



Extreme Toastmasters #595201
District 30, Chicago

For the Love of Toastmasters: How One Power Couple Really *Communicates*

By Club Secretary, Kealah Parkinson

Last month, two Extreme Toastmasters celebrated four "glorious" years as club members. This year, they also happened to celebrate 25 years of marriage to each other.

Funding expert and professional speaker Stefania Aulicino, author of *Cash and Control* for entrepreneurs, was born in New York City. After studying abroad in Paris and Rome, then traveling to many other countries in her early adulthood, Stefania returned to New York to begin her career on Wall Street. But work eventually brought her to Chicago. That's when she met her "other half" in local boy Jim Condon.

"Funny how the universe arranges for things to happen like that," she says.

Although they came from different—and similar—backgrounds in a variety of ways, Stefania and Jim ("JC," as she calls him) now share many interests, including Extreme Toastmasters. Both Jim and Stefania enjoy socializing, hosting themed annual parties at their condo each year. E.T. gives them a weekly dose of socialization, as well as a chance to practice their skills at small talk.

"We love making a weekly 'date night' (also) a learning night," shares Stefania, "(especially) in the company of the most stimulating and interesting people who constantly add to our roster of

members."

They also enjoy cooking, dancing and sailing. Jim, who has been a sailing instructor at Sail Chicago (where both are avid sailors), used this as content to complete his Competent Communicator manual during the couple's first year at E.T.

But Jim and Stefania did not plan to join Toastmasters together. Initially, Stefania simply asked her husband to accompany her to a new location, because she is "logistics-challenged." However, she says, "He was hooked after he got here!"

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Club officers and husband-and-wife duo Jim Condon and Stefania Aulicino pose at the 2010 E.T. dance party where they led festivities with their dancing expertise.