SUMMER 2018

Yellow Jacket

ALUMNI MAGAZINE *of* THE GILBERT SCHOOL



YellowJacket

SUMMER 2018

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 our 8000 readers.

Interested in writing an 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 us at:
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

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Cynthia (Wabrek) Doyle, 1986
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Printer:
Goulet Printery, Inc.
www.GouletPrinting.com



THIS ISSUE:

School Views 2
Teacher of the Year 4
Creativity on Display 5
Girls' & Boys' Summits 6
Sports Scrapbook 8
Global Citizenship Workshop 10
Postcards from the International Program 11
Dr. Joan Centrella 12
Dyllis Schlosser Braithwaite 14
Reunions 16
Class Notes 18
Leo Mayo 20
Paying it Forward 20
In Memoriam 21

THE GILBERT SCHOOL
HOMECOMING 2018
SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY OCT. 27

Keep the Buzzzzz Coming!

Please send your updated email address to us at: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Dear Alumni and Friends...



After enjoying several years of growth and achievement, The W. L. Gilbert Trust and The Gilbert School are facing challenging times, and we have had to make some tough decisions to help us move forward from a place of strength and stability. Despite the difficulties, we have pulled together to address these issues head-on and are making steady strides. During this phase, we have been formulating plans and strategies to bolster The Trust and TGS, such as attracting new boarding students from a wider international/geographic base as well as making inroads into new sources, such as the Middle School initiative to bring in seventh and eighth grade students. Our spirit is resilient, and our resources remain strong. This is evidenced by receiving THE SILVER MEDAL AWARD, ranking us among the top high schools in the State of Connecticut and the nation, from US News and World Report for the second time in three years. Our AP scores continue to rise and many of our students are enrolling in first tier colleges across the United States. We are dedicated to continuing to work hard, moving toward the promise of a bright future and continuing The Gilbert School legacy of excellence.
~ Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School



As we prepare for another year, we continue our work to support and celebrate all that makes The Gilbert School unique. A school where all who enter feel welcomed, supported, respected and valued. A place where we trust, communicate, collaborate and grow. A place where every day can be different, challenging, rewarding and fun for students, faculty and staff.

I am honored to continue as the Principal of such an incredible institution with a rich history and a bright future. Our goal is to ensure that every student in our school community is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. We take every opportunity to model kindness, challenge students academically and foster an environment where students are Respectful, Responsible and Safe, and prepared for success in college, future employment and global citizenship. ***~ Susan Sojka, Principal***



It is hard to believe that the 2017-2018 school year came to a close just a month ago as I write this, yet by the time you receive this edition of the YellowJacket the administration, faculty and staff will have been working in overdrive to be sure that The Gilbert School will be ready for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. For the Trust, the 2017-2018 school year was a milestone year, as it was the first year that we were able to provide on-campus living with the opening of our new residency hall. It proved to be a big success with our international students. It has also been a positive selling point for students applying for admission to our International Program. This year we had 22 international students graduate from The Gilbert School. Most of our graduates were accepted into top tier colleges. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Loyola University, Arizona State University, University of San Francisco, and Berklee College of Music were among those accepting our students.

On June 11, 2018 Mrs. Sue Sojka, Principal of The Gilbert School, and I were privileged to present The W. L. Gilbert Trust Scholarships. The first of the Trust scholarship was presented in 1919. This year, almost 100 years later, we presented over $140,000 in scholarship money from over 120 different scholarships. The Trust is grateful to all those alumni and friends of The Gilbert School for their generous donations over the years.

In May 2018 the Trust again sponsored the Blue and Gold Reception to celebrate all of our alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago, and to honor the 50th year of the graduation of the class of 1968. The event was a tremendous success with over 220 alumni in attendance. It has truly become one of the most popular alumni events sponsored by the Trust. I look forward to seeing many of you at Homecoming on Saturday, October 27th. ***~ Thomas Botticelli, President, The W.L. Gilbert Trust***

On the cover: Gilbert Students Leave Their Mark on the Town of Winchester
Two Gilbert School art students have their work displayed on the Bridge Street side of the old Winsted Furniture Building. The work on the left belongs to Haley Kacmarcik and the work on the right belongs to Skye Wang. This project not only enhances the building but is a great showcase for our talented students.



School Views



Yale Engineering Day – *Middle school science students traveled to Yale University with Mr. Ingmanson and Mr. Levesque to take part in Connecticut SEED: Students Exploring Engineering Day. Students learned about different types of engineering and had a chance to participate in hands-on design challenges with other middle school students from across Connecticut. Some of the activities involved exploration in color and electricity, biomedical engineering, and learning about how nature inspires innovative engineering solutions. March 24, 2018*



Latin Day – *On April 27, 2018 Latin students from Gilbert celebrated the Classics at Connecticut State Latin Day. Latin teacher Sarah Frechette writes, "Although the rain may have dampened our tunicas (ok, some got pretty drenched), it did not dampen the spirits of our 44 Latin students who attended from Gilbert. From the workshops about curse tablets and calligraphy to lectures on gladiators and the Roman army, we all had the best of days celebrating Latin and Roman culture. Congratulations to Sky Johnson who helped design and create our award winning Roman military standard."*

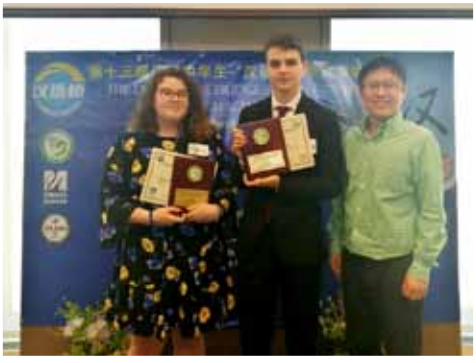


Courthouse Classroom – *As an important part of the Introduction to Law curriculum, Wendy Sultaire took her students on a field trip to the new Litchfield County Courthouse in Torrington. Students toured the courthouse, met with judicial staff and several lawyers, including a prosecutor and a defense attorney. The class witnessed an actual criminal case and had a question and answer session about the case with the judge during the court recess. The students also got a chance to visit the "lock up" as part of their educational day. March 1, 2018*





United Nations – *Twenty-two international students from David Rutherford's classes and eleven American students from Jessica Nardine's AP classes took a field trip to the United Nations in New York City. Mrs. Nardine writes, "During the hour-long tour students were given a guided tour the building, including the Security Council Chamber, and that of the General Assembly. Many were quite impressed with the complexity of the United Nations and were surprised to learn that there are currently 193 member nations. After the tour, the group visited a ramen restaurant where international students enjoyed some cooking similar to home, and for several American students, they tried real ramen for the first time! Afterwards one group walked for a quick visit of Central Park, and another group went to take in the sights and sounds of Times Square." June 6, 2018*



Student Awards – *Two Gilbert School Chinese Language Students won awards at the 2018 National Chinese Bridge Speech Contest for U.S. High School Students. The contest was held on March 31, 2018 at the Confucius Institute at UMass Boston. Leon Hartley, a junior, won the third place award in the intermediate group and Alexis Ellis, a sophomore, won the third place award in the beginner group. Their teacher, Mr. Hu reports that the finalists were chosen from 69 different schools in 20 states. This is the third year in a row that Mr. Hu's students have made it to the finals in the most prestigious and well-recognized Chinese speech contest for high school students in the United States.*



Career Fair – *The Third Annual Career Fair was held on May 24, 2018 in The Gilbert School small gymnasium. Students were able to visit with many volunteer business people from numerous career fields, including healthcare workers, attorneys, bankers, insurance professionals, and representatives from the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines. Volunteers spoke to the students about the details of their different careers, why they became interested in their particular fields, and how education and training can help prepare students to enter different career paths.*



Career Center Field Trip – *On April 27, 2018, students interested in broadcasting or television career pathways attended a Fox 61 News Studio Field Trip. Students toured the television studios and learned much about the creation and presentation of television news and broadcasting. This was just one of many field trips arranged by guidance counselor, Katieann Pirog to help students decide which careers they may wish to explore.*



Founder's Day – *On May 18, 2018 , William L. Gilbert, Founder of The Gilbert School, was honored by the entire student body. The Junior Jackets Marching Band played a selection of patriotic music, Head of School, Dr. Serio spoke to the students about William L. Gilbert's life and accomplishments and urged all of the students to model Gilbert's unwavering determination and philanthropy. The school program ended with a wreath laying ceremony with YellowJacket Marching Band members, Adrian Delacruz and Penelope Rein playing Taps. Student Council President Krystal Bagnaschi and Senior Class President Alexis Kacmarcik then laid the memorial wreath at the grave of William L. Gilbert at Center Cemetery.*



Rockin' TGS – *On June 15, 2018 the first ever TGS Fest wowed audiences in The Gilbert School auditorium. Students in Mr. Minnerly's Rock/Pop Ensemble class formed four student bands, who all performed a concert as part of their final exam. In this photo, Thr33's A Crowd performs for The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation as a part of their practice.*



Music Department Awards – *In April, the Band and Choir took an exciting and educational field trip to Philadelphia. Along with a walking tour of historic Philadelphia, a performance by the Philadelphia Orchestra at the beautiful Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the students participated in the Worldstrides Philadelphia Heritage Festival. The Gilbert School Symphonic Band received a GOLD Award and came in first place. They also received the trophy for BEST BAND GROUP at the festival. The Gilbert School Concert Choir received a GOLD Award and came in second place. Equally as impressive, after the students visited Medieval Times dinner theater and tournament, Mr. Minnerly writes, "I will leave you with something our server told me at Medieval Times. She pulled me aside and said, 'I just want to tell you that your students were so polite and well mannered today. In my 13 years working here they were the best high school group I've had.' I thanked her of course, and she responded with, 'No, thank you!'"*



20 Towns in Twenty Days – *WFSB Channel 3 came to Winsted on May 24, 2018 as a part of their 20 Towns in Twenty Days series. In addition to reporting on Whiting Mills, Highland Lake, and The American Mural Project, Channel 3 featured our YellowJacket Marching Band Drumline in their live reporting. Students, faculty, and administrators from The Gilbert School showed up en masse in their blue and gold to show their town and school pride.*



Teacher of the Year
Adam Atkins

by Debra Lewis

At the annual Celebration of Education, Mr. Adam Atkins was named The Gilbert School Teacher of the Year. Debra Lewis, Associate Principal, High School, presented him with his award and introduced him in this way...



Some teachers feel like they never leave school, and for this year's Teacher of the Year winner, here at The Gilbert School, that couldn't be more true, since the winner is a graduate of Gilbert and has been a teacher here for 22 years.

This year's Teacher of the Year was born and raised in Winsted, where he graduated from The Gilbert School in 1990. He continued his education at the University of Connecticut where he graduated in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and a Bachelor of Science degree in education. He also attended UCONN for graduate school, where he received a master's degree in music education with a concentration in choral conducting in June of 2001.

Mr. Atkins returned to The Gilbert School to teach in the fall of 1996, where he currently teaches Chorus, Concert Choir, and Honors and AP Music Theory. He has been the musical director for many school performances, including the recent productions of Bye Bye Birdie and Seussical The Musical. He has also served as the Music Department chairman, served on the Student Assistance Team (SAT), and has been a frequent class advisor.

Mr. Atkins can be seen throughout the area as a soloist, director, and singer. Currently he sings professionally with Connecticut Choral Artists (Concora), based in New Britain, and Voce, based in Hartford. As a director, he leads the Laurel City Singers, the Boar's Head Festival Choir, and Boar's Head Festival Brass.

Mr. Atkins and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of Nicholas, Elizabeth, and Christopher.

Creativity *on Display*

At The Gilbert School and in our community.

Art teacher, Mrs. Steinway, credits the award-winning success of so many of our art students to the development of our art program; the addition of a year long drawing class, a year long honors class, and AP art.

Triple Win!

Three of our art students had their work accepted into the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Awards Show and came out winners. Their art was displayed in the Silpe Gallery at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford.

- **Sophomore Alexis Ellis received a Silver Key Award for Drawing**
- **Senior Joy Lim received a Silver Key Award for her Portfolio**
- **Joy Lim's portfolio was The Gilbert School's first ever portfolio acceptance!**
- **Senior Skye Wang received a Gold Key and Silver Award for her two Drawings.**



Skye Wang Honored

Skye received the 2018 Outstanding Arts Award at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) High School Outstanding Arts Award Ceremony.

A World of Talent!

Students displayed their creativity at The Gilbert School Annual Art Show.







Sophomore Elaina Brennan discusses her pieces with art show attendees.









Girls' & Boys' Summits













The Gilbert School and Empowered Girls Rise presented "Sheroes – A Girls Movement Rally" on April 26, 2018. Empowered Girls Rise's mission is to nurture self-respect, confidence, and purpose in girls 11-25 through education, personal development, mentorship, and community. Most of our female students opted to take part in this special day dedicated to them.

The girls attended workshops and panel discussions, facilitated by Stephanie LaBonte, creator and founder of Empowered Girls Rise, along with a community of experts. The workshops and discussions included: keynote speaker, Adriana Carrig, CEO of Little Words Project, featured on The View and Good Morning America: Believe in Yourself, Love Yourself, Be Kind to Yourself, Promoting a Culture of Kindness; Stephanie LaBonte: Find Your Purpose; Doreen Dilger: Confidence Building, Self-Respect, and Setting Boundaries; Jennifer LaBonte: Healthy Bodies, Exercise, and Nutrition; Kim Grustas: Self-Care and Skincare; Stephanie Rivkin: Social Media Savvy; Jules Hunt: Career Focus, Creating and Owning a Small Business; Jennifer Mauro: Healthy Relationships; Jamie Hughes, Miss Connecticut USA 2018: Be Real, Embrace Your Uniqueness, Acceptance for All; Samantha Sojka: Being Human, Accepting and Embracing Who You Are.

The Gilbert School, the Positive Coaching Alliance, and the National Guard sponsored a Boys Summit for all male high school students on May 29, 2018.

The boys attended a presentation by Athletic Director, Patrick Cooke, and an interactive discussion with John Cunningham, of the Positive Coaching Alliance. Their messages were centered around the theme: Triple-Impact Competitor: Making Yourself, Your Teammates, and the Game Better.

The second half of the summit was run by the National Guard. The students ran an obstacle course, participated in varied sports activities, and attended demonstrations and displays by members of the National Guard.

Safety *and* Solidarity *from the* Heart.

by Susan O. Sojka, Principal



On February 14, 2018 seventeen students and adults were killed in yet another school shooting, this one at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland Florida. Outraged by the number of school shootings, and inspired by the student survivors and their courage, students in grades 7-12 at The Gilbert School wanted to take action to honor the victims on the one month anniversary of the shooting.

Many schools throughout the nation were having "walkouts" but the students of Gilbert decided to organize two voluntary, non-political events to not only honor the victims, but foster safer schools.

Middle school and high school students gathered separately to remember the victims, share suggestions for positive change, and create cards of encouragement to send to the students in Florida.

Both of the events were voluntary and student led.

The picture above shows our middle school students, administration, faculty, and staff gathered together in the form of a heart. Students also wore "Gilbert Strong" bracelets committing to banding together for safer schools.

Sports Scrapbook

An Amazing Year for the YellowJacket Wrestling Team

For the first time since 2009 and just the third time this century, Gilbert was the Berkshire League champion. Gilbert had three individual champions, and 12 wrestlers finished in the top three of their weight classes as the Yellowjackets scored a tournament record 223 points to win the Berkshire Valley Invitational. The team then placed at the State Tournament, making this the first time that Gilbert has placed at States as a team in 22 years. They had a season dual meet record of 14-3 with only one loss to a Connecticut team.



The 2017-2018 season looked like this:

- 2nd Place Class S State Championships - 8 place winners including 1 State Champion
- 1st Place Berkshire Valley Tournament - Set the record for highest score ever at the tournament
- 1st Place Berkshire league Champs - 13 out of 14 place winners
- 2nd Place Derby Invitational Tournament
- 2nd Place Woodstock Tournament
- 3rd Place KSA Disney Duals – Orlando, Florida
- Congratulations to Gilbert senior Andrey Zhovkly, State Champion at 195 pounds, who pinned his opponent in the first period to take home the state title!



Liz Wexler Hits 1,000-Point Mark

Senior, Liz Wexler, scored 1,057 points for her career! Liz was unable to play basketball because of a broken leg in her sophomore year, so she was able to do this in only 3 seasons! Liz will be playing basketball for Roger Williams University!

Go Liz!!

1,000!











Boys Basketball

The Boy's Basketball team made the Berkshire League as well as the State Tournament after a three-year absence. We lost a hard fought game against the 9th ranked Windsor Locks team. After being down by 13 points early we fought back to tie the game at the half. It was a seesaw battle the rest of the way. With a majority of the players returning, we expect to continue the run of making the tournaments.



Girls Basketball

This was one of the best years Girls Basketball has had in many years. With only one senior, we relied heavily on our juniors to continue the success we have had over the past couple of years. Even though the season was marked by injuries and illness we had a 12-8 regular season record, and finished in 4th place in the Berkshire League. In the State Tournament, the team advanced to the quarterfinals, something a Gilbert Girls Basketball Team has not done since 1997.



Swimming and Diving

The Gilbert Swim Team competed in the Berkshire League championships and finished 5th in their highest finish in recent memory. In addition, congratulations to Gilbert senior, Leda Mastinu, who earned Berkshire League All-Star status in the 200 Free and the 500 Free races. The Yellowjacket swimmers also sent a large group of qualifying swimmers to the State Tournament. A great showing by the Yellowjackets!





Cheerleading

The Yellowjacket Cheerleaders competed in the CIAC State competition. The girls scored 91.9 points and placed 12 out of 15 It is the highest score by 20 points in Coach Seiler's 4 years of coaching. Also, they completely doubled their score since their first 2 competitions. Congratulations to our cheerleaders!



Baseball

After a 1-6 start to the 2018 season, the Gilbert Baseball Team qualified for the 2018 CIAC State Baseball Tournament where we were bumped from the tournament by eventual state champion ND-Fairfield. We also spent a weekend in Cooperstown, NY, where we played on historic Doubleday Field against Wamogo, as well as spent time at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Junior, Ryley Weiss was selected as the Steve Reich pitcher of the year, an honor that goes to the Berkshire League's top pitcher. Ryley was also selected to the Class S all-state team. Steve Reich was a dominant pitcher who graduated from Shepaug High School in the late 1980's. He had a great baseball career right into pro ball, a career which was cut short when the U.S. Army came calling. Reich was one of the special ops forces that was on the helicopter that was shot down in Afganistan, highlighted in the movie Lone Survivor. This a huge honor to achieve, congratulations Ryley!







Golf

The Gilbert Golf Team finished this year undefeated, 16-0. The team won our second straight Berkshire League Championship and finished 6th in the State Championship. We also had three Berkshire League All Stars: Conor Bailey, Dylan Keith, and Hilson Liu. Conor Bailey and Dylan Keith were also chosen as All State athletes. "It is exciting. It's cool," Conor Bailey said. "At Gilbert, the sports are coming back." It is the first back-to-back Berkshire League golf title in more than 20 years, and Bailey added, "We put Gilbert on the map."





Global Citizenship Workshop

by Gene Rommel M. Batan, Counselor







With the world becoming a smaller place due to ever improving technology, transportation systems, and communication, it is important that the young adults who will lead our next generation are prepared. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognizes this need and has created a program to help students and adults around the world understand what it means to be a Global Citizen.

The Global Citizenship Workshop was brought to The Gilbert School after Gene Batan, a school counselor, attended a Professional Development opportunity in Miami, Florida sponsored by the International Universities Alliance (IUA). There, he and about 15 other counselors from around the country were able to partake in a 4-hour long Global Citizenship Workshop training course that created discussions about biases, cultural norms, open-mindedness, and effective communication skills. Being inspired by the topics covered during this workshop, Mr. Batan asked UNESCO and IUA to hold a workshop at The Gilbert School for a mixed group of students of various high school grade levels and cultural backgrounds. It is also important to note that The Gilbert School is the first high school in the United States to participate in the Global Citizenship Workshop.

During the 2-hour session, the students were exposed to different ways of thinking and perceiving the world, the people in it, and themselves. At the end of the workshop, each student received a certificate of participation that is recognized by many colleges and universities. Both students and staff agree that the workshop was very effective and useful for the students. In the future, Mr. Batan hopes to invite UNESCO and the IUA back to The Gilbert School so that the next Global Citizenship Workshop can be experienced by the faculty during one of the professional development days. The Gilbert School thanks UNESCO and the IUA for coming in to share their valuable information as well as their message of being kind and open-minded to our neighbors both foreign and domestic.

POSTCARDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM



Six international students, formed the band, Still Thinkin', and performed as a part of their Rock/Pop Ensemble Class at the first annual TGS Fest! From Left to Right, James Shi, Brian He, Jack Huang, Cyrus Chen, Tony Liu, Maxwell Han.



Yuki Wang, Ashley Wang, and Coral Zhai volunteered with Life Skills Coordinator, Gaetana Layton, at H.O.R.S.E. of Connecticut, a rescue and rehabilitation facility for abused and neglected horses. Gaetana reports that the students arrived well prepared and handled each horse with care while they groomed, walked, and fed treats to the horses. Gaetana says, "it was a perfect day with a perfect crew!"



The Class of 2018 included 24 graduates from the international program.



Students celebrated their cultural diversity during International Culture Week. The fun included serving bubble tea and playing ping pong in the cafeteria, salsa dancing lessons, a Global Citizen Workshop, and American Fun and Games such as Jumbo Jenga, cornhole, and Uno. There was a giant map on the wall in the cafeteria on which students could place stickers to mark the place of their nationality.





International students celebrate Chinese New Year with food, friends, and fun!



Residential Coordinators Jamin and Michelle Cundiff pose with Class of 2018 graduates, Tuohang T Zeng and Ziyao Coco Yu.

DR. JOAN CENTRELLA, '71

TRAVELING ACROSS THE COSMOS IN SPACE AND TIME

by Patricia Martin

Since graduating from The Gilbert School in 1971, Dr. Joan Centrella has been recognized as a leader on the frontier of astrophysics, travelling across the cosmos in space and time. A naturally-curious problem solver, Joan has pursued her passion to understand what the universe is all about. She has garnered many prestigious awards and accolades along the way and has become a role model for up-and-coming female scientists.

Joan graduated from Gilbert as class valedictorian, returned in 2009 to receive her Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, and once again visited the campus to speak to students who graduated this past June.





Upon reflecting on her valedictory address, Joan says, "It was a turbulent time. During the previous school year four students had been killed at Kent State University. In less than a decade we lost a U.S. president, a presidential candidate and a great civil rights leader by assassination. Many careers were difficult for women to enter, including science—I knew I would be a woman in a 'man's world.' So I spoke to how the world will evolve and become a better place as women claim their equal standing. I still feel that way."

Her time at Gilbert gave Joan a strong foundation for her future studies. "I had an excellent education from passionate, gifted teachers," she says. "There was the legendary Miss Barton, who taught math. Miss Burpee, my English teacher, and later the famous Mr. Trout. Miss McGowan, my Latin teacher, and so many others. Gilbert was an amazing, nurturing place—and still is."

Joan attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, majoring in Astronomy and Physics and graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975. In 1980, she received her PhD from Cambridge University, where she was a pioneer in numerical relativity simulations of gravitational waves. She continued her research during postdoctoral appointments at the University of Texas and the University of Illinois, broadening her expertise to include simulations of large-scale structures in the early universe. Joining the faculty of Drexel University in the Physics Department, Joan developed a research group focused on studying astrophysical sources of gravitational waves. She also taught physics and astronomy at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.



In 2001 she moved to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to join their newly-formed gravitational wave astrophysics group. She initiated and led the astrophysical source modeling effort in support of LISA—the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna, which is a joint NASA/European Space Agency mission designed to measure gravitational waves—focusing on the merging of two black holes.

From 2004 until 2010, Joan served as Chief of the Gravitational Astrophysics Laboratory. In 2010, she took the position of Deputy Director of the Astrophysics Science Division at Goddard, serving as Acting Director throughout 2017. She is currently the Senior Scientist for Strategy in the Astrophysics Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Some of her awards include the NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal for ground-breaking work in the simulation of gravitational wave signals from merging black holes and the Robert H. Goddard Exceptional Achievement Award for Mentoring—which she received for her commitment to mentoring women scientists at all stages of their careers. Joan and her colleague Dr. John Baker were awarded the John C. Lindsay Memorial Award for Space Science from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, which is the organization's highest honor for outstanding contributions in space science.

But perhaps the pinnacle milestone of Joan's career was when, in December 2017, a research group at Goddard was highlighted by Kip Thorne in his lecture for the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics. "The Nobel Prize was awarded for the detection of gravitational waves from the merger of two black holes. The signals were expected to be weak, so it was essential to know what to look for in advance. I led one of the groups pursing different methods to calculate these signals by solving Einstein's equations on computers," she said. "It was like trying to find a needle in the haystack when you aren't sure what a needle looks like! And what's incredible is that three independent groups hit upon a discovery that solved the problem within months of each other using different methods. I was thrilled to know that work I've done has contributed to something so important!"

Back in the halls of Gilbert, speaking to young students who are about to embark on their own life's journey, was another thrill for Joan. "This generation is a remarkable generation and I have a great respect for them," she says. "They are intelligent, thoughtful, and not afraid to speak up when they feel something is wrong. We have not seen this type of engagement and activism in our nation since the '70s. I am encouraged, and have a lot of hope for them. Change is possible, and I am pleased to stand with them."



Dyllis (Scholsser) Braithwaite

A Timeless Woman of Distinction and Style

by Patricia Martin

At the age of 91, Dyllis (Schlosser) Braithwaite ('45) has led a rich, full life—from farming to fine fabrics to being a celebrated textile artist and author! She has earned the reputation of being a timeless woman of distinction and style.

The youngest of five children, Dyllis grew up on Sunny Hill Farm, two miles from New Hartford. A renowned designer of beautiful wearable art creations and the author of two books showcasing her work, she credits her mother for influencing her passion for wonderful fabrics. "My mother made most of my clothes," says Dyllis, "I acquired my appreciation of beautiful fabrics and design from her."

Dyllis and her siblings—Justine, William, Margaret, and Gordon—all attended TGS. "We rode the bus from New Hartford," she says. "It was a privilege for our community to be associated with The Gilbert School, and for us to be able to attend. It provided a top-notch education, and I believe it still does to this day."

After graduating from Gilbert, Dyllis attended the University of Connecticut, where she earned her degree in Home Economics Education. She paid her way through college by working summers at the typewriter factory in New Hartford. She recalls, "I rode my bike the two miles to work every day."

Right after graduating from college, Dyllis' first teaching job was at The Gilbert School, where she taught Home Economics with co-teacher Mrs. Spears under Principal, Mr. Mosley.

"I had met Bill Braithwaite at the UConn 4-H Club during my junior year," says Dyllis. "He became the President and I the Secretary—we had lots of 4-H business to attend to! During my senior year, Bill was recalled to active duty in the Connecticut National Guard and was stationed at Camp Picket, Virginia. He received his orders to be shipped out to Germany and had three weeks leave before going overseas. He immediately drove to my home, arriving at 3 a.m. on Sunday. That evening we had a picnic by ourselves at the Barkhamsted Reservoir, and decided to get married three days later with a full-blown church wedding."

Bill started his tour of duty in Germany, while Dyllis continued teaching at Gilbert. "He sometimes called me at the school," she says. "Everyone was so nice, they would evacuate the office so I had privacy to talk to my husband."

After Memorial Day in 1952, Dyllis travelled overseas to live with her husband in Nuremberg. At the end of Bill's tour of duty, the armed forces provided them return carriage home on a troop ship. "I was a farm girl, so this all was quite an experience!" she says.

Back in the states, Bill attended Columbia Law School. He still practices law in Barrington, Illinois, where the couple has lived since 1956. Once they settled there, Dyllis got a job managing Finn's Fabrics. Because she loved being around beautiful fabrics and clothing, Dyllis bought the shop and ran it for nearly forty years. It soon earned a reputation as a regional and then national destination for gorgeous, one-of-a-kind fabrics. Not only did Dyllis excel at selecting the finest materials from around the world, she also became known for creating wearable art and inspiring others to express their own creative vision.

Dyllis is now widely celebrated as a textile artist. She has had numerous exhibitions of her work, including a major display of pieces from her personal collection shown in spring, 2017, at the Windham Textile and History Museum in Willimantic, Connecticut. Entitled "The Timeless Art of Dyllis: Forty Years of Creative Clothing," the show featured almost 100 pieces of her wearable art, ranging from purple mohair to cerise boucle to lime-green charmeuse. This was followed by a six-month showing at the Woodstock, Connecticut, Historical Museum. And Dyllis is looking ahead to another exhibit of her work in 2020 at the Fine Line Creative Art Center in St. Charles, Illinois.

Dyllis' creations are also the subject of two coffee-table books she published: Oh! I Love What You're Wearing, Volumes I and II. Split between the seasons—one for fall and winter and one for spring and summer—they feature lush color photographs of numerous outfits Dyllis has created.

"I thought it would be nice to document my clothing because the pieces are so gorgeous—I can't believe I made all of them," says Dyllis. "But the thing that really inspired me to publish the books is that every time I go somewhere, people stop me and say 'Oh, I love what you're wearing!'"

Young at heart, Dyllis and Bill live life to the fullest and enjoy time with their three children and five grandchildren. Having grown up on a farm, Dyllis is an avid gardener and prepares fresh, healthy meals from her harvest—in fact, she is known as "The Queen of Kale!" The couple is very active in their community and in their church, are continuously learning and are physically active. "We take the stairs instead of the elevator," says Dyllis. "We are blessed that we are still able to use our minds. The reason is, we don't sit in rocking chairs and twiddle our thumbs."







Reunions

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL
BLUE & GOLD Reunion
2018

On the first Friday in May, as has been the tradition, we celebrated our alumni who gradated more than 50 years ago and honored our newest Golden Graduates – The Class of 1968.



The Class of 1968, Left to Right: Liz DeMars Beyus, Rita DiGiovanni Arcand, Lee Thomsen, Alanne Kennedy Turina, JoAnne Ramsay Stumpf, Roseann Bruno Reynolds, Donna Brentnall Albrecht, Ruthann Bruno Horvay, Joan Kelley Tully, Diane Villa Cole, Irene Connole, Joanne Beaudoin Bazzano, Carmelo Bazzano, Lynn Attella, Glen McMahon, Roger Hurlbut, Paul Vernali, Carol DeLutrie-Heuschkel, Sal Vernali



Alice (Bonhotel) Lewis, Class of 1930 – 106 years old and our most senior alumnus in attendance!



Class of 1963 – Lunch Bunch

The Class of 1963 held one of their regular luncheon gatherings on Friday, July 20, 2018 at Sally Passini Wabreck's home. The "girls" meet every 4 to 6 weeks, usually at a local restaurant, for catching up and giggles! All are welcome to join the group! *Standing in the back row: Sue Ann Donohue Marolda, Barbara Jones Adams, Carol Hamilton Miles, Amber Curtis Roy, Mary Lou Chamberlin Keefe, Sally Passini Wabreck, Beverly Simons Fratini, Sheila Olszanski Jackson. Sitting in the front row: Carolyn Hawley Day, Lynn Beach-Schrock, Clare Jamieson Workman, Linda Vogellus Turgeon, Nancy Hewitt Silvester.*



Class of 1955

The 1955 Gilbert Graduates pictured below met recently to chat about the old days, current worldly events, grandchildren, and, of course, aches and pains! So many enjoyable stories were told that they agreed to meet again next year at the Green Woods Country Club on July 19, 2019. *Standing left to right are: Sue (Turner) Dooley, Truda (Wilbur) Tanner, Josephine Radaccio, Greg Woodworth, Beth (Doty) Skonieczny, Betty (Curtiss) Driscoll, Marci (Casey) Miller, Jim Foster, Robert Sturm, Ted Church, and Phil Ostapko.*

Class of 1993 – 25th Reunion

The Class of 1993 had an action packed, fun-filled reunion weekend! They wrote to tell us that, "we had a fantastic time. Friday night, June 29th (the night before the event), we met at The Rusty Nail in Burrville/ Torrington, a bar/café owned by Gilbert Class of 1993 alumnus Anthony Cannavo. There was lots of food, drinks, and catching up! The following morning we met at Burr Pond in Burrville. We ate food off the grill and hung around and talked for about 3 hours near the pond. The main event was at Chatterly's in Torrington (formerly Cornucopia). DJ Jacque Williams played music all night and we had a dinner buffet with chicken, pasta, steak, fish, and more. The dance floor was open and many of us danced until we couldn't dance anymore! Approximately 30 classmates and a dozen or so spouses attended. Shelly Sindland of Shelly Sindland Photography (Class of 1987) took pictures throughout the night. Head of School/Superintendent for The Gilbert School, Anthony Serio spoke about the state of affairs at Gilbert and the Winsted School System." A great time was had by all! *Bottom Row: Steve Toth), Heather (Ervin) Boyajian, Jamie Whiting, Mark Stannard, Jodi (Lau) Ouellette, Michele Fratini, Raegan Bishop, Scott Hille, Carrie (Bostrom) Ridel. Second Row: Terri (Obst) Nieves, Theresa (Cooke) Molloy, Julie (Bednarcyk) Stickney, Kerri (Burch) Battistoni , Donald "DJ" Reese, Karen (Raymond) Hewitt. Third Row: Jeremy Leifert, Shannon O'Donnell, Tiffany (Goulet) Augeri, Liza (Vaccari) DiMartino, Jade (Marinelli) Levinson. Top Row: Jethro Sterpka, Brian Turgeon, Amanda (Langer) Okamoto, April (Corey) Bournival.*



Upcoming *Reunions*

SAVE THE DATE!

CLASS OF 1958 – 60TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 20, 2018
Contact: Bob O'connor at boboconn@gmail.com or Joanne Finn Casey at caseyfinnj@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1968 – 50TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 27, 2018
Contact: Alanne Kennedy Turina at alannekturina@gmail.com or (714) 408-6132 or Facebook group – The Gilbert School --- Class of 1968.

CLASS OF 1973 – 45TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 6, 2018
Contact: Heather Smyth Cappabianca at hcappabianca@yahoo.com or Diane Dombrowski Cook at cookd@gilbertschool.org

CLASS OF 1978 – 40TH CLASS REUNION
AUGUST 11, 2018
Contact: Joe Nichols at jbkarjoe@sbcglobal.net or Facebook group – The Gilbert School Class of 1978

CLASS OF 1998 – 20TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 27, 2018
Contact: Amy Linkovich Rodriguez for more information at amybeth3201@yahoo.com or (860) 921-7184 or Facebook group – Gilbert School Class of 1998

CLASS OF 2008 – 10TH CLASS REUNION
NOVEMBER 24, 2018
Contact: Nhung Truong at ntruong412@gmail.com or Facebook group – The Gilbert School Class of 2008 ten year reunion

Alumni! Are you planning a reunion, do you want to? Please let us know and we can help! Contact us at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org!

*Class*Notes Where are they *now?*

Concerning Alumni News *Items included in the Class Notes Section of the YellowJacket 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 news, good wishes, and to recognize your accomplishments. The more information we receive from you, the more fun and informative we can make this section, so* ***PLEASE keep us up to date on your latest news!***

2017



Arlene Blackwell, a student majoring in Exploratory STEM at Eastern Connecticut State University, received a Little East Conference (LEC) award in the spring of 2018. Arlene was named the LEC women's field rookie-of-the-week. Arlene won the 400 hurdles with a personal-best time of 1:14.36 at the Eastern Connecticut State University Invitational, helping Eastern to first place. Congratulations Arlene!

2017

Neil Lang has been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Spring 2018 semester. Students on the Dean's List at Champlain College have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Neil is majoring in Data Analytics. Congratulations Neil!

2016

Mandarin teacher, Kevin Hu, reports that **Dominique Biraga,** Class of 2016, won the second place award in the intermediate group of the Chinese Bridge Speech Contest for college students. She was also chosen as one of the six Cultural Ambassadors who went to China for an all expense paid 10-day visit in June. Mr. Hu also reports that Dominique won a prize in the Chinese Bridge Speech Contest for high school students while at Gilbert and went to China for summer camp. Dominique is studying at Central Connecticut State University, minoring in Chinese. Keep up the great work, Dominique!

2016

Jacob Wendel has been named to the Dean's List at Western New England University for the Spring Semester 2018. Jacob is working toward a degree in Finance. Students named to the Dean's List at Western New England University must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher. Congratulations Jacob!

2015



Rik Emery, a junior pre-med undergraduate majoring in Physiology and Neurobiology with a minor in Music at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, was named to the Dean's List. Congratulations Rik! Rik is pictured here with his Dad, Stephen Emery.

2015

Olivia Ortman has been placed on the Deans' Commendation List at Gettysburg College for outstanding academic achievement in the Spring 2018 semester. Congratulations Olivia!

2015

The Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Organization has named **Julie Vincent** one of Litchfield County's Leaders Under 40. The Chamber voted to honor Julie as one of Northwest Connecticut's Best and Brightest leaders who live or work in this region and do exceptional things for the community both personally and professionally. Over 100 nominations were received and a panel of distinguished community leaders selected the winners. Julie is currently a Business Administration manager and Entrepreneurial Studies minor at Susquehanna University. She completes 70+ hours of community service each semester. Julie is interning this summer with the American Legion baseball organization. Congratulations, Julie!



2011



Stephanie Kimball Knapp writes to share some important updates on her life. "I obtained my RN/BSN from Central Connecticut State University and I am currently residing in Great Falls, Montana, where I am a Float Registered Nurse. I get to work on all the units of the hospital and I love it! I came back to Connecticut in June, 2018 to get married to my now husband, Luke Knapp. The Gilbert School provided me with a great foundation to start my life. I have been able to share connections and history with many generations of family and friends due to The Gilbert School." Congratulations Stephanie and Luke!

2011

Julia Autum Ford held an album release party at Infinity Hall in Norfolk on April 22, 2018. Bassist Tracy Walton, and vocalist and guitarist, Julia Autumn Ford make up indie rock folk duo, Belle of the Fall. According to Infinity Hall, "Tracy's weathered voice and upright bass seem to be built to compliment the world class vocals of Julia. In July of 2015, Tracy and Julia wrestled with the idea of remaining separate solo artists or committing to a duo. Eventually it just seemed obvious that it was the only option and an agreement of 'All In' set the stage for the formation of the duo. Tracy owns On Deck Sound Studio in Connecticut and Julia now works there in the video department. In April of 2016 Belle of the Fall released their debut album, Earthbound. 23 states and 175 gigs later and they are back in the studio recording their second full length album". "Acoustic folk duo Belle Of The Fall has proven that musical soul mates do in fact exist." – Vents Magazine



2008

Daniel Borgman married Jordon Albano on Saturday May 12, 2018. Dan Graduated from Porter and Chester Institute and is currently an electrical controls technician for Electric Motion Company in Winsted. Dan also spends countless hours volunteering with The Gilbert School music department. He is the Assistant Marching Band Director, Brass Instructor and Drill Writer for the Yellowjacket Marching Band. Dan has directed the middle school jazz band and frequently plays trumpet in the pit orchestra for the spring musical.



1997



Sarah Kremser Dziedzic was named one of Litchfield County's Leaders Under 40 by the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Organization. Winners of this special award were determined using the following criteria: career or educational achievement to-date; commitment to excellence in their industry; leadership within their organization; involvement in their community; leadership in community organizations; and potential impact to the community's future. The individuals who were selected to be honored have gone above and beyond to make this region a better place in which to live and work. Sarah is the Branch Manager at Union Savings Bank. Her passion is volunteering so she is involved with Rotary Club of the Torrington-Winsted Areas, Winsted Pet Parade, Rotary Annual Golf Tournament, LARC, and the Young Professionals Organization of the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations, Sarah!

1952

Daniel Smith, 2011 winner of the Distinguished Professional Achievement Award, given to an outstanding alumnus by The W.L. Gilbert Trust, writes to let us know some exciting news. "In June, my wife Loretta Neumann and I participated in some of the events for the memorial of Robert Kennedy's assassination 50 years ago. My friend, Tom Skakel, is Ethel Kennedy's nephew. We hosted Tom and his family at our home, and we were invited to attend the Kennedy family BBQ in Georgetown on June 5, 2018, the night before the memorial, where we met Ethel Kennedy and others. The next morning we went to Arlington National Cemetery for the very beautiful and moving memorial service, which included Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Representative John Lewis, President Clinton, and many others. Here are just a few photos. It was truly wonderful." Thank you for sharing, Daniel!





Daniel and Ethel Kennedy



Daniel and Loretta at Arlington

2016

Isabelle Rein will be a junior this fall at Lafayette College, majoring in Geology. She has written to let us know of some of her amazing opportunities and adventures!

"In the past year I've been able to study geology in 6 states! I traveled to Hilo, Hawaii on New Year's Day and spent the following 3 weeks studying geology, hiking to lava flows, snorkeling in the coral reefs, and traveling to 3 of the Hawaiian Islands.

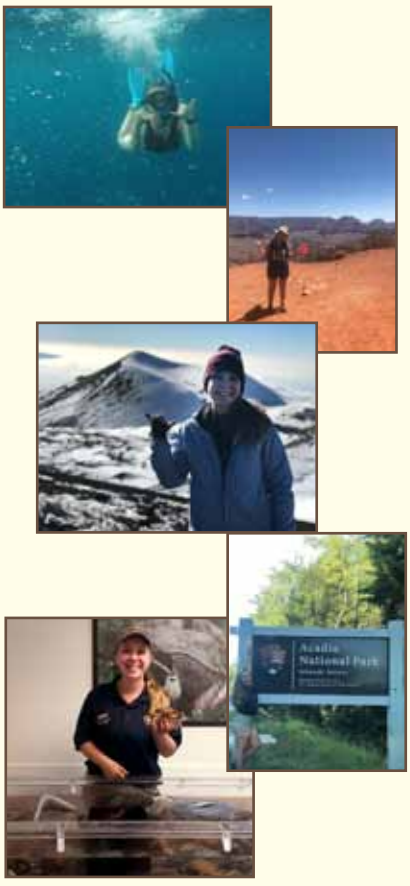


When I returned to Pennsylvania for the spring semester, I was able to study the history (my favorite part) of the million year old events that created many of the rocks that we are familiar with here on the east coast of the North American continent.

At the start of the summer, I traveled out to Arizona and Utah for 3 weeks to take another course in geology. While out there, I studied the geology of the Colorado Plateau, which includes the geology found in several of the United States' most famous National Parks; Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Arches, Petrified Forest, and more! While my trip was focused on studying geology, the greatest experience I had was being able to raft in the Grand Canyon down the Colorado River for 4 days and hike 10 miles out of the Grand Canyon.

When I came back from exploring the parks, I made my way up to another park, Acadia National Park, in Maine, where I am now working for the summer. It is a phenomenal experience to work as a ranger and I love interacting with kids and visitors. The environment is so friendly and you clearly can't beat the views! At the park I am able to teach kids about a variety of topics from geology to marine animals and be able to be outside everyday.

When I go back to school in the fall it won't be the end of my travels either, as I will be going to Wyoming for a week in October to study structural geology. I am so glad I have focused on a major and profession that allows me to enjoy myself while also learning, teaching others about my passion, and being able to be outside and active on a regular basis. I am very grateful to my parents, my college, and my professors for supporting me and offering me these incredible opportunities.



We want to hear from you! Please share your news... email us at: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Leo Mayo, '97 *An Outstanding Athlete, Coach, and Family Man*

by Patricia Martin

What does it take to be a great athlete, coach, and family man? According to Leo Mayo, the key to success is hard work. "My mother emphasized that you have to work hard to get what you want in life," says Leo. "She also taught the 'Golden Rule'—to respect yourself and others. These values were reinforced by my Gilbert School coaches and teachers."

Leo was part of the Gilbert Yellow Jackets football, basketball, and track programs, and always put forth his best effort in practice and in the game. "I worked as hard during practice as I did in the heat of competition," he says. "When it came down to hustle play, I was in the mix prepared to go all the way."







Recipient of the Outstanding Athlete Award of 2017, Leo credits his coaches at Gilbert for encouraging him academically as well as athletically. After graduation, he attended Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, where he earned his degree in Physical Education with a Health Fitness Minor. He then earned his Master's in Administration of Education at American International College, where he is now in his 12th year as its men's and women's cross country and track head coach. "I hold the title 'coach' in high regard," he says. "It means counselor, teacher, and mentor. You guide and inspire students to be their personal best, and end up building life-long relationships with some of them."

Leo believes that always putting forth your best effort makes you not only a great athlete, but also a great father or mother, a great spouse, and great employee, no matter what field you enter. "There's no need to do things half way in any facet of life," says Leo. "I always put in 110%."

Leo and his wife, Angelica, demonstrate this attitude raising their two sons, seven-year-old Leo and five-year-old Logan. And it has also helped them take a positive, proactive approach when Logan was diagnosed with leukemia last October. The prognosis is good and Logan will be back in school in September, entering Kindergarten.

Since Logan's illness, the couple are active with the Griffin's Friends (a group of volunteers dedicated to providing support to children with cancer) and the Red Cross. And Angelica—who is a special ed teacher—advocates in the community for the donation of blood products and organizes blood drives. When Logan lost his hair as a result of chemotherapy, Leo gave his son his clippers to cut his hair in solidarity. "He is like my 'Mini Me,' now," says Leo.

This past July the family celebrated a very special event. It was Leo and Angelica's tenth wedding anniversary, and they all went to St. Leonard's Church in Boston to celebrate as the couple renewed their wedding vows.

Now that is a beautiful example of how hard work truly pays off.

Link to a GoFundMe page established by the friends of the Mayo family:
https://www.gofundme.com/sfn4b-love-for-logan

Here is a link to the Bay State Children's Facebook page where you can watch an impassioned speech given by Angelica:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1906486642722709&id=111595258878532&_rdr

Paying It *Forward*... Annual Fund & Gilbert Trust Scholarships

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

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Please contribute online at www.gilbertschool.org 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" and the name of the scholarship in the memo line. ***Every gift makes a difference in a student's life. Thank you!***



2018 Gilbert Trust Scholarship Winners

In Memoriam

1937
Catherine (Dew) Geer
January 17, 2018

1938
Mary (McCue) Keller
June 4, 2017

Mary Frances (Bedore) Skarupa
May 24, 2017

1940
Philip Hurlbut
February 3, 2018

Albina (Lamoureux) Weincouff
March 16, 2018

1941
Helen (Bedore) Pratt
November 8, 2017

1945
Robert Lowe
July 12, 2017

Nicholas C. Russo
June 24, 2017

1946
Edward G. Lord, III
March 16, 2018

1947
Marie (Bleuher) Kimball
February 3, 2018

1949
Marjorie (Pfaefflin) Amicone
March 24, 2018

John M. Burg
April 23, 2017

1950
Ann (Santoro) Aust
February 24, 2018

Walter H. King, Jr.
June 2, 2018

Jean E. Pequignot
September 20, 2017

1951
Saul Miller
March 23, 2018

1952
John L. Crossman
July 14, 2018

1953
William Jacquier
December 15, 2015

Dr. Norman E. Smith, Jr.
August 2, 2018

1955
Lorraine (Coty) Dillon
June 17, 2018

1958
Eleanor (Baily) Carlson
August 10, 2016

Barbara (Daly) Nelson
January 19, 2018

Albert "Chet" Pranka
April 26, 2018

Robert "Bob" Warner
March 25, 2018

1959
Richard E. Nalette
April 15, 2018

Donna (Dickerman) Rohkohl
August 26, 2017

1960
Doreen (Donohue) Murray
June 10, 2018

1962
Eugene J. Hanley, Jr.
July 25, 2017

Mary (Olszanski) Taty
February 4, 2018

1963
Alice (Locascio) Manchester
February 11, 2018

1965
Lorraine (Horton) Lewandowski
June 30, 2018

Robert "Bob" Young
September 14, 2017

1967
Alexander John Vennel
September 16, 2017

1971
Larraine (Schneider) Consolini
May 2, 2018

1978
James McCarthy
December 18, 2016

Elaine (Turick) Pound
January 9, 2013

1979
Richard W. Gauger
April 7, 2018

James Reidy
October 5, 2017

1986
Walter J. Picard, Jr.
February 9, 2018

2001
Michael H. Centrella
April 1, 2018



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



HELP!

The Alumni Office is Missing Yearbooks! If you have some to donate, let us know!!

1944, 1946, 1986, 1991, 2001, 2006



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