



# PÓSTURINN

The Icelandic-American Community of Minnesota Newsletter



*JOIN MINNESOTA ICELANDERS*

*CELEBRATE THORRI*

*THE MIDWINTER FEAST*

*5:30 pm Social Hour*

*6:30 pm Dinner*

*Honoring:*

*2012 Honorary Members Named*

*Iceland Air Ticket Raffle*

*Harvey Thorleifson, Speaker*

*Björgvín Franz Björgvínsson*

*Icelandic Choir and Many surprises!*

*Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
1114 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, MN 952-888-1492*

*Dinner: \$30.00 per person, Adult; \$15.00 Children*

*Reservation Deadline: Monday, February 7, 2011*

*Thorrablot Chair: Steingrimur Steinolfson 952-881-3326*

# THORRABLOT

## *The Most Icelandic Party in Minnesota!*

Eat the interesting foods of your ancestors; try to please **Thorri**, King of Winter, so that he will go away. There will be the usual Hangikjöt, Rullupylsa, Gravalax, many other favorite dishes, as well as the delicious Jardaberjaterta (whipped creamcake with strawberries).

How lucky we are to have **Björgvin Franz Björgvinsson** as our Master of Ceremonies Extraordinaire, sharing his acting and musical talents and adding a new dimension. Thank you Bjorgvin! This year a choir is practicing to assist us in singing our Icelandic music.

Harvey Thorleifson, PhD, a Western Icelander and our Minnesota Geologist and Geology Professor at the University of Minnesota is our key note speaker. He will make Lake Winnipeg an interesting and enjoyable topic.

Orn Bodvarsson, Dean, School of Public Affairs, at St. Cloud State University will bring us a brief update on the Finances and Economic situation in Iceland today.

Come prepared for the IAAMN Silent Raffle!

Announcing the Honorary Members for 2011! Who will it be? Or Who will they be?

Of course, the Annual Raffle! A trip for two on IcelandAir! Tickets are subject to restrictions. **Will you be the lucky person to win two Icelandair tickets?** Purchase your tickets in advance or at the Thorrablot. For your convenience, attached are tickets that you can fill in and return to Stony. Tickets are \$5.00 for one and \$10.00 for three.

## **Thorri for Snorri**

*Freeze Your Face Off for Fun and Profit!*

**Winter is finally here!** Is there a better way to celebrate than by sprinting around one's house in the skimpiest underwear one owns? The short answer: of course not!

Historically, Icelandic men would rise from their beds and run around their farms in their long johns on **Bondadagur** ("Husband's Day"), the first day of the month of Thorri. This year, the tradition is being transplanted to Minnesota as a fundraiser for the Snorri program.

Men of all ages, shapes, and sizes are invited to run around their home on any morning during Thorri, between January 20<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>, in their pajamas, underwear, or codpieces. Each participant is encouraged to sign up their friends and family as sponsors to pledge money to support their harrowing trip from the participant's front door and back again.

Have a digital photo taken in your Thorri for Snorri running attire and share it with the Minnesota Snorri Fundraising Committee via e-mail ([IcelandMN@gmail.com](mailto:IcelandMN@gmail.com)) or by bringing it to the Thorrablot celebration on February 11th. Prizes will be awarded for the most handsome runner, best dressed, most money raised, and so on.

**Donations are payable to Snorri/GFF. The Guttormsson Family Foundation will provide a tax-deductible receipt. Mailed with Thorrablot Reservation**

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**The PÓSTURINN** Newsletter of the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota

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

## **IAAMN SILENT AUCTION at Thorrablot**

IAAMN is asking you for Items to place in the annual silent auction at the Thorrablot. Suggested donations include gift certificates, hand made items, baked goods, art work, Icelandic items you no longer need, or a "basket" of smaller items which we can auction off during the Thorrablot event. Bring them to the auction table when you arrive and Rosemary Guttormsson will provide the bid sheets. Money earned will go to the IAAMN programs.

### **Lögberg-Heimskringla**

*The Icelandic Community Newspaper since 1886!*

Many of the people in Minneota, Minnesota ordered the **LÖGBERG** and the **HEIMSKRINGLA** newspapers. News of Western Icelanders was kept current with their friends that lived in different areas of North America. Watch for Minnesota articles written by Steingrímur Steinolfson. *Are you interested in subscribing to the Lögberg-Heimskringla?* Their website is: [www.logberg.com](http://www.logberg.com). Lögberg-Heimskringla is also on Facebook. Remember to become a fan! Here is a link to their facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=652903264>. Remember, you can only see it if you are on facebook.

*Subscription Information from the Lögberg-Heimskringla*

### **University of Minnesota-University of Iceland Exchange**

#### *Iceland: Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Ash*

University of Minnesota student Becky Yates has made a digital story that recounts her bike expedition around the perimeter of Iceland—and a run-in with a volcano. Becky was in Iceland as part of the University of Minnesota-University of Iceland Student Exchange, which is supported by the Val Björnson Icelandic Exchange Scholarship. The exchange program is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and is one of the longest and strongest student exchanges at the University of Minnesota. More than 60 students have had the experience to live and learn in a different culture, thanks to the exchange and the generous donors who support it.

Gifts from the Icelandic community sustain and strengthen the Björnson Scholarship, which allows the U of M to provide tuition and living expenses to bring an Icelandic student to Minnesota for a year. To provide continued support to the scholarship, an annual appeal is sent each December to current donors and friends of Iceland. So far this fiscal year, 25 individuals have contributed \$2,625. Won't you help us continue to provide meaningful cross-cultural opportunities, like the one Becky described in her video, to more students in the future?

To watch Becky's story or to learn more about the Val Björnson Icelandic Exchange Scholarship and how you can support it, go to: <http://global.umn.edu/about/iceland.html>

### **Icelandic Music Recital**

#### *Stephen Self Performs Organ Music by Icelandic Composers*

Last summer, Stephen Self, a professor of music at Bethel University, visited Iceland and returned with a love of and interest in the music of Nordic composers. On **Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 pm**, Steve will be performing music by Askell Masson, Larus Grimsson, and Jonas Tomasson, among others, at the **Grace University Lutheran Church – 324 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 at 3 PM**. A reception will follow the recital.

### **A Letter from the Icelandic Hekla Club:**

Greetings from the Hekla Club!

As we start a new year, the Hekla Club is excited to say that our active membership – those folks actually coming to meetings – has almost doubled! We have fresh new blood to keep us in touch with what young Icelanders are doing, especially those that have traveled as students to Iceland or who have found us on Facebook, but also we continue to have our wonderful seasoned women join us each month who continue to keep us mindful of the history of the club.

Each of us has stories to tell of our heritage and how it ties into our lives today. I would like to share a story about a Heritage Christmas gift we gave members of my small Icelandic family in North Dakota this year:

The family farm dating back to the early 1900's was sold this fall after my uncle Johann Sigurdur Isfeld died. This came with great sadness for us as it represented an end to a family and a generation. My cousin, who is an only child, did the work to get the farm ready for auction and eventually for sale. While Mike and I attended the auction, Mike stripped the wood from an old granary out back that had seasoned for 80 years. With this wood he made 12 frames. IN the frames we placed a picture of my mother Ann Melsted, her brother Sigurdur, and sister June Bjerneby, taken in approximately 2005. On the back of the frame we placed pictures of these 3 siblings when they were young, dressed in their vintage clothing but looking spiffy nevertheless! I wrote a history of my grandfather coming to the farm, marrying my grandmother, and then having these 3 children. I included dates for all these events. Also on the back of the frame was a picture of my grandparents and pictures of the grainery so that all could see and remember where this wood came from. I do believe this gift was appreciated by all!

I would encourage all of you to share and write about your heritage stories!

-Carol Anderson, Hekla Club Co-Secretary

### **Minnesota Icelanders Meet in Duluth!**

**2:00 pm, Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Norway Hall, 21 N. Lake Ave., Duluth, Minnesota**

***Connect with Icelanders and Western Icelanders! Meet and Greet Icelanders and Western Icelanders!***

The Second Showing of the Icelandic National League of North America and Donald K. Johnson Iceland Film Series From Turf Cottage to the Cover of Time, comes to Duluth. Enjoy the movie: "From Turf Cottage to the Cover of Time." The Dramatic Life of Holger Cahill. The secret of the Icelander who shifted the art center of the world from Paris to New York.

**ICELAND MINNESOTA'S ICELAND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Bryant Lake Park**

***SNORRI WEST arrives in Minnesota July 9<sup>th</sup>! Four Icelanders between the ages of 18 and 28 will arrive in Minnesota to learn about the Immigration of Icelanders to Minnesota. Of course, they will learn about Minnesota and shop at Mall of America. One goal is to find family that immigrated to Minnesota so you may meet your family! You may want to host one of these people in your home. There will be daytime activities as well as family/host time. The budget and arrangements with Iceland are just completed! At last plans can begin! They will be in the Twin Cities, Minneota, and Duluth. You are invited to participate in all activities. As plans move forward we will be sharing specific ideas for you to join and share the delightful time! Think about Volunteering to host a participant in your home, host a meal, host or co-host an event, assist in bringing a dish to share, share your heritage. There will be community events in all three areas as well as the Icelandic Soccer Picnic. Join a brief Boundary waters trip. Volunteer and let the team know how you want to participate. Email: [IcelandMNSnorri@gmail.com](mailto:IcelandMNSnorri@gmail.com) Frequent updates as plans move forward!***

**Icelandic Online PLUS\*** The University of Iceland distance learning course On February 1st we will launch Icelandic Online PLUS, an 8-week course run through Icelandic Online with the aid of a tutor. The course is open to all those interested in Icelandic language and culture. Icelandic Online PLUS is a distance learning course that offers learners an opportunity to work with a teacher and receive individual feedback on exercises and assignments that have been added to the existing course. All communication between students and teacher and between students will take place via the Internet through Icelandic Online. For more information and Registration: [www.icelandic.hi.is](http://www.icelandic.hi.is)

### **Tala íslensku? Monthly Classes Offer an Opportunity to Learn Icelandic**

Interested in your shared Icelandic heritage, but baffled by the complexities of the language? Set for the third Monday of each month, Tala íslensku meets 6:30-8:00 pm in the Community Room of Edina Lunds-50<sup>th</sup> in the 50<sup>th</sup> & France neighborhood. Sigga, who is a teacher by profession, is being mentored for the class by a friend in Reykjavík who has been teaching Icelandic as a second language to foreigners for 20 years! Tala íslensku is open to members of the Icelandic Hekla Club and the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota at no charge.

### **Icelandic Family Gathering**

**Meets Monthly, next date: Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Danish American Center.** This is an excellent opportunity for families and people of all ages to share Icelandic culture as well as to learn more about our culture. Something new comes each month!

## MINNESOTA NEWS

Since the financial meltdown in Iceland, Icelandic National League of North America has been collecting money at Christmas every year to support families in Iceland that were affected. This year, once again, the INL of N.A. forwarded donations made to **Mæðrastyrksnefnd** (Mothers' Support Committee) in time to distribute before Christmas. The Icelandic American Association and The Icelandic Hekla Club participated in the contributions. Although conditions in Iceland are improving, there is still need for those who are suffering financial difficulties to be supported. With the assistance of Icelandic National League of Iceland, the donation was presented in the name of the Icelandic National League of North America and Icelandic Hekla Club. Presentations were made to the **Mæðrastyrksnefnd** in the towns where there is the most need. This organization has been helping those struggling to make ends meet since 1928 and continues to do so today, by distributing food, clothing and small items. The aid is no longer only to single mothers and their children, the men have now been added, both single and those with custody of children, and disabled people, older people and foreigners of several nationalities. The Christmas allocation is a standard part of operations and in the last year, has been done in co-operation with church aid, national aid and the Red Cross.

The traditional *Icelandic Christmas Service* was held at Luther Seminary. Rev. Eyglo Bjarnadottir officiated. Thank you to everyone participating and especially, the choir. How nice it is to listen to the Icelandic language.

**Welcome to new Icelanders:** Magnus Steinolfson, son of Carrie and Kevin Steinolfson; proud grandparents Steingrimur and Glenna Steinolfson.

Since the last Posturinn, we have lost some Icelanders. Minnesota Icelanders send their thoughts, prayers and sympathy to the families of Viola Arnason Francey, and Helen Rose Colton.

*Viola Arnason Francey* was the sister of Petrina Cordes, aunt of Gary Cordes and Valerie Olson, and great aunt of Ryan Olson. Vi, as she was known to many, grew up in Manitoba living there until a couple of years ago when she moved to Ottawa to live with her daughter, grandson and great grandchildren. Petrina and Vi enjoyed a trip to Iceland thanks to the Icelandic Hekla Club Raffle. They returned to the land of their grandparents and parents, visiting many of their family haunts.

*Helen "Rose" Colton* was the mother of Bruce Colton, mother-in-law of Ragna Colton. Helen lived in Minneapolis and was a loving grandmother and great grandmother.

**Icelandair** has moved their offices from Minneapolis to Denver, Colorado. Janet Ulve was completing the closure. Janet has been a friend to The Icelandic community in Minnesota sharing information and assisting with our communication with Icelandair. Minnesota Icelanders wish Janet the best as she moves forward. We hope that Janet keeps in touch.

**Barbara Gudmundson**, a longtime Minnesota Icelander an avid member of the Icelandic Hekla Club and the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota is now living at Jones Harrison at 3700 Cedar Lake Avenue in Minneapolis. Many knew of her as a professor in microbiology and were aware of her discovery of diatoms while visiting Iceland with her husband Emil. Cards are always appreciated.

The Icelandic Community has just heard that the director of the **Kerlin Collection** at the University of Minnesota is retiring at the end of the school year. A gathering is being planned for this May in appreciation of her service. The Kerlin Collection has 270 Icelandic children's books donated by Icelandic publishers and Hekla Club. More information will be forthcoming as the time draws near.

**CONGRATULATIONS Ann Slettum!** She has completed her masters degree in library science at College of St. Catherine. It was a long journey.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY Valdimar Bjornson Scholarship Fund! 30 years old!**

**Samkoma** will be held April 28<sup>th</sup>! A celebration of 30 years shared with the University of Minnesota.

**Icelandic Foods** found in the Twin Cities! Whole Foods has butter, chocolate, cheese, and Skyr. Lunds and Byerlys occasionally have products as well.

Interested in subscribing to the **Lögberg-Heimskringla**? Check their website [www.logberg.com](http://www.logberg.com) or their page on Facebook where you can become a fan! LH is published 24 times a year, the 1st and 15th of each month. **Give it a try!** Click the "Member Login" button to log on. Username is: Guest A Password is: Lh 266R

**Remember ICELANDAIR when traveling and Siggis Skyr at Whole Foods!**

2012 DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 21:	7:30 pm	Welcome to Thorri
February 5	3:00 pm	Icelandic Family Gathering
February 11:	5:30 pm	Thorrablót
February 12	2:00 pm	Icelandic Music Concert, Grace Lutheran Church
February 16:	7:30 pm	IAAMN Board Meeting
February 18:	10:30 am	Icelandic Hekla Club Meeting
February 20	6:30 pm	Icelandic Language Classes
February 26	2:00 pm	Duluth IAAMN Meeting
March 4	3:00 pm	Icelandic Family Gathering
March 15:	7:30 pm	IAAMN Board Meeting
March 17:	10:30 am	Icelandic Hekla Club Meeting
March 19	6:30 pm	Icelandic Language Classes
April 8	3:00 pm	Icelandic Family Gathering
April 15:	7:30 pm	IAAMN Board Meeting
April 16	6:30 pm	Icelandic Language Classes
April 28	5:30 pm	Samkoma
May 17:	7:30 pm	IAAMN Board Meeting
May 19:	10:30 am	Icelandic Hekla Club Meeting
June 17	12:00 Noon	Icelandic Independence Day, Bryant lake Park



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

Icelandic American Association of Minnesota  
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