



Newsletter

June 2009

- From the President, p. 1
- Mark Your 2009 Calendar, p. 1
- Icelandic Culture Workshops, p. 2
- Iceland Days Family and Friends Fair 2009, p. 2
- Icelandic Heritage Fireside, p. 3
- From Kanoshers in Iceland, p. 3
- Culture Corner: *Hallgerður of Bláfell*, p. 4
- Members across the Lands, p. 4
- Going to Snorri 2009, p. 5
- Three Honorees, p. 6
- Eagles at Work, p. 6
- Sculptures and Paintings, Part 2, p. 7
- From the Bookstore, p. 7
- Thorablót 2009 in Review, p. 7

To send regular mail:
P.O Box 874, Spanish Fork, UT 84660

To visit our Web site:
www.utahicelanders.com

To contact us by e-mail:
utahicelanders@gmail.com

From the President

Each summer we have the opportunity to show our



Icelandic identity by attending Iceland Days.

To each of us, Iceland Days means different things: family reunions, seeing old friends, eating Icelandic pancakes, petting an Icelandic sheep, or listening to Icelandic Sagas.

Whatever stirs the memory and makes us want to attend, let's share that warm feeling of who we are with our

families and friends so that for one weekend out of the year we can feel truly Icelandic and renew those memories of what brought us out last year.

In times of uncertainty in the world, we can be rejuvenated and know that we have hearty roots that have endured tough times, and know that those hearty roots will continue to carry us through.

So come join with us and enjoy fun friendship and food and a three-fold feast of those things that make us truly Icelandic.

DeVon Koyle

Mark Your 2009 Calendar

T í m a t a l	Júní 26	Icelandic Culture Workshops, in Spanish Fork, Utah
	Júní 27	Iceland Days Family and Friends Fair, in Spanish Fork, Utah
	Júní 28	Icelandic Heritage Fireside, in Spanish Fork, Utah
	Julí 24	Fiesta Days Parade, in Spanish Fork, Utah

Icelandic Culture Workshops (Friday, June 26)

by *Steve Williams*

Will you come to the Icelandic Heritage Workshops on Friday evening, June 26?

Building on last year's success, the Association is hosting culture-and-heritage workshops again this year.

Workshops begin at 7:00 p.m. at the LDS Church, 1006 East 200 South in Spanish Fork. Note that the workshops are at a different location this year. The building at 1006 East has larger rooms so that guests aren't as crowded as they were last year.

Here's the planned program. For changes, visit our Web site.

7:00 Welcome and Prayer

7:05 Session 1 "Fun Facts about Iceland" by Jack Tobiasson. (This is a general session, for all attendees. The content—people, names, waterfalls, glaciers, puffins, songs--will be what Jack typically shares when he is a guest at schools' "Passport Day" activities.)

7:25 Break

7:35 Session 2, Part 1 "Icelandic Family History and You" by Bliss Anderson and Rick Mathews.

Session 3 "Spinning: Woolly Wonders," by Carole Miller (How to take sheep's wool and then turn out splendid apparel.)

Session 4 "Icelandic Stories Too Good to Miss", by Sunya Grossman.

7:55 Break

8:05 Session 2, Part 2 "Icelandic Family History Made Easier" (continued).

Session 3 "Spinning" repeated.

Session 4, "Icelandic Stories" repeated.

8:30 Break

8:35 Session 5 "Cooking Your Own Icelandic Pancakes." (This session is for all attendees. We provide the batter, Icelandic pancake pan, and tutoring. You cook your own pancake, add whipped cream and jam, and sample the tasty treat!)

If you would like to host a workshop next year, let us know. Also, if you would like the Association to provide a particular workshop, let us know that as well.

Iceland Days Family and Friends Fair (Saturday, June 27)

by *DeVon Koyle*



The Icelandic Association is having a party! In the Spanish Fork City Park on Saturday, June 27. Starting time is 10:00 a.m.. Ending time is after the bus tour returns.

Here's what we have planned:

- 10:00 Flag Ceremony, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars
- 10:10 United States and Icelandic National Anthems, led by Tammy Hutchings, with all singing along.
- 10:15 - Barnabaer (Children's Village). Activities for children of all ages. Hosted by the John K Johnson family. Until 11:30.

- Registration, until 2:00 p.m. Be sure to verify that your mailing and email addresses are correct.
- Pönnukökur (Icelandic pancakes), pylsur



- (Icelandic hot dogs), kleinur (Icelandic doughnuts), baked goods, pastries. Until noon.
- Icelandic souvenirs and artifacts (items for sale)
- Displays and booths (Iceland Days from 1897 to Now; Icelanders in the Spanish Fork Cemetery;

Story Telling—Stories from Iceland; live Icelandic sheep; Family History; Fun Facts and Folk Songs)
- Visiting
11:30 Balloon Man
12:00 Icelandic Lamb Lunch (pulled lamb, potato salad, pickled red cabbage, roll)

12:30 Program: Honorees, music, Icelandic sheep, singing, quilt auction, stories, Celtic music, door prizes....
2:00 Bus Tour (Historic Icelandic sites in Spanish Fork. Guided by John K Johnson. \$2.00 per bus ticket.)

Icelandic Heritage Fireside (Sunday, June 28)

by *Richard Williams*

Will you attend this year's Icelandic Heritage Fireside? It's for the general public. On Sunday evening, June 28, at the LDS Church, 300 East Center Street in Spanish Fork.

Come listen to Kristjana H. Bardardóttir share experiences from Iceland and Canada. Kristjana is from the LDS branch in Reykjavík. She served as a missionary in BC Canada.

Come listen to the Barnakór sing "Sem ég hef elskað" ("As I Have Loved You").

Come feel the spirit of sharing good news as returned missionaries sing a hymn in Icelandic.

Come learn from Dr. Robert L. Millet, who will help us honor our heritage. Dr. Millet served as Ancient Scripture

Department Chair and as Dean of Religious Education at BYU. His areas of expertise include Outreach to other Christian faiths, along with Christian History and Theology.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dr. Millet is a professor of ancient scripture and emeritus Dean of Religious Education at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He is a distinguished Latter-day Saint author and speaker with more than 60 published works on virtually all aspects of Mormonism.



Dr. Millet appears frequently as a commentator on BYUtv and in other visible roles at assorted media outlets as Manager of Outreach and Interfaith Relations for Church Public Affairs.

Come to the Heritage Fireside. Bring a friend.

Update from Kanoshers in Iceland

by *Sister Sue Koyle*

It is summer in Iceland! When we arrived in January everything was dark, bleak and cold, but finally spring came and then summer. Now everything is beautiful and it stays daylight all night long.

It is hard to describe in words the beauty of Iceland; however, we heard this fitting description about Iceland. "When God finished creating all the beautiful things on the earth, he took the beautiful left-overs and put them all together and made Iceland." We are sure this is the most spectacular place on earth with the most beautiful contrast in nature.

There are lava fields covered with beautiful green musk (moss), geothermal springs, glaciers, volcanoes, blue icebergs, geysers, giant waterfalls, rainbows in the sky and rainbows in the waterfalls, splendid snow-cap mountains, raging rivers, and black volcanic beaches. It is definitely "The Land of Fire and Ice."

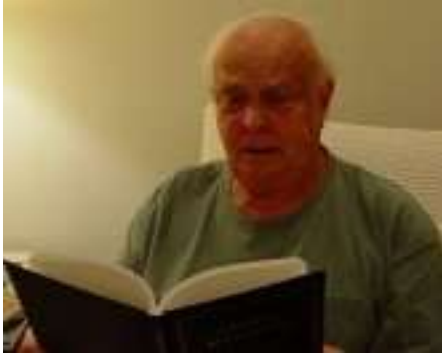
We have enjoyed the hospitality of the Icelanders. They are very friendly, helpful, and sincere. They are a rugged, determined people and very proud of their traditions. Their lives have changed drastically since their economic crisis, but they are very positive, dynamic, bright, determined, and looking to the future.

Magic, folktales, trolls, elves, and little people represent an ancient heritage of the Icelandic people, but it is still lived inwardly, with reserve and pride, never openly manifested. It is the attitude of the people and their reassuring knowledge that they can "feel" their land and live in harmony with it and the vibrant energy that runs through it.

Yes, as summer creeps upon us, we become more aware of this beautiful island with an icy face and fiery heart. We are thankful for the privilege of being here on this unique island out in the middle of the North Atlantic.

Elder and Sister Koyle

Culture Corner: Hallgerður in Bláfell



D. Gary Christian, of Santa Clara, Utah, wrote “Hallgerður in Bláfell.” The poem won second place in the Icelandic National League of North America poetry contest in 2007.

Hallgerður in Bláfell

Hallgerður lived in Bláfell’s solemn fastness.
She peered from caves, from boulders, and the trees,
sometimes descended to the windy lowland,
her wailing like the melancholy breeze.

Others of her kind stayed in the lava.
When darkness came they skulked amid the rocks
and moved with stealth to steal away a person,
or pilfer sheep, a pony, or an ox.

She devoured men who were unwary,
the men who passed that way forgetting harm
and like a spider stinging them unconscious,
she bound them with the bands of magic’s charm.

Once, long ago, Ólafur, tall and sturdy,
and unafraid, trod on her solitude.
She called to him as anger welled within her.
“Why have you come, defiant, to intrude?”

“I know you, Ólafur, you greedy one.
Why trespass my dominion north to south.
Go home again. Depart, while you are able.
Be gone, you, with your sullen, crooked mouth!

But he called back, ”Hail to you lovely lady.
“Hail to you Hallgerður on Bláfell’s height.
I bear you no ill feeling as I travel
and seek not interference nor a fight.”

The she-troll was becalmed by words so soothing,
for she had never heard kind words before.
She let him go. “Now hasten on your errand,
for you are welcome this way ever more.”

Members across the Lands

by Jack Tobiasson

Since our January-February membership drive, 98 more members have renewed their dues. This means that the Association now has 327 members for this calendar year! Takk fyrir! (Thank you!)

A membership includes all those who live under one roof. However a “member” is someone who is 18 years old or older. You recognize instantly that the “327” number does not tell the larger picture, which includes the many children younger than 18 who come to Thorablót, Iceland Days, and other events. The children are our future!

Association members for 2009 live in the following 17 states as well as in Canada, England, and Iceland. (The figures in parentheses indicate how many cities in that state have one or more members of the Association. For example, Association members live in 9 cities in California and 48 cities in Utah.)

Arizona (1), California (9), Colorado (1), Idaho (2), Indiana (2), Michigan (1), Montana (2), Nevada (6), New

Mexico (2), Oklahoma (1), Oregon (3), Nevada (6), Texas (2), Utah (48), Virginia (1), Washington (1), and Wyoming (1).

You might be interested to know that David Johnson, of the Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle, sent us a six-page Söng-Bókin, songs that he compiled and used for his association’s Thorablót. Now that’s a goal for us to reach!

If you know of someone who did not receive a newsletter but would like to, please let us know. Send an e-mail to utahicelanders@gmail.com or send a letter to P.O. Box 874, Spanish Fork, UT 84660.

On the other hand, if someone is receiving an e-mail or hard copy newsletter, but would rather not, let us know right away. No spam! No junk mail!

Your membership dues help us be successful. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2009, you can send them to P.O. Box 784, Spanish Fork UT 84660, or pay them at Iceland Days. Your 2009 membership continues through the calendar year, ending this year on December 31, 2009.

Thank you for supporting the Icelandic Association of Utah.

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IAU 2009 Annual Membership *Family \$15.00 Individual \$10.00
* Family members must reside at the same address.

Name/Names _____

Others 18 years old or older living at the same address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail Address _____

Volunteers are vital to the success of the events of the Icelandic Association. Would you like to help? If so, how would you like to be involved? _____

Mail to:

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

Going to Snorri 2009

Three candidates—Rali Bjarnson, Danny Leifson, and Rebeka Mason—from the Association’s community have been accepted into the Snorri 2009 program. That’s exciting, indeed!

Raili Bjarnson is the youngest of 10 children. She lives in Pleasant Grove, Utah. Her junior high and high school mascot was the Vikings. Raili finds this ironic, considering she is related to the Icelandic Vikings.



Raili is learning some Icelandic from YouTube, more from Icelandic online, and additionally

from Byki Express, which someone on the Snorri Facebook Website recommended. Raili expects the real learning to occur in Iceland, where she plans to focus on the language.

Very interested in history, Raili looks forward to learning a lot more about the Vikings. She wants to see the early settlements and where the Vikings traveled.

Raili knows that the Snorri program will help her gain new friends and become more confident. Because Raili will travel alone for the first time, Snorri will give her some good experience. She knows that meeting Icelanders will be a great adventure and that she will grow to love the people in Iceland..

Danny Leifson applied for the Snorri 2009 program for two reasons: he loves to travel, and he feels the tug of his Icelandic roots

Danny has seen much of Europe. He loves visiting new places for the amazing learning opportunities that these visits provide. Also, he has always been somewhat fascinated with his family’s history. He has an inherent sense of pride regarding his Viking / Icelandic heritage. As far as he can tell, Snorri is going to provide the



experience not only to visit the country of his ancestors, but to also see how people live in Iceland.

Danny looks forward to living with some distant cousins in the northern city of Akureyri. While there, he plans to get a clear insight as to how life would be for him NOW, had his immigrant ancestors not made the choice to come to America when they did.

The application and preparation process alone have awakened a deeper intrigue that has driven Danny to a deeper study of family history. Danny comments, "I feel very fortunate to have been accepted into the program and am sure that I will feel even more fortunate at the end of my 6 weeks in Iceland."

Rebekah Mason is from Salem, Utah. Currently a student at Utah Valley University, she is studying Dance Education. Rebeka hopes to complete University studies within a year and then be able to teach dance in a high school. She loves to go boating and snowboarding with family and friends. Although she hasn't traveled much, she is "so excited to get to Iceland!"



Rebekah is attempting to learn the language and study the culture. She is most excited about meeting relatives. She has studied some of her family and ancestors from Iceland. Rebeka commented, "I don't quite know what to expect, so I am planning on being prepared with a good attitude and an open mind."

Excited for the entire Snorri experience, she looks forward to hiking, traveling, sight seeing, and having an amazing time while in Iceland.

Raili, Dan, and Rebeka leave for Iceland on June 12. They return to their homes on July 24. It's not too soon to think about Snorri 2010. For information on the Snorri program, go to <http://www.snorri.is/>.

Honoring Lynette, Norma, and Krege

by Lil Shepherd

The Icelandic Association of Utah and community honor three outstanding people this year: Lynette Reynolds, Norma Jones, and Krege Christenson.



Lynette recalls, with enthusiasm and fondness, going to Iceland Days as a youth with her father and other family members. Lynette served on the Association's board for many years. She was particularly helpful in

organizing the first Children's Choir.

Norma has been a life-long, continuous supporter of the Association. She typifies one of the Association's purposes: to preserve the memory of the early Icelandic pioneers who established the first permanent Icelandic settlement in North America at Spanish Fork, Utah. In her quite voice, Norma smilingly recalls earlier Iceland Days, her then-favorite holiday.



Twelve years ago, Krege Christensen lent his legal background and experience to set up the Association as a corporation, complete with bylaws and other legal documents. He served on the Association's Board of Directors from 1997

through 2007. Krege has gone many extra miles, driving from his work and home in Salt Lake City to attend board meetings and support Association events.

To find out more about these three wonderful western Icelanders, come to the Iceland Days Family and Friends Fair on June 27, in the Spanish Fork City Park.

Eagles at Work

by Rachell Orton

For his Boy Scout Eagle project, Jerron Orton located grave sites of the early Icelanders who are buried in the Spanish Fork Cemetery. As planned, Jerron will have cemetery plot maps available at Iceland Days. The maps help you locate all the grave locations of the immigrating Icelanders who are buried in the Spanish Fork Cemetery.

Devin Orton is Jerron's younger brother. For his Eagle project, Devin plans to place five or six new headstones and also repair some damaged headstones on the Icelandic immigrants' grave sites.

This project will honor the early immigrants. If you would like to sponsor a headstone or make a donation for the headstones, visit Devin's booth at Iceland Days.

Sculptures and Paintings: Part 2

The February newsletter invited you to visit Vala Ola's aesthetic wonderland, her sculptures and paintings at www.valaola.com.



One of you did just that: you visited and purchased. In turn, Vala made a generous contribution to the Icelandic Association of Utah. Thanks, Vala!

Everett Bearnson, of Salt Lake City, purchased the "Falling Water" sculpture, shown here.

Upon learning Everett's

age, Vala commented that he was the oldest person to ever purchase one of her art objects. Everett countered, "I'm an Icelander. Age 88 really isn't all that old!"

Vala has invited Everett to go to the casting site, which is in Alpine, Utah, and watch the casting process of her sculptures. Everett plans to do so. Also, he invites anyone to stop by his home and view this gorgeous sculpture. (But call first!)

Vala invites Association members and friends to visit her Web site. If you purchase an item, mention the Association's name. Vala will then make a donation to the Association's General Fund.

For a price list, contact Vala:

- vala@valaola.com
- Telephone: 480-688-7445

From the Bookstore

Quantity	Item	Cost	Donation
	<i>Icelanders Gather to Utah</i> , by David Ashby	\$18.00	
	<i>Norse Warfare: Unconventional Battle Strategies of the Ancient Vikings</i>	\$32.00	
	Shipping each book within the US	\$4.00	
	Shipping each book internationally	\$9.00	
	Print: Utah-Icelandic Settlement, by Cal Jolley	\$15.00	
	Key chain (pewter Viking ship, Icelandic Memorial, or puffin)	\$5.00	
	Lapel pin: Icelandic and US flags	\$ 5.00	
	T-shirts (specify the size)	\$10.00	
	"IAU" embroidered golf shirts (medium, large, or X-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.

Thorablót 2009 in Review

by Jack Tobiasson



On February 28, 2009 more than 200 guests attended Thorablót at the Veterans Memorial Building in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Guests enjoyed honorees' displays, family history and

culture displays (including the popular stuffed puffin that

Sunya and Frank Grossman brought from Las Vegas, Nevada), the coloring-book preactivity, traditional Viking



fare, the catered buffet, meeting honorees, the quilt auction, the BarnaKór (Children's Choir), group singing,

interviews, visiting....



For an article-length review of Thorrablót 2009, including photos, see the Association's Web site (www.utahicelanders.com).

Thorrblót helps the Association export a bit of Icelandic culture into the larger community. Will you come to



Thorrablót next year, on the last Saturday in February 2010?

Icelandic Association of Utah, Inc.
P.O Box 874
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 U.S.A.

