

Amana Arts Guild

arts communiqué

Amana Arts Guild Newsletter

Fall Issue #66 2011

A CELEBRATION OF THE 775 YEARS OF THE RONNEBURG COMMUNITY IN GERMANY

The Amana Arts Guild participated in the Ronneburg community celebration program. Artisan members of the Arts Guild created special Colony Folk Arts items to be presented and placed into a permanent exhibit in the Ronneburg area. The items and maker include: Willow Harvest Basket: Basket-maker - JoAnna Schanz. Star Wedding Cake Pan: Tinsmith - William Metz. Deere and Goat Whatnot- Shelf: Woodworker - Tim Reihmann. Woven Rag Throw Rug: Weaver - George Berger. Sideline Broom: Schanz Broom Shop. Books - Kolonie Kinder: Author - Jennifer Sandersfeld. Remaining Faithful - Amana Folk Arts: Author - Seven Ohrn

COMMUNAL MEAL TOUR PROGRAM

The Amana Arts Guild hosted six communal meal tours in 2011. Visitors from Oelwein, Decorah, Knoxville, Marion, Nevada, Dyersville, and Cresco came to the Arts Guild Center in High Amana to experience an authentic Amana Colonies communal meal. This program came about as an extension of a pilot program designed and implemented by volunteer coordinator Paula Blessman in 2010. Paula has worked with a number of regional bus tour companies to bring groups of visitors to the Amana Colonies to so that they can experience this part of Amana cultural history.

FRIEND OF THE ARTS AWARD

The Amana Arts Guild presented the 2011 Friend of the Arts Award to local craftsman R.C. Eichacker at the annual Festival of the Arts in Middle Amana on Saturday, August 12. Each year, this award recognizes the achievements of an individual who has demonstrated exceptional interest, support and understanding of the promotion of the arts and crafts in the Amana Colonies.

Born in Homestead in 1933, R.C. Eichacker has been an outstanding achiever in organizing and promoting craft events in the Amana Colonies. Prior to 1983, R.C. had been a frequent exhibitor in art and craft festivals around the state of Iowa. While attending these festivals, he noticed a large number of woodcrafters displaying and selling work. This gave him the idea that a market existed for an all wood show and in 1983, Holzfest was born. From 1983 to 1998, R.C. organized and promoted the Holzfest wood festival located at the Little Amana I80 exit. This event attracted woodworkers from around the Midwest to exhibit their woodcrafts, as well as attracting visitors to the area. Later R.C. added Eisenfest and Splinterfest to the list of his local events.

R.C. also owned and operated his own woodworking business and shop beginning in 1978 where he produced walnut cutout photo-mounts and his trademark personalized back massagers also known as rollers. In 2003, he published a book on the subject titled Rolling Along Together.

Recently, R.C. has become involved in several projects with the Amana Arts Guild. In addition to attending the Festival of the Arts as an artist participant, he has been the organizer and promoter of the Woodfest which is a woodworkers show and sale similar to Holzfest which was discontinued soon after 1998. R.C. Eichacker will also be teaching a parent/child woodcrafting class on Saturday, December 10th, 10am-noon at the Amana Arts Guild Center in High Amana. This class is called Art Pocket Crafting Class. Students ages 3 and up will learn to make a personalized wall mounted storage unit for displaying and storing a child's art work. All children taking this class must be accompanied by an adult partner. The cost is \$10 per student. For information, contact the Amana Arts Guild or the instructor R.C. Eichacker.





FALL FIBRE & CLAY SHOW

The Amana Arts Guild Center in High Amana sponsored the annual Fall Fibre & Clay Show on Saturday and Sunday, November 5-6. Artists from the state of Iowa demonstrated crafts and sold rugs, baskets, pottery, and other items.

Participants this year included the original founder of the show Joanna Schanz, Val Neumann, Joel Huebner, Deb Hawkes, and Molly Kephart

This show is held on the first weekend of every November. The Arts Guild Gallery is also open at this time. If you are an artist and would like to participate, contact the Arts Guild at 319 622-3678 or amanarts@southslope.net.

All work displayed at the show must be hand made, original designs by the participating artist. Mass produced or imported items are not allowed. The artist booth fee is \$35 for the two day show.

AMANA ARTS GUILD FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

The Amana Arts Guild sponsored the 34th annual Festival of the Arts on Saturday, August 13, at Middle Amana Park in Middle Amana. The show and sale included folk arts and fine arts of all kinds. Guest artists from across the state of Iowa brought their original work to display and sell. This year's festival celebrated the 775th anniversary of the Ronneburg Castle and featured an informational lecture on the subject by Jon Childers.

Performing artists included Owen Williams on guitar, the Sandersfeld Family Music Ministry, and the Blue Grass Music Band.

Woodfest coordinator RC Eichacker received this year's Friend of the Arts Award for his superlative efforts in developing and promoting the folk arts in the Amana Colonies. The Christmas pyramid raffle winner was Tim Stephenson from Marion.

Our thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this event possible: the apple fritter crew, the Children's Corner volunteers, the food booth operators, the set up crew, the parking monitors, and everyone who donated baked goods.



Planned Giving

There is a great deal of personal satisfaction that comes from helping others. Many people enjoy making gifts in support of organizations. Have you thought about making a meaningful charitable gift?

When preparing to give one may consider a pre-established plan. One that could provide charitable support for community organizations such as the Amana Arts Guild to further our work. One that may provide tax savings, generate income, and help simplify estate plans.

There are a number of planned gift opportunities that are available to all of us. The simplest planned gifts are the Bequest: which provides a gift in a person's will, and the Life Insurance Gift: which provides benefits through an insurance policy. Other gift giving plans include the Life Estate Agreement, as well as the Charitable Gift Annuity and the Charitable Trust, all of which offer not only benefits to the organization but also to the donor, and possibility the donors family.

There is a great deal of personal satisfaction that comes from giving. Giving leaves a larger mark on our community. It gives us an opportunity to give something back.

To investigate planned charitable giving you may wish to talk to your lawyer, banker or financial adviser. If we can help contact, Tina Hinsley President of the Board of the Amana Arts Guild.

AAG BOARD & STAFF
 Tina Hinsley, President;
 Scott Williams, Vice
 President; Gordon
 Kellenberger, Secretary.
Board Members:
 Christine Williams, Ruth
 Cooper, Mike Hawkes,
 Deb Hawkes, Dave Miller,
 Jennifer Sandersfeld,
 Sara Frauenkron,
 Emmett Frauenkron.
Gallery Hosts:
 Deb Hawkes, Jeanne
 Hertel, Karen Jenkins.
 Director, Mike Mintle

TEACHERS WANTED

The Arts Guild is looking for people in the Amana and Iowa County area who have a folk art or folk life skill they would like to pass along to others. Many people have some special skill in knitting, crochet, cooking special recipes, embroidery, gardening, painting pictures, landscaping, etc. and have never taught a class or considered teaching before. The Arts Guild is here to help people who want to teach their special skill get started. Our highly trained staff and volunteer advisors will help you through the step by step process of becoming an effective instructor. If you have a skill or special knowledge and want to teach, give the Amana Arts Guild a call at 319 622-3678 or email amanarts@southslope.net

Some of the subjects of particular interest to the Arts Guild are:

German language, Cooking: Amana foods, Pastry making, Cake decorating, Easter eggs decorating, Holiday baking, cookies, coffeecakes, New Year pretzels, Canning, Knitting, Needlepoint, Quilting, Photography Photoshop, Basket weaving, Hooked rugs, Pottery classes (working with a potter studio), Sewing clothes, dirndl, Amana dress, simple style clothing, Writer workshop, Dancing - ballroom, hip hop, Wine and beer making, Wine and beer tasting, Heritage gardening, Gardening, Landscaping, Amana Fashion Show and Tea, Topical lectures, Amana history and culture, Lithography, Watercolor painting.

ART IOWA WORKSHOPS

Art Iowa Workshops in 2011 included: Intaglio Printing (March 26-27) and Monotype Printmaking (April 9-10) taught by guest artist Jim Ochs, The Spirit of Sumi-e (June 13-17) taught by Karen Kurka Jensen, Claywork (June 20-24) taught by Kirk Niehouse, and Landscape in Pastel (June 27-July 1) taught by Diane Kunzler. In addition, we sponsored Watercolor Weekend (September 24-25) with instructors Richard Dutton and Stan Fellows.

The Arts Guild offers this workshop series every year in cooperation with Grant Wood AEA. Students may take these classes for teacher re-certification credits, graduate college credits, or for no credit. Weekend workshops are worth one credit and one week workshops are worth two credits. For information, contact the Amana Arts Guild at 319 622-3678 or amanaartsguild@southslope.net

Individuals

Marjorie Sherman
Tom & Janet Zuber
Brad & Lynn Hahn
Shawn & Jennifer Sandersfeld
Dell Secor
Janet Drake
Denny Hanson
Annalyn Elloeen
Norman & Rosemarie Geiger
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Gilbert & Marie Staman

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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Current Resident or

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

The Amana Arts Guild would like to thank the following individuals & organization for their recent donations and memorials.

2011 Monetary Donations

Peggy Meek
Henry & Emaline Ruff
Elaine Fair Noe
Norman & Joanna Schanz
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Article Donations

Connie Zuber: Amana calico material & advertisement
Marie Staman: Needle point pictures by Henrietta Young
Leroy Graesser: Model wooden buildings & structures of West Amana

Betty Graesser: Quilt patterns & wooden handled table ware
Henrietta Hale: Colony basket & German picture books
Sheryl Sanderfeld: Historic photographs