



Connect

December 2019

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Connect newsletter welcomes your submissions!

Send your news, ideas, photos, and articles to:

info@inlus.org

Connect newsletter is published quarterly.

INLUS Classes and Webinars Draw Members Together

Eighteen INLUS members joined a 6-week online Icelandic language class that began November 13. The course is led by Elín Guðmundardóttir and Dagrún Málmquist Jónsdóttir who live in Iceland. Language learners have learned songs, numbers, basic phrases, and have had fun talking together via the online ZOOM classroom.

The first INLUS webinar launched on November 19. Webinar Program Director Jeannie Fox Entenza coordinated a presentation about the Iceland Writer's Retreat, featuring one of the co-founders of the retreat, Erica Green. Former retreat participant Willona Sloan read a portion of her work. Attendees from all over the world connected to hear about the retreat's goals and what it's like to attend.

Iceland's Yule Lads were the topic of the first Author's Corner event held November 25 by INLUS member authors Gay Strandemo and Heidi Herman. The authors shared how they learned about the 13 mischievous lads who visit children in the nights leading up to Christmas and how the lads' stories have evolved over time. They also shared a translation of an old poem and beautiful illustrations. Meeting participants asked the authors several questions sparking interesting conversations about everything from why many immigrants may not have kept the tradition to the creative process of writing and illustrating books and future topics to explore.

There are more opportunities to connect with INLUS members and learn about all things Icelandic. Take a look at the list of upcoming events in this newsletter, and stay tuned for more event announcements in member emails!

Gleðileg Jól!



Svavar Knútur Event

December 11



1:00 PM Eastern
noon Central
11:00 AM Mountain
10:00 AM Pacific

Award-winning Icelandic
troubadour

Svavar Knútur shares
stories and folk music in
a fantastic mixture of art
and entertainment.

Free! Open to all!

Share with friends!

The link to join the
webinar will be active 15
minutes before start
time.

To join click on this link:

[https://zoom.us/
j/659439928](https://zoom.us/j/659439928)

Message from INLUS Leadership

Gleðileg jól og farsælt komandi ár –

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The INLUS thanks you for joining us in this Founding Year.

We launched on the special day of June 17th and, through your support, we have been able to offer webinars, Icelandic classes, scholarships, and a presence on social media, all of which highlight the Icelandic culture in the US and in Iceland. Now it is time to celebrate and enjoy the holiday season. Best wishes to you and your family for health and happiness in the coming New Year.

Peace, Joy, and Happiness,
Sunna Furstenau, INLUS President

Thank You Founding Members

Our Founding Members are key partners in helping the INLUS launch this year. To those of you who are our early supporters via membership fees or donation – Thank you!

We honor your faith in our mission.

Currently, nearly 130 individuals and families, eight businesses and six Icelandic clubs or organizations have become Founding Members. We will continue accepting and honoring those who join the INLUS before the end of the year as our Founding Member partners.

Do you know someone who is enthusiastic about Iceland?

Encourage them to become a Founding Member of INLUS!

All new members of INLUS who join before December 31, 2019 will be designated as a Founding Member. Encourage your friends and family to join! Give membership as a gift! To join, simply go to: <https://www.inlus.org/membership>

There are 4 types of membership:

Individual \$25 annual

Family \$50 annual

Icelandic Heritage Organization \$100 annual

Business (Iceland/Nordic related) \$100 annual



Mark Your Calendars:

April 2020 INLNA Convention

By Dianne O'Konski

The Icelandic community is gathering in Gimli, MB April 23-26, 2020 for the annual Icelandic National League of North America Convention. The theme of the convention is “Þ(Th)etta Reddast” – everything will work out; have faith that our life will be better in North America. A great program is being put together by the Convention Committee. Registration opens in January. Located on the shore of Lake Winnipeg, Gimli is known as the Heart of New Iceland. An optional guided tour of New Iceland will be offered. In addition, vendor tables are still available for the weekend at a cost of \$35.00 (no electricity) or \$50 (electricity). Information will be posted on www.inlofna.org/conventions as it becomes available.

Snorri Program Application Deadlines Approaching

The Snorri Program is a 5-week summer program for young people to learn about the country, culture, and language of their ancestors, and to create bonds with relatives in Iceland. Application deadline for Snorri program is January 8, 2020.



For people age 30 and older, the Snorri Plus program offers a 2 week experience in August. Application deadline for the Snorri Plus is January 31, 2020. Snorri West is a summer program for people in Iceland to spend time in North America and make connections with relatives. Application for Snorri West program is February 21, 2020. For all of the details about the Snorri programs and to apply go to: <http://www.snorri.is/>

Do you know anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing and uses Sign Language? The Snorri Deaf exchange program began in 2018 and is searching for candidates. For more details, email: Heiddis@deaf.is

Scholarships

INLUS currently has scholarships available for language learning and student exchange programs.

- *Icelandic Language Scholarship—Post-secondary*
- *Icelandic Camp Scholarship*
- *The Snorri Program*

For each scholarship's detailed criteria and the application procedures, go to:

<https://www.inlus.org/grants>

Iceland Local-Level Uplifting Grant Initiative (ILLUGI)

What (Hvað): Up to four grants of \$500 will be awarded to support local level Icelandic events or projects. A wide array of ideas will be considered so long as the end result provides cultural, educational, artistic or philanthropic uplift around an Icelandic theme within your community. Examples could include support to:

- Sponsor an Icelandic movie, artist, scholar, musician or speaker at a local event
- Enhance your club's presence and profile at a local festival or parade, including booth banners, brochures or other marketing products
- Support the purchase or upgrade of a sculpture, flag pole, heritage marker, or other Icelandic landmark
- Support the purchase of assistive living devices or other honors for Icelandic elders in your community.
- Support local experiences for Icelandic exchange students or Icelandic tours in your area.

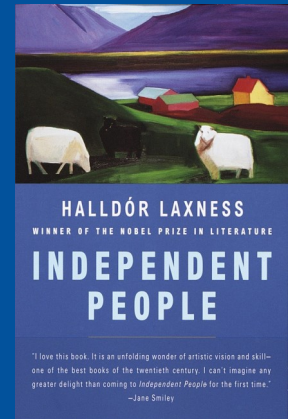
When (Hvenær): Grant applications will be accepted thru January 31, 2020. Selected grant awards will be announced by February 10, 2020. Grant dollars must be put to use during the 2020 calendar year.

Who (Hver): Any individual or Icelandic club, organization, or association may apply for this special funding support. The INLUS Board of Directors will review and select successful grant applications.

How (Hvernig): To apply for an ILLUGI grant, simply submit an e-mail to the INLUS Board of Directors at info@inlus.org. Please describe how the grant funds will be utilized in no more than one page.

Giving back: The only thing INLUS asks in return is that you provide a photograph of your event or project along with a short paragraph about your outcomes or results. INLUS will showcase your activity and photo on its website and social media platforms to encourage other creative uses of ILLUGI grants.

Book Club Selection



The INLUS and INLNA have teamed up for a shared Book Club program called INL Reads. The first book selection is *Independent People* by Nobel Prize-winning author Halldór Laxness. Join the Icelandic literary tradition! After all, the annual Jólabókaflóðid is just around the corner.



Laufabraud

A 2019 Netflix episode of "The Great British Baking Show: Holidays" features the technical challenge of making laufabraud. One thing the show contestants didn't have to their advantage was a gathering of family and friends to help in the process of making the beautiful bread snowflakes. Sisters Nancy Boe and JoAnn

Watson shared how the Geir family works together to create a winter wonderland from dough. Nancy said, "We were first introduced in 1999 when we took the play *In the Wake of the Storm* to Iceland. We stayed with relatives and we were included in their family tradition at Thanksgiving to make the bread before Christmas. It is a family affair and all involved. The men usually do the rolling and the



women will fry after the cutting creations are made. Young and old it is a family affair and others will switch to try the different stations." If you would like to try to make laufabraud, some helpful kitchen equipment to have are mixing tools, a rolling pin and board, cookie sheets, a frying kettle, and something heavy to lay on the bread right after it is fried to flatten it out. The rolled out dough is put on cookie sheets for the cutting of the design. To cut designs, knives or a rolling bread cutter tool work well. When it is served it is usually buttered or jelly put on top.

Nancy stated,

"Most important is that it is a day of fun to gather the family."

If you would like to gather your family and friends together to carry on this Icelandic tradition, check out the recipe at <https://www.inlus.org/leaf-bread>.



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