

Azkarah for Cantor Sharon Wallach:

Cantor Sharon Wallach, died on Oct. 1, 2010, at age 52, after a recurrence of cancer, which had gone into remission about four years earlier. She had served congregation Adat Chayim in Reisterstown, MD for more than 25 years.

Diminutive in size but huge in heart and spirit, Sharon was one of those individuals who belonged to far more than her synagogue. Adat Chaim was privileged to be led by Cantor Sharon Wallach since it was founded in 1985. She was a native of Philadelphia's suburb, Cheltenham, and received her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Speech and Hearing at the University of Pittsburgh in 1979. One year later she received her Masters degree in Education of the Hearing Impaired. She earned her Cantorial Certification from the Maalot Seminary for Cantors and Judaists in Rockville, MD in 1994. In 1997, Cantor Wallach was accepted as a member of the Cantors Assembly.

While attending to the needs of Adat Chaim with dedication and enthusiasm, Cantor Wallach served as Music Specialist for area day schools and religious schools. During the summer months, she served as director of the Jewish Culture Program of Beth T'filoh Camps. A regular performer at area cultural festivals, she was an active member of the Cantors Association of Greater Baltimore, the Women Cantors' Network, the Guild of Temple Musicians, and served as secretary of the Seaboard Region of the Cantors Assembly.

Here are some words, slightly modified, from an article appearing in the Baltimore Jewish Times:"

The sweet music, warm memories and captivating smile of the late Cantor Sharon Wallach again filled the sanctuary of Adat Chaim on Sunday, April 3rd. On that day, congregants, colleagues and friends of the popular and energetic spiritual leader — who singlehandedly led the Conservative congregation in the past few years — convened to dedicate the sanctuary in her honor, hear her favorite songs performed and watch slides of scenes from her life.

The dedication featured a concert with regional members of the Conservative movement's Cantors Assembly as well as area children's youth choirs. A longtime Adat Chaim leader, Philip Deitchman, said "These are ... three things she loved — Torah, music and children."

Sharon was very active in the Women Cantors' Network. Our past president, Kathy Sebo said it best: "Our sweet, kind-hearted and talented Sharon left this earth on Simchat Torah...something tells me that it's just how she may have wanted it...may she be remembered for blessing and also, in the spirit of the chag, for the joy and celebration she brought to so many."