



# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Club 9327 District 31 Area A-3 Haverhill, MA

OUR NEXT MEETING:  
September 14, 2009

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

# FRIENDLY PERSUASION

## “Can you hear me now?”

....and maybe more importantly...what are you hearing from me? Most Toastmaster members are thinking about the answer to that question. Membership in Toastmasters helps us to better articulate our thoughts, ideas and feelings. So when we ask “Can you hear me now?”.....we are really saying: Are you getting my true meaning? Are you understanding my position? Are you feeling my emotion? That’s a pretty powerful way to deal with issues in our workplace and in our personal space.

So.....Can you hear us now??

### August 2009 Recap



Above Center: VP -PR **Jean Leider** holds the Presidents Distinguished Club ribbon we earned this past club year. VP of Education **Shawn Mills** (left) and President **Elizabeth Benson** on right, look on.

### AT OUR AUGUST MEETINGS

Another month has zipped by, and with it, our two August Toastmasters meetings. But, they were full productive meetings with plenty of participation by new and veteran members alike. At our August 10th

meeting we heard a fantastic Icebreaker speech from two of our newest members, **Marcy Kroll** and **Pat Emiro**. Marcy’s speech, titled “*K.I.S.S.—Keep It Simple Stupid*” was an entertaining self-diagnosis of Marcy’s similarities and differences to her parents. Full of humor and honesty, this Icebreaker was a delight to hear. Marcy is on a quest to simplify things in her life though she isn’t always entirely successful. But it’s fun to hear the results. Thanks Marcy for sharing your enjoyable self-introduction. Great job!.....Member **Pat Emiro’s** Icebreaker was equally as powerful but not for the same reasons. Pat shared his story with a speech he titled, “*P.T.S.D.—A Piece of Hell*” and he relayed the many difficulties he has faced living his life with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, diagnosed after the emotional and physical injuries sustained fighting for our freedoms during wartime. Pat shared a heartfelt and dramatic story with all of us and it was an amazing and thought-provoking Icebreaker. Thanks to Pat for sharing so much of his poignant and painful past.....At the same meeting we also heard from member **Joe D’Amore** who gave his Project #2—Organize Your Speech, “*Inflection Points*” as a repeat performance. Joe decided to use this time to re-offer the speech he gave at a July meeting. He spent time working and refining the content. He also polished his delivery. The result.....even more impressive than before. Joe took advantage of having the membership as an impartial audience and was able to sharpen his skills. That’s very important for Joe as he hopes to do a lot of public speaking outside of the club setting. It’s a prime example of Toastmasters paying off for all!.....and we also heard Project #6—Vocal

## “PROCEED WITH PASSION---SPEAK WITH COURAGE”

Variety from **Sharon Tucker** who titled her speech, “A Small Act of Kindness”. Take one stray cat, one cat lover and a several bowls of cat food. Mix in lots of love and attention. Let the mixture melt the human’s heart. Enjoy. What Sharon got when she adopted her cat “Chaucer” was something extra special to love.....and a way to share her writing talents. Chaucer now “writes” a column for a local newspaper—about viewing the world from a few inches off the ground! Sharon’s speech allowed plenty of vocal variety as she portrayed herself and her cat in a wonderfully entertaining look at how even a small act of kindness can change your life dramatically. Great speech, Sharon. We loved Chaucer’s—er,...*your* story.

At our meeting on August 24th, we were able to enjoy three speeches by members. New member **Diane Knight** offered her Icebreaker which she titled “Retreats in Nature”. What a wonderful story about her idyllic childhood with so much time spent at the family farm. Diane’s love of nature and animals had it’s early start in all those childhood experiences. We could see the homestead, the forest, the water and the animals with Diane’s descriptive phrases and heartfelt delivery. We could feel the love she had for everything in her environment—her wonderful family and her perfect surroundings. Diane, if only everyone would have such pleasant memories to share. This was a superb start for your participation in Toastmasters.....We heard again from **Pat Emiro** with Project #2—Organize Your Speech. Pat’s speech titled “*Is Not the Life the Greater Thing?*” was a dramatic look at the incidence of suicide in today’s society. Pat shared stories and statistics of the rate of suicide and who is likely to find themselves at this sad place in life. Pat also shared that his depression while battling serious illness and injury had him experience some uncertain moments of his own. Once again Pat’s speech gave us much to think about; the pain of others can be a sobering experience. Sharing his life’s trying times has made Pat stronger and more resilient. He has also turned to poetry and spirituality as a way of coping. Thanks Pat for your perspective and honesty. It was very moving.....Member **Joe D’Amore** gave us his Project #3—Get to the Point. Joe gave us a very humorous look at “*The Timelessness of Salisbury*”. It wasn’t just a speech about the sights and sounds of summertime at a beach in New

England. It was a retro look at how his Italian family packed the kids and the sandwiches in the wood-paneled station wagon and went on an adventure. There were anecdotes about the bath house, the tin-foil wrapped sandwiches and the fact that the Dads never participated—but it was so much more. Lots of laughs and Joe’s call to action for the audience. He implored us to go to the beach now before our summer ends. Walk bare-footed in the sand, listen to the sounds, smell the smells and go back in time in your mind. So now Joe has us rediscovering our youth with an easy trip to Salisbury Beach. Folks would pay a fortune to find that treasure. Thanks Joe for inspiring the future through the past. What fun!

## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES



From left: VP of Membership **Carole Holcroft** recognizes new Friendly Persuasion members **Diane Knight** and **Geoff Grant** at our membership induction ceremony.

We are happy to welcome our newest member Geoff Grant to Friendly Persuasion Toastmasters. We know we’ll be hearing from Geoff with his Icebreaker speech in the near future. Looking forward to helping you achieve your goals for membership in Toastmasters, Geoff!

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

There it was...right in our own back-yard—the 2009 Toastmasters International Convention featuring the International Speech Contest to determine the World Champion of Public Speaking. In mid August several members of Friendly Persuasion headed to the Foxwoods resort in CT to attend the convention. What an exciting opportunity for Toastmasters members. Our District 31 representative placed 2nd in the world.....wow! The speakers were all quite accomplished but we were envisioning ourselves on the stage. Kudos to member Jean Leider who

volunteered her time for a day during the convention and served in several capacities to help convention attendees. Pictured below: the “Fab Four” representing Friendly Persuasion after the Speech Contest. **Jean Leider, Shawn Mills, Anne Six and Elizabeth Benson.** We sure had a great time!



## MEMBER-abilia (Member News)

Member **Carole Holcroft** will miss our upcoming meeting on Monday. Seems she’s a bit busy with her role as *Mother of the Groom* this week-end. Of course, plenty of friends and relatives from Great Britain will be in town. Now we wonder, will she have a chance to give a true *Toastmasters* Toast???? .....

Glad to hear **Anne Six’s** husband Russell is doing fine after a short hospital stay.

## HOW TO SAY IT

**FRIENDLY PERSUASION TALKING TIPS:** “Why do I need an *Introduction*? Everyone in the club knows me.” Have you had those thoughts as a speaker?

There are several good reasons we need a formal introduction before giving a speech.

We need to be recognized as separate from the group. As a speaker we are leading the thinking. The introduction also allows the speaker to be thought of as an expert or as someone qualified to speak on a certain subject due to their knowledge or experience.

When writing your own introduction, try to indicate why you are the person to be giving the speech. As an example...if the speech is about the economic crisis in the US, the speaker’s introduction should talk about their experience in finance or their experience in this bad economy. The introduction should hook

the audience and make them want to hear more from the speaker.

Your intro should contain the exact title of your speech and your full name. Write out your introduction and give a typed copy in a large font (at least 14pt) to the introducer (usually the Toastmaster). Your intro should not be longer than a minute, shorter than that is better.

Your intro should also help bridge the topic to the interest of the audience. Here’s an example:

*Our next speaker, John Doe, has been in the financial planning business for over 27 years. He has his MBA from Boston University and is the editor of the Financial Times news. John has helped hundreds of clients protect their assets even in the toughest economic times. John says you can help yourself survive this tough economy by doing 5 simple things. Please help me welcome John Doe as he presents his speech, “The Power of Five for Your Financial Future”.*

It’s clear there is a bridge between the topic and the interest of the audience. The intro is short and has established John as an expert plus there is a teaser in the intro that hooks the audience into wanting to listen to learn more.

Use these tips for writing your intro and make your intro work for you and your audience!

**Members—Dues for membership are due. If you have not sent your dues to our treasurer Janice Young, please bring cash or your check for \$39 to the next meeting. This will cover your membership until April 2010. Now that’s value in tough economic times!!**

**Friendly Persuasion meets the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of every month, at the Haverhill Library, unless there is a library holiday. Please feel free to visit as a guest anytime. Our meetings in September are on the 14th and 28th.**

**For more information please visit our website: [www.friendlypersuasion.org](http://www.friendlypersuasion.org)**

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