

The Leif Erikson Plaza, a tribute to Scandinavian immigration, was designed by Seattle artist Jay Haavik. His inspiration for the 13 basalt stones came from Viking-era stone memorial sites, shaped in the footprint of a ship. The 6,000 or so rune stones in Scandinavia were created from the 10th to the 12th century and most often included runic inscriptions, but sometimes just images. All of these stones will eventually hold plaques with additional names of Scandinavian immigrants, and the plaza will be planted in a walk-able ground cover.

Each stone depicts a Viking-inspired motif, beginning clock-wise with the bow stone:

1. The idea for the design came from the picture stones from Gotland Island, Sweden.
2. Dragon motifs similar to those found outside the Urnes Stave Church, Urnes, Norway.
3. A Bronze Age boat motif, also found on the picture stones from Gotland, Sweden.
4. A biting snake motif often found on picture stones from Gotland, Sweden.
5. A spiral whorl, possibly depicting the sun, with fighting horses is a familiar theme from the Gotland, Sweden stones.
6. A dragon-like image often seen on weather vanes from the Viking era.
7. The Urnes Stave church, Urnes, Norway, has interior abatements with similar motifs.
8. Harness mounts found in Sweden have similar animal or bird-like images.
9. A dragon-like image similar to one on the west gable of the famous Urnes stave church is above with the lion image below from the stave church portal.
10. A dragon-like motif from the Viking era inspired by a paper-cut design by contemporary artist Rick James.
11. Above are creatures from the Oseberg Viking Ship, now in the Viking Ship Museum, Oslo, Norway. The prow of the ship is below.
12. A quatrefoil loop from a picture stone, Gotland, Sweden. This image is also the tourist information symbol in Norway.
13. A dragon-like image with wings often seen on Norwegian stave church portals.

Leif Erikson International Foundation Board Members: Barbara Grande Dougherty, Mary DeVuono Englund, Kristine Leander, Rolf Lystad, Dick Sandaas, and Sharon Storbo.

Honorary Board Members: Rolf Grankvist, Trondheim, Norway, and Per Sorum, Mount Vernon.

Yes, we are still accepting names for the plaques at the Leif Erikson Plaza.

Immigrant's name (24 spaces) _____

Where they came from (22 spaces) _____

Year of immigration (4 spaces) _____

Donor's name _____

Donor's address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Mail with \$125 to: Leif Erikson International Foundation (LEIF), 2245 NE 57th, Seattle, WA 98107.
206-778-1081. www.leiferikson.org. leif@leiferikson.org.

Leif Erikson Plaza

**Dedicated to
Scandinavian Immigration**

Sunday, October 7, 2007



“Their sails were filled with hope and courage.”

Dedication of the Leif Erikson Plaza

3 pm

Prelude: Hugo's Accordion Band from Mount Vernon
Honored guests led by Ballard fiddle player Bill Boyd

Master of Ceremonies: Terje Leiren, Chair of the Scandinavian Studies Department, UW

Welcome: Kristine Leander, President of Leif Erikson International Foundation (LEIF)

Artist: Jay Haavik, Designer of the Runic Stones and Plaza

Address: Port of Seattle Commissioner Alec Fischen

Music: Norwegian Ladies Chorus of Seattle performing the song they sang in 2000 at Brattahlid, Erik the Red's Farm in Greenland, on the 1000th anniversary of Leif's voyage to America.

Hälsa Dem Därhemma (A Sailor's Greeting). Arranged by Frederick Wick; Directed by Julie Svendsen. Written as a nostalgic song by a homesick Danish sailor, it has been adopted by Scandinavian Americans. "If I had wings like you, swallow, I would fly back home to greet my loved ones."

Comments: by Icelandic Consul Jon Marvin Jonsson: "Who Was Leifur Eiriksson?"

Proclamation by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels honoring Oct. 7, 2007, as Scandinavian Heritage Day

Introduction of the new Executive Director of Nordic Heritage Museum by Allan Osberg, President of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Donation by Leif Erikson International Foundation, presented by Treasurer Sharon Storbo to the Nordic Heritage Museum's Building Fund.

Music by the statue's sculptor August Werner, recorded on RCA Victor 78 rpm record in 1918.

Barndomshjemmet (Childhood Home). "Though the years have gone by, I will never forget my childhood home."

Dedication & Ribbon Cutting by Kristine Leander (LEIF) and Eric Nelson, Executive Director of Nordic Heritage Museum.

Thank you to the following individuals and companies for your skilled and generous contributions to the project of the Leif Erikson Plaza.

Port of Seattle: Ed Buttons, Frank Fargo, Alec Fischen, Cassie Fritz, Mark Longridge, Anne Porter, Kevin Wall, Mark Wentz, and other POS employees too numerous to mention. Advance Marking System: Barry Larsen. Art Conservation Services: Patricia Leavengood. Artech: Denise Bisio, Jeri Miller, Roger Waterhouse. Foley Sign Company: Mark Metcalf. KPFF Consulting Engineers: David Eisenman, Ralph Iboshi, Amie Sullivan, and Jim Swenson. Marenakos Rock Center: Travis Brown, Scott Hackney, Bill Hyde, and Jan Nielsen. Shannon & Wilson, Inc: Atef Azzam, David O'Malley, Hisham Sarieddine, and Jim Wu.

And most of all, we thank our donors and supporters whose memories and affection for Scandinavia guide us.

Leif Erikson Plaza Champagne Reception

4 pm

RSVP prepaid guests only (due to tent capacity)

Prelude: Seattle's Folk Voice Band

Master of Ceremonies: Terje Leiren, Chair of Scandinavian Studies Department, UW

Music: Composed and sung by Seattle Icelander Karin Bardarson: "Song for Leif"

*"And some love the pastures green
Some love the sands of the desert
But a Viking loves the salty sea
And the lure of adventure"*

Address: Mark Maleng: "Proud To Be Norwegian"

Music: All Scandinavian Chorus (Finnish Choral Society, Norwegian Ladies Chorus, Norwegian Male Chorus, Swedish Women's Chorus, and Svea Male Chorus)

Finlandia (Dear Land of Home) by Jean Sibelius. Directed by Julie Svendsen

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" by Jill Jackson and Sy Miller, arranged by William Stickles. Directed by Robert Johnston.

Closing comments: Kristine Leander

Music: Dale Cummings: "Nidelven, stille og vakker Du Er"

"Nidelven, how still and beautiful you are." A song of longing for a place and a sweetheart one may never see again. The songwriter Oscar Hoddø was in the Norwegian Underground and lost his life fighting the Nazi occupation in 1943.

The statue of Leif Erikson was a gift to the Port of Seattle by the Leif Erikson League, led by Trygve Nakkerud. The sculptor was August Werner. It was originally unveiled and dedicated on Norway Day, June 17, 1962, at the Century 21 Seattle World's Fair. Our honored guests at today's celebration are those who attended the original unveiling.

Thank you to the following for your kind and gracious contributions toward today's celebration:

Megan Deinas and Cassie Fritz of the Port of Seattle; Ron Olsen of the Scandinavian Hour (9 am. Saturdays on KKNW-AM 1150); Starbucks on Market Street; White Cap Construction Supply, and all the generous participants, performers, and singers.

Replicas of this statue have been given to the capital of the old Nordic Kingdom, Trondheim, Norway, (1997) and Erik the Red's farm in Greenland (2000).

