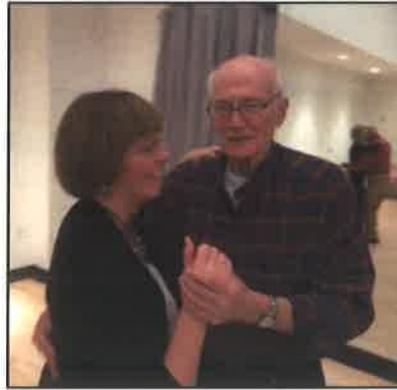


Some of Phil and Jan's contributions to the community:

- Phil served on the Planning Commission for 13+ years and served as Chair for many years
- Jan serves on the Development Review Board and has been unsuccessful in her attempts to retire from her role as secretary
- Phil served on the Hazen School Board
- Jan is active in the GUCC – serving on various boards and search committees
- Phil has been an ombudsman for the Area Agency on Aging
- Jan reads with kindergarteners at Lakeview Union Elementary
- Phil recently reached the 100 gallon milestone in blood platelet donations
- Jan volunteers at the Greensboro Free Library
- And, so much more!

We thank you both for making Greensboro a better place!



Presented by
The Greensboro Selectboard
March 6, 2018

2018

Greensboro Award



Jan Travers & Phil Gray

Jan Travers & Phil Gray

Jan and Phil arrived in Greensboro at different times and from different directions but it is our good fortune that they found Greensboro and each other.

Phil's grandparents first came to Greensboro in 1910 for the health of their second daughter. Their older daughter, Peg, married Philip Gray, Sr. in 1930 and Phil, Jr. was born in Barre, VT in 1931. The family has maintained their close connection to the community through at least 4 generations.

Janet Birrell Travers was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Alec and Edna Lund Birrell in April of 1943. Jan grew up in suburban areas doing normal kid things - movies, ice skating, sodas at the local fountain and walking to school (uphill both ways!). Jan and her first husband, David, moved to Greensboro in 1973 with two young daughters. David served as the pastor at Greensboro United Church of Christ.

Phil and Jan share a love and respect for the importance of education that is evident in their careers and their community service.

Jan began teaching in 1966 in New Haven, CT. She then moved to Berlin, VT and taught at one of the small school houses on the Barre-Montpelier Road. The arrival of her children put her teaching career on hold until 1976 when she began working part-time as a Reading Teacher at Greensboro Elementary School. When both daughters were in high school, Jan returned to the classroom as a full-time teacher. Over the next few decades, Jan taught various grade levels and held the Head Teacher position for several years. She was awarded as the UVM Teacher of the Year for her exemplary teaching skills.

Phil graduated from Yale with a B.A. in 1954. He then went to Columbia University where he received an M.A. in 1956 and worked toward a Ph.D. until 1958. He also served in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957. From 1959-1961, he was in Beirut, Lebanon where he learned Arabic and conducted area studies involving Arabs and other peoples of the Middle East and North Africa.

Over the next several years, Phil was an Economic Officer in Baghdad, Iraq; a Political Officer in Amman, Jordan; worked in Washington, D.C. for the Department of State and the Office of Economic Opportunity. He has also worked as a Campaign Aide for a number of political candidates in VT; taught in the Fairfax County, VA high school system and held various position with the Office of Pesticide Programs in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Phil and Jan married in 1999 and take pleasure in entertaining and traveling together, as well as quietly enjoying each other's company. Over the years, they visited China and Tibet, took a river cruise on the Upper Amazon, toured the Costa Rican rain forests, and took an Alaskan cruise.