

Local Search Site Search

GO

- HOME
- TODAY'S GLOBE
- NEWS
- BUSINESS
- SPORTS
- LIFESTYLE
- A&E
- THINGS TO DO
- TRAVEL
- CARS
- JOB
- HOMES
- LOCAL SEARCH

HOME / NEWS / LOCAL

Forum focuses on microlending

The Boston Globe

By Matt Rocheleau
Globe Correspondent / September 13, 2009

Email | Print | Reprints |

Text size - +

CONCORD - The cofounder of a website that allows individuals to make small investments directly to entrepreneurs anywhere in the world will be the featured speaker at an event being held in memory of Alexander Filipov, a Concord resident who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Jessica Jackley, who helped launch www.kiva.org four years ago to promote the use of microloans, will address the Al Filipov Peace and Justice Forum, which aims to “demonstrate the profound impact one individual can have on the lives of others.” The Sept. 26 gathering will begin at 7 p.m. at the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord.

Filipov’s wife, Loretta, said she started the forum eight years ago as an alternative to cries for revenge and retribution after 9/11. Her husband was aboard American Airlines Flight 11 when it was flown into a World Trade Center tower.

“I remember thinking after the attacks, ‘Oh, my God. Are we going to kill more people because of this?’” said Loretta.

She said the free event is designed to be educational and thought-provoking.

“We need to learn more about the rest of the world. We need to talk,” she said. “This year we aren’t lecturing; we’re telling people about something they can get involved with and help with.”

According to an announcement on the event, Jackley witnessed the “profound impact” of the individual while on a trip to East Africa, where she learned that grants ranging from \$100 to \$150 were being used to start small businesses, which could then support a family.

“Instead of meeting the poor and helpless, she found herself meeting successful entrepreneurs who had generated enough profits from their small businesses to create a real impact on their standard of living,” the announcement stated.

Based on the experience, Jackley drew three conclusions: “We are more connected than we realize. . . . The poor are highly entrepreneurial . . . stories connect people in powerful ways.”

After www.kiva.org’s launch in March 2005, seven loans totaling \$3,500 were quickly posted. Since those first loans, individuals have loaned a total of \$90 million through the site, according to the news release. Almost 250,000 entrepreneurs in 181 countries have received loans from more than 500,000 lenders.

“The repayment rate is an astonishing 98 percent. The ‘ripple effect’ of these loans on poverty is enormous,” the release stated.

Filipov, a native of Canada who moved to Concord after marrying Loretta in his mid-20s, was a longtime Rotary Club member and served on the Human Rights Council. He and Loretta had three children, including Boston Globe

ADVERTISEMENT

MOST E-MAILED »

1. The wonder, and the fall
2. Why capitalism fails
3. Don't go broke returning to college
4. Son shuns spotlight, but not duty
5. New England's best fall foliage activities
6. The Ink Tank: Editorial cartoon roundup
7. Dismissed marijuana charge raises judge's ire

RECOMMENDED SEARCHES

- iPods
- Swine flu
- Twitter
- Bob Gamere
- RECIPES
- Fisherman's catch
- Somerville

ABOUT THIS LIST »

reporter David Filipov. He was also a Little League coach, an assistant Boy Scout troop leader, and a tutor.

Filipov was a member and moderator, church committee member, and deacon at the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

In the early 1990s, the company Filipov was working for relocated to California. He and his wife moved West initially, only to return a year and a half later. Filipov kept his job doing consulting work as an electrical engineer and often used Flight 11 for cross-country business trips.

In early September 2001, he and Loretta spent a day working at a church picnic, soliciting volunteers and welcoming members back from summer vacations.

Days after the picnic, Filipov stepped on the Los Angeles-bound flight departing from Logan Airport one final time. Less than an hour later, Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center's North Tower.

For more information on the Sept. 26 forum in Concord, call 978-369-4837 or go online to www.afilipov.org or www.triconchurch.org. ■

© Copyright 2009 Globe Newspaper Company.

[Home](#) | [Today's Globe](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [A&E](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Travel](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Local Search](#)

[CONTACT BOSTON.COM](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work here](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Make Boston.com your homepage](#)
[CONTACT THE BOSTON GLOBE](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Advertise](#) | [The Boston Globe Extras](#) | [The Boston Globe Store](#) | © NY Times Co.