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## Mourners celebrate beloved teacher's life

By **Jennifer Rosinski**

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More than 500 people chuckled and cried yesterday in celebration of murdered East Boston High School teacher Andrea Harvey's affinity for Hello Kitty, Scrabble, the TV show "X-Files" and gourmet vegan meals.

"You are tough. You are all the good things in Cambridge," said friend Malaika Thorne, struggling through tears to read the poem she wrote in honor of Harvey, a Cambridge native. "You're something mystical . . . And in your students immortal."

The crowd at Harvard Memorial Church was notably silent on her husband, Damion Linton, the man prosecutors accuse of strangling the 28-year-old on Feb. 23 after he fought with his girlfriend over Harvey - whom Linton described as an ex-girlfriend.

Instead the gathering, which included about 100 of the strict but "mad cool" math teacher's former and current students, shared tales of Harvey's life peppered with joy, laughter and loss after watching a slide show of the girl with a viola turning into a woman with dreadlocks and a passion for teaching.

"Did you know you weren't like anyone else?" said friend Autumn Cooper, who shared many nights with Harvey fighting over Rummy and Scrabble. "You were the talent and heart of four people rolled into one . . . Every person you knew for a minute or a lifetime was forced to love you. You gave us no choice."

Big sister Julia Harvey, an Army captain who was stationed in [Iraq](#), said her "confidante" was the only person who could succeed at getting their father into shape.

Julia Harvey read e-mails Andrea sent to her in Iraq days before her brutal killing. It told of Andrea's hour-long walk with her father, Cedric, from Cambridge to Boston and back.

"Me and Dad had a lot of fun. I'm beginning to think Dad is starting to like this," Julia Harvey read. "I have so many more places to take him."

Andrea Harvey was a school union representative who didn't care if her stance made her unpopular as long as the school would benefit, friend Jessica Gorham said.





"Thank you," she said. "You were mad cool and we won't forget you."

### Photo Gallery



A mourner breaks down after leaving the funeral for Andrea Harvey. (Staff Photo By Matt Stone)

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