



POST TOASTIE

TOASTMASTERS 75 CLUB, PARIS

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1st November 2009

Halloween Theme

Jane Grey, our Toastmaster for the evening (TME) captured the spirit brilliantly with her entrance! Complete with a black hooded cape and *Ghost-Face* mask she spookily opened the meeting, in the absence of our Sergeant-at-Arms.

Our Club President, **Eva Croke** then greeted our three guests and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Eva spoke about the upcoming Area Contest before returning control of the meeting to TME, **Jane**.

TOAST

Anne Hamilton gave us the toast of the day. **Anne's** toast was to *Autumn - its smells; its sounds, its sights*. **Anne**, in an inspiring toast invited her audience to embrace all that Autumn brings rather than dreading the long dark evenings

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JOKE

Eva's joke was a cautionary tale of a misconception that occurred at Halloween between a husband & wife and reminded us that things are not always as they seem at this time of the year

WORD OF THE DAY

Anne Hamilton, our Grammarian for the meeting, gave us word of the day as '**RESPLENDENT**' - *an adjective meaning to be gloriously bright*.

MONSTER TABLE TOPICS !

Eva Croke was our Table Topics Master for what was a 'MONSTER' segment of impromptu speeches. **Eva & Jane** decided that since the meeting was different from the usual the Table Topics segment would be an extended feast of scariness!!

Using the movie scenario '*The Silence of the Lambs*', **Jeanne Feldman** was invited to tell us about someone who the more she came to know, the more they surprised her. **Jeanne** told us about encountering a Congolese man working at her local swimming pool whose hidden depths she discovered over time.

Catherine Assioma's scenario came from the film 'The Shining' and her question was had she ever been to a place that she believed was haunted. **Catherine** regaled us with a story of how, as child playing in her attic, a dress belonging to her Great-Grandmother floated as if Great-Granny was wearing it. Thankfully Great-Granny assured Catherine that *GOOD* spirits exist.

Robert Barton-Clegg was next up with the scenario from the movie - '*Horror Hotel*' - which had the memorable tag line - '*just ring for DOOM service*'. Robert was asked to tell us about a trip he took which turned out to be more than he bargained for. **Robert** told us that as a student he owned a sail boat and how he & some pals had gone sailing around Cape Cod. Without warning fog came upon them and they found themselves in a strange eerie environment. Suddenly a '*GHOST*' ship sailed by with not a single crew member

on board. To this day none of them know whether what they saw was real or a figment of their overactive imaginations!!

Using the '*Amityville Horror*' as a scene setter, **Anne Hamilton** was asked had she ever bought a house or anything that turned out to be not quite what she thought she was buying. **Anne** talked about buying a small Parisian apartment many years ago with a view to living there for a short time. It turned out she was living next door to the neighbour from hell!! However, Anne's staying power proved greater than his and when she returned one afternoon to see his furniture being moved her joy was unconfined. She told us that she still lives there today.

One of our brave guests **Sergio Azpetia** was our next volunteer! His question, drawing inspiration from the film *The Day the Earth Stood Still* was if he could get the whole world into a room and get them to agree on 1 thing - what would it be? **Sergio** told us that he would strive to convince everyone that working together was better than working apart.

The movie -*Friday 13th* prompted the question to **Christophe Marais** - Have you ever come across a strange character while on holiday? **Christophe** explained to us, given that he keeps his life uncomplicated, he does not attract any weirdos!!

TABLE TOPICS (cont'd)

Jane Grey was asked what advice would she give to potential victims, such as those portrayed in the comic 'Scary Movies'.

Jane she remembered a time when she thought there was a ghost in her bedroom. She told us how she bravely checked under her bed and discovered there were none there at all!! She was only 5 years old!! Since then she has believed that ghosts are something we imagine and shouldn't be scared of & so she would advise our heroine not to be afraid.

For this compassionate advice **Jane** received the best Table Topics ribbon on the night.

PREPARED SPEECHES

Catherine Assioma, our prepared speaker of the night gave us a dazzling performance with her speech entitled "*I never drinkwine*". Catherine sought to set her audience straight about vampires. She told us that vampires have been around '*forever*' and have gotten really bad press. Among other things, they have been accused of spreading the bubonic plague. She told us about the many misconceptions of where they originated and told us of how they are portrayed in fiction, quoting Irish writers Sheridan, Le Fanu and of course, Brahams Stoker, the creator of the Dracula novels.

Catherine outlined that leaving aside their blood thirsty image, vampires also hold a certain sexual charisma. Thankfully she outlined to us the only sure way of killing a vampire - driving a wooden stake through its heart.

A *tour de force* performance from **Catherine**.

EVALUATIONS & REPORTS

Jeanne Feldman, our General Evaluator, invited **Christophe Marais** to evaluate **Catherine's** speech

Christophe thanked her for presenting such an interesting and informative speech at our Halloween meeting. He commented on the research that **Catherine** had obviously put into her topic which was the aim of her speaking project. **Christophe** gave her some general advice on using appropriate hand gestures and concluded by praising **Catherine** for transforming what could have been a dry topic into a riveting speech.

Anne Hamilton gave her Grammarian's report and commented that two people, Jane & Catherine used her word of the day. The use of grammar in general throughout the meeting was very good.

In her Timer's report, **Arlette Beressi** told us that all Table Topics contributors were within their time limits and that **Catherine's** great speech lasted for 22 minutes.

As General Evaluator, **Jeanne** said that the Halloween theme had been nicely evoked throughout the meeting.

Jane presented special Halloween awards to ALL Table Topics contributors. Before handing the meeting over to **Eva** for closing comments and Club business, **Jane** reminded everyone that it would be three weeks before our next meeting.

Eva then spoke to our three guests, **Sergio Azbetia, Francisco Bortillo & Marianne Frossard** who each said they had enjoyed the meeting very much and would join us again next time. The meeting was then closed with **Eva** wishing everyone *bon courage* for the Area Contest on Saturday 24th October 2009

NEXT MEETING

12th NOVEMBER 2009