



SPOTLIGHT

The Spotlight is on
Your Success

DECEMBER 2011 - vol 32, issue 6

Club 699
Area 12
District 5
Region 10

EXCELSIOR TOASTMASTERS



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I WISH YOU A BLANK BLANK

A MESSAGE FROM OUR
PRESIDENT, NORM NOMURA,
DTM

The song, "It's Beginning to Look A lot Like Christmas" was playing as I waited in line at the supermarket checkout stand. The line was long and as a student of human behavior, I watched as one cashier said a cheery "Merry Christmas", to her customers, while the man in the next check-stand offered "Happy Holidays" to his. Maybe she celebrated Christmas herself, while he did not? Or was he simply being "politically correct" to not risk offending



someone? And should anyone really be offended?

To me, a heartfelt greeting or salutation should not be dependent on what one feels is relative to the recipient, but rather what one feels in their own heart. If I say "Happy Birthday" to you, should I be concerned that you quit counting them long ago?

(continued on page 2)

Around the World HAPPY NEW YEAR

Chinese Xin nian kuai le

Croatian Sretna nova godina

Eskimo Kiortame pivdluaritlo

French Bonne anné

Greek Kenourios chronos

Hawaiian Hauoli makahiki hou

Hebrew L'Shannah tovah

Hindi Naye varsha ki shubhkamanyen

Italian Felice anno nuovo

Japanese Akemashite omedetô

Latin Felix sit annus novus

Portuguese Feliz ano novo

Romanian Un an nou fericit

Spanish Feliz año nuevo

Tagalog Manigong bagong taon

Yiddish A gut yohr



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[President's Message continued]

No, because I genuinely wish the same happiness for you that I feel on that special day for the members of my family. If you have bad memories of birthdays, why can't I wish you happiness with this one? Should I not say "Good Morning" to you, just because you look upset at that fresh coffee stain on your tie? If it's not a good morning for you, why can't I wish you one anyway?

So if you don't celebrate Christmas, why can't I wish you the joy and peace that I feel on my holiday?

My sister is Jewish. At our family gathering, I gave her a hug and whispered "Merry Christmas" to her. Somehow, any other greeting from me to her would have much less meaning for me, and I expect, for her.

What if we always had to gauge what we say, depending on who we said it to? As Toastmasters, we often speak, or present material that is not material to our audiences. Our audiences may not have the same views or may even disagree with our content. But we present the material because it is in our hearts to do so. It is

this free platform that we have that keeps me coming back to this forum.

As we bring in the New Year, let us choose to speak from our hearts, whether in our Toastmaster meetings or in the supermarket checkout. **Our gift as Toastmasters to the world is our words.** Let us resolve to always give in our words to the world, from the place within us that **IS** us.

Wishing you all a healthy, safe Happy New Year.

Norm Nomura



Did you know?

In 2011, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate®

Dictionary added over 150 new words and definitions to its print and online dictionaries.

Check out these interesting additions:

Boomerang child - A young adult who returns to live at his or her family home especially for financial reasons.

Crowdsourcing - The practice of obtaining information from a large group of people who contribute online

Duathlon - A 3-part long-distance race with a running

phase, a bicycling phase, and a final running phase.

Hanitizer - Sanitizer for hands

Helicopter parent - A parent who is overly involved in the life of his or her child.

M-commerce - A business transaction conducted using a mobile electronic device.

Mancation - A vacation including all males

Parkour - A new sport which involves rapid and efficient running, climbing, or leaping over environmental obstacles (see it in the James Bond film, *Casino Royale*).

Social media - Forms of electronic communication

(as Web sites for social networking and microblogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (as videos)



Stachism - Prejudice or discrimination directed toward men with mustaches

Tweet - A social media post made on the Twitter online message service

Walk-off - Ending a baseball game immediately by causing the winning run to score for the home team in the bottom of the last inning

Source: www.merriam-webster.com/info/newwords11.htm



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WELCOME OUR NEWEST RETURNEE - GORDON PETTUS, DTM

“WAS THAT PIRANHA?”

By Jan Lewellyn, DTM

Yes, Excelsiorites, Gordon Pettus swam with the piranha, and it wasn't even a presidential primary year!

Gordon and his wife Gail love to travel. On their trip down a river and into the jungle of the Amazon, the tour guide invited his attentive audience to swim in the river- and ignore the piranha. Gail watched as Gordon jumped in!

Gordon and Gail enjoy traveling. Peru and England are two countries they photographed as they explored Inca ruins and Gordon learned how to drive on the “wrong” side of the road, to the applause of others.

Photography, designing furniture and then having it built to his specs, Toastmasters, and traveling with his wife to parts unknown keep him busy.

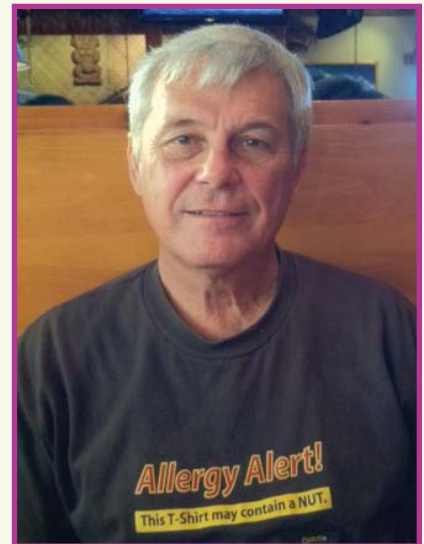
When asked what he did when he left the Navy, Gordon said he tried real estate for a while, but failed

miserably as he was too shy. As I rolled with laughter, wondering if one more time he was using his wit – he said, ‘No, Jan, for real.’ Instead of selling real estate, he decided to buy some.

Gordon met his bride from Imperial Beach while he was still flying planes for the Navy over Viet Nam. Gordon enjoys telling of Gail's “mosquito” adventure in the Amazon. One trip Gail missed as Gordon's journey to Greece- he was the only one who wanted to look at “old rocks!”



Traveling through Mission Valley on I-8 in the evening hours during this holiday season, your attention will be drawn to the beautiful 40 foot lighted design outline of a Christmas tree with a cross on the top in front of the Hanalei Resort. “I designed it and own the design,” he told me. I was astonished as I had just seen that incredibly



beautiful display Christmas evening.

For twenty years Gordon's wit has graced Mt. Helix and Excelsior's meetings. A Distinguished Toastmaster, Gordon has also experienced what it takes to get his toes wet in a campaign for International Director.

He is well known for his humor and one who just wants to make us laugh. Gordon will be with us for a long time if he follows in his Pop's footsteps. His 93 year old Pop hasn't slowed down. His father is still cruising the waterways whenever he gets a chance. The middle sibling of 5, “Gordon in the middle” is his theme.

Gordon – we are so very glad you've come home to Excelsior!



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PHOTO ALBUM

December 6, 2011 Holiday Meeting



Marcy Hays and Richard Dial



Jean Douglas and Rose Waring



David Allen and Joe Castañeda



Eileen Hope, Joe and Elisa Castañeda



Jim Tucker and Kathleen Behrens



Gordon Pettus, Alma Church, Stephen Garrett



Helen Blanchard



Norm Nomura and Jan Lewellyn



THE NEW YEAR

by Malcolm Pusey



It's time to put aside
our problems from the
past year and embark
on the present year.

Who said that it will
be easy?

Let's enter the new
year with a fresher
endeavor and horizon,
while seeking
newer challenges.

It's worth the
perspiration.
The decision is ours.

Let's push aside the
previous year
and go full
throttle into the
new year.

We can do it.

Happy New Year!



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TREAT DON'T RETREAT

By Jim Tucker



Jim, a tall, slender, clean-cut manager, joined Toastmasters with the intent of improving his public speaking

ability. He was a charter member of a newly formed club. Like many of us, he was uncomfortable standing before an audience to deliver a speech. He lacked the confidence and the know-how. When he stepped into the room for his first meeting he accepted the challenge to place his doubts and fears on hold. He treated himself to the Toastmasters experience with the expectation of a positive outcome.

Jim worked his Competent Communication manual from the first speech to the tenth speech. Most of his earlier speeches were somewhat impersonal. He told us about his favorite gadgets and toys. However, somewhere along his journey a transformation happened. Jim got personal. His tenth speech was a touching story about his early battle with dyslexia and how it shaped

his life. The audience listened with rapt attention. There was a startling difference between Jim's first and tenth speeches. Such is the positive outcome offered by Toastmasters.

As we wind down 2011 and look toward 2012, let's be reminded of the decision we made to challenge ourselves to become more confident and proficient speakers. We chose to do that by treating ourselves to a membership in Toastmasters – an organization with an 87 year history of members accomplishing what we committed to do.

Why do these members achieve positive outcomes? It's simply because they commit to three basic actions:

- 1) **They Start**
- 2) **They Surrender**
- 3) **They Stay**

First, members are successful because...

They Start. Toastmasters makes it easy for us to start don't they? You pay your dues. They send you the Start-up kit. You're ready to go, right? Right! Everything you need to get started is outlined in that kit, but we all know you can't satisfy hunger without eating

some food. The food is not the kit. The food is...**working the program.**

Next, members are successful because...

They Surrender. The program works. You don't have to start from scratch. You just need to commit to working the program. When you work the program the program works for you. In order for that to happen you have to surrender two tightly held personal doctrines. The first one is holding on to your self-limiting belief that you can't become a better speaker. The second one is holding on to the belief that you have to be perfect to be effective. Holding on to these two beliefs is like trying to swim in the Pacific Ocean in a straitjacket. It's easy to dive in but hard to swim out. By surrendering, you trust yourself to stumble knowing that you can swim out by taking the next step.

Last, members are successful because...

They Stay. I love this quote by Helen Blanchard, the first woman in Toastmasters and the first woman President of Toastmasters International, **"When you get out of Toastmasters all you can get out of Toastmasters..."**



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[Jim Tucker continued]

you'll never get out of Toastmasters."

Sometimes members don't realize working the program is all about fighting through their *inside call* to retreat. You know the call - that nagging voice to quit, to give up, to retreat. **Instant success rarely happens in life.** It is earned through the consistent application of *next steps* toward a desired goal. Fortunately the Toastmasters program has all of the next steps laid out for you. You follow them at your own *uncomfort level*. Toastmasters is a treat when you don't retreat. When members keep going; they keep growing.

So, if this article finds you at a point of retreat or indecision; let me assure you that you would not have made the initial commitment if you didn't have a yearning to become a better speaker. You had that yearning because the voice you house is crying, "I'm your gift to the world. Somebody needs to hear me. Let me out!" Don't disappoint those waiting to hear from you. Don't disappoint yourself. Don't discount the gift of your voice.

Let 2012 be your year to achieve the positive outcome you desire. Treat, don't retreat! That's what Jim did.

Editor's Note: *Jim Tucker has been a three-time finalist at the Toastmasters International World Champion of Public Speaking contests.*



LEGACY OF A GENIUS

Time Magazine called him a genius; *The Economist*, a magician; *Rolling Stone Magazine*, a visionary. On October 05, 2011, the world lost him - Steve Jobs, the creative, controversial, and widely successful cofounder of Apple Inc.

In 1997 he made a groundbreaking commercial called "Think Different." He featured black and white film footage of 17 iconic 20th century personalities such as Amelia Earhart, Martha Graham,

Maria Callas, Pablo Picasso, and Jim Hensen, to name a few. I encourage you to search and watch the video on YouTube.

As you welcome a new year full of new speeches, articles, and presentations, I hope that his words inspire you.

To your success,

Edna Nerona, Editor-in-Chief

THE CRAZY ONES

Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels.
The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes.

The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules.
And they have no respect for the status quo.

You can quote them, disagree with them,
glorify or vilify them.

About the only thing you can't do is ignore them.
Because they change things. They invent. They imagine.
They heal. They explore. They create. They inspire.
They push the human race forward.

Maybe they have to be crazy.

How else can you stare at an empty canvas and see a work of art?
Or sit in silence and hear a song that's never been written?
Or gaze at a red planet and
see a laboratory on wheels?

We make tools for these kinds of people.

While some see them as the crazy ones, we see genius.
Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can
change the world, are the ones who do.

Photo Source: www.todaysiphone.com/2011/10/steve-jobs-life-to-be-celebrated-by-apple-employees-on-october-19th/

Ad Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_Different



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Jan Lewellyn

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CLUB INFORMATION:

MEETING DAY

FIRST TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

TIME:

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM



MEETING LOCATION:

EL FANDANGO
RESTAURANT
(2ND FLOOR)
2734 CALHOUN ST.
SAN DIEGO, CA
(OLD TOWN)

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Excelsior Toastmasters.

January 3, 2012 Meeting Roles

Pledge & Inspiration: Norm Nomura
Toastmaster: Frank Jonasson
Theme: What's New?

General Evaluator: Eileen Hope
Ah Counter: Diana Greg
Timer: Stephen Garrett

Grammarian: Richard Dial
Table Topics: Richard Wira

Speakers:

-->Earl Chinn
-->Rose Waring
-->Helen Blanchard



CONGRATULATIONS!



EDNA NERONA

Edna was voted by business students at the Fashion Careers College as the **Inspirational Instructor for Fall 2011.**

Edna has also become a member of the prestigious National Speakers Association (NSA).



JIM TUCKER (DTM)

was the Keynote Speaker for the District 4 2011 Fall Conference on Saturday, November 12, 2011 in Burlingame, CA. Jim shared his wisdom about being

a catalyst for change in his moving speech, "From Voice to Value." For more information about his keynote address, please visit: <http://d4tm.orgfall2011/2011D4FallConfProgram.pdf>.

Taking a Glance at 2012

January 14	Presidents Breakfast	Sycuan Resort & Casino
January 16	Martin Luther King Day	
January 21	Toastmasters Leadership Institute	Palomar Pomerado Health
February 20	Presidents Day	
March 11	Daylight Savings Time	Spring Forward
May 18-19	Spring District Conference	
August 15-18	Toastmasters International Conference	Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort Orlando, FL

Please consult the D5 Calendar as event dates may change.
<http://d5toastmasters.org/>

