

Governor's Newsletter

Donna D'Agostino District Governor 2004 - 2005



Donna at Wilmington's Centennial Project!

November - December 2004

Please Visit Our District Website: www.rotary7930.org

Governor Donna's mid-year meeting with Centennial Presidents will be held on **January 26, 2005** at 6:00 PM at the **Winchester Country Club**. Our guest speaker will be Jeanne Blake.

Every president will be sent a personal invitation with an option to order the program materials on underage drinking (see related article) for their local library for \$500 + tax which includes



a special discount. If your club would like to sponsor or participate in a project that addresses health concerns (refer to RI Presidential Citation: Celebrate Rotary in your community) the materials will be ready for pick up at the meeting.

Jeanne Blake is president of Family Health Productions, a non-profit production company that produces and distributes media designed to help families stay healthy and to talk about the challenges young people face growing up. She is the producer of the organization's award-winning documentaries. Blake is the author of *Words Can Work* booklets and president of Blake Works™ which provides consulting services in the field of parent/child communication to healthcare providers, schools and to corporations. Blake appeared on Oprah, the Today Show, CNN and was featured on National Public Radio.

Formerly on WBZ-TV as news anchor and medical reporter, Blake is an affiliated faculty member the Division on Addictions at Harvard Medical School; is an advisor to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino's family communication initiative; and a member of the Massachusetts Health Council.

Jeanne Blake lives in Gloucester, MA and New York City.

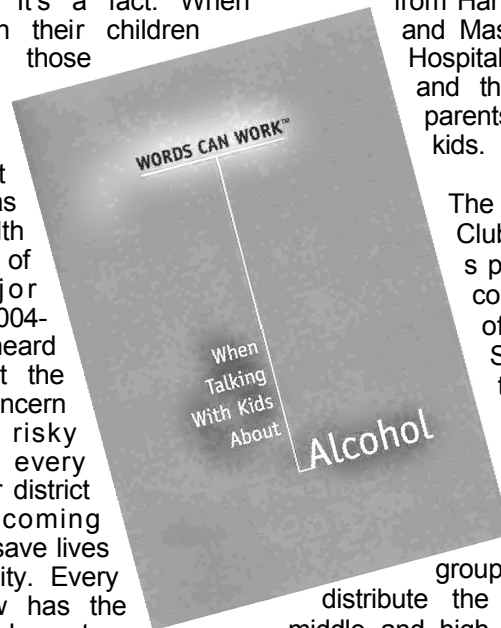
Help Save Lives in Your Community

Surveys show that teens in Massachusetts drink at rates significantly higher than teens in other states. More than a third of Massachusetts 9th to 12th graders admitted to binge drinking during the previous month. It's a fact: When parents talk with their children about alcohol, those children are less likely to drink.

RI President Glenn Estess has positioned health concerns as one of the 4 major emphases of 2004-2005. You've heard me speak about the serious health concern of teenage risky behavior in every community in our district and a forthcoming program to help save lives in your community. Every Rotary club now has the opportunity to implement an effective program addressing an important health concern with family involvement in their community with a special offer exclusively for Rotary clubs in District 7930.

To help families start and continue lifesaving conversations about underage drinking, your Rotary club can donate copies of *Alcohol: True Stories*, a 20-minute DVD narrated and hosted by **Matt Damon** to your local library. Four young people tell how alcohol use affected their lives including sexual risk taking, drinking

and driving, and addiction. In addition, your club can donate 125 copies of *Words Can Work: When Talking With Kids About Alcohol* by **Jeanne Blake**, an easy to read booklet in which families tell their true stories. Experts from Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital offer information- and the words - to help parents talk with their own kids.



The Rotary and Interact Clubs of Gloucester co-sponsored a community screening of *Alcohol: True Stories* and donated the DVD and *Words Can Work* booklets to the Gloucester Library. Rotary in Birmingham, Alabama joined a group of sponsors to distribute the program to every middle and high school in Alabama. Jeanne Blake will be presenting the program to Rotary in Bradford Pennsylvania and will soon be presenting the program to District 7930 centennial club presidents (see related story at the left).

Reducing underage drinking and its potential tragic consequences requires a community-wide effort. Working together, we *can* make a difference. We can save lives.

See: www.wordscanwork.com



Matt Damon

Donna