Dear Talkingheads and guests,
We have a lot to share with you this week. In this issue, you will enjoy reading. In this issue, you will enjoy reading -

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A quick recap of our meeting last week

Last week’s meeting

Last week, 9 members and 5 guests (Artem, Mark, Anna, Haoqi and Akshay) attended our meeting.

Roles for last week’s meeting were –
Toastmaster – Prajakta
Speaker #1 – Artem (guest)
Evaluator #1 – Ceryl
Speaker #2 – Jennifer
Evaluator #2 – Emmanuel
Table Topic Master - Emmanuel
General Evaluator – Vladimir
Grammarian – Gene
Timer – Mark (guest) and Rahul
Ah-counter – Shilpi
Our word of the day was “resplendent” meaning “attractive and impressive through being richly colorful or sumptuous”.

Highlights of our meeting

Our meeting began with a warm-up round conducted by Vladimir, our Club President. It was followed by the prepared speeches.

Guest speaker
Our first speaker was Artem Koshkalda from Switch On club. His speech was titled “Going through”. He told us a personal story about how his love for Mathematics eventually brought him to America. He shared with us this emotional journey from Ukraine to America as he taught himself a new language and learned to adapt to a new culture. His speech had a strong message “Keep trying”. True to his message, he has completed an impressive 15 speeches in just 6 months in his club and is very enthusiastic about every speaking opportunity.

Our second speaker for the evening was Jennifer, who gave us her icebreaker speech titled “Three things I have learned in life”. She told us how she found contentment in her solitude and discovered that she has more in herself than she knows. She learned the values of friendship and generosity when she was living as an exchange student with a Nepalese family. “Sometimes, things get worse before they get better” – something she learned during her time as a Palo Alto community mediator and why we all must keep trying. Three strong messages through personal story narration and a confident speaking style – stuff good speeches are made of! Great job on your icebreaker! On page 5, we will learn how this speech was prepared - straight from the horse’s mouth.

The Table Topics theme by Emmanuel was “Are You a World Changer?” He had such creative and intriguing questions, they were: ‘What would you change about your self?’, ‘What would you change about this Club?’, ‘If you are a Mayor of Mountain View, what would you change?’, ‘What would you change about Silicon Valley?’, ‘What
would you change about California?’, ‘What would you change about the people of California?’, ‘If you were Mother Earth, what your change about the world?’ Prajakta, Rahul and Haoqi were our three winners of the best Table Topics speaker contest. Congratulations!

All our guests participated very enthusiastically in our meeting Artem gave us a wonderful speech. Mark volunteered to be our timer. Haoqi won the best Table Topics speaker award. Anna and Akshay participated in the warm up question round and Akshay also answered our Table Topics question. It was a pleasure to have them with us!

Overall, it was an excellent meeting. There is lot of participation from everyone in the meetings. Our group is growing bigger every single meeting!
The roles for today’s meeting

Today’s meeting

A Toastmasters meeting is a learn-by-doing workshop in which participants hone their speaking and leadership skills in a friendly atmosphere.

Today, our roles will be -

**Toastmaster:** Ceryl
**Table-topics Master:** Vish
**Speaker #1:** Okehee
  - Speech 7 from CC manual
  - Objective: Research the topic
  - Title: How to find happiness?
**Speaker #2:** Vladimir
  - Speech 2 from “The Discussion Leader” manual
  - Objective: Brainstorming session
  - Title: How to become more organized
**Evaluator #2:** Emmanuel
**General Evaluator:** Prajakta
**Education Master:** Gene

Please sign up for the other roles. Your participation will bring more energy to the group and will bring more confidence to you as a speaker.

We always welcome guests. Guests do not have to pay. You can come and see how we run the meeting and if you like, participate in our meeting.
How I prepared my icebreaker?

Jennifer joined our club last month and gave her icebreaker last Thursday.

““My first step in preparing my "Ice Breaker" speech was to do some research and ask questions before putting pen to paper. I started by talking to my mentor and asking her for advice. My mentor shared her approach when writing her "Ice Breaker," which was to take her first name, middle name, and last name and talk about her past, present, and future as they are symbolized by the three parts in her name. She said it makes it interesting to do something clever in this way, but she also highly recommended that I not try and cover more than three things, whether they be three experiences, memories, etc. I followed this advice and focused on three experiences I wanted to share. She also said the most important part of the Ice Breaker is about getting up and starting to feel comfortable in front of an audience. She suggested I not worry too much about technique and try to feel what it's like to be standing up at the podium.

I wrote most of my speech on a yellow notepad during a plane ride, then did a little more writing in my hotel room over a few different evenings, and then I did a bit more editing when I returned home. It seemed that every time I read my words, I crossed out sentences and added new sentences. I repeated this process several more times. I also practiced it out loud about 3 times. Again, I found myself crossing out and switching around words when I could hear myself saying them. Sometimes they sounded different than they looked on the page!

I think one of the things that helped me to feel comfortable is that I really like talking about these three things.
When I gave the speech last Thursday night, I think one of the things that helped me to feel comfortable is that I really like talking about these three things. They are really special and important parts of my life. I never get tired of talking about them. If anyone wants to listen, I could talk on and on about them! :)

The evaluation I was given by Emmanuel was amazing and so valuable. His suggestion about having a common thread in my speech is something I will keep with me as I write future speeches. I think having a unifying idea could've helped me to take the audience on a journey with me. His comments also made me think about the original advice my mentor had given me, and about how she tied the parts of her name with the past, present, and future. While I focused on talking about 3 things, I definitely could've thought more about how to tie these three things together. Some of the handwritten comments I received after the meeting were also very helpful. I could've taken my time a bit more with pauses and transitions. I could have talked about what I liked or didn't like about the experiences - and also added in some humor. Audiences really love to laugh. I certainly do! Laughter and a common thread are things I will keep in mind for future speeches.

Thank you Jennifer, for sharing your thoughts and speech preparation process with us.

In your Toastmasters Icebreaker Speech just say a little something about yourself. That's it!
Meet our leadership team - a note about officers’ training

Our new club officers

We are happy to announce our new leadership team for July 2011- December 2011.

President - Vladimir Gaputin
He joined this club in 2007 and is currently working on “Discussion Leader” Advanced Communication manual. He has been our Club President for the last term too - working on getting new members and encouraging everyone to participate more in the meetings.

Secretary - Gene Myer
He is the most senior member of our club. Nobody knows the meeting agenda and the rules as well as he does. He is a mentor to most of us and is always willing to help with the speech preparation and practice. He has taken multiple leadership roles and kept the club going in tough times.

Treasurer - Okehee Goh
She joined our club in 2010 and is currently advancing to her goal of completing CC manual. She participates very actively in the meetings and also in the brainstorming sessions to improve our club.

VP Education - Emmanuel Mayssat
He has been a member of our club since past 5 years and has participated and won several speech contests. He brings extra energy and humor to our meetings.

VP Membership - Rahul Bivalkar
He joined our club in 2010 and is currently advancing to his goal of completing the CC manual. He participates very actively in the meetings.
VP Public Relations - Ceryl Susilo
She joined our club in 2010 and is currently advancing to her goal of completing the CC manual. She is one of the main contributors to the newsletters and participates actively in the meetings.

Sergeant at Arms
We need someone to take up this role.

Club Officers’ Training

District 4 offers club officer training sessions to help club officers prepare for their duties as a club officer.

Advantages
• provides valuable training and advice.
• is one of the goals in the Distinguished Club Program (DCP).
• is a requirement for recognition as Advanced Leader Bronze.

When?
Thursday, June 30th
6:00pm-8:30pm
6:00: Registration, Networking & Light Refreshment
6:30: Opening Remarks & Keynote
7:00: Breakout Sessions
8:30: Adjourn!

Where?
Yahoo! Great America campus
4551 Great America Pkwy,
Santa Clara 95054

Cost?
$5 with pre-registration/$7 at the door.
GROUP RATE! $30 if all 7 officers register in advance & attend.

Pre-registration is recommended. Light refreshments will be served. Payment accepted at sign-in.

More information:
http://www.d4tm.org/Events/trainingSchedule.php
Current standing in the DCP and overview of new goals

Are we there yet?

The Distinguished Club Program is an annual program, running from July 1 through June 30. The program consists of 10 goals your club should strive to achieve during this time using the Club Success Plan as a guide. At year-end, World Headquarters calculates the number of goals the club achieved and recognizes it as a Distinguished Club, Select Distinguished Club or President’s Distinguished Club based on the number of goals achieved and the number of members it has.

More details on the program: http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/OfficerResources/ClubOfficerResources/DCPWhyYouShouldCare.aspx

Currently, we have achieved 6 out of 10 goals. Yaay! We are already a Distinguished Club! We have 16 members today.

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<tr>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>ACHIEVED</th>
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| [5] CL, AL, or DTM | 1 | 1 | *
| [6] Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs | 1 | 1 | *
| [7] New Members | 4 | 4 | *
| [8] Additional New Members | 4 | 5 | *
| [9] Officers Trained (both required) | | | |
| * | | | |
| June-August | 4 | 7 | |
| * | | | |
| and December-February | 4 | 4 | *
| [10] Submitted on time (both required) | | | |
| October or April Renewal and Officer List | 1 | 2 | *
| | 1 | 2 | *

Total Goals Achieved To-Date: 6

Why you should care about the Distinguished Club Program?
http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/OfficerResources/ClubOfficerResources/DCP/DCPWhyYouShouldCare.aspx
More about the club

Ours is a very supportive group of about 10 members. The advantage of a small group is you will get ample opportunity to practice your speaking skills. We are welcoming news members and guests.

Last year, our club was recognized as President’s Distinguished Club and we claimed 10 out of 77 awards! This was a very big achievement. We hope to reach this target again.

Where are we located?
Oakwood Mountain View Conference Room
555 West Middlefield Road Mountain View, CA

We invite you to our club.

Here is the link to our home page - http://talkingheads4648.freetoasthost.com/
Here is the link to our meetup page - http://www.meetup.com/Talking-Heads-Toastmasters/
You can check our newsletters to see what we have done in some of our previous meetings.