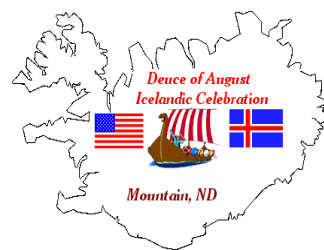


Fjalla Blað



2023 Parade Marshal:

Russell Anderson



The ICA is proud to announce that Russell Anderson has been selected to serve as Parade Marshal for the 2023 Parade. Russell Anderson was born December 5, 1921 (Yep! He's nearly 102

years old!) in Mountain, ND in the home of his grandparents, JP and Solveig Arason. His grandparents emigrated from Iceland and he's very proud of his Icelandic heritage. His parents were Clarence and Theadora Anderson and he had 7 siblings. He went to grade school in Mountain and the North Star School and to 4 years of high school in Hensel, ND.

Russell married Gudrun "Goodie" Johnson in Gardar on October 22, 1944 and they were married for 76 wonderful years. As soon as they were married, they moved to Los Angeles, California and Russell worked with the Signal Corp until the war was over and then at Los Angeles Auto Electric for a year. They moved back to North Dakota in 1946 and farmed for 38 years until his son Jeff took over. He also did carpenter work at the Par Site and Nekoma Silo.

Russell and Goodie enjoyed traveling and bought a home in Mesa, Arizona; they spent 25 winters there. He also enjoyed golfing and helping Jeff on the farm. He has 5 kids, 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

2023 Honorary Parade Marshals:

Chris and Solla Geir



Kristjan and Solveig Geir lived on their farm 3 miles south of Mountain where they raised 11 children. It was the same farm his parents, Johann Geir Johannson and Anna Jonsdottir homesteaded in 1880.

Kristjan (Chris) was born October 1, 1879 near Gimli, Manitoba, Canada (New Iceland). The family moved to Mountain when he was an infant. The first years were uneventful but then many tragedies struck. He lost his father, and stepbrother and then 3 sisters during the holiday season of 1895-96. His Mother was a strong woman of great faith. Her kindly neighbor offered to take care of her youngest baby girl until her load was lessened. The child would remain with the Davidson family because she knew her heart belonged to them. Chris accepted responsibility for the farm at an early age with the help of a hired man, Icelandic poet K.N. Julius.

Chris had a threshing crew and the beautiful Solveig Halldorson was a cook. She would later become his wife. Solla was one of Thorgils and Kristin Halldorson's daughters, born on Sept. 5, 1886. Throughout the years she enjoyed sewing, crocheting, needle work, playing her organ, church activities and Pioneer Daughters. (cont. page 5)



From the President:

Greetings to our ICA family, friends, and supporters! We hope you are doing well. Time

keeps flying by and it’s already July. The year has been a busy one. We had another very successful Þorrablót in February with a full house, great meal, and entertaining program. The silent and live auction were again very popular and we thank everyone who supported us in any way—by attending the event, donating time for set up or donating items for the auction, and bidding on the live, silent, and on-line auctions. The event is our biggest fund raiser of the year, raising funds for Heritage Grants, Snorri Scholarships and other ICA events.

The 124th Annual 2nd of August Icelandic Celebration is just around the corner. A full schedule of events is included in this newsletter, but please be aware that some events could be subject to cancellation or modification. We will regularly update the latest information on our “August the Deuce” Facebook page and on our website at <http://thedeuce.org/>. You will see that the Life in the Vest Lane 5 K is back, as well as Bean Bag Tournament and Icelandic Bingo, along with favorite events like the Legion Walleye Fry, Vikur Salad Luncheon, Parade, Genealogy Center, and Tractor Pull. The ICA souvenir shop will again be set up on the east side of Main Street across from the Church. The Heritage Program will feature the Minister of Education, Aslaug Arna Sveinbjörnsdóttir, the Icelandic Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, as well as some guests from Iceland who are involved in making Icelandic National Costumes. They will model their costumes during the program. It promises to be a great afternoon.

Along with planning for the 124th celebration, work has already started on planning for the 125th Annual 2nd of August

Icelandic Celebration, which will actually fall on the 2nd of August in 2024! Planning a celebration is a big project and it takes many people to carry out the plans. It would be great if you could join the cause and sign up for one of the planning committees (meetings can be done by Zoom, so you can join in from wherever you live), as well as volunteering some time during the celebration. We hope that the 125th celebration will be a great gathering of friends and family to recognize this significant date in our communities’ history.

See you in Mountain!
Curtis

2023 Memorials & Donations

***We honor and remember the people who shared their lives and stories with us.
We are forever grateful.***



In Memory of

- Matthew Wright
- Eggert Einarson
- Valdi Halldorson
- Deanne Laxdal Bakken
- Stephanie Fjestad
- John & Emma Johnson

Donated by

- George & Sandy Wright
- Betty Einarson
- Lee & Betty Helgoe
- Marvel Williamson
- Judy Lee
- Pauline Johnson
- Sherry

Þorrablót 2023



On February 25, 2023, the Icelandic Communities Association hosted its 10th annual Þorrablót: A Viking Mid-Winter Feast at the Mountain Community Center. The center was filled with people enjoying an evening out and visiting with friends old and new. The fermented shark, pickled ram's testicles, and singed sheep heads didn't make it from Iceland (a shipping snafu) but the feast went on anyway. An appetizer table with traditional and unusual Icelandic foods used during the celebration of Þorrablót was busy as guests tried hard fish (fish jerky), pickled herring, smoked salmon, mysóstur (whey cheese), head cheese, and Brennivín. Others brought out their inner Viking at a photo booth for a fun start to the evening.



Following a delicious supper catered by George Phillips, emcee Dennis Biliske introduced a program of Icelandic music and readings along with featured speaker, Sierra Jensen, who told her story of visiting Iceland as a Snorri Program participant.

One of the purposes of this celebration is to celebrate Icelandic heritage or simply for people to know more about Iceland and the settlers who came to this area over 100 years ago. This event is used to raise funds to support Icelandic heritage sites in the area through grants. It also provides scholarships to young people wanting to explore their Icelandic heritage by a six week visit to Iceland with the



Snorri Program, where they travel, study the language, and perhaps spend time with relatives located in Iceland.

Guests had the opportunity all evening to bid on over forty items in the silent auction. Auctioneer Dennis Biliske had the crowd laughing and engaged as donated items were auctioned on a live auction; an online auction was held the following week.



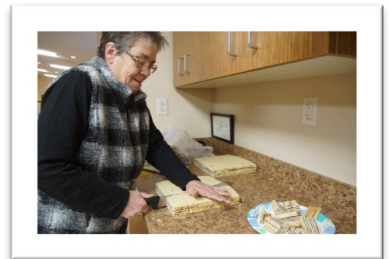
Because of the generosity of those who donated items including art, crafts, books, and wine from wineries with an Icelandic connection, funds were raised that will be distributed as future grants and scholarships.



Thank you, Volunteers!

We are grateful for Dennis Biliske and Resource Auction for their assistance with our event.

Thank you to the *40 plus* volunteers who helped make it all happen—whether it was setting up tables, working with the sound system, helping with baking desserts, making breads and smoked meats for the meal and silent auction, working on food preparations for the appetizer table, decorating, setting the tables, working on the auctions, working in the Legion bar, selling tickets or helping with clean up. Thank you to all the folks that donated items for the live and silent auctions—there was a wonderful selection of items to bid on.



Heritage Sites Grants

The Heritage Sites Grant was started to help the Icelandic communities of northeastern North Dakota to maintain the churches, halls, cemeteries, and buildings that were established by the early Icelandic immigrants to this area. Each of these historic sites tell a story of the people who came to this country to begin a new life, and are important to teach the next generation about their Icelandic heritage. Because of the age of the buildings etc., they are difficult to maintain with dwindling resources. Upon experiencing amazing, successful auctions at the Thorrablot, the ICA has had funds to help these historic sites with the giving of grants thru the Heritage Sites Grants.

The ICA started giving Heritage Sites Grants in 2016 and to date, \$13,500 has be awarded in Heritage Sites Grants alone. In addition to this, after the successful hosting of the Icelandic International League of North America Convention in 2017, the ICA gave sixteen \$1000 grants to each of the 12 Heritage Sites with the remainder going to Icelandic community organizations. So, to date, including this year's grants, in the past six years, \$29,500 has been granted by the ICA to Icelandic heritage organizations and communities. These grants have been made possible mostly through funds raised at the Thorrablot. Six Heritage Sites Grants were awarded this year:



Svold Hall continues their ongoing renovation and hope to put baseboards and trim work in the addition. The labor will be done by the Hall members. Long term they are working to complete the kitchen with cabinetry, ovens etc. as funds

allow.



The Vikur LCW is working on a story board project to tell the history of the church and the surrounding Icelandic settlements. These boards will be erected just south of the church and estimated cost is

about \$25,000. The hope is to complete this project in time for the 125th celebration of the Icelandic heritage in 2024.



Borg Memorial Home continues to update and maintain the Home for the comfort and safety of its residents. The immediate project is

to replace the flooring in the west addition where the tile has become broken. The cost of the flooring is \$29,000 which does not include the floor prep and labor.



The cross on the steeple of the **Gardar Pioneer Church** was damaged by strong winds and is in need of repair. While the contractor has a lift in place to work on the steeple, , repairs to the steeple soffit, shingles, and vents will be done.



The Vidalin Lutheran Church continues their work on the repair and restoration of markers and monuments, stabilization and leveling of plots, as well as the upkeep of the fence and grounds. They

also hope to realize signage in the church yard to tell the history of Vidalin and will include a hand painted pictoral of the altar.



The Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association is in the process of raising funds to

build an accessible trail to connect all of the heritage sites that sit north of the Pioneer Heritage Center. It is called the Icelandic State Park Heritage Connection Trail. It is a path starting at the Center, and will take you past the Hallson Church, the Akra Hall, the school, the Gunlogson buildings such as the barn and farmhouse and back to the center.



Heritage Grant Recipients: Pictured left to right, Bruce Werven representing Svold Hall, Carol Beard for Vidalin Church and Cemetery Assoc., Dori Heck for Vikur Lutheran Church Women, Sandy Wright for Borg Memorial Home, Danny Flannagan for Gardar Pioneer Lutheran Church, and Bonnie Danielson for the Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association.

Geir, cont.:

Together, Chris and Solla, raised red Polled Hereford livestock, bees for honey, and multiple fruits. Their farm was named Bonnie Brook Farm. Chris had plum, apple, cherry, pear, strawberries, raspberries and black walnuts and butternuts. He started the orchard in 1911 and was challenged to make fruits grow on the northern plains when he was told it couldn't be done. He grafted trees; hand wrapped them in the fall and controlled weeds by hand. At harvest, he had a hired man named Frank to assist. He had as many as 80 trees. People from several counties came in the fall to buy his produce. On Sundays the cars were parked all down the lane. The older generations of grandchildren remember picking berries and the younger ones remember they were not allowed in the orchards.

Like most pioneers they worked hard, trusted in the Lord and endured the hardships. A very trying time for them was when their son Ted was a prisoner of War and the relief when he was released. They lived through many wars and grandsons in the military during the Viet Nam war. They said goodbye to one son Thor.

Chris and Solla were married 60 years. Chris died in 1969 at the age of 89 and Solla in 1986 at the age of 99. Their grandchildren express deep gratitude for recognizing them to

be Honorary Grand Marshalls for the Deuce of August 2023 parade

ICA Awards Snorri Scholarships

The Icelandic Communities Association awarded two Snorri scholarships this year. The Snorri Program is a unique six-week summer cultural program for young adults 20-30 years of age who live in Canada and the US. The applicants of Icelandic descent desire to learn about their Icelandic heritage and ancestry. The Snorri group will be in Iceland from June 10th until July 15th. The first two weeks of their stay will be filled with cultural and educational programs at the University of Iceland: Icelandic language, history, folklore, politics, and personal genealogy, all enhanced with museum visits and tours. They will also be participating in Iceland's National Day celebrations on June 17th. Next, they will go to 'homestays', where they will move in with a host family. They may be spending time on a farm, in a fishing village or in a small town where they will assume similar duties and activities of a young local Icelander. The final part of the experience includes adventure tours around Iceland, learning more about its nature, history and culture.



Jared John Hanson currently lives in Maple Grove, Minnesota, USA; he will graduate in May with a degree in Economics and will relocate to Chicago to work as a financial consultant and analyst with the health sector. He is the grandson of ICA members John E. and Kathie Johnson of Langdon, ND.



Julia Marie Swanson is from Fergus Falls, Minnesota; she will graduate from UND in May with a BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders, with a master's program to follow. She is the granddaughter of ICA members Dwight & Elaine Byron.



*“Hvað er svo glatt
sem góðra vina fundur?”*



*“What is as joyful as a
gathering of good friends?”*

***124th Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration
Árið tvö þúsund og tuttugu þrír (2023)
Mountain, North Dakota***

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE! Check back on our website or FB page for changes.

Friday, August 4th

All weekend: Art Exhibit-“The Icelandic Emigrant Journey” by Sunna Furstenaus, INLUS - Main Street
1:00 PM Genealogy Center-1-4:00 PM- Mountain Community Center
5:00PM Mountain American Legion Fish Fry-Main Street
7:30 PM Icelandic Bingo, etc. Legion Beer Garden

Saturday, August 5th

7:00 AM Pancake and Sausage Breakfast-Mountain Chalet-Free Will Offering 7-10 AM
8:00 AM Life in the Vast Lane 5K/10K-Legion Grounds
10:30 AM Parade-Main Street-Parade will be broadcast live on KXPO AM 1340
Souvenir Sales and Icelandic Goodies-On Main Street
11:00 AM Vikur Salad Luncheon-Vikur Church basement
11:00 AM Genealogy Center-Mountain Community Center-11:00 AM-2 PM
12:00 PM Car Show and Shine-Main Street
12:00 PM Children’s Icelandic Storybook Time in Amma’s Garden-Kathy Thorlakson lawn-N of MCC
12:30 PM Kid’s Inflatable Games-North end of Main Street from 12:30-4:00 PM
12:30 PM Pedal Tractor Pull for Kids-Main Street-ND State Sanctioned Pull-Olson Pedal Pulls-Provider
2:00 PM Heritage Program-MCC-Keynote Speaker-Her Excellency Áslaug Arna Sveinbjörnsdóttir, Iceland Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation
3:00 PM Bean Bag Tournament-Main Street
9:00 PM Street Dance-“Front Fenders” Main Street of Mountain

Sunday, August 6th

11:00 AM Worship Service-Vikur Church
1:00 PM North Dakota State Tractor & Pickup Pulling Contest-West of Mountain Community Center

Art exhibit-“The Icelandic Emigrant Journey” by Sunna Furstenaus will be on display all weekend. Icelandic Goodies will be available during the Saturday events. The Souvenir Booth will also be selling Icelandic hard fish and Raffle Tickets for the cash raffle; prizes of \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded, with the drawing to be held at the conclusion of the Tractor Pull on Sunday, August 6th. Need not be present to win. Saturday’s Parade will be broadcast live on KXPO AM 1340.

Parade Marshal: Russell Anderson

Honorary Parade Marshals: Chris and Solla Geir



Scan this QR code on your phone app for the latest information:



Follow us on Facebook at “August the Deuce” for instant updates! Visit our website at: www.thedeuce.org

Icelandic Communities Association Membership Form

The 2023 Membership Drive is underway!

Dues are \$15 per person for the calendar year, January through December.

(2023 memberships run January 1, 2023–December 31, 2023)

NOTE: Membership dues are not tax deductible, but any contributions over and above that are tax deductible.
ICA has 501 c 3 (tax-exempt non-profit) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Name: _____

Address: _____

(This is a new address _____)

E-Mail: _____

Additional Memorial in remembrance of: _____ \$ _____

***Mail this form (with check payable to I.C.A.; indicate the year/s that you are paying dues for) to:

I.C. A., P. O. Box 63, Mountain, ND 58262-0063

♦ **Please send this form with your dues.** It helps us update our membership list and e-mail addresses. Thanks, in advance!

♦ **Check your preference:** Newsletter by mail _____ By E-mail _____

Membership Year (circle one) : 2023 2024 2025 2026

**You may also use Pay Pal to update your membership on the ICA website.

Just so you know: The ICA meets at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Mountain Community Center and Zoom connections are available. The folks that gather are a dedicated bunch that plan and execute the 2nd of August Celebration, the Þorrablót, and an occasional movie or speaker. Like all small groups, it would welcome more volunteers with open arms. The volunteer options are varied: selling raffle tickets, setup of tables and chairs, putting up/taking down flags daily, souvenir sales, working the gates at the kid's games, dance and tractor pull, planning for the 125th celebration. *Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help out.* Contact Susan Sigurdson (ssigurd262@outlook.com) for more information



125th Deuce of August 2-3-4 August 2024



1953 Celebration



Get ready to go BIG! The ICA and Mountain will celebrate the 125th Annual 2nd of August Celebration on August 2, 3, & 4, 2024! A planning committee consisting of Loretta Bernhoft, Shirley Olgeirson and Robert Olgeirson has started reviewing what was done in 1999 for the 100th anniversary celebration and will start planning for 2024.

Your skills, ideas, time, and elbow grease will make this BIG celebration a success.

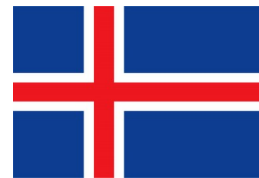
Email TheDeuce125@outlook.com if you can help!

**ICELANDIC
COMMUNITIES
ASSOCIATION**
P.O Box 63
Mountain, ND 58262-0063

Við erum fólkskylda. We are family.



**124th Annual
2nd of August Icelandic Celebration
-The Deuce-
August 4, 5, 6, 2023**



Save the Date!

**125th Annual
2nd of August Icelandic Celebration
August 2, 3, & 4, 2024**