



Winter 2021

# Fjalla Blað

## Icelandic Communities Association



### Annual Þorrablót Auction—with a different style...

Every year an extremely important part of the ICA February Þorrablót has been the LIVE and SILENT AUCTIONS. While we have a lot of fun and create a lot of laughter during the live auction, our goal is to raise funds to support not only the ICA, but also many of the outside projects it funds such as the Snorri Program Grant and Heritage Site Grants. To date, \$11,500 has been raised by the ICA at Þorrablót events as well as \$16,000 raised at the ICA sponsored 2017 INLNA convention to assist these and other fine endeavors within our communities.



John will be firing up the smoker!

As you know, due to COVID 19 concerns and regulations, the 2021 Þorrablót will not take place, but our auction *will* go forward using an online bidding platform. You'll find many of your favorite traditional Icelandic items and delicacies such as Pinot Noir wine from Bjornson Winery, rúllupylsa, hangikjöt, and maybe some kleinur. A beautiful handmade quilt in the Aurora pattern by Guðrun Erla has already been received for the auction and we hope there will be many other fine donations similar to those usually found on the silent auction.

Bids will open February 21 and close February 27, 2021. Further details—including a link to the online bidding site, how to bid and where to donate items will be posted in various ICA mediums and local newspapers. Options for paying for and picking up your purchases will be included on your online invoice.



'Aurora' made by Nancy Boe, Marilyn Hall, Judy Geir, and Joanne Watson

### PLAN NOW TO TAKE PART IN THIS GREAT EVENT!!!!

If you have items that you wish to donate for the auction, drop them off at the Mountain Chalet any day of the week before 1 pm or you can call Dori Heck at 701-382-9399 or e-mail her at [dorikatelmt@hotmail.com](mailto:dorikatelmt@hotmail.com) to arrange a different delivery time or if you have questions. If you live outside of the area, but would like to donate an item, contact Dori and she will help work out the details.

### President's Message

Greetings to all of our friends and supporters! As I write this message, I would like to do so in two parts. First, I would like to take a look back at 2020 and then take a look forward to 2021.

To say that 2020 was a trying year for all of us is an epic understatement. The coronavirus pandemic affected everyone in our country and most everyone all over the world. It is worth noting that it is not the first pandemic we have faced and it won't be the last. I recall the fears over polio when I was a young boy and how relieved we were when we all started getting vaccinated.

As to ICA 2020 activities, we were able to stage our Þorrablót in normal fashion, but by the time spring rolled around, the Covid numbers began to climb and it became apparent to us that we needed to take a serious look at what we could and could not do in staging The Deuce. The decision was made to carry on with the parade and most people felt it was carried out in a responsible manner. We also staged a "virtual" Heritage Program live on the internet and that was very well received and appreciated by people here in the US and in Canada and Iceland, and has now been viewed 476 times.

Looking ahead to 2021, we have already made the decision to cancel the in-person Þorrablót, (cont page 5)

## 2020: 121st Annual 2nd of August Celebration

2020. Twenty-twenty. Two thousand twenty. No matter how you spell it or say it, most people are very glad to have 2020 in the history books. But it will be a year to remember—for masks, social distancing, COVID case counts, modified or cancelled events, and how our lives were changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But through it all the Icelandic Communities Association still managed to find a way to celebrate our unique Icelandic heritage. Here's a recap of the weekend:

Things started happening on Thursday afternoon with the opening of the Genealogy Center—all on line. It was the 18th year for the Genealogy Center and it was hosted by Icelandic Roots volunteers living in Vopnafjörður, Denver, Fargo, and Richmond, VA. Hours were Friday 1-4, Saturday 11-12, and Sunday 2:30-3:30. The group offered tips for using the Icelandic Roots Database plus answered genealogy questions. Cathy Josephson's presentation, "The Journey West: Sails, Rails, Rivers, and Trails" was also offered three times. She is a frequent volunteer to the Deuce, an Icelandic Roots genealogist, and Director of the East Iceland Emigration Center. Watch the video: <https://vimeo.com/442165132> About 145 people attended the various offerings over the weekend. Check out the new IR video: <https://vimeo.com/477862024> and website: [www.IcelandicRoots.com](http://www.IcelandicRoots.com)

After some discussion on how to do it safely, the Legion Walleye Fry was held on Friday



Erik Thorlakson kept the grill filled with walleye.

night with a modified plan. There were some tables set up with 6 feet distancing and a small crew of volunteers served about 140 people (about 1/3 the usual number) with most of the meals as take out. The menu was simplified, but the walleye was fantastic as always.



Karen Kristjanson, Linda Readle, Carissa Thorlakson and Susan Sigurdson filled the orders.



Saturday morning was sunny and clear—perfect for a parade. Like always, the parade entries showed up and people lined the street to watch the parade—the crowd size was down, but there were still lots of folks there—and they were enthusiastic and appreciative, cheering on the parade entries.



The Borg Home staff, past and present, served as grand marshal of the parade in recognition of the vital role our community health care workers have played throughout the years and especially during this pandemic; Sara Stevenson, Administrator





and Kelly Johnson, board member, represented the Home in the parade. The family of George Freeman, honorary Grand Marshal, came to ride in the parade and hopefully they were able to feel the love and admiration that the Icelandic communities had for their Dad and Grandpa, George.



The parade continued with dignitaries and representatives from families, businesses and political parties. The Shriners came out in force with groups from multiple communities bringing their little scooters and the car with two steering wheels—facing opposite directions!! Finishing out the parade was the Myrdal family on horseback.



On Main Street, Moore Icelandic Goodies sold everyone's favorites—vinarterta, kleinur, pönnukökur and homemade bread and other baked goods.

Faithful volunteers Kathie Johnson and Dori Heck sold souvenirs to parade attendees. The Vikur ladies were there selling raffle tickets for a quilt. The ICA sold raffle tickets for a \$500 cash drawing. At the end of the weekend, treasurer John E. Johnson enlisted Lynn Ulvog and Lori Sapa from the Chalet to draw the winning raffle ticket. Congratulations to Judy Geir!!!



***When life gives you prunes.....make VINARTERTA!!!***



Thanks to the skills and creativity of Sunna Furstenau and Icelandic Roots, The Icelandic Communities Association prepared a virtual program this year about the historic Icelandic communities in our area in place of the annual Heritage Program. Join Curtis Olafson, Loretta Thorfinnson Bernhoft, Shirley Olgeirson, Sue Goodman Jacobson, Susan Sigurdson, Kathy Sigurdson Thorlakson, Jana Abrahamson, Sandy Matthiasson Wright, Sunna Olafson Furstenau, Dennis Biliske and Dori Kate Steinolfson Heck as they take you on a tour of the area with photos and memories of the Icelandic influence on our region.

**Deuce of August - 2020**  
**"Our Icelandic Communities"**  
[https://youtu.be/jh1u\\_dmkgPI](https://youtu.be/jh1u_dmkgPI)

## ICA Members as of November 2020

Abrahamson, Andrea  
Abrahamson, Eric  
Abrahamson, Jana  
Abrahamson, Jonathan  
Abrahamson, Karen  
Abrahamson, Karie  
Abrahamson, Karl  
Anderson, Emilia & Duane K.  
Baumgardner, Cynthia  
Beard, Carol  
Becker, Scot  
Benjaminson, George  
Bernhoft, Neil & Melanie  
Bernhoft, Ryan & Stacie  
Bernhoft, Wayne & Loretta  
Biliske, Dennis & Sue  
Biliske, Eleanor  
Bjornson, June  
Bjornson, Richard & Janyce  
Bjornson, Roger & Margaret  
Bjornstad, Dr. Jeanette  
Boe, Nancy  
Bowles, Helen Heigaard  
Briese, Gloria  
Brown, Diane  
Brubakken, Kay  
Byron, Andy & Gwennie  
Byron, Dwight & Elaine  
Byron, Dr. Eugene B.  
Byron, Tyrone  
Carik, Linda  
Carson, Jeanne  
Christianson, Gerald  
Dahl Margaret  
Davidson, Ronald  
Dunbar, Vivian Laxdal  
Einaron, Harold P.  
Fafnis, Reynis  
Flanagan, Lynn & Celeste  
Fleming, Joanne Halldorson  
Flesher, Tudy Snyder  
Franch, Cheryl  
Frey, Tom & Linda Nielson  
Furstenau, Garnett  
Furstenau, Jeff & Sunna  
Geiger, Joeann M.  
Geir, Richard & Judy  
Graveline, Bob  
Gudmundson, Keith  
Gudmundson, Shirley  
Hall, Alfred  
Hall, Fred & Dorothy

Hall-den Boer, Julie  
Halldorson, Barney  
Halldorson, Dennis  
Halldorson, John  
Halldorson, Jolene  
Halldorson, Kenneth & Karen  
Halldorson, Mike  
Hardy, James & Charlotte  
Helgoe, Lee & Viola  
Helt, Dennis & Pat  
Herzog, Douglas  
Heuchert, Katy  
Hillman, Robert  
Hjalmarson, James  
Johannesson, C.M. Clancy  
Johnson, Janelle  
Johnson, James & Marilyn  
Johnson, John E. & Kathleen  
Johnson, John H.  
Johnson, Lyle & Margie  
Johnson, Verna  
Josephson, Cathy Ann  
Karel, Penny  
Kasprowicz, Matt  
Kidd, Sharon  
Koehmstedt, Kristine  
Kristjanson, Emily  
Laxdal, Edward & Elaine  
Lorenzen, Margaret  
Machacek, Asta  
Marcil, Michael  
Marston, Doreen Kristjanson  
Morrell, Jan Myrdal  
Morrison, Dennis & Pat  
Morrison, John & Irene  
Morrow, Shirley  
Muldoon, William & Janet  
Myrdal Rosemarie  
Ness, Kim Byron  
Noble, Mary Beth  
Northfield, Amy  
Olafson, Anne  
Olafson, Betty  
Olafson, Curtis & Bjork Eriksdottir  
Olafson, Drew & Samantha  
Olafson, Eugene  
Olafson, Kristi  
Olgeirson, Robert  
Olgeirson, Shirley  
Papenfuss, Denise  
Paulson, Gary & Catherine  
Powers, Tim & Susan Sigurdson

Readel, Ross & Myrna  
Rodel, Christopher  
Selzer, Greg & Renata Olafson  
Sherry, Pauline Johnson  
Sigurdson, Paul & Ina  
Smith, Linda Stephanson  
Snider, Karl  
Stanford, Dave & Cheri  
Steinolfson, Marino Gene  
Steinolfson, Steingrimur  
Thompson, Norma Laxdal  
Thorfinnson, Rosa  
Thorlacius, Ethel Byron  
Thorlakson, Kathy  
Tiedeman, George Valdimar  
Tiffany, Norma  
Trenbeth, Connie  
Troftgruben, Marilyn  
Vatsdal, Judy  
Vaux, Vicki  
Vidalin Cemetery Association  
Vork, Marina  
Watson, JoAnn  
Wild, Richard & Mary  
Wild, Shirley  
Williamson, Marvel  
Wilson, Elisabet  
Wright, Sandra & George  
Yost, Susan

**Your membership in the ICA helps support the work of the ICA in presenting programs and events that preserve our unique Icelandic heritage. Thank you for being a part of the Icelandic Communities Association!**



## Memorials to ICA in 2020

*In memory of-*

**Skafti Indridson**

**Hilda and Mindy Snyder**

**Hannes and Elsie Kristjanson**

**Sharon Hillman**

**George Freeman**

**Valdi Halldorson**

**John and Emma Johnson**

**Richard Thorfinnson**

**Ena and Steinne Snyder**

*by-*

**Susan Yost**

**Tudy Flesher**

**D. Marston**

**Robert Hillman**

**Kathy Thorlakson**

**Lee/Viola Helgoe**

**Pauline Johnson Sherry**

**Rosa Thorfinnson**

**Bob Graveline**

## ICA Offers Heritage Grants

The Icelandic Communities Association continues to offer two types of grants: the Heritage Sites Grant and the Snorri Scholarship. The *Heritage Sites Grant* was started to help to the ICA communities of north eastern North Dakota to maintain the historic churches, meeting halls, cemeteries and other historic sites that were established by the Icelandic families that first settled in this area. These buildings and sites are important to the Icelandic cultural heritage as they all have a story to teach the next generation about their Icelandic heritage. Many of these buildings are difficult to maintain with dwindling resources. This year, the ICA will offers four \$500 grants to help maintain these buildings/cemeteries and sites. The funds for these grants were raised at the 2020 Thorrablot. Deadline for applications was December 31; seven applications were received this year. Announcement of the recipients will be made in February during the On line Auction. No applications were received for the Snorri Scholarship this year.

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### *President's Message, cont.:*

but we will be staging an online auction of Icelandic related items. Watch our website and Facebook page for announcements providing more information on that event.

Obviously we have time to assess our options for The Deuce, which would normally take place the last days of July on this year's calendar. Again, keep an eye online for further announcements on that. I am hopeful that by early summer, a major portion of the US population will be vaccinated and things will start to return to some semblance of normalcy. Here in North Dakota, vaccinations are moving along at a good clip. As I write this message, the CDC ranks our state 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 3,931 people vaccinated per 100,000 of our population.

We hope to see you at The Deuce, but our first and foremost wish is that we all stay safe and enjoy good health and happiness! Curtis Olafson, ICA President





## Vikur LCW Quilt Auction



Vikur LCW members Sherry Hanneson and Loretta Bernhoft sold raffle tickets.

The Vikur LCW held an annual Salad Luncheon and Quilt auction, which looked very different this year. The Pandemic caused the group to go a completely new direction. Dori Heck volunteered to create a website where individuals could donate to the salad luncheon and receive a brief history and cookbook containing recipes which LCW members typically provide at the lunch-

eon. The profits from the virtual salad luncheon totaled more than \$1500. Donors were also eligible to purchase tickets on the quilt, which was designed by Guðrun Erla. The pattern was called Aurora and resembled the Northern Lights which are a major attraction in Iceland! We were thrilled that Shirley Olgeirson won the quilt! Over \$3000 was raised from that project!! Heartfelt thanks to Dori (Gloria and Curtis Steinolfson's daughter) and Sandy Matthiasson Wright for taking on this wonderful project! The funds raised are essential for the maintenance and upkeep of the oldest Icelandic Church in America! A Facebook page with countless pictures of the Vikur Church has been created! Check it out - simply search Vikur Lutheran Church!



The lucky winner! Shirley J. Olgeirson

## ICA Souvenir Sales

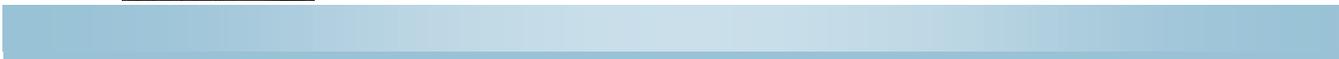


Kathie Johnson and Dori Heck were kept busy during the parade selling some popular Icelandic themed souvenirs. Dori said "Coffee mugs were good sellers as always, and our new Vinarterta Soap was a hit and sold out!!" Dori worked with a Fargo soap company for the custom order; it was developed and produced just for the ICA.



Dori also wants you to know that there is a line of Deuce of August souvenirs available for shipping year round at <https://shirtsfromfargo.com/shop/organizations/deuce-of-august/> .

Dori is always open to souvenir suggestions and ideas. Drop her a note at [dorikatelmt@Hotmail.com](mailto:dorikatelmt@Hotmail.com) if you think you have a great idea for our souvenir table.



# Icelandic Communities Association Membership Form

## The 2021 Membership Drive is underway!

Dues are \$15 for the calendar year, January through December.

(2021 memberships are due by January 1, 2021!)

NOTE: Membership dues are not tax deductible, but any contributions over and above that are tax deductible.  
ICA has 501 c 3 (tax-exempt non-profit) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (This is a new address \_\_\_\_\_)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Memorial in remembrance of: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Mail this form (with check payable to I.C.A.; indicate the year/s that you are paying dues for) to: **I.C. A., P. O. Box 63, Mountain, ND 58262-0063**

♦ **Please send this form with your dues. It helps us update our membership list and e-mail addresses. Thanks, in advance!**

♦ **Check your preference:** Newsletter by mail \_\_\_\_\_ By E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

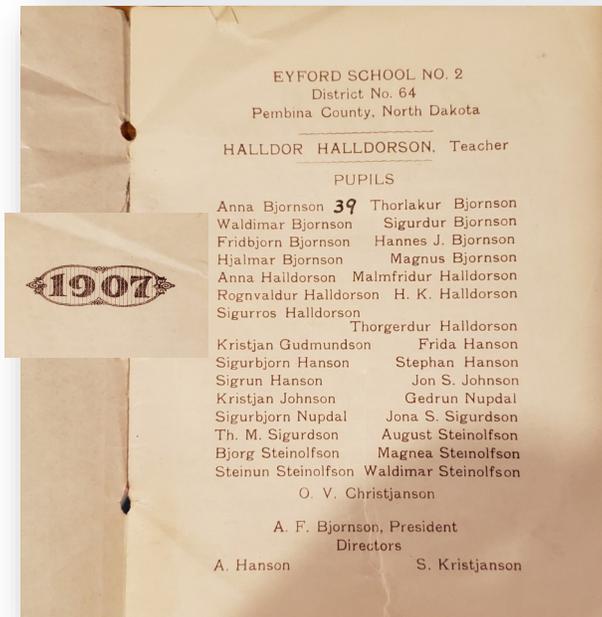
Membership Year (circle one) : **2020 2021 2022 2023**

**You may also use Pay Pal to update your membership on the ICA website.**

**Just so you know:** The ICA meets at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Mountain Community Center. The folks that gather are a dedicated bunch that plan and execute the 2nd of August Celebration, the Þorrablót, and an occasional movie or speaker. Like all small groups, it would welcome more volunteers with open arms. The volunteer options are varied: selling raffle tickets, set-up of tables and chairs, putting up/taking down flags daily, souvenir sales, working the gates at the kid's games, dance and tractor pull, and everyone's favorite—garbage pick up after the dance. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help out. Contact Susan Sigurdson (tpowerssig@cableone.net) for more information.

\*\*Vikur Lutheran Church--late 1800s to early 1900s

## Mountain Memorabilia



Recognize which church this is? \*\*

Eyford School No. 2 was located 3 miles south of Mountain on the Sigurdur Krakson farm (S. B. Sigurdson farm)





Icelandic  
Communities  
Association

P.O Box 63  
Mountain, ND 58262-0063



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*Við erum fjölskylda. We are family.*

# ÞORRABLÓT

Mid-Winter  
Celebration  
Online Auction

Bidding Dates: February 21-27, 2021