



Mrs. Dorothy M. Needham

July 11, 1927 - August 3, 2023

On August 2, 2023, Dorothy M Needham left this world to join her husband, and dance partner, Arthur R Needham, who passed in 2016.

Dorothy was born July 7, 1927, in Whitestone, New York. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone. She was educated at the Franklin School of Professional Arts and The School of Visual Arts, both in NYC. Being the strong willed and talented woman she was, and despite being born blind in one eye, she worked her way up to become assistant Art Director for North Advertising Company in Manhattan, NYC.

She met her true love, Arthur Needham, while vacationing at Eastover Resort in Lenox, MA. They married June 5, 1961. After moving to Windsor mass in 1962, they started a family and in 1963 had twin boys and in 1967 a daughter.

After raising her children, she returned to her love of art. She attended classes at BCC and even shared classes with her son, Kenneth. She was a member of the Pittsfield Art League, Dalton Art Guild and Hilltown Art Alliance. She and her daughter were chosen for Pittsfield's Sheeptacular and created "Tiffany Sheep" which is featured on the cover of the events book.

She was never afraid of adventure and when her son, Art, was stationed in San Francisco, California, she drove cross country back with him. Her

numerous artworks are a legacy of her amazing talent and her love of color. Despite her many challenges, at 96 she continued to create art, including on the day before her passing.

Blessed to have been part of her life is her son, Kenneth W, Needham and his wife Maureen, her son Arthur R. Needham II and his wife Tracy, daughter Jennifer D. Needham and her chickens, 3 grandchildren, Arthur R. Needham III, Andrew Needham, and Clara-Ann Cazavelan, as well as, of course, her beloved, and rather large, cat, Jeremiah.

Her family would like to thank, Maureen a.k.a. “The notorious Freckles Fahey”, Laurel Ridge in Lanesborough, MA, for their wonderful care of our mother, Home Instead and their amazing caregivers including Chris, Gigi, Beth, Tammy and others, HospiceCare in the Berkshires and their staff, especially the nurses that brought cat treats, the chaplain Joni, whose smile warms the heart, and the volunteer Barbara, who our mother considered a close friend.

Funeral Notice:

A graveside service for Dorothy M. Needham will be Friday, August 11, 2023, at 11 am at the Shaw Road Cemetery in Windsor MA, where she will be laid to rest next to her late husband and love, Arthur. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dorothy’s memory can be made to the Eleanor Sonsini Animal Shelter or the Dalton Art Guild in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home. Please visit www.dwyerfuneral.com to leave condolences and remembrances.

Cemetery Details

Shaw Road Cemetery

Windsor, MA

Previous Events

Gravside Service

AUG 11. 11:00 AM.

Shaw Road Cemetery
Windsor, MA

Tribute Wall

AW

“ Jennifer, Art and Ken, your Mom was a very special person in my early life. I remember sitting in the breakfast nook in Whitestone drawing pictures for her. She always encouraged me to be an artist, both with her interest in my art and her amazing example as a "real artist."

The Summer weeks that I spent with her in Windsor are some of my favorite memories: hiking through the fields and picking black-eyed-Susans (still my favorite flower), reading books to Art and Ken and pushing them in the stroller, eating as much corn on the cob as I wanted, shopping for my first lipstick, and especially sitting in Aunt Dot's studio and watching her paint!

Although I never pursued art as a career the way Aunt Dot did, art has still been an important part of my life. I still create art, and I have been participating in local art shows. I credit my life-long interest in art to my beloved Aunt Dot. I can picture her up in heaven now adding her special touch to the clouds and rainbows.

Anne Withers - August 14, 2023 at 01:09 PM

JL

“ Jennifer, Art & Ken, I read of your Mom's passing with sadness but was also filled with some wonderful memories. My earliest was of her art studio in Grandma & Grandpa house in Whitestone. It was a magical place. Your Mom and mine were very different but were still close because neither one had sisters growing up. To me Aunt Dot was the "cool one", working in the world of fashion art and heading off to ski weekends in your Dad's sport car. It seemed your house in Windsor was never quite complete but your Mom still made it a warm family home for you and Grandma Laun. It just hit me that Aunt Dot was the last of her generation for our family. She will be missed. But we will all hold some special memories in our hearts. Peace be with you. Love Jim Laun

Jim Laun - August 10, 2023 at 09:48 PM