

## ***Cultivating Leadership Capital for the West Valley***



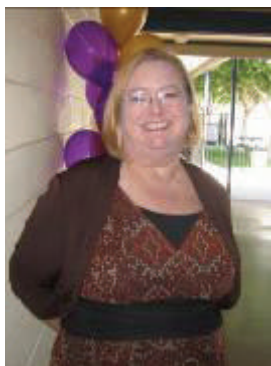
### **A Message from Kathy Knecht, LW ED**

I really enjoyed putting together this edition of the Leadership West Newsletter. Thanks to your input, there are many alumni updates. It's important for us to stay current with one another. The greatest on-going benefit of Leadership West is the relationships we develop and nurture over the years with others who know about, care about and work for the success of the West Valley. Leadership West alumni are the most informed and connected leaders in our region. It is certainly not a group with which you want to lose touch.

**Our Vision: Informed, engaged, and inspired leaders transforming the West Valley into highly livable, quality communities.**

### **Best Wishes and Kudos to Laura McBride, Class 3**

Laura has announced her departure from the Arizona Republic after 29 years.



Laura has served the West Valley and Leadership West in countless ways, serving as a board Member, as Education Committee Chair, and in myriad other volunteer capacities for the organization for more than a decade. As Community Relations and Grants Manager in the West Valley for the Republic, she has actively and effectively served a multitude of impactful organizations including the New Life Center and Westmarc, just to name two.

As a passionate West-sider, Laura has given her heart and soul to our community and she's left her mark all over it.

We know that Laura's vast knowledge and incredible skills will open numerous doors for her. We wish her well in her further adventures.

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### **Don't Miss the 2009 Leadership West "Meet the New Class" Alumni Mixer**

You are invited to come welcome the new class, and mingle with each other at this event which is generously hosted by



Please join us.  
August 6<sup>th</sup>

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

at [Taps](#)

76 N Old Litchfield Rd  
in Litchfield Park.

Light appetizers will be served.

Please RSVP to

[Kathy@leadershipwest.org](mailto:Kathy@leadershipwest.org).

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR WESTMARC's 17th ANNUAL "BEST OF THE WEST" AWARDS



News From  
YOU

Leadership West has long enjoyed a cooperative partnership with WESTMARC . Last week, WESTMARC announced that it is seeking nominations for its 17th Annual "Best of the West" awards program.

Leadership West was honored as the best "Leadership Organization" in 2005, and several class projects such as the Tres Rios Festival and the LINKS program: "living in New Kids' Shoes" in the Avondale School District, have won in other categories. Several other projects have earned honorable mentions.



The 'Best of the West' awards annually recognize contributions to the image, lifestyle and economic development of Western Maricopa County.

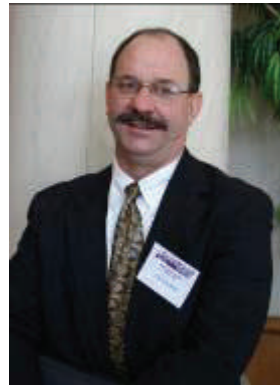
Nominations are sought in several categories. A new category added this year will be "Emerging Leader," honoring a distinguished leader under age 40 for his or her initiative, leadership and passion in improving the lives of others in the West Valley.

Winners will be recognized at the 17th Annual "Best of the West" Awards Dinner, Thursday, November 5, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel. The event's average attendance is more than 700 from throughout the Metro Phoenix area. ***Traditionally, this event serves as one of the best LW alumni gatherings of the year.***

Nomination forms are available online at [www.westmarc.org](http://www.westmarc.org), or you can call WESTMARC at 623-435-0431, ext. 203. Completed entries must be postmarked or received by Friday, August 14, 2009 to be eligible. There is a \$50.00 fee for each nomination.



Leadership West **Founding Member, Stephen Cleveland**, has been named Interim City Manager for the City of Buckeye.



Congratulations, to **Dr. Clay Goodman, Class 2**, who earned his Ph.D. in May from Capella University. He successfully defended his dissertation on "The Impact of Changes in Tuition, Unemployment, and Population Shifts on Enrollment in Arizona's Community Colleges."



**Kirsten Hall, Class 10**, has recently taken a job at the City of Phoenix in the Workforce Development Department.

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## More News



**Bernadette Mills, Class 15**, made a presentation to the Litchfield Park Rotary back in April on behalf of “The Basics” project team, for their project, the Centennial Outdoor Classroom Garden at Liberty Elementary. She recently received notification the club will be contributing \$500!



You can donate by buying a brick. [Click here for a form.](#) (You may need to open a free Google account if you don't already have one.) For more information on this exciting project, contact Bernadette at

[bmills@westvalleyarts.org](mailto:bmills@westvalleyarts.org).

**So, what's new with you?** We really, really wanna know! New job? New baby? Name in the paper? Win an award? Without a doubt, there are alumni in Leadership West wondering where you are and what you're doing. Please drop us a line and fill us in. Send your blurbs to [Kathy@leadershipwest.org](mailto:Kathy@leadershipwest.org).



In addition to her job at Marley Park, A DMB Community, **Jessie Singer, Class 15**, has joined the staff at Interfaith Community Care, assisting with social media marketing.



**Kelsea Vescova, Class 11**, has been named Director of Marketing and Development for Arizona Humane Society.



**Kim Lewis, Class 11**, and her husband **Patrick, Class 14**, now reside in Denver, Colorado. Kim works for the Girl Scouts and Patrick for Handyman Matters. The two recently added three handsome boys to their family: Isaiah (age 5), Joe (age 4) and Zach (almost age 3). Congratulations!

## **Now Hiring**

Leadership West is hiring a part-time administrative assistant. We're looking for a highly organized, independent, people person with experience in Microsoft Office applications. Specific job duties include data-base management, light accounting, fund development support, special events and general office support. Experience with Quick Books Online is a huge plus. Salary range is \$12.75 to \$15.00/ hr; flexible scheduling offered; must have capacity to work from home. Past applicants are invited to reapply.

Candidates should submit resumes and cover letters to [Kathy@leadershipwest.org](mailto:Kathy@leadershipwest.org).

## **We Have a Winner!**

**New Class 16 Member, Lloyce Robinson**, knew the answer to our last quiz. She knew that John Maher and Jim Rumpeltes are members of Fossil Fuel; Gabriel Bey is in The Home Jones Band; and Claude Mattox and Patrick McDermott play with the Screamin' Javelinas. Lloyce (who is getting to know LW pretty well, pretty fast) wins lunch at Birt's Bistro in Surprise. Lloyce points out that Fossil Fuel debuted the "World Tour" on April 4, 2009 in Youngtown, where she serves as Town Manager.



## **Our Next Soooo Easy Contest**

Name this Class: The first member to submit the correct Class number and year wins golf for four at Country Meadows Golf Club.

Submit your answer to [Kathy@leadershipwesst.org](mailto:Kathy@leadershipwesst.org).

**Oops!** Patrick O'Grady was inadvertently left off of the 2009-2010 board list in the last newsletter. Patrick is indeed an active and valuable member of the board of directors, and recently served as the Chairman of the Class 15 Graduation.

Never underestimate how vital your individual engagement and support means to Leadership West. The volunteer culture of our organization remains the cornerstone of our success and the envy of similar programs. Leadership West relies on your participation and your financial support to cultivate leadership capital for the West Valley. Leadership West Matters because the West Valley matters—to ourselves, our companies, our neighbors and our children.

Thank you to our  
Sustaining Partner

