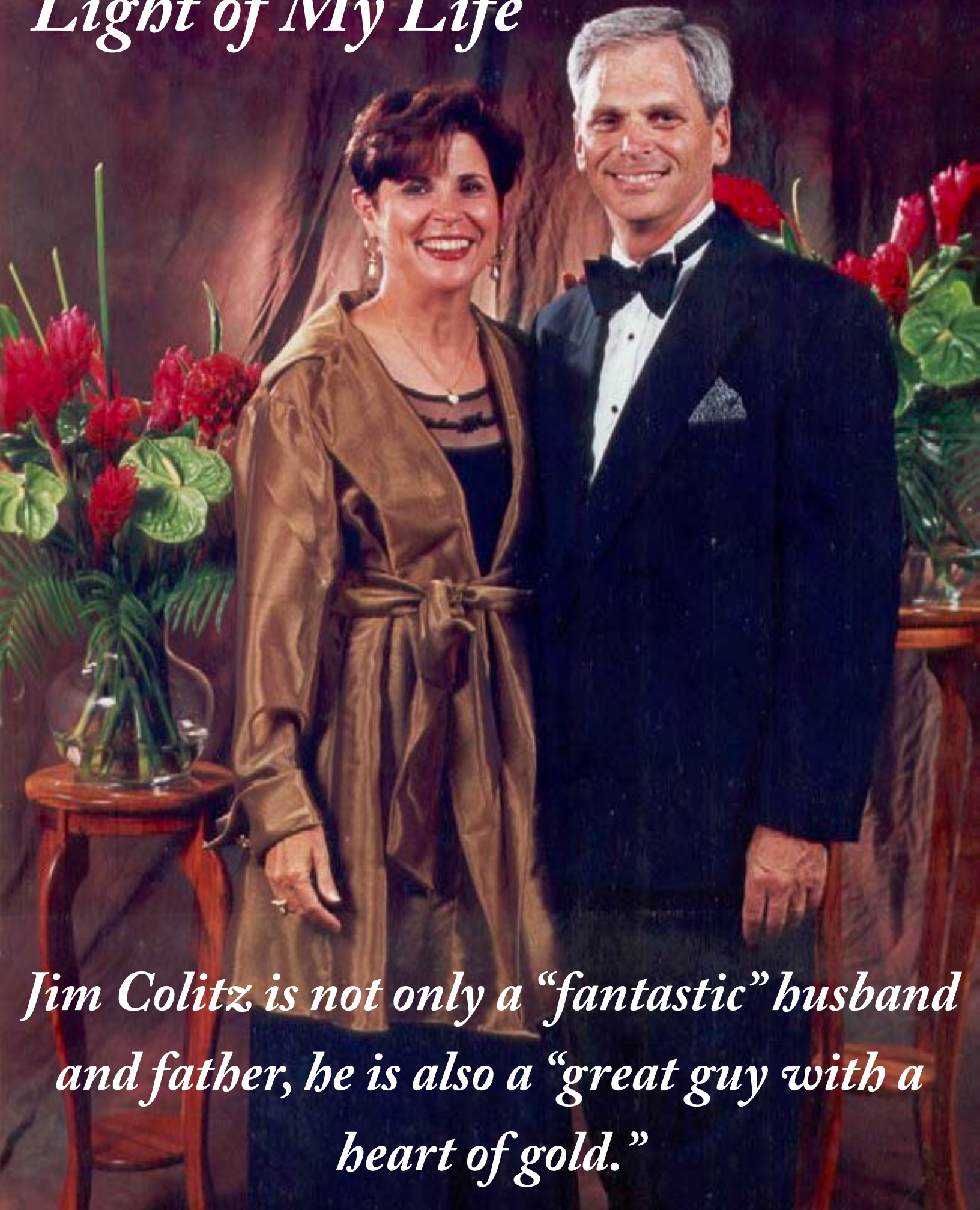


# *'Light of My Life'*



*Jim Colitz is not only a “fantastic” husband and father, he is also a “great guy with a heart of gold.”*

When Barb Colitz talks about her husband Jim, the love in her eyes is overwhelming evident.

“He’s a fantastic husband, a fantastic father and a great guy with a heart of gold,” Barb says glowingly.

The love, admiration and awe-inspiring respect Barb has for Jim prompted her to create this special tribute for his December 23 birthday and the 40th anniversary of the year they met.

“He’s a brilliant man, and when you combine the substance of his character and the content of his personality, he’s the ideal man,” Barb says with a warm smile.

“There’s not a subject he doesn’t know about, from business and sports to politics.”

Barb pauses for a moment, then says, “What I love about him is that he’s so refined and not the least bit conceited. He doesn’t need applause for the wonderful person he is and the wonderful things he has done throughout his life. That’s just the type of person he is.”

A very special person, to say the least.

When Barb was a junior at Mather High in Chicago, one of her girlfriends “insisted” that she meet this “cute and kind guy” from Bradley University. His name was Jim Colitz.

There was one problem, however: Barb was already dating someone. Yet one of her girlfriends quickly pointed out, “*You don’t even like him all that much!*”

She was right, so Barb did some of her own research by calling a girl who had previously dated Jim.

“She said, ‘Oh, you’ll never be a match because *you talk too much and Jim doesn’t talk at all!*’” Barb recalls with a resounding laugh.

But Barb was nevertheless curious about this fellow from Bradley. So she decided to go out with Jim and that was it: a new chapter in her life began—a new, wonderful phase of life that took several twists and

turns highlighted with many fond memories and an overwhelming amount of love and devotion.

Their first date was a movie: *Manchurian Candidate*, a film that had been banned in the U.S. for a quarter-century because of its controversial political content. Not that Barb and Jim knew what was going on in the movie anyway.

“We were talking the whole time,” she says. And she discovered she was “nuts about him.”

They married 2 ½ years later, and with two children, Hope and Randy, they’ve had a wonderful life packed with extraordinary memories and successes.

“What’s so amazing about Jim is that he’s demonstrated he can step out of his comfort zone and adapt to any situation,” Barb says. “What I love about him is that it never made a difference how rich we were or what we had or any struggle we went through. He always had the character to handle it with integrity.”

For many years, Jim was a CPA, having worked for such prestigious firms as Ernst and Ernst (now Ernst and Young). Then, when Jim was forced to alter his professional life to help take care of the children, he did. He became a commodity broker, affording him the opportunity to come home early.

“He’s a wonderful father and role and model,” Hope says, lovingly. “Whenever I need something, he’s always been there. He’s tremendously thoughtful and generous.”

After moving from Chicago to Arizona and then to Orange County, California, Jim made another career change, becoming regional president of Uniglobe Travel and owner of Uniglobe Preferred. He’s back in commodities today, giving him the flexibility to devote time to his family and the charities that are so close to his heart.

“I can’t say enough about my husband,” Barb says. “He’s just the greatest and most wonderful thing that’s ever happened to me.”

— Rick Weinberg, Editor, *StoryCentral*