

The SLICE

BURNT TOAST

Toastmasters Club 764388

NO. 8 - FALL 2010



A New Season, A New Perspective

by Lisa Krueckl

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing executive Pam Cheema (President), Lucille Hsu (VP Membership), Connie Chong (VP Public Relations), Andy Yu (Treasurer), Rob Reid (Secretary) and Greg Vandebourne (Sgt of Arms) for all their great work on behalf of the club. It is their valuable contributions which has allowed Burnt Toast to enjoy one of its most successful years. Burnt Toast was able to achieve Select Distinguished club status for 2009-2010.

I am thrilled to take on the role of President of Burnt Toast Toastmasters this year. I have been a member of this club for almost 4 years and have watched it grow and evolve over the years. Burnt Toast is a relatively young club formed in 2005 by a group of accountants. Since that time it has evolved into a very diverse group with members from a variety of backgrounds, both personal and professional. The club has always been laid-back but professional with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. It is this diversity and welcoming environment that has been the cornerstone of our club.

Moving forward I think it is very important to maintain this energy while ensuring Burnt Toast continues to meet the needs of its members. To do this we have to engage and listen to what our member's expectations are when joining the club. Our new executives have great ideas on how to accomplish this. Now that summer holidays have passed we will start by using tools such as Survey Monkey to understand what is working well and what we can do to ensure member expectations are met. One of our goals for this year is to improve member retention. I look forward to working with the new executive team to meet the needs of the Burnt Toast membership.

In this Slice:

Message from the President

Page 1

Meet the new Executive Committee

Page 2 & 3

An Introduction to Easy Speak

Page 4

A Distinguished Club

Page 5

The Alfred Awards

Page 6

The Slice

Editor: Rosine Hage-Moussa

Meetings

Tuesdays / 5:30–6:45PM

YWCA downtown

www.burnt-toastmasters.ca

info@burnt-toastmasters.ca



Executive Committee

Lisa Krueckl
President

Pam Cheema
Past-President

Danielle Vlemmiks
VP Education

Steve Boland
VP Membership

Rosine Hage-Moussa
VP Public Relations

Susie Howson
Treasurer

Melanie Berger
Secretary

Jordan Taylor
Sargeant at Arms

Executive Ice Breaker

A Toastmaster’s journey begins with the Ice Breaker speech which is an opportunity to introduce themselves to the membership. Now that it’s time to introduce the new Executive Committee for 2010/2011, and we figured there’s no better way to get know them than by asking a few ice breaker questions! Here’s what they had to say:



I’m currently reading...

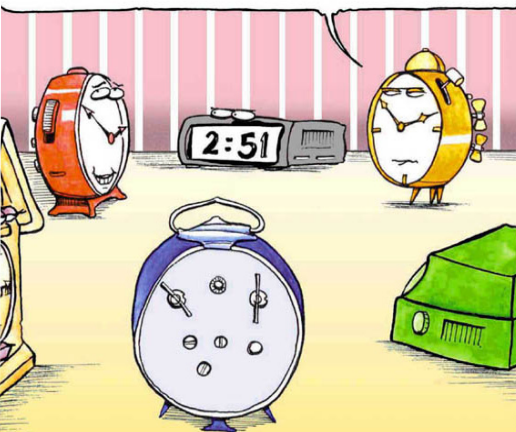
- Rosine: Cockroach by Rawi Hage
- Jordan: The Extra Man by Jonathan Ames
- Lisa: The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets Nest by Stieg Larsson
- Pam: Shantram by Gregory David Roberts
- Steve: World History
- Melanie: The Girl Who Played with Fire by Stieg Larsson

One thing you should know...

- Danielle: “I was born in Singapore”
- Rosine: “I hate bananas - a lot”
- Susie: “Everything happens for a reason!”
- Lisa: “It doesn’t really matter what others think of you, what truly matters is what you think of yourself”
- Jordan: “I love table topics!”

Continued on Page 3...

WE ARE A COMMITTEE OF CLOCKS, YOU IDIOT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU FORGOT TO RECORD THE MINUTES...?





Jordan



Melanie



Rosine



Susie

Executive Ice Breaker cont'd

I would like to try a career as....

Lisa: "A real estate mogul"

Rosine: "The owner of a French patisserie shop"

Steve: "A singer in a rock band"

Susie: "A DJ!"

Danielle: "An Ambassador for Canada working in the Consulate offices overseas"

Melanie: "An international tour guide"

My favorite green tip is...

Susie: "Don't print things unless you need to!"

Jordan: "Turn off the water when you brush your teeth - it saves 4 gallons per year."

Steve: "Please recycle everything that can be recycled."

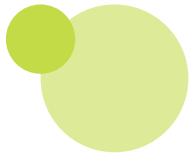
Danielle: "Drink tap water! Vancouver has safe, tasty drinking water. Bottled water is extremely wasteful, both for the planet and the wallet!"

Lisa: "Always carry a 'Rume' bag in your purse, they fold small and can hold a lot."

Melanie: "Going somewhere? Walk."



We Burnt Toast Toastmasters sure love our pub nights!



Pam



Steve



Danielle



Lisa

Burnt Toast Goes High-Tech!



Burnt Toast recently switched to an online automated system called Easy Speak to help our club organize its meetings and members more efficiently. Our new President, Lisa Krueckl, gives us a lesson below...

This spring our club moved to an on-line scheduling system called Easy-Speak (www.easy-speak.org). After reviewing the various free websites offered through the Toastmasters International website, Easy-Speak was chosen mainly for its functionality. It was the most intuitive system which offered features that would closely mimic how the club currently did its scheduling. While it took a bit of work to set up the system, it has noticeably decreased the amount of work the VP of Education has to do to create the monthly schedule. Our previous scheduling system was time intensive to schedule members, as each member was manually entered into the system each month, often requiring several steps per person. Now, each member helps with the scheduling by entering their availability directly into the system.

There are a number of benefits to using this new scheduling system:

- Members can update their availability directly into the system.
- It's easier to update what the actual meeting attendance and roles were.
- The chair person can make adjustments to the schedule directly into the system.
- The meeting schedule is automatically created by the scheduling program therefore there is no longer the need to manually create one.
- Previously, if members of the executive wanted to follow members' speech progress the VP of Education would have to manually create to distribute it to the club. Now everyone has access to this information online
- Once a speech has been requested, there is no longer the need to re-enter the request into the system as it remains active until completed.
- The site provides lots of helpful tips for roles, word of the day etc.

There are also a number of features which this system offers that the club does not currently take advantage of. For example, there is an online discussion forum that only club members have access to as well as group email ability. We hope to take advantage of the many features in the future as everyone gets more comfortable using the program.

Tips on how to use the new system can be found on the website www.easy-speak.org. Any questions about the website and its functionality should be directed to the President or VP Education.

www.easy-speak.org

Don't forget about pub night....

We Burnt Toast Toastmasters like to enjoy a nice cold one here and there so we figured - why not make it a regular event?

Every third Tuesday of the month is pub night and we love having all of our past, present and future club members join us!

Check our [Facebook](#) page to find out where the next pub night will take place or email info@burnt-toastmasters.ca.



Oh Yes! And We're Distinguished Too!

Burnt Toast is pleased to announce that we have recently earned Select Distinguished Club status for 2009/2010!

Every June, Toastmasters clubs all over the world have to submit a report which includes information like the number of members, the number of manuals completed and which officers have completed the Toastmasters International training programs. Clubs which achieve five of the ten set goals become Distinguished Clubs and clubs with seven goals achieved become Select Distinguished Clubs. Any club that completes nine of the ten goals becomes a President's Distinguished Club.

Burnt Toast had an amazing year completing seven goals thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members and support from the Executive Committee. We're looking forward to another big year and hope to one day earn the President's Distinguished Club status!

Here's how we did it:

	GOAL	ACTUAL	ACHIEVED
[1] CCs	2	2	*
[2] Additional CCs	2	2	*
[3] ACs	1	0	
[4] Additional ACs	1	0	
[5] CL, AL, or DTM	1	1	*
[6] Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	1	*
[7] New Members	4	4	*
[8] Additional New Members	4	14	*
[9] Officers Trained (both required)			
June-August	4	2	
and December-February	4	3	
[10] Submitted on time (both required)			
October or April Renewal	1	2	
and Officer List	1	1	*
Total Goals Achieved To-Date:			7

Congratulations to the following members on completing their Competent Communicator (CC) manuals: Julie Toh, Connie Chong, Vikki Cheng and Laurel Swenson; and congratulations to Rob Reid and David Swetlow for completing the Competent Leadership (CL) and Advanced Leadership (AL) manuals, respectively.

In addition, thanks to all of our past, present and future members for your support and commitment to program and for helping us boost our membership count.

Finally, thank you to the 2009/2010 Executive Committee for committing to the training programs and ensuring we are indeed recognized as a Select Distinguished Club!

We asked some of our members what they have learned and to give us their tips on how to make the most of the TM experience:

“Our progress towards becoming better public speakers is an ongoing process requiring consistent attendance.”

“Besides attending meetings regularly, take a role in each meeting.”

“Bring your CL manual with you to meetings-you get credit every time you do a role!”

“Focus on a different challenge for each speech.”

“Speaking is one thing you get better at by doing it!”

“Every member wants to help each other become a better speaker and leader, by offering insightful evaluations.”

“Public speaking is applicable to daily life.”

“It’s okay to make mistakes; with a supportive audience you can learn a lot faster than on your own.”

The Alfred Awards

By Rob Reid

This spring Burnt Toast held the 2nd annual Alfred Awards - named after Alfred Kwong, a founding member of the club. Hollywood has the Oscars. Theatre has the Tony’s. We have the Alfreds. Alfred was renowned for his quirky sense of humour and came up with name Burnt Toast. Alfred made a special appearance at the meeting and delivered an amusing and inspiring speech commending the club for its continued success in developing the speaking skills of its members. Julie Toh was awarded the Alfred for most speeches based on the record speed of her progress through the CC manual. Pam Cheema received the People’s Choice award for outstanding contribution to the club as selected by a poll of the club members.

The highlight of the night was the Hall of Fame award presented to Henry Rutgers by Rob Reid. Henry Rutgers was the first President of Burnt Toast. Many Toastmasters clubs don’t survive their first year and Henry deserves enormous credit for leading Burnt Toast through its early months and laying the foundation for the thriving club that we have today. Henry continued to participate on the club Executive and completed his CC and CL designations. In 2009 Henry retired from Burnt Toast for a most Canadian reason - the time conflicted with his son’s hockey games. We were privileged to have Henry in attendance to receive his award. Henry said that before joining Burnt Toast he had “never been President of anything” and that the club was a great opportunity to develop leadership skills.

We now have two members in the Burnt Toast Hall of Fame - Henry and Alfred. As the club matures we look forward to continuing this tradition and to future editions of the Alfred Awards.



Pam Cheema receives the People’s choice award.

