



Dear Readers,

Over the years I have had the amazing good fortune of meeting, working and becoming friends with some truly amazing women. Although we are friends, and with each of them I share a mutual admiration bond, we rarely spend time together. Our hectic lives take us in different directions.

As far as I know, I am the hub that connects them – each to the other. To my knowledge, none of them know each other – at least not well.

One young woman, Kendra Cea was just a “baby” when, as board chair, I recruited her onto the board of Valley Youth Theatre. I had heard about this tenacious young woman and wanted her to help move VYT’s mission forward. I know Kendra since before she married – and long before she became mother to baby Cody – who is no longer a baby! She is a Senior Tech Representative with Arizona Public Service – which means she’s on call 24/7. Nonetheless, with this plate that overfloweth, Kendra has served with more than a dozen organizations including Valley Leadership, Valley of the Sun United Way, Junior League of Phoenix, Arizona and Scottsdale Jaycees and is the “boss” of the Parada del Sol.

Abbie Fink and I met “at the turn of the century” when she was a member of Scottsdale Leadership’s Class XVII. Scottsdale Leadership offers class members the mentoring services of a graduate. I am a member of Class III. Abbie chose me! Talk about time flying! Vice President and General Manager

of HMA Public Relations, Abbie nonetheless makes time to serve the community in a myriad of ways including as past president of Scottsdale Leadership where she serves on its board, the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale and as pro bono consultant to the Arizona chapter of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. She has worked with Florence Crittenton Services of Arizona and is the recipient of the first-ever Valley Impact Award, presented by the Junior League of Phoenix, for her commitment and dedication to volunteer work in our community. This young woman follows in the tradition of defining tenacious.

Jordan Rose. What can I say about Jordan? I have no recollection of *how* we met – or how long ago. Her name was Jordan Rich at that time. She was not yet married. She did not yet own her own law firm. Nor was she the mother of now one-year-old Logan. I say this woman is tenacious only because I cannot think of a word that is more dynamic! *The Arizona Republic* named her as one of the “20 women who will shape Arizona by 2020,” and along with her husband Jason Rose as one of the top five “power couples” in Arizona. Jordan is the president and founder of Rose Law Group which has the busiest land use and zoning practice in the State of Arizona. Nonetheless she makes time to be involved in countless civic and charity groups including serving on the boards of Banner Health Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Phoenix Symphony and Center for Autism Research Development.

Are you out of breath yet? I am.

Pamela Overton is a shareholder and the litigation group manager for Greenberg Traurig. Pam and I originally met back in the ‘90s when she handled some legal issues for me. She is wife to Ted and mother to three: twins Teddy and Christian who have recently graduated from Brophy Prep and 12-year-old Elizabeth. Pam has been recognized as one of the “Top 10 Business

Women in the State of Arizona” for nine consecutive years and as one of Arizona’s premier commercial litigators. She has been retained by prominent national companies to represent them in complex products liability and commercial litigation matters and has represented innumerable Arizona municipalities and landowners in condemnation matters. What else does Pam make time for besides being wife, mother and practice group head? She is a founding member of Fresh Start Women’s Foundation, serves on the Arizona Heart Ball Committee and has been involved in countless community organizations.

And there are others.

But why have I featured these four?

*Arizona Woman* magazine presents two awards annually to businesswomen in the Valley at their *Who’s Who in Business Awards Luncheon*. Five finalists for each are culled from a broad field of nominees – each of whom is proposed for her contribution to business and dedication to community service.

The *Golden Heart of Business Award* acknowledges an Arizona businesswoman who is “deeply entrenched in the community... gives back through contributions of time or resources...has made the Valley a better place to live...has developed nurturing relationships with her employees and customers.”

The *Woman of the Year* honors the achievements and contributions of a visionary business leader who has achieved an extraordinary level of professional success and is involved in the community as well.

As the saying goes, “Birds of a feather flock together.” Nowhere was this more apparent than at the luncheon recently held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa where the winners of these prestigious awards were announced.

Amongst the 10 “birds” that were selected as finalists for these two awards, my friends highlighted above were amongst them. As was I.

If you’ve read my columns in the

past, you know that I have a tireless commitment to community and that I believe wholeheartedly in the responsibility of each of us to make our community better. Perhaps that is what draws me to people with the same devotion.

In addition to my personal community involvement, at the *CITYSunTimes* we continue to provide valuable exposure for the less well-known non-profits to benefit from coverage and sponsorship that are often difficult if not impossible for them to obtain.

As my name for the Golden Heart and Pam’s for the Woman of the Year were announced, I realized that it could have been any of us.

These are all amazing and talented women who don’t *have* the time – but *make* the time – to find a need and fill it. It is our community that wins by having so many extraordinary women devoted to it.

Stephen Covey, author of *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, is working on a new book entitled *Live Life in Crescendo* which he states is “geared towards serving your community – not what’s in it for you.”

Amen. Any if these women could have written that – if only they could *find* the time!

I urge each of you – if you have not yet done so – to find a need and fill it! Even in some small way. There is so much need and so much opportunity. Supporting our community is one of the most fulfilling things we can do. It makes all of our lives and our community richer for it.

As Uncle Sam might say, “Our Community Needs YOU!”

Warmest Regards,

Hope H. Ozer  
Publisher