



## Basel International Speakers Club News and Events

**District 59  
Division E, Area 2**

**Basel International Speakers  
March 2014**

**Editor: Ahlame Farsaoui, Vice  
President Public Relations**

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2014**

**Interview with Nina Carrasco,  
and Julia K L Sommer**

#### **Toastmasters Basel Area Contest: April 5th 2014**

On Saturday, April 5, four of the Toastmasters clubs in Basel will compete against each other in the Spring Area Contest. Though BIS-TM will not be competing this time, but we will use this opportunity to watch and support the speakers from our city and especially to learn from them.

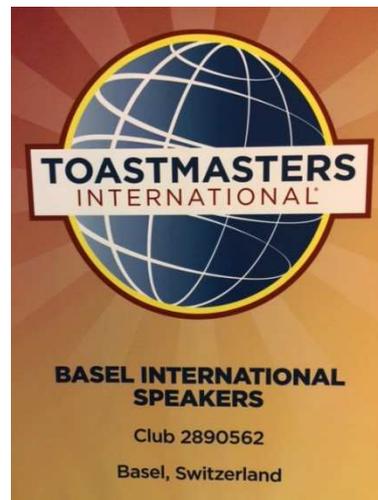
The event lasts from 09:00 to about 12:30 and will be held at the University of Basel. There will be two contests in two languages (English and German).

Firstly, the International Speech Contest, 5-7 minutes on any topic, where the winner may continue to compete to go to the World Championships of Public Speaking in August. And secondly, the Evaluation Contest, where the competitors listen to the same target speech and then try to give the most insightful and helpful evaluation of it.

Please register ASAP.

#### **Election in May 2014 of Basel International Speakers**

The term of office of club officers runs from July 1 to June 30. In May 2014, a new election will be held to determine the new club committees. If you are interested in a committee position, please speak to one of the club officers.



**BIS: Basel International Speakers**

#### **Committee training 2014**

Meeting Chair: Markus Seppälä

We would like to thank Sandra Van de Cauter, the Area Governor, for the training, and for her time, she did a great job and we also thank Markus, for hosting the event.



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### **Interview with Nina Carrasco, and Julia K. L. Sommer**

I met Nina and her beautiful 9.5 years old daughter Julia, before the regular meeting, we have a wonderful 1.5 hours, of pure passion and positive energy.

As the VPPR, I thank Nina and Julia for the loughs, the smiles, and the great ambiance we had while doing this interview.

*Ahlame: How long have you been in the TM international?*

Nina: I joined the Toast master of Basel in December 2007 as a guest, my first meeting was very exciting because I participated at the table topic, and I won it, so I decided the same month to join the club.

*Ahlame: How many TM have you joined until now?*

Nina: I joined TM of Basel from 2007 until 2013. I'm also the co-founder of BIS Tm club since 2013, being a current member.

*Ahlame: How many different roles have you taken in the last 7 years?*

Nina: I have been twice VP membership, twice VP Education, twice sergeant at arms, once the president of TM of Basel during the year 2011-2012.

*Ahlame: How challenging was to be the president of a big club as the TM of Basel?*

Nina: I had to learn how to delegate, be patient with myself, and also be patient with others.

I also learned how to handle discussion with conflict resolving strategy.

*Ahlame: How did you found out about the TM the first time in 2007?*

Nina: A friend of mine, Philippe Tharin, talked to me about a "TM" meeting, he encouraged me to try it, assuring me that I will love, and love it I did.

*Ahlame: What are you doing in Life, besides being an active member of the TM?*

Nina: I work at the information center of Basel-Mulhouse Airport.

*Ahlame: You are a young Mom, and you have a full time job, how do you manage to have time to be an active member of the TM?*

Nina: Thanks to my two friends, Insomnia and Caffeine ;) I am kidding. I don't need long sleeping hours, I sleep between 3 to 4 hours a day, which leaves me a lot of time to get many things done, and some of them are TM duties.

*Ahlame: How did you maintain the passion for the TM during all these 7 years?*

Nina: As every love at first sight, TM is a passion of mine; it is like a safe place for me, never boring; I always go back to TM.

*Ahlame: Why did you try the TM of Basel and not the other clubs?*

Nina: In 2007, the TM of Basel was the only English speaking club in Basel, thence my choice was made.



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*Ahlame: What was the most exciting event you did with the TM of Basel?*

Nina: One of my best souvenirs was the trip we did to Dublin in March 2008. We were 5 members of TM of Basel, visiting one of the multiple clubs in Dublin.

I did a mistake while I was booking the hostel room, it was during Saint-Patrick festivities, and I found myself obligated to share my hostel room with 5 men -unknown to me-, all between 20 and 30 years old. Well I was a bit scared, but it ended up being definitely the highlight of the trip ;)

*Ahlame: How did you pass your passion of the TM to your daughter Julia? She is attending some meetings with you, and we all can see that she is as passionate as you.*

Nina: She started by helping me rehearsing speeches, and she did a great job as my private time keeper. She asked me to join the meetings, and I can see that she has a lot of joy participating.

*Ahlame: How old are you Julia?*

Julia: I am 9.5 years old.

*Ahlame: how many times you joined the TM at this young age?*

Julia: I joined twice when I was 5 years old, and I joined the BIS altogether about 6 times.

*Ahlame: How does the TM meeting help a 9.5 years old school girl?*

Julia: It helped me more than I thought it would, because I learned how not to be shy in front of an audience, and I learned how to be aware of my body language and vocal variety.

*Ahlame: Do you like to join the BIS meetings?*

Julia: Yes a lot and I will get the membership of the club as a present for my 18th years old birthday.

*Ahlame: How was your journey as a Co-Founder of BIS: The second English speaking club of Basel?*

Nina: It has been a very interesting and satisfying experience for me. I could finally shape some leadership skills.

*Ahlame: How did the idea of creating a new club start?*

Nina: There was a need of a new and different club in Basel, with an innovating way of doing things.

*Ahlame: What are the challenges you have faced while creating the new club?*

Nina: Bringing and finding new members was the most challenging part. I was the VP membership, my job was to bring new members and, by providing a good meeting quality, allure them to join the club.

*Ahlame: What are your hobbies?*

Nina: Mostly reading, I read 2 to 3 books per week. My last book was "Nana" from Emile Zola. Now I am devouring all Wilkie Collins novels.



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*Ahlame: And you Julia, what are your hobbies?*

Julia: Reading as well, my last book was "Nuit blanche" a French book, I also like crochet and knitting. And when I have some free time, I do jogging and signing, without forgetting to have time for day-dreaming.

*Ahlame: As a mother and a daughter, does the TM have a place in your home?*

Nina: All our family is passionate about the TM concept: we do competitions; we help each other with rehearsing. But it is hard as well, because one has to earn any compliment given.

*Ahlame: How do you see your future in the TM?*

Nina: I would like to commit in a higher level, with larger responsibilities, not only within the club, but within the Area and the division.

I am looking for opening an English speaking club in Lörrach, where at the moment there is none.



**Nina Carrasco and Julia k. L. Sommer**

**TOASTMASTERS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

### **Club meeting location**

The Basel International Speakers Toastmasters Club meets at QuBa, Quartierzentrum Bachletten.  
Bachlettenstrasse 12, 4054 Basel.

### **Our next meeting**

The Basel International Speakers Toastmasters club meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Our meetings start at 18:45 and last about two hours.