg. Their daughter, Mrs. Evaline Evans Jose, was elected the first president. And on Sunday, June 5, 1920 the first Salem Reunion occurred. Before we know it, the Salem Home-Coming Association will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding. Keeping alive the faith, culture, and celebration of those Welshmen and Welshwomen who came before us is something worthy of major commemoration! So, bearing in mind the necessary planning for the event and the hectic lives of our friends and members, the president decided to form the ad hoc this year, giving everyone plenty of time and a few reunions before the anniversary is upon us. Please consider joining the 100th Anniversary of the Home-Coming Committee. If you are interested please email us at [info@salemhomecoming.org](mailto:info@salemhomecoming.org) or call Salem President, John Rhoades, at (412) 580-8451.



2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Name(s):

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email(s):

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT HISTORIC SALEM WITH:

☐ \$5.00 (SINGLE membership)

☐ I'd/We'd like to designate any contribution amount exceeding our membership dues as a memoriam in the name of:

☐ \$10.00 (FAMILY membership)

☐ \$25.00

☐ \$25.00

☐ \$50.00

☐ \$100.00

☐ \$

☐ I/we plan to attend the Salem Homecoming Event on Sunday, August 7, 2016.

Number attending: Number of volunteers

☐ Areas I/We would like to help with at the event:

picnic setup Saturday greet and pass bulletins Sunday

food setup Sunday clean up

Please cut out and return This Portion with Funds to

Sally (Sara) Griffith McWhorter

c/o Scott Griffith

304 Tripoli Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931

Checks should be made payable to Salem Homecoming Association

Directions

**From Ebensburg:** At intersection of High Street and Center Street, take Center Street north. After 6 blocks (~0.25mi), turn left on W Highland Avenue (heading west). W Highland becomes Colver Rd. Continue on this road for about 4mi, then turn left on SR 4002/Tripoli Rd. In 0.7mi turn right onto Lute Rd (sign for Bracken Auto). After about a mile, Salem Church will be on your right.

**From Pittsburgh:** there will be a van leaving at 8:30am on Sunday, August 7, 2014, from Kelly O’s restaurant in the Strip Dictict (110 24th St @ Smallman). We should be returning to Pittsburgh by 4-5pm. Please just let John Rhoades know by July 27th if you can come and would like a seat ([johnrhoades@mac.com](mailto:johnrhoades@mac.com) or 412-580-8451).

Contact

John Rhoades, President	412-580-8451	<a href="mailto:johnrhoades@mac.com">johnrhoades@mac.com</a>
Sally (Sara) Griffith McWhorter, Treasurer	480-844-8174	
Christine Pryce Webler, Corresponding Secretary	847-830-1063	<a href="mailto:c.webler@gmail.com">c.webler@gmail.com</a>

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[SALEMREUNION.WORDPRESS.COM](http://SALEMREUNION.WORDPRESS.COM)