

StoryMasters

We had another resplendent meeting on August 12th. As the Toastmaster for the meeting, I had the privilege to know the speakers' speech titles and introductions in advance, which all sounded intriguing. I could hardly wait to hear their stories!

Antoinette Byron: All That Glitters Isn't Gold

Janine Burke: Good Stories Gone Bad

Jorge Sciupac: ONE-NESS OF BOTH: A Journey from ME to WE...and Back!

Anna Ziss-Patton: Ok! Ok! I Forgive You!

JaMarr John Johnson: Through the Fire

Don't they sound interesting? We surely enjoyed these wonderful stories and invaluable feedback. They made me lean in and want to learn more.

If you want to hear good stories, please join us for our 9/9 meeting. Don't forget to RSVP to Tina Tomiyama at tomiya2@mac.com!

The Video Contest Winner!

Debbie Kenneybrew brought us the grand champion title of the **Speak About Public Speaking Video Contest** and made us proud parents! It's been such a joy for StoryMasters to see how far she has come. Congratulations, Debbie!

Check out her winning video.
<https://youtu.be/UDufeKRp6m4>



Debbie Kenneybrew's Toastmasters journey began with watching and listening from the back of the room as the shy introvert debated within herself, "Could I ever be good enough to join Professional Women Toastmasters?" She took the leap and it paid off — in job success and confidence. Debbie then joined StoryMasters to get an extra boost in her storytelling skills.

Upcoming Events

Speechcraft: from Basics to Beyond

One Sunday afternoon, one member asked, "Shall we pull the plug?" The club had been on the verge of death for a while. Each meeting had only 3-5 members. It was the time to terminate the life support, but they decided to conduct a Speechcraft called Storycraft as a last-ditch effort. After completing the Storycraft, the club made a strong comeback with twenty members and has thrived since then.

Yes, that's StoryMasters' true story!

Speechcraft is a powerful tool to attract new members and engage your club members. Join us for a lively workshop about Speechcraft!

August 16th @ 7pm – 8:30pm

LAPD Ahmanson Training Center

RSVP: Tina Tomiyama at
tomiya2@mac.com

StoryMasters Upcoming Meeting

Join us for the fine stories and evaluations on the second Sunday of each month.

StoryMasters

September 9th @ 3pm – 5pm

3720 Monteith Dr, View Park

The District 1 Awards Banquet

The District held the Awards Banquet at the beautiful Aquarium of the Pacific on Saturday, August 11, 2018. The banquet was to recognize and appreciate those who served above and beyond for the 2017-2018 term.

Let's shout out to StoryMasters who were acknowledged at the banquet!

Erica Bailey
 Joyce Howard
 Dana LaMon
 Catherine Magruder
 Margaret Mitchell
 Jorge Sciapac
 Tina Tomiyama
 Jacki Williams-Jones
 Miyo Yamauchi
 Anna Ziss-Patton



Editor's Note

Last month I had to go on a serious diet. No, I'm not talking about a food diet. I'm talking about a Word Diet. That's the first and most important lesson that I learned from [Janine Burke](#). She made me aware of the importance of word counting. I cannot thank her enough for that. According to Janine, we should speak at 100-120 words per minute. Of course, we should allow time for pauses and hilarious laughter.

[Dana LaMon](#) always impresses me by showing how he adjusts his speech. When an event runs late, he graciously cuts his keynote speech short on the fly so that the event will be back on schedule. Still, his speech is so good that the audience doesn't notice any of that. That's professional. I don't think that I will ever reach that level, but at least I know how many words I need for a given time depending on the nature of my speech (funny or serious) and size of the audience.

Still...often times, I don't want to be bothered.

I like this phrase because it's my favorite. Oh, I need to tell that conversation because it was funny.

I keep every word and add more time to my speech length instead of cutting words. That may be acceptable for some events and meetings, but sometimes you get disqualified if you go overtime.

The storytelling show was one of them. I needed to lose 300 words. Oh boy...where should I start? I thought, *there is no way that I can lose a big chunk of words. Every word is important for my story!* I was cranky and grumpy, but eventually and reluctantly, I started cutting words. Losing 23 words wasn't hard, but I still had 277 words to lose. I needed a serious surgery! Then I started asking myself. *Is this dialogue relevant to my story? If I lose this scene, does my story change? What do I want to tell in this paragraph?* Those questions made me realize how much excess fat my story had, and didn't need.

I recommend we all commit to do a word diet once in a while. Most document editors (including Google Docs) have a feature to count words. It's a good exercise to get your point across clearly within a given time.

Miyo Yamauchi

StoryMasters meets on the second Sunday of each month at Tina Tomiyama Residence (3720 Monteith, View Park, CA 90043)