



Dear Toastmasters!

1. The 2nd of June, 2011, was a hot day reminding us of the last year unusually hot summer. Maybe it was the reason why there were fewer than usual people present. Still, the 512th meeting dedicated to the International Children's Day was an interesting one. We listened to Tatyana Smirnova's Invocation about the childhood, Alexey Kravtsun's impressive speech about his relationships with his son, Nataliya Narinyan's speech about the animals we can find in Moscow, and we also participated in a lively discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of spending some of your time alone. Unfortunately, the meeting had a few lapses, and the least pleasant one was the absence of our third speaker, Denis Timko.

Dear members, newcomers and guests! If you're not able to come and implement your role, please contact the Secretary or VPE as soon as possible. We have a line of people ready and willing to deliver speeches and perform roles; thus, by taking a role and failing not only to fulfill it, but even to warn the Secretary or VPE beforehand, you waste opportunities of other members and newcomers.

2. Do you remember the days of your childhood? The time when you were happy and not concerned with so many problems and issues; when you enjoyed the life and didn't think too much about your social status and possessions. That was something **Tatyana Smirnova**, the **Invocation Master**, reminded us of in her mini-speech.

512st meeting, June, 2nd, 2011

Quote of this issue:

"There are only two types of speakers in the world.

1. The nervous and 2. Liars. "

- Mark Twain

She urged us to keep the memories fresh and return in that free state of mind, when possible.

3. We have many active members, but **Mary Beketova** stands out as the epitome of activeness. She delivers



speeches, takes on roles and takes the stage as often as she can. This time Mary took the role of the **Toastmaster** and managed it excellently, using the International Children's Day as a background to present all the role performers

and speakers.

4. People go through different stages in their lives: childhood, puberty, adolescence, maturity. And our members go through the stages as well, developing as Toastmasters. "Adolescence" of Toastmasters is a period, arguably, when they deliver their first several projects to blossom out into engaged members. **Dmitry Trapeznikov**, the **Word Master of the meeting**, steadily performs minor roles and is close to his "adolescence". The word Dmitry presented was "adolescent". We encourage you to deliver your Ice Breaker as soon as possible, Dmitry!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



5. When you were a child, had you ever stolen apples from other people's orchards? And if so, how did you manage the situation when you were caught doing it? **Nick Sapozhnikov, AC-B**, as the **Joke Master** told us a story about such a situation, which you can find at the end of this Newsletter.

6. Nature seems so beautiful and relaxing: hills, trees,



meadows, rivers, lakes and different animals around you. But when you think about cities, vast number of people hurrying on their way comes into mind. The pace of modern life is hectic, and whenever you look around, you

see concrete and sometimes pigeons, sparrows, stray dogs, cats and rats as the wildlife. It is hard to believe, but the cities are not entirely like that, and you can find an oasis of Nature even within their limits.

This was the point of **Natalia Narinyan's 4th project "Wildlife in Moscow"**.

Did you know that inside Moscow city limits you could see not only squirrels, hedgehogs, marsh frogs, ducks and nightingales, but elks and even wild boars!?

Natalia not only told us in detail what animals we can see in parks of Moscow, but actually showed us the map of the city and highlighted the places where these types of animals could be seen. Truly, listening to speeches in

our club you can learn interesting facts about seemingly familiar places and things!

7. Do you have children? How did or do you raise them?

There are many books, theories and models suggesting



different ways to do that. One of the ways is just... to ask your children how do they want you to treat them. This way, however, does require courage, flexibility and additional work to be done. Luckily, we have

a member who is fit for the task and could share his experience! **Alexey Kravtsun**, a very active member and Vice President Membership elected, chose to do exactly that – to ask his son how he think he should be treated. The process of and the results of his communication with his son, as well as the experience he got were the things Alexey told us about in his **6th project "To be child"**.

We listened to Alexey's story describing his first attempts to establish a strong connection with his son, the additional efforts it took Alexey – watching together cartoons Alexey didn't even like. He told us how the levels of trust and openness between them were rising, and, finally, how his son asked what he could do to be a better son!

The speech was emotionally captivating and very well prepared and delivered. Congratulations with a remarkable speech, Alexey! And thank you for sharing your experience!

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8. After the tea Break, **Evgenia Maseeva** took the role of the **General Evaluator**. Evgeniya gave brief but still encouraging comments to the participants of the first part of the meeting and proceeded with speeches' evaluations.

Evaluations:

9. **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B**, was the **Personal Evaluator** for the speech by Natalya Narinyan. As usual, her evaluation was comprehensive and constructive. Admitting that Natalya fully met the goals of her project, Valeriya accented the following aspects she especially liked in Natalya's speech:

- + *Good visuals and their efficient usage;*
- + *Avoiding jargon words;*
- + *Excellent language and grammar.*

Valeria also advised Natalya to integrate personal stories and feelings into her speeches so that they wouldn't sound too pedagogical and to work on vocal variety, which would make her projects more vivid and entertaining.

10. Alexey's project was evaluated by **Ekaterina Sidorenko**, who noticed the following project's pros:

- + *Vocal variety;*
- + *Natural body language;*
- + *Excellent voice volume;*
- + *Expressiveness.*

The project was a success, so it was hard to find any drawbacks; nevertheless, Ekaterina recommended Alexey to pay more attention for pitch and speech rate that sometimes was too fast.

11. As the Table Topic Master, **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B**,



picked up a theme appealing to everybody - loneliness - which made the table topic discussion vivid, and many participants were involved. Margarita's questions evoked a lot of polemics. Why people feel lonely in big cities?

Do you believe that moments of loneliness are valuable for everybody? What do you think about using drugs and alcohol to escape from loneliness? Elena Filya suggested that feeling of loneliness depends on our attitude: when she decided not to keep distance from her surroundings, she found a lot of new friends and forgot about loneliness. Our guest Stephane Lhoiry telling a funny personal story noted that sometimes one feels lonely even being surrounded by his family members. Denis Shevchuk argued that loneliness is necessary to create something significant. Mary Beketova answered back that she is a person who cannot stand being lonely, and in order to achieve good results she needs somebody to be around or to talk to. Mary's emotional speech backed with personal examples was chosen as the best speech of the Table Topics session.

Well-organized and artfully managed Table Topic discussion became a final step on Margarita's Competent Leadership Manual. Congratulations, Margarita, with Competent Leader Award!



Our next meeting is on June, 30th!

See you soon!

Joke of the day:

A man notices a boy in his orchard and shouts: “Hey, boy! What are you doing in my garden!?”

A boy responds, “Dear mister, I just saw an apple falling from a branch and wanted to hook it back.”

By Nick Sapozhnikov, AC-B

Points:

Mary Beketova (Toastmaster)	4.4
Tatiana Smirnova (Invocation Master)	3.5
Dmitry Trapeznikov (Word Master)	3.6
Nick Sapozhnikov, AC-B (Joke Master)	4.3
Natalia Narinyan (Speaker 1)	3.8
Alexey Kravtsun (Speaker 2)	4.6
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B (Personal Evaluator 1)	4.7
Ekaterina Sidorenko (Personal Evaluator 2)	4.2
Evgenia Maseeva (General Evaluator)	4.1
Margarita Ryndina, AC-B, CL (Table Topics Master)	4.4
Meeting as a whole	4.2