

TALKMAGIC

TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Newsletter Volume 08 - Issue 10, July - December 2020

The Journey....



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Dear Talkmagicians,

I am grateful to you all for giving me an opportunity to serve the club for the term July – December 2020. Though there has been a huge social and economic churn during the term, due to pandemic, I see no diminishment in the passion of our members to learn and improve.



My committee has been nothing short of phenomenal. We have rallied together and vowed to put our members' growth above all else. As we stood at our installation ceremony and stretched out our hands, each of us took a silent oath to selflessly serve and help our Talkmagic family grow from strength to strength with the power of learning, self-development and empowerment. At the end of our term, I can look back and proudly say, we have endeavoured to do our very best and will continue to do so, no matter what.

We are all very proud of the club's achievements. We have increased our membership to 49 from base membership of 46. We have met 9 Goals (DCP) out of 10. With the objective of growth further, my committee and I, in recent months aimed to strengthen the club's foundation by focusing on two key areas -- scheduling of meetings and club finances. We made them transparent by creating a progress report, which shows the Path chosen, Member id, Mentor and the Level completion. Created a WhatsApp group for every meeting. Finance report is sent every month via email, so that every member can track club finances; revenue, expenses and the cash balance on a monthly basis.. The more transparent we are, the more credible we will be.

Dear Talkmagic Family,

I would like to thank all the members who attended the meetings in the past six months. Moreover, I am really indebted to all the members who gave speeches and took up the "Set Roles" at the club. Members have been telling me that: attendance at club meetings has increased, energy levels are up in our meetings, and the quality of speeches has shot up (kudos to the members & their respective mentors).

This term we celebrated our 400th meeting. 8 years of learning, growth, bonds and love that will continue to outshine any darkness year after year.

Let us continue to learn, to change, to evolve.. and most importantly, Grow – Together!

DTM Theresa Sophia Madtha,
President



Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization's membership exceeds 364,000 in more than 16,200 clubs in 145 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

364,000
Members

145
Countries

16,200+
Clubs

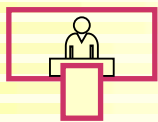
Toastmasters International Mission

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

Club Mission

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

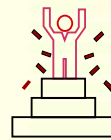
Toastmasters International Core Values



Improve your public speaking skills



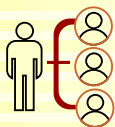
Build leadership skills



Maximize your potential



Enjoy unlimited personal growth



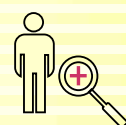
Work on networking in a small and supportive environment



Gain a competitive advantage in the workplace



Practice writing speeches and presenting in a group setting



Build self-confidence and self-awareness

CORE VALUES:

INTEGRITY
RESPECT
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



About TalkMagic Toastmasters Club

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth



Club DCP Report

We, TalkMagic Toastmasters Club have achieved President's Distinguished Club rating, the highest rating that Toastmasters International gives to its clubs. President's Distinguished Club - the highest level of recognition available. The club met the membership prerequisite and achieved nine of the 10 goals.

Congratulations!!!!

02870184 Talkmagic Toastmasters Club		
Club Alignment Region 13 District 92 Division H Area 03	Membership Base To Date 46 49 Required 20 20 members or a net growth of 5 new members	Goals Goals Met 9 Distinguished 5 Select Distinguished 7 President's Distinguished 9
Chartered 11/21/2012		

Goals to Achieve		Goal	To Date	Status
Education				
1	Level 1 awards	4	10	✓
2	Level 2 awards	2	2	✓
3	More Level 2 awards	2	4	✓
4	Level 3 awards	2	2	✓
5	Level 4, Level 5, or DTM award	1	1	✓
6	One from Level 4, Level 5, or DTM award	1	1	✓
Membership				
7	New members	4	4	✓
8	More new members	4	7	✓
Training				
9	Club officers trained June-August	4	7	Final Training Period Allowed
	Club officers trained November-February	4	0	Second Training Period 4 weeks
Administration				
10	Membership renewal dates on time	Y	1	✓
	Club officers on time	Y	1	



Meet The Executive Committee



President:
DTM Theresa Sophia Madtha



VP Education:
TM Sridhar Shivaramakrishnan



VP Membership:
TM Saleem Haneef Mohammed



VP-Public Relations:
DTM Sunil Raghavan



Secretary:
TM Jagdeep Singh



Treasurer:
TM Pruthvi Ravi



Sergeant at Arms:
TM Jagadeesha C

Associate Club Officers



Associate VP E:
TM Sajan Muthanna Nellira



Associate VP M:
TM Parthiban Dhayalan



Associate VPPR :
TM Tanuja Devang



Associate Secretary:
TM Amlan Kumar Bhowmic



Associate SAA:
TM Anjali Rawat



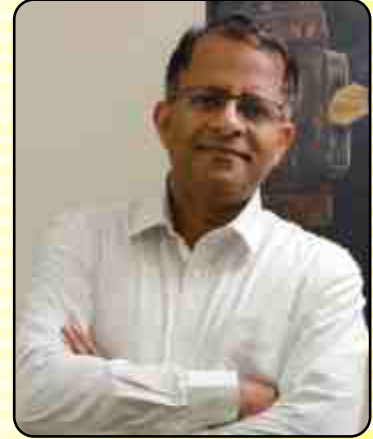
Chances: Grab them!!!

- DTM Mathew Verghese

We often hear 'Don't just make a living, make a life'. Making a life, I believe, is making the best of the CHANCES life has to offer.

After all "Life is not always a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes, playing a poor hand well."

As I write this, I am reminded of the English Premier League match between Tottenham and Manchester City last weekend. Tottenham won 2-0. However it was Man City that dominated ball possession through the game.



Tottenham made the best of the chances they got and earned an impressive win.

Ball possession matters little, if one is unable to take chances and convert them. Tottenham coach Jose Morinho said that the players gave their everything and followed the strategy. (BTW, I have always been impressed by Jose Morinho).

Life is a game and all of us are players. There are two things that happen to each and every player, irrespective. That is 'TIME' and 'CHANCE'. Like Mourinho said, in order to do well, we would have to give our everything. We would need to 'Play Full Out' and take the chances that come our way.

While some chances will make us look genius, others will cause us to fall flat on our face and appear ridiculous. Yet, the chances we take will only make us wiser, stronger, and smarter.

Toastmasters offers us chances. A chance to deliver a speech, a chance to don leadership roles, a chance to pen a newsletter article; the list goes on.

So, what would you do with your chances?
Well, grab them.



Poet or a technician of Poem?

- TM Baburajan A

Who is a true poet? Some one who write excellent poems? Or someone who lives a poetic life?

This is a great thought from Osho that I am deeply influenced by. One can compose a poem but not lead a poetic life because composing poem needs a certain skill. The skill of a technician. Most poets tat way is a technician and not a poet because they don't lead a poetic life. To lead a poetic life, you need to lead through heart and not head. Same is true with musician. They can be either a technician of music or a true musician who leads a musical life. Similarly, a painter. One can be a technician of painting or a true painter who leads a colorful life.

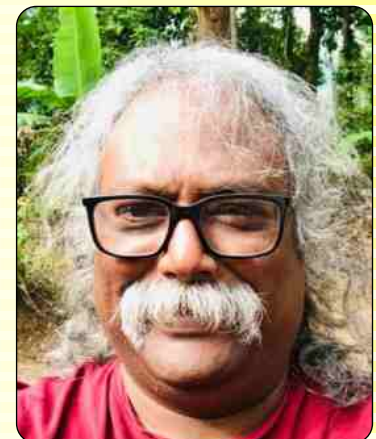


If we extend this to speaking, we can be a technician of speaking or a true speaker who lives the ideas of the speech. Are you a technician of speaking or a true speaker?

The Begumpuri Paradox

- TM Suresh Madhavan

Weekends in the Middle-East fall on Fridays and Saturdays. My wife had somehow got wind of the fact that an exclusive collection of Begumpuri handloom sarees had arrived in an upmarket boutique in Muscat. Now, that's a really harmless enough piece of information for a woman to possess, you'd think. More so when your woman rarely wears a saree. So it was a bit of a jar for me on being informed by my woman that she was to be taken to the said boutique. Loosely translated, that meant that I'd have to sit on a low stool and twiddle my thumbs for an eternity while she gave the saree salesman hell. I saw my grand plans for polishing off that excellent bottle Chilean wine and listening to Ella Fitzgerald with my old friend Madhu going up in smoke. My weekend had just been shot in the head.



The store itself was located in a chic mall. The shop owner's motto was to make saree shopping as desi and authentically Indian as possible. Therefore, he got all his saree salesmen to wear neck ties. And in order to make them look supremely goofy, he forbade them to wear shoes while they walked about on spotless white mattresses on an elevated platform as they picked out the sarees from the shelves for the customers. The customers themselves sat on low slung stools which was guaranteed to give you a backache inside fifteen minutes flat; the stools came without backrests. You sit on your stool, (oh, come now, how disgusting... not the stool for the medical lab, I'm talking of the other stool) and point out to your saree on the shelves and the chap gets it down for you.



Okay. Now you get the set up. So there I was that Saturday mid-morning, wine and Ella Fitzgerald deprived, sitting on that stool and waiting for the imminent backache to hit me. I slowly raised my head to my maker, sighed deeply and silently gave him a long and fulsome account of the state of the world as it applied to me. My wife meanwhile, plunged headlong into business.

We were about three quarters of an hour into this and yet no saree deal was struck and one seemed nowhere in sight. The harried barefooted salesman with the tie was stoically taking out piles of sarees and spreading them out with a flourish before my wife. But she seemed unimpressed. And this ritual went on and on and on and I was getting fed up to my teeth on that stool when something happened to elevate my mood.

A stunningly beautiful woman, a western expat of European origin I think, walked in and parked her bottom on the stool beside me on my right. I nodded suavely at her and she acknowledged my civility with a smile. Another salesman, let's call him B, immediately started to fawn on the newcomer and I daresay the chap who was serving my wife may have wished he could trade places with salesman B. Anyway, I studied the woman sitting next to me (suavely, of course) and she knew she was being studied suavely for she didn't seem to mind at all. I suspect she basked in my approving glances. She could have been sixty or sixty five, I don't know. But she was wonderfully well preserved. She was tastefully dressed in a simple linen shirt and stylishly cut black pants. She carried a nice hand crafted leather bag and wore lovely suede shoes. All in all, she was a classy, pretty picture. Probably the type that makes men dream of peace and plenty for ever and ever. The only jarring note was that round her neck was a string of pearls so huge that no oyster known to man could have produced them without doing it's self some serious bodily harm.

And then something happened. And happened fast. In walked a pretty young thing. Clearly a desi. And this one sat on the vacant stool on my left. I at once shifted my allegiance from the older woman and nodded at the girl (suavely again) and got a bright smile in return. I felt the older woman on my right freeze. But my eyes were only for the young girl on my left and I can tell you she was a looker. Trendy, confident, and well turned out in a pair of faded jeans and T shirt. But somehow, she lacked the class and equilibrium of the older woman on my right. And you know what – this young thing also didn't seem to mind all the attention she was getting from me. Like the older woman before her, she too started to bask in all the appreciative glances she was (suavely) getting from me. By now, the older woman had gone completely to pieces. Her body language had changed and she wasn't listening to the salesman who was extolling the virtues of a hideous yellow saree to her.

It was then I decided to play a little game. I totally switched off the young girl on my left and paid my undivided attention to the older woman on my right once again. I never looked left again and completely ignored the girl. The change in the older woman was remarkable. Franz Kafka would have benefited vastly had he been there to see the change come over the woman before he started work on his "The Metamorphosis". She relaxed and started to enjoy herself again. She fell to the charms of the salesman and asked him to reserve the horrid yellow saree and asked to be shown some more. My wife by now had decided to call it a day and beckoned to me to come pick up the tab. I rose to go. I was somewhat taken aback when the older woman also stood up, looked me in the eyes and said most sincerely, "Thank you. Thank you very much." I was tempted to say "No mention medam" with a Bangalorean lilt, but replied suavely, "Anytime" and went and joined my wife.

On the drive back home, my wife asked me what was that all about. I told her the truth. At the end of my confession, all she was interested to know was whatever happened to my famous "breeding and public school upbringing" of which I speak about such a lot. Did not my breeding prescribe that ogling at strangers in a saree shops was a big no-no? I think she also muttered something under her breath about all men being such hypocrites.

All I say right now is that I cannot understand women. But I learnt to understand that morning that everyone, man or woman, young or old, European or Indian have this terrible need to be validated. What say you?



The Poetic (In)justice

- TM Ranajay

Every region in India is associated with certain stereotypes. “Connoisseur of poetry” is one such cliché usually tagged with every Bengali, mainly because of the large number of poets the region has produced. I have spent half of my teenage and three-quarter of my early adult life to live the stereotype. I read poems whose meanings I could barely decipher. I tenaciously maintained a disheveled appearance, and a reflective look in my eyes. I filled my bookshelves with voluminous books on abstract poems. I weaved lines of famous poets in my day to day conversations, only to get bewildering reactions from my friends, who started abandoning me one by one for reasons I did not fully comprehend.



My poetic personality never got the attention it deserved. With lot of vengeance, I chose my career in data & analytics, to forever erase any memory of my tryst with poetry. I avoided poetry like a vegetarian stays away from meat and led an unpoetic but deeply meaningful life.

The tranquility of my life was shattered just before India’s 73rd Independence Day. My 6-year-old daughter had to recite a Bengali poem in her school Independence Day project. There was a catch - the poem had to be translated in English, to cater to her school cohort formed of students hailing from different parts of the country. The translation job fell on my lap, even though I tried all possible excuses in the world to avoid the work.

I picked up the poetry book with trembling hands and selected a poem that seemed easiest to translate. I fervently hoped that Google Translate will deftly do the job. However, I saw the poem getting butchered instead in front of my eyes, because of the word by word literal translation that Google could only deliver. I had to rise to the occasion. My long abandoned poetic soul returned to my body. I read the poem again and again, absorbing the words like a sponge soaks up spilled coffee. The words and the rhymes came to me automatically, as if the Goddess of poet decided to shower all her blessings on me. The result was a nicely translated poem that retained the original message but was garnished by dollop of my originality.

My tête-à-tête with poetry has re-started. I now firmly believe “Poetry is ordinary language raised to Nth power” – a saying that most probably came from a person who loves poetry but deals with data for a living.



Worlds within world

– TM Amlan Kumar Bhowmick

Enigmatic worlds, far beyond the reach of our sight;
Stun us with their prowess by unravelling their might.
Oblivious as we are, until they pave the way to our lives;
Startling how it feels, as they rattle us with turbulent vibes.

On a tiny sphere, lost amid the sheen of gigantic stars;
Lies our lone abode, engulfed by celestial powers.
Lightyears away dwells colossal masses of elusive forms and shapes;
Accompanied by lethal rays of formidable frequency of waves.

The infinitesimal world that eludes our eyes;
Unleashes its power within to propel our lives.
Forever doomed to oblivion we undermine its supremacy;
Until it stalls our lives and crushes us with obstinacy.

Nature within her lap comforts us all;
Abundantly she serves us and prevents us from a fall.
Big or small she treats us all alike;
Yet we assault her and compel her to ignite

As seekers of knowledge we venture beyond our shores;
Discovering wonders in a quest to explore.
In our labs and in our dens, we experiment and invent,
Those gadgets that bend our lives and those explosives with malicious intent.

The viral scare that brought us to our knees;
Is an outcome of our overt intrusiveness and misdeeds.
Forsaking the path of progress, we often shed our morality;
Decimating our kin with unspeakable brutality.

Universal problems transgress all frontiers;
Disguised in varied forms they often appear.
Let's shed our differences and overcome all challenges we share;
To make the best out of the worlds and handle them with care.



A little step of motivation

- TM Anjali Rawat

The basis of life is health
There is nothing beyond that
The pursuit of wealth always sets you back
Why can't you prioritise your work?
Don't allow your work to consume you
Don't expect anyone come and pull you up
But my dear friend it's up to you
To move on in life and live healthy
Make that small effort
and widen your scope
Ensure you always stick to your plan



Transitioning to a Leader

- Srinath Ramegowda

My dear readers,

Leadership is the ability to transform people and help them reach their full potential. It is about inspiring and motivating people to achieve their goals. When I first ventured into leadership eight years ago, my mindset was more towards gaining more money, authority, and recognition. I never imagined that it would be entirely a different ball game concerning skills/motivations.



Growing up as a child in a joint family of more than two dozen people, and being a first-born child to my parents, I had the privilege to boss around my younger siblings. As I was the first to study Engineering in my family, and having gone abroad early in my career, my parents put me on a pedestal. Right after college, I joined an MNC in a foreign country and worked in the IT field as an IC (Individual Contributor) for twelve years, and then I decided to change gears and pursue management as my career path. I didn't step back and asked myself what skills are really needed to be a good and effective manager. As I was passionate about managing people, I thought that would be good enough to lead and succeed.

As a leader, one of the initial challenges I faced was leading people who were older than me, have been in the team longer, and a lot more knowledgeable than me in a certain business domain. Deep inside I was a bit overwhelmed. So, I reached out to my mentor for some guidance. A few tips I got from him clearly eased my emotions. One of the tips was just to 'be there' for the team, add value, listen, and support them. The more I listened, I could understand them better, and the more I could influence them. I worked closely with them to gain insights into what they do and how they do. Within months, I earned the trust of my team members and gained the confidence needed, and delivered the intended results. Earlier this year, when I completed level 2 of pathways, I came to know that my style of management style is known as democratic or consultative. Seems my leadership style clearly helped to achieve the results.

As an IC, I was an expert in my role with excellent technical skills, and the focus was only to accomplish my own tasks. Now, as a leader, I was responsible for the performance of the entire team; my new focus should be helping all of them accomplish their tasks. I learned the hard way that the leader should prioritize the important tasks that only he can do, and delegate the rest. Delegation is an essential part of being a leader, it saves you time, and helps you scale yourself to achieve more.

As I settle into my leadership role, here are some tips gathered from my personal experience:

Set clear expectations, give candid feedback, know your team better both personally and professionally, inspire and motivate, plan-ahead, and more importantly 'hire and develop the best'. Here, so far, we have discussed so many essential qualities or skills of an effective leader. The good news is that all these leadership skills can be learned by practice, and over time, it will start to feel more natural. Please note that for a new leader, mistakes do happen occasionally, and it's okay. The goal is to keep learning, and continuously improve. Feeling stressed as a new leader is very normal.

To conclude, I have learned the hard way that leadership is not about authority, it is about responsibility, it is about effective communication and active listening. One of the reasons I joined Toastmasters is to boost my leadership skills and improve my communication skills. The journey so far is fantastic. Like they say, "Leaders are made, not born" - each one of us can be leaders. Are you ready to transition?



The Journey

- TM Gary

I have been a member of Talkmagic Toastmasters since September 2020 and the journey has been all about learning and getting better so far. I still remember the first time I attended a meeting as a guest. I wasn't quite sure what to say when I was called upon during a table topic session. I barely managed to say a few words and I was relieved that my turn was over! But after 3 months of regularly attending meetings and being an active member at the club, nowadays I crave for table topics sessions! During these 3 months, I have gained valuable amount of knowledge. I have learned much about public speaking, the various aspects of a speech, how to impact the audience and the list goes on. I have to thank all the members of Talkmagic Club for this progress. The experience that I have gained in such a short span of time is incredible. I know that I still have a long way to go but one thing is for sure: I'm on the right path..



Not a Lonely planet

– TM Balakrishnan

All living things have a right to exist. Human beings have no right to bring other creatures to extinction or to play God by deciding which species serve us and should therefore be allowed to live. We should reject the anthropocentric view that humankind lies at the center of all that is worthwhile and that other creatures are valuable only as long as they serve us. Deep ecology and eastern philosophy instead says, that all living things have an inherent value—animals, plants, bacteria, viruses and that animals are no more important than plants and that mammals are no more valuable than insects. When human activities drive one of our fellow species to extinction, I consider that a betrayal of our obligation to protect all life on the only planet we have.

During the past several decades, we have increased our ability to produce large quantities of food, but we have simultaneously increased our dependence on just a few crops and our dependence on fewer types of those crops. As much as 80% of the world food supply may be based on fewer than two dozen species of plants and animals. We are eroding the genetic diversity of the crops. Who knows the medicine for Corona could be found in a near extinct plant. How can we tell which species are unimportant? Who can tell us which level of extinction will seriously disrupt the web of life that we depend upon as human beings?

When I see a leaf with morning dew
When I see a butterfly in an unseen hue
I am reminded of a million species
Other than me and you

Boars fish lizard and lion
Bacteria and fungus are not vain
Every species is part of a grand
unseen ecological chain
Our actions are so very sordid
We may be on top of the pyramid
but to break the blocks below
is just plain stupid



Travel – a journey of life!

- Vidya Shenoy

The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page. - Saint Augustine

Who does not wish to travel? Majority of us love to travel. Travel is one of the best experiences in life, because it is pleasurable and joyful. Travelling is an investment and not an expenditure. Travel gives you a real life knowledge and first hand experience which no book or movie can give. You can learn a lot by travelling. It makes you healthier and happier from within. It makes you an informed person and gives memories to cherish lifelong.



Coming to my experience with travelling, I never used to travel nor I was interested in travelling before my marriage, and it was only after my marriage that I started travelling with my husband because he was a travel freak. In the beginning, I never used to enjoy it because I had to get up early, had to be outdoors from morning till evening, and also I was not having proper food. But gradually, I started realizing the benefits of travelling unknowingly and it changed my perspective on travelling and I started enjoying it. My friends used to tell me that I was lucky because I get to travel, but I never felt the same. But now I feel I am lucky to travel both abroad and within India.

Travelling helped me in my personal growth and to become a better person and following are the benefits I discovered during my travel journey.

1. Improved physical and mental health- Travelling involves lots of site seeing which makes you walk and indulge in other physical activities, which in turn keeps you active and fit. Since you are disconnected from your daily routine when you are travelling, you will be free from anxiety and stress.

So when I came back from travelling, I felt recharged and rejuvenated. This made me feel more focused and I could concentrate better and I am reset to start afresh.

2. Helped to become more knowledgeable – Travel is a real life education. You will learn about many religions, customs, traditions, languages and cuisines. And you can meet many people and understand their perspective.



New Members

We are happy to announce the following new members to our club. New members bring new ideas and new interests and it is always exciting to get to know them. Please help us welcome them to TalkMagic Toastmasters Club and congratulate them on taking that first step in their Toastmasters journey. Every member is willing to help you at any time and we will all support you with your progress towards your goals. We all look forward to watching you become the speaker and leader you want to be.



TM Kuladeep Kumar Suriseti



TM Balakrishnan N



TM Gary Veeramundar



TM Shashidhar Lakshminarayana



TM Chetna Setia



TM Amish Raza



TM Madhan Kumar Venugopal



TM Vishnu Ravi Shankar



Google it...TalkMagic Toastmasters Club

Charter Date: November 11, 2012

Social Media Information:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/talkmagictoastmasters/>

Meetup:

<https://www.meetup.com/Talkmagic-Toastmasters-Club/>

Website:

<http://talkmagictoastmasters.com/>

Directions:

<https://www.google.co.in/maps/place/St+Vincent+Pallotti+College/@13.028924,77.6391621,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x3bae173a640e4619:0xc6b37b9f85025a09!8m2!3d13.028924!4d77.6413508?dcr=0>

Meeting information

Venue: St. Vincent Pallotti College, Chellikere, Meganahalli, Kalyana Nagar, Bangalore – 560043

Time: Every Saturday 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

