

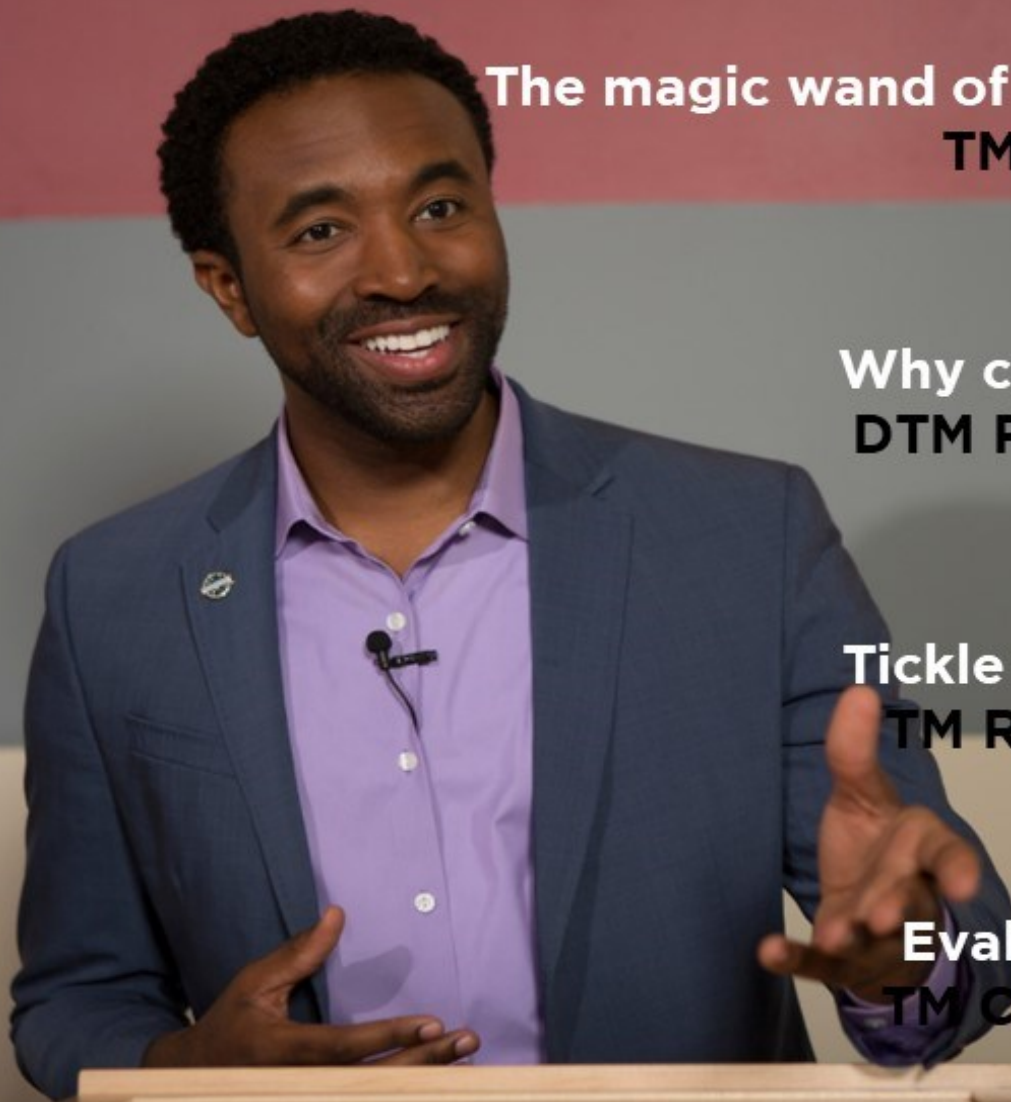


# SIYANE SPEAKS

The Official Newsletter of Siyane Toastmasters Club

Volume 13 | Issue 2 | April 2021

## THE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR



**The magic wand of transformation**  
**TM Waruni Perera**

**Why communication?**  
**DTM P. Kamburawala**

**Tickle the funny bone**  
**TM Ruwanthi Perera**

**Evaluate to Elevate**  
**TM Chamin Athauda**

## ABOUT SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Siyane Toastmasters Club is affiliated to Toastmasters International. The club was chartered on 27th September 2010. Club number is 1553096 and it belongs to Area3 of Division F in District 82.

## TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL MISSION

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders .

## CLUB MISSION

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

### For information on joining:

siyane.toastmasters.club@gmail.com

Article Submission: roshi83@gmail.com

## 2020/2021 Executive Committee

### President

Pubudu Ginige

### Vice President Education

Waruni Perera

### Vice President Membership

Chandima Gayan

### Vice President Public Relations

TM Roshini Perera

### Secretary

Apsara Ranasinghe

### Treasurer

Dilan Perera

### Sergeant -At-Arms

Shamin Liyanage

### Immediate Past President

Chamin Athauda

## CHIEF EDITOR

Roshini Perera

## EDITORIAL TEAM

Ruwanthi Perera

Shanika Ranasinghe

We meet every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at  
3.00PM at Esoft, Metro Campus, Gampaha



<https://1553096.toastmastersclubs.org/>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“Communication – the human connection – is the key to personal and career success”. Paul J.Meyer

Effective communication is more than just exchanging information. It's about understanding the emotion & intention behind the information. Apart from conveying a message clearly, you also need to listen in a way that grasps the full meaning of what is being said. That makes the other person feel heard and understood.

Reaching you all with the second newsletter is indeed an exciting experience. Even though the pandemic has largely affected our in-person activities, it has not been able to impact our communication as we were able to get connected in many ways over the past nine months.

I must be thankful to our thoughtful Madam, VP – Public Relations, for coming up with such a timely theme for the second newsletter of the year.

Communication is one of the key aspects of any of the Toastmasters' activities. When trying to explain the purpose of becoming a Toastmaster, it is so hard to exclude the word “Communication”.

It is a known fact that the past nine months were a real challenge to all of us. The positive communication through different media helped us to keep in touch with 62 members of the club.

The highlight of the success is the adaptability of the members to fit into the new normal. That allowed us to stay positive while achieving many of the set KPIs for the year.

Communication has been rated as one of the most important soft skills a person should acquire no matter whether it's personal or professional. Your level of communication will largely determine the success of your family life, professional life, or your social life. During the past nine months, we were able to engage in two Speechcraft programs as a club. While many employers try to curtail the investments in human development in a pandemic situation, it is great to see that those employers made bold decisions to invest some of their funds towards the Speechcraft programs. One of the significant aspects of them is to improve the communication skills of their employees.

I'm sure all of us are eagerly waiting to get back to our in-person meetings. It was very much evident at the Outdoor meeting held in February with the participation of 40+ members.

I believe that we will be able to keep improving our communication skills in many ways and become a changing force to make an impact towards a better future.

**Pubudu Ginige CC, CL**  
**President**  
**Siyane Toastmasters Club**

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## ACHIEVEMENTS



## The Magic wand of transformation

TM Waruni Perera

The Oxford dictionary defines “transformation” as a marked change in form, nature or appearance, meaning a dramatic change. I presume this change kindles inside first, then leaks to outside. It is an amazing process someone can experience it by themselves.

Fortunately, I got an opportunity to walk through this magical process after I joined Toastmasters. I was being transformed, and I see many individuals being transformed by this magic wand called Toastmasters.

I used to be an introvert who turned completely mute in front of strangers sometime back, and I was a prisoner of my comfort zone. Toastmasters was my guiding light to find the way out of that prison.

I can remember how a newly-joined member got stuck on the stage at his very first Table Topics attempt, failing to utter a single word other than the topic itself. Yet the same individual won the Best Table Topics Speaker Award about one year later. Wasn't it magic?

Another member received promotions one after the other. The service branch headed by her reached the top 5 branches in the country within a short period after becoming an executive officer of the club. She too believes that magic happened because of Toastmasters.

The process starts from being focused or practising mindfulness on mistakes and weaknesses. Toastmasters help us to distinctly identify our strengths and weaknesses through constructive feedback and effective mentoring. Once we have understood our need for improvement, finding solutions to those would be easy. The ultimate result of this will be building confidence. Thus, confidence is the foundation of this transformation.

People share their life stories about how they overcame failures, struggles, breakups, hardships, and also, their success. Those stories teach us valuable lessons and create positive vibes in us. Those stories call us for actions subconsciously, and they are the building blocks of transformation.

Finally comes opportunities. The more we take up opportunities, the more we will be refined, sharpened and shaped. The more we take chances, the more the transformation process speeds up.

All my friends out there, if you wish to be transformed, join Toastmasters and experience the magic.

TM Waruni Perera

## Why communication?

**DTM P. Kamburawala**

The surgeon uses the knife to save a life. Slaughterers and Killers use the knife to end a life.

Communication is also a sharp knife. It can save and improve human life or do mass destructions. It depends on how you use it.

Take Human Rights Activist, Great orator, and writer Martin Luther King Jr for example. He used his communication skills to secure the human rights of underprivileged people in the USA. He, a nonviolent protester, has spoken for mass gatherings more than 2,500 times, and has written five books and many articles. He used his communication skills to relieve millions of suppressed people,

Maxim Gorki, the author of the book "Mother" could persuade the suppressed and oppressed Russians with his writings to topple King Tsar's regime. Also, Lenin and Trotsky, who led the Russian revolution, were great orators and writers who inspired millions all over the world. Their books have been translated into many languages. Mohandas Gandhi was another orator who inspired millions of Indians. People rallied around him and participated in his nonviolent protests to liberate India from the British.

On the other end of the spectrum, Adolph Hitler, the ruler of Germany, also was a great orator. It was with his words that he led his army to massacre millions of innocent men, women, and children.

Today, this skill of communication is mostly misused by politicians. They use their public speaking skills to come to power by misguiding and deceiving the general public by giving nicely crafted false promises that are never kept. They exploit public funds and suppress and oppress the general public. They do not develop their countries. They do not protect the environment. They do not care about the existence of living beings.

But communicators with values devote their lives to the betterment of human beings.

The best example we have is Dr. Ralph C Smedley who knew that the world needs more leaders with communication skills and values. Toastmasters International's prime motive is to change this world to a better place by transforming individuals into effective communicators and leaders with values.

It is a widely held conception that Toastmasters should not speak about politics, religion, and sex in our club meetings. In fact, we should talk about these things, now, more than ever. But the key is not to offend any one. By all means, talk about politics without offending members who belong to different political parties, talk about religions without offending other members who are of different beliefs and talk about sex without offending the opposite sex.

**DTM P. Kamburawala**

CONTEST SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS

International Speech Contest 2021/22

Club Level



TM Manith Pathiranage  
**FIRST RUNNER UP**



TM Chamin Athauda  
**WINNER**



TM Ishani Mirihagalla  
**SECOND RUNNER UP**

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS

Table Topics Contest 2021/22

Club Level



TM Isuru Ehelepola  
**FIRST RUNNER UP**



TM Manith Pathiranage  
**WINNER**



TM Jeewanthika  
Rubasinghe  
**SECOND RUNNER UP**

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB



# CONGRATULATIONS

International Speech Contest 2021/22

*Area F3*



TM Chamin Athauda  
**WINNER**



TM Manith Pathirana  
**FIRST RUNNER UP**

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

## Puzzle

# TOASTMASTERS

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

TIMER  
GESTURES  
CHAMPION  
PITCH  
GRAMMARIAN  
VOICE  
MEETING  
DELIVERY  
EXPRESSIONS  
CONTEST  
STAGE  
EVALUATION  
SPEECH  
IMPROMPTU  
TOASTMASTERS  
TABLETOPICS  
SPEAK  
PAUSE

## Tickle the funny bone

TM Ruwanthi Perera

“If you can laugh at yourself, you are going to be fine. If you allow others to laugh with you, you will be great” Martin Niemoller

The type of speeches I like best is those which are made for entertaining people.

Speeches that tickle you and let out a soul-satisfying belly laughter are the ultimate remedy for all worries. Delivering such speeches based on real-life experiences is a good way to unleash the speaker's bottled-up embarrassment. So, humorous speeches have a therapeutic effect on both the speaker and the listener.

Here are some tips to write a good entertaining speech for your next project.

### 1. Find a good plot

Just like any other type of speech, a humorous speech is woven around a real-life funny incident. The advantage of using real stories is that you will sound more natural when you relate them to the audience because you have already lived through them. Be careful not to have unrelated stories together. However much funny they are, unrelated stories will always leave the audience confused.

### 2. Bring out the humour with your words

The good news is that you don't have to be a naturally funny person to do a humorous speech. Humorous speeches are not stand-up comedy: rather they are more of prepared type of speeches that are structured and have an objective. The trick is in the way you write it and the words you use. Incorporate funny words, phrases, idioms, or any other wordplay to make things a little funnier.

### 3. Bring out the humour with your manner

You can make any ordinary sentence funny with the way you say it. The pauses, sound effects, and facial expressions will stimulate laughter. It takes a trial and error approach to find the best way you can say a particular part. So, take your time and try out different ways.

### 4. Watch what you say

People are different in their looks and ways to what cracks them up. The taste in humour will be different from person to person. But when speaking to a general audience, it is very important to keep your humour clean. While dark or salacious jokes may evoke laughter, it will make people uncomfortable, and they may even start disliking you.

### 5. If there should be a victim, it should be you

Laugh at yourself. We call this self-deprecating humour. Never laugh at the expense of someone else. However, if you are going for self-deprecating humour, always remember that there is a fine line between self-deprecation and self-sabotage. Do not straddle that line.

The great author Mark Twain once said, “Humor is mankind's greatest blessing.” Bless everyone with your great sense of humour.

TM Ruwanthi Perera

## Evaluate to elevate

### TM Chamin Athauda

It is said, "Feedback is breakfast of champions," and I am sure there is a lot of feedback behind every champion speaker. In other words, passionate speakers are made thanks to the valuable evaluations of mentors and colleagues. This is the reason why in club meetings there is a separate session for evaluation. Here are some tips you can practice next time you evaluate a speech, especially Pathways projects.

#### **Purpose**

Every project in Pathways has a specific purpose or a few purposes. Therefore, every time we evaluate a Pathways project, we should be thorough with its purpose(s). The best thing to do is, get the speaker to send us the evaluation form well before the meeting and go through it to better understand the project objectives. During the speech we can assess to which extent the speaker fulfills them.

#### **You are not the star**

When you are the speech evaluator, it is not your time to shine and show how much you know about public speaking. Your task is to help the speaker shine. Your purpose is to provide positive feedback so the speaker can improve. In fact, we need to have a genuine intention to develop the speaker.

#### **'My' opinion not 'Our' opinion**

Haven't we heard some evaluators say, "Your words inspired us all"? But how do we know that every single person in the audience was inspired?

There might have been individuals who were not inspired by the speech. It is, therefore, better to say, "I was inspired. I enjoyed it a lot. I was mesmerized." Our feedback is a collection of our thoughts, and it is up to the speaker to agree or disagree.

#### **No Exaggeration**

"Wow! What a wonderful speech! The best speech I have listened to in my life!" Would you like to hear these kinds of words from an evaluator for a pretty average speech? I believe one of the biggest mistakes an evaluator could make is exaggeration. Instead, we can appreciate the speaker's efforts and discuss the ways he/she can improve, positively.

#### **Keep it simple**

Simplicity matters a lot when it comes to speech evaluations. No matter how advanced your evaluation is, if the speaker cannot digest what you say, the effort will be wasted. Of course, we can come up with advanced points if the speaker has already requested to do so before the meeting and if he/she needs such points.

Every time you are to evaluate a speech, consider it an opportunity to help another to do better in the future. Ultimately, that is what we all would like to see as Toastmasters.

TM Chamin Athauda



## OUTDOOR MEETING





## Books don't just entertain: They communicate

TM Shanika Ranasinghe

As a lover of fairy tales, children's stories, novels, classics, and mythical stories, creative writing has fascinated me since my childhood. All these stories communicate – to children, teenagers, and even adults. Someone might ask, "what do stories communicate?" A lot of things. Life lessons, morals, inspirations, and happy endings on the surface, and strong pure imagination, passion, commitment, and courage of the author when you read between the lines.

For example, the Brontë trio, Charlotte, Emily and Anne.

Despite their poverty and hardships, their passion for writing, for being independent, their strong imagination made them famous writers. According to *The Conversation Media Group Ltd*, "The Brontës wrote as men because their novels examined subject matter which was "unfeminine" for their early Victorian readers: sexual passion, slang, alcoholism, domestic abuse, and violence." Yet, with sheer courage, they wrote acclaimed masterpieces of literature, communicating "unfeminine" themes. Secondly, Enid Blyton's pure imagination produced hundreds of stories for children and teenagers. Her books display her passion to communicate themes dear to children and teenagers. Also, J K Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, communicated a new world loved both by children and adults. Her pure imagination escalated her to fame.

The authors' aim to communicate was successful. The reasons behind these outstanding successes are the vocabulary and the writing style. The forthright, powerful words of Brontë trio were most communicable. Vocabulary and themes of Blyton matched children and teenagers.

Rowling's vocabulary is modern and communication easy. The writing style is unique to each, in par with their genres, and thereby final result, communication was successful.

In certain stories, phrases from different languages like French, German, Italian, Greek and Latin may come your way. One perfect example is "anathema maranatha" found in Chapter 2 of *Anne of the Island* by L. M. Montgomery. One word is Greek, the other Syriac. Anathema means "accursed" while Maranatha means "The Lord cometh" or "will come" for vengeance. Loan words and borrowings from French (à la carte, rendez-vous, RSVP), German (kindergarten, hamburger), and Spanish (aurora borealis) are abundant in English.

Some authors have created new words from existing languages like Rowling's magic spells: expelliarmus, serpensortia, avada kedavra, crucio. Some have created new languages, like Elvish, Klingon, Dothraki, Na'vi, Lapine, and Alienese. However, these have not hindered communication.

Being a passionate lover of creative writing and languages, I penned this article to show the treasures that books conceal in their midst, other than life lessons, morals, and happy endings. Let me invite all of you to find kindred treasures in stories, to enjoy them with all your heart's might. Thank you, Merci, Danke, Grazie, Gracias, Xie-Xie, Gomawo, for your patience and love!

TM Shanika Ranasinghe

## Empowerment of a speech

**TM Jesmine Zain**

Communication is the weapon to feed voice to the voiceless, and the medium to reveal the unsaid and buried stories. It is the only tool that is needed to express one's ideas for high or small purposes. The momentum of words has the power to move even a crusade of people. The crucial point is that the speaker should be harnessed enough to make the audience feel what he wants them to feel.

Keeping those extravagant purposes aside, we need effective communication for our lives on a daily basis when associating with people. We need to work on communicating our ideas, proposals, and resolutions to another human being in a way he is capable of understanding us. This task is not always a piece of cake. Sometimes we have to address a crowd of people to convince them on a certain subject. A person who aspires to be a leader should possess this ability.

I embarked on my journey in Toastmasters - Where Leaders Are Made - in September 2020, keeping this in my mind. During these six months, I have experienced a significant improvement in my communication. Before joining Toastmasters, when I was speaking to a crowd, I could not help being excited. However, I succeeded in concealing it and performing the part I had to partake in. However, after a few months into doing Pathways speeches and role-plays, my impromptu speaking seemed improved and sounded somewhat effortless.

Doing Pathways speeches educated me to a great extent. It takes practice to write a speech on a particular topic in an interesting way. The speechwriter should focus on the structure as well as the content substantially. Were he not concerned about these two aspects, neither the delivery of speech will be successful, nor will the message of the speech be conveyed. I have realized that the projects in Pathways are designed in such a way to gradually develop a speaker's skills, such as body language and communication style.

Taking part in the International Speech Contest (ISC) for the first time contributed to my presentation skills in many valuable ways. The entire experience of doing a speech in ISC was different from doing Pathways speeches. I concentrated on a single speech, and refined it several times with enticing stories and metaphors. Then I had to focus on my vocal variations and pauses to enhance the delivery of the speech. Slowly, I learned to empower a speech.

No speech is perfect; no speech can be completely faultless. There is always room for improvement in a speech. Likewise, we can never be perfect in our communication; it's an ongoing process of refinement.

**TM Jesmine Zain**



## SIYANE SINHALA-TAMIL NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS





# An Adventure with Pathways

## TM Dilan Perera

I was inducted as a member of Siyane Toastmasters Club on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and enrolled directly to Pathways, the new syllabus of Toastmasters Educational Program.

Answering the Basic Questionnaire, I selected Innovative Planning as my path.

My “Ice Breaker” evaluator, DTM Chandrasiri Wanasinghe predicted an upcoming Humorous speaker.

The second project, “Evaluation and Feedback,” included two speeches and a speech evaluation. I evaluated the Level 1 Project 2 Speech 1 of TM Ishara Jayasundara along with a senior evaluator, who provided a written evaluation of your maiden evaluation.

“Researching and Presentation” required using basic research methods. I presented a speech on “Kite Flying” based on research done on [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com).

Pathways Level 2 had three projects: “Understand Your Leadership Style” required identifying my leadership styles - Coaching and Democratic. A speech on these styles was delivered; “Connect with the Audience” required speaking on an unfamiliar topic while maintaining the connection with the audience. I did my speech on Women’s Rights from a legal perspective; for “Introduction to Toastmaster Mentoring,” I explained my experience with my Mentor.

Required Project of Level 3 of my path was “Present a Proposal,” which necessitated identifying a problem and presenting an effective solution. For this, I discussed ways to attract outsiders to the club and encouraging them to be members.

For the two Elective Projects of Level 3, I selected “Effective Body Language” and “Understanding Vocal Variety” as they are most important for successful speeches.

In Level 4, the Required Project is “Managing Projects Successfully” which required developing a Project Plan, building a team and completing the project. I selected creating a Podcast and produced a three-episode Podcast on Siyane Toastmasters Club and aired it on social media. The first speech described the project plan. After completing the project, I delivered the second speech describing my experiences. For the elective project “Create a Podcast”, one episode of the Podcast along with an introductory speech of 2 to 3 minutes was done.

Level 5 Required Project is “High-Performance Leadership.” A Guidance Committee was formed, and two meetings were held. It was decided to conduct a one-day educational program in Rathupaswala Maha Vidyalaya, a remote school, as the project.

Wanting to reach a higher level in public speaking, I selected “Prepare to Speak Professionally” as the Level 5 Elective Project. It was 18 to 22 minutes keynote-style speech.

I might be the first in the club and one of the first in the Area and the Division to complete a Path. But the vast progress I made in developing my communication and leadership skills is clearly visible. I wish all of you an interesting and productive encounter with Pathways.

**TM Dilan Perera**





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