

## AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, March 02, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Br. Tony Berger presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Zeuch uns nach dir" No. 1155 Seite 1141

Testimony: Br. JF Rock, June 28, 1721

Scripture: Mark 11:12-18

Psalm 146

Closing Hymn: "Wer sich bücken kann" No. 1081 Seite 1057

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

Opening Hymn: "Redeemed, restored, forgiven" No. 229

Closing Hymn: "Who to God does yield" No. 166

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.

Links to services online may be found at:

<https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/>

The Amana Church Food Pantry would like to thank Amazing Grace Antiques customers. Your change donated last year resulted in a donation of \$620.95 to support our food pantry and clients. Thank you!

## HOMESTEAD SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT

The Homestead Sanitary District Board of Trustees will hold its fourth quarter meeting on Thursday Feb. 27 at 6:00 pm at the Homestead Welfare Club.

## AMANA SANITARY DISTRICT MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Amana Sanitary District will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2025 in the Amana lift station.

## Dear Middle Amana Residents,

Water quality is an important and ongoing concern across the State of Iowa. The Middle Amana Sanitary District (MASD) is committed to supporting water quality and the efforts underway to make improvements. One of the key initiatives currently underway is the reduction of chloride in wastewater outflow from the district.

We are reaching out to you because you can make a significant difference. Residential and commercial water softener systems are meaningful contributors to chloride levels in wastewater due to the sodium chloride (salt) present in wastewater from regeneration cycles. Adjusting the regeneration settings and schedules of your system can reduce the amount of salt consumed and, as a result, decrease the chloride exiting the sanitary sewer treatment system.

MASD respectfully asks that you inspect your water softener to ensure it is operating properly and that the settings are correct. An incorrect hardness/iron setting or too frequent regeneration cycles not only degrades water quality but can also increase your costs. If you're unsure of the appropriate settings for your water softener, assistance is available by contacting Amana Society Service Co. at (319) 622-3052 or your preferred water treatment provider.

By properly setting and maintaining your water softener, you can help lower chloride levels in wastewater while also reducing your own salt usage and potentially saving money.

Sincerely,

Middle Amana Sanitary District Trustees

Bruce Trumpold, President (319-361-8047)

Richard Leichsenring, Treasurer (319-560-2001)

Tony Berger, Secretary (319-361-8459)

## THIS IS MY STORY MARCH 5-7

Join us each morning, Wednesday through Friday, March 5th through 7th to enjoy our second annual This is My Story at the Amana Heritage Museum School House. The sessions begin each morning at 9am with a short break between sessions. First time speakers will be Tim Meyer, Anne Rehfuss, and Kristie Yoder. In addition, we will have sessions led by R.C. Eichacker and Lothar Beyer. Contact us at 319.622.3567 or [amanaheritage@southslope.net](mailto:amanaheritage@southslope.net) for any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

## AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

### Old Amana Weddings and Cake

As February is the month we celebrate love and as so many young people are planning summer weddings, let's revisit communal era (1855-1932) wedding traditions and the importance of cake.

In communal Amana weddings were celebrated merrily. They were occasions for family and village festivities. But they began with a very solemn wedding service often held on a Thursday morning so as not to disrupt the other 11 church services held during the course of the week. Thursday morning was a time when there were no other regular services scheduled.

Most often the wedding took place in the large Saal (meetinghouse) in the bride's village in mid-summer. Weddings were sometimes conducted at other times of the year but mid-summer was the ideal. It was always conducted by the head Elder in the village and usually included the reading of inspired testimony, two or more hymns, prayer and Scripture. Once in a while if there was more than one couple in a village wishing to marry, they married more than couple during one wedding service. Each couple standing up when called upon.

The bride wore her best black, navy or deep grey church – going dress. She wore her black cap, shawl and apron. The groom wore a suit, sometimes a new suit or a new bowler hat, but new clothes for either the bride or groom were not the norm. Bride and groom sat in the first row alone at the front the church. Their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles attended. Wedding worship was not an "all village" service and those who attended were invited by the Elder, not the bride and groom. After hymn singing, prayer, Scripture and testimony, the Elder would invite the pair to stand in front of the Elder table and asked them whether or not they wished to be married. They answered "Ja oder Nein." We have not got, to my knowledge, a record of what other questions may have been asked of the bridal couple, but my great grandmother who was married in Middle Amana said she and her groom were asked if they promised to be faithful to God and to one another. After the questions, the bride and groom shook hands and went back to their seats. The service concluded with a prayer and a hymn.

Then it was time for lunch at the bride's communal kitchen. Only those who had been at the wedding service attended this luncheon. There was seating for only about 30, so if the family was large, some dined at their own kitchens or as the guests of some other kitchen. This was all thought out before hand and invitations issued by the head cook (Baas) One bride told me (years ago when I was writing "Seasons of Plenty") that because her groom was from her village, he and his family dined at the kitchen house where his Mom was the Baas, while she and her rather large family dined at the kitchen where she was an assistant cook. All of this was decided by the head cooks and she and her groom had no say in the matter. The menu was the same in both dining rooms of course.

Because this was a much anticipated meal a great deal of attention was paid to the décor and the menu. The cooks often decorated the dining room with cut flowers, pine boughs or potted plants. When my Aunt Verona Schinnerling was married in 1926 her fellow assistant cooks filled the tables and window sills of her kitchen dining room with potted violets and cyclamen in a profusion of reds and pinks.

The menu included the best foods the kitchen had to offer in that season - a good soup, ham or roast beef and noodles or fresh pork sausage, a potato dish and various pickle relishes and salad. Fresh bread, butter, cheese and of course, cake. The traditional Amana wedding cake is star-shaped, made in a star-shaped, tin- mold especially created for wedding cakes. Bill Metz made many of these molds during his lifetime. They are highly prized. Who will carry on this tradition, I'm not sure and that's a terrible loss.

A Sternkuchen is a tri-flavored, marble cake. The cake requires two different batters; one made with 8 to 16 egg whites (depending upon the size of your eggs and the size of star shaped mold. The mold I have borrowed is huge so I have used 16 small eggs) and the other batter is made with the yolks of 8 to 16 eggs, plus of course sugar, whole milk, well sifted

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## AMANA CHURCH SEEKS ADMINISTRATOR

The Executive Committee of the Amana Church is now accepting applications for the Administrator's position. If you are interested in applying for the Amana Church Administrator's position, please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Administrator ([mchurch@southslope.net](mailto:mchurch@southslope.net) or P.O. Box 103, Middle Amana, IA 52307) by March 10, 2025. The Administrator will forward your information to the Executive Committee for their review.



## Lakeview Village

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

"There's class warfare, all right, but it's my class, the rich class, that's making war, and we're winning."  
~Warren Buffett 2006

**FEATHERS IN THE WIND**

Recently, I wrote that our ancestors were very wise to move away from Buffalo and its lake-effect winter storms. Recently, Buffalo was again engulfed in snow and ice while we in Iowa were sitting at about 20 degrees and had no snow.

I have never fully appreciated winter, but then I a sort of a curmudgeon and can find fault in things when things are not going according to my plans. Winter had some redeeming qualities, such as watching the snow gently fall, making snow sculptures, and, for our family, many birthday parties. In our family, my sister and I were both born in the middle of March, as was our mother. Our parents' wedding anniversary was also on my mother's birthday.

Our mother always went all out with the parties, allowing us to choose the food and games. Naturally, anything with large quantities of sugar in it was high on our lists.

I always wanted strawberry soda with vanilla ice cream. We were rarely allowed soda, so this was a special treat. Unfortunately, for my choice, I am lactose intolerant so, the day after each of these parties, I was a mess.

The real fund part came when our mother got cakes from friends. One cake, in particular, was like a marble cake, but had orange flavoring in it. It came from the grandmother of my friends Rebecca and Marianne, and she must have spent hours making it. A few years ago, I found the recipe, and Charlemagne made it for me. Truly, it was the best birthday gift ever.

B.S.H

**AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP**  
**Church Services**  
**SUNDAYS 9:00 AM**  
**All Are Welcome**  
**Amana Performing Arts Center**  
**www.amanaareafellowship.org**

**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**

**AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLU) Notice of Public Hearing March 10, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana And via ZOOM**

1. Call Public Hearing to Order
2. Set Agenda
3. Open Discussion Regarding Agenda Items – Purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input from the General Public regarding the following:
  - A) 2025-002 Michael and Kayleigh Myers / 23 220th Trail Upper south / HP-C / Rezoning Request. Change the property that once served as the Amana Society Bakery from HP-C to HP-R as this is now a residence.
  - B) (Second Reading) Review Proposed 2025 – 2026 ACLUD Budget.
4. Adjourn Public Hearing

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEMOLITION**

Notice is hereby given that Amana Historical Sites Foundation has filed an Application (No. 2025-005) to demolish the barn behind (west) of the Upper South Hotel located at 17 220th Trail, (Upper) South Amana 52334.

This matter will be before the Amana Colonies Land Use District Historic Preservation Commission on Monday, January 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at the ACLUD meeting room at 4304 220th Trail, Amana.

All persons with an interest in this matter are encouraged to attend the HPC meeting.

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baking powder. The yellow cake batter is divided in half and vanilla and ½ cup cocoa is beaten in to one half of the batter. The white batter is divided 2/3 and 1/3. The 1/3 white cake batter is given a few drops of red food coloring or in the days when this was not available, extract of almond and a tablespoon of rose water mixed with cherry juice – the goal being to create a pink batter. Then the chocolate, white and pink batters are carefully poured by dollops into the star shaped pan and baked. This cake was served to the bridal party.

After lunch everyone went home for a nap and then after supper a large party was held at the home of the bride or groom. The groom and in father was in charge of this event and the groom did most of the preparations brewing and bottling as many bottles of beer as he could and procuring from family home-made wine. The groom issued invitations to the couple's friends, neighbors and more distant family members. Family and friends from other villages attended walking or riding in by wagon or buggy.

Friends of the bride brought cakes with them. Fudge cakes, nut cakes, sponge cakes topped with compote, fluff cakes, angel food and devil's food cakes, marble cakes and feather cakes. A bride could expect 30 or more cakes. This tradition continues in some families today where the typical tiered wedding cake is cut by the bride and groom but the cakes baked and brought by family and friends are the main attraction.

Along with the homemade cakes, homebrew and wine, grape and cherry juice was served, plus "oyster crackers," from the general store and ham salad sandwiches made the groom's mom and aunts. Of the course the cakes were the star. Gifts were given but were small and often practical. A whisk for the broom, a needlepoint cushion cover, a celluloid comb set or embroidered pillowcases; things that could be made or purchased at the store for a few cents.

After the party, which might go on well into the night, the bride went home to her family and the groom went home to his. They would move in together sometime later in the week when no one was observing their movement. The apartment was chosen for them by the Elder council. No honey moon of course, but still the entire village gave them leave to be late for work or leave early from the kitchen house with smiles all around.

**FOR RENT**

West Amana. 1 Bedroom apartment, Stove/Refridge furnished. References, lease required. 319-573-5265

**HELP WANTED**

Amana Arts Guild is seeking a new Executive Director. Approximately 20 hours/week, \$15-\$20 an hour. Please find our posting on amanaartsguild.com to learn more and apply.

Help Wanted at Margie Jane's sales associate Weekdays starting in April. Please call 319-721-8748

**Brau Haus Daily Plate Specials**

- Monday-** Mother-In-Law's Meatloaf
- Tuesday-** Tacos\*
- Wednesday-** Jagerschnitzel
- Thursday-** Bangers & Mash
- Friday** Oven-baked Steak

Entree served with mashed potatoes & gravy and vegetable of the day unless otherwise noted [\*] No Substitutions

**Also...Join us for Prime Rib every Thursday a 12 oz cut of Prime Rib with your choice of Potato and salad. Starting at 5 pm, while it lasts. No substitutions**

**Bulletin Deadlines:** Most Items - Tues 4:30 P.M. Small Items- Wed 11 A.M. [amanaprintshop@southslope.net](mailto:amanaprintshop@southslope.net)

**OBITUARY**

Larry Brown, 81, passed peacefully with family on February 24, 2025. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2025, and a celebration of life at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025, both to be held in the Middle Amana Church.

Larry Brown was born on December 7, 1943, in Louisiana, Missouri to Gilbert Brown and Louise (Pegump) Brown, he was the fourth of five children. During his life, Larry worked at the Amana Meat Market, and later as a driver for TMC where he logged over 1,000,000 miles driving throughout the country. Larry volunteered with the Amana Fire Department for over 27 years. He was an active member of Ducks Unlimited, and loved to spend time outdoors. Larry cherished attending the various activities of his grandchildren, where he was never shy about providing a word of advice and encouragement. He loved traveling the country with his wife, Elaine, and their friends. Despite some health issues over the past several years, he always maintained his positive outlook, concern for others, sense of humor, and was a joy to all who knew him.

Larry is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elaine (Ehrmann) Brown, daughter Angie (Mike) Flanagan of Overland Park, KS, son Corey (Sherri) Brown of Amana, IA, grandchildren Shea (Jacob) Spreyer of Chicago, IL, Brady Flanagan of Scottsdale, AZ, Callie Flanagan of Cincinnati, OH, Zach Brown of Cedar Rapids, IA, Addison Brown of Amana, IA, brother in law Michael (Janice) Ehrmann of Amana, IA, and brothers Fred Brown of Cedar Rapids, IA and Tom (Phyllis) Brown of Solon, IA.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert Brown and Louise (Pegump) Brown, sister Pat Johnson, brother Bob Brown and sister in law Joanne Brown.

We were abundantly blessed to have Larry on this earth for 81 years. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made in Larry's memory to the Amana Church Society. Online condolences: [www.klosterfuneralhome.com](http://www.klosterfuneralhome.com)

**OBITUARY**

Harold "Hal" Philip Wendler, 98, a longtime resident of Dixon, IL, passed away on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Heritage Square in Dixon.

Hal was born on July 12, 1926, to Fred and Wilhelmina "Minnie" (Berger) Wendler in South Amana.

Hal received his early education in the Amana public schools. While a high school sophomore, he rescued a boy from drowning in the Iowa River and received the Boy Scouts of America Heroism Award. Before his senior year, he was drafted into the Army and was assigned to the 30th division. The war ended while Hal was on a train heading to the front lines in Germany. He then served as a radio operator in Germany and had the experience of attending some of the Nuremberg trials.

Hal then attended Upper Iowa University for one year and transferred to the University of Iowa. He proudly graduated with a Civil Engineering degree in 1953.

Hal married Rose Ehrle on June 18, 1950, in Homestead, IA. They both were active members of the Amana Church Society. They celebrated 73 beautiful years together until Rose passed in August of 2023. Hal and Rose settled in Springfield, IL, where Hal designed bridges for the State of Illinois.

Hal accepted a job in Dixon, IL, and then moved his young family to Dixon in November of 1954. After several years with Willet & Hoffman, he started his own business, Wendler Engineering. Hal completed projects throughout Lee and designed the current Dixon Veterans Memorial Arch on Galena Avenue, completed in 1985.

Hal and Rose loved traveling to visit family and friends and enjoyed many trips abroad. Family was always a priority.

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 On-line at: [amanacoloniestoday.com](http://amanacoloniestoday.com)

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