

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

In light of the CDC recommendations to help prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Amana Church has cancelled all in-person church services, meetings, and events until May 10. This information may be updated, as conditions change.

The we will provide a Facebook live stream of the Sunday service, as well as the Wednesday Nachtgebet at 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday Fellowship at 5:30 p.m. Video is available after the service on both Facebook and YouTube (search for "The Amana Church" on YouTube.) In addition, all services will be recorded as podcasts and available on our website, under the "Listen Now" tab.

Palm Sunday Service, Facebook live at 10:00 a.m. April 5, 2020 - Elder Peter Hoehle presiding

Scripture: Luke 19:28-44

Psalm 24

Testimony: Johann Adam Gruber, Bergzabern, October 31, 1717

Hymns: No. 151, O How Shall I Receive Thee

No. 189, Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

No. 242, All Glory, Laud, and Honor

CONGREGATE MEALS

To prevent our diners from possible contact with the COVID-19 virus, meals have been canceled.

COVID-19 Updates – Store Closures Updated

The safety and well-being of our employees and customers is our top priority. To limit the spread of COVID-19, we have decided to close our non-essential retail stores in the Amana Colonies. Effective at the end of business Monday, March 23rd, 2020, the Amana General Store, Little Red Wagon, Amana Woolen Mill, and Amana Furniture Shop will be closed. These closures will be in effect through Thursday, April 16th, 2020. We invite you to continue to shop at amanashops.com.

The Amana Meat Shop remains open but is closing a 4:00 p.m. each day to allow our staff additional time for cleaning and sanitizing.

We are taking additional steps at all of our Amana Society business and facilities, including social distancing and extra safety and cleaning procedures, to help protect and support our employees and customers.

Thank you for your support and understanding!
Sincerely,



Greg Luerkens
President/CEO

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AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

30th Anniversary Cookie Walk Recipe Book

It's been 25 years since the Amana Church first published the "Christmas Cookie Walk Collection" of recipes, a red, ring-bound, flipbook of nearly 100 cookie and candy recipes from the Amana Church's annual Prelude to Christmas event.

A new cookie walk recipe book is underway with a committee of Amana Church volunteers collecting recipes now from volunteers who have contributed cookies and candies to the highly popular cookie walk. The cookie walk has been a favorite event since first held in 1991. That's 29 years ago and yes, the event is coming up on its 30th anniversary.

The book is to be a fund raiser for the Amana Church with proceeds used to support the Amana Church's Sunday School and summer vacation Bible camp. The cookbook committee is being chaired by Allison Momany.

Do you have a recipe you would like to share? Email to the Amana Church mchurch@southslope.net Please send those recipes by May 1.

Virtual Performance Friday Night Songs to Make Us Smile

Using social media and print media, the Old Creamery Theatre is hosting a virtual cabaret, "Songs to Make You Smile," Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

How can you watch? Go to the YouTube website and look for "Songs to Make You Smile: A Virtual Cabaret" Or look for the link to the event on the Old Creamery Theatre's Facebook page. To make a donation go to Donorbox.org/songs-to-make-you-smile. The suggested donation is \$5 per viewer.

The virtual cabaret benefit was the creative brainchild of the Creamery's artistic directors Keegan Christopher and Katie Colleta with support from Ashley Shields, the new executive director of the Creamery. Shields joined the theatre just this spring.

The cabaret is a celebration of our local talent, yes, but it's also a fund raiser for the Old Creamery and its sister theatres in eastern Iowa. The five theatres will equally split the proceeds of the event: Theatre Cedar Rapids, SPT Theatre, Cedar Rapids, The Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, and Riverside Theatre in Iowa City plus of course, the Old Creamery Theatre, Amana. As of last week their efforts had paid off to the tune of \$5,000. Organizers hope to double that amount by performance time.

This is a "first ever" eastern Iowa event with collaborative performances by various artists on stages and in homes across eastern Iowa. In addition to stars from our favorite theatres, they've invited high schoolers to submit video tapes of their performances of "songs that make you smile."

Who will we see and what will happen? We'll just have to tune in and see.

Advice for These Times

In light of recent events and as an Amana community service, I've compiled some useful tips to weathering this COVID-19 spring gleaned from my personal observation while holed up here in West Amana washing my hands, cooking, writing, eating, reading, speaking on the phone and taking walks.

I've read lots of tips and advice for cheerfully surviving our times, so here now are my tips for Amana community

members, (located here or there) to cheerfully deal with the emotional toll of social distancing and these uncertain times.

1) Admit that staying home alone is fun. It must be said: Amana Colonists by genetic predisposition and social conditioning are basically, introverts. Why else did we leave Germany and flee to the American frontier? Why else did we choose rural Iowa? Why else do we put up those four-board fences? Why else did you move here? You want to be alone. Embrace it. Enjoy it.

2) But we want to be alone together. Yes, that's true. We want to be alone together. We built seven villages in a circle. Not one village, but seven. Not individual farms, but villages. We like village life, but we want everyone to keep their distance hence the fences. And those narrow sidewalks. So therefore, embrace social distancing with your partner, pets and yes, your kids. Wave at your neighbors and call it good. Respect the fences.

3) Admit that you feel comfortable social distancing and don't beat yourself up about it. No guilt. In the Amanas we have been successfully practicing social distancing since 1855. We've always sat six feet apart in church. Admit it, you've never been comfortable hugging people or heaven forbid, kissing someone in public. There is a reason why the most emotionally heartfelt gesture we can think to do in church is shake one another's hands (with arms extended fully as if we are reaching across a fence).

4) But we want people to come here and see us. Yes, that's true. That is the twin edge to our double-edged sword of an Amana emotional dilemma. Here in the Amana Colonies where we have spent generations trying to keep folks at arms distance while secretly praying they give us a hug, we like being alone together, but enjoy people coming to visit. It's the reason for the Great Change. It's the reason why we opened those restaurants and the Woolen Mill salesroom in the first place. But on the other hand, we felt kinda guilty about it as we suspect that being around a lot of strangers isn't really all that good for us, we hold them at a safe distance. Why else in the 1970's did we build the Little Amana hotel 8 miles away from the villages? Now to best cope with the present circumstances, we all must first admit that we miss, really miss the tourists. And we miss, really miss, the hoopla of Maipole practice and Oktoberfest singing practice, the volunteer sign-up sheets and all of it. Once this is all over, and yes, one day this will all be over, let's not have anymore false whining about the tourists, because not only do they provide livelihoods and revenues, they help us define who we are as a community. Who are we? We are a community of people who want to live alone in rural seclusion with like-minded people, who respect our fences, but we have to make a living so that we can sustain all this separation so we invite people to visit us. Then we feed them a lot of food, entertain them and give them beer and wine. That's who we are.

5) Taking evening car rides is fun. Turns out Opa and Oma were right, driving aimlessly around eastern Iowa looking out the car windows at farms and towns, while chatting about the state of the fields, the weather and what we see as we drive and never stopping to buy so much as a cup of coffee or a gallon of gas can be fun. Who knew? Well, Oma and Opa knew.

A Message to Our Valued Amana Friends and Customers:

These are certainly unprecedented times with everything going on in our world.

As President of Fairfax State Savings Bank and Bankhaus, I want to reassure you of our commitment to the communities we serve.

We are all facing financial uncertainty today and in the days ahead. Rest assured, if you need financial guidance or assistance we are here to help our community. We are pleased to be a resource - whether you bank with us or not. If you are facing financial adversity, or have financial questions, we will work to find a solution that best fits your needs and the needs of your family.

You may call the Bank at 319-622-4287 to speak with an Officer (Monday-Friday 9 to 4 and Saturday 9-11AM) or call me directly at 319-845-2424. After hours or the lunch hour, please leave a message and we will get back to you. Since 1924, we have endured many challenges as a community. We have faced pandemics before and working together we will overcome this current adversity.

May God bless and keep all of us in the palm of his hand,
Patrick Slater, President

NEW at Zuber's Homestead Hotel

DESSERTS BAKED-TO-GO

Call to place an order by NOON ON FRIDAY,

We'll "bake for you" and have it

READY TO GO on Monday or Tuesday.

We will bake pan or bar cookies (by the dozen), pies, cakes, cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, or coffee cakes. Cinnamon rolls and cupcakes must be ordered in half dozen or dozen quantity. Cookies/pan bars must be ordered by the dozen. Cakes - 9x13, round two layer

Call to ask about pricing and/or have a menu emailed to you 319-622-3911

LAND USE DISTRICT SEEKS ADMINISTRATOR

The Amana Colonies Land Use District seeks a permanent part-time Administrator for planning and zoning office. Position requires the ability to administer all office functions, familiarity with budgeting, ability to keep accurate financial and public records, ability to interact professionally and amicably with the public, and work with minimum supervision. Good organizational skills a must. Some evening hours required.

Additional preferred qualifications include a working knowledge of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation, proven grant writing ability, and a working knowledge of planning and zoning ordinances. Experience with QuickBooks, WordPress and Microsoft Office preferred.

Send a letter of interest, resume, and references, or any inquiry, to: ACLUD Administrator, PO Box 66, Amana IA 52203 or e-mail aclud@southslope.net. Position remains open until filled.

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

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

I am going to plagiarize and use some ideas that Les Ackerman gave me from his home church, after we spoke about the virus, we are all dealing with right now.

He mentioned that although what we are going through right now is unpleasant, we have to remind ourselves that Christ asked God three times (in the garden) to take the burden off of him. Yet God, Christ's own Father, did not remove the burden and still allowed Christ to suffer and die for all of us.

Christ ended his prayer with, "Not my will, but THY will be done."

Later Christ again ask for help from God and not receive a reply until the very end.

As a child I often wondered what if would have been like to have had a brother like Jesus. After all He was so perfect, but was He really?

You look back and you realize that he was a child who lost his temper, would sometimes wander off and not tell his parents where he was going. There is even a reference that his family felt he was mentally ill and wanted him put away at one point. His brother, James, would disagree with him. The disciples didn't always agree with him and questioned his judgment. When his mother asked him to change the water into wine at the wedding, he first refused her. He was not perfect.

God had, after all, made him to be human, although a very good human. He was made into someone we could relate to and eventually trust and respect and most of all love.

Jesus had feelings of love and hurt and even anger, but he also had the knowledge that He had a mission that HE had to fulfill no matter what.

I am sure that when Palm Sunday came and He say the multitudes with the palm leaves and the shouts of gladness He knew what was coming. He must have had very mixed emotions at that time and wondered about these humans just like He has now when this tiny virus has taken us to our knees and filled us with anxiety.

I wonder if God/Jesus/The Holy Spirit is wondering if now that we are on our knees if we too will say, "not our will, but yours." B.S.H.

News & Notes continued

6) Many colony phrases are perfect for the life that we are presently leading. Now is the time to use them. For example, one phrase that every colony kid knows is "Schxxssdreck" which means "shxtdirt." This useful word comes in handy when scrolling through social media, listening to the news or opening a stubborn jar and not being able to call anyone to help you. Here's another colony expression, "die teuren Zeiten kommen" meaning "the expensive times are a coming." My neighbor used to say this all the time and it meant, "Save your cash (or paper sacks, old socks, jelly jars)." He was right as we are now living in those long dreaded, "expensive times," which means practice conservation at home and pay your social dues by being a good citizen.

7) Gardening is good. Yes, now is the hour to honor one's colony upbringing and plant a garden and tend our yards. We have time. We have space. We have no seed but we can order that I suppose. It's a pleasant way to while away a sunny spring day and it's outside.

8) Oma was right. Spring is when you clean. And if you don't soak it in boiling hot, soapy water and scrub it within an inch of its life than you aren't doing it right. Follow Oma's example, clean your house. Open the windows. Wash the curtains. Scrub your front steps, your patio, your door handles, your refrigerator, your car and your hands. It's good to be "Sauber" (clean). And you'll feel better for having used your time productively.

9) Remember when Mom shouted, "Dre das blechbox ab!" Meaning "Turn that stupid TV off!" She was right. Turn off the TV. Put down your ipad, or your cell phone. Do something useful. Clean something. Take up a hobby. Learn something new. You'll feel better.

10) Pray. Every single day Oma and Opa prayed. Remember copies of "Daily Word" on the coffee table? The worn "Psalter Spiel" by the bed? Der "Kleines a Kempis" (the little a Kempis devotional book) that they kept nearby? Follow their example and spend time meditating quietly in silence. Meditate. Pray. Remember that we will get through this together. Let us remain faithful. Let us remain true. Because that's who we are.

Dear Amana Society Stockholders

I want to take an opportunity to share a little about myself as a candidate for the Amana Society Board of Directors. I have been a professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Iowa for the past 30 plus years, living in Solon IA but frequent Amana which is home for our family including my dad and siblings, Lee, Jacki and Chris and their families. In my work roles, I have served on national professional organization Board of Directors, including the American Geriatric Society and American Pain Society, and have had fiduciary responsibility to oversee organizational finances including profit/loss evaluation and decision-making, as well as development of new programs, policies and procedures.

I am proud of my Amana German heritage and committed to serve the membership with open-minded exploration of issues and solutions and serious consideration of ways to sustain our rich traditions while developing new opportunities for the Society.

Feel free to contact me at Keela.herr@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Keela Herr
Keela Herr



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Small/short Ads/articles - Wed. Noon

VOTE

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Call Tanya at 319-622-3131

Dear Amana Society, Inc. Stockholders,

I am asking for your support and vote in the upcoming Amana Society, Inc Board of Directors Election. Current economic conditions are very, very challenging. During my 10 years in banking, I had the opportunity to work with and analyze many diverse business entities. As we look at the economic challenges our company faces as a result of COVID-19, it is crucial that board members and management analyze and understand our diverse business portfolio and make sound business decisions based on each business's strategic and financial strengths.

While with Amana Farms, and as an ag banker and Cargill Commodity Trading Advisor, I had the privilege of working with many successful ag operations. I believe my experiences in agriculture and banking are beneficial, providing oversight that will help Amana Farms weather the current economic storm and ultimately become more profitable AND more conservation and community minded in the long term. Please call or e-mail with questions or comments: 319-551-1820 mshoup@hotmail.com

**Thank you,
Mike Shoup**

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Dear Fellow Stockholders,

Through my business career, I have gained a unique set of experience and expertise that is beneficial to our Board of Directors. It includes:

- Over 38 years of retail management experience.
- Over 30 years with the Amana Society in sales, management, and on the Board
- Current Executive Director of the AmanaColonies CVB
- Past Board member of Iowa Destination Marketing Alliance
- Founder and owner of a successful retail business in Amana

I believe each board member should bring different expertise to the table. My expertise is in tourism and retail management and I would like the opportunity to help guide the Amana Society into the future. I would be grateful for your support and vote in the upcoming election. Please email me at rettigd@aol.com or call 319-622-3005 with questions.

David Rettig

BE PART OF A COMMUNITY WORKING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time to raise awareness of a serious issue affecting the children and families in our communities and a chance to realize we all can play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

The Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB), which operates both the Court Appointed Special Advocacy (CASA) program and the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) program, exists to advocate for the protection of Iowa's children and improvement of the child welfare system.

It takes commitment from all of us to care about one another and one another's children. Fully engaging all elements of our society is essential in addressing the needs of vulnerable children and their families. Churches, civic clubs, social organizations, and neighborhood groups can strengthen protective factors that have been found to help mitigate risk and lessen the likelihood of abuse. They can help by sponsoring educational sessions on child development, parent and child mentoring, substance abuse treatment programs, and events to build connections and awareness of services.

We at ICAB are grateful for the hundreds of volunteers across Iowa who have chosen to serve the best interests of children in need. We encourage everyone in our community to become involved in some way to help put an end to child abuse and neglect. We can all make a difference. Teresa Barnes, CASA Coordinator