

# The Gilbert Yellow Jacket

Volume 10, Issue 2; Winter

A publication of the  
Alumni Relations Office  
of The Gilbert School



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT  
**GILBERT**  
& ALUMNI RELATIONS

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Ellen Geraghty '98 enjoyed a light moment with her former basketball coach and Gilbert Social Studies teacher Gerald Hicks during Homecoming festivities in October.

## Alumni Descend on Winsted for Homecoming

Hundreds of alumni/ae and friends of the school made their way back to Gilbert's hilltop campus for the weekend of Oct. 4 to reconnect, share memories and honor fellow graduates with awards for their distinguished careers and contributions to society.

Members of the Alumni Band returned on Friday, Oct. 3, to rehearse for a stirring performance the following day. At one point during the welcome program on Saturday morning in the auditorium, the Alumni Band yielded to the Gilbert School Marching Band, which ringed the auditorium and gave everyone a taste of the music program at Gilbert today.

Five graduates were honored with what has become a Gilbert tradition — the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Charles F. Gabelmann '46, Jason T. Boutin '95, Dr. Edward J. Marolda '63, Dr. Norman E. Smith Jr. '53 and Ellen Geraghty '98 all gave speeches acknowledging the accolades of Gilbert officials past and present who lauded them for their work since leaving the school.

Gabelmann, a longtime Gilbert custodian who attended the school when it was located on the current campus of Northwestern Connecticut Community College, choked with emotion when given the Gilbert Heritage Award for his distinguished contributions to the history of the school (for a complete list of the Distinguished Alumni awards, turn to page 2).

After the Alumni Band performance and the awards, welcome program adjourned to the cafeteria for a light lunch and conversations that brought back memories of what a special place Gilbert holds in the hearts and minds of its thousands of living graduates.

After the lunch, all eyes turned to the varsity football team, which played against Tolland High School on Van Why Memorial Field. Alas, the Yellow Jackets were felled by a considerable margin, but the loss failed to dampen the spirits of those hearty alumni/ae fans who turned out.

**For more Homecoming photos and information, see pages 2-3.**



**Kim Powell '77: A life in community service and photography — page 9.**



**Rick Hall '75 hits the road for Ovation Guitars — page 10.**

## Awards Bestowed On Five Distinguished Gilbert Alums

The awarding of The Gilbert School Distinguished Alumni Awards has become an annual ritual at homecoming. These awards honor and recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Gilbert alumni consistent with the standards of excellence for which the School is known. Nominations for the 2009 awards are now being accepted—see pages 12 and 13 for a form and guidelines.



Jason T. Boutin '95



Gilbert Trust President Tom Botticelli, Ellen Geraghty '98 and Coach Gerry Hicks.



Dr. Edward J. Marolda '63



Dr. Norman E. Smith Jr. '53 with emeritus Trustee JoAnn Briggs and Cindy Gould, director of development.



Charlie Gabelmann '46 and Tom Botticelli.



Members of the Gilbert community honored outgoing alumni director Cindy Gould for her eight years of service.

The Gilbert School  
2008 Recipients of

### *The Distinguished Alumni Awards*

The Gilbert Heritage Award  
Charles F. Gabelmann, Jr. '46

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Jason T. Boutin '95

Distinguished Professional  
Achievement Award

Edward J. Marolda '63

The W.L. Gilbert Award for  
Outstanding Community Service

Norman E. Smith, Jr. '53

Outstanding Athlete Award

Ellen Geraghty

# H Photo Gallery

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Alumni Band members Suzanne Taylor Reynaud '80, Tracey LaForge Gangi '84 and Johanna B. Briggs '78.



Anna O'Brien Harding '28 and Dorothy Robbins '54



Ed '42 and Helen Dombrowski



The Gilbert School Alumni Band kept everyone entertained.



Charlie Gabelmann '46 and Associate Principal Joe Dombrowski '75



Memorabilia and mementos in the library.



## Happening On Campus ...

### Classics Teacher Higgins Gives Talk In Philly

Mr. John Higgins, Latin and Greek teacher at The Gilbert School in Winsted, recently presented a talk entitled "Development of Pedagogical Support Materials for Greek Instructors in High Schools" at the annual meeting of the American Philological Association (APA) in Philadelphia on January 11. The presentation was part of a panel on "New Developments in the Pedagogy of Beginning Greek," and was the only paper to address secondary teaching.

The APA, founded in 1869 by "professors, friends, and patrons of linguistic science," is the principal learned society in North America for the study of ancient Greek and Roman languages, literatures, and civilizations. While the majority of its members are university and college Classics teachers, members also include scholars in other disciplines, primary and secondary school teachers, and interested lay people. In addition to supporting research in Latin and Greek, the association fosters programs to provide more support for improved pedagogy at all levels of teaching.

Mr. Higgins has offered Greek to Gilbert students since 2000 and has been active in assisting the growth of Greek programs in several other schools in Connecticut as chair of the Edward Phinney Fellowship committee of the Classical Association of New England.

Mr. Higgins says, "The Greek teacher in the contemporary high school is in need of support. The diversity of new Greek programs in Connecticut schools, as well as in other places, has encouraged a variety of approaches to teaching. Greek has always been seen as an elite subject in high schools,



PHOTO BY DR. G.L. IRBY-MASSIE

Gilbert Classics teacher John Higgins, second from left in back row, recently presented to the American Philological Association at the association's annual meeting in Philadelphia.

but that is not the case any more.

"Now we are seeing non-traditional Greek students: those who come to Greek with no Latin background at all, and especially students with a variety of learning disabilities. We also still get the traditional classical high achievers, but we need help to serve new students in a new way, and so I am trying to put together a teachers' book to do that."



Team Captain Callie White, Phil Davey, Mike LeJeune and Jim Brady (left) traveled to New Haven in October to compete in the 2008 Yale Physics Olympics.

On October 18, 2008, four physics students from Jennine Gorman's class traveled to New Haven's Yale University to compete in the 2008 Yale Physics Olympics.

Captain Callie White, Jim Brady, Phil Davey and Mike LeJeune took part in all day event that highlighted concepts of electromagnetism, oscillatory synchronicity, compression over a height, density of unknown gases and rapid Fermi estimation.

Gilbert's Team, known as the "DeBroglie Team" competed against thirty three schools from four states.

— Jennine Gorman

**Four  
Gilbert  
Students  
Compete  
In Yale  
Physics  
Match**



# Reunion Corner:

## The Class of 1958 Celebrates 50 Years

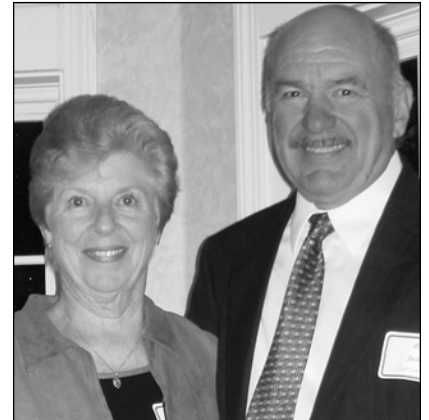
The Class of 1958 came together for the ninth time in 50 years to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion. The reunion took place on Saturday evening, Oct. 25, at the Cornucopia Banqueting Hall in Torrington and was attended by 83 people, of whom 52 were classmates. Classmates came from 13 states to attend our special weekend.

Letters from people unable to attend, were read. Class President Bob "Shine" O'Connor, assisted by Larry Hannafin, conducted a class meeting. Members of the reunion committee were introduced and thanked for their efforts in making the reunion such a success. A treasurer's report was given by Joe Nardi. Recognition was given to the Gilbert School Alumni Office for their help in printing and postage expenses and a reminder was given to classmates to be generous when The Gilbert Trust Corporation had funding appeals.

A donation of \$300 was given by classmate Stacy Hatfield in the name of the class of 1958. The class voted to make an additional donation of \$300 to Gilbert. The opening prayer was said by Class Vice President Christine Madison Melchinger. Names of our 29 deceased classmates were read by Gary Foskett and the passing of classmate Marlene Caton Mansfield on our reunion day was acknowledged with a moment of silence. Class officers were introduced: President Bob O'Connor; Vice President Christine Madison Melchinger; Secretary Joanne Roarke Carew; and Treasurer Sue Manchester Fletcher.

It was the first time in 50 years that all officers were present at a reunion. Class valedictorian Connie Brunelle Cohn and salutatorian Mary Ann Latchet were introduced. After a rainy and windy night, the reunion activities continued the next day with a brunch at the Greenwoods Country Club. Everyone who attended agreed that it was a wonderful ending to a great reunion weekend and promised to meet again in five years.

— Submitted by Lois Kellogg Mangione '58 and Joanne Finn Casey '58



Photos by Jim Hayes, husband of Louise Raabe Hayes '58





## *Gilbert Elves Lend A Helping Hand To Needy Families*



Just before Christmas, the Gilbert Elves, a group of community-minded faculty and staff, banded together to assemble food baskets and other essentials for delivery to families in need.

Dressed in special red and green Gilbert Elves tee-shirts (see photo at left), the elves spread cheer throughout the town. The Student Council also made a generous donation, according to the two Sues (Rouleau and Keane) who organized the philanthropic endeavor.

"In addition to food baskets, we were able to provide funds for two students to purchase clothing AND we still have money left which will be used to purchase food certificates for families as the need arises during the remainder of the school year," said Keane.

Principal Dan Hatch gushed with praise for the diminutive do-gooders: "I am truly blessed working with you. Until last week, I have NEVER been associated with a faculty and staff that displayed an overwhelming spirit, energy and camaraderie for their students and for each other. That sense of togetherness is truly Gilbert and the memories you created will last forever."

### **SUPPORT GILBERT'S STUDENTS AND FACULTY! DON'T FORGET THE 2008-2009 GILBERT ANNUAL FUND!**

Each year donors to the Gilbert School Annual Fund support the school through Enhancement Grants awarded to faculty for innovative programs, facility upgrades and guest speakers. Among the projects your generous gifts supported last year:

- An Apple mobile learning lab for the library media center
- A training mannequin for use in forensics and EMT classes
- A field trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown for the baseball team
- A vibraphone for the school's various music bands
- Additional "Smart Board" technology for enhanced instruction in the classroom

Gifts are now accepted online through our website via [PayPal](#)—use your credit card or your [PayPal](#) account!

If you would prefer to make a credit card contribution by phone, call the Alumni Office at 860-738-9439.

### **Help Us Stay In Touch With You!**

- When you move or change your name, send an email to [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org) or call the Alumni Office at 860-738-9439.
- Periodically update your profile via the *Online Community* link at our website, [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org). Include your email address! You can also use the *Online Community* to post alumni news and email your classmates!
- Check the "Where are you?" list on our website and let us know if you can help with the whereabouts of lost classmates.
- If you notice an obituary or hear of the passing of a classmate, forward the information to the Alumni Office. Include the date of death and the name and date of the newspaper where the obituary appeared, or other source of information. We will not mark an alumnus as deceased without a way to verify the information if needed.



Photo courtesy of Linda Madin.

Judge Everett "Skip" Madin with his wife Linda in the state Capitol in May 2007, the day Skip was sworn in as a judge.

## Judge Everett "Skip" Madin '69: Family Man and Legal Scholar

TORRINGTON — The Hon. Everett "Skip" Madin Jr. '69, who worked his way up from factory floor to the bench of some of the state's most important courts, died Dec. 2, 2008, at his home in Torrington. He was 57.

Skip was a 1969 Gilbert graduate who remained connected with the school long after moving on, most recently when he appeared at Gilbert last May to be the guest speaker at the Connecticut Law Day Assembly, where, according to Principal Dan Hatch, he was exceptionally well received.

Before law school, Skip began his career at Hitchcock Furniture in New Hartford, where he worked his way up from the manufacturing floor to plant manager. When Skip learned the company might change hands, he and a co-worker, both in their late 30s, considered going to law school.

Skip eventually graduated in 1992 from the University of Connecticut Law School's night division (third in a class of 44) and began work as a trial attorney at a Hartford firm. He was appointed a Superior Court judge in March 2007. Most recently, Madin was the presiding judge of the Torrington juvenile court. Madin enjoyed woodworking and fixing things around the house, as well as hiking and the great outdoors.

He will be remembered, in the words of the Connecticut Law Tribune, "as a skilled lawyer and jurist who valued justice as much as God and family." Skip is survived by Linda, his wife of 32 years, along with five children and four granddaughters.

— Terry Cowgill

### IN MEMORIAM

1932

Mary J. Sage Rosansky  
October 2, 2007

1958

Marlene Caton Mansfield

1940

Etta Woodin  
August 20, 2008

October 25, 2008

Donald T. Clark

April 2008

1949

Theodore C. Johnson Jr.  
March 30, 2008

1969

Hon. Everett H. "Skip"  
Madin

1955

Joseph P. Navin  
August 3, 2008

December 2, 2008

1972

Col. Douglas K.

1957

Eloise Feley Ransom  
December 21, 2008

Zimmerman

June 2, 2006

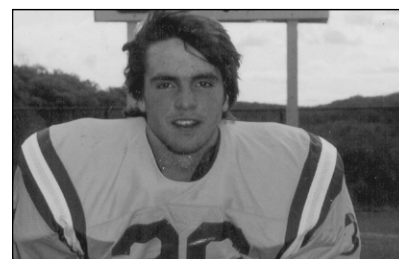
## Class of '84 Honors Ean Clough With Scholarship In His Memory

In advance of its reunion this summer, the class of '84 has established a scholarship in memory of their late classmate Ean Clough.

Several contributions have been received already, including a lead gift from Alyson Gunzinger Calafiore.

Said Calafiore: "We would like to honor and remember our classmate, Ean Clough, with a yearly scholarship in his memory to a Gilbert graduate planning to go on to college. Ean was a loyal friend, dedicated student and outstanding athlete. He was a young man who never judged others and was open to all walks of people. Ean loved The Gilbert School and had a respectful relationship with the many coaches and teachers who mentored and helped him, both academically and athletically. He was popular, gracious and a proud humanitarian."

"We believe that a scholarship in his memory, awarded to a student who exemplifies these fine traits, would be a



wonderful and long-lasting tribute to our friend.

"The Ean Clough Memorial Scholarship would be first awarded next spring in honor of the 25th Reunion of the Class of 1984. Funds will be collected for that award until March 1st and the recipient will be recognized at the annual W.L. Gilbert Trust Scholarship Awards event held in May. It is our intention to ask for the support of our classmates on a yearly basis in order to provide this scholarship each May."

The class will hold its reunion on July 18, 2009 in Winsted. Check the school website for more details soon.

Update your profile at

[www.gilbertschool.org/alumni](http://www.gilbertschool.org/alumni)

New Users: Your ID number (needed for initial registration) is above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter.



# Reunion Photo Gallery:

## The Class of 1998: It's Been 10 Years

The Class of '98 celebrated 10 years of life after Gilbert on Nov. 28 at The Elks Lodge in Torrington.

About half the class turned out. And judging from the photos, we'd say it was a pretty happy crowd.

"We got positive feedback from everyone who went," said Amy Linkovich '98 (pictured at right), who organized the event. "The venue was great and the price was reasonable."

The class also made a generous \$250 gift to the Alice V. Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We hear plans are already underway for the 15th!





## Kim Powell '77: Equilibrium and The Good Life in Paris



**Kim Powell**

Kim Powell '77 has struck a balance in her life that would be the envy of most people. She satisfies her creative and professional urges through photography -- phenomenal photography, in fact. And she gives back to her community through volunteer service. Indeed, not yet 50 years old, Kim has amassed a community service resume that would make an octogenarian blush.

Since 1989 Powell has lived in Paris, the international art mecca, with her French husband. She was an active photographer while at Gilbert, but was also involved in just about everything she could find time for: cheerleading, the Student Council, the Latin Club. Her favorite subject was chemistry and she loved the sciences in general. One of her favorite teachers, Craig Schroeder, remains at Gilbert and now chairs the science department.

"I was very active," Kim recalled not long after she stopped by Gilbert last fall during one of her frequent return visits to her hometown. "I really liked the school." In fact, some of Kim's

fellow students, including Associate Principal Joe Dombrowski '75, now work at the school.

Kim is an accomplished photographer who studied at the Parsons School of Design, the International School of Photography in New York and at Speos, a prestigious photographic institute in Paris. Her work has been exhibited at UNESCO, the Logis Royal and Paris Photographique. Last year was an especially active one: Kim was featured in *Beyond Borders*, a book about extraordinary American women who are living abroad and involved in community service.

From October to January Kim's work was exhibited at the Mona Bismarck Foundation gallery in Paris. The foundation also published a collection of Kim's works, *Serendipity*, a copy of which Kim dropped off at Gilbert when she visited last fall. *Serendipity*, which Kim donated to the school's library media center, chronicles her 2007 visit to Sri Lanka. It's full of stunning photos of faces and images that permeate a country torn by civil war and the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake that spawned a devastating tsunami that killed at least 3,000 people in that nation.

"Photography has always been a part of my life," Kim said. "It was something I could share with my family. Over time, it became a job."

Kim met her husband, then at student at the University of Hartford, in the early 1980s and followed him to Paris a few years later. The couple has a daughter, Ava Joulin, who is a junior at Gilbert.

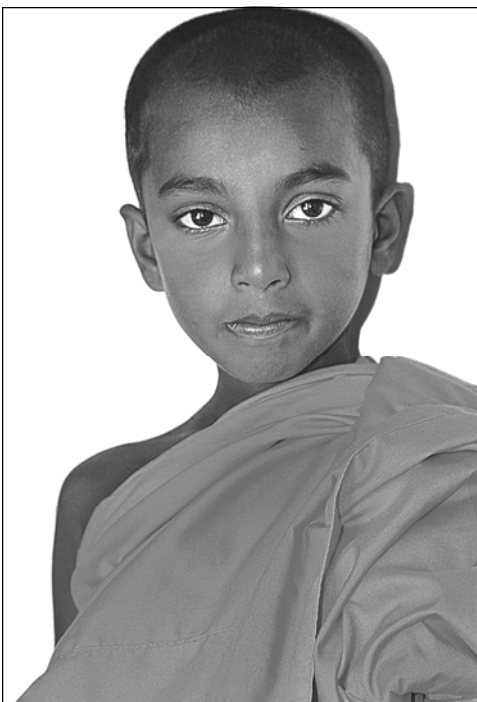
Not enrolling Ava in a French secondary school was a difficult decision for the family to make. Kim said French schools typically have a 10-hour school day and offer no sports. They considered a number of boarding schools, but then it dawned on them that letting Ava attend Gilbert while staying with her grandmother in Winsted was an almost perfect option.

"I knew she would be happy at Gilbert," Kim said of Ava. "It was perfect for her."

When not working on her photography or visiting Winsted, Kim

stays busy with a variety of volunteer endeavors, including: the Sisters Association (an organization of African American women in France); WICE (a non-profit association providing cultural and educational programs and services for the international community in Paris); USA Girl Scouts Overseas; the Association of American Residents Overseas; the Association of American Wives of Europeans; the American Action Committee in Paris; and the American Cathedral in Paris.

Kim was a Girl Scout from the ages of 5 to 17, an association that nurtured her service to others. During her years at Gilbert, Kim was also



**Novice monk at Kotdoowa Temple, Sri Lanka**

involved in numerous extracurricular activities and projects for the benefit of the community.

"I was born into a family of ministers, so community service and giving back to those less fortunate is in my blood," Kim said. "My experience in Winsted has stayed with me."

— Terry Cowgill



**Kosgoda turtle hatchery, Sri Lanka**



**Lotus Flower**

## Rick Hall '75: Working (and playing) as the 'Guitar Man'



Rick Hall '75 (center) with Kara Sundlun and Scot Haney in a guest appearance in October on WFSB's Better Connecticut.

It has been said before that in searching for a career the best thing you can do is "find out what you like doing best and and get someone to pay you for doing it." If that simple maxim is indeed a recipe for fulfillment, then the story of Rick Hall '75 is a guide to success on many levels.

A lifelong musician and performer, the Winsted native works as a product manager for Kaman Music in Bloomfield, parent company of the world-famous Ovation guitar line. The job allows Rick to make a good living, keep his feet firmly planted in the music world, meet many famous people in the business and travel the world extolling the virtues of his favorite instrument.

"I'm happy to be around guitars all day," Rick said in a recent interview. "It's better than being in a place that makes waffle irons."

Rick is quick to credit Gilbert with nurturing his interest in music. When not tending to their extra-curricular endeavors, band director Ed Keeley and chorus director Will Minton taught a variety of stimulating academic courses, including music appreciation and music structure.

"We actually had to write pieces," Rick recalled. "They taught us how to structure songs for different instruments. Then the band members played your pieces. Those [teachers] were instrumental."

Since in tight budgetary times -- such as those of the 1970s -- music programs "can get squeezed," Rick says he is grateful that the integrity of Gilbert's music program was never compromised and that the school continues "to foster creativity in the kids." While at Gilbert, Rick did not participate in the marching or jazz bands, but played in garage-style bands outside of school, eventually landing gigs with his friends at school and at YMCA dances.

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### **'I'm happy to be around guitars all day.'**

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"I was always 'the band guy'," Rick chuckled. "I got my first guitar at seven years old. By the time I got to junior high I had six or seven years under my belt."

After graduating from Gilbert in June of 1975, Rick knew he wanted to be involved with music but wasn't quite sure how. He considered going to Boston's Berklee College of Music, a highly respected jazz-oriented school.

"I wanted to be a musician and go to school for it, but what was I going to do afterwards? Teach?" he asked rhetorically.

Rick attended Northwestern Connecticut Community College but did not graduate. He

remained active in music and worked odd jobs for a couple of years before landing a job at Ovation's manufacturing facility in New Hartford. He started off building guitars on an assembly line, moved on to quality control and engineering and eventually became plant manager. Since 1997, Rick has been product manager. In that capacity, he's responsible for each product line and works closely with the company's factories in Asia and its distributorships in Europe. The job requires him to travel often.

"I get pulled in a lot of different directions," Rick said.

The frequent jet-setting has brought Rick into contact with some of his musical idols, including the legendary guitarist Carlos Santana. Also crossing Rick's path have been Billy Joel, Elton John and Glen Campbell.

"I've gotten to meet just about all my heroes," Rick added. "It's a side of the business that's fun."

Lately, Rick has been in the limelight himself, making media appearances to promote one of Ovation's newest and most innovative products, the iDea. It's an acoustic/electric guitar with a built-in MP3 recorder. Often when composers think of a nifty tune, they forget it by the time they're able to write it down or record it. The device can also play back audio, give lessons and play jam tracks. It went on sale Nov. 1 for \$599. No one had patented the concept before Ovation did, prompting Rick to proclaim, "It's so simple really. It's a cool and interesting piece with mass appeal."

In October, Rick appeared on Better Connecticut, a news and talk show hosted by Scot Haney and Kara Sundlun and seen on WFSB (channel 3). He took questions from the hosts and played a sample tune. The video clip of Rick's appearance can be viewed on the Web at <http://www.wfsb.com/video/17672003/index.html>.

Rick's time at Gilbert was not only formative but also something of a family affair. His mother Janet, who works in the school's business office, became a Gilbert employee as Rick started his senior year. He and his wife Danise have three musically inclined children, one of whom is a Gilbert graduate, one a current Gilbert student and another who will attend the school in a few years.

Before our interview concluded, Rick paused to consider his life: "I'm blessed in a lot of ways. There is something about music and creativity." But all is not globetrotting and glory.

"Tonight I've got to work on a spreadsheet."

—Terry Cowgill



# Class Notes

**1928**

**William Everts Flint's** daughter, Jean Cotten, writes: "William Everts Flint turned 100 on Nov. 13, 2008. Bill is healthy for a 100 year-old man. He lives alone and prepares breakfast and lunch by himself. He eats his dinner with his daughter and her husband. He still has all of his mental faculties. He often beats his daughter in cribbage and rummy cube. He listens to books on CD and reads a big-print novel a week." A birthday celebration was held Nov. 15 at the the Masonic Lodge in Corpus Christi, Texas, where Bill lives at 8206 Seashore Drive.

**1932**

**Florence Vining Thomen** of East Canaan recently dropped us a line: "I am a "young-at-heart" 95 years of age, in good health. full of life and joy and a zest for living. Hope to live, in good health, to the ripe old age of 120, at least!"

**1936**

**Frances Weigold Green** writes: "Turned 90 in August and made a big decision to move closer to my family in Colorado. I sold my house in Crossville, Tenn., packed in one month and moved in September. My new address is 70 21st Avenue, Apt. 208, Longmont, CO 80501."

**1943**

Gen. **George Mitchell** dropped us a note a very comprehensive note: "At age 84, I recently formed the Fabulous Harlem Superstars Comedy Basketball Team. The Superstars expect to play 150-160 games in the Northeast, plus overseas." Mitchell, a World War II and Korean War veteran, retired as a public school guidance counselor in 1990 and from the military reserves in 1984 with 41 years of combined active and reserve service. Mitchell dropped out of Gilbert in 1944 at the end of his sophomore year to go to work and later joined the Army. Gen. Mitchell finally graduated from Manchester High School in 1947 and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in 1954, a master's degree from Springfield College in 1959 and a sixth-year certificate from the University of Hartford in 1961. He was inducted into the East Hartford Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 and the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. For the past 10 years, Gen. Mitchell has spent half the year in Cape Cod and the other half in Naples, Fla.

**1953**

**Mary Vernali Bradley** and her husband Roger E. Bradley recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception for family and friends given by their sons, James "Jay" and Keith F. Bradley, at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury. Mary and Robert are retired and living in Valatie, N.Y. Their son, Jay, teaches music in the Webutuck Central School District in Dutchess County, N.Y. Keith is an air traffic controller assigned to the Southwest Center in Houston, Tex.

**1971**

The Board of Directors of the Westie Club of the South, Inc., recently appointed **Cynthia Moore Levine** as Co-Chair of the Atlanta Westie Rescue Committee (AWRC). Cynthia and her husband, Dan, have been active for several years in the rescue of abused and neglected West Highland White Terriers in the greater Atlanta area. Her main focus is coordinating the network of transportation and foster care volunteers for AWRC. Cynthia and Dan live in Mansfield, Georgia, with their four

westies: Angus, Conor and Murphy (both adopted), and Duffy (fostering), and Sadie (a rescued mixed breed). And, yes, it does get loud sometimes!

**1975**

**Diane Sullivan** wrote recently from her home in Hope Valley, R.I.: "I'm getting married on May 24, 2009, to a man I truly love and cherish. I have three adult children and four grandsons. I am very happy."

**1979**

**John Smyth** writes: "I am currently living in San Donato Milanese (Milan), Italy and still working for Halliburton (my previous company Landmark was bought by Halliburton in 1996). I am here with my wife of 5 years, Amanda, and our 2 year old daughter Nicole (see enclosed photo – I'm getting pretty fat)."



**John Smyth '79 in a recent photo with his wife Amanda and two-year-old daughter Nicole in Milan, Italy.**

**Class notes continue on page 15.**

*Concerning Items in Alumni News...* Items included in the *Alumni News* section of the *Yellow Jacket* are submitted directly to us by alumni or are gathered from public sources such as local newspapers. The purpose of *Alumni News* is to pass on good wishes, thoughts and news of your classmates and to recognize accomplishments. If you prefer that we do not include you by name in future issues, please notify the Office of Development & Alumni Relations in writing.

# 2009 Nomination Form



Please select one award category:

- The Gilbert Heritage Award
- Young Alumni Achievement Award
- Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
- The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service
- Outstanding Athlete Award

Name of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Current profession/job title  
or volunteer affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination proposed by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

It is required that you include a brief summary of the candidate's qualifications to support each nomination. You may use the space below or attach a separate sheet(s) to this form.

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The 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during  
Alumni Homecoming Weekend in October.

Please send this form, along with any supporting materials, by June 1<sup>st</sup> to:

The Gilbert School  
Office of Development and Alumni Relations  
200 Williams Avenue  
Winsted, CT 06098

Additional nomination forms are available to download from our website at [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org)

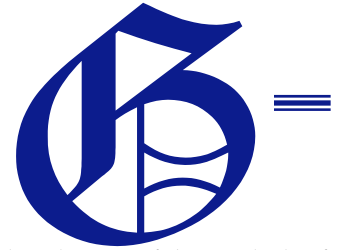


# THE GILBERT SCHOOL

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## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS



The Gilbert School Distinguished Alumni Awards are given in recognition of demonstrated commitment to and application of the standards of excellence for which The Gilbert School is known. Through meritorious service, noteworthy civic and philanthropic endeavors and/or exceptional personal or professional achievement, these individuals have brought distinction to themselves, their colleagues, their communities—and thereby to The Gilbert School. We encourage the nomination of individuals who exemplify and embrace such excellence, reflecting the proud legacy and tradition of their alma mater. Based on that legacy and tradition, we are honored to recognize individuals in the following five categories:

- **The Gilbert Heritage Award**

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who, through significant personal or professional contributions or accomplishments during his/her lifetime, has distinguished him/herself within the history of the school, bringing honor and pride to all alumni and representing the traditions and the heritage of The Gilbert School. The Gilbert Heritage Award may be given posthumously.

- **Young Alumni Achievement Award**

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who graduated from Gilbert within the past twenty years. The recipient will have achieved outstanding personal or professional success in the community, in business or in entrepreneurship. Through such accomplishments, he or she serves as a role model for younger individuals.

- **Distinguished Professional Achievement Award**

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her professional life. The recipient will have brought distinction to themselves and The Gilbert School through their participation, commitment and leadership in their chosen profession. The length and quality of career accomplishments, a commitment to professional excellence and respect among professional colleagues is noteworthy.

- **The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service**

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School or to a member of our greater society (not limited to alumni nor to the Winsted area). The recipient will have displayed exceptional service to the betterment of life within their own community or to humanity in general. This award is in honor of the significant humanitarian and philanthropic contributions made by William L. Gilbert, founder of The Gilbert School.

- **Outstanding Athlete Award**

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who, through participation on a competitive sports team while a student at Gilbert, exhibited outstanding character, sportsmanship and his or her own “personal best” skill level while contributing to the overall achievements of the team. The recipient’s positive attitude and team approach was evident and respected not only within the competition venue but also in the classroom and greater community. The recipient must be an alumnus of a class that graduated at least ten years prior to the year of the award.

The completed nomination form, along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations no later than June 1, 2009. In order to be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a graduate or former student of The Gilbert School unless otherwise stated in the description of the award. Current members of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are not eligible while in service to these boards.

The Gilbert School Alumni Advisory Council, representing all alumni of The Gilbert School, will review the nominations and present their recommendations to the Executive Committee of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation for final confirmation. The Alumni Advisory Council reserves the right to include for consideration an ongoing list of potential nominees provided by The Gilbert School Alumni Office. Nominations will be accepted from alumni and friends of The Gilbert School at large.



## Young Alumni Share Advice (and a few laughs) About Life After Gilbert School

About 30 alumni turned out on Nov. 26 for the annual Young Alumni Career Day.

Organized by the Guidance and Alumni offices, it was an opportunity for Gilbert grads to field questions from current seniors about college, joining the workforce or the military and beyond.

The event was a resounding success and plans are already underway for next year.



## 16 Return For Alumni Volleyball Contest

More than a dozen alumni returned to campus the day before Thanksgiving to play in the annual alumni volleyball game.

"It's a pick-up game to allow the women to reconnect with one another," said Gilbert faculty member and Gilbert grad Cynthia Fixer, who helped organize the Nov. 26 event.

Classes represented ranged from Fixer '78 to Brittany Parks and Emily Vincent '08.

Participants in the annual alumni volleyball game Nov. 26 include, back row from left, Anna Hilbrecht '99, Allison Gunzinger Calafiore '84, Darlene Williams '87, Jen Clauss '89, Carol Daukas Mierzwa '88, Lindsey Skaret Dalene '00, Rachel Skaret '09, Monique Parks Abreu '98, Cindy Fixer '78. Front row: Stephanie Jones '07, Emily Vincent '08, Brittany Parks '08, Allison Jones '04 and Sue Holcombe '87.



## ... Class Notes, cont. from page 11

### 1986

Look for **Charlotte Thurlough Madia** next time you visit The Gilbert School. Charlotte is now working in the school office as attendance secretary. Charlotte lives in Torrington with her husband Victor and two daughters, Emily-Catherine and Kendra.

### 1989

**Marlena (Centrella) Pellon** writes: "After many years of working in the realm of quality assurance in the manufacturing and financial industries throughout Connecticut, my family decided to venture further north to Vermont, where there is a bit more snow and a lot more skiing. I work in the education department at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, and my husband is a program engineer for NSK. We have two children: Matthew, age 10, who quickly joined the Catamount Wrestling Club (former Canton Youth Wrestler under Tom Getler), where he quickly proved himself and won the state championship in Vergennes in April 2008. Scott Legacy, MAUHS wrestling coach of the year and U.S. record holder for the most state champions by a high school wrestling team, has his eyes on him already. Matthew also found a new spring sport to love called Lacrosse, a very interesting and highly active sport. Our daughter Antonia, age 5, just started kindergarten and has a current passion for swimming as well as a love for books. She is currently trying out various sports and hasn't quite found her niche. I look forward to my 20th class reunion."

### 1995

**Jason Boutin** has accepted a position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Mass., as a treasury analyst/officer starting in December 2008. Jason stills live in Quincy, Mass. and was this year's Distinguished Young Alumni Award recipient at Gilbert's

homecoming last fall.

### 1999

**Michele Boutin** was married to Ashley Cousins on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008, at St. Joseph's Church in Winsted. Michele is a graduate of Fairfield University with a dual B.S. degree in both finance and economics. She is currently employed by UBS Investment Bank as an associate director in their leveraged capital markets desk, based in Stamford, Conn. Michele and Ashley live in Stamford.

**Leif W. Kittelsen** recently updated us on his activities since leaving Gilbert: "I went to college at Western Connecticut State University until 2001. I did not graduate. I worked multiple jobs until 2006 when I left for basic training for the Air Force. I wasn't going anywhere fast and needed a life change. I'm proud as can be for my country and am willing to fight for it. I have been stationed in Japan and now am stationed in the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I am trying to finish my schooling."

### 2002

**Sarah LaRosa** recently completed two years in the Kingdom of Tonga as a Peace Corps volunteer.

### 2007

Congratulations to **Brittany Smyth** for being the second Gilbert School graduate to earn honors in this fall's sports program at Mitchell College in New London. Brittany led her Mitchell cross country team to a ninth-place finish in the NECC Championship meet in Boston, putting her on the league's all-conference first team.

## YOUNG ALUMNS TAKE SURVEY

The Guidance Office is asking alumni from the classes of 2003-07 to take a quick survey on your experiences before and after Gilbert.

Your cooperation in completing the survey will help us plan for the future of counseling and guidance services at the school.

To access the survey, click on the alumni link on the home page or go to <http://www.gilbertschool.org/page.cfm?p=617>. The password is *survey*.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for 'The Gilbert School Alumni'. The page includes a cover photo, a description of the group's mission, contact information for Rob Dimartino, and a list of members. The group is described as an academic organization for Gilbert School alumni.

Strengthen your relationship to your alma mater by joining the Gilbert alumni community on the social networking site Facebook

## Gilbert Alumni Group Started On

ARE YOU A FAN OF BOTH FACEBOOK AND THE GILBERT SCHOOL? NOW YOU CAN HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.

TERRY COWGILL, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS, AND ROB DIMARTINO '90, HAVE STARTED A PAGE ON THE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE CALLED "THE GILBERT SCHOOL ALUMNI."

YOU CAN POST UPDATES ON YOURSELF AND CHECK TO LEARN INFORMATION ABOUT CLASSMATES OR UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS AND NEWS..

IF YOU'RE ALREADY A MEMBER OF FACEBOOK, YOU CAN LOG IN AND TYPE "GILBERT SCHOOL ALUMNI" INTO THE SEARCH BOX OR CHECK THE ALUMNI PAGE OF GILBERT'S OWN WEB SITE FOR THE LINK.

ROB IS A DIRECTOR AT FINALSITE, A WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY IN EAST HARTFORD THAT SPECIALIZES IN SERVING THE NEEDS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

*Let us hear from you!*

Whether you've recently married, celebrated an anniversary or an addition to your family, received a promotion, changed occupations, started a business, written a book, won an award—or just want to send greetings to your classmates—let us know!

Fill out this form and mail it to the Alumni Office, submit online at [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org) or send us an email! We—and your classmates—would enjoy hearing from you!

Photos for publication in the Yellow Jacket are always welcome!



Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue of the *Yellow Jacket*!

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Office of Development & Alumni Relations, The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Class of 1984 25 <sup>th</sup> Reunion	July 18, 2009
Class of 1979 30 <sup>th</sup> Reunion	Date TBA
Class of 1959 50 <sup>th</sup> Reunion	Date TBA
Class of 1954 55 <sup>th</sup> Reunion	Date TBA
Class of 1949 60 <sup>th</sup> Reunion	June 2009
Blue & Gold Reunion	Date TBA
Spring Concert & Donor Event	Tuesday, May 5, 2009
Homecoming	Date TBA

*For event details and more, visit us online: [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org)*

### Register for The Gilbert School Online Alumni Community Today!

Approximately 9,000 alumni receive news from The Gilbert School and are listed within the Alumni Community on our website. Post your email address there and send messages to your classmates, post and read class notes, find out what's happening at your alma mater. Use your alumni ID number located above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter and register today.

The Gilbert School  
200 Williams Avenue  
Winsted, CT 06098

(860) 379-8521 (Main Office)  
(860) 738-9439 (Alumni Office)

Email: [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

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