



## Mr. Phillip Ian Sellers

September 21, 1948 - July 22, 2020

Mr. Phillip Ian Sellers, 71, of North Adams, died on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at the Berkshire medical Center in North Adams.

He was born in East Cleveland, Ohio on September 21, 1948, a son of Audrey (Hathaway) Sellers and the late Harvey Sellers. He attended schools in Ohio and graduated from the Eastlake North High School. He then went on to earn his Bachelors in Fine Arts from the Kansas City Art Institute, majoring in painting and pottery.

Phil was a passionate artist, loving husband, father and grandfather. Phil and his wife Gail ran River Hill Pottery for over 42 years. They sold their beautiful woven clay baskets all over the US. His favorite art projects were often collaborations with his grandchildren.

Phil was well known within North Adams for his active community roles. He was involved with North Adams Open Studios and founded Art About Town which, coordinated colorful crosswalk paintings. He served as director of the Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival, and was one of the founders of the Adams Arts Advisory Board.

He was a communicant of the Parish of St. John Paul II at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Adams.

Besides his mother Audrey, 91, he is survived by his wife of 50 years, the former Gail A. Kolis, whom he married on November 26, 1970; His two sons, Jason Ian Sellers and his wife Nissa Kubly of Phoenix, AZ and Nathan Adam Sellers and his wife Julia of University Heights, OH; six grandchildren, Voss, Ravenna, James, Bradley, Nathan and Daniel; two brothers, Brian Sellers of Stow, OH and Paul Sellers and his wife Jamie of Wendell, NC; He leaves sisters-in-law Ellen Clarkson of Massachusetts, Lynn Herlihy and her husband Jim of Pennsylvania, a brother-in-law William Kolis and his wife Donna of Ohio, his mother-in-law Mary Jane Kolis of Adams and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his father Harvey, father-in-law William Kolis, and brother-in-law David Clarkson.

Due to current restrictions, there are no calling hours and a live memorial service will be held online July 27th, 2020 at 10 A.M.. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations will be directed towards an art charity or scholarship in Phil's name.

During this unusual time where personal contact is restricted, we are looking for the best ways to be together, to share, remember, and grieve.

Please participate with us:

1. Online Memorial Service: 9:30am Monday July, 27th, Service to start at 10am.

Join via Zoom [also facebook live from Phil's account] <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3501048133>

or by phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 350 104 8133

2. Share something with us

Create a short video to help us remember.

[Tribute.co/phil-sellers](https://Tribute.co/phil-sellers)

3. Memorial Fund

It's not required, but If you want to send something to the family, in lieu of flowers, we ask that resources be directed to help the art community that Phil loved.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/phil-sellers-memorial-fund?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/phil-sellers-memorial-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

\*If you can't be with us online during the service, we will post pictures and videos afterward.

# Tribute Wall

MA

“ *I am so very sad and sorry to hear of Phil's passing. He was so wonderfully kind and had such an extraordinary impact on his community. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. With love, Marianne Petit*

Marianne - July 28, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ *My dearest Phil. You and Gail were my first NA friends. You welcomed me with len arms, unconditionally. You made me laugh. You inspired me. You shared your world with me and I am forever grateful. Phoenix will never be quite the same. Nor will pumpkin carving or faeries or sidewalks. I miss you.*



Michelle Jensen - July 27, 2020 at 10:37 AM



*Open, open arms. Yours always were.*

Michelle Jensen - July 27, 2020 at 10:38 AM

LB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lori LaFrance Bracci - July 27, 2020 at 10:27 AM

PK

“ *We are so saddened to hear of Phil's passing. Recalling Nissa and Jason's wedding in Wisconsin brings back fond memories of Phil and Gail and their families. We know he was a good, kind, caring and talented person and it was an honor to know him. He will be greatly missed by many.*

*With sincere sympathy,  
Penny and Kris Kubly*

Penny Kubly - July 27, 2020 at 09:53 AM

CD

“ *River Hill Pottery was my first experience with North Adams and the Eclipse Mill. How lucky for me. As a fellow potter considering a loft in the building, they offered that I could work in their studio until I figured things out. We had just met. I moved in. I am very grateful for the generosity of their trust. Reading all the tributes tells me he shared that generosity with many. Phil we all will miss you !!*

*Catherine Dunning  
Eclipse Mill*

---

**Catherine Dunning** - July 26, 2020 at 06:33 PM

DA

“ *Remembering with love my cousin Phil.  
Remember Phil  
Shoot for the moon  
Even if you miss you will  
Land amongst the stars.  
Sleep tight  
My thoughts and prayers are with you Gail and family and also with Audrey, Brian and Paul and family.  
Much love  
Diane (Alden) xxx*

---

**Diane Alden** - July 26, 2020 at 03:43 PM

AB

“ *We meet Phil and Gail within the first week of our moving to North Adams. They welcomed us with open arms and made us feel friends they had known for years. We soon found that anything Phil and Gail sure involved with was something we wanted to be a part of also. Everything Phil worked on, became involved with became a fun amazing project to be a part of. He was so fun, professional, creative, talented and just a joy be to around. It was wicked awesome to get to be a part of the Faerie Festival with him and Gail. One of my favorite times was co-curating the “I’ll Drink to That” ceramic mug show at the Eclipse Gallery with Phil and Gail. Phil was someone you quickly felt close to and looked forward to spending time with from, Chinese dinners, carving pumpkins, art and creative projects to just a good old talk. We have have been enriched by his being of a part of our lives. All our love goes to Gail and their family.  
Arthur and William Archer De Bow*

---

**Arthur De Bow** - July 26, 2020 at 03:04 PM

BG

“ Rest In Peace, Phil, your creativity and talent are boundless now, fly like the wind and soar like an eagle. Our deepest sympathy goes to Gail, Nate, Jason and all your family and friends. We'll always remember rooting with you at soccer games and tournaments for our kids in Ohio. Our hearts hurt today.

*Bob and Cheryl Gentile*

---

**Bob and Cheryl Gentile** - July 26, 2020 at 09:56 AM

DS

“ For me, Phil and Gail were one word strung together as a dynamic duo, a force of love, a team of two. I love them both. I always will. Phil was a mensch, a prince among men, an artist, artisan, community activist, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He believed in art and people and worked with joy to create the gloriously multi-colored and magical bridge that brought the Arts and folks together. Phil and Gail together represented through their talent, kindness, and energy the best qualities of humanity. My heart goes out to my friend, Gail, in love and empathy. Every day since hearing of Phil's death, I have offered up my experience of seeing the beauty of flowers and the brightness of the sun to a celebration of his life. My words of comfort are simple ones. Love endures all things, even death, and lives on in the hearts and minds of those who loved him.  
~ Deirdre

---

**Deirdre Sullivan** - July 25, 2020 at 10:07 PM

LM

“ Phil & I were classmates at Eastlake North & hung with Joe Mauser & Augie Landsman  
I believe we were in band together if memory serves correctly.  
Also Phil & my brother Nelson graduated from KCAI just a couple years apart.  
Those were fun times my friend may you rest in peace.

*Larry Mucche'*

---

**Larry W Mucche** - July 25, 2020 at 05:31 PM

JM

“ Phil Sellers was my best friend in high school and college and the best man at our wedding. It was my pleasure and honor to have known Phil for 57 years - his moving on leaves a hole in my heart and the hearts of so many he touched so profoundly.

---

**Joe Mausar** - July 25, 2020 at 04:38 PM

CK

“ I took a wonderful pottery workshop with Phil & Gail several years ago. Phil was a fun, enthusiastic and giving man who clearly adored his wife, Gail. Together, they were an inspiration to so many. He will be missed greatly in the pottery community and so many other communities in which he was involved and giving. My thoughts and prayers are with Gail and all of his family today and in the days, weeks and months to come.



Fondly,  
Cheryl Kornegay

---

**Cheryl Kornegay** - July 25, 2020 at 04:13 PM

PL

“ Dearest Gail,  
You are in my every thought, how saddened I am for the loss of your soulmate, my amour and partner in a long and accomplished life. I will fondly remember our times together. Be at peace knowing that he has made a wonderful difference in this world.  
Love you,  
Paula  
PS Chip too

---

**Paula Landry** - July 25, 2020 at 04:03 PM