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*"Nearly every graduating class was represented among the 400 in attendance, beginning with 1921."*



Ed Keeley rehearses the 60-member Alumni Band prior to their debut at Gilbert's Dedication and Homecoming events this past October.

## GILBERT ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CELEBRATE!

### NEARLY 400 ATTEND DEDICATION OF ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS; HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES



Seated on stage with the Alumni Band as a backdrop, are (l to r) Winsted Selectman John Forrest, W.L. Gilbert School Corp. Vice Chairman Ellen Cormier Marino '83, W.L. Gilbert Trust President JoAnn Briggs, and Superintendent/Principal Robert Gazda. Standing far right at the podium is Gilbert's alumni director, Cindy Gould.

It was a spectacular October day and the festivities held at The Gilbert School went off without a hitch.

We proudly dedicated our newest changes in the company of those who helped make Gilbert such a special place—its alumni and friends. The \$12 million expansion and renovation project—began in June of 1999—is now complete, save for a few "punch list" items. For the third time in its 107-year history, the School has undergone a transformation of grand proportion—all to enable current and future students access to the best educational experience we can offer. This project was done at no cost to the town. Expenses

that were not reimbursable by the State were covered by The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation.

Commencing right on schedule, The Dedication Program was opened with the Alumni Band playing the *Star Spangled Banner*. Cindy Gould welcomed alumni and friends and recognized graduates in attendance from classes as early as the 1920s. Remarks were given by Trust President JoAnn Briggs, Principal/Superintendent Robert Gazda, and Ellen Cormier Marino '83, vice chairman of The W.L. Gilbert School Corp. Also recognized were those closely involved with the project since the beginning, including members of the Building Committee, O&G Industries,

Inc. (construction manager), Kaestle Boos Associates (architects) and the Connecticut State Department of Education, Division of Grants Management.

Nearly every graduating class was represented among the 400 in attendance, beginning with 1921. From the performance of the Alumni Band to the door prizes to the outstanding lunch prepared by Phyllis Wells and her staff, the day was a hit by all accounts. ❖

*Turn the page for more fun photos of the day!*

# Homecoming 2001...



*We look forward to making this an annual event for Gilbert alumni!  
Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 12, 2002, and watch for details!*

# ...FUN, FAMILY & FRIENDS

Members of the Alumni Band team up with Gilbert's musicians on the field at Homecoming. Led by former Gilbert School band director Ed Keeley and current director Scott Minnerly, they were on hand to entertain during the Dedication Program and to spur on the *Yellow Jackets*!



If you are interested in playing with the Alumni Band—or know someone who is—please contact the Gilbert School Alumni Office at 860-738-9439 or email [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org) for details. All are welcome—you don't need to be an alumnus to participate.

## Upcoming Reunions

To date, members of the following classes have contacted the Alumni Office with information about an upcoming reunion. For details, call or email:

Tel: 860-738-9439  
Email: [gouldc@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gouldc@gilbertschool.org)



### 1992

10th Reunion: August 31, 2002

### 1982

20th Reunion: November 30, 2002

### 1977

25th Reunion: October 12, 2002

### 1961 & 1962

40th Reunion: October 12, 2002

### 1957

45th Reunion: October 12, 2002

### 1952

50th Reunion: September 21, 2002

### 1947

55th Reunion: October 18-19, 2002

### 1942

60th Reunion: October 5, 2002

## CLASS OF 1991 CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> REUNION...



Catherine Cull Tatar and husband Chris



Amy Hoban, Karen Case, Julie Anderson  
Dowling, Samantha Turbarg



Gina Riccardo and Kim Gee

The Cornucopia was the setting for the November 24, 2001, 10th Reunion celebration of the Class of 1991. Thirty-four graduates attended, along with their spouses or guests. Traveling all the way from the Netherlands, Bernardo Martinez was thrilled to join the group. Bernardo was an exchange student at The Gilbert School.



### Planning a Class Reunion and looking for your classmates?

#### We can help you...

- ✓ plan a workshop & timeline
- ✓ select a theme
- ✓ design, print & mail your invitations
- ✓ advertise in the *Yellow Jacket*

#### We can provide you with...

- ✓ a class list
- ✓ nametags
- ✓ assistance & support

Call Cindy Gould at 738-9439  
It's never too early to get started!

# ANOTHER REUNION CELEBRATION!

50 YEARS

50 YEARS



The Gilbert School Class of 1951  
50th Reunion — October 13, 2001

The Class of 1951 gathered on the steps of Ye Olde Newgate Coon Club in Norfolk, Connecticut, to celebrate 50 years since their graduation! More than 50 classmates, along with spouses and guests, attended this special evening. Many met up earlier in the day at the School's Homecoming festivities and then concluded their weekend get-together with a light breakfast held on Sunday morning at the School. The Reunion Committee is to be commended for doing such a fantastic job in finding and bringing together so many of their classmates for this memorable event.



Alice Ferris Fixer



Amelia Cornelia Nevin



Jayne Burwell Gustafson



Art Fixer



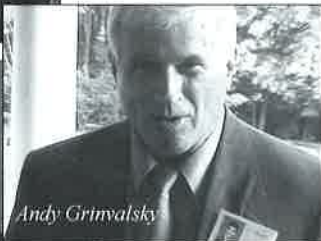
George & Dorothy Thompson Centrella



Together since the Fourth Grade!



Ann Kenney Lizotte



Andy Grimalvsky



Joan Norton Welch



Ralph Nader & Paula Holmes Rice



Milt & Dolly Turgeon

# WITH FOND REMEMBRANCE

David B. Nichols, Teacher and Headmaster  
Charles E. Youmans, Teacher and Coach

In November and December of 2001, respectively, The Gilbert School community bid a final farewell to two gentlemen who spent a collective total of more than 60 years in service to the School. We'd like to share the following thoughts and memories with you, taken from remarks delivered at their services. We thank Mr. Fecto and Mr. McCann for allowing us to bring them to you.

*From Charles Fecto, former Gilbert Headmaster:*

In the fall of 1940, when Dave Nichols came to Gilbert, a few of us who were then students and would later join Gilbert as teachers, began a long and fruitful association with him.

Dave taught History and Government and helped in athletics as well. He quickly gained the respect and goodwill of all at Gilbert. In 1949, he was appointed vice principal, just in time to witness substantial growth in the student population, eventually resulting in the decision to build a new facility—the current location of The Gilbert School. Dave played a significant role in determining the requirements for a new building. With complete support of the various departments, he was able to articulate our needs and see the project through to an outstanding and successful finish.

Appointed principal in 1960, little changed in Dave's stewardship and support for Gilbert's faculty and students. Always anxious to gain more opportunities for students, he was successful in providing an instrumental suite and an area for the study of art. Student programs were now very extensive.

Dave retired in June of

1973. Staff, students and the Winsted community benefited greatly from his time at The Gilbert School. We shall miss him. ❖

*From Frank McCann, former Gilbert Assistant Headmaster:*

I met Charlie Youmans about thirty years ago when I started teaching at Gilbert in September of 1970. It has been my pleasure to be his colleague, boss, friend and golf partner. I feel honored to celebrate his life and share some of my happy memories that you can add to yours.

Once I really got to know Charlie, I discovered that he had developed his own unique vocabulary and it served him very well. "Coach"—that was his # 1 word. Charlie would call you Coach even if you weren't a coach. It was a substitute for either a first name or a last name. It was very practical for Charlie; it worked. He didn't have to remember any names! "Groovy"—that was another one of his favorites. For him it was a state of mind. If you asked him, "How ya doing today?" he would give you a thumbs-up and say "groovy." Charlie used the word "big" quite often, but it really didn't mean "big." You see "big" to Charlie meant you're a friend, you're OK. Charlie said "big guy" a lot, but that was only for earth people. "The Big Guy" was reserved just for God. He always pointed up when he said "The Big Guy" and everybody knew who he meant.

Charlie loved golf. We would sneak out of school just after the bell every Friday. Mrs. Robbins would always catch us and say, "and where are you two going?" Charlie would say, "Therapy, you know—white ball therapy."

Then the Friday golf war was on. Charlie and I met Big

John Palladino and Armand DeFiore about ten years ago. We called ourselves the "Fearsome Foursome." Charlie said our mission was to roto-till the course. We even made up our own rules and added more every week. Your shot too close to the tree—tree rule—kick it away. Ball in the water—no penalty and deduct one shot if you can find it. Ignore all out-of-bounds markers and if you don't like your drive—hit another one. A Mulligan Rule.

Charlie spent a total of 38 years in education. From my perspective, he was *great* his first 35 years as a teacher and coach, but he was *super* his last three years of work. Charlie retired in June of 1995 but returned in September of 1996 to become the hall monitor and run the after-school detention. He jumped into his new job with both feet. He loved the challenge and had great rapport with difficult kids. He was stern but compassionate. He counseled numerous teenagers through their troubled times. Counseling students was when Charlie was at the top of his game. The counseling took place between Charlie and the student on the way to the office. He called this method "crossing the bridge"—getting the bad guy to cross the bridge to be good.

When Charlie got ill in April of 1999 and was not able to finish the school year, his "clients" would stop by my office and say, "Tell Mr. Youmans I'm being good." I then realized what a profound impact he had made on their lives. It was also during this three year period when we were working closely together that I realized the effect he had made on me—he was my coach, too. By his example, I learned the importance of family: what it meant to be a good son, husband, brother, father, and grand-

father...the special place you hold in your heart for relatives and friends.

Coach, you played the game of life very, very well. Thanks for sharing it with us. ❖

*The following are comments from a note sent by Ms. Susan Sienko, a student of Mr. Youmans of some 40 years ago:*

My heart just broke when I read about Mr. Youmans' passing—I always thought I would see him again.

There are many clichés about the "favorite teacher" (and he surely was mine), but Mr. Youmans transcended them all. He didn't just teach—he helped me endure through uncertainties, disappointments, ups and downs of teenage years. He listened to me, drew me out and made me laugh. He always kidded me about being a Notre Dame fan and for being so stubbornly proud of my Polish heritage. That wide grin! And such wonderful humor to help lighten the drama of teenage angst!

I believe Mr. Youmans helped me to recognize my value while learning the lessons of life. I don't think he ever knew the tremendous impact he had on me...and I regret I never told him. But all these years later, I remember, fondly, and now, sadly, I always will. ❖

*A memorial fund has been established at The Gilbert School by family and friends of Charlie Youmans. If you would like to contribute, you may send a check, payable to the Youmans Memorial Fund, c/o The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098.*

*A golf tournament will be held on Monday, August 19th, with proceeds going to the Youmans Memorial Fund. If you would like more information, please call Mike Gamari at The Gilbert School, 860-379-3721. Entry fee: \$135.00 per person.*

## BIRTHS

*Jordan Allana Carr*  
Born January 6, 2002 to  
Heather Ziolkowski-Carr '90  
and Allan Carr '89

*Skylar Lynn DiMartino*  
Born October 14, 2001, to  
Liza Vaccari DiMartino '93  
and Robert DiMartino '90

*Emily Frances Fabrizi*  
Born November 10, 2001, to  
Darlene Lussier Fabrizi '83  
and Paul Fabrizi

*Isabel Ann Kittell*  
Born August 16, 2001, to  
Stephany White Kittell '89 and  
Troy Kittell

*Justin Maillet*  
Born February 14, 2002, to  
Michele Lambour Maillet '84  
and Timothy Maillet

*Maryellen Dorothy Marino*  
Born January 13, 2002, to  
Ellen Cormier Marino '83 and  
Concetto J. Marino '82

*Send us news of additions to  
your family! Simply fill out  
the form on the back page or  
send an email to:*

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

## 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.

## ALUMNI NEWS



## 1926

Thank you to *Lewella Hart Francis* for her remembrance of classmate *Ruth Holleran Lawrence '27*, who recently passed away. Lewella writes, "I remember Ruth as an attractive teenager—slim, dark "bobbed" hair—always pleasant and cooperative and unfailingly cheerful and optimistic. I'm sure the Norfolk town fathers were very fortunate to have her services as secretary for 28 years."

## 1936

*Frances Weigold Green* writes, "After living in Florida for 37 years, made a big decision to move to Crossville, Tennessee. Enjoying the change of seasons again!"

## 1942

*60th Reunion: October 5, 2002*

## 1945

Kudos to *Stanley A. Ransom, Jr.*, who continues to record folk music as "The Connecticut Peddler" and who recently penned a poignant song based on the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Learn more about Stan's work at his website, [www.stanransom.com](http://www.stanransom.com).

## 1946

From *Betty Stavitzky Susla*, "Am a widow and a retired RN. Moved to Florida in October of 2001. Still maintain a residence for the summer at Highland Lake. Son Jeff is a teacher in Tolland, CT; daughter Cynthia resides in Dedham, MA."

## 1947

*55th Reunion: October 18-19, 2002*

## 1949

Our sincere condolences to the family of *Joseph J. Monyak* and his wife Doris, whose daughter Cheryl Ann Monyak was a casualty of the World Trade Center disaster of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 1950

*Hilda Berenkrantz Stein* writes, "I've lived in Las Vegas since October, 1970. Was a secretary until 1990, when I retired. Have three children and four grandchildren. Moved to a retirement community in 1996 and enjoy it very much."

## 1951

From *Margaret LaLime Smith*, "Special thanks to the class of 1951 reunion committee for a fun, full night—it was great seeing everyone."

## 1952

*50th Reunion: September 21, 2002*

## 1953

*Dr. Norman E. Smith, Jr.* has retired from pediatric practice after 32 years here in the Winsted/Torrington area. Dr. Smith was the school medical advisor for all those years as well. He has been married for 42 years and has five grandchildren.

## 1956

Congratulations to *Gary P. O'Keefe*, who recently won a silver medal in the senior division of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Games for his skill at bowling.

## 1957

*45th Reunion: October 12, 2002*

*Linda Fratini Goormaghtigh* writes, "I am semi-retired from The Capitol Products Co. as assistant vice president, marketing. My email address is [lindagoor@att.net](mailto:lindagoor@att.net)—looking forward to our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion in October."

*Robert J. Shopey, Sr.* is interested in learning more about the history of a gold charm bracelet he found at an out-of-state flea market. The bracelet has Gilbert School spelled out on individual blue and gold charms. If anyone recalls a bracelet such as this being available during their days at Gilbert or may know the origin, please contact Bob directly at [shopey4egan@aol.com](mailto:shopey4egan@aol.com).

## 1958

*Connie Brunelle Cohn* writes, "I get paid to play (job title: nanny)! I also participate actively in writer's groups, including one I started in Ann Arbor (MI). Also volunteer as an English-as-a-Second Language tutor."

## 1959

News from *Jan Foster Underhill*—"Peter and I retired to south Florida where we built a new Mediterranean-style home. Timing couldn't be better as Craig, my youngest son, and his wife Elizabeth gave us a new granddaughter, Elise, born in late October. How nice to have them living so near in West Palm

Beach! My other son, Mark, is professor of biology at Albertus Magnus College."

## 1961 & 1962

*40th Reunion: October 12, 2002*

## 1965

*Loreen DiGiovanni Sellitto* writes, "My sincere thanks to all who supported our family at the 9-11 loss of our son, Matthew. Thank you for all the kind words and prayers. They helped at a very difficult time." The Gilbert School community offers sincere condolences to the Sellitto family.

## 1972

Congratulations to *Raymond "Chuck" DelRossi*, a successful songwriter and recording artist who remembered with fondness his days as a student at The Gilbert School and the friends he made here in a recent article published in the *Winsted Journal*.

## 1977

*25th Reunion: October 12, 2002*

## 1979

*Alumni Class Officers:*  
*Carolyn Irwin Rogers*

## 1981

Congratulations to *Tessa Taylor Casey* who ran her third Boston Marathon in April to raise funds for cancer research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

## 1982

*20th Reunion: November 30, 2002*

A 20th Reunion is planned for members of the Class of 1982 on November 30th. The committee would like your helping in locating the following classmates. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact the Alumni Office:

Debra Sheehy Aldvini  
Malcolm Arenburg  
Ann Barlow  
Pam Veselic Christopher  
George Ducharme  
John Dwyer  
James Huftin  
Tammy Sacco Lewis  
Jeffrey Sacco  
Katharine Mayer  
Leslie Perretti  
Christopher Petersen  
Yvette Pond  
Brenda Sylvernale

## 1983

*Alumni Class Officer:*  
*Elizabeth Irwin Cary*

Congratulations to *Darlene Lussier Fabrizi*—"I married Paul Fabrizi from Suffield (CT) on April 15, 2000, became a professional dog groomer the same year and gave birth to our daughter Emily Frances on November 10, 2001. We own a Victorian home in Windsor Locks; I work at Creative Clips Pet Salon in Suffield and Paul works as a systems engineer at The Travelers in Hartford."

## 1984

*Michele Lambour Maillet* writes that she and her husband of 4 1/2 years, Timothy, recently built a house in Winsted and live there with their two sons Derek, age 2 1/2, and Justin, born in February of this year.

## 1987

From *Kelley Beecher Whiting* and *Sam A. Whiting*—"Sam and I were married in October of 1993 and have been living in Florida since 1991. We have two children—Jessica, age 6 and Samantha, age 2. Just built our home on three acres and moved in last August. Sam has been working in auto glass since graduation and I am a dental hygienist, having graduated from Tunxis Community College (CT) in 1991." Best wishes to Kelley and Sam!

## 1989

*Alumni Class Officers:*  
*Raymond and Astrid (Haskins) Robitaille*

## 1990

Congrats to *Heather Ziolkowski Carr* and husband *Allan '89* on the birth of their first child, Jordan Allana. Heather reports that Jordan weighed in at 8 lbs., 5 oz., and was 20 inches long! Allan is an HVAC contractor for a company in Goshen and Heather is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for Harwinton Consolidated. Best wishes to the three of you!

## 1992

*10th Reunion: August 31, 2002*

## 1997

*Alumni Class Officer:*  
*Jessica Leighton*

## 2001

*Alumni Class Officers:*  
*Kristin Kittelsen*  
*Jessica Leifert*

Many thanks to our Alumni Class Officers. Classmates should hear from them periodically as we try to keep in touch with everyone and gather news for this section of the newsletter. If you are interested in helping out for your class, please contact the Alumni Office.

## IN MEMORIAM

**William L. Aust '50**  
November 24, 2001  
**Edward M. Brady '51**  
January 20, 2002  
**Dolores MacDonald Cameron '42**  
February 4, 2002  
**Virginia Lamberto**  
Demanosow '70  
October 23, 2001  
**Patricia Alvord French '36**  
February 4, 2002  
**Harriet Ford Henry '37**  
March 2002  
**Eleonor Verchot Jacobs '35**  
February 20, 2002  
**Ruth Holleran Lawrence '27**  
January 6, 2002  
**Mary Hart Locascio '35**  
November 14, 2001  
**Edward H. Nash, Sr. '42**  
November 10, 2001  
**David B. Nichols,**  
Headmaster 1960-1973  
November 11, 2001  
**Richard P. Reichold '45**  
October 30, 2001  
**Pauline Emerick Skaret '37**  
January 20, 2002  
**Michael J. Shandra '48**  
October 29, 2001  
**Frank Smith '53**  
February, 2002  
**Paul N. Vreeland '42**  
November 20, 2001  
**Charles E. Youmans,**  
Teacher & Coach  
December 11, 2001

Memorials are included up until press time and reflect information received since publication of the prior issue of the Yellow Jacket. Information to be included here may be forwarded to the Alumni Office.

We'd like to expand the Alumni News section of the Yellow Jacket. Whether you've recently married, celebrated a landmark anniversary, made 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!

Simply fill out this form and mail it to the Alumni Office or send us an email! We'd enjoy hearing from you!



Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue of The Gilbert School *Yellow Jacket*. Keep in touch with classmates and let them know what you've been up to!

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Meshing Art and Career...

Last September, the computer graphics class was treated to a visit by renowned stamp illustrator Steve Buchanan. The United States Postal Service recently issued the third in a series of stamps depicting carnivorous plants designed by Mr. Buchanan. His prior two series (tropical plants and insects and spiders) were among the top sellers for the Post Office. Trained as a classical pianist and having spent many years on the music faculty of James Madison University, Mr. Buchanan eventually decided to pursue other interests and enrolled in arts courses, leading to the development of his talent for botanical illustration. He now works exclusively on the computer, using sophisticated graphics and drawing programs.

## Did You Know...



Since 1934, part of the festivities of the weekend-long Laurel Festival have included the crowning of a queen. The first—Gladys Weaving Calderwood—graduated from The Gilbert School in 1938; the most recent, Kathleen Jablonski, in 2001. Each Queen receives a scholarship, as do the first and second runners-up. The Laurel Festival originated in 1932 as the Laurel City Horticultural Society.

Come to Winsted for the Laurel Festival

June 7-9, 2002

Celebrate a most beautiful time of the year!

For details or for information on how you can support the Festival, please contact Natalie Nalette Attianese '73, Laurel City Commission Chair, at 860-379-1652.

The Gilbert School  
200 Williams Avenue  
Winsted, CT 06098

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

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

*The Gilbert School Yellow Jacket is produced twice per year for the benefit of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School. Correspondence and changes of address should be directed to Cindy Gould, Editor, in the Alumni Office. Photo Credits: Liz Cary '83, Diane Cook '73, Andy Grinwalsky '51, Kay Jones '72, Sarah Lemelin '91, Sandy Lisella '82, Milton Turgeon '51.*

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