Amana Society Bulletin

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AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, January 25, 2026 starting 8:30 A.M. with Br. Mike Shoup presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Geh aus, mein Herz, und suche Freud" No. 311 vs 1, 6, 14, 15 Seite 304

Testimony: Johann Friedrich Rock, Battenberg, Switzerland, February 7, 1720

Scripture: Romans 12: 1 – 2;
Matthew 5: 1 - 11;
Psalm 51: 1 - 12

Closing Hymn: "Sanftmuth, die edle Gottesgabe" No. 890 vs 1, 3, 5, 9, Seite 876

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

Opening Hymn: "Go Forth My Heart And Soul, Awake" No. 72

Closing Hymn: "Humility, The Noblest Virtue" No. 140

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 SOCIETY INC. 2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Amana Society, Inc. Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Amana Society will be awarding three (3) $2000.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors attending an accredited college, university, or trade school in 2026.

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.

Application deadline: April 8th, 2026.

Thank you.

2026 AMANA SOCIETY, INC. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Amana Society, Inc. Board of Directors has appointed Mike Schanz (319-560-0204, mschanz@amanas.net), Rebecca Selzer (608-772-6174, rselzer@amanas.net), Jason Fels (630-244-3349, goclones92@gmail.com), and Tony Berger (319-361-8459), ptberger@southslope.net) to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee.

The committee is responsible for nominating individuals to be placed on the ballot as director candidates for the 2026 Amana Society, Inc. Board of Directors general election.

Any interested Class "A" stockholder who has owned Class "A" shares for a minimum of 3 years, is at least 25 years of age, and has a business background or business experience, is encouraged to submit their name for consideration prior to Wednesday February 18th, 2026, either by contacting a committee member directly (contact information is listed above for each committee member) or by sending a summary of relevant experience to: Nominating Committee, c/o Amana Society, Inc., PO Box 189 Amana, IA 52203.

Thank you for your consideration and interest in this matter.

HOMESTEAD SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT

The Homestead Sanitary District Board of Trustees will hold its 2025 fourth quarter meeting on Wednesday Jan. 28 at 6:00 pm at the Homestead Welfare Club.

2026 ACCVB NONPROFIT MARKETING GRANT

The Hotel/Motel Tax Fund has marketing money available for local nonprofit organizations. These funds are to be used for marketing purposes only and to a target market of potential visitors that will stay overnight. This would be a geographic area that is a distance of 100 miles or greater from the Amana Colonies. If your nonprofit organization would like to apply for a portion of these funds, please email Alicia Schmitt at director@amanacolonies.com, or stop by the Visitors Center to receive a copy of the guidelines and application. The deadline to apply for 2026 funding is Friday, February 6th, 2026.

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Winterfest Brings the Heat on Saturday

Bundle up and head out to enjoy Winterfest Saturday indoors and out. Here's a rundown of Winterfest activities to enjoy with your family and friends.

All weekend it's the Winter Sale at Yana's with 30 percent off winter sweaters, vests, jackets and more! Plus see what spring styles are coming in.

The Brau Haus – recently awarded the "BEST BURGER" by Restaurant Guru.com. 2025 will be hosting live entertainment Friday evening to get us off to a good start.

Paper snowflake making station at the Amana Furniture Shop, 10 – 5 p.m. on Saturday. Come down and learn how to make 3d snowflakes out of paper doilies.

It's the snowflake scavenger hunt and movie day at Saturday Ackerman Winery from 10 a.m. – 6 p p.m. Plus for the grown ups, Winter Mules, Gluhwein, delicious wintery cocktails, special snack samplers.

Ox Yoke Inn has their cookie decorating station up 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. as a benefit for Safe haven. Donate $5 and decorate your own bear cookie! Coloring contest ongoing too. Plus you can receive a free cup of coffee with your Hot Roast beef sandwich, Roast Beef or Oven Baked Steak Entrée!

The Amana Freezer 5K sign-up is Saturday from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the Carding Studio at Hotel Millwright. The Race starts at 10 a.m. go to the Amana Colonies Trails Facebook page for same day postings. Early sign up is closed but you can sign up the morning of the race. Hosted by Amana Colonies Trails this is a fundraiser to help us keep up the Kolonieweg.

Deliciously satisfying Open Fire Chili will be served beginning at 11 a.m. at the Market barn. All proceeds benefit the Amana Fire Department. Plus of course beverages. Time to update your Winterfest mug as the 2026 mug will be on sale!

The Winterfest Wine and Beer Walk is 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. pick up a $5 wine and beer passport – all of you adults – and enjoy samples at all five stops, collect the stamps and turn in your passport to the Visitor Center by 5p.m. to recieve a free Winterfest wine glass! (First 275 participants will receive glass as it's while supplies last.) Then. You'll be entered to win a $25 gift certificate.

Hey, there will be a free photo-booth and a live DJ at the Market barn too this year! You and the kids can do the Great Amana Ham Put from 11 – 2; the wreath toss and log sawing. Plus Colony Carvers will be there.

The highly popular the Best Beard Contest is at 2 p.m. Prizes are awarded in several categories judged by hair care pros. You can sign up Saturday at the Market barn. So bring your beard and be judged to receive general acclaim and fun prizes from Schmuck'd Up Beard Care.

At 1 p.m. join our fiction author Melinda Wichman, author of "How to Live with a Ghost," and R.C. Eichacker, author of the novel, "Marriage by Committee" at the Amana Heritage Museum for a Q and A and time to chat. Their books will be available for purchase.

The Amana Heritage Museum is open free all day Saturday so this is a great day to bring the kids and escape the winter doldrums. See the free 18 -minute movie and learn how Amana came to be.

Come and warm up in the cozy cellar Bierstube at the Ox Yoke. Yes, from 5 – 8 p.m. with Jeff Weimer and David Arnold will be performing live!

Down at Millstream Brewing Co. wrap it all up with the ever-entertaining Joel Berger who plays classic pop, rock and folk covers and has a soulful sound! In the warm taproom with your friends from 6 till 9 p.m.

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

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Call, Text or Email JOEL VZ (319) 530-1234
jvanzante@southslope.net

FOR RENT

For Rent: large, one bedroom/one bath apartment in condo next to Amana Golf Course. Deck overlooking course. $925/mo. Call 319-338-0025 for more information.

For Rent in Amana Large 2 bedroom, laundry (W&D) No Pets on 220 Trail across from Museum Call 319-331-9173

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 throughout January at our facility. Questions/concerns? Contact Joey. at 319-622-3131.

For Rent; The Homestead Welfare Club 4215 V St Homestead
offers an exceptional 1100 square foot setting in our historic 1860 home for family reunions, social gatherings, or business meetings. It includes a mini kitchen, tables and chairs for 80+ persons plus a ½ acre private, beautifully shaded back yard perfect for outdoor activities. It includes picnic tables and small shelter. The cost is $75 per day. An additional 500 square foot full-service kitchen is available for an additional $25.
Call 319-622-3620
for details & scheduling

News & Notes *from page 1*

Icing Over in Communal Amana

It makes sense to me that Amana is home to Amana brand freezers and refrigerators, as they broke their backs every winter in communal Amana (1855-1932) cutting and hauling ice.

The imperative to cut ice was so strong that they went to great lengths to do it. The alternative being no fresh meat and eating only sausage or cured meat all summer. So they cut ice on the Iowa River. The Lily Lake could be used but sometimes the growth of lilies and water plants was so thick it impeded the cutting. The river was the best alternative. In West Amana they liked a deep, Iowa River oxbow that was called "Watts Pond," for the pioneer who once lived next to it. Remember you couldn't use a too shallow pool or pond as you needed some water depth for thicker blocks and water beneath the ice so that you could saw out the blocks.

For Homestead where the haul to and from the river was appalling they built their ice pond in low spot in the forest southwest of the village where a spring fed stream could be dammed and coaxed to form a wide, deep pool. This was done about 1925 by the Homestead men as one of the first acts of the Homestead Welfare Club.

You needed to wait until you had had many days of below freezing temperatures and at least a week or so of below 10 degree temperatures for good thick ice – especially as the river needed really cold weather to make it safe to work on. Early February generally presented itself as the best time but the goal was to pick a week and get through as much as possible without a blizzard, an ice storm or a deep thaw. It was a tricky business.

Accounts vary but it usually took about two weeks of flat out work, with all able bodied men and older boys helping, to harvest enough block ice to fill up the big ice houses. These were smaller than barns, but much larger than woodsheds, and were built of unpainted rough sawn lumber with wide double doors so that wagons could be moved in and out. A high beam was rigged with block and tackle aloft to remove blocks of ice from wagons. Once the ice harvest was done the wide doors were shut and sawdust piled against them. Blocks were carried out by hand through a small side door to keep the cold inside the house. The butcher shops, the general stores and the kitchen houses received regular deliveries of block ice for their ice boxes and meat coolers.

I can't think of an ice house that's still standing today though perhaps someone knows of one.

Built of lumber - double-walled - sawdust was poured into the space between the walls. I believe it was Leroy Graesser who told me that the walls had nearly a foot of space between them so the quantity of sawdust they needed was enormous. Yet more sawdust was piled on top and around the stacks of block ice to insulate it. Indeed this worked so well ice could be kept through summer into fall. In December the ice house was readied for the next ice harvest. Muddy, clumped sawdust was removed and piles of fresh sawdust brought in from the sawmills ready to use when needed.

Usually the "ökonomiebaas" (farm manager) determined the day the ice harvest was to begin. My Opa Harry Zuber loved the ice harvest when he was a kid because it was a wonderful excuse for a 12-year-old to get out of school for two weeks and it made for a change with lots of thrilling activity involving horses and wagons, but by the 1920's when he was an adult he was not so enthralled.

Indeed it was hard work in the cold. They wore their thickest gloves, but wet ice would have rendered them worthless. The temps and wind must have been relentless. Remember these men still had to milk cows, tend cattle and pigs and do all their daily chores as well as cut ice.

Looking at photos of the ice harvest taken during Amana's communal period it appears they had a team of men on the ice to cut the blocks with long serrated blades. Think of our log-sawing games, but with one man drawing the wooden handle, up and dow with vigor, and the other end going down at any angle, sawing into the ice. The blocks were floated and pulled along with ice hooks and iron tongs to the edge of the water and then hoisted, by way of metal slide and chains, into the back of the wagon.

In one memorable photo there were about 20 men working, about 6 wagons and six teams of draft horses. Of course another group of men would have been working at the ice house to receive the blocks, stack them and shovel sawdust.

The only highlight was lunch on the ice – and by lunch they meant the mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks. Someone was assigned the duty (usually the oldest guy or the one with the worst back) making two big fires, grating down one to burn to hot coals and then set about making huge steaming kettles of coffee and frying thick slices of Schwartenmagen ("headcheese" sausage) in iron skillets on the coals. Everyone stood around the second fire keeping warm as they ate.

No one worked on Sundays, of course, and no one missed church so there were breaks. It was a team effort which made it easier and there were plenty of laughs and jokes. Nonetheless minor cases of frostbite, chilblains, sore backs and sprains were common. It was hard on horses too. At least one team or if not two went back and forth across the ice hauling sleds of blocks from the edge of the water to the shore. These horses had to be fitted with nob-nailed horse shoes to give them a grip on the ice. The shoes were replaced after the ice harvest.

When the ice house was full, the harvest was done and everyone felt relieved.

In George Foersnter and his cousin and friends had the chance to build an electric refrigerator for home use, they leapt at it, creating what became the Amana Refrigeration and making Amana a household name as a result.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

The Amana Community Library added the following to their collection. Please stop by to check them out!

"Widow" by John Grisham
"Wreck" by Catherine Newman
"Irish Goodbye" by Heather O'Neill
"Confronting Evil" by Bill O'Reilly
"Impossible Fortune" by Richard Osman
"Picasso Heist" & "Return of the Spider" by James Patterson
"Briar Club" by Kate Quinn
"Hidden Nature", "Inheritance" "Mirror" & "Seven Rings" by Nora Roberts
"Mockingbird Summer" by Lynda Rutledge
"Buckeye" by Patrick Ryan
"With a Vengeance" by Riley Sager
"Remain" by Nicholas Sparks
"Original Sin" by Jake Tapper
"View from Lake Como" by Adriana Trigiani
"The Woman in Suite 11" by Ruth Ware
"How to Live With a Ghost" by Melinda Wichmann
"Time of the Child" by Niall Williams
"Gone Before Goodbye" by Reese Witherspoon

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***

CALL FOR GARDENS: BRUSHES AND BLOOMS

A public garden weekend within Plein Air Amana

The Amana Arts Guild is excited to present Brushes and Blooms, a new community arts event that brings together the former Fresh Paint Plein Air and Colonies in Bloom. The full plein air event runs June 25–28, with Brushes and Blooms—the garden-focused portion—taking place Saturday and Sunday, June 27–28.

We are inviting local homeowners and gardeners who plan to open their gardens to the public on June 27–28 to participate. On Saturday, June 27, plein air artists will be painting throughout the Colonies and may request permission to paint in participating gardens during designated hours. Gardens will be open to the public on both Saturday and Sunday, whether or not artists are present.

Participation is simple:

- Gardens must be open to the public on June 27 and 28;
- Artists may paint in gardens on Saturday, June 27
- Garden hosts may choose whether they welcome artists or prefer public viewing only
- Artists work independently and respectfully

Brushes and Blooms celebrates the beauty, care, and creativity found in our local gardens—and offers visitors a chance to see art created in real time within them. Participating gardens will be recognized as part of the event and included in event materials when possible.

If you are interested in having your garden included in Brushes and Blooms, please contact the Amana Arts Guild at director@amanaartsguild.org

We hope you'll consider sharing your garden and helping art bloom across the Colonies this summer.

Bulletin Deadlines:
Regular Sized Items Tues. 4:30 PM; *Small Items* Wed. 11:00 AM
email: ***amanaprintshop@southslope.net***

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Historic Preservation Grant Program will be opening the first cycle of applications for 2026. The intent of the program is to encourage and assist in funding the appropriate restoration of historic properties within the Land Use District. The best place to understand the parameters of the program is to visit the ACLUD website www.aclud.org. Click on the link "Historic Preservation Grant Program". Then click on the "Grant Program Details". You will see that the program is split into two "cycles" per year. The deadline to turn in your grant application and corresponding permit application for the upcoming review cycle is March 1, 2026. For further information regarding your local government, visit our website or email Kayleigh at aclud@southslope.net

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