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You're Invited To An Open House!

Saturday
November 25th

1:00 – 3:00 PM
The Gilbert School

While there will be a formal dedication in the spring, we hope you'll stop by for a look at our progress and some refreshments as we near completion of exciting renovations of The Gilbert School.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2000!



Photo by Keville Ursons '92 © The Winsted Journal

Graduate Christiane Bode, Valedictorian, addresses her classmates, family and friends during Commencement 2000.

Flowers, tears, smiles, hugs and hollers were all part of graduation ceremonies held on June 22nd in the newly-renovated auditorium. The weather cooperated, (more or less!) and the atmosphere was charged with the excitement of 123 seniors waiting for their turn to accept a well-earned diploma. The Commencement Address was delivered by Gilbert School alumnus F. Philip Prelli '66, who encouraged the graduates to pursue careers that they will enjoy, continue to learn through life-long education, and always give back to their communities. *Project Graduation*, now a tradition for Gilbert seniors, followed the festivities. ❖

FOUNDER'S DAY

Pictured left to right: Robin Dallis '00, Jessica Lampron '00, Faith Prelli '01, Beth Majka '01.

In memory and in celebration of the founder of The Gilbert School, members of the Student Council gathered at the gravesite of William Lewis Gilbert this past spring to lay a wreath. Gilbert was a long-time resident of Winchester until his death in 1890. Long a tradition for Gilbert students, the Founder's Day ceremony acknowledges their respect for the School's first benefactor and honors his memory as a true visionary of the 19th century.

William L. Gilbert was a philanthropist and prominent Winchester businessman. He



recognized the value of education and sought to ensure that future generations would have access to a quality learning experience. Through a significant bequest in the late 1800s, Gilbert made this possible. In his own words through his Will, he

provided for the "establishment and maintenance of an institution of learning to be known as The Gilbert School" and directed that the school should give instruction "for the improvement of mankind by af-

(Continued on page 2)

Address Corrections/Updates:

If you are receiving this publication in error, or need to make a correction to your address, please contact The Gilbert School Alumni Office.

Visit us on the web
www.gilbertschool.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens." These words have been the foundation of the School's philosophy since its doors opened in 1895.

In addition to Student Council officers, members of the School administration and representatives from The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation were in attendance. ❖



JoAnn Briggs, President of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, and Pat Bourque, Chair of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation, enjoy conversation at Founder's Day 2000.

*Don't miss the festivities of an expanded Founder's Day 2001!
Watch for details in the spring issue of the Yellow Jacket.*



Since she was a little girl, Joan Centrella '71 has always been fascinated by things astronomical and astrophysical—especially Einstein's theories of relativity. She is driven to search for the keys to the universe and this writer has no doubt that she will play a major role in unlocking its secrets!

During a recent trip to the Winsted area, Dr. Centrella was invited to join a Gilbert AP Physics class to talk about her research and her work as a physics professor at Drexel University (Philadelphia). The students in Kathy Cloud's class were obviously entranced by Dr. Centrella's extensive knowledge

"CATCH A WAVE AND YOU'RE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD..."

No, it wasn't the Beach Boys but Gilbert alumnus Joan Centrella '71 who caught the attention of Kathy Cloud's AP Physics class on the second day of school—by talking about gravitational waves.

and enthusiasm for her subject matter. They listened intently and they asked questions seeking to build upon what they'd already learned as science students. Dr. Centrella was a natural in front of these students. She created the spark of interest that she herself remembers from certain teachers while attending The Gilbert School.

With an impressive list of professional honors, activities and publications already behind her, including the prestigious, Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation and numerous others, Dr. Centrella looks forward with great anticipation and enthusiasm to the continuation of her work in conjunction with a research project of literally epic proportions. The LIGO project (Laser Interferometric Gravitational-Wave Observatory), in a very small nutshell, hopes to "read clues as to the nature of black holes—

and possibly the Big Bang itself."¹

Using two identical mammoth structures, one in Louisiana and one in Washington State, researchers hope to eventually measure and create images of gravitational waves that originated with the Big Bang and that still move through our universe. We are talking about a measurement that is "...less than the diameter of an atomic nucleus, some trillionths of a trillionth of an inch."¹ Using some of the world's most powerful supercomputers, Dr. Centrella has been working on the calculations that will predict what these waves will look like. She has spent more than ten years already on this project, and the Observatory has yet to be fine-tuned to even begin registering these gravitational waves—the sign of a truly dedicated scientist!

Fortunately for us, Einstein still lives in the minds of

researchers, inspiring a push to know and learn more. He has definitely inspired at least one enthusiastic and extraordinarily talented young Gilbert alumnus! Dr. Centrella continues to pursue her dreams at Drexel University, where, in addition to her work calculating gravitational waves, she is a professor and associate graduate advisor for the Department of Physics.

We wish Dr. Centrella the very best and look forward to the next visit to her Winsted alma mater! ❖

1. "Catching a Gravitational Wave," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 13, 1999.

NOTE: The Gilbert School Class of 1971 buried a time capsule during their senior year to coincide with the nation's first Earth Day—does anyone out there know the location? Any background information will be helpful; please call the Alumni Office.

The 1999-2000 Inaugural Gilbert Annual Fund Honor Roll of Donors

The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation and The Gilbert School extend sincere appreciation to all those who so generously contributed to the 1999-2000 Inaugural Gilbert Annual Fund. These gifts, totalling more than \$20,000, will be used to further enhance the learning experience of Gilbert students above and beyond what is provided for by the school's budget. These enhancements make possible the learning and teaching opportunities that have become the hallmark of The Gilbert School. Additionally, we wish to thank those who have provided ongoing support for our many scholarships and named funds. Your generosity enables us to provide assistance to students who wish to continue the pursuit of knowledge beyond the halls of The Gilbert School.

We want you to know that every gift is important and every gift makes a difference. Thank you for your confidence and your support.

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Recognition of Special Gifts

The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation holds more than eighty named and endowed funds. The interest from many of these funds is used to provide scholarships to Gilbert graduates. Additionally, gifts are periodically made directly and without restriction to the endowment of The W.L. Gilbert Trust. We are pleased to recognize the following individuals who have made contributions to these funds, further ensuring the perpetuity of the Trust itself as well as available assistance to students. It is also noteworthy that during the past year, six new named funds have been established, as indicated by an asterisk. Gifts received from July of 1999 up until press time are included in this report.

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Class of 1947 Scholarship Fund

The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation
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Robert L. Cormier Scholarship Fund

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The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation
In Memory of Ruth Ells Crane

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Miss Bernice Wheeler '33

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In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of
William and Barbara Welcome

Othneil G. Williams Scholarship Fund

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Corporate Matching Gifts

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NOTE: While we have made every attempt to recognize those who have contributed so thoughtfully during the past year, it is possible that we may have inadvertently overlooked some donors. We apologize in advance for any omissions or misspellings and hope that the Office of Development and Alumni Relations will be informed of any such errors so that we may adjust our records.

FROM THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

We hope you enjoy reading The Gilbert School *Yellow Jacket*. Included in this issue is another "first-ever" for us—our *Honor Roll of Donors* for 1999-2000. It is with sincere appreciation that we recognize and thank those who have supported The Gilbert School through our Inaugural Annual Fund as well as through contributions to our many scholarship and special funds. It is your generosity and thoughtfulness that enable us to carry on the legacy of William L. Gilbert, and to continue to provide the many enhancements that would

otherwise be out of reach for us.

In my few short months with the School and the Trust, one thing has come through loud and clear during conversations with alumni—your years at Gilbert are remembered with both fondness and gratitude. The lessons learned and the opportunities extended while students have proven invaluable throughout your adult lives as you have pursued higher education and rewarding career paths. Continued support from alumni and friends will ensure that future generations of students will enjoy the same for decades to come.

During the next few

weeks, alumni will receive a request to support the 2000-2001 Gilbert Annual Fund. We look forward to another successful year and we are counting on you to consider a contribution. Every gift makes a difference—remember the difference the generosity of others has made for you. ❖

For more information on the Gilbert Annual Fund, or other Development and Alumni Relations initiatives, please call Cindy Gould at 860-738-9439 or contact the School.

NEWS FROM THE W.L. GILBERT TRUST

◆ After nearly twenty years of service to The W.L. Gilbert Trust, Robert P. O'Connor '49 has retired as board member after reaching the Trust's mandatory age of retirement. Mr. O'Connor's input and advice have been valued over the years, especially through his most recent assignments on the Budget/Finance Committee and as chair of the Enhancements Committee. His vacancy will be filled by another Gilbert alumnus, Steven A. Sedlack '60. The Trust extends best wishes to both as they begin new adventures.

◆ Each year, the Trust is pleased to recognize the hard work, dedication, and persistence of the two graduates named Valedictorian and Salutatorian (highest and second highest grade point average during all four years of high school, respectively). At the July 19th meeting of the Trust, board members voted to significantly increase these monetary awards, beginning with the Class of 2001, to \$500.00 for Valedictorian and \$250.00 for Salutatorian.

◆ The Trust was delighted to hold its Annual Meeting on September 20th in the newly-renovated Library and Media Center of The Gilbert School. This bright and airy new space will be sure to inspire students and visitors alike to study and peruse the many volumes of resources available to them. We invite you to stop by and see for yourself—join members of the Trust, the School Corp., and the administration for an Open House on November 25th. See front page of the *Yellow Jacket* for details.

IT'S REUNION TIME!

If your class year ends in 1 or 6, then 2001 is the time to celebrate the anniversary of your graduation from The Gilbert School! If you haven't already heard from classmates who may be planning a reunion, call the Alumni Office and we'll put you in touch—or help you get one started!

We extend our congratulations and best wishes...

- ◆ to the Class of 1960, which enjoyed a wonderful 40th Reunion over Columbus Day Weekend
- ◆ to the Class of 1975, which will be celebrating their 25th Reunion over Thanksgiving Weekend
- ◆ to the Classes of 1951 and 1991, working with the Alumni Office to plan fabulous events for 2001

A special thank you...

- ◆ to the Classes of 1949 and 1950, which have recently celebrated 50th Reunions. Students and visitors to The Gilbert School will enjoy the beautiful view from atop Williams Avenue as they rest on four granite benches placed at the main entrance to the School—a generous gift from these classes in honor of their Reunion. Many thanks to Roger W. Jones '49 and George DeMars '50 for spearheading the effort—and to all their classmates who contributed to these gifts. Your thoughtfulness will be enjoyed by many.



CHECK IT OUT...

- ◆ Thanks to Eugene Scalise '42, classmates and friends can relive their days at The Gilbert School through the Class of 1942 website! Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/Gene1st/Gilbert42.html> and see for yourself! Complete with vintage photos and the music of Glenn Miller!

A GILBERT SONG...

- ◆ Some alumni are searching for the origin and author of what they remember as the "Gilbert School Song," going back perhaps to the 1940s and 1950s. If you have any information or recollection that might help them in their quest, please contact the Alumni Office.

ALUMNI NEWS



1936

Margaret Selover Barth—writes "I wish you well with all of the changes and send special greetings to my 1936 classmates!"

Virginia Tiffany Leighton—Congratulations to Virginia, who is the recipient of the 2000 *Award of Appreciation* from the Association of Connecticut State Library Boards. The award recognizes her years of service to the Beardsley & Memorial Library in Winsted, including her tenure as president from 1985 to 1996.

1946

Calvin H. Stewart—"I have been retired three years from Northeast Utilities after 31 years service as an accountant." We wish Calvin continued happiness and a healthy retirement.

1953

Jean Merrill Balderston—Congratulations to Jean on being named co-winner of this year's Poetry Society of America's *The Writer Magazine/Emily Dickinson Award*. As stated in the criteria for this prize category, Jean's poem, entitled "Dickinson Weather," "honors the memory and poetry of Emily Dickinson." Jean writes, "I remember my English teachers at Gilbert, Helen Sheldrick and Katherine Morehardt, with great pleasure and gratitude. My PSA award is theirs as well." Jean currently resides in New York City and is a psychotherapist in private practice specializing in "helping people to find their creative lives."

1956

Gary P. O'Keefe—Best wishes to Gary, who recently retired after more than 25 years in the airline industry. Gary worked as a mechanic, foreman and manager at Eastern Airlines in Miami and at Northwest Airlines in Atlanta. He would enjoy hearing from old friends at the following online address: mochak1938@aol.com.

1960

Steven A. Sedlack—We send congratulations and best wishes to Steven on his recent retirement after 36 years in public education, the last 30 of which were spent as principal of Squadron Line School in Simsbury, Connecticut. Steven and his wife Sheila '63 continue to be active in the community, and in fact Steven will soon be joining the board of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation.

1969

Alan S. Colavecchio—Congratulations to Alan, who was named a 2000 *Person of the Year* by the Northwest Connecticut Chapter of the Chamber of Commerce. Criteria for this award include "dedication to the business environment, humble community involvement, commitment to the overall improvement in the quality of life in the Northwest corner." Alan lives in Winsted with his wife Pam '69 and owns Colavecchio Design, providing creative advertising and graphic design services.

1970

Joe Veneziano—After reading the Spring 2000 issue of the *Yellow Jacket*, Joe emailed the Gilbert alumni office to say hello. He noticed that the spring dramatic production was *Up the Down Staircase* and relayed that he "was the principal in the 1970 version...Gilbert was great fun. The best four years I can remember—well, actually three (freshman year wasn't that good)—were at Gilbert." Joe is married to Daria Byrnes and they have two sons—Jim, 15, and Tom, 11. Joe is president of JCV Investment Systems, an international trading system and market data consultancy. Visit his website at www.JCVISYS.com.

1983

Elizabeth Irwin Carey—In response to an earlier issue of the *Yellow Jacket*, Liz writes, "Great news update! I look forward to more." Thanks for the kudos, Liz!

1998

Tyler Walker—Congratulations to Tyler, who earlier this year was chosen to play the role of Nod in a Vassar College production of Charles Mee's *Orestes 2.0*. The play was presented by the Experimental Theatre of Vassar College and was performed at the College's Powerhouse Theatre. Tyler is just beginning his junior year at Vassar. ❖

We'd like to expand the Alumni News section of the Yellow Jacket—see the back page to see how you can help!

Planning a Class Reunion and looking for your classmates?

Call The Gilbert School Alumni Office to see how we can help each other—from finding lost classmates to finding volunteers to help plan a reunion—teamwork makes the difference!

We'll help you...

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

We can provide you with...

- ✓ *a class list*
- ✓ *nametags for your event*
- ✓ *assistance and support*

*Call Cindy Gould at 738-9439
It's never too early!*



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.

**GILBERT'S
BEST...**



The Gilbert School's first-ever cookbook is now available for purchase. As you may have read in the last issue of the *Yellow Jacket*, Phyllis Wells, Food Service Director, has compiled a cookbook of recipes from present and previous staff, school board and trust members—and she has even included some of the scrumptious Gilbert School kitchen goodies such as those fabulous cinnamon buns, homemade pizza, rolls, and many others.

If you would like a copy of the cookbook, please send \$10.00 (\$8.00 for the book and \$2.00 s&h) with your name and address to The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098, Attention Phyllis Wells. Checks should be made payable to The Gilbert School Cafeteria.

We need your help!



In an effort to keep our alumni list as accurate and up to date as possible, the Office of Development and Alumni Relations would appreciate your help! Kindly fill in the spaces below and return at your earliest convenience.

Please correct my name and address as follows:

I am married to a Gilbert School alumnus. His/her name and graduating year:

Spouse's Name (include maiden): _____ Class: _____
My name: _____ Class: _____



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

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.

Return Service Requested

The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098
(860) 379-8521 (Main Office)
(860) 738-9439 (Alumni Office)
Email: gilbertalumni@snet.net

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