



**Follow the Star**



Sue Trede spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on January 9 about her children's book "Follow the Star". She started the book two years ago. It took her a couple months to start the book, then took a break, before finishing it. Most of that time was getting a copyright for the book and getting pictures drawn, which took a year. There is

a hand drawn picture on every page. The pictures were drawn by the High School daughter of the doctor she works for. The publishing company wanted \$150 per picture.

Sue decided to do a self-published book, but wanted a copyright first. The copyright cost \$225 and took 9 months. The book was published by LifeRich Publishing Company, a division of Reader's Digest.

Sue had 500 copies made of the book. It sells for \$13.95. She has sold the books through fairs and other venues and now has to order more. She also gets a 10% commission through Amazon and Barnes & Noble and 25% for those sold through LifeRich. Her 500 copies were half price.

**Exchange Student from Germany**

Lena Hesemann, a sophomore at Treynor, is a foreign exchange student from near Dusseldorf, Germany. She is living with the Livengoods.



Lena came here with Education First (EF). In fifth grade she decided she wanted to be an exchange student. When she was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade she convinced her parents to go to a monthly meeting held by EF as an informational meeting. She went another time to sign up to go.

Lena filled out a 20 page application form. Later they talked to her and had her correct some things and add pictures. That was then sent to Boston to match her with a school and parent family. Ten days before she left Germany she

finally found where she was going. She came to the United States and spent 10 days in a cultural camp in Pennsylvania, learning about the U.S. culture and language.

Lena has one brother. She has enjoyed living in a family with five children, including her. She also likes living in a small community like Treynor. Her school had 1000-1500 students. They had an exchange student from Brazil and no one talked to that person, so she had enjoyed Treynor where everyone talks to her.

She started learning English in third grade. She now knows French, German, English, and some Spanish that she has learned in Treynor. There is no English TV available in Germany, unlike Netherlands, where all TV is English, French, or German.

In Germany, High School is 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>) grade. There are three different types of High School, Gymnasium, Realschule, and Hauptschule. Gymnasium is the most advanced, emphasizing academic learning. Realschule is the middle and Hauptschule is the lowest and goes from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> (or 10<sup>th</sup>) grade. The school Lena went to includes all three types. (Note: Germany considers a U.S. High School diploma like a Realschule diploma.)

Lena said that her father works for an Audi car dealership and her mother works for a farmer. This is her first trip overseas. Her grandfather on her father's side of the family is from Switzerland. Her mother's ancestors were Dutch.

German High School is more like college. Classes are 45 minutes with a 10 minute break between classes and an hour for lunch. There are no school activities, only club sports. Club sports are expensive.

You have to pay to go to church in Germany. It is expensive and if you go without paying, they will have you pay.

Lena wants to go to college. She is thinking of majoring in Hotel Management. When asked about Syrian refugees, she said that some of them live in her High School gym.

Youth can go to bars and drink wine and beer at age 16. You can ride motorcycles at 15, get a driving permit at 17, and drive alone at 18.

**Meeting Minutes**

Bill Vorthmann opened the meeting on January 9, led the pledge of allegiance, and gave the opening prayer. Keith Denton, Dale Willenborg, and Gary Gutttau provided humor.

Kirk Vorthmann contributed to the Youth Fund for bragging rights for completion of the bell at the Lutheran Church.

Dale Willenborg and Richard Vorthmann contributed to recognize the good fortunes of the boys and girls basketball teams. Dee Gutttau contributed for ISU basketball. Keith Denton contributed because he wore a Nebraska sweater. Gary Funkhouser contributed because the boys don't have to play IKM Manning for the state tournament.

Gary Funkhouser, John Klein, Kirk and Bill Vorthmann, and Gary Gutttau helped with can kennel sorting. They had 21 bags of can, 13 of plastic, and 1358 bottles.

Kevin Underwood won the 50/50 and Jim Clausen won the attendance award. There were 12 members and 3 guests at the meeting.

**Calendar**

- Jan 16 – Zone meeting in Carsen – 9:00-noon
- Jan 27 Can Kennel Sorting for Jr/Sr. Prom-time 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 6 – Regional Optimist meeting in Council Bluffs
- Mar 13 – club breakfast fundraiser

**Birthdays**

- Jan 19 – Dennis White
- Feb 12 – Richard Vorthmann
- Feb 13 – Gary Funkhouser

**Anniversaries**

- Feb 6 – Jon & Debra Jacobsen
- Feb 23 – Richard & Luetta Vorthmann

**Speakers**

- Jan 16 - Ken Young - the Google Farm south of Council Bluffs

**Can Kennel Applications Pending**

- Iowa Ambassadors of Music-Heather Beam, 402-250-0366,
- Europe Trip 2016
- Music Boosters-Shoening-12/23/2015 – Request Aug or Sept