**SPOTLIGHT**

Taking note of suggestions from long standing Toastmasters, we are starting a new feature this Newsletter onwards called SPOTLIGHT.

SPOTLIGHT will put focus on members of the club who have accomplishments to their names either personally or on the professional front.

This issue the Spotlight is on TM Ruchika Airon and Yours Truly.

- Editor, TM Shagufta Patel

**What Painting means to me!**

Have you ever wanted as a kid to get inside your favourite comic book and live the life of your beloved animation character? Painting to me is like that. It's a world of my own where I choose the colours and characters, decide the destiny of my canvas's theme and somehow add a little beauty to this world!

Sometimes when the daily grind gets too much, it's comforting to have this recluse. It's not a time bound piece of work, there is no compulsion for it to look a certain way and it doesn't have to ever be complete - that's the beauty I find in doing this.

Yet, the excitement to see a painting take shape can sometimes drive me to paint for hours, dawn till dusk, until the wet oil paint allows no more. Combine this with soft music and it builds a momentum that only fatigue can ultimately break. It's easy to get lost here.

Like every piece of work, painting demands it's own discipline but that isn't something that comes naturally to an artist and therein lies the answer to those countless unfinished canvases that adorn the shelves of my studio. It's annoying to see that canvas lying there with half painted faces or half clad tribal women who were supposed to dance around a bonfire with only some unshapely logs successfully placed. Hence, each piece of finished painting is really like a trophy, that doesn't really beg for anyone's acknowledgement but the beauty an artist finds in their own brush strokes.

Painting for me also fulfils that need for leaving this world with a little bit of my own colour. It gives me an excuse to enjoy isolation, away from all the worries, with only one goal - to lend that realistic shade of brown to a lady's skin, to ensure that the cracks on the dilapidated walls of that country house don't get lost. Painting teaches me to really see beauty in all the imperfections of life!

Sharing in this space some of my creations for all to see. I am not a pro at what I do, but I endeavor to do the best I can. I hope to get better someday. It's a creative pursuit where I don't fulfill anyone's expectations but my own. I wish to be a pro in my own eyes someday and enjoy myself doing what I love while I get there.

TM Ruchika Airon