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,,The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Joleen Jorgensen

Lt Governor: George Volz

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Kirk Vorthmann

Oct. 30, 2026 Vol. 42, No.43

Getting to Know Judy Guttau (by me)



When we look back across the decades of our lives, it is often the struggles, not the easy days, that reveal God's faithfulness most clearly. As I reflected on how God works on us through the years, I found myself remembering a little girl growing up on a farm near Griswold, Iowa

My childhood seemed almost storybook perfect. We raised crops, milked cows, attended country school, participated in 4-H, and faithfully attended church. Life moved at a different pace. Breakfast was always on the table.

Then life reminded us that no family is exempt from hardship. When I was in sixth grade, my father’s tractor accident led to 18 surgeries over many years and eventually the loss of his leg below the knee. Overnight, our family changed. Mom now managed the farm, and all of us learned that everyone had to pitch in. Through those years, my parents taught us a lesson I have carried ever since: Life can make you bitter or better. The choice is yours.

As the decades unfolded, God continued shaping my life through opportunities, disappointments, joys, and unexpected turns. I had some unusual opportunities: traveling with a band for 6 weeks after high school out of New York, running for state 4-H office and not getting it, being picked to attend the national March of Dimes conference and meeting Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine. College at Iowa State opened new doors, majoring in Home Ec. Ed, singing in Iowa State Singers and Cardinal Keynotes. Meeting Mick changed my future forever. Marriage, teaching, his military service during Vietnam, raising two children, establishing a life-long relationship by hosting a German exchange student, helping Mick at the bank and leading the Stateman’s Club for 21 years, leading a Bible Study together, community service, caring for elderly parents, and grandparenting seven amazing kids and two greats, all brought seasons of blessing mixed with seasons of uncertainty.

Many times Mick and I wanted God to follow our plans. Instead, He often redirected us toward His own. When farming opportunities disappeared, doors opened into banking. When challenges seemed overwhelming, Scripture became an anchor during difficult seasons, reminding us to trust God and leave the battle in His hands.

God has been teaching me three simple but powerful lessons: Trust Me. The battle is God’s. Focus on God’s promises instead of my problems.

One practice that has helped me is writing meaningful Bible verses on recipe cards and placing them where I will see them throughout the day. Those reminders help me "bank God's promises in the vault of my heart."

Today I shared many of our personal stories which shaped my faith – an explosion in our airplane at 20,000 ft., how we developed a relationship with a felon and his wife; the loss of a stillborn grandchild; caring for mom on hospice at our home, dealing with Mick’s cancer. Our stories may all be different, but the Author is the same.

Throughout the decades, I am reminded that there truly is a God in heaven. He is still working wonders. He is still revealing mysteries. And He is still writing each of our stories for His glory.
Our task is simply to trust the Author.
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

(After the meeting, please note: One Optimist suggested I list the various quotes which I shared in my speech for others to read. I am putting them on the bottom of this newsletter.)

Next week's speaker:
Chaley Hempel, Treynor Cross Country Coach

Positive Quote:
"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out."

John Wooden

Meeting Minutes

President Kirk Vorthmann called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Nineteen members were present.

Prayer: Kirk Vorthmann

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Kirk Vorthmann

50/50: Kevin Underwood

Attendance: Keith Denton

Football Contest: Chad Guttau

Birthdays/Anniversaries: We celebrated Mick Guttau's birthday which will be Nov. 8.
We celebrated Kirk and Lynell Vorthmann's 52nd anniversary which is this Monday, Nov. 2.

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Chad Guttau: He and his dad voted on Thursday right before the line was getting long.
- Judy Guttau: Grandson Brock Fox has signed with the Arizona Rattlers semi-pro football team, champions of the league in 2026, stating it is a pipeline to opportunity. The season is late March to July.
- Grandpas Dick Fox and Mick Guttau contributed also for Brock.
- Dick Fox: His granddaughter played Kearney Catholic recently in volleyball and led the first two sets, but did lose.
- Dick Fox: They have had tomatoes for six months and a few are still left on the vines.
- Dennis White: The Treynor girls' cross country team came in 2nd in the state meet.
- Gary Guttau: He contributed for the same, stating that he heard the Miller girl in an interview on KMA.
- Gary Guttau: He's happy that he is back to complete health now.
- Glenrose Meier: She was excited to meet Senator Ted Cruz this week in Council Bluffs and had her picture taken with him.
- Kathy Luedke: She was remembering that in 1991 there was a Halloween snow storm. She also reported the olive oil drink recommended by Keith for improved sleepinghas not worked for her.

Business:

- Dale Willenborg reported that the high school speech team has the Can Kennel this month. They will sort during the week of Nov. 27.
- Dale stated new applications for the Can Kennel have been received and more are anticipated.
- Gary Guttau stated that dues are due.
- Flags will be put up next Saturday for Veteran's Day.
- Dale Willenborg stated the survey results regarding flags for Homecoming. The vote was to put flags out for Homecoming next year along the highway, unless Homecoming is earlier and they are up already for another reason.

Community and Community Events:

- Sun. Nov. 1: Daylight Savings time starts tonight.
- Tues. Nov.3: Voting is from 7 AM- 8 PM.
- Tues. Nov. 3: Pott. Co. Veterans Mobile Service Office in Treynor Comm. Center parking lot starting at 9 AM.
- Fri., Nov.6: Lincoln/Reagan Fundraiser Dinner at the Treynor Community Center. Opens at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30.

School Events in Treynor + Big Events

- **Wed. Nov. 4:** School out at 2 PM.
- **Fri., Nov. 6**: 3rd Football Playoff Game vs Underwood @ Treynor 7 PM.
- **Sat. Nov. 7**: Treynor High School Musical, "The Addams Family" 7-9 PM
- **Sun. Nov. 8**: Treynor High School Musical, "The Addams Family" 2-4 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Kirk Vorthmann.

FALL HUMOR

1. **Why are trees so carefree and easygoing? Because every fall, they let loose.**
2. **Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize? He was out-standing in his field.**
3. **Why do birds fly south in the fall? Because it's too far to walk.**

OPTIMIST CALENDAR

Events:

Nov. 7	Meeting 8-9 AM, Treynor Community Center

Birthdays:

Nov. 8	Mick Guttau
Nov.18	Phil Waggoner
Nov.18	Dianne Willenborg
Nov. 22	Kathy Luedke

Anniversaries:

Nov. 2	Kirk & Lynell Vorthmann
Nov. 6	Ken & Linda Graham
Nov. 22	John & Carol Klein

Programs:

November	Jerry Hempel (1st, 2nd Sat)
	Josh Guttau (3rd, 4th Sat)
December	Mick & Judy Guttau

Speakers:

Nov. 7	Chaley Hempel, Cross Country Coach
Nov. 14	Jeff Casey, Football Coach
Nov. 21	Ashleigh Croushorn, Chief Technology Officer, TS Bank – topic: learn about AI
Nov. 28	Joel Beyenhof, Treynor Superintendent, (school related topic)
Dec. 5	Cody Forbush – A tale of an airplane owned by a local group
Dec. 12	Bob Andersen – His story
Dec. 19	Emmersen Fox – Horticulture (her major) trip to the Netherlands
Dec. 26	No Meeting.

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Quotes used in my speech today:

Helen Keller: “Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first for the other fellow and then for ourselves.

I Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God which surpasseth all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:38: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Jane Goodall: “We have the choice to use the gift of our life to make the world a better place – or not to bother.”

John 14:6: Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Meryl Streep: “You have to embrace getting older. Life is precious and when you’ve lost a lot of people, you realize that each day is a gift.”

Golda Meir: “Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you’re aboard, there’s nothing you can do!”

2 Chronicles 20:15: “Do not fear or be dismayed, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

Exodus 15:11: “O Lord, Who is like you – Majestic in Holiness, Awesome in Glory, Working Wonders?

Psalm 119:11: David wrote, “I’ve banked your promises in the vault of my heart.”

Jeremiah 29: 11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”