



Roger W. Jenni

February 21, 2015

Roger W. Jenni age 68, of Eagan, passed away suddenly Feb. 21. Preceded in death by his parents. Survived by his wife of 39 years, Gayle; children, Madeline (Sean) Sjodin and Paul (Aleecia); grandchildren, Siri and Anders Sjodin; sister, Darlene (Jerry) Timm; several nieces and nephews. Memorials to the church. Funeral service Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 at 1 PM at Mt. Olivet Lutheran church, 5025 Knox Ave S., Mpls. Visitation Wednesday 5-7 PM at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel and one hour before the service Thursday at the church. Private burial.

www.Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St. & Hwy 100

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Mr. Jenni meant so much to both of our children. His enthusiasm, energy, passion, and excitement for music were infectious. He helped to instill a life-long love of music to our children, and for that we are forever grateful. Know that Mr. Jenni will live on in every note the children he taught play, sing, and appreciate, for his lessons are in their hearts. May God grant all of you peace, strength, and healing.*

*Betsy and Joe Gasior
Northfield*

Betsy Gasior - February 26, 2015 at 09:00 AM

BL

“ *I will always remember Roger as a very cheerful man, a kind person, and a good friend. My children remember him fondly too, as their elementary school band director.*

We offer our prayers for Roger and his family!

Bill and Jane Van Loh, Duluth (former Northfielders)

Bill Van Loh - February 25, 2015 at 06:06 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Roger W. Jenni.*



February 25, 2015 at 02:12 PM

MM

“ I credit Roger with making the Northfield all-school band concert the hottest music ticket in a very musical town. Each year the 5th graders pounded those drums as hard as they could with a goal of breaking a stick and achieving high praise from their fearless leader. Then they listened through each grades band to the very polished high school band, and realized what they could achieve. Roger led my 5th grade son in a marching band adventure the summer after, and it was memorable for the kids and parents. Roger always put the students first, and was an active advocate in all his roles with the school district. All the kids, and their parents, loved Roger. I will miss you. My deepest sympathies to his family, and thank you for sharing him with all of us in Northfield.

M Jane Moline - February 25, 2015 at 02:01 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Roger W. Jenni.*




February 25, 2015 at 01:16 PM

DK

“ What a pleasure it was to work with Roger as a fellow educator in the Northfield Public Schools! Every fifth grader was encouraged to play in the band--and most did! He would find an instrument for any child and teach them to play it. I loved his marching bands! A couple years after we opened Bridgewater School he found out I had played the French horn in high school. The next day he brought a horn to my office for me to take home and practice!! How could I disappoint him?!! Roger also was a tremendous resource with his gift for educational statistics. A truly remarkable man! My deepest sympathy to all his family and friends.

Diane Kinneberg

Diane Kinneberg - February 25, 2015 at 01:11 PM

 Karen Nordstrom

“ My deepest sympathy to you on the passing of Roger. I was a colleague of his at Sibley and always loved his passion and enthusiasm for the elementary bands he worked with. I am sure that many students became better musicians because of his early guidance (my own child included). He was also a good friend who showed a positive, cheerful countenance to everyone. Prayers go out to his loved ones.

Rest in peace, Roger.

Karen Nordstrom O'Byrne

Karen Nordstrom - February 25, 2015 at 11:55 AM

KC

“ My memories of Mr. Jenni are of a passionate joy-filled, amazing man who poured out his love on all of us kids and remembered us as adults. He made us feel valued and I will miss him.

Karianne Cupersmith - February 25, 2015 at 11:29 AM

CK

“ Roger was truly the "Music Man" of Northfield! He inspired students, provided enjoyment for the community and led an exemplary life. I loved attending his elementary band concerts.....sometimes music that only a parent, grandparent or an old school superintendent could love. He was a friend and colleague.

Dr. Charles Kyte

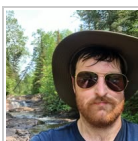
Charles Kyte - February 25, 2015 at 10:24 AM

EL

“ We are so sad to hear of Mr. Jenni's passing. Our family have been huge fans of Roger's, every since our oldest started with him in fifth grade band. Every kid should have a teacher like him -- he was so passionate about kids playing music. I'll never forget the 5th grade band parades around Bridge Square. All our best to his family.

Elizabeth Lathrop

Elizabeth Lathrop - February 25, 2015 at 10:09 AM



“ Roger Jenni did more for me than any other single teacher. With his exuberant help, I gained a passion for the trombone that has carried me into college and given me opportunities that I would never have expected. I am devastated by this news and I already miss him terribly, but I take solace in the inspiring example of Mr. Jenni himself, and that I carry a gift from him - the love of music - that is lifelong and irreplaceable. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Ted Meyer - February 25, 2015 at 09:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Roger W. Jenni.



February 25, 2015 at 09:47 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Roger W. Jenni.



February 25, 2015 at 07:39 AM



“ *I started my musical career with Mr. Jenni. I have now been playing professionally for over 30 years. Teachers such as he are the greatest blessing to the world! My condolences to the family. Kristen (Marks) Sonneborn*

Kristen Sonneborn - February 25, 2015 at 07:00 AM



“ *What a great man who taught his students the importance of working hard to make music - he inspired, gave his very best, believed in his students, gave them confidence, and loved to laugh. He lived his passion with gusto. What a gift to countless people in Northfield. You are in our prayers.*
Nancy Carlson

Nancy Carlson - February 25, 2015 at 06:40 AM

JF

“ *What an amazing legacy Mr. Jenni left us. He got kids to do great things with music, setting a lifelong love in motion. Fantastic teacher.* ”



jane Fenton - February 25, 2015 at 06:10 AM

KP

“ *I'm grateful that my son got to take band and years of summer lessons with Mr. Jenni. Watching him with the 5th graders every year afterwards at District-wide band concerts always made me happy - his energy and love of teaching kids shone through in every bounce up and down on his directors' platform. He's one of those special teachers who held by many in their hearts for years.* ”

Kathy Tegtmeyer Pak - February 24, 2015 at 09:34 PM

HH

“ *Mr. Jenni was the most enthusiastic teacher I have ever had. His attitude was contagious. He encouraged us to try new things and enjoy music just because it was fun. I was very lucky to have known him during 5th grade at Sibley Elementary. My thoughts are with his family.* ”

Heather Hanson - February 24, 2015 at 08:22 PM

TG

“ *Mr. Jenni got me started in music when I was in the 4th grade, he was recruiting flag people for the local parade for that years marching band. I then started playing in 5th grade and thanks to him I found great joy in music, as did many. He gave his students his undivided attention and was always willing to help if you were struggling. He will be forever missed.* ”

Tanya Gjerdingen - February 24, 2015 at 08:12 PM

LD

“ I will forever cherish the memories he gave. Just four years ago he talked to a few of us about marching band. I loved it, I have many lasting memories. One that I will cherish forever is that I was a fellow "cheese head" and he ran into his office and wore his cheese hat for the rest of the practice. Thank you Mr. Jenni. You will always be loved and missed.

Lexi Dougherty - February 24, 2015 at 07:48 PM



“ Mr. Jenni was a great band director. Thousands of Northfield 5th graders continued their love of playing and creating music for many years because of Mr. Jenni sparking that interest in 5th grade. I will never forget him telling us percussionists that he would give us \$100 if we could break the bass drum while playing, and believe me, we tried, but none of us succeeded that year. He always had such enthusiasm and a love for music that was truly contagious. He will be greatly missed.

Thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Mr. Jenni during this sad time.

Danielle Crase - February 24, 2015 at 07:01 PM

BH

“ I was a school counselor at Sibley school and worked with Roger on testing projects. I hold him in the highest regard. He was always energetic and so positive. He gave every student encouragement and support. He will be missed. Blessings to you as you adjust to the place that Roger leaves behind in your hearts. With sympathy and prayers, Barb Holm

Barb Holm - February 24, 2015 at 06:48 PM

HS

“ Our sympathies to the family. We are so grateful for the time and energy that Mr. Jenni had teaching children in Northfield. It takes a special person to teach 5th grade band...and he taught with pizzazz!

Heather Stanga - February 24, 2015 at 06:39 PM

LM

“ I am truly saddened by the loss of Mr. Jenni. He was such a phenomenal music educator who literally touched the lives of thousands of 5th graders. I will always remember what it felt like to play in my very first concert. I ended up going into music education as a career, and these days I teach band to kids in grades 4-8. I have thought of him often as I teach my own students. I never fully understood why he loved beginning band so much until I started teaching myself.

Rest in peace, Mr. Jenni. You will be missed.

Laura Mahowald - February 24, 2015 at 06:31 PM

FC

“ Roger was true blessing for all 3 of my children that have gone through the Northfield schools. A very special man that was a true inspiration to all that interacted with him over the years. My prayers and condolences go out to Roger's family on the sudden loss.

Frank Cobb - February 24, 2015 at 05:34 PM

TM

“ How many of us as 5th graders in Northfield got our first taste of band via Mr. Jenni?! His passion for kids and music have had an impact on MANY over several decades! He will always be remembered as an absolute favorite teacher!!! Prayers for peace and comfort to his family and friends and admirers!

Tracy Modory - February 24, 2015 at 05:17 PM



Cathy
Olson
Malecha

“ *Such a gentle man with such a huge heart. Rest in peace Roger Jenni... Gone far too soon.*

Cathy Olson Malecha - February 24, 2015 at 05:15 PM

KG

“ *What a wonderful educator! I count it as major blessings that both of my children got to work with him--he taught so much--not just about music, but about discipline, perseverance, and achievement. He was one of the ones who saw teaching as a true craft--one that could be improved continuously and adapted in different ways to different students.*

I cannot begin to fathom the emptiness of the world without Roger.

Kathleen Galotti - February 24, 2015 at 05:11 PM

CB

“ *A boundless font of energy, joy, and inspiration; a revered colleague with a long and storied living legacy in our community.*

Charlie Black - February 24, 2015 at 05:08 PM

DL

“ Roger was one of a kind. He was dedicated to his craft, which means he got hundreds, if not thousands of kids started on instruments the right way. He went the extra mile for his kids selling flowers and other fund raisers so he could take upper elementary kids on a trip each year and treat them to pizza and other goodies. He was a master organizer and as we all know, good with computers and numbers. I remember helping out with the trips, his concerts downtown, and the famous Christmas Concert and was amazed that everytime he pulled it together with nary a glitch. He had his private side as his apple orchard was his baby and his creation. In the Sibley days long past, one of his favorite times, was in the lounge when he'd say something pertaining to the political right and watch the reactions which were always filled with emotion. I'd see him later and fill him in on the after remarks and he'd give me that crazy laugh while, not containing himself at all. He loved political agitating. I'll miss seeing Roger as I have this last year after his retirement.

Dan Larson

Dan Larson - February 24, 2015 at 04:51 PM

NS

“ It has been 6 years since I was in band with Mr. Jenni. I got to play for him again two years ago when my brother was in his band and I will always cherish that moment. His enthusiasm for music is what has helped inspire my love for music. You will be missed Mr. Jenni!

Naya Severson - February 24, 2015 at 01:49 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Roger W. Jenni.*



February 24, 2015 at 01:42 PM



“ *Jean lit a candle in memory of Roger W. Jenni*



jean - February 24, 2015 at 12:35 PM



“ *Roger touched the lives of so many people! He would just laugh when we spoke about retirement when I would say we should give him a send off just like Richard Dreyfuss as Mr. Holland had in the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus" cause to me it just seemed so fitting. The hearts and souls of those countless students whose lives he touched through music, the energy that went into each rehearsal, each concert, each band trip and all the while keeping that wonderful smile and quick step and laugh that lit up the room. His smile, his zest for life, his warm and generous spirit, his compassionate heart and his contagious laugh are just a few of the many things that will be most missed. God's band of angels now have a wonderful music director among them!*

Donna Hall - February 24, 2015 at 09:22 AM

SC

“ Roger was an amazing man who was very committed to his community and did so much to make it a better place, especially for young people. He will be missed. Sympathies go out to his family and friends.

Kathy Sandberg and Shelly Cole

Shelly Cole - February 24, 2015 at 09:10 AM