

## **JOAN MICHEL**

Guess you could say I was sort-of like the wife. I did my thing behind the scenes, never in the spotlight, never to the roar of the crowd. I helped the beautiful too-soon gone Pat McQuillan organize the first-ever Marriage and Divorce conference, which in effect legitimized the movement for a lot of women-they called them housewives then-who were unsophisticated about feminism. I remember that rainy night well. It was early enough to make the evening news, and excited women come running in off the streets. My activist journey started in 1971, when I rode the bus from Riverdale. I even had to borrow the \$1 fare from Irma Diamond Newmark to the NOW office. Jacqui was president and swamped with paperwork. Someone had to stuff the envelopes and inquire 'What is it you women want?' From then on I did the desk, licked the stamps & answered the phones and helped with the Women's Forum, the Political Caucus and wrote press releases out of Jacqui's apartment. Kept at it slow and steady since then, doing what I could when I could to burn the sexism out of language. Does everyone know that Hero was a woman? I was one of the founders in 1992 of the VFA and have been VP of PR ever since. These days I help Jacqui with some big do's. I'm a writer and editor for Hadossch magazine and a food writer and editor for several publications and cookbook writers.