



# The Sunshiner

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## Jacksonville Club Has Fun Conducting Youth Leadership Programs

By Beverly Farnell

*Dedicated members of the Toast of Jax Toastmasters Club meet bright and early on Saturday mornings. When reading the Mission Statement, the group has added their own twist ... "and have fun doing it!"*

In 2002, Club members decided to get involved in community service. They felt this was a great opportunity to use the speaking and leadership skills they had been developing. The Club chose to sponsor a Youth Leadership Program. The purpose was to help young adults from age 15 to age 17 enhance their leadership and communication skills by giving them the opportunity to run their own meetings, prepare and deliver speeches.

After a few planning meetings, and with the help of the Toastmaster International's Youth Leadership program materials, the Club launched an eight-week program at the Beauclerc Mandarin Public Library and at the Haskell Company attended by 18 students from various schools. The program coordinator was Vice President Public Relations **Beverly Farnell**. The executive committee members were Past President **George Ohel**, **Dr. Millie Tannen**, **Nandu Shah**, **Yurania Causey**, **David J. Rafanowicz** and **Milo Holt**.

The program was quite a success and an inspiration to all involved. To share the success and excitement of the program, Youth Leadership Program member **Mayuri Shah** delivered a powerful speech at the Toast of Jax Saturday morning meeting entitled "The Generation Gap." Mayuri did an outstanding job and received a standing ovation and ribbon for Best Speech.

The Toast of Jax Club is sponsoring another eight-week program at the Eugene Butler Middle School to help young adults age 12 to age 15 take their first step in expressing ideas through public speaking. Toastmaster **Steve Lazar** is the program coordinator and is being assisted by President **Jim Akers**, Vice President Public Relations **Beverly Farnell**, **Betty Gamble**, **David J. Rafanowicz** and **Jim Domenico**.

*For more information about these successful programs, check out the Club's Web site at [www.toastofjax.org](http://www.toastofjax.org) or join them at one of their Saturday morning meetings! They are confident you will "have fun doing it!"*