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28 March 2002



# The Edge



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**BNL Toastmasters, Club 8069, District 46**  
**Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 5:30 PM**  
**Biology Building 463, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973**  
<http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/toastmstrs/default.htm>

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## Upcoming Events

Tues April 2                      5:30 Meeting  
Tues April 16                     5:30 Meeting  
Tues, April 23                    Quarterly NOON meeting, Berkner Hall

Theme: Humor

Theme: Italy

## Officers 2001-02

### President:

Margaret Foster

### VP Education:

Nancy Manning

### VP Membership &

### VP Public Relations:

Margaret Conover

### Secretary:

Amy Halsted

### Treasurer:

Ronnie Evans

### Sergeant at Arms:

Beth Lin

### Newsletter Editors:

Amy Halsted

Nancy Manning

**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.**

## 19 March Meeting

Our well attended meeting on March 19 had marriage as its theme. Beth and Nancy opened the meeting. Benny Hooda was Toastmaster of the Day for the first time ever, and he did an admirable job. Bill gave us *raconteur* as our word for the day. Beth took on Table Topics. Her gently phrased questions concerned our experiences and attitudes about marriage and long term relationships. Members spoke frankly about cultural issues surrounding marriage and their own personal experiences. Responses were surprisingly positive and happy. Maybe the state of marriage isn't as bad as has been reported. We congratulated Nancy (and Ron) Manning, whose anniversary it happened to be. There were a number of long marriages in the group.

After the break, three speeches followed. Nancy gave a presentation on the mentoring program that the club is considering. She started off by reminding members of the courtesy and good effect of applause for each speaker when he or she has finished speaking, even just briefly. She continued by pointing out that mentoring offers rewards to the mentee and the mentor as well. Mentoring would help with member retention and would speed orientation and progress for new members. It helps everyone to be more involved and connected to the club. She ended by distributing a questionnaire on the program, and asked members to return it to her at the next meeting.

Amy was the next speaker. Her title was "Skategate Revisited," the "fact finding report" from the Speaking to Inform manual. It concerned

the recent controversy regarding the Olympic figure skating pairs final. She gave additional information and facts that showed that the event was not as straightforward as the media portrayed it. The French judge who reported that she had been pressured later said that the pressure had been to vote for the Canadians, but she had voted for the Russians because she thought their performance was superior. Judges have a difficult role, because they have invested time and money in developing the ability to judge and are beholden to their own national skating unions. Some reform in the figure skating judging system may result from this incident, Amy said. A brief question and answer period followed.

Pat Astre was the third speaker. He gave the dry run of a keynote address he will be giving for a convention of insurance agents later in the year. Pat's expansive style, powerful gestures, clear voice and excellent use of illustrative humor made his speech very successful. He included many anecdotes, but continually tied them back into his themes. Although it was targeted to the intended audience, we were easily able to follow his messages and understand his points.

Beth Lin was general evaluator. She noted that the meeting had run somewhat over time and that observing time limits on speeches is quite important. Doug gave the Timer's report and Barb gave the Ah Counters report. Bill gave an evaluation of Amy's speech and Amy evaluated Pat's speech. Beth closed the longish but still very interesting and fun meeting.



**OPEN THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**

BNL Toastmasters Club Web site:  
[www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/toastmstrs/default.htm](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/toastmstrs/default.htm)

***BNL Toastmasters Regular Meeting Schedule***

Date	April 2	April 16	April 23 NOON
Theme	Humor	Italy	Better Speaking
TMOD	Amy		
Joke	Doug		
Word			
Timer	Doug		
Ah counter			
Grammarian			
Table Topics			
Speech #1	Zhen-Hui	Mari	Nancy
#2	Bill		
#3	Benny		
#4	Amy		
#5			
General Eval.			
Evaluator #1			
#2			
#3			
#4			
#5			
Quiz Master			
Absent	Nancy		

Our Club has had lots of visitors lately; many of whom we expect to join. It is exciting to see so many enthusiastic participants at each meeting! We are on the road to achieving President's Distinguished Club status for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all who are working so hard on achieving their goals and making this possible!

**We welcome** new member Zhen-Hui Zhang. Come meet her and listen to her Ice-Breaker speech on April 2.

**Mentoring Program:** If you have not yet returned your Mentor Interest Survey, please do so at the next meeting. Forms will be available. The Club needs people to serve as Mentors as well as Mentees. This new program promises to build up members' skills more quickly. Assignments will be given out at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and time will be allotted for the initial Mentor/Mentee discussion.

**Important Notice:** For security reasons, BNL's front gate requires photo ID for entrance to the site. The gate will be given the names of all off-site members and expected guests several days prior to each meeting. If you wish to bring a guest with you, please notify Nancy or Beth by 2 days prior to the meeting.

***Members' Progress Report***

Member	Speeches completed	Achievements
Pat A.	2	ATM-B
Margaret C.		CTM
Bill D.	6	
Ronnie E.	3	DTM
Margaret F.	3	DTM
Mario F.		
Amy H.	7	CTM
Benny H.	9	
Barbara K.		
Doug K.		
Beth L.		ATM-G
Nancy M.	7	ATM-B
Nand N.	7	ATM-G
Marc N.		
Mari R.	4	
Zhen-Hui Z.		