



## Ethan Silvers

July 9, 1988 - February 10, 2025

Ethan Elliott Balcer-Silvers, also known as Cepheid, left planetary orbit early February, 2025, at the age of 36, at their home in Chicago. A Cepheid is a type of pulsating star whose extremely regular variations in luminosity allow an accurate measure of its distance from Earth.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Cepheid earned their B.A. with honors in American History from Suffolk University in Boston in 2009 and an M.B.A. from Texas Christian University in 2015.

Cepheid fed their expansive, voracious imagination and love of storytelling with video games, horror movies, tabletop RPGs, speculative science fiction, philosophy, and pondering the overthrow of capitalism. They had a fierce intelligence, a sharp wit, an impeccable taste in fashion, and a deep empathy for any kind of suffering. Like their namesake, Cepheid burned brightly and darkly in turn. Now, no longer bound by the burdens of the body, they have realized their final wish, to become starstuff.

They are survived by their sibling Shay Mackenzie Park of Pittsburgh, PA.

The family has chosen a private green cremation.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Transformative Justice

Law Project of Illinois <https://www.tjlp.org/> or SisTers PGH: <https://www.sisterspgh.org/>

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ Hi Ethan, today is 15 months since you left. It's also Mother's Day. I was remembering a time that you and Shay were cooking me breakfast in bed for Mother's Day and you weren't sure if the metal lid on a small red teapot you had got me should be put in the microwave and when I said no, you ran out of the room, I guess to turn off the microwave lol. I felt so loved and so lucky and fortunate and blessed to have such beautiful children, such kind, loving and lovable kids. 💕💔🙏 this picture is one that Jeni sent me. You always loved cats and they loved you. 🐱🐱🖤



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**Sue Balcer** - May 10 at 04:24 PM



Hi Ethan, the photo is one that Jeni sent me of you and your cat. You always loved cats and they loved you. 🐱💕 Today is 15 months since you left. I miss you more than ever. It's also Mother's Day. You were always so thoughtful and kind. I love you, Mom 💔🌻

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**Sue Balcer** - May 10 at 04:27 PM



“ I've set up a memorial fund in Ethan's name for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. Too many lives are being lost to suicide and we need to help educate, remove stigma, and reach out to those in need. 🙏💔  
<https://supporting.afsp.org/campaign/Ethan-Balcer-Silvers-Memorial-Fund>

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**Sue Balcer** - May 01 at 10:35 PM



“ Hi Ethan, I love seeing the photos of you posted here. you are so loved and your smile shines so brightly. I miss you so much, mom.

Sue Balcer - April 29 at 11:17 AM



“ I just found out today and I'm honestly still trying to wrap my head around it. Ethan and I dated in 2019, and he left such a mark on my life. I keep thinking about his style, his humor, our long conversations, and how completely and unapologetically himself he always was. He was brilliant and unique in a way that you don't come across often. He cared deeply about the progressive movement and truly believed in making the world better. He didn't just talk about it, it was part of who he was.

*These photos capture the Ethan I remember. Bright, expressive, thoughtful, and completely original. Someone who saw the world a little differently and made the people around him think differently too.*

*I'm really grateful our paths crossed.*



Jeni Cohen - April 13 at 09:42 PM

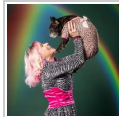


“ Hi Ethan, tomorrow is 14 months since you left this earth. I'm thinking about you every day and hoping you are at peace and smiling. I'm in a new grief support group. This one's a recovery group and it's supposed to help moms who have lost children to suicide live their lives with less pain. I'm not able to live in this world as I did before we lost you. But I'm trying to maintain. I just want to see you again. I love you, mom.



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**Sue Balcer** - April 09 at 11:37 PM



Hi Sue, I hope it's okay that I'm commenting here. My name is Jeni. Ethan and I dated for much of 2019, and I only just learned today about his passing. I'm so deeply sorry for your loss.

Even though our time together was years ago, I have so many vivid memories of his creativity, his style, and the conversations we shared. He brought something really special into the world, and I feel lucky to have known him.

I can't imagine the depth of what you've been through, but I wanted you to know that he is remembered fondly and that he made a lasting impression on people, including me. Sending you love and thinking of your family.

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**Jeni Cohen** - April 13 at 06:52 PM



Hi Jeni, I'm just now seeing your comments and I am so glad you are here. My heart is broken. I can see how happy Ethan was with you. Can you please contact me? My email is [sue@justyourtype.biz](mailto:sue@justyourtype.biz) thank you

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**Sue Balcer** - April 23 at 01:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sue Balcer - March 20 at 12:35 PM



“ Hi Ethan. Although you died on February 10 last year, today marks one year since I found out. Your sister knew, did not tell me, and you were cremated before I had any idea that you were gone. 365 days ago my world changed and any light left in me was extinguished. I love you and I miss you so much. I feel your presence, your energy, and your spirit. The day you were born, July 9, 1988 was the first day of my life that I knew what love, unconditional love really was. From that day forward I wanted only to care for you and help you grow into the beautiful young man you became. We shared so many laughs where both of us could barely catch our breath and I miss those times as well as when we would go bike riding every Sunday and then afterwards stop in front of the school after we picked up a popsicle and just sit and chat. As your mom I'm grateful for the years that I had with you, I don't know if you had any idea how much of a place you filled in my heart. I hope and I pray that you are at peace and smiling brightly. Until I see you again, love, mom.

Sue Balcer - March 20 at 12:34 PM



“ I still miss you.

Nina Lu - March 15 at 05:21 AM



“ Ethan, today is one year since you ended your life. I think about you every day. My heart is so broken. I constantly pray and hope that you are in your happy place.

*I have pictures of you in so many places and am reminded of just how loving and lovable and talented and incredibly funny you were. It was such an honor to have you in my life.*

*The grief I feel is overwhelming and I'm doing my best to get through each day.*

*I wish you would have reached out to me and let me know how you were feeling, I would have done anything, anything to give you hope and feel loved and know how important you are to so many people.*

*As in the song, Vincent, “this world was never meant for one as beautiful as you.”*

*I love you so much, Mom*

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**Sue Balcer** - February 10 at 10:55 AM



“ Ethan, it's Christmas Eve. You and Shay loved Christmas so much, and I loved how we all decorated the tree on Christmas Eve and baked cookies and made a gingerbread house. I miss you so much. I love you. It hurts endlessly to think how much pain you may have been in.

*I would have done anything to help you, anything.*

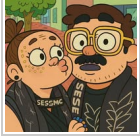
*It's been 316 days since you took your life and so much of me died with you. No day is easier than the one before.*

*I love you, mom*



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**Sue Balcer** - December 24, 2025 at 08:10 PM



“ I'll never not love you.



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**Christian Harper** - November 27, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ hi Ethan, this week at my suicide grief support group. It was my turn to tell the story of the person that I lost to suicide. I put together a little slideshow movie to help show your story. I still can't believe you're gone. 💔 <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4zazr7dx98j2ngflea6t4/Ethan-Elliott-Balcer-Silvers.mov?rlkey=t4bscd1g1i4nv15pu5521ime4&st=cex8vs8p&dl=0>

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**Sue Balcer** - September 27, 2025 at 05:09 PM



“ Hi Ethan, thinking of you strongly tonight. Looking through photos and videos and remembering so many smiles and laughs. Your sweet smile always warmed my heart. I love and miss you, Mom



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**Sue Balcer** - September 18, 2025 at 08:05 PM



“ hi Ethan, today I got a tattoo to memorize you. It's a ditto the Pokémon. We used to play Pokémon at the league every week and the one time when we played off against each other you used a ditto card against me and you won the whole tournament. You were so clever. I always told you and your sister to be true to yourself and be whatever you wanna be and love yourself. I love you so much and I miss you, Mom



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**Sue Balcer** - August 15, 2025 at 04:30 PM



*memorialize not memorize\**

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**Sue Balcer** - August 15, 2025 at 04:31 PM

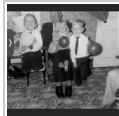


“ Hi Ethan, I made your favorite chocolate chip pancakes for your birthday to celebrate your life. I love you, Mom



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**Sue Balcer** - July 09, 2025 at 09:12 PM



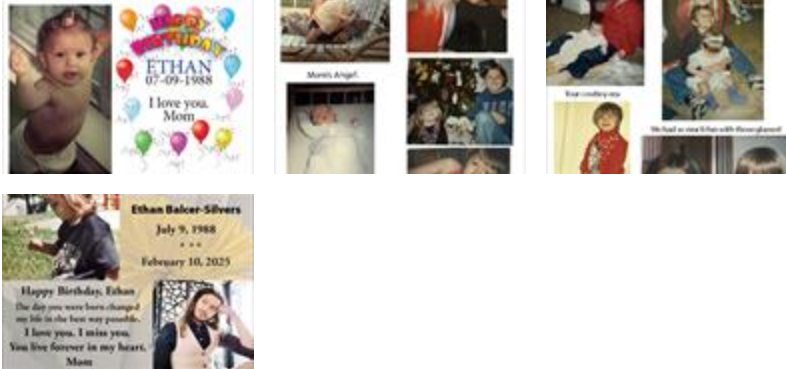
*Hi Ethan, I made your favorite chocolate chip pancakes, to celebrate your life. I love you, Mom*

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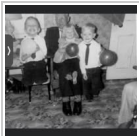
**Sue Balcer** - July 09, 2025 at 09:14 PM



“ *Ethan, today is your day of birth. Such a joyful day. You have such a kind soul. I love you so much, Mom*



Sue Balcer - July 09, 2025 at 12:11 PM



“ *Ethan, my beautiful, beautiful son I am lost without you on this planet. I'm still in disbelief that you are gone and I can't stop crying. I would have done anything to help you feel better. You brought so much joy into my life and I am lost knowing you took your own. I'm so sorry, I love you so much. Mom*

Sue Balcer - May 30, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ *Ethan had a mind as sharp as their wardrobe, always polished, prepared, and profoundly insightful. Beyond their academic excellence, they were a kind soul and a beacon of encouragement to so many of us. Rest in peace, friend.*

Sierra Dunaway - May 23, 2025 at 05:31 PM



“ *Ethan and I were business school classmates. With embarrassing chagrin, I only learned about his passing after stumbling across this months later. He was brilliant and charismatic. During some periods of difficulty that I experienced, he supported me with his intellect and encouragement. I feel sad over his belated departure...*

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**Eugene Chu** - May 23, 2025 at 05:04 PM



“ *Nina L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ethan Silvers.*

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**Nina L.** - April 02, 2025 at 12:58 AM



“ *Kind, down-to-earth, funny, and caring!*

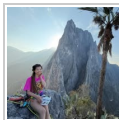


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**Nina Lu** - April 01, 2025 at 03:15 PM



*such a sweet photo, thank you for posting.*

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**Sue Balcer** - April 01, 2025 at 09:36 PM



*You're very welcome! I will post more as I find them in my phone! I wanted to showcase his fun-loving, silly side since so many people already know of his professional accomplishments!*

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**Nina Lu** - April 02, 2025 at 12:55 AM



*I would love to see more photos, thank you so much. Ethan was such a beautiful and wise soul.*

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**Sue Balcer** - April 09, 2025 at 01:38 PM



“ *The world has faced a deep loss: a gentle soul.*

*Ethan was one of the kindest people I'd ever met, readily providing mentorship, guidance, and care towards myself and others. He was always the first one to volunteer to host, even for friends that he'd barely met. A home chef, his well-decorated home was reflective of how he thrived both indoors and out-and-about.*

*From dancing fearlessly at EDM concerts, performing gloving light shows, to being his stylish self, he had a charisma unmatched by anyone else in the room. He owned whatever space he walked into. A deep, hearty laugh was accompanied by endless, poetic wit in conversations.*

*And yet, despite his accomplishments, he was so real and down-to-earth, hanging out with us regular folk, never looking down on anyone, and instead, fearlessly fought voraciously for the common good. He had a deep sense of appreciation for everything in his life.*

*He was one of the smartest, most ambitious, beautiful, and thoughtful people to ever exist: the world is undoubtedly worse off without him, and his presence will forever be missed in a profound, unfilled way.*

*I'd never felt love or warmth from someone the way I'd felt it from him. I wish I could've returned the favor and can only hope that I was a positive impact in some way at the end. I wish I could've helped, but I had no idea how.*

*He loved deeply, and we loved him back: all of us, me included. I hope he knew this, but either way, my wish is that he is in a happier place, no longer bound by the petty constraints of this Earth.*

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**Nina Lu** - April 01, 2025 at 02:54 PM

KM

“ Unusually for a management consultancy firm, when consultant Ethan realized that I, a member of the support staff team, was a cat-lover they shared with me the work they'd had done to their place to keep their cat happy and entertained. It was obvious to me that Ethan was a genuine animal-lover who adored and respected their cat. I'm shocked and sorry to hear the sad news of Ethan. More than ever, Planet Earth needs Ethans. RIP Ethan. Kerry M

Kerry MacKenzie - March 21, 2025 at 10:49 AM

SB

“ March 20,2025. I just found out today. Ethan brought untethered joy and love not only into my life but to this planet. I wanted them to know, feel and believe that and I can only hope they did. Ethan's spirit and heart knew no limits, their smile showed me a sense of beauty and goodness I deeply cherished. Not a single day has gone by that Ethan has not been a part of me and while I am devastated by loss of life on this earth I honor the path they chose and long for the spirit to be free and at peace. We will meet again, Ethan and I will not fail you again.



sue balcer - March 20, 2025 at 06:36 PM

AG

“ *Adrien le Gouvello purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ethan Silvers.*

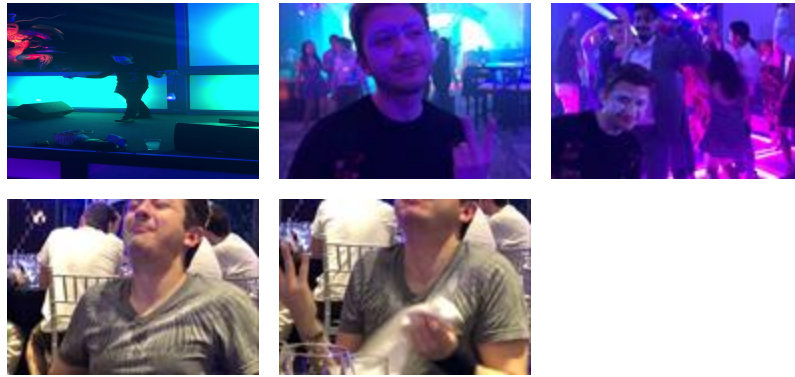


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**Adrien le Gouvello** - March 18, 2025 at 04:03 PM

SL

“ *8 files added to the album T*



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**silvana lischner** - March 18, 2025 at 03:29 PM

SL

*The many faces of Ethan, all in one day....Playa del Carmen - Nov 2018*

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**silvana lischner** - March 18, 2025 at 03:31 PM

SS

*Thanks for sharing these! Really sweet*

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**Subasri Srikanth** - March 20, 2025 at 06:46 AM

SL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**silvana lischner** - March 18, 2025 at 03:22 PM

AG

“ I find myself at a loss for words to express how I feel right now.

*Ethan and I worked closely together during my time at Kearney. After I left the firm, they helped me navigate my next chapter, something I will always be deeply grateful for. We stayed in touch, bonding over video games, Burning Man, politics, and a mix of lively and thought-provoking conversations.*

*When they found themselves at a similar crossroads, I wanted nothing more than to return the favor - to support them in exploring new opportunities, just as they had done for me.*

*I will always remember Ethan's infectious smile and the passion they poured into everything they did. They lived with intensity, wearing their emotions openly and standing firmly for what they believed was right. They fought against injustice, protected those who needed it, and worked tirelessly to make the world - and our previous company - a better, more inclusive place. They championed DEI efforts not as a checkbox, but as a mission, making a lasting impact on the lives of many.*

*I will miss you, Ethan. I hope you've found your happy place.*

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**Adrien le Gouvello** - March 18, 2025 at 02:41 PM