Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, September 25, 2025 | No. 30

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, September 28, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Emilie Hoppe presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Wir Danken Gott," No. 1120, vs 1-3 & 10-12 Seite

Testimony: Ursula Meyer, Ronneburg, July 20, 1715

Scripture: Exodus Chapter 3: 1 – 15
Psalm 29

Closing Hymn: "Liebe die du mich zum Bilde" No. 627, vs 1-4 Seite

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

Opening Hymn: "Arise and Shine in Splendor" No. 173

Closing Hymn: "Holy God we Praise Thy Name" No. 219

The Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (Nachtgebet) begins 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.

The live link for the 10:00 A.M. service is --- https://www.facebook.com/theamanachurch

Links to services posted online may be found at: *https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/*

AMANA SANITARY DISTRICT MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Amana Sanitary District will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 8th, 2025 in the Amana lift station.

AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 9am-3pm	Thursday 9am-6pm
Tuesday 9am-6pm	Friday 9am-6pm
Wednesday 9am-Noon	Saturday 9am-Noon

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with our garage fire on Thursday September 11, 2025. Huge thanks to Amana Fire Dept., Williamsburg Fire Dept., Iowa County Ambulance.

To our neighbors Michael & Cayden Myers for hearing noises seeing smoke coming from our garage and then calling 911.

Kayleigh Myers for calling fire fighters directly for help & for the food she brought over for us.

Lucas Kellenberger for all the information about what was in the garages & where it all was to tell the firefighters. That was a huge help!

Thanks to all our Upper South friends & neighbors for getting us all out of the house, for their help, support, calls, & texts. Thanks for all the food & donations from everyone we care about & who cares about us. I hope I'm not forgetting about anyone. I just know you are thanked so much also.

There is just not enough thanks to be given for all of you who did so much for us during this really hard time.

Linda Gipple
Greg & Tammy Kellenberger
Ashley, Lucas, Andrew
Kellenberger & families

AMANA PACK 223 POPCORN SALES

It is that time of year again! The Amana Cub Scouts are selling popcorn around the colonies. Proceeds from popcorn sales ensure we can provide adequate equipment, programming and recognition for the members of our Pack. Scouts will be coming around selling door to door in the next several weeks. If you know a scout, please reach out to their families to learn how to order. Finally, feel free to email hacpack223@gmail.com, or call Aaron Schaefe (Pack Popcorn Kernel) at 319-310-7394 and he can help with your order as well.

Thank you for your support!
Pack 223 Scouts, Leaders and Parents

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Regarding Upper South Amana Fire

Correction to News and Notes Article Regarding Upper South Amana Fire

The Amana News and Notes reporter wishes to acknowledge an incorrect statement in the previous week's ASI Bulletin regarding the recent garage fire at 27 220th Trail, Upper South Amana. This property is owned by Linda Gipple. This reporter is sorry if the mis-statement caused any confusion.

Old Creamery Lives On

The Old Creamery Theatre Company, the oldest professional theatre company in Iowa, sadly shuttered its doors permanently in February 2022 when its board of directors announced that the staff had been terminated and the theater closed.

Remaining was a group of dedicated company members, former employees and volunteers scattered across the country and over 40 boxes of OCTC photographs, slides, programs, original scripts, posters, board minutes, rehearsal notes and records.

Tom Johnson and Meg Merckens, Middle Amana, are stewards of this treasure trove and hope to sort, inventory and find a home for the OCTC archive.

This week they will take a large step toward that goal while gathering former OCTC company members and volunteers from all over the United State to Amana.

"We'll have about 25 Old Creamery friends, actors, company members, board members and family here Monday Sept. 22 through Sunday, Sept 28," explained Tom Johnson who noted that the Amana Arts Guild has graciously opened their High Amana Folklife Center to the volunteers and the material.

"We'll be working in groups, two sessions every day, more on the weekend of course, going through these boxes, sorting out what needs to be kept, what needs digitizing and what we have duplicates of," he explained. In the evenings they'll be sharing meals and socializing. They'll be at the AAG Center from 10 am – 1 pm and 2 – 5 pm, Monday September 22 through Saturday, September 27.

Making digital copies of the photographs and the videos (3 large boxes of videos) will be a primary goal. To do that they've purchased and have borrowed equipment to digitize as much as possible.

"It will be too much to do in one week, but we want to make a real start and get it all sorted out," Johnson added.

They will also document what they are doing to create a short 8 to 10-minute video presentation to show institutions and potential donors what the material is and what the Old Creamery has meant to people all these years.

It will be a labor of love, but it's also a necessity, as much of what's being saved is in a form that has a very limited shelf life. Plus, as Johnson explained, it's time to find a permanent home for the material.

Looking for a home for the OCTC archive is important. It will take cash, in addition to the help of many volunteers, to preserve the archive. That includes hiring a professional archivist to catalog and work with the materials so that they can be given to an institution.

Nothing can recapture the songs, the laughter, the tears of the one and only Old Creamery, but we can preserve the memories.

If you would like to help, please give Tom Johnson a call (319) 551-6691 or email: tomp@southslope.net. They would welcome volunteers to go through boxes, make piles, sort and identify photos, identify folks in photos, make digital copies and other tasks. Special shout-out to former board members, cast members, volunteers and staff: if you have any photos, posters, documents or just a memory of your experience of the Old Creamery you would like to share and preserve in the OCTC archive collection, please feel free to share it with Tom and Meg via the email above.

Oktoberfest Amana Colonies Memories

When Hank Bendorf recovered that shoe box on the picnic table in front of the old clubhouse which contained the proceeds from the first ever Oktoberfest, he could not have known what he was saving. For as he said in 2015, "I can tell you that if someone had found that shoebox and taken the money we wouldn't have had another Oktoberfest. That would have been it."

As it was, the successful 1962 fest which attracted a few hundred people made a nice donation to the summer recreation program for Amana kids and the Jaycee's began planning for 1963. The next year

***News & Notes** continues on page 2*

IOWA 1855 AMANA FURNITURE & CLOCK SHOP

The Amana Furniture Shop is seeking a Full or Part time Retail Associate!

This person will assist customers, maintain product displays, and promote Amana-made craftsmanship and quality. The ability to work weekends and operate a point-of-sale system is a must. For more information, check out the ad on Indeed or contact Laura Sue at 319-622-3953 or lswoods@amanas.net.

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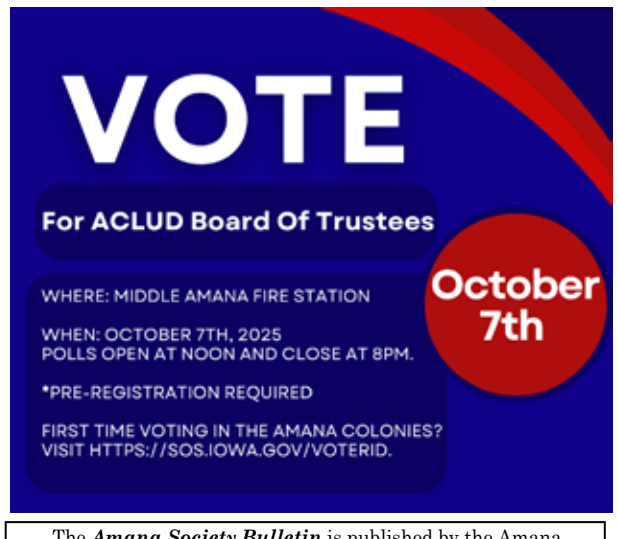
IOWA 1855 AMANA MEAT SHOP & SMOKEHOUSE

Seasonal Associates needed!

Do you want to work in a friendly & fast paced environment with fun coworkers, while making extra money for the holidays? If so, the Amana Meat Shop is the place for you!

Customer Service Associates assist customers with their phone orders and perform data entry work. Basic computer knowledge is required & good typing, spelling and grammar skills are essential.

Flexible hours are available for both positions and snacks & meals are provided! Contact Laura Sue at 319-622-3953 or lswoods@amanas.net for more information.



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On-line at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***

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HOME FOR SALE

4307 220th trail, Formally known as Abbi's cottage. This home could continue as an overnight or long-term rental with the potential of three individual rentals. A person could convert the large suite on the one end and put back in the garage. There are 3 to 4 bedrooms, depending on how you use the home with three bathrooms. Finished basement, two laundry rooms, new furnace and AC, new hot water heater. This is a well maintained home. Contact Janice at 319-654--4297

OBITUARY

Marilyn Jane Trumpold passed away on Saturday, September 20th at the Oldorf Hospice House in Hiawatha, at the age of 90 years. A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the Middle Amana Church. Burial was in the Middle Amana Cemetery. Powell Funeral Home in Marengo is caring for Marilyn and her family.

Marilyn Jane Trumpold was born August 27, 1935 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of John and Kathryn (Lowe) Blessing. She graduated from Roosevelt High School. Marilyn was united in marriage to Richard D. Trumpold on June 6, 1954 in Cedar Rapids. Together they made Amana their home. She was a tour guide for the Amana Colonies and also operated a wood shop and then a porcelain doll shop. She was a member of the Amana Church Society and the Hot Peppers.

Marilyn was artistic, and enjoyed gardening, most recently caring for the roses at The View. Wintering in Texas, Marilyn volunteered at ice hockey games, was a Salvation Army bell ringer, helped with Boarderfest and decorated the park hall for all holidays. Most of all, Marilyn loved her dog, Molly.

Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Pam Lockhart of Cedar Rapids, two grandsons, Kyle (Haley) Lockhart and their children Reese and Jensen, and Shane (Lizzy) Lockhart and their children Wyatt and Watson; her daughter Cheri (Jim) Kirk of Cedar Rapids, and grandchildren, Amanda (Chad) Smestad, Heather Flynn, Jess Thomson, and David Kirk along with their families; brother, Don Blessing; sister, Marleen (Barry) Hedges; and sister-in-law, Lori Blessing.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Richard, son-in-law, Robert Lockhart, brother, Dick and his wife Jean Blessing, and her beloved dog, Molly.

A general memorial fund has been established. Messages may be left at www.powellfuneralhomes.com

HELP WANTED

Ronneburg Restaurant seeks full or part time line cook. Stop in at 4408 220th Trail, Amana for an application or give us a call 319-622-3641.

Millstream Brau Haus, Help Wanted: **Bartender,** full or part time and Part Time **Host**. Stop by and pick up an application.

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News & Notes *from page 1*

more volunteers pitched in and created a longer show. The "PR" committee enlisted a group of Amana High School kids to walk around the Saturday University of Iowa Football game parking areas sticking fliers under windshield wipers advertising Amana's Oktoberfest the next weekend. It worked and the festival took off; tripling in size.

The next year the "stage show" moved to the Lakeside Elementary School Auditorium. It grew to a 2-hour- long, uniquely Amana creation that was part Lawrence Welk variety show and part Bavarian opera/fantasy. It included love ballads, dance numbers, solos, duets, small groups, a women's quartet, a men's choir, kids' numbers, comedy bits, an audience sing-along and a whole lot of German schtick. People ate it up with a spoon.

But that didn't mean it wasn't hard, hard work. Virginia Nordyke, the Middle Amana Postmistress, managed the box office. The seats were marked in the Amana gym and sold as "reserved" or bleacher. The dedicated Nordyke took every reservation by phone or mail and mailed out all of the tickets. The will - call office took four volunteers to run on show nights. The Y-Teens were enlisted to serve as ushers. They used all the folding chairs the school had, rented 300 more and brought in bleachers from the Marengo Fairgrounds. They could seat 1,450 people at each show Reynold Messier confirmed. They gave three shows and usually sold out both the Friday and the Saturday night shows. Reserved seats were $1.50.

Amana artists Ray Berger, Rozella Hahn, Gordon Kellenberger, Mary Jack and Mary Wendler painted scenery on thick cardboard boxes from the Amana Refrigeration. It depicted an alpine Bavarian village. This backdrop eventually was stored in the Fest halle and used for 25 years of Tannenbaum Forests plus its annual appearances at Oktoberfest. (Dusty and looking its age, the scenery was finally laid to rest just four years ago.)

For the stage show, the cast members borrowed, sewed or mail ordered dirndls from Germany Few men had actual Lederhosen so some of the men had brown corduroy or woolen breeches sewn. Those cast members that had an original German costume were kept on stage to dress up the sets during numbers and "bits. " They stood about decoratively or were seated at tables in and around the "village" sipping beer or wine from mugs and glasses. A master of ceremonies kept the show moving and told a few jokes. George Trimpe, Benny Bendorf, Glenn Wendler and Fred Hahn each did the honors over the years. All of them had the help of Dr. Henry Ruff, who also made sure everyone's German was up to snuff. His wife, Inge, had a lovely voice, as did many of the participants and no one could beat the accordion playing of Lillian Zierold, Emily Oehl and Anne Leonhardt.

Musician Bob Zuber created nearly all the arrangements for the show and helped get the band together. Stage show cast rehearsals started mid winter and went all spring till mid summer when twice weekly and even thrice weekly rehearsals became necessary. Elementary music teacher Rita Wilson and show founder, Emmaline Bendorf, both wonderful musicians, worked with every group and solo vocalist. The rehearsals took place at the Homestead Welfare Clubhouse and included plenty of time for socializing. "We really had a lot of fun," Gerda Graesser told me in 2008.

In 1967 the Amana Oktoberfest was listed as a "TOP 20 US Travel Event" the National Association of Travel Organizations and bus companies took note.

By then it was at the Middle Amana "ball park." That was the only space big enough - but the park had no electricity, no paved areas, no covered pavilion and certainly no Morton Building. All of that would come later and would be paid for by the festival itself. More about that next week as the story continues.

CCA HALL OF FAME

The Clear Creek Amana (C.C.A.) Foundation Hall of Fame was created in 2001 by the C.C.A. School Board and the C.C.A. Foundation Board of Directors to honor those who have made significant contributions to our school district and communities.

Past award winners include: Tim & Betsy Momany, T.J. Croco, Dixie Trout, Pat Kellenberger, Charles Selzer, George Foerstner, etc.

The Hall of Fame recognizes service and contributions in the areas of volunteerism, professional or educational success, and/or outstanding support for the District or Community.

Nomination(s) should include:

- Name and address of nominee
- School graduated from and year
- Note if person is deceased
- Why should this person be considered?
- Add any information that applies:

• Volunteer contribution(s)
• Educational success
• Professional success
• Support to the School District or Foundation

Please send nomination(s) by mail to P.O. Box 30, Oxford, Iowa 52322 or by e-mail to ccafoundation@ccaschools.org for consideration. This year's award winner(s) will be announced during a presentation at the October 24th home CCA varsity football game.