

# DISTRICT 105

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

**REGION 11**

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NEWSLETTER VOL.1

JULY 2020

**GRAND LADY OF TOASTMASTERS  
CHAT WITH  
ALMA LOU, DTM**



**FOCUS ON DIVISION A  
THE MELTING POT**

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# From The Editor's Desk

## 14 Newsletters in one year ???

My first reaction was a firm refusal. A little nudge, and a lot of thought later when curiosity shouldered its way in, and the mind succumbed to the temptation of exploration, the traitorous nod of refusal changed to one of acquiescence.

The idea, 'One district newsletter every month with the spotlight on one specific division', was the brainchild of DTM Deepa Surendran, PR manager of District 105. The intention was to highlight the spirit of each division and showcase its clubs for the benefit of those within and beyond the Toastmasters community.

The task was daunting. A month was too short a period to trace the history, understand mindsets, identify strengths, and do justice; however, we also learned that a month is long enough to bring down self-created barriers and catch a

whiff of the veiled essence that a division embodies. We began our odyssey, with Division A. A glance at the dashboard revealed a startling statistic, 18 of the 21 clubs of this President's Distinguished Division were President's distinguished clubs. What it did not divulge though was the diversity, vitality, and solidarity that Division A epitomizes. The phrase **Melting Pot**, as a theme for this issue, took root from here. The features, views, and experiences compiled here have all been authored by Toastmasters of Division A.

I express my sincere gratitude to Division A Director, DTM Jamileh, and to all the Toastmasters of Division A who supported us unconditionally with their infectious warmth and enthusiasm. This issue is by no means exhaustive but the errors and omissions if any are neither intentional nor deliberate.

Though it's early days still, the adventure we have embarked upon has been delightful so far. I am grateful to DTM Deepa for giving us this opportunity and placing her trust in this gregarious Newsletter team that we have formed. We have a long way to go; your valuable support and timely feedback can help us assess and augment the efficacy of our work, as we progress from one newsletter to the next.

A Toastmaster since 2013, Sowmya loves Mathematics. She not only solves mathematical problems but is also an 'Agony Aunt' as people love to approach her with their problems.



**SOWMYA RANGARAJAN, DTM**  
CHIEF EDITOR

## Behind The Scenes

Immediate Past President of Greens Toastmasters Club, Ruchi sees the world in words, feelings and stories. Innately imaginative and curious, she finds the spaces between words more intriguing. Ruchi writes, makes films, meditates and plays badminton, but she also enjoys being alone with her thoughts, staring into space.



**TM RUCHI UNDEVIA**  
EDITORIAL TEAM

A member of TGIS, Saro is a homemaker, part-time exam invigilator, travel enthusiast, accomplished chef and a Netflix addict. She is so organized that she can drive her family up the wall, but play some music and you can't get her off the dance floor. Saro is a people's person and loves connecting with them.



**SARO THARYAN, DTM**  
EDITORIAL TEAM

A member of Desert Divas and Take De Bait Toastmasters clubs, Radha Hari is an extrovert who loves meeting and interacting with people. She is a movie and music buff, with a penchant for writing, and if given the choice she would spend all her time outdoors.



**TM RADHA HARI**  
EDITORIAL TEAM

An Engineer by qualification whose CV has 5 years of work experience and 5 years of child rearing, Shilpa has always been a writer at heart. Anything to do with creativity and adventure clears the confusion about her true calling! She is the past VPE and current VPPR of ESCF Toastmasters club.



**TM SHILPA SHREEMANTH**  
EDITORIAL TEAM

A foray into Sharjah Toastmasters Club two years ago led Padmaja to revitalise her potentials in public speaking, designing and creative writing. An ardent movie buff and a trained classical dancer, one of her dreams is to explore the unseen, and topping this list is a trek to the Himalayas.



**TM PADMAJA DELEEKUMAR**  
EDITORIAL TEAM

This creative, graphic designer excels at time management and problem solving. Quick to grasp the bigger picture, Nitin has an ambitious goal; he wants to become a billionaire within two years.



**TM NITIN MEHRA**  
DESIGNER

# Perceptive Thoughts

## District Director



**NELSON MENEZES, DTM**  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During my visit to Lebanon, the Area 1 team organized an evening dinner for all Area 1 members.

I enjoyed the evening and the hospitality, but the Lebanese dabke (dance) will be my most cherished memory.

It gives me immense pleasure to pen down my message for the first newsletter of our District for the year 2020. My personal and heartiest Congratulations to the District Public Relations Newsletter team for this brilliant initiative.

As a District Director, I wish to see our district recognized as one of the best districts in the world, a Smedley Distinguished District. I firmly believe that ***“Teamwork will make our dream work”***. We need to work together as a team at every level; club, area, division, and district to take District 105 to greater heights.

Halford E. Lucas says, ***“No one can whistle a symphony, it takes a whole orchestra to play it”***.

This was the secret behind **Division A’s** spectacular success last year. Under the dynamic leadership of **DTM Ruba Afaneh**, Division A attained the status of President’s Distinguished Division for the year 2019-20. Congratulations to Division A and to the 5 vibrant Area Directors whose areas achieved select distinguished status or higher.

A New Year brings with it new hopes and new aspirations. We have just commenced the new Toastmaster term, and meeting online is the new normal. I am glad that our clubs in

Jordan and Lebanon have embraced online meetings and are doing their best to ensure that members have an amazing experience. Change is the only constant and we all must adapt to the new global change. There are bound to be challenges; however, as leaders we must face challenges with positivity. I take this opportunity to wish every member of the Division A family an exciting year of personal growth, driven by optimism and enjoyment.

Someone has rightly said ***“If the road is beautiful first confirm where it goes. But if the destination is beautiful, don’t bother how the road is, just keep walking.”***

**Division A clubs** have taken gentle yet resolute steps forward in the right direction. Here I would like to wish our incoming Division A team led by DTM Jamileh Al-Alami and the 5 Area Directors the very best for a successful & exciting term. Success will definitely be yours when you work collectively with a definite goal in mind. Keep inspiring your clubs by working closely with them, and providing the support and guidance they need. I assure you wholehearted support from the District.

**Nelson Menezes, DTM**  
District Director,  
District 105, Region 11

# Quality Matters

## Program Quality Director



**GURBINDER S PUNN, DTM**  
PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR

Quality is the need of the hour. It is the buzzword on everyone's lips.

Quality is at the top of most agendas and improving quality is probably the most important task facing any institution. However, despite its importance, many people find quality an enigmatic concept. It is perplexing to define and often difficult to measure. One person's idea of quality often conflicts with another's and, as we are all only too aware, no two experts ever come to the same conclusion when discussing what makes an excellent school, college or Toastmasters Club.

We all know quality when we experience it. In our everyday life we usually take quality for granted, especially when it is regularly provided. Yet we are all acutely aware when it is lacking.

Of one thing we can be certain, ***"Quality is what makes the difference between things being excellent or run-of-the-mill."***

Increasingly, quality makes the difference between success and failure. Quality depends on our following the established standards.

Educational organizations are required to develop their own approaches to quality; they need to demonstrate publicly that they too can deliver a consistent quality experience.

In Toastmasters, Program Quality is what makes the difference. Quality Clubs do some very basic and simple things. They follow the **Gold Standard** of Toastmasters - **Moments of Truth**.

IBM's definition puts it simply, ***'Quality equals customer satisfaction'***. In Toastmasters, members stay in a club that satisfies them with high quality meetings and a Positive Learning Experience. They bring their friends and families to such a club.

I recommend that each club in Div A, implements Toastmasters **Moments of Truth**, and provides a mutually supportive and learning environment, to our members.

Qualitatively Yours

**Gurbinder S Punn, DTM**  
Program Quality Director,  
District 105, Region 11

DTM Gurbinder began his Toastmasters journey with Bahwan International Group Toastmasters Club, Oman in 2007.

He says *"I like the hospitality, love and friendship of Jordan and Lebanon. And the more they love you, the more they feed you."*

# An Expression of Gratitude Club Growth Director



**RANIA ABUL-RUB, DTM**  
CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR

DTM Rania has been a Toastmaster since 2005 and her home club is Amman International Toastmasters Club. She says with pride, "Division A is very unique. It covers two amazing nations with rich historical and cultural backgrounds and its members have constantly maintained their cultural identity."

## Greetings!

My wonderful fellow members from my very own beloved home Division A - It is with you I have shared amazing memories and experiences. It is with you I have grown to become a better communicator and leader; and most importantly it is with you I have become a better individual. I owe the person I am today and the transformation that I have experienced over the past 15 years to you. For this I say **Thank You**.

To my mentors, my friends, my tutors and everyone who has touched my heart with a story, everyone who has given me immaculate feedback on a project that I had delivered, and everyone who has impacted me positively and helped me discover my true potential, I say with a deep sense of gratitude - **Thank You**.

For the privilege of serving you on so many occasions at the Area and Division levels, and now to serve you as your Club Growth Director for this term, I say again with utmost humility - **Thank You**.

I could not have reached this far had it not been for your support and belief in me. Division A is a very unique division. It reflects authenticity in every sense of the word. In particular, there are two aspects I am immensely proud of. First, that Division A covers two amazing nations with rich historical and cultural backgrounds, and the other is the fact that its members have constantly maintained their cultural identity. For that I say with utmost reverence - **Thank You**.

I wish my fellow members of Division A continuous prosperity and success. Keep doing the fantastic work you do, elevate your members' experiences, support, and nurture them in the same way you have supported and nurtured me for so many years and finally, I hope you will continue to do for me as much as you do for others.

Yours in Gratitude,

**Rania Abul-Rub, DTM**  
Club Growth Director  
District 105, Region 11



# Establishing Connections

## District Public Relations Manager



**DEEPA SURENDRAN, DTM**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

In Toastmasters, the main responsibility of the District Public Relations is to establish and maintain lines of communication between the district and its clubs, as well as between the district and the public.

It is also the responsibility of District Public Relations to help the district achieve its goals by building and maintaining a positive image using a variety of communication channels and tools.

In District 105, our Public Relations Committee is all set to achieve the above in full measure. District 105, is one of the biggest districts in the world, with 14 Divisions, 59 Areas spread over 4 countries viz. UAE, Oman, Jordan, and Lebanon. So establishing and maintaining effective communication lines and ensuring compliance with branding requirements is a tough task. But the 7 close-knit PR Committees are all working together, determined to make it happen. We have Committees for the following;

- Branding & Compliance
- Communications
- Infrastructure/ Website
- Social Media
- Newsletters
- Creative design
- Awards

We are now ready with the first of 14 Division focussed District Newsletters. Our Newsletter team will showcase Toastmasters, young and old, who have contributed relentlessly to the growth of the Toastmasters program in this part of the world. This newsletter's main focus is on a unique Division, Division A, comprising of clubs in two different countries (Jordan & Lebanon). Though I am excited to share the Newsletter team's learnings & experience, I will limit myself to these few paragraphs as my team has worked extensively to give the world a glimpse of what Division A exemplifies.

So, please go ahead, read the fine work of the Newsletter team, and discover Division A!

I thank our senior Toastmasters, past District Officers, Current Division Director DTM Jamileh, and the writers of Division A, who helped our Team get interviews, stories, write-ups, and much more.

**Deepa Surendran, DTM**  
Public Relations Manager  
District 105, Region 11

Deepa Surendran, joined Discovery Gardens Toastmasters Club in 2013. This accomplished Malayalam writer with a published book to her name, has one crazy wish - to retire and go to the Himalayas!

# Words of Inspiration

## District Advisor



**BALAJI NAGABHUSHAN, DTM**  
DISTRICT ADVISOR

It's a pleasure to write to all of you through this Newsletter. It's great to see District 105 in the limelight all the while. To be a part of one of the best Districts of the world is an honor. During this difficult period, all of you are still showing that positive attitude and energy in all activities conducted by the District or the Division or Area or your club. I am enjoying attending many of these meetings and when I see all of you, I too get inspired and motivated.

Every individual in Division A is an inspiration for me. The amount of effort they put in, to ensure that the flag of Division A flies high is commendable. Both Jordan and Lebanon work as a family. The practice I admire is that they follow Parliamentary procedures very well.

I understand that the District has planned to release 14 newsletters this year and that's a wonderful initiative. The first recipient, Division A comprising of Jordan & Lebanon is one of our very good Divisions. The cultures and approaches are different, but the Toastmasters culture in Division A is something wonderful. This is one Division that is aware of Parliamentary procedures very well; to top it all, you have the Club Growth Director this year from your Division. I wish you all the best and I am sure you will continue to be at the top. I shall never forget my travels to both Jordan & Lebanon and the friendly nature of all the Toastmasters over there. Good luck to you.

**Balaji Nagabhushan, DTM**  
District 105 Advisor

Every individual in Division A is an inspiration for me. The amount of effort they put into ensuring that the flag of Division A flies high is commendable. Both Jordan and Lebanon work as a family.

## Visions of a Leader Division Director



**JAMILEH AL-ALAMI, DTM**  
DIVISION A DIRECTOR

DTM Jamileh is a member of Stars, Al Nour, Al Fanar, Sunshine and Al-Bayan Toastmasters Clubs. She represented Jordan in the Arabic Humorous Speech Contest at DTAC, Oman in 2018.

I always believe that leadership skills come from within; every individual has the talent but like a diamond, it needs to be polished. The strength within you has to be used to the optimum to bring out the best in you, and in others so that you can serve as a leader and a coach.

I started my Toastmasters journey in 2016 as a member of the Stars Toastmasters Club. After that, due to the immense passion and satisfaction I found in Toastmasters, I joined 4 more clubs. I was surprised by the tremendous support that I received. The journey has been a very successful and entertaining one throughout the last 4 years. I take this opportunity to express how much I have enjoyed this journey.

After one year of joining, to show my gratitude I decided to join the Club Excom to help in whatever way I could. Ever since I have served in different Excom positions; Sergeant at arms, Secretary, Treasurer, VPPR, and VP Education.

In the year 2019 - 2020, I was selected as the Area 2 Director, Division A; this was an unimaginable challenge. However, the 5 clubs in Area 2 (Al Nour, Stars, ITCJ, Rainbow and Creative) stood

behind me as rocks to support me with the emotionally exhausting and physically tiring activities. I also had the constant support of the Division Director.

As the current Division A Director, first of all, I want to express my pride and happiness at being chosen for this post. I am fully confident that the five areas (Area 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) under the impeccable leadership of Area Directors will help Division A achieve honours and scale greater heights.

My vision for Division A is to enrich all the areas within the Division with educational quality, leadership excellence and member satisfaction. I also wish to open new clubs in Jordan and Lebanon, outside the cities of Amman and Beirut. Finally, I hope to involve all the clubs of Div A in debating by conducting a Division Debate Contest.

Success comes from relentless follow up, perservance and sharing.

***Unless we strive hard and focus on our goals, success will only be a dream.***

**Jamileh Al-Alami, DTM**  
Division A Director  
District 105, Region 11

# Division Structure



**JAMILEH AL-ALAMI , DTM**  
DIVISION A DIRECTOR



**TM HADI HAIDAR**

AREA 1 DIRECTOR

My greatest inspiration is my Mentor TM Dima Charara from Toastmasters Speakers and Leaders. She is a mentor, an idol, a role model and a friend. A mentor is more like a parent guiding you towards excellence. That's what drives me, to move forward and be a role model to other members.



**TM FARRAH KHALIFEH**

AREA 2 DIRECTOR

My family, my husband, my friends are all inspirations, but my true inspiration is my daughter. She came into my life when I was lost and didn't know what I wanted in life. When she was born my life changed completely. I became more responsible, decisive and could take control of my life. I didn't know I had so much love to give.



**TM DANA NASHAWATI**

AREA 3 DIRECTOR

I work at a cancer center. I get inspired everyday looking at the people who fight with cancer so bravely. I also get inspired looking at the families of the patients and my co-workers who support them.



**TM KHALIL JABAJI**

AREA 4 DIRECTOR

The late King Hussain bin Talal (the king of Jordan) still inspires me although he died 20 years ago.



**TM RAWAN SUHEIMAT**

AREA 5 DIRECTOR

My late father has left a big impression in my heart. He had a beautiful smile and a humble attitude despite his great medical achievements. He encouraged me and always pushed me out of my comfort zone to become a better ME!! He taught me to believe in myself and to never give up on my dreams.

## Clubs in Area

### AREA 1

1. Speakers & Leaders Toastmasters Club
2. Loudspeakers Toastmasters Club
3. Pro-Toast Toastmasters Club
4. Dhad Toastmasters Club
5. Mercury Toastmasters Club

### AREA 2

1. International Toastmasters Club of Jordan
2. Rainbow Toastmasters Club
3. Stars Toastmasters Club
4. Al Nour Toastmasters Club

### AREA 3

1. Amman International Toastmasters Club
2. Ayla Toastmasters Club
3. Power Elite Toastmasters Club
4. Al-Bayan Toastmasters Club

### AREA 4

1. Pioneers International Toastmasters Club
2. New Horizons Toastmasters Club
3. SICAP Toastmasters Club
4. Sunshine Toastmasters Club

### AREA 5

1. La Vie En Rose International Toastmasters Club
2. Al Fanar Toastmasters Club of Jordan
3. Umniah Company Toastmasters Club
4. Creative Toastmasters Club

# District's Choice of Best Clubs for



2019-2020



## Loudspeakers Toastmasters Club, Lebanon

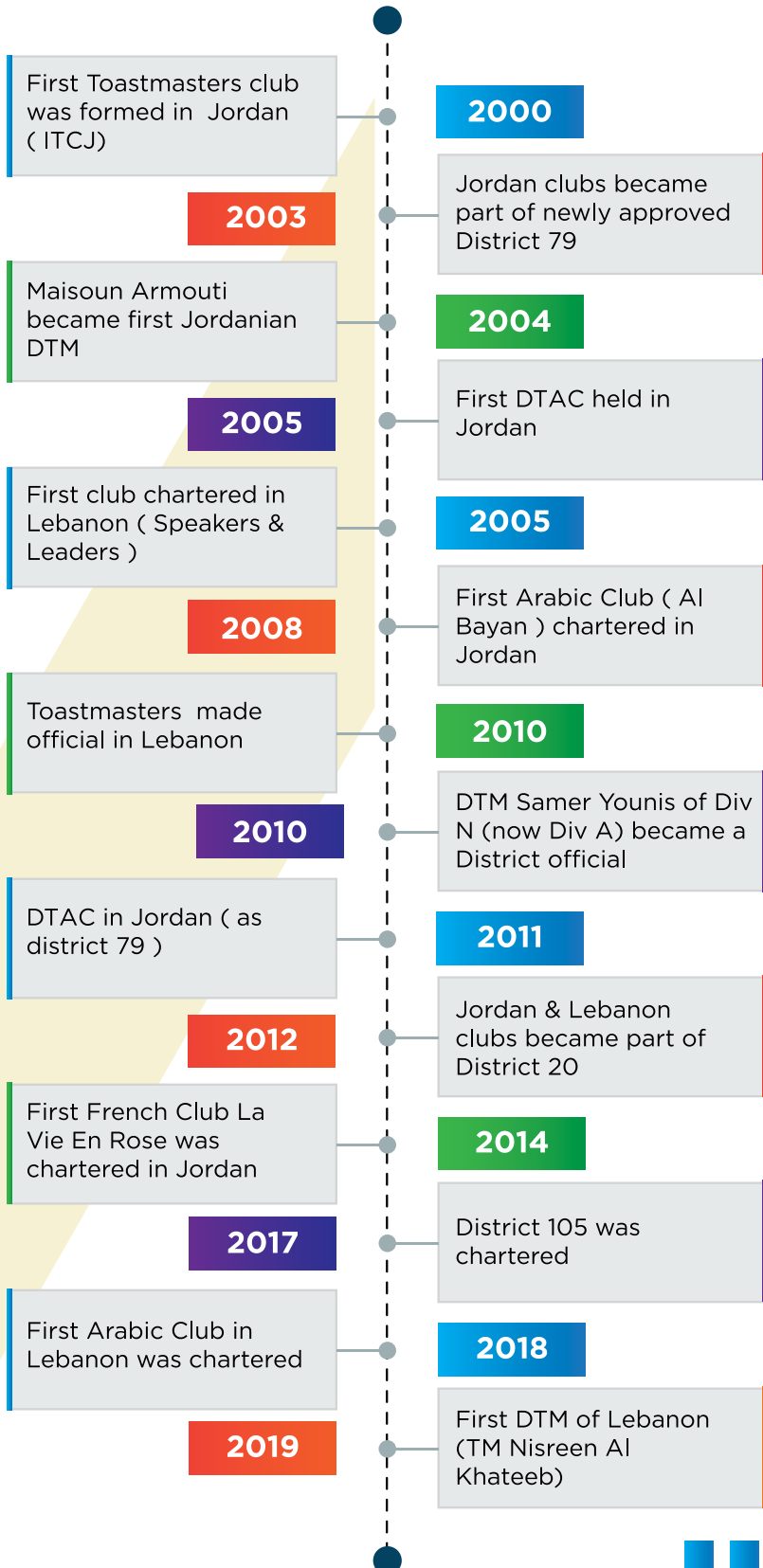


## Power Elite Toastmasters Club, Jordan



# Tracing History

## HIND MASRI, DTM



HIND MASRI, DTM

DTM Hind Masri, a Toastmaster since June 2002 has served in many Leadership positions including Division N director, Pathways Ambassador and is presently serving within the District 105 CGD team as Retention Chair Jordan. DTM Hind is currently a member of Creative Toastmasters Club.

# “THE MELTING POT”

## INSIGHT INTO DIVISION A

Encompassing two countries, Lebanon and Jordan, Div A is a multi-cultural confluence of Toastmasters with different backgrounds. Gracing the podiums of these clubs are a motley of people diverse in age, nationality, and profession. Div A rejoices over this diversity and stands unique and distinguished as a true Melting Pot.

# The Melting Pot

## Insight into Division A - Lebanon



HANAA MOUNZER, DTM

If you want to describe Toastmasters in Lebanon by one word, it would be 'Family'. The clubs of Lebanon while maintaining their individuality like to be represented as a family called Toastmasters Lebanon. Three attributes- support, care, and growth are the secret ingredients of our success and development. Lebanon clubs aim to grow together and support each other, especially during challenges. We, Toastmasters, are one community, one team, one family within Area 1, Division A, and District 105.

Toastmasters was introduced in Lebanon in 2004 by Dr. Walid Nasrallah, Professor of Engineering Management at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He was already a Toastmaster in the United States of America back then. He brought this concept to Lebanon to enable AUB students to develop their leadership and communication skills while studying. He started working initially on the university club with 5-10 members. The first club in Lebanon, 'Speakers and Leaders' was chartered in March 2005. The enthusiastic members wanted to share the benefits and support the community beyond AUB. They started conducting demo meetings and welcoming professionals. Toastmasters Lebanon became official in 2010 once it was registered with the Lebanese government as an NGO.

We now have five active clubs: Speakers and Leaders, Loudspeakers, Pro-toast, Dhad, and Mercury. What is unique about our clubs is the diversity and mix of cultures. Our members belong to

different professional backgrounds, age groups, university majors, and geographical areas. Apart from Lebanese, our clubs cater to people of other nationalities residing in Lebanon. This by itself brings in multiple perspectives and experiences into our clubs and intensifies the quality and content of our education.

The clubs are distributed in different geographical locations with different meeting timings, and each attracts a specific target audience. This helps each club create its own identity within the guidelines set by Toastmasters International and prospective members can easily identify the club most suited to them. For example, Pro-toast and Loudspeakers are for professionals and are located in different geographical locations, Beirut and Zouk District; Speakers and Leaders is designated for AUB students only, Dhad is for members who want to develop their Arabic language and Mercury's membership is open for the whole community.

Strategically, our members have multiple purposes while wanting to enhance their skills and develop their competencies. Some are working on enhancing their careers, others are complimenting their studies to prepare themselves for work after graduation, and still others, are trying to find their calling.

Toastmasters for us is not only about self-development and skills enhancement; it is about creating everlasting friendships. We stay

connected through weekend outings, daily calls, personal support, and much more. If I had to reflect on my current friends' list, it starts with a fellow Toastmaster, continues with fellow Toastmasters, and ends with a fellow Toastmaster. Toastmasters Lebanon is a special community in the heart of the country. We make leaders, friends, and family.



HANAA MOUNZER, DTM

DTM Hanaa is Program Coordinator for Executive Programs at the American University of Beirut.

Her motto is "Speak, work, lead with passion".



# The Melting Pot

## Insight into Division A - Jordan



**SAMIA HAKIM ASFOUR, DTM**

It started in November 1999 as an idea, initiated by a group of ladies from the Philippines living in Jordan at the time. Elizabeth “Betsy” Segura Krueger, Vicky Ferrer Mustafa, and Linda Dizon, who had been Toastmasters in other countries, decided to spread the concept in Jordan. Initially, they held meetings in their homes, inviting friends and neighbours; however, the first ‘Toastmasters Demonstration Meeting’, was held at The Amra Hotel in Amman.

As the guests sat through Introductions, Speeches, Table Topics, and Evaluations, they understood that Toastmasters was a place where they could improve their listening and speaking skills. Jordanians by nature, are very friendly, fun-loving, and adventurous. They are eager to learn and like to explore different new things, but above all, they are ever willing to support and help others in achieving their goals.

On March 27th, 2000, ITCJ was chartered; it became the first accredited Toastmasters club in Jordan. Under the guidance of DTM Betsy Kruger, its first president, and TM Vicky Mustafa, the club grew strong. The group was a cohesive multinational one, with many non-Jordanian members. In 2001, the club became part of District 79, and DTM Maysoun Armouti became its first Jordanian President. The responsibility was a joy and a challenge for her, and her team, but they established a solid base for future Execoms. The support TM Betsy extended was unbelievable; she was always there to help,

exemplary in everything. She will always occupy a place in the hearts of all Toastmasters in Jordan.

Toastmasters soon came to be respected in Jordanian society, as a meticulously run educational cultural forum. People also started seeing its use for networking, and Toastmasters’ popularity grew.

ITCJ too expanded rapidly. At the point when it had more than 40 active members, it was decided to split ITCJ, to create a second club. DTM Rosemary Bdeir undertook the project of establishing the new club as her High Performance Leadership (HPL) project. With 5 members from ITCJ and 15 new members, the Rainbow Club was chartered as the second Toastmasters club in Amman.

At that time in Jordan, there were several mixed marriages; many foreign ladies were married to expatriates or Jordanian men. The clubs too had a mix of men and women, of which some were couples and many, were singles. Gradually, many more Toastmasters clubs were established. In 2005 and 2011 we even hosted the District Toastmasters Annual Conference (DTAC) in Jordan.

We now have 4 Areas and 16 clubs in Jordan. Although we still have foreigners, the majority are local women and men, because Jordanians spread the word more among their Jordanian social circles. The clubs are varied; there are clubs that meet in the mornings, clubs for women, Arabic clubs, bilingual clubs, and even a French

club. Corporate clubs haven’t been successful, due to financial crises and economic challenges. We only have one corporate club at present. Toastmasters in Jordan was an initiative by ladies, and membership expanded through their friends who were ladies too. The number of women Toastmasters has always been higher, and most of them are locals.

Lately, many young professional men and women, who want to become leaders in their fields, are joining Toastmasters. They want to interact with people from different backgrounds, get exposure to different cultures, and enhance their business and social connections.



**SAMIA HAKIM ASFOUR, DTM**

**Samia, DTM joined Rainbow Toastmasters Club in 2005, helped in starting the Stars Toastmasters Club and is now a member of both Clubs. She recently achieved the DTM status.**

# ITCJ – Where time stands still

TM SARAA FADHIL AL ANSSARI

On 27th March 2020, the International Toastmasters Club of Jordan (ITCJ) celebrated its twentieth anniversary – a momentous milestone in the history of Jordan's Toastmasters clubs! Take a peek into their journey, to discover what helped this club carry its lineage forward with such elan!

ITCJ trailblazed its journey carrying with it the glorious distinction of being the first Toastmasters club of Jordan. It was founded by Toastmasters Vicky Ferrer, Linda Dizo, and Elizabeth Kruger in the year 2000, with an impressive member base of 35 in its club roster. Today, two decades later

it boasts of 6 members who are Distinguished Toastmasters and 9 charter members who have stayed with the club for the entire 20 years.

ITCJ believes in consistency and fulfillment of member's needs and achievements. The club has won several laurels in the last 20 years and it rounded off the year 2019 – 2020 with 9 DCP points making it a President's Distinguished Club.

The members meet every two weeks on Monday with an agenda that features the regular segments of a Toastmasters meeting: project speeches, evaluations, table topics, etc, but the club also believes in

constantly improvising with new ideas. To add further value to the ongoing learning of Toastmasters the club recently introduced a slot for book reviews. A popular book is discussed and members are encouraged to read it and present their reviews in the following meeting.

Twenty years is a long time! Are you not intrigued to find the reason behind the affinity and long term association of members to the club? It is a heartening fact that members of ITCJ consider themselves to be part of an extended family. Apart from the regular meetings, they celebrate every major occasion and festival together, be it Ramadan, Eid, Christmas, or New Year. A mellifluous blend of learning and fun is an integral part of their functioning.



Gulf Executive Committee Conference, 2001



ITCJ Book Club



ITCJ Members Meet



ITCJ Meeting

Now comes the most stunning and inspirational aspect of the club.

Most members of ITCJ are above 60 years of age, 5 toastmasters are above the age of 80 and 2 members are nearing 90. One might think that age would slow them down, but to the contrary, there is no dearth of vigor and enthusiasm. ITCJ stands as proof for the saying, "Age is just a number but being young is an

attitude". All the members have enrolled and adapted to pathways with ease, with two of them having completed level 3 in their chosen paths. Two members even won the Triple Crown last year, another exemplary achievement. The advent of COVID-19 has not deterred them at all. With the same confidence and fervor, they conduct meetings smoothly through virtual platforms. Toastmasters of ITCJ have shown

with their indomitable spirit that, to learn anything, age doesn't matter, what matters is willingness!

Henry Ford said, "**Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.**" ITCJ has just exemplified this by continuing to march ahead on this splendorous journey without stopping to catch its breath!



TM SARAA FADHIL AL ANSSARI



ITCJ goes Online

TM Saraa is a member of ITCJ, Al Fanar and Creative Toastmasters Clubs. She won the second position for Humorous Speech Contest at DTAC, Dubai in 2019. She represented her clubs for International speech, Evaluation and Table Topics contests at DTAC 2020. Her hobbies include swimming and reading.

# Power Couple Together they Lead

## A friendly conversation between the Power Couple of Division A and the Newsletter Team.

Immediate Past Division A Director DTM Ruba Afana and her husband DTM Zuhair Mihyar, who was the Treasurer and Club Growth Director of her team, share their experiences of growing together in Toastmasters.

While they disagree on who is funnier, they wholeheartedly agree that Zuhair is a pro at Table Topics, while she is a champion in prepared speeches.

### The Beginning

**Ruba:** Zuhair joined first in 2003. I really hated Toastmasters back then, mainly because he was always in Toastmasters. Later, I found out from my cousin that this was because he was not just a member in almost every club of Jordan, but also a part of every EXCOM! (shaking her head in exasperation)

In 2009, I was faced with a situation at work. At a presentation in front of the Board of Directors I went completely blank. I came home and told Zuhair that I wanted to join Toastmasters, just for a year. I thought I would finish my 10 projects and quit. It's my 12th year now!

**What are the challenges of being in the same club?**

**Ruba:** (smiling) No, in fact it's not challenging because we cooperate and back each other up specially when people are reluctant to take up certain roles. We volunteer, make fun of each other in meetings and people love it when we are there. I feel that we bring a little humor to the meetings we attend together.

### Mutual Support

**Zuhair:** (leaning forward) Well my experience helped her in two ways: She is good at crafting her speech but sometimes she finds it difficult to choose the subject. So, I help her find topics for her speeches; at the same time, I encourage her in Table Topics which she hates.

**Ruba:** For me I don't know. Am I helping you?

**Zuhair:** (instantly) Yes. Yes. You are my inspiration in the meeting.

**Ruba:** (smiling) We also give each other evaluations after the meeting, things that the evaluators did not mention.

**Zuhair:** We do not evaluate to motivate because this is the moment of truth! (laughs)

**Zuhair:** Sometimes we take EXCOM roles simultaneously; like she the President and I the VPE or the other way around. I am not too good at following up with officers and reports, but she follows up every single thing. I feel our clubs wouldn't be able to achieve President's



RUBA AFANA, DTM & ZUHAIR MIHYAR, DTM

Distinguished Club status without her help.

**Ruba:** (laughs) I nag well. I am a good nagger.

### Can you share a fun moment in your journey together?

**Zuhair:** (smiling broadly) Lots of moments! Here is one. When, I visit clubs and she finds out that there are nice ladies there, she will join us in the next meeting and announce, "He is my husband."

**Ruba:** (nodding and laughing) Yes, that's true. I like to announce at every meeting that, "I am his wife, so please, watch it."

### Toastmasters Achievements that you are proud of

**Zuhair:** We helped start the Ayla Club and the Al Bayan club. I cannot even think of leaving these 2 clubs because they are my success stories.

**Zuhair:** We are now sponsoring 2 clubs for which we have worked very hard. They were on hold because of the Covid situation. Within the next month we hope to file their papers. It is a club for the Board of Lecturers at the Middle East University of Jordan.

### Leadership styles and Influence on Toastmasters

**Ruba:** I am a details person. I follow up thoroughly on my team members. This works for me and last year at the division we achieved almost all the goals.

**Zuhair:** I am goal oriented, not detail oriented. I look at how to achieve. I motivate through humor and encouragement. I focus on the goals.

**Ruba:** (smiling) I think we make a great combination. To achieve goals, you need someone to follow up on details. What he misses in his leadership, I have and what I miss in my leadership, he has.

**Zuhair:** We are also known as the couple that injects enthusiasm, humor and all kind of ideas.

**Ruba:** Yea. We believe that we have a positive impact on people when we join. They believe in us and trust us. They reach out to us not only for Toastmasters issues but for personal matters too. I believe we inspire this trust among people when we show up together.

### Do you recommend couples to be part of the same club? Why or why not?

**Ruba:** For me personally, yes

**Zuhair:** (thoughtful look) When we have an argument at home and that happens a lot between couples, we encourage each other to attend a Toastmasters meeting. There we cheer for each other and by the end of the meeting we are happy and we forget about the dispute.

### Any tips for Toastmaster couples out there?

**Zuhair:** Seventeen years ago, I wasn't really a good communicator. You know when you are young, you tend to be a little bit stubborn, sometimes getting into arguments. After joining Toastmasters, my personality changed, and today I am a very different person. I am a better communicator with my wife and my children. See, she approves that right now. (smiling)

**Ruba:** Yes. Yes.

**Zuhair:** Toastmasters is great for you individually but also for you as a couple. I encourage everyone to have their partners to join together because they would really see the tremendous change in their spouses as they discover their personality.



# Power Family Together they Lead

**An interview with DTM Vicky Ferrer on the Power family of Division A - DTM Vicky, her children DTM Jennifer Ferrer, TM Hussam Ali and TM Emad Ali.**

We have witnessed the ambitious, the high-flyers, the stalwarts in Toastmasters as individuals but it is a rare occurrence to see a family of high achieving Toastmasters inspiring each other to grow.

Now pursuing her DTM for the third time and actively involved in 6 clubs, TM Maria Victoria Ferrer has come a long way. Through this journey, she has also touched the lives of her family who are now actively growing in their own Toastmaster journeys. Dr. Jennifer Ferrer achieved her DTM in July while TM Hussam Ali will receive his DTM in August this year. Emad Ali has achieved his ACS and ALB.

**What are the challenges of families being in the same club?**

In Jordan my son Hussam, Emad and I are members of SICAP Toastmasters Club. My oldest daughter and I are in the same club in California. I don't see any challenge. On the contrary it is an advantage. We enjoy watching each other and exchange comments about our speeches and roles. I do not interfere with the way my children do their roles. They are not Vicky's children - they have their own identity, talent and skill. I always encourage them to do their best. They always make me feel so proud.

It all depends on the family dynamics. In my case my children do not mind their mother as a member of the same club. I am a "cool" mom too. My children can confide to me anything. I can reach out to all generations and appreciate their language, their way of dealing with

things, etc. I conduct trainings with children, teens and adults.

**What is the impact of your Toastmasters journey on your family?**

I learned how to communicate with them in a positive and encouraging way. I am proud to say I never had an argument with them. We would discuss issues, accept each other's points and reach a compromise. As they had been witnessing Toastmasters meetings since several years, they were able to pursue their speech projects and roles in exceptional ways.

**What kind of adjustments did you make?**

I made sure I led a balanced life as a mother, wife, trainer and a Toastmaster. I did everything to the best of my ability. As Toastmasters



TM EMAD ALI AMMAN



TM HUSSAM ALI

we live the values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence; I made sure we practiced the same at home.

**How have your leadership roles impacted your family?**

I lived in the Middle East for almost 30 years. I know the culture and the language. I had a strong relationship with different communities. The leadership roles were beneficial for me, I had the opportunity to practice my multicultural leadership and communication skills. My children developed the same skills and are able to lead and communicate with people of every nationality with ease.

**Something that you couldn't have achieved without your family's support?**

I owe my early Toastmasters journey to Hussam Ali who accompanied me to all the Toastmasters meetings in Doha. Doha Toastmasters members were mostly men with 2 or 3 women as members. I made a compromise with my husband that my son Hussam will accompany me. Hussam never showed any negative

reaction. He would quietly play with his games. When I won the Lt Gov for Marketing in Jordan in District 20, I thanked him for all that he had done for me.

**Share a memorable leadership moment.**

Ensuring different communities in Toastmasters worked together was a challenge. I endorsed the Arabic Committee in my term so that they can be active and contribute to District 20. The Arabic community (among the other communities) supported me all throughout my leadership.

The satisfying bit was when I reached out to ask for support from any Toastmaster, he/she would always say, "How can I say no to you Vicky? You were always there to help and assist me".

**Share a humorous moment.**

We held the chartering ceremony of a Filipino Club in Doha called Filcom Toastmasters Club. When we invited the Philippine Ambassador on stage, I realized we did not have a Toastmasters pin for the Ambassador. I asked our SAA

to look for one. He happily came back and handed me a pin...a safety pin! I quietly took my Toastmasters pin off stage and handed it to the Ambassador.

**Any tips for Toastmaster families out there?**

Enjoy each moment with your family members. Always be motivating and be their first cheerleader. Let them be themselves and discover their own identity.



**VICKY FERRER , DTM**



# La Vie En Rose

ANDIE PETRIDES, DTM



La Vie en Rose was one of the most romantic French songs ever, La Vie en Rose was a famous French movie on singer Edith Piaf and La Vie en Rose is the name of the only French club in Division A. O là là!

This club was once just a dream, a vision, a concept in the heart of one single lady. I was one of the first Toastmasters she approached with her proposal to start a Toastmasters Club for French speakers in Jordan. There were various French discussion groups and book clubs, but none possessed the aura of Toastmasters.

I was then a new and starry-eyed member of Stars Toastmasters club in Amman, not keen on wandering away from my newly discovered comfort zone. Still, TM Bernadette Jebaili appeared at every meeting of my club, listened to my speeches, and gently persuaded me to 'create a little history by bringing together scattered French knowledge under one roof'. I was soon inspired by her passion to dust off our rolling R's and practice the language of Molière and Sagan.

We used the proverbial candle to unearth other willing souls interested in a French Toastmasters club. What united us was our love for the language, what scared us

was the rustiness we felt at not having used this beautiful language for years. Slowly, we gathered enough brave souls to hold meetings, and to hear the language of love being croaked out in the coziest of atmospheres amidst the common inadequacy of forgotten words. What drew some of us at the time were the delicious homemade desserts that each of us brought to the meeting in turns, (most times by Bernadette), and of course the pioneering feeling of embarking on something new, something worthwhile. The Toastmaster spirit helped us infuse our meetings with basic and solid building blocks of communication, camaraderie, and support.



Our numbers fluctuated between 8 and 20 depending on the degree of courage we could muster to speak to an audience in a language that was not native to any of us.

Gradually, our presentations improved and so did our confidence in our abilities and our Club. We were ready to charter the first French club of District 105. We explored names ranging from 'Desert Rose' to 'Paris/Amman', and "Jordanian Orators' to 'Petra', but when a member came up with "La Vie en Rose", we knew we had found the winning name. It was uplifting, unique, and truly French! (vie= life, rose= flush/pink roughly translates to Life at its best) That was six years ago. Today La

Vie en Rose is a vibrant, dynamic Club with 29 members that holds its own among the best Toastmasters clubs. It was not easy getting here. We faced fluctuating membership and several other challenges, but our passion remained unwavering. The benefits of improving our language and leadership skills were tremendous. Today we have speeches, evaluations, workshops, educational sessions, naturally all in French, and annually we showcase the Club and its uniqueness by presenting a speech in French at the International Speech Contest at Area and Division levels.

We have no rivals as yet but if and when that happens, La Vie en Rose remains the first French club to reign 'à la mode' with a 'je ne sais

quoi' flair!

My article will be amiss if I do not mention TM Laila Sweis, Immediate Past President this year, whose selfless contribution to La Vie en Rose has helped the club shine and excel in the best tradition of Toastmasters.

The age of Zoom has given us an unexpected bonus of welcoming friends and members from all over the globe. We are happy to welcome you to our meetings, share with you our 'joie de vivre', and offer you the opportunity, to immerse yourself in our unique French atmosphere because we are Toastmasters, through and through.



ANDIE PETRIDES, DTM

Andie Petrides, DTM is of Greek origin but grew up in Amman, Jordan. She holds a Master's Degree in International Business, writes children's stories, and has published various articles in the Jordanian Family Flavours parenting magazine.



**Alma Lou, DTM**  
**the Grand Lady of Toastmasters**  
**chats with Raja Nayed, DTM**



**“You have come a long way baby.”**

I said to myself when I became DTM.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqJpBgrb8kc>

While many senior citizens choose to slow down during their years of retirement, DTM Alma Lou Annab went on to achieve what is considered the ultimate milestone for Toastmasters. She joined Toastmasters past the age of 60 and is now a DTM! A member of Power Elite Toastmasters Club, Jordan, DTM Alma also won the Vibrant HPL Award in the year 2018-19 for her High-Performance Leadership project, which involved imparting quilting skills to a group of women.

Special thanks to our videographer **Areej Abu Mallouh, DTM** and our video editor **TM Shafeeq P B.**

## بالعربي

م.ع. زهراء شحيتو  
نادي ضد للخطابة - المنطقة ١ - لبنان



ZAHRAA SHAITO, DTM

A passionate Toastmaster since 2005, TM Zahraa Shaito got her DTM title in July 2020. She is always thirsty for new learning opportunities to explore, and develop personally and professionally.

سؤال لطالما رددته على مسمع من ينظر الى اللغة العربية كلغة ثانوية: «لو طلبت منك الآن أن تتوجه/تتوجهي بخطاب الى المجتمع العربي بكافة شرائحه، بلغة واحدة فقط، ماذا ستكون تلك اللغة؟» لغة، لا تفرق بين فقير وغني، أمي ومتعلم، كبير وصغير؛ لغة تردم الهوة الطبقية في المجتمع لأنها تجمعنا على كلمة سواء بغزارة مفرداتها وتعابيرها التي لا تنضب. هذه هي اللغة العربية!

إن تجربة الأندية العربية ليست بالتجربة السهلة أبداً، بل فيها الكثير من التحديات العملية بدءاً من تشجيع الناس على الانضمام الى ناد للخطابة باللغة العربية، مروراً بإقناعهم أن النادي ليس لتعليم اللغة العربية بل لتعليم فن الخطابة بلغة عربية سليمة، وصولاً الى التحفيز المستمر للأعضاء للعمل على أهداف محددة، وانتهاءً بتحقيق أهداف النادي. قد تبدو هذه التحديات مشابهة لبعض ما تخوضه الأندية الأجنبية في قطاعنا، لكن لنأمل لحظة في عدد الأندية العربية (٢٠) والأجنبية (٢٤٠). فلننظر كيف نضاعف جهودنا لتشجيع الناس على خوض تجربة التوستماسترز بالعربي!

أجمل ما في تجربة اللغات أونلاين هذا العام كانت فرصة السفر بين البلدان العربية كبسطة زرا! سياحة الكترونية الى الأندية العربية بثقافاتها ونشاطاتها وتميز كل منها؛ فكان موعداً فلقاء فنظرة تلاقينا فيها عبر تلك العدسة العابرة للفضاء. تجربة تعليمية واجتماعية لا تقدر بثمن! هذه التجربة العربية بمجملها لم تكن لتحدث لو لم توجد اللغة العربية كلغة رسمية في توستماسترز، ولو لم تستمر هذه الجهود من خلال لجنة الترجمة العربية التي أشرف بكوني عضواً فيها، والتي تحرص بأعضائها من مختلف القطاعات على توافر مواد تعليمية بلغة عربية صحيحة لتتطور من خلالها.

هي لغة ليست كأى لغة، هي لغتنا الأم، فلنرعها لنرتقي أكثر بالعربي!

توستماستر منذ ٢٠٠٥، وعريف متميز في يوليو ٢٠٢٠، ولطالما كان شعاري الشغف والتعطش لاستكشاف فرص تعليمية جديدة أتطور من خلالها على الصعيدين - الشخصي والعملي.

## التوستماسترز جعل حياتي أفضل

التحقّت ببرنامج التوستماسترز قبل ٧ سنوات، وكانت سعادتني فيه لا توصف. وبما أنني من عشاق اللغة العربية ادبها و شعرها و نثرها، فقد قررت الانضمام إلى الأندية الناطقة باللغة العربية. أما عن قواعد النحو فيها فلا تسأل، إذ تراني أجد نفسي غير راضية إذا وقعت على مسامعي كلمة نصبت كان الأوجب لها أن ترفع أو تجر. أحببت هذه الأندية ووجدت نفسي فيها، ربما لأنني لم أستطع أن أكمل دراستي الجامعية فرائت فيها البديل ...

تدرجت في مناصب الهيئة الإدارية الي أن وصلت إلى منصب نائب الرئيس للشؤون التعليمية في النادي، وكهم كنت سعيدة عندما أصبحت رئيسة لنادي النور الأردني للخطابة باللغة العربية لمدة عام كامل. تجربة جميلة و ناجحة تعلمت منها ولا زلت أتعلم الكثير؛ تعلمت منها الشجاعة والإقدام والأهم من ذلك أنها زادتني ثقة بنفسني فأصبحت أكثر قوة وصلابة.

تعلمت في التوستماسترز معنى العطاء، واحترام الرأي الأخر مهما كان. تعلمت بأن التشاور مع عضوات الهيئة الإدارية هو أهم ما في الأمر وذلك لاتخاذ القرار الصائب الذي فيه مصلحة النادي أولاً و أخيراً. إن فترة رئاستي هذه، علمتني احتواء الجميع و اكتساب محبتهم بالكلمة الطيبة و حسن الخلق؛ فالكلمة الطيبة هي المفتاح الأول والأخير لكسب القلوب. أحببت كل العضوات والتواصل الدائم معهم، فأصبح النادي عائلتي الصغرى التي أحب و أفتخر بكل عضوة فيها. وأني لأهتني نفسي على معرفة هذا الكم الهائل من الأحياء والأصدقاء المخلصين، أكتب لكم الآن وأنا في غاية السعادة بانضمامي لنادي التوستماسترز باللغة العربية!

رئيس نادي النور للعام ٢٠٢٠ - ٢٠٢١  
ماجدة بدارو الشؤا

التحقّت بنادي التوستماسترز باللغة العربية سنة ٢٠١٣ تدرجت بمناصب الهيئة الإدارية حتى أصبحت نائبا للشؤون التعليم، في نادي النور و بعدها منصب الرئيس الآن ٢٠٢٠-٢٠٢١



TM MAJEDA BADARO AL SHAWWA

TM Majeda joined Al Nour Toastmasters Club in 2013 and has done all the Excom roles. She has yet again taken up the position of the President for the year 2020 - 2021.

## زمن الكورونا

وَإِنِّي لَسْتُ أَدْرِي يَا كُورُونَا  
عِنْدَمَا انْتَشَرَتْ وَبِخُورِكَ نَثَرْتُ  
هَلْ أَنْتِ دَاءٌ أَمْ جُنْتُ دَوَاءً  
فَكَمْ أَسْقَطْتُ أَفْنَعَةً وَكَمْ كَشَعْتُ غِطَاءً  
كَمْ كَمَمْتُ أَنْوَمَا وَأَفْوَاهَا دُونَ تَفْرِقَةٍ  
دُونَ انْتِقَاءٍ  
وَتَسَابُونِيَا مَصِيرًا حَيَاةً أَوْ بَقَاءً  
فَوَاللَّهِ قَبْلَكَ  
مَا رَأَيْتِ دَاءً يَشْفِي مِنْ أَلْفِ دَاءٍ  
كَانَتِ الْعِلَّةُ فِينَا فَجُنْتُ بِالْأَلْفِ لَاءٍ  
وَفِي زَنَاظِنِ سَجْنِكَ تَحْرُرُ الْهَوَاءُ  
فَالْخُرَّةُ وَبَاءُ  
وَالظِّلْمُ وَبَاءُ  
وَالْقَتْلُ وَبَاءُ  
وَالجَهْلُ وَبَاءُ  
وَأَكْبَرُ اللَّأَمَاتِ جَاءَتْ تَعَالِجُ الْغُرُورِ وَالْكَذِبِ وَالرِّيَاءِ  
مَعَ أَنْعَسْنَا أَصْبَحْنَا أَصْدِقَاءَ  
فِي خَلْوَةٍ فِي الزَّنَاظِنِ عَدْنَا لِلْوَرَاءِ  
نَسْتَرْجِعُ أَلْحَانَ الْبِرَاءَةِ فِي زَمَنِ الضَّغَاءِ  
مَا قَبْلَ حَزْبَةِ الْفُحْشِ وَلَعْبَةِ الْمَالِ وَالنَّرَاءِ  
نَسْتَرْجِعُ قِيمًا أَضْعَفْنَا ظَنَّنَاهَا هَرَاءً  
حَتَّى اخْتَلَفْنَا غِبُودِيَّةً لِحَزْبَةِ كَانَتْ هَبَاءُ  
كُورُونَا  
كُلْنَا فِي زَنَاظِنِهِ يَحْدُونَا الرَّجَاءُ  
أَنْ نَعَادِرِينَا يَا مَنْ فِيكَ دَاوُنَا  
وَمِنْكَ كَانَ الشِّفَاءُ

سلوى الدريعي المصري

عضوة في نادي الفانار العربي للتوستماسترز ونادي ستارز ونادي عمان - في الأردن  
شاعرة وكاتبة أصدرت ديوانين للشعر باللغة العربية وتكتب أيضا باللغة الانجليزية  
رسالتها للعالم هي تحقيق العدل والسلام



TM SALWA DURAI E AL MASARI

TM Salwa is a poet, with two volumes of poetry in Arabic and English. She is a member of Al Fanar and Stars Toastmasters Club in Jordan. She is an advocate for peace and justice.



# The year that was...!



Launch Event Area 1



Al Nour meeting with author Sauzan Alrazik



Christmas celebration at Rainbow



ITCJ breakfast



1st COT Jordan



Contest Bootcamp



Protoast Talent Show



Area 1 launch event



2nd COT Jordan



Come Meet Our Clan Area 1



Fashion show at Al Nour



Al Fanar fun gathering



Donate a blanket initiative by Stars TMC  
100 blankets donated to Golden Age Home



Book Club meeting ITCJ



Area 2 gathering



Dhad Toastmasters Club meet at the  
Arz El Barouks Cedars Reserve



Mercury Webinar



10 Year Celebration at Loudspeakers



Rainbow club members at workshop on  
media and fake news



Toastmasters Lebanon goes online



Mentoring Through Pathways



Middle East University  
Demo Meeting



Div A online contest



Club Officer Training Area 1

# Club to Community

## Leading the way

AREEJ ABU MALLOUH, DTM



AREEJ ABU MALLOUH, DTM

DTM Areej is a partner in a subtitling company and a philanthropist who has a passion for public speaking.



***Passionate about speaking and adept at leading she took the core values of Toastmasters beyond the confines of a club to create an impact in the community with her HPL project.***

Many people assume that, because Jordan is in the Middle East, it doesn't get cold; when in reality Jordan's winters are very fierce. Though you and I may have the means to stay warm, many families dread the winter months.

I involve myself in different kinds of charity work all year round to help those in need because I strongly believe that every little bit counts. This thought helped me select my High Performance Leadership project. In October 2019, I launched a "Winter is Coming!" fundraising campaign to provide essentials to as many needy families as possible.

I formed a team with eight like-minded ladies, to handle different aspects of this huge endeavor. The first action was to delegate and assign roles to different team members for donation collection, price negotiation, campaign promotion, and aid distribution.

We announced and promoted the campaign using both Facebook and Whatsapp and asked our friends and families to share our posts as well.

We identified the families in need by visiting them and cross-checking

with the relevant government institutions responsible for that section of society. It was then necessary to compile a list of what each family required.

After negotiating to get the best prices for the required items, so that we could get more for less without compromising on quality, we purchased the items. The response and support we got from the community were overwhelming. We received donations both in money and kind.

We collected 6791 JDs (around \$9578) with which we bought heaters, gas cylinders, kerosene, blankets, jackets, and shoes to help over 200 families, spread all over the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Distribution was a monumental task but every team member helped and we also got additional volunteers who willingly assisted. Our campaign ran from Oct 2019 to Jan 2020.

The feeling I get, when seeing the joy of those whom we help receive things that most of us take for granted, is priceless and it only pushes me to do more, no matter how small my part may be.



Jackets, blankets and heaters collected during the drive



## Stars and Stalwarts!



**RANIA ABUL-RUB, DTM**

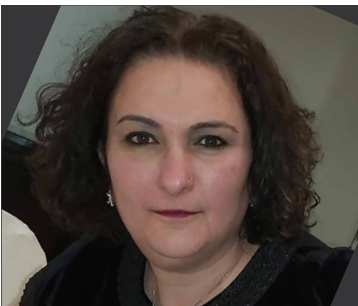


**ZAHRAA SHAITO, DTM**



**TM KHALED ALOK**

Members of the Arabic Review Team of Toastmasters International. They volunteer their time, expertise and experience to ensure that the Arabic content is consistent and the translation from English to Arabic is accurate.



**RUBA AL BATAINEH, DTM**  
CHAIR - ARABIC COMMITTEE

She has served as Area Director, Division A Director and is currently the District 105 Chair - Arabic Committee. She is responsible for all Arabic clubs in the district.



**TM FADY G BADER**

Member of Dhad Toastmasters Club, Lebanon, he is a Life Coach and a TV host of Mariam TV, Lebanon. He has hosted Toastmasters of Lebanon to promote Toastmasters' philosophy and values to viewers in Lebanon and abroad.



**NISREEN AL KHATIB, DTM**

Founding member of Pro-Toast club and Bank Audi Corporate Toastmasters, she is the first DTM of Lebanon. She was selected as District 105 Pathways guide and Ambassador in Lebanon.



# Fleeting Moments, Everlasting Memories



**TM KHALED SHATILA**  
Mercury TMC, Area 1

I remember that one time I gave a Table Topics answer, I was so overwhelmed with laughter that I couldn't contain myself from laughing out loud while answering the question. It was a blast! I love laughing on stage, its a place where I can be genuinely me.

**TM DINA TMASH**  
Al Fanar TMC, Area 5

My first mission as a new excom member was to prepare and email the meeting agenda to the members but the anxious me emailed my husband's CV instead!! Shocked and helpless, I sent a WhatsApp message to the members saying, I would like you all to know me better so check your emails and meet my husband.



**TM RUBA ABU GHOSH**  
Stars TMC, Area 2

When I got a Standing Ovation and a Scout Sign and Salute from the Jordanian Scouts Team for my 2 minute speech, this surely was a moment to remember. We can be good speakers, but to be an influencer and reach people it is all about being a Toastmaster.

**TM BISSAN ISHTAY**  
Pro Toast TMC, Area 1

I had never delivered a speech in front of an audience that exceeded 100 people. However, when I was asked to emcee an event at AUB that had at least 400 people, I instantly agreed. My confidence as a speaker and a leader was evident because of Toastmasters.



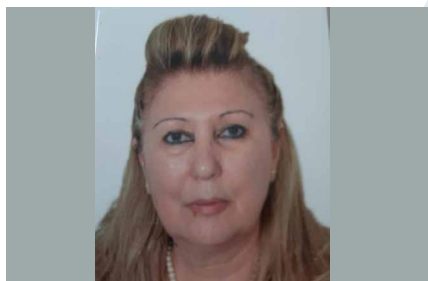


**TM DIANA DAHHAM**  
Pro Toast TMC, Area 1

I struck gold, when I had the rare opportunity to present to our Board of Directors. The secret is that no one knew that I had been practising public speaking for the past 6 months at Pro-toast. After presenting remarkably, they were so blown away that after a few months they promoted me. Yes people! Toastmasters can actually help you in the real world.

**TM REEMA ALFAROUKI ALAMI**  
Rainbow TMC, Area 2

Jana, my granddaughter, eight years old at the time, was off from school. Eager to attend my Rainbow Club meeting, she introduced herself eloquently and listened intently during the entire meeting, giving her feedback at the end. What an experience for all. A dynamic Toastmaster in the making!



**TM LAMIA SALMAN**  
Pioneers, Creative, Power Elite and ITCJ, Area 2,3,4,5

During my membership at Toastmasters I found, that we as individuals were empowered regardless of our cultures, backgrounds, and fields. When I think of how they managed to prep us to face any challenge, two main attributes popped up, "Hope & Commitment". This only became more apparent during the Covid pandemic.

**TM SARAA FADHIL AL ANSSARI**  
Creative TMC & Al Fanar Club, Area 5

During the Table topics session in our last physical meeting in February, I was asked about my opinion on the spread of Covid-19 to which my answer was, "I think the issue has been exaggerated. It is just like any other seasonal flu and this panicking is just a joke". I just hope nobody remembers my answer!!!





**TM GHADI GHADDAF**

Speakers & Leaders Club, Area 1

“Toastmasters is where I met the people I hold closest to my heart. It’s become a comfort zone, a place where I can be myself and shine the brightest, and the most memorable experiences of my life are also from my time spent here.”

**TM HAIDAR FAKIH**

Speakers & Leaders Club, Area 1

“I was the Toastmaster of the Evening, and right after introducing the timer on stage, I rushed to the back of the room to snack on a banana. While I was right about to take a bite, the timer suddenly called me back on stage as a part of his introduction, and everyone turned their backs just in time to see me awkwardly holding a banana!”



**AREEJ ABU MALLOUH, DTM**

New Horizons TMC, Area 4

Without a doubt, my most memorable Toastmasters experience was when New Horizons won at the area level in all four categories. At our first meeting after the contest, we had a large number of guests from other clubs. The comment we heard from most of them was, “We wanted to see the club that clinched the win in the four categories and what made it so special.”



**TM HUSSAM ALI**

SICAP & New Horizons, Area 4

I’ve been with toastmasters for over 15 years. Not by choice mind you! When I was younger, my mother used to drag me along to meetings as her bodyguard. I wasn’t a fan of it at all and here we are years later. I’ve been a president, area director and my DTM is in its final stage of approval!



**TM MANAL HASHWE**

Mercury TMC, Area 1

“I remember that one time when I was super energetic. Please note that I am always full of energy, but on that day it was on a different level. At the end of the meeting, our VPM was being serious giving the announcements for the club, and guess who was behind her doing the cheerleading moves...”



### TM DANA NASHAWATI

Power Elite TMC, Area 3

I accompanied my husband who was a guest speaker at a Toastmasters club. He was confident and articulate but with a small problem that only a Toastmaster could pinpoint. He had used the “ah” filler word 142 times in a 5-minute speech! This was 4 years ago, although no one has been able to break his record yet.



### THEADORA FAKES, DTM

Club President, Power Elite TMC, Area 3

15 years ago I visited the United States and as I had just become the President of my club, I thought it would be nice to visit a Toastmasters Club in the States.

I looked on the internet for clubs nearby and made arrangements to visit a club, not far from my daughter’s house.

I properly introduced myself, telling that I came from Amman, Jordan and that I was the President of my club.

They properly asked me as a guest to give feedback on the meeting. I told them that I had enjoyed the meeting and would tell my club all about it.

The president then said to me, “Dear you should join Toastmasters; there are lots of Toastmasters Clubs in Georgia!”

### DANIA AL ASSADI, DTM

Dhad TMC ( Arabic Club), Area 1

In the division’s English International Speech Contest in Jordan, I was there staring and analyzing the contestants while thinking to myself: “ Who seems to be my tough competition?”, “May I beat them all and head back to Lebanon with grace!”. Then, the contest chair gathered us for drawing the lots and while we were picking randomly he said, “May the best person win”. Suddenly, my heart settled down, away from competition and I said silently, “Amen”. This was one of the best lessons I have learnt in Toastmasters. Being a champion is amazing, it is a dream; but being a genuine champion is way beyond any trophy! Always, May the best person win!



# Camaraderie

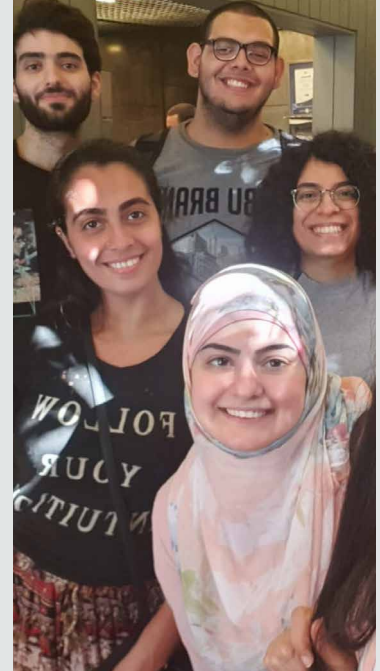
## AREA 1



Dhad Toastmasters Club



Loudspeakers Toastmasters Club



Excom pic of Mercury Toastmasters Club



Speakers and Leaders Toastmasters Club



Pro-Toast Toastmasters Club

## AREA 2



Al Nour Toastmasters Club



Stars Toastmasters Club



Rainbow Toastmasters Club



ITCJ Toastmasters Club

## AREA 3



Amman International Toastmasters Club



Al Bayan Toastmasters Club



Power Elite Toastmasters Club



Ayla Toastmasters Club

## AREA 4



New Horizons Toastmasters Club



Pioneers Toastmasters Club



Sunshine Toastmasters Club



SICAP Toastmasters Club

## AREA 5



Al Fanar Toastmasters Club



Creative Toastmasters Club

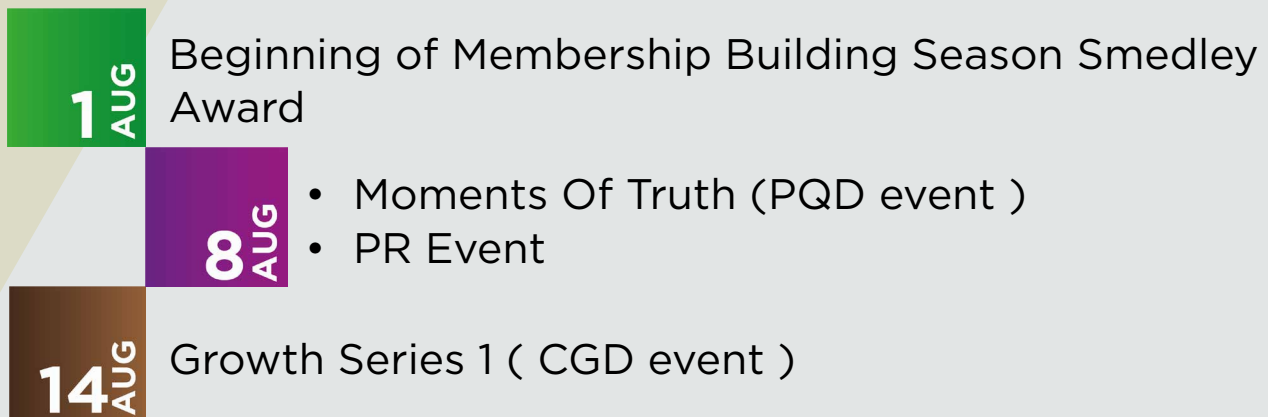


La Vie En Rose Toastmasters Club

# District News



## ANNOUNCEMENTS





# Thank you!

***“It is with numerous small pieces that a magnificent jigsaw puzzle is completed. Every piece is essential, every piece is vital.”***

The Newsletter team wishes to express its gratitude and acknowledge the whole-hearted support rendered by the following Toastmasters of Division A. Apart from writers, interviewers, poets, and advisers there are members who also helped us with leads and contacts.

1. Alma Lou DTM
2. Andie Petrides, DTM
3. Areej Abu Mallouh, DTM
4. Dana Shalabi, DTM
5. Dania Al Assadi, DTM
6. Hanaa Mounzer, DTM
7. Hind Masri, DTM
8. Jamileh Al-Alami, DTM
9. Mariam Amr, DTM
10. Nisreen Al Khatib, DTM
11. Raja Nayad, DTM
12. Rania Abdul-Rub, DTM
13. Reema F Alami, DTM
14. Ruba Afaneh, DTM
15. Ruba Al Bataineh, DTM
16. Samia Hakim Asfour, DTM
17. Vicky Ferrer, DTM
18. Zahraa Shaito, DTM
19. Zuhair Mihyar DTM
20. TM Bissan Ishtay
21. TM Dana Nashawati
22. TM Diana Dahham
23. TM Dina Tmash
24. TM Fady G. Bader
25. TM Farrah Khalifeh
26. TM Georges Rostom
27. TM Ghadi Ghaddaf
28. TM Hadi Haider
29. TM Haider Fakhir
30. TM Hussam Ali
31. TM Imad Al Saabi
32. TM Khaled Alok
33. TM Khaled Shatila
34. TM Khalil Jabaji
35. TM Lamia Salman
36. TM Majeda Badaro Al Shawwa
37. TM Manal Hashwe
38. TM Marie Joe
39. TM Marlen Liddawi
40. TM Nagham Naim
41. TM Rawan Suheimat
42. TM Rebecca Chalach
43. TM Reema Alfarouki Alami
44. TM Ruba Abu Ghoush
45. TM Salwa Duraie Al Masari
46. TM Saraa Fadhil Al Anssari
47. TM Sudha G Narayan
48. TM Suzanne Nouhaily
49. TM Thea Fakes

