

Speaking of food, there were many wonderful things to eat. We had salads, Swedish meatballs, some delicious Asian dishes (I unfortunately do not know the names of) and some “killer” brownies made by Judy.

Miriam made the rounds keeping our wine glasses topped off and she also served some tasty shrimp hor’s d’oeveurs early in the evening.

Ajar did a short session of Table topics so people who hadn’t been exposed to Toastmasters yet could experience what this is all about. There were some entertaining questions and answers.

Susan Waynellovich, our area 25 governor, was on hand to perform an officer induction ceremony. She had us stand up on the entryway, overlooking the living room and each of us was asked, in turn, to uphold the officer duties. (We didn’t have a gavel on hand, so Susan improvised with a ladle instead!). (One could say we showed our willingness “to serve” as officers).

Bill brought his acoustical guitar and an amplifier and after dinner he performed some terrific rhythm and blues numbers including those by artists such as Roy Orbison. Bill kept us thoroughly entertained for close to an hour. Hats off to Bill for filling our evening with great music!

The evening was a thoroughly enjoyable dinner party. Please thank Miriam, John and Omer for so graciously letting us into their home and enjoying such a pleasant evening with them!



(Newly Elected: Left-to-Right: Kevin (Sergeant-at-Arms, Judy (Treasurer), Ken (V.P. – Pub. Relations), Susan (Area Gov.), Bill (V.P. - Membership) and Ajar (President). (Missing is Ron, VP of Education and Mifi, Secretary).



Fred and Homa's husband, Huisman (sp.?) engaged in dialogue. (Fred demonstrating his good Toastmaster listening skills).



John (Miriam's husband) and Harvey (Judy's spouse) posing for the camera.



Judy, getting in her song request to Bill, with host Miriam behind her..



Bill, plucking the strings and singing a tune...🎵



After the table has cleared....



Enjoying a delicious meal.....



(Left-to-Right: Gina (Fred's spouse), John (Miriam's husband), Omer (Miriam and John's son), Bill, Kevin and Kevin's wife, Kathy)



Contributed by Judy Levine:

WORDS MATTER

Our world is more complex than in any time in human history, way too complex for ordinary human beings. In the workplace, most of us must convey ideas to other people. Responsible voters read and listen to candidates' words and try to understand propositions (imagine eyes rolling). We and our families have complicated issues to resolve: who does what in the home, the cost of college, our children's preparation for adult lives, the small print in contracts, and, oh, my goodness, we mustn't forget healthcare.

Toastmaster's Words Of The Day are a magnificent opportunity for all of us to thoughtfully increase our command of English, both with regard to meaning and pronunciation. And the words should be those on the periphery of our everyday speech: ones we've heard before but aren't sure what they mean or some we recognize when we read them but have never used them in a sentence ourselves.

A rich vocabulary is **POWER!** It also increases **UNDERSTANDING** and **SENSITIVITY** to our and other people's feeling and to **NATURE**. We can all benefit from taking the **WORD OF THE DAY** seriously, thinking about it before the meeting, rolling it around on our tongues to try it out, and using it again later. Our words are treasures such like gold coin discovered on a sunken pirate ship. Let's get them out into the light and let the sun shine on them.



Contributed by Warren Howes:

BEING A SPEAKER TAKES COURAGE!

It is no fun to work 3 hours on a speech and when you present it go over BY 3 lousy seconds. However, TM time limit rules are made for a reason so that the whole club can abide by a schedule to finish on time. [Not to mention honing or sharpening your own personal development].

Yes, Life is hard...and not always fair or within our timing. Have you ever waited for weeks to see a fantastic movie only to arrive at the theater at the allotted advertized newspaper time to find that theater management decided to run a more popular movie and moved your movie to “sister” theater across town. I have had that happen more than once-----GROAN.

The courage YOU need is provided by Toastmasters. We learn to find something “positive” out of TM challenging situations in spite of all the adversity and anguish, which are part of human existence. But that does not mean “missing the mark” or “movie” can’t be good, rewarding and enjoyable. It’s all a matter of “attitude” to standing up to some of the harsh realities of life with TM COURAGE! Why bother to talk about or look at EVERYDAY COURAGE?

Winston Churchill viewed “courage” as a starting place to loving life. He said, “Courage is the FIRST of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all the others”. Hmm...maybe courage can be a source of strength when “life” frustrates us---notice I did not say

>>> Thank you Judy and Warren for these valuable insights <<<

In other news....

We have a new member and “members-to-be”!:

Welcome Scott (member), Dick and Rob (just voted in as of January 19th). We also look forward to voting in Jenny (a recent guest) soon. (Dick and Rob will be inducted in January 26th).

A fond goodbye to two members:

Kathlina Lai, a member for 3 years, is moving to the L.A. area. Kathlina has been an active member, contest winner and past Treasurer. We wish her all the best in her career! (She said she will seek out a TM club in her new locale).

Alena Yaumenenka is also leaving the club due to work scheduling conflicts. She has delivered some thoroughly entertaining speeches. (Alena – please try to seek out a club where you can continue your speaking growth).

Inspiration:

“We have an infinite amount to learn,
both from nature and from each other” .

-John Glenn, U.S. Astronaut

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This Just In.....

(From Ron Gross, VP of Education):

"What happened at the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)?"

-- Ron Gross, VPE

January 21, 2012, Rancho Penasquitos (San Diego). Several of our Club Officers attended the Club Officer training given by District 5 leaders, and although we could have left afterwards, Judy Levine and I stayed for the entire program day. As we learned, TLI has much more to offer than just Club Officer training. In fact, you don't even have to be a club officer to attend the TLI.

You may ask, "Why would I want to attend the TLI if I'm not a club officer? What's the value?"

Reason #1: There were 19 mini-seminars (45 minutes to 2 hours) on topics such as "Making Your Message Memorable", "Empowering Your PowerPoint", "Overpowering Ahs & Ums" and "Developing Your Leadership Skills". A number of how-to's on growing and improving clubs, Youth Leadership programs, mentoring and other Toastmaster-related topics were also presented. We each attended three interesting and helpful sessions.

Reason #2: Food! Included was an expanded continental breakfast and a lunch with a great keynote speaker!

Reason #3: You get to meet the Toastmaster leaders from our District, other clubs and learn more about this great organization.

Reason #4: It's Free! It's just about the best educational value Toastmasters offers.

Too bad you missed this event this time! But it's an annual one typically in late January. So later this year in December, check the District 5 website, www.d5toastmasters.org, for the exact date, location and program content. Until then, note that there will be more seminars of interest to attend at District 5's upcoming Spring and Fall Conferences in addition to the speech and contest finals which will be held there. Information about these conferences will be sent through email and announced at our club meetings.



Your Elected (Jan – Jun 2012) Club Officers:

President – *Ajar Vashisth*

V.P of Education- *Ron Gross*

V. P. of Public Relations – *Ken Hotelling*

V.P of Membership – *Bill Bailey*

Sergeant-at-Arms – *Kevin Bostenero*

Secretary – *Mifi Stewart*

Treasurer: *Judy Levine*

Please welcome Judy and Kevin, who are new first time officers! And, of course, thank you to all officers continuing in a role or assuming a new one!

*Please contact your officers for any questions, ideas or concerns - We are here to serve **you** and to make our club the best it can be!*

*That's It for the Newsletter - Please **SERIOUSLY** consider contributing for the next installment. (Thank you to those who contributed for this newsletter!).*

