

## Hilda *Horvitz* Fischbein

**BIRTH** 26 Sep 1921  
Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, USA

**DEATH** 2 Feb 2006 (aged 84)  
Saint Louis Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota,  
USA

**BURIAL** Temple Israel Memorial Park  
Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, USA

**MEMORIAL ID** 20802813



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Hilda Fischbein: 'She always got involved' The 84-year-old who helped the moviemaking Coen brothers get started also reached out to the less fortunate.

There was nothing Hilda Fischbein liked better than putting people who needed money together with people who had money - whether it was the moviemaking Coen brothers and potential financial backers or a homeless person and Caring and Sharing Hands.

Fischbein died Thursday, after a battle with cancer and influenza. She was 84.

A native of Minneapolis, Fischbein once modeled for the old Gold Bond trading stamps. She married Bernard Fischbein, head of the Fischbein Advertising Agency, and she quickly became involved in the arts, politics and other causes.

"She always got involved," her son Michael Fischbein said Saturday. "She couldn't pass a homeless person or talk to someone who lost their job without taking notes and figuring out how she could help."

A diehard arts aficionado, Fischbein was contacted by the then-unknown Coen brothers in 1983. The young St. Louis Park filmmakers had put together a 10-minute film trailer to rustle up money for their dream project - a movie called "Blood Simple." Fischbein saw the trailer, worked the phones and got investors to put up the cash, launching the film careers of Joel and Ethan Coen, who went on to make the hit movie "Fargo."

"She kind of lost touch with them after 'Raising Arizona,' " her son said. "But she still gets small residual checks from them."

The year before, Hilda Fischbein had traveled to Jerusalem, staying at the King David Hotel. Also there was former Vice President Walter Mondale, pondering a 1984 presidential run against Ronald Reagan.

Hilda Fischbein saw an opportunity and arranged for Mondale and legendary hair stylist Vidal Sassoon to talk in her hotel room. The stylist became a Mondale fan.

As a child, Michael Fischbein became accustomed to Minneapolis Mayor Art Naftalin pulling up in a limousine, or Hubert Humphrey or another Minneapolis mayor, Don Fraser, dropping by with his wife, Arvonne.

Fischbein was active in a number of Jewish organizations, including the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and the American Friends of the Hebrew University. She also was involved with the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, Brandeis University and Courage Center.

"She was so outgoing and extroverted," Michael Fischbein said. "She loved being around people, donating money, going to fundraisers, being in the action, working for social change. ... She was just a life force."

In addition to her son Michael, she is survived by her daughter, Marilyn Byers; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Star Tribune: Newspaper of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN) - Monday, February 6, 2006, by Patricia Lopez

Obituary provided 3/20/2017 by #47972380.

## Family Members

### Parents



Morris Horvitz  
1890–1953



Rebecca Horvitz  
1889–1984

### Spouse



Bernard Everett Fischbein  
1917–1977

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