



July 20, 2019

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### Emily McQueen Speaks

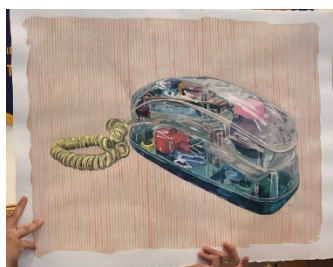


Emily McQueen, artist and wife and mother of five boys, shared her life's story and her art at the Treynor Optimist Club meeting on July 20, 2019.

Raised in Oregon, Emily enjoyed a normal childhood with four siblings, but there was one problem, she hated attending school. Her father, a VietNam vet, always taught her to seek her own path and to question authority. So in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, she proposed that she go to school just every other day. This was granted and her grades went up. In high school she did independent study, while taking math at school and participating in choir and music activities.

College was a different story – Emily absolutely loved it and said she had a permanent smile from day one. She always loved climbing trees and did this for fun daily. But then one day she was up 35 ft. and slipped. She was conscious the whole time and felt the slowing of time as she fell. She had a sincere spiritual thought that has carried her through: "You are going to be just fine and will have many opportunities because of this."

Emily had a 4 inch disparity in her spine and is confined to a wheelchair. The chair has changed her to the core, but it didn't really change her goals in life. After a year off of college, she did get her degree in elementary ed. and art, married, and now has five boys. She shared that she knows the extent of highs and lows and how they balance out and has a sincere gratitude for each day.



The group loved seeing her art, which is mostly water colors, and from a distance looks like photos. "Art is a reminder system of what is important – a selfish indulgence for an artist." Emily enjoys

painting antiques, nature scenes with beautiful skies,

and objects that have spiritual meaning and showed us many of her paintings.



The group enjoyed a good laugh when Emily said she is not raising her five boys as she was raised: "They have to go school and no, they can't take their birthday off!"

Josemi Puncel, former Spanish teacher in Treynor, will speak next week. Meetings are in the Treynor Legion Room from 8-9 AM. The coffee is always on.

### Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. Sixteen members were present. Five guests were present: Emily McQueen, Fred & Sandy Hildebrandt, Kyle Christensen, and Tommy Duysen.

Jokes/stories were shared by Chad Gutttau, Bill Vorthmann, Keith Denton, and Dale Willenborg. The group said the Pledge of Allegiance. Jordan Campbell gave the opening prayer.

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Judy Gutttau and the Attendance Drawing was collected by Marsha Underwood.

Jordan Campbell announced his 13<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 15.

**Bragging Rights** contributions to the Youth Fund: 1) Ken Graham donated to announce there is a killdeer bird nesting in the community gardens and he encouraged all to go take a look, 2) Dale Willenborg contributed because his two grandkids are staying with them, 3) Judy Gutttau contributed because of the great accomplishments of the two ball teams this summer.

## Community News:

The Girls Softball Team play their first game at state on Tuesday in Fort Dodge at 11:30.

The Zion Congregational Church ice cream social is Sunday night from 5-7 PM.

## Old Business:

John Klein stated swimming lessons ended on Friday and the kids were rewarded with ice cream treats.

Bill Vorthmann will find out more info about Bingo at WestFair and this will be sent out to members.

Volunteers are needed.

Can kennel sorting is this Wednesday at 4 PM.

Anyone wanting to volunteer at the State Optimist Booth at the Iowa State Fair sometime from Aug. 7-19 may sign up online for a four hour period.

The gate assignment signup sheet for WestFair is filled.

## New Business:

Fred and Sandy Hildebrandt, Griswold, were present. Fred, Lt. Governor of Optimists, shared about the upcoming Iowa Optimist Convention Aug. 2-4 at the Des Moines Holiday Inn, downtown. He stated that 100 bicycles will be given away. The main speaker is International Pres: Rebecca Butler-Mona from Red Oak.

Kyle Christensen and Tommy Duysen, graduating seniors, were present to receive their Optimist Club scholarships.



L-R: Dale Willenborg, Kyle Christensen, Tommy Duysen

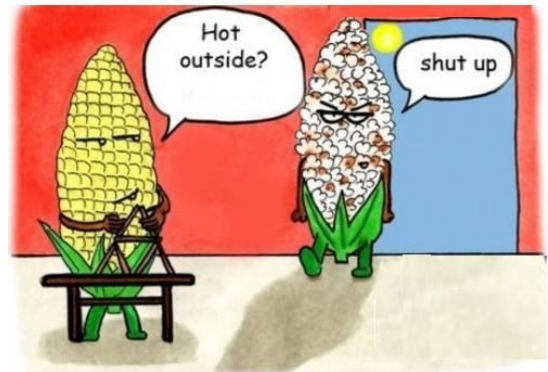
Kyle will attend the University of Iowa majoring in mechanical engineering. He enjoyed all of high school and participated in lots of sports and music. He hopes to participate in intermural sports and check out other activities. He expressed his appreciation for living in this community.

Tommy will go to Iowa State, majoring in Finance. He expressed that he is grateful to be from Treynor. He especially enjoyed participating in many sports. He hopes to play intermural sports at ISU also.

Gary Guttau donated printer ink cartridges (HP 950/951) for auction, but they will be auctioned next week. (Place a bid if you are interested.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and concluded with the saying of the Optimist pledge.

## HUMOR



(And now we can be thankful for a bit of coolness!)

## Calendar

July 24 Can Kennel sorting  
Aug. 2-4 Iowa Optimist Convention  
DM Holiday Inn, downtown

## Birthdays

July 23 Jerry Hempel  
July 27 Jim Clausen

## Anniversaries

July 25 Chuck & Kathy Nielsen

## Programs

July Dale Willenborg  
August Jordan Campbell  
Sept Gary Guttau (first two)  
Jerry Hempel (last two)

## Speakers

July 27: Josemi Puncel, former Spanish teacher in Treynor.  
Aug. 3: Katie Campbell, Elem. PE Teacher  
Aug. 10: Panel of Treynor Seniors going on to play college sports.  
Aug. 17: Tom (Blade) Hartigan – Basketball referee and evaluator  
Aug. 24: Dan Nielsen (Pest Control)  
Aug. 31: To Be Announced

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575

