HUMOROUS PASSAGES FOR

PRESENTATIONS

FOR MONA THORPE

• So many times, in business and in relationships, I hear of stories of people and what they have to do in order to succeed or at least survive in their chosen industry. Let’s face it; an essential element of success in business and in life is being able to think quick on one’s feet-to assess a situation and provide an effective response. I heard a story about three little boys who were in the same class in school. One was Irish, One was Scottish and the third was a shy Hindu child. The teacher posed the same question to each of the boys. “Who was the most famous person that ever lived?’ asked the teacher. “I will give $20.00 to the student that answers this correctly.” The Scottish boy raised his hand and confidently said, “Saint Andrew, sir!!” The teacher was polite but had to burst his bubble. The Irish boy was sure the teacher was referring to St. Patrick, but his hopes were dashed when the teacher rejected his response. Finally, the shy little Hindu boy, in a barely audible voice offered his response. “Why I believe that would be Jesus Christ, sir,” to which the teacher responded with surprise and jubilation. “Why that’s correct!!! I’m so proud of you!!! Here’s the $20.00 I promised you, but first, tell me, you’re Hindu and not a practicing Christian. Don’t you really believe that Krishna is the most famous person in the world?” And the Hindu boy simply responded, “Yes, in my heart I do believe that, but business is business!!! “ (**Wait for the laugh**).

• I’m thrilled that all of you are here today to explore what it is that has been keeping you from experiencing greater success in your business. In this session, we’ll discuss what stands in the way of your authentic self-expression, the blocks that are self imposed or currently invisible to you, and we’ll identify the tools you need in order to discover the techniques essential for effectiveness in today’s business marketplace. It’s imperative to be aware and in touch... to really **keep an ear to the ground**…. Of course that’s easy for me to say-at just about five feet tall, my ear is already closer than most!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

• Mark Twain was a man of imagination and wisdom, and some of the quotes he has shared can serve to inspire us as we manage our businesses and ourselves. Keep these in mind and use them as needed:

* “If you tell the truth, you won’t have to remember anything.”
* “The human race has one effective weapon and that is laughter.”
* “The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer up someone else.”
* “The worst loneliness is not to be comfortable with yourself.”
* “Do something every day that you don’t want to do; this is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain.”

Sometimes … well actually most times, we are our own harshest critics. There are enough people in this world who have the potential to conspire against you and to sabotage your own success. There is no glory in being your own worst enemy!! Get over it!! I once heard of a woman who, in front of her husband, stared into the mirror and began to recite the litany of faults she observed in her image. “My hair is a mess, I have more and more wrinkles every day, and my skin looks sallow. And my chin is sagging!!!” Please, please say something positive so I can feel a little better about myself!! And the husband replied, “Well dear, it seems you have excellent eyesight!!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

• Sometimes the challenges of having a small business are exciting and invigorating, and sometimes that can really inspire you to sleep like a baby….you know, wake up every hour and cry, cry cry…… But we’re here to handle that!

• There are times when, in small business, relationships can be challenging. After all, routines get to be the same, you may be in close quarters with the employees, the stress of success can conspire to undo you, and so forth. I overheard two men talking the other day and one was saying that he finds that interacting with one of their colleagues has been so stressful that he’s already lost fifteen pounds. His friend, visibly alarmed and concerned for his well being asked why he didn’t just leave. After all, his health should come first. The embattled friend thanked him for the suggestion but then tried to calm him down. “Don’t worry,” he said, “I just need to lose ten more pounds!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

• Here’s some food for thought. Steve Jobs said, “Innovation is not about saying yes to everything. It’s about saying NO to all but the most crucial features.” In business, as in life and most communication, it’s all about editing and being conscious of the impact of your presentation and your product.

• A man named Herbert Simon said, “One finds limits by pushing them.”

• If we all waited for that perfect moment when we thought everything would be “ready,” we would never be able to begin anything. Jump in! Test the waters!!! And learn something about **yourself**. Learn how resilient and buoyant you really are.