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YellowJacket

ALUMNI MAGAZINE *of* THE GILBERT SCHOOL



YellowJacket

2018 - 2019

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.

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THE GILBERT SCHOOL
HOMECOMING 2019
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Dear Alumni and Friends...



Project-Based Learning After the close of the 2018 -2019 school year, half of The Gilbert School faculty participated in a three-day highly energetic workshop facilitated by Matt Leader of High Tech High in San Diego, California. We were very fortunate to have Matt come to us. He is a veteran math teacher at the project-based schools that make up High Tech High. He is now one of the main trainers in their graduate level school of education and higher learning, offering master degrees to teachers throughout the area. Our teachers were fully engaged as they learned the techniques of project based learning and put them into practice by developing unit themes that can be used in the classroom.Project Based Learning is a student-centered approach to education that allows students to assist in unit design. We have been incorporating project-based learning into our teaching techniques. Students work with teachers on the major themes of an area of study. State and national standards are incorporated into the project-based unit. The teacher, along with students, incorporates activities to assist in gaining deeper understanding and refinement of their projects. These activities can include field studies, lessons from area experts invited into classrooms and ongoing research into the topic. The activities all lead to a project exhibition where teams of students or individuals can demonstrate their work and gain feedback from peers, staff and community members who visit the exhibition event. Our teachers developed several units, shared them with volunteer students and were able to visit the Historical Society and Tort Museum as possible resources for future projects. We are excited to put the plans that we developed into practice this coming academic year. ***~ Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School***



One School, One Team, Making a Difference. The Gilbert School is unique in that we have a Middle School program, a High School program and an International Residency program, creating "One School, One Team, Making a Difference". We aspire to have all students prepared for college, the armed services and the workforce as they prepare to become lifelong learners and contributors to society. This year we began the process of looking at the Portrait of a Graduate in order to expand our definition of student success and ensure our students have core academic knowledge and skills. We want to foster critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity to help our students thrive in a complex, rapidly changing world. We have identified three overarching areas. We want our graduates to be;

Tenacious, **G**enerous, **S**trong

As we continue this work, we will identify the skills and knowledge students should have after completing each grade 7-11 and upon graduation. We want our students to be able to find solutions to problems, think outside the box, work with others and be able to convey their ideas. We want them to give back to their community, both locally and globally, and to use resources and supports for mental strength, grit and compassion, leading to our outstanding graduates fully prepared for the 21st century. ***~ Susan Sojka, Principal***



125th Anniversary of The Gilbert School. This edition of the YellowJacket comes to you following a very successful 2018 – 2019 school year. Approximately 118 students graduated on June 14, 2019, including 25 international students. The Trust is especially pleased that it was able to provide over $140,000 in scholarship money to over 75 students and alumni. As always these very important gifts are possible due to the generosity of our alumni and their families, as well as friends of The Gilbert School. In 2020 The Gilbert School will celebrate our 125th Anniversary of educating the students of Winchester to become "good citizens". I encourage those of you reading this issue of the YellowJacket to take advantage of the envelope in this issue to make a contribution to the Trust. Your generosity will aid in the support of The Gilbert School, and all of our important enrichment initiatives, as we continue to provide a high quality of education to all those who attend. ***~ Thomas Botticelli, President, The W.L. Gilbert Trust***

On the cover:
Karley Padin, Class of 2019, holding the Gilbert vs. Northwestern Challenge Cup. *The Challenge Cup is an annual cross-town competition between The Gilbert School and Northwestern Regional No. 7. Over the last eighteen years, both schools have engaged in friendly competition in order to raise funds, items, and awareness for different charities. The recipients have been the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Special Olympics, soldiers and veterans, pediatric cancer charities, breast cancer charities, local charities and various pet charities, just to name a few. We have collected jeans, sneakers, coats, pet supplies, canned goods, cell phones, and held 6 penny wars. The current record is Northwestern: 6 wins, Gilbert: 12 wins. For the 2019 Challenge Cup, both schools collected over 1,700 non-perishable food items to donate to Local Strides and the Open Door Soup Kitchen-- one of the most successful challenges to date! The winning school keeps the Challenge Cup trophy for the year.*



School Views



Real Bodies: The Exhibition *Mr. Cooke's and Mr. Levesque's Anatomy students, along with Ms. Bryant's AP Biology students, took a trip to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford to experience the world-famous Real Bodies exhibit. During their trip, students were able to witness what it really looks like inside the human body and they were able to explore all of the different systems from a unique and fascinating perspective. May 24, 2019*



Laurel Court *Five TGS Seniors were honored in Winsted's Laurel Festival court. 3rd runner up, Taryn Goulet (Northwestern Regional), 2nd runner up, Penelope Rein, 2019 Laurel Queen, Angelina Delacruz, 2019 Laurel King, Conor Bailey, 2nd runner up, David Castillo, 3rd runner up, Byron Deily. June 9, 2019*



Latin Day *Latin teacher Sarah Frechette and TGS students enjoyed a soggy but amazing Connecticut State Latin Day! Gilbert ran two workshops at Latin Day: bullas (protective amulets) and an active Latin game called versipellis played entirely in Latin. Both workshops were huge successes. April 26, 2019*







Italy Trip *TGS students traveled to Italy with teacher, Sarah Frechette. They enjoyed visiting landmarks, reading Latin, learning about different cultures, and eating too much gelato! They toured Pompei and Rome, visited the Villa Borghese, the Spanish Steps, Campus Martius, the Pantheon, and the Piazza Navona. April 12 – 20, 2019. First photo left to right: Penelope Rein, Martha Rein, Alex Starzyk, Lydia Bird, Frankie Peliero, Emme Bouchard, Hannah Fenn, Emmy Frechette, Sarah Frechette.*



Project Graduation Raffle *Students help with the pasta dinner and raffle to support 2019 Project Graduation. Left to Right: Conor Bailey, Penelope Rein, Anna King, Eli Pasternack, Jill Wexler. April 30, 2019*



Microsoft Job Shadow *Samantha Seiler's Personal Finance students attended a Microsoft Job Shadow. Ms. Seiler writes, "The students learned a lot, had a blast, and even won some gift cards." December 20, 2018*



Superintendent Awards *In the annual Litchfield County Superintendent's Awards Program, four TGS students were recognized for academic prowess and excellence in leadership and service to their school and community. Left to right: Anthony Serio, Head of School/Superintendent, Seniors Abby Corso and Augustus Pac, 8th graders Makayla Dileo and Nolan Adams. March 14, 2019*



TGS Fest 2019 *Students in Mr. Minnerly's Rock and Pop Class, performed their final exam to a packed house in The Gilbert School Auditorium. May 24, 2019*



Beauty and the Beast, Jr. *The cast of the middle school musical, Beauty and the Beast, Jr. May 3 & 4, 2019*



Annie *The cast and crew of the spring musical, Annie. March 8, 9 & 10, 2019*

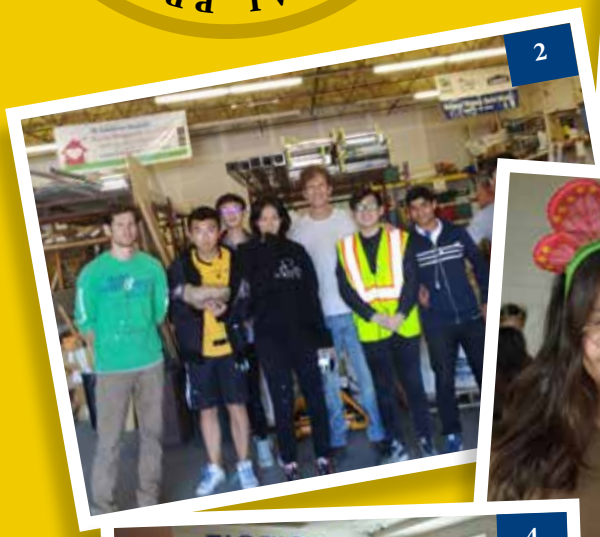


CIAC Sportsmanship Conference *Five athletes representing The Gilbert School, along with Principal, Sue Sojka and Athletic Director, Don Crossman, attended the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference on November 15, 2018. While there are over 100 schools who participate in the Class Act Schools Sportsmanship Program, 19 were selected as CIAC Michaels Achievement Cup exemplary programs recognizing their achievements, and Gilbert was one of them! Front Row: Dylan Keith, Sydney Eisenlohr, Second Row: Erik O'Meara, Courtney Hamm, Lydia Bird*

The International Program

POSTCARDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

















1. A warm weather welcome to the new school year!

2. Students volunteer for Habitat for Humanity with ELL teacher and residential coordinator, David Rutherford.

3. Volunteers for the annual Safe Halloween Trick or Treat Night! Students, Yuki Wang, Coral Zhai

4. Liaison America Brazil visits Gilbert!

5. ShuRen Middle School attends a one-week winter camp at TGS!

6. Students Celebrate the Chinese New Year. Students, Colin Dou, Tony Liu, Kevin Pang

7. Celebrating the Chinese Moon Festival with traditional Moon Cakes!

8. The class of 2019 graduated 25 students from the international program.







Teacher of the Year

Katie Wood

The Fabric of TGS!

by Patricia Martin

Gilbert English teacher Katie Wood was surprised, thrilled, and honored to be named Teacher of the Year during the Celebration of Education awards ceremony on May 31st.

Wood, who graduated from TGS in 2004, has been teaching English here since 2013. Along with teaching, Wood enjoys participating in such activities as producing the school play, being the assistant coach for girls' soccer, student council advisor, and student fan section monitor during basketball season. She also organizes the school's spirit weeks, pep rallies, and field days and is a former Professional Development co-chair. It's no wonder that for the last two years she has been recognized in the yearbook as the faculty member with the most school spirit–which is a title she also won as a senior at Gilbert!

To earn the title of Teacher of the Year, the entire faculty votes for their choice, and then they vote again for the top three candidates who garnered the most votes.

"It's an honor to be part of an elite group of teachers I consider to be role models," she said. "I'm blessed to have learned from so many amazing teachers when I was here as a student-- including Wendy Sultaire, Deb Lewis, Scott Minnerly, and Adam Atkins. They all shaped me and helped me become the educator I am today, and I am so honored to now call them my colleagues and friends."

Wood is known for building relationships with students both inside and outside the classroom, and she loves seeing them grow and improve over time. "She focuses on the whole essence of a person–they're not just a student taking English in her classroom," says Gilbert principal Susan Sojka. "She's the fabric of our school."

Congratulations, Katie Wood!

The Diversified Occupational Work-Study Program & Career Development Center

Helping Students Dream Big!

by Patricia Martin



"The Career Center Opportunities Board" outside The Gilbert School's main office posts a variety of jobs and internships available to students. Just before the new year, there were listings to become a dietary aide or caregiver at a nursing home/rehabilitation center; internships on the local Economic Development, Inland Wetlands, Recreation, and Conservation Boards of Commissions; a chance to sign up to be an RN junior volunteer, receive EMS training, or work with the police department; and the opportunity to study theater lighting and sound technology at Torrington's renowned Warner Theatre. All of these options and many others offer a fascinating world of rich, new experiences that students can explore, thanks to Gilbert's Diversified Occupational Work-Study Program (DOP) and Career Development Center (CDC).

Now in their second year, the DOP and CDC programs are dedicated to helping students prepare for the future by presenting them with myriad career paths and meaningful "real world" experiences and work-study elective high school graduation credits. Four years in the making, the program is spearheaded by Katieann Pirog, DOP Director, CDC Coordinator, and Career Counselor, who had the passion and vision to help build the center from the ground up, along with Superintendent/Head of School Dr. Anthony Serio, Principal Susan Sojka, Director of Student Services Julie McDougall, and Associate Principal Debra Lewis.

"This is a 'Gilbert grown 21st Century Skills initiative' as things have been shifting in the education arena, with a higher value being placed on students getting real life experiences," says Katieann. "There are unlimited opportunities out there, and I was determined to bring as many resources as possible to Gilbert. I'm grateful to be in the position of creating a work/study program and Career Center that gives students the knowledge, experience, and skill sets to make informed decisions about their future and successfully transition to life after graduation."

These programs were a big undertaking. Katieann had her work cut out for her in order to launch them. Research had to be done that included reviewing graduation, demographic, and job market trend data. Students, faculty, and administrators were continuously consulted. Specific 21st Century student needs were targeted. Originally five program options were identified as strong possibilities but only two made the final cut. From there, strategic plans for the DOP and CDC programs were written and brought before the Gilbert School Corporation and The W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation to gain member votes and support. The programs received unanimous votes. Then came the tasks of community and business outreach, student recruitment, and TGS needed a Faculty member to apply

for a State Co-Operative Work Education/Diversified Occupations certificate. The Diversified Occupational Work-Study Program allows students to pursue work experiences as paid employees and interns, allowing them to not only gain valuable work experience and skills but also awards them with elective credit towards graduation. The DOP also aligns with Gilbert's CTE electives, such as wood working, business, TV production, and fine arts.

The Career Center, assists all students looking for paid job placement, fosters critical thinking and problem-solving abilities and helps students develop such skills as communication, teamwork, professionalism, wage negotiation, planning, and goal setting through mini lessons and private consultation meetings. In addition, Katieann teaches a Career Explorations class. She invites outside guests into the classroom to share their professional insights, exposing students to career opportunities and options they may not otherwise have considered. Past presenters have discussed life as a cyber security specialist, personal fitness trainer, lawyer, and private pilot, to name just a few. The center also scouts for career pathway field trip opportunities and schedules regular career focused industry guest speakers. Through the center, students can also explore other post-secondary options such as, full-time employment immediately after graduation, certificate programs, technical programs, GAP year options and Armed Services careers pathways.

Katieann has been responsible for finding quality student and school resources. An important part of the CDC's mission is forging relationships and developing partnerships within the community and beyond to widen the scope of options available to students. "We have fostered deep connections with members of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club, as well as the military, law enforcement agencies, arts organizations, manufacturing and engineering firms, hospitals and healthcare facilities, colleges and tech schools, nonprofits, and other industries, businesses and organizations," says Katieann. "With more work/study, job shadowing, and volunteer opportunities, students can develop a better sense of direction and are equipped to make more informed decisions about their future."

"With more work/study, job shadowing, and volunteer opportunities, students can develop a better sense of direction and are equipped to make more informed decisions about their future."
Katieann Pirog

An exciting new development included with these initiatives is that TGS is now one of the first schools in the state of Connecticut to house an elective credited U.S. Army Students Taking Active Rolls Club (S.T.A.R. Program), which provides the students with guidance in leadership, character development, and physical training, while informing them about its wide range of military careers—from infantry and medical first responders to animal handling and culinary arts training.

Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) is right down the hill from The Gilbert School, and the two schools partner to invite high schoolers to "Experience College" for a day. This event allows TGS students to receive an overview of college life and choose from workshops taught by NCCC faculty. Previous classes have provided a diverse range of studies, including sign language, business management, early childhood education, fine arts, forensic science, engineering, medical professions, and veterinary technology.

There are a number of other ways that the new programs prepare students to successfully navigate the working world. To help graduates get off on the right foot, they offer classes that address the crucial and nitty gritty elements of job searching, such as how to create a resume, write a cover letter, and fill out a job application; interview skills training, email etiquette and professional conduct; and public speaking. The programs also provide reference binders with information about the Department of Labor, Chamber of Commerce, trade certifications—many of them at no charge—and many other important resources.

Students are not the only ones being offered new and exciting opportunities—Gilbert faculty, staff, trustees, and board of education members have also been presented with some amazing professional development experiences! For example, Katieann has been invited to Marine, Navy, Army, Airforce, and other military bases around the country, and consequently has developed relationships with many military officers. She even attended a week of boot camp training at Parris Island, the legendary Marine recruit depot in South Carolina.

"I was there with teachers, administrators, athletic coaches, principals, and superintendents from other schools," says Katieann. "We slept on 'the racks'—which are bunk beds—got up at the crack of dawn, scaled walls, went through drills, were taught to get in formation, taken out to the firing range to shoot simulated M16s, sent into the sand pit, and had our drill sergeant yelling in our faces. We can now speak from experience, telling kids what it's really like on a military base! And I am happy to be going back to Parris Island again this summer, this time with some other Gilbert staff members!"

There's never a dull moment for Katieann at Gilbert! This past year she had a caseload of 61 ninth grade students as well as 22 students in the CDC's Career Exploration Class and 23 participants in the DOP program. There were also 22 seniors at one time seeking job opportunities.

There is no one right way or path—every student has unique interests, circumstances, and needs. Some may be college bound, others may choose to launch a career or enlist in the military. A number of students may also join the workforce while pursuing a higher education. And the CDC is there to serve and guide all of them.

"Our DOP and CDC Programs are limitless," says Katieann. "Everything is continuously evolving, and we have to evolve to stay relevant in order to continue offer our students the very best. I love encouraging students to explore and experience, to add to their knowledge and self-awareness, and find their passion. I want them to know they can dream big!"

The Career Tech Suite:
A Dedicated Space Where Creativity Reigns

by Patricia Martin

The bright, sunny career tech suite is brand spanking new for the 2018 – 2019 school year! Housed right outside the library, the spacious classrooms house both Donald Crossman's CAD Lab and Steven Hodge's AV/Photography Lab, and both are well appointed with an array of state-of-the-art tools. It's a place of hands-on experimentation where creativity reigns.



Donny Crossman, Class of 1999, who has been a teacher for 14 years, and at Gilbert for the last five—notes that tech ed and industrial arts have grown tremendously. "I studied with Mr. Michael Minor here at Gilbert, and he inspired me to become a tech ed teacher, too." Donny now teaches four classes at full capacity each semester, with 16 to 20 students per course, and loves to inspire his own students.



Because technology changes rapidly, it's important for the school to stay current. Donny's lab currently houses 20 CAD computers, and he anticipates getting new replacements in the future, thanks in part to a grant allocation. There are two 3D printers and two Maker BOT Replicators, with an additional 3D printer that uses a lighter polymer, on the horizon.



"CAD design is an experiential course," says Donny. "Sometimes a student has an idea in his or her head but cannot draw it, and it's exciting for them to be able to use CAD to take their idea and use it dimensionally to produce a product. I design my classes to expose the kids to as many career options as possible while they develop their technical skills. If they want to enter the field, it helps them determine if they wish to focus on being a builder or an engineer. And with the help of Gilbert guidance and career counselor Katieann Pirog, we are often able to match students with internships and mentorships so they can get credit for their real-world experiences."

With his AV/Photography classes, Steve Hodges appreciates having the larger space and resources to allow his students to explore and create. "The lab is expanded and better appointed, and we have more control over light and sound, so we have better production capabilities," he says. "The classes are totally experiential and project-based, and I welcome ideas from the kids. Now there's room to spread out, with more tools to work with. It's a great step up that's raising the bar, giving the kids more creative latitude to experiment, stretch their abilities and skillsets, and explore their vision."

The A/V lab currently houses 20 computers and a 60' touch screen "Smartboard" with excellent resolution, which is a great learning tool that enables Steve to give his students live presentations rather than simply pass out printed handouts. "I utilize 'Google Classroom,' and the 'Smartboard' technology makes my demonstrations and coursework much more vivid and alive and engages the kids in a more compelling way."

Steve's classroom suite also provides ample room for a photography studio, a more spacious video studio with a green screen, equipment for recording soundtracks and voiceovers, and enhanced resources for his graphic design students. "Our new space is larger and much more versatile," says Steve. "We even have a dedicated space for an electronic keyboard so students can produce original music for their projects."

Steve has seen his class sizes growing to full capacity as students become aware of what his courses have to offer. "I have 160 students signed up for photography classes this year alone," he says. "Many of them are so turned on by it they invest in their own personal cameras to experiment creatively outside of school hours."

Steve is proud that many of his previous students have gone on to achieve career success. Some of the Gilbert alumni he has taught are now working in LA, others for major news outlets, and one is even writing for Steven Spielberg. "I love inspiring kids to explore their talent, and letting them know it's of value, and important, to pursue," says Steve. "It's so rewarding when you help kids develop their talents and follow their dreams."

Lessons on Building a Positive Community

by Francesca Daniele



On September 26, 2018, The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Names Can Really Hurt Us Program came to The Gilbert School in the form of an all-day assembly that focused on the impact words can have and how students and faculty alike can help foster a safe and caring environment in which all feel welcomed. Faculty and student leaders had participated in two training sessions leading up to this day so that they were prepared for their roles in the assembly.

The ADL's facilitator for the day was Diane Drakes and she started the assembly by leading the faculty and student body in creating norms for behavior for the day. She then defined the four key roles people can play—perpetrator, victim, bystander, and ally—so that all participants would be using the same language over the course of the day. Then Drakes shared her personal experience with the power of words before opening the floor for six student panelists. These students delivered speeches recounting their own experiences as perpetrators, victims, bystanders, and allies. This set the stage for the open microphone experience, where students shared their stories.

The lunchbreak that followed allowed students to begin processing the events of the day. After lunch, students broke out into small groups to work with faculty and student leaders to discuss the qualities of allies and to determine next steps for creating a positive atmosphere here at The Gilbert School. All participants joined together again in the auditorium to share action steps that each member of our school community could take to be better allies.

Sports Scrapbook

TGS Wrestling Champs: Giving their all, giving their hearts.

by Patricia Martin

Gilbert's wrestling "Dream Team" had an amazing season for the record books!

For starters, they won the very first Wrestling State Championship in TGS history and the first State Championship in 19 years for Gilbert. Moreover, they are back-to-back Berkshire League Champions and broke the record for the most dual meet wins in a season, ending at 26-3. The team totally ruled the mats, giving Gilbert great cause for celebration!

More congratulations are in order for wrestler Alex Smith for receiving the Academic All-State Award. The award-winner must be a senior in good standing with an SAT score of at least 1,200, exhibit good character and citizenship, and be a member of an All-State wrestling team. Alex hits it on all cylinders!

There's still more Gilbert pride for TGS alumni Coach Darek Schibi ('99) and Coach Chris Marks. They were selected as CIAC Class S coach of the year and assistant coach of the year, respectively. Another great win!

Gilbert Athletic Director Donald Crossman is pleased to have witnessed the wrestling program grow and the team become a force to be reckoned with. "It's been amazing to see how it's become a great success," he says. "Coach Schibi started a youth wrestling program here about six years ago, which now has about 30 kids in it. It's a terrific way to get them interested in the sport, and many of them go on to join the Gilbert team. Coach Schibi knows how to motivate students on and off the mat, how to teach them technically and motivate them emotionally. He's a great leader."



"Sometimes things happen in sports that do not happen all too often. Some examples are a no-hitter in baseball, 1000 points scored in basketball, and a hole-in-one in golf. Our own Devin Matthews reached his 100th win as a wrestler."

—Athletic Director, Don Crossman

Crossman commends the team for taking home the banners. "It was so close," he says. "It got down to the finals and it was wild! To have every player score and win by half a point took a true team effort."

Coach Schibi has been the wrestling coach at Gilbert for the past five years, following award-winning success coaching at Northwestern. Under his leadership, the TGS team has grown from a handful of wrestlers to about 20. "Gilbert was one of the smallest schools to compete, and we beat teams from schools two and three times our size," he says. "We get a lot of support from the school and the town, which goes a long way toward motivating the team. It means a lot to bring home the win!"

After the fierce, dedicated Gilbert wrestlers brought home the championship, Senior Nick Barber summed up the team spirit. "I wrestled my hardest," he says. "I gave it my all, and I gave it my heart."

It's a blue & gold banner year for every member of the team, the coaches, and TGS indeed!



At the 2018-2019 CIAC wrestling all-state award ceremony, Kyle Matthews, Nick Barber, and Alex Smith were honored for finishing first place in the state tournament. Alex Smith was also recognized for earning Academic All-State distinction.





Baseball Ryley Weiss was voted the Berkshire League Steve Reich Pitcher of the Year, for the second year in a row, by the Berkshire League baseball coaches. This extremely prestigious award is named for Steve Reich, a former Shepaug pitcher, MLB draft pick and US Army Ranger killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2005. Ryley was also selected to be a part of the CHSCA senior Select All-Star game. The top seniors in the state are selected to play in this game.
Ryley Weiss, pictured, left

















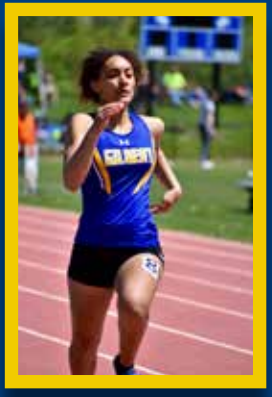


















Commencement Speaker Brock Flieger, '12

"Standing in the door" of defining moments

by Patricia Martin



Brock Flieger was surprised to get the phone call asking if he would be the commencement speaker for the Class of 2019 Gilbert School graduation. "After all, I am just 25 years old," he says. "But I was told this class was special and a lot like me when I was at Gilbert. They're spirited, ambitious, enthusiastic, and they stick together. Since I love and revere this institution, I was honored!"

Flieger walked the halls of The Gilbert School following in the footsteps of his grandmother and mother as well as his two older sisters, Caitlin '04 and Dana '07. He especially appreciates that TGS allows students to have meaningful interactions with teachers and try different activities and pursuits.

"I was class president my junior and senior years and the captain of the soccer, swimming/diving, and tennis teams as a senior," he explains. "I was also in the marching and symphonic bands plus the jazz program. You are encouraged to dip your toes in many areas at Gilbert, which makes you a well-rounded person."

After Gilbert, Flieger went to basic training at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "It was one of the most challenging and rewarding summers of my life," he says. "I learned the true meaning of discipline, camaraderie, perseverance."



At the conclusion of his freshman year at the Academy, Flieger enrolled in a summer elective, Airmanship 490, which is "jump school" or skydiving. "The jump program is one-of-a-kind in that it is the only one in the world where your first jump is a completely solo, freefall experience," he says. "No one attached to your back, no static line. Just you, a parachute, and the vast open air."

On July 16, 2013, Flieger boarded a plane with seven other classmates making their first skydive. "The hum of the engines drew back as we leveled off at 4,500 feet," he explains. "When the bulb above the door turned from red to green, we put on a pair of goggles and unbuckled our seatbelts. As the door opened, a gush of wind filled and spiraled into the fuselage with a deafening roar. Our jumpmaster looked each of us in the eye, one at a time, and instructed us to 'STAND IN THE DOOR.'"

"STANDING IN THE DOOR" means your hands cling to the bars above the open door with your feet positioned in the door jam. Your entire body is exposed to the wind until you are told to release your grip and jump. But Flieger says, "To 'STAND IN THE DOOR' also means acknowledging fear and accepting the unknown. You let go, and it's an indescribable moment of terror, unfamiliarity, and triumph… Triumph over the imaginary walls that we've constructed, and finally tear down."

Flieger graduated from the Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering. He then proceeded to pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, before going on to Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he trained to fly "Huey" helicopters. "My father took me on my first helicopter ride at the Grand Canyon when I was a kid," he says. "My mom believes my father was grooming me to be a pilot since I was four years old!"

Now a First Lieutenant, Flieger is stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, DC, as a pilot in the 1st Helicopter Squadron. His primary mission is to airlift high-ranking dignitaries, military leaders, and other VIPs. "You get to see the White House, the Capitol, and The Washington Monument from just 200 feet up," he says. "It's a blast!"

Flieger told TGS graduates that there were moments in his life when he experienced failure and disappointment, as well as success and achievement. "In the next decade, you are bound for unexpected, life-changing moments that will develop your character and provide a foundation for your future," he says. "Every one of you will surely have defining moments—moments when you're asked to 'STAND IN THE DOOR,' on that thin border of what you know, and uncertainty. It is in those moments that you must trust in yourself and take a leap forward."



Marc Basil '00

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT AND WINNING

by Patricia Martin

There are very few—if any—"overnight successes." Success is hard won by dedication, determination, focus, and doing the work—whatever it takes—to achieve your dream. You must believe in yourself, follow your heart, and keep on going through all the ups and downs.

Just consider the career path of Marc Basil, TGS class of 2000. This multi-talented alumnus is an accomplished actor, playwright, producer, director, and podcast host. His passion for performing began as a young child, and his "big break" came when he was 30, following decades of acting classes and pounding the pavement in Manhattan. "One of the inspirational quotes that I always keep in mind is 'if we were given the ability to dream, we have the ability to achieve that dream,'" says Basil. "I truly believe this, and that the various paths we follow eventually lead us to where we belong."

Basil grew up in Winsted, and showed his propensity for performing at a very young age. "I was very rambunctious and had a lot of energy," he says. "I would mimic things I saw on TV and perform at home."

His parents recognized his talent and wanted to cultivate his potential. When they learned about an opportunity to audition for a New York City talent agent at The Meriden Square Mall in Meriden, Connecticut, they took him to try out.

"We spent 12 hours among 10,000 other children," Basil says. "I was encouraged to take acting classes, which I started to do every Saturday in New York City. I now realize what a sacrifice it was for my parents to invest the time and money in me. My mother worked the night shift and my father would drop me off at my grandparents' house in Waterbury on his way to work on Saturday mornings. My mother would come straight from work and we'd drive or take the train to midtown Manhattan to the Weist-Barron School of Acting. My parents saw something in me at a very young age, and to this day they are still very supportive. They are amazing, and I am very lucky."

Over the years, Basil performed in plays at The Gilbert School and community theater, and turned down a college football scholarship in order to attend the American Music and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) to pursue his dream. "I moved to New York when I was 17, right after graduation, and continued to take acting classes until I was 20," he says.

"I supported myself as a nightclub bouncer in order to pay the bills and keep my days open for what few auditions came my way."

During the next 12 years Basil landed just a few acting jobs but kept going. Then, at the age of 30, his career started to take off. "I acquired a wonderful talent manager, who I still work with," he says. "She got my foot in the door with the casting director of the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*, in which I had 17 auditions for 17 different characters over the course of a year and a half before I landed the role of Al Capone's leg breaker."



Since then, Basil has enjoyed numerous roles in such hits as *Gotham*, *Daredevil*, *The Blacklist*, *Happy*, and *The Godfather of Harlem*. And in May 2019, he started filming for an independent film, *Listen*. "I get to play an Israeli military soldier," he says. "I'm usually cast as a thug, 'muscle,' a hitman, or a bodyguard. This role is relatively small but it's a great part and I get to step out from what I've already done."

Besides acting, Basil enjoys writing, directing, producing, and broadcast. "Each facet of what I do has its own meaning and purpose, and gives me a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction."

At one point, Basil took acting classes with Chazz Palminteri, an actor, screenwriter, producer, playwright, and "King of One Man Shows." He says, "*The Good Fight* was written as a screenplay first and then adapted into a one-man show after being personally inspired by Palminteri and his classic one-man show, *A Bronx Tale*, along with others who had breakthroughs in their careers by doing their own projects, like Sylvester Stallone with *Rocky* and Matt Damon with *Good Will Hunting*. I had written other pieces before, but the idea of tackling a one-man show sparked my imagination in a new way."

The story is about a gay boxer who has the chance to create history in the professional boxing world, being the first openly gay contender for the World Heavyweight title, and all the life struggles that come with it. Basil has performed it in Manhattan and then was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform it on the Gilbert stage this past March.

"I wanted to bring something back to my hometown community in northwest Connecticut, but I wasn't sure what venue would be the best," he says. "My wife, Alexandra, is very supportive, and I run everything past her. She suggested that I bring it back to my high school—which was a great idea! That's how I ended up doing *The Good Fight* at Gilbert. It was almost 20 years since I'd been on that stage, and it was reminiscent and surreal."

To bring the show to Gilbert, Basil first connected with faculty members Diane Cook and Sandra O'Connor. "I am best friends with both of their children," he says. "Mrs. O'Connor put me in touch with Scott Minnerly and Mrs. Cook helped with the process of arranging for the show to take place during the school year. I also reconnected with Adam Atkins, who was my chorus teacher when I attended Gilbert and I got to work with him again in a different capacity. Without their help I'd never have had the opportunity to perform *The Good Fight* on the Gilbert stage."

Basil was the only football player at TGS who was part of the drama club, and he loved the experience of working on all aspects of theater. "I had the opportunity to learn all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a performance," he says. "The actors built sets, painted scenery, and got involved with everything backstage as well as on stage. You learn things like how lighting helps inform the storyline, and how all the pieces of the puzzle come together to make a show. It gave me an understanding of the full creative process and what it takes to get a production ready. I think that's why I love all aspects of the business, from acting to directing to producing to writing. My experiences at Gilbert helped lead me to where I am right now."

On top of acting, writing, directing, and film work, Basil's latest project is hosting a weekly Podcast called "The Rise." It features different guests from the entertainment world, from actors to songwriters to stunt people, and is intended to be inspirational and motivational. "We talk about successes and failures, the journey to get where we are and how to get to the next level," Basil says.

In less than four months, "The Rise" has followers from all over the world. "New analytics came in and the podcast is now heard in over 11 countries worldwide," Basil says. "It has more than 300 weekly listeners and has acquired roughly 100 new ones each month."

Basil is content and philosophical about his life's journey so far. "Most people are surprised it takes about 10 years to become an 'overnight success,'" he says. "I'm very grateful for every opportunity I have been given and those I've lost, too. You have to go after what you want no matter what and believe you will achieve your dream. My vision and career path have adapted and changed over the years in ways I never expected. And I'm excited about the future."

Honoring Our 2018 Distinguished Alumni

By Patricia Martin

Each year, our alumni are honored and recognized for their outstanding contributions to society. The Gilbert School is well known for nurturing and inspiring students to achieve their personal best academically, emotionally, spiritually, and for the benefit of their community. Here are the 2018 honorees, each one very deserving of receiving the honor of being a Distinguished Alumni of The Gilbert School.

Don Goetz, Class of 1970

The Gilbert Heritage Award

Fostering community and connectedness.
Don Goetz,'70 is proud to have graduated from Gilbert, which is a family legacy. His grandmother, Helen Cooper Goetz, graduated in 1919 as salutatorian of her class. His parents met at TGS and later married after graduation. His sister, June, graduated in 1976, and his son Adam also calls Gilbert his alma mater. Following in the footsteps of his grandparents, Adam graduated with his wife, Heather, in 2007, before starting their courtship.





Don earned his undergraduate degrees in Latin American Studies and Horticulture from the University of Connecticut. These interests led him to join the Peace Corps in 1976, where he served in Colombia, then stayed on for several years after his assignment ended. Returning to the U.S., Don settled in a suburb of Miami, Florida, married his wife, Faith, earned his Master of Science Degree in Social Studies Education from Florida International University, and taught at Miami Central High School. He also got involved in local politics, serving on the governing council and later as mayor of the town in which they resided.

Don and Faith came back to Connecticut in 1996. Don first taught for a number of years at Wolcott High School before accepting a position at TGS. Affectionately known as "Señor Goetz," he taught Spanish I, II, III, and initiated courses in Spanish IV and AP Spanish. He also revived courses in Political Science, taught U.S. History, American Studies, Civics, and AP U.S. Government & Politics.

Señor Goetz's students benefited from the field trips he organized for his classes. "It's important for students to see and experience what they learn in the classroom outside of the classroom," says Don. "Spanish classes traveled to Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Peru, and Spain. We also visited places closer to home, like regional Hispanic restaurants, museum exhibitions and even saw *On Your Feet* and *Evita* on Broadway."

For social studies classes, Don planned trips to Washington DC, New York, and Hartford, as well as sites in Winsted. He also highlighted the importance of community involvement by reviving the practice of having Gilbert social studies students run the local candidate forums. "Being involved in local politics and visiting places like Soldiers' Monument and The Winchester Historical Society are experiences that cultivate a sense of civic pride."

Don believes there is a special sense of community at Gilbert. "It's almost mystical," he says. "The connections run deep. For instance, students will tell me 'you had my cousin in your class… my older brother…my sister.' There is a familiarity and sense of continuity.

"In a large school, kids can get lost in the crowd. A school like Gilbert gives students a feeling of place and belonging. They are not only learning to think here, they are developing their personality and learning how to relate to others. The feeling of community, of connectiveness, helps foster a positive sense of self."

As far as receiving his Distinguished Alumni Award Heritage Award, Don says, "I was surprised! It's an honor to find out that people see what I have done over the years as having value."

Jake Smith, Class of 2008

Young Alumni Achievement Award



Living his mission 24/7 with joy

When Jake graduated from The Gilbert School in 2008, he did not know his path would lead him to teach theology and be in campus ministry. "After graduating from Gilbert as Co-Salutatorian, I went to Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and majored in Classics," he says. "But by the end of my sophomore year, I realized that I did not find joy in just reading and translating Latin and Greek. My faith has always been important to me, and I figured why can't I incorporate my study of antiquity with Theology and create an interdisciplinary major? It was a great bridge, and I earned my degree in Classics and Theology."

Jake soon discovered that he also loved teaching when he accepted a teacher-intern position at The Taft School, in Watertown, Connecticut, in the summer of 2011, where he taught English and Current Events. The following year, he was hired as a summer program faculty member at The Loomis Chaffee School, in Windsor, Connecticut, where he now serves as Dean of Students for its summer program. Then, in the spring of 2012, Jake received an offer from the Marianapolis Preparatory School, in Thompson, Connecticut, to serve as its theology teacher, campus minister, varsity golf coach, and dorm parent. His role expanded recently, when he was asked to be the school's Director of Campus Ministry and also to assume the role of head of the freshman boys' dormitory.


1


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3

"I am a boarding school 'lifer,'" says Jake. "I get such joy and fulfillment in guiding students along their faith journey. My motto is 'All are Welcome.' It's the title of a song written by Marty Haugen, which I heard when it was played at the opening of the first Mass I ever attended at Holy Cross. It touched me deeply, and I embrace its sentiment."

Jake is not the only one in his family drawn to ministry, and has a lot in common with his identical twin, Jordan "Jordie." Jordie also graduated from Gilbert, along with their two younger brothers Ted ('12) and Tim ('16). The twins went to Holy Cross together, and Jordie now serves as the Director of Campus Ministry at Saint Joseph High School in Trumbull, Connecticut.

"Jordie and I are very close and never felt any competition," says Jake. "We did most things together and were always neck and neck in our achievements. In fact, we were number one and number two in our class at Gilbert. And now in our ministry roles we partner and run joint retreats for our students."

Jake loves to plan retreats, and developed and runs a student-led retreat twice a year called "Kairos," which he says affords his students the same opportunities for growth that he was given at Gilbert. Jake explains, "'Kairos' is a Greek word meaning 'the right time,' and the retreat is designed to offer students the opportunity to find out more about themselves and to reflect on their journey through our chaotic world."

As for his Young Alumni Achievement Award, Jake is deeply honored to receive the recognition. "You do not live expecting to win an award, and there are other people who stand out," he says. "Deb Lewis, for example, who nominated me, had a great influence on me while I was at Gilbert. So did John Higgins, who I took Latin with for four years, Scott Minnerly, our band director, and my English teacher Maura Hurley. I am humbled and honored."

Jake was also happy to share the Gilbert 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony with Don Goetz ('70) who received The Gilbert Heritage Award. He explains, "Mr. Goetz was my study hall teacher, and we would chat in the hallway as I usually went to the library," he explains. "It is surreal to receive an award right along with him."

Jake can think of nothing more rewarding than living his mission and having an impact. "It is a blessing to be in this line of work where I am privileged to teach, to mentor, and, most of all, learn from my students every day. It's a 24/7 job that brings me great joy."

Photo 1 – Kairos Student Leaders
Photo 2 – Class of 2016, Marionapolis Prepartatory School, Jake's First Graduating Class
Photo 3 – The Smith Brothers, Jordie ('08), Tim ('16), Ted ('12), Jake ('08)

Eliot "Bang" Williams
Class of 1960
The Gilbert Professional Achievement Award





A child of good fortune, a life of gratitude. When he was born, his father wrote a telegram that read: "Son born on July 4th. Bang! Bang!" Which is how Eliot "Bang" Williams,'60 got his lifelong nickname.

"When I was little, I thought the Independence Day parades, picnics and fireworks were for me!" Bang says. "I always felt love from my family, and my sense of self was affirmed every day. I came to The Gilbert School with a lot of self-confidence."

TGS is a rich part of Bang's life. "My dad graduated from Gilbert in 1918, and was a trustee of the William L. Gilbert Trust for many years," he says. "As a student, the teachers cared for me and always supported me. High school years shape your life as you grow from childhood into adulthood. I know Gilbert gave me the best foundation."

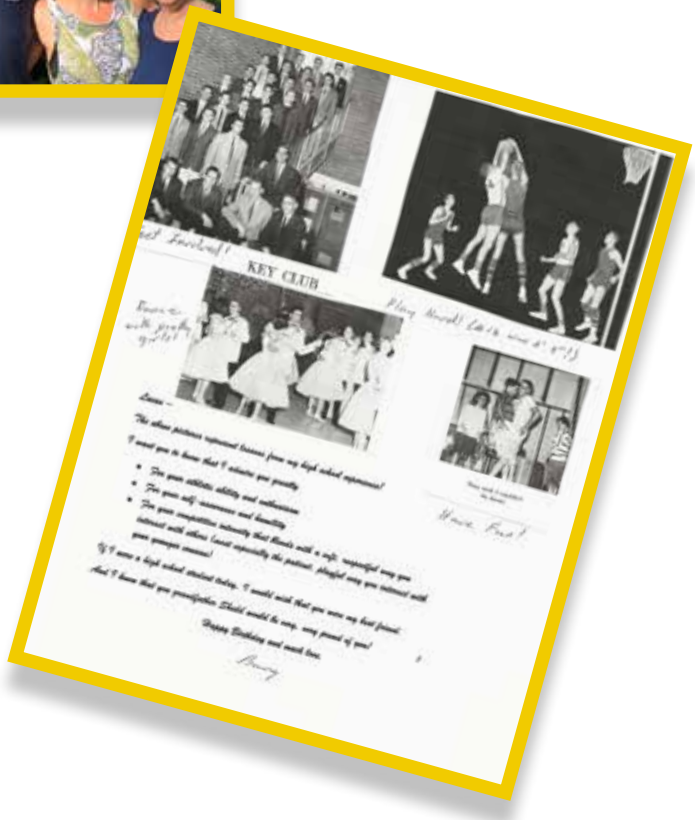
After graduation, Bang attended Haverford College, where he earned a BA in Economics. College life was a big change for Bang, and presented many challenges. "After being on top of the world, I got a comeuppance," he says. "My classmates were brilliant, and I worked really hard just to be an average student. Had I not had the foundation Gilbert gave me, I would not have had the skills to cope."

Bang went on to receive an MBA from the University of Virginia, and then spent three years in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. He then joined the Investment Group of The Travelers, launching a career that spanned 45 years in leadership positions with The Travelers, The CS First Boston Investment Management Company, and the New England Guild.

Involved with national investment organizations, Bang was a founding governor of the Association for Investment Management and Research (subsequently renamed the CFA Institute), a trustee of the CFA Research Foundation, and currently remains a member of the Editorial Board of the *CFA Digest*. In 1994, Bang was bestowed the C. Steward Sheppard Award for his contribution to professional education.

Now retired, Bang lives in Windsor, CT, with his wife of 53 years, Susan Rafferty Williams. The couple have two daughters and five grandchildren.

"I am a child of good fortune who has lived a life of gratitude," says Bang. "Gilbert was an important part of my life, and had a great impact on me. Receiving the Professional Achievement Award in my retirement is an unexpected honor as there are so many people who are so deserving of this award. I am blessed!"



Kurt Root, Class of 1985

The Outstanding Community Service Award

Love affair with sports benefits the community. Kurt Root,'85 has a lifelong love for all sports…which is a legacy that benefits kids and the community to this day.

A natural leader and long-time coach of many teams, Kurt did not participate in sports at Gilbert. "I did not play anything in high school, even though I wanted to," he says. "My parents were divorced and I lived with my mom. I had jobs at both Ames Department store and a gas station to help her out."



After graduating from TGS, Kurt focused on starting a career. "I was working, then I got married and we had kids," he says. "My priority was supporting my family and making a nice life for us." He's been successful in his career, and for the past 30 years has worked at Enson Bickford Aerospace in Simsbury, where he is a supervisor.

Kurt finally was able to get into sports when he began coaching his nephew's Little League team in 1989. In 1991, he joined a men's softball team and quickly got involved in other sports, including basketball and flag football. He decided to put his coaching on hold until 2001, when his two children, Amanda and Kyle, were old enough to participate in sports.

Kurt quickly made up for lost time! He started by coaching his kids' recreation teams, then travel teams, and eventually coaching at TGS. The main sports he has coached are basketball, baseball, and softball, adding soccer to the list in 2016. His involvement includes working with both boys and girls from 5th grade on up, as well as participating in and running men's city softball and basketball leagues.

Kurt cherishes the relationships he has forged over the years with young athletes. "I have gotten attached to the kids," he says. "I have coached them when they were little, and watched them grow. I worked with some when they were nine or 10 years old, and then again later in high school. I love seeing them develop."

Fundraising for travel teams to help offset the cost for parents and grabbing a paintbrush to spruce up the walls of The Gilbert School are other examples of Kurt's generosity of spirit. His selflessness has inspired countless others to volunteer and give back to the community. "I learned at Gilbert to work hard and give everything you have," he says. "It's a valuable lesson that's stayed with me."

Receiving the award for Outstanding Community Service touched Kurt deeply. "I consider sports a hobby—and it's great getting rewarded for things I love to do! It's not work because I really enjoy it!"

Donald "Donny" Crossman Class of 1999

Outstanding Athlete Award



Destined for athletic greatness. Life-long Winsted resident Donald "Donny" Crossman, '99 is proud that his photo is displayed right next to his paternal grandfather Donald "Grump" Crossman's in the TGS sports case. And based on his family bloodlines, Donny was destined for athletic greatness. His father, Wayne Crossman, was an All-State basketball star and 1000-point scorer at Northwest Regional 7. "Grump" was a three-time All-State member and Honorable Member of the All-American team while he attended The Gilbert School. And Donny's maternal grandfather, Ed Decker, was well known for his basketball and running abilities.

Now Gilbert's Career Technology Education teacher, as well as serving as the school's Athletic Director, Donny carried on the family legacy of exceptional athletic prowess. As a student, he lettered in the school's state champion basketball team in 1998 and 1999 and played baseball for four years, where he was a three-time All-Berkshire League selection. During his senior year at TGS, Donny was captain of the baseball and basketball teams as well as being named the school's 1999 Male Athlete of the Year. He went on as a baseball scholarship player at Division I Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), and played in two NCAA regional tournaments. He still holds the CCSU pitching appearance record for a single season. In the Tri-State League, he is a two-time CY Young Award winner and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in August 2016.

Donny pursued his passion for sports while also focusing on his goal of becoming a teacher. In 2004, he graduated Cum Laude from CCSU with a 3.87 GPA, earning a B.S. Ed in Technology Education.

His family and The Gilbert School encouraged Donny to strive for success. "With love, discipline, and leading by example, my family guided me to become the person I am today," he says. "And Gilbert gave me the platform to shine in the classroom and on the field. The school's 'no excuses', and 'find a way' mentality helps you become strong, and gives you toughness and grit. Plus, it's where I met the love of my life, my wife Brooke!"

Now dedicated to the classroom and to keeping his athletic heritage alive, Donny is delighted to be merging the two worlds of sports and education. "I love being able to provide the great opportunities to kids that I was given here," he says. "It's an honor and a privilege."

ClassNotes *Where are they now?*

1942



David John Marks – David's daughter Donna Marks writes, David had many fond memories of his time at The Gilbert School. After leaving Gilbert, he joined the army just after Pearl Harbor, serving as a spy, stationed in Hawaii, number 07. After the war, he worked for a garden center company. When his company sent him to California, he created the Marks-Clark Insurance Company in Santa Cruz, California. He and his wife, Pauline Marks, raised three daughters and after retirement, he and his daughter Donna created a tourist attraction near Yosemite, called The Country Kitchen Herb Farm in Mariposa, California.

1962

James DiVita – Jim retired from the Winsted Recreation Commission after more than 45 years of service, serving for 20 of those years as chairman. He was honored by the commission, and the mayor in a ceremony at the Winsted Town Hall. Mayor Candy Perez said, "People who volunteer don't always stay on as long



as Jim did – often, after their children are grown, they move on to something else. Jim is one of those rare people who continued to serve long after his kids grew up. He was very dedicated to the commission." Jim also volunteered as a basketball official for 25 years, a basketball coach at Gilbert for 15 years, and served for four years on the Winchester Board of Education. Jim is currently a justice of the peace as well as a Eucharistic minister. He is looking forward to spending more time with his nine grandchildren. Thank you for your service, Jim!

1988

Todd Grazia – Todd Grazia, MD, was named chief of transplant pulmonology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Grazia joined Baylor Scott & White Advanced Lung Disease Specialists after serving on the faculty at the University of Colorado, as the associate medical director and acting medical director of lung transplantation. He has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Gates Foundation, among others. Todd is married with two teenage boys. He is an avid hunter, fisherman, skier and cyclist. In his spare time he enjoys traveling with his wife and sons.



1995

Tim McCann – Lieutenant Colonel Timothy J. McCann, Class of 1995, was retired after 20 years of active duty in the United States Air Force in a ceremony on March 22, 2019 at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Tim served as a pilot with assignments in C-21 Learjet, C-17, C-20 Gulfstream, and C-37 Gulfstream aircraft.



In attendance were fellow Gilbert alumni. Pictured left to right are Tim's brother, Gregory McCann, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force Reserve, (Class of 1997), Brandie Schieb (Class of 1997), Thomas Clark (Class of 1997), Tim's mother, Susan (Roberts) Rouleau (former Gilbert teacher and Class of 1964), Tim, (Class of 1995), Tim's father and former Gilbert Assistant Headmaster, Frank McCann, Aaron Angell, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps (Class of 1993), and Laura Hugel (Class of 1996). Congratulations, and thank you for your service, Tim!

2002 Kristopher Kelsey
2012 Dylan Jefferis
2012 Joseph Colabella

Two Gilbert alumni opened Brinx Kitchen & Bar in November on 53 Main Street in Torrington. Kris Kelsey, who also owns



Hanq's Restaurant, decided to open this smaller more intimate restaurant in the former First Act Bakery space. The new venture features tapas dishes and specialty cocktails made in-house by co-owner Dylan Jefferis. On hand as head chef, is Joe Colabella. Brinx is named after Kris' pitbull, just as Hanq's is named after another of his beloved dogs. In this photo, Torrington Mayor, Elinor Carbone is on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Best wishes to you all!

2007

LT Dana Flieger, NC, USN – Dana's mom, Mary (Fitzgerald) Flieger, Class of 1976, wrote to let us know of Dana's amazing accomplishments. At the time of Mary's letter, Dana, a Navy Lieutenant working as an Enroute Critical Care Nurse on a flight team, was currently on her second deployment to Kuwait and Iraq. Mary writes that the plane that Dana flies is an Osprey and she is the highest-ranking officer in the



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!***



aircraft other than the pilots. If called upon for duty, the crew deploys to the site where someone is injured. The marines on the aircraft go out to get the injured person(s), then the plane flies out while Dana and her corpsman attend to the sick and injured on the flight. Our thanks and best wishes to a true hero!



2015

Molly Robitaille – Molly graduated from Molloy College in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Therapy. Following graduation, Molly moved to Springfield, Illinois to accept a full-time position as a Music Therapist in a busy music therapy practice. She is enjoying life in the Midwest, working in





her chosen field and thanks the faculty and staff of TGS, especially Mr. Minnerly, for their role in setting her on this path to her dream job. Well done, Molly!

Three Alumni Receive Community Service Awards

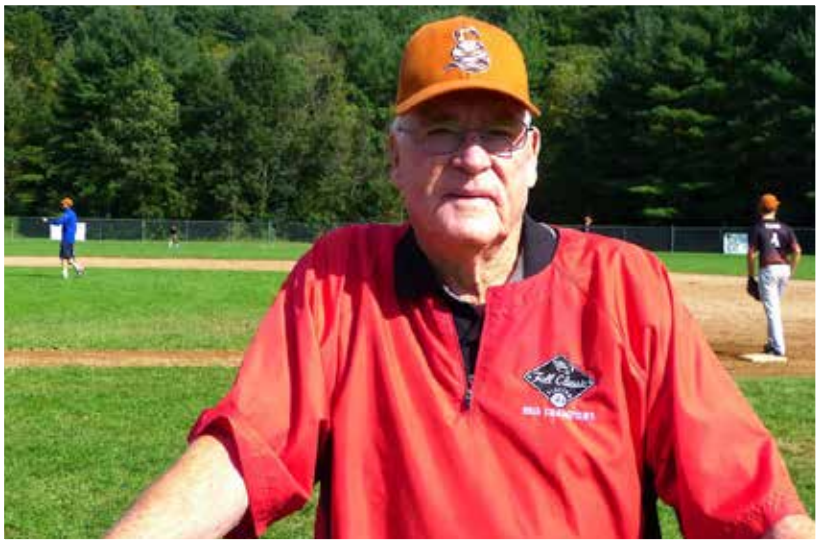
The Winsted Democratic Town Committee recognized three Gilbert graduates who made significant contributions to the community for their service and hard work, during a ceremony on October 19, 2018 at Indian Mountain Estates on 122 Marshall Street in Winsted.

1953 Milly (Williams) Hudak received the Anna Harding Community Service Award for her continued service to the community through her various positions now and throughout the years on the Winchester Historical Society, Auxiliary Health and as Winsted's historian.

1962 Jim DiVita received the Jose Cevallos Youth Service Award for his many years of serving the youth of the community as a Recreation Commission member, chairman, and coach.

1989 Astrid (Haskins) Robitaille received the John Groppo Good Government Award for her continued years of service to the community as a former registrar and for committees and projects she has served on.

Coach Moe Morhardt, retired long time coach at The Gilbert School, returned to coaching baseball with the Torrington Copperheads, a 15 and under team. Coach Morhardt played baseball at UCONN, spent two seasons in the majors with the Chicago Cubs in 1961 and 1962, coached baseball for 21 years at TGS, seven years at The University of Hartford, three at Western Connecticut State University, and seven summers as the hitting coach with the Danbury Westerners. He is now lending his considerable talent and experience to a young team in Torrington, with no signs of slowing down. Go Coach!



2018 – 2019 Donations
Thank You Alumni and Friends for Your Generosity

The following donations were received between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Every effort to ensure accuracy has been made. However, if you locate an error or omission, please accept our apologies and notify the Alumni Office at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Enrichment Donations

Gilbert Circle ($1000 +)
Anonymous
Dr. Joan Centrella, 1971 & Dwight Allen
Gary Cook, 2000
The Draper Foundation Fund
Charles & Ellen Seaback, 1972

Blue & Gold Club ($500 - $999)
S. Peter Manchester, 1958
David Poucher, 1968

Patrons ($200 - $499)
Rita (Fracasso) Broggi, 1960
Beverly (Peterson) Davis, 1957
Philip DiCara, 1943
Karen (Horn) Dooks, 1960
Heather (Case) Dzielak, 1986
Elaine A. Fortuna
Christine (Wiarda) Hurley, 1987
Painting by Marge, Inc.
Concetto & Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1982/1983
Jeffry Morton, 1987
Ann (Potamitis) Naticha, 1987
Donald Schiavone, 1948
Virginia (Salling) Schoonmaker, 1969
Mr. & Mrs. David Wilson

Yellow Jackets ($100 - $199)
Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970
Jacqueline (Hunt) Flagg, 1954
Mary (Avery) Gessner, 1954
Gregory Hughes, 1968
John Lappin, 1958
J. Thomas Light, 1958
Fred Marzullo, 1959
Robert O. Poucher, 1950
Carlton C. Roberts, 1958
Paul 1960, & Linda Svetz
David Torson, 1968

Boosters ($50 - $99)
Joseph Barber, 1989
George & Diana (Radocchio) Beebe , 1966/1967
Deirdre (Houlihan) DiCara, 1973
Evelyn Cornelio
Joan (Youmatz) DiAgostino, 1960
Cynthia Fixer, 1978
Richard Healy
Robert E. Lee, 1958

Laurel Court ($1 - $49)
Elizabeth Allen, 1982
Mary Ann (Belladella) Holmes, 1951
Warren J. Hughes, Jr., 1950
George Manchester, 1950
Agnes (Lavieri) Santangelo, 1954
Edward Scofield, 1946
Nancy (Hewitt) Silvester, 1963
Anthony Trodella
James Walter, 1986

Young Alumni Circle
(Graduates from within the past 10 years)
Jake Serafini, 2008

Scholarship Fund Donations

Timothy M. Casey Scholarship Fund
Joanne Aliano, 1974
Children of Jack Casey & Barbara Boyd
Janice & Patrick Brown
Debra & George Brydon
Christopher & Betty Cosgrove
Richard Digiandomenico
Catherine Giansiracusa
Laura Girolimon
Linda M. Groppo, 1965
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Marie Kamens
Brenda (Roberge) Lauzier, 1976
Ann Marie Mangiagli
Sally (Crossman) Mangione, 1956
Peter & Noreen (Brown) Marchand, 1965
Michael & Barbara (English) Marchione, 1974
Lawrence Reola
John & Cynthia (Ryan) Reznick, 1973
Mary Lou Serafini
Joseph Serafini
Paul & Renee Skrainski
Edward & Charlann (Zecchin) Smith, 1974

Leon Czerwonka Memorial Scholarship
Yvonne Czerwonka, 1958

Gilbert Faculty Fund Scholarship
Deborah & Peter DiMartino

John Adam Groth 2006 Memorial Scholarship
Marion A. Murray

Ingmanson Family Scholarships
Brian A. and Christine A. Ingmanson

Francis and Elaine Kane Scholarship
Kelley (Kane) Gage, 1982

The Alphonse P. Lavernoich Scholarship Fund
Alison Bourque, 1994
Edward Lavernoich, 1978

Irving S. Milano Scholarship
William & Gayle (Milano) Gemetro, 1964

Jody M. Mochak Memorial Scholarship
Robert & Liza DiMartino, 1990/1993

Alice V. Schroeder Memorial Scholarship
The Class of 1968 – 50th Class Reunion Gift
David Torson, 1968

Terrence Hastings Tirrell 1973 Memorial Scholarship
Class of 1973 – 45th Reunion Donation in Honor of their Classmate
Dominic Alegi
Leo Colwell, Jr.
Ayreslea & Duncan Denny
Elaine Fortuna
Lisa & Duncan McClave
Roger & Dorothy (Wetmore) Robbins, 1954
Robert F. Ryan
Charles & Ellen (Vaccari) Seaback, 1972
Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari, 1972

Othneil G. Williams Scholarship
Eliot Williams, 1960 & Susan Williams

Donations

Donations to The Fred and Mary Centrella Fund For Student and Faculty Enrichment
Dr. Joan Centrella, 1971 & Dwight Allen

Donations to the Student Emergency Fund
The Class of 1958 – 60th Class Reunion Gift

Donations to The Gilbert School Alumni Association
The Class of 1968 – 50th Class Reunion Gift

Donations to The Gilbert School Marching Band
Noreen (Brown) Marchand, 1965
Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990

Donations to The Gilbert School Music Department
Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990

Donations for Girls' Locker Room Improvements
Brianna Bennetts
Cindy Haley
George Haley
Joseph & Melanie Ladd
Paula LaPointe
Anthony & Tanya Mongitore
Tia Mongitore
Lisa Mongitore, 1986
Nicholas Petrunti, 1948
R & M Insulation, LLC.
Beverly Smyth
Diane Vickers
Michael Wu

Donations to the Girls' Cross Country Team
Anthony & Tanya Mongitore

Donations to the Girls' Basketball Team
Anthony & Tanya Mongitore

Donations to the Track & Field Team
Anthony & Tanya Mongitore

Donations to Project Graduation

The Class of 1998 – 20th Class Reunion Gift
Donna (Cannavo), 1977 & Louis Bourgoin
Jack & Pat Bourque
Jenni Bourque, 1988
Holly (Marchand), 1990 & Steve Cassaday
Rob, 1982 & Tracie Colabella
Richard & Donna Davis
George & Kathleen Day
Andrea (Darcey) Ellinger, 1982
Grace M. Fracasso, 1965
John & Beverly (Simons) Fratini, 1961/1963
John Gilley, 1982
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Gail Hoxie, 1962
Debby (Glynn) Jones, 1970
Kathy Krassner
Peter & Jennifer (Hanson) Marchand, 1988/1993
Peter & Noreen (Brown) Marchand, 1965
Kelly & Bob McCarthy
Dr. Robert McKie, 1962
Tanya & Tony Mongitore
Vikki Pac
Lori Riiska, 1981
Maria C. Rodriguez
Ray, Astrid (Haskins), Molly Robitaille, 1989/1989/2015
Leo & Susan (Roberts) Rouleau, 1964
William P. Ryan, DMD, 1975
Sandi Lynn (Fratini) & Mike Scherer, 1985/1986
Virginia (Salling) Schoonmaker, 1969
Steve & Sheila (Dings) Sedlack, 1960/1963
Janet (Hazzard) Stack, 1957
Fred & Theresa Taylor

You can make a difference! **Gifts of every size positively impact The Gilbert School community!**
Visit www.gilbertschool.org to make a secure online donation today. Contact us at (860) 379-1245 or gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org for information.

Linda (Vogellus) Turgeon, 1963
Mark Vaccari, 1977
Korie (Richards) Valickis, 1985
Holly Watson
Elizabeth Zonghetti, 1985

****

A New Day Therapeutic Massage
A Step Back in Time
ABC Pizza
Al's Auto Electric Service, Inc.
Altek Electronics, Inc.
Apple Cinemas
Boston Red Sox
Bowen Agency
C & W Dentistry, LLC
Cabea, LLC
Cannavo Development, LLC
DiCara Land Surveying
Doyle's Medical Supply
East Coast Lighting Equipment, Inc.
F&G Richards Jewelers
Gilley Kitchen & Bath
The Gilson Theatre
Hartford Healthcare
Health Food Corner
Howd, Lavieri & Finch, LLC
N.G. Jamieson, DMD
JB Appliance
John's Import
Karen Kilmartin, Spiritual Medium
King & King Associates, CPAs
Klebe Fuel Company
Laurel Lanes
Lenard Engineering
Levine Paint & Auto Supply
Ellen C. Marino, Attorney at Law
Mario's
The Mark Twain House & Museum
McCall Center for Behavioral Health
McCall Foundation, Inc.
McDonald's
McKenna Orthodontics, P.C.
Moore & Alvord Insurance
Mystic Seaport Museum
New Britain Museum of American Art
The New Image
Niagara Engine Company No. 3
Northwest Community Bank
Northwest Hills Credit Union
Northwest Sporting Goods
Pet Grooming by Amie
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
Richard C. Gauthier Drilling & Blasting, Inc.
Rowley Grill & Tap
R&M Insulation
Six Spoons Chocolatier
Ski Sundown
Swell's Car Wash
Tractor Supply Company
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art
The Warner Theatre
Whiting Mills, LLC
Winchester Grange #74
Winchester Volunteer Fire Department
Winsted Dairy Queen
Winsted Feed & Supply
Winsted Lions Club
Winsted Health Center Foundation, Inc.
Winsted Fire Police
Winsted Internal Medicine Associates, P.C.
Winsted Lodge #844 B.P.O.E.

Memorial Gifts

Christopher D'Elia
In Memory of Mary Allen
Andrea (Darcey) Ellinger, 1982
In Memory of Dominic Colavecchio
Dorothy (Wetmore) Robbins, 1954
In Memory of Ernest Barker
Ann Sears
In Memory of John Crossman



Scholarships *On May 20, 2019 The Gilbert Trust Scholarships were given to 75 Gilbert seniors and alumni. This year over $140,000 in scholarship awards were given to our outstanding students!*

Upcoming *Reunions*

SAVE THE DATE!

CLASS OF 1943 – 76TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 3, 2019
Contact: Shirley Kolega Moore (860) 379-2633 or other committee members Babe Staszowski Ochotnicky, Barbara Palmengerg Reidy, Marge O'Brien Riiska

CLASS OF 1969 – 50TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 26, 2019
Contact: Joe Staszowski (860) 670-6853 or joeski860@aol.com Mimi Baker (972) 462-8273 or jbaker6379@verizon.net

CLASS OF 1989 – 30TH CLASS REUNION
NOVEMBER 30, 2019
Contact: Lisa Lange Steeves at lisaesteeves@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1999 – 20TH CLASS REUNION
OCTOBER 19, 2019
Contact: Melissa Leifert Lillie (860) 309-0555 or melissalillie23@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2009 – 10TH CLASS REUNION
********** HELP! **********
Your class is looking for some of you to help! Contact the Alumni office at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 1, 2020
BLUE AND GOLD REUNION
To all of our Golden Graduates, Please come Celebrate our newest 50-year grads, the Class of 1970!

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

Reunions



Class of 1958 – 60th Reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1958 celebrated their 60th Class Reunion at the Green Woods Country Club. This is their 11th class reunion. They began with their 10th reunion in 1968 and have held one every five years since. 40 people attended, 25 were classmates. Classmates attended from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New York State, North Carolina and Florida. A group photo and individual pictures were taken by Jim Hayes, spouse of Louise (Raabe) Hayes. A pictorial memorial exhibit of deceased classmates was displayed, as were pictures of many classmates from 1952 when they were students at Central School. A very lively Social Hour was enjoyed by all, catching up and sharing memories. Bob "Shine" O'Connor, Class President welcomed everyone. He recognized members of the class reunion committee and thanked them for all their hard work to help make the reunion a success. Class Vice President, Christine (Madison) Melchinger led a prayer, which included remembering the deceased members of the class. After classmates finished their delicious meals, Tom Light and Connie (Brunelle) Cohn shared stories from some of their life experiences, including Connie's experience in the Peace Corps, and Tom's experience hosting a Chinese student and his business experiences with China through his company. Many letters were read from classmates unable to attend the reunion. The Treasurer's Report was given by Joe Nardi. A decision was made to make a reunion donation once again to The Gilbert School Emergency Fund for Students and Bob made a motion to hold the 65th Class Reunion on the 3rd Saturday in October, 2023. It was "hinted" that an informal Class Reunion may be held before October 2023. *Class of 1958 First Row: Crystal Barnes Russell, Joanne Finn Casey, Carol Vincent, Second Row: Tom Light, Lois Kellogg Mangione, Mary Jane Miller Briscoe, Ellen Olszanski Ayotte, Nancy Fines Arcelaschi, Andrea DeMars Walsh, Connie Brunelle Cohn, John Barrett, Louise Raabe Hayes, Ann LaFranchise DeMonte, Virginia Sesko Hotchkiss, Christine Madison Melchinger, Frank Silvester, Third Row: John Rolfs, Joan DeMar Candler, Jake Roarke ,Marty Casey (guest), Joe Nardi, George Manchester (guest), Bob O'Connor, Lincoln Jones, Stacey Hatfield, Anne Sturm Tyrrell. Missing from photo, Larry Hannafin.*

Class of 1968 – 50th Reunion



The Class of 1968 held its 50th class reunion on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Green Woods Country Club. Thirty class members attended, along with a number of spouses and guests. Attendees were welcomed by class president, Glen McMahon, and were updated on the Gilbert School of today by Craig Schroeder, Trustee, and former long-time teacher. Alumni reminisced at a nostalgia table full of memorabilia and pictures and observed a moment of silence at a remembrance table honoring 21 class members who have passed away. Several class members also gathered at Rowley Street Grille on Friday, October 26th as the reunion committee finalized its plans and also enjoyed homecoming activities at the school earlier on Saturday. After the reunion, the class donated $818.50 to the Gilbert School Alumni Association in memory of all deceased class members and an additional $818.50 to the Alice V. Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund. The committee included Lynn Attella, Karin Bjorbekk Senland, Ruthann Bruno Horvay, Rita DiGiovanni Arcand, Alanne Kennedy Turina, Glen McMahon and Lee Thomsen. *Class of 1968 Kneeling: Brian Youmatz, John Cole, Roger Hurlbut, Jack Aleman, / Seated: Carmelo Bazzano, Joanne Beaudoin Bazzano, Alanne Kennedy Turina, Lynn Attella, Joan Miceli Schlegel, Karin Bjorbekk Senland, Bonnie Bayette Soloshun, Standing: Kathie Carl Reese, Glen McMahon, Sal Vernali, Linda Godenzi Bartholomew, Terry O'Neil, Donald Nichols, Paul Vernali, Dave Prindle, JoAnne Ramsay Stumpf, Roseann Bruno Reynolds, Ruthann Bruno Horvay, Kathy Poole Jackson, Angela Nero, Joanna Guglielmino, Rita DiGiovanni Arcand, Lee Thomsen, Ellen Sexauer Demmelmaier, Irene Connole, Carol Nash Langlois.*

Class of 1973 – 45th Reunion

The event, attended by approximately 50 people, with 32 of those from '73, brought people here from all around New England and as far away as Texas. It was a fun gathering of friends, including a few who were attending the reunion for the first time. Class memorabilia was on display including photos, varsity jackets, cheerleading sweaters, Dress Code rules, and Booster buttons. Music selections from 1973 played in the background throughout the evening. It was a wonderful event, and we're already looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2023. Our Class of 1973 – 45th Class Reunion Gift was donated to The Terrence Hastings Tirrell Memorial Scholarship Fund, in honor of our classmate. We encourage our classmates who've been out of touch to contact the Gilbert Alumni Office so you can be part of our milestone 50th celebration. *Class of 1973 Front to Back: Dan Smyth, John Dombrowski, Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, Patrick King, Rich Gabelmann (hidden), Heather Smyth Cappabianca, JoAnn Veneziano Del Rossi, Art Dewey, Tim Surdam, Clarence Parks ('74), Andy Brady, Gayle Martinez Parks, Sandy Youmatz, Sue Kammermeyer Lutz, Tim Brown, Vici Bordonaro Larson, Carol Keeley Maas, Marion Hawley Zirolli, Art Brochu, Diane Dombrowski Cook, Dan Cook, Raine Anstett Petersen, Laurie Simmons Whiting, Fred Kraiza, JoLynn Pritchard Decker, Debbie Moore, Bob Fancher, Colleen Townsend Pilat, Jeff Nichols, Jonathan Thrall, Al Murelli, Deborah Watson, Dave Lutz*



Class of Class of 1978 – 40th Reunion

The Class of 1978 celebrated their reunion at Ma'asser El Shouf picnic grounds in Colebrook on August 11, 2018. Almost 100 people attended and they enjoyed a wonderful day with a delicious picnic lunch, some great music, a lot of socializing and reminiscing.



Class of 1966 – 70th birthday, 52nd Class Reunion

The Class of 1966 combined two big parties into one: a 52nd Class Reunion and a 70th Birthday Party! On October 13, 2018, they met at Chatterley's Banquet Facility for food, music and fun. *Front Row: Rich Attianese, Sylvia (LePage) Forster, Joan (Rategan) Giannatasio, Sheila Tartaglia, Bonnie (Failla) Richard, Marguerite (Chatfield) Skaret, Cindy Sherwood. Second Row: Dave Tazzara, Melissa (Houlihan) Zeller, Sue (Connole) Giagnat, Maurene (Stevens) Butterworth, Karen (Whiting) Roy, Dan Nichols, Joe Godenzi, John Nero, Third Row: Doug Werner, JoAnn (DiNatale) Dayton, Ann (Battistoni) Centrella, Neal Walsh, Dick Pedersen, Fourth Row: Tom Kelley, Liza (Connole) Turbarg, Bob Cote, Kathy (Pinter) Walsh, Susan (Schultz) Partelow, Fifth Row: Martha (Bascetta) Picard, Bob Picard, Cheryl (Fasciano) Carriere, Mary Ann (Duyser) Kalwat, Sandra (DiVita) Lemelin, Sixth Row: Frank Nanni, Pete Fracasso, Craig Centrella*



Reunions

Class of Class of 1998 – 20th Reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1998 celebrated their 20th class reunion with a dinner dance at Chatterley's Banquet Facility. Nearly fifty members of the class attended the reunion, and many brought along spouses and significant others. The class and guests had a great time catching up with one another, dancing and dining. Mr. Craig Schroeder joined the reunion to share Gilbert updates. Highlights of the night included amazing centerpieces designed and handmade by Bobbie Jo (Paden) Mrowka, delicious desserts made and decorated by Kristen (Berger) Wall, Gilbert memorabilia including a letter jacket and yearbooks, a photo booth designed by Bobbi Jo (Paden) Mrowka and Amy (Linkovich) Rodriguez, recreations of class superlative photos, and a guitar duo by Kevin Grant and Barb Carbon. Best of all, the Class of 1998 was happy to have funds left over from the reunion to give a donation to the 2019 Project Graduation, which paid for the DJ for Project Graduation. The Class of 1998 has always had a special bond, and that was apparent at the reunion. As one spouse commented, "There is no way a graduating class twenty years out gets along this well!" But we do! And we are eagerly awaiting our 25th reunion. Special thanks to the Alumni Office and the Reunion Committee: Diana Britton, Jamie (Richard) Dowd, Becky (Dew) Hayes, Kristen (Picard) Kopylec, Colleen (Sullivan) Motuzick, Bobbi Jo (Paden) Mrowka, Amy (Linkovich) Rodriguez, Ngan Truong, and Holly Zelenkewich.



Class of 1998 Bottom Row: Nick Tedone, Dan Battistoni, Diana Britton, P.J. Cifaldi, Billy Rea, Jeremy Decker, Steve Hoidalen, Kevin Grant, Phil Russell 2nd Row: Bobbi Jo (Paden) Mrowka (red hair), Ryan Rea (blue collared shirt under suit jacket), Evan Langlois (vest over plaid shirt), Tyler Walker (glasses, yellow tie), Sarah (Lau) Castillo (black shirt) 3rd Row : Jackie Boutin (grey sweater), Keith Munroe (pink shirt), Tom Matthews (black shirt), Ngan Truong (red shirt), Beth Pierce (blue scarf) 4th Row: Kevin Munroe (fluffy beard) / 5th Row: Tanya (Devino) Blades (glasses, head tilted), Kristen (Berger) Wall (white cardigan over peach shirt), Marci (Moore) Fritch (blue v-neck), Karen (Keczkemethy) Pulit (grey top, long straight hair) 6th Row: Kathriona (Langan) Tita (maroon v-neck), Chad Carlson, Miranda Wheeler (blonde hair) 7th Row and up the stairs: Ed Giarnese (blue collared shirt), Becky (Dew) Hayes, Erin (Donovan) Putnam, Jean (Forsyth) Radziszewski (glasses), Barb Carbon (short hair), Kristen (Picard) Kopylec, Jamie (Richard) Dowd, Kristy (Horvath) Mattson, Erin Kremser Top Row: Jay Tomasko, Holly Zelenkewich, Amy (Linkovich) Rodriguez, Jesse Marzullo, Joel Patrick Leger, Bob Nardi, Jessica (Stearns) Arthur, Jessica Flaherty, Colleen (Sullivan) Motuzick

Class of Class of 2008 – 10th Reunion

The Class of 2008 held their 10th reunion on November 24, 2018 at The Parrott Delaney Tavern in New Hartford. 45 attendees, 12 of whom were significant others, attended. The class enjoyed drinks and appetizers and lots of reminiscing about old times and catching up with each other.



Jamie Sultaire, Carey Garneau, Becky DiQuattro Mochak, Courtney Kane, Abby Halloran



Justin Rotundo, Chris Esker, Becky DiQuattro Mochak, Carey Garneau



Class of 2008 Volleyball players: Brittney Parks, Emily Griswold, Shelbey Grant, Emily Vincent

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL

BLUE & GOLD Reunion

2019

On the first Friday in May, as has been our tradition, we celebrated our alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago and honored our newest Golden Graduates – The Class of 1969.



The Class of 1969, Left to Right: Robert Angus, Marylou (Hopkins) L'Etoile, Robert Gregoire, Lorrie Dalene, Paul Patch, Marney (Glynn) Mazzoni, Shirley (Veronesi) Murphy, Carol (Brady) Gaylord, Joe Staszowski, Marie (Daigneault) Petrosky, Virgina (Salling) Schoonmaker, Carole (Correnti) Swanson, Gerald Hicks, Pam (Flaherty) Colavecchio, Joseph Tatar, Alan Colavecchio









SAVE THE DATE! MAY 1, 2020 HONORING THE CLASS OF 1970!

The Passini's: An All-American Blue and Gold Family *by Patricia Martin*

A lifelong resident of Winsted, Mildred Raydenbow Passini, turned 99 years old last August and has not missed a Blue and Gold Reunion in many years. "It's one heck of a time!" she says. "I always have a ball!"



Seated at her table in 2019, she was surrounded by family and a throng of TGS friends who showered her with love and affection. Outgoing and spry, when you are introduced to her, she immediately insists you call her by her nickname, "Minna."

The Passinis are a hard-working, all-American Gilbert family. So far, four generations have attended TGS, starting with Minna's mother, Grace Searles, who was in the school's second graduating class. Looking ahead, there is another generation who may follow in the family footsteps down Gilbert's hallowed halls.

Minna was a member of the class of '38, although she left school to work on the family's farm. "I've always enjoyed farm life," she says.

In 1941, Minna married Bernard Passini, another Gilbert alumnus, who passed away in 1993. "We were married for 72 years," she says. "We had a wonderful life and a successful farm. I feel so blessed."

The couple had five children, and Minna now enjoys her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Minna's children, who worked on the farm growing up, are all Gilbert graduates. There's Margaret "Marge" (Passini) Veronese '61; Sally (Passini) Wabrek '63; Steve Passini '66; Mary (Passini) Moore '69; and Patricia Passini '77. Sally's daughter, Cynthia, graduated in '86 and Marge's daughter, Heather, in '91.

Minna still lives on the homestead and takes care of her own cooking and housekeeping. "I am lucky I have all my sensibilities and am as bright as I have ever been," she says. "I could be a bump on a log!"

Patricia purchased the farm and Marge and Sally live on parcels just a stone's throw away from their mother. After many years in Maine, Mary came back to the area and is living in Canaan. Meanwhile, Steve, who enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers and served in Vietnam, runs an excavation/construction company in Texas with his son and grandson. "I come back to Connecticut to see the family twice a year, on Mother's Day and on my mother's birthday," he says.

How wonderful to get to know this tight knit, all-American Blue and Gold family who are dedicated to one another, to the community, and to The Gilbert School! Photo, left to right: *Minna Passini, Marge Veronesi, Sally Wabrek – at the 2019 Blue and Gold Reunion*





Remembering Ernest Bozenhard Barker, April 12, 2019

Former long-time faculty member of The Gilbert School, from 1974 – 1999, Ernest Barker taught, art, crafts and supervised activities such as Raku Pottery, the Art Club and the Guitar Club. He contributed much to the intellectual growth of many young students and consistently expressed support for the school and its philosophy.

Mr. Barker's retirement from Gilbert allowed him to pursue his passion to investigate and create. He was a sculptor, painter, potter, wrote three books, and lectured as his ancestor, Frederick Lucas, who served during the Civil War. He also owned the Artists' Path gallery.

After his passing, many of Mr. B's former students and former colleagues expressed their thoughts on what a talented, caring, and inspirational teacher he was, as well as a warm and generous man.

"He was a kind and caring gentleman. I know that he was beloved at Gilbert, yet I met him in his "retirement" years, as he thrived as an artist and history writer. Sending heartfelt sympathy to his family, whom he held so dear."
— Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, '73

"I was just thinking of him recently. As an artist and teacher now for 30+ years, I can say he was a model of bringing humanity and wonder to the world."
— Jim Langer, '82

In Memoriam

1939
Edward A. Boratko
March 26, 2019

Elinor "Ellie" (Franklin) Smith D'Arcy
June 10, 2019

Veronica (Staszowski) Rusckowski
August 15, 2014

1942
David John Marks
June 5, 2011

Peter M. Mellas, Jr.
September 2, 2015

1944
Anne (Serafini) Casey
December 26, 2018

Lucy (Mangione) DeSanti
January 23, 2019

Helen (Angino) Gornall
February 22, 2019

Arlene Hurlbut
May 12, 2018

1945
Elizabeth Julian
March 16, 2018

1946
Nancy (Allen) Atwood
December 17, 2018

Donald Fox
May 22, 2018

Barbara (Victor) Moraski
March 31, 2019

1947
Jacqueline (Lemelin) Barnum
February 4, 2019

Gloria (Gath) Goodwin
February 22, 2019

1948
Dorothy (Riiska) Jacquier
January 13, 2019

1949
Ethel (Mellas) Bigliazzi
January 26, 2019

Evelyn (Colavecchio) Bordonaro
March 25, 2019

Paul Dufour
August 27, 2018

Malcolm Griswold
January 20, 2019

Roland Hazard
December 18, 2018

Beatrice (Galaise) Lauzier
May 17, 2018

Priscilla (Carter) Magee
November 3, 2018

Beverly (Fox) Maxwell
June 29, 2018

1950
Donald E. Chapin
November 23, 2018

Lois (Gabelmann) Moraski
May 10, 2019

1951
Sally (Church) Cadrain
March 30, 2018

Francis E. Dembishack
December 18, 2016

Charles L. Zecchin
February 19, 2019

1953
M. Ann (Humphrey) Germon
October 20, 2018

Hazel (Jones) Nanni
February 4, 2019

1954
Dennis H. O'Neil
May 5, 2018

Celeste (Dombrowski) Parsons
April 30, 2019

Gordon Phillips
February 21, 2019

1955
Lucy (DiMartino) Nigri
April 21, 2019

1956
Rebecca (Ryan) Perfetto
February 8, 2019

1957
Richard J. Arcelaschi
October 14, 2018

Roger Dobratz
May 19, 2019

Elsa Mae (Clark) Hitchcock
November 18, 2018

Ralph L. Hitchcock
January 29, 2019

Harold E. Kelley
March 2, 2019

Robert Kozlowski
November 23, 2018

William Locascio
September 15, 2018

Charles J. Marchand
July 25, 2018

Daniel Nelson
May 19, 2018

Velda Dawn (McLellan) Quigley
June 22, 2019

1958
Anna (DiCaprio) Bowles
November 29, 2018

1958
David G. Cooper
April 4, 2018

Yvonne (Dulude) Czerwonka
December 10, 2018

Jack B. Roarke
February 14, 2019

1959
Mitchell J. Douyard, Jr.
January 18, 2019

Patricia M. Clark
May 3, 2019

1962
William "Bill" J. Dillon
October 7, 2018

1963
Gerald O'Meara
January 7, 2019

Allan Risedorf
December 10, 2018

Robert W. Silverio
May 2, 2019

Arnold "Skip" Travaglin, Jr.
July 24, 2019

1964
Helen (Murray) Centrella
November 7, 2018

Denis Goulet
November 23, 2018

Janice (Wald) Sheffield
August 27, 2018

1966
John F. Dillon
June 28, 2016

Peter T. Winn
August 23, 2018

1967
Arthur Martin
October 19, 2018

1969
Dawn (Lawrence) Zierzow
January 2, 2019

1970
Jacquelyn Locascio
July 18, 2019

1971
Keith Frink
March 31, 2019

Barry W. LeJeune
October 27, 2018

1972
Lucy (Lufkin) Stoltze
May 3, 2019

1973
Sabrina Brennan
July 18, 2018

Robert Frink
February 16, 2019

1974
Steven E. Rines
September 23, 2018

1975
Mark Crossman
June 10, 2019

Naim "Norm" Mubarek
September 27, 2018

1977
James Dombrowski, Sr.
April 24, 2019

1979
Charles "Chuck" G. Mubarek
October 2, 2016

1980
Gary Newman
April 18, 2014

Michael A. Dziedzic
January 8, 2019

1984
Kirby Gustafson
May 29, 2019

1985
Steve Sindland
August 11, 2017

1987
Frank Petrunti
September 20, 2018

1989
Raymond Esbjerg, Jr.
February 17, 2019

1992
Timothy J. Broderick
October 19, 2018

2010
Ryan Cote
November 27, 2018

2017
Kayla Lombardo
November 27, 2018

Former Staff
The Gilbert School
Mary (Mangione) Gendreau
May 5, 2019

John "Jack" Oris
January 13, 2019

Former Faculty
The Gilbert School
Ernest Bozenhard Barker
April 12, 2019

