

## **Merle Rosenberg raised money to fight ovarian cancer**

Everything she did -- from selling bracelets to leading conferences -- was done with "heart and warmth."

[Ben Cohen](#), Star Tribune

Merle Rosenberg of St. Louis Park, who died of ovarian cancer in Edina on Monday, led efforts to support victims of the disease and raise money for medical research, often in the company of her daughter Jill, who also has ovarian cancer.

Rosenberg was 64.

"I think having that shared experience, although a difficult experience to share [resulted in] a lot of support from each other," said her daughter, a Twin Cities psychologist.

"She taught me how to be strong and keep moving in the face of adversity."

Rosenberg's cancer was diagnosed more than six years ago; her daughter's diagnosis soon followed.

Rosenberg, who has been co-president of Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance, St. Louis Park, organized conferences and led fundraising efforts, said Kathleen Gavin, executive director of the statewide group.

Whether Rosenberg was putting on a conference, holding a slumber party for cancer survivors or raising money by selling greeting cards and bracelets, she did it "in her own special way," said Gavin. "She did everything with a lot of heart and warmth."

For four years, Rosenberg and her daughter hosted the annual "A Toast to Life" benefit that raised more than \$225,000 for ovarian cancer research.

Rosenberg, who was president of the Temple Israel Sisterhood from 1990 to 1992, helped lead the effort that brought 60 volunteers from her congregation to work with residents of the Tubman Family Alliance, which serves victims of domestic violence.

She also worked to bring women the confidence to become leaders in their communities, said Jan Arnold, a former president of the Temple Israel Sisterhood.

"People wanted to get involved because of who she was," she said.

In addition to her daughter, she is survived by her husband, Robert of St. Louis Park; mother, Sally Fishman of Miami; daughters Michelle Yousha of Minnetonka and Kim Silver of Edina; son, Jay of Golden Valley, and seven

grandchildren.

Services will be at 3 p.m. today at Temple Israel, 2324 S. Emerson Av., Minneapolis. Shiva will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Temple Israel.

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