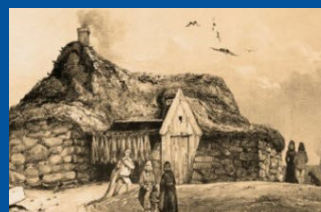




Connect

Hooray for Summer!

Summer 2023



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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.

Get Out and Celebrate

There is much to see and do this summer in *Icelandic America*.

Across North America, local Icelandic clubs are energetically celebrating Icelandic heritage and culture. The INLUS is offering support to local clubs in this wonderful effort through grants and scholarships. Read more in this issue about these events and how the INLUS is assisting.

And as you read about these activities, know that the INLUS is working hard to keep you abreast of all the activities. While the INLUS publishes its *Connect* newsletter on a quarterly basis, we are constantly adding new events to the INLUS online calendar and providing more information as we receive it in our blog. You can always stay up to date on our website at inlus.org.

The goal of the INLUS is to keep you connected to "all things Icelandic." So as you plan your summer activities, consider the many Icelandic events across the continent. Who knows, maybe your travel plans could land you in the middle of an Icelandic event!



Iceland Independence Day Celebrations

On June 17, 1944, the present Republic of Iceland was formed after centuries of foreign rule. The date was chosen to coincide with the birth date of Jón Sigurðsson, who rallied the Icelandic people to seek independence.

Several groups are celebrating the event this year:

June 16: The Icelandic Association of Utah gathers in Spanish Fork, Utah

June 17: The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle celebrates in Kirkland, WA

June 17: Icelandic Hekla Club is participating in the Nordic Midsummer Fest at Buck Hill in Burnsville, MN 9 am – 9 pm

August 4, 5, and 6: 124th Celebration of August the Deuce in Mountain, ND

For more details on these events, go to the INLUS Events Calendar on the INLUS website.

Festival Presenters:



Heidi Herman



North Star Nordic Dancers



Bud and Marlys Larson



The Scandinavian Festival is back at the Hjemkomst Center again. The host country this year is Iceland. Several events are planned before the festival that will help create greater awareness of the Scandinavian Festival. Please plan to attend and let others know, too!

June 20: 4-7 pm Grand Opening of "The Icelandic Emigrant Journey" photography art exhibition at Rourke Gallery in Moorhead with wine from Björnson Vinyard and Matthiasson Winery.

June 22: 5 pm Festival Opening Ceremonies at Drekker Brewhalla with presentations of the flags and special guest speakers.

June 22: 6-8 pm Swedish Society Mid-Summer Dance.

June 23 and 24: 10-4 pm Scandinavian Festival at the Hjemkomst Center.

June 23: 6-8:30 pm Nordic Supper at The Garden Pavilion (Meatball dinner, musical entertainment, 50/50 raffle) \$30/person.

Festival coordinator Romaine Kilde has been busy planning the programming to be featured at the festival:

North Star Nordic Dancers will feature dances from all the Nordic countries on both days.

Bud Larson, a local favorite, will share Hardanger fiddle music.

Folk Artist, Pieper Bloomquist will present on the Hallson Icelandic Church Paintings both days.

Heidi Herman will share her *Homestyle Icelandic Cooking for American Homes*, *Icelandic Folklore*, and other books she has authored. She will have a reading and crafts about the Icelandic Yule Lads for 45 minutes both days.

Kristín Jónína Taylor will perform on the piano for 45 minutes each day

Sunna Furstenau will give a daily presentation on the Minnesota and North Dakota Icelanders. **Continued on next page.**

Continued from previous page. Icelandic Roots will be in the Genealogy Room each afternoon.

There will be Face Painting, a Viking Encampment, plus much more.



THE ICELANDIC EMIGRATION JOURNEY

From Turfhouses to Prairie Homesteads



This exhibit runs in conjunction with the Nordic Culture Clubs Scandinavian Festival, and features fourteen large panels depicting photographs and drawings with a narrative telling the story of how Icelandic emigrants journeyed to a new life in Dakota and Minnesota. An accompanying booklet will be available at The Rourke and on the Icelandic Roots website beginning June 20th.

In this exhibition, you can learn more about Iceland and the mass exodus to North America during the emigration years of 1870–1914. This exhibition



focuses on the Icelanders in Minnesota and North Dakota. It will be on display for one month beginning June 20th. Admission is free of charge. Everyone is welcome. The exhibit was created and curated by Sunna Olafson Furstenau.

See the exhibit at the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum, 521 Main Ave. Moorhead, MN. The exhibit opens Tuesday, June 20th at 4 pm.

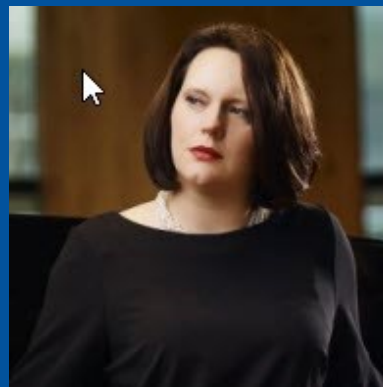
Festival Presenters:



Viking Encampment



Norwegian Bachelor Farmers



Kristín Jónína Taylor, Pianist
See more on her contributions on page 4.

Concert Pianist Performs During The Scandinavian Festival at The Hjemkomst Center



Dr. Kristín Jónína Taylor is an Icelandic-American pianist who has been enthusiastically received for her performances of Nordic piano works, including the North American premiere of Jón Nordal's Piano Concerto in 2003 and programs by invitation in Washington D.C. for the Ambassador of Iceland and President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. She has performed widely in the U.S. as well as in Iceland, France, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, Serbia, Canada, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Dr. Taylor is the Associate Professor of Piano and Keyboard Area Coordinator at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 2021, she was named to the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame.

Dr. Taylor will present two concerts June 23-24, at the Nordic Clubs Scandinavian Festival in the Hjemkomst Center of Moorhead, Minnesota.

The INLUS has contributed financial support to help bring Dr. Taylor to the Scandinavian Festival this year.

Know of an event in your area that would be of interest to the INLUS community?

Send news, photos and stories to:

info@inlus.org

INLUS Awards Snorri Scholarships

Five Americans boarded flights to Iceland on June 10 with a little help from the Icelandic National League of the United States (INLUS). The INLUS has awarded \$1000 scholarships to each U.S. participant to help defray some of the costs of the program.

Three of the Snorri participants are from Minnesota, one is from Washington State, and one hails from California. They range in age from 22 to 30 and bring a variety of life experiences to the adventure.

Gillian Hart is studying to be a teacher. She also has a degree in medieval studies and French. She has an interest in genealogy and has lived with relatives in France and looks forward to meeting Icelandic relatives.

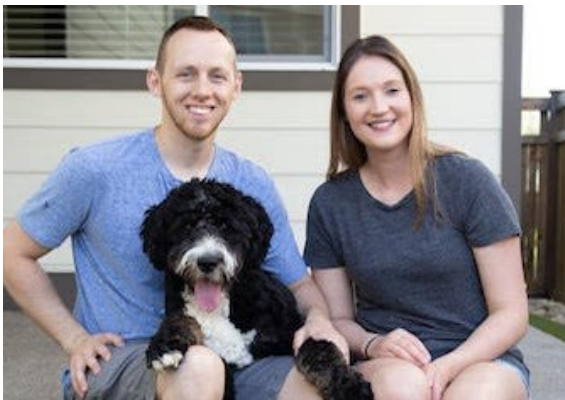
Jared Hanson graduates this spring with a degree in Economics. Jared has never been to Iceland but has lived in Spain and speaks Spanish. He hopes to continue cultural exploration with his Snorri experience and form life-long connections.

Julia Swanson is graduating this spring with a degree in Communications Sciences and Disorders. She plans to work as a Speech Pathologist after completing a master's degree. She has never been to Iceland, but the stories brought back from a trip to Iceland made by her mother, grandmother, and aunts have sparked her interest in the Snorri experience.

Sarah Iverson graduated with a degree in Physical Therapy and works in the field. She has been to Iceland in 2014, and with the recent loss of her grandfather, felt the urge to return through the Snorri program.

Tor Kartenson is studying for a BA in Music Teaching and Performance. He also plays tuba, fiddle and is the bass player in the band Walking Phoenix. Tor has been to Iceland three times with his family. He said those visits were "too short", and he hopes to learn about the country in greater detail this summer.

The Snorri program works to build connections between North Americans and Iceland. The Icelandic National League of the United States supports this important project through scholarships and grants made possible by our generous supporters. If you would like to join our supporters with a donation, the [online donation page is here](#).



Sarah Iverson with her husband, Michael and Walter, their bernedoodle.



Julia Swanson



Tor Kartenson

Picture Perfect!

INLUS President Dianne O’Konski shares her experience at the 2023 Convention in Banff, Alberta.



Banff, Alberta –Dianne O’Konski photo

The INL Convention was held in beautiful Banff, Alberta May 11-14, 2023. The Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary (LEIC) did a marvelous job of hosting the event with the theme Celebrating our Icelandic Heritage in the Arts. The weather was perfect, the scenery was spectacular, and the program was very interesting with a wide array of featured artists, authors, and musicians.

The convention opened with a welcome reception Thursday evening. It had been four years since the convention had been held in person, so there was lots of catching up to do! Friday brought a number of greetings and presentations, and the afternoon was filled with break-out sessions and a book launch of the book “Icelandic Heritage in North America”. The day ended with an awards ceremony in the evening sponsored by our sister organization, the Icelandic National League of North America, to honor those who have made significant contributions to their local Icelandic organizations or the larger Icelandic community.

Saturday brought more interesting presentations and break-outs. Vendor tables were set up in the break room as well. The gala banquet provided another opportunity to mingle and relax.

Sunday featured a trip to Markerville, Alberta, an early Icelandic settlement site and the home of the poet Stephan G. Stephansson. We were to leave at 8:30 AM sharp, but the bus broke down on the way from Calgary to Banff and a new bus had to be secured – we got underway about noon. We had a rushed but informative lunch and tour of the town and Stephan G.’s home before leaving for stops at the Calgary airport and Banff.

Congratulations to LEIC on hosting a terrific convention!!

More Convention Highlights:

Anyone Can Write a Memoir

At least that's what I was told. But are you writing a memoir or an autobiography? A memoir focuses on an event in one's life, while an autobiography covers the entire life.

INLUS members Sverrir Sigurdsson and Veronica Li gave an excellent presentation during the convention on the essentials of writing a memoir and a follow-up session on writing your own memoir. A memoir must have all the elements of a novel, including a theme, a focused storyline, and a plot.



Veronica Li and Sverrir Sigurdsson led the memoir writing workshop at the Banff Convention

Using examples taken from Sverrir's book ***Viking Voyager: An Icelandic Memoir*** and Veronica's memoir about her mother, ***Journey Across the Four Seas: A Chinese Woman's Search for Home***, they led us through these elements with ease and humor.

They also led a second session that provided time for each attendee to identify a turning point in their life. For example, getting on a school bus for the first time or getting on an airplane to start a new life. Participants were encouraged to really dig into their feelings and context. Writing the back-story of how they got to this point and the aftermath following the event was also discussed.

I may never write a memoir, but the presentations gave me the tools and knowledge to do so.

Thank you Sverrir and Veronica for the excellent program!

Heidi Herman's New Adventure

Hearing that she had the "palate of a toddler", Heidi Hermann began to think about her dietary choices and food preferences. Vegetables were never a big part of her diet – her mother often said that vegetables were rabbit food. Admitting that vegetables were not a significant part of her diet, Heidi began researching foods and cultures and found ways to incorporate vegetables into larger recipes.

Thus began the idea of a cookbook.

While at a writer's convention, Heidi signed with an agent to work on her cookbook. In addition, she has started a newsletter with recipes for adults that incorporate vegetables, and a YouTube channel that gives step-by-step instructions on how to prepare vegetables and the larger recipes to which they are added.



Heidi Herman

The cookbook will be Heidi's first book without an Icelandic inspiration and is still in development.

Her YouTube videos can be found at [www.youtube.com/ @thetastyvegetable](http://www.youtube.com/@thetastyvegetable)

You can sign up for the newsletter there as well.

To learn more about what prompted Heidi to take this step, her INLUS webinar from May 8, 2023, as well as all the earlier webinars and Author Corners, can be found on inlus.org under the Webinar tab.

New President of INL Iceland

The INLUS' sister organization *Þjóðræknisfélags Íslendinga*, aka INL Iceland, held their annual meeting on May 23, 2023 in Reykjavik. President *Hulda Karen Daníelsdóttir* finished her term at the meeting. Hulda Karen very capably led the organization including initiating grants to educational groups in Iceland that had programs on the western migration of Icelanders to North America.

The new president is *Gísli Sigurðsson* who will serve for the next two years. Gísli is a Research Professor and Head of the Folklore Department at the Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland where he has worked since 1990. He teaches in the Department of Folklore at the University of Iceland and was Professor II at the University of Stavanger in Norway 2008–11. Gísli served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Manitoba in 1988 and at The University of California, Berkeley in 2009.



Hulda Karen Daníelsdóttir



Gísli Sigurðsson

He is well known for his research on Vikings and Vinland Sagas, as well as the early Icelandic settlement of North America.

Gísli will also assume the presidency of the Snorri Foundation.

We look forward to working with Gísli and deeply thank Hulda Karen for her many contributions to strengthening the ties between Icelanders in Iceland and in North America.

Recent INLUS Webinars

If you haven't paid a visit to the Webinar page on the INLUS.ORG website, you really owe it to yourself to see what's been popping up there recently.

Anyone considering a trip to Iceland, should check out the latest travel updates from Iceland travel expert, *Jóhannes Þór Skúlason*.



Or, learn more about INLUS member-author, Heidi Herman's new YouTube channel.



And can find out about the growing interest in Icelandic horses in America in the most recent webinar featuring an interview with the president of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress, Virginia Laridsen.

Find the Webinar link under the Community tab at INLUS.ORG.



Kaffi Timi poured its last cup recently.

Kaffi Timi was started as a way for our Covid quarantined followers to talk with others outside their pandemic cohort. Times have changed and even though Covid is still with us, people have started to live more active lives. This has led us to the conclusion that *Kaffi Timi* has served its purpose in bringing people together for an hour to "just talk."

Doug Hanson and Dianne O'Konski thank all those who participated in *Kaffi Timi* over the last two and a half years. We've had some great conversations with many new friends.

Snorris On The Go

Your INLUS is a big supporter of the Snorri Programs and since our last newsletter, the INLUS board has committed funds to help bolster support for a new Snorri initiative and for another Snorri program that may not be as familiar to our membership.

The Snorri Alumni Intern Program offers an opportunity for a past Snorri participant to return to Iceland and assist at the Icelandic Emigration Center in Hofsos. One U.S. and one Canadian participant are chosen.

This year both candidates came from the 2022 Snorri participants. Sierra Jensen of Mountain, North Dakota, will begin her internship on June 6, and will conclude it on July 19. The Canadian intern is Jack Plumley of Calgary, Alberta, who will start on July 3 and conclude the internship on September 13.

New out of the gate this year is a trial program for a Snorri West Internship, which offers a past Snorri West participant from Iceland to return to North America for a service project.

The first person to participate in this new project is Sandra Björg Ernudóttir, who was a 2017 Snorri West participant. She wrote her BA thesis based on the experiences of her trip to the "Mountain Corridor" and is currently a teacher and "library curator" at the Skarðshlíðarskóli (ages 6 - 16) in Hafnarfjörður.

She will split her time between U.S. and Canada. She arrives in the U.S. on July 25 and will assist in cataloging a large collection of Icelandic books before heading to Canada. In Canada she will be participating in Icelandic Camp, assisting on the *Íslendingadagurinn* Magnus Classic strongman competition among other projects.

The INLUS has been able to offer financial support for these worthy initiatives due to the generous support of our members through their annual membership fees and donations.

Before We Go...

Do you have any travel plans this summer?

Whether you find yourself trekking the Icelandic Highlands, or skipping stones across some faraway North American lake, or just enjoying a backyard barbecue or game of frisbee in your neighborhood park, send us a picture.



Where all can we get to this summer?

Let's find out.

Drop us a line at info@inlus.org and share your summer journey!

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