

Newsletter

January 2008



Hangikjöt, Songs, and Prizes, p 1
Mark Your Calendar, p. 2
About Þorri, p. 2
From the President, p. 3
Culture Corner, p. 3
People and Places, p. 3
Honorees, p. 4
Scholarship to Study in Iceland, p. 4
Memberships, p. 4
Report: Christmas-Around-the-World Festival, p. 5
Iceland Days: Coming Soon, p. 5
From the Bookstore, p. 6
Remembering Tom Reilly, p. 6

Hangikjöt, Songs, and Prizes

by DeVon Koyle

It's that time of year again! Time for the three Fs: food, friends, and fun.

The Icelandic Association of Utah is ready for its annual Thorrablót feast of traditional Viking foods. We'll sample some imported Icelandic food : hangikjöt (smoked lamb), hákarl (unforgettable shark), hrutspungur (pickled lamb parts), harðfiskur (dried fish), lifrapylsa (liver pudding), and flatbrauð (rye bread).

Sorry. Too expensive to provide an entire meal for you. No brennevín, either. (Anyone for a Sprite substitute, for when you sample the hákarl!?)

Then comes the buffet: especially prepared cod and haddock, lamb, glazed potatoes, pickled red cabbage, rolls, and Norwegian cake. (It's OK. The Norwegians settled Iceland.)

After the meal, we'll greet this year's honorees, award door prizes from Iceland, hear the Barnakór (Children's Choir), listen to soloist Jamie Emmons, bid on a lovely quilt for the Education Fund, and sing some Icelandic songs. In Icelandic! (One of the songs is to the tune "Are You Sleeping?") Kris Priddis will help us learn and sing the Icelandic words.) More door prizes, then scoot for home.



Thorrablót 2008 will be held at the National Guard Armory, at 2700 North Main Street in Spanish Fork. We selected this site because the 200 guests at Thorrablót 2007 felt a bit crowded. We needed more room to mingle, serve, eat, and visit displays. The Armory provides ample room.



Typical comments from last year: “I enjoyed the food!” “Great evening!” “Thanks for the samples. But I wanted more hangikjöt [smoked lamb]!” “Cool door prizes! We now have a children’s story in Icelandic!” “I’m not Icelandic, but Thorrablót is my favorite!”

Our goals for this year’s event are for you to have a pleasant, memorable evening, and to leave Thorrablót 2008 a bit more Icelandic than when you arrived.

Will you join us on February 23, 2008? Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., so that you can visit the displays and mingle with old and new friends. We will officially welcome you at 6:30 p.m. After the National Guard posts the colors for us, we will begin sampling traditional Thorramatur “scary food,” and then move on to our buffet.

Tickets for Thorrablót 2008 are available now:

- \$12.50 per adult if purchased by February 16, 2008; \$15.00 otherwise
- \$5.00 per child age 12 or younger if you prepay by February 16; \$7.50 otherwise.

To get tickets, do one of the following:

- Request tickets from a board member. (Board members are listed on the Association’s web site, www.utahicelanders.com).
- Send payment to Box 874 Spanish Fork, UT 84660.

Come hungry. Bring a friend.

Mark Your Calendar

T i m e l	Febrúar 23, 2008	Thorrablót 2008, in Spanish Fork, Utah, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
	Maí 24-25, 2008	Scandinavian Heritage Festival, in Ephraim, Utah
	Júní 20, 2008	Iceland Days Workshops, in Spanish Fork
	Júní 21, 2008	Iceland Days Family Festival, in Spanish Fork
	Júní 22, 2008	Icelandic Heritage Fireside, in Spanish Fork
	Júlí 24, 2008	Fiesta Days Parade, in Spanish Fork, Utah
	Október 11, 2008	Celebrating Leif Erikson, in Spanish Fork, Utah

About Þorri

By David Ashby

Do you wonder where “Thorrablót” comes from? Here’s some interesting information, from the Embassy of Iceland - Washington D.C., USA web site (www.iceland.org/us/the-embassy/curiosities/nr/758).

“According to the old calendar, Thorri is the fourth winter month, beginning on Friday in the 13th week of winter (January 19-25). The name first occurs in the Stadarholl version of the law code *Gragas* (13th century), but it is also found in *Snorri’s Edda (The Prose Edda)*, where the

names of the months are listed. Many of the old months had more than one name, but Thorri seems to have had no alias.

“It was apparently an age-old custom to have a celebration in the home on the first day of Thorri in order to greet it with proper respect. Jon Arnason’s *Icelandic Folk and Fairy Tales* (mid-19th century) describe it as “the duty of the farmer to welcome Thorri” or “usher it in” by rising earlier than anyone else on the farm, the first morning. He was to get up and go out clad only in a shirt, barefoot and partly barelegged, for he was to wear only one leg of his underpants, while the other was to be dragged behind. Thus attired, he was to ... hop on one foot all around the

farmhouse, still dragging his underpants on the other, and bid Thorri welcome to his home. Then he was to make a banquet for other farmers in the district ... In some places in northern Iceland, the first day of Thorri is still called "husband's day". On that date, the lady of the house is supposed to treat her husband exceptionally well; such festivities are still called *Thorrablot* (that is, sacrifice to Thorri).

From the President

by Jack Tobiasson

Did you capture a memory at Thorrablót 2007?



Some of my take-aways from last year: making new acquaintances; observing 8 reunioners who had spent 2 years together in Iceland; Kristin singing an impromptu song that she learned in Iceland; honorees with their families; precious young ones singing in Icelandic.

And a guest who had a collection of Icelandic coins; the displays; an evening with my family; the audience risking Icelandic pronunciation while singing "Afi Minn og Amma Min"....

Culture Corner

Icelandic Folk and Fairy Tales (Iceland Review, 2006 an imprint of Edda Publishing Ltd., Reykjavik, Iceland) is a collection of fun-to-read stories. Here's a retelling of "Genesis of the Elves."

One day, God visited Adam and Eve. During the pleasant visit, the threesome toured the house. Adam and Eve introduced their children, to God, who thought that the children were "very promising." God asked Eve whether she and Adam had any children whom he hadn't met. Eve answered no.

However, God hadn't met them all. Eve hadn't finished washing all of the children, and she was

People and Places

Just a note to let you know that Dr. Fred E. Woods (Richard L. Evans Chair of Religious Understanding at Brigham Young University) will be in Iceland during the first week of March.

"This movable feast is held all through February or until the month Thorri finishes and Goa begins. Each community, company or family selects a day during that month and organizes its individual celebrations. Traditional Icelandic delicacies feature prominently in the menu."

The Association's Thorrablót is on February 23 this year.

Thank you for making last year successful.

And special thanks to Sella, President of the Icelandic-American Association of Hampton Roads, Virginia for this year. Remarkable, helpful Sella rescued us, making it possible for us to have imported, traditional Icelandic food for Thorrablót 2008. Tune in to Sella and Hampton Roads by visiting their web site at www.icelandicassociationvirginia.org/.

Will you join us at Thorrablót t 2008?

The Icelandic Association of Utah. Where you belong.

Warning: I plan to bring my squeezebox and insert Icelandic folk songs into your mingling and mixing between 6:00 and 6:30.

ashamed to introduce these children to God. Therefore, she hid the unwashed ones.

God, knowing very well that he hadn't seen all the children, said, "Whatever must be hidden from me shall also be hidden from people." As a result, the unwashed children became invisible. Human eyes couldn't see them. These children then lived in hills, rocks, and mounds. The elves descended from these children.

Humans descended from the children that Eve presented to God. Humans can never see the elves unless the elves want them to. However, elves can see humans and can make themselves known to humans.

On March 2, Dr. Woods will present a fireside (devotional) for the Icelandic Saints while he is in Reykjavik. During March 3-5, he will lecture on his book, *Fire on Ice*, at the University of Iceland.

Many of us have read *Fire on Ice* and have the DVD.

Thanks, Dr. Fred, for keeping us posted and for building bridges between nations. We look forward to your report, details of this welcome adventure.

Honorees

by Lil Shepherd

This year, the Association is honoring three western Icelanders.



Kathleen Reilly has served on the Association's board of directors since 2002. Retired from teaching in the elementary schools, Kathleen now ensures that the dinners at Thorrablót and lunches at Iceland Days are ready, tasty, and served well. Kathleen also has a talent for writing soft-touch poetry.

Ed and Karen Anderson are long-time supporters of the Association. Their children, remember family fun at Iceland



Days in their youth, and now want *their* children—the next generation—to have similar fond memories. Ed and Karen are both educators.

Come to Thorrablót 2008 and Iceland Days to honor and learn more about these wonderful western Icelanders.

Scholarship to Study in Iceland

North American students of Icelandic descent, studying language and literature, are invited to apply for a scholarship to study Icelandic language and literature at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik for the 2008 - 2009 term.

The scholarship, from the government of Iceland, is approximately \$13,500.00 and covers tuition, room and board.

Deadline for submissions of all application material to the INL office is Monday, March 17, 2008. For application forms and further information please contact:

Executive Secretary: Rosa Johnston
#103 - 94 1st Ave., Gimli, MB R0C 1B1
Phone: 204-642-5897, Fax: 204-642-9382
E-mail: inl@mts.net

Memberships

by David Ashby

Memberships in the Icelandic Association of Utah are due annually and are good January through December each year. Dues are used to support the many activities of the Icelandic Association of Utah each year. Please help us as we celebrate our Icelandic heritage in Utah in 2008 at Thorrablot, Scandinavian Days in Ephraim, UT, Iceland Days, Leifur Eiriksson Day, and Christmas-Around-the-World.

If you are not a member, we extend a sincere invitation to join with us in celebrating our Icelandic heritage and culture. If you are a member, we would like you to help us in our annual membership drive to get more members by inviting your family and friends to join us.

Our Association is one of the oldest active Icelandic associations or clubs in North America, organized in 1897. We are an active group and have many programs and functions for all the members of your family. Our ancestors left us a legacy that belonging to the Icelandic Association of Utah is belonging to something that has a history of over one hundred years and has accomplished a few great things. Your membership and support are key ingredients to the success of our Icelandic Association.

A gift membership is nice for family and friends you wish to encourage becoming interested in their Icelandic heritage and our Association.

You only make a difference by getting involved! Please join us this year to help in making the Icelandic Association of Utah successful.

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IAU 2008 Annual Membership *Family \$15.00 Individual \$10.00

* Family members must reside at the same address.

Name _____

Others at the same address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____

Mail to:

Icelandic Association of Utah
P.O. Box 874
Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Report: Christmas-Around-the-World Festival



In December 2007, the Association participated in the Christmas-Around-the-World Festival at Riverton, Utah. We provided a display, which included the 13 Christmas lads, Gryla and Leppaludi, Gryla's pot, the Christmas cat, shoes in the window sill, a candlestick, and a deck of cards.

OK, so we also displayed other artifacts: the Icelandic flag; a cutout of Iceland contrasted with a cutout of Utah, to show that Iceland is just half the size of Utah; a puffin, with an accompanying fact sheet (for example, how many fish does a puffin typically hold in its beak?); a small Icelandic doll in one of the traditional costumes, and a shawl knitted in Iceland.

When Esther Underwood brought her daughter and grandson Robert to see the display, she asked where to get a set of the Christmas lads, either cutouts or figures. (Esther: You can order resin figures from the Sólárfilma web site, at www.sunfilm.is . Click the Christmas Gifts tab.)

Iceland Days: Coming Soon

By Tyler Shepherd

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendar for Iceland Days 2008. Plan now to attend the following:

- Iceland Days Workshops on Friday, June 20

- Iceland Days Family Festival on Saturday, June 21, in the Spanish Fork City park, with special emphasis this year on children's activities and Icelandic culture
- The Icelandic Heritage Fireside, on Sunday, June 22, with the Barnakór to share feelings in Icelandic song, and with popular speaker-author Jack R. Christianson as the main speaker.

From the Bookstore

Quantity	Item	Cost	Donation
	Membership (single-\$10.00, family=\$15.00)	\$10.00/15.00	

<i>Book: The Icelanders of Utah</i> , by Lenora Allred	\$15.00
<i>Book: Fire on Ice</i> by Fred E. Woods	\$13.00
Shipping each book within the US	\$4.00
Shipping each book internationally	\$9.00
Print: Utah-Icelandic Settlement, by Cal Jolley	\$15.00
Lapel pin: Icelandic and US flags	\$ 5.00
T-shirts (specify the size)	\$10.00
Golf shirts (specify medium, large, or extra-large)	\$25.00
<i>An Icelandic Saga, The Utah Story 1855-2005</i> (a 2 CD set)	\$25.00
Total	

Send your order to the Icelandic Association of Utah, Box 874, Spanish Fork, UT 84660.

Remembering Tom Reilly

Our warm, witty friend Tom Reilly slipped away on December 15, 2007.

During the comforting memorial service, family members brought us to tears as well as smiles as they recalled anecdotes and aphorisms that characterized our good Irish friend.

While those of us on this side of the horizon were saying, "Oh! There he goes!" those on the other side of the horizon were saying "Oh! Here he comes!"

For information on Tom's life and passing, see <http://2005.heraldextra.com/content/view/248968/>

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