



Tempe Leadership

# Tempe Leadership Alumni News

May/June 2007

## President's Message: Each Class = Community

This will be my final article as President of Tempe Leadership. It has been an honor to serve Tempe Leadership and I look forward to serving my final year. As I look back on the work and accomplishments of the past year, I am filled with positive thoughts and experiences that make our community the best community ever! I thank those who have volunteered their time, talents and treasure to our all-volunteer program.

Here are a few inspiring memories that I would like to share...

**Class XXII Graduated** – Tempe Leadership has more than 240 alumni! Each year, the program improves with exciting curriculum and opportunities for growth.

**Tempe Cares** – With the challenge of finding neighborhoods to rejuvenate, the Tempe Cares Committee found one of the best projects this year in revitalizing the Double Butte Cemetery. It just felt good to give back and work on one of Tempe's historic places – for those who participated, the pride in our community was infectious as we worked and made it an extra special day.

**Tempe Youth Leadership** – TYL celebrated its eighth year and the second under the Board's leadership. Dr. Art Tate and Kathleen Clark have created a program for youth that mirrors the adult program and goals. The young adults who graduated as part of Class VIII were thoughtful, inspiring and are on to great things. We had future doctors, elected officials, and authors...to be young and making those decisions in life! We wish them the best.

**Conversations in Leadership** – Our inaugural event was one that I hope will continue for many years to come. The event had listeners at the edge of their seat. Alumni gathered and it was hard to quiet the room – a great sound that we have not heard before. The panel – Grant Woods, Johnny Basha and Eileen Spitalny – were wonderful together. Thank you to the committee for working so hard to create an innovative and memorable experience. Who do you ask can we get to top this year's panel...just wait!

There has never been a greater opportunity to be a community leader in Tempe. Please remember your experiences in TL and keep recruiting new members. Tempe Leadership will continue to grow and bring people together because of the many committed volunteers to the program. Welcome my friend, Kathleen Clark, as your next President.

Gather energy from each other, never stop learning, always ask questions...and keep exploring the possibilities of life!

*Beth Fiorenza, President  
Class XVI, "The Sweet Sixteen's"*



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**Tempe Leadership is sponsored by the  
Tempe Chamber of Commerce**



Your Success is Our Business

## Address Information Needed – Use Our Website

In order to allow us to keep you informed of Tempe Leadership news and activities, please be sure that we have your correct home and/or business address, phone number and email address.

You can update your profile information directly by logging in to the Tempe Leadership website at

**[www.tempeleadership.org](http://www.tempeleadership.org)**

or by sending an email to [info@tempeleadership.org](mailto:info@tempeleadership.org) with your current information. If you have not been at our website or do not remember how to log in, send us an email and we will be happy to assist you.

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## Tempe Cares Dresses Up Double Butte Cemetery

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Tempe Cares volunteers 400 strong provided a major facelift to Tempe Double Butte Cemetery on Saturday, March 3rd. With a goal of enhancing the historic character and special nature of Double Butte Cemetery, the volunteers made major landscape and irrigation system improvements. Trees and shrubbery were pruned; dead and unwanted landscape was removed; 28 new trees were planted; irrigation control valves were installed; gravel was added to selected cemetery plots. Wow! The cemetery does not look the same! The landscape enhancement activity filled three 35 cubic yard dumpsters, and that was not enough. One hundred 90 gallon garbage dumpsters were then filled with plant material that had been pruned and raked up.

Many thanks go to Dale Despain who chaired the project as well as the planning committee members – Rebecka Johnson, Gary Roberts, Mark Simmons, Bill Regner, Mel Kessler, Hassan Elsaad, Sue Hahn, Connie Thompson, Maureen McGurrin, Lorraine Bergman, Eric Bergman, Zach Berning, and Cyndy Lawshe. The project would not have been possible without our Tempe Parks and Recreation Department partners – Mark Richwine, Sam Thompson, Shawn Wagner, Dick Mickle and Cynthia Yanez. Of course the Tempe Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Information Departments provided much needed support also. Our thanks go out to all the city staff.



Tempe Cares wishes to thank our many sponsors who made this project a huge success – Edward Jones, Berning's Fine Jewelry, Rosita's Fine Mexican Food Restaurant, Caliente Construction, Islamic Community Center, Precision Graphics, Rebuilding Together, Salt River Project, City of Tempe, Carefree Oasis Spas and More, Tempe Ace Hardware, The Buttes Hotel, Chompies, Basha's, Bruegger's Bagels, Wildflower Bread Company, and Heidi's Events and Catering.

For more information about Tempe Double Butte Cemetery, check out their website.  
<http://www.tempe.gov/cemetery/>

*Submitted by Mel Kessler, Class VI, Past President*

*Tempe Cares volunteers hard at work*



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## Conversations in Leadership

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Tempe Leadership launched its inaugural program, "Conversations in Leadership" on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at The Buttes, A Marriott Resort with a well-attended, successful and informative event. The impressive speakers included; Johnny Basha, Senior Vice Chairman of the Board of Bashas, Grant Woods, former Attorney General of Arizona and Eileen Spitalny, co-owner of Fairytale Brownies. The event moderator was Rebecca Thomas from ABC Channel 15 news.

More than 200 people attended the breakfast and were entertained by funny and often poignant comments from the speakers. The panelists' overall consensus was that their parents had a profound influence on their development and leadership skills. Eileen said that her mother gave her the confidence to tackle any challenge while Johnny related that he was influenced by his father's early death and his mother's ability to raise four children successfully by herself. Grant also gave credit to his parents and has made spending time with his wife and five children a priority in his life.

After an hour of repartee with moderator Rebecca Thomas, questions were taken from the audience. A particularly moving moment occurred when current Class XXII member Heidi Vail from Heidi's Events and Catering thanked Johnny Basha for encouraging her to open her own catering business. She related the story of speaking to him while walking on a treadmill at a health club more than ten years ago. She recalled that he not only believed that she should seize the opportunity to start her own business, but also loaned her a few tables to get her started. Heidi thanked Johnny and announced that not only had she been successful, but also was awarded the Business Excellence Award from the Tempe Chamber this year!



*Johnny Basha,  
Grant Woods,  
Paul Maryinak,  
Eileen Spitalny  
and Rebecca Thomas  
after the breakfast  
presentation*

Tempe Leadership will continue "Conversations in Leadership" each year and bring community, civic and business figures together to discuss their journey as successful leaders. Special thanks go to this year's sponsors; The Arizona Republic, SRP, Tempe Chamber, Tempe Leadership and Steve & Linda Wegener. For more information about Tempe Leadership, please contact Tom Waldeck at [tom@tempechamber.org](mailto:tom@tempechamber.org) or at 480-736-4281.

*Submitted by Renee Lopata, Tempe Chamber*

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## Tempe Leadership Class XXII Graduates

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This spring was busy for members of Class XXII -- they organized and executed a successful class project fundraiser, they chose a design for the artistic coin collection bank at Tempe Marketplace and they graduated on May 4.

The fundraiser, dubbed Mosaic, was held Saturday, March 17, at Desert Botanical Garden. Nearly 300 supporters gathered for a festive evening of themed parties-within-a-party. Guests mingled among a sleek, Studio 54-themed room, an outdoor Irish pub, an outdoor Mexican cantina, and a relaxing spa-like environment. Funds raised will go toward the construction of an artistic coin collection bank at the new Tempe Marketplace retail development at Rio Salado Parkway and McClintock Drive.



The class project is well on its way and the class chose a design for the bank in April. The winning design -- one of several submitted by Arizona State University design students -- is a structure that will accept coins and provide an entertaining visual activity as the coins travel toward the collection area of the piece. All proceeds will go to the Tempe Community Foundation, an organization that will help fund human service needs in Tempe.

Members of Class XXII graduated May 4 in a ceremony at SRP's PERA Club followed by a party at Trax. The class fully enjoyed its nine-month experience and eagerly anticipates opening the art feature this fall at Tempe Marketplace. We now join the ranks of Tempe Leadership's distinguished graduates but we remain, of course, The Best Class. Or at least, with classmates like Charles Keeme and Heidi Vail, we were The Best FED Class!

*Submitted by Nikki Ripley, Class XXII*



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## TYL Class XII Graduates

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For the past couple of months we have learned and experienced so many new and exciting things. We have gotten to know each other and trust each other.

At the interviews back in December, we were all a little nervous. For the most part we didn't really know each other and we weren't really sure what the program was about. All we knew was that we were there and we were ready for whatever it brought. Right before the Retreat we all gathered by the people we knew; some of us gathered with friends we knew from school and some of us who didn't really know anyone gathered with family. We loaded our things onto the bus and our parents began imagining a weekend without us . . . just kidding!

TYL camp was one the best parts of the whole Tempe Youth Leadership program. I never thought I could get this close with a group of people in such a short time. On the last day of camp it snowed - it was so beautiful. I remember playing in the snow so much my hands started to bleed.



When we got back from the Retreat, our first activity was at the Library's Tempe Connections for Human Services Day. We learned about groups coming to a consensus and then we learned about four different nonprofit organizations that most of us had never heard of before, let alone been to their sites. Our second activity was at the Tempe police sub station on Hardy. We learned about gangs and the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and then we did a shooting simulator. It was a lot of fun.

The following weekend at *Tempe, Our Town! Day*, we had a cool presentation of Tempe's upcoming projects, did an art scavenger hunt, toured Mill Avenue and saw the old flour mill. I saw things I had never noticed before.

The day of Tempe Cares was really, really cold, but we worked hard sweeping graves, raking leaves and digging trenches. For Government Day we got a chance to tour city hall. We spoke with the mayor, vice mayor, council members, Representative David Schapira and Corey Woods.

The last activity we did was Fire Day. We got to tour the Fire Training Center and ride on the truck. My favorite part of the day was when I climbed the tall ladder. I really didn't think I could do it, but I did it up and back down . . . Twice! It was so much fun how we got to hold the water hose and watch firefighters rip off a car door with the Jaws of Life.

A part of what kept us all close was humor. The ability to laugh at each other and the ability to trust one another when it really comes down to it. Humor has an amazing power. It emancipates us from the oppressive, uncontrollable facts of life. It emboldens us, enabling us to accept how we are and move on. We can laugh equally hard when we fail as when we triumph. Laughter makes us human. Without laughter TYL wouldn't have been nearly as enjoyable. All great leaders have time to laugh. I learned that to be a leader you don't always have to lead. Part of leading is also learning how to follow. Laugh at society, your friends and most importantly laugh at yourselves.

I'm going to end with a fitting quote. It's not by Jefferson, Emerson, or Lincoln, as is customary in graduation speeches, but by a fictitious, incestuous, comical, hillbilly Joe Dirt. He says, "Life is a garden...dig it!"



*Excerpts from the TYL Class XII Graduation Speech given by  
**Nicole McCall, TYL Class XII**  
Corona Del Sol High School Junior*

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## Tempe Leadership Officers and Board 2007 - 2008

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The Tempe Leadership Board will elect officers and new board members for the next fiscal year at their May board meeting. The next edition of this newsletter will announce the results.



### Tempe Chamber News

#### Women in Business Conference & Trade Show

Tuesday, May 22, 2007  
The Buttes, A Marriott Resort

For more information, please contact Alissa Pierson at 480-736-4283 or [alissa@tempechamber.org](mailto:alissa@tempechamber.org).

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### Alumni Updates

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**Jamil Coury, Class XXI**, will be graduating with honors from Arizona State University with degrees in Economics and Accountancy on May 10th, 2007. He is looking forward to staying involved in the local community, obtaining work experience in the field of economics, continuing his training for endurance athletic events and fostering his entrepreneurial spirit.

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#### **Jim Garth, Class VII**

After serving as an officer in the US Navy for four years, Jim moved to Tempe and got his MBA degree from ASU in 1978, and has lived here ever since. Jim owns Keystone Residential Lending, a residential mortgage loan company with offices located in Chandler. Jim's wife, Jodie, who also attended ASU and earned a BA degree, works for the Tempe Parks & Recreation Department. The Garths have three children that include both an ASU and a U of A graduate, the youngest of which is 21 years old and is enrolled in the Nursing Program at Mesa Community College.

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**Shauna Warner, Class XVI**, her husband Brad Clemens and their daughter Shalae welcomed a baby boy, Connor, to the family on February 1, 2007.



#### Your Classmates Want to Hear from You!!

If you have an accomplishment or update you'd like to share with other Alumni, please send a short (100 words or less) synopsis to

[tom@tempechamber.org](mailto:tom@tempechamber.org).



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## Tempe Leadership Goes International

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The "SRP Presents the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dragon Boat Festival" was held on the Tempe Town Lake on March 24 and 25, 2007. Some of Tempe Leadership **Class XVI members** were the founders and three of them, **Marcie Greenberg (President), Shauna Warner, and Al Dickie**, were on the original Board of Directors of the Arizona Dragon Boat Association. The organizer of the event each of the last four years. **Laura Davis, Class XVI**, paddled for the first time this year.

Tempe Leadership stepped up again, with Class Members hosting the team from Taipei, Taiwan, and showing them around the Valley. The team consisted of firemen from the City of Taipei. Fire Chief **Cliff Jones, Class II**, on very short notice organized a tour of the APS/City of Tempe Training Academy and Fire Station 6. He personally greeted them and escorted them through the facilities. **Charles Keeme, Class XXII**, and his mother Barbara hosted the visitors for lunch at Rosita's Fine Mexican Food (960 W. University, Tempe). They not only let them order off the menu but had a Mandarin speaking waiter available and picked up the entire tab. Many thanks to Rosita's hospitality and let's all return the favor by doing lunch and dinner at Rosita's regularly!

*Submitted by Al Dickie, Class XVI*



*A Dragonboat team in action.*



*The Dragonboat team from Taipei, Taiwan visiting Fire Station 6.*

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## Board of Directors 2006 – 2007

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### Editor's Note:

If you have comments about this issue of the Tempe Leadership News or suggestions for future issues, please contact JoEllen Johnson at [joey718@cox.net](mailto:joey718@cox.net).

