

JEWISH B2B NETWORKING: A VALUED RESOURCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND OUR COMMUNITY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jewish B2B Networking (JBN) and its founder, Shalom Klein, for their outstanding work in promoting and nurturing small businesses in the metro Chicago area. Next week, on June 14, JBN will hold its second "Business Event" at the Lincolnwood Town Center in my district, just one of the many ways that it is helping small businesses, workers and our economy.

I attended last year's inaugural Business Event, along with representatives from over 2,700 small businesses, elected officials and job seekers. It was extraordinary—a vibrant, exciting and incredibly useful opportunity for small businesses to network, learn from each other, make contacts, set up meetings to help build their companies, and share their experiences and concerns with Members of Congress. It was so successful that plans began right there on the spot to hold another Event in 2012.

Small business men and women are essential to our economic well-being. In Illinois, they represent 98 percent of all employers. They also represent the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that has made our country so strong. It is imperative that we foster small business creation and expansion—and that is the mission of JBN.

It is never easy to start a small business, but it is especially challenging today as we work to recover from the impacts of the Great Recession. JBN was formed in 2010, through the vision of Shalom Klein, to help provide the support and tools needed to help small businesses thrive.

Through its monthly networking events, JBN provides critical and practical information to help small business owners learn about available lending resources. Business to business networking through monthly forums provide the opportunity to share "best practices" and pick up tips that can help small businesses succeed. JBN is creating a vibrant network—not just among Chicagoland small businesses but between small businesses and policymakers at the local, State and national levels. This year, for example, they brought small business owners to Washington, D.C. so that they could share their experiences and recommendations with the Obama Administration and Members of Congress and also learn about opportunities and assistance.

JBN has touched over 6,000 active business networking partners and has over 17,000 subscribed networkers receiving weekly communications and utilizing its interactive website.

Through its Business Event and through on-line job listings, JBN has helped more than 200 job seekers obtain employment. Over 5,000 businesses and job seekers are expected at next week's event in Lincolnwood, to exchange business information, ideas, and resources.

There are many wonderful small business men and women who have contributed to the

success of JBN, but I want to specifically recognize the vision and work of Shalom Klein, its founder. As a small businessman, Shalom felt the need to connect with others. As an organizer, he did something about it. He invited 20 people to an informal "networking" lunch at the Slice of Life kosher restaurant in Skokie—and 70 people came.

Out of Shalom's initiative, Jewish B2B Networking was born. Open to all, the non-profit organization has taken off—serving a role that had been missing in the community. What I so admire about Shalom Klein—beyond his enthusiasm and skill—is his refusal to rest on his laurels, despite the many successes he has already achieved. As he has said, he will not be satisfied if JBN reaches a plateau—as high as it may be—he wants it to keep growing and growing, empowering more and more small business men and women. His spirit is infectious, his ability to inspire people to action is enormous, and I know he and JBN will continue to excel in their efforts.

JBN knows that local communities cannot prosper without small businesses, and they are committed to providing the climate that will help them succeed. I want to thank JBN for all that it has done already and wish it well as it, like the small businesses it assists, seeks to expand its activities in the future.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM ARTHUR FIELDS, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. William Arthur Fields, Sr., who lived his life centered around family, community, and hard work.

Mr. Fields was born on May 21, 1915 in Columbus, Ohio. He was married to Estelle, for 68 years and had four children, William, Jr., Ronald, Janice and Charles. He was an avid reader, who enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf and shared his love of nature with his family on many fishing trips to Lake Erie. He was a life-long member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Fields started a family-owned and operated construction and masonry company, Fields Brothers Masonry. A skilled block and masonry contractor, he used his skills to improve his community whenever he was called upon. Following his first retirement, Mr. Fields became a dispatcher for the City of Columbus, Maintenance Department. In addition, he was a volunteer firefighter for Clinton Township.

I offer my condolences to his children, Janice Bosley and Charles (JoAnn) Fields; daughters-in-law, Earlene Fields and Shirley Hawkins; brothers, Charles and Carl (Jean) Fields; sister-in-law, Bettye Randle; 15 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the long and prolific life of Mr. William Arthur Fields, Sr.

HEROES OF COMPASSION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the heroes and heroines of compassion in our community for their exceptional devotion to serving the needs of others. In so doing, the ethic they set creates a better way of life for people across our region and enriches the human condition. The Charter for Compassion was created by Karen Armstrong, author of many interfaith books in 2008. Her wish was that the faith leaders of the world would acknowledge their core common value of compassion in a simple document and the response to her idea for Heroes of Compassion was phenomenal. Greater Toledo has many individuals and organizations that qualify as Heroes of Compassion. But many of these individuals and institutions are unsung heroes and heroines. Their stories of compassion are untold, while news of violence and conflict make headlines. The First Heroes of Compassion of Toledo were honored at the 11th Annual MultiFaith Banquet on March 11, 2012 at the Franciscan Center at Lourdes University, and later at a community gathering at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Glendale Ave. The First Heroes of Compassion included:

Sr. Mary Angelita Abair: Decades of work in central Toledo with the poor, marginalized, imprisoned, and disabled;

Cherry Street Mission: Emergency shelter, food and other assistance;

Dr. Lawrence V. Conway, The Diller Foundation: Provides medical equipment and supplies to many deserving countries and the Medical Hall of Fame;

Judge Charles J. Doneghy: Inner city youth mentor and support for prostate cancer awareness;

Fr. Martin Donnelly: Founding chair of Erase the Hate Toledo and Central City Ministries and many other organizations;

Hannah's Socks: Founded by four year old Hannah Turner and has since supplied 200,000+ pairs of socks to the homeless last year;

Jewish Family Service Food Bank: Food, supplies and moral support to the needy in the general community;

Ken Leslie & Pat Lewandowski, 1Matters—Tent City: Working to change the perception of the homeless;

Lifeline Toledo: Support for inner city homeless, including mobile medical support;

The Ronald McDonald House Charities: Provides a free home away from home for families accessing specialized medical care for their children;

Martha Pituch, RN, Cherry St. Mission Clinic: Founded and developed a nursing clinic to provide primary health care for homeless persons;

Devorah (Friedrich) Shulamit, Interfaith Blood Drive: Founder of the first interfaith blood drive in the nation, now in its 25th year;

Sr. Grace Ellen & Sr. Jeremias, Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania Gardens: Developed a nationally recognized four-season polyhouse to provide food for the needy year round;

Mike Szuberla, Toledo GROWS: Provides support for 150 community gardens and re-entry and proactive programs for at-risk youth;

St. Paul's Community Center: Daily hot meals, emergency shelter, and other services for the homeless;

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Tangible, confidential, no-questions-asked assistance to those in need;

Toledo Area Ministries, Feed Your Neighbor Ministry: 12 food pantries, serve over 80,000 clients per year;

Toledo Mountain Mentors: One-on-one mentoring and outdoor experiences for at-risk teens.

A MOVING TRIBUTE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit remarks delivered at the recent memorial service, at Washington National Cathedral, for the late Chuck Colson.

Emily Colson, Chuck's daughter, gave a compelling personal eulogy which gave us a glimpse into Chuck as a father and grandfather—his undying love and devotion to his family were beautiful to behold.

The Reverend Dr. Timothy George delivered the homily—a stirring charge to those Chuck left behind to “be not afraid.”

I commend these eloquent, heartfelt tributes which honor a man whose prophetic voice will be sorely missed.

EMILY COLSON MEMORIAL SERVICE TRANSCRIPT

Good morning. My name is Emily Colson, and I am very blessed to be Chuck Colson's daughter. Today we celebrate a life well lived. I am thankful to be old enough to have known my father before he became a Christian and to see the change, the transformation in my father when Christ ruled in his heart. My father still had the same intellect and drive and passion for life, but a softness came over him. I think about my dad's office in his home in Florida, the desk highly polished where he worked tirelessly, and I think about the over-stuffed green chair in the corner where every morning he would kneel and pray. I think of the 3x5 cards my dad carried in his pocket underneath his jacket. There were 15 or 20 of them there, an ever growing to do list. But in that list he also had names, people that he prayed for every day. My dad became, as Scripture says, a new creation, and he loved his family differently.

My father in his work changed people all over the world and he also changed his family. That drive became a source of an affectionate joke in our family. We love to get together for family reunions and vacations and all of our family would be so excited to relax for a week together. And we would find ourselves in one scheduled fun activity to the next scheduled fun activity. And then my father would announce, he would declare, let's all take five minutes and relax. I was teasing him about it one day, and he looked at me just with a hint of a smile, and he said “Emily, six minutes would be wasteful.”

But even with that drive when I would call my dad or when he would call me, which was daily (sometimes it was more than once a day), you would think my dad had nothing else to do in his life. He was fully present. I thought he only did that for me. But I now know he has done it for everyone in our family. He put God first, family second above all else. That's the mark of a great father and a

great leader. I encourage all of you who are fathers to understand the powerful impact you can have in your children's lives. Don't miss it. My father loved his family. He and Patty just celebrated 48 years. Patty has been there as a partner in ministry; has kept my dad humble and well fed. My dad loved his three children, his grandchildren, and he almost lived to see his first great-grandchild, who will be born next month.

But perhaps for me the greatest mark of my dad's character has been his relationship with my son, Max. Max is 21 with a diagnosis of autism. And when we would come, which was frequently, my dad would clear his schedule and do nothing else but be present for Max and do everything Max loved, because Max needed his grandfather. And as it turns out, his grandfather needed Max.

My father has stood by his convictions even when no one else was looking. My father has been a defender of the weak. We will miss his zest for life. He was always the first to laugh and the last one to stop laughing. Every meal he ate was the best one he'd ever had, or so he would tell us. He was our advisor, mentor, friend, shoulder and encourager.

I think of that encouragement today. Today is a celebration of my father's life. But today is also about us, you and me. What will we do in the shadow of such an extraordinary role model. There is work to be done. I encourage you to continue the work God has begun through my father's life. Do the right thing. Seek the truth. Defend the weak. Live courageous lives. My father left a wonderful legacy and he left many writings for us to follow, to learn from. He left something for us this morning, for this moment today. “I want my funeral services to be joyful. I don't want people to be sad because I believe with every ounce of conviction in my body that death is but a homecoming and that we will be in the presence of God. It is the culmination of life. It's a celebration.”

BE NOT AFRAID!

A HOMILY DELIVERED BY THE REVEREND DR. TIMOTHY GEORGE AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CHARLES W. COLSON AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ON MAY 16, 2012

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In the ancient book of Joshua we read: “Now after the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun saying, ‘Moses my servant is dead: now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. . . . As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage. Be thou strong and very courageous. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.’” (Joshua 1:1-9, selected verses)

Charles Wendell Colson was once the youngest captain in the United States Marines and, at his request, he was laid to rest several days ago at Quantico National Cemetery. He loved his country fiercely and served it well. But we are here today, in this the nation's church, to celebrate the life of one who ended his days as a soldier in another army, the militia Christi, a battalion without bullets, soldiers of Christ, arrayed in truth, wielding weapons of faith, prayer, and love. To describe this change in the life of Chuck Colson requires us to use freighted words such as conversion, redemption, transformation.

Not that Chuck ever completely outgrew the Marines. There was an intensity and drivenness about him that could be formidable. He did not suffer fools gladly and he

was not blessed with an overabundance of patience. Chuck loved to tell the story about a man who accosted him on a plane one day, pushing, shoving, jostling for a seat. Chuck said to him, “Fella, do you know who you're messing with? I'm an ex-marine, an ex-con, and if I weren't a Christian you'd be on the floor of this plane!” Then he presented the Gospel to him.

Chuck was not perfect, but he was forgiven. He never got over the wonder and surprise of having encountered Jesus Christ as a real person, a living reality; the one person in human history who passed through the gossamer veil of death and came back to tell us what was on the other side and how we should prepare for that journey by living every day in the light of eternity. Chuck's autobiography, *Born Again*, tells the story of a man born in Boston on the wrong side of the tracks. He clawed his way up the ever-spiraling ladder of success until he reached the pinnacle of power as Special Counsel to the President of the United States.

But when his career was shattered in the wake of Watergate, he found himself in the position of another henchman, Thomas à Becket, who had done the bidding of King Henry II in the twelfth century. In a play about his life, Becket stands on stage, stripped of the insignia of his high office, and exclaims, “Oh, God, there must be more, there must be something more!”

Chuck Colson had such a moment in the summer of 1973. Sitting alone late one night in the driveway of his friend Tom Phillips, filled with guilt and despair, he burst into tears “crying so hard,” he later said, “it was like trying to swim underwater.” That night he prayed his first real prayer, “God, I don't know how to find you. But I'm going to try. Somehow I want to give myself to you.” Take me, take me, take me, he repeated over and over.

And God did take Chuck Colson from that moment of surrender to a federal prison in Alabama, to the experience of baptism as a new believer in Christ, to the founding of Prison Fellowship, a wonderful ministry to prisoners and their families now chartered in 113 countries around the world. And God took Chuck to the side of Mary Kay Beard, a former inmate and bank robber who could boast of being on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. At our fundraisers, Chuck used to say that no one could ask for money like Mary Kay! Together with Chuck she founded a ministry called Angel Tree that has served some six million children of prisoners over the last three decades. Chuck never forgot that he served a Savior who had been crucified as a prisoner, one who knew what it was like to be stripped, sentenced, beaten, and mocked. He never forgot Jesus' words: “I was in prison and you visited me.”

Chuck's conversion was not only emotional, it was also intellectual and moral as well. “I could not sidestep,” he said, “the central question God had placed squarely before me. Was I to accept without reservation Jesus Christ as Lord of my life? It was like a gate before me. There was no way to walk around it. I would step through or I would remain outside. A ‘maybe’ or ‘I need more time’ was kidding myself. The phrase ‘accept Jesus Christ’ had sounded at first both pious and mystical, the language of the zealot, maybe black magic stuff. But the question was: did I believe what Jesus said? If I did, then I accepted. Not mystical or weird at all, and with no in-between ground left. Either I would believe or I would not—and believe it all or none of it.”

Of course, there have been and still are the critics. When *Born Again* was released, Chuck's hometown newspaper, The Boston Globe, wrote: “If Colson can repent, there just has to be hope for everyone!” To which