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ÞORRABLÓT

MY PIECE OF ICELAND

BAIRD BARDARSON

ICLANDAIR

NEW  
GEYSIR



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May 2009

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## ICELANDIC PHRASES AND SAYINGS

Góðan daginn	Good morning
Gott kvöldið	Good evening
Komdu sæll	How are you?
Hvað segir þú	What do you say?
Allt þetta fína	I'm fine
Blessaður/blessuð	Hi
Takk fyrir	Thanks
Takk fyrir mig	Thanks for the meal
Bara tíu dropa	Just a little
Elskan mín	My love
Slappaðu af	Relax
Til hamingju með afmælið	Happy birthday
Hvað gengur á?	What's happening?
Að spyrja spjörunum úr	To question thoroughly
Að slá við	To outdo
Að slá í gegn, að gera sig	To make it

## PRINCESS AMANDA A SOFTBALL STANDOUT

**Emily Kristjanson**—Amanda Kristjanson, this year's Icelandic Club Princess, received recognition for her performance on the Mountlake Terrace softball team, in an April 14 article in the Everett Herald. This is her third year as first base varsity starter, and the article was very complimentary. Her coach says she is known as the “vacuum cleaner,” that “every ball that a teammate throws to her, she vacuums it into her glove. It's got to be a pretty horrible throw for her to miss it.”

Amanda was first a pitcher, but tendinitis in the right shoulder at age 14 made it necessary to change her position on the team, so she moved to first base, where she has excelled. She says she prefers softball to soccer and basketball, other sports she has played, “because it's very competitive and everyone gets to be a part of it.”



After graduation Amanda will study business at Washington State University.

## MY PIECE OF ICELAND

**Anna and Carrie Heiser**—I was born and raised in Kent, Washington, and really the only time my Icelandic heritage ever was mentioned would usually be on the first day of school. My teachers would struggle to pronounce my last name Einarson and then ask “What kind of name is that?” Being a very shy and self-conscious girl, I have to admit I often wondered if life would be different with a last name like Smith.

When I was in my early thirties, my father mentioned to me there was going to be a family estate sale back in his hometown of Milton, North Dakota. Out of curiosity, I offered to go with him. Visiting North Dakota was a life changing event for me; I met family members and family friends with names like Ranka, Inga, Thord, and Siggy. People compared vinarterta recipes and asked if anyone would be making kleiners. I was in a new world and I liked it.

When the estate sale started I had heard about an Icelandic trunk being part of the auction. I started asking about it because I have always been interested in antiques. I learned that it was a family trunk and that an ancestor of mine had brought it over from Iceland. I didn't know anything else about it, but I decided I needed to keep it in the family. Looking around at the auction and the huge turnout of people and antique dealers, I was worried how high the bidding would go. When the trunk finally came up for auction surprisingly there wasn't a lot of interest and I was the winner with a bid of two hundred dollars. Later, as I walked through the crowd, I heard several comments



along the lines of “Can you believe someone spent two hundred dollars on that old trunk?”

When I got back to Washington I really started studying my Icelandic heritage and the story of my new treasure. The trunk, I found, belonged to my great-great grandmother Ingveldur Benediksdottir. She was born in 1816 in Iceland. She emigrated to New Iceland in 1876 at the age of 60. What it must have been like to be sixty years old, a widow and leaving everything you have known to follow your only child and her family to a new life first in Canada and then on to North Dakota.

The trunk is inscribed with her initials IBD on the front plate on the trunk. On the side is carved the initials OE. I believe that is for my great grandfather Olafur Einarson as they used the trunk to take their belongings to their new life.



My father has childhood memories of his mother and various relatives sitting together looking at the contents of the trunk and carefully putting things back in place.

My Icelandic trunk sits in the living room of our home. It is weathered, it is crumbling, it looks tired. Once intricately decorated, much of the paint has worn away with age and years of neglect. However, with just one glance, I can imagine my great-great grandmother Ingveldur, her daughter Gudrun, and my grandmother Ethel sitting in front of the trunk looking through the contents, years and years ago, as my daughter and I do now.

If anyone has any Icelandic heirlooms, we would be very interested in hearing about them.

**“Can you believe someone spent two hundred dollars on that old trunk?”**

## UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

	January	
	February	
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June 20	<b>Icelandic Independence Day, Scholarships, Princesses</b>
	July 11-12	<b>Tivoli</b>
	August 16	<b>Summer Picnic at Lynndale Park</b>
	September 20	<b>Golf Tournament / Scholarship Fundraiser</b>
	October 9	<b>Leifur Eiríkson Day</b>
	October 10-11	<b>Festival in Puyallup</b>
	December 19	<b>Jólaball at St. John United</b>

## EUROVISION 2009



Jóhanna Guðrún Jónsdóttir took second place in this year's Eurovision 2009 contest. Visit the Eurovision 2009 website at [www.eurovision.tv](http://www.eurovision.tv) to learn more about this talented Icelandic singer and to watch the video.

## VIKING DAYS JULY 11-12, 2009 NORDIC HERITAGE MUSEUM

**Margret Solvadottir**—Tivoli has been renamed Viking Days. The Icelandic Club will be participating again this year so we need workers and Icelandic food items to sell. Do you make kleinur, pönnukökur, vínarterta, or rúgbrauð (brown bread)? Would you be willing to donate to the booth for this event? We appreciate whatever you can do to help us. Please call Kathi Olason at 206-363-3351 to let her know how you can help. If she is not home, please leave a message. Thank you in advance.

## SEATTLE ÞORRABLÓT — HUGE SUCCESS

**Margret Solvadottir and Audrey Steinberg**—At 5 PM on March 7, 2009, the doors at the Nordic Heritage Museum opened for the 2009 Þorrablót. Guests were greeted with Icelandic music from CDs. Chef Guðmundur Helgi Helgason from Akureyri had the table laden with Þorra food from Iceland—blóðmör, hákarl, hangikjöt, and roast lamb, potatoes in white sauce, harðfiskur, skyr and pönnukökur. The program opened with a singalong, with beautiful songbooks with Icelandic horses on the cover, handmade and donated by Willard Larson. Margrét Sölvadóttir led the singing and the Ása dance - a sort of musical chairs on the dance floor. Baird Bardarson announced the presence of three people in the audience who were founders of the Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle—Sig Johnson, Inga Langholt, and Finna Drewry.



After dinner the raffle drawing took place. There were 15 prizes donated by members plus tickets from Icelandair and a year's subscription to Lögberg-Heimskringla. Prizes donated by members included two 16 pound boxes of Alaskan Cod fillet, a one year membership to the Olympic gym, the recipe book *Harðfiskur and Skyr*, and many others. The winners of the L-H basket were Thorunn Sellars and Erika Johnson. Jon Marvin, the Icelandic consul, won an Olympic gym membership and a copy of *Harðfiskur and Skyr*. Margrét Sölvadóttir and Susan Edda Bettis won the 16 pound boxes of Alaskan Cod. Sig Johnson won the grand prize, a trip to Iceland for two, from Icelandair.

Dance music was provided by the local band Jigsaw. Their performance was well received—the young generation asked for “meira meira” (more more) and danced until 11:45 PM, the end of Þorrablót. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle wants to thank Icelandair, Lögberg-Heimskringla, and all the members who contributed prizes to make this an outstanding Þorrablót.

## NORDIC STORIES: ICELAND

*How the Ladies Stopped the Wind* by Bruce McMillan

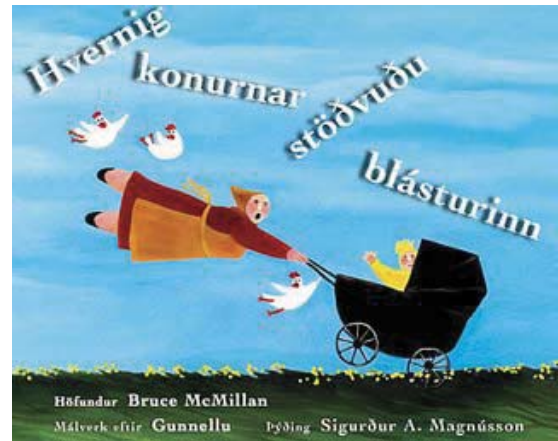
Tuesday, September 1, 2009 from 10:00am to 11:00am at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard.

Join us on the first Tuesday of the month for Nordic Stories, a program geared toward stay-at-home parents and their preschool aged children.

Nordic Stories will take place from 10-11am and will feature kids' stories from all five Nordic countries and the Sami. Each session will include a fun craft project for kids to make and take home. Participants will get a booklet to stamp at each program.

This is a free program, no reservations are necessary.

*Please note: This program is not intended for large groups.*



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## KANNTU BRAUÐ AÐ BAKA?

Rúgbrauð (Rye bread) baked in empty milk cartons.

4 cups dark rye flour  
 2 cups whole wheat flour  
 2 Lb (32oz) plain yogurt  
 1 cup light Karo syrup  
 ½ cup brown sugar  
 2 tsp salt  
 3 tsp baking soda

Put all ingredients in a big bowl and stir with a big spoon. Bake in 4 one quart empty milk or juice cartons. Put the dough in the carton filling it up to the half, fold the top and close it by tying cotton string around the carton, or stapling it shut. Put all 4 cartons standing up on the lowest grate in the oven and put an empty pan underneath. Bake for 5 hours at 265 F. Add hot water to the pan and bake for 1 more hour. Let the bread cool in the oven after you have turned it off.

For help call Carrie Heiser: (425) 788-4277

## ICELANDIC SAYING

Megi spjót þitt í mark fara, örvar þínar beint fljúga, og sverð þitt góðu biti halda.

May your spear hit your target, your arrows fly straight, and your sword stay sharp.



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## SEATTLE-REYKJAVIK SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION WINS

**Margaret Hlastala**—Every year the Seattle Sister City Association holds a reception to celebrate the accomplishments of Seattle’s 21 sister cities from around the world. This year the April 23rd reception held at Seattle’s City Hall highlighted Nantes, France; Gydnia, Poland; Surabaya, Indonesia; and Sihanoukville, Cambodia. It was an evening of cultural exchange, sampling of international foods and enjoying performances representing each country. This special event was attended by Seattle’s Mayor, City Council members, dignitaries and members representing each of Seattle’s 21 Sister City Associations.

One of the anticipated events of the Seattle Sister City reception is the presentation of the “Best Single Project” of the year award. In May of 2008 the Seattle-Reykjavik Sister City Association (SRSCA) held a trade mission to Reykjavik in conjunction with the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle, which holds international study missions around the world. Trade mission members came to Reykjavik to educate themselves on Iceland’s businesses, traditions, its history and to continue our relationship as a sister city. SRSCA was pleased to facilitate this meeting and to help emphasize our two cities connections.

The Seattle-Reykjavik Sister City Association was thrilled to receive the honor of “Best Single Project, which included a check for \$500 and a commemorative plaque. To quote the



*Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and SRSCA President Adda Sigurdurdotir*

presenters words...“The “Best Single Project” award this year goes to the Seattle Reykjavik Sister City Association for planning and carrying out one of the most successful Sister City missions in the Association’s 23 year history. The Association achieved an enviable balance of activities from tours of companies with current or potential ties to Seattle to meetings with top government leaders such as the president of Iceland and mayor of Reykjavik to a delightful dip in the Blue Lagoon. From start to finish, this was a memorable mission in every possible way.”

The plaque was presented to the Seattle-Reykjavik Sister City Association by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. SRSCA felt highly honored and appreciative of this award and knows that our activities with Reykjavik will continue to grow through the coming years.



*Mike Hlastala, Margaret Hlastala, Karen Block and Hrefna Milner*

## 8TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Stan Kristjanson**—The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle’s 8th annual golf tournament will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009. This annual tournament which benefits the Scholarship Fund will begin at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Park Golf Course located at 1000 NE 135th in Seattle.

Stan Kristjanson is chairing the Tournament this year. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us for this event.

Forms will be sent in a separate mailing.

We are looking for hole sponsors again this year. This is one of the ways we earn money for our scholarship fund, so please sponsor a hole if you’re able, or help us find a sponsor!

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call Stan: [kgkiceman@msn.com](mailto:kgkiceman@msn.com) or (206) 949-4920.

## EDMONDS STORAGE CENTER DESTROYED BY FIRE

**Henry Bjornsson**—For a number of years the Club has stored items used for Thorrablot and other events in a public storage facility in Edmonds. Because that locker was so far from Ballard, where most of our activities are staged, the Edmonds location had been found unsatisfactory, and a decision was made to find a better place. A new locker was rented in Ballard and preparations were made to move the stored items.

Following the weekly Icelandic coffee get-together at the Nordic Heritage Museum on Tuesday, April 21, Club members drove to Edmonds, loaded the contents into several cars, and relocated

them to the new locker on Market Street. The timing of the move was fortuitous--on the evening of the following day the Edmonds storage center was destroyed in a fire that required crews from several south Snohomish County fire departments.

When last seen our stored gear was resting comfortably, and safely, in Ballard.



**Sibbie Kristjanson** 206-719-1380  
**Emily Kristjanson** 206-713-0716  
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## BAIRD BARDARSON—A GOOD LIFE, GOOD TIMING

**Henry Bjornsson**—Baird Bardarson, M.D., is a senior and very active member of the Icelandic Club.

Baird's father's parents were Icelandic immigrants and his mother's parents came from Sweden. His Icelandic grandparents, Sigurdur Bardason and Gudrun Davidsdottir met and married in Winnipeg after immigrating into Canada about 1886.

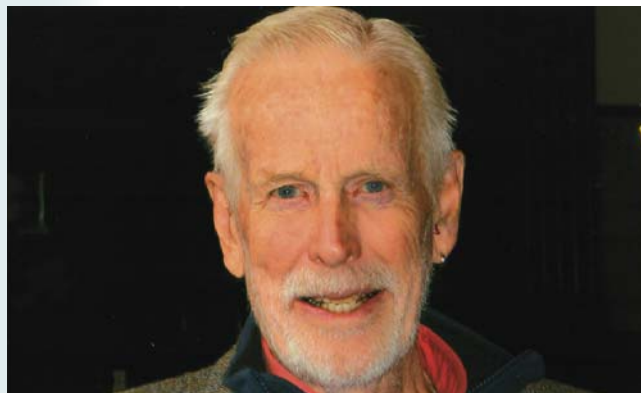
Afi Sigurdur had previously been married, and had five children, but a measles epidemic killed his wife and two sons. Baird describes Sigurdur as a "learned man," self-educated and with broad interests. He was a voracious reader who learned by mastering Njal's Saga. His favorite Icelandic hero was Egill. He was a carpenter and farmer, but he also was a self-taught Homeopathic Physician who delivered many babies. He learned clock repair and bound books with the skin of sheep. He had a large library and a copy of the second Icelandic Bible printed in 1644.

In Winnipeg Sigurdur worked as a builder, but continued his medical practice, particularly delivering babies. Baird's father Otto was born in 1898, one of three children born to Sigurdur and Gudrun. In 1904 the family moved to Blaine, Washington, where Sigurdur continued to deliver babies until his 79th year.

Blaine is where Otto grew up, eventually entering the University of Washington, where he completed his master's degree in teaching. He then married Baird's mother, and Baird was born in Seattle in 1926.

Otto and his wife and young family moved to Carmel, California, where he became a school principal. Baird grew up in Carmel. The family made trips almost every summer to visit Sigurdur and Gudrun in Blaine, and Baird has many memories of the Icelandic picnics held at Silver Lake.

While Baird was still in high school, sixteen years old, Otto died. Baird entered the University of California at Berkeley, completed his first year, and returned to Seattle, where he worked in a shipyard, then was drafted into the Army, this being in the closing days of World War II. He was selected for Officers Candidate



School and was commissioned a second lieutenant at the age of eighteen, served two years in the Army, and returned to Seattle, where he entered the University of Washington and completed his Bachelor's degree under the GI Bill and applied for admission to the newly established Medical School.

It was during this time that he met and fell in love with Peggy, and they were married. He was accepted into Medical School. Peggy became pregnant and delivered twin girls one year after their wedding. They ended up having three other girls, a total of five daughters, all of whom have Swedish names: The twins Siri and Karin, and Berit, Lisa, and Linnea.

After graduation from Medical School and his internship Baird started a general practice of medicine in Renton and practiced for thirty-five years. He is now happily retired. He and Peggy divide their time between their home in Seattle and their place on Whidbey Island.

He gives every indication of being a person satisfied with his life, with a successful medical career, an excellent marriage and a family he is proud of, a solid place in his community. Like his afi Sigurdur, he has many interests. He feels he has been a very fortunate man, and that his life has been characterized by perfect timing, only some of which has been of his own creation; he feels he is a very lucky man.

Baird has been a member of the Icelandic Club for many years, and was president in 2002. He has served several terms on the Board of Trustees.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ICELANDIC CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

**Henry Bjornsson**—Each year the Club awards scholarships to a number of deserving students. Our scholarships provide financial assistance to young people preparing for their future. It is gratifying to receive feedback as to how the scholarships have helped the recipients, both for the financial support and for their encouragement along the educational path.

David Kling received one of our scholarships in the spring of 2001, when he was in his first year at the University of Washington. He completed his BA at UW with a double major in Communications and Economics, then entered the Gonzaga University School of Law, graduating in 2008. He expresses great appreciation for the scholarship, which he says helped motivate him to apply for other scholarships, and to take his course work very seriously, while also striving to live a “well-balanced” life. The scholarship he received honored his Grandma Rose (actually his great grandmother) “a truly great woman who meant (and still means) so much to me.” While at the UW he was active in the Husky Marching Band and Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, also giving back to his community by serving as a camp counselor for the City of Seattle Special Needs Youth Program.

He currently is employed as an Assistant City Prosecutor in the city of Spokane, prosecuting hundreds of city misdemeanor cases. His continuing dedication to public service was recently recognized by Gonzaga University with a \$4,000 grant for his



work in the Prosecutor’s office.

His legal career is well underway, and he will be married in the summer. He has our congratulations on achieving his goals, and we are happy we have been able to help.

## ICELANDIC SCHOLARSHIP

**Margaret Hlastala**—Do you have a graduating High School senior going on to college? If so, they can apply for a \$500 scholarship from the Icelandic Club. The funds are sent to the college they will be attending.

The forms are printed on [www.icelandseattle.com](http://www.icelandseattle.com) (click on awards) or contact Margaret Hlastala (425) 742-7811 or Jane Pedersen (206) 498-0154 for additional information. Awards are given at the 17th of June celebration.

## 65 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

**Henry Bjornsson**—The Icelandic Club will celebrate Icelandic Independence Day on June 20, 2009 at the Nordic Heritage Museum.

The 65th anniversary of Iceland's independence commemorates the events of June 17, 1944, when the Althing held a special meeting at Thingvellir which declared complete independence from the Danish crown, and which elected Sveinn Bjornsson the first president. Also, at this time the design of the national flag and coat of arms were decided. These original designs have never been changed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Margret Solvadottir**—Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean, lying between Greenland, Faroe islands and Norway. Iceland is about 103,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size and it is the second largest island in Europe and the 18th in the world. About 317,000 people live in Iceland, most of who live in the capital area, Reykjavik. Iceland was first founded around the year 874 when Ingólfur Arnarson settled there. Others had come but left after being there for only a short time. In the years that followed, many people came to settle in Iceland and this period is called Landnámsöld, (the settler's century). In the year 1262, Iceland came under the

The date chosen, June 17, honors the birthday of Jon Sigurdsson, the father of Icelandic independence. He is often called the first president (Jon Forseti) although he died in 1879.

Independence was a long time coming. The Icelandic people were free of foreign rule from the settlement in 874 until 1262, when they came under the Norwegian crown, and later under the Danish. Sovereignty was established under the Danish crown in 1918, with complete independence following in 1944.

throne of Norway and later Denmark until 1918 when it obtained its sovereignty. Denmark still took care of Iceland's foreign affairs and both countries had the same king until 1944 when Iceland received total independence. The Alþing was founded in the year 930 and is the second oldest parliament in the world, and the oldest still operating. The Icelandic national anthem that was made by the poet, author and translator Matthías Jochumsson, was first performed in the year 1874 on the occasion that Iceland celebrated 1000 years of settlement.

## THE SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Did you know that the Scandinavian Language Institute has 30 years of serving the Nordic Community? They offer instruction in many Scandinavian languages. The classes are held at the Nordic Heritage Museum.

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## LÝÐVELDISDAGURINN—JUNE 20, 2009

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle will celebrate 65 years of Icelandic independence on Saturday, June 20, at:

The Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard  
3014 NW 67th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

House opens with a children's program at 3 PM with Charles the Clown, a jumping castle and balloons. Icelandic sausages and flags will be offered for sale.

The traditional program with Fjallkona, princesses and scholarships starts at 5pm, followed by dinner and live music Raffle with many good prizes! Wine, beer and sodas served at the bar. The event will end at 10.30pm.

Tickets cost \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members if reserved in advance. Tickets sold at the door are \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. Kids 12 and under and seniors 80 and older have free admission. Please reserve your tickets in advance by sending a check made out to the Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle to:

Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle (mark) CO/17.09  
P.O. Box 70102, Seattle WA 98127

For memo line of your check please enter 17.09 as well. Very important! Write the names of those you are paying for and send the list with your check.



## 80 YEARS

**The Icelandic Club Board**—The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle wishes to honor all members 80 years and older by extending complimentary admission to them at all Club events from now on.

We, the members of the board, and speaking on behalf of the entire membership, feel that the seniors of the club have given so much time and effort to promote the club and should be rewarded for it.

We hope this makes the seniors of the club happy and honored,

as we are happy and honored that you are our fellow members. You provide a link between us and our children, to those who came before you and to those who originated the Icelandic Club.

We will celebrate 65 years of Icelandic independence this year and would like to get as many of our seniors as possible to be our guests at this event.

So please be there on June 20, 2009, at the Nordic Heritage Museum, and celebrate with us.

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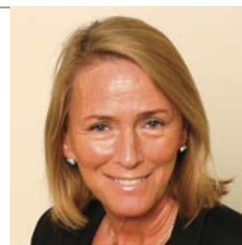
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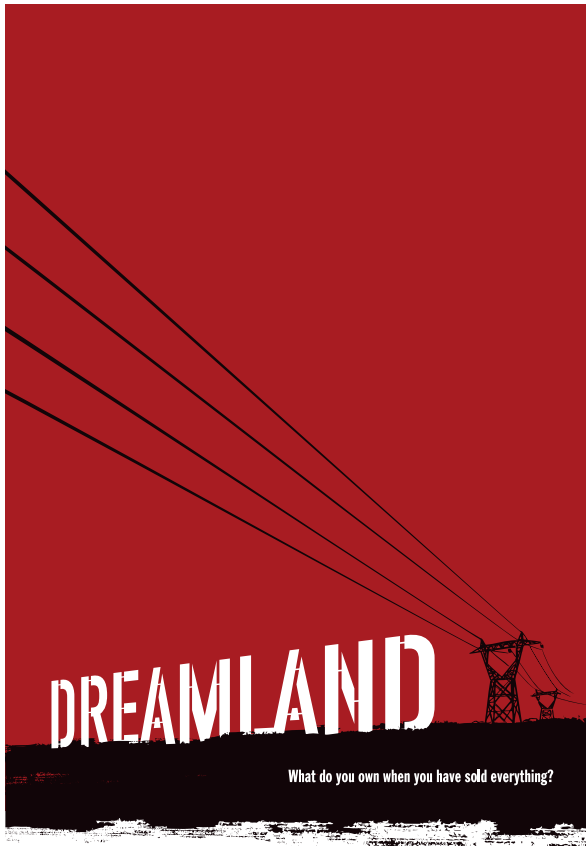
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## FOUR NEW ICELANDIC DOCUMENTARIES



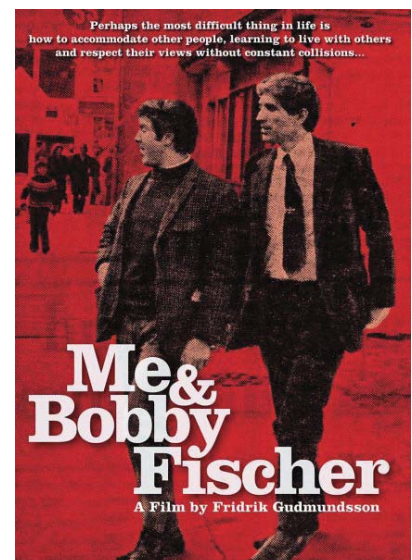
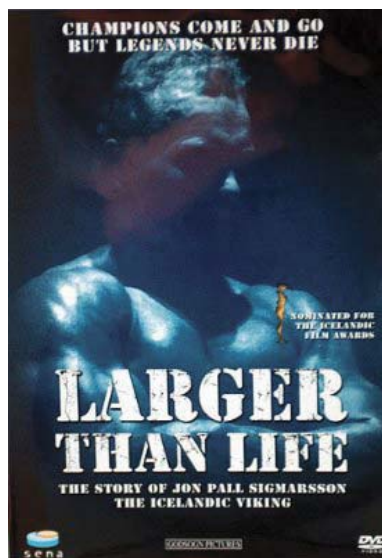
**Margret Solvadottir**—Four new documentaries have recently been released in Iceland.

The first is called “Dreamland.” Sigurður Gisli the producer pointed out this is the most ambitious documentary that has been made in Iceland. The movie describes a small nation that innocently gets involved with companies of questionable ethics and by doing so goes down a path of destruction.

“Ekkert mál” (“Larger than Life”) is a documentary about Jón Pál Sigmarsson the world’s strongest man, who tragically passed away at a young age.

The third film is “Sólskinsdrensurinn Keli” (“Sunshine Boy”) about a boy with autism.

A fourth one is called “Me and Bobby Fischer.” The film details how the author helped rescue Bobby Fischer from a Japanese prison.





## ICELANDAIR **ARRIVES IN SEATTLE!**

COLUMBIA, MD, March 25, 2009—Icelandair is excited to announce new scheduled service between Seattle, Washington, and Reykjavik, Iceland, beginning July 22, 2009.

Icelandair will offer four flights a week departing Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (sea) at 4:30 PM, arriving in Reykjavik at 6:45 AM the following morning. Flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays will connect with Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm and London, offering up to 4 hours faster connection times from Seattle to Scandinavia than possible through other European hubs. Flights to Helsinki, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Paris will also be available via Reykjavik.

Connecting flights returning via Reykjavik arrive in Seattle at 5:45 PM, just in time for dinner at home or easy connections throughout North America.

Additionally, Icelandair will work in cooperation with Alaska Airlines to provide passengers convenient connections to a host of cities across the West Coast, including San Francisco, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Anchorage and San Jose.

“Icelandair is pleased to now offer more choices to Europe’s top destinations from Seattle,” said Thorsteinn Egilsson, General Manager – The Americas. “We also look forward to partnering with Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in serving all westward travelers, including the large Scandinavian population of the Pacific Northwest.”

Icelandair’s efficient 183-seat Boeing 757-200ER aircraft uses Iceland’s unique geographic location, and optimizes a hub-and-spoke route system based in Keflavik, Iceland, to offer the most convenient routes for those traveling from the Pacific Northwest.

“The Boeing 757’s versatility continues to create value for our longstanding and esteemed customer Icelandair. We commend Icelandair for optimizing the abilities of the airplane to open new routes and look forward to seeing Icelandair’s 757s flying with its distinctive winglets above the Seattle skies soon,” said Aldo Basile,

vice president of Sales, Europe, Russia and Central Asia, Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

The publicly traded Icelandair Group, of which the fully-owned Icelandair is a key subsidiary, currently employs about 3,000 people in ten countries and is listed on the Nasdaq OMX Nordic Exchange as ICEAIR. This entry into the Seattle market will create approximately one hundred new and much-needed jobs in Iceland and the U.S., and present the opportunity for a new realm of travelers to experience Iceland and beyond.

Icelandair, the flag carrier of Iceland, was founded in 1937, and is the only airline in existence today with such a long and distinguished record on the North Atlantic transatlantic route. Today, Icelandair offers travelers updated aircraft with personal entertainment centers, and three cabins of service including the new Economy Comfort Class. Icelandair’s Frequent Flyer Club awards frequent travelers with airline tickets, hotel and car rentals and the ability to trade points on points.com for an array of goods and services.

Icelandair has been a member of IATA since 1950, a member of AEA since 1957 and the International Flight Safety Foundation since 1966. Safety, convenient schedules, short flying times, on-time performance and customer service have been the hallmarks of Icelandair operations.

In addition to Seattle, Icelandair offers service to Iceland from Boston, New York-JFK, Minneapolis/St. Paul (seasonal), Orlando Sanford (seasonal), Halifax (seasonal) and Toronto (seasonal). Connections through Icelandair’s hub in Reykjavik are available to 18 destinations in Scandinavia (including Copenhagen, Oslo, Stavanger, Stockholm), Great Britain (including London, Manchester) and Continental Europe (including Amsterdam, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris). Only Icelandair offers travelers the ability to stopover in Iceland for up to 7 nights en route to any Icelandair destination at no additional airfare. Additional information about Icelandair, fares, and packages is available at [www.icelandair.com](http://www.icelandair.com) or by calling (877) I-FLY-ICE.

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# CLOSER TO HOME

Now offering flights from Sea-Tac to Iceland starting July 23, 2009.  
With up to four weekly flights, getting home has never been easier.



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## POET'S CORNER



**Helgi Felixson and Tanya Pluth**—There are few poets in Iceland as revered as Jónas Hallgrímsson (1807-1845). Having grown up on a farm in northern Iceland, he later went to school for six years at Bessastaðir, currently the residence of the Icelandic President, and studied Latin and Greek classics. He was

known as a natural scientist, surpassing all others in his ability to describe the beauty of Icelandic nature in his poems.

It is, perhaps, best left to Þorvaldur Thoroddsen, a well-known scientist from the nineteenth century, to describe Jónas' captivating ability: "No Icelandic poet has described Icelandic nature in his

poetry as brilliantly and beautifully as Jónas Hallgrímsson. This is hardly surprising. Jónas's descriptions of nature are the product not only of great poetic gifts and sensitivity to beauty, but of research and careful scrutiny, of profoundly intelligent observation and understanding. Jónas was a naturalist by inclination and disposition, a scientist who did not remain content with surface appearances but was deeply committed to probing the secrets of the creation in order to fathom its causes and character."

The poem we chose to translate for this issue of New Geysir captures the sum of the essences of the arrival of an Icelandic summer: the warm winds, calmer seas, and the arrival of migratory birds.

### I SEND GREETINGS!

Now the south wind blows such sweet bliss  
And all the sea swells with wee waves that rise  
towards home, land of fair fields and ice,  
my native country's shores and slopes.

O! Greet all at home with supple sounds and voice,  
across hill and over bay,  
Lord's love and peace embraced  
Gentle waves! You kiss a boat in the shoal  
Blow, you winds! Warm, on fair cheeks of home

Spring carried by a gentle faithful bird,  
Whose wings travel on the highest roads  
To a summer valley where you release your poems

Reserve a greeting, for perhaps you shall come upon  
An angel adorned with red cap and tassel  
My good thrush! That is my love, my girl.

### ÉG BIÐ AÐ HEILSA

Nú andar suðrið sæla vindum þýðum,  
á sjónum allar báru smáar rísa  
og flykkjast heim að fögru landi Ísa,  
að fósturjarðar minnar strönd og hlíðum.

Ó! heilsað öllum heima rómi blíðum  
um hæð og sund í drottins ást og friði;  
kyssi þið, báru! bát á fiskimiði,  
blási þið, vindar! hlýtt á kinnum fríðum.

Vorboðinn ljúfi! fuglinn trúr sem fer  
með fjaðrabliki háa vegaleysu  
í sumardal að kveða kvæðin þín!

Heilsaðu einkum ef að fyrir ber  
engil með húfu og rauðan skúf, í peysu;  
þröstur minn góður! það er stúlkan mín.

## SYTTENDE MAI—NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE

**Henry Bjornsson**—The Icelandic Club continued the tradition of participation in Ballard's big Norwegian parade. The Icelandic flag, with its red and white cross on a blue background, looked good in the sea of Norwegian flags, which have the same design but with the red and blue reversed.

Following the flag was a big banner with the club name, a convertible with our princesses, and a group of marchers. The day was sunny and gorgeous, and the crowd was huge and very responsive.

Syttende Mai is Norway's national day. It commemorates the establishment of a constitution on May 17, 1814, which declared Norway, then under the Swedish Crown, to be independent. However, achieving actual independence took another 91 years. Although it had allowed enactment of the constitution, Sweden did not agree with the idea of complete independence, and did not give up its claim of dominion over Norway until 1905, when Norwegian independence became a fact.

## THE STORY OF DIMMALIMM / SAGAN AF DIMMALIMM (PART 1) BY GUÐMUNDUR ÞORSTEINSSON

Once upon a time there was a little princess by the name of Dimmalimm.

She was sweet and good, and well-behaved. She always played by herself in the palace garden.

In this garden there was a little pond and upon it there were four swans. Dimmalimm was very fond of them and when they saw her they would always come swimming to her. She would give them bread and other tasty morsels.

One day Dimmalimm was allowed to go outside the garden. She wanted to see if things were any different there.

*Guðmundur Thorsteinsson was an artist – a painter and a poet. He made the little fairytale about Dimmalimm in the year 1921 and sent it to his small cousin. Then he was thirty years old. Guðmundur had a nickname Muggur and he was well known painter but his career was not very long as he died in the year 1924 only 33 years old.*



Einu sinni var lítil kóngsdóttir sem hét Dimmalimm.

Hún var bæði ljúf og góð, og hún var líka þæg. Hún lék sér alltaf ein í garðinum hjá kóngshöllinni.

Í garðinum var lítil tjörn og á tjörninni voru fjórir svanir. Dimmalimm þótti svo væntum þá. Þeir komu líka alltaf syndandi þegar þeir sáu hana. Hún gaf þeim brauð og ýmislegt annað góðgæti.

Einu sinni fékk Dimmalim að fara út úr garðinum. Hana langaði að sjá hvort þar væri nokkuð öðruvísi um að litast.

**To be continued in the next newsletter...**

*Guðmundur Thorsteinsson listmálari og skáld. Hann samdi ævintýrið um Dimmalimm árið 1921 og sendi lítilli frænku sinni. Hann var þá á þrítugsaldri. Guðmundur gekk almennt undir gælunafninu Muggur og var viðurkenndur listmálari en ferill hans var stuttur því hann lést árið 1924 aðeins 33ja ára.*



# June 17 Iceland's



## 65th year of Independence 2009

*The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle will celebrate Iceland's  
Independence Day on Saturday **June 20**  
at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard  
3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street Seattle WA 98117*

*House opens with a children's program at 3 pm with Charles the Clown, a jumping castle and balloons. Icelandic sausages and flags will be offered for sale. Traditional program with Fjallkona, princesses and scholarships starts at 5pm, followed by dinner and live music by Jigsaw.*

*Raffle with many good prizes!  
Wine, beer and sodas served at the bar.  
The event will end at 10.30pm.*

*Tickets cost \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members if reserved in advance. Tickets sold at the door are \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. Kids 12 and under and seniors 80 and older have free entrance.*

*Please reserve your tickets in advance and send check to:*

*Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle (mark) CO/17.09  
P.O. Box 70102, Seattle WA 98127*

*and make it out to the Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle. For memo line of your check please enter 17.09 as well.*

***Very important !  
Write the names of those you are paying for and send the list with your check***

*For all information call Margret 206 789 0699  
[m\\_solvadottir@hotmail.com](mailto:m_solvadottir@hotmail.com) or Emily 206 713 0716*

**The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle**  
**2009 Scholarship Application**  
**Icelandic Club Membership Required**  
**Open to High School Seniors with Icelandic Heritage**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone, cellphone,  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or grandparent  
 who is a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Icelandic Heritage: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors: \_\_\_\_\_

Community College or  
 University Intended: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Scholarship will be sent directly to  
 the College or University)*

Educational Goals: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Briefly describe and if more space  
 is needed use a second page)*

Work Experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Briefly describe and if more space  
 is needed use a second page)*

Extracurricular Activities and  
 Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Any extra information the  
 applicant may choose to include -  
 i.e., letters of reference, etc.)*

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print and mail the application to:	The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle c/o Margaret Hlastala PO Box 70102 Seattle, WA 98127
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## Icelandic Princess Application Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Icelandic Connection (Parents/Grandparents names): \_\_\_\_\_

Members of the Icelandic Club? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

School attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to attend the required events? Yes \_\_\_

Are your parents willing to support your attendance at the functions? Yes \_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or legal guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions?

Please call Thorunn Sellars at (425) 771-0616 or  
 email her at <thorunn.sellars@icelandseattle.com>

Please send your completed application to:

Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle  
 c/o Thorunn Sellars  
 P.O. Box 70102  
 Seattle, WA 98127

[www.icelandseattle.com](http://www.icelandseattle.com)



## The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle 2009 Membership Application (valid through 12/31/09)

Please join us this year as the *Club* continues to grow & expands our events with member participation! You will make a difference by getting involved! Please join by completing the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Children (ages): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual membership (I09): **\$30.00**
  - Individual Senior (65 or older) membership (S09): **\$15.00**
  - Senior Couple (both 65 & older) (SC09): **\$25.00**
  - Family membership (F09): **\$40.00** (all family members must reside at the same address)
  - Student membership (St09): **\$15.00**
- Scholarship Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Club Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and a check payable to the Icelandic Club to:**

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle  
C/O Membership  
PO Box 70102  
Seattle, WA 98127

**Please circle any areas below that you might be interested in participating with:**

**Events:** \*Þorrlát \*May 17<sup>th</sup> Parade \*17<sup>th</sup> of June \*Summer Picnic \*Jólaball

\*Sumardagurinn Fyrsti \*Golf Tournament \*Tivoli

**Other:** \*Photographer for events \*Provide food for events \*Help with Newsletter

**Comments/Suggestions:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For questions, please call Becky Johnson @ 206-406-7605 or email: [beckyj.index@hotmail.com](mailto:beckyj.index@hotmail.com)



Would you be willing to sponsor a hole at the Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle Golf Tournament on September 20, 2009? The cost is \$100 per hole. We have sign posts that are 18"x12" and you can provide us with the information or you can provide your own sign about the same size, especially if you want a logo on it. If you want a personal sign such as a family sponsored hole, that would be great. All funds benefit the **Icelandic Club Scholarship Fund**.

Examples: Stan and Greg Kristjanson

Icelandic Construction Co., Inc.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send information and money by September 5th, 2009 to:

Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle  
Attn: Stan Kristjanson  
20712 – 33<sup>rd</sup> S W  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

To insure the signs will be ready for the tournament. Any questions, please contact:

Stan (206) 949-4920 or e-mail: [kgkiceman@msn.com](mailto:kgkiceman@msn.com)

Thank you!



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Seattle, WA 98127

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Henry Bjornsson  
Emily Kristjanson  
Carrie Heiser  
Tad Davis

Email submissions to the newsletter team:  
[newgeysir@icelandseattle.com](mailto:newgeysir@icelandseattle.com)