



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Club 9327 District 31 Area A-3 Haverhill, MA

OUR NEXT MEETING:
Mon. January 8, 2006

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

FRIENDLY PERSUASION

HERE'S THE LATEST FROM THE END OF 2006 AND A BRING IT ON PREVIEW OF 2007



Happy New Year! The old year of 2006 is technically gone so we should probably look to the future. But wait...so much has happened at Friendly Persuasion...we must report about the speeches and such that occurred during the final weeks of 2006. Let's call it our end of the year **Super Speaker Section**. It's a mention of those who took the time to ponder, prepare and practice their manual speeches. While our **Friendly Persuasion** members are at varying levels of experience, the presentation of a prepared speech by any member, at any level, is the true highlight of every meeting. We are recognizing the following members for their work...(with apologies for any speeches that may have missed a mention in this or an earlier newsletter.)

Member **Joan O'Leary** shared the ways we should be "**Celebrating A New England Winter**". This speech was given in late October, but Joan's upbeat look at our winter season may just sustain us...or make us see the winter in a more welcoming way!.....Member **Gregg Valerie** gave a speech to remind us to "**Get Involved**". Sometimes it takes a Friendly Persuasion voice to do just that...persuade us— in a most friendly way to do the right thing!.....We also heard from **Chris Hewitt** who reviewed "**Everything About Riding the T**" We all know there are many reasons to commute by public transit but Chris made us almost want to go to work via the T, every day!.....Member **Shawn Mills** treated the membership to "**A Toast to Toastmasters**" with her advanced manual special occasion speech. It was the perfect segue to our munchie break and NO, she did *not* open that bottle of real Dom Perignon champagne she used as a prop...There are after all, library rules to follow!.....We laughed at member **Rich Morse** when his speech described his son

Ryan's first haircut! "**Clip It or Curly Q**"....a most appropriate name....Word has it that baby Ryan handled the event much more easily than Mommy and Daddy. True perhaps, but the description of events and emotions by the grown-ups made for a great speech!.....We must give special accolades to member **Valerie Barron** who gave her Icebreaker Speech in the 3rd person as she described herself being recognized as an outstanding employee for American Training, Inc where she was given "**The Starfish Award**". It was a unique and humble way to present herself as the dedicated employee she is, in every aspect of her job.....We also heard once again from the creative mind of our own advanced level speaker, **Anne Six**. This time, Anne's advanced manual—Storytelling— had us enjoying the adventures of "**The Dust Bunny and the Child that Lay in the Hay**". Anne created the characters and delivered the message in her own unique way. It's especially rewarding to have a member that helps us use our imaginations!. Thank you Anne....and thanks to all of our Friendly Persuasion members who have given a speech or performed a meeting role. We learn by doing and all who participate in our twice monthly meetings can say they have learned and grown through their active involvement.

But WAIT...there's more....we want to recognize the new members we have gotten in the last several months. CAN YOU SAY **SMEDLEY AWARD????**

Friendly Persuasion was recently given the Toastmasters International **Smedley Award**—and we received a ribbon for our club banner—by adding at least 5 members between August 1 and September 30th. The Smedley Award is a Membership Drive Recognition Contest named in honor of the founder of Toastmasters, Ralph Smedley. We have already introduced some of our newest members

"PROCEED WITH PASSION--SPEAK WITH COURAGE"

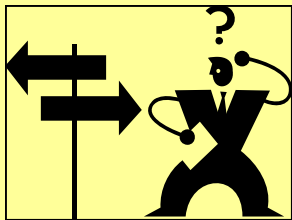
but here's a list of the members who joined in the last quarter of 2006 who will now benefit from Toastmasters and membership in Friendly Persuasion: **Reg Aubry, Valerie Barron, Bill Hanley, Craig Peacock, Frank Serreti** and our newest member **Maura Zigmont**. Plus...we also look forward to the official memberships of several recent Friendly Persuasion guests. Stay tuned.

OUR MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

Friendly Persuasion meets the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of every month unless there is a library holiday. In January, we meet on the 8th and 22nd. Please visit as a guest anytime. For more information about Friendly Persuasion Toastmasters, visit our web-site:

www.friendlypersuasion.org

Friendly Persuasion held a **Holiday Gathering** at member **Carole Holcroft's** home in mid December. The festivities always include a Holiday themed **Table Topics** session. Below, at right you can see Friendly Persuasion President Chris O'Brien seriously ponder the Christmas Tree Ornament he has unwrapped—and what 1-2 minute story or significance he will give it...in a speech *on-the-spot!* Yes, even the Christmas Party was a lesson in Impromptu Speaking. Below, VP of Education **Elizabeth Benson** and Sergeant of Arms **Anne Six** look on! Thanks to Carole and husband Lindsey and their family for opening their home to all of us!



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?—

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE AT THE END OF 2007?—

As we begin another new year, many of us have made some resolutions. We want to lose a little weight, maybe exercise more, learn to handle stress more effectively....the list is endless. The beginning of a new year seems to be the time we commit to enhancing our lives, reaching for our goals, making changes. How would increasing your communication and leadership skills impact your hopes and dreams in both your personal and professional life this year?

As members of Toastmasters we have the opportunity to gain confidence and competence in our ability to share our thoughts and ideas. By making a commitment to be as active member—to keep working through the communication and leadership manuals, to attend and participate in meetings, to give and receive feedback, to help ourselves and others —we learn to find the path we need, the direction we can follow that will lead each one of us to our goals.

The question deserves to be asked again....where are you now? Do you have anxiety about speaking in front of others, chairing a meeting, giving a presentation, answering to superiors? Would you like to be able to communicate your thoughts and ideas with friends and family more easily? Where do you want to be at the end of the year?....the answers are *individual* and *attainable*.

Hope to see you at our meeting this Monday January 8th. Happy New You...Year!

