

# LEADER READER

## A Message from our President:

Dear Friends,

It is now spring and the flowers, trees and pollen are in full bloom! I sure hope this finds most of you feeling well and enjoying the rebirth of our natural environment here in gorgeous Florida! I do however know so many of you suffering from one of the worst allergy seasons ever. For those of you suffering you have our sincere sympathy. On a lighter note, I am happy to tell you we are nearly out of this season!

It is no secret we have 'tons' of stuff going on! To start with, the LP Lunch at the Library event is around the corner! On Thursday, April 6th we will feature **Jim Coats '02** and **Susan Rolston '98** and on May 4 **Dan Mann '90** and **Dr. Cynthia Johnson '05** will be presenters. Please indulge yourself in these free and highly educational events.

Recently the class experienced Health Day. Our day planners included **Jim Pfeiffer '05, Chair; Linda Chamberlain '97; John Couris '04; Jack Geller '05** and **Tim McMahon '05**. This group of talented and experienced volunteers put together a spectacular day for the entire class. Thank you all for your outstanding commitment to LP and your leadership! Also a special thanks to our presenter, **Chuck Kearns '04**. On behalf of this program we thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community.

Coming up is our annual trip to Tallahassee! The day coordinators are **Cyndie Goudeau '96, Chair; Sallie Parks '82; and Art Shand '00**. We depart on April 9th and return on April 11th. The committee has an incredible trip planned.

Of great importance is the LP recruitment socials at Ruth Eckerd Hall which are just around the corner, Tuesday, April 18th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 2nd from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Please look into this very carefully. All details of these events are on Page 2. Be sure to RSVP at least 3 days before to 727-585-8889 and give us the name of your guest so we can respond to the Catering Department. See information about the applications on page 4. We need your involvement to secure the very best candidates!

This year's class project is going GREAT! Of special importance is the upcoming kick-off event at the Clearwater Beach Outback Steakhouse on April 20th at 11:30. (See invitation on page 2). Please RSVP to **Lisa Mansell '06** at 727-467-6860 your attendance to this. Free transportation is available on the Jolly Trolley from the Harborview Center parking lot starting at 11 a.m. It will run every twenty minutes and is sponsored by Bollenback & Forret CPAs. It is not a fundraising luncheon and you will not be asked for a financial donation. Please make every effort to RSVP and attend this very important event in support of the 2006 Class Project!

The L.E.A.D. (Leadership Educational Alumni Day) to MacDill Air Force Base has filled up as we knew it would. As of this publication we only have 5 spaces open! Consult page 3 for details! We look forward to seeing you there for what I believe is going to be arguably the best LP Alumni Lead Day ever! Get on board quickly, when the last seat is gone.... It is GONE!

One more date to put on your calendars now is our Legislative Reception on May 25th at The Radisson on Roosevelt Blvd. (see page 2) with more information next month.

I am looking forward to reporting the great success of the Tallahassee trip in our May *Leader Reader!* Until then, keep giving to others the best of yourself, there is nothing better!

To all of you, my very warmest regards.

In your service,

**Art Shand**



Art Shand '00  
President

You are cordially invited to the unveiling of the Leadership Pinellas Class of 2006 Class Project



## Bring Items of Necessity (BIN) Project

A community wide collection project to benefit and enhance awareness of the Homeless Emergency Project of Clearwater, which provides shelter and support to homeless and low income individuals and families.

Please enjoy lunch sponsored by Outback Steakhouse at its Clearwater Beach location

483 Mandalay Ave. #3118  
Thursday, April 20, 2006

Lunch and Program 12:00 to 1:30 PM

This is not a fundraiser;  
you will not be asked for a financial donation.

RSVP by April 10th to Lisa Mansell 727-467-6860  
or [downtownaff@yahoo.com](mailto:downtownaff@yahoo.com)

Round-trip trolley transportation is available every 20 minutes beginning at 11:00 a.m. to Outback Steakhouse from Clearwater Harborview Center, 300 Cleveland Street (downtown Clearwater). Leadership Pinellas members are strongly encouraged to utilize the trolley to save parking for invited guests.

Tues., Apr. 18 5:30-7:30 pm  
Recruitment Social  
and

Tues., May 2 7:30-9:30 am  
Recruitment Breakfast  
Great Room at Ruth Eckerd Hall  
1111 McMullen Booth Rd., Clearwater  
All prospective candidates for 2007  
Class are invited as well as alumni.  
No fee to attend but please RSVP  
to 727-585-8889 Friday prior.

## Annual Meeting and 2006 Class Graduation

Saturday May 13, 2006 6:00 p.m.

*Bon Appetit Restaurant  
150 Marina Plaza, Dunedin*

*2006 Grads - Complimentary  
Alumni & Guests - \$30 each*

*Cash Bar - free valet parking*

*RSVP by check no later than 5-9-06  
Leadership Pinellas P.O. Box 5986  
Clearwater, FL 33758-5986  
727-585-8889*

## Sponsorships Available for Annual Legislative Reception

Gold: \$500  
Silver: \$250  
Bronze: \$100

Call Ana Maria Schweitzer 727-723-7273

## *Annual Legislative Reception*

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center  
12600 Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33716

**May 25, 2006 from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

We expect our entire legislative delegation as well as candidates  
for elective office in Pinellas County to be in attendance.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served along with a cash bar. **Cost is \$20 per person.**

Checks should be mailed to Leadership Pinellas  
P.O. Box 5986 Clearwater, FL 33758-5986

**For more information, please contact Ana Maria Schweitzer 727-723-7273**



The Clearwater Main Library is the home of the Leadership Library, a collection of books and materials established in partnership with our own Leadership Pinellas. The public is invited to the

Special Collections Room on the 4th floor where they will find our collection.

Our "lunch series" invites you and your guests to join us on the first Thursday of every month from noon until 1:00 p.m. We meet in the first floor conference room at the Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Avenue in downtown Clearwater. Bring your lunch or buy one at Joffrey's Cafe.

Each month, members of the business community, local government and others will share books and authors who have inspired personal and professional growth and development.

Presenters, Thursday, April 6

Jim Coats '02

Susan Rolston '98

Presenters, Thursday, May 3

Daniel Mann '90

Dr. Cynthia Johnson '05

For information about donations to our Leadership Library Foundation, please call 727-480-3515.

### 2006 Class Program Days

Apr. 9-11 Tallahassee Trip

Apr. 19 Arts and Culture (date change)

May 10 Criminal Justice

May 13 a.m. Closing Retreat

May 13 p.m. Graduation

### L.E.A.D. DAY

(Leadership Education Alumni Day)  
at MacDill Air Force Base May 15, 2006

Our bus was full but we had 5 cancellations so if you want to invite a guest, let us know.

Cost of \$35 includes lunch and bus transportation from St. Pete/Clearwater Airport at 10:30 a.m.

Florida Driver's License and a copy of the license is mandatory for security reasons.

Please call 727-585-8889 for confirmation.



*This is not my desk*

from the desk of  
**Harriet Coren,**  
Executive Director

Our revised website: [leadershoppinellas.com](http://leadershoppinellas.com) now offers us the opportunity to include photos so do check out News and Events, then click on Event Photos, then Health Day 3/25/2006. Wait until Acrobat does its thing for a few seconds. Click on the square box top right corner to expand to a full page, then click on the + to increase the size to 100%. This addition is long overdue and we are pleased that we can continue to add this with thanks to Jim Mayes of Computer Campuses.

Please let me know what you think.

Our **Leader Reader** can only publicize activities that are sponsored by Leadership Pinellas, but I now have the opportunity to keep you advised of volunteer events in which our members participate, sponsored by THEIR organizations, and are of added interest to us in our community. It will not be an avenue for a sales pitch, but another venue in which we can be of help.

Please let me know the details by email, and if appropriate, I will be happy to add it to the **What's New** link on our home page. I will try to have at least one new item each week, with dates to keep it current, so send me "What's New" with you.

### Current changes in the directory:

Bill Berger '05 Email:  
[berger\\_william@hotmail.com](mailto:berger_william@hotmail.com)

Amanda Gilroy '04 Email:  
[agilroy@signaturebk.fl.com](mailto:agilroy@signaturebk.fl.com)

Lisa Hurley '06 Email:  
[marklisahurley@aol.com](mailto:marklisahurley@aol.com)

Lisa Mansell '06 Email: [ljmansell@usa.com](mailto:ljmansell@usa.com)

Michael Monahan '06 Email:  
[mmonahan@utbchamber.com](mailto:mmonahan@utbchamber.com)  
phone: 813-855-4233; fax: 813-854-1237

Penelope Welch '03 Email:  
[penelope.welch@knology.net](mailto:penelope.welch@knology.net)

We extend deepest condolences to Sally Lindberg '06 on the passing of her mother on March 25, 2006

## Reflections from Iraq by Don Wood '98

In the three weeks I've been home from Baghdad, I've been asked the same questions dozens of times: "Are we doing any good there?" "Do they hate us?" "Is it as bad as it looks on TV" And, I can answer everyone the same way; "Yes."

I'm hopeful because I've seen the U.S. doing a number of positive things in Iraq. Power plants, water projects, roads, schools even remodeling and upgrading Baghdad Airport to International standards. Two airlines, Royal Jordanian and the newly resurrected Iraqi Airways each fly one flight daily into and out of Baghdad. Russian transport aircraft fly in and out virtually non-stop. I flew in and out on "the RJ" as everyone calls Royal Jordanian. It's hair-raising. (I've written about this and other insights to Iraq on MSNBC. Com under "Blogging Baghdad – The Untold Story" )

You can quickly see that we are putting a huge amount of money to work in Iraq. And, much of it, I was told by Senior U.S. Embassy personnel, is channeled into Iraq's economy through Iraqi companies. Construction projects are designed and supervised by the Army Corps of Engineers, but the actual work is done by Iraqis. Iraqis drive the trucks that bring the materials to each site, to name a couple of examples.

I was hopeful when I visited a newly completed power plant in Basra more than a hundred miles south of Baghdad. Shiny new General Electric turbines were cranking out enough power to increase the country's total power supply by 5%. Inside the control room, freshly trained Iraqi technicians manned new Dell computers using American software to monitor turbine temperature, power flow and dozens of other vital signs in the plant.

The power plant supervisor told us his staff will keep the plant operating long after Americans were gone. "We won't let it fail," he told us proudly. He wouldn't tell us what he did during Saddam's rule.

There is a blossoming economy in Baghdad. Consumer goods are flooding in from Kuwait and Jordan. Small appliances are selling so fast that it's a major factor in the continuing power shortage in the country, according to the Corps of Engineers.

Much of the food and everyday items that American and Iraqi Bureau personnel use (in fact most Western company staff here) is bought at local markets by our local interpreters. I was amazed at the flavor and quality of Iraqi beef and lamb. Livestock is raised free range and is very good. Fresh produce is plentiful, but expensive for locals. We ate well. The Lebanese wine needs work....

I'm hopeful because there are smart, funny, engaging, caring talented Iraqi people. I met several Iraqis who work for American companies like Cisco Systems, and the major media outlets who make excellent money by Iraqi standards. They can afford to send their families to live in safer countries like Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. When it's peaceful in Iraq they want to bring their families back to help rebuild their country.

There is much in Iraq to be hopeful about. But it's still a war zone where people die every hour. More than 80 of my fellow Americans and two British soldiers died while I was there. And, I lost count of how many Iraqis died as I sat in the bureau, surrounded by concrete and guards hearing the gunfire and explosions going on almost continually.

I've volunteered to return and I've been told that I'll make that return trip later this year. Almost everyone tells me I'm crazy...I don't think so. I just want to cover what may be the biggest story of my lifetime...and I'd sure like to be there when things improve.

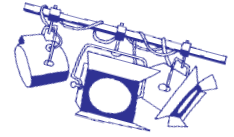
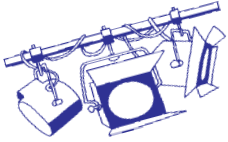
Finally, a big thank you to the Leadership Pinellas alumni who sent me emails during my Baghdad assignment. It was great to get some encouraging mail from home.

**Ed note: Are we proud of him, or what?**

### 2007 Applications Are Ready

Please log onto our newly revised website: [www.leadershippinellas.com](http://www.leadershippinellas.com) and click on the link "How To Apply" Now is the time to share this opportunity with your friends and co-workers who you think will be good candidates for our 2007 Class. The Recruitment Social is Tuesday, April 18 from 5:30-7:30 pm and the Recruitment Breakfast will be Tuesday, May 2 from 7:30-9:30 am, both in the Margarete Heye Great Room at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Rd. in Clearwater. No fee, but RSVP to 727-585-8889. Please contact [harrietcoren@ij.net](mailto:harrietcoren@ij.net) if you have any questions.

# Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month Someone Is Waiting Just For You



eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**



**Girls at Risk...**  
**your daughter...**  
**the girl next door...**  
**that special girl in your life.**

**The statistics are alarming.**  
**One out of four juvenile offenders in Florida is a girl.**

**Unstable families, school failure, depression,**  
**substance abuse - are all contributors.**  
**So are society's contradictory messages**  
**crossing race, class, culture, sexuality, and gender.**

**How can you help?**  
**Contact Judy Wood**  
**727-461-2997 ext. 22**

## Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month

We would like to make this a monthly feature of our *Leader Reader* as space permits, so if you have a suggestion for a future issue, please submit it to the Editorial Committee, Leadership Pinellas, P. O. Box 5986, Clearwater, FL 33758-5986. Deadline for the next issue is April 24, 2006.

