

## The Vision

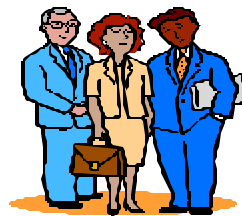
Volume 1, Issue 1

### Club President's report



One of the educational requirements for getting the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) diploma in toastmasters, is to either start a new toastmasters club, or help resuscitate a failing club. I chose to do the former; the result is our NIH Evening Speakers TM club! Now we are 22 years young and 27 members strong! Our first meeting was held in January of 1982, a demonstration meeting to attract and recruit possible new members interested in improving their speaking skills. It was a snowy, wintry night, but the turnout at the Kensington Fire Station meeting room was excellent. Many experienced toastmasters from the daytime NIH toastmasters club participated in the demonstration meeting and subsequently joined our club as dual members. We obtained our club charter in March of that year. Our initial name was Kensington TM club. Our 20 charter members required to start a new club consisted of toastmasters from the NIH daytime club and other members, including many of my relatives in this area and naval officers from the Naval Hospital, Bethesda. Our meeting room was noisy! Fire trucks with sirens used to rush out *ad nauseum*

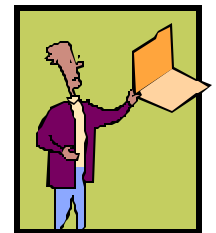
After the meetings, some of us regularly gathered in the nearby Sarma residence, for pizza and beer. In the initial stages of our club, there were so many couples, we could have named our club 'Couples TM Club'! My wife Raji, a member of the daytime NIH club, was also a charter member of our club. She obtained her CTM from our club, served as the first Vice President for Education and served subsequently as Club President. Some of our club presidents in the early years were charter members Kent Bailey, Joyce Forsythe, Fran Roark, Nancy and her husband Bill Cherry, Gil Wright Jr. and his wife Diane Rose. We physically moved our meeting place to NIH in 1985 and renamed our club with our present name, NIH Evening Speakers TM Club.



Some of our club members attained notable distinction in toastmasters. Nancy Cherry dual member, who at one time served as the Dean of the Toastmaster Institute, Gil Wright, Jr. dual member, who led the NIH daytime toastmasters club to one of the top 10 TM clubs in the

world in 1984, and served as our Division Governor in the mid eighties.

Steve Shaffer, a bachelor toastmaster with a keen sense of dry humor, remained a loyal member of our club for over 10 years, and served as club president. He passed away unexpectedly in 1997. We dearly miss him!



A few years ago we acquired a few enthusiastic and dedicated members from the Bethesda Chevy Chase Club, which ceased to function. They are Ron Robinson, David Clarke and Fred Solomon. Neal Meyerson and Martha Matocha transferred from the NIH daytime club in the early nineties. They have served as club president of both the daytime NIH and our Evening Speakers clubs.

Our high standards in speaking and carrying out toastmaster functions are set and followed by members with solid experience and standing. This good mix of experienced toastmasters and enthusiastic new members has continued to be our strength and has been vital to our success and growth as a club devoted to mutual help and educational

growth of every member. We especially welcome members from other countries and always enjoy learning about their backgrounds and accomplishments through their "Icebreaker" speeches.

One of our members, Mirlene Andre, who did an outstanding job as Vice President for Education, recently joined the Peace Corps to serve in Gambia. She credits Toastmasters with helping her achieve this longstanding goal. Other toastmasters have credited their club experience with helping them present formal toasts, give eulogies, and communicate better with their coworkers and supervisors.



We have won many ribbons, been recognized many times as a Distinguished TM Club and our members have won speech/evaluation/table topics contests at various levels! We emphasize the use of humor in public speaking. Members enjoy coming to the meetings! We take pride in being a member of our club and look forward to a bright future!

Padman Sarma, DTM  
Club President

Springtime is the land awakening.  
The March winds are the morning yawn.

-Lewis Grizzard

## Welcome New Members

Guy Durant  
Newma Hawkins



### Calendar Events

It is about time to pay your semi-annual dues \$21. Make your check payable to NIH Evening Speakers Club.

#### Upcoming Contests:

- ✦ Club—March 9
- ✦ Area—March 11 at GEICO  
For detail, please go to <http://www.district36.org/areas/a35.html>
- ✦ Division—April 22

**District 36 Spring Conference** will take place on May 15, 2004 at the Silver Spring Hilton.



#### Meetings

- ✓ March 9, March 23,  
April 6, April 20
- ✓ from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- ✓ @ NIH  
Medical Board Room 2C1116  
Building 10 (ACRF)  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20872

### Club Officers

President	Padman Sarma
VP, Education	Rashid Nimale
Secretary	Shekhar Tamasker
Treasurer	Jeff Cohen
VP, Public Relations	Sherrie Lu
VP, Membership	Anna Fong
Sergeant at Arm	Gail Sullivan



### From the Editor

Dear Fellow Toastmasters,

It is exciting to publish this newsletter. I am hoping *the Vision* becomes informative, useful, and valuable to all of you. In order for *the Vision* to serve its purpose, I wish to call for ideas, jokes, papers, volunteers, or personal/event announcements. For next issue, the due day is April 25. Finally, thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

*Sherrie H. Lu, CTM*

