

Book Inspires Those Tested By Illness And Misfortune

RARITAN TWP. — Roxanne Black, author of *Unexpected Blessings: Finding Hope and Healing in the Face of Illness* will speak and sign her book at Hunterdon Medical Center on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 7 to 8 p.m.

When Ms. Black was only 15, she was diagnosed with lupus, a chronic inflammatory disease that can attack the vital organs of the body. As a teenager with a rare and terrifying ailment, she yearned to connect with others who knew first-hand what she was experiencing. So she formed a support group to bring patients across the country together. That group has now become Friends' Health Connection, a nationwide community that matches thousands of people with similar conditions — from cancer and lupus to paralysis and chronic pain, and more.

Ms. Black's mission each day for the last 20 years has been to turn her "bad news" diagnosis into something positive. As she says, "When I wonder 'Why me?' I know the answer: 'To help others.'" *Unexpected*

Blessings is an extension of that mission. It brings to life not only Ms. Black's inspiring personal story, but also the lessons of courage she's learned from all the famous and not-so-famous people she's met over the years.

From a poignant encounter with Christopher Reeve to her intimate experiences with patients around the globe who stand strong in the face of extraordinary challenges, these are stories of heroism and hope. They are also reminders of the healing that happens when we can connect together from the heart. Warm and down-to-earth, *Unexpected Blessings* offers support and encouragement for anyone touched by illness, or anyone facing a difficult time in their life. It is a powerful testimony to the strength of the human spirit.

Unexpected Blessings: Finding Hope and Healing in the Face of Illness will be available to purchase at the event to be held near the auditorium at Hunterdon Medical Center. For more information call 788-6515.

Printing imperfections present during scanning

