



Welcome to

# Toastmasters International

*Making Effective Communication*

*A Worldwide Reality*

## Phoenix-Toronto Toastmasters Club

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Agenda

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- 7:00 Call to Order by chair: Michele
- Royal & Loyal Toast: Brian
  - Introduction of Guests: Larry
  - Assignment Review
    - Secretary: Kristin
    - Timer: Sandy
    - General Evaluator: Sandy
    - Counter/Grammarians: AnnMarie
    - Quizmaster: Kristin
    - Humourmaster: Debbie
- 7:07 Toastmaster Tips: Tom
- 7:10 Table Topics Master: Paul
- 7:40 Business Session: Michele
- Minutes from previous meeting: Secretary (Denise)
  - Old Business
  - Officers' Reports
  - New Business
- 7:50 Recess
- 7:55 Reconvene - Toastmaster: Dan
- |            |                         |                     |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Speaker #1 | CTM Speech # 5 – Vlad   | Evaluator – Sandy   |
| Speaker #2 | CTM Speech # 5 – Marcia | Evaluator – Pam     |
| Speaker #3 | CTM Speech # 7 – Bonnie | Evaluator – Michele |
| Speaker #4 | CTM Speech # 7 – James  | Evaluator – Fred    |
- 8:50 Reports
- |                       |          |    |
|-----------------------|----------|----|
| Table Topics Winners: | #1       | #2 |
| Counter/Grammarians:  | AnnMarie |    |
| Quizmaster:           | Kristin  |    |
| Humourmaster :        | Debbie   |    |
| General Evaluator:    | Sandy    |    |
| Guest Comments:       |          |    |
- 8:55 Assignment Review
- 9:00 Adjournment

**Quote of the Evening:** Experience is a hard teacher, she gives you the test first and the lesson afterwards.

# The History of Valentine's Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

## Did You Know?

- 192 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion. (This total excludes packaged kids valentines for classroom exchanges.) (Source: Hallmark research)
- Nearly 60 percent of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the six days prior to the observance, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight.
- There are **120** single men (i.e., never married, widowed or divorced) who are in their 20s for every 100 single women of the same ages.
- There are **33** single men (i.e., never married, widowed or divorced) age 65 or older for every 100 single women of the same ages.
- The estimated median ages at first marriage for women and men are **25.8 and 27.4** respectively, in 2004. The age for women rose 4.7 years in the last three decades. The age for men at first marriage is up 4.3 years.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
- Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.
- A love seat is a wide chair. It was first made to seat one woman and her wide dress. Later, the love seat or courting seat had two sections, often in an S-shape. In this way, a couple could sit together -- but not too closely!