



Mildred E. Leaning

January 14, 1922 - July 4, 2022

Mildred E. (Johnson) Leaning, 90, died on July 4, 2022.

Born on January 14, 1932 to Olaf and Ragna (Nilsen) Johnson. Mildred grew up in Providence, RI and Springfield, MA with two siblings (Sylvia and Harry) in the environment of the family business, Johnson's Bakery. She graduated Classical High School and University of Rochester and began a lifelong career in dental hygiene. She married John Leaning in 1958 and raised two sons, numerous pets and an organic garden in Monson, MA. She developed a large network of friendships through her work in the dental office of George Nieske and in the faculty of Wilbraham Academy, where John taught. Widowed in 1987, she took up painting and traveling, each of which brought her great joy and still more friendships. She became a skilled painter and traveled to five continents, all after her late fifties.

She leaves two sons Kenneth and Keith; a step-son John and a step-daughter Jennifer, three grandchildren, a sister and brother-in-law, nephews, nieces, great nieces and nephews, an extended step-family and many cherished friends and extended relatives and her life-long companion, her piano. There will be a small family ceremony in the fall. If you'd like to honor Mildred's memory, please do something kind in some way. She loved people, music, art, nature, life and laughter and shared her connection to these things through kindness. Peace to you.

New England Funeral & Cremation Center, LLC, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Mildred's

memorial page at www.nefcc.net for expressions of sympathy.
To send a flower arrangement or to plant trees in memory of
Mildred E. Leaning.

Tribute Wall

KK

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Mildred’s passing, she was a very dear friend, and I’m eternally grateful for her close friendship with my mother, Edith Wiles, for so many years. Mildred was like family to us, and we will keep her in our hearts always. Most of my mother’s favorite memories were with Mildred, in their international travels, and even family trips over the holidays, and their traditional birthday dinner out every January. \nShe did come to visit here in Florida a few times, and we had so much fun, including riding one of my horses here on the farm, she did love that!\nl hope time, and happy memories of her will help to ease your sadness.\nWith deepest sympathies, Tina Karlen

Kristina Karlen - February 14, 2023 at 09:54 AM

CG

“ I’m sorry to hear Mildred has died. I was lucky to have her as a neighbor for 8 years. I enjoyed stopping by to chat about what she was painting and growing in her garden. She came to the tornado remembrance picnics I hosted for 7 years. One year she brought her friend Edith, who was also a beloved STCC art professor of mine, to the picnic. What fun! Even when she could not come to the picnic she would drop off a dish she made. Mildred was so kind and encouraged me to start drawing again. What a wonderful person.

Cheryl Gardner - February 14, 2023 at 09:54 AM