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Jesus is the reason for the season!

The Amana Family Practice providers and staff wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for trusting us with the care of your family's health this past year.

Over the Christmas holiday we will be closed all day December 24th through the 27th and December 31 through January 3rd, so we can spend time with our families. We will reopen at our regular times on the following Mondays. When we are closed you may reach the doctor on-call by dialing 1-800-637-2942 and asking them to page the doctor.

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FEATHERS IN THE WIND

Years ago I received a card that suggested that to become humble one must go down on one's knees to pray.

Well this year God has put me on my knees a few times, or on my side, or on my back, or any position he wanted me in according to his plan for me.

No matter what, the irony of it all is once I am in the correct position I have the habit of looking around to see if anybody noticed how I fell.

Now you know no body cares, but some of us are vain enough to wonder if we fell "gracefully." I think back to when I was twelve and Linda Blechschmidt Shuerer had a roller skating party in Williamsburg. If you were in the "in" crowd, you had roller skates in a box and the roller skates had pom pom's made from yarn to match your outfit. Naturally Linda was part of the "in" group and could even roller skate backwards. I practiced a week before so I could skate, to no avail. Linda's sister, Luella, took pity on me and we skated around the rink a few times. Just about the time Luella paid me a complement on my skating, I went down (I later found out I had broken my arm).

Needless to say the party ended and to this day Linda periodically brings up (jokingly) the subject that I "ruined" her birthday party.

Through the years she has gotten "even" by having the Principle call me in front of the room in front of the entire study hall saying that I was smoking in the boiler room (I didn't and don't smoke).

She also gave me a bridal shower, the story of which is too long to record in this column.

The day before my youngest son was born Lind showed me her ballet steps, this caused me a laugh so hard that shortly afterward I went into labor and delivered an eight pound two ounce baby early the next day.

What I'm trying to say here is, that it is not matter of how I fall down, but that I have good friends who will laugh with me as they help me get back up. That is what really gets me through these things (well, that and Charlie).

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 and
 Jan 1 & 2nd

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AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The early (German) Service will begin at 8:30 A.M. in the Middle Amana Church this Sunday December 20, Elder Jon Childers presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Mache dich, mein Geist!" No. 648, Seite 646.

Testimony: Johanna Margaretha Melchior, Buedingen, Nov. 20th, 1714
 Scripture: John 2:1-11
 Psalm 24

Closing Hymn: "Meine Seel! komm in die Wunden" No. 700, Seite 700

The late (English) Service will begin at 10:00 A.M. with the following hymns:
 "Awaken Thou My Soul" No. 77
 "I Trust In Thee," No. 82

The Wednesday evening prayer (Nachtgebet) service will be held at 7:00 P.M. on December 23

Church Calendar:
 Sunday School Program, Dec 20 at 4:00 PM
 Christmas Eve, at 8:00 PM in Middle
 Christmas day, at 10:00 AM in Amana
 New Year's eve, at 6:30 PM in Middle
 New Year's day, at 10:00 AM in Middle

Visitors are welcome at all Amana Church Services.

A KEMPIS STUDY GROUP

"The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a Kempis is considered by many scholars to be one of the finest works on Christian fellowship ever written. Copies of it could be found in every home in Ebenezer and in Amana.

A four session discussion group on this classic will be held at the Middle Amana Church beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 20 following Nacht Gebet at 7:15 am

This is will be an informal discussion group. It is not necessary to attend all four sessions - simply come as often as you like or are able. We will read four sections of the book and will focus upon personal responses to the text and its application for our lives today. Everyone is welcome!

To sign up, contact Emilie Hoppe at zhoppe@southslope.net

We will be using the version of the book published by Vintage Spiritual Classics edited and translated by Joseph N. Tylenda. This book may be ordered from Amazon.com. If you wish a copy to be ordered for you, please contact Emilie Hoppe. The cost for the book will be \$10.

SENIOR DINING

The Holiday Season is here...What better time to fellowship with the Senior Diners at the Amana Church. Bring your appetite and we will supply the hot lunch.

Our December menus are:
Dec. 21- Spaghetti w/Meatballs, Peas, Rice Raisin Pudding, Blushing Pears.
Dec. 28- Fish, Dilled Potatoes, Succotash, Diced Peaches, Rice Krispie Bar.

To make a reservation, or if you have a question, please call Anne Freshour @ 622-3781. Doors open at 11:00, lunch served at 11:30. Cost is a recommended donation of \$3.00 and you can't beat that. Hope to see you soon.

Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas and good health in the year ahead.

NOTICE: BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Amana Society Bulletin deadline for the Christmas holiday will be Monday, December 21 at 2:00 PM. For New Years the cutoff is Tuesday, December 29 at 11:00 AM. These cutoffs are necessary to allow distribution of The Bulletin in a timely manner *before* the holiday involved. The Print Shop will close at noon on the 23rd.

Thank You

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ZION LUTHERAN

"Deutsche Weihnachten," a German Christmas celebration, will be held at Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 PM. The service, conducted entirely in the German language, features Christmas lessons and carols. Paster Jan Rippentrop will give the sermon. A reception will be held following the service. The public is invited.

WEST/HIGH SANITARY DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

A public meeting of the West/High Amana Sanitary District will be held on Monday December 28th at 7:00 P.M. at the Middle Amana Fire Station.

POOL CLOSURE

The pool in Middle Amana is closed for repairs, and will reopen as soon as possible. We will announce our reopening date. If you have any questions, please contact TJ Croco.

POST OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Please remember that the Post Offices in Middle, South, Homestead and Amana will be closing at noon on 12/24 and 12/31. Thanks

TARA (OLSEN) NURRE FUNDRAISER RAFFLE TICKETS AT VISITORS CENTER

The Knight of Columbus - Council 5390 of Marion, Iowa is sponsoring the fundraiser and raffle for a Maytag refrigerator in efforts to raise money for surgery for Tara (Olsen) Nurre. Tara has been suffering from Degenerative Disc Disease for just over five years now. She has endured several surgeries and treatments over these last five years and is hopeful to have one last surgery that she, due to the FDAs pending approval, must travel overseas to Germany to receive.

Please help her achieve this goal! This surgery is not covered by health insurance and depending on the currency exchange, the cost is estimated to be around \$45,000. The raffle drawing will be held on January 15, 2010 at a fund raising fish fry at the Knights of Columbus center.

Currently, the Amana Visitors Center is helping out by selling tickets and collecting for the raffle. The winner has a choice of two sizes of refrigerator (22 & 25 cubic feet).

For more information on her disease and this treatment, please go to www.stenumhospital.com. The Knight of Columbus has also setup a mailing address for free-will donations.

AMANA CHURCH COOKIE WALK AND BAZAAR THANK YOU

What a Blessing to have the support of both the church and Amana communities for these two events which are held each year during Prelude to Christmas. The weather man offered a few snowflakes to create a winter mood but also sunshine to bring out the shoppers.

Due to the overwhelming generosity of all who brought their specialties - this year the bazaar helpers worked longer hours to get everything priced and set out - what a problem to have. The doors opened Friday at 1 PM and selections on display were well received. When the doors closed Saturday at 3 PM another successful bazaar came to a close. Thank you to all who helped in any way - the success of this event depends on you.

I did hear Saturday before the cookie walk opened its doors to the public that there were more cookies than ever before. The smell and sight of the cookie room is a delight in itself. The time slots were handed out in 15 minute intervals starting at 12 Noon. When the 1:15 people arrived the cookie selection was limited but they were still eager to fill their box. Here too - Thank You to all who helped in any way - the success of this event also depends on you.

The proceeds from these two events support the Children's Ministry of the Amana Church for Vacation Bible School, Christian Summer Camp, Sunday School, Youth Group and after school programs. We hope your year holds may blessings as you have blessed us.

GOT NEWS? PLEASE SHARE IT

Each week the Bulletin features local news and upcoming events, sometimes for several weeks in a row. In order to have fresh news every week we ask input from the public. Items of local interest are always welcome. We do, however, reserve the right to edit/ omit or do rewrites for readability and for size (not content and local applicability).

Articles for submission may be e-mailed to: amanaprintshop@netins.net or amanaprintshop@southslope.net

Thank you

WILD OAK GALLERY
(In the Powder House)

Perfect Gift Ideas: Framed or Matted Pictures of Amana Colonies Homes, Trees, Flowers, and Barns by Lisa Lammey Kinzenbaw.

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Tour the World's Only Roller Museum!

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Get Ready For The Holidays

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Henry's Village Market
10-3 Christmas Eve

Mon/Wed/Thu/Fri 10-6 Sat 9-6 Sun 9-4 4125 V Street Homestead

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AVERAGE VALUE OF IOWA FARMLAND DECLINES BY 2 PERCENT IN 2009

AMES, Iowa -- The average value of an acre of farmland in Iowa declined in 2009 for the first time in a decade, according to an annual survey conducted by Iowa State University Extension. Mike Duffy, ISU Extension farm economist who conducts the survey, said the statewide average as of Nov. 1 this year was \$4,371 an acre, down 2.2 percent or \$97 from the 2008 figure of \$4,468.

The last time the statewide average dropped was in 1999, when the survey reported the average was \$1,781 an acre, or \$20 less than in 1998. In the decade since 1999, owners of Iowa farmland have watched their holdings increase in value by 145 percent on average.

Duffy said the slight decrease in 2009 in the ISU survey may contain some good news compared to other surveys that look at land values in Iowa. He noted the 2.2 percent decline covered sales for the time period between November 2008 and November 2009. It compared with a 7.6 percent decrease reported by the Realtors Land Institute for a survey covering the period from September 2008 to March 2009, and a 7 percent decrease from October 2008 to October 2009 reported by the Seventh District of the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board report included an increase of 4 percent from July to October of 2009.

Of the nine crop reporting districts in the state, Northwest Iowa reported the highest average value at \$5,364 per acre. The lowest average in the state was in South Central Iowa at \$2,537 per acre. The only district that showed an increase over 2008 was East Central, up 1.1 percent.

Additional information on the 2009 survey and an archived version of Duffy's news conference announcing the results are available online at www.extension.iastate.edu/landvalue/

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from the **Ronneburg**

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Friday Night Special: Rouladen!
We will be open for Lunch on Dec 24th & 25th
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM each day
Don't Forget! Ronneburg gift certificates
make great holiday stocking stuffers!

May your 2010 be Joyous and Prosperous

THANK YOU FROM THE ARTS GUILD

The Amana Arts Guild Annual Christmas Haus Tour during Prelude to Christmas was once again a great success. Many thanks to the wonderful home owners who generously opened their homes for this worthwhile event: Kevin and Lori Ahrens, Robert Brost in memory of Jill Ward, Bill Metz, David and Michele Miller, and Troy Thomas. Special thanks to the Amana Merchants group for their promotion and support of the Christmas Haus Tour, and to the Amana General Store and the Ronneburg Restaurant for providing recycled luminaries for the Sunday evening tour.

THE OLD CREAMERY THEATRE COMPANY 2010 AUDITIONS

WHEN: Saturday January 23, 2010, from 2:30pm - 6:30pm and Sunday January 24, 2010, from 1pm - 5pm

WHERE: The Old Creamery Theatre
39 38th Ave. Amana, IA 52203

WHAT: Actors should prepare two short contrasting monologues (max. 1 minute each) one of which should be a comic piece (preferably contemporary) Singers (in addition to the short monologues) should prepare 16 to 32 bars of one (or two contrasting) song(s) sung a cappella or with recorded accompaniment. (A CD player will be available - NO accompanist will be provided)

Please bring a current picture and resume.

Seeking Equity and non-Equity performers of various ages (including post-college interns) to fill roles in The Old Creamery's 2010 Main Stage, Studio, and Theatre for Young Audience series.

Particularly seeking two interns with strong musical theatre skills (1 Male and 1 Female) with fall 2010 availability: possibilities include female role in our currently unannounced fall main stage slot and male role of "Jinx" in Plaid Tidings.

Membership and applicable weeks in Equity's EMC program are available for main stage productions only.

To schedule an appointment, please call our business offices at (319) 622-6034 after January 18, 2010.

If you are unable to attend these auditions, please send a headshot and resume to:

Sean McCall - Artistic Director
The Old Creamery Theatre Company
39 38th Ave.

Amana, IA. 52203

Or electronically to smccall@oldcreamery.com

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

OCTC to Open Studio Stage and Production Facility at School

It's official. The Old Creamery Theatre will open its new studio theatre, complete with stage production facility, in the former Clear Creek Amana Middle School wing (the west wing) of the Amana School.

The 28E sharing agreement has been signed by both the OCTC officers and the CCA School District officers committing the OCTC to a three-year lease of the former band room, shop room, shop classroom, home economics room and art room in the west wing of the school building located in Lakeside.

The new OCTC studio theatre will open April 8 with "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for us," said Tom Milligan, OCTC producing director. "The company is really looking forward to having the additional space for our production and rehearsal facility and to having a real studio theatre in which to work. . . This is big!"

In addition to paying cash rent to the CCA School District, the OCTC will, as part of the sharing agreement, lend a hand to the drama departments, share technical expertise and bring the CCA's popular youth touring company shows to CCA schools.

Milligan explained, "We see this as a partnership. . . This is a logical extension of our work as an educational outreach. The OCTC has been doing shows in schools with the youth touring company for years and this will be an opportunity to really build on that program and bring CCA students to OCTC as interns or to work on shows specifically and to help build the CCA program."

Noting the impressive commitment to music and drama as evidenced by the construction of the new CCA High School Auditorium, Milligan added, "I'm excited that we'll be a part of their future growth as a drama department."

The OCTC is currently raising \$10,000 to fund the conversion of the band room to a theatre space. Milligan reported that about half of the sum has been raised. An OCTC patron has pledged to donate \$1,000 for every \$4,000 the OCTC raises. With that support, Milligan is confident that the goal will be reached. The OCTC will seek grant funding to pay for lighting and sound equipment for the studio theatre.

Work on the studio theatre is expected to begin right away as the OCTC moves its production facility from its current space in the former woolen mill warehouse in the Amana Woolen Mill complex. While serviceable, that space was showing its age, it was not air conditioned, and some areas were unheated. "We've really outgrown that space and we are all looking forward to moving into a work space that will allow us to rehearse, build sets, create costumes and store materials year-round, comfortably," Milligan noted.

The OCTC is coming off of a challenging year. This summer Tom Milligan was named interim producing director replacing David Kilpatrick, and Sean McCall was named artistic director. Just this month, the OCTC Board of Directors named Milligan producing director rather than "interim producing director," thus confirming that the company is sticking with McCall and Milligan who earned their stripes guiding the nonprofit theatre through both the leadership transition and these tough economic times. Despite the rocky economy, the OCTC has had a good year with strong ticket sales.

"We've had a great season. And I think folks sometimes forget that for the OCTC we're not just five or six big productions a year. . . We've got our four youth main stage productions and our youth touring company. In 2009 we did 120 kids' shows in 12 weeks. Plus we did dinner theatre at the Ox Yoke Inn and at the Fireside Winery, both of which were wonderfully successful. . . And of course we've got our main stage productions. We've got a lot going on," Milligan said.

With the OCTC's 2010 season nearly set and the opening of the new studio theatre, Milligan and company have their sights set on the future.

"We've got so much planned for 2010. . . It's going to be really exciting!"

The Big Snow

With the real start of winter days away, the December 8 - 10 snowstorm will be one for the record books. Calling it the worst winter storm in 20 years, the blizzard was indeed an event we hope not to repeat soon. Schools and colleges were closed, businesses shut down, Interstates 80 and 35 were closed. Rural roads were blocked.

Sending emails and making phone calls on Thursday we confirmed that local residents found plenty to do during the blizzard. Here are some of the comments we gleaned:

"I baked cookies. Usually I bake for the Cookie Walk and my family doesn't see many cookies, but this year I baked for Christmas and got it in the freezer."

"I blew out the driveway twice and then gave up. . . I spent the afternoon straightening out all my fishing tackle and lures. I never find time to do that stuff."

"I watched three movies. Yes three. And I made chili. So not much!"

"Well, I was deer hunting, but I ended up pulling out people who got stuck."

"I cleaned the house and fed the woodstove. Then I made a pot of soup."

"I started studying for finals. And I finished a term paper that's due on Friday. I had thought I would be up all Thursday night, but I got it done because we didn't have classes on Wednesday."

"With email and the internet, I can log on and just work from home. But I wore my sweats and drank hot chocolate so it was cozy."

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But snow and Ice are a different matter: Clearing it from walks and steps prevents injuries

When winter's frigid temperatures bring significant snow and ice to the Midwest, it means slippery surfaces, which can be dangerous and costly for homeowners, as well as for their visitors - and for their letter carrier. By clearing a path when the snow arrives, accidents can be prevented.

Snow and ice hazards can cause serious injuries to many people, especially letter carriers. Preventing a slip or bad fall can be as easy as putting down salt or sand on slippery surfaces.

Letter carriers cannot make door or curb deliveries when the approach to the mailbox is hazardous due to snow and/or ice. Carriers are not allowed to attempt door delivery when there is a heavy buildup of snow and ice on sidewalks, steps or porches. They are not allowed to dismount for curb line boxes blocked by snow and ice buildup. Snow must be cleared to the curb line for at least six feet on both sides of the mailbox so the carrier can approach and leave without backing up his or her vehicle.

Ice is particularly dangerous on steps and any walking surface, especially painted wood or concrete, such as stoops and porches. In open areas, watch for drifts and pileups from snowplows. When there's a warm spell, and the melting snow runs or pools, a quick freeze can make a cleared sidewalk slicker than ever.

ITAC TO FEATURE RICHIE LEE AND THE FABULOUS '50'S AT THE SNOW BALL

The 2010 Winterfest Dance at the Iowa Theatre Artists Company will swing to the tunes of Richie Lee and The Fabulous 50's Band on Saturday, January 23rd from 8 PM until 11:30 PM. ITAC co-producers, Tom Johnson and Meg Merckens are thrilled to announce that the dynamic and talented Richie Lee and his band will be headlining the first big fundraising event of 2010. Ticket sales will open to be public on December 10 and will be sold in advance at \$6.00 per person and \$8.00 on January 23rd. Because space is limited, only 200 tickets will be available. If you have questions or need more information call 319-622-3222.

FOR RENT

West Amana, 2 BR apartment. Call Don Oehl at 622-3873 or 602-284-3487

West Amana, 2 BR apartment. Deposit and reference required. No smoking and no pets. Call 319-622-3284

FOR SALE

Amana Society Class A shares. Call 319-846-2447

WANTED TO BUY

Two 40 inch or 42 inch metal doors, used, but in sound condition. Call Marye at: 319-594-2043 or email at: ladymcampbell1@yahoo.com

HELP WANTED

LIFEGUARD NEEDED -- Wasserbahn® Waterpark has a lifeguard position available. This position is primarily weekdays, but could require an occasional evening or weekend. The position requires the person to be Lifeguard Certified with CPR certification. Please apply in person to fill out an application at Clarion Inn Amana Colonies & Wasserbahn® Waterpark located at I-80, Exit 225 Little Amana.

Wanted - The Amana Church Society is looking for someone to keep the entrances shoveled and maintained this winter at our Church in Amana. For more information please contact Charlotte at 622-3039 (leave message)

Childcare openings in my home
ages infant - school age,
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Call Kelly at 622-4028

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR GARDENERS

By Cindy Haynes

I.S.U. Extension Horticulturalist

A common holiday challenge is finding that perfect gift for the person who has everything. If you have a gardener on your list there is no need to worry. Gardens and gardening are always a work in progress. Avid gardeners are a forgiving lot and appreciate anything from a fancy garden tool to a nice bag of "dirt!" The possibilities are endless.

Tools are a good start. While there are many specialized tools on the market, a basic implement such as a shovel, trowel, rake, or weeder is always popular. If your gift recipient has limited physical abilities consider tools with assistive features % such as ergonomic pruners or power trimmers. A wide range of such tools are available. Even a new hat or pair of gloves will be welcomed and usually well worn by the end of the year.

Another thoughtful set of gifts are books or magazine subscriptions. Since gardening is such a seasonal hobby, many gardeners will spend countless hours poring through reading material during the winter. Books and magazines are sources of ideas and inspiration for the next gardening season and are uplifting during the long days of winter. An enormous selection of material for any taste is available. As a locally useful choice, the 2010 Garden Calendar from ISU Extension % a bargain at just \$6 per copy % is just one of many publications available from your local county extension office or online at www.extension.iastate.edu/store. The monthly hints and tips in the Garden Calendar help guide both novice and expert gardeners throughout the gardening season, and the "growing green" ideas will inspire more sustainable gardening practices.

Gardeners don't mind getting a little dirty - in fact compost and other soil amendments are appreciated enormously. These gifts are more appreciated if they come with the labor to help incorporate them into beds and borders in the spring. For the adventurous, perhaps a can of worms (literally!) for vermicomposting would be a welcome treat.

Decorative containers are another category of gifts for which the possibilities seem endless. Plant containers are available in every conceivable size, shape and composition, and many can be used

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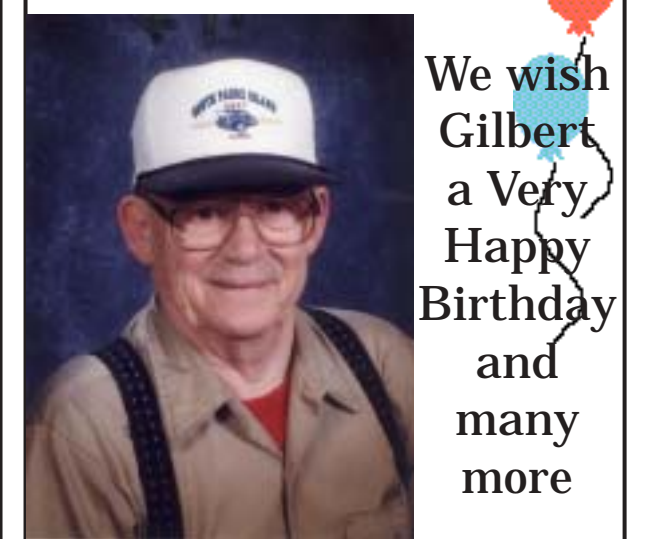
Senior Blue® is a Medicare Supplement plan. It is not affiliated with any government agency. Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ©2009 Wellmark, Inc. Des Moines, IA. *For effective dates of Jan 1, 2010 - April 1, 2010 22P005-2010-1A

ACLUD HPC MEETING

Amana Colonies Land Use District Historic Preservation Commission will hold a meeting on December 21, 2009 at 6pm in the ACLUD Office with the following tentative agenda.

- I. Call Meeting To Order
- II. Set/Amend Agenda
- III. Approve minutes of previous meeting
- IV. Discussion/Action on the following permit applications in a Historic Zone
 - 2009-62 Don Larson - 1184 W, Avenue - Amana
 - Replace steps and add door at 4304 V St - Homestead
- V. Administrator's Report
- VI. Chairman's Report
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Adjourn

86 years young on December 26



We wish
Gilbert
a Very
Happy
Birthday
and
many
more

We Love You!
Love, Your Family

even without plants as an attractive focal point indoors or out. With knowledge of your gardener's tastes, other whimsical items such as various forms of garden art may be suitable. Wind chimes, bird baths, gazing globes, even a garden gnome can showcase the personality of the gardener and your relationship.

Maybe your gardener is highly organized (or disorganized) and would like a garden journal. Keeping good records of plantings and how different plants have performed in the landscape helps transform a novice gardener into an expert. Various garden journals are available for purchase. If a special homemade touch is desired, then journals can be fabricated with any materials that provide a reasonably weatherproof and durable means to record information while in the garden.

If your budget allows, there are, of course, higher end items to consider. For example, photography is often a companion hobby to gardening. Cameras and their accessories (lenses, tripods, carrying bags etc.) are essential tools for the gardening photography enthusiast. Mechanized tools such as lawn tractors, rototillers, chainsaws, and the like would also fit the bill for a pricier budget.

However, a special quality of garden gifts is that they don't have to be expensive to be fully appreciated. One of my favorite Christmas gifts was a packet of bush bean seeds that cost less than two dollars. This gift was loved because with it came the promise to help create the vegetable garden that I had always wanted the upcoming spring.

Happy Holidays!