



Toastmasters of Basel

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***The Birth of a Superhero***

A search of Lake Pocotopaug for a reportedly drowned victim was called off here on Tuesday when it was realised that one of the volunteers helping in the search, Robert Hausmann, of East Hampton, was the person being sought.

- Des Moines Register 20-09-1957



**Calendar 2008**

05 March	Regular meeting
15 March	Spring Workshop
18 March	Area Contest
02 April	Regular meeting
16 April	Regular meeting
19 April	Division Contest in Berne
29 April	Regular meeting
14 May	Regular meeting
16-18 May	Spring District Conference in Prague
27 May	Annual General Meeting
11 June	Regular meeting
24 June	Regular meeting
09 July	Regular meeting

\* **Kung Hai Fat Choi** is what Chinese wish everyone following Chinese New Year. It means something along the lines of 'I hope you will make lots of money this year.' - Thomas



**Editorial**

I welcome all of you to the Year of the Rat

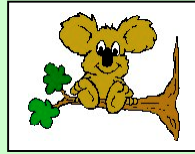
You will no doubt have picked up Juan's letter about the Club's Spring Workshop on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In case you didn't, Theo Bucher tells you on page 2 why you have to be there.

Julia Bird in her regular column talks about her experience in and of the new Leadership path ever since she started.

Five members of the Club will attend a special meeting of the Castlenock Toastmasters Club of Dublin in Dublin at the end of this month provided that the (Irish) air traffic controllers don't go on strike - blast them if they do! (I am trying to be polite here) I shall be very upset if they do because I quite look forward to this trip.

Kung Hai Fat Choy\*

*Thomas*

**Getting the  
knack of the new  
leadership track**

As this is the first newsletter of the New Year, I thought it would be fitting to give an update on my progress with the new leadership manual. I started working on the new leadership manual in July 2007, fitting in work on the projects between my other tasks as the VP Education. In this time, I am happy to announce that I have completed two projects, with some work already done for three more. Not bad in six months! The first project I completed was when I took on the role of contest chairman and I could complete project ten "team building" in one evening. I have written about this in a previous column.

The most recent project that I completed was "Listening and Leadership". For this, I had to take on three of the following four roles: Speech evaluator, Table Topics speaker, Ah- Counter and Grammarian. Each time, I had to make it clear that I was using good listening skills. Other Toastmasters had to observe me in my role and answer some questions about how well I did it and what could be improved.

Reading back over my book reminds me of each meeting. The first one was at the German Toastmasters club where I did a Table Topic. This was very difficult because German is not my mother tongue and I was worried I wouldn't understand the question! Luckily, the topic was easy and I could show that I was listening to the question. The next time I was a grammarian. This role is tough because you have to be listening well for the whole meeting. At the meeting last week, I was an evaluator. I think this is the hardest of the three roles that I took on, because you not only have to listen very well but also give feedback in a helpful way. This is the most relevant role to practise for aspiring Leaders. If you can do this role well, you have a valuable skill that you can use in any leadership position.

**Julia Bird**  
VP Education

**Spring Speakers' Workshop in Basel**  
**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008**  
**9 am to 5 pm**  
**Hotel Victoria, Basel**

The Committee of Toastmasters of Basel is pleased and proud to be continuing a tradition of the club in 2008 with a further Spring Spring Speakers' Workshop and teach-in. This year the workshop will be led by Avi Rosenkranz, who is much in demand as a professional speaker, as well as a highly experienced professional teacher and coach.

Avi is no stranger to some members. His talents as a speaker and teacher are well known in some of the larger companies in Basel and elsewhere in Switzerland. Avi has a PhD in psychology as well as a vast experience in speaking and coaching, including in communication, and in mediation. He is also well known and liked for his dry Viennese humour.

It is with great pleasure and gratitude to Avi that we are able to offer this Workshop to members of Toastmasters of Basel at an incredibly low price, being a mere fraction of what professional training of this calibre would ordinarily cost!

A rich buffet lunch and refreshments are even included in the low price! And those who attended the 2007 Spring Workshop will remember what a fine venue this is!

As sponsors of the Spring Workshop, Toastmasters of Basel offers a special low price to its members. Members of other Toastmasters clubs are also welcome. Indeed, non-members of Toastmasters are also welcome as paying guests, as long as places are available.

We look forward to this event with great expectations. Those who attended previous Spring Workshops organized by Toastmasters of Basel will find that this workshop will neatly complement the previous highly successful events, offering a new and different programme, with a balance between psychological aspects, technical aspects and self-development in more ways than one. More details about the programme are found in the workshop flyer.

Persons interested in attending this workshop should contact:

**Juan Oldani**  
**Lothringerstrasse 31, 4056 Basel**  
**e-Mail: [juanoldani@yahoo.it](mailto:juanoldani@yahoo.it)**  
**Tel. 076 467 5939**

***Register soon to be sure of a place!***

**The 2008 Basel Toastmasters Club  
New Year's Apero**

Many Thanks to Bea Vieten who kindly  
donated these photos



Our delicious apero plates were very popular...



Division governor Thomas with Francesca and Luisa



Our past presidents Dori and Rolf, with Petra



All participants at saying "cheese" at our New Year's  
apero



*Toastmasters of Basel  
Executive Committee  
July 2007 – June 2008*

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**On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February the Club  
Contest was held at the Lohnhof.**

Participation was strong with a total of nine contestants, and five persons taking part in each of the two competitions. The first was the Speech Evaluation Contest. The target speech to be evaluated by the five contestants: Dori, Doris, Francois, Lorena and Rolf, was given by Marina who, like our esteemed Area Governor Jack Vincent, nobly travelled all the way from her home club to Basel specially for this event. Marina gave an inspirational speech on aspiring to achieve personal goals. The winner of the Evaluation Contest was Dori and the runners up were Lorena and Rolf.

After the break it was time for the Speech Contest. The five contestants (Doris, Julia, Lee, Nina and Pierre) all gave a strong performance but of course only three can be placed. The winner of the speech contest was Nina who gave a spirited speech about an experience with her daughter at a local hospital. The runners up were Julia and Lee.

Congratulations to the winners! And a hearty thank you to everyone who took part, including naturally the contestants, the judges, the timers and especially also our two honoured guests.

*Summary by Theo*