

A Notable Woman – Edith Treuenfels



Edith Treuenfels' work spanned the globe before and after joining the UWSP mathematics faculty in 1957. Her international teaching service included helping to educate people in such far-away places as Trinidad and Lebanon.

A native Breslau, Germany, Treuenfels was a social worker and teacher before fleeing her homeland in 1937 after the political takeover by Adolf Hitler.

After being held in Lebanon by the French as a prisoner of war, Treuenfels restarted her teaching career in a Danish mission orphanage in Djoubeil. She later pursued a master's degree in the Armenian language and joined the staff of the Sahaguan School in Beirut, where she taught children and prepared future teachers.

In appreciation for her work in its school in Lebanon, the U.S. then gave Treuenfels a ticket to visit as a tourist in 1952. The stay encouraged her to become a citizen and Treuenfels received a Ph.D. in mathematics from University of Madison.

Treuenfels continued her worldwide travels a few years later when a Fulbright scholarship supported a trip to introduce modern mathematics to youngsters and teachers in Trinidad.

Her advocacy and dedication to helping others extended to senior citizens in the Stevens Point community. Treuenfels served from 1978 to 1985 as a member of the Portage County Commission on Ageing and was a participant in public service projects for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. A Quaker, Treuenfels was one of the principal organizers of the Society of Friends Meeting of Stevens Point.