Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCII | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, 21 December, 2023 | No. 43

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Elly Hoehnle presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Gelobet seyst Du, Jesu Christ" No. 316 Seite 310

Testimony: Ursula Meyer, Ronneburg, February 10, 1717

Scripture: John 1:1-14
Psalm 98

Closing Hymn: "Nun kommet der Heiden Heiland" No. 741 Seite 734

The Late Service will start at 10:00 A.M. with the following hymns:

Opening Hymn: "All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name" No. 10

Closing Hymn: "Savior of the Nations, Come" No. 97

The Christmas Eve Service of Scripture and Song will be in Middle, starting at 8:00 p.m. December 24, 2023 with Br. Peter Hoehnle presiding.

Song sheets will be provided

The Combined Christmas Service will be in Middle December 25, 2023, starting 10:00 A.M. with Sw. Emilie Hoppe presiding.

Testimony: C. Metz, Marienborn, Dec. 13, 1833

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-8
Luke 1: 67 – 79

Choir "Come, Adore Him"
"Still, Still, Still"
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Hymn: "Rejoice ye Heavens" vs 1, 6-8, No. 38

Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Song sheets will be provided. Please join us, all are welcome!

The Wednesday Evening Prayer (Nachtgebet) meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. in Middle.

Visitors are welcome to join us in worship at all Amana Church Services. Childcare is available during Sunday's 10:00 A.M. Service.

SERVICE COMPANY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Amana Society service company will be closed on December 25th, 26th and January 1st for the holidays.

AMANA LIBRARY HOLIDAY HOURS

Fri., Dec. 22 – 9am - 6pm
Sat., Dec. 23 – Tues., Dec. 26 – CLOSED
Wed., Dec. 27 - Fri., Dec. 29 – 9am - 1pm
Sat., Dec. 30 – Mon., Jan. 1 – CLOSED
Tues., Jan. 2 – 9am - 6pm

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

Reaching a certain age, I think that I have seen or heard it all. WRONG! Recently, I read the story of a noted eccentric figure about whom I had not heard before. It seems that in 1859 a man by the name of Joshua Abraham Norton, a bankrupt ex-businessman, was living in a 50 cent a day boarding house in San Francisco. Now that is not so unusual except what happened next. On the evening of September 17, 1859 Norton, feeling that the county was in serious decline, went and did something to rectify the situation by going to the offices of the San Francisco Bulletin and leaving a notice proclaiming himself "Norton I, Emperor of the United States."

Joshua Norton was born in England, and his family initially settled near the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa where they became wealthy. In 1849 Norton sailed to the United States with $40,000 and set himself up in the import business, increasing his fortune to $200,000 within only four years. Norton felt that he could further increase his wealth by buying rice because of the large Chinese population in California. Unfortunately, his speculation failed, ruining him. Norton disappeared for about a decade, but then reappeared with his proclamation.

The people of San Francisco adopted him for twenty-one years as a lovable eccentric. He dressed in a faded blue military dress uniform with gilt epaulets and shining brass buttons and wore a tall black beaver hat with a green feather plum and boots with slits on either side to accommodate his corns. He also carried a saber and a walking stick. The city let him eat free at some of the finest res

Feathers continues on page 2

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Christmas Preparations: Menus, Meal prep, Choir Practice

With family and friends coming from across the country to share the holidays with their families, we caught up to a few, very busy hosts and hostesses who were preparing for the arrival of guests this weekend. They shared a few words about their Christmas preparations:

"I've made two pans of lasagna and put them in the freezer. Our family has supper and then we go to the Christmas Eve Church service at the Middle Amana Church. . . I especially love the evening service. They light the candles and we sing lots of carols. My kids go in their pj's. . .It's become our family tradition," said one young mom of three.

The Amana Church will have two services on Christmas Eve, Sunday Dec. 24 one at 10 a.m. and the candlelight service at 8 p.m. On Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. there will be a special Christmas service at the Middle Amana Church with hymns sung by the Amana Church choir. The Amana Church choir has squeezed in practices after church on Sundays and on Wednesday evenings in December. They have been preparing four songs for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

What other preparations are being made holidays? We asked around.

"I'll take my box of Christmas cookies out of the freezer from the cookie walk and I've got my Amana ham bought and ready to bake. . . We always bake an Amana ham for Christmas day. I glaze it with a pineapple mustard glaze my Oma used to do," said one host who was expecting 10 for his Christmas dinner I in Amana.

"I went down and got 3 sets of Christmas pajamas at the Haus Maus for my grandkids," laughed one busy Oma. "We always put on our 'jamies' and play games on Christmas. Ok, I admit I don't cook as much as I used too. I'm making sloppy joes and we're having lots of appetizers."

"Nope, I don't do a big meal either," agreed her friend. "My kids bring stuff and I make dumpling soup. I used to do oyster stew, but no one but me wants that. So it's chicken dumpling with rice."

Turkey dinners, goose dinners, pheasant and chili were all mentioned as Christmas dinner options by those we informally "surveyed."

One mom of three, now full grown kids, mentioned her sister's kitchen disaster of two decades ago; a 24-pound frozen turkey that refused to thaw and then was over-cooked in a super-hot roaster. "When my brother-in- law carried the roaster full of turkey out to his truck to bring over to our house, he was wearing his gloves and he forgot that that the bottom of the roasting pan was burning hot and set it on the seat of his truck. It burnt right through the vinyl and stuck to the cushioning. . . It was like hot-glued to the seat. Now we don't do turkey. I'm making a ham."

From the Pages of Amana Colony History
Excerpts from the Amana High School Bugle, 1942

A friend shared a copy of the December 17, 1942 Amana High School newspaper, The Bugle. Here are a few excerpts from the newspaper which was printed at the Middle Amana Print Shop and circulated throughout the colonies.

By the way, the publisher was "Miss Moerschel" known to later generations of Amana students as Mrs. Henrietta Ruff.

This editorial, written by the Amana High School editor (If anyone knows who wrote this please contact me – Emilie Hoppe as I'm curious.) reads:

"Christmas 1941 was more serious in spirit than any other Christmas since World War 1. A few homes had loved ones in the service of our country. We did not know what the future would hold; we were only apprehensive of untold tragedy. Christmas 1942 saw more changes during the past year. Now more homes were involved and represented in the war, both on the fighting front and on the home front. Perhaps the Christmas spirit is less in these homes? We understand the reason: it is not easy to be gay when someone we love may be facing death so that we can be free. Yet, men are fighting for exactly that reason, that we can be gay and live and love as we please and not have someone stand over us to tell us what to do and what not to do. . . .

News & Notes continues on page 2

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SANDERSFELD FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Shawn Sandersfeld family invites you to join them in celebrating Christ at the Sandersfeld Family Music Ministry Christmas Concert, tonight, Thursday, December 21, 2023. 6:30 pm at the Amana Performing Arts Center (Old Creamery Theatre building). Inclement weather date will be Friday, December 22.cert is free, with a free will offering available.

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Feathers *from page 1*

taurants, gave him a bicycle, tickets to the theatre, and allowed him to march with the police band.

Norton printed his own money, levied his own taxes - which he collected himself - and, at one time, declared himself "Protector of Mexico," although he later gave up that title. He inspected streets and sidewalks and was known to also inspect building construction. People tipped their hats or bowed to him out of politeness.

Norton died on January 8, 1880. His funeral procession was quite long. Flags were flown at half-staff and businesses closed. His burial expenses were paid for by local citizens. Fifty years later when his body was moved to a new grave site, 60,000 people attended the service, which included military honors.

Surviving artifacts of his reign, such as money, deeds and letters are still sold at auction.

One might now ask, who was the eccentric here, Norton or the citizens of San Francisco? It may be impossible to know.

B.S.H.

Food Drive Collection at Colonial Manor Nursing Home. **Non perishable food donated to those who are in need this holiday season. We continue to collect in December and January, at our facility. Questions/concerns Contact Joey. 319-622-3131**

AMERICAN COMMUNAL SOCIETIES QUARTERLY JOURNALS ARE HERE!!

Did you enjoy the winter talks hosted at the Amana Church this past winter? Christian Goodwille of Hamilton College Library in Clinton, New York worked with local scholar, Peter Hoehnle, to publish this latest Quarterly featuring five articles presented this past winter. The journals will be available at both the Amana Heritage Museum and High Amana General Store during special extended days on December 29th and 30th with open hours from 10am to 5pm. We will sell copies for $16 and until sold out. We will reorder prior to opening again in the spring. Hurry will supplies last!

Jon M. Childers, Executive Director
Amana Heritage Society

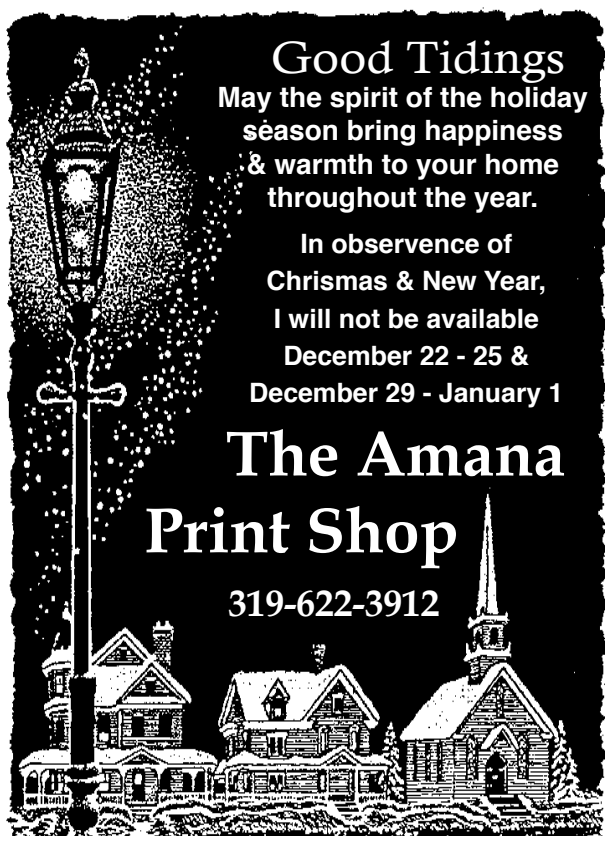
AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP
COME ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

Sunday Church Services @ 9:00 a.m.

Starting January 14th & 28th

At the Amana Performing Arts Center
(Former Old Creamery Theatre)

www.amanaareafellowship.org



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HELP WANTED

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WANTED/WANTED TO BUY

BUYING All ANTIQUES; Toys, signs, Furniture, Crocks, Paintings, textiles, automotive, oddities and the unusual. Any condition. Fair cash prices paid. Call or text 319-270-1251/Jack Cirkl.

FOR RENT/ LEASE

2 BR Apt in South Amana. No smoking, background check, deposit. Call Larry at 319-540-9351

Bulletin Deadlines:
Most Articles & ads - Tues. 5:00 PM
Very Small Ads/articles - **Wed. Noon**

News & Notes *from page 1*

As we live between hope and fear, doubt and assurance, let the eternal Christmas message, 'Peace on earth,' bring us the light of hope and renewed courage in these dark days of Christmas 1942."

"Program to Commemorate Pearl Harbor"

"On December 7 the Senior high and elementary grades at Middle had a program to commemorate the catastrophe that happened in Hawaii exactly one year ago . . . Mr. Selzer gave a short introduction, after which Mrs. Lowe led the group in singing, 'America' and 'God Bless America.' Mr. Neveln then gave a short talk. He stressed the fact that loyalty and patriotism demand that the student should get all the education possible. Next on the program was Miss Hoskins who talked to the students about the Civil Air Patrol of which she is a member."

"Surprise for the Girls"

"One morning last week there were 'oohs and aahhs' from every girl who went into the girls restroom. Instead of the usual disorder we found a neat and well-arranged rest room. Ruffles of red print, adorned the mirror and coat rack. A dressing table and bench covered with flounces of the same material were on one side of the room and a pillow and cover were on each bunk, also in red print. Miss Hoskins did all the planning and sewing, and I am sure the girls will show their appreciation by keeping the room in order."

"Can You Imagine (Bits of Gossip & Observations)"

"Can you imagine a day passing without Roy Ehrle reading a magazine? . . .Can you imagine what deep, dark secret Dorothy Hertel is trying to conceal in that heart shaped locket of her's? . . . We have been hearing that Richard, Otto and Marvin Geiger all plan to enlist because of the long English assignments. Is there any truth in this? ...Why does Anna Rose like Homestead? Fritz (Marz) couldn't have something to do with it?..."

"It Was Fun While It Lasted." (A Sleigh Ride to South)

There were 11 of us – Fish, Schneckel, Gummy, John, Meatball, Pete, Millie, Red, Luch, Nelly and Butch – one happy family. Amana marked the starting point, a round-trip ticket having been delivered to each. Our destination was South Amana by way of West. Why we never go there I gladly reveal to you. By an unfortunate stroke the roads were minus the snow we needed so we were forced to navigate the ditches. . . Then by some unknown force we were gently thrown over board with a loud crash. Casualty list: 2 missing (Will be dug out tomorrow), 2 split sides (from laughter) 1 splinter, 1 bruised elbow and everybody hungry. Those who were able to walk traipsed back to High Amana and thawed up at the Carl Pitz residence. The others, who were able, stayed behind and set up the overturned sled. We got home safely with the speed of a snail and made a beeline for the Colony Inn. Ahhh food!"

"Christmas 1942"

"…I believe that the boys in the service who will be unable to be with us expect and think that we carry on just as we did when they were home, but this may seem impossible. One thing comes before Christmas this year and that is winning the war. Otherwise, we may have no more Christmases in the future . . . So this year let us save some of our merry making for the future when we will have our boys with us again. . ."

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. On-line at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***
Email: ***amanaprintshop@southslope.net***

"THE ACLUD CORNER"

Did You Know?....

As historic homes and businesses have been remodeled over the years, original Amana components have been saved and placed in storage in a building in East Amana. They are available to any resident of the Amana Colonies who has a need for them. Access to this facility is coordinated by the Amana Heritage Society. Please contact amanaheritage@southslope.net for more information.bFor further information regarding your local government visit our website www.aclud.org or call the office in Amana at 319-622-3840.

The Amana Print Shop
Ph. 319-622-3912
email: amanaprintshop@southslope.net
New Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:20 - 4:30;
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