

THE ICELANDIC CLUB OF GREATER SEATTLE

Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were established in 1965 for the new club. The first officers were:

President	Tani Bjornson
Vice-President	Stella Miller
Recording Secretary	Harold Leo Johnson
Corresponding Secretary	Thor Viking
Treasurer	Robert Stevenson

There were 182 Charter Members of the club. It is notable that three active members of Vestri and The Club have been honored by Iceland with The Order of the Falcon: Jakobina Johnson, Karl Frederik and Jon Magnusson.

The chief functions in the first year were: 17th of June Celebration, Scandinavian Music Festival, Nordic Festival, two social dances, and the Leif Eiriksson League. Regular events carried on since the first year are: Thorrablot, Sumardagurinn Fyrsti, 17th of June, a summer picnic, and Jolaball. A Fjallkona, a Princess and Princess in Waiting are chosen each year. The club publishes regular Newsletters describing coming events, summaries of events and other news of interest. The name of the Newsletter was changed to *New Geysir* in 1996.

The Club has sponsored many special events over the years as follows:

Charter flights to Iceland in 1966, 1967 and 1974.

Initiated a Christmas service and children's Christmas party at the Calvary Lutheran Church in 1970.

Participated in the Seattle Nordic Festivals with other Scandinavian organizations in the 1970s.

It hosted a reception for Iceland President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir in 1982.

It established scholarships for outstanding students of Icelandic descent in 1982. The scholarship fund has been supported by an annual Icelandic golf tournament since 2001.

It became one of the five ethnic groups in the establishment of the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle in 1980. The Club and its members have had close connection with the museum since its inception and have held many events there. Members,

Stony Herman, Helgi Thordarson and Lloyd Olason made plans for the Iceland Room in 1986 which was officially opened in 1989. Iceland President, Vigdís Finbogadóttir, officially dedicated the room on May 1, 1990. A loyal group of Club members led by Sig Johnson meets every Tuesday morning for coffee at the Museum and maintains the room and makes plans for some Club events.

An Icelandic Heritage Day was held at the Museum in October 1994 to increase awareness of the Icelandic community in our Icelandic and Northwest heritage, to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions, and to raise funds to photocopy Vestri and Eining documents. Honored were: Anna Bjornson for preserving and translating the records of Vestri, Geysir and Eining; Helgi Thordarson for his leadership in creating the Iceland Room; and Tani and Sigrid Bjornson for their many years of service to The Club in music and preservation of history.

In October 1995 artist from Iceland, Sigrún Jónsdóttir, exhibited her Bishop vestments and decorations for churches at the Museum. The Club sponsored a dinner and tour of her exhibit in the Museum.

The Club hosted a reception for Iceland President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson and wife Guðrún Katrín Thorbergadóttir at the Museum in 1997.

On December 3, 1999, Halldór Ásgímsson, Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs held a reception for the Icelandic community at the Museum.

All of the surviving records of Vestri were copied on acid-free paper (master copies) and the originals were donated to the Archives of the University of Washington for professional care under controlled environmental conditions. Fifty-two bound copies of all these records (Including also *Geysir*, Eining and the Icelandic Club) were duplicated from the master copies and donated to the Nordic Heritage Museum library as described In the June 2002 issue of the Icelandic Club newsletter, *New Geysir*.

In 2004 The Club agreed to sponsor a book of translations of eight articles on Icelandic settlers in Point Roberts, Blaine, Bellingham and Marietta written in Icelandic by Margret J. Benediktson in the *Almanak* (Winnipeg) from 1925 to 1943. Three of the translators, Ted Beck, Baird Bardarson and Willard Larson, are Club members. Sales of the book, *Icelanders of the Pacific Coast*, has netted over \$2,500 to be used for copying and binding Club minutes and the Newsletters and *New Geysir*.

In March 2004 the Club sponsored a program at the Museum featuring Almar Grímsson, President INL Iceland, Bill Holm and Valgeir Þorvaldson, Wincie Jóhannesdóttir from Hofós and singer Anna Sígga Helgadóttir.

Anthropology Professor Gísli Pálsson from the University of Iceland presented a lecture on the Icelandic arctic explorer, Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, at the Calvary Lutheran Church in October 2005.

The Club sponsored a concert by the Reykjavík Wind Quartet at the Museum March 2006.

On April 7, 2007, The Club held its second Icelandic Heritage Day at the Museum. Honored for their significant contributions to The Club were Harald and Ethel Sigmar, Eric and Svava Sigmar, John and Inge Johnson, and Margaret Gustavson. Genealogist Nelson Gerrard presented a wonderful slide show on his collection of pre-1910 photographs of Icelandic immigrants.

On April 17, 2007, Víkingur Ólafsson, pianist, and Karen Ouzounian, cellist, both students at Julliard School of Music gave an outstanding performance at the Museum.

On October 3, 2007, wood carvers, Jón Adolf Steinólfsson (Iceland) and Tryggvi Thorleif Larum (N. California) presented a wood carving of The Club logo. The logo has been used on Club stationary and Newsletters since inception. The wood carving logo is now displayed in the Iceland Room in the Museum.

Participation in INL has been an on again off again affair with divided opinion on whether the Club should participate in what appeared to be predominantly Winnipeg. One delegate or more attended in Wynyard 1989, Vancouver 1991, Minneapolis 2002, Victoria 2006, Winnipeg 2007 and Calgary 2008. With a more western shift and one US meeting the Club decided to join the INL again in 2004