

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER



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Volume 13 Issue 2
May 2018

ICELANDIC NATIONAL CELEBRATION — ÍSLENDINGAMÓT June 16, 2018

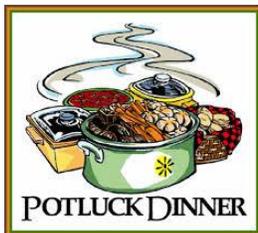
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This year, 74 years since the Republic of Iceland gained Independence from Denmark, Iceland will celebrate Jon Sigurdsson's birthday. This is a National Holiday in Iceland. Alberta will celebrate on Saturday, June 16. Special events this year will also be the crowning of the Edmonton Fjallkona. Drive or take the bus to Markerville Park and the Fensala Hall.

We need someone to cook a turkey or bake a ham ready to serve cold.

1:00 p.m. – Family Program in the Park,
if it rains go to Fensala Hall.

3:00 p.m. - PROGRAM: Crowning of the
Fjallkona



4:30 – 5 p.m. - POT LUCK
SUPPER- all guests are
asked to bring a meat dish,
salad or dessert. Roast
turkey and ham will be
provided by the Calgary and
Edmonton Club.

Please call if you wish to take the bus.

**To register for the bus, phone Barb at
(403) 255-1538 or
email Barbara Sigurdson siggies@shaw.ca**

We need to know by June 12 so that we can place
the order for the lunches.

NO CHARGE FOR BUS AND PUBLIC IS WELCOME!

BUS TO MARKERVILLE SCHEDULE: Saturday, June 16, 2017

11:05 a.m. Load bus at the NAPA Auto
Supply, 730 – 16th Ave NW, with parking
against the back wall.

11:00 a.m. Bus departs for Markerville

12:30 – 12:45 Estimated arrival time in
Markerville

After the program and dinner

5:30 -6:30 p.m. Depart for Calgary

8:00 p.m. Arrive in Calgary, estimated.

ANNUAL SENIOR'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 24, 2018
Valhalla Room, Scandinavian Centre,
739 - 20th Ave NW-
Doors open 11:30 am, Luncheon,
12:30 noon

To register please call Margret Grisdale at
(403) 251-7018 or email grisdal9@telus.net

**This luncheon is complimentary of the Leif
Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary for seniors
60+ and their escorts.**

SNORRIS TO ICELAND

This year, the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club will sponsor two young people as participants to the Snorri Program in Iceland. **They are Susanna Forsyth and Erik Sherwin.** They are both from Calgary. Susanna's mother is our Secretary this year and the Sherwins are long time members of this club.

We wish them a very successful trip to Iceland and we look forward to their presentation at the Fall Feast to let us know all about their adventures. Good luck to you both and safe travels!

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VINARTERTA BEE AT THE SCAN CENTER

May 31 from 10 AM to 2 PM



All members welcome to come whether you have made vinarterta for years or want to learn how to make the Icelandic cake. Please bring:-
an apron and rolling pin
and a noon bag lunch.

Coffee/Tea and dessert will be provided.

Please contact Lorie Dobson at **403-912-6869**
or email thedobsons@telus.net if you are able to come.



Did you know that **Carol Shields**, our beloved, award winning Canadian author, had Icelandic roots? **Nancy Tarr**, our Care and Concern representative, has donated two of Carol's books to our library. Carol Shields was related to Nancy, their mothers were Icelandic cousins. These books, now in our library, are well worth a reread if you have already enjoyed them: *The Stone Diaries* described as "engrossing, ...ranging from bleak to the extremely funny". (*The Sunday Times*) *Larry's Party*, "an extraordinary lovable and cheering book" (*Washington Post*).

For more information please call, Christine Stuart-Smith or email christinestuartsmith@gmail.com if you want to locate a particular item.



Afton at left and her son Asher with her husband Adam Barabash above. Afton is the new Membership Recorder for LEIC.

DISCOVERING MY ANCESTRY & HOW YOU CAN ALSO RECEIVE \$30 USD OFF AN ICELANDIC ROOTS MEMBERSHIP!

By Afton Barabash

When I was six years old, my family moved from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, to Chetwynd, British Columbia. We went from having family close by to strangers all around. I grew up with "big families" surrounding me. Everyone was a cousin of some sort. In a small town you can feel left out quite easily when you're young and an outsider. I was never surrounded by "my people", I never really felt like I belonged.

While at the 2018 Icelandic National League Convention I bought a membership to Icelandic Roots. I started checking connections with people. I was related to everyone of Icelandic descent that I looked up on the database. I was over the top elated with my new discoveries. I felt like I belonged somewhere. And then I really started looking. I began reading the *History of Iceland* by Gunnar Karlsson (which I now refer to as Afton's Family History). Every person he mentioned I looked up – Aud the Deep Minded is my 30th Great Grandmother (and 29th Great Aunt x2 and first cousin 20 times removed x2 – lots of connections – we are all related many ways); Leif Eiriksson is my Second Cousin 28 times removed; Snorri Sturluson my 22x great grandfather; Ingólfur Arnason my 28th Great Grandfather. I could go on, but it's all like this. It's so fun and so exciting! I'm ready to go back to Iceland and reconnect on a deeper level now that I have this treasure trove at my fingertips.

Icelandic Roots has offered a \$30 USD discount code to Members of the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary. Icelandic Roots is a non-profit, educational, heritage organization specializing in genealogy, history & traditions of our Icelandic ancestors. Icelandic Roots has a team of professional genealogists that work on your family tree for you, no guesswork! Find out where you came from and who your cousins are. I bet you we're cousins!

If you would like the discount code, please send Afton an email: myownslideshow@gmail.com

If you are not a member and would like the code, please sign up for a membership or renew your membership at www.leicyyc.com/membership and send an email to Afton.

Discount Code Expires May 19, 2018

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Follow us on social media: Facebook: Leif Eiriksson
Icelandic Club of Calgary Instagram: @leicyyc

Please share your photos and stories with us



Nancy Tarr is now our Care and Concern representative - please call her at **(403) 253-7433** or email at mtarr@telusplanet.net.



BEST WISHES TO OUR VICE PRESIDENT, BOB BAKER WHO IS RECOVERING FROM HIP SURGERY!

GOOD LUCK TO VICTOR AND MARILYNNE LAXDAL AS THEY PREPARE TO MOVE TO ST. ALBERT, AB ON MAY 20. THE LEIC WISH YOU MUCH HAPPINESS IN YOUR NEW HOME. YOU WILL BE MISSED!

We are very saddened to announce the passing of two of our dearest honorary members of the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary. Obituaries on next page.

2018 Events

May 24	Senior Luncheon
June 16	Markerville Celebration
Sept. 29	Fall Feast –Saturday
Oct. 10	"Voce Thules," Icelandic vocal Group performs at Christ Church
Xmas Bazaar –	Scan centre to set date
Nov. 24	Yuletide Party

ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION APRIL 26 – 29, 2018.

Calgary was represented by twelve members of the LEIC and by all accounts it was agreed that it was a very well organized and interesting convention with a great deal of culture included. The speakers from Iceland and North America were phenomenal speaking on a variety of subjects. To see photos and videos please go to the INLoNA website at: www.inlofna.org Click on conventions and then on Edmonton 2018. Enjoy!!

"Sumardagurinn Fyrsti,"

Christine Mueller

The annual Spring Dinner, "Sumardagurinn Fyrsti," was held in the Viking Hall at the Scandinavian Centre on Saturday, April 14th not only to celebrate Spring, but also to recognize the **45th Anniversary of the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary**. The 58 members and guests in attendance enjoyed a buffet, provided by Alpine Caterer's, which included hot ham, cold meats, a wide selection of salads and cheesecake for dessert. An especially lovely "Grace" was said before dinner by **Gwen Mann**. The tables were beautifully set with green napkins against a white background and with vases of spring flowers.

In honour of the Club's 45th Anniversary, a display lined one wall, featuring biographies and pictures of well-known Icelanders and their descendants. Attendees of the dinner were invited to look at the displays before the dinner commenced. **Gwen Mann**, over the years has done an outstanding job of compiling and maintaining these displays.

Following an introduction after dinner by **Christine Mueller**, the Program featured **LOWRY OLAFSON**, a motivational speaker, musician, and song writer, from Gibson's, B.C. Lowry first spoke about his Icelandic Heritage and then gave a talk entitled "Retire on Fire," interspersed with musical selections to emphasize his points. He was later thanked by **Lorie Dobson and Christine Mueller** for his interesting speech and musical interludes.

Later in the evening a "Draw" for 2 door-prizes was held. The Club would like to thank **Shelley McReynolds** for contributing these prizes. Also, two wonderful cakes decorated with the "45th Anniversary" theme were provided by **Ruth Thorkelson** for "dessert and coffee" after the talk. Heartfelt thanks to "other fabulous" individuals who made the evening a success:

Afton Barabash for handling the ticket sales; **Cynthia Pickering and Lorie Dobson** for the gorgeous table centres; **Marg Grisdale** for arranging the catering; **Len Dobson and Peter Peterson** for providing bar service; **Karl Torfason** for taking photographs; **Michael Tarr, Nancy Tarr, and Gunter Mueller** for providing the pop and liquor; **Melanie Kolbiens** for procuring the liquor license; **Vera Goodman** for providing accommodation for Lowry Olafson during his stay in Calgary; and **Donna Englund** for her work in keeping the kitchen going and the "clean-up" afterwards.

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BLYTH, Carol Gudridur **December 25, 1930 – April 8, 2018**

Carol Blyth passed away on April 8, 2018 at the age of 87 years. Carol was born on December 25, 1930 in Vita, Manitoba. She was raised with her brother Murray and her sister Norma, in Piney, Manitoba, a small farming community in southern Manitoba inhabited mostly by people of Icelandic heritage. She was very proud of her heritage.

Carol received a BSc in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba and participated in several sports at university. Among her most notable successes and community contributions are: working for the Continuing Education Department of the Calgary Board of Education, ultimately ascending to the position of Director; serving as President of the Calgary Home Economics Association; co-writing a history of home economics in Alberta titled "The Past is Prologue"; serving as a member of the Minister's Advisory Committee to Further Education; being elected President of Northwest Adult Education – an organization that represented adult educators from Western Canada, the Northwest United States and Alaska; winning the YWCA's "Woman of Distinction" award and being on the YWCA "Wall of Honour"; being elected as a member of the Senate of the University of Calgary; volunteering at the Distress Centre; serving on the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta; serving in a number of capacities with the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary; and, writing and publishing a series on money management called "Money and the Marketplace", which was the subject of a television series.

Carol was so proud of the home she made for her family in Calgary and she loved her garden, which was admired by the neighbours in Altadore. She was a life-long member of the Unitarian Church.

Carol is survived by her four children and their spouses, Scott and Mary, Stuart and Sherri, Steven and Tiffany, and Sharon; her grandchildren and their spouses. She was predeceased by her husband Bill; her granddaughter Jillian; her sister Norma; and her brother Murray. A celebration of Carol's wonderful life will be held at a date to be announced. Condolences may be forwarded through www.mcinnisandholloway.com.

Published in The Calgary Herald from Apr. 21 to Apr. 26, 2018

BAKER, Dorothy May (nee Henrikson) **May 5, 1927 – March 25, 2018**

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved mother Dorothy May on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at the age of 90 years. Dorothy is survived by her four sons Richard (Margaret), Robert (Brenda), David (Gwendolyn), Paul and their families; her sister Claire Christiansen; two sisters-in-law Irene Roberts and Isabel Casey; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Dorothy was predeceased by her husband of 48 years, Harry Baker. A Memorial Service was held at Lutheran Church of The Cross, on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

Please forward condolences through www.calgarycrematorium.com.

If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Lutheran Church of The Cross, Memorial Fund, or the P.E.O Chapter "M" Educational Projects, or the Cantare Children's Choir. The family wishes to thank Dr. Connelly and the CICU team at Foothills Medical Centre, the wonderful staff at Southwood Hospice for taking excellent care of their mother.



Published in The Calgary Herald from Mar. 28 to Mar. 29, 2018

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LEIC PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING DINNER Courtesy of Karl Torfason



Lorie Dobson and Christine Mueller with the guest of honour Lowry Olafson



Wayne, Cynthia, Anne Pickering



Judy Ubaldi, Shirley Morton, Mavis Marteinson, Kelly Flemming.



Mary and Dan Gudmundsson



Alpine Caterers



45th anniversary cakes for the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club

PHOTOS FROM THE INL CONVENTION -EDMONTON Photos courtesy of Margaret Grisdale



Lorie and Len Dobson



Afton Barabash, Margret Grisdale



R J Murray



Helene Goodman



Keith and Lois Yasinko



Arden Jackson, Ed Yasinko

