

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

Amana Church services will be live streamed from the church in Middle on FM 93.5 and Facebook. Limited in church attendance offered (see below).

The Regular Sunday Service will be in Middle Sunday, March 14, 2021, starting at 10:00 AM with Elder Mike Shoup presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Humility, the Noblest Virtue" No. 140

Testimony: Johann Adam Gruber, Anweiler, October 31, 1717

Scripture: II Peter 1: 3
Psalm 63

Closing Hymn: "Because I Know the Lord" No. 95 v 1, 2, 5.

Wednesday Nachtgebet live stream on Facebook at 7:00 p.m. **Saturday Fellowship** live stream on Facebook at 5:30 p.m. No in church option for these two services.

The Amana Church is offering the option to attend in-person services. All services will continue on Facebook live, and on your car radio (when parked outside the church) on 93.5 FM, posted to YouTube later. Sunday School remains unchanged.

Reopening our building for services should not be seen as an expectation that every member will attend in person. Rather, this is another option for members who are comfortable doing so.

Our focus has been, and will continue to be, the safety of our congregation. The measures below are designed to keep people safe, regardless of the COVID-19 numbers.

Enter through the south door (Men's side) and you will be directed to a seat. Bring your own Bible and hymnal. Please take any outerwear (coats, jackets, hats, etc.) with you to your seat. Follow the direction of the 'usher' in the Saal. Sit on a marked spot on the bench. If you and a family member are attending together, you may sit together. Exit through the same door that you entered through. No daycare.

Hand sanitizer will be available, please maintain 6 ft separations when entering and leaving the sanctuary. Songs will be read by the Elder or congregation.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 numbers and will adjust these measures as needed.

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

Returning to the theme of interesting Amana visitors of the past, a few more notable names come to mind. In about 1936 Thornton Wilder, famous as the author of play "Our Town" toured the villages while he was in Iowa to lecture at the University. Dr. and Mrs. Shambaugh showed him the sites, and Wilder wrote a polite thank you note to his hosts thanking Mrs. Shambaugh, who had written two books on Amana by that time, for the "interesting" tour.

Later, when the Iowa Writer's Workshop was getting underway in the 1940s and 1950s Flannery O'Connor, soon to be a famous southern novelist and short story writer, loved eating at the Colony Inn.

The memory of Katharine Hepburn's visit to the South Amana sandwich shop still lives on in local lore. The Bulletin even reported exactly what the actress ordered, and which souvenirs she bought. When Vice President Henry Wallace stopped by the Amana General Store in 1942, however, he rated just a single line in the Bulletin, whose editor was clearly not impressed.

When I was a child Roy Rogers, Arthur Godfrey and Edward Everett Horton (an actor who people remember today, if at all, for narrating the "Fractured Fairy Tales" segment during Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons) all came to town. At the time, all three were "A listers."

One day, word went out that Frank Parker, the tenor who sang on the Arthur Godfrey Show, was eating at the Ox Yoke Inn – at THAT VERY MOMENT. Everyone was advised to "keep quiet" about this thrilling news, but we were on a party line and

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AMANA SOCIETY 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Amana Society Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Amana Society will be awarding up to three \$1000.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors attending an accredited college or university in 2021.

Applicants must be either currently employed by the Amana Society, a child or grandchild of a current full-time Amana Society employee, or a child or grandchild of an Amana Society stockholder.

Application forms are available at the Amana Society Main Office front desk or by contacting Bruce Trumpold directly at 319-622-7526/btrumpold@amanas.net. Forms may also be downloaded at www.amanasociety.com.

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Grant for Emergency Sirens in Villages

The Iowa County Emergency Management department led by Josh Humphrey has applied for a FEMA grant to place 7 emergency sirens in the seven Amana villages.

Humphrey told The Bulletin that the grant asks for \$165,000 in emergency hazard mitigation funds from FEMA to purchase, erect and link the sirens to the Iowa County Emergency dispatch notification system. This grant application was filed by Humphrey but is a joint project of the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, Iowa County Emergency Management and the Amana Society Service Company.

If the grant is approved, one outdoor warning siren would be placed in each Amana village. As Humphrey explained, "The sirens will be able to be activated at the site itself or by the (county) dispatch center based on severe weather protocols." For example, should a local resident see a tornado, they would call 911, and then the siren in near villages would be activated as required.

While the Amana Refrigeration plant in Middle has emergency sirens, to this writer's knowledge, the Amana Colonies have never had a system for all seven villages that was linked to the county dispatch emergency systems.

Hotel Millwright - Looking Ahead 2021 St. Pat's Day Party and More Planned

Hotel Millwright is looking ahead to a very busy first year with increased bookings, weddings, more than 20 weddings have been booked thus far, outdoor live entertainment this summer and more walk-in traffic to the Indigo Room restaurant and Electric Thread whiskey bar as marketing steps up and folks start getting out more.

Just last month the Amana Woolen Mill moved its salesroom back to the mill. It's now located in the communal-era millwright shop and while the signs are going up, they are open and welcoming all. This location is proving ideal. First, it is just steps from where the textiles are being made in the weaving building, furthermore the re-purposed shop with the millwright tools still there intact, is a neat historical backdrop for the Amana blankets and products.

The hotel opened last October. It's been a quiet winter as the COVID pandemic has had and continues to have a strong chilling effect on travel and dining everywhere, but the hotel industry is predicting a comeback this summer as more people receive the COVID-19 vaccines. Hotel stays are beginning to rebound, with parks, rural lodging or what they called "hinterland lodging" being the most sought after type of get-away, according to HN hospitalitynet's "Ten Trends to Watch in 2021" Jan. 25, 2021 article.

The Hotel Millwright staff agrees, as they see increased interest in the property resulting in reservations, and as they broaden the hotel's appeal with activities and opportunities to recreate. Right now they offer state of the art, in-room entertainment systems, glassing painting workshops,

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"Experience the Comfort and Security of Retirement Living in the Amanas"

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game nights and yoga classes, all socially distanced.

Keeley Degel, Hotel Millwright director of sales and Greg Luerkens, ASI CEO, told the Amana Society Bulletin, "Hospitality in general is the industry that has been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. That said, there is real optimism surrounding Hotel Millwright."

As the industry has been challenged, there's a strong feeling within the industry that the first business to come back will be that of the leisure traveler, which is the target market of Hotel Millwright. We are hopeful that this, combined with the upcoming traditional tourist season in Amana, and the recent increases in vaccines available will create the perfect environment for Hotel Millwright to thrive. There is a strong feeling that there is significant pent up demand for people to get out, and Hotel Millwright can offer such an escape. We have also seen a small but positive trend with some business travelers choosing to stay with us. This year we are looking forward to introducing new guests to Amana. We have lots of fun planned for the different festivals."

"Events (private or corporate) are critical as they generate revenues for the venue itself but are also accompanied by food and beverage (sales) and room blocks. Since opening in October, we have accommodated in excess of 70 tours for potential bookings, and this number continues to grow."

Degel added, "We have been able to book 20-plus onsite wedding receptions. Additionally, we

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have booked several corporate events and meetings. The receptions and events have collectively generated more than 50 room blocks. We will be welcoming all kinds of groups and organizations to experience the hotel and the Amanas."

Those who come in to tour the hotel are impressed. We chatted with an Iowa City bride, her mom and sister after their tour. They were thrilled with the hotel and ready to book a 2022 wedding. "Our brides are excited about the unique spaces we offer and the resort style setting that their guests can experience," Degel said.

In late February Deb Wilson Hoover stayed at the hotel with three friends from her college years. "It's a beautiful place. . . I love it and plan to be back asap." We caught up with her after she returned to hometown Iowa Falls. She described their girl's getaway saying that they shopped all day, had a "huge and really tasty lunch at Millstream Brau Haus" before returning to the Hotel where they supped on "fun appetizers and binge watched movies. It was really perfect!"

The hotel has received positive feedback on social media, from local news outlets and national media; for example, Travel Awaits, a national digital and print travel industry magazine, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel both recently wrote about the hotel. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel feature story discussed Hotel Millwright along with the highly-touted Charmont Hotel in La Crosse, Detroit's classy Foundation Hotel, Detroit, the luxurious Hewing Hotel in Minneapolis as unique, historically hip places to vacation.

Amana Colony residents take note, here's what Degel and her staff have planned at the hotel this spring.

- St. Patrick's Day Party, Friday, March 19, doors open at 6 p.m. featuring the Irish band, Reilly – voted Wisconsin's Best Celtic Band. They'll be serving Irish beer and Irish bites, plus plenty of blarney. General admission is \$5 at the door. But you can reserve your own VIP Table for just \$150 which includes tickets for 8 people and the first round of beers. Of course this will be set up for social distancing.

- Dumpling Day is Sat. March 20. The Indigo Room will feature internationally-inspired dumplings. Come in for a meal or order carry-out.

- Plan your family Easter brunch at the Indigo Room. Reservations are required. Phone 319-838-5007. The brunch will feature a carving station, omelets made to order, the Indigo Room's burrito/taco bar, plus plenty of your breakfast faves.

- On Maifest, it's "Mai Kind of Party" from 5 - 10:30 p.m. with a hog roast, live music and yard games in the hotel's courtyard.

- During Amana's KinderFest they'll feature fair food, "inflatable" bounce houses for the kids, face-painting and live music from 11 – 4 p.m.

- Wurstfest and Oktoberfest 2021 special events at the hotel will be announced when details are set, but as Degel said, they "plan to take advantage of the hotel courtyard and beautiful landscaping to host many of the events throughout the seasons."

There's more. Look forward to live music at the Electric Thread on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons starting in May when the weather warms so that folks can gather on the patio by the smokestack fireplace.

"We're very much looking forward to the upcoming tourist season. We anticipate you'll see much more activity at the Hotel Millwright campus as we move into spring and summer. . . We'll actively host activities and events that will further compliment the Amana experience."

If you would like to get on Hotel Millwright's email list and hear about new and evolving events at the hotel, go to their website to ask to be included, or phone 319-838-5007 and give them your email address and follow Hotel Millwright on Facebook.

DUMPLING DAY SPECIAL AT THE COMMUNAL KITCHEN

The Amana Heritage Society is collaborating with the Amana Arts Guild to serve a takeout dumpling meal on Saturday, March 20th. Reservations and pre-purchase are required by Thursday, March 18th.

Menu: Creamed Chicken
Potato Dumplings
Cabbage Salad
Apple Sauce
Yeast Dumpling and Cinnamon Sauce

Your \$25 purchase is good for one meal AND one entry into a drawing for a locally made berry basket! Pickup at the Communal Kitchen Museum 1003 26th Ave in Middle Amana between noon and 1 pm.

Please purchase online at amanaheritage.org/product/dumpling-day/.

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FOR SALE

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AMANA COLONIES FIRST-EVER DUMPLING DAY March 20, 2021

This year, join the Amana Colonies for their first-ever Dumpling Day. On Saturday, March 20th, 2021 you will find special foods, dinners, and shopping specials at this weekend event.

Several Amana Colonies restaurants will have special menu options for Dumpling Day. Enjoy traditional Czech bread dumplings, Asian-inspired dumpling specials, and classic Amana-style potato dumplings. You will also be able to order a special pick-up dumpling lunch organized by the Amana Arts Guild and the Amana Heritage Society. Make reservations ahead of time to enjoy March's Vintner's Dinner which will include dumpling specials in each of 5 courses paired with a local wine.

While in the Colonies, enjoy shopping specials on chocolate dumplings, sausage dumplings along with antiques, vintage items, baked goods, and cozy blankets. As you shop, be sure to try dumpling and wine tastings as well.

This new event will offer unique cuisine and great shopping opportunities for a weekend in the Amana Colonies. Don't miss out on the excitement and remember to bring your appetite!

For more information or a complete list of events contact the Amana Colonies Visitors Center, 319-622-7622 or visit the website at www.amanacolonies.com.

Contact the Amana Colonies Convention and Visitors Bureau for more information 319-622-7624

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before long news was everywhere. Poor Bill Leichsenring had put the singer in the back room of the restaurant so that he could have some privacy but, because of the leak, he did not get much. Soon a crowd of well permed ladies, covered in rhinestone jewelry and perfume and colony men wearing neck ties and bearing autograph books, descended from the other villages. I remember that one of the motivations for going over there was to see whether he wore a toupee, as was rumored.

In more recent years, because of the Iowa caucuses, we have had the politicians. George W. Bush announced his candidacy for the presidency at the Festhalle, which is where Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton both spoke some eight years later. Bill Clinton spoke in the big metal building at the RV park. I wonder what those old colony guys milking the cows in the lower level of the old dairy barn would have thought had you told them that, one day, not one, but two presidents would be speaking up in the hayloft (now Festhalle) above them.....

B.S.H.

THANK YOU

I am most thankful for your prayers, cards, visits, food and other deeds extended to me at the recent passing of my devoted husband, Larry. My heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you. What a comfort it is to be surrounded by so many caring people.

A special thank you to the staff at Iowa City Hospice and Bird House Hospice Home of Johnson County. The compassionate care given to Larry is appreciated more than anyone can realize.

May God bless you all.

Norine Magee

The Amana Print Shop

Phone: **319-622-3912**

email: amanaprintshop@southslope.net
Please call before coming to the shop.

MASTER GARDENER TRAINING 2021 TO BE OFFERED ONLINE

March 1, 2021, 12:26 pm | Susan DeBlieck (abridged)
AMES, Iowa – The application window is open for this year's Master Gardener training, which will be offered 100% online in the fall.

A total of 17 educational modules will be offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, on topics that include houseplants, pollinators, vegetables and perennial flowers. Each course module includes a book chapter, lecture video, online discussion board and a quiz.

Applicants have until July 1 to apply. Apply and learn more about the program online.

Examples of Master Gardener volunteer projects include building partnerships to increase pollinator habitat in the community, maintaining demonstration gardens at county fairgrounds, and donating fresh produce to food pantries.

The fee is \$195 and covers materials. Participants will need to pass a background check to participate. After completing the Master Gardener Training, participants have 13 months to complete 40 volunteer hours.

There is one open-book test at the end of the course that participants will need to pass to complete the course and receive their certificate.

Iowans who want professional development training for their job and who do not plan to volunteer can participate in the ProHort option, for a fee of \$550. No background check is required for this option.

The full color Master Gardener Training book, the "Resource Guide," is available in the Iowa State University Extension store for \$39. It includes go-to tables such as bloom time of favorite perennials and best shrubs for wildlife.

For more information, DeBlieck can be reached at 515-294-6764, or deblieck@iastate.edu.