

## ALUMNI PORTAL

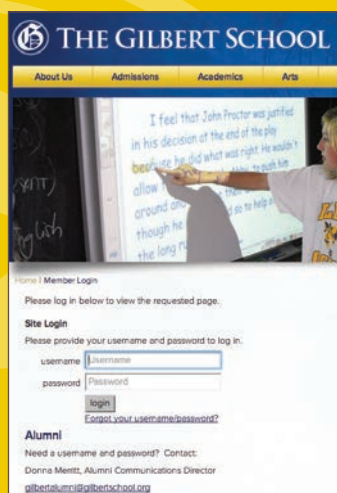
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The *YellowJacket* is published twice a year by The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation for the benefit of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School.



THE GILBERT SCHOOL

HERITAGE. INNOVATION. OPPORTUNITY.

Office of Alumni Relations  
200 Williams Ave., Winsted, CT 06098





# YellowJacket

SPRING | SUMMER 2015

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL



**GILBERT'S  
NEWEST ALUMNI!**  
*Class of 2015!*



## IN THIS ISSUE:

*Music...page 4*

*Homecoming...page 7*

*Class Notes...page 14*

# YellowJacket

SPRING | SUMMER 2015

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL

## Mission

The Gilbert School was founded in 1895 by William L. Gilbert "for the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens." We are committed to assuring that each student is prepared to be a thoughtful, productive citizen in a complex, global society.

## Share Your Stories

We want to hear from you! Did you get a new job? Earn a degree? Write a book? Welcome a child or grandchild? Win an award? Retire? We'll share the good news with 8000 readers.

Interested in writing a full article for the *YellowJacket*? Send your first-person story for consideration. Let your fellow alumni know where your path has led you since graduation and how your time at The Gilbert School has influenced your decisions.

This is *your* magazine.  
Make your voices heard! Email  
[gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

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## On the Cover

The Class of 2015 celebrated commencement on June 24th. We wish them the best!

## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,



I have often wondered what inspired our founder William Lewis Gilbert to leave, in his last will and testament, the funds to begin a school in Winsted, CT. Many are not aware that in addition to The Gilbert Home for Children and The Gilbert School, he left the means to start a public library in Northfield, CT, and also a school in Louisiana for the children of freed black slaves who fought in the Civil War. Mr. Gilbert was a man who believed in education and the betterment of humankind. In keeping with his sense of philanthropy and tradition, we have a new motto at The Gilbert School: *Heritage. Innovation. Opportunity.* To read more, please turn to page 5.

~ **Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School**



At The Gilbert School, I have found a student body that yearns for the opportunity to grow and soar. Led by a tremendous faculty and staff, last year was educationally remarkable. This year will be even better! Associate Principal Sue Sojka and I are excited about the reorganization of administrative duties as it means a closer collaboration with parents, students, and teachers. We are also proud to announce: 13 new courses in grades 9–12 (37 new courses total in three years!); a revamped reading, writing, science, and math focus in grades 7–8; the infusion of enhanced Robotics and STEM as extracurricular programs; and an improved and tightened curriculum to meet the Common Core standards of excellence. Above all, we are teaching lessons for life, rather than just lessons in a subject. I applaud our parents, staff, community members, The W.L. Gilbert Trust, and The W.L. Gilbert School Corp. for making sure that every student leaves Gilbert prepared for life's adventures.

~ **Alan Strauss, Principal**



I want to take the time to acknowledge and thank each of you for your generous support of your alma mater. Your donations enable us to offer, and continue to add, advanced programs of study at The Gilbert School and to present college scholarships to deserving seniors and alumni. However, it's more than that. It's your dedication, enthusiasm, and volunteer work that keep the spirit of our founding father alive. Whether you live close enough to visit TGS often or are living far away, your achievements are inspiring. We brag about our students and alumni every chance we get. This year we will recognize four of your former classmates by presenting them with Distinguished Alumni Awards. To see this year's choices, please turn to page 7. We understand that there are many more of you doing amazing things and we hope to hear about them in the future. Again, thank you. You make us proud.

~ **Thomas Botticelli, President, The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation**





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# Spring Photos



Recipients of the 2015 W.L. Gilbert Trust Scholarships; Derek Fazioli was awarded the Phyllis C. Locascio Scholarship: \$10,000 a year for four years



CT Association of Boards of Education award winners with Dr. Serio, Head of School, and Mr. Sedlack, W.L. Gilbert School Corp. Chairman: Anna King, Augustus Pac, Derek Fazioli, Julie Vincent



Founder's Day: Julie Vincent, Rik Emery, and Dr. Serio at William L. Gilbert's grave



International students participate in the Beardsley & Memorial Library Cultural Fair



Connecticut State Latin Day



Principal Alan Strauss, Parade Marshal of the 81st Annual Laurel Festival



Gilbert students attend the Broadway production of Les Miserables



Marine Biology class conducting research



Gilbert volunteers assist in the Friends of Main Street Annual River Clean-Up



Middle School Health Fair



# The Arts Are *Alive* at Gilbert!

by Jessica Makowski, Gilbert Art Teacher



*First Annual Art & Design Show*



*Amazing Vans entries by our students*

The Gilbert School's Art Department had a momentous year filled with change, challenges, and collaborations. I was thrilled to be hired as a new faculty member, especially since it made it possible to offer additional and varied creative opportunities to the student body. Ms. Steinway and I teamed up to implement new courses and curriculum projects for students in grades seven through twelve. They now have the choice of fourteen different visual arts courses! We have Drawing, Painting, Design, Sculpture, Crafts, and Ceramics, and some of the newest art courses are Advanced Placement Art, Honors Art, Environmental Painting, and a full-year Drawing course for those who want to master the skill.



Students also participated in various contests and interdisciplinary projects throughout the school. Ms. Steinway's Environmental Painting class created a mural outside the school library entrance titled "The Giving Tree," while my middle school classes learned how to apply the ancient art of Batik to hand-sewn pillows.

In addition, our students made great leaps of achievement and we are so proud of them! For example, Gilbert's art department participated in the

annual Vans® Custom Culture Shoe Design Contest. They joined students from across the country as they designed real shoes using a variety of media. They then competed for the most votes to have their shoe design manufactured for sale. They didn't win, but they produced incredible work!

Gilbert's art department is also very proud to have participated in Winsted's town-wide Peace Poster Contest. Congratulations to Honors Art student Alexis DeLacruz, who won first place!

One of the highlights of this past school year was Gilbert's First Annual Art and Design Show, held on May 14 in the school library. The Art, Digital, and Industrial Arts departments displayed the work of our talented students. All grades were represented and a wide assortment of work was shown, from photography and functional pottery to painting and woodworking. Gilbert's fine student musicians and singers provided musical entertainment. This huge achievement could not have been realized without support from administrators and help from students, library faculty, and cafeteria and custodial staff. Thank you to all who attended! It was a memorable night, filled with pride and great conversations.

# The Music Department Marches On

by Scott Minnerly, Director of Bands, Music Department Liaison

Greetings from The Gilbert School Music Department! Our music program has a long tradition of excellence and, rest assured, we are upholding that tradition while establishing new ones for the future. Let me give you a taste of what our student musicians have been up to lately.



*Music Department in Washington, DC*

This past year was a very successful one for The Gilbert School Yellowjacket Marching Band. We competed at shows hosted by Cheshire High School, Southington High School, and many others. We are the only competitive marching band in the northwest corner! Of course, we still perform at all home football games as well. This past year, our show was entitled *Espionage* and featured music from Disney's *The Incredibles*, the James Bond movie *Skyfall*, and *Cirque du Soleil*. The coming year's performance features music from the Broadway hit *Wicked* and promises to be our best show yet.

Our Symphonic Band and Concert Choir also continue to thrive. We have three major concerts a year: the Winter Concert in December, the MIOSM (Music In Our Schools Month) Concert in March, and the Spring Concert in May. Our most recent spring concert was named *Americana* and featured American music and music by American composers. We have begun "theming" our spring concerts to help the audience and students connect more to the concert experience. Past themes included "Dreams and Nightmares" and "Passport." You will have to come to this year's spring concert to discover our next theme!

The Jazz Band has a new tradition of bringing in guest soloists for our Jazz Concert in May. We have performed with such musicians as trumpeter Louise Baranger, pianist Miles Massicotte, and Dr. Carl Knox, Director of Jazz Studies at Central Connecticut State University. Last year we brought in multi-instrumentalist and leader of the Awakening Orchestra, Kyle Saulnier. This provides the students with the marvelous advantage of hearing and

performing with a great jazz musician every year.

Another great tradition of Gilbert's music department is the opportunity to travel. Two years ago, the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Concert Choir made their way to Washington, DC. They took part in the Heritage Festivals and all took home silver medals! This year, we look to travel to Orlando, Florida. This is our most ambitious trip in quite some time and this time around, we hope to take home some gold!

A wonderful addition to the department is the resurgence of our musical theatre program. Six years ago, we decided



*Honk!*

to begin putting on musicals every spring and the results have been amazing. We have performed *Grease*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *Aida*, *The Music Man*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and last year *Honk! Honk!* was

our most successful show to date, and we were rewarded with several Halo Awards, including the award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical going to Rik Emery, Class of 2015.

Four years ago, The Gilbert School welcomed grades 7 and 8. Consequently, we are also now running a middle school Concert Band and a middle school Chorus. This has been an incredible experience for everyone involved. Working with the middle school groups as we lead up to the high school groups has allowed us to really expand what our program can accomplish. We are able to teach music concepts earlier and to guide them as they build upon their skills. By the time they are ready for high school music courses, our students are confident and flourishing.



*MS Marching Band*

Other classes we offer at Gilbert include Music Technology I and II, Music Theory and AP Music Theory, Grades 7 and 8 General Music, and Theater Technology I and II. As you can see, we are busy!

Please consider stopping by for a performance or two this year. I promise you will not be disappointed.



Want to know more? Follow the music department on Twitter, @gilbertmusic. You can also check out the music calendar on the school website ([www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org)) by clicking on the music tab under Departments.



# HERITAGE. INNOVATION. OPPORTUNITY.

## *A New Motto Grounded in Tradition and Continuing Toward Excellence*

*by Anthony Serio, Ed.D., Head of School*

For 120 years, The Gilbert School served the Winchester community by educating high school children. In 2011, seventh and eighth grade students joined their fellow secondary age students at TGS. A dynamic middle school program was developed under the guidance of Susan Sojka, who was hired by The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation specifically to shepherd the new program and transition the former Pearson students to their new home.

The W.L. Gilbert Trust fully endorsed this natural extension of the mission of our benefactor. Mr. W.L. Gilbert was a man of vision whose philanthropy and insight live on at The Gilbert School to this day. Continued improvements in curriculum and added rigor have restored the high expectations and achievements of our students. Our institution is thriving.

I have often wondered what inspired our founder William Lewis Gilbert to leave, in his last will and testament, the funds to begin a school in Winsted, CT. Many are not aware that in addition to The Gilbert Home for Children and The Gilbert School, he left the means to start a public library in Northfield, CT, and also a school in Louisiana for the children of freed black slaves who fought in the Civil War. Mr. Gilbert was a man who believed in education and the betterment of humankind.

If we consider W.L. Gilbert's birth year, 1806, a time of a young America and during the second term in office of President Thomas Jefferson, we may find part of our answer to the value he placed on education. In our nation's early years and prior to the revolution, Thomas Jefferson and the learned men of that era understood education as a right. They knew that education was essential to the independence of the young nation. Jefferson's position was shaped by his diplomatic duties in Europe, where he witnessed alliances to nobles that emerged from birthright



rather than education. In writings to George Wythe, his teacher and mentor, he spoke openly about the necessity of education to assist individuals in pursuing their freedom and happiness.

We also can see the importance placed on the intergenerational compact in Jefferson's correspondence with James Madison. As stewards of the land and new nation, they realized that they had to cultivate this concept of democracy for the generations that would follow. No person, no generation, could be bound by a previous generation; in essence, we the people would always resolve to improve conditions for those who would come after us. Jefferson understood that the Constitution and Bill of Rights would be amended by the generations that followed. As such, all generations must be educated to the best of our ability since they will become our next leaders.

This sense of heritage led to W.L. Gilbert's entrepreneurial innovation as a manufacturer of clocks and other industries. In turn, his innovations led to opportunities for the people of the area. Coming full circle, that innovation and opportunity live on today in the heritage of The Gilbert School—a heritage provided through W.L. Gilbert's last will and testament, the innovation supported by the extensive course offerings today at TGS, and an opportunity for our students, your children, to succeed daily and for a lifetime to come.

**Heritage. Innovation. Opportunity.** This is the new motto of The Gilbert School and has been forged from an understanding of the vision and mission provided by W.L. Gilbert.

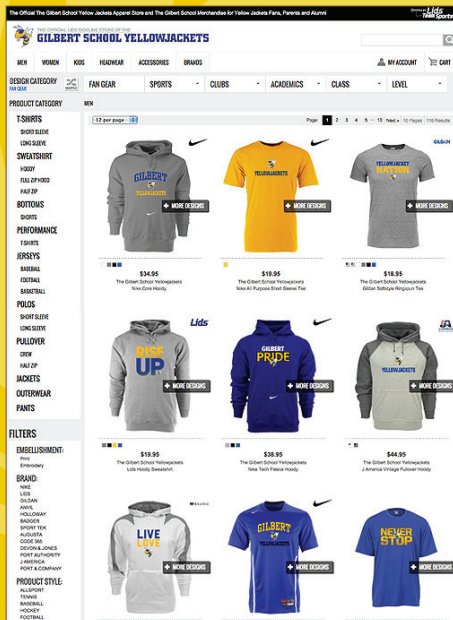
The W.L. Gilbert Trust will remain true to the community, families, and children we are entrusted to serve. We take seriously our responsibility to help students become productive global citizens who contribute to society for the improvement of humankind.



Get all your  
fan gear here!

WWW.GILBERTSCHOOL.ORG

CLICK ON "TGS NIKE LIDS STORE"



## SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Over 70% of those who earned varsity letters this spring were recognized as Berkshire League scholar-athletes!

All TGS student-athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no failing grades and volunteer for community service projects in order to earn a varsity letter. Further, to become a Berkshire League scholar-athlete, they must also make the honor roll.

Log on to

www.CIACSports.com

to keep up with all  
TGS games, results, and  
weather-related changes.

# Spring Sports Wrap-Up



by Patrick Cooke, Dean of Students/Grades 10-12,  
Athletics Director, Class of 1989



## Girls' Basketball Team

Our girls qualified for the State Tournament. The team traveled to China over spring break. Freshman Liz Wexler led the Berkshire League in scoring (over 18 points a game!).



## Wrestling

Logan Smith and Tyler Duplin qualified for the State Open Championships at the Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven.



## Track and Field

Lexi Denning and Kyle Root qualified for the State Championships in the hammer throw.



## Baseball

The team played Wamogo at Fordham University in the Bronx.



Liz Wexler



## CIAC Scholar-Athlete Banquet

Seniors Derek Fazioli and Lexi Denning were recognized along with over 300 of the state's top scholar-athletes.



## Berkshire League All-Star Banquet

This banquet recognizes 1st team all-stars from the entire school year. Gilbert's honorees were Austin Stoeke for boys' soccer, Ali Brochu for volleyball, Riley Arthur for wrestling, Liz Wexler for girls' basketball, Tim Smith for baseball, and Kyle Root for track and field.

## Our Newest Spring Coaches!

Scooter Zappone: Softball

Paul Honig: Boys' Tennis

Adam Vaccari, Class of 2008: Golf

# GILBERT FAMILY HOMECOMING

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2015

Come home to TGS! Mix and mingle with classmates from your class and others as you catch up. Participate in the Alumni Cross Country Race or Alumni Volleyball Game or cheer them on. Have lunch in your old cafeteria or picnic on the lawn. Catch an exciting Gilbert football game. Have young children? We'll have face painting, arts and crafts, games, a cheerleading clinic, and a petting zoo. Something for everyone!



## TGS Basketball Travels to China

by Gerald Hicks, Retired Teacher,  
Class of 1969



Over the years, Gilbert students have journeyed to many different and wonderful places. This past year was no exception as the girls' basketball team became the first Gilbert students to travel to China. The 12-day trip, taken in April, allowed the group to visit many historic sites and experience Chinese life and culture firsthand. It was a unique adventure in every way!

The first stop was the city of Beijing, China's capital. Major highlights included Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and, of course, standing atop the Great Wall.



The girls then traveled to Xi'an to see the famed terracotta warriors. These 8,000 individual statues were built to guard the emperor in the afterlife.

Another high point of the trip was the 3-day stay at Gilbert's sister school in Jinhua. While there, the girls lived with host families, really getting a taste of Chinese life. The team also had the opportunity to compete against a team of local basketball all-stars.

The final leg of the tour involved a bullet train ride (reaching a speed of 197 mph!) to the city of Shanghai, one of China's major financial centers. A night cruise on the Yangtze River (known as the Yangzi in China) was the culminating event.

Thank you to those who made this trip possible by participating in our fundraising efforts, and thank you to The W.L. Gilbert Trust, who provided a subsidy to each student to help offset the cost. From visiting many glorious locations, to eating new types of food, to experiencing an entirely different way of shopping, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all involved!

We'll also be honoring the newest recipients of **GILBERT'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS**. Show your support for these Gilbert alumni and their fine accomplishments:

### HERITAGE AWARD:

**BILL NEWMAN, CLASS OF 1950**

- Rocket Scientist
- Mission Engineer for Apollo 11 through 17

### ATHLETE AWARD:

**PAUL GALLO, CLASS OF 1985**

- Assistant Baseball Coach at Harvard-Westlake School in North Hollywood
- Baseball Coach for Billy Crystal's HBO movie *61* and TV shows such as *The Gilmore Girls*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

**WERNER OYANADEL, CLASS OF 1989**

- Executive Director of Connecticut's Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- Advocate specializing in poverty and inequality in CT

### PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

**PATRICK (ROBERT) KILPATRICK, CLASS OF 1968**

- CEO of Uncommon Dialogue Films
- Actor in over 130 television shows and movies alongside some of Hollywood's biggest names

*All alumni will receive an invitation in the mail with more details. Mark your calendars!*



# Coming Home

by *Connie (Church) Lizak, Class of 1960*

**A recent assignment for my genealogy society's Writers' Group was the following:**

*Have you ever attended a high school reunion? What truths did you learn about your class while you were there? What truths about your community did you learn that you might not have thought of before?*

I have attended three high school reunions: my 25th, 40th, and 50th from The Gilbert School.

Winsted was originally settled in 1750 along two rivers, the Mad River and the Still River. It was an early mill town; the Winsted Manufacturing Company started manufacturing scythes in 1792. During the industrial age, manufacturing plants lined the rivers, harnessing the power to run the machinery to produce a variety of products. Rockwell Tannery, Winsted Edge Tool Works, Strong



*Winsted Post Office Mural*

Manufacturing Robe Shop, Winsted Hosiery Company, New England Knitting Mills, Winsted Silk Company, Empire Knife Company, and the Gilbert Clock Company all thrived in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. Products included industrial wire, silver-plating, brass pins, and mechanical clocks.

William L. Gilbert (1806–1890) founded The Gilbert Clock Company in 1871 along the Still River. By the beginning of the twentieth century, it was one of the largest clock companies in the world and operated until 1964.

The Gilbert School was founded in 1895, funded by a half-million-dollar bequest in Mr. Gilbert's will, as an endowed New England town academy. It was run as a private school, accepting public high school students for town-paid tuition. This is the high school I attended from 1956 to 1960. At the time, there were about 500 students,



*Connie (Church) Lizak, Karen (Horn) Dooks, Jessie Harding, Rita (Fracasso) Broggi*

and my graduating class had 113 members.

A majority of us started kindergarten together. Others joined us in seventh grade when we went to Center School. And the last group from St. Joseph's Catholic School joined us as freshman. In a town of 8000 people, we all knew each other. My father was the town veterinarian, so we also knew their animals. Many of my classmates had special bonds with my father, who treated and/or saved their cats, dogs, horses, and cows.

I have loved every one of my reunions. At my 25th reunion, I was feeling good about myself and my career. I was no longer the shy, insecure teenager, but a more confident person, eager to reconnect with my classmates. The evening went quickly as I talked with my friends, catching up. In retrospect, we were all trying to impress each other with our successes in careers and families! We did exchange contact information, and started sending Christmas cards and letters.

At our 40th reunion, we were much more relaxed. "We are what we are," was the attitude. Some of us had retired and the rest were looking forward to retirement within the next five to ten years. What fun! We engaged in real conversations, recognizing the vast influence that we had had on each other and on the people we had become.

A significant event also occurred. I reconnected with Josephine Failla, whom I had not seen since graduation. Jo and I had been acquaintances, but we did not "hang out" together in high school. I learned that Jo and her husband were moving to Estero, Florida, just a few miles north of where Ed and I had a getaway condo in Bonita Springs. We exchanged information. A few weeks later, my husband was offered an early retirement package and after getting my boss to allow me to work out of our home, we moved to Bonita Springs. Jo and I began a friendship that is strong and important to me today.

One day we were talking about the mural in the Winsted Post Office. Jo told me that she had always loved the painting. She lived a few blocks from the post office and was

sent there every day to pick up her family's mail. While we were talking, I googled the mural (knowing it was painted as part of the New Deal during the 1930s) and found many references to it.

There was also a reference to *The Cornelio Legacy*. Dr. Cornelio was our family doctor when I was a kid. It turns out that Carmine E. Cornelio made a film in 1948 about Winsted. An Italian immigrant, he was going home to Floridia, Sicily for the first time in 53 years, and he wanted to document his successful life in America not only to show his family, but also the families of so many other Winsted immigrants from Floridia.

The film was sold as a DVD to raise funds for Northwestern Community College. I ordered it and when it came, I was mesmerized. Captured in moving color are the people and places of 1948 Winsted. All the major institutions in town—Town

Hall, churches, schools, the hospital, banks, businesses—were recorded with the people who attended or worked at them. I was shocked to see that it included me, my mother, and sister as we were leaving the Winsted Methodist Church one Sunday!

Every Italian family in Winsted was filmed, either in front of the businesses they owned or at the Italian American picnic. When Jo and I watched the film with her sister-in-law and cousin (four Winsted girls in all), we were laughing and crying



*The Cornelio Legacy*



***At our 40th reunion, we were much more relaxed. “We are what we are,” was the attitude.***

as we recognized friends, acquaintances, and family members. Absolutely priceless! I had a newfound understanding of the Italian immigrants in our town, who came to work in the manufacturing plants early in the twentieth century, establish businesses, and raise their families. And all this came from a fortuitous connection at our 40th reunion.

For our 50th reunion, we had a luncheon on Saturday and a dinner Sunday evening. This offered a more relaxed time to talk one-on-one. Sad that many were missing, but so good to appreciate each other again. What fascinating people. Why didn't I spend more time really getting to know them in high school?

I encourage you to attend class reunions, whenever possible, and to reconnect with your Gilbert classmates. Our shared past is a treasure. (C)



#### **ABOUT CONNIE:**

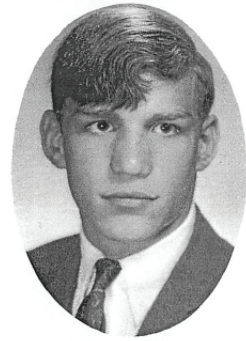


*Connie grew up in Winsted, not far from where her family settled eleven generations ago. Although she was oblivious to her deep roots in Connecticut at the time, today she is passionate about researching her family history and proving her lineages. She is an active member of a number of genealogical and historical societies. Applying skills developed under Miss Sheldrick's tutelage as editor of The Gilbert School News, Connie today is the editor of the Lee County Genealogical Society's newsletter, The Scribe.*



# The Gilbert School: Emphasis on Excellence

by Patrick (Robert) Kilpatrick, Class of 1968



I don't think it's hyperbole to say that The Gilbert School saved me emotionally and physically, as well as scholastically.

By the time I became a Yellowjacket at fourteen, I had been part of a variety of educational venues and experiences. Not being a Winsted resident and growing up in New Hartford, I attended Bakersville Elementary quite happily and then transitioned to Northwestern Regional 7. However, seventh and eighth grades at the large, public middle/high school were not successful for me. It was not a good match to nurture my development at that time.

In an effort to lift me out of my behavioral recklessness and study sloth, my parents sent me to a preeminent, all boys', southern prep school for my freshman year. I was miserable away from home, failed three of five courses, and was particularly lonesome for any female presence. In the long run, I now look back on that year as a positive influence, with study hall till 10 PM each day and religious studies with daily chapel, which helped in their own vital manner. Still, I was elated beyond measure when my parents decided to bring me home and place me at Gilbert, where my mother was the girls' physical education teacher.

I began as a freshman again, drove to school with my mother along the icy Connecticut roads, and reveled in the co-ed student body. By now I had grown up a little mentally and physically. Study and athletics came more easily. I found myself lettering in football my first year out. Given my last name, my nickname became Killer (rather prophetic given the multitude of miscreants I've ended up playing as an actor). My confidence grew and my grades

***I can't tell you how excited I am  
to wear the Gilbert Blue & Gold...***

climbed out of the basement. The teacher-to-student ratio was immensely favorable. The school had a prep-school emphasis on excellence without any sense of isolation, all of it administered by wonderful, able figures like Principal Nichols and Vice Principal Fecto.

It was a family-like community that swirled beyond Winsted throughout Litchfield county, with few distinctions in class or privilege, devoid of discrimination. I ate the superb food prepared by the cafeteria staff headed by Mrs. McKee for years. In fact, I was lucky enough to enjoy it all year long because these kindly folks doubled in the summer as chefs for the local Boy Scout camp, Camp Workcoeman, on pristine West Hill Lake. As students we played, grew, and, in some cases, died tragically in the natural environment and roads of the area.

I can't stress how much athletics helped mold me equally as much as the college-prep curriculum. Each season—football in the glorious fall, basketball in the bracing winters, and baseball in the emerging spring—carried with it discipline and camaraderie, vivid images that remain with me fifty years later. Coaches Daniels, Flaherty, and McLellan were brilliant sports mentors as well as daily teacher guides in courage and teamwork. Student-athletes, don't waste those experiences of skill and conditioning, laughter and bonding.

Gilbert classwork was diverse and varied, from English and French and Spanish, to Earth Science and Biology, to Social Studies and Government and History, to various levels of Math, to Drivers Ed and Typing. Every nuance of those skills and courses came together in my life when I put them to use as a university and graduate film student, bodyguard for rock groups (Hendrix, The Beach Boys, Rod Stewart, Jethro Tull, Jefferson Airplane, The Grateful Dead, etc. Yes, it was fun!), journalist, adman and creative director for nearly every magazine in New York City (*Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Interview*, *Playboy*, *New York Times*, *RollingStone*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Popular Mechanics*, *LIFE*, and *People*), playwright, director of Broadway and Off-Broadway productions . . . and through every day of thirty-two years as a lead actor in 130 films and television shows. I've also been a screenwriter, movie director, media producer, public speaker, instructor of acting and entertainment

at the University of Wisconsin and Hampton-Sydney College, and I've run for Congress.

Much of what I've been able to do has come from Gilbert's wonderful spectrum education. I've successfully spoken French learned at Gilbert at the Cannes Film Festival in France and on location in the French Caribbean islands. Most importantly, my life at Gilbert allowed me to recover from a cataclysmic, near-fatal car accident (cinematically, we hit the giant blue and gold "G" rock north of town and I broke my back), and go on to perform 90% of my own stunts alongside some of the greatest talent of my generation in projects like Steven

Spielberg's *Minority Report*.

I like to tell people that "I've been killed by almost every leading man in the world and outer space!"

I recently ordered a replacement of my Gilbert letter jacket, complete with football number 66 and graduation year '68. (The original disintegrated decades ago!) I can't tell you how excited I am to wear the Gilbert Blue & Gold to some "chichi" Hollywood event—a bit of very personal, historical costuming to bring me viscerally back home to TGS.

I've spent a good portion of the last year writing a memoir, *Dying for*

*a Living: Confessions of 30 Years as a Film and Television Villain*. I continue to explore the upbringing that led me to my wider world. Gilbert played a unique and supportive role on that path, and many of my fellow Yellowjackets are pivotal to the tale.

It's been a glorious and vivid life so far and my days at TGS were among the most colorful. Students at Gilbert, cherish your days there. Learn voraciously with passion and drive because you are attending an exceptional school. Realize you are already blessed to go to a school many millions the world over would like to experience. You will need every bit of your brain power, physical strength, and humor to triumph in life. I hope you will aspire to greatness in everything you do. You deserve it. Onward and upward! 🍀





## Golden Grads, Class of 1965



*Pictured here (left to right) are the newest Golden Grads from the class of 1965: Larry Marolda, Lynne (Sedlack) Vincunas, Joy (Navin) Calhoun, Noreen (Brown) Marchand, Paulette (Pare) Izumi, Jeninne (Miner) Hagar, Barbara Hawley, Sal Correnti, Nancy (Clark) Geller, Cookie Fracasso*

## The Gilbert Girls of 1967 and 1968

Gayle (Fritz) Blackwood says, "We have a group of 15–25 girls who get together every three months to reminisce and enjoy each other's company. This group met at The Saybrook Fish House on April 13, 2015."



*Front row: Judy Giannatasio, Renee (Boutin) Tsanjoures, Linda (deForest) Carr*

*Middle row: Rose (Giuliano) Bishop, Margaret (Santoro) Mobilia, Joanne Santoro, Barbara (Roberts) Hirsch, Gayle (Fritz) Blackwood, Linda (Olszanski) Calkins*

*Back row: Ellen (Sexauer) Demmelmaier, Dale (Benedict) Salmonsens, Sandy (Brentnall) Cummiskey, Donna (Brentnall) Albrecht, Joan (Kelley) Tully, Laurie (Winn) Nash, Cathy (Daigle) Olsen, Diana (Radocchio) Beebe*

# Upcoming Reunions

**60TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1955**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2015**

**Crystal Peak, Winchester**

**Contact:**

**Jim Foster, lilydale47@aol.com**

**55TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1960**

*(open to ALL classes)*

**NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

**Cruise leaving from Florida**

**Contact:**

**Joe Bazzano, jcl2mzab@aol.com**

**50TH REUNION, CLASSES OF 1964 & 1965**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2015**

**Cornucopia, Torrington**

**Contacts:**

**Marilyn (Gundelach) Bazzano,**  
marilyn.bazzano@sbcglobal.net  
**Barbara Hawley,**  
seagal66@hotmail.com

**40TH REUNION, CLASSES OF**

**1975 & 1976 & 1977**

**DATE AND PLACE TBD**

**Contact:**

**Andrea (Blanchette) Devereux,**  
devereux@uchc.edu

**20TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1995**

**OCTOBER 17, 2015**

**Green Woods Country Club, Winsted**

**Contact:**

**Melissa (Clark) Carfiro,**  
mcarfiro@hotmail.com

**10TH REUNION, CLASS OF 2005**

**DATE AND PLACE TBD**

**Contact:**

**Juliana Serafini,**  
julianarusk@gmail.com

## BOOKENDS

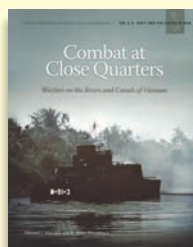


*Oh! I Love What You're Wearing*  
**by Dyllis (Schlosser) Braithwaite**

Class of 1945

email: dyllis1@aol.com

phone: 847-381-2853



*Combat at Close Quarters*  
**by Edward Marolda**

Class of 1963

[http://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-](http://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-046-00293-2)

[046-00293-2](http://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-046-00293-2)



*A Journey of Small Steps*  
**by Katherine (Devlin) Flood**

Class of 1982

[http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/SmallSteps)  
SmallSteps



Three books  
**by John Lavernoich**

Class of 1984

*Code Name: Chameleons*

<http://chameleonsinc.weebly.com/code-name-chameleons-the-book-2002.html>



*Chameleons to the Rescue*

<http://chameleonsinc.weebly.com/chameleons-to-the-rescue-the-book-2010.html>



*Tales of the Psychiatrist*

<http://johnlavernoich.weebly.com/tales-of-the-psychiatrist.html>

*Are you an alumnus with a new book?  
Send the title, website, and a high-resolution photo to:  
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org.  
Let the YellowJacket help spread  
the word to 8,000 readers.*



# Where Are They Now?

## CLASS NOTES



**1951**

**Mary Nix** says, "I left Winsted and moved to Clearwater, FL in 1988 when my parents died and left me their condo; I was able to get jobs as an accountant as I had worked for large corporations in Hartford. However, I didn't like condo living, so in 1991 when my son Craig (who managed resorts in Maui) needed an accountant, I sold my unit and moved. I had plenty of jobs there for the next 10 years and then came back to Clearwater. Last year I had a mild stroke, and since three of my children still lived in CT and were concerned about me, they moved me back here. I retired from my last job at the Clearwater Main Library and am now located in West Simsbury. My ex-husband and I have five children, all Gilbert graduates, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. I am adjusting to retirement and senior living. I find so much has changed all through the state since I left."

**1954**

**Herb Isaacson** retired from the practice of law after 51 years and can be reached at [herbert.isaacson@gmail.com](mailto:herbert.isaacson@gmail.com). Herb says, "It has been a pleasurable career and I have truly enjoyed it."

**1955**

**Jim Foster** says, "This is the desk where I sat when I went to Gilbert. My parents bought it when Gilbert was selling the old desks and found one with my name on it! The only items missing are the ink well and the footrest. The desks were made by the O.D. Case Co. in Hartford, CT, 1879 patent."



**1960**

**Connie (Church) Lizak** spent most of her thirty-six-year career (19 with AT&T and 17 with GE) acting as a change agent in applying voice processing and call management technologies to customer interaction centers. As part of GE Corporate, she worked with GE leaders throughout the company to create, evolve, and improve the way they did business using the telephone. She retired from GE in 2002 as a vice president in human resources. She is married to Ed Lizak and makes her home in Florida. She has two children: Catie, a pilot for American Airlines flying internationally out of Miami, and Chris, manager of an auto parts store, living in Hudson, FL.



**1961**

**Joan (Peetz) Corkery** has been married 46 years, has two daughters, two grandsons, and lives in Watertown, MA. This September she will begin her 33rd year as a school nurse, and enjoys gardening and spending summers on Cape Cod.

**1965**

From **Joy (Navin) Calhoun**: "I thought it was important to be part of the Blue & Gold Reunion celebration; we made it to 50 years! No matter our differences when we were in school, as an adult I've learned many times over how short life can be. Our names will forever be linked together, so I say participate as long as we can. Hope more will come to class reunions!"

**1979**

"Greetings from the Smyth Family!" says **John Smyth**. "My wife Amanda, Nicole (9), Jason (5) and I have been back in Mexico City for a couple of years now and enjoy it very much. I'm working hard on the Energy Reform here with Halliburton as part of a team focused on the Mexican Open Bid Round 1 and helping international clients invest in upstream oil and gas in Mexico."



**1980**

**Dr. Nadene Stein** was recently appointed to the position of Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services for Waltham Public Schools in Massachusetts. She now leads the Special Education, Nursing/Health Services, and Guidance/Student Support Services departments. Before this, Nadene was the principal of Northeast Elementary School in Waltham.

## 1982

**Kati (Devlin) Flood** has published a second book, this time for children. See "Bookends" on page 13.

## 1985

Congratulations to Gilbert grads **Amy Hollis** and **John Sidoti**, who were married on November 1, 2014. Also in attendance were John Relation, 1986, and Jeff Hollis, 1983.



## 1985

On June 2, 2015, **Kevin and Alison (Juliano) Jamieson** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They have six children: four girls ages 25, 18, 15, 14, and two sons, ages 21 and 11. Their daughter, Moira (Class of 2014) finished her first year at Saint Michael's College on the Dean's List.

## 2004

**Sarah Shine** is a certified prosthetist/orthotist, specializing in pediatric orthotic bracing for scoliosis. She has been with New England Orthotics and Prosthetics since 2010 and says she is "very happy and satisfied" with her job and remains close to her family and to her friends from Gilbert. She was married in spring 2015.

## 2015

**Julie Vincent**, Class President, attended the National Future Business Leaders of America conference in Chicago this summer after qualifying for nationals by placing first in the Business Plan event at states.

# CLASS

## Where Are They Now?

For the next *YellowJacket*, send your good news to:  
[gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

For more school and alumni news...



# NOTES

## THE W.L. GILBERT TRUSTEES

The *YellowJacket* is published twice a year by The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation.\* Members of the Trust not only carry out William L. Gilbert's vision for an educational institution of the highest quality, but are also intent on keeping alumni informed. This magazine makes it possible to share good news and updates from and about past and present students and staff.

### CURRENT TRUSTEES ARE:

#### President

Thomas Botticelli

#### Vice President

Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1983

#### Treasurer

Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970

#### Secretary

Deborah (Glynn) Jones, 1970

Natalie (Nalette) Attianese, 1973

Patricia Bourque

Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990

Alan Colavecchio, 1969

Kathleen (Brady) Jones, 1972

Joanne (Cannavo) Marzullo, 1970

David Sartirana, 1978

Craig Schroeder

Charles Seaback, 1972

Steven Sedlack, 1960

Linda Vaccari

*\*The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation's members or staff. The Trust is not responsible for the consequences of any errors contained within the articles.*



# Paying It *Forward*

## Annual Fund and Scholarships

**D**onations to the annual fund benefit students directly by enhancing academic, athletic, and arts programs, providing technology upgrades, and giving teachers an opportunity to request materials and advanced training. This fund is used for continued growth and improvement in instruction and equipment not covered by The Gilbert School's operating budget.

The W.L. Gilbert Trust Scholarships are also more important than ever as the cost of college continues to climb. Please consider helping graduating seniors and alumni realize their dreams.

### *Giving is easy.*

You may contribute online at [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org) (click on "Support TGS" in the right-hand column) or by mail using the enclosed envelope.

For all donations, please make checks payable to:

**The W.L. Gilbert Trust** with "Annual Fund" or "Scholarship" (or the name of a particular scholarship) in the subject line. Every gift makes a difference in a student's life. Thank you!

## *The W.L. Gilbert* **LEGACY SOCIETY**

The philanthropic spirit of our founder, William L. Gilbert, lives on in the generous alumni and friends who have become part of The W.L. Gilbert Legacy Society by leaving something to the school in their wills. Designating a specified sum or percentage of your estate, life insurance policy, or real estate property does not affect your cash flow during your lifetime. If your situation changes, you can modify or revoke it at any time, so there is no financial risk.

*To find out more about planned gifts, call the Alumni Communications Director at 860-379-1245, ext. 200, or email [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org).*

### **CHARTER MEMBERS**

*Thomas J. Botticelli  
JoAnn and Harry Briggs  
Concetto Marino, 1982  
Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1983  
Jean (Woodward) Partridge, 1950  
James A. Pettit, 1971  
Steven A. Sedlack, 1960*



### **Thank you to our wonderful alumni and friends of The Gilbert School!**

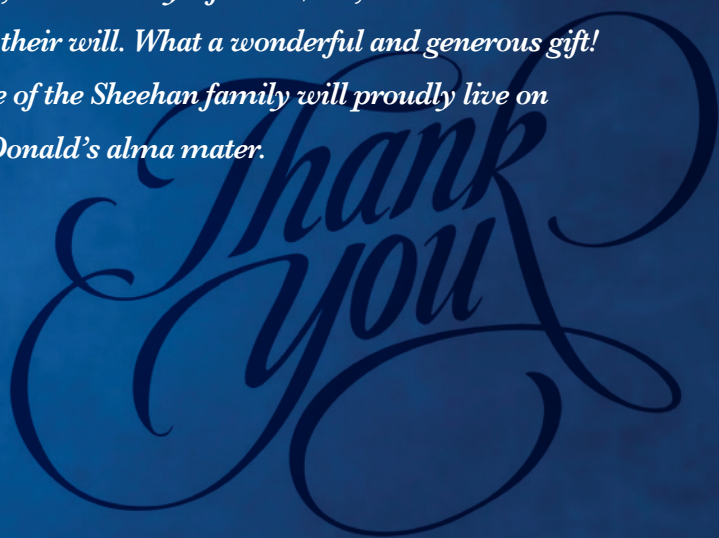
The W.L. Gilbert Trust was able to award over \$125,000 in college scholarship funds this June because of your generosity. To help make sure we meet or exceed that in June 2016, you can send a donation to be put toward any scholarship in need of funds or choose a specific one.

For a list of established scholarships, go to:  
**[gilbertschool.org](http://gilbertschool.org) > Alumni > Gilbert Trust Scholarships.**

Scroll to the bottom for a link to the list.

## **THE SHEEHAN ESTATE**

*We are grateful to Donald Sheehan, class of 1931, and his wife Betty, who recently left over \$100,000 to The Gilbert School in their will. What a wonderful and generous gift! The name of the Sheehan family will proudly live on through Donald's alma mater.*



# In Memoriam

**1931**

*Mary (Lossin) Morrow*  
June 12, 2015

**1934**

*Marguerite (Coffey) Reinhardt*  
February 9, 2015

**1937**

*Evelyn (Moore) Hawley*  
April 24, 2015

**1941**

*Robert Hall*  
September 23, 2013

*Dorothea Wabrek*  
August 19, 2014

**1942**

*Marguerite (Dowen) Clark*  
May 20, 2014

*Spencer Clark*  
March 24, 2015

*Margaret (Clark) Hotvedt*  
January 10, 2015

**1945**

*Virginia (Dean) Kemp*

**1946**

*Pauline (Curtiss) Millard*  
February 2013

**1947**

*Inez (Zeechin) Coligan*  
June 29, 2015

*Cornelius Duyser*

April 21, 2015

**1950**

*Marilyn (Sultaire) Good*  
August 2, 2014

*Jeanne (Pustinger) Reidy*  
2012

**1951**

*Virginia (Boutin) Chatfield*  
April 2014

*Judith (Head) Fortin*  
May 10, 2015

*Marjorie (Hall) Dombrowski*  
August 2, 2015

**1952**

*Mary (Green) Demonstranti*  
January 28, 2015

*Ann (Youmatz) LeGeyt*  
April 21, 2015

*Thomas Santoro*  
March 18, 2015

**1955**

*Frederick Lataif*  
December 23, 2014

*Richard Kittredge*

*Glenn McLellan*  
August 2, 2015

**1956**

*Jean (Chapman) Addy*  
January 14, 2015

**1957**

*Robert Fiske*  
May 10, 2015

*Elizabeth (Smith) Onion*  
May 28, 2015

*Joseph Rocheleau*  
March 14, 2015

**1959**

*Harry Fox*  
February 4, 2015

*Jane Lemelin*  
April 22, 2015

**1961**

*Mary Hamilton*  
September 2014

**1986**

*Todd Wheeler*  
June 26, 2014

