



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Club 9327 District 31 Area A-3 Haverhill, MA

OUR NEXT MEETING:
February 23, 2009

Join us at 7pm at:
Haverhill
Public Library
99 Main Street

FRIENDLY PERSUASION

Hello Everyone:

Well, we're off to a running start in 2009!

Get your schedule opened....We're in the planning stages of our *Friendly Persuasion Spring Open House* on March 23 at 7pm. Don't miss the opportunity to visit us and learn how participation in Toastmasters can really enhance your communication and leadership skills. Those are career-building and relationship-enhancing skills for sure! We'll have plenty of information to share about Toastmasters plus you'll see various members in action giving speeches and telling what Toastmasters has meant to them. Refreshments will be offered and of course, there's no charge for the Open House and absolutely no obligation to attend. Hope you will make plans to be with us for all the fun! For more information, please call Shawn at 978-475-1301

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES



New *Competent Communicator* **Kim Desso-Dembele** (above, center) is congratulated by Friendly Persuasion President **Elizabeth Benson** (left) and VP of Education **Jean Leider**.

AT OUR RECENT MEETINGS

Of course, guests are always welcome at our Toastmasters meetings. Some folks like to check out our meetings for several weeks before joining and that's okay with us. We're pretty sure we make our guests feel right at home! On January 26th, we had 2 visitors-**Janice Young** and **Leighton Young**. (No relation) Janice was back at our February 9th meeting and has officially become our newest member of Friendly Persuasion. "Welcome Aboard Janice! We look forward to getting to know you and to helping you reach your personal goals for membership."

In addition, we sure hope to have Leighton attend again in the near future!



(on left) **Elizabeth Benson** and **Jean Leider** join VP of Membership **Shawn Mills** (on right) as they officially welcome new members **Mike Bishop**, **Sharon Tucker** and **Jody Sloane** at a recent Membership Induction ceremony.

Friendly Persuasion meets the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of every month unless there is a library holiday. Our meeting takes place at the Haverhill Library at 7pm. In February, we meet again on the 23rd. In March, we meet on the 9th and 23rd. Our March 23rd meeting is the *Spring Open House* which will be held upstairs in the Library Auditorium. Meetings are open to the public and there is no obligation to attend as a guest.

For more info, please visit our web-site:
www.friendlypersuasion.org

"PROCEED WITH PASSION---SPEAK WITH COURAGE"

TALK ABOUT SPEECHES!

We've heard from plenty of members lately and we love it! At our meeting on January 12th, in addition to a brief official Membership Induction ceremony, new member **Mike Bishop** jumped right in by giving his first speech at Friendly Persuasion, *The Icebreaker*. Mike's speech was titled "How Public Speaking Can Shape Your Life" and it chronicled the influence Mike's discomfort with public speaking had on his earlier years. Well, he may be a new member but it's obvious he has overcome his fears and is already quite accomplished. It's always so interesting to learn about our new members with their Icebreaker. Way to go, Mike! This was a great start!.....Member **Scott Grafton** gave a truly enjoyable speech about the lack of trust we have in our government and society. It had to start with a little doom and gloom but we got our hopeful, happy ending. We loved the Charlie Brown comic strip metaphor. We won't give up and we will prevail. Scott's speech was Project #3 in the Competent Communication manual, *Getting to the Point*. Loved the message and the uplifting conclusion. Yes, Happy New Year after all. Great universal theme and the content kept us interested and entertained. Thanks to Scott!.....Member and President **Elizabeth Benson** gave a presentation from the Toastmasters *Leadership Excellence* series. Of course, Liz put in an extra special effort to make this presentation very much her own. Her project, titled "Synergetic Team Building", shared the 4 keys to building a strong team. #1 Know what a team looks like. #2 Seek to create synergy. #3 Organize your team according to the specific team vision and goals and #4 Provide the appropriate team training. Wow, we always learn at our Toastmasters meetings and this presentation provides guidance for any team leader—at Toastmasters or in the workplace. Elizabeth shares her thoughts with great enthusiasm, so we can always count on her to motivate the *troops*. This was yet another example of bringing great value to the audience on many levels. Although this speech is not a project from the Communication manuals, Liz will receive credit toward her Advanced Leader or Advanced Communicator goals.

At our January 26th meeting, member **Paul Brady** offered Project #6 *Vocal Variety* with his speech titled "Power of Expression". The characteristics of a good voice include proper pitch, volume, rate and quality. But there are differences when we scream in pain or shout for joy! Vocal variety enhances our communication in immeasurable ways. Being aware of that and making

vocal variety a part of your communication skill set is part of what Toastmasters teaches us. Paul reminded us that *what* we say and *how* we say it are powerful indeed! An important lesson for us all. Thanks Paul.

At our February 9th meeting, we had prepared speeches from 3 members. **Carole Holcroft** shared her 9th Project, *Persuade With Power*. Carole titled her speech "Clarity-Concise-Connect" and it was a lesson in communication skills for us all. Have clarity (know your goal)—be concise (pare down the words whether written or spoken)—be sure to connect (be aware of how you relate to others) Carole challenged and persuaded us to use the 3C's in our communication encounters. Another tip—our "takeaway"—to help us be the best at communicating our thoughts and ideas. A very professional presentation by Carole. Great job!.....**Mike Bishop** offered a lesson in finance for our times in his Project #2 *Organize Your Speech*. He titled it "The Opportunity Today" and this speech sure gave us some hope for the economic future—at home and beyond. Excellent subject choice, Mike and your credibility and professional delivery make the message that much more meaningful and believable. More lessons learned at Toastmasters. It was a very nicely organized speech with easy-to-understand points that kept us all intrigued. Our money's on you Mike! Very nice 2nd speech at Friendly Persuasion. Thanks for sharing your knowledge with all of us.....we heard from **Jody Sloane** with her Project #4 *How to Say It*, a speech she titled "Roasted". This was an entertaining, funny, informative and surprising presentation about the itty bitty but wonderful legume known as the peanut. Though they are much maligned (lately), according to Jody, peanuts are so much more than we think. (Who knew they gave us *those* health benefits she so humorously described? (This was a terrific speech and Jody surely knew *how to say it* with sharp, creative and clever writing. Jody, we must get you to share this fun speech at the Open House! Well written, nicely delivered. Grade A+Member **Shawn Mills** offered her version of the Toastmasters *Successful Club* series program titled "Evaluate to Motivate". To offer an effective evaluation (Toastmasters speeches or otherwise) remember: Show you are interested, Consider the speakers objectives, Personalize your language, Evaluate the speech-not the person, and Promote self-esteem. More important information for us to use at our meetings and in the workplace or with family when we motivate others. We'll have plenty on the agenda at our February 23rd meeting....hope to see you there!

Proceed With Passion-Speak With Courage