

# LEIF News

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The Leif Erikson International Foundation (LEIF) brings this newsletter to you with several invitations and news of our work to honor Nordic immigrants.

LEIF is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the study, education, and promotion of Leif Erikson as the first recorded European to set foot on American shores. We also seek to promote Nordic culture and establish connections between Americans and citizens of the Nordic countries. Donations to LEIF are tax deductible.

We have raised funds for statues of Leif Erikson in Trondheim, Norway, and L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland (the site of Leif Erikson's Vinland settlement). We also raised partial funding for another statue at Brattahlid (*Qassarsuk*), Greenland. All three of these are replicas of Seattle's Leif Erikson statue at Shilshole Bay Marina. We have also created a new home for the original statue by redesigning the Leif Erikson Plaza at Shilshole with 14 runic-like stones and the names, so far, of 2,319 Nordic immigrants.

## You're invited Nov. 8

The latest addition to Leif Erikson Plaza is a small plaque with 75 names of Scandinavian immigrants. We will unveil it on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m., and we're inviting everyone to the ceremony.

State Rep. Gael Tarleton, a Ballard resident, will unveil the plaque, while the Rev. Maynard Atik will offer a blessing and dedicate it. Soloist Vivian Evans, whose parents' names are on the plaque, will sing. The address is 7001 Seaview Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117.

After the 2 p.m. unveiling, we'll host a house concert at 3 p.m. with Pekka and Perttu, two internationally renowned folk musicians from Finland. Pekka Pentikäinen is an accordionist, composer, and accordion teacher, and Perttu Paapanen is a violinist, folk music teacher, and solo artist. Both of these talented musicians have studied in Sibelius Academy's Folk Music Department and are veterans of progressive Finnish folk music. They've been to Seattle before and have a legion of local fans. We know their amazing music will leave you wanting more.



We're requesting an RSVP and a donation of \$10 per person for the concert, which will include a celebratory glass of bubbly, either champagne or a non-alcoholic drink. Please call 206-778-1081 or email [leif@leiferikson.org](mailto:leif@leiferikson.org) to let us know you are coming!

**Pekka and Perttu will entertain at a private party after the unveiling on Nov. 8.**

The address is 5608 34th Ave. NW, Seattle, 98107, several blocks from the Locks. If you have strong legs and good shoes, please be so kind as to park several blocks from the home and leave closer parking for our older guests.

## More plaques, more names?

Our earlier statements about completing the "last plaque" were premature. We've discovered that there is both a place for more names on the 14th stone and a need in the community to continue honoring Nordic immigrants. We'll keep taking submissions for additional names as long as the community submits them.

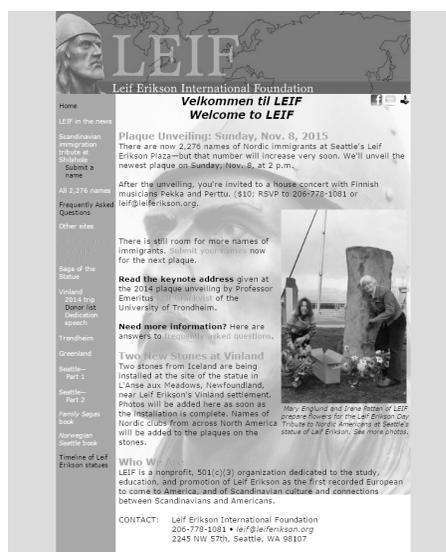
The cost of \$125 per line, which includes the immigrant's name, place of origin, and year of immigration, will remain the same. You may call us and request a form by mail, visit [leiferikson.org/form](http://leiferikson.org/form) to print a form, or pay online with PayPal at [leiferikson.org/Submit.htm](http://leiferikson.org/Submit.htm).



The Leif Erikson plaza has been described as "among the finest of its sort in both Scandinavia and the U.S." The site, with its 14 runic-like stones, the mammoth statue base with the impressive sculpture, and the Nordic immigrants' names on the stones, is becoming a Seattle landmark. It is a place of reverence and respect.

**It's not too late to add the name of a Nordic immigrant to a plaque at Leif Erikson Plaza.**

## +++++ Add stories & photos to our website



**If you add a name to one of our plaques, you'll soon be able to create a page on our website as well.**

We're excited to announce that we'll soon be able to allow donors to create pages on our website, [leiferikson.org](http://leiferikson.org). So if you've already submitted a name for one of our plaques, you can upload stories and photos to a page on our site with more information about the immigrant you have honored. We'll go through two steps to verify every submission: we'll ask for an

tax-deductible donation of any amount, and someone from our Board will read and approve your submission. After those two steps, your new page will be published live on our Website. It's very close to being ready for your preview. Please keep checking [leiferikson.org](http://leiferikson.org) to find out when it's ready.

## Keep in touch with LEIF

Our mailing list started in 1997. Since then, many donors have added email accounts or changed their email addresses. To add a new or updated email address to our database, please email us at

[leif@leiferikson.org](mailto:leif@leiferikson.org) with your name, and of course, the new email address. We won't mail often—no more than a couple of times a year.

We also have a Facebook page where you can check on news or photos of what's going on down at the Plaza: [www.facebook.com/leiferiksonviking](http://www.facebook.com/leiferiksonviking).

Sincerely yours,

LEIF Board of Directors: Barbara Grande Dougherty, Mary DeVuono Englund, Kristine Leander, Rolf Lystad, Dustin Matsen, Irene Patten, Dave Skar, and Sharon Storbo

## Own a piece of the legend

Sure, it's fun to go to a ball game and bring home a bobblehead doll. But no matter how many times a guy steals second base, it just doesn't compare to discovering a new continent. Here's a chance for you to obtain a work of art that honors a true hero.

In the 1960s, after sculptor August Werner created the Leif Erikson statue for the Seattle World's Fair, he created some smaller busts, mostly for his friends. We now have the opportunity for a new rendition, using Professor Werner's original form.

Two Ravens Studio in Tacoma is creating the busts, which will be about 18 inches tall and available in three finishes: bronze (\$1,075), resin (\$425), and plaster



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(\$350). These prices are approximate, but we'll soon have firm costs, plus sample photos of other pieces from the foundry in each format. Please write or e-mail [leif@leiferikson.org](mailto:leif@leiferikson.org) to let us know you're interested in a bust, and we'll follow up with you.

## Traditions at Leif Erikson Plaza

This past Leif Erikson Day, Oct. 9, we invited donors via email to bring flowers to honor their family names on the stones and to celebrate Nordic heritage. See photos at [leiferikson.org/Leif\\_Day\\_2015.htm](http://leiferikson.org/Leif_Day_2015.htm). After a number of days, we planted the potted flowers and spread the blossoms of the cut flowers in front of the stones.

Also, on Christmas Eve for several years, we've put lighted candles, glass chimneys, and greens in front of each stone on the plaza at dusk on Christmas Eve, just as people do for gravestones in the Nordic countries. We find that these traditions help add significance not only to the plaza but to our experience as Nordic Americans. Please put these dates on your calendar if you want to be part of these traditions in the future: Oct. 9 and Dec. 24.



Floral tributes adorn Leif Erikson Plaza on Oct. 9.