

Drafts of legislation. Journalism and analysis and rousing rhetoric. Always intelligent, well-crafted, powerful. "Power," Mim once wrote to me, "is a word for which women should never apologize." It was one of many words she loved, in a life passionately dedicated to ideas and the language for expressing them. My only regret is that the world's sufferings and her resolve to alleviate them left too little time for her to write all the novels that shy girl in the library had dreamed of writing.

Because her passion was not confined to politics, Mim was one of two or three American political activists I have ever known to read serious literature—even poetry, even contemporary poetry—for pure pleasure. We sometimes snuck away for a quiet coffee at various conferences, and could be seen whispering secretly, almost guiltily, in corners. Were we discussing conference takeovers, purges, devious amendments? No. We were talking about Milton and Donne and Seamus Heaney; about Kafka, Mann, the Brontes, Mary Shelley, Aphra Behn, Hawthorne, Wolfe, Twain, Faulkner—and especially and always, Mim's greatest favorite, Jane Austen. That taste for understatement was reflected in Mim's own sharp wit—which was sometimes so dry it could pucker. She could get depressed, yes, and be bitter, too—at the state of the world, at stupidity, cruelty, cupidity, violence, hypocrisy, and at, as she growled once, "A bit too much so-called pragmatic compromise." But her anger and even, at times, despair was rooted in a brilliant grasp of history, and a too-rare capacity for irony. This surfaced again during the one of the last conversations I had with her, when she was in the hospital. We were talking by phone about the framers of the Constitution, and I made a passing reference to the familiar quote of Abigail Adams to her husband John, to "remember the ladies." Then, out of nowhere—or, rather, out of pain, fragility, and that fading memory we're all prone to—Mim sighed, "Yeah, but," then suddenly snapped back with John Adams' far-too-little known response to Abigail's plea: "Depend upon it we know better than to repeal our masculine systems."

In a culture cheapened by relentless commercial cheer and prone to instant, superficial fixes and fake spiritual grace, her acerbic intellect was bracing in its integrity. Even when discouraged, though, she never stopped pushing boundaries throughout her rich, full, consistently principled life. Perhaps because she had already been a fierce, uncompromising atheist when so young, she knew early on that there was no need to hope for any better heaven—and no need to fear any worse hells—than what life itself offers. So she deliberately faced into it and lived it utterly, in all its bleakness and all its glory. About this Mim was never shy.

She leaves a trail of light behind her, for us to read by and see our way by, in her political legacy, and in her cherished, well crafted words.

Our deep gratitude to Harry, their daughters, and the rest of her family, for having shared Mim Kelber with us—and with history."

Blanche Wissen Cook: "Modest and too often anonymous, Mim Kelber had the best ideas, wrote the best speeches, the most searching essays, the most valuable political analyses.

Mentor and guide, I learned something important from Mim every time we spoke on the

phone, every time we were together. Brilliant and precise, she was a great journalist, a splendid organizer, a peerless leader, a caring, considerate teacher, a warm and generous friend.

Perhaps best known publicly as Bella Abzug's partner during and after the congressional years, she was for most of us the person to consult with on the most difficult questions of political strategy on war and peace, women and policy.

One depended on Mim, who never asked anything for herself. Wise, discerning, informed, Mim was above all a great writer and editor. She turned the most difficult issues into the clearest arguments, the most vivid paragraphs.

She did not (so far as I know) finish her book, *Women and War*, but Harry, her devoted husband, beloved ally and champion, also our guide, gave us the gift of her publications, *The Bella Abzug Reader*, and also her novel, *A Pride of Women*.

We will miss her every day, and have forever the legacy of her bold vision, her steadfast commitment to goodness, justice, environmental sanity, and complete respect and love for the people she loved, all the people of earth.

June Zeitlin: "I had the good fortune to work with Mim over a period of almost 30 years—first, as a young lawyer working in Bella's Congressional office in Washington. We would always send our statements up to New York for Mim to look at—I didn't know her well then but I knew the work better be up to her high standards!

Inside the Carter Administration, I watched Bella and Mim and others transform the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year into a radical force for change. We still cherish its publications, which Mim not only wrote but infused with such far ranging ideas, we could go back to them today.

Their active involvement in international women's year activities and the nascent global women's movement led Bella and Mim to focus more of their attention on both US foreign policy and global policy in general. Seeing that it was mostly men who were making foreign policy and the policies that even at that time weren't working so well (at least if you were female or happened to be poor), they formed the Women's Foreign Policy Council to show the news media and foreign policy community that there were many women with expertise to draw on as well.

Mim and Bella saw the 1990s and particularly the Earth Summit at Rio as an opportunity to bring women—with their unique and diverse experiences, perspectives and voices to the critical issues of war and peace, environmental degradation, social and economic justice and of course women's rights. Together, they founded a new organization—the Women's Environment and Development Organization—WEDO and We Do!

This is not an organization about the environment in the traditional sense. To Bella and Mim, it was the planet! And their goal was a peaceful and healthy planet and human rights for all. Joining with amazing women leaders from around the world—Wangari Mathai, Peggy Antrobus, Vandana Shiva, Chief Bisi Ogunleye, Thais Coral and many others, they brought 1500 women from 83 countries to Miami in 1991 for the World Women's Con-

gress for a Healthy Planet. There, the participants formulated and adopted the Women's Action Agenda, a comprehensive global vision that articulated women's leadership and empowerment as catalysts for change.

Women's Action Agenda was a direct challenge from the world's women to government officials, the UN, and the World Bank to shape the official Rio platform and subsequent global policy documents. To lobby for this comprehensive agenda, WEDO established the Women's Caucus, bringing together women from North and South, East and West, in a systematic and participatory mechanism for bringing women's experiences and voices into UN processes. The results were extraordinary—a whole chapter devoted to gender equality and, for the first time, formal recognition of women's central role in achieving sustainable development.

By the time I joined WEDO in the fall of 1999, more than a year after Bella's death, the burden and responsibility for ensuring the ongoing work of the organization had fallen to a very committed core of the Board of Directors and the staff—all of whom were guided on a day to day basis by Mim. But Mim was already experiencing severe hearing loss and other physical ailments. And the world, too, had changed—despite her great and steadfast faith in the United Nations, she kept saying—"We have so many words on paper—we don't need any more words—we need actions!" But she herself was unable to join in the "actions" which left her deeply frustrated and sometimes discouraged.

Yet Mim was a giant—we have all drawn inspiration from her lifetime commitment to activism and her prodigious work. We have lost several of our giants in recent years—Bella, Patsy Mink, earlier this year Millie Jeffries, and now Mim. As she wrote in her novel, "God-dess help me!" But these were women and Mim was a woman "who would never give up and never give in." We at WEDO will continue their work and their fight—and make it our fight—and we are committed to never give up and never give in until we have achieved a peaceful and healthy planet with human rights for all."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mim Kelber, a remarkable woman whose words will continue to inspire future generations.

ARMY 1ST LIEUTENANT TYLER BROWN

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay homage to the life of a fallen American hero, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Tyler Hall Brown of Atlanta, Georgia. Lieutenant Brown was killed by sniper fire on September 14, 2004 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, a town 70 miles west of Baghdad. Tyler was leading his unit on a reconnaissance patrol in the Iraqi town when he and his unit were ambushed by insurgents. He was a heroic leader to his men even until his passing as he, though mortally wounded by the sniper's shot, was able to give a warning to his men, preventing any others from being injured.

His fellow officer, Captain Daniel M. Gade considered Lieutenant Brown one of the finest officers he'd known, saying that he was an inspirational leader, both on and off the field of battle who during numerous enemy contacts, was calm, leading his men with bravery and aplomb. He loved his men, and they loved him in return.

That is how Tyler lived life, a born leader, a born officer that had a passion for people and a passion for life. His leadership qualities were identified early. While President of his high school senior class at Woodward Academy, his classmates considered him a politician in the making; patriotic, red, white and blue to the core; and figured he could even become President of the United States some day.

After high school, Tyler proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, Carey and his older brother, Brent to Georgia Tech, which is my alma mater. At Georgia Tech, Tyler served as President of the Student Government Association for the 1999–2000 academic year, a position that his father had also held while in school. His hard work, dedication, and commitment to inclusion inspired fellow students to become more involved on campus and to get the most out of their college days. Tyler graduated in 2001 with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in management and in history, society and technology. Commissioned from the ROTC program at Georgia Tech, he earned paratrooper's wings and completed the rigorous Army Ranger training course before joining the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry, based at Camp Hovey in Tongduchon City, Korea.

Tyler was among 3,600 troops of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in early September from South Korea. He had only been in Iraq 2 weeks when he was killed. Tyler had been approved for service in the Army's famous 3rd Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard, one of the oldest and most respected Infantry Regiments in the United States Army. The Old Guard has the responsibilities of guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, serving as the Army's ceremonial unit and, as an active and well-trained Infantry Regiment, the 3rd Infantry is also responsible for the protection of Washington, DC.

Instead of accepting this prestigious assignment he chose to go to Iraq with his men. That decision exemplified his life, putting the good of others in front of his own interests.

On September 28, Tyler finally was joined with the Old Guard as they escorted him to his final place of rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge for his heroic service.

I had the privilege of being present at his interment and to pay respect to a young man who in only 26 years had made a difference and touched more lives than many do in their entire life. As the bugler began to play taps and the honor guard fired a rifle volley salute, I couldn't help but look around at some of those lives who stood beside me and see the heaviness in their hearts and the sadness in their eyes, but I could tell we were saying goodbye to a truly special individual.

My heart went out to the Brown family, a proud American family giving so much to their country, as the flag that draped Tyler's coffin was folded and presented to his mother, Sally,

and the medals that had been earned by the ultimate sacrifice were placed into the hands of his father.

The heavy rain that fell down that day was fitting to the somber mood created by this loss. Tyler Brown was a young man, a son, a brother, a friend, an officer, a leader who left this world with so much potential and so much ahead of him.

His brother Brent said that Tyler "died for the country he loved, doing what he wanted to do. He lived well and died a hero. He lived life to the fullest, he truly did. He became a role model to me."

Mr. Speaker, Tyler Brown in his life and in his death has become a role model to me, a role model for all of us. I salute his service to our nation, the love he showed to his family and all those with whom he came into contact. We know that he is in a better place now and pray this knowledge will provide some measure of comfort for his family in the days ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown along with the entire Brown family are to be commended and honored for their sacrifice and my thoughts and prayers remain with them as they endure this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN J.
FINKELMAN.

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on May 2, 2004, Steven J. Finkelman received the Southwest Achievement Award from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and I am proud to memorialize here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the accolades Steven received as he accepted this prestigious award. Steven is a devoted father and husband, and he is equally devoted to his community and his country. He has devoted countless hours of his life to preserve, protect and defend the United States of America, and he understands, as I do, that America's strongest ally in our war against terrorism is the State of Israel.

Here again tonight I want to record my immense pride in Steven's achievements and my gratitude to him for all that he has done to improve the lives of our neighbors in Houston, and for his tireless work to promote the principles of individual freedom grounded in faith and self reliance that have America the greatest and most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

Congratulations Steven, on receiving AIPAC's Southwest Region Distinguished Leadership Award for 2004. No one deserves this high honor more than you do. I am pleased to memorialize here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my own congratulations, your speech as you received the award, and the eloquent words of our good friend Melvin Dow as he introduced you.

AIPAC PRESENTATION TO STEVE FINKELMAN

The video mentioned that Steve is the child of a Holocaust survivor. That fact sends two messages about this presentation to Steve.

First, it is a tribute to Steve's family that one generation arrives in this country with nothing, and a generation later the family

operates a respected successful business, has educated its children and grandchildren, and Steve, as the video pictures reflect, is a personal friend of Senators, Congressmen and other government leaders—the American dream coming true.

Second, the story illustrates the unique glory of this wonderful country which takes, in the words on the Statue of Liberty, "the tired, the poor, the wretched refuse of a teeming shore" and offers them the golden opportunity to enjoy freedom and to use their talents and energy to be whatever they can be.

Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community. Be involved and be a part of the community." Steve is the paradigm of Hillel's concept.

Steve is in numerous Jewish organizations, not just as a member, but as an active, involved leader. I will tick off a few:

First, naturally, I will mention AIPAC—Steve is on the National Executive committee and the Houston Advisory Council.

He also has served or currently serves on the board of directors of these organizations:

- The Republican Jewish Coalition;
- The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA);
- The Institute of Hebraic Christian Studies;
- State of Israel Bonds (Steve has been President of the Prime Ministers Club);
- Ben-Gurion University of the Negev;
- Congregation Beth Yeshurun;
- Holocaust Museum of Houston (Steve has served on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board since the inception of that organization);

- Anti-Defamation League;
- Jewish Federation of Greater Houston;
- Camp Young Judaea;
- University of Texas at Austin Hillel.

I could go on, but that gives you the idea. Steve has won awards from the Jewish Federation of Houston, Hillel, State of Israel Bonds, and Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Israel.

He spent a year studying and working in Israel. He's been to Israel 16 times.

A tribute to Steve would not be complete without also paying tribute to Sandra—his wonderful partner of almost 17 years. Steve and Sandra share not only community property but also a heart-felt appreciation of the American dream, a profound dedication to the security of Israel, and a deep commitment to Jewish values. In the latter connection, their three children all attended Jewish day schools and all attended Young Judaea summer camp.

For all these reasons, AIPAC is proud and honored to present its Southwest Achievement Award for 2004 to Steve Finkelman.

STEVEN J. FINKELMAN—RESPONSE FOR AIPAC
SW REGION DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP
AWARD

Thank you, Melvin. Receiving this award from you makes it even sweeter!

Friends! I am filled with humility and gratitude for being chosen as a recipient for this award. I have so much respect for AIPAC and for its vital mission to support the U.S.-Israel relationship. Being recognized by AIPAC, therefore, means so much to me.

When I heard Joy's beautiful rendition of the national anthems earlier this evening, I didn't hear two separate songs, rather two verses of the same song.

In my mind, love for the United States and love for the State of Israel don't compete with one another; they compliment each other.

Memory can be fickle and in the whirlwind of current events and competing interests, it is easy to forget the fundamentals. No one