

“WHAT’S GREAT IN 598”

The Diablo Toastmasters Club is a community Toastmasters Club that meets every Thursday at 7 PM at El Tapatio Restaurant, 40 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA.

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Publisher: Destinee Cooper, CC, ALB, President
Editor: John Peterson, ACG, ALB



The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AREA B-6 SPEECH CONTEST

Next up on the Spring 2015 speech contest list of events is the Area B-6 Table Topics and International Speech Contest! This event will be held from 7 to 9 P.M. on Monday, March 21st at Diablo Valley College’s Performing Arts Center. The Center is best accessed from parking lot 8, the second large lot on the left on Golf Club Road right up the street from our regular meeting place at El Tapatio. So come on our and root for our entrants, Russ Rice and Aaron Thompson!!

DIVISION B SPEECH CONTEST

Winners from the Area B-6 contest will go on to compete in the Division B event, to be held on Thursday, April 7th from 7 to 9 P.M. at a location yet to be announced. In the event that one of our representatives qualify for this contest we will undoubtedly cancel our regular meeting so we can all turn out to root for our man (or men!) — so stay tuned!!

Don't Forget -- Dues Are Due!!

Semi-annual club dues of \$60 are due by the end of March! If you haven’t already done so, please send your check, payable to “Diablo Toastmasters,” to our club Treasurer Dan Randleman at 1404 Fargo Court, Concord CA 94521. Thanks!!

Aaron Thompson, Russ Rice Win Spring Speech Contest

Diablo 598’s Spring speech contest produced tough competition as always, at the club meeting of February 18th. The contest was chaired by



Cindy Johnson, with Dilek Alkaya holding the gavel as Toastmaster and Bill Woolfolk serving as Chief Judge for the event. The photo at left

shows (left to right) the Table Topics competitors Jose Cobangbang and Russ Rice, Cindy, Dilek, and the International Speech competitors Dan Randleman and Aaron Thompson.

The Table Topics competition found Russ and Jose wrestling with the topic “Spring Break,” with Russ emerging as the winner. Full applause also goes to Jose, however, for his first effort in a competition in only his first year as a Toastmaster. Congratulations to Russ on the blue ribbon, and also to Jose for “Stepping Up!”

In the International Speech event, Aaron presented “Tell a Story,” in which he recounted how he learned the importance in film-making of presenting a theme which can be of immediate benefit to the audience. Dan’s speech, “Benefits of Cast Iron Cooking,” made it clear that (1) Dan’s a great cook, and (2) that cooking with cast-iron pans is his secret to his success! Aaron won by a narrow margin, but the audience learned a great deal from both speeches so full congratulations go to both for bringing us an entertaining evening!

WHO'S WHO



Ciel Gierke

Ciel is what one might refer to as a perpetual student. When not in school as a student or as a teacher, she is learning from the people and situations around her. She was born in New Jersey and lived in many places while growing up, including California for a while, as her Air Force father moved quite a bit with his career. She finally graduated from High School in Pasadena.

At one time, from age 13 to 21, Ciel was a semiprofessional actress. She was in many stage plays and musicals and even a USO show. At the age of 21, however, she decided to go to college and so entered the nursing program at the University of Nevada. Along the way, she also got a degree in Art, specializing in ceramics; a degree in Human Development from Cal State Hayward; and a Masters degree in Psychology from Duquesne University! Most recently, she received her Ph.D. in Ministry, and now plans to attend seminary (for another 3 years of school) and become an ordained minister. (Didn't we say she is a perpetual student?)

Ciel is very active in her church. She was on the governing board for a number of years, but recently elected not to continue so she could have a little more free time. She trains the prayer chaplains, and also works on the platform at church once a month plus whenever they need her to fill in. In addition, she teaches a variety of classes and ongoing study groups,

Ciel is a Commissioner for the City of Concord as the vice chair of the Community Services Commission. On top of all this, she teaches a number of classes and workshops including stress management, a class/workshop on prayer beads which includes the history of the use of prayer beads as well as how to make them, and a creative class on coloring prayers. She has also been a preschool teacher for a class of three year olds at a Montessori School. Finally, she is trying to find time to complete a book she has been writing on prayer as well as another book on her personal spiritual experiences. In case you haven't figured it out she is very busy, but always has time to help friends in need!



DESTINEE'S COLUMN

By Destinee Cooper

March has arrived and Diablo 598 has lots of activities!

On March 21, Aaron Thompson, Dan Randleman, Russ Rice, and Jose Cobangbang will represent us at the Area Contest hosted by our Area Director, Ann Hartwig. The event is scheduled to occur from 7 to 9 p.m. at DVC. Additional details and requests for volunteers will follow from Ann.

As our more seasoned members know, March also marks when we pay our dues of \$60 for April to September, 2016. Our trusted Treasurer, Dan Randleman, will be sending out bills and doing a dues-paying drive in March.

Speaking of money, please introduce yourself to Dan. As Treasurer, he maintains our club bank account (including recently getting five months of bank fees reversed!), ensures that all expenses follow legal and financial rules to maintain the club's 501(c)(3) status, and pays bills. He's currently updating the club's financial records by purchasing a copy of our tax number card. Doing so gives us more flexibility to change banks as desired, and to navigate other financial matters. Should you be interested in his role, please talk to Dan and ask about what he does as well as whether you can look at the club's Treasurer manual he's creating.

See you in March!

"What's Great in 598" is the publication of Diablo Toastmasters Club 598, Concord, California.

Publisher: Destinee Cooper, President

Editor: John Peterson

Contact phone: (925) 946-0335

Concord Chamber of Commerce

2280 Diamond Blvd., Suite 200 Concord CA 94520 (925) 685-1181

info@concordchamber.com | www.concordchamber.com

MARCH EVENTS



3/4 First Friday Coffee @ Sam's Club ^{*** NEW}

LOCATION

8:00 AM—9:00 PM
Sam's Club
1225 Concord Ave.
Chamber Members—FREE
Prospective Members—\$10

3/5 CREAM Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting

12:00 PM
Ribbon Cutting
12:00 PM—8:00 PM
Grand Opening Celebration
2070 Salvio St.
Concord, CA 94518

3/10 Women's Networking Group: Guest Speaker Patricia Ramirez of Raymond James

11:45 AM—1:00 PM
Concord Chamber Office
2280 Diamond Blvd., Suite 200
Concord
Chamber Members—\$10
Prospective Members—\$25

3/16 Concord Young Professionals Lunch & Learn: Guest Speaker Alan Rothstein of Search Marketing City

12:00 PM—1:00 PM
Concord Chamber Office
2280 Diamond Blvd., Suite 200
Concord
Chamber Members—FREE
Prospective Members—\$10
Everyone is welcome to attend

3/17 Business After Hours Mixer

6:00 PM—7:00 PM
G&K Lounge
1907 Salvio St.
Concord
Chamber Members—FREE
Prospective Members—\$20

3/22 Concord Young Professionals: The Panel

6:30 PM—7:00 PM
Location TBD
Chamber Members—Free
Prospective Members—\$10

3/24 Gov't/Economic Policy Committee Meeting: City of Concord Economic Vitality Strategy Workshop

12:00 PM—1:00 PM
Concord Chamber Office
2280 Diamond Blvd., Suite 200
Concord
Free to Attend, includes lunch

Chamber Membership Offers:

- Monthly Mixers
- Committees
- Trade Shows
- Issue & Candidate Forums
- Connections with other Business Owners
- Learning Series
- Ribbon Cuttings
- Young Professionals Group

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, your partner in business, is the premier chamber in Contra Costa County. Chartered in 1937, our mission is to foster a climate in which our members can operate more successfully, realizing the benefits of increased economic activity and community involvement.



International Education Center at Diablo Valley College
Ribbon Cutting
2/17/15

The Chamber Proudly Welcomes

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Interactive Intelligence—925-448-1699

Dogo Krav Maga—925 349 4575

Regus—Willow Pass Road—844 898-1895

Farmers Insurance—Evelyn Vergara—925-798-5801

YP Marketing Solutions—Eden Jimmerson—925-602-3643

Oakmont of Concord—925-798-4004

(Opening Summer 2016)