



TOASTMASTERS District 46 Newsletter

Together, Let's Transform Lives.

Toastmaster Year 2020/2021. Issue #4 December 2020

Welcome to the fourth edition of your District 46 Newsletter. This month, we hear from our Pathways Chair, who reminds us that there is a “treasure trove” awaiting if we keep exploring Pathways. In the **Member Corner**, we hear from a member who took the bold initiative of chartering a new club that happens to be the first of its kind — a bilingual Arabic-English club that welcomes all and has celebrated its one-year anniversary.

Your newsletter will return in late January with a combined January-February edition.

Introductions-----from your District Director



When I addressed our latest District Executive Committee meeting, I reminded all of us that our work as Toastmasters has the potential to change people's lives. But that awesome power must include love.

Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the relationship between power and love, and the influence of justice: “What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and that love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.” Mahatma Gandhi called love “the prerogative of the brave.”

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the challenges we face to a boiling point, with a growing sense that things must change. Fellow District 46 leaders, all lasting change, whether in a person, relationship, family, organization, city, or nation, starts with love.

[Patricia Kidwingira, DTM](#)

-----from your District Pathways Chair

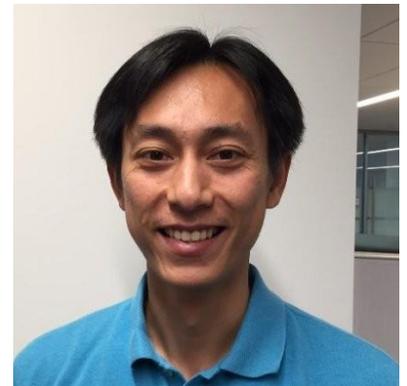
Hello, fellow Toastmasters. I'm your District Pathways Chair, a role meant to serve all members of District 46. My main responsibility is to be the go-to person for all and any Pathways-related questions.

I am a native New Yorker who grew up in Brooklyn, worked in Manhattan, and now lives in Queens. I joined Toastmasters through work, thinking it would be good for my career, but was very impressed at the leadership roles offered. That was over 10 years ago. Besides Toastmasters, I enjoy biking and running. My most memorable speech is still my first Icebreaker, a speech where I talked about who I am: a product of good skills or good luck.

As the Pathways Chair, my advice for all Pathways aspirants is to remember that Pathways is similar to the Toastmasters experience — uncomfortable at first but very rewarding if one sticks with it. We learn proficiency, a new learning management tool and also get access to a treasure trove of content beyond level 2.

Please email me with any questions or suggestions. You can reach me at [Kuei-Ming Fan, DTM](#).

As a Pathways Chair, Kuei has served as teacher/mentor/guide and most recently as the organizer and host of the popular Pathways Office Hours, which has four sessions scheduled in December.



🔗 s to check out this month

- **Toastmaster November Magazine** is now online, and it has some great articles, including practical tips for memorizing a speech (“Ditch the Notecards”). Another article (“Reap the Rewards of the Toastmasters/Rotary Alliance”) describes how Toastmasters skills can help Rotarians (or anyone) advocate for their service projects, communicating why such efforts are vital and inspiring volunteers to work together. [Check it out here](#).
- Looking to meet new Toastmaster friends? Need to learn a new skill (and maybe put it on a resume?). Looking to go outside of your comfort zone and demonstrate your leadership abilities? District 46 has nine committees that are looking for you. Check out our [volunteer opportunities](#). Keep an eye on [open roles](#), too.
- **Pathways Office Hours** offers the chance to talk with Pathways experts and ask any questions you might have. The [December 1](#) evening session features Kuei-Ming Fan. The [December 10](#) evening session features Mark Baker. The [December 15](#) noontime session features Dora Abreu and the [December 19](#) afternoon session features Jeanne Boyarsky. Go to the [Event Calendar](#) to register.

District News

Save the dates and check [District 46 Special Event Calendar](#) for details and instructions for the following:

- [November 1 - February 28](#): Club Officer Training
- [December 1](#): Newly Chartered Club Mentor Training featuring Rhoundy Jones
- [December 5](#): The District 46 Secret Sauce to Club Excellence series presents a roundtable led by Leslie Shih, DTM from 10:00 A.M. to noon. Sign-up at: <https://toastmasters46.org/special-event-calendar/>
- [December 14](#): Join us for District 46 anniversary celebration 6:30-8:30 P.M with special guests Toastmasters International President, Richard Peck, DTM and our very own 1995 District 46 World Champion of Public Speaking, Mark Brown, with his keynote speech: “WE’RE JUST GETTING STARTED!”



Join Club Excellence Chair Leslie Shih, DTM and leaders from a wide range of successful clubs sharing best practices that lead to quality club meetings and high-level of member engagement.

Also, hear inspirational messages and recollections of many past District 46 leaders as introduced by our Toastmaster for the Evening, Accredited Speaker Rochelle Rice, DTM and test your knowledge of District Trivia in a series of fun polls!

All that's missing is you! Register here: <https://bit.ly/3eZx8nS>.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14 FROM 6:30-8:30 PM
Register: <https://bit.ly/3eZx8nS>

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT 46'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

District 46 anniversary celebration with special guests Toastmasters International President, Richard Peck, DTM, and our very own 1995 District 46 World Champion of Public Speaking, Mark Brown, with his keynote speech: “WE’RE JUST GETTING STARTED!”

Richard Peck, IP, DTM

Mark Brown, CSP

Test your knowledge of District Trivia in a series of fun polls!

Hear inspirational messages and recollections of many past District 46 leaders as introduced by our Toastmaster for the Evening, Accredited Speaker Rochelle Rice, DTM.

Metro NY & NJ

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When Sara Kadowaki started looking for a bilingual English-Arabic club to join, she didn't imagine herself starting the first one in the U.S. or even celebrating its one-year anniversary as a successful club, but that's what happened. The club's name, Dewan Shai, loosely translated as "teahouse", is fitting because Sara hosts its meetings in the office of the tea importing company she owns and always serves distinctive Japanese teas to attendees, along with the occasional delicacies brought by members.

But why would a Japanese woman, an accomplished Toastmaster, want to join such a club in the first place? As a teenager, Sara traveled with her diplomat family in Jordan and Egypt. She learned English, which she fluently speaks today, at an American school, along with just enough Arabic to order in a restaurant or ask for directions. But through her adult life and career, there were few chances to practice that intricate language.

Reaching out to fellow Toastmasters and their friends, she found kindred spirits who also wanted a friendly place to practice the language — for travel, speaking with family, making a speech at a wedding, and many other reasons. She also found enthusiasm and eagerness to join the new club in others who spoke no Arabic at all. They joined and stayed for the conviviality and the chance to learn about the rich cultures of the Arabic-speaking world.

At Dewan Shai, speeches and evaluations are always delivered in both languages, enabling members to practice English, Arabic, and of course public speaking. The club's Arabic speakers praise the club for the opportunity to practice and improve their Modern Standard Arabic, which is used in business, academia, law, and mass media. It differs significantly from the dialects those members learned growing up in different Arabic-speaking countries. One of those members credits the discipline of composing, delivering, and translating speeches for her noticeable improvement in Modern Standard Arabic proficiency.

The club has recently hosted hybrid in-person/remote for selected meetings in the teahouse, with a limited number of in-person attendees and strict safety practices. Planning, along with an elaborate setup of microphones and laptops helps remote attendees feel like full participants. The club's success has endured through this difficult time of the Covid-19 pandemic with many more joining the meetings remotely from all over the world.



All meetings begin with the customary greeting "As-salaam 'alyikum" — "Peace be upon you". Dewan Shai, already diverse, invites all to experience its unique hospitality and rich cultures. They meet every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., EST. Visit their website to register and for more information:

<https://dewanshai.toastmastersclubs.org/>.