



Connect

December/Desember 2020

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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.

Icelandic Language Classes and Webinars Highlight Fall Lineup

INLUS hosted an autumn lineup of diverse programming including Icelandic language classes, educational webinars, Author's Corner events, and Kaffi Tími.

INLUS hosted a six week Icelandic language class starting Wednesday, October 7, 2020. The interactive online course was taught by instructors Thomas Brennen and Stella Wax. The course focused on both Icelandic pronunciation and grammar. Read more about it on page 5.

Professional food photographer and chef Rhonda Adkins hosted an educational webinar with hints about where to find the best food while traveling and tips to take the most attractive food and travel photos when documenting a memorable find. She delighted webinar attendees with stories from her own travels in Iceland as a Snorri Plus program participant. Her photos of Icelandic food and scenery helped explain photo composition concepts, while whetting appetites.

The expansive Fiske Icelandic Collection in the Cornell University Library was the subject of an educational webinar by Curator Patrick J. Stevens. Daniel Willard Fiske was a late 1800's scholar who collected books while studying and traveling in Europe. Among many old and rare books he collected were books written in Old Norse and Icelandic. He bequeathed the original collection to Cornell. The first curator, Halldór Hermannsson created collection catalogues as the collection grew from 10,200 volumes in 1914 to 24,000 volumes in 1943. The collection today numbers over 40,000 volumes, and includes non-book formats such as photographs and correspondence. Digitization is underway, and the collection continues to grow.

Kaffi Tími continued every other Friday as a casual online meetup to connect INLUS members. As a cornerstone of Icelandic culture, books inspired by Iceland were the focus of Author's Corner events. To find out more details from several Author's Corner events, turn to page 3.



Chef Rhonda Adkins



Curator Patrick J. Stevens

Gleðileg Jól!



Gleðilegt Nýtt Ár!



President's Message: The Holidays are Here!

I don't know about you, but the idea of "Holidays" isn't fitting with the current environment. Here in Minnesota, COVID-19 is raging, and we are encouraged to cancel plans for family gatherings. We can, however, find ways to celebrate even if we are not with our friends and loved ones. There is much to be thankful for and we should not be shy about saying "thank you".

I want to say **Thank You** to the individuals, families, Icelandic clubs and organizations, and Icelandic/Nordic businesses for their support. The membership dues and donations have put the INLUS in a stable position for when circumstances allow us to get back to a "normal" lifestyle, whatever that will look like. We will be able to provide scholarships for the Snorri participants and grants to local organizations for Icelandic projects.

Our Founding Members supported us from day one, and we are grateful for that support. We are hopeful that as their memberships expire, they decide to renew their memberships and support the INLUS' mission and vision.

I hope that you have a safe and quiet Holiday Season!



INLUS President Dianne O'Konski

INLUS Membership—Renew or Gift!

Renew your Founding Membership!

*Know someone enthusiastic about all things Icelandic?
Encourage them to become a Member of INLUS!*

Give membership as a gift to family and friends!

To renew or join, simply go to:

<https://inlus.org/about-us/membership/>

There are 4 types of membership:

Individual \$25 annual

Family \$50 annual

Icelandic Heritage Organization \$100 annual

Business (Iceland/Nordic-related) \$100 annual



Author's Corner Events Showcase

Iceland-Inspired Literature

Author's Corner events are periodic webinars with authors of Iceland-related books. While the books featured may have varied audiences, Icelandic history and culture were important elements of each book highlighted in this fall's Author's Corner events.

Solveig Eggerz talked about her novel *Sigga of Reykjavik*. Of the courageous heroine, Eggerz said, "I played with the idea that Sigga is an angry woman, and that there is power in her anger." Eggerz's extensive research about Icelandic history and society played an important role in the development of the story about Sigga's journey for independence. Details also open a window into some of the realities women faced in earlier times.

Sverrir Sigurdsson and Veronica Li spoke about their book *Viking Voyager: An Icelandic Memoir*. Fellow author Solveig Eggerz's interview explained how Sigurdsson and Li's memoir was much more than just a memoir of life adventures; it is a description of history. Sigurdsson said, "Although my memoir is a personal story, it's also a window into a much bigger picture." A modern Icelandic Viking, Sigurdsson's upbringing and extensive travels occur during a time of transformation in Iceland.

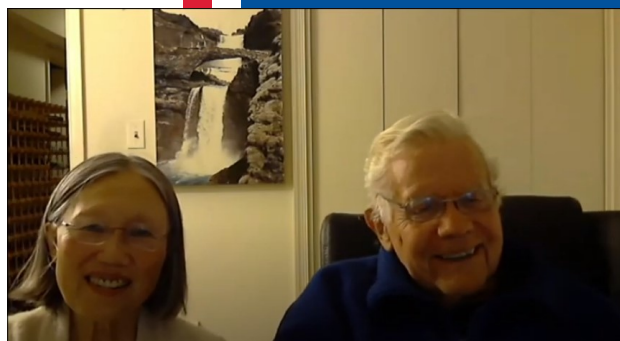
An Author's Corner duet featured authors Amy Henrickson and Eric Newman. Inspired by travels to Pingvellir and Norway, Henrickson's book *Lara of the North* is a story about a 15-year old girl in the early 1700's. "I got kind of lost in the research, it was so interesting," said Henrickson of her efforts to make the historical and cultural details as accurate as possible. Drawing on her experience as a school librarian, the story is organized with short chapters that each end in a cliffhanger, appealing to young adult audiences.

Newman's book *Lundi the Lost Puffin* is an award-winning illustrated children's book. The inspiration came from his visit to Vestmannaeyjar with his family and learning about how the children there rescue thousands of baby pufflings every year. "I really wanted to make this as accurate as possible, given it's narrated by a puffin," Newman said of including information about puffin biology. He also worked with the illustrator to ensure the illustrations accurately portrayed both locations and wildlife.

To view the full conversations with each of these authors and hear their colorful descriptions, go to <https://inlus.org/community/webinars/> or check out the INLUS YouTube channel.



Author Solveig Eggerz



Authors Veronica Li and
Sverrir Sigurdsson



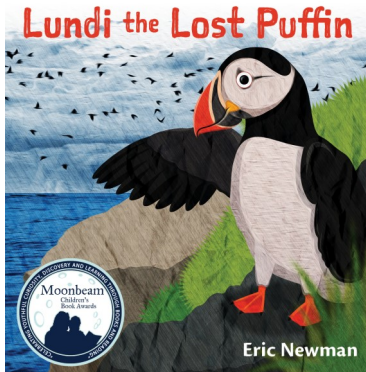
Author Amy Henrickson



Author Eric Newman

INLUS Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? INLUS member businesses and organizations have unique ideas to help this year!



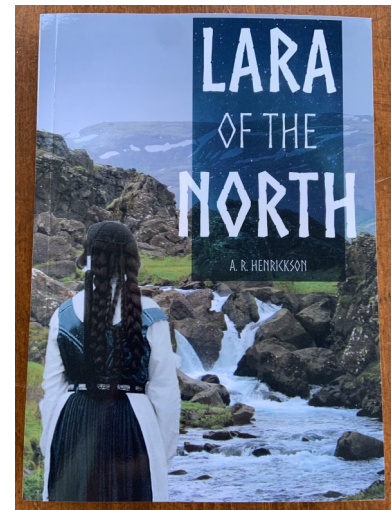
Lundi the Lost Puffin

Children's Picture Book

Follow along as Lundi the baby puffling gets lost and then saved. Based on the child heroes of the Westman Islands in Iceland, who rescue thousands of pufflings every year. Moonbeam award winner for best children's picture eBook (Silver medal, 2020).

Price: \$9.99 (paperback)

<https://www.amazon.com/Lundi-Lost-Puffin-Heroes-Iceland/dp/0960074538>



Lara of the North

Book

An unforgettable tale of love and loss following young Lara as she travels across 18th Century Iceland, Norway, and the Faroe Islands.

Price: \$10 postage paid to addresses in lower 48 states if purchased from author's website.

Also available on Amazon.com

www.mshenspen.com

Icelandic Roots

Give the gift of family.

3 months of all-access to the Icelandic Roots community.

Price: \$45

www.IcelandicRoots.com



Yule Lads Legend: Iceland's Jólasveinar

Children's book with a modern story based on the Icelandic legend of the Christmas Yule Lads. Autographed Hardcover book, 10.75" x 8.25"

Price: \$24.99

<https://www.heklapublishing.com/product/yule-lads-legend-iceland-s-j-lasveinar/24?cs=true>



Hey Iceland My Own Self Drive Travel Package Discount

A tailor-made travel package for different lengths of stay with basics including: rental car, accommodations, and use of [Driver-Guide-tablet](#).

Itineraries are tailored to clients' interests, and can include locations in areas of ancestral significance:

<https://www.heyiceland.is/about-us/heritage-in-iceland-roots-in-iceland>

Details: INLUS members, for 2021 travel a 20% discount on the package

My Own Self Drive ([winter](#) & [summer](#)),

valid for bookings made 01 Dec 2020 – 01 March 2021.

Contact info@heyiceland.is with the code **HEYINLUS21**

Við Erum Að Læra Íslensku! [We Are Learning Icelandic!]

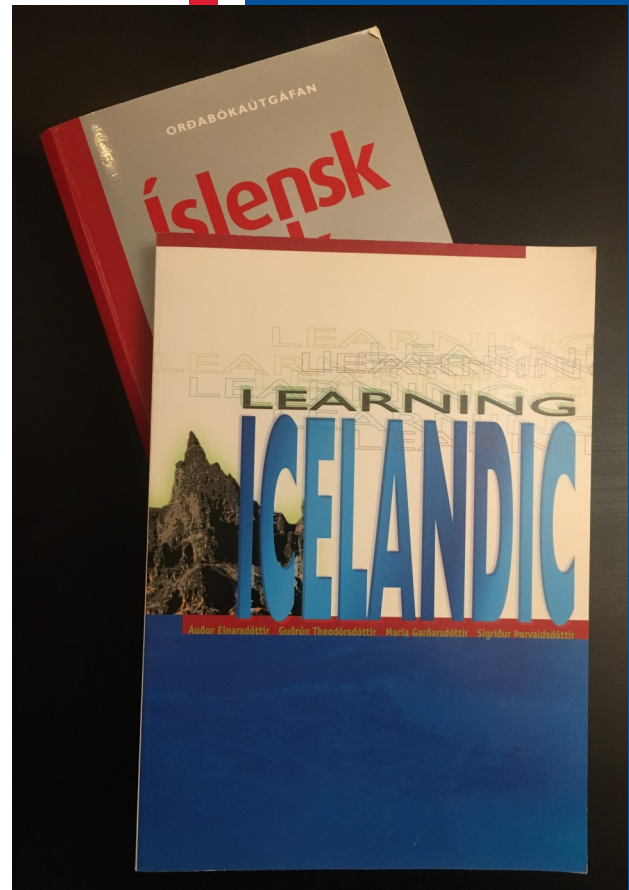
We were thrilled with the response to our recent six week series of online Icelandic lessons. 24 people signed up for the class taught by Thomas Brennan and Stella Wax that ran through October and into November. This class was intentionally a little more advanced than a basic introductory class, but even those with little exposure to Icelandic were surprised by how much they learned in such a short amount of time. And the turnout for our Sunday evening online study sessions was wonderful too, where we helped each other review the lesson materials, homework, and push the envelope of learning a bit further.

We thank our wonderful instructors! Thomas is a college student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and really challenged us each with new lessons, grammar insights and sentence building. Stella (his mom), who grew up in Iceland, was wonderful in sharing pronunciation and cultural aspects of Iceland as we went.

We'd like to offer another round of Icelandic classes sometime in early 2021, but we'd like to think about offering two levels of classes this time around. The following provides a general idea of what each might cover:

- **Introductory Icelandic:** The Icelandic alphabet and sounds, vocabulary building, noun gender, pronouns, numbers, particular nouns and speaking rudimentary sentences or questions.
- **Moderate Icelandic:** Sentence structure, noun declension, verb conjugation, speaking in basic conversations and an introduction to plural, past tense and adjectives.

Although the dates and details still need to be worked out, if you're interested in taking either of these classes next year, please reach out via email to David Johnson from our INLUS Board at david@inlus.org so you can one of the first to be contacted when details are available.



Snorri and Snorri Plus Program Application Deadlines

Are you interested in a life-changing experience that connects you to Icelandic heritage and culture? Consider the Snorri Programs!

The Snorri program is a five-week summer cultural program in Iceland for North Americans of Icelandic descent who are between the ages of 20 and 30. The application deadline is January 11, 2021.

The Snorri Plus program is a two-week summer cultural program in Iceland for North Americans over the age of 30: individuals, couples and family groups. Participants can either be of Icelandic descent or have a passion for Iceland. The application deadline is January 25, 2021.

If you're interested in learning more or applying, check out the Snorri Programs website at <http://www.snorri.is/>

INLUS Volunteer Spotlight:

Angel Johnson-Nelson

Angel Johnson-Nelson is an INLUS social media manager of Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages. She's been involved in a variety of volunteer roles in the Icelandic community for over a decade and shared a bit about herself in an email interview.

Tell me about how you are connected to Iceland.

My father's great grandfather and grandmother John and Anna Johnson were one of the first Icelanders that settled in the first permanent Icelandic settlement in North America; Spanish Fork, Utah.

How did you get involved with INLUS?

Over eleven years ago while doing genealogical research on my Icelandic history, I met Sunna Furstenau. Her love of all things Icelandic was so infectious and inspiring, that before long, I became a volunteer for the INLNA. When the INLUS was formed, I wanted to be a part of creating a new organization in the United States, and social media was a great place for me to contribute.



INLUS Volunteer Angel Johnson-Nelson

What's one fun fact about you?

When I was twelve, I spent the summer living in the mountains with my father herding sheep.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I want to encourage others to honor your ancestors by knowing and sharing their history. It is so important that we keep their history and stories alive, and that we participate in, as well as encourage others to be involved in an Icelandic organization.

Do you have some ideas or talents you'd like to share? If you're interested in sharing your talents with INLUS for a one time project or something on a recurring basis, we'd love to hear from you at info@inlus.org. Our many dedicated volunteers generously share their unique skills in a variety of ways. You can meet more of the INLUS volunteer team here: <https://inlus.org/about-us/volunteers/>

www.INLUS.org

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