

Fjalla Blað

Icelandic Communities Association
Of Northeastern North Dakota



Winter 2018

119th Annual 2nd of August Celebration in Mountain, ND August 3,4,5 2018



The lawns were mowed. The street signs and flags were up. The bleachers were in place. Mountain was all dressed up and ready for company.....and the people came. The Genealogy Center kept busy from Thursday nite to Saturday. On Friday night, the Bjornson-Sigfusson American Legion Post (with assistance from the Legion Auxiliary) hosted their annual fish fry and served over 400 people in 2 ½ hours. Saturday morning the town started humming early as people started arriving to be in the parade. The streets (all of them!) were lined with people who came to watch approximately 100 entrants in the 1 ½ hour parade that started west of the Chalet, traveled north, then east past the Legion Hall and then down Main Street and around Borg. There was even a Fjallkona this year! In the afternoon, the MCC had a full house to watch the Heritage Program. Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jacobsdóttir really was the star of 'the Deuce' as she spoke eloquently and then as she and ND Gov. Doug Burgum took on Ryan Taylor's challenge to try some fancy rope tricks. The program finished out with an impromptu chorus of Icelandic songs from our visitors from Iceland. What a great program! Later, the street dances had people out dancing, but the usual fireworks were cancelled because of dry conditions. The tractor pull crowd was good and the sound of roaring engines could be heard all over town. This year also marked the first-time appearance of the ICA Canopy Drill Team. There's no photo to document the performance but the Drill Team, made up of 2 locals and 4 rookie recruits from someplace in MN, earned a '10' rating as they marched a borrowed canopy from the Legion Beer Garden, through the MCC parking lot and south through the tractor pull area to the Chalet food booth. Those guys were good! Wonder if they will be back next year?? It was a great weekend!!

*photos 4 & 5 bottom row: photo by Eric Hyldon, Grand Forks Herald, printed with permission.





From the desk of the ICA President:

As 2018 winds down, it is a great time to reflect on our successes this year and to say a huge thank you to all of our dedicated members and supporters for making it all happen. Our Þorablót in February of this year was a smashing success and once again was sold out. We were proud to have awarded \$17,500 in cash awards to multiple local entities that have a connection to preserving Icelandic history and heritage in the area. These funds came from profits realized on the very successful 98th Annual Convention of the Icelandic National League of North America that we held in North Dakota in May of 2017.

At the 119th Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration, the highlight was the visit by Iceland Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir. Also joining us were North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, Congressman Kevin Cramer, Ambassador Hjalmar W. Hannesson, Sunna Pam Olafson Furstenau, Immediate Past President of the Icelandic National League of North America, and Fred Walker, Global Marketing Manager for the North Dakota Tourism Department. The visit by the Prime Minister marks the 5th visit by a sitting Prime Minister to our Celebration! Many people commented that the Heritage Program was the best we have ever had. The Prime Minister was very personable and charming and the Governor did a great job of officially welcoming her to North Dakota. I commented at the end of the Program, "I don't know how we are going to top this next year, but we will think of something!"

Make plans now to get your tickets for the 2019 Þorablót scheduled for February 16th in the Mountain Community Center. The 120th Annual Celebration will be held from August 1st through the 4th, and we hope to see you all there!

Curtis Olafson

ICA offers Heritage Grants

The Icelandic Communities Association continues to offer two grants: the Heritage Sites Grant and the Snorri Scholarship. The *Heritage Sites Grant* was started as a 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. The ICA offers a grant of \$500 to help maintain these buildings/cemeteries and sites. Applications for the 2019 Heritage Sites Grant are available now with a deadline of January 1, 2019. Announcement of the recipient will be made Feb. 1st. Information about the grant and applications may be obtained by emailing Kathleen Johnson at kathleen@utma.com.

The *Snorri Scholarship* is given to an individual who has been accepted into the Snorri Program. A youth of Icelandic descent between the ages of 18-28 and living in Canada or the US may apply for the program. Participants will spend 6 weeks in Iceland discovering their roots and touring Iceland. To help with the expenses of the Snorri experience, the ICA offers a scholarship of \$1000. Applicants for the scholarship must (a.) live in one of the north eastern North Dakota Icelandic communities, (b.) have parents or grandparents who live in one of these communities or (c.) have parents/grandparents that have ties to the Icelandic communities and support the ICA by membership, contributing financially and/or by being active volunteers of ICA sponsored events. Application and guidelines for the ICA Snorri Scholarship may be obtained by emailing Kathleen Johnson at kathleen@utma.com.

2019 INL of NA Convention to be held in Winnipeg

The 2019 INL of NA Convention celebrating 100 years will be held May 16-19, 2019 in Winnipeg at the Fairmont Hotel near The Forks. The INL of NA will be celebrating the past, present and future. Registration for the event will be ready in January. Check the website www.inlofna.org or the Facebook page for details. Contact Sunna at sunna@icelandicroots.com for more information.





Gudrun Erla Conducts Quilting Class and Quilts of Iceland Trunk show at MCC



Gudrun Erla, an Icelandic quilt designer and owner of GE Designs (now living in Minneapolis), was in Mountain on September 30, 2018 to lead a quilting class and give a presentation about her new book “Quilts of Iceland”. Twenty eight quilters brought their sewing machines and fabric to the MCC to learn Gudrun’s Stripology method of quilt making. She shared tricks of the trade and how to use her “Stripology” ruler. Her philosophy is to work smarter, not harder and to make exquisite looking quilts using simple methods. Quilters were given the opportunity to purchase her patterns, books and rulers.



The afternoon was meant not only to share the passion of quilting but also the rich Icelandic heritage.



Gudrun Erla explained how she drew inspiration from the landscapes, natural resources and history of Iceland to create designs for her Quilts of Iceland book. The book is part quilting book, and part coffee table photo book with some traditional Icelandic recipes thrown into the mix. Quilt designs named “Aurora” (inspired by the northern lights) and Lupines (inspired by the abundant lupines on the hills of Iceland),



Nordic Visions (below) as well as Lopapeysa, Thor’s Hammer, Glacial Ice, Basalt , Hekla, Halldora, and Celtic Crossroads were a part of the trunk show. Gudrun Erla brought over 20 quilts to show and explained the inspiration behind each of the quilts. Locals Kathy Thorlakson and Nancy Boe helped display each quilt to the audience; they wore traditional Icelandic national costumes to add to the Icelandic flavor of the afternoon. Interspersed with her discussion about each quilt, Gudrun also shared some of Iceland’s history.



Trunk show guests the traditional Icelandic foods, such as pönkleiner, brown bread with rúllupylsa and The event was sponsored by the Icelandic ation, Embroidery Plus in Grafton and Sew Thank you to Nancy Boe, Joanne Watson and Judy Geir for coordinating this event.



were also treated to nukökurs, vinarterta, hangikjöt.

Communities Association & Sew North in Langdon.



Contributions of items to be used for the silent and live auctions at the Þorabrát on February 16th, 2019 are welcome and appreciated. Please bring them to the Mountain Community Center on February 15 or 16. Funds raised at this event are used for Heritage Grants, Snorri scholarships and for the support of ICA events throughout the year.

Do you have winter photos of Iceland or your Icelandic community/historic sites that could be featured in the winter INL of NA newsletter, Fréttabréf? Send photos to natalieguttormsson@gmail.com with the subject line 'INLNA photos.'



Vidalin Continues Projects to Maintain, Restore Church and Cemetery



The Vidalin Cemetery Association has been working for the past several years on projects to maintain, restore or improve the Vidalin Church and Cemetery located in rural Hensel.

Major projects thus far have included new shingles, painting the exterior, installation of a new furnace and work to straighten cemetery stones. Other projects have been completed and several more are planned.

The most recent project is the installation of an engraved stone to commemorate those buried at Vidalin for whom no marker or stone had been erected. According to church records, there were 16 burials outside the cemetery proper. The stone was put in place this fall on the west end of the cemetery. The project was completed with the assistance of Tom Askew of Askew Funeral Home and with donations from several supporters.

If you would like to support the on-going projects of the Vidalin Cemetery Association, contact Carol Beard at cbeard@polarcomm.com



Börnum Park: Mission Accomplished!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! Next time you are in Mountain, be sure to stop by and see the new playground that was recently installed on the West side of the Mountain Chalet Café. We are so humbled by the community support from friends and family, both near & far, as well as the support from businesses around the area. We were able to raise just over \$50,000 in two years and give our small community a playground area where kids and families can gather and play.



A very large pallet was delivered on October 15th with all of the playset pieces and on the 25th and 26th My Turn Playsystems, out of Fargo, ND sent 3 installers to head the installation process. With the help of some volunteers, we were able to get it installed in a day and a half. We were so fortunate to have some high school boys from Valley-Edinburg School bring their muscles to help haul bags of concrete and get all the posts installed as well as Curtis Olafson bringing his skidsteer and augers to drill the holes. That was not an easy task! Due to the weather we were not able to get everything finished, but the plan is to finish up this spring and put in the edging and engineered wood chips, as well as some landscaping. We also will be working on putting in some garbage cans and picnic tables and benches. A huge “THANK YOU” to everyone who has supported this project! See you in Mountain—at the playground!!!

We are so humbled by the community supportWe were able to raise just over \$50,000 in two years and give our small community a playground area where kids and families can gather and play.



Word of the season: Gluggaveður (Gloo-ka-ve-thoorrr): Weather that is only tolerable if you are inside and looking out the window.





Thingvalla Cemetery Association Project



The Thingvalla Cemetery Association just completed a major project that involved stabilizing and reinforcing the creek bank immediately on the north side of the cemetery. For many years, the creek below the cemetery has been slowly eroding the embankment, creating a potential for a catastrophic washout during times of extremely heavy rainfall. The channel crosses under ND Highway 32, then angles to the southeast toward the cemetery. At a point about 150 feet north of the cemetery, the creek takes a sharp turn and flows directly at the center of the north line of the cemetery, creating erosion during times of heavy water flow. In order to stabilize and reclaim the bank, dirt was dozed across the existing channel from the north side of the creek to fill in the eroded areas on the south side. This included some badly eroded areas around large old-growth oak trees that are likely well over 100 years old. Saving them will further stabilize the embankment. After the dirt was in place on the south side, the channel was carefully cleaned out to restore it to its original elevation prior to the dirt work. Using dirt from the north side of the creek provided the additional benefit of significantly increasing the capacity of the creek channel, which will serve to further prevent erosion. Finally, riprap was put in place from the edge of the south side of the channel all the way up to the fence line of the cemetery. This was necessary to protect the lower strata of the channel from water erosion and to protect the upper strata from being damaged by cattle traffic as the property is used a pasture.



The Thingvalla Cemetery is the final resting place of many pioneer Icelandic settlers and of the famed poet K.N. Julius. It is a must-see destination for every tour group from Iceland visiting the area of Icelandic settlements in Northeast North Dakota. When they visit, they read KN's poetry, and sometimes they laugh uproariously and sometimes tears run down their cheeks.



The Thingvalla Cemetery Association greatly appreciates the cooperation and guidance of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the generous support of Rendezvous Region Construction for providing the aggregate materials needed for the project.. If you would like to provide financial support for this project and other work needed in the near future to preserve the cemetery, you can make a US tax deductible contribution on the Icelandic Roots website <https://www.icelandicroots.com/donate> by designating "Other"



The Thingvalla Cemetery is the final resting place of many pioneer Icelandic

settlers, as well as the famed poet K. N. Julius.

and then typing "Thingvalla Cemetery Association." You can also send donations to TCA in care of Karen Kristjanson, 12972 85th St NE, Edinburg, ND 58227.

The Genealogy Center: Connecting 'Cousins Across the Ocean'

Icelandic Roots (IR) continues to support the ICA during the Deuce of August and throughout the year. This year was the 16th year of a Genealogy Center at the Mountain celebration. This year it was manned by Doreen Kristjanson Marston from Tennessee, Cathy Josephson from Vopnafjörður, Sunna from Fargo, Russ and Gwen Lanoway from Winnipeg, Edda Guðjónsdóttir from Kópavogur, and Ron Baker from Cavalier doing non-Icelandic genealogy.

Busloads of visitors from Iceland come to Mountain on Friday so they can tour the area and visit the Genealogy Center. The Icelanders are looking for cousins, for burial locations of family, and for those who have been lost. We have been doing this very fun project, 'Cousins Across the Ocean' for many years and it is a feature of the work we do at Icelandic Roots. Saturday is always super busy with both visitors from Iceland and local people; most of the time you can hardly move in the genealogy center.

The 30 dedicated volunteers for IR are the key to its success. From IT experts, cartographers, photographers, historians, accountants, social media team, and genealogists, IR has a lot to offer other than just names and dates. The database grows by 2,300 people per month, thousands of photos/documents/obituaries, cemeteries, passenger lists, emigration ports and ships, abandoned farms, an interactive map feature, parish records, special reports, and much more. When people realize the amount of information on the site, they are totally amazed. IR is the official database for the Hofsfós Emigration Center and the East Iceland Emigration Center at Vopnafjörður. For more info on Icelandic Roots, contact Sunna at sunna@icelandicroots.com





ICA Members (as of November 2018; *indicates paid for 2019)

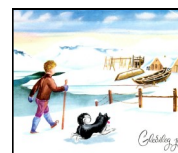
Abrahamson, Andrea
Abrahamson, Eric
Abrahamson, Jana
Abrahamson, Jonathan
Abrahamson, Karen
Abrahamson, Karie
Abrahamson, Karl
Anderson, Emilia*
Andvik, Macey *
Atwood, Susan & Gary*
Baldwin, Jill Bernhoft*
Barrett, Tom & Cindy*
Baumgardner, Cynthia
Beard, Carol
Becker, Scot
Benjaminson, George*
Benjaminson, Jim
Bernhoft, Wayne & Loretta
Biliske, Dennis & Sue*
Biliske, Eleanor*
Bjornson, Brent & Linda
Bjornson, June*
Bjornson, Matt & Lori*
Bjornson, Richard & Janyce
Bjornstad, Dr. Jeanette*
Bohn, Monica
Bowles, Helen Heigaard
Briese, Gloria*
Brown, Diane
Brubakken, Kay
Byron, Chris & Julie
Byron, Dr. Eugene B.*
Byron, Tyrone
Cameron, Lori
Carpenter, Jackie
Carpenter, Norine
Carson, Jeanne*
Christianson, Gerald*
Davidson, Ronald
Dunbar, Vivian Laxdal*
Einarson, Einar*
Einarson, Harold P. *
Flanagan, Lynn & Celeste*
Fleming, Joanne*
Flesher, Tudy Snyder*
Furstenau, Cody*
Furstenau, Garnet*
Furstenau, Jeff & Sunna*
Geiger, Joeann M.
Geir, L. Duane
Geir, Leslie
Geir, Richard & Judy
Gratton, Kelly G.
Graveline, Bob*
Gregoire, Marilyn
Gudmundson, Keith

Gudmundson, Shirley*
Hainey, Kari
Hall, Alfred*
Hall, Warren & Marilyn*
Hall-den Boer, Julie
Halldorson, Barney*
Halldorson, Dennis
Halldorson, John
Halldorson, Kenneth & Karen
Halldorson, Mike *
Hardy, James & Charlotte*
Heck, Scott*
Helgisdottir, Am Anita M. *
Helgoe, Lee & Viola
Helt, Michael
Herzog, Douglas*
Hillis, John B.
Hillman, David
Hillman, Lyle & Diane *
Hillman, Robert*
Hughes, Christine Bjornson
Johannesson, C.M. Clancy*
Johannesson, Cory
Johnson, John E. & Kathleen
Johnson, John H.
Johnson, Lyle & Margie*
Jonasson, Duane*
Karel, Penny
Kidd, Sharon
Knutson, Arvid & Darlene
Kortes, Erika
Kristjanson, Emily*
Kristjanson, Kristjan*
Laxdal, Edward & Elaine
Lorenzen, Margaret
Machacek, Asta
Majerus, Phyllis
Marcil, Michael*
Martin, Evelyn
McKnight, Mary Ellen
Metelmann, Olena Anderson
Metelmann, Tom
Moberg, Kristine
Mooney, Debra
Morrell, Jan
Morrison, Dennis & Pat
Muldoon, William & Janet*
Munski, Dr. Douglas*
Myrdal Rosemarie
NE ND Heritage Assoc.
O'Connor, Christopher
Olafson, Anne
Olafson, Betty*
Olafson, Curtis & Bjork Eriksdottir
Olafson, Drew & Samantha
Olafson, Eugene*

Olafson, Kristi
Olafson, Larry
Olgeirson, Robert
Olgeirson, Shirley*
Otto, Mick & Doris Biliske-Otto*
Papenfuss, Denise
Papenfuss, Kurtis
Pedersen, Jane*
Peterson, Dorothy
Peterson, Sandy
Powers, Tim & Susan Sigurdson*
Readel, Ross & Myrna
Rollin, Leon & Mae
Selzer, Greg & Renata Olafson
Sherry, Pauline*
Sigmar, Eric
Sigmarsson, Gunnlaugur
Sigurdson, Paul & Ina
Sigurdson, Shirley Jo
Silbernagel, Cathy Metelmann
Smith Frederic & Linda
Stanford, Dave & Cheri
Steinolfson, Doris*
Steinolfson, Steingrimur
Strand, Candice*
Thompson, Charles & Ann
Thorfinnson, Rosa*
Thorlacius, Ethel*
Thorlaxson, Kathy
Tiedeman, George
Tiffany, Norma*
Timian, Carol*
Trenbeth, Connie
Vatsdal, Judy*
Vidalin Cemetery Association*
Vivatson, Robert D. & Susan *
Vork, Marina*
Warmoth Beatrice
Watson, JoAnn*
Wild, Lillian
Wild, Richard & Mary
Wild, Shirley*
Williamson, Marvel *
Winger, Audri
Wright, Sandra
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.

*Merry
Christmas!
Gleðileg
Jól!!*





Icelandic Communities Association Membership Form

The 2019 Membership Drive is underway!

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

(2019 memberships are due by January 1, 2019!)

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) : 2019 2020 2021 2022

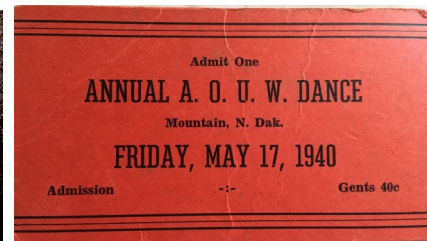
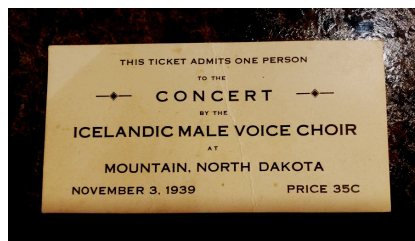
Just so you know: The ICA meets at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Mountain Community Center. The folks that gather are a dedicated bunch that plan and execute the 2nd of August Celebration, the Þorablót, and an occasional movie or speaker. Like all small groups, it would welcome more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

Mountain Memorabilia



Danish coin, minted 1890, during the time that Iceland was under Danish rule. Contributed by Pat Morrison. Coin originally owned by Mrs. Arne (Rose) V. Johnson.

Concert & dance tickets for events in Mountain in 1939 and 1940. Contributed by Pat Morrison and Kathy Thorlakson

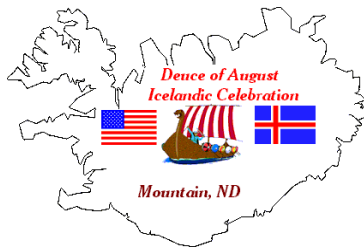


Mmmm...the wonderful scents of Christmas—evergreen trees, cardamom scented vínarterta, cookies baking in the oven.....but *nothing* can compare to the smell of harðfiskur (hard fish) to make you really get that Christmas spirit! Once again, the ICA has hard fish available for sale. INL calendars are also available. Contact Curtis Olafson at colafson@polarcomm.com



**Icelandic
Communities
Association**

P.O. Box 63
Mountain, ND 58262-0063



"Hvað er svo glatt sem góðra vina fundur?"

"What is as joyful as a gathering of good friends?"



ÞORRABLÓT

A MIDWINTER ICELANDIC FEAST

FEBRUARY 16, 2019

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER

Program & Buffet Supper:

Cod or Chicken with side dishes

\$25 per person. Tickets on sale
mid-December; contact Kathie J.

Enjoy traditional old Icelandic

cuisine: Rotten Shark with Brennevin,
Harðfiskur, Rúllupylsa, Hangikjót, Rams
Testicles, Pickled Herring, Smoked Salmon
and many baked delicacies