

Why Brenda is my role model

When I was a little girl my favorite story was Cinderella. It wasn't about the glass slippers or going to a ball or even marrying the prince (okay. .so I really do want to marry a prince) But I was fascinated with the concept of having a fairy godmother, someone who would believe in my dreams and show me the path towards making them come true. Even though I have been blessed with a wonderful family, the idea of having my very own personal wish granter still intrigued and amazed me. And then like magic, I found her. And just like in the fairy tale she was beautiful, kind, creative, intelligent, powerful, successful and awe inspiring, her name- Brenda Rosenberg.

Brenda fit the qualifications for the ultimate role model instantaneously. As a former fashion executive she held the largest and most powerful job in the industry. She then transformed herself into an agent for peace. Brenda's experiences taught me that within ourselves we possess the power to change who we really are. She genuinely believes in herself and as a result, is able to create miracles. For those that know and love Brenda, they realize that she seems to emit a vibrant spark into the hearts and minds of everyone to whom she encounters. They are fascinated by her optimism, passion and enthusiasm in a world that seems to be suffocated by hatred, negativities and evil. As an active advocate for peace and a tireless tyrant for interfaith partnerships Brenda is constantly working to make this world a better place for all of its inhabitants. Through her involvement on the executive board of Seeds of Peace, the National Commission for Interfaith Relations and the National Council for Community and Justice Interfaith Partners, Brenda works to achieve what most people would call the unachievable, to bring

conflicting individuals together to create partnerships of love and peace. She is a miracle worker; no task too great to tackle, no project too immense, and no judgment too difficult for her to overcome. And as I look towards my own future it becomes clear just how large the glass slippers are that I hope to one-day fill.

I feel so blessed to have this remarkable woman as part of my life. And unlike Cinderella, whose fairy tale ends at the stroke of midnight, mine will continue to last a lifetime. With my family and Brenda as my guides I can continue to soar to unimaginable heights, for I know that if by chance I lose my way on the path towards success, my fairy godmother will be there, encouraging me to reach for the brightest star in the sky. Thank you Brenda for believing in my dreams, for providing me with your love and support and for being the fairy godmother that I have always waited for. And so tonight you **all** have the pleasure of honoring this remarkable woman. I ask you to welcome AFG's new Role Model of the year, Brenda Naomi Rosenberg.

Love always,

Jennifer

May 1, 2003 Detroit Yacht Club