



PÓSTURINN

The Icelandic-American Community of Minnesota Newsletter

Join Minnesota's Icelandic Community and Celebrate the Season!

Take part in a fabulous celebration

JÓLABARNABALL Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12th 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

American Swedish Institute * 2600 Park Avenue South * Minneapolis, MN
* http://www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Visit_ASI.html * 612-871-4907



Gather for a heart-warming experience
Icelandic Christmas Service

Sunday, December 19, 2010-4:00 pm

Chapel of the Incarnation, Olson Hall

Luther Seminary

1490 Fulham Street off Como

St. Paul, MN

www.luthersem.edu/campus/driving_directions.asp?m=171

SKYPE PARTY & BOOK COLLECTION

Stefan Guttormsson with the assistance of Cathy Josephson and Minnesota Icelanders, are collecting new or slightly used paperback books that can be sent to Vopnafjordur's School, Grades 1 through 8, to be used for practicing reading in English. The goal is to improve the library collection of books in English. These may be used by children or adults learning our language. The collection will take place at the Jolabarnaball! Please bring ONE book. A Skype Party is being planned for the youth, and adults, in Vopnafjordur to thank us for our gifts. It looks like this gathering will be held in January. You will be notified of the date and time.

LÖGBERG HEIMSKRINGLA

The Icelandic Community Newspaper Since 1886!

For decades, Icelanders living in Minneota, Minnesota, faithfully subscribed to two newspapers, the **LÖGBERG** and the **HEIMSKRINGLA**. For many, reading each paper was a way to stay current about far-flung, Western-based Icelandic friends and loved ones. My beloved grandfather always had the both newspapers laying on the wooden table beside his reading chair. He read both papers from cover to cover. Then he'd pass them on to others or share the news in lively conversations. Eventually the newspapers united and the Logberg Heimskringla still continues in the tradition of offering news from across North America. Editor, Bill Valgardson, lived in the United States for many years and is committed to a newspaper which captures the interest of everyone across the continent.

Logberg-Heimskringla needs subscribers to continue to offer comprehensive and compelling news about Iceland and Icelanders to people with a passion for everything Icelandic

It's published 24 times a year, on the 1st and 15th of each month. There are promo specials being offered until December 31, 2010 for both new and current subscribers. 1) 20% off a two (2) year subscription, or 2) 10% off a one (1) year, subscription (applies to online only). 3) you can also order a 3 month online only access trial: using this promo code: 2010 PROMO. For more info, or to subscribe, contact lh@lh-inc.ca, or call toll free at 1-866-564-2374, or visit their website at <http://www.logberg.com>. You can also learn more about LH on Facebook. However, you must create, or already have a Facebook page in order to see it: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=652903264>

FACEBOOK Pages of Interest: * The Icelandic American Association of Minnesota, * Icelandic Hekla Club, * Icelandic National League of North America, * Logberg Heimskringla, * Whole Foods Market, * Icelandic American Klub of Fargo Moorhead, * August the Deuce

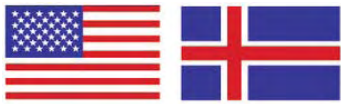
The PÓSTURINN newsletter of the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota Email: IcelandMN@gmail.com

Editor: Claire Eckley 7646 E Borman Way, Inver Grove Heights, MN

Board of Directors:

Claire Eckley, President, and INLNA Board
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Stefan Guttormsson
Baldur Steingrimsson
Maria Hermanson



*The Icelandic Hekla Club
and the
Icelandic American Association*

proudly invite you to the annual

Jólabarnaball

Children's Christmas Ball

Sunday, December 12, 2010

1:00 – 4:00pm

Program will start promptly at 1:30

**RSVP to Maddy Arnar 952-941-3035 or
Carol Anderson 763-784-7977**

American Swedish Institute

*2600 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, MN*

*Please enter the Swedish Institute from the
parking lot through the office and go
downstairs to the Auditorium.*

Please consider bringing a children's book to donate, slightly used or new, for the Vopnafjordur School Library.

**Bring a plate of goodies to share,
either Icelandic or traditional.**

There will be a 'Nordic Nook' area where the Hekla Club will be selling gifts for the Holidays or other occasions!

**This is a family event so bring your spouse,
children, and grandchildren.**

Icelandic Christmas Service
Sunday, December 19, 2010
4:00pm

**The Chapel of the Incarnation,
Olson Campus Center at Luther Seminary
2481 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN**

Icelandic Yuletide Lads



Gully Gawk



Bowl Licker



Spoon Licker



Doorway Sniffer



Pot Licker



Shorty



Sheep Worrier



Candle Beggar



Window Peeper



Door Slammer



Skyr Glutton



Meat Hook



Sausage Thief



Vatnajökull National Park is the largest national park in Europe. It contains an extraordinary variety of landscapes with some of Iceland's greatest natural treasures. **The Friends of Vatnajökull** is a nonprofit fund-raising association for Vatnajökull National Park. The role of the association is to raise funds to support research, as well as promotional and educational activities, to ensure that as many people as possible can enjoy the natural and historical phenomena the National Park has to offer. Thanks to mutual contributions of domestic and foreign individuals, as well as companies, associations and institutions, the Friends of Vatnajökull Association will be able to support worthy and important projects. See: <http://www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is/>

Icelandic artist Margrét Kröyer is having an Exhibition of her beautiful paintings at the Gallery in the H - Building of the World Bank, 600 19th Street in downtown Washington D.C. through October 15th. The opening hours are during work days from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information on the artist and the **"Seen from above"** - exhibition see: <http://www.m-kroyer.com/>

Icelandic Violinist Eva Ingólfs performs at Weill Recital Hall at **Carnegie Hall** in New York City on Tuesday, October 5th.

See: <http://www.iceland.org/us/nyc/consulate-general/news-and-events/nr/8862>

Icelandic Cellist Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir performs with the **Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra** in Petosky, Michigan on October 9th and 10th. For details see: <http://www.saeunn.com>



The Icelandic-American Association of Minnesota hosts its annual Leifur Eiríksson dinner on October 9th. Guest speaker will be Kristinn Guðjónsson, geologist, who will talk about the Eyjafjallajökull eruption. Reservation is required. For details please contact icelandmn@gmail.com
Also on October 9th see President Obama's Annual Leif Eiríksson Day Proclamation <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVALS

Charlotte, North Carolina: 7th Annual ScanFest of the Carolinas, will be held November 6th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Themes include Nordic energy, immigration & genealogy. <http://www.scandinavianconnection.org>

Albuquerque, New Mexico. A Scandinavian Festival, sponsored annually by the Rosemalers of New Mexico, will be held at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque, NM on November 6th. For further details please see: <http://www.scandiabq.com>

Ambassador Hjalmar W. Hannesson gave a talk on Iceland at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville

On September 13th Ambassador Hannesson kicked off the UVA's annual Ambassadors' Speakers Forum. The Ambassadors of the Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brazil will talk about their countries later this fall. See: <http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=12883>

Iceland: The Restless Land

by Don Hinrichsen in the **Scandinavian Review**

See: http://www.amscan.org/publications.html#pagelink_scandinavianreview

Prime Minister **Ms. Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir**, delivered her statement at the 65th Session of the General Assembly on September 22nd. Her main focus was on children's welfare and rights to education and equal rights.

For a printable version of her speech see:

<http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/frettir/nr/4386>

Or see the live U.N. webcast:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2010/09/iceland-mdg-debate.html>



Prime Minister Sigurðardóttir

Foreign Minister Skarphéðinsson

Mr. Össur Skarphéðinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered his statement at the 65th Session of General Assembly on September 24th. In his speech the Foreign Minister focused on human rights, climate change and the economy. For a printable version of his speech see: <http://eng.utanrikisraduneyti.is/speeches-and-articles/nr/5957>

Or see the live U.N. webcast:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2010/09/iceland-general-debate-65th-session.html>

Famed Icelandic sculpturor, Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir exhibits at Cedar Crest College, PA

IN PUBLIC - The Works of Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir - an exhibition of her sculptures - will be opened October 4th at the Cedar Crest College, Miller Family Building - Lachaise Gallery, 100 College Drive, Allentown, PA 18104-6196. The Exhibition will be open October 4th through November 5th. The Artist will give a talk there October 4th at 11 a.m.



After the Volcanic Cloud, a Bright Spot in Iceland

By travel writer Christine Negroni. See:

<http://intransit.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/22/after-the-volcanic-cloud-a-bright-spot-in-iceland/>

Opportunities !

[The Snorri Sturluson Icelandic Fellowships](#)

[Translators in Residence / Travel Support for 2011](#)



HARPA - REYKJAVIK CONCERT HALL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE OPENS IN MAY 2011 AND ANNOUNCES THE PROGRAM FOR ITS INAUGURAL SEASON. Harpa is situated in the old harbor between Reykjavik city center and the ocean. It stands out as a unique landmark in continuous interplay with its surroundings. For more see [here](#)



Icelandair has announced that it will start flying directly to Iceland from Washington Dulles International Airport from May 17th - September 13th 2011. Flights will be 4 times a week. This is great news for tourists. See announcement [here](#)



On **November 18th** at 8:00 p.m. there will be a screening of the new film [Bjarnfredarson](#) at Avalon Theater, located on 5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015. The film stars Jón Gnarr, a stand up comic turned actor - who is now the current Mayor of Reykjavik City. Director Ragnar Bragason will be in attendance to speak about the film afterwards. **Admission is free.**

The Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Scholarship Program

The Leifur Eiriksson Foundation, established in 2001, provides financial assistance to Icelandic and U.S. graduate students, in order for them to carry out scholarly studies and research on a wide variety of disciplines in each other's countries. Each year since 2006, 5 to 6 \$25,000 (maximum) scholarships have been awarded to Icelandic and U.S. scholars. For additional information, see [here](#)

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will host a **Nordic Film Festival** from November 12th-19th. See film schedule [here](#)

A **New Climate Vulnerability Index** of 170 Countries from Maplecroft: **The Nordic Countries at low risk.** See [here](#)



Official White House Photo by Samantha Appleton

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama greet the Ambassador of Iceland and Mrs. Hannesson during a Diplomatic Corps Reception in the Blue Room of the White House, Oct. 5th.

The **6th Annual Small States Poetry Night** was held October 14th at the American University's Katzen Center. Representatives from 10 Embassies read poetry from their countries in both English and portions in their native language. Ambassador Hannesson read "**Maistjarnan**" by Halldór Laxness. For the whole program and more photos see [here](#)



From Right: Bahrain: Lt.Col. Mohammed Ahmed Ali. Bulgaria: Tihomir Stoytchev DCM. Iceland: Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson. Malta: Ambassador Mark Miceli. Liechtenstein: Ambassador Claudia Fritsche. Austria: Ambassador Christian Prosl. Monaco: Ambassador Gilles Noghés. Slovenia: Ambassador Roman Kim. Cyprus: Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades. Luxembourg: Ambassador Jean-Paul Senninger had to leave before this photo was taken.

At the 7th Annual **ScanFest in Charlotte**, N.C. on November 6th there will be an Icelandic 12 picture exhibition from the National Energy Authority of Iceland called "**MEET ICELAND - A Pioneer in the Use of Renewable Resources**". Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson will open the exhibition. For information on the ScanFest see [here](#)

The Nordic Embassies highlight their energy policies

The Embassies of the Five Nordic Countries in Washington organized two events on October 21st highlighting how the Nordic Countries have decreased their dependence on carbon fuels. The first event was co-hosted by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute and moderated by Juliet Eilperin of the Washington Post. A video and audio recording of the briefing can be found [here](#). The second event was organized in cooperation with Pecha Kucha at the House of Sweden, see pictures [here](#). Dr. Guðni A. Jóhannesson, the Director General of the National Energy Authority of Iceland, spoke at both events and discussed how geothermal energy has reduced Iceland's dependence on carbon fuels and made Iceland a world leader in the use of renewable energy resources.

Registration has opened for the 2nd Annual **Icelandic Seafood Fest 8K Run** in Newport News, VA - June 4, 2011. See [here](#)

FocusOnNature - Workshops program 2011 has now been launched, for details see [here](#)

Reporters without borders has ranked Iceland as number one in the **2010 Press Freedom Index**. See [here](#)

The Annual Icelandic Christmas Bazaar

will be on **Nov. 13th** at the American Legion, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030
See: <http://www.icelanddc.com/>





www.iceland.org/us



Mrs. Muna Rihani, President of UNWFP Inc. and Mrs. Anna Birgjis (Hannesson) UNWFP Inc. President Emeritus

UNWFP Website:

www.unwomenforpeace.org



THE UN WOMEN FOR PEACE INC. (UNWFP) was founded in 2007. On October 27th Anna Birgjis (Hannesson), one of its two co-founders, relinquished the post of President of UNWFP Inc. This non-profit organization, based in NY, is dedicated "...to raise awareness in support of women working to further peace around the world. UNWFP is committed to providing funding, education and opportunity to young women across the globe...". Among UNWFP's activities has been to raise money to support M.A. studies for a number of women at the [University for Peace in Costa Rica](#), especially from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Board elected the Vice-President, Mrs. Muna Rihani, the wife of the Ambassador of Qatar to the UN, as UNWFP's second President in its history. Anna Birgjis remains on the UNWFP Board as President Emeritus. Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of the current UN Secretary General, is the Patron of UNWFP Inc.

A MAJOR EXHIBITION OF NORDIC ART AND DESIGN IN NYC

The Exhibition "*Nordic Models + Common Ground: Art and Design Unfolded*" was opened October 29th at the wonderful Scandinavia House - The Nordic Center in North America on Park Avenue in Manhattan. It will be open until March 9, 2011. The Exhibition is curated by the famous Snöhetta Architects and includes emerging and established talent. The exhibition examines a varied selection of works and includes architecture, product design, fine art, graphic design, fashion and photography. It offers a compelling look at contemporary Nordic art and design, highlighting shared practices and ideas and their global impact. The following participants are from Iceland: **bara design/Bjargey Ingólfsdóttir** - design (individual), **Fanney Antonsdóttir and Dögg Guðmundsdóttir** - industrial design (individuals), **Hans Jóhannsson** - luthier (individual), **Katrín Ólína** - graphic art and design (individual), **Landslag** - landscape architecture (firm) and **Studiability/Guðrún Lilja Gunnlaugsdóttir** - product- and industrial design (firm).

For further information on this Exhibition see [here](#)

Sculptor **Katrín Sigurðardóttir** at the Metropolitan Museum of Art- read New York Times review [here](#)

"PASSION". A NOVEL BY NEIL BARDAL AND FAY CASSIDY

Our late Consul General in Manitoba, Neil Ófeigur Bardal (16 Feb. 1940-13 Feb. 2010), was a man of many talents and vividly remains in the memories of those of us who were privileged in having known him as a friend. His was a life of achievement and service, as Dr. K. Thorláksson wrote in Lögberg-Heimskringla. Neil loved Iceland and throughout did a great deal to strengthen the ties between the old country and North America, especially his beloved Canada, but also the USA through his work at the INL. Shortly before passing, Neil, together with co-author Fay Cassidy, saw the publication of their book "PASSION" a novel "set on the international stage in the exciting and dangerous world of espionage." Part of this exciting story takes place in Iceland. The easiest way to order "**PASSION**" is through Tergesen's in Gimli, MB: tergesen@mts.net HWH

"BJARNFREDARSON" ON DVD

About one hundred guests came to the Avalon Theater in Washington D.C. on November 18th to view the Icelandic film **BJARNFREDARSON**, starring Jón Gnarr, the Mayor of Reykjavík. The Director, Ragnar Bragason, answered questions after the showing. Asked about where the film could be bought on DVD he informed of www.nammi.is where it can be ordered.

ORDERING ICELANDIC GOODS THROUGH THE INTERNET

For information on how to order Icelandic goods (through Icelandic Goods by Brendan) such as Icelandic wollen sweaters, blankets, CD's, DVD's and many more items, such as Icelandic pönnukökur (pancake) pans, jewelry etc. see www.icelandic-goods.com

ICELAND AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2011: SÖGUEYJAN ÍSLAND - FABULOUS ICELAND - SAGENHAFTES ISLAND

Iceland is the "Guest of Honour" at the 2011 Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany, the largest and most important yearly book fair in the world. There the world's publishers meet every year to make contracts with authors, translators and other publishers. Over four thousand publishing companies from countries outside Germany take part in the Fair and of course a huge number of German publishers. The Fair has for the last 20 years featured one nation or language annually. Turkey was the fair's featured country in 2008, followed by China in 2009 and Argentina in 2010. Iceland, formally succeeded Argentina on 10 October, and is the first Nordic/Scandinavian country to be invited to be the Frankfurt Book Fair Partner.

"Iceland is one of the smallest book markets worldwide, but unbelievably productive. Literature has shaped the identity of this European island nation from the beginning. At the same time, its geographical position and its culture have made Iceland an important interface between America and Europe. I'm looking forward to a unique presentation", said Juergen Boos, Director of the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Halldór Guðmundsson, the Director of the Icelandic participation at the Frankfurt Fair, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur, that Iceland regarded the fair as a 'springboard' to make its **literary** output even better known in German. About 80 new translations of modern Icelandic books are now in the pipelines and will be published in German during the year 2011. Furthermore, a new and complete translation of the old Icelandic sagas is in the making. The German *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* printed a centrefold piece on this. The piece, which was accompanied by photographs of ancient Icelandic manuscripts, included an interview with Klaus Böldl, editor of the saga translation project and professor at the University of Kiel. He explains that the pre-existing German translation of the sagas, published between 1911 and 1930, and known as the Thule Collection (*Sammlung Thule*), is seriously dated.

The new translation, which is supported by the Arts Foundation of North Rhine-Westphalia (**Kunststiftung NRW**) will be published next year by **S. Fischer Verlag**. A team of translators is now hard at work on the texts. The edition will include an accompanying volume of annotations, providing historical background to the sagas, and placing them within the context of world literature.



Nobel prize winner Halldór Laxness, Photo by H.J. Anders www.gljufurasteinn.is

EU-ICELAND

The European Union's Progress Report on the access talks with Iceland see progress report [here](#)
Report from the EU on Iceland's application progress see [here](#)
Bloomberg article on Iceland's EU application see report [here](#)

ISLAND OF HEALTH is an association whose primal function is to promote health and wellness tourism in Iceland. See more [here](#)

CHILDRENS' JÓLABALL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

December 5th - [The Icelandic Association of Northern California](#)
December 5th - [The Icelandic Association of Sothern California](#)
December 11th - [The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle](#)
December 11th - [The Icelandic Association of Washington, D.C.](#)
December 11th - [The Icelandic Society of New York](#)
December 12th - [The Icelandic American Association of Minnesota](#)

The ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE CALENDAR 2011

Now available! This year the theme is Icelandic Foods.
Each Calendar is \$10.00 plus postage if mailed.
Reservations for purchase can be sent to IcelandMN@gmail.com
See the calendar [here](#)

Icelandic American Association of Minnesota Membership

Your Membership is important! It brings you many opportunities to keep up with the happenings in the Icelandic Community in Minnesota and across North America! Your membership will assist in our bringing additional programs, events, and information your way. Currently the IAAM has begun a library which now has received donations of 35 books relating to Iceland and our heritage. Some of these books are in Icelandic. A committee is beginning to discuss the preservation of Icelandic history in Minnesota as well as to discuss the library. The Icelandic American Association is a member of The Icelandic National League of North America. The INL of NA assists us in bringing you programs and communication that we have not previously had, as well as assisting us in keeping current with news and happenings in Iceland. The INL of NA has a web page: www.inlofna.org. Take a look at the variety of information. You may reach the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota website at that site, www.inlofna.org where we are listed under the chapters. Our website is currently being update and will be providing additional information specific to Minnesota.

MEMBERSHIP: Remember to send your Membership so that you continue to receive all mailings!

Join the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota!

Mission:

- ❖ To promote Icelandic culture, past and present
- ❖ To support events that celebrate Icelandic culture
- ❖ To provide an organization for anyone interested in Iceland
- ❖ Benefits of Membership:
 - Assist in promoting Icelandic Culture
 - An opportunity to learn more about Icelandic Culture
 - An opportunity to meet Icelanders visiting from Iceland or other parts of North America
 - Celebrate Icelandic Culture
 - Keep current on what is happening in Minnesota
 - Communication through Posturinn, email, and web site INLofNA.org

Icelandic American Association of Minnesota 2010 Application Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Membership \$15.00 Family and Single Person Names of Family Members: _____

I am interested in volunteering. _____

Send form with \$15.00 to: Doug Rutford, IAAM Treasurer, 5085 Morehead Ave. White Bear Lake, MN55110

SEARCH: *The Icelandic Community in Minnesota has a number of volunteer positions! The positions include the PÓSTURINN looking for reporters, people that would like to write for the paper; someone willing to assist in maintaining our data; mailing preparation, publicity, and someone to assist Harvey and Holly with our website. Contact Dorrie or Claire for more information. They can be found at: IcelandMN@gmail.com*

Websites to take a look at:

Daily news from Iceland at www.icelandreview.com

Beautiful photos of Iceland at: http://www.typolover.com/_travel/iceland_2009/day_0.htm



**ICELAND IS MORE AWAKE THAN EVER
NOW IS THE TIME TO VISIT.**

Consider Traveling!

Please share websites that you think others might be interested in!

2010 DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 12: 1:00 pm Jolabarnabal
December 16: Cancelled IAAMN Board Meeting
December 19: 4:00 pm Icelandic Christmas Service
December No Hekla Club Meeting due to Jolabarnabal
January TBA SKYPE PARTY
January 15: 10:30 am Icelandic Heckla Club Meeting
January 21: 7:30 pm IAAMN Board Meeting
February 12: 5:30 pm Thorrablot
February 17: 7:30 pm IAAMN Board Meeting
February 19: 10:30 am Icelandic Heckla Club Meeting
March 17: 7:30 pm IAAMN Board Meeting
March 19: 10:30 am Icelandic Heckla Club Meeting



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7646 E Borman Way
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076