Icelandic National Day celebrations take place annually in Reykjavik on June 17 and this year, 2019, it's the 75th Anniversary of Iceland National Day. Þjóðhátiðardagurinn will be celebrated by Icelanders everywhere.
Jón Sigurðsson was the pioneer of the independence movement in the nineteenth century. The Republic of Iceland was established in 1944, on his birthday.

It is a perfect time to express our appreciation and pride for Icelanders who then and now champion freedom for a heroic populace who have been through some very tough times. Thank you!

Iceland had gained sovereign status in 1918, although still under rule of the Danish King until the monarchy was abolised by referendum in 1944.

Jón Sigurðsson was born in 1811 at Hrafnseyri, Arnarfjörður. It’s a beautiful stop on the way through the Westfjords. The story of place is fascinating as is the story of the man.

‘Hrafnseyri is a farm and a former parsonage on the northern shores of Arnarfjördur. The present church was consecrated in 1886. It is wooden and covered with corrugated iron. It has been blown off its foundations twice without great damages and put back where it belonged. Hrafnseyri was named after one of the greatest men of the Saga Period (12th century), Hrafn Sveinbjarnarson. He was probably the first educated doctor of medicine of the country. There are several ruins still visible in the home meadows, a church, and a cemetery’, according to Icelandic Roots.

Jón Sigurðsson was known as a hero, great man, and campaigner for freedom when he died in 1879 in Copenhagen. He is buried in Reykjavik. In 1911 in honour of the centenary of his birth a statue of him was made that stands facing Parliament House in Reykjavík. A copy is at the Manitoba Legislative Building in Winnipeg erected by the Icelandic community of Manitoba.

‘Sómi Íslands, sverð þess og skjöldur.’ Iceland's pride, sword and shield is worthy of remembrance.

Arden Jackson
Vinarterta.ca
President’s Message

Greetings!

The 100th annual Icelandic National League of North America Convention was held from May 16 to 19 in Winnipeg, MB, and was a great success thanks to the Icelandic Canadian Frón Chapter in Winnipeg who produced the convention this year. Many thanks to club president, Judy Bradley, the convention committee and the Frón Chapter for the months of hard work that led up to the Convention.

The attendance by His Excellency President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson and First Lady Eliza Reid, in addition to many other dignitaries from Iceland, Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, added to the celebration. In addition to the convention itself other events such as the raising of the flag of Iceland at Winnipeg City Hall and the dedication of a plague celebrating our centennial at First Lutheran Church made the convention memorable for all.

I hope that over the summer months you will have an opportunity to celebrate your Icelandic heritage at a June 17th Independence Day celebration, at Islendingadagurinn in Gimli, MB or at August the Deuce in Mountain, ND. If you are planning on being in Gimli for the celebrations and would like to walk with the float, please let me know and I will pass your information onto the organizers.

Wherever you travel, I know you will carry your Icelandic heritage with you!
Safe travels!
Bev Arason-Gaudet
INLNA President
barasong@shaw.ca
INL Iceland News
The INLNA welcomes Hulda Karen Daníelsdóttir as the newly elected chairperson of the Icelandic National League in Iceland, or Þjóðræknisfélagsins.

Hulda Karen previously lived in Winnipeg for some years where she taught Icelandic at the University of Manitoba and was involved in many other things in the Icelandic community.

Welcome Hulda Karen! We look forward to working with you.
Icelandic Soprano and Pianist/Composer visit Toronto

On June 4th, 2019 The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, along with The Embassy of Iceland and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church hosted two wonderful musicians from Iceland in an intimate concert of favourite Icelandic songs and popular opera arias. This “Musical Treat from Iceland” featured renowned Icelandic mezzo-soprano Hanna Dóra Sturludóttir accompanied by noted pianist and composer Snorri Sigfús Birgissson. This Toronto concert was one of three on the Canadian tour for these two musicians organized by Icelandic Ambassador to Canada, Pétur Ásgeirsson, who was in attendance on the night and also hosted a wine and cheese reception to toast the musicians after the concert. About 85 people attended the concert and enjoyed a wonderful program of Icelandic songs including folk songs, Finnish and Norwegian songs and popular arias.

Hanna Dóra Sturludóttir has been one of Iceland’s leading singers for many years. Her career, both in opera and concert have taken her around the world. For several years she lived and worked in Berlin but now resides in Iceland where she teaches at Sigurður Demetz School of Singing and at the Iceland Academy of the Arts. She has also performed several roles at the Icelandic Opera in recent years, for example the title role in “Carmen”, Princess Eboli in “Don Carlo”, Donna Elvira in “Don Giovanni” and most recently in “Brothers” by Daniel Bjarnason. In 2014 Hanna Dóra received the Icelandic Music Award as “Classical Singer of the Year” for her interpretation of “Eboli”.

Snorri Sigfús Birgissson is a composer and pianist. He commenced his musical studies with Gunnar Sigurgeirsson and then went on to study at the Reykjavik College of Music where his teachers were Hermína Kristjánsson, Jón Nordal, Árni Kristjánsson (piano), and Thorkell Sigurbjörnsson (composition). He studied piano with Barry Snyder at the Eastman School of Music, U.S.A. (1974-1975) and composition with Finn Mortensen in Norway where he also studied electronic music with Lasse Thoresen and sonology with Thoresen and Olav Anton Thommessen (1975-76). Snorri moved to Amsterdam in 1976 where he studied composition for two
years with Ton de Leeuw. Since 1980 he has been living in Reykjavík, where he is active as a musician and music teacher. He has composed solo works, chamber works, symphonic pieces and choir music. He is a member of the CAPUT ensemble.

There were also concerts in Ottawa and Carleton Place.
Peter Norman, ICCT

Icelandic Summer Camp, July 27 to August 2, 2019

Icelandic Camp is running from July 27th to August 2nd, 2019 and more information can be found on their website icelandiccccamp.com.
From the website: “For over 30 years Icelandic Camp has been bringing youth of Icelandic descent together to celebrate their shared heritage. Over eight days the campers are immersed in all things Icelandic. From language lessons to viking crafts to writing their own saga the campers develop a love of their Icelandic ancestry. Located just two miles north of Gimli, Manitoba,Canada along the banks of the beautiful Lake Winnipeg, Icelandic Camp provides a safe place for campers to make new friends, visit with old ones and create memories that will last a lifetime”
INLNA Donald K. Johnson Film Screening Series

Donald K. Johnson, O.C., O.F. has continued to generously support this program during the 2018/2019 season of INLNA by paying screening costs for the documentary, A Force in Nature. This enabled us to screen the film in 10 clubs across North America. The film was produced by Hayden Yates and followed the career in the USA and Iceland of artist/sculptor Johann Eyfells, an incredibly prolific sculptor still working at the age of 94.

During the 2019/2020 season, this program will be presenting WOMAN AT WAR ... a whimsically satirical movie by Benedikt Erlingsson, which debuted at the Cannes Film Festival and played at TIFF. It introduces us to Halla, a cheerful choir director whose day to day existence is a front for her double life as a one-woman eco-army. She’s capable of taking down power lines and cutting off the juice to a controversial, environmentally-damaging aluminum plant. Woman at War is a crowd-pleasing film experience. In style, Erlingsson evokes the playfulness of Finnish director Aki Kaurismaki, and it seems impossible to film anything in Iceland without being hypnotized by the landscape. Unsurprisingly, its crowd-pleasing qualities have not gone unnoticed by Hollywood, which has a Woman at War remake in the works, with Jodie Foster reportedly attached to direct and star.

Woman at War is available at no cost to the first ten INLNA clubs who request it, due once again to the generosity of sponsor Donald K. Johnson. Interested clubs need to email Rob and Gail to book their club's screening asap, preferably including the date when they want to screen it. Note that the film is only available on blu-ray, not DVD; make sure your screening facility can handle blu-ray.
So far Toronto, Vancouver, Nanaimo and Markerville are booked. Looking forward to hearing from other clubs in Canada and USA. email Gail and Rob at gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com and Robolason@aol.com

Gail Einarson-McCleery, O.F.
Director,
Donald K. Johnson INL NA Film Screening Program

**Icelandic National League of the United States**

The Annual General Meeting at our 100th Convention in Winnipeg this past May included discussion surrounding the formation of the Icelandic National League of the United States, INLUS. The formation of INLUS was the consequence of a motion approved by the INLNA board to pursue non-profit status in the United States.

The INLNA Board is working diligently and collaboratively with INLUS; the Board will continue to work throughout the summer and will provide information to our members as it is available.

Bev Arason-Gaudet
President, INLNA

**Newsletter End Note:**

I am excited and nervous at becoming your new editor. I am a writer but I’m technically challenged and this has been a huge learning curve for me. I want to thank our president, Bev Arason-Gaudet for help above and beyond the call. I was privileged to attend the 100th Anniversary INL NA Convention, organized by the Frón Chapter in May in Winnipeg, my home town, thrilled to share the festivities with the President of Iceland and his lovely Canadian wife, Eliza Reid, and so proud to see the Icelandic flag raised at City Hall. I mean, WOW! Þakka þér fyrir.

Bettyjane Wylie
Editor, INLNA newsletter
bettyjanewylie@gmail.com
Stay Connected with the INLNA

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  Twitter: @inlna1

Interested in volunteering on one of our committees?
We are currently looking for volunteers to work with our Committee Chairs and serve on one of many exciting committees: Snorri West, Culture & Youth, Communications, Membership, Facebook and more. If interested, please email us at inl@mymts.net and let us know what committee you are interested in. Takk!

INLNA Board Members, 2019/2020

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