

Family Talk



All in the Family Toastmasters Club Newsletter November 2001

B Team Wins !	~ NEW MEMBERS ~	The Area Contests
Scar Tissue	Feed Your Brain	TidBits: Our Deepest Fear



An Awarding Experience

An exercise in imagination at the November 6th meeting where we had Tabletopics (impromptu speaking) fun! Tabletopics Master Rick Eshbach, spent many thousands of dollars for an investigation team to find out about his fellow Toastmasters. Once he knew what their areas of expertise were, it was time to bring on the awards and rewards! Laptop computers, big screen TV sets, cash prizes and even the "clapper" :)

From left to right: Teri Harbor-Vito grabs the award for creator of the "Strangest Sandwiches"; Cliff Taylor humbly receives the award for "Arctic Scuba Diving"; Suzanne Dotson took top honors for "Most Bizarre Halloween Treats"; Barbara Blakey is THE wizard at "Jell-O Mold Design"; and, Bruce McKenzie proudly receives recognition as the "Greatest Computer Crasher".

What a wonderful mix of astoundingly talented and generally peculiar characters we have in OUR Toastmaster Family. :)

B Team Wins ! - by Chirs Poulson

Team B wins the Membership Building Contest!! Final Score 7 to 32. Our club was divided into two groups - Team A and Team B. The goal of the contest was to bring in guests and new members. Points were given to the teams based on the number of guests and new members referred by individual team members. After five weeks, the two teams were only 3 points apart but SUDDENLY in week six Team B overtook Team A by a whooping 21 points. A big thanks goes to Eva Kang who referred 8 new guests and 3 new members. A potluck lunch will graciously be provided by Team A at our special November 28 "Successful Club Series" meeting. Individual awards will also be given to the winning Team Captain Amy Kegley and Eva Kang for their outstanding efforts. Kudos to both Team A and Team B for all of their efforts in this contest.

~ NEW MEMBERS ~

We welcome the newest members of All in the Family Toastmasters:

Reeta Kumar, Christopher "Kit" Bennett, and Dennis Morrison. All of our new members are with the Fairfax County Dept of Technology.

Congratulations, you're in for a lot of fun and excitement. In no time at all, you will be closer to your goals than ever before. Participation is the key. Jump in there! And remember that your fellow Toastmasters are with you all the way!

Web Alert!!!

The District 27 Website is all new and looking good. Check out the site at the new and easy to remember URL - www.d27tm.org

Toastmasters.org has a brand new look too. Check it out at www.toastmasters.org

The Area Contests

On October 13th Morty Sheikh and Rick Eshbach represented All in the Family Toastmasters in the area contests for Table Topics and Humorous Speech. Other members in attendance were Carol Patton, Rita Kaufman, Barbara Hinkel and Sam Paraguya. Sam performed the welcome, contestant interviews, and announced the results of the contest.

Once again Morty did an excellent job at Table Topics. He used his energy and heart to find his words. We are proud of his energetic effort and participation. Gary Jensen with B-2 Toastmasters won 1st place in Table topics in a close contest.

The Humorous speeches were great. Lots of fun. Peter Rush with SRA Toastmasters won 1st place with his speech "Down with Cliches"

Next year make a point of coming to the Area Contest. This year it was held locally at our own Fairfax County Govt. center. The food was great and there were lots of door prizes.

Scar Tissue

What is the worst case scenario for a speaker? I'll tell you what it is! It is forgetting what you want to say. Blanking out all together. Total brain lock! An audience waiting for the next word in your well organized and well practiced talk, and there is nothing to give. What happens to a speaker after this occurs? Heart attack? Stoning? Caning? Tar and feathers? Some other form of Public humiliation?

Well... none of the above actually. I know. Because I faltered in the recent Humorous Speech contest on October 13th!

Ironically the contest master, JoAnn Heck, began the meeting by saying "... folks get nervous up here but after time you develop what I call scar tissue. It comes with experience. It comes with getting up here and participation in Toastmasters. And it makes it a whole lot easier." What an interesting notion I thought.

When it was my turn I started my talk "Menu of Changes" with " God gives us a large variety of experiences in life. Some are interesting, some are fun, some are scary, and some are down right embarrassing." I got out a line or 2 at the most and suddenly a blank screen came down. I forgot where I was in the talk. Completely lost! The only option I saw was to fess up to the audience and request their indulgence while I try to get back on track to the funny stuff. I did get back on track. The audience got some good laughs. They were very sweet and content with my performance. But, I was on myself for forgetting!

A few days later I am looking back at the experience and realized this was the central idea of the very talk I was performing. Sometimes you get some very potent experiences in life, and when they are done you are a different person than before.

I had put considerable practice in my talk. My kids had heard it way too many times.... (They could have performed the talk easily.) I guess I practiced it too hard. Made it too rigid, instead of flexible. Certainly I was nervous. I'm sure it was a combination of things. The most important

thing is - My worst nightmare has now shrunk in size. Even when I make a mistake I can think on my feet... (thank you table topics...) And audiences are far more forgiving, far sweeter and more considerate, than I ever imagined before my Toastmasters experience.

Scar tissue! GET SOME!

Rick

Feed Your Brain

Here are some details on books available for loan to our membership.
Get together with our Sergeant-At-Arms Bruce McKenzie and sign out a book!

"Can you say a Few Words" by Joan Detz

Award-winning corporate speechwriter Joan Detz offers solid advice for tackling this nerve-wracking task-with pointers, tips, and trade secrets that will help you make the most of every speaking opportunity.

"Thinking on your Feet" by Marian K. Woodall

Learning to "buy time" -- with silence, with a gesture, with a repetition of the question -- will give you better results no matter what your pressure situations are: Acing job interviews, overcoming "I'm a woman and he's a man" situations at home and at work, handling volunteers, placating customers and clients, spinning the reporter's sharp queries, responding to kids - it's all here.

"A Treasury of Humor" by Eric W. Johnson

More than 1000 jokes make this a marvelous collection of humorous anecdotes and witty tidbits. Here is the human condition in all its high hilarity--from the bizarre to the bittersweet.

TidBits: Our Deepest Fear by Marianne Williamson

from A Return To Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

All in the Family Toastmasters
Club 5646, Area 46
Division D, District 27
Main Homepage- <http://www.geocities.com/allinthefamilytm/>



Members Homepage- <http://www.geocities.com/allinthefamilytm/a>

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All in the Family meets the first and third Wednesday of every month, 12:15-1:15 p.m., in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia.

Room location is posted on the television monitor in the lobby.

All in the Family is committed to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

