Amana Society Bulletin

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AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

Due to increasing COVID cases among members, masks are requested but not required in all Amana Church Society buildings for the fully vaccinated, all others are humbly asked to wear a mask.

The Confirmation Service will be in the Amana Church Sunday, September 18, 2022, starting 10:00 A.M. with Br. Alan Trumpold presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Follow Me, the Savior Calleth" No. 24

Testimony: Michael Krausert, Strassburg, June 16, 1817 and Bischweiler, August 19, 1817

Scripture: Matthew 9: 9-13
Matthew 16: 24-27
Psalm 139: 14-18 and 23-24

Closing Hymn: "Take My Life and Let it Be" No. 267 vs 1-6

OKTOBERFEST NEWS

Do you enjoy Oktoberfest? Attend for FREE by volunteering to help out at the merchandise table, the admissions booth, or the snack shack. All volunteers receive free entry to the festival, food and drink tickets, plus they get to take home mums & pumpkins on Sunday. Help is needed on Friday and Saturday. For more info or to sign up, contact Dana at events@amanacolonies.com

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COLORED PENCIL & WATERCOLOR CLASSES

Fall Amana Arts Guild/Art Iowa course registration is now open! Colored Pencil course Sept 24-25, Watercolor course Oct 22-23. More information and registration directions at www.amanaartsguild.com/fall2022courses/

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

It seems like such a short time ago when my Oma had her gall bladder surgery, but now that I do the math it was over 50 years ago.

What an upheaval that caused in the house. It meant that my aunt and my mother took turns daily being driven to Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids to be with Oma all day long.

You see those were the days when German mixed with English was the norm so a lot of the older generation (when they were hospitalized) would get confused and the next generation was there to "translate."

This was also the time when Class A Stock was in full force and many of the people coming from the Amanas benefitted.

My relatives, like I'm sure many others, thought it was a good idea to bring baked goods to the nurses. The idea was that by doing this the nurses would stop in more often to check on the patient and thus get a "reward" of a piece of cake, cookie or whatever. Trust me, it worked!

Then, around 10 our local doctors came around to check on the "locals" in the hospital. These men not only went to the hospitals, bur (hold on to your hats) made house calls plus regular office visits.

How they managed all that still baffles me although I suspect their wives were valuable members of the team doing whatever was needed to make sure the doctor had as much time to see patients as possible.

I remember so well the steady ticking of the clock in the reception room at Dr. Moershel's while I waited for the dental appointment, or to get a shot.

There was the one time my sister shoved a button up her nose. There we sat waiting to have the button removed from my screaming sister's nose (She always liked to put on a show).

We sat in a row - Daddy, Mommy holding a squirming little girl yelling that she could not breath and me who was contemplating the stick of "Juicy Fruit" gum we would get once the dumb button was out.
Who stuck a button in their nose anyway? Obviously she was as stupid as I had ***told*** my parents over and over again, but they wouldn't listen!

No, they never listened to my wonderful advise beginning with telling them we didn't need another child around. I could not be improved upon so why bother.

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The ***Amana Society Bulletin*** is published by the Amana Print Shop for the **Amana Society Inc.** and distributed free as a public service to the Amana Community.

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Support for Dan Ray and Family
How Can You Help?

A heartfelt show of support for one of the community's big hearted volunteers and friends – Dan Ray.

Amana friends of Dan Ray, Middle Amana, have started a fund at the Bankhaus, Amana and on GoFundMe with the goal of helping the Rays with medical expenses, rehab and other expenses following his recent heart transplant.

Dan Ray is back home after a 101 days in hospital and in a rehab care facility. He received a heart transplant at the University of Iowa on June 1 after a May cardiac arrest led to heart failure. Eventually a heart transplant was required. Further medical complications after the transplant made his recovery even more difficult.

As friends wrote on the GoFundMe page, "Dan has been an important member of the Amana community for 42 years. He's worked at the Amana Furniture shop for the entire time he's lived here, dedicating his life to making furniture. He's been involved with Boy Scouts, the (Amana) Land Use District, 4H, AYSO soccer, and lots of community events. He is hard-working, witty, kind, and never misses an opportunity to crack a joke. He enjoys gardening, woodworking, taking care of his Purple Martins, beekeeping, bird-watching, and spending time with his family. If you know Dan and Angela, you know that they are very kind and generous people. They have experienced a horribly traumatic event and appreciate all the support from their community. This has been extremely hard for them emotionally, physically, and financially since neither of them have been able to work and won't be able to for a while. This Go Fund Me will aid the Rays with medical expenses related to his heart transplant, rehab, loss of income and expenses that will follow post-transplant."

It's easy to find the GoFundME page. Simply go the GoFundMe.com and search for "Dan's New Heart" or Dan Ray. Or you can stop by the Bankhaus on Main Street in Amana to deliver a check or cash for the Dan Ray Medical Fund.

As John and Julie Zuber wrote on the Go Fund me page, "Thank you in advance for your support. This has been an extremely trying time for the Rays and they appreciate all of the support. There are so many people to thank that have helped during this time, so know that the Rays are beyond grateful for everyone who has aided them during this time."

Dates to Jot Down
Theatre & Festivals Coming Up

With Oktoberfest just around the corner there's plenty to do this autumn in the Amana Colonies.
"Leaving Iowa" Theatre at Amana Performing Arts Center – Sept. 23 – 24, 7 p.m. Tickets at the door or call 319-899-3799.

- Oktoberfest – Sept. 30 – Oct. 2
- Iowa Ren-Faire – The Iowa Renaissance Festival is back at the Middle Park Oct. 8 -9.
- "Amana Art and Antiques" – Oct. 15 – 16. Popup art and craft , Antique shop hop.
- "A Pacifist Soldier – the Civil War Letters of J.F. Zuber" Oct. 21 – 22. Amana Performing Arts Center. Three performances. Tickets on sale at 319-622-6479 or at the Amana Heritage Museum.
- Communal Luncheon, Communal Kitchen – October 29, noon. Call the Amana Heritage Museum, 319-622-3567 for reservations.

Amana's Great Change – It's Been 90 Years

Part 2

This is the second in series of stories about Amana's Great Change, the 1932 decision to set aside Amana's communal way of life and seek a new future for the community. By Emilie Hoppe.

They decided to take it to the community.

On March 16, 1931 Amana's governing board, the Board of Trustees, at the urging of Dr. Noe and the others, agreed that the residents should be told of the financial situation. A committee was appointed and noon meetings were held in each of the seven villages to explain to the members the community's position.

Rudolph Blechschmidt, East Amana, a 22-year old school teacher at the time, said in a 1981 interview with me, "When I looked at the facts and figures in 1931, I knew that things couldn't go on…I was in favor of it (The Great Change). There was no other way."

In South Amana, A.T. Berger, also a village schoolteacher agreed telling me, "I was 24 years old then. . . It was getting so that the thing was undermining itself. In the Depression you could easily see the thing could not last. But the people didn't realize that a change was necessary. . ."

That spring of 1931 the Board of Trustees arranged for community elections to be held and each village, elected 1 man per 50 residents to serve as village delegates on a committee to examine the issues in depth. This was the first time non-elders were eligible to be elected to positions of leadership within the community.

Historian Peter Hoehnle has reviewed materials from these meetings. He explained in an article he wrote about the Great Change, published in the Winter 2001 "Annals of Iowa" historical journal, "The 47 men elected to the committee shared several broad characteristics. Ranging in age from 21 to 60, the committee was unusually young, with an average age of 40, far lower than that of the church trustees' average age of 62. A large number of committee members had spent time outside the Society."

Several had trained for jobs outside Amana. Carl Eichacker, for example, had been to New York City to learn to be an undertaker. A.T. Berger had been to the state teacher's college. Others, like Fred Blechschmidt, East Amana, had traveled as salesmen in

News & Notes continues on page 2

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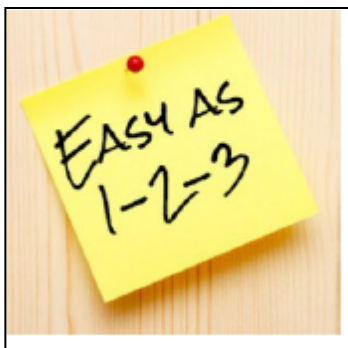
4pm - 10pm

Amana Appreciation
Wednesdays & Sundays We extend a 15% discount on food + drink to our local community members and Amana Society, Inc. shareholders



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Feathers *from page 1*

Anyway, there we sat when "that child" sneezed and the button flew from her nose.

As it flew across the so did my dream of getting any gum. Another reason to put a yet another mark against that "child."

Our parents took us out to the truck and home again.

I liked going to the doctor (when I wasn't sick) so when Oma got out of the hospital it was sort of a "let down" to return to regular day to day life.

B.S.H.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Amana Library added the following to their catalog. To reserve or hold a book, please call 319-622-3192.

Dream Town by David Baldacci; ***Mother & Daughters of the Bible Speak*** by Shannon Bream; ***Clive Cussler's Dark Vector*** by Graham Brown; ***Counterfeit*** by Kirstin Chen; ***Pillar of Salt*** by Anna Salton Eisen; ***Overnight Guest*** by Heather Gudenkauf; ***1619 Project*** by Nikole Hannah Jones; ***Heart Bones*** by Colleen Hoover; ***What the Fireflies Knew*** by Kai Harris; ***Secrets We Share*** by Edwin Hill; ***Sacred Bridge*** by Anne Hillerman; ***This Tender Land*** by William Kent Krueger; ***Killing the Killers*** by Bill O'Reilly; ***22 seconds*** and ***Escape***, both by James Patterson; ***Diamond Eye*** by Kate Quinn; ***Nightwork*** by Nora Roberts; ***Finally A Manual on How to Handle Cancer*** by Shirley Ruedy; ***West with Giraffes*** by Lynda Rutledge; ***Final Girls*** by Riley Sager

APFELFEST SEPTEMBER 17TH

You'll find everything from apple sauce to apple strudel in Amana for Apfelfest Sept. 17. At the visitor center pick up a brochure for your Apfelfest Sampling Stroll passport and try all the tasty apple treats at the various businesses. You could win a $50 Gift Certificate.

At the Peace Garden by the Amana Visitor Center you'll find Chainsaw Artist Bobby Ward, and at 11am - 3pm our Kids Corner will be open with apple coloring pages, crafts, games, or win a special Apfelfest prize!

Keep the fun going with our Fall Volksmarch on Sunday, Sept. 18th. at the Homestead Nature Trail. For a list of events visit www.amanacolonies.com

THE ACLUD CORNER

Did You Know?.... The Amana Colonies Land Use District was created and approved by the State of Iowa House and Senate. It was signed into law in 1984. It is unique in that it is the only Land Use District in the entire State of Iowa. It operates via a small fee assessed as property tax paid by Amana Colony residents and collected by Iowa County. The Land Use District via the application of its' ordinances helps protect the Amana Colonies' status as a National Historic Landmark. This is because the ordinances' overarching principle is to preserve the historic character and integrity of the community appearance and culture. ACLUD ordinances are overseen and managed by the Administrator and volunteers who are elected to various positions.

For further information regarding your local government visit our website www.aclud.org or call the office in Amana at 319-622-3840.

FOR RENT

1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment for rent in Middle Amana. Located on 1st floor. $575 (includes utilities). Minimum 1 year lease. Available around Nov. 1st 2022. Background check required. $35 app fee per applicant. Proof of income required. Credit check required. No pets. No Smoking. Please contact Gunther Sandersfeld at 319-826-4122 or Gunther@Skogman.com

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ACLUD ELECTION

The annual election for the Amana Colonies Land Use District (ACLUD) trustees will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Please note the polling hours for this election will be from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 PM at the Middle Amana Fire Station.

Voter registration deadline is Monday, September 19th for this election. Pre-registered voters are required to provide an approved form of identification at the polling place before receiving a ballot. Voters who are not pre-registered or changing precincts must also provide proof of residence.

For additional information about providing proof of identity and/or residence visit: https://sos.iowa.gov/voterid or phone (319) 642-3923 option # 0. Voters are still encouraged to register by Sept. 19th in the auditor's office if your residence has changed.

Anyone wishing to vote absentee before election day may do so in the Auditor's Office Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM starting Sept. 14, 2022. Voter Registration Forms and Absentee Ballot Request Forms are also available by mail or on the Iowa County website at www.co.iowa.ia.us .

For further information contact the ACLUD office at 319-622-3840 or the Auditor's Office at 319-642-3923 option # 0. Sample ballots for this Special Election will be published in the Pioneer Republican the week of September 18th.

News and Notes *from page 1*

the wider world. Some had friends outside Amana, like Carl Flick whose friendship with the artists of Cedar Rapids had opened doors for him in Iowa galleries and studios. These young men who had seen something of the world were among those chosen to lead the community forward.

The Committee of 47 met for the first time May 2, 1931 in Amana at the Pitz meeting house (one of the smaller churches used for evening prayers). One of the first things they did was set up a ballot so that the membership could vote on the prospect of change. William Noe and Peter Stuck drafted a ballot and a letter that would be sent to each member in order to determine if the committee had a mandate to move forward.

This spring 1931 ballot showed that support for reorganization was strongest in South, West Amana, Amana and Homestead. In those villages 96 to 93 percent of the membership wanted change. In East Amana 66 percent voted for change, while in High Amana 52 percent did so. In Middle Amana only 25 percent of the residents were in favor of change when asked that first time in 1931.

In Middle Amana where community cohesion was especially tight and where Elder John Heinemann strongly opposed the dissolution of the communal order, they were staunch. Some felt that God had called them to remain true to the communal way. Others felt that Amana or Homestead pushing the agenda. They spoke up in a village meeting and voted in favor of keeping the communal ways and against the prospect of change. Doing so unleashed a bit of a furor as the other villagers felt they were dragging their heels. A derisive poem by an anonymous poet made the rounds which stated (in German) "In Middle the status quo is good enough as long as there is something in the jug, as long as the bacon is rich, as long as the living is easy. . . so one continues free of care until all is gone and great the need, the jug is empty, and the bacon is gone. . .When this has come to pass, one will hear the cry, 'Why O Why did I vote NO when, with mocking scorn, rejected the Reorganization.'" (One year later, in the spring 1932 when the next vote came up, most Middle residents had changed their minds or at least had agreed to go along with the plan as proposed, so by then 89 percent of Middle voted in favor of a proposed reorganization plan.)

In the spring of 1931 with a majority in favor of change, the Committee of 47 felt they had a mandate to look for a solution to the problems facing the community. During the next few months they met often, broke into sub committees, sought legal advice and carefully planned for the future.

Studying their proceedings three remarkable things are evident:

- First, the committee members were nearly unanimous in their belief that re-organization was needed.
- Second there is no record of any one at any time suggesting that the society simply dissolve and the members be left to shift for themselves. Instead the goal was to reorganize in an orderly fashion that would protect the youngest, the oldest and the least able.
- Finally, they were able to craft a plan and set it all into motion within six months.

Six months. Consider that it took the Clear Creek and Amana School Districts about 3 years to become CCA and that it took well over 2 years to develop the concept and the legal foundations to construct the Amana Colonies Land Use District. And neither of those important, community-changing transitions is as complicated and complex as the formation of the new structures that would be the basis for the Amana community post 1932.

Certainly they had a strong head start as a few of them had been thinking of this for a several months, perhaps as long as a year, but the fact of the matter is, they worked hard, long hours, long days, almost nonstop for six months because the clock was ticking. Dr. Charles Noe, Peter Stuck, F. William Miller and others knew that if they didn't get this set up and running quickly, Amana would fail to meet financial obligations and forced to sell off assets and thus jobs would be lost and the people would be forced to leave their homes. So they got to work and they worked fast.

Next week read what happened next in what has to be called a remarkable year in Amana history.

The Amana Print Shop 319-622-3912
E-mail: amanaprintshop@southslope.net
Mail: PO Box 05 Middle IA 52307