



## Lois (Mlnarik) Binder

Binder, Lois (Mlnarik) Lois grew up in north Minneapolis and never lived more than 5 miles from her childhood home except for a brief fling with California, and a two year love affair in the early '70s with a place most people unfairly disparage - Washington, D.C. Her friends were unabashed open-hearted liberals who still believe that government can be compassionate and must exist as a buffer to inequalities and greed. At 95, she was still in a book club, reading such books as *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood and *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman. Lois lived alone in a big house but would not downsize because her house was Party Central for holidays, birthday parties, travelers, and temporarily houseless family members. She had five children with her first husband, Irv (Billy, Elizabeth, Matt, Tommy, and Amy), eight grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Her second husband was Hans Kalitzki. Before the pandemic it was rare not to find at least one of her family members being hosted for breakfast, lunch, or dinner at her house. To so many things in life, she said "Yes." That's one of the greatest qualities that she passed on to her family and friends. Lois worked for Don Fraser in his Congressional office from his first day in office to his last. She was the office manager, but her greatest skill was making everyone who came through the door feel cared for. She loved to dance, starting as a teen-aged ballerina, to dancing with servicemen at the USO during World War II, teaching dance lessons in her basement, to her finale - teaching the Flamenco to the whole family at her 75th birthday party. Lois would hope that her beloved home state will have the foresight to offer death with dignity to its residents in the near future. She left her body to LifeSource and the U of M Anatomy Bequest Program. A memorial is being planned for early next year.

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