

**January
2012**

new GEYSIR

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle



Snorri Plus – A Major WOW!!! page 8



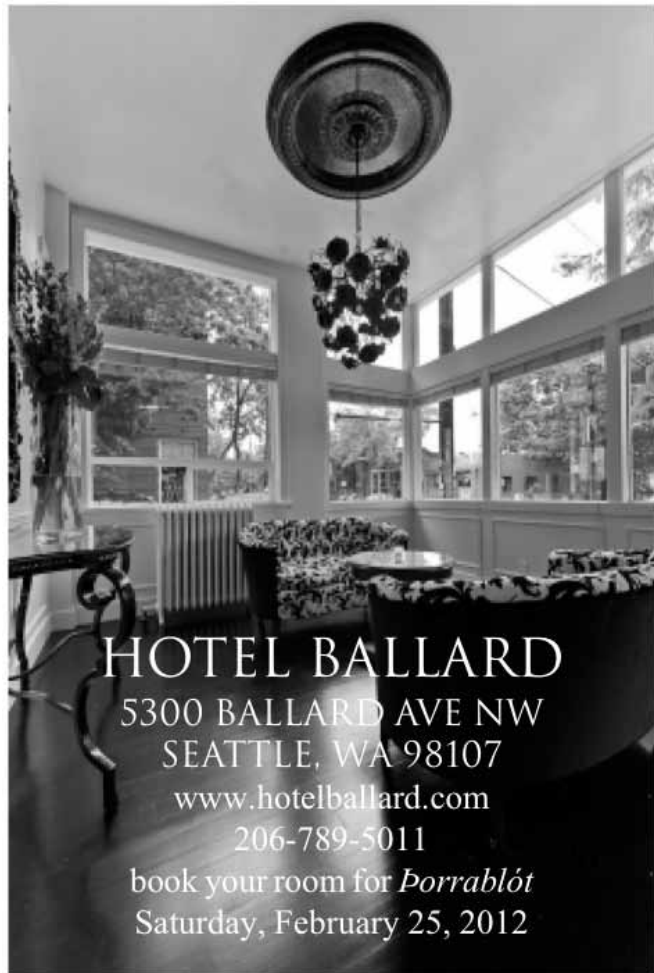
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Saturday, February 25, 2012

The New Geysir

January 2012

www.icelandseattle.com

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Last date for submissions to next issue is Saturday, March 17, 2012

Please note our publishing team are volunteers and can not devote regular office hours to this effort.

Therefore we need information well in advance to put all the pieces together and coordinate our final publication.

Please email: newgeysir@icelandseattle.com

New Geysir ~ January 2012



View from trail up to Helgafell by David Johnson

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UPCOMING EVENTS — MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

Follow us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com: Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle

Icelandic Coffee Hour
on
Tuesday mornings
at 10AM
at the
Nordic Heritage
Museum



January 14	ICGS Annual Meeting at St. John United Lutheran Church
February 25	<i>Porrablót</i> at Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard
February 26	<i>Glissando on Ice</i> Sunday Concert, 4PM at Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard
March 22	possible concert at Nordic Heritage Museum by Icelandic Jazz guitarist Bjorn Thoroddsen
April 21	Princess Tea in celebration of <i>Sumardagurinn Fyrsti</i> at St. John United Lutheran Church, 2PM
May 17	<i>Syttende Mai</i> Ballard Parade
May 20	Hörður Áskelsson Organist at <i>Hallgrímskirkja</i> will perform at Trinity Lutheran Church (Lynnwood). His wife, Inga Ros, principal cellist in the Reykjavik Symphony, will also perform.
June 23	Save the date for Icelandic Independence Celebration

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Henry Bjornsson ~ As we enter a new year, I feel good about our club. We continue to have the support of a dedicated core of members willing to do the work, and come up with the ideas, to make our events successful through the year. 2012 will give us a new president, and some new officers and trustees. The club is in good hands.

In the few years that I have been active in the work of the club I have been increasingly aware of how important this club is, in a historic sense. The Seattle Icelandic community is over 100 years old. Over that long time it has had several organizations and publications representing it and binding it together, always with the aim of preserving our "Icelandicness", however that could be done. In the early years it focused on those who spoke and wrote Icelandic. Later, the language mostly changed to



Seattle Reykjavik Sister City Association board members attended our annual meeting in January. (from left to right): Hrefna Milner (treasurer), Adda Sigurdardottir (secretary), Margaret Hlastala (president) and Karen Block (membership chairman).

English, but the aim remained, to hold onto and promote traditions, food, music, and literature that identify us and help us to understand this nation, this history, this culture, of which we are a part, and which is part of us.

In relatively recent years the world has become smaller, and the Seattle club now finds itself enriched with younger, and more recent, Icelandic immigrants, and cheaper and

easier transportation to Iceland has brought the land of our ancestors closer to us all.

As I have before, I extend an invitation to any of our members to volunteer to serve the club, on committees and work details, as well as officers or trustees. Our success as a representative for the Icelandic community we serve depends on participation by as many members as possible.



Outgoing 2011 President Henry Bjornsson has turned over the leadership to Sonna Ghilarducci

Greetings from Icelandic Club's new Madam President



Those attending the annual meeting on January 14th were welcomed by our new club president Sonna Ghilarducci.

Greetings Club Members,

My name is Sonna Somerville-Ghilarducci, I have been married to Michael Ghilarducci for almost 26 years! Mike's oldest daughter is Jessica, she has a daughter Sophia (14yrs), Jessica is engaged to Fabio Desimone. Together we have our son Grant (23yrs), who lives and works as a Chef in Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany. He is making his first trip to Iceland for June 17th this year and he's very excited! Many of you might know our daughter, Stefania (17yrs) she is our current club Princess and is a junior at Ballard High School. Stefania is very involved with activities at school, but she has dreams and ambitions of going to school and becoming an Architect.

My mother Stefania Gestsdottir-Somerville was born in Reykjavik;

she was the youngest of five children. My father Donald Somerville met her in Iceland and brought her back to New York after they were married. They moved around a bit and ended up in Tucson, Arizona, which is where I was born. At the time of my birth, I had a 13 year old brother Donald Jr. and then I was soon joined by Douglas and then Erikur. My Aunt Maya and Uncle John soon moved to Seattle to join us, we all lived in Ballard!

As the incoming President, I first and foremost, want to thank Henry Bjornsson for his time and service to our wonderful Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle.

It is my goal to continue with our traditions, while adding new opportunities for those who want to become more involved in our activities.

We are working on the calendar of events, but a few things to keep in mind ~

ANNUAL ÞORRABLÓT ~
FEBRUARY 25th, 2012
at the Nordic Heritage Museum
in Ballard

Princesses ~ "Princess Tea" ~
April 21st, 2012
at Saint John Lutheran Church
This will be a new event for, current/past Princesses as well as current/past *Fjallkona*. It is also open to anyone interested in becoming a Princess or wanting information about or to help with the program.

I look forward to the upcoming year and to seeing you on the 25th of February at ÞORRABLÓT.

Thank you,
Sonna

Jólaball 2011



Jólaball committee from left to right: Tota Sellars, Emily Kristjanson, Judy Ohai and Hrefna Milner.





THE ANNUAL *JOLABALL* took place on Saturday, December 17th at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We had a great turnout with about 25-30 children and just as many or more adults. We had singing around the Christmas tree which was decorated with flags from the Scandinavian countries. The food was delicious and THANK YOU to all of the people who brought the wonderful goodies. SPECIAL THANK YOU to Villi Steinthorsson for making the wonderful hot chocolate. We had plenty and some people brought food without a phone call. It is all appreciated!! Two Santas came "flying" in and talked with all the children. Parents snapped some pictures then the two alternate princesses, Jenny Bjarnason and Margo Einarson, gave out bags of candy. It is believed that a good time was had by all. Thanks to the Committee who worked hard to put this together - Hrefna Milner, Margaret Hlastala, Tota Sellars, Henry Bjornsson, Margret Solvadottir, Judy Ohai and Emily Kristjanson.



Snorri Plus 2011 – A Major WOW!!

David Johnson – My expectations were already pretty high, but I can't begin to describe how amazing it was to experience Iceland through the Snorri Plus Program this past August. I'm so thankful I signed up, and I encourage everyone to seriously consider signing up for the program this year.

For the past 13 years the Snorri

Foundation has been running the Snorri Program. Young people of Icelandic descent living in North America are given an opportunity to participate in a six week unforgettable adventure and discover their Icelandic roots. My experience however was with the Snorri Plus Program, a condensed 2 week version for us older folks—those over 30 years of age. And the

Snorri Plus program isn't limited to those of actual Icelandic descent; anyone with a love or interest in Iceland is encouraged to sign-up.

I could recount so many highlights but space is limited here. Let me however hit a few highlights to whet your appetite. This year's group of 7 program participants included two from the US and 5 from Canada. Although strangers on Day #1, we quickly became friends to be cherished for a lifetime. And our Program Director Ásta Sól is as wonderful a person as you'll ever get a chance to meet!

During our first week in Reykjavik we participated in tours and lectures you wouldn't otherwise get traveling on your own. How often can you wake up and go to a lecture on the history of feminism in Iceland, geology, economics, linguistics, or family history research, and then run in the Reykjavik marathon or fun run? Or how many times do you get to have a picnic lunch on Viðey Island with a private serenade from Svavar Knútur singing Icelandic songs on his acoustic guitar? Or what about the opportunity to spend a ½ day with an Icelander who is in a similar line of work or is an expert in a hobby that you have? Or who gets to spend an hour sitting and chatting with the President of Iceland at his official residence sipping coffee and eating cake served on the official state china when traveling on your own?

Being an avid family history researcher, I could easily roam on

(continues on next page...)

Sylvia HARTMAN

Sylvia was born August 24, 1931 the sixth of seven children to Bjorn and Solveig Stevenson of Hallson, North Dakota. Sylvia grew up in Hallson, graduating from Cavalier High School. She later moved to Seattle where she found work at The Boeing Company and where she and Fred met. Sylvia worked primarily doing clerical and bookkeeping work until retirement in 1991 when she and Fred moved to Birch Bay Village where she was active in the Social Club, the Bridge Club and served on the community Board of Directors; serving as President the last year of her three year term. A life-long member of the Lutheran Church; Sylvia served in many capacities which included teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir.

In her last years, she was limited with serious health concerns, but prior to that time she and Fred traveled extensively in the United States and Europe to their great pleasure. Sylvia loved her family



and friends and took great joy in them.

Sylvia was preceded in death by five of her siblings. She is survived by her beloved husband of 59 years, Fred Hartman; son, Eric Hartman of Clinton, Whidbey Island, WA; daughter, Lisa Thompson; granddaughter Robyn Thompson and three great-grandchildren all of Richland, WA; sister, Irene Olason of Kent, WA and numerous nieces and nephews.



List of participants in the photo:

*Back Row: Dale Johannson, Winnipeg, MB; Lin Floyd, St. George, Utah; Svavar Knutur, Icelandic musician who entertained the group; Ferne Gudnason, Lacombe, AB; Garth Lane, St. Alberta, AB; David Johnson, Seattle
Front Row: Marilyn Walton, Brandon, MB; Krista Hermanson, Calgary, AB.*

farm ruins where I know my family lived and worked, hike along sheep trails up to abandoned cemeteries where I know ancestors are buried, visit old churches or squirrel myself in the archives for days searching for old family records. But this trip showed me that living in the present is so wonderful and rewarding too.

One the highlights for me was attending a reception that had been arranged for the seven of us where cousins of ours still living in Iceland were invited. Getting hugs and sharing stories with cousins I never knew I had, and even being invited to join them in their homes during free time to share traditional foods,

was so great. Many of these cousins I continue to stay in contact with and hope to go back and visit or host here in Seattle someday.

During Week #2, we hit the road in our small bus. That's when we really got to know each other! We went on many beautiful hikes and saw many waterfalls. Every day brought a new adventure, from horseback riding around Lake Mývatn to a boat cruise out of Stykkishólmar where the crew dredged the ocean floor and we were soon eating raw scallops and sipping wine while looking at rare birds and snow-capped mountain views from a blue ocean. Attending the INL Conference and dining in Hofsós

was also a marvellous day I'll always remember.

Stretching myself and setting aside fears that hold me back is something I'm trying to weave into my otherwise content lifestyle. I encourage you to challenge yourself and experience your own "dream come true" by signing up for the Snorri Program. Please contact me at Dj4Seattle@comcast.net if you'd like to talk about the program in more detail or find out about next summer's sessions. Snorri Plus will run Thursday, August 16th to Thursday, August 30th. The application is available on the website: www.snorri.is

Membership

The new directory has been completed as is being distributed starting with 2012 memberships. As with any undertaking that large, we anticipate some errors will need to be corrected and changes made. Please contact Linda Russo any time with any changes. Changes and information on new members will be inserted in the club newsletter *New Geysir* periodically.

Events are held regularly and members are kept informed through the New Geysir. Currently we send email reminders for scheduled events and email alerts when new events or opportunities that may be of interest come up between quarterly issues. In an effort to be wise stewards of the Club's resources, we are planning on reducing paper usage and postage costs and will send most information, including the newsletter, via email. We won't be filling your inbox so we encourage you to use an email address if you have one. To be sure we have your correct email address, please confirm your email address by sending an email to letrusso@hotmail.com You need only put "Email me" in the subject line. You may have more than one email address for your family if you like. If you don't use email you will continue to receive information just as you do now.

In our desire to grow and develop as a community we want to create some new programs or events and want your ideas, help and participation. Contact any board member with ideas, to offer help or for information. Possibilities include:

1. Hiking and bicycling outings
2. Club Nights with various programs, places and hosts
3. Movie nights
4. Genealogy group
5. Book discussion group associated with the Icelandic National League of North America (INL - NA). Read about INL Reads! at <http://inlreads.wordpress.com/2011/06/20/thoughts-on-the-first-inl-reads-launch/> or other books of interest to the group.
6. Does anyone out there have any ideas for children's programs?

The club now has a Snorri representative so we're looking for an annual fundraiser to help support a club member to participate in the Snorri Program much the same as our annual Golf Tournament supports our Scholarship Program. For information on the Snorri Program see <http://www.snorri.is/>

The success of the club comes from you so I hope you pay your membership dues and participate in club activities. Please complete the membership application completely so we can be sure we have the most up-to-date information and send along with your check. We want your help and participation and encourage you to bring a relative, friend, neighbor or co-worker to an event this year. We look forward to seeing you this year!

Linda Russo, Membership
letrusso@hotmail.com
 253-952-6703

Thank you to the following members for your donations to the club...

Eleanor Biliske
 Dennis Bjornson
 Rev. Norma Borgford
 Alana Brandstrom & Barrett Monsaas
 Theo & Bruce Brown
 Dave Bulger
 Thorir Einarsson & Gudrun Aradottir
 Beverly Forbes
 Fred Freeman & Cathy Burdett-Freeman
 Aslaug Haraldsdottir & Matt Berge
 Fred & Ann Hillier
 Sally Ingle
 David E Johnson
 Elizabeth & Gerald Johnston
 Emily & Sibbie Kristjanson
 Alene Moris
 Stephen Olason
 Vidar Palsson & Robin Angeley
 Jane & Kurt Pedersen
 Ingvar & Claudia Petursson
 Sidney Roswick

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle

2012 Membership
(Valid Jan. 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2012)

Join us this year as the Club continues to grow and expands our events with member participation.
You will make a difference by getting involved!

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email address: _____

- Individual membership (I12): **\$35.00**
- Individual Senior (65 or older) membership (S12): **\$20.00**
- Senior Couple (both 65 & older) (SC12): **\$30.00**
- Family membership (F12): **\$45.00**
(all family members must reside at the same address, children must be under 21 years of age)
- Student membership (St12): **\$20.00**

Please consider a donation to support club activities.

Scholarship Donation: \$ _____ Club Donation: \$ _____

Send this application and a check payable to the Icelandic Club to:

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle
ATTN: Membership
P.O. Box 70102
Seattle, WA 98127-0102

Please check any areas where you can help:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thorrablot | <input type="checkbox"/> Sumardagurinn Fyrsti | <input type="checkbox"/> May 17 th Parade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 th of June | <input type="checkbox"/> Viking Days | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jólaball</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide food for events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Website | |

Questions/Comments/Suggestions: Call 206-963-2016 or email newgeysir@icelandseattle.com

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle
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ANNUAL PORRABLÓT – FEBRUARY 25th, 2012

at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard
3014 N. W. 67th Street

Tickets are \$65 – order as many as you want to be sent to you.

We must receive your check by February 15th in order for you to receive your tickets back in the mail

Mail your check to:

Icelandic Club Of Greater Seattle – Þorablót,
P. O. Box 70102; Seattle, WA 98127

If there are any tickets left, the cost at the door will be \$75



DOORS OPEN AT 5 O'CLOCK WITH A WELCOME DRINK

6:00 PM - PORRABLOT 2012 FORMALLY OPENS

6:30 PM - DINNER IS SERVED

7:00 PM - ENTERTAINMENT

JOIN US FOR FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, RAFFLE, SING-ALONG, DANCING