

BBW has been an important part of my daily life since 1964. Here, I've made lifelong friends, developed new skills, worked on issues that I care deeply about, and helped fulfill the greatest mitzvah of all — Tikkun Olam, betterment of the world.

Over the past two years, I have been honored to serve as President of BBW. During my extensive travels, I marveled at the ability, dedication and devotion of BBW members — and at how effectively they've helped improve the lives of thousands of women and children across the United States, Canada and Israel.

BBW members have made the world a better place. We help children increase their self-esteem, teach teens the lessons of tolerance, reach out to abused youth, give interfaith couples guidance on how to keep Jewish traditions, and champion the issues that affect women everywhere.

Our accomplishments have won BBW world-wide recognition and praise. Mental health experts hail BBW's Residential Treatment Center in Israel for its unprecedented success in healing emotionally disturbed children. BBW participates in coalitions promoting reproductive choice, conferences addressing discrimination, and participated in the White House Summit on Children.

In 1990, I was privileged to chair BBW's first strategic long-range plan which established new goals for our organization.

We started the Action and Advocacy Network so women can fight for important issues and lead

a coalition to encourage Congress to ratify a United Nations treaty banning discrimination against women. We joined forces with B'nai B'rith Youth Organization to combat domestic violence against teens. We expanded the BBW Humor Cart program to bring smiles and laughter to hospitalized kids.

We also built on our interfaith programs by promoting our publication *Mingled Roots* — now in its second printing. The number of prejudice reduction workshops and domestic violence forums have also increased. The BBW Residential Treatment Center has received more media attention this year than ever as BBW members nationwide commemorated the 50th anniversary of the BBW Children's Home.

The course we've charted requires courage and dedication. Through BBW, each of us has been able to see our dreams transformed into actions and our ideals into programs that change the lives of people for the better.

The future offers us the twin challenges of continuing our successful work to ameliorate today's problems while, at the same time, anticipating and reacting to changing circumstances. I take personal pride in BBW's past accomplishments and look forward to the next century with confidence that we will continue to improve the lives of women and children.



Joan Kort

B'nai B'rith Women, President 1992-94

Joanne

STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WOMEN



“When I was laid off I suffered a big self-esteem problem. I gravitated to BBW and all the women were so warm and loving; the combination of support...and getting back into something I believe in really helped my self-esteem.”