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New Website
to Launch in
October!

www.gilbertschool.org

Find and Email
Classmates!

See Page 5 for
Details!



Sportsmen from the Classes of 1948-1955 celebrate the Coach Kent Years—see page 7.

COMMENCEMENT 2004



—The 2004 Commencement Address was delivered by Elaine Fortuna, a member of The Gilbert School faculty for 31 years and now retired. She continues her connection to the school with service to both The W.L. Gilbert Trust and The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation.

“ You, as well as over 100 classes before you, share the Gilbert legacy. When I see the enthusiasm of alumni who return to Gilbert for reunions and other events, when I read of the generous donations alumni make for the enhancement of your education, when I see the ever-growing number of scholarships made available to you by alumni and friends of The Gilbert School, I feel reassured that the legacy which you are now a part of is appreciated by many whose lives are better because of it. Honesty, integrity, love of learning, service and commitment have been modeled for you. Use this legacy well. ”

Gilbert School students are “...hard workers; intelligent kids, active participants, outstanding athletes, talented teens, achievers.”

—Elaine Fortuna



Matthew Benedict, Valedictorian



Congratulations and best wishes to the
Class of 2004

DR. DAVID A. CRESSY NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL



Dr. David A. Cressy

With the retirement of Dr. Robert Gazda, the school administration has undergone some changes. The new position of part-time superintendent of The Gilbert School was created and in July we welcomed Dr. David A. Cressy to our community. Previously, Dr. Gazda acted as superintendent/principal.

Dr. Cressy recently retired from his post as superintendent of the Cheshire (CT) public schools after six years. Prior to that, he spent 16 years as superintendent of the Killingly (CT) public schools. In 2003, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents named him Superintendent of the Year. His background in education is extensive. Interestingly, he is a graduate of Norwich Free Academy, which is one of two other schools in Connecticut with structure and history similar to that of The Gilbert School (Woodstock Academy is the third). He received both his bachelor and master's degrees from Providence College and a doctor of philosophy degree in educational administration from the University of Connecticut. He spent a part of a summer studying comparative education at the University of Oxford in England and has served as adjunct professor at UConn and Southern Connecticut State University.

Dr. Cressy will spend two days a week at The Gilbert School. "My job will be to focus on the macro and work with the board and work with the community," he says. His responsibilities include budget issues, curriculum and public relations and he reports directly to the board of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation. The day-to-day operation of the school is the shared responsibility of the principal and assistant principal.

Dr. Cressy is well prepared for the challenges that lie ahead, including the upcoming renegotiation of the contract with the towns of Winchester and Hartland to continue to provide services as the high school for the two towns. He is enthusiastic about working with faculty and staff as well as the greater community in bringing the school to an even higher level of accomplishment in preparing students for their own challenges and a lifetime of learning. He has high expectations—and The Gilbert School community is up for the challenge.

Mr. Joseph W. Dombrowski '75, a member of the school's staff for 21 years, most recently as assistant principal, now serves as principal. ❖



Mr. Dombrowski and Judy Warren, assistant principal, welcome students back to school and look forward to another successful year.



"I have high expectations.

There's just

no question

about it."

—Dr. Cressy

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Robert F. Gazda Retires After 12 Years of Service

Superintendent/Principal Robert F. Gazda retired on June 30th after twelve years of dedicated service to The Gilbert School. During his tenure he witnessed many changes, including a \$12.5 million building and renovation project and major technological and curriculum advancements and improvements, all contributing to the enhancement of a stimulating teaching and learning environment for faculty and students. Dr. Gazda was instrumental in establishing an ongoing strategic planning process, which continues to bring about positive growth and change for The Gilbert School and was an immensely satisfying process for him to be a part of. He says, "through this process, every member of the faculty is involved with planning for the future and can realize and truly appreciate that they hold in their hands a tremendous opportunity to influence and shape the education of our students. Involvement creates ownership—and those charged with the implementation of change can then also enjoy the rewards of success."

Dr. Gazda reflected warmly on his years at The Gilbert School. "I will miss the wonderful feeling of working together with a great team of professionals in bringing about positive change for students. The school is extremely fortunate in that it has a governing board that truly cares about kids and about creating an environment in which they can be successful. Additionally the overwhelming support and generosity of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, in carry-



Louise and Bob Gazda

ing out the wishes of the school's founder, has been a constant throughout the school's 109 year history. You can be confident that, through the dedication and commitment of those entrusted with carrying on the legacy of Mr. Gilbert, the learning experience for high school students of Winchester and Hartland will continue to be among the best for many years to come."

Among Dr. Gazda's favorite memories is the very early peaceful walk into school each morning—perhaps that is now being replaced with a very early—and well-deserved—tee time! We wish Bob all the best as he looks forward to spending more quality time with his wife and family—and to working on that golf game! ❖



Gilbert faculty member and alumnus Richard McKie '64 with new retirees Bill Lanigan and Jim Wells.

Faculty, staff, friends and family members gathered in June to wish the best of luck to Dr. Gazda along with retiring faculty member Bill Lanigan and staff custodian Jim Wells. Bill spent more than 35 years as science teacher. Jim came to The Gilbert School ten years ago after retiring from Sealtest with 35 years of service.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

THE GILBERT SCHOOL REPRESENTS STATE OF CONNECTICUT AT MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVITIES IN DC

Eighty-five members of the school's band and choral programs traveled to Washington, DC, in May to participate in the dedication of the World War II Memorial and other festivities over the Memorial Day Weekend. The Gilbert School was represented in a parade and various ceremonial presentations and concerts. ❖



The Gilbert School Band and Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Adam Atkins '90 and Mr. Scott Minnerly, at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC, following their performance there over Memorial Day Weekend.

"We were able to enrich our students' lives and show them some of the American history for which they should be truly thankful. They have honestly learned a greater respect for the sacrifices that many men and women have made on our behalf."

—Mr. Adam Atkins in a letter of thanks to The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, which provided a portion of the trip's funding through an Enhancement Grant.

STUDENTS EXPLORE COSTA RICA

Twenty-nine students who were enrolled in Spanish classes at The Gilbert School traveled to Costa Rica in April and spent nine days experiencing the eco-tourism for which it is known. Visiting rain forests, nature preserves, volcanoes and more, the students kept notebooks and took photographs to share with classmates upon their return.

Spanish teachers Sue Roberts Rouleau '64 and Don Goetz '70, along with English teacher Deb Poirier, led the group. Students have already begun to sign up for an April 2005 trip to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru. ❖



Gilbert students at National Museum of History in San José, Costa Rica. Photo courtesy of Ashley Baril '04.



SENIOR CLASS PRODUCTION
"12 ANGRY JURORS"
GILBERT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
NOVEMBER 19 & 20

NEW GILBERT SCHOOL WEBSITE SET TO LAUNCH IN OCTOBER—WILL INCLUDE ONLINE INTERACTIVE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

The Gilbert School website—www.gilbertschool.org—is about to become *the* place for getting up-to-date information on school-related activities and events—including a place where alumni can contact one another, update profile information and submit class notes.* The school calendar will be posted along with the athletics schedule and lots more! Be sure to log on after October 16th to see what we're up to!

Thanks in no small part to the enthusiastic efforts of an anonymous Gilbert School graduate on our behalf we have engaged the services of Finalsite, a website design and hosting company located in East Hartford, CT, to get us up and running. The site is expected to be live by Homecoming Weekend. We also extend thanks to our alumni, who by contributing to the *Gilbert Annual Fund*, helped to make the new site a reality. As you know, the *Gilbert Annual Fund* provides support for enhancements to the school and this is just one of the many worthwhile projects that have been made possible since the Fund was established five years ago. ❖

**The Alumni Online Community will be password protected and available only to alumni. Your password will be the five digit ID number located above your name on the mailing label of this publication and your user name will initially be your last name as it appears on our alumni records. Be sure to write down your ID number, as it will not always appear on future mailings. Should you lose it, simply send an email to the Alumni Office and we'll respond with your number.*

Visit us online: www.gilbertschool.org

FOUNDER'S DAY GATHERING, STUDENT VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST, THANK-YOU RECEPTION

On May 21st, Dr. Robert Gazda addressed students, faculty and staff who were gathered at the Flagpole Circle to remember William L. Gilbert and to place a wreath in his memory. Earlier in the morning, students who have volunteered in the school or community were recognized at the second annual Student Volunteer Breakfast. They were served by members of the faculty, The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust—all of whom volunteer for the school in a variety of ways.

Earlier in the month, the Trust and the Alumni Relations Office hosted a reception in the Library to say "thank you" to the many donors and supporters for all they do to make the school the special place that it is. After refreshments and conversation, guests were treated to the Annual Spring Concert featuring The Gilbert School Concert Choir and Symphonic Band. ❖



The Gilbert School Class of 1949 55th Reunion & June 12 & 13

Members of the Class of 1949 got together in June for a weekend filled with fun and reminiscing as they celebrated their 55th Reunion. The festivities began with tours of the "old" and the "new" Gilbert School, followed by an evening at the Newgate Coon Club in Colebrook, CT. Included was a special military tribute by the daughter of the late Charles Rowley, president of the Class of 1949, whose plane was shot down over Laos in 1970. On Sunday morning, classmates gathered at the home of Eleanor DiMartino Pratt for brunch and more catching up and then proceeded to the Winchester Historical Society. Milly Williams Hudak '53 was on hand there to host a tour before the stepping-off of the town's annual Laurel Parade. For additional photos and recaps of the weekend's events, be sure to visit www.1949class.com—an outstanding website full of memories and interesting tidbits on the Gilbert School of the forties and fifties. ❖



The Coach Roy Kent Years: A Special Evening with Gilbert Sportsmen From the Classes of 1948—1955

On June 11th sportsmen from the classes of 1948 through 1955 gathered at the Coon Club in Norfolk for a reunion with Coach Roy Kent. Coach Kent was the boys physical education instructor, advisor to the varsity club and football coach at Gilbert from 1947 through 1952. The club was draped with six foot banners made by Chris Jauch '49 showing all the sports teams from 1948 through 1955.

Speakers included former Gilbert principal and baseball coach Spud Fecto; Bob McCarthy, sports reporter for the Register Citizen; John Hayes '48, Don Bleuher '50, George DeMars '50, Jack Perry '53, Bill Hutton '49, Roger Jones '49 and Jack Bell '49. Bill Hutton presented Coach with an autographed copy of *Bleachers* by John Grisham (a story about a high school football team and their coach). Roger Jones read and made the presentation of an etched plaque with the words to "Coach" written by Milly Williams Hudak '53. ❖



COACH

It's Friday—June 11th Two Thousand and Four
We gather together as never before
A friend, a mentor, a coach to hail
His eagerness to win; you could not curtail.

His years at Gilbert could not have been easy
Drilling us guys 'til our stomachs were queasy.
On the field; in the locker room; or in the gym
We soon learned to place our attention on him.

Coach didn't want whimps—he wanted the best
You drilled and you sweated to pass his test.
He spoke offense and defense and if you wanted to play
You learned to listen to what he had to say.

When game time arrived with adrenalin flowing
From Coach came the words "Let's get this game going."
Your desire to win you could not hide
On the sidelines stood Coach beaming with pride.

We collided, we drove, we pushed and we hit
To that final whistle—we never quit.
Win or lose we knew it wouldn't be long
Before we were advised on what we did wrong.

His constructive criticism we took in stride
It was never meant to destroy our pride.

Now the years have passed and we've grown into men
And now and again we revert back to when
We were boys of an era when sports were fun
And more than just that—we were ALL Coach's sons.

—Milly Williams Hudak '53



Coach Kent related his memories of the years he spent at Gilbert, the strengths and skill of his players, game highlights and the importance of maintaining trust, confidence, ability and character.



ALUMNI FOCUS

There is an especially touching scene toward the end of the Forrest Gump movie where Forrest's wife asks him if he had been afraid in Vietnam. As Forrest considers the question, cine-magic allows us to watch the stream of his thoughts as they flow from the frightening isolation of the foxhole to the open sky above. This sequence ends in a magnificent series of images from Forrest's epic jog through the highways and byways of America. He begins to describe these sights, how beautiful they were, how free and blessed he felt to have been there. On her deathbed now, his wife sighs and wishes aloud that she had been there, too. "You were there." Forrest assures her. "You were with me the whole time." And we are led to believe that upon hearing this, the wife dies happy.

Great movie. But in real life, we get to write our own scripts. Why wait until the final scene to wish we would have done something? I have long admired my sister Cindy (Allen, class of '84)

for having the guts to spend her senior year of high school in Switzerland. I never tire of asking my husband John (Gilley, class of '82) to tell me another story about his bicycle trip across the U.S.A. with his friend Jimmy (Rollins, class of '80.) And though I am slightly envious of my friend Bonnie (then Beach, now Highlander; class of '87) for taking the opportunity to travel the world before finding love and marriage, I have learned that adventures come to those who are ready. Married with kids, or completely unattached, the will drives the way.

In our family's case, the will to travel met the way to travel on Memorial Day, 2002. The four of us, my husband John, myself, and our daughters, Mariel, then 8 years old and Pearl, then 5, were sitting around the table deciding what to do with the rest of our day. We are always up for an adventure. The question was where. Mariel wanted to see the Grand Canyon. Pearl voted for the tip of Texas. Unfortunately, it was afternoon, and the following day was



The Gilley family of Winsted (Jennifer '87, John '82, Mariel and Pearl) embarked on a months-long adventure that took them up and down and all around the United States for the sabbatical of a lifetime. Their travels were chronicled through local newspapers and we couldn't wait to hear what they were up to next! They're shown above at the Grand Canyon.

Tuesday, a workday and a school day.

"We need a vacation so we can take a real road trip." I lamented. "What we really need," John said, "is a sabbatical." "How long, a month?" I ventured. "At least three." John answered. "A year!" Mariel decided.

And we all agreed. A year would be just right for our sabbatical.

We started planning it immediately. At first it was just a game, an exercise in "what if?" We would need to sell the house, of course, for road money. We could put it on the market, and with the way houses had been going, it would be sold by the summer's end. Yes, that sounded good. I would take the year off from substitute teaching and instruct a traveling class of two. What better curriculum is there than the American road? We could follow the sun all the way down to the Florida Keys and spend the winter there. Then we could tool all over the place. We could visit my sister Lilly (Allen, class of '86) in Louisiana, and our friend Jeff (Carriere, class of '87) in Colorado. We could see the southwest, drive the California coast, stop at Historical Sites, National Parks or any other interesting thing we happened to see.

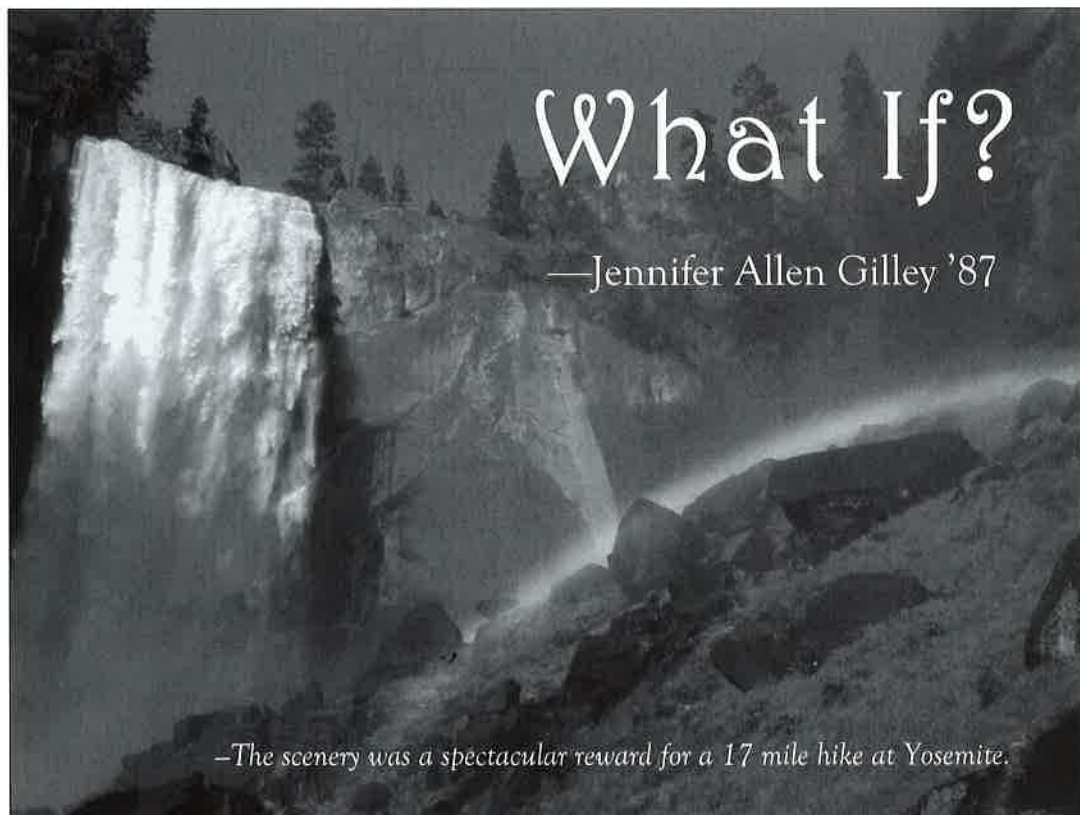
It happened right there at the kitchen table. We all felt it. "What if?" turned into "Why not?" The only thing we needed was the proper vehicle. We spent the rest of the day test driving motor homes.

True to our prediction, our house was sold by mid August. Being a self-employed builder, however, John had jobs lined up through late October. My parents, bless their hearts, had agreed to put us up (put up with us) for the interim. Meanwhile,

What If?

—Jennifer Allen Gilley '87

—The scenery was a spectacular reward for a 17 mile hike at Yosemite.



*"It happened
right there at the
kitchen table.
We all felt it.
'What if?'
turned into
'Why not?'"*

we had fallen in love with a Sunnbrook Travel Trailer, which we would tow around the country with John's Dodge Ram work van. We chose this particular RV for its layout, featuring two "bedrooms," one with bunks, the other with a queen size bed, located at opposite ends of the trailer. In other words, it offered valuable breathing space for both parents and kids during a year of togetherness.

We left Winsted on October 21, 2002, and returned 32,000 miles, 43 states, three Gilley birthdays, countless adventures, many new friends, and about 50 junior ranger badges richer, on August 15, 2003. The stories go on forever and include Thanksgiving in Georgia with the above-mentioned Bonnie, and the rest of the Highlander family, a tour of LSU, Baton Rouge and New Orleans with our own Dr. Lil, a sightseeing day with Jeff Carriere in his 10 year home city of Boulder, CO. We spent Christmas and New Year's on the Florida Keys, where we also frolicked with my sister Richelle (Allen, class of '01,) who made the solo drive on her winter break. We climbed monstrous ladders to visit sacred mountaintop dwellings of Ancestral Puebloan Indians. We drove all 52 feet of van and trailer onto a ferry and made the cross to Port Aransas in Texas. The girls rode camels in the desert and we all surfed the massive sand dunes

on sleds. We survived a harrowing (unadvisable in a 52-foot rig) drive along an impossibly winding stretch of California's Route 1. We met and talked with and learned from people of all ages from all parts of the country and abroad. (Visitors from foreign lands often outnumber American visitors at National Parks and many other tourist attractions.)

We learned more about history, architecture, art, music, astronomy, geography, and agriculture than any single school could possibly manage to teach in a year. We learned about animals and plants we never knew existed. We learned a lot of things by trial and error: How to set up the trailer for camping in the pitch dark and exactly where to put which items so nothing was broken when we stepped back inside our home on wheels after a bumpy stretch of road. We all learned every word of "Boy Named Sue," and how to roast the perfect marshmallow. We learned that we could spend a lifetime on the road and still need several more lifetimes to even begin to scratch the surface of what there is to learn in this country alone.

People often ask me whether the trip was all I had



▲ Peaceful canoe ride

expected. I have to tell the truth. I had no idea what to expect at all. The screen simply went blank when I would try to imagine the big road trip ahead. I guess my brain was trying to prevent the inevitable blowout when the reality came in and cracked my self-imposed limitations wide open. It all unfolded like some kind of interactive IMAX, laying tracks down one step ahead of us the whole way. In that same way, coming home was made possible.

Even as I write, the girls

are finishing up a full year back at school, first grade and fourth. Mariel turns 10 this summer, and Pearl turned 7 in February. John is building again, and we've set up housekeeping on Wetmore Avenue, living upstairs from John's mom in a two family house without wheels. We are still savoring our road trip memories and keeping them alive with the help of the thousands of digital photographs taken along the way. Those should hold us until the next sabbatical. ❖



◀ Utah's famous Delicate Arch



▶ "Working" the crowd in Chicago.

ALUMNI NEWS



1939

Edward and Charlotte (Warner) Boratko celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 29th and took their three children and their spouses and seven grandchildren on a cruise along the New England Coast and Canadian Provinces. Best wishes to you both!



Members of the Class of 1939 at the Blue & Gold Reunion in May.

1940

Albina Lamoureux Weincouff writes, "While serving overseas during World War II as a sergeant under Douglas McArthur, I met another sergeant and we were married. Came back to his hometown of Chicago; I have two sons and one daughter."

Mary McCarthy Mitchell shares that she and her husband have lived in Newington (CT) since 1954 and have three children—two of whom have married and one remains a bachelor.

1944

Beverly Bradshaw-Carbonella is president of Historic Wooster Square Association in New Haven (CT) and writes, "Restored the Italian Consulate (1875) with my late husband, Judge John V. Cassidento. Downsized two years ago and moved into a townhouse across the square and love it! I don't need that clock any more...I am always on time!"

James P. (Jack) DiMartino writes, "Retired from U.S. Navy in December 1967 as PRC. Went to

Seminole Community College for two years; graduated as a civil engineer. Worked for Florida Department of Transportation as highway engineer."

1946

From the south, *Richard Morton* writes, "My wife and I are retired and living the good life in Anderson, South Carolina. We are in excellent health and play golf and tennis year round. We miss our friends in Connecticut but not the Torrington/Winsted weather! Regards to all members of the Class of 1946.

1950

From *Dorothy Bell Vickerman*, "Living in Port St. Lucie, Florida, eight to nine months a year and back to wonderful Connecticut for the summer, residing in Clinton."

1953

Jack Darcey writes, "I am still teaching Spanish at UCONN (West Hartford campus). This is my ninth year at the campus after spending 35 years with West Hartford Public Schools. I am in my third year (of a four-year term) on the West Hartford Board of Education and have been Chair of the Board for the past two years. My time in Spain, where I am now a citizen, has been cut short by these two activities but I do try to get over there three or four times a year. I have many Spanish friends; all of which escaped the recent tragedy but whom, like all Spaniards, were profoundly affected by the bombings.

"I commend *Milly Williams Hudak* for all that she does to keep us informed about our class; and I appreciate, too, receiving the *Yellow Jacket* so that I can read about the school and the alumni."

1954

50th Reunion—October 16
(with classes of '52, '53, '55, '56)

1956

Tom Amenta is living in Severna Park, Maryland, and is a computer consultant currently providing services to North Arundel Hospital (owned by the University of Maryland Medical School). Tom's wife Janice works for the national office of the IRS.

1959

Kudos to *John S. Filli* on his accomplishments as senior associate with NAI Horizon in Phoenix. NAI Horizon provides worldwide commercial real estate services to both local and global clientele.

1964

40th Reunion—November 6
(with classes of '63, '65 and '66)

1965

Richard Grigos writes, "I've recently retired after spending 30 years in the non-profit world. Greatly enjoying the renovation of 1895 house and gardens in St. Paul, Minnesota."

1969

Carl Lovetere writes, "I am still involved in water skiing as is my wife Kathy and daughter Kelly Ann. We all skied in the National Water Ski Championships held at our home site, Okecheelee Park (www.okeeski.com). My daughter Kelly lettered as a freshman at Wellington High School (FL) in Track and band as a majorette. I have taken up the sport of Triathlon and will be participating in



Classmates Gerry Hicks and Alan Colavecchio catching up at a school function.

one at Disneyworld in September. (1 mile swim; 26 mile bike; 6 mile run). Visit my website at www.lovetere.com."

1970

A note from *Joan Calkins Ferrell*: "I moved from Winsted to east Tennessee in 1978 to work for Texas Instruments (Industrial Controls Division) and relocated to southern California in 1981 when I was hired by one of their distributors. I stayed in that field as a sales engineer until I was laid off last year. I have now "switched careers" and work as a diamond consultant at Robbins Bros., "The World's Biggest Engagement Ring Store." I met my wonderful husband Larry in California in 1994 and we were married on the island of Kauai (on the beach with Bali Hai in the background!) in 1999.

From *Elaine Insolia Williams* "I am married to Kim Williams (10 years in May); have two children from my first marriage—Erick Royer and Lisa Royer Perry; two grandchildren, Daniel Royer (age 2) and Madison Perry (age 1). Kim and I started our own business called The Embroidery Wizard. We work from home and do some of the sweatshirts, hats and blankets for Gilbert."

1974

30th Reunion—October 16

1975

Congratulations to *Joseph W. Dombrowski, Jr.* who was recently named Interim Principal at The Gilbert School. See related story on page 2.

1977

Congratulations to *Terry McKee Simmons* who received the Excellence in Clinical Practice Award this past February from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Terry was one of only three nurses in the United States to receive the award this year and

enjoyed an all-expense-paid trip to the conference of the National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition held in Florida, where the award was made.

1978

Best wishes to *Wayne Andrighetti* who recently started a business in Waterbury, Connecticut, called Global Analytics. The company provides business performance management consulting services to the Fortune 1000.

Kudos to *Sandra Young Schibi* for her efforts as Chair of this year's Winsted Laurel Festival—it was a hugely successful weekend, bringing out lots of Winsted residents and out-of-towners alike for the parade and other festivities.

1979

25th Reunion—October 15 - 17

Can you believe it has been 25 years since we graduated? How did that happen? Aren't we all still 23? Come and celebrate our friendships and the time we had together at Gilbert. Re-connect with people, establish new relationships and solve the mysteries of how we were going to turn out. The reunion committee (*Robbin Schnier Beauchamp, Robin Jones Taillie, Debbie Ortman Baril and Mike Denza*) have been hard at work to plan an all-encompassing, fun-filled weekend. Email us at gilbertclassof1979@hotmail.com for more information.

Michael Denza writes that he has ended his eight-year experience as a Torrington police officer and has returned to a financial career as a loan officer with KR Ladd Mortgage, LLC, in Farmington. Best wishes Michael!

From *Maureen McCarthy*: "My husband and I are living in Indiana. We received our Master of Divinity degrees in May of 2003 and just finished our clinical training as healthcare chaplains. I am currently an eldercare chaplain at a continuous care retirement com-

munity and Steve is a hospice chaplain."

1983

The Gilbert School community enjoyed a day of workshops and wonderful performances by the Navy Band jazz ensemble *Forecast*, brought to the school in March by Chief Musician *Heidi Persen Willson*. See related story on page 14.

1984

Lori Steenstra is currently serving in the United States Navy and is attached/assigned to an aircraft carrier on the West Coast. She'll return to Maryland for Instructor Duty in August.

1985

Paul Gallo is currently residing in Malibu, California. He coaches baseball at Malibu High School and works at the law firm of Masry & Vititoe—known from the movie *Erin Brockovich*. "Always happy to hear from alums coming through town."

1986

Best wishes to *Erin Nagel Cook* and husband Cory who were expecting their first child in May and recently moved back to the states (Charleston, South Carolina) from Tokyo.

1987

Congratulations to *Jennifer Allen Gilley* on the production of her play *Between the River and the Stone Wall*, presented this past April at the RedMen's Hall in Winsted as part of Winsted's Equinox Play Festival. Be sure to read of the Gilley family travels in the *Alumni Focus* section of this newsletter.

1988

Congratulations to *Laura Crunden Tarca* on the birth of her son Benjamin Gordon in October. Benjamin joins brother Nicholas in the Tarca family.

1989

Robert Palin plans to attend the University of Connecticut at Storrs in the fall, majoring in History.

Best wishes to *Darrick Sampson* who recently joined Marsh USA, Inc., as client advisor specializing in health and welfare employee benefits consulting. In his work, Darrick helps employers mitigate cost increases and manage their employee benefit plans.

1990

John Reynaud writes, "*Shannon Reilly* and I opened up a new pub concept in Las Vegas called the Tilted Kilt, a non-traditional Irish pub. We are located inside the Rio Hotel in the Masquerade Village. Currently we are looking to expand this concept and will be opening bars in various states soon." Good luck to Shannon and John—and to Shannon and his wife Carrie, who were married in December of 2003 and expect a child in late October.

1992

Welcome home to *Ruthie Ursone* who recently traveled to India as part of the Group Study Exchange of Rotary International.

1993

Michelle Fratini Wade writes that she graduated from the University of Arizona; has two children, Campbell and Keenan; is currently working as a preschool teacher.

1994

Michael Switek is currently an English teacher in central New Jersey and plans to be married in the spring of 2005. He says, "I have written my first novel and am trying to get it published. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our ten year reunion!"

Congratulations to *Heidi Winsor* who was married to Chester Dar-

ling on October 11, 2003, in East Granby, Connecticut. The couple relocated to St. Louis, Missouri, in January.

1995

Jason Boutin graduated from Fairfield University in 1999 with a double major in economics and psychology. He is currently a portfolio analyst with First Marblehead Education Resources in Boston.

Congratulations to *April Johnson* who graduated in May from Central Connecticut State University with a master's degree in art education. April was married this summer to Stephen Wandzy of Windsor Locks, CT. April's sister, *Heather Johnson '00* was the Maid of Honor and *Stephanie DuBois '95* was a bridesmaid. April and Stephen reside in Simsbury (CT) and both teach at Windsor Locks High School.

Lori Lauer writes, "After working with juvenile delinquent boys in an outdoor program similar to Outward Bound, I spent a couple of years living in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, cleaning up my skiing skills. Soon thereafter, I came back to the East Coast to receive my master's degree in criminal justice from CCSU. I presently am employed as a Federal Officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During the next few months I will be training at the Federal Law Enforcement Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. After completion of the Academy I will be stationed outside of Washington, DC. I'm a proud parent of a 2 1/2 year old "wannabe" lab that I rescued on the rural roads of Utah when he was five weeks old."

Congratulations to *Lisa Royer Perry* and husband Paul on the birth of their daughter Madison Marie in February.

1997

Congratulations to *Donald Wood* and his wife Abigail, who were married on September 20, 2003.

1998

Congratulations to *Diana Britton* who became engaged to David Collum from East Hampton, Long Island, in January. She writes, "This spring break I studied abroad for nine days in Poland with Central Connecticut State University. It was my second trip abroad studying art; my first was to Italy for six weeks in the summer of 2002 through Arcadia University. Currently I am working toward my art degree at Central and will become an art teacher. I have to say that the art teachers I had throughout the Winsted public school system and Gilbert made the most significant influences on my choice to become an art teacher. The two that were the most influential were Bonnie Boyle from Hinsdale and Mrs. Sacks from Gilbert—they helped me refine and engage a talent I already had."

Holly Zelenkewich writes, "I am currently working as a biologist in Bethany, Connecticut, and coaching soccer at Teikyo Post University as well as Naugatuck Youth Soccer. I am also enrolled in the teacher certification program at Southern CT for secondary education. Needless to say I keep myself pretty busy! Good luck to the Yellowjacket soccer, basketball and softball teams!"

1999

Michele Boutin, Class of 1999 Salutatorian, graduated summa cum laude from Fairfield University in 2003. She majored in both finance and economics and is a financial analyst with UBS Bank in Stamford, CT.

Natalie Moore recently graduated college with a degree in hospitality management and is currently manager of a restaurant near Bryce Canyon in southern Utah.

Congratulations to *Amy Paden* and Nick Cogley on the birth of their daughter Haley Anne in March.

2000

Best of luck and congratulations to *Christina Brown*, who will be attending Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in the fall. Christina recently graduated summa cum laude from Clark University (Worcester, Massachusetts).

Congratulations to *Heather Johnson* who graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a dual degree in psychology and early childhood education. Heather was also inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi honor society for education.

2004

Congratulations and best wishes to graduates of The Gilbert School Class of 2004! Keep in touch with your classmates via the new website, featuring an online alumni community. Also be sure to notify the Alumni Office of changes of address.



Concerning items in Alumni News

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



Kudos to this year's Laurel Festival Queen and her Court, pictured with Town Manager Steven Angelo. L to R: 1st runner up: Audra Vaccari '04 (Gilbert); Queen: Melissa Jones '04 (Gilbert); 2nd runner up: Gina Maestre (Regional).

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph D. Ahearn '35
July 11, 2004

Marion Hoxie Benedict '44
August 29, 2004

Hazel Carey Bonalumi '44
March 25, 2004

Marion Foskett Collins '24
February 9, 2004

Dr. Francis J. Cornelio '26
June 28, 2004

Kathleen M. Daigneault '67
April 17, 2004

Edward J. Fitzgerald '41
March 19, 2004

Edward Giansiracusa '47
December 22, 2003

James L. Glynn '26
July 18, 2004

Charles L. Jasmin '51
April 30, 2004

Elizabeth Gidman Johnson '27
April 27, 2004

Lillian Locascio Magistrali '45
March 25, 2004

Robert L. Martin '73
May 2004

Lillian Amico Milano '32
May 31, 2004

Nancy J. Morgan '51
April 17, 2004

Michael F. Mrowka '73
July 2004

Elizabeth Reidy O'Brien '49
November 29, 2003

Joseph A. O'Brien '45
March 4, 2004

Mary DeCarlo Ofiara '45
March 8, 2004

William T. Riiska '41
March 18, 2004

Frances Norton Roth '31
January 25, 2004

Mary Tucker Russell '33
June 10, 2004

Ferdinand T. Serafini '39
February 25, 2004

Emil A. Weber '38
May 27, 2004

Vivan Angino Wolfe '49
September 11, 2004

Bruce A. Wright, Sr. '47
July 6, 2003

GIRLS NIGHT OUT—GILBERT FRIENDS FOR A LIFETIME

—Elizabeth Irwin Cary '83



Friends for a Lifetime—Seated: Elizabeth Pinter Parsons '82, Elizabeth Irwin Cary '83; Brenda Nelson '82; Standing: Sandra Nielsen Lisella '82 and Jane Stoltze Loftus '82.

It's "Girls Night Out!" for Gilbert friends...don't make any other plans or you'll miss the fun! These are treasured dates for a group of Hartland girls that get together when scheduling allows. Girls night out provides us with a time to laugh, share memories, and confide our secrets.

Our group—including myself, Jane (Stoltze) Loftus '82, Sandy (Nielsen) Lisella '82, Brenda Nelson '82, and Beth (Pinter) Parsons '82—has a childhood bond that many others might view as extraordinary. We have experienced life together from the first days of grammar school through weddings, births, deaths, illnesses and calamities. We sometimes refer to our group as the Jr. Ya Ya sisterhood pack (Ya, Ya)!

Many times we are honored to have a guest join our

"Girl's Night Out!" and Lori Sindland '82, Shirley (Veranis) Henning '82, Maureen Oyanadel '83 and Meril Davenport '82 are some names you may recognize who have come to share in the fun.

Often, we reminisce over the many memories from Hartland Elementary School. Let's see if you recall trips to "the rock" behind the school, or parties at Billy Ketchen's or Brenda Nelson's (which eventually ended up across the street at the town Library!), 8th grade bus trips, hanging out at the Girl Scout camp or town pond to frolic in the wilderness. We shared everything from childhood teasing, to puberty, to first dances and kisses and then came the "big" move to The Gilbert School. There our lives continued to change and grow even more. We have great memories of Homecoming and Proms, first boy-

friends, band trips to Florida, parties at Fred's, and many wonderful new friends. Faced with growing up and making decisions about college and our future, we always knew we weren't alone.

After high school we went our separate ways to some degree. We never lost touch completely as we began our journeys into adulthood. We shared graduations, first true loves, careers, marriages and births. There were times of death and crisis, when we relied upon each other. Now that our lives are filled with all the responsibilities of adulthood, marriage, children, careers and the trials and tribulations of everyday life, we continue to look to each other for

support, understanding, advice and unconditional love. The "Girls' Night Out!" gatherings are as much a necessity as mere enjoyment for us. It is a time to kick back and have some laughs with friends who really know each other.

When we mention to others about the "Girls Night Out!" people are in disbelief. They recognize how unique it is to have a group of special friends who have lived life together for 30-something years and still manage to gather for good conversation and reminiscences. In this day and age, they find it hard to imagine. But we couldn't imagine it any other way! Try it—you'll enjoy the laughs! ❖

"We shared everything from childhood teasing, to puberty, to first dances and kisses and then came the 'big' move to The Gilbert School."

Do you have a story you'd like to share?

Alumni News items may be forwarded to the Alumni Office at the school or emailed to gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org.

Don't forget Homecoming on October 16th!

A great chance to reminisce with old friends and make new ones!

MUSICAL GATHERINGS

The Gilbert School was pleased to welcome Heidi Persen Willson '83, Chief Musician with Navy Band Northeast, to the school in March, along with the band's premier 8-piece jazz ensemble *Forecast*. The group performed a morning concert for students, participated in an afternoon clinic for music students and entertained at an evening concert that was open to the public.

Forecast performed a variety of music, including vocal and instrumental jazz, swing, Dixieland, and popular tunes. The show opened with *Anchors Aweigh* and continued with Sting's *Brand New Day*, Billy Joel's *New York State of Mind* and hits by Stevie Wonder, John Coltraine and others. The group is one of six performing units attached to Navy Band Northeast. Located in Newport, Rhode Island, Navy Band Northeast is one of fourteen official bands of the United States Navy that serve military and civilian communities throughout the northeastern United States.

Heidi joined the Navy in October 1983, and has since served in seven Navy bands throughout the United States and Guam, performing with big bands, rock bands and concert bands. Several of the recent highlights of her career were conducting Navy Band Northeast's Ceremonial Band on *Live With Regis & Kelly* in New York City during Fleet Week 2003, singing the National Anthem for a nationally televised New York Giants game at Giant Stadium in November 2003, and for Boston Red Sox opening night 2004 at Fenway Park. She now considers performing with the Navy Band in her hometown of Winsted, CT, another highlight! Heidi retired from the Navy this summer after a 21 year career with the Navy Music Program. ❖



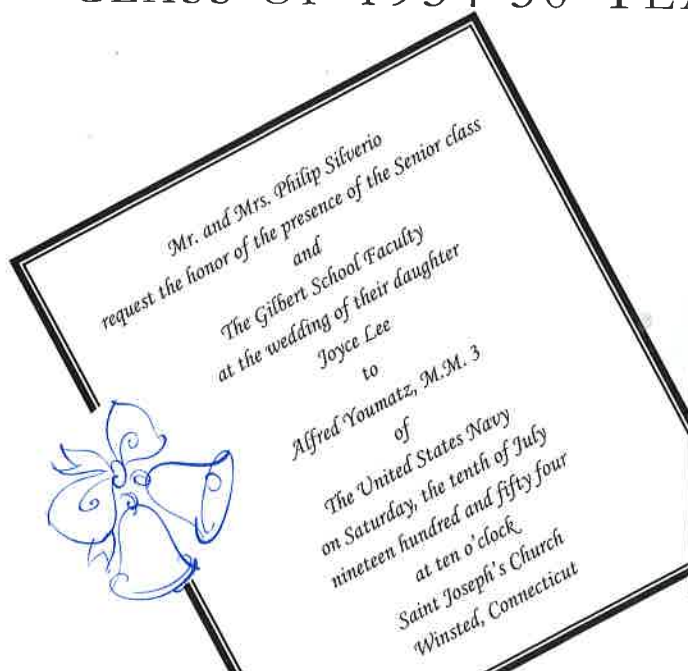
Heidi Willson '83 was welcomed back to the stage at her alma mater for an all-school assembly during the day and then for an evening public performance. At a dinner with classmates and family, she was presented with an official proclamation from Winchester Mayor Maryann Welcome naming March 3rd as "Heidi Persen Willson Day." Heidi is pictured at left with friends from the Class of 1983 after her evening performance.

Mamma Mia!

Music of popular '70s group Abba combined with a wonderfully talented cast made for an afternoon of fun for alumni at Hartford's Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. The group gathered on a June afternoon for a private reception before the matinee performance of *Mamma Mia!* in a suite that overlooks the spectacular Mortensen Hall. It was an enjoyable event hosted by the Alumni Office and we look forward to another such gathering in spring or early summer of 2005—this time at the Warner Theatre in Torrington. Watch for details in the Winter Yellow Jacket and on the webpage!



CLASS OF 1954 50-YEAR CELEBRATIONS



Joyce (Silverio) Youmatz '54 and Al Youmatz '52 celebrate 50 years!

EXACTLY 50 YEARS TO THE DAY!

An invitation appeared in the June 2, 1954 issue of *The Gilbert School News*—inviting the entire Senior Class and faculty to be part of a very special day. Exactly 50 years later, nearly 100 people gathered once again, many of them classmates from The Gilbert School, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Joyce (Silverio) and Al Youmatz.

Guests came from as far west as California and from as far south as Georgia and the Carolinas to wish the couple well. "It was like a mini-reunion," Joyce says of the event. (Members of the Class of 1954 will celebrate their 50th high school reunion in October.) Among those attending were the Youmatz children—all Gilbert alumni (Sandy '73,

Linda '74, and Steve '80)—and three grandchildren. Joyce and Al were treated to a "trip down memory lane" that included The Gilbert School on the way to the anniversary party. They were picked up by chauffeur-driven limousine at their home and toured around town to all of their favorite "haunts" before arriving at the Cornucopia and joining guests.

Daughter Linda composed and read a beautiful poem that tells the story of Joyce and Al's lives together beginning with their wedding day in 1954 and concluding with a toast to their 50 years of marriage. Daughter Sandy serenaded the couple with their favorite song, Tony Bennett's *Because of You*.

We wish the very best to Joyce and Al! ❖

CLASS OF 1954 HONORED AT BLUE & GOLD REUNION



Newest 50 Year Alumni, with Mr. Sedlack and Dr. Gazda, are Sandra Whitman Manning, Dorothy Wetmore Robbins, Judith Hart Puhalski and Jacqueline Hunt Flag.

A new tradition was started at the Blue & Gold Reunion (50 year alumni and older) this past May. Members of the 50th Year Class who attended the event were recognized and presented with a special diploma marking the occasion by chairman of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation, Steven Sedlack '60, and recently-retired principal Robert F. Gazda. All 50 year alumni who attend the Blue & Gold Reunion are given a blue and gold pin to wear as a thank-you for their part in the history of The Gilbert School. ❖



Sandra Whitman Manning '54 and Judith Hart Puhalski '54, friends during their years as students at Gilbert, were surprised and thrilled to meet up once again at The Blue & Gold Reunion.

Class of 1954 50th Reunion:
October 16, 2004
Contact Alumni Office for Details

Let us hear from you!

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

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

Photos for publication in the Yellow Jacket are always welcome!

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

Your name: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

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

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THESE REUNIONS

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|
| 25 th | Class of 1979 | October 15-17 |
| 30 th | Class of 1974 | October 16 |
| 40 th | Class of 1964
<i>(with 1963, 1965, 1966)</i> | November 27 |
| 50 th | Class of 1954
<i>(with 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956)</i> | October 16 |

For more information on reunions listed or for help in planning a reunion for your class, send an email to gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org or call 860-738-9439

PATRIOTIC TRIBUTE BOARD

As a way to recognize and say thank you to our service men and women, The Gilbert School Cafeteria is looking for photos of Gilbert alumni who are serving or have served in the military. A "tribute board" will be put together and displayed in the school's cafeteria. If you would like to be included, please send a photo as soon as possible with your name and year of graduation to Mrs. Phyllis Wells, The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT, 06098.



Homecoming: October 16th! RSVP Now!

The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

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

Email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

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