

# The purposeful life

BY RUTH LANDO / PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX STAFFORD

Should you ever meet Sonia Pressman Fuentes and have the opportunity to swap e-mail addresses, caveat emptor. Henceforth, you will be treated to an almost daily barrage of alerts to upcoming articles about her, notice of future television appearances, legal victories recently won, interesting programs you should attend, business endorsements, political commentaries and more.

The indefatigable feminist and co-founder of NOW (the National Organiza-

tion for Women), Holocaust survivor, national speaker, writer, history-making labor and women's-rights attorney, defender of separation of church and state, world traveler and promoter of Jewish genealogy, is the antithesis of a shrinking violet. And I mean that in a good way. Try to imagine a fusion of Bella Abzug, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Betty Friedan and Hillary Clinton, with a touch of Helen Gurley Brown and Jane Fonda thrown in for good measure. Trust me, you still can't possibly conjure up Sonia, 79, whose license plate boasts a quote from Laurel Thatcher Ulrich: "Well-behaved women rarely make history."

Sonia had been to Sarasota for a Jewish Community Center Elderhostel in 1994, and visited her friends on many occasions, even purchasing a condo in the Meadows in 1999. But it wasn't until Halloween of 2006 that she moved here permanently.

Coincidentally, that was the exact date in 1966 when NOW was formed, a moment in history that might not have



Sonia Pressman Fuentes

Where we ate: Southside Deli on Hillview Street

What we ate: Tuna melts and a glass of milk (Sonia); diet coke for me.