

Iceland Unfiltered: The INLUS Photo Contest Returns



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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.



The 2025 First Place Entry: **A Short Pause in Scientific Work, by Adam Grzeźliński**

There are moments in Iceland that don't feel real until you look back at them.

A sudden shift in weather that changes the entire landscape.
Light breaking through at exactly the right second.
A quiet scene that somehow feels enormous.

You don't plan for those moments. You just happen to be there, and if you're lucky, you capture them.

After an incredible response to our first photo contest, we're bringing it back for 2026 with a new theme.

Wild Iceland Moments

You'll start seeing highlights from our 2025 winners across our Facebook and Instagram channels. Consider them inspiration, a challenge, and a reminder: you might already have the perfect shot.

What counts as "wild" is up to you.

It might be a dramatic landscape or a fleeting, almost-missed moment. It might be movement, contrast, weather, or something quieter that simply felt powerful at the time. If it made you pause, there's a good chance it belongs here.

(Continued on page 2)

Connect

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Lauren Fields, Board member

Rob Olason, Board member

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How to Enter The 2026 INLUS Photo Contest

Participating is simple:

- Post your photo on Instagram or Facebook
- Tag **@INLUSorg**
- Use **#WildIcelandINLUS**
- Add a short caption (2–3 sentences) sharing the story behind the image.

All the details can be found on the INLUS Blog at:

[Inlus.org/community/blog/](https://inlus.org/community/blog/)



The 2025 Second Place Entry:
Skógafoss, by Nikolya Serek-Basan



President's Message: By Doug Hanson

As we approach summer, I hope many of you will be able to travel and perhaps enjoy an Icelandic community event such as an Independence Day gathering in June or the Deuce of August celebration in Mountain, North Dakota. Whether you travel all the way to Iceland or just within your own area, there may be a fun event nearby.

Please check the events calendar on the INLUS website where we post information about many of these events. I hope to meet you at one of them.



Magdalena Sadławska

The 2025 Third Place Entry:
Sheep by the Sea, by Magdalena Sadtowska's 2025 photo entry.

**Passionate
About
Icelandic
Culture?**

So are we! Join us in the quest to celebrate Icelandic culture whether in Iceland or North America.

Become a member of the INLUS or renew your membership and let's celebrate together!

[Click Here to Join!](#)

Hekla Club: 2026 Samkoma

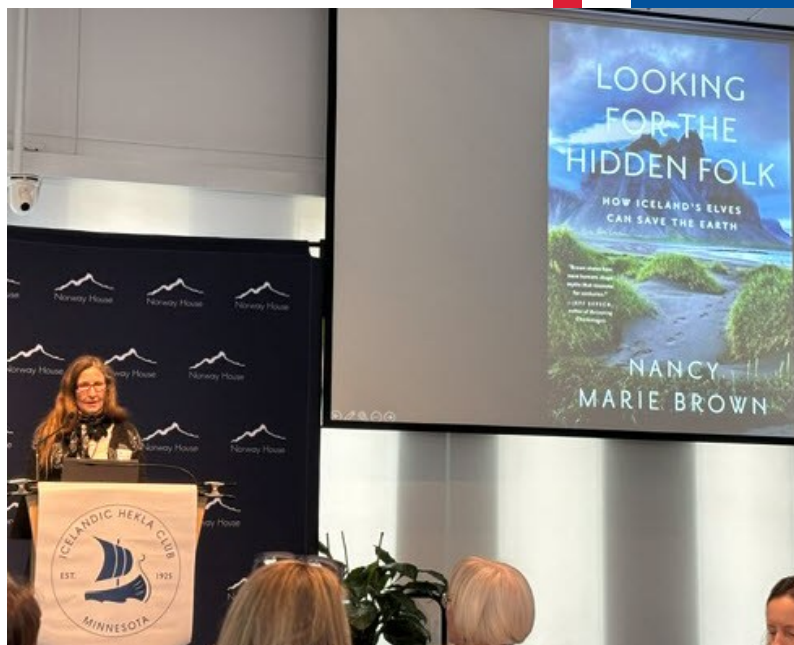
By David Johnson

Hekla Club hosted their 101st Annual Samkoma luncheon on Sunday, April 26th.

Yes -- this Icelandic club has been around since 1925 and has hosted this event each year.

90 people enjoyed a wonderful buffet luncheon and had the great opportunity to hear famed author Nancy Marie Brown speak for 45 minutes.

Profits from the event help sustain the Val Bjornson Scholarship Fund.



Nancy Marie Brown speaking about the belief system and traditions of the Icelandic hidden people.

Reykjavík Fusion Streaming in U.S.



Your paid memberships and donations help the INLUS offer financial scholarships to all U.S. Snorri participants.



Reykjavík Fusion is a 2025 an exciting six-part crime thriller set in Iceland directed by Gunnar Páll Ólafsson and Samúel Bjarki Pétursson.

The mystery stars Ólafur Darri Olafsson (*Entrapped*, *The Tourist*, *Severance*) and Hera Hilmar (*Babylon*).

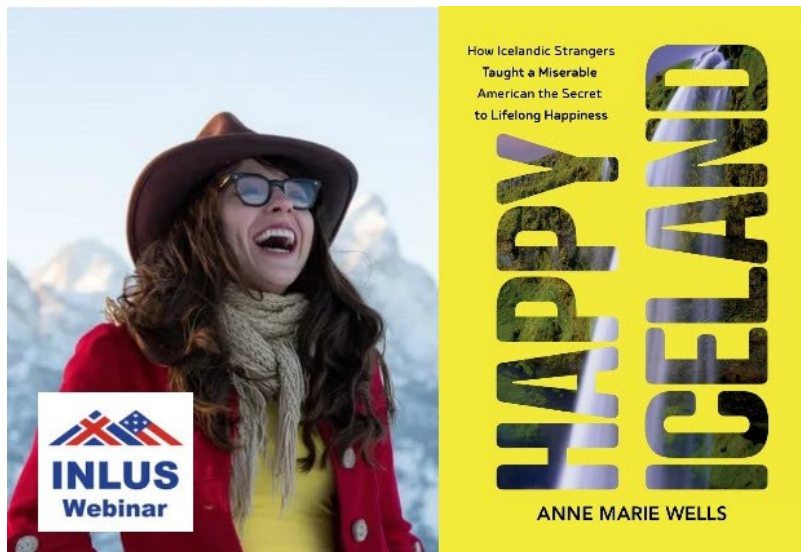
The story centers on talented chef Jónas (Ólafsson), who returns to Reykjavík and tries to regain his family's trust after a wrongful imprisonment. But as an ex-con and shunned by society, his dreams of setting up a fine-dining restaurant are thwarted. As his possible financing options wither, his last resort is to commit his first real crime.

Icelandic actress Hera Hilmar, co-stars in the series. She has been acting since she was a child and won the Edda Award for Actress of the Year in 2015 for the 2014 film *Life in a Fishbowl* (*Vonarstræti*), and in 2017 for the 2016 production *The Oath* (*Eiðurinn*). She has also appeared in well known International films such as *Da Vinci's Demons* and *Anna Karenina*. She is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Art.

Icelandic American Association of Virginia Joins INLUS



The INLUS is happy to announce that the Icelandic American Association of Virginia has become the newest local club to join the INLUS. They are an active club and are gearing up for their June 20th Annual Icelandic Independence Day Celebration. Club members in good standing have free entry to the event featuring a pylsur lunch and there will be other Icelandic treats available. The club also hosts an annual Þorablót which will next take place January 30, 2027. We look forward to sharing more information about the club in future articles. For now, you can follow the club on their INLUS page at: <https://inlus.org/community/icelandic-organizations/hampton-roads-va/>



Can Icelanders teach the world about happiness?

That's the premise of the new book *Happy Iceland*, by Anne Marie Wells. The next INLUS webinar will feature Wells talking about her latest book and what she learned about happiness from the Icelanders she encountered during her journey across Iceland.

Listen in to this webinar on Tuesday, June 9, at 7 pm CT. Read more about the presentation and find the zoom link on the INLUS Blog at:

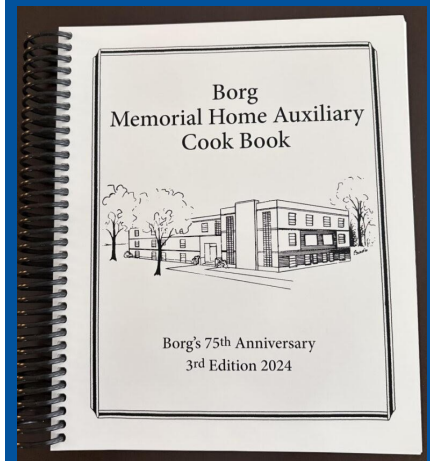
<https://inlus.org/happy-iceland-book-launch-inlus-webinar/>

Icelandic Foods:

The INLUS has been given permission to share select Icelandic recipes from the Borg Home Cookbook.

If you would like to purchase a copy send an email to: borghome@polarcomm.com

The price per copy is \$20 plus shipping.



Congratulations to the 2026 Snorri Participants:

Hala Anderson,
Northampton, MA via
Virginia

Ian Plitnick, Germantown,
MD

Jared Drake, Lahaina, HI
via Lindon, UT

Johanna Swanson,
Bronson, IA

Lóa Georgsdóttir,
Shelburne, VT

Loryn Timian, Santa Rosa,
CA via Renton, WA)

Sophia Stéphaný,
Roseville, MN



Snorri Alumni Intern 2026:

Isaac Muscanto, Snorri
2010, Roseville, MN

Local Club News

Icelandic Association of Colorado:

We will celebrate our Independence Day this summer on June 13. We will meet up at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge for a fun family-friendly BBQ.

<https://icelandersincolorado.com/>

Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle:

Sunnudagsspjall – Sunday Chat on Sunday, June 07, at Great Notion Brewing in Ballard, 5101 14th Ave NW Suite 101, Seattle, WA. Come join us and practice your Icelandic with other speakers! 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

<https://www.icelandseattle.com/>

Leif Eiricksson Icelandic Club of Calgary:

Saturday, June 13, the Icelandic Independence Day Markerville Picnic.

Friday, July 31, Icelandic Open Golf Tournament 2026.

<https://leicyyc.weebly.com/>

Icelandic Communities Association of North Dakota:

The Deuce of August Celebration is July 31 – August 2. Details will be posted on the website: <https://www.thedeuce.org/>

Icelandic American Association of Virginia:

June 20th Annual Icelandic Independence Day Celebration. <https://www.facebook.com/p/Icelandic-Association-Virginia-100064632491748/>



Icelandic *Plysur* feast photo, courtesy of the Icelandic American Association of Virginia's Facebook page.



2025 Annual Report

President's Message

Now into our seventh year, we thank each of our donors, members and language students who provide funds that allow us to provide scholarships and grants to worthy recipients. We end the year with a solid bank balance of \$45,428.

But the real engine to our success is you. Takk!

2026 Board of Directors

President:	Doug Hanson
Vice President:	Dísa Guðjónsdóttir
Secretary/Treasurer	David Johnson
Past President:	Dianne O'Konski
At-large (Reading Group):	Lauren Fields
At-large (Newsletter Editor):	Rob Olason

2025 Programs

Webinars:

Tales of Nola – An Author's Corner

The Day Iceland Stood Still

Travel Updates from Hey Iceland

Cycling in Iceland

Living and Working in the Westfjords

Iceland Search and Rescue

A Conversation with Eliza Reid

Photographing Iceland's Horse Round-up

Alberta and Minnesota Icelanders –and- Nova Scotia and Utah Icelanders

Intersecting Worlds with Jenna Sciuto.



Our On-line Icelandic Language Courses:

152 students enrolled in the four levels of classes offered, three different times in 2025.

2025 Grants & Awards

- * Two \$1000 scholarships provided to two US-based Snorri Program young adults.
- * \$500 stipend provided to Snorri Alum Intern
- * \$500 grant awarded to support Hekla Club's 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- * \$1000 grant to Minnesota 150th Anniversary event

We constantly look for worthy projects, programs and people where our funds can go that will further our non-profit charitable and educational mission.

2025 Revenue & Expenses

Memberships	\$5,450	
Donations / Grants Received	\$ 175	
Language Class Fees	\$7,005	
Grants and Awards		\$4,000
Language Class Costs		\$5,400
Operating Expenses		\$2,654
NET REVENUE / NET EXPENSES	\$12,630	\$12,054
2025 NET INCOME		\$576

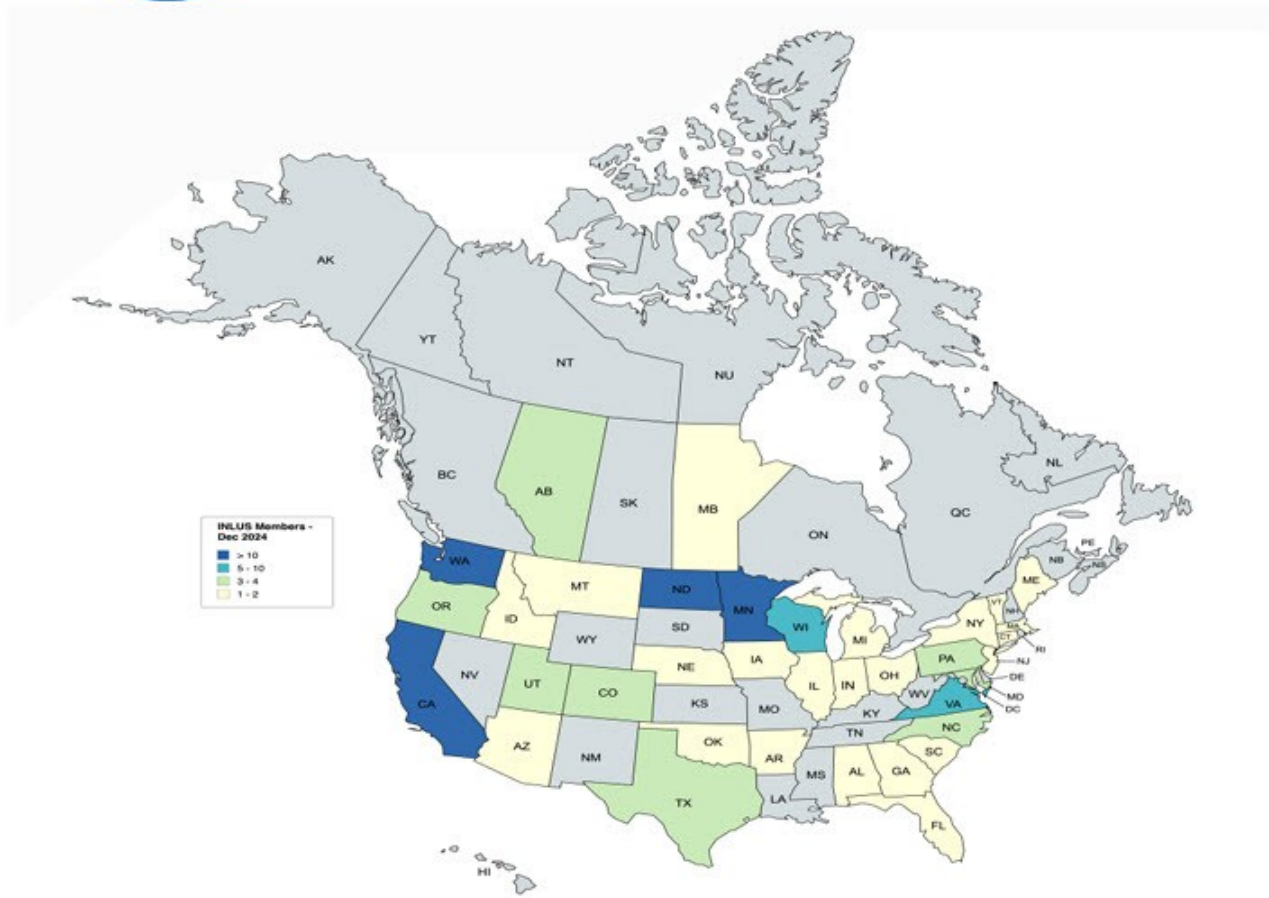


Our Members as of 12/31/2025

- 124 Individuals & Families
- 7 Businesses
- 8 Clubs & Heritage Organizations



ICELAND: 5 members



Created with mapchart.net

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