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CEO (Climate Engagement Officer) Co-Founder Hearts in the Ice



In May 2020 Sunniva Sørby & Hilde Fållun Strøm made history as the first women to overwinter solo in the Arctic. They spent 19 months in the remote trapper's cabin "Bamsebu" in support of their global impact project "Hearts in the Ice" which was started in 2018 as a global platform for dialogue, engagement, education and inspiration around the issues of climate change and the role each person can play.

To quote one of their lead researchers:

"Hearts in the Ice is more than a project, more than two brave women managing to stay on their own during a polar winter. It is a model how scientists, industrial partners, explorers, artists and other stakeholders can meet in a common action to focus on polar climate changes. They are following in the footsteps of other polar pioneers, but this time not hunting for fur and skins, but knowledge and wisdom", Børge Damsgard, Director of UNIS (University Center of Svalbard)

On January 14th, 1993, Sunniva Sørby made history as one of the four-team members of the American Women's Antarctic Expedition. They reached the South Pole following a grueling 700-mile trip across the snow and ice of Antarctica. The team skied for 67-days into headwinds of up to 50 miles an hour, pulling 200- pound sleds in temperatures that dropped to 67 below zero.

They were the first women's team to ever reach the South Pole on foot without the aid of sled dogs or motorized vehicles.

In May 1999, Sunniva led a team of three across the Greenland icecap from the East to West side, 33-day crossing that was over 350 miles in length. She became the first Canadian woman to complete the Greenland crossing and the first Canadian woman to ski to the South Pole.

Prior to her Arctic and Antarctic experiences, Sunniva spent 10 years as a Lead Instructor for Adventure 16's Wilderness Outings program. She has guided numerous backcountry navigation classes, parent/child outings, backpack classes and has developed and taught winter camping and survival programs. She also worked as Store manager, Outings coordinator and Community Outreach Director for A16. She was born in Tønsberg, Norway and raised in Montreal where she graduated from Trafalgar School for Girls and went on to pursue Economics at Champlain College & Bishops University, where she majored in Economics.

For close to 5-years she was Expedition/Project leader for TAE2000. The aims of TAE2000 were to support the first woman's crossing of the Antarctic, to educate youth around the world about the Antarctic and "what is individually and collectively" possible and to commit to research on the psychological and physiological implications of such a long grueling crossing which was done in collaboration with DCIEM (The Defense and Civil Institute for Environmental Medicine) based in Toronto, Canada.

She journeyed to Africa in 2000 for a 5-week lecturing tour sponsored by YPO International (Young President's Organization) and spoke to schools and corporate groups in South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Mauritius. She took time off to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro-Africa's highest peak measuring over 19,400 feet.

In 2002 she was nominated as "Woman of the Year" by San Diego council member Christine Kehoe where she flew to the State Capital to accept her award for her volunteer work and community service outreach to kids and young women as part of her efforts to promote sports education and healthy lifestyles.

Sunniva was the Director of Travel for a large travel company in the Bay area where she developed specialty adventure travel trips and continued to work as a guide and lecturer in the Arctic, Antarctic, Falklands Islands and South Georgia with her focus on natural history and History of the Polar Regions. Sunniva also spent several years working for a design/build firm in the Bay Area whose emphasis and critique centered on the development and implementation of sustainable, energy- efficient and completely green residential and commercial construction. At the same time, she remained active in running, mountain biking and completely scraping and renovating her own home.

In 2011 she started up Red Door Adventures, a blend of her love of creating opportunities for women in business and sharing the many cultures and peak experiences the outdoor world has to offer. Red Door Adventures has successfully led a group of women to Mt Kilimanjaro where collectively, the team raised \$ 40,000 for 2 non-profit groups that support research and medication for kids with Aids. She has led numerous trips back to Kilimanjaro and to Patagonia Argentina, and has taken small groups to the Arctic and Antarctic where she continues to lecture on the history of the polar regions and drive zodiacs in and around the most hostile, beautiful and fragile places those regions represent.

Prior to moving to Squamish BC, Canada, she spent 2 years working with the Fortune 500 companies that were headquartered in Quebec, Canada. In collaboration with Catalyst Inc, her work was to inspire, engage and make an impact on diversity and opportunities for women/under-represented groups in the workplace through research that Catalyst has conducted for the past 50 years on that very subject.

Sunniva was the head of Global Sales for Polar Latitudes (PL) for 4 years prior to creating "Hearts in the Ice". She was a frequent guest on board the ships and served the role of Zodiac Driver, Naturalist Guide and Historian by sharing her knowledge of Polar History and the rich stories from early exploration.

Sunniva has been sought after as a keynote speaker for numerous companies and special interest groups. Her recent keynotes have included: GOOGLE, Right-Mesh (Block chain company), PEER Summit (Bitcoin CEO's). City of Ft Meyers, Calif. Science Educators Conference, American Society for Training and Development, Telus, BC Hydro, Global 4H Ignite Summit March 2023 among others.

September 2020 Sunniva was awarded the Distinguished Alumnae award from Trafalgar School for Girls in Montreal, Canada where she has also been a keynote speaker for their Annual Trafalgar -Ross Lecture.

Connected Virtually with over 150, 000 youth globally on climate topics:

<https://www.exploringbytheseat.com/hiti/>

[Speaker at COP26 UN assembly in Scotland](#) with Maria Pia Casarini- Polar Educators Int'l

EC50 Award - Explorers Club -Fifty people changing the world that the world needs to know about :

<https://www.explorers.org/the-explorers-club-50/>

Speaker Oct 2022: Explorers Club: Visionaries:

<https://www.heartsintheice.com/event/explorers-club/>

[Keynote speaker](#) at the GLEX Summit in Azores- Global Exploration Summit July 2022

Senior Polar Tourism Guide for PTGA.com Polar Ambassador For IAATO
Fellow- RCGS (Royal Canadian Geographical Society), Member- Explorers Club
Chair BC/Yukon Explorers Club, Member- SWG (Society of Women Geographers)

[Fellow and Flag Carrier- Wings World Quest.](#)

Member- PEI /Polar Educators International

IMAX Documentary in Progress with IMAGINE : [Sizzle here](#), password is Snow.

[Co-Author book "Hearts in the Ice" : https://www.heartsintheice.com/shop/](#) Author - OP-ED

March 1 2022 :

<https://www.heartsintheice.com/hope-in-a-time-of-war/>

[Co-Author- Arctic Circle Publication Feb 10 2022](#)

[Co-Author- Blogs : https://www.heartsintheice.com/blog/](#)

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Facebook: heartsintheice

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Polar Ambassador, Author, and Explorer, Sunniva Sorby made history in 1993 as part of the first team of women to ski to the South Pole and in 2021 as the first duo of women to overwinter solo in the Arctic. With over 25 years in the polar regions as historian and naturalist guide she is an advocate for protecting the Polar regions through storytelling, citizen science, youth engagement and visual inspiration. An accomplished keynote speaker she co-presented at the UN Cop26 on the “Importance of polar education to understand climate change. Sunniva’s goal is to continue to inspire better service to the earth and to each other through a project co-created with Hilde Falun Strom “Hearts in the Ice (HITI) .Through HITI they have reached over 100,000 youth globally on subjects all related to climate change with the goal of turning climate despair into hope and action.

