**Born:** July 24, 1920, The Bronx, New York, NY
**Died:** March 31, 1998, New York, NY

BELLA ABZUG

Bella was "born yelling" in 1920. A daughter of Russian immigrants, she grew up poor in the Bronx. By the age of thirteen, she was already giving her first speeches and defying convention at her family's synagogue. At tuition free Hunter College, Bella was student body president, and on scholarship at Columbia she was one of only a minuscule number of women law students across the nation.

Abzug then worked as a lawyer for the next twenty five years, specializing in labor and tenants' rights, and civil rights and liberties cases. While she ran her own practice, she was also raising two daughters together with her husband Martin.

In the 1960's, Abzug helped start the nationwide Women Strike For Peace and became an important voice against the Vietnam War.

At the age of 50, Abzug ran for congress in Manhattan and won on a strong feminist and peace platform. She quickly became a nationally known legislator, one of only 12 women in the House. Her record of accomplishments in Congress continually demonstrated her unshakable convictions as an anti-war activist and as a fighter for social and economic justice.

In 1977, she presided over the historic first National Women's Conference in Houston.

Abzug founded Women USA, a grassroots political action organization. At the same time, she was playing a major role at the UN International Women's Conferences, practicing law, publishing and lecturing. In 1986 she suffered the loss of her greatest supporter, her husband Martin.

Abzug became an influential leader at the United Nations and at UN world conferences, working to empower women around the globe.

Abzug gave her final public speech before the UN in March of 1998, and died soon after, at the age of 77. Her death is still being mourned in this country and around the world.