



Member Updates

New Members

Veda Kale,
Prethima Rengasamy

Pathways Ice Breakers:

Toby Bleish, Bitu Koy,
Jack Frysinger,
Vickie Wu, Nancy Chen

Message from our Club VPE



By Marcin Dorozinski

We're extremely happy that our Mentorship program is now running at full speed. We've matched many members already and we will continue doing that.

What you should also see in the coming weeks is that I will be assigning the meeting roles a bit more aggressively than before. We were relying pretty much on volunteering in the past but the side effect of that was some members took the same role many times, since there were not enough volunteers.

I'm planning to test a slightly different approach now and assign the roles based on past data. We'll see how it works and introduce changes if needed.

Member Spotlight: Carey Lai

Occupation: Entrepreneur **Member since:** 2016



Listening to Carey Lai speak, it's hard not to break out in a smile. Carey has a reputation at our club for being a consistently energetic and expressive speaker. And her penchant for requesting audience participation keeps us all engaged.

Over two years ago, Carey joined us when her fellow Rotary Club member, Jeff (a former Macintalkers member), introduced her to Toastmasters. "I wanted to improve my public speaking skills," she said, and found that at Macintalkers, "people are friendly and supportive." Since then, she has enthusiastically volunteered for all major roles, finished her Competent Communication manual, and did an excellent job of chairing our recent club contest.

When asked how she has changed since joining our club, Carey said, "I am more confident while speaking in public and I pay more attention to grammar and usage," adding that this is an area in which she pours a lot of effort. At Macintalkers, she said, "I learn how to deliver ideas more effectively."

Carey's next goal is completing her Competent Leadership Manual.

Upcoming Events



March 20: Area Evaluation and International Speech Contest (in lieu of regular club meeting) in Garage 1

Macintalkers Happy Hour!

On February 27, our club continued our new tradition of the Macintalkers Happy Hour, as part of our goal to increase member engagement. After our meeting, a group of us walked over to BJ's Brewery and had a great time chatting and finding out more about each other outside of the club. Also, a great deal on gourmet burgers and beers—score! This time we remembered to take a photo!



Member Spotlight: Angel Chen

Occupation: Product Operations **Member since:** 2018

Angel Chen has only been part of Macintalkers for four months but has already completed two speeches and competed in our club evaluation contest.

"At work, I often found myself reluctant to speak up in a big group setting," Angel said. "I identified a need to overcome my public speaking anxiety and improve my self-confidence in general." So she searched for Toastmasters clubs online, discovered that Macintalkers was nearby and signed up as a member after her first visit.

She said her brief membership here has already brought about noticeable changes. "TM helped me feel more confident about my ability to communicate and helped me engage more openly in meetings/discussions at work. I also find myself more assertive and calm when I make a reasonable ask and/or need to clearly express my perspective," she said.

Her goal now is to do a speech every quarter. Having recently started a new job, she said she "would love to bring all the positive energy and learnings I gained through the TM experience into shaping a successful new career."

