



WESTERN WAFFLE

The newsletter of Western Gourmet Toastmasters Club February 2010

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

Friday night saw the Area 13 International Speech and Evaluation Contest held at Prosperos Restaurant and what a great night it was with 62 people in attendance to savor the entertainment of 2 contests and some scrumptious food. Congratulations to Ron Marriott Area 13 Governor and a Western Gourmet member for a very successful night.

Lyndal Eager was Western Gourmets contestant in both contests and did us proud, congratulations Lyndal on representing our club so well, you did an excellent job in both contests.

Juliet Lara (from Winners Circle) won the International Speech contest and Sam Ekinici (Parramatta) was the runner up. David Griffiths representing Parramatta was victorious in the Evaluation contest whilst Jodi Robertson of Winners Circle was runner up.

If you can come along to the Western Division Contest on March 21 at Blacktown Workers Club I'm sure you will be in for a great afternoon's entertainment.

Club update. Your Club is on track to be, once again, Distinguished or better. So far at this "early" stage we have 25 members (we started with 25 on July 1) and have 5 goals so we are looking good for the 2009/2010 DCP at the end of June. Thank you to our Executive but most importantly our members for making us such a "Healthy" and "Active" District 70 club.

Our next meeting, Theme: Going for Gold, will be a special meeting as it is Gary and Elizabeth's 50th wedding Anniversary so hope you can attend. If you are coming bring or wear something that is gold (colour or the real thing) if you can.

Until the next meeting on March 12 have a safe and happy time.

Best Regards,
John Taylor
President


Meeting: 130

Theme: It's Magic
MC: Michael Said
Venue: Prosperos Restaurant 310 Church St Parramatta
Date: 12/2/2010

There was much anticipation in the air for this contest meeting. Sgt At Arms, Ron Marriott, called the meeting to order and introduced our President John Taylor who welcomed us to this contest meeting followed by Secretary Geoff Henson who gave the apologies.

John introduced our newest member Jessica King to the club. Jessica gave her first address as a member of the club and received a warm welcome from members. VPE Elizabeth Wilson presented program changes followed by MC for the evening Michael Said.

MC Michael Said introduced the agenda and set the scene for the meetings assignments. Michael commenced the magic show by nominating Ian Chick as a volunteer. Michael produced a bow saw and after explaining the trick to the audience asked Ian "Do you have any questions?" to which Ian replied "I have a suggestion..."



Michael is an incomparable magician as demonstrated when Ian was still in one piece after the bow saw had not left Michael's hands or gone anywhere near Ian's body. Michael exclaimed proudly, "That is one of my best tricks that I have done!"

Next the round robin – "The Magic in my Life" – there were a variety of different and original answers and much humour indicating that the magic is alive and well at Western Gourmet!

The Welcome was conducted by Julie Ackroyd who warmly welcomed our visitors Tara Brady, Jenny Bolton and Robyn Peck to the meeting. Joan Abela gave a toast to honour the famous magician Harry Houdini.

Contest Chairman Michael Said read out the speaking order for the Evaluation Contest followed by Chief Judge Lynne Harris who gave us an inspirational monologue on the contest and emphasizing "It's a Team Effort". Speaking order: Wendy Nielsen, Ian Lipski, Jessica King, Lance Carter, Lyndal Eager. Target Speaker: Jenny Bolton. After the contest each contestant was presented with a certificate of participation and a short interview with Michael Said.

A break was called for dinner. Dinner at Prosperos is always excellent and this evening was no exception. During dinner various Toastmaster "magicians" demonstrated their magical prowess by performing magic tricks to entertain and astound the audience. One by one they took the stage – Michael Said, Joan Abela, Ron Marriott, Jessica King and Gary Wilson, just to name a few, all engaging and interacting with the audience. Gary amazed everyone with his superb sleight of hand during a card trick.

Ron called the meeting back to order and introduced Contest Chairman Michael Said. Michael read out the speaking order for the International Speech Contest: Lyndal Eager, David Moore, Greg Harris, Ian Lipski, Jessica King. After the contest each contestant was presented with a certificate of participation and a short interview with Michael Said.

While the judges were collating the results of the contests we experienced the magic of Prosperos deserts to finish off the dinner combined with more magic tricks performed for the audience by the enthusiastic Toastmaster Magicians. David Moore presented a very complicated game using numbers.

Gary Wilson presented the next meeting promotion for "Going for Gold" which coincides with the Golden Wedding Anniversary of two of our charter members! Gary and Elizabeth Wilson, to be held on Friday 12 March 2010, at "Sicilian Restaurant", 292 Church St Parramatta commencing at 7.30 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

Chief Judge, Lynne Harris, enthusiastically announced the results of the contests:

<u>Evaluation Contest:</u>	<u>International Speech Contest:</u>
1 st Lyndal Eager	1 st Lyndal Eager
RunnerUp Jessica King	RunnerUp Jessica King

Contest Chairman Michael Said thanked all the contest officials, congratulated the contestants and thanked the audience before making closing remarks. President John Taylor congratulated the contestants and winners and reiterated Michael's comments before summing up and closing the meeting. What a great meeting, jam packed full of magic, excitement and fun!!!

[Quotable Waffle](#)

"woof! woof!" – Geoff Henson responding to Ron's request for Geoff to sit during the call to order.

"If these are your sunglasses please collect them, if not, then don't" – Ron announcing lost sunglasses from the previous meeting

Michael Said, confirming that Ian Chick understands his (Ian's) role and the bow saw's function in Michael's magic trick "Do you have any questions?" to which Ian replied "I have a suggestion..."

"That is one of my best tricks that I have done!" - Michael exclaiming proudly after Ian is still in one piece after the bow saw had not left Michael's hands or gone anywhere near Ian's body.



“It’s a Team Effort” - Chief Judge Lynne Harris during her inspirational monologue when introducing the contest

“Let the Contest Begin!” – Contest Chairman Michael Said commencing the contest

“The smartest man in the room is Geoff Henson” – Michael Said complimenting Geoff

“Flattery will not get you anywhere” – Geoff Henson responding to Michael’s compliment

“We like smart people in our club” – Geoff Henson commenting on Jessica King’s card trick

“Pick me!” – Geoff Henson asking to be picked as the volunteer for Gary Wilson’s card trick

“This is the trick I was going to do...” – Joan Abela pointing out the magic trick she was going to do

“It’s been so long since I’ve done this trick I’ve forgotten...” – Ron Marriott after realizing that he’s forgotten the magic trick

Geoff Henson to Ron **“Did you stuff up?”** – Ron Marriott to Geoff **“Yes!!”**

Tips & Techniques

As if They Were His Own

Former Toastmaster finds courage to transform the world’s orphanages.

Special Note: This story appeared in the *Toastmaster* magazine before the recent earthquake hit Haiti. Jim Luce has reported that the children and Orphans International Worldwide orphanage near Jacmel, Haiti, are safe.

By Julie Bawden Davis

Caption: Jim Luce, with youngsters in a Haiti orphanage. The former Toastmaster heads up Orphans International Worldwide.

For Jim Luce, a trip to Indonesia to help a friend changed his own life. On a drive through the countryside in 1995, the former Wall Street investor made a fateful visit to an orphanage.

“I’m not sure why I stopped, but I felt compelled to do so,” says Luce. “The facility was clean but visibly struggling with poverty. There were six volunteers to care for 200 children.”

One of those children, a 10-month-old boy, stood up in his crib and reached out his arms when he saw Luce. “It was incredible,” says Luce. “Energy flowed between us, and it was as if he was saying, ‘I’m your child.’ I fell madly in love instantly.” Right then and there, Luce decided to adopt the child, whom he named Mathew. Nine months later he took the boy home to New York City.

As excited as he was about adopting Mathew, Luce felt haunted by the other 199 orphans he had left behind. After telling his mother, a child psychologist, about his feelings, she suggested he stop complaining and do something about it.

Taking Action

Today, Luce credits Toastmasters for giving him the direction and courage to make his dream a reality. He heads up the New York City-based nonprofit Orphans International Worldwide, which has opened orphanages around the world in countries such as Haiti, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The group’s mission is to help orphaned and abandoned children grow to become solid citizens of the world, and its basic principle is simple: Everyone involved in the organization must treat each child in their care as if he or she were their own.

Luce was a member of the Roosevelt Island Toastmasters in New York City from 2001 to 2008. Linda Stanley, a Chicago-based officer of Orphans International as well as a past member of the Roosevelt Island Toastmasters, says the speaking and negotiation skills Luce acquired in Toastmasters help him on a regular basis.

“Jim is very positive and animated when he speaks, and he inspires confidence while sharing difficult issues facing orphans,” Stanley says. “For instance, he is in Sri Lanka today writing for the Huffington Post from

personal interviews he is doing with children's aid workers from the civil war conflict zone. His speaking and listening skills are carrying him through these challenging discussions."

Luce ran the organization while working on Wall Street, but in 2004, when Northern Indonesia was devastated by an offshore earthquake that created the deadly Indian Ocean tsunami, the need for orphanages skyrocketed.

"Two weeks after the 2004 tsunami, I was in Indonesia standing in the mud trying to figure out what to do with all of the orphans," he says. "We found a village that wasn't hurt, talked to the village elders and got them to agree to build a project there." During that trip he realized that he could no longer divide his loyalty between Wall Street and helping orphans, so he made a life-altering decision to quit work and donate all of his money, including his 401K, to Orphans International.

Initially, Luce created orphanages from small homes that could house four children. While these were successful, he eventually found that a full-care model works better in many countries. Such a system incorporates extended family caretakers in a community-center setting that includes vocational training for the caretakers so that they can theoretically afford to pay for the children in the future. Health support is also offered, as well as computer literacy and English language training.

Learning Compassion Early

Born and raised in Ohio, Luce was – not surprisingly – the type of kid who picked up stray animals; his first was a mutt that he got from the animal shelter when he was 7. Both of his parents were highly active in social change: His father led protests against the Vietnam War and was involved in Habitat for Humanity, while his mother was a leader in the Civil Rights movement.

When asked what keeps him motivated, Luce says, "To know these children when they come into Orphans International – often in poor physical and emotional health – and see them year after year, growing into happy, well-adjusted individuals, is my greatest reward."

For more information about Orphans International Worldwide, visit www.oiwv.org. The James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation www.lucefoundation.org funds the administration of orphanages. For information about Jim Luce, visit www.jimluce.com.

Julie Bawden Davis is a freelance writer based in Southern California and a longtime contributor to the *Toastmaster*. You can reach her at Julie@JulieBawdenDavis.com.

Condensed from "As if They Were His Own," published in the December 2009 issue of the *Toastmaster*.

(This article is from the Toastmasters International website)

Coming Events

Western Gourmet meeting #131 – 12 March, 2010
Venue: "Sicilian Restaurant" 292 Church St Parramatta
Theme: "Going for Gold" - coinciding with the Golden Wedding Anniversary of two of our charter members, Gary and Elizabeth Wilson
Time: 7.30pm

Western Division International & Evaluation Contests: 21 March
Venue: Blacktown Workers Club, Campbell St, Blacktown
Time: 11am briefing 12pm start

Western Gourmet meeting #132 – 9 April, 2010
Venue and Theme: TBA
Time: 7.30pm

Editor: Ian Lipski

Publisher: John Taylor

www.parramattatm.org.au/westerngourmet

Please contact Ian Lipski if you have news, articles or items of interest for your Waffle: ILipski@bigpond.net.au