



VOLUME XLIV?
April 2017

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2017 Event Schedule

Date and Time	Event	Location
2/25/17 at 6 pm	Laskiainen	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4/1/17 at 6 pm	Danish Fare & Bus. Mtg.	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
5/20/17 from 5-7 pm	Syttende Mai	Calvary Baptist Church Picnic Area

FALL AND WINTER EVENTS

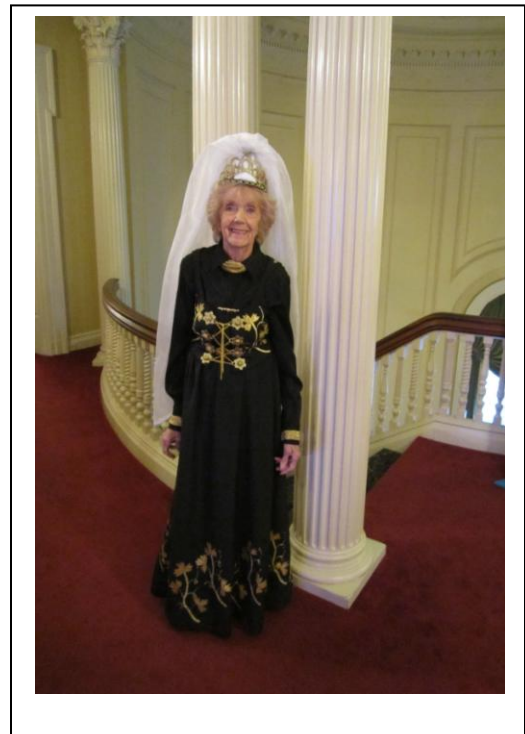
On October 22, 2016, SKSKY held the Fall Harvest Dinner at Spindletop. We were delighted to have Ieda and Heidi Herman join us to speak about Iceland. As you may remember, Ieda grew up there and married an American sailor during WW II. In America, Ieda and her husband raised 10 children, Heidi the youngest. A graduate of the Chicago School of Interior Design and the Institute of Children's Literature in Connecticut, Ieda had two careers. Following in her mother's footsteps, Heidi is a veteran of the telecommunications industry, does motivational speaking and training and writes about Icelandic culture, too. Both Ieda and Heidi realized that Iceland is a Scandinavian country that is not so well known and set about changing that. I think all would agree that we learned a lot, and would love to visit this beautiful place.

Iceland is a country rich in scenery with fjords, mountains, volcanoes, hot springs and rugged sea coasts. (Jules Vernes used one of the caves as a source of inspiration for his book, Journey to the Center of the Earth.) Reportedly Iceland was settled by the Vikings toward the end of the 9th century although sagas and archaeological findings suggest that Gaelic monks may have arrived earlier. In Brendan's Voyage: Sailing to America in a Leather Boat to Prove the Legend of the Irish Sailor Saints, published in 1977 Tim Severin reenacts possible early voyages by monks from Ireland and suggests that a visit to Iceland was very possible. You may wish to go to De Navigatio Tim Severin The Brendan Voyage to view the film

clips of the tiny handmade leather boat which carried them to Iceland and Newfoundland. The winds carried them far to the north and then west. Imagine taking off without having any notion of where you would end up! Iceland and Newfoundland. The winds carried them far to the north and then west. Imagine taking off without having any notion of where you would end up!

Under Viking settlement, the chieftons formed an Athling, around 930, an early parliamentary form of government. From an independent state, Iceland became part of Norway which then joined with Denmark and Sweden. Later Iceland was back under Denmark but became independent once again as of 1944. Iceland has a rich cultural heritage. Heidi is revisiting sagas and writings version for children. See The Legend of the Icelandic Yule Lads. Both Ieda and Heidi have written several books on Iceland and recently completed an Icelandic cookbook: Homestyle Icelandic Cooking for American Kitchens. You may find a complete listing of their books at Amazon.com

My brother Richard is visiting Iceland this month and I hope will share his adventures.



On December 10, 2016, all convened for another wonderful Luciafest. Many joined in to make the evening a festive one:

MUSICIANS	Kelly Peterson – Organ Marcia Moser – Flute
NARRATOR	Jaci Williams
LUCIA	Emma Sophia Pousette
PARTICIPANTS	Theodore Ehrenborg Thomas Ehrenborg Layla Angeles Plakosh Isaac Angeles Plakosh Christian Pousette Signe Ingram Edie Ingram Jill Peterson Savannah Peters Sullivan Peteres
CHORUS	Margaret Readdy & Richard Ehrenborg Emily Montgomery Kristie Eubank Judy Moffett Anne Keating
DIRECTORS	Kristie Eubank & Anne Keating

Marcia Moser drove all the way from Somerset to play the flute with us. The fellowship and Scandinavian food afterwards never disappoint. Several people new to us expressed an interest in coming. Perhaps we should pause to introduce ourselves at the group gathering so that new members know to whom they have spoken and so that we can all be sure to meet the new visitors and make them welcome. Thanks to all who made the evening a great success. It is a gathering that involves lots of steps and details from arranging the location (which Gethsemane Lutheran Church has most graciously provided, to making sure that the dining room is decorated and prepared, that there is heat and sound and lights (Jaci Williams is a key logistics expert here) and members too numerous to mention help to decorate (although Kristie organized the effort this year after Marion Soule passed the baton). Dan Lindskog prepared the glogg and Craig Olsen often helps too. . Members are generous with their contributions to the table, and visitors generous in their appreciation. It's a wonderful feeling to see everyone working on the project together and having a good time.

On February 25, we met for the Laskiainen Finnish evening at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. My brother Geoffrey was in town and enjoyed being with our wonderful group. John Paulsen gave a fascinating talk about coins which he collects. We saw ancient ones from thousands of years ago, one that weighed over a pound which would not be easy to carry around. Each one had its own history. They were in many kinds of metal, and some remarkably intricate in design with detailed human figures with particular dress and hair styles. When one considers how labor intensive

it would be to create coins by hand in quantity, and to do so in a manner that would enable them to last in all detail, it is quite amazing to contemplate. I think we all realize that people travelled a great deal more than we might have imagined possible in times we regard as ancient, primitive in some respects and full of hardships, but to the inhabitants, of course, they were living in the modern world. Thank you, John!

Our next meeting was on April 1 at 6 pm at Gethesemane Lutheran Church. Due to format problems, you are receiving this report after the fact. We tried to keep the business meeting very short. We didn't have much to transact anyway.

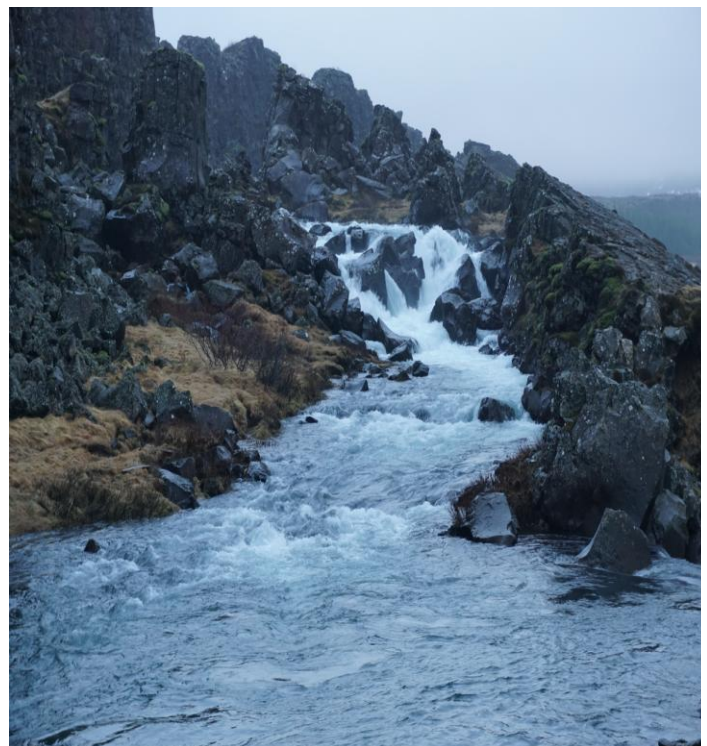
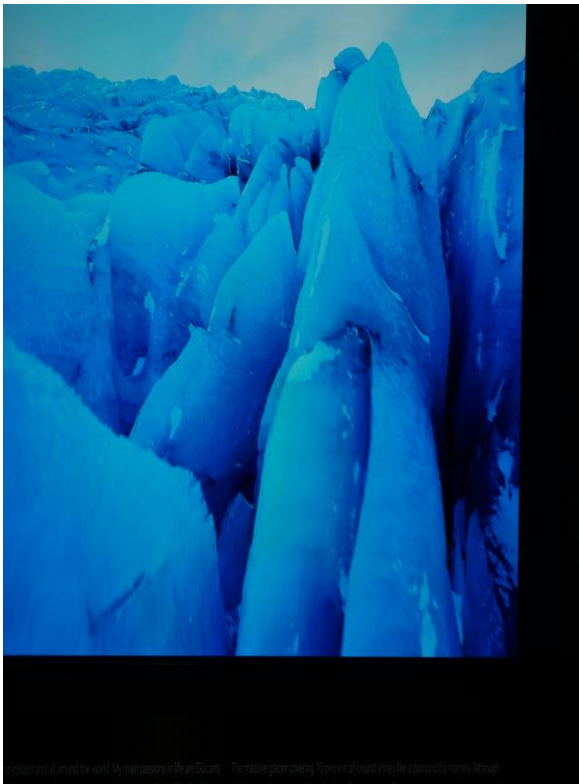
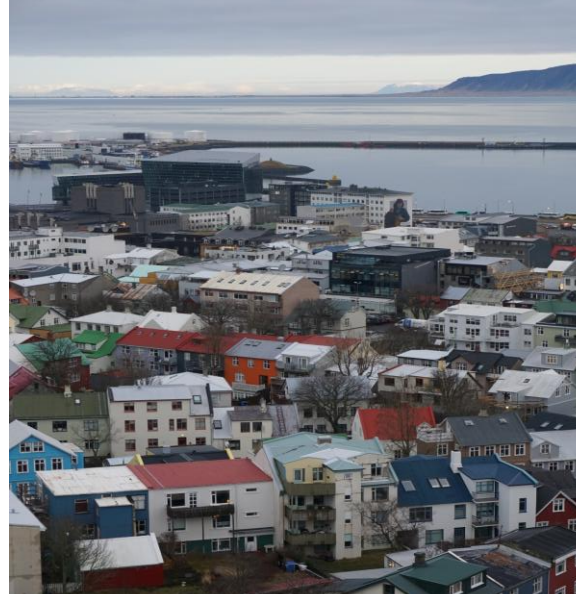


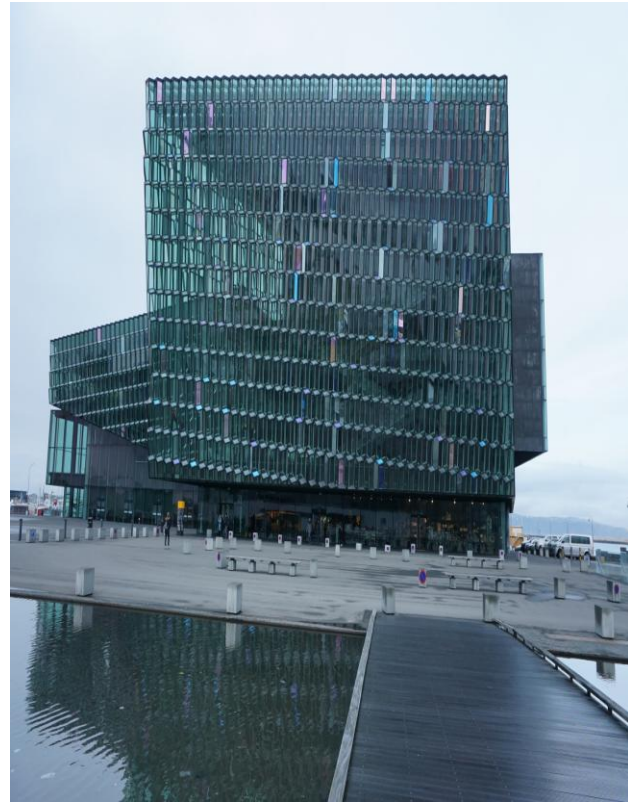
We had fabulous food as usual, soup, stew, caviar, salmon, herring, special spreads and breads, prune filled pastry, Rhubarb pie, and a Danish Rhubarb dessert for the National Day which is a Rhubarb sauce, with custard on top, capped with whipped cream and almonds. I attempted fruit soup. Have I forgotten anything?

Kristie will continue as President with Anne Keating as Vice President. Kristie will take over the Treasurer's position as finance is her forte. Thomas Hakasson will continue as Secretary. Jaci will be Membership chairman. Hurrah! We need help in that area. All suggestions are welcome if you have ideas for our meetings.

We learned just recently that one of our October speakers, Ieda Herman, has had a stroke, but is recovering nicely. Heidi said in her email that they have a full schedule of exciting events coming up and her mother's doctor gave the ok to enjoy them and for her mother to pace herself as needed. We all send our warm wishes for a full and fast recovery!

PHOTOS FROM ICELAND BY RICHARD





Iceland and all around the world. My main passions in life are Glaciers. The massive glacier covering 10 percent of Iceland shines like a diamond for eternity. Although

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