



# Diplomatic Dispatch

A Publication of Diplomatic Toastmasters, Evanston, Illinois

Club 4378, District 30

Building Bridges Through Communication

Vol. XV Issue 1 July 2005

## 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*Committee Needed to Plan Party*

By Louise Cavira, CTM  
V.P. Public Relations

In March 2006, Diplomatic Toastmasters will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and whether or not the Club will celebrate in style will depend on advance planning and preparation. Of course, such a special event cannot be organized by one or a few individuals alone. If we are going to have a great big birthday party, we are going to need the "C" word – a Committee.

### The More the Merrier

We have heard the saying many times because it is true. The more people who help in organizing the party, the more fun it will be for everyone. As in a meeting, you can help in various ways and in a capacity you feel comfortable. For example, help will be needed in sending invitations and decorating the banquet hall. Actually, help is needed now in finding places to hold the celebration.

The first committee meeting will take place in August, date and location to be determined.

So if you are brimming with ideas and want to help plan a great party, either shoot me an email at [LJCavira@yahoo.com](mailto:LJCavira@yahoo.com) or give me a call at

(773) 844-4657. ❖

## First Meeting of the Year Announces Winners

*Club and Members Receive Awards*

We had a special July 11th meeting for several reasons. Rhonda Craven, our Sgt.-At-Arms and the new North Division Governor for District 30, announced that Diplomatic Toastmasters received the Select Distinguished Club Award for 2004-2005.

Not an easy feat, club awards are determined by several factors, including educational accomplishments achieved, such as CTMs (Competent Toastmasters), CLs (Competent Leaders) and ATMs (Advanced Toastmasters). Rhonda also shared that Diplomatic is one of the exemplary clubs in District 30. Congratulations to those members who have completed their educational goals.

**Steve Frederick, ATM-B**

**Terri Heath, CL**

**Rhonda Craven, (additional) CTM**

**Peter Merkle, CTM**

**Louise Cavira, CTM**

Shari Woods, our 2004-2005 outgoing President, announced the winners of the Special Recognition Awards. Each winner received a Panera gift certificate.

**Toastmaster of the Year: Tamara Lewis**

**Best Prepared Speaker: Peter Merkle**

**Spark Plug Award: Louise Cavira**

**Most Missed Member: Stuart Jamesse**

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who voted.

## Diplomatic Toastmasters

Meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Second Baptist Church

1717 Benson Avenue

Evanston, Illinois

*Summer Schedule:*

*No meetings on the 1st Monday of the Month*

Visit our website @

<http://www.geocities.com/diplomatictm>



TOASTMASTER  
SPOTLIGHT:  
LINDA  
GRAHAM

As of this past April, Linda has been a member of Diplomatic Toastmasters for 10 years, in which she has served as an officer several times and achieved an Advanced Toastmaster – Bronze. As one of our long-standing members, it is fitting that Linda be our first Toastmaster Spotlight.

What are some of your favorite moments as a Toastmaster?

When I got my first CTM, everyone clapped and some even stood when I finished my speech. I also like watching people get their CTMs and ATMs, and hearing fellow club members win division contests.

What club offices have you held, if any, and which did you enjoy more?

Secretary and Sergeant At Arms. I liked being Sergeant At Arms better.

What is your best speech?

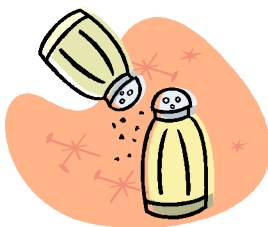
My best speech was about honoring my father who had passed away. It was a very familiar topic, and I could express a lot of emotion when I was talking about him. I usually have a hard time showing emotion.

What advice do you have for your fellow Toastmasters?

Make reasonable goals for yourself. Be supportive of yourself and others. Remember that everyone is a unique individual with their own assets and develops at their own pace. ❖

### Spice Up Your Vocabulary With

#### caesura



*\sih-ZHUR-uh; -ZUR-\, noun*  
Any break, pause, or interruption.

EXAMPLE: Say her name today in the right circles and you'll notice a sudden intake of breath, a **caesura** of pure awe.



### Diplomatic's Newest Members

**Kelly Huseby**

**Xiaolin Wang**

### Thought of the Issue

*Submitted by Steve Frederick, ATM-B*

Tony Robbins, the popular author and motivational speaker, said,

"In my seminars, people often asked me, 'How long will it take for me to master this particular skill?' My immediate response is, 'How long do you want it to take?' If you take action ten times a day, while other people act on a new skill once month, you'll have ten months of experience in a day, you'll soon master the skill, and will, ironically probably be considered "talented and lucky."

"I became an excellent public speaker because rather than once a week, I booked myself to speak three times a day to anyone who would listen. While others in the organization had 48 speaking engagements in a year, I would have a similar number within two weeks. Within a month, I would have two years of experience. My associates talked about how "lucky" I was to be born with such "innate" talent, but mastery takes as long as you want it to take.

"By the way, were all of my speeches great? Far from it! But I did make sure that I learned from every experience until very soon I could enter a room of any size and reach people from virtually all walks of life."



*Toastmasters gather for a group picture at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Amanda Hopkins, a missed member, stands at the lectern.*

## Messages from Missed Members

Another reason why our July 11th meeting was special is Amanda Hopkins, a former Diplomatic Toastmaster of the Year who had achieved her CTM in the previous summer before moving to L.A. Before her visit back to Chicago, she had sent a message updating us with her life in Sunny California. Ciara Ennis, another Diplomatic Toastmaster who joined us in October 2004, had to leave for California without much notice in mid-June to take on an exciting new career opportunity. Ciara's farewell, as well as Amanda's update follow in this section.

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To everyone at Diplomatic Toastmasters:

I have really enjoyed being a member of this club and have benefited greatly from all of you. The warmth, friendship, and camaraderie expressed by all has made me feel extremely comfortable and welcome, it has also helped me to overcome my speaking in public phobia--each and everyone of you have made this possible and for this I am forever grateful. I will be joining a club in Riverside as soon as I get settled; I just hope it can match the professionalism, effectiveness, and generous nature of our Diplomatic Club.

I will miss you all very much, thank you once again for all your help.

Very warm regards from your faithful lip-smacker,  
Ciara Ennis

PS - I'll send reports from the Riverside club

Fellow Toastmasters,

Greetings from Hollywood! When Louise asked me to fill you in on how I've been since moving to California 10 months ago, I thought, "How can I possibly describe what it's been like?" Living in Hollywood is like living in an adult version of Disneyland, without the rides. There are star attractions that draw long lines, there are people dressed up as fictional characters roaming the streets and there are tourists everywhere. I finally realized I had become immune to the strangeness of it all when I saw Batman walking down my street and thought NOTHING of it! Although, I must admit that I still stop in amazement every time I glance up to see the Hollywood sign looming in the mountains.

I am happy to report that I have enjoyed my adventure out West thus far. About two months after arriving in California, I landed a job as a corporate writer for the California Association of REALTORS®. The work has been fantastic. I recently had several feature articles published in the Association's magazine, California Real Estate, and it was a thrill to see my name in print. When I'm not working, I take advantage of the beautiful weather as much as possible. Hiking up Runyon Canyon, which leads to a breathtaking view of the city, has become one of my favorite workouts.

While I do not regret taking a gamble to move several thousand miles away from home, I will always be a Chicagoan at heart. There are many things I desperately miss, especially my friends and family. (Not to mention Chicago-style pizza, the Cubs, Michigan Avenue, and everything else that makes Chicago such a great city!) Terri has kept me posted on the wonderful meetings Diplomatic conducts, and I can't wait to stop by and visit you all some day soon.

Warm regards,  
Amanda Hopkins, CTM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, September 12, 2005**

### Diplomatic Club Speech Contests

Members of all levels are eligible to compete in the Humorous Speech and Speech Evaluation contests. Sign up with Shari Woods, our V.P. Education.

**Tuesday, August 16, 2005**

### North Division Make-up Officer Training

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Allstate West Plaza, 3100 Sanders Rd., Northbrook, Illinois. Training is FREE for both officers and non-officers.

## 2005-2006 OFFICERS

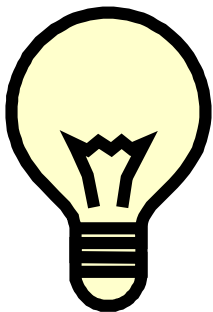
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Tamara Lewis, CTM</b>
<b>V.P. EDUCATION</b>	<b>Shari Woods, CTM/CL</b>
<b>V.P. MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>Wendy Huang</b>
<b>V.P. PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>	<b>Louise Cavira, CTM</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Terri S. Heath, CTM/CL</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Sebastian Kazmierczak</b>
<b>SGT. AT ARMS</b>	<b>Rhonda Craven, ATM-S/CL</b>

## OTHER NEWS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August 1<sup>st</sup> – Peter Merkle

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Shari Woods



*Have a great idea  
to share?*

Submit your ideas  
to the *Diplomatic  
Dispatch*.

For submission  
guidelines, contact  
Louise Cavira, Editor

## Four Dimensions of Selecting a Great Topic

One of the challenges of speechmaking is selecting a topic that will interest our audience. Here are guidelines taken from a workshop at the Winter 2004 Training & Leadership Institute that was presented by Nashunda Harper, first place winner of the 2004 District 30 International Speech Contest.

### ***Choose a topic with a universal theme***

A topic which many people can relate to, such as the fear of public speaking, the anxiety to file taxes around April 15<sup>th</sup> and the warmth of friendship, grabs people's attention.

### ***Use personal stories or reference***

Sharing a personal experience, for example, about your family, profession or hobby creates rapport with the audience, and working in reference material, such as statistics, builds your credibility as a speaker.

### ***Show relevance of your point to the universal topic***

Tie your personal stories or reference with your universal topic. If your theme is how music uplifts the soul, then you will want to share with the audience your experiences caroling with family, belting out a favorite tune with your buddies, and bursting into song at church.

### ***Be creative and think outside of the box***

Ask yourself what you can do to make your speech come alive. Should you use props to emphasize ideas, or wear a costume to add humor, or utilize body language to speak for you when words aren't enough?

This last tip may be a bit daunting, because in order to express ourselves well, we will have to step outside of our comfort zone. Woody Allen gives encouragement when he said "If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative."

*In the next issue:*

*"Taking the Terror Out of Speaking"*