



A Service in Celebration of the Life of

Martin C. Kennedy

December 16, 1951 - May 17, 2024

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. - Dr. Seuss

The Winchester Unitarian Society
September 21, 2024

Martin (Marty) Charles Kennedy (72), formerly of Winchester and Woburn MA, passed away on May 17, 2024 at Lahey Medical Center in Burlington, MA. Marty was the oldest of nine children and grew up in Newton, MA and was the son of the late Marie and Charles Kennedy. He was married to Ellen A. Lang for over 48 years.

Marty was a public educator in Boston and Somerville and worked at Didax, an educational publishing company for over 15 years. Early in his career he worked at Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown. At Perkins he was both an educator and worked at Howe Press, where he traveled the world training teachers to use braille. Marty also served on the faculty at Framingham State University and taught management courses at the Graduate Continuing Education Department for over 30 years. Marty graduated from Boston College in 1973 with a BA and Master's in Special Education, where he met his wife Ellen. Martin received an MBA from Northeastern in 1984.

Marty was a devoted father and fierce advocate of his children Emmy Lang-Kennedy and Miles Lang-Kennedy. Marty was a loving husband, brother, son, father and friend and will be deeply missed. Marty enjoyed long walks around Horn Pond in Woburn, Castle Island, Crane's Beach and Revere beach with family and friends. Marty loved learning new things including kayaking, biking, building meditation labyrinths and even a cabin in New Hampshire.

Marty was an active member of the Winchester Unitarian Society. He served on the Standing Committee, founded an annual chili cook-off fundraiser, was a member of the choir, and chaperoned the inaugural years of WUSYG's Habitat for Humanity service trips - going to Paterson, Taos, and Maine (in the winter!). Marty was also known for sharing his pagan interests and practices. He made many labyrinths and led young and old through guided walking meditations and lit many solstice fires to celebrate the darkest season of the year.

The family thanks friends, family and loved ones for their support over the last several years as Marty struggled with multiple strokes and extended hospital stays. Marty is survived by his son Miles Lang-Kennedy of Woburn, MA, daughter Emmy Lang-Kennedy of College Park, MD and wife Ellen A. Lang of Somerville, MA.

In lieu of flowers the family encourages donations to Perkins School for the Blind. Marty and Ellen both started their careers at Perkins teaching deaf-blind children. The family also lived on campus when Emmy and Miles were young while Marty worked at Howe Press. Later, Ellen served students and

families at Perkins as a social worker.

Prelude

“Hallelujah” - Rufus Wainwright
John Kramer, Music Director, Winchester Unitarian Society

Invocation & Welcome

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister, Winchester Unitarian Society

Chalice Lighting

Johanna Clossey, Great-niece and daughter of
Philip and Linda Clossey

Reading

“When Great Trees Fall” by Maya Angelou
Carol Bersaw, Sister, and Philip Clossey, Nephew

Hymn, #6 Just as Long as I Have Breath

Eulogy

Emmy Lang-Kennedy, Daughter

Musical Meditation

“Fire and Rain” - James Taylor
David Arabian, Emmy’s partner,
and Emerson Vasquez, Miles’ step-child

Prayer

Hymn, #123 Spirit of Life

Silence

Closing Reading

“Do not stand at my grave and weep” - Mary Elizabeth Frye
Betsy Bowles, Dear friend

Benediction

Postlude

“Ode to Life” - Don Pullen

‘The Road Not Taken’ by Robert Frost holds a special place in the Lang-Kennedy family and was read at Ellen and Mary’s wedding in 1976. Marty, and Ellen with him, truly took the roads less traveled. Whether that was being the first in his family to go to college or his love of bright and bold shirts and ties, Marty was unique and lived true to his passions.

‘The Road Not Taken’ - Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

His Ushers Today

Gordy McIntosh and James Pidacks

Please join us in the Symmes Room and Terrace for light refreshments and conversation.

Following the reception friends and family are welcome join us at Lord Hobo Brewing (5 Draper Street, Woburn, MA) for an informal gathering.