



## Martha Lane Browne

August 20, 1943 - June 16, 2023

LUNENBURG. Daughter of Mary Lane and Fred B. Colby (and later Donald R. Goodnow), Martha was born in Fitchburg. She earned a bachelor's in English literature from Tufts and a master's in dance choreography from Stanford. She taught dance in California and New Orleans before making Lunenburg her home.

In 1980, Martha founded the Guild Dancers Inc., a local non-profit center for modern dance. For 29 years, first with the help of her late husband Fred and later with her husband Curt, she brought beautiful, visionary works of art to a small town. Martha inspired hundreds of students and their families by creating a community infused with compassion, creativity, joy, and love. She taught all her students to hold hands and stick together.

Petite but powerful, Martha had no tolerance for injustice or unfairness. She voiced her beliefs, defended her values, and lived her principles with an unflinching commitment to others.

Martha was also a generous friend: quick to give a hug, share a tear, or chat over a glass of (usually boxed) wine. Even later in life, she made new friends while nurturing lifelong friendships.

She raised her three adoring children to believe in themselves, to hold fast to

their dreams, to put kindness first. Mya, Noah and Ari will always love her bigger than the universe. Her husband Curt will hold her tightly forever.

Martha always told her graduating students to “leave a gap.” She has left a gap in our community, and in our hearts, larger than imagination. May she dance among the stars with diamonds on the soles of her shoes.

The family is planning a celebration of Martha’s life on Saturday, July 8 at 2:00 PM (rain date July 9) at their home, 39 Hemlock Terrace in Lunenburg. Carpooling is encouraged. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Martha’s name to the Pat Brody Shelter for Cats in Lunenburg.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Browne Residence  
39 Hemlock Terrace  
Lunenburg, MA 01462

# Tribute Wall

TE

“ Martha touched the lives of all of us in so many different ways. The love in Hemlock Terrace radiates and reflects the magical place she created. A place of peace, creativity, love, connection and the freedom to be.

Martha is the center of this world and brought this poetic life force to everyone's heart.

A truly unique force and with the people she loved, she made them feel truly special.

Martha's enthusiasm, passion, compassion will always live inside of us and her sense of humor, we chuckle and cherish.

Her beautiful tribe is a gift to the world and we are so blessed to be a close part of it.

Infinite Love for Martha, Curt and all the family ✨

---

Tina, Lew, Owen & Ellis - July 09, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha Lane Browne.



---

July 06, 2023 at 04:52 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Martha Lane Browne.



---

June 29, 2023 at 02:07 PM

PS

“ It is an honor for me to have gotten to 'know' Martha, even though I never met her. What I mean is that I have had the opportunity to talk with some in the family for a tribute article in the Lunenburg Ledger. By looking at the Guild FaceBook page and speaking with some who Martha touched with her love and guidance, I hope that I have put together an article fitting for such a giant of a person. Talking with people who knew and loved her leaves me feeling that I wished that I could have met Martha, but I am grateful that in some ways, I have gotten to know about how much she means to Lunenburg. Her obituary is beautifully written and it's so refreshing to see how many bring love, appreciation and honor to someone that brought the "improbable" art form of modern dance to a small rural town like Lunenburg in the 1980's and how so very many embraced that. My thanks to Ari, Noah, Curt and the many others who shared Martha's story with me.

~Paul Sarapas, Lunenburg resident since 2018, Lunenburg Ledger Features writer

---

paul sarapas - June 26, 2023 at 08:16 PM

NF

“ We lost our Precious Friend and North Brightest Star!! We are infinitely thankful for the gift of Martha in our lives...and utterly that she has physically left us. We feel her joy-filled presence all around know in our bones that she is smiling and laughing and dancing with th looking over us all with LOVE...can still hear the echo of her cheerful “i as no one in the world can imitate and uplift even the most woeful of sc She is, was - the most Amazing

Superhero/Ms.Einstein/Wordsmith/Choreographer/Dancer/Artiste/Cuis. Human Being and Friend to All Creatures Great and Small, - Ever!!!



---

Niose Family - June 23, 2023 at 04:46 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha Lane Browne.*



---

June 23, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Lane Browne.

---

June 23, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha Lane Browne.*



---

June 21, 2023 at 12:09 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Lane Browne.

---

June 21, 2023 at 12:09 AM