



## Pamela Wallach

January 17, 1954 - June 3, 2025

Pamela Joy Wallach, 71, of Brookfield, formerly of Phoenix, Ohio and Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood, passed away June 3, 2025 after living strongly with a nearly five-year struggle with pancreatic cancer.

After graduating from Chicago's Mather High School in 1976, Pam went to nursing school at Mayfair College (now Truman College Nursing School). She was a High-Risk Labor and Delivery nurse at Northwestern's (old) Prentice Hospital for 17 years where she proudly claimed she helped "birth over a thousand babies." She then trained as an acupuncturist and later as an herbalist. Pam was an instructor at the Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture (PIHMA) and also had her private practice under the name "Pearls of Oriental Medicine".

Pamela loved being outdoors and spent time up and down the coast of California, the Caribbean, China (where she trained in Eastern Medicine), the upper midwest and extensively through Arizona.

Pam practiced feng shui and had the natural talent of an experienced interior designer. She had an amazingly beautiful voice and could belt out a tune anywhere from Stevie Nicks to Barbra Streisand.

Pam was beautiful inside and out. Her medical team often complimented her

appearance and said how elegant she looked when she turned up for treatments.

Pamela is survived by her devoted husband of two years, Christopher Charles Koranek (bonded together for three decades); her brother Lee (Grazyna Sadowska) Wallach of Glendale, Arizona; nephew Kevin (Katie) Wallach and their children Joshua and Corey Wallach; aunt Char Wallach; and cousins Marla (Joe) Cotteleer, Pen (Ric) Hawthorne, Denise (Bob) Kiss, Lori (the late Ed) LeVitus, Marty (Sheryl) Palmer, Laurie (Dean) Projansky, David (Maria) Wallach;

Pam had an undeniable love of all animals, gave a warm home to all her pets over the decades and leaves behind her adored cat, Bella.

She was preceded in death by parents Sylvia Deutchman Wallach and Sam Wallach and cousin Larry Wallach.

The family would like to thank those who reached out and helped care for Pam, including her doula Erica Reid Gerdes, her close friend Laura (Harold) Hungerford and the Koranek siblings (and their children): Donna Koranek and Jim Fiegel, Jeanne and Tom Bortolini, Jane and Matt DeLorenzo, Marianne Litzau, and John Koranek and Mavis Bates.

Pam requested a Tahara by the Progressive Chevra Kadisha.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Wellness House in Hinsdale.

Family and friends are welcome to join the service Thursday, June 5 at 11am at Shalom Memorial Park, 1700 Rand Rd., Arlington Heights, 60004. Follow cemetery signage to the gravesite.

Immediately following the service, all are welcome to celebrate Pam's life at a memorial luncheon.

Arrangements by inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.inclusivefuneralcare.com](http://www.inclusivefuneralcare.com).

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Shalom Memorial Park  
1700 Rand Road  
Arlington Hts, IL 60004  
<https://www.shalommemorial.org/>

*Please follow cemetery signs to the gravesite.*

# Tribute Wall

SD

“ *P.m. was a drain on the students. Airy Fairy On the outside, but bitter on the inside, mostly unconscious, spiteful, retaliatory she could not not hurt people along the way.* ”

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**Sdryjn** - February 20 at 09:10 AM

“ Pam was a good friend of mine and also a student and colleague. I met her in a restaurant. Somebody she was with recognized me and they together called me over. She told me she was attending my acupuncture school, The Midwest College of Oriental Medicine. I had sold my share in the school years earlier and only gave specialized seminars at my home and teaching center. I found her to be an extraordinarily beautiful woman and also very smart and wise. She had worked for years as a head nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s OBGYN department. And so she was in acupuncture school now.

Over the years, Pam attended many of my post-graduate workshops and started to add Jin Shin Do acupressure sessions to her acupuncture treatments. She was interested in creating the unity between body and mind—the body mind interface. She wanted to work more wholistically with her patients, helping the mind and emotions as well as treating body pain and tightness. During the acupuncture diaspora, the dark 10 year period (1987-1997) when acupuncture practice in Illinois was considered “practicing medicine without a license”, a class 3 felony, Pam moved out to Phoenix, Arizona. She and I stayed in touch a lot. Most working acupuncturist in Illinois also left the state. I moved to Stockholm Sweden and stayed until 1994, then came back home to Chicago to work with the ISAA (state acupuncture association) to try to get our profession back on track! Pam’s other friend Claudette Baker as president did great work with the lobbying effort. I wrote a lot of articles and attended the meetings. Finally, Gov. Edgar signed the bill that legitimized acupuncture and set up a licensing board. So Illinois became the 47th state to allow Chinese medicine to be offered.

Pam, however, stayed in Arizona and worked as a teacher at the only acupuncture school in Phoenix. When I’d come to Arizona to visit my mother, I usually stopped to see Pam at her school or to hang with her and her friends./ Pam was a very heart-centered person. She was also very maternal though she never had her own

*children. She was always trying new and different healing techniques while adding to her knowledge of Chinese medicine. She was gifted as a therapist in both point location and diagnosis. She was the first person to turn me on to the teachings of Taiwanese acupuncturist Richard Tan. She and I would spend a lot of time talking about the exciting treatment strategies of various, even esoteric acupuncture systems!*

*We also share a deep love and respect for Dr Zhengang Guo, the master herbalist that me and my faculty members had one time cajoled to move to Chicago and teach Chinese herbal medicine.*

*When Pam grew very ill with cancer I really thought that she'd overcome it with her special team including Dr Guo and myself. After she married her lifetime lover Chris and came to Chicago where he lived, I also had the honor of seeing her, still hoping that she'd beat the cancer beast. So when she finally succumbed, I was very sad. Because out of everything that she did and achieved in her illustrious life of service for others, in death I just remember her love and her smile and her humor and her dedication to the healing activity of her life. And I try to feel her presence, wherever she is now, that smile and that passion and drive. It's her deep compassion and love that stands out so much now for me.*

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**Justin Pomeroy** - July 10, 2025 at 05:11 PM

PB

“ *Sincere condolences to Pam's beloved Chris and to her family. Pammy, you are one very special soul and you are missed. May your journey always be filled with the love and light that you are. Blessed travels to you, friend!*

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**Patty Baker & Joyce C Brown** - July 08, 2025 at 12:26 PM

PB

*Loving memory from Patty Baker & Joyce C Brown*

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**Patty Baker** - July 08, 2025 at 12:29 PM

MS

“ Pam, I am so grateful to have known you and received your amazing healing. All of your co-workers, students and patients will carry you in their hearts.

Mary Ellen Simmons - June 09, 2025 at 04:16 PM



“ I have such great memories of Pam, going back to when we made potato latkes together. Then many deep and beautiful spiritual meetings at her home and deep communications. You left your mark on countless students, family members and friends and you are missed. Darren Starwynn



Darren Starwynn - June 08, 2025 at 02:04 PM

LI

“ I met Pam in an online Esoteric Acupuncture class and then via text since we both lived in Phoenix. I could tell she had the utmost care for her students by the way she shared their questions and concerns with the instructor. Her spirit was gentle yet fiercely directed on healing, expanded consciousness and ultimate liberation.



Li - June 07, 2025 at 01:36 PM

RB

Rosemary Brady, She was creat teacher and supervisor of my in Pihma Institute of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture. I missed her since she left Phoenix.

Rosemary Brady - June 19, 2025 at 05:22 PM

KH

“ *Pam was the brightest light that I've ever known. She was beautiful in so many ways. I will miss her forever. Her wedding to Chris in September 2023 was such a beautiful day.* ”



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**Kerry Harrington** - June 06, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall* ”



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**Terry Matthews** - June 06, 2025 at 12:46 PM



*Happy memories*

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**Terry Matthews** - June 06, 2025 at 12:47 PM

AW

“ Pam had a way of making an impact on everyone around her. She was generous, kind and full of energy. The kind of person who brought light and strength into every room without needing to take up all the space. She led with compassion, humility and a sense of humor that made even the hard days feel lighter. She was strong, inspiring and unwavering in who she was. She'll be deeply missed. Thank you Pam.

*Ashley Williams, PIHMA student*

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**Ashley Williams** - June 05, 2025 at 09:57 PM



“ *Hawaii 2009*



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**Debra Manning** - June 05, 2025 at 08:05 PM

TR

“ *Tina R. purchased the Gourmet Gift Basket for the family of Pamela Wallach.*



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**Tina R.** - June 05, 2025 at 04:46 PM

TR

“ Chris, Pam fought a good fight and had you at her side the entire time and I thank God for that. You were her strength and her fortress. Thank you! Pam was a bright light in this world. I will never forget how caring she was; even as she was going through the pain of her cancer, she continued helping and caring for others as she did for me. She was an exceptional human being and will be missed by many. I will miss seeing her smile from across the street and will hold her in my memory and my heart forever. I am so very sorry for your loss but I believe we will be reunited with all those we've loved on this earth when we enter our new heavenly homes. God bless you, Chris. I pray for strength and comfort for you as you work through your grief. Much love is being sent your way!

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**Tina Roberts** - June 05, 2025 at 04:42 PM

CN

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Catherine Niemiec** - June 04, 2025 at 10:18 PM

CN

“ On behalf of everyone at PIHMA, Pam you graduated from the school of life with Honors! You were such a magnificent teacher and supervisor, and your students and staff loved you. It was so fun to work with you and your legacy survives in each of the student, staff and patient lives you have touched. Enjoy the next stage and say hi to our beloved Dan and David. Missing you already, you live in our hearts!

-Catherine Niemiec, President, PIHMA

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**Catherine Niemiec** - June 04, 2025 at 10:06 PM

CN

*And a special thank you for being there to help deliver my son into this world. You were such a pro and he honors you with his accomplishments. Love you so much!*

*-Catherine*

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**Catherine Niemiec** - June 04, 2025 at 10:19 PM

AV

“ *You are SO MISSED dear friend and colleague and most profound teacher of Chinese medicine! I will always hear you when I remember my schooling!! You are and will continue to be one of the most profound and entertaining teachers! You brought Chinese medicine alive!! Thank you dear friend! Love you! May you be at peace now 🙏*

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**annie vedeler** - June 04, 2025 at 06:03 PM

AG

“ *My heart goes out to Chris, Pam's family and Pam's friends. Sending love, light and good energy to you all. Pam was a beautiful person who helped me immensely in my life, providing acupuncture treatments for long term intestinal and pancreatic issues. We also became very good friends throughout that time. I loved our talks together, especially about Star Trek The Next Generation and Ancient Aliens. We had a lot in common and I will miss her more than words can say. Thank You Pam! You are beautiful! You were here and helped many people! You will be greatly missed :)*

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**Andrew Gaines** - June 04, 2025 at 05:31 PM

TN

“ *Pammy and I had a deep bond for many years Thousands of miles separated us, but we didn't have to speak often to know the connection was always there. When I was having health challenges a few years ago, she was right on it. We spent hours on the phone and her compassionate heart shone through even though she was experiencing her own challenges. Her selfless desire to help others was outstanding. She will be missed by many. Memories of the happy times we shared will be with me forever.* ”



Terry Nusyna - June 04, 2025 at 04:45 PM

BS

“ *My condolences to Pamela's family and friends. I met Pamela in June of 2008, north of Montreal at a spiritual retreat. There was an immediate heart to heart [re]connection. We touched base a number of times over the years. She will always be held with love in my heart.* ”

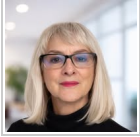
Brock Schwartz - June 04, 2025 at 04:38 PM



“ *Pammy, I can scarcely verbalise my thoughts and feelings at this time.....At least I am happy that you are at peace, and surrounded by the light and love you deserve. Thank you for our connection in this life...I will never forget what we shared...Onward brave and beautiful soul* ”



Terry Matthews - June 04, 2025 at 03:51 PM



“ Deepest condolences to Pam’s family during this difficult time. Pam was my teacher at PHIMA more than 20 years ago. We became friends also at that time, sharing different adventures for a few years even after I graduated. I admired her always giving and thinking of others. Always lending a helping hand to those in need. Though we grew apart in later years, she will always hold a special place in my heart.



Debra Manning - June 04, 2025 at 11:03 AM

DR

“ Although I hadn't seen Pam for many years, we spent many of our early years (10-17) and together as a part of a large group of friends. She led an amazing life and what I will continue to hold dear is her beautiful smile and warm and loving energy. As we say "may her memory remain as blessing for us". David Reisman

David Reisman - June 04, 2025 at 04:14 AM

DK

“ Pam always had such positive energy about her. She had a natural gift for teaching and caring for people. I appreciate the kindness she showed to me throughout her life. I will miss her dearly. Much love, Donna

Donna Koranek - June 03, 2025 at 10:37 PM

BL

“ Pam was a very brave women. She was always so positive. What a beautiful woman she was. My parents were best friends with her parents. Rest in peace Pammie. Love You Barbara

Barbara Sue Leher - June 03, 2025 at 10:11 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Team Inclusive Funeral Care** - June 03, 2025 at 01:48 PM