

JORGENSEN, PHYLLIS

June 20, 1943

Yankton, SD

January 19, 2026

St. Austin, MN

The New Era, - January 29, 2026

Phyllis Jorgensen

82

St. Austin, MN
January 19, 2026

Phyllis Jorgensen, age 82, passed away January 19, 2026 at the Cedars of Austin. Phyllis was born on June 20, 1943 in Yankton, SD to Clifford and Helen (Olesen) Jorgensen. She was baptized and confirmed at Turkey Valley Lutheran Church, Irene, SD.

Phyllis attended Southern State Teacher's College in Springfield, SD for two years and then taught third grade in Parker, SD for two years. She returned to Southern State and received her BS degree in Elementary Education and at that time moved to Austin, MN.

Phyllis taught school in Austin for 34 years, teaching at Lansing Elementary, Lincoln Elementary and Ellis Middle School. She received her MS degree in Elementary Education at Mankato State and took many additional classes after getting her Master's degree as she was always trying to better herself as a teacher and a person.

She helped the state of Minnesota develop environmental Education units as part of the curriculum development programs. Nature and the environment were always a concern of hers.

Phyllis enjoyed her teaching career and the many students she had in her classes. She worked with many wonderful teach-



ers over the years. She also enjoyed the great outdoors and was active at the Hormel Nature Center. She enjoyed reading, jigsaw puzzles, her garden, and photography.

After retiring in the spring of 2000, Phyllis traveled extensively around the world. She visited all seven continents and especially enjoyed the trips to the polar regions of the world. Ant-

arctica was her favorite. She loved sharing her travels through her photos and enjoyed talking about her trips. She was a warm, caring person with a great sense of humor and was a master of puns.

She was preceded in death by parents Clifford and Helen and cousins Steve, Janice, Paul, Kay, and CarolAnn. She is survived by cousins, Mark and Beverly and special friends, Diane Winter, Nicole Caporale, Cheryl Dunlap and many other friends.

A special thanks to the staff at the Cedars of Austin for their wonderful care.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 7 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin with the Reverend Kris Ferkin officiating. Visitation will be held at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in the Spring Valley Lutheran Cemetery in Viborg, SD at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to the Hormel Nature Center, Hormel Institute or St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

Clasen-Jordan Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.