



The Voice

District 83 Newsletter
December 2011

The Voice is dedicated to inspiring Toastmasters in District 83 to achieve their goals. Let **The Voice** be *your voice* by sending in your success stories—the way that Toastmasters has helped you either personally or professionally. Everyone has a story to share and your experiences can help others find *their voice*. Please send your submissions to Joanne Callahan, your District 83 Newsletter Editor, at greenbriar206@yahoo.com. Photos are welcomed!

Storytelling, Sculpture and Scenery by Donna Juzva

One of the oldest of the performing arts, storytelling has been a powerful component of every culture since the dawn of civilization. Since ancient times stories have been used to disseminate knowledge, explain natural phenomenon and distribute news of current and historical events. More than a source of entertainment, stories can touch our hearts; they connect us and are an inextricable part of the human experience.

As toastmasters, we hold the talent of storytelling in very high regard and we aspire to master the skill. So, as diligent students of oration, our Somerset Toastmasters club sent a contingent of our members to Grounds for Sculpture, in Hamilton, NJ for the 19th Annual NJ Storytelling Festival.

The day began with stories and songs in the tree dotted courtyard which captured the ambiance of an outdoor café. Several additional inviting locations were set up around the grounds, including a lovely spot under a spreading tree and a whimsical site in the shade of a natural arch-

way. Throughout the day, dozens of storytellers from groups throughout NJ and Philadelphia regaled us with amazing tales as we balanced on the edge of our seats amongst the giant sculptural art that generously sprinkles the whimsical gardens of the gorgeous park. Of special interest was the 'Story Slam' where attendees came prepared, each with a story based on a common theme. As names were pulled from a fuchsia fedora with a cyan feather, contestants were given each five minutes to share their enchanting tales.

The day seemed to run away with itself and before we knew it six hours had passed and the sun was preparing to set. The Storytelling Festival was tremendously entertaining, a fun filled day of art, whimsy and beauty. It was a celebration of the art of storytelling surrounded by the art of sculpture, amidst the art of nature.

19th Annual NJ Storytelling Festival



Asha Thomas Honored As Toastmaster of the Year For Outstanding Public Speaking And Leadership

Toastmaster of the Year award symbolizes the demonstration of outstanding public speaking and leadership performance.

During Toastmasters District 83 (Metropolitan New Jersey, Rockland County and Staten Island) Fall conference held at Ramada Conference Center, September 24-25, 2011, Freehold resident Asha Thomas was awarded the coveted Toastmasters of the Year Award for District 83. She was selected for the award from 701 members in the district, which is made up of 150 clubs in Metropolitan New Jersey, Rockland County and Staten Island.

The top honor was awarded to Asha Thomas for her enthusiasm and commitment for Toastmasters and her dedication to the organization, coupled with exceptional leadership, communication and team building skills. Asha Thomas, a project manager at IEEE has been a member of Toastmasters since.

"Asha is a wonderful Toastmaster exemplifying all the good qualities of communication and leadership skills and is always willing to help others to achieve their goals," said Sandy Scharf, DTM, 2011-2012 Division D Governor

Asha is a member of the IEEE Livewires Toastmasters Club as well as Aces. Currently serving as Area 43 Governor, Asha, consistently upholds the values of Toastmasters.

It's no surprise that Andrea Sadlowski, Immediate Past President of IEEE Live Wires Club had this to say about District 83's Toastmaster of the Year. "When Asha served as president of the IEEE Live Wires, she led the club through many firsts. During Asha's presidency, the Live Wires issued its first club newsletter, and later that same year, it's first "award winning" newsletter. It was the first year that the club ran workshops, with topics ranging from "Being the Toastmaster" to improvisational comedy and speaking. It was also the first time that the Live Wires earned the right to be called a Presidential Distinguished club. Through her enthusiasm and leadership, Asha didn't just motivate her club officers to do their best; she motivated the entire club to achieve more."



We Need Your Input!



Do you have a photo of a recent Toastmasters event or meeting? Will your club be celebrating an important milestone? Your District wants to know!

Please send me pictures and articles for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. You don't have to be a literary genius or a professional photographer. Just a Toastmaster willing to share with the rest of us what your club already knows – and that is just how special you are!

Please send your submissions to your editor, Joanne Callahan, at greenbriar206@yahoo.com

