

**ANDHERI ORATORS TOASTMASTERS
CLUB NEWSLETTER | ISSUE NO. 1**

ODYSSEY

A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

#PRIDEISSUE

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL®

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

-EDREANA VAZ

“Be so good they can’t ignore you” - Steve Martin

Andheri Orators Toastmasters Club (or as we fondly call it, AOTM) is symbolic of the above quote. From our charter meet on August 26, 2019 to our 75th meeting today - June 27, 2021; every member, every meeting and every act representing our club has been so good that we mark our presence wherever we go. Driven by creativity and charisma, our club continues to empower its diverse members in ways best suited to their communication and leadership needs.

”

BE SO GOOD THEY
CAN'T IGNORE YOU

“

Internalizing the values of supportive ambition and impactful stewardship, we have witnessed significant development in our members that has aided them personally and professionally. Our goal is to make Toastmasters a lifestyle, wherein as individuals we grow to be leaders who, in addition to known skills, use the power of communication to influence change for a better community.

The year 2020-2021 was unprecedented in ways yet fulfilling. Our club exceed everyone’s expectations and here are some highlights:

- Club to achieve President’s Distinguished status in the shortest time of the term and achieve the Diamond club award**
- Adoption of social nights to unwind and break the zoom monotony**
- Member participation and enthusiasm which ensured great meetings, marathons and maximum contestants for contests**

Thank you all for bringing your energy, commitment and zeal to each and every meeting! It was a privilege to serve as your President this year.

For those of you reading this address as a non-AOTM Toastmaster/ guest, we would love for you to visit our club. You will find a warm and welcoming community of people, wherein everyone is vested in your growth and will help you maximize your potential!

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much” - Helen Keller



AREA DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

-SUNITA VINOD

"I didn't know where I was going but I was going to go anyways"

- Anonymous

And thus, started my journey as the Area Director for area S5. My start was a little bumpy as it was a brand-new division and it took almost a month to finalise the alignment and realignment and what not... By the time I was given my clubs I had already lost a few weeks into the term.

”

I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS GOING, BUT I WAS GOING TO GO ANYWAYS.

“

I remember telling myself of how I lost precious time in connecting with the club members especially because we were online. I mean, in-person connection as compared to virtual ones are much better, isn't it? Wrong! After I was handed over my clubs, I connected with them instantly and though I consider all my clubs 'Shining Stars' one who shined the fastest was Andheri Orators a.k.a AOTM.

Camaraderie, a much recently introduced word in my vocabulary was in all sense seen at AOTM. The ex-com here are leaders but they lead with compassion & they lead by not standing opposite to their members but they stand in front WITH THEM.

I got the opportunity learn from 2 terms of ex-com and they all were extraordinary leaders. With Snehal & Edreana who led the team this term in an exemplary way, I am sure Poornima will fit right in to their shoes as well. This is a journey where the path has been created and every term they improvise. Thankyou AOTM once again for all the love and affection showered upon me and let me tell you this... I am not going ANYWHERE 😊



VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

-SANCHIT DIGHE

The members of Andheri Orators have always striven for excellence by doing what they've never done before. This has resulted in the club being at the forefront in terms of its educational program in the entire District 98. The same also reflects in the number of educational awards (45) submitted this year, which serve as a testament to the club's educational prowess.

”

“IF YOU DO WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE, YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN.”

“

But what is the differentiating factor that makes our members, and subsequently the club, stand out?

It's our members' drive to keep challenging themselves by going beyond the club. Several of our members have taken up various roles, such as guest speakers, contestants, and role bearers.

So what are the benefits of getting involved in other club and district events?

Although this activity may primarily be seen as a networking opportunity, it is in fact a lot more. One usually tends to get comfortable with their fellow club members, which can lead to a false sense of confidence when speaking in front of a familiar audience. To truly improve one's confidence, one would need to keep challenging themselves by learning to speak to an unfamiliar audience.

Additionally, you also get to test your speaking abilities by participating in the area and division contests against highly skilled contestants.

Nonetheless, it isn't just limited to your communication. There are a myriad of leadership opportunities as well that exist beyond the 7 club officer roles, that involves leading a much larger and dynamic group of people than one could get in a club.

These are just a few of the limitless benefits you could derive by participating in events outside of your home club, leading to a well-rounded development opportunity.

So what are you waiting for to go BEYOND THE CLUB?



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

-SANIKA SATOSKAR

“ Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality!”

Writing the Editor’s message wasn’t easy at all. It was the most difficult part of my Newsletter. The efforts and hours put in cannot be fathomed in words and that’s what makes this message even more difficult.

”

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

“

All the members in this association had a vision together and today the vision is turned into reality the team. It wasn’t easy at all. This First edition will always be special to me, it travels through people’s journey in the past and for some what they want to conquer in the future. But, thanks to our team who put in so many hours to bring this piece together, It was a wonderful experience. This newsletter has helped me grow in ways I never knew I could. My message to my readers would be just that, enjoy the journeys here, appreciate the efforts the team has put in reminisce your journeys too.

Working with Toastmasters has become such an important part of life, not only because of the activities but also because of its people. Thus, I welcome all readers to this first ever Newsletter issue on Andheri Orators Toastmasters Club. Let us all live through the journeys and take inspiration and plan big for the future, because you never know what the future holds for us.

HISTORY

of

ANDHERI ORATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB



OCTOBER 2018

Demo Meetings at Bhakti Vedant School

Idea of starting a new TM club in Andheri came up as there were none in this area.

So, an attempt to start a club was made once in 2018. Demo meets were held in Bhakti Vedant school, Andheri West.

However, nothing materialized out of it at that time.



JUNE 2019

Meeting at Tea Villa Cafe

Again, in 2019 a meeting was held in Tea Villa Cafe, Versova and this time members were determined to make this happen. .



JUNE 2019

Pre-Charter Meeting at TM Parag's

Bungalow, Versova - Few toastmasters

helped us by offering their houses as

meeting venue for pre-charter meeting till the venue for the club is fixed.

JUNE 2019

Pre-Charter Meeting at TM Abraham Samuel's house at Lokhandwala



JULY 2019

Pre-Charter Meetings Room No:

237, SPCE - Finally, club got a venue after lot of hunting. With the help of charter members like Shishank, Abraham & Amit, we got a very good venue in Bhavan's campus.

26TH AUGUST 2019

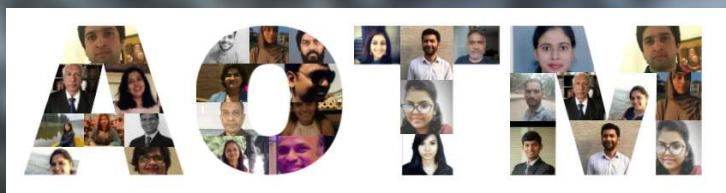
CLUB GOT CHARTERED -

After 7 pre-charter meetings, Andheri Orators Toastmasters Club got chartered on 26th Aug 2019.



Credit: Snehal Barve

Once chartered, AOTM never looked back. The first meeting was held on 8th Sept 2019 and we'll soon celebrate our 75th meeting. The club got many accolades, including President's Distinguished Status, Diamond Club Award & Many More. Club has got wonderful, super energetic members and the success story will continue...



WAY TO SOME JOURNEYS

Life is nothing but a journey so enjoy the trip - Anonymous

This simple quote speaks a thousand words and such have been the words of our members as well.

Let's have a look at the journeys of our AOTM members - few of the past and few of the future

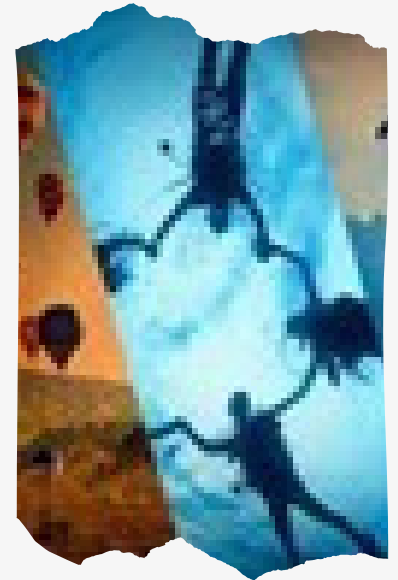
Each of which blend to make the perfect gift for us to read and understand one another better while learning from each other's experiences and journeys as they navigate personal, professional and Toastmaster paths.



The Opportunist

WRITTEN BY NIKITA HURKAT

“Opportunity is everywhere. The key is to develop the vision to see it”. My first opportunity started right at the beginning of my Toastmasters Journey. I still recall my first impromptu speech in the table topics session. I was asked to speak on the topic which includes specific words suggested by the Table Topic Master. Before the speech I got butterflies in my stomach. And today by knocking every opportunity by practicing and opting various roles in Toastmasters I surpassed it. In the last Toastmaster meeting I attended, I felt the anxiety during public speaking had gone. It’s like a miracle! All the experience I gained in Toastmasters till date has helped me in my professional journey. “Active participation” is vital while you are in Toastmasters.



It helps not only in improving my grammar and vocabulary but also in exercising time management skills, learning to give effective and positive feedback and being a good listener.

Apart from being a toastmaster, one thing I want people to know about me is that I love adventures and trying out new things! It can be meeting new people, tasting food or learning new activities. I tried scuba diving (without knowing swimming), and paragliding! I wish to go bungee jumping someday!



Illuminate

WRITTEN BY RUPESH KADAM



I took up the Treasurer role for Andheri Orators Toastmasters as I know I will be able to keep the accounts updated and suggest new ways to track the expenses and income based on my accounting knowledge and first-hand experience of managing my own business. The last year has been difficult and challenging. This year I am focusing on things I can control. Now that I have more time in my hands I am seeing this as an opportunity to work & organize what I can do about the business and learn more about different types of photography. My goal for the year is to learn and experiment as many techniques I can learn so that at the end of the year I will be good enough to Teach Someone Else Photography.

I can share with them my knowledge and go on a journey together to improve both my own and their photography. Teaching someone else is hugely rewarding – I can watch them grow as I did. My own skill and confidence will also improve.



The Backbencher!

WRITTEN BY POORNIMA THAKUR

In 2019, as I contemplated all the previous tumultuous years of my life and how each phase killed the confidence in me, I wanted to do something I was already fairly good at just to get a little boost of self-confidence. I knew that public speaking was always my strength and I had known about Toastmasters since college. As a 14-year-old kid who had appeared on NDTV for a debate show, I knew that communication and me had a very loving relationship. The networking, the rush before contests, the involvement in various community activities and the responsibilities that help in self-growth is what encourages me to reach out to people and ask them to be a Toastmaster. People often think this is just a public speaking platform. But what they don't know is that Toastmaster is so much more – it's like your second family!

When I started my professional journey, I was a naïve graduate who was impulsive and straightforward. If you had to term someone as a 'backbencher', that would be me! As I shifted jobs, assumed responsibilities, used and applied my experience at Toastmasters at my workplace, I realized I was so much more capable. The difference is visible to everyone today. I am so much more professional, confident and on my way to join another Big 4 firm that was one of my dream jobs!

I have often asked myself this question hoping someday I will have an answer since I am still exploring. I can tell you for sure who I am NOT – I'm NOT the sad, timid and miserable human I was a few years ago, I'm NOT a vulnerable person that anyone can walk over and I'm definitely NOT an under confident woman who thinks she doesn't deserve anything good. I don't know what Toastmaster means to others, but the identity and self-confidence that this place has given me – I will forever be indebted. I really hope someday I can find who I am but until then I'll keep adding to this list of who I AM NOT and hopefully come a long way from where I stand today



Success



WRITTEN BY RAVISHANKAR PODAR

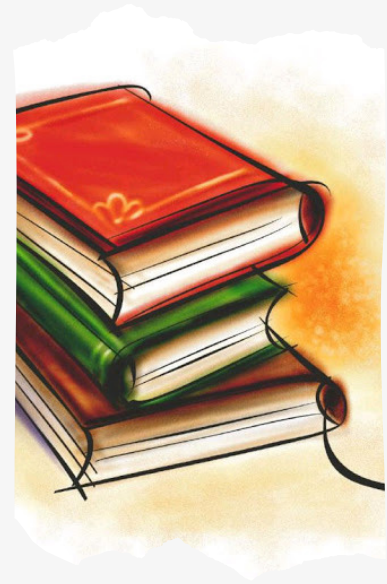


When I joined Andheri Orators Toastmasters club, I had certain wishes to achieve as a toastmaster. I have joined Andheri Orators Toastmasters club to improve my public speaking and to make my speeches more structured. I have various internal and external meetings, and Andheri Orators Toastmasters club is going to have a professional impact that I wish to have going forward in life. Toastmasters is going to help me to ensure conversation starters. Nothing is more satisfying than success. Success motivates me the most. If you don't work with an intention to succeed, you have already started the journey of failure. Hence it motivates me the most when I work on it with an intention to succeed.



The Debater

WRITTEN BY ROHIT KATKAR



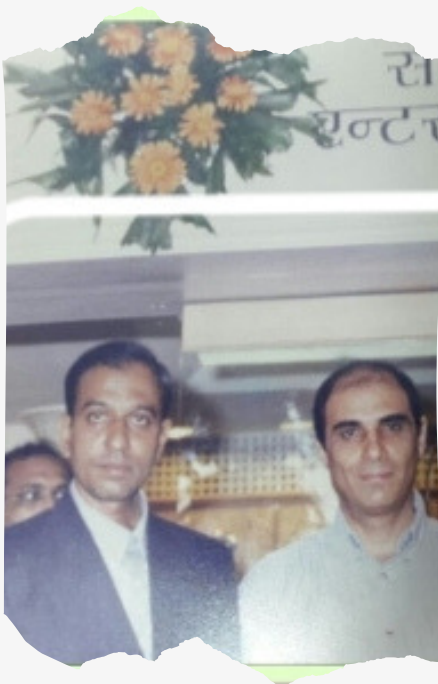
In 201 first attended Toastmasters meeting as a guest and not as a toastmaster. Mr. Mrunal Mahant (former member of the club) introduced me to this club. My first meeting as a guest was a little bit confusing for me because I had no idea about the flow of the meeting - people coming on stage, speaking for some time then leaving. In the guest briefing in the meeting I understood the flow of the meeting. I felt awesome when all the members of the club greeted me at the start of the meeting, especially by the DTMs of our club: Abraham sir and Zahid sir. "A fool learns from its own mistakes but a wise person learns from other's mistakes".

I read this somewhere on the internet and it tells us to understand what mistakes people have made in the past. It has helped me a lot. Nowadays I talk less if it's not necessary to avoid arguments with people. I love to have friendly debates with wise people though. Some other things I like are reading psychological, historical and religious books.



One Week At a Time

WRITTEN BY NIKHIL SHAH



In Toastmasters Meetings, I am honoured to take up the various roles that we have, such as that of the Ah counter, the Grammarian, the Timer and the Evaluator of Speech. I am a businessman and something I look forward to and am most excited about is increasing the turnover of my business over the time span of the next year. The Plan of action is

- (a) To organise 3 Meetings with architects over Zoom every week
- (b) Keep posting images of new products of my business on WhatsApp status & my WhatsApp groups
- (c) Keep posting images of New tiles/ Products every week to my WhatsApp architect groups.

A long pending goal I want to achieve is my goal of planning

for my business one week at a time. To ensure maximum profit out of it, I will review the same daily. Hopefully, I shall achieve this goal.

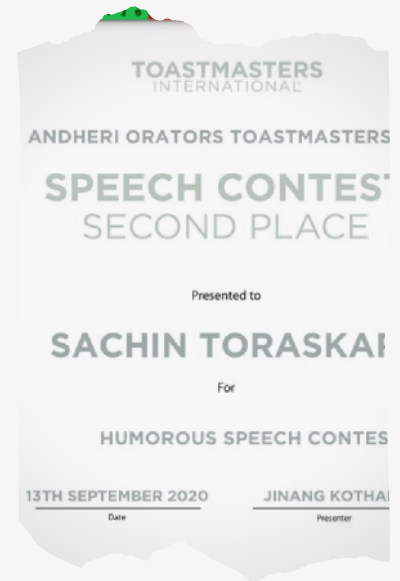


Serious Person

WRITTEN BY SACHIN TORASKAR

I joined toastmasters to improve my public speaking skills. I chose the Presentation Mastery Path and it helped me improve myself tremendously. It also helped me to identify my writing skills. To tell you more about my journey, let me share a turning point in my life. I believe a definitive moment would be leaving my job & starting my practice as a Practising Company Secretary. It's the best decision of my life. It was because of Toastmasters I could take that bold decision. As you can see, toastmasters has taught me a lot! Humour is not my cup of tea. Before participating in the club level Humorous speech contest in the year 2020, I labelled myself as a serious person.

But in this contest I challenged myself and discovered my humor skills. When I stood as the 1st Runner up at this contest, it taught me to not label myself. As time passes, you grow, learn different things and eventually you change. I think discovering that changed me. A change in my perception towards myself is what I have learned from this experience.



Pupa: The Transition

WRITTEN BY ABHINAV MISHRA



Since I joined Toastmasters I have learnt a lot of things. I remember the first day I joined as a guest, I was shy to speak to other people or even say hi. But after becoming a Toastmasters member I started taking up roles and experienced all the roles one by one. Many problems came during my first attempt but I improved. I also started to become friendly with others and gained confidence. I chose Presentation Mastery as my pathway in the future. I see myself giving better presentations among many people in student and job careers as I am looking forward to doing better in the future. I want to be a successful manager in a big company and be a good leader. I also want to be an inspiration to people who have weak communication skills and tell them how I improved myself.

My journey just started in Toastmasters. After getting a lot of experience being in Toastmasters, I would like to use it in my job career to have good communication with people and give good speeches and boost my confidence and achieve more success in life.



Socialite

WRITTEN BY SNEHAL BARVE

The path I selected is Innovative Planning. I finished all 5 levels and I enjoyed attempting the different projects which helped in building an understanding of the steps to manage a project, as well as creating innovative solutions. The last level required me to complete the "High Performance Leadership" project and it was an enriching experience. All in all, different projects of this path helped me build different skills required to be a better public speaker and leader. When I was working with Mphasis, I got 'Mphasis Pillar' award for completing 10 years. My family, especially my mother, was invited to the ceremony. Getting an award in the presence of my mom was the defining moment of my career. This pandemic has changed my perspective of life.



Our lives revolved around the office, malls, and weekend outings. But now we are learning to live without it. This experience of staying inside the house has taught us to value little things like the liberty to go out at our free-will. Sometime ago, our entire family was down with COVID 19. Now we have all fully recovered, but those stressful times have taught me to be tough & strong. Lessons I learnt from these experiences is not to take life for granted and to embrace every morning with open arms and end the day with gratitude.



The Storyteller



WRITTEN BY SHIPRA SHETH



I strive to be a persuasive speaker. I have interesting stories to tell and innovative ideas to explore. I want to hone these skills and eventually become a confident speaker. Andheri Orators Toastmasters club has helped me in improving my confidence and communication in a very short span of time. I know how living in these unprecedented times of pandemic has hit everyone in the worst possible way. But I have a different story to tell. Joining toastmaster has given me positive affinity and zeal to work towards my dream jobs and roles. I wish to always hustle and imply these learnings to my professional and personal life. I love learning new things. I want to become the best version of myself. I'm stoked by the possibilities of opportunities out there. I believe with good and intention we all can help each other and ourselves.



Empathy

WRITTEN BY JINANG KOTHARI

My Toastmaster journey started in July 2020. I remember my very first meeting, after taking the Oath, I felt I was a part of something special. Although I hadn't met any members previously and was confused with the TM jargon, I never felt like an outsider. Fast forward to a year later, I feel I have grown as a Toastmaster. Seeing the club achieve so many awards makes you feel proud. The only difference I feel since my 1st meeting is that the relationships that started on that day have grown immensely for me.



Like my TM journey, I have grown leaps and bounds in my 10 years of corporate life too. If I were to give a piece of advice to anyone starting their professional journey, I believe the key to being a good leader is "empathy". If you can empathize with people working with and for you, then you will have gained the respect of everyone around you. Unless you are a doctor or a law enforcement officer, you are not saving anyone's life, so it's ok to make mistakes and to procrastinate, but it's never ok to put your work ahead of your wellbeing.

I always put my well being as the topmost priority and one way I relax the most is when I am cooking. Some people view cooking as my hobby, but it is my passion. Is it a future business too? Maybe time will tell, but for now, what really fires up my tired mind is going into the kitchen and cooking some lip smacking food.



A Simple Man

WRITTEN BY PUNEET GUPTA



I am a versatile speaker who can speak on diverse topics and situations. I am knowledgeable, engaging and credible and can keep my audience engaged throughout my speech.

I wish to have complete mastery of at least one discipline or skill where I am one amongst the best and help people to improve in that area. One of the areas that I have identified is vocal coaching. Till now Vocal coaching has been limited to singers and actors. I wish to bring the elements of Vocal coaching to speakers and people in the corporate world to help them express themselves with impact and freedom. I also wish to be a professional speaker helping people to gain insights and perspectives about life and business. My dream is to eventually settle down in Himachal and coach people while sitting the valley and occasionally travel for speaking assignments.



Dreams

WRITTEN BY PRAGYA KAUL

I chose the Dynamic Leadership pathway as I felt that now I need to hone my leadership skills and this would be a great platform for the same. The atmosphere here is very conducive to learning, people are encouraging, make other toastmasters participate and shed their inhibitions. It is a very positively charged atmosphere. The defining moment was when I shifted to Mumbai for my career. It gave wings to my dreams. I remember when I completed my qualification, I felt on top of the world. However, being a mother has completely changed the way I look at things... It has mellowed me down, taught me patience and made me more caring.



Proton

WRITTEN BY AASTHA DALAL



I had joined Toastmasters for two main reasons- I thought that it will help me improve my public speaking and communication skills which will help me professionally. And I wanted to do something productive on Sundays which was also fun and not just laze around. Toastmasters has definitely helped me improve my public speaking skills. It has also helped me understand the different dimensions of leadership and communication skills. I think all this is going to help me professionally as it will help me with managing team work, improving my presentation skills and also motivating me. Professionally, I wish to make a huge positive difference in the life of students that I work with.

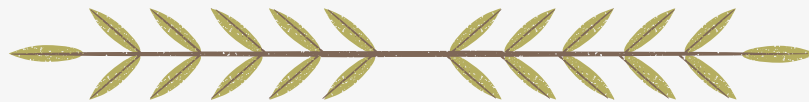
Being there for my organisation and people I work with and ultimately positively contribute to the cause of women's education and skills development keeps me going. And I think that the new skills that I have learned from toastmasters will definitely contribute to that mission.



Camaraderie

WRITTEN BY ABRAHAM SAMUEL, DTM

Innovative Planning & Persuasive Influence are the Pathways chosen by me. Since I completed DTM under the old curriculum in June 2020, I would like to start Pathways a bit slowly and much later. Joining Toastmaster in 2001 at Bahrain at the age of 49 was a turning defining moment in my career. I owe a lot to Toastmasters. Toastmasters changed my whole lifestyle and outlook. I achieved name, fame, recognition, promotions, money and brought me lots of friends and camaraderie and positive outlook with good health and happiness



Learner

WRITTEN BY FARIHA SHEIKH



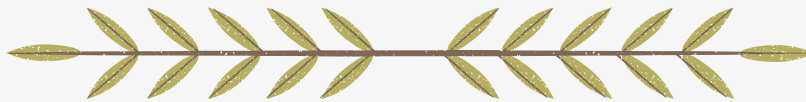
I consider myself a pretty confident woman. But when it comes down to managing crowds, my nerves kick in. The role of TMOD is something I'd like to take as it'll help me get over my irrational fears of addressing the crowds and laying the agenda before them without messing it up. Not only will this help me improve as a toastmaster, it will also help me in my professional career. In the coming years of my professional career, especially the next year, I am most excited about taking up internships and putting my newly learned skills to its best use. With my skills in use, it would help me achieve my previous goals with patience. My goals, in short, include me growing as a person and as a professional. I'm an engineering student and I'm really looking forward to watching myself grow into the person I aspire to be.



Explorer

WRITTEN BY SRINIVAS PADAVLA

Apart from my professional life, I am a continuous explorer. One of the best things I have done in the last few years is joining Toastmasters. It provides a complete learning experience with continuous inspiration to improve my oratory skills. It is structured in such a way that the learner gets comfortable, gets motivated and has fun, in addition to the communication skills. After joining Toastmasters, I have learnt many speech standards. I no longer stutter while delivering long speeches. I will forever be grateful to toastmasters.



Climbing Up The Ladder



WRITTEN BY SHRUTI SINGH



Determination and willingness to learn is something that is deep-seated in me and with this mindset I joined Toastmasters recently. Its an inexpensive training. The professional development program fascinated me the most. I want to climb up the ladder in an organization and in order for that to happen I want to boost my leadership expertise and aim to build better strategic relationships along with developing a strong interpersonal communication and public speaking skills. The best thing I like about toastmasters is the table topic session which helps to think quickly on the feet and respond to an impromptu topic in a structured manner. Also, the Toastmasters is based on the concept of peer learning where each and everyone gets to speak and also provide critical feedbacks to others.

This helps create a collaborative problem-solving workspace which enhances critical thinking. These are few things about the AOTM that inspire me and I want to grow further in this fun and enthusiasm filled environment.

WORLD OF WORDS

#1

ECONOMY	JOBINJOB	REC ORD
ABCDEFGHIJK LMNOPQRSTV WXYZ	give get give get give get give get	<u>TRAVEL</u> CCCCCCC
YOUR TIME	MOONCEON	MARY + MARY
F E I R G U	T	ROOT O O O O TOOR

Here's a brain teaser that will leave you stumped in the World of Words. Switch on your light bulbs and search for several commonly used but hidden phrases and idioms in each of these cryptic tiles.

#2

The grammarian gives you the word of the day, lets see how many you can find today

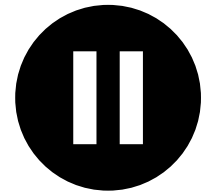
Member word search

F	O	N	S	A	N	C	H	I	T	I	A	N	A
A	A	S	S	H	I	P	R	A	T	G	S	I	O
H	S	R	Y	I	R	E	A	H	I	P	R	K	M
R	A	I	I	N	E	H	K	J	H	C	U	H	U
M	H	N	P	H	S	K	N	I	O	N	P	I	S
A	I	I	S	P	A	N	A	N	R	S	E	L	K
H	L	V	A	A	S	T	H	A	E	A	S	A	A
A	S	A	C	H	M	K	S	N	D	T	H	P	A
R	A	S	H	E	K	V	I	G	R	I	M	U	N
B	R	N	I	A	A	U	V	S	E	K	I	N	I
A	S	A	N	I	K	A	A	S	A	I	N	E	A
A	B	H	I	N	A	V	R	S	N	N	N	E	V
A	S	A	L	A	H	E	N	S	A	J	I	T	K
P	O	O	R	N	I	M	A	P	R	A	G	Y	A

- SANCHIT
- ABRAHAM
- NIKITA
- AASTHA
- FARIHA
- RUPESH
- ABHINAV
- NIKHIL
- MUSKAAN
- PRAGYA
- ROHIT
- SAHIL
- PUNEET
- SNEHAL
- RAVISHANKAR
- SRINIVAS
- MINNI
- SACHIN
- SANIKA
- SHIPRA
- EDREANA
- JINANG
- POORNIMA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2495492/>

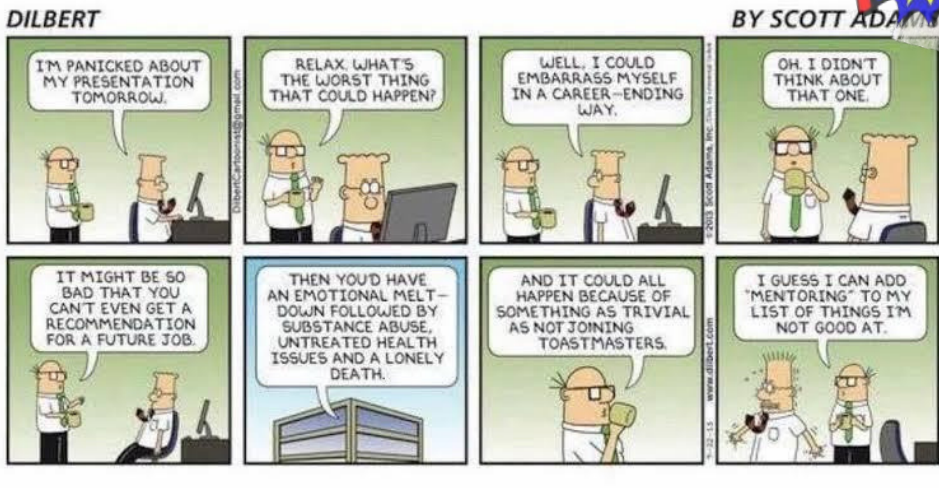
TOASTBREAK



DID YOU KNOW?



COMICS



credits: Vaishnavi (@comicallyours)

credits: pinterest



QUESTION IT

By Anonymous

Coming out is a process of understanding, accepting, and valuing your sexual orientation/identity. It involves both exploring your identity and sharing your identity with others.

The most difficult part of coming out in my opinion is coming out to yourself.

The mere thought of you being any different than all the people around you is jarring. A lot of children in our country are not even educated on what sexuality is let alone questioning it.

It is extremely confusing and frustrating to question something that you were thought was "normal". When you are only taught about heterosexual relationships, where every movie every song was about that.

When I first realized that I was not straight was in school where every female friend of mine was talking about boys, whereas I wanted to talk about both boys and girls.

It was very difficult for me to come to terms with the fact that I was not straight, even though everyone around me seemed to be.

The first time I got to know about different sexualities was from a random YouTube video. That was the first time I had found out that there were people out there that are like me, that I was not alone in this.

It took me years to accept that I was not straight and that was okay. I was pansexual and that was perfectly normal.

When I came out same-sex relationships were not even legal, it was a battle involving a lot of fears and questions. Fear of what my family and friends think, the fear of not being normal, the question of was it a phase and so many more.

That is the biggest hurdle of coming out, coming out to yourself.



PRIDE MONTH

The Space Between Us

We are born by nature
The same way as yours
Cared by loved ones
Only to be abandoned at last
The longest time you will hear us cry
Our plea merely to be called equal
as thy
For you pride yourselves as brother
and sisters to all
But you and I both know
There is still this space between us
after all

The early morning hours of June 28, 1969 in New York City catalysed the gay rights movement. For the first time ever over decades did the onlookers stand up for the rights of young gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people. This support bore witness to the discrimination and social ostracization faced by the LGBTQ+ community and since has grown to be the Pride Month - an annual reminder of both struggles and celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.

-Edreana Vaz



I AM A SAFE SPACE

By Prathima Madireddy

Growing up, my nanny used to take me to the local market occasionally for grocery shopping. In the 70s, traffic was never a worry, and it was safe not to be held by hand all the time. My nanny would only hold my hand on one occasion – when she saw transgender people coming in our direction. My nanny’s face would go pale, and in hushed tones, she would tell me, don’t look at them, they will curse you!

I grew up with a single perspective of this story. Add to that, lack of exposure to literature and the portrayal of queer people in films only reinforced that singular perspective. So, I did what my nanny did, crossed the road, didn’t look at them, and avoided the so-called curse.

The person I was to the LGBTQIA+ Ally I am today- is a journey of curiosity, care, and collaboration.

The people I met in my life, especially the queer folk I met! Each person was a story, and each story was a lesson in the world of the queer community. Soon, I was watching TED talks that featured trials and tribulations, movies that pivoted on this theme, and asking the right questions to the right people. I was curious and eager to wipe the lens I grew up with- Not just the lens, I needed a whole new frame!

The more friends I made, the more I saw the side media did not show, the more time I spent having existential conversations with them, the more I saw reflections of my own life in them. They dreamt like me, they aspired like me, they lived and loved like me! Then who am I to decide whether I like them or not? Who am I to decide anything at all? I learnt that they did not ask for much; they only asked us to ‘see them.’ So, I stopped averting my gaze and crossing the roads. I started-caring.

The more I cared, the more I got involved in bringing a shift in everyone else’s lens. I collaborated with the Spectrum, volunteered to speak about Allyship at events. I stood up for friends from the Spectrum. I wanted to be ‘seen’ with them to establish myself as an Ally. Especially for those still in the closet - know that I am an Ally and that I am a safe space.

BEING an Ally = Ask. Listen. Speak Up and Show Up.
I am a safe space!



LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ is an abbreviation for a community of people who identify with certain sexual orientations or genders. LGB stands for sexual orientations (lesbian, gay, bisexual), T stands for transgender, Q is an umbrella term that stands for anyone who isn’t cis-gendered or heterosexual. The plus sign indicates all the other identifications like pansexuals, omnisexuals, etc. As more individuals started coming out throughout the years, it created a domino effect in making others feel more comfortable in their own skin. The community raises awareness of who they are and what all identifications they comprise to educate people and to prevent discrimination.

-Fariha Sheikh



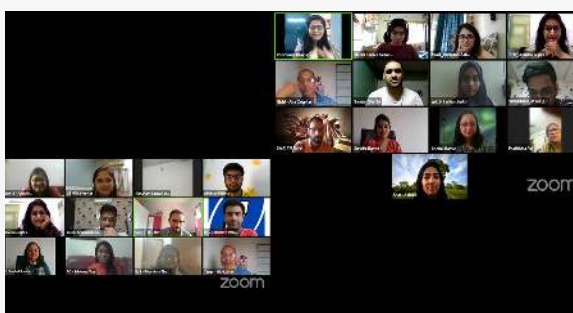
CLUB ACTIVITIES



50th Meeting



Speech Marathon



Panel Discussion & Reverse Meeting



AOTM Socials



AD & DivD Visit



Educational Session on Table Topics/Evaluation



Open House



75th Meeting

CLUB UPDATES

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

• New Additions to the AOTM Family

Please welcome our new members

- Puneet Gupta
- Shruti Singh
- Shreya Shelar

• Excom Team Elected for July to Dec 2021.

President
Poornima Thakur



CLUB UPDATES

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

- **Club Plan by our Incoming President - Poornima Thakur**

- 1. Release of Toastmasters of the month to encourage the spirit of competitiveness and excitement*
- 2. Guest pamphlet to establish a stronger impact as a takeaway for our guest attendees*
- 3. Setting up of Mentor-ship chair for not just members but executive committee officers as well to facilitate efficient discharge of responsibilities*
- 4. Promoting the AOTM Newsletter to publicize and advertise club events, achievements & activities by month*
- 5. Setting up of an official blog for Andheri Orators TM Club where existing, potential and non-members can know everything about the club through a few clicks!*

- **Club Plan by our Incoming VPE - Sachin Toraskar**

- 1. Educational sessions based on member preferences*
- 2. Regular group discussion sessions*
- 3. Educational games that enhance communication and leadership skills*
- 4. Evaluating feedback of members on mentoring*

EX-COM JAN '21 - JUN '21

SAA
Poornima Thakur

VP PR
Muskaan Asher

VP Membership
Sahil Parekh

VP Education
Sanchit Dighe

President
Edreana Vaz

Secretary
Nikita Hurkat

Treasurer
Rupesh Kadam

IPP
Snehal Barve

AOTM Patrons

Abraham Samuel

Nikhil Shah

Aastha Dalal

Abhinav Mishra

Fariha Sheikh

Jinang Kothari

Minni Bakshi

Pragya Kaul

Puneet Gupta

Ravishankar Podar

Rohit Katkar

Sachin Toraskar

Sanika Satoskar

Shipra Seth

Shreya Shelar

Shruti Singh

Srinivas Padavala

Member Educational Awards

LEVEL 1

- Aastha Dalal
- Anusha Gupta
- Anushka Khanna
- Edreana Vaz
- Fariha Sheikh
- Jinang Kothari
- Muskaan Asher
- Nikita Hurkat
- Poornima Thakur (LD, MS)
- Rajesh Mohan
- Rohit Katkar
- Sachin Toraskar
- Sahil Parekh
- Sanchit Dighe
- Sanika Satoskar
- Shubham Pasricha
- Srinivas Padavala

LEVEL 2

- Aastha Dalal
- Amit Kumar Sharma
- Anusha Gupta
- Anushka Khanna
- Edreana Vaz
- Fariha Sheikh
- Muskaan Asher
- Nikita Hurkat
- Sachin Toraskar (PM, EC)
- Sanchit Dighe
- Shishank Srivastava
- Shubham Pasricha
- Snehal Barve
- Srinivas Padavala

LEVEL 3

- Edreana Vaz
- Poornima M Thakur
- Sachin Toraskar
- Sanchit Dighe
- Snehal Barve

LEVEL 4

- Edreana Vaz
- Poornima M Thakur
- Sachin Toraskar
- Sanchit Dighe
- Snehal Barve

LEVEL 5 (PATH COMPLETION)

- Edreana Vaz - Dynamic Leadership
- Poornima M Thakur - Leadership Development
- Sachin Toraskar - Presentation Mastery



PATHWAYS STAR AWARD



SHINING STAR AWARD (S5)

Poornima M Thakur

Contest Winners

CLUB LEVEL INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST 2021

1. Poornima M Thakur
2. Fariha Sheikh
3. Sachin Toraskar

CLUB LEVEL TABLE TOPIC CONTEST 2021

1. Poornima M Thakur
2. Shipra Seth
3. Sachin Toraskar

AREA LEVEL



DIVISION LEVEL



Club Awards

HALL OF FAME

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

LEADING CLUB

MEMBERSHIP AWARD
(CYCLE 1 & 2)

PRISTINE CLUB

OTHER AWARDS

POWERUP 2.0 EXCOM

PATH FINDER AWARD

AND

DIAMOND CLUB
AWARD



Newsletter team

Editorial Team

EDITORIAL HEAD - FARIHA SHEIKH

CO-EDITORS -

- JINANG KOTHARI
- ROHIT KATKAR
- EDREANA VAZ



Editor in Chief
SANIKA SATOSKAR

Design Team

DESIGN HEAD - SANCHIT DIGHE

CO-DESIGNERS -

- POORNIMA THAKUR
- RUPESH KADAM
- NIKITA HURKAT



THANK YOU

I would like to extend my gratitude to every member in the club for contributing to this debut issue of our Newsletter. We have tried to highlight the journey of our members, old and new, to gain inspiration to take our newsletter to greater heights and looking at the stories, I am sure nothing can stop us from achieving that. Extending a very Heartfelt Thank You from the entire Newsletter Team!!

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PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED CLUB

ODYSSEY

A JOURNEY **REMEMBERED**

THANK YOU. HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN

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