



Chair's Message

Dear LTA Members,

Summer has begun. With it comes unpredictable weather, family vacations, summer camp, blockbuster movies, weekends at the beach or by the pool and hopefully some time for you to recharge your batteries. Although things may have slowed down a bit, your LTA cabinet continues to work hard to ensure we provide an excellent member experience through the summer and remainder of the year. Thanks to the efforts of Andrew Cohen and those who supported his efforts as Membership Chair, we achieved our membership goal for the year. With that said, it's not too late for Leadership Tampa graduates to join LTA or renew their memberships. Please reach out to your LT classmates and ask them to join us. We have a great lineup of events scheduled throughout 2011.

Our first joint event with Emerge Tampa Bay, a leadership program of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce designed for emerging leaders ages 21 to 35, was a great success! This Speakers Series event featured Nick Friedman, CEO and co-founder of College Hunks Hauling Junk. Partnering with Emerge is another example of how LTA is working hard to help you make valuable connections and provide an opportunity for Tampa's leaders of tomorrow to interact with those leading the charge today.

Thank you to Bret Azzarelli and the entire Programs Committee for producing one fantastic event after another. And, as I mentioned in last month's message, we're always looking for volunteers for the

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various committees so I hope you'll consider serving. The more you put into LTA, the more you get out of it. Please get involved!

Enjoy your summer and if you have questions, feedback or ideas, I strongly encourage you to contact me. You can reach me via e-mail at mark.segel@jewishtampa.com or by phone at (813)769-2805. Thank you for your continued support of Leadership Tampa Alumni!



Mark Segel (LT '05)

2011 LTA Chair

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Programs Committee

Photo from the LTA and Emerge Tampa Bay Speaker Series featuring Nick Friedman, College Hunks Hauling Junk



Website Committee

LTA Facebook Page Continues to Grow

The recently launched LTA Facebook page is gaining traction with over 50 members using it as a means to communicate and keep in touch. It's a convenient way to keep up with your classmates or simply ask a question of the group. Need tickets to an event? Need a business referral or a contact name? Your LTA classmates might have the answer. Plus you can choose to be notified via email when someone

posts a new question or comment on the page.

It's easy to join and any Leadership Tampa grad is eligible. You can find the page by logging into your Facebook account and searching for: Leadership Tampa Alumni (new). That should bring you to a list with a "Request to Join" button. You may also join the new group by accessing [this link](#) and logging in. Remember, even if you are a member of the existing LTA group you must request access to the new group.

Visited the [LTA Website](#) Lately?

A number of new items have been added to the website since our last newsletter. Navigate to the [Event Photos](#) section to see highlights of this year's events. You can even subscribe to this page by visiting www.ltalumni.org/feed to automatically receive notification when new photos are posted. We've also added a list of all the [2011 LT Grads](#), welcoming them into LTA. Finally, in an effort to keep our member database current we are creating LTA Ambassadors to act as liaisons with each class. Check out the [Class Ambassadors](#) page to see who your representative is. And if your class does not have a representative, consider applying or nominating someone!



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Membership Committee

Leadership Tampa Alumni is having our BEST year yet. With more than 100 members participating at each event, we stepped it up this year with even more community and business fun. Unfortunately, there are still some LT graduates who have not joined or renewed. If you have the opportunity to reach out to one of these former members,

please take the time to encourage them to renew.

Below are my “TOP FOUR Reasons for Renewing your LTA Membership” (or, “The BEST \$100 I’ve Ever Spent”):

1. **“Reliving your Leadership Tampa Experience”** –Like many of you, my LT year was one of my most memorable experiences ever. Our goal at LTA is to extend this experience by learning more about the community, visiting exclusive locations including Tampa’s gems, meeting enriching friends, fostering business relationships and having professional fun in everything we do. Our chair, Mark Segel, has promised to deliver this experience to the membership in 2011.
2. **“Renewal is Easy”** – On our new website, www.ltalumni.org, renewing online and paying by credit card takes less than 3 minutes. Also, event registration is available online in addition to other features. If you need your username and password, have questions, or have difficulty logging into the new website, please contact Kelsey Bokor, Director of Leadership Programs, at (813) 276-9445 or kbokor@tampachamber.com.
3. **“Membership Directory of 550 Members”** – From business contacts to old friends, the membership directory is a quick reference for hundreds of leaders in Tampa. The on-line directory gives LTA members instant, exclusive access to Tampa’s top business and community leaders.
4. **“My Class Was the Best Ever”** –Ok, your class may be the best! But there is only one way to prove it. RENEW and support your fellow LT classmates and LTA members at www.ltalumni.org. It will put your class in the running for the 2011 “Best Class Ever” Award.



Andrew Cohen (LT '04)
2011 Membership Chair
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Class Representatives Committee

We have been working hard at trying to update the contact information of all Leadership Tampa graduates. Going back 30 years and 30 classes is quite a task and could only be done with the help of the Class Ambassadors. So thank you CA's!!! If you have new contact information, please contact your Class Ambassador so they can update your information in the system and stay in contact.

We now have 22 Class Ambassadors. As a reminder, the task of each Ambassador is to update and/or verify the class roster, with current contact information ,whether or not they are LTA members. If you, or if you know of, a member in your class that has kept this list fairly current or would like to help accomplish this task for your class, please contact me or Gail Liu.

Thank you,



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2011 Class Representative Chair

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Gail Liu (LT '05)

2011 Class Representative Co-Chair

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Parke Wright III Leadership Award Recipient Profiles

This is the first installment of a new feature for the LTA newsletter. Each quarter we will highlight a past Parke Wright III Leadership Award winner.

Dottie Berger MacKinnon

2005 Recipient of the Parke Wright III Award

By Doug Arnold (LT '09)

Dottie Berger MacKinnon's life started humbly in a farm family of ten in rural Kentucky. "I did a lot of farm chores, including milking cows. My mom made our dresses from feed sacks – you did what you had to do to get by, but we never thought ourselves as poor." That stuck with her throughout her life, a life that ultimately came to Tampa -- progressed and prospered and lead to a lifetime of helping others.

The former Hillsborough County Commissioner and community leader is a dedicated advocate for children in need. Dottie was elected to the county commission in 1994, but has also served on multiple boards and committees for more than 20 years. She is a graduate of Leadership Tampa Class of 1987.

Her passion is helping abused and abandoned children and teens. During her time of service with the county, she was often reminded of the challenges of poverty on children. Subsequently, Dottie became one of the founders of *A Kid's Place*. A leading regional child advocate, she previously helped found *Joshua House* and *Kids Charity of Tampa Bay*. Dottie's leadership has inspired many throughout the community to join in building a better life for the children of families in crisis.

"The key to leadership is being focused," offered Dottie. "When the board decided to build *A Kid's Place*, I focused on getting the funding." She knew that was the most difficult of the tasks required. "I created a list of things to do. I could see exactly how to go about getting the funding. I could see it clearly." Dottie cited that real leadership is finding ***clarity of focus***. And the proof of this is in her many incredible

accomplishments. Through her clarity of focus, *A Kid's Place* opened in 2009. It is a \$5 million children's center offering a temporary home for a kids because they are abused or abandoned. The five-acre campus in Brandon was created through private funding spearheaded by Dottie and other contributions from area businesses, donors and volunteers.

A Kid's Place is licensed for 60 kids with others on the waiting list. The home provides a safe place for children dislodged from their homes while the courts work to determine if and when to return these kids to their original homes. What makes *A Kid's Place* unique is that every effort is made to keep sibling groups together.

"One of my biggest supporters is Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee." said Dottie. "Together, we find the greatest success is keeping siblings together." The facility offers stability and nurturing -- keeping brothers and sisters together through some very difficult times. Sheriff Gee has told Dottie that her vision makes a tremendous difference in the way children are treated as a family, not as individuals.

Dottie Berger MacKinnon has championed the cause of children in many ways. More than two decades ago, she organized a group of concerned citizens in the founding of the *Joshua House*. This is a residential home for children who have been removed from their families for a variety of reasons. It is located in Lutz.

Dottie shared how she likes to lead others. "How do you motivate and inspire people as a leader? I always find the best way is to give an assignment and a deadline to friends, colleagues and collaborators. Demonstrate confidence in their abilities and they will normally rise to the occasion. Nine times out of ten, people don't want to let you down."

She reminds us all that the greatest trait one can have is a sense of humor. "No one should take themselves so seriously they forget who they are." Her second favorite trait is to admit your mistakes early and move on. "We all make them. But many don't learn from them or accept them. That's an even bigger mistake." In the past year, Dottie has been awarded some of the region's most recognized honors for her work and commitment to Tampa Bay. She appreciates the recognition, but she is far more pleased with the accomplishments in helping children.

“Right now, my own family is my focus. My kids and grandkids keep me very busy. I have 17 grandkids so I am very happy to have a full house.” Her hero is her husband and partner, Sandy. “I’ve lead a Cinderella life,” said Dottie. “In so many, many ways my life has been dream come true.”

Dottie has made life so much better for hundreds of Tampa Bay children and has inspired countless adults to actively participate in making the community a more caring place. Her life is a lesson in leadership and our community has been blessed with her being a part of it. So many have prospered and grown knowing this farm girl from Kentucky.

Special Invitation from Leadership Florida’s West Central Regional Council

Leadership Florida’s West Central Regional Council would like to extend an invitation for you to join them to celebrate the end of summer on August 9 at Brio at the International Mall from 5:30-7:30pm.

They will feature Peter Kageyama, author of “For the Love of Cities”, and founder of the Creative Cities Summits.

"For the Love of Cities succeeds in putting an exclamation point on the exceptional value of deepening the relationship that city dwellers feel for their neighborhoods by adding amenities such as parks, outdoor cafes, art galleries, trees, flowers and even sidewalks to create a meaningful sense of place. It also explores the often hidden added value of creative entrepreneurs in creating a sense of place that attracts, nurtures and retains citizens.

The book is a love note from author Peter Kageyama to cities everywhere that will prompt you to more closely examine your own relationship with where you live, work and play.

And, we will also be joined by the newest College Leadership Florida class! Space is limited. Please R.S.V.P by August 2 at

www.leadershipflorida.org/westcentralevents

Your Regional Council Team,
Ginger Watters, Wendy Nero, Duane Draper, and Eric Polins

Visit our Region's Page: [Click here to visit the West Central Region web site.](#)

Members/Companies in the News

United Way of Tampa Bay board member **Eric Bailey (LT '04)** threw out the first pitch at the Tampa Bay Rays game at Tropicana Field on Friday, July 15, 2011 to catcher Captain Morgan. Captain Morgan plans to donate \$25,000 to United Way of Tampa Bay over the course of the 2011 baseball season as part of his One Million Poses challenge.

Leadership Opportunities

Take your Leadership Skills to a new level!

Friends of Joshua House Foundation, Inc. is interviewing prospective members for their Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact DeDe Grundel at dgrundel@friendsofjoshuahouse.org.

Leadership Transfers

A best-kept secret that should be told!

Leadership Tampa Alumni welcomes graduate transfers from out-of-market leadership organizations. If you know someone who graduated from a leadership program in another city, connect them with LTA. We can learn a great deal from other programs and welcome eligible transfers. LTA members are encouraged to ask their business associates about their past leadership experiences. If they have completed a leadership class in another market, encourage them to find out more and to visit www.ltalumni.org.

Get Updated with LTA

Have you recently changed jobs or moved? Do you want to be contacted at a different e-mail address? You can update your contact information at any time by going to www.ltalumni.org and clicking on Members Only. Once you've established a login and password, you can submit your new information and even look up old classmates.

Facebook

Dear current members of the Facebook Group "Leadership Tampa Alumni".

Thank you for your continued support of Leadership Tampa Alumni (LTA). We are always looking for ways to enhance the value of your membership in LTA.

Facebook has recently upgraded the features for Groups which improves the functionality. For example the new Groups allow you to be notified via email when someone makes a new post to the site. But these new features are only available to "new" Groups that are created, not existing groups.

To make these enhanced features available to our LTA friends we have created a new Facebook group titled "**Leadership Tampa Alumni (new)**". Just click the Facebook icon below and request to join so that you can stay connected and enjoy the new features. Even if you are a member of the existing group you must request access.



Leadership Tampa Alumni also has a group on LinkedIn. To join the group, click on the link below.



Extra! Extra!

Our newsletter needs your contributions! Please email newsletter chair, Bridget Robertson at bridget@bseen-bheard.com with Alumni, class news and submissions for the "Events of Interest" calendar or "Members in the News". Note: To be fair to all members, Board policy

limits the number and frequency of “Events of Interest” notifications in our member newsletters. For further information on any non-LTA event, please contact the organization directly.

For more information on LTA, visit our website at www.ltalumni.org.



Bridget Robertson (LT '04)

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