



Dear Toastmasters!

Finally a great thing happened! Spring has arrived in Moscow! The sky is blue, the sun is shining and the leaves are beginning to grow! Isn't that wonderful? Of course, it is!

That is why on **April 15<sup>th</sup>** we had a meeting dedicated to **spring**! We had wonderful time and it is really a pity if you missed it, because this evening was full of positive emotions, people smiling and laughing. Anyway, if you didn't have an opportunity to attend our meeting, you can catch up with this newsletter!

1. Do you like flowers? Do you like when flowers are given to you unexpectedly? And do you like to present flowers yourself? We are almost sure, that the answer is "yes"! **Inessa Goldovskaya**, the **Invocation Master** of this meeting is of the same opinion! She told us a really beautiful story that happened to her recently. She was walking on the street and suddenly a woman stopped her and gave her a bucket of roses. Inessa was astonished and asked: "Why?" The woman just answered that she was very beautiful! It happened on her friend's birthday and she decided that these flowers from the sky where destined only for her friend! She came to her friend's house and gave her this beautiful bucket! This unexpected gift made her friend really glad and a smile appeared on her face! Inessa invoked us to give flowers because they bring happiness not only to the person who receives them, but also to the person who gives them! We should really follow her advice!

480<sup>th</sup> meeting, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### Quote of this issue:

"There are three things to aim at in public speaking: first, to get into your subject, then to get your subject into yourself, and lastly, to get your subject into the heart of your audience"

— Alexander Gregg

2. **Alexey Kudashev, CC**, our friend from Japan, who returned to Moscow no so long time ago, was the **Toastmaster** of the meeting!



First of all, he told us that in Japan some trees were already blossoming, when in Russia nothing was yet there! Alexey created a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere and made all participants feel very comfortable. He made us smile and laugh many times, which added even more positive emotions to our meeting!

Before starting the meeting he introduced the Timer, the Grammarian, The Cake Master and the Ah-counter. He performed his job really well and after each project he gave us a minute of silence and to put down our feedback to the speakers. Thanks to Alexey's efforts, the meeting was well-organized and ran very smoothly.

## Moscow Free Speakers Club



3. Spring is waited for by almost all Russian people! That is why the word **'spring'** is a very special word! But did you know that the meaning of this word is not only the season between winter and summer when the weather becomes warmer and plants start to grow again, but it also could be used in other cases? **Alexey Eraskin**, the **Word Master**, told us the different usages of this word and gave us some very effective examples when this word could be used as a noun and as a verb. For example, this word means also a place where water comes up through the ground. And if something springs in a particular direction, this means that it moves suddenly or quickly. If one thing springs from another thing, it is the result of it. You can see that knowing the different meanings of this "season of the year" is very useful!

4. In his **Joke of the Day** **Dmitry Chebotarevsky** told us a very personal story that happened to him, when he was a child. His mother is a musician and she taught children to play piano. One day, his mother brought a vinyl player and the three year-old Dmitry discovered a piece in this vinyl player, and unfortunately this piece was lost. Dear readers, you know, the preface to the joke story was so witty and personal that we have even decided not to publish it here and leave you with just the final part – the joke itself. You can find it, as usual, at the end of this newsletter. And next time – come directly to our meeting in order not to miss a word! ☺

5. Smile makes you happy!

Do you agree with this statement? We do! In her **2<sup>nd</sup> project** **Nadezhda Nikiforova** researched the topic of the influence of the smile on the feeling of happiness. She asked us to



make an experiment: to pronounce the "u" sound and the "i" sound. She surmised that we probably felt better when pronouncing the "i" sound, because this fact was confirmed by a scientist who first made this experiment. Nadezhda persuaded us that putting a smile on our face can drive positive emotions. So, when you want to feel better, just smile! =)

6. **Syah Akhtar Mat Ali**

presented **his Ice-Breaking speech!** Did you know that Syah already has a CC title in his country's Toastmasters club? His Ice-Breaker was a well-prepared speech



which consisted of two parts. First he told us some facts about himself. We learnt that he was the eldest child in his family, he has a Master Degree in Corporate Communications and is very fond of cycling, traveling and Facebook. In the second part of his speech he told us about his experience at Toastmasters.

## Moscow Free Speakers Club



The club gives him an opportunity to improve himself and get to know a lot of interesting people. He feels really blessed to be part of our club! Syah, we are very glad to know you and feel welcomed to the club!

**P.S.** By the way, there is no spring in Malaysia! =) We also learnt it from Syah!

7. This time **Alla Oganova, CC**, presented her **Project #3** from the advanced manual. The title of her project was **“Rumors”**. She told us some really important news concerning the life of one



of our members! Did you know that **Natalia Sherstneva** is planning to retire? What will be her next step? When one door closes, another door opens. If you stare at the closed door, you will not notice the door which opens. Natalia has a lot of doors in her life. When she retires, another door will open in her life: she will have time for her hobby – travelling. During her life Natalia visited a lot of countries in Europe, churches and monasteries around Moscow, she knows a lot about arts. In her trips she always makes new friends.

So, Alla wished Natalia: “Keep your taste at life! Don’t lose it!” We all wish Natalia good luck in her next step!

8. **Valeria Kulnevskaya**, the **General Evaluator**, was prepared for this role very well. Once again she underlined the theme of the meeting, and successively mentioned



pluses and some drawbacks of the first role-players, such as Invocation master, Word and Joke masters. Valeria skillfully combined praise and counsels. And, to say the truth, her eye to detail and the ability to emphasize the better side of every project that is presented on the floor of the Club should definitely become the skill to learn and follow by every dexterous toastmaster!

### *Evaluations:*

10. **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL**, started the evaluations part by saying some words about Nadezhda’s project:

- + good structure and captivating beginning;
- + interaction and involvement of the audience;
- pronunciation slips that distracted the listeners and kept from understanding the topic at its full extent;
- too scientific an approach to illustrate during the 2<sup>nd</sup> project.

## Moscow Free Speakers Club



11. **Ilya Volin** proceeded with his own estimation of Syah's Ice-Breaking speech:

- + the speech was motivating and had a gripping beginning;
- + it had a logical structure and was very interesting to listen to;
- it sometime sounded a bit monotonous.

12. **Nick Sapozhnicov, CC**, mentioned that Alla's project delivery:

- + showed us a perfect use of vocal variety and mimics;
- + was one of the best examples of the smart and humorous investigation of such a tricky topic as 'rumors';
- lacked one more joke (probably).

13. **Lilia Nurutdinova, the Table Topics Master**, was not afraid to take one of the most popular themes for table topics discussions at Moscow Free Speakers – "vacations". And, you know what, she definitely didn't lose! Her questions were smart and provocative, they made us think of such interesting notions as our own attitude to Russians that we meet abroad, why we prefer other countries to our own and know so little about the beautiful land we live in, and many others.



The discussion was so engaging that we even had to ask the Timer to give us 5 minutes more to let our members speak. Let all the topics be so motivating! Good job, Lilia!

**Our next meeting is on April, 29<sup>th</sup>!**

We are going to witness three projects: project #3 by Denis Shevchuk, advanced project #2 by Natalia Sherstneva, CTM, and advanced project #1 by Serge Kuzin, AC-B, who starts his quest for the title of Advanced Communicator-Silver. A perfect mix of experience and fresh perspective!

**See you soon!**

**Points:**

<b>Alexey Kudashev, CC</b> <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Nadezhda Nikiforova</b> <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Syah Akhtar Mat Ali, CC</b> <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	<b>8.7</b>
<b>Alla Oganova, CC</b> <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL</b> <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>Ilya Volin</b> <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Nick Sapozhnikov, CC</b> <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Valeria Kulnevskaya</b> <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Lilia Nurutdinova</b> <i>(Table Topics Master)</i>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Meeting as a whole</b>	<b>8.7</b>



## News!

1. Dear fellows, don't forget that for four days this August, nearly 2,000 leaders and speakers from around the world will meet in Palm Desert, Calif., to attend the 79th annual **Toastmasters International Convention**.

You are mostly welcome to learn more about this international event and register here - <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/Convention/InvitationtoConvention.aspx>

2. And we also invite you to take part in the upcoming **Moscow Free Speakers Club Speech Contest!** It will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and each of you has an opportunity to participate and earn credit for your Competent Communicator and Competent Leader Program! And of course each of you has a chance to WIN the contest and get a wonderful prize for it! 😊

Soon we will open the **registration** for the contest, so stay tuned!

We are also looking for the initiative members who would like to participate in the **jury**.

If you're eager to put your name in the list right now, let us know immediately by writing to us at [moscowfreespeakers@gmail.com](mailto:moscowfreespeakers@gmail.com)

### OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEAR FELLOWS!!!

**Natalia Radaykina**

**(April 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Valentina Salnikova, CC**

**(April 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Natalia Sherstneva, CTM**

**(April 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Alexey Kravtsun**

**(April 25<sup>th</sup>)**



## Joke of the meeting:

An American millionaire was walking past a music store and became interested. He got in and asked the shop assistant to show him the most ancient violin.

When the assistant gave him a violin made in 1730 the man asked him if the company that had produced this violin still existed.

The answer was: "No".

Then the millionaire answered that in this case he wasn't buying this violin.

To the question "Why?", he answered with a question: "Where will I get the spare parts?"

*by Dmitry Chebotarevsky*