Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, December 18, 2025 | No. 42

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Service - Children's Christmas Program - The Colors of Christmas in the Amana Church Sunday, December 21, 2025 starting 10:00 A.M. with Br. Michael Shoup presiding.

Please join us for this wonderful time of fellowship, all are welcome!

A short worship service will follow the program; song sheets will be provided. Christmas cookies after the service!

Opening Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 18 – 23
Isaiah 9: 1 - 7

Closing Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

The Christmas Eve Service will be in Middle Church, Wednesday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.

The Christmas Service will be in the Amana Church, Thursday December 25 at 10:00 A.M. with Sw Emilie Hoppe presiding

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/*

HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS BOOK SIGNING

The Amana Heritage Society is pleased to welcome local historian R.C. Eichacker for a rescheduled book signing only on Saturday, December 20, 2025, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Amana Heritage Museum (705-44th Ave. Amana). Eichacker's new book, "Marriage by Committee", explores the fascinating traditions and communal practices surrounding marriage during Amana's communal era.

AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Holiday Hours

Monday, Dec 22 & Tuesday, Dec 23 - 9am-Noon
Wed., Dec 24 & Thurs., Dec 25 - CLOSED
Friday, Dec 26 7 Saturday, Dec 27- 9am-Noon
Monday, Dec 29 & Tuesday, Dec 30 - 9am-Noon
Wed., Dec 31 & Thurs., Jan 1- CLOSED
Friday, Jan 2 & Saturday, Jan 3 - 9am-Noon

We wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)
Tentative Agenda of the regular Meeting Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Monday, December 22, 2025 6:30 p.m. at ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana, And via Zoom

I. Call HPC Meeting to Order
II. Set Agenda
III. Review/Approve the Nov. 24 regular meeting minutes:
IV. Welcome visitors and allow citizens to speak on items not on the agenda:
V. Discussion/Action on permit applications in a Historic Preservation Zoning District:
a. 2025-082 Kully Kinzenbaw /1401 G St. High Amana/ HP-R/ Replace rotten wooden front door and frame with new steel exterior door.
b. 2025-083 Brent & Katie Kimmich /2608 220th Trl. Middle Amana/ HP-R/ Replace 39 windows with replacement white vinyl windows. Remove covering on historic porch door and cover non-historic porch door with cedar siding. Replace gutters and downspouts with 1/2 round aluminum. Remove plaster off foundation and complete jointing/tuckpointing repairs with Amana mortar mix. Replace roof with Malarkey antique brown shingles.
VI. Other Business
-Paul Bruhn Update
-Reschedule January's regular meeting to 1/19.
VII. Administrator's Report (if applicable)
VIII. Adjourn

BULLETIN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For Christmas and New Year's Holidays the Dec. 25 & Jan. 01, ASI Bulletins will have **deadlines of Monday 6:00 PM** Dec. 22 & 29 and be available on Tuesday mornings (Dec. 23 & 30)
email: **amanaprintshop@southslope.net**
Bulletin online at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Greg Luerkens to Retire from ASI in January 2026

From his first day at the Amana Society which as fate would have it, was August 1, 2018, the very same day the ground-breaking ceremony was held to begin the restoration of the Amana Woolen Mill site for Hotel Millwright, Greg Luerkens' time in the Amanas has been busy, challenging and yes, inspiring.

Officially his last day will be January 23, 2026. A retirement celebration honoring Greg will be held on Tuesday, January 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Carding Studio at Hotel Millwright in Amana. Everyone is invited, Stuart Geiger ASI board chair, said Monday.

As Greg told us, "The seven-plus years have gone extremely fast because with as many businesses under the Amana Society, Inc. umbrella there's never a lack of things to do and the Amana Society has allowed me to use all the skills I've learned throughout my career."

When asked what challenges he has been most proud of tackling, he told us, "I feel strongly that we're a stronger overall company than we were in 2018. There are several things I'm proud of. We've worked hard on improving company culture, and we've done a lot for employees through developing focus on 'one Amana Society' versus individual businesses." One part of this is the institution of an ASI leadership development program for front line managers.

Greg is very proud of having worked alongside the dedicated, hardworking team at ASI.

"Without a doubt, I'll miss the people. Many companies say their people are their greatest asset. At Amana Society, Inc. it's evident not only in people's commitment to their job and the company, but in the volunteerism of Amana Society employees who support the community and the festivals. . . The best part of our organization is the people, and I've been very blessed to work with a great team.

"I have all the confidence in the world that my departure won't have an impact on the successes of any ASI entity as each has a great leader/ general manager in place," he said.

A highly notable challenge and success: "We've remained profitable, while hitting record levels."

Adding, "We've reduced long term debt by 22 percent from its peak in 2020 (after the Hotel Millwright construction)," Greg told us.

"We've implemented several sustainable farming practices including cover crops and strip till planting."

"We've made dramatic improvements to many of our properties and buildings addressing deferred maintenance that's been put off for years. We've recently added an employee to focus on historic barn renovation."

Greg said, "We've made significant improvements at the Amana Colonies Golf Club that will keep it as one of the best facilities in Iowa for years to come. We built a maintenance shed, replaced the outdated irrigation system, built the new clubhouse and renovated the bunkers."

"We've brought in the right management company to get the Hotel Millwright on target. It remains a challenge, but Leisure Hotels and Resorts have a plan and proposal in front of the ASI Board."

His thoughts come back to the people of Amana. "I told the employees, and I'll tell shareholders, that it's been an honor to serve as CEO over the past 7- plus years and I look forward to the remaining weeks working with you."

Stuart Geiger, ASI Board of Directors chair, wrote, "From day one, what I noticed about Greg was that he always looked for the best in others. To that end, he strongly supported opportunities for ASI employees to grow professionally. When the pandemic hit, he deftly guided the company through uncharted territory. And in the last several years, I and the board have appreciated Greg's tenacity in continually pushing the hotel's management company to deliver better operating results. My prayer for Greg

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

Lakeview Village
Assisted Living Apartments
- Meals Provided
- Housekeeping Services
- Wellness checks – Medication management
- Activities

Units Available

Call Tanya Powell for a tour 622-3131
"Experience the Comfort and Security of Retirement Living in the Amanas"

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News & Notes from page 1

as he retires as our CEO is that he be blessed with many years of great health to pursue his many personal passions."

Yes, Greg is looking ahead to his personal goals and having more energy for his highest priorities – faith and family. Yes, he will continue to "hit the gym" each morning though now he won't get up at 3:15 a.m. to make sure he's got his work out in before coming to the office. He admits he might sleep in till 5 or even 6 a.m. And yes, he might consider heading south to warmer climes a few weeks each winter, though he would never leave Iowa for long. He's an Iowan through and through, and an Amana community member.

"I'll always value the time spent at Amana Society, Inc. Amana is the kind of place that once you're a part of it, it's always a part of you."

Coco Up at Hot Bev Walk

Here's a deliciously warming way to shop. On Saturday, Dec. 20 it's Amana's "hot beverage walk!"

From 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. come to the visitor center to buy their choice of mug (price ranges from $10 or $15). Choose your own mug they can choose which mug and pick up a "passport" to all the participating businesses in the seven villages. Take this to the businesses as you shop the Colonies or just enjoy a jaunt about the villages.

The merchants will provide a hot beverage, either hot cocoa, mulled beverages, cider, tea or coffee and will sign or stamp (whichever they prefer) the passport. You return the passport to the Amana Visitor Center by 12/22 to enter into a raffle for $25 Amana Colonies gift card.

Santa at the Tannenbaum Forest on Saturday Forest Closes for 2025 Season on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19 the Tannenbaum Forest opens at noon for the last weekend in 2025. Make sure you visit the Forest one more time before the enchantment lifts and the forest disappears.

Friday Tannenbaum Forest is open from noon till 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 20 the forest is open 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. with Santa visiting from 11 am. - 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 the forest is open at 11 and closes at 4 p.m. On Sunday the Highway 151 Band will perform in the Forest.

Volunteers wishing to take down their trees: please wait until after 4:30 Sunday, Dec. 21 so that our guests can fully enjoy the Forest on Sunday. The Festhalle barn will be open Sunday from 4:30 till 7 p.m. for clean-up; as well as on Monday Dec 22 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

If you cannot take down your tree during these times, please send someone to do so.

AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP
Church Services
Amana Performing Arts Center
December 21st - 9:00 A.M.
Special Christmas Eve Service
December 24th,- 4:00 P.M.
All Are Welcome
www.amanaareafellowship.org

SANDERSFELT FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Monday, December 22nd
6:30 pm
Amana Performing Arts Center
39 38th Ave, Amana, IA 52203
Freewill Donation

WANT TO BUY

-Reloading Equipment
-Presses and Dies
-Large and Small Estates
-Bullets and Brass
-Shooting Sports Items
-Supplies and Ammo
-Muzzleloaders and Firearms: Vintage & Modern

Will also do Appraisals & Consignment Sales
Call, Text or Email JOEL VZ (319) 530-1234
jvanzante@southslope.net

FOR SALE

342 shares of Amana stock for sale. Contact Larry at 949-302-3006

HOMESTEAD AUTHOR'S DEBUT NOVEL EXPLORES 'HOW TO LIVE WITH A GHOST'

Pearl City Press announces the release of Homestead author Melinda Wichmann's debut novel, "How to Live with a Ghost." This light-hearted mystery/romance follows former freelance journalist Jess McCallister as she moves into the century-old farmhouse of her dreams, only to find it already has a permanent resident. Her attempts at figuring out what her invisible roommate wants are complicated by lingering memories of disastrous relationships, mysterious goings-on in the abandoned pioneer cemetery on her property, and a reclusive neighbor with a captivating smile who keeps showing up unexpectedly. The novel's themes of friendship, healing and second chances blend smoothly with elements of humor and adventure in an eastern Iowa setting.

"How to Live with a Ghost is a nuanced blend of romance, mystery, and the paranormal—with just the right amount of humor. Melinda Wichmann delivers a refreshing twist on the classic whodunit that's perfect for fans of ghost stories, home renovation, and anyone who's ever whispered, 'Did you hear that?'" writes Nick Narigon, author of The F-Man Himself and co-founder of Hayseed Press.

Paperback and Kindle editions are available through Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com, and will be coming to additional retail outlets soon.

Reach Melinda on Facebook @Melinda.Wichmann. Author or at MelindaWichmann@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays
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Enjoy 20% off Jackets, Vests, Sweaters, Jeans, & Pants! Find comfortable layering pieces or one of a kinds items
Happy Shopping!

AMANA HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

The Amana Heritage Society collects, preserves, and interprets the 300 years of cultural heritage of the Amana Colonies. We strive to be the historian of our community, growing our collections and ideas, and making them available to our community and visitors. In order to carry out this important mission, we seek the support of our membership and try to make it grow. Your annual membership is vital to our current and future success. Please consider supporting Amana's heritage by becoming, or remaining, a member today. Visit us at https://amanaheritage.org/ to purchase an online membership or give us a call at 319.622.3567 for more information. Help us to keep Preserving Our Heritage and Sharing Our Culture.

FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION AT COLONIAL MANOR

Colonial Manor Nursing Home is collecting Non perishable food donated to those who are in need this holiday season. We will be collecting in November, December and January at our facility. Questions/concerns Contact Joey. at 319-622-3131.

ESSEN WAGEN - HOME DELIVERED MEALS

The Amana Church, in conjunction with Colonial Manor, sponsors the Amana Essen Wagen, which provides a hot noon meal to home-bound, adults or their adult child, delivered to your home (even to your chair!) each weekday, except holidays. Enjoy not cooking and enjoy visiting with one of our volunteer drivers.

Please contact Colonial Manor at 319-622-3131 to sign up for this service. You can register for a short time while recuperating at home, or on a permanent basis. The suggested donation per meal is $4.00.

The Amana Print Shop
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Please phone before driving over as I may be engaged in work/projects or at appointments. Due to a high volume of nuisance calls, unless I have you in my contact list, expect to go the voice mail. I will call you back unless you are trying to: sell me insurance, locate someone, or inform me of an impending legal matter.

Amana Community Library

Stuff the Stocking Fundraiser

The Amana Community Library is proud to offer our patrons a wide range of services — from quality reading materials and computer access to educational programs and community events. Your generous donations help us maintain and grow these services.

This year, we hope to expand our programs, events, and summer reading opportunities. Your support makes a real difference! With your donations, we're able to maintain our services and expand programs that benefit the entire community.

Thank you For Your Continued Support of the Amana Community Library!

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

Contact Information*: Rhonda Hegewald – Library Director*
amanalibrary@ccaschools.org
319-622-3192
website:
https://amana.ccaschools.org/parents-and-students/amana-community-library
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You may also use this link or scan the QR code to donate online.
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Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and use the enclosed envelope to return your donation.

Happy Holidays!

Sponsored by: CLEAR CREEK AMANA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Name:_____
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Please make checks payable to: Amana Community Library and return in the enclosed envelope.
Our Address: Amana Community Library, 3023 220th Trail, Amana, IA 52203