

SUMMER 2026

YellowJacket

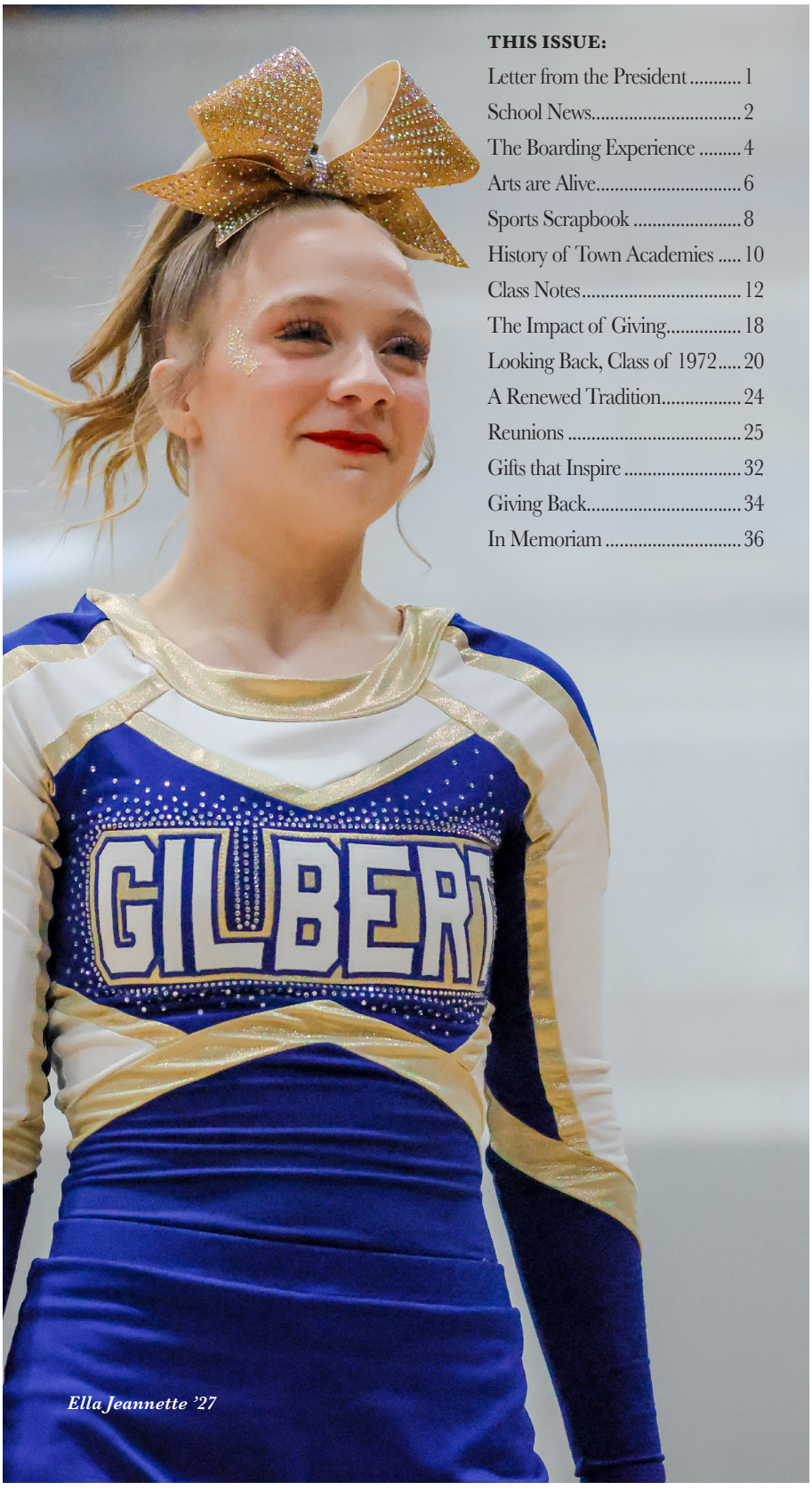
ALUMNI MAGAZINE
OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL

YellowJacket

SUMMER 2026



Madden Holcomb '28 performs Perennial with the Yellowjacket Marching Band in the fall of 2025.



Ella Jeannette '27

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Mission
The Gilbert School was founded in 1895 by William L. Gilbert "for the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens." We are committed to assuring that each student is prepared to be a thoughtful, productive citizen in a complex, global society.

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

Editor:
Sandi Lynn Fratini Scherer
'85, P '15, P '19

Designer:
Eduardo Barrios
barrioscre8tive.com

Photo Credits:
Georgi Andrews
Holly Marchand Cassaday '90
Diane Dombrowski Cook '73
Shari-Lynn LaForge Cormier '79
Rachel Gabelmann Decker '01
Sandi Lynn Fratini Scherer '85
Madison Fritch '21
Bridget Grady, Faculty
Kristopher Kelsey '02
Debra Lewis, Principal
Thomas Lutka, Faculty
Carolina Millan, Admissions Team
Jessica Carroll Nardine '93
Lauren Orr, Faculty
Josh Penn, Faculty
Peter Wallace/For Hearst Connecticut Media

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ALetter from Jared Fritch, *President, The W. L. Gilbert Trust*



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I reflect on my first year serving as President of The W.L. Gilbert Trust, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to help continue the important work and legacy that this organization represents. It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated trustees, staff, and community partners who care deeply about preserving our mission and strengthening our impact.

This year has been especially meaningful to me on a personal level because the Gilbert community is deeply connected to my own family. My wife, Marci, graduated from The Gilbert School in 1998, her parents, Robert Moore and Susan Jacobs Moore graduated in 1978, my oldest daughter Madison graduated in 2021, and my twin daughters, Lola and Marley, proudly graduated in 2025. Watching my family grow through the Gilbert experience has given me an even greater appreciation for the traditions, values, and opportunities that make this community so special. Serving the Trust is not simply a leadership role for me, it is a way to give back to an institution that has had a lasting impact on the people I care about most.

Over the past year, the Trust has made meaningful progress in several important areas. One of our most exciting accomplishments was supporting the development of the remodeled gym, which will serve students, athletes, and the broader community for years to come. This project reflects our ongoing commitment to investing in facilities and opportunities that enhance student life and strengthen the future of Gilbert.

We also worked to reimagine Homecoming Weekend by expanding programming and creating more opportunities for alumni engagement. By adding additional events and activities, we hoped to strengthen connections between generations of Gilbert graduates and create a more welcoming and celebratory experience for alumni returning to campus. The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to continuing to grow this tradition in the years ahead.

Internally, the Trust focused on improving how we operate and collaborate by restructuring our subcommittee system. This reorganization was designed to create greater efficiency, encourage stronger participation, and ensure that our committees are better aligned with the Trust's goals and priorities. While organizational changes are often behind the scenes, they are essential to building a stronger and more effective foundation for the future.

Perhaps most importantly, I am proud that during this past year The W.L. Gilbert Trust contributed more than $500,000 into the Gilbert community. These investments reflect our commitment to supporting students, programs, facilities, and initiatives that help preserve and advance the mission of the school and community we all value so deeply.

None of this progress would have been possible without the dedication and support of so many individuals. I want to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow trustees, alumni, volunteers, and supporters whose time, energy, and generosity continue to move the Trust forward.

As we look ahead, I remain optimistic about the future of The W.L. Gilbert Trust. We have strong momentum, a committed community, and a shared vision for continued growth and impact. I look forward to building on the accomplishments of this first year and continuing to work together to support the Gilbert community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued confidence and support.

School News

By Patricia Martin



Musings by Mike Susi, Gilbert Head of School: A Stellar First Year, a Promising 2026 – 2027 As the 2025 – 2026 school year came to a close, Mike Susi sat down to look back on his first year as Head of School.

What was it like embarking on your first year at Gilbert?
When you enter a new school environment, you can expect that it will take about six to nine months to comprehend the culture. It requires observing, conversations, and deep listening in order to understand the unique strengths and challenges at hand. I have to say it's been a very exciting and productive year!

What issues did you tackle?
It became evident there were some concerns that had to be addressed, and the primary issue was students' safety. The bus loop was collapsing and had been closed, which required students to walk up and down a hill each way for the past 10 years. Clearly fixing it was a priority.

Connecticut Senator Stephen Harding and State Representative Jay Case '88, advocated at the state level to get funding to support corrective action for our bus loop. Thanks to their efforts, Gilbert received $4.6 million in funding to repair the bus loop and make it useable, all at no cost to Winsted taxpayers.

I also saw that it was important to develop student and family engagement. A goal was to get more students involved in more activities, connecting students and families more deeply with Gilbert and bringing them together here on our campus. I'm pleased to say we've seen a surge in participation, attendance, and involvement by our kids and their parents.

A third goal was to move our academic program forward to better prepare students for life after graduation. We analyzed the curriculum and student performance then strategized how to make improvements. As a result of our focus, we saw progress in both of these vital areas.

Tell us about the buzz surrounding Gilbert's gym, "The Hive"
Yes, there's a lot of excitement about our newly renovated gym—and for good reason! We completed major $250,000 renovations, and it officially reopened in October 2025 during Homecoming weekend.

The large gym, which is over 60 years old, has been refreshed from ceiling and lights to windows and walls! It's been painted, has a newly sanded and painted wood floor, and new bleachers, scoreboards, baskets, and banners.

There's a lot of school pride in having the beautifully refurbished gym. Our athletes have been energized and are performing at their peak, and we see more people attending events. In fact, during Homecoming, many of the 1975 Berkshire League championship football players showed up and were impressed when they toured the facility.

I'm also proud to announce that the Auxiliary Gym has been renamed the John Adam Groth '06 Memorial Gymnasium, and is scheduled to be updated thanks in large part to a donation from his family. A beloved Gilbert honor student and senior



at UConn Storrs who sadly passed away in an auto accident in 2009, John Adam was a standout athlete, captain of the wrestling and track teams, a gymnast, and two-time state champion in pole vault. It is fitting that the Auxiliary Gym will honor his legacy.

Looking ahead, what plans do you have in the future for Gilbert?
We have a robust International Program and would like to attract more students from around the world to enhance diversity. In addition to China and Brazil, we are doing outreach to Mexico, Vietnam, Korea, and other countries.

We are working toward cultivating visible displays of Gilbert pride. When we're out and about in the community, we hear people talk fondly about their days at Gilbert as well as how their parents, grandparents, and other relatives are Gilbert grads. We'd like to see outward expressions of this pride, and so we're encouraging students and alumni to wear custom TGS t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other logoed apparel and gear. Our "swag" is readily available online at our official online "Sideline" shop. Be sure to check out our merch online and show your spirit!

TGS is a great place and has a unique advantage as a combination town academy and independent school.

As such we have the ability to raise funds, provide the best learning, and keep the per student tuition low. And fund-raising tools are helping us to improve our facilities. We are developing plans with the intention of building a turf field with a track as well as lighting so teams can play here on campus instead of downtown and we'll also give the public access to it. We hope to build science labs and redo the auditorium, as well.

Anything else you'd like to add?
Gilbert has a great staff, faculty, and administration that work hard and truly care about students, and a tremendous board that supports us and helps us move forward. I'm happy to say we have many more projects and programs in the works getting ready to go.

Final words
"Mike has been a wonderful addition to the Gilbert community," says Principal Deb Lewis P '24. "He came in with an open mind and a desire to make required changes all while honoring and respecting a lot of what makes Gilbert unique. We're looking forward to the future more than ever!"

Holly Cassaday '90, P '22 chairman of the Gilbert School Corporation, agrees. "Mike's extensive experience across public, private, and endowed academy settings has been a tremendous asset to the Gilbert School."

In the meantime, Mike is looking ahead with great anticipation. "It's been a stellar year, and the future looks promising. "I can't wait to see what 2026 – 2027 brings!"

The Boarding Experience: *Learning Without Limits*



The Gilbert School's boarding community continues to be a vibrant and growing part of campus life. More than simply a place for students to live, the boarding program enriches the educational experience for all students and helps strengthen Gilbert's identity as a diverse and welcoming learning community.

This year, Gilbert welcomed boarding students from South America and Asia, bringing new perspectives, cultures, and experiences to campus. Through daily interactions in classrooms, residence halls, athletic teams, and student activities, these students helped create a truly global learning environment while forming lasting friendships with their classmates.

Life in the boarding program encourages students to develop independence, responsibility, and confidence. Students learn to manage their time, balance academic and extracurricular commitments, and navigate life away from home. Just as importantly, they become part of a close-knit community where shared meals, weekend activities, and school traditions create strong bonds that often last long after graduation.

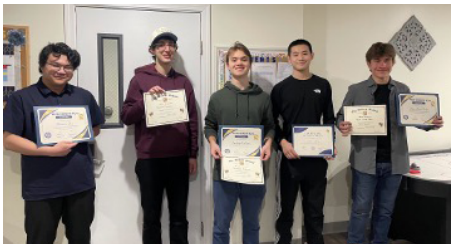
Throughout the year, boarding students fully embraced all that Gilbert has to offer. They participated in athletics, clubs, community service projects, and educational trips throughout New England and the Tri-State region. For many students, these experiences provided opportunities to explore new interests and challenge themselves in ways they had never imagined.

Among the highlights of the year were several memorable outings and activities. Students celebrated the Lunar New Year with a special group dinner, sharing food, traditions, and culture together. Others experienced skiing and snowboarding for the very first time, enjoying the winter season while building confidence on the slopes.

Students also stepped outside the classroom through Gilbert's Outdoor Pursuits program. During the archery unit, students learned the fundamentals of equipment safety and technique before testing their skills in friendly competitions and team challenges. Experiences like these help students develop focus, teamwork, and perseverance while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

As the boarding program continues to grow, it remains an important part of the Gilbert experience—bringing students from around the world together, fostering cultural understanding, and helping young people develop the skills, friendships, and confidence needed for success both in school and beyond.





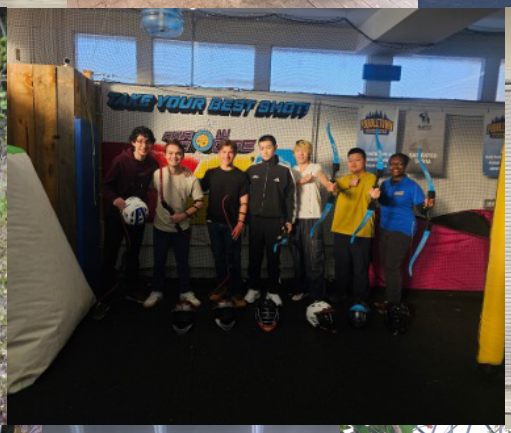





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The Arts Are Alive at The Gilbert School



Creativity is thriving at The Gilbert School. From Mrs. Grady's visual arts classes to our talented chorus, marching band, and symphonic band, students have countless opportunities to explore and showcase their artistic talents.

Two highlights of the year were our school-wide production of The Addams Family, which brought together actors, musicians, stage crew, and technical staff in a true community effort, and TGS Fest 2026, when the auditorium transformed into a concert venue for an unforgettable evening of live music featuring student bands PanDemonIum, Vengeance, Ex-Angels, and the ever-popular faculty band, Partial Kredit.

Whether on the stage, behind the scenes, in the art studio, or in the rehearsal room, the arts continue to inspire, challenge, and connect our students. The arts are truly alive at The Gilbert School.












Sports Scrapbook

By Madison Fritch ’21

The 2025–2026 school year was another outstanding chapter in the proud tradition of Yellowjacket athletics. Gilbert student-athletes demonstrated dedication, resilience, and school pride while competing on and off the field. For generations, athletics have been an important part of the Gilbert experience. The accomplishments of this year’s student-athletes continue that legacy while inspiring the next generation of Yellowjackets.

The wrestling program enjoyed another remarkable season. The team was led by senior Evan Schibi ’26, who capped off one of the most successful wrestling careers in school history. Schibi was a two-time State Open Champion, winning titles in both 2025 and 2026, earned multiple All-State honors, and finished seventh at nationals, which gave him All-American Honors. Senior Miles Zetye ’26 added to the program’s success by winning the league championship in the 106-pound weight class and earning all-star recognition. The future of Gilbert wrestling also looks bright, as eighth-grade student-athlete Aiden Starr ’30 earned a sixth-place finish at the Youth Wrestling Tournament.

The softball program reached an important milestone this season by qualifying for the state tournament for the first time in 15 years. Sophomore Natalie Kent ’28 established herself as one of the premier young pitchers in the state, by surpassing 150 career strikeouts.

On the baseball diamond, sophomore Cole Scacca ’28 recorded his 100th career strikeout and earned league honors, highlighting the continued growth of the Yellowjacket baseball program.

In basketball, Addyson Lillie ’26 continued to make history. For the second consecutive year, she was recognized with first team league honors and reached the extraordinary milestone of scoring her 1,000th career point. Lillie was also recognized as a Scholar-Athlete and earned league honors in softball, demonstrating excellence as both a student and a multi-sport athlete.

Several other student-athletes earned league and state recognition throughout the year. Senior Keegan Connolly ’26 was named all-league in volleyball. James Slauta ’27 earned league honors in boys’ soccer, while Daisy Leach ’26 earned league honors in girls’ soccer. Junior Ella Jeannette ’27 was recognized as an All-State Cheerleader for the third consecutive year, a testament to her dedication and leadership.

Track and field student-athletes also enjoyed a successful season. Junior Trenton Conley ’27 earned league honors in the hammer throw and broke Coach Tom Scarangelo’s ’08 school record in the shot put. Numerous Yellowjackets qualified for state competition, representing Gilbert with pride.

The co-op football team also enjoyed a successful season. The team competed hard throughout the fall and capped off the year with a victory in the annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Bowl, giving student-athletes, alumni, and fans another memorable moment to celebrate.



The 2025–2026 athletic year was filled with memorable moments, historic achievements, and outstanding sportsmanship. Most importantly, it was a year in which our student-athletes continued the traditions that have defined Gilbert athletics for generations. Every practice, competition, and achievement added another chapter to a proud legacy built by those who came before them. We are incredibly proud of every student-athlete who wore the Blue and Gold this year.








BERT
JACKETS





The Gilbert School: *A Unique Place in American Education*

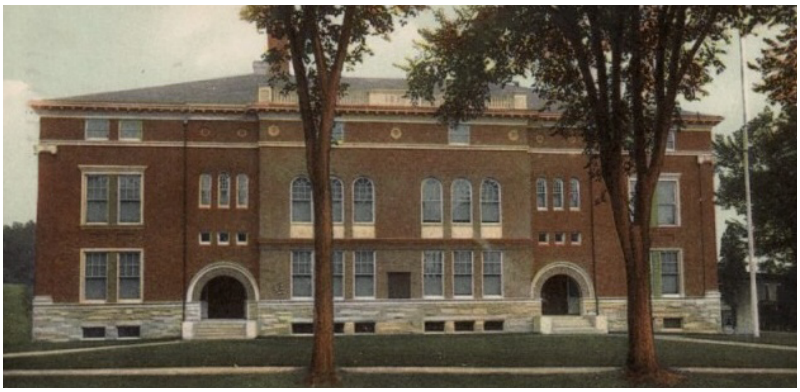
By Dave Sturdevant, DBS Consulting NE

In an educational landscape often defined by a choice between public and private schools, The Gilbert School occupies a unique place. Founded in 1895 by William L. Gilbert, the school is part of a rare and historic educational tradition known as the New England Town Academy.

Today, only twenty town academies remain in existence, all located in New England. These schools represent one of the oldest and most distinctive educational models in the United States. While many schools can trace their roots back more than a century, town academies are different. They were established not simply as private schools, but as independent institutions created to serve the educational needs of their communities.



William L. Gilbert



The Gilbert School - Founded in 1895

When William L. Gilbert founded the school in 1895, he wrote that its purpose was "for the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens." More than 130 years later, that mission continues to define The Gilbert School. Gilbert is also among the oldest secondary schools in the nation. To put that in perspective, there are approximately 27,000 secondary schools in the United States today, yet Gilbert remains among the oldest one hundred.

So, what exactly is a town academy?

The simplest answer is that it is both public and private. Town academies are independent schools governed by their own boards and guided by their own missions. At the same time, they exist to serve the public good by educating local students and supporting their communities. They occupy a space between traditional public and private education, an educational model often described as an independent school serving a public purpose.

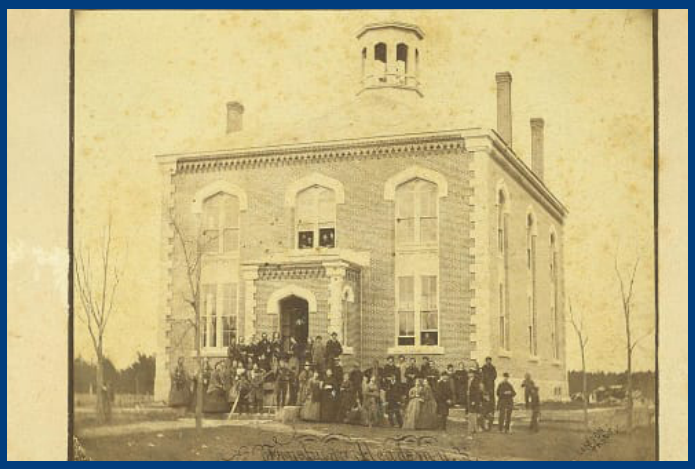
This unique structure gives schools like Gilbert the flexibility to innovate while remaining deeply connected to the communities they serve. Throughout their histories, town academies have often been educational pioneers. Many were among the first schools in the nation to expand educational opportunities to females. Long before compulsory education laws existed, these institutions were providing educational opportunities.

The Gilbert School is one of only three remaining town academies in Connecticut and one of just twenty still operating today. Its peers include historic institutions such as Woodstock Academy (1801), Fryeburg Academy (1792), and Washington Academy (1792). Together, these schools form a remarkable educational network that has endured for more than two centuries and continues to demonstrate the lasting value of the town academy model.

What makes Gilbert especially unique is its ability to blend tradition with opportunity. The school remains firmly rooted in the community. It was created to serve the citizens of Winsted while preparing students for a rapidly changing world. Students benefit from a comprehensive educational experience to local students who choose to attend while at the same time, Gilbert welcomes students from around the world, creating an environment that enriches learning and broadens perspectives for all.

Perhaps the greatest testament to the value of town academies is their longevity. Over the past two centuries, American education has undergone tremendous change, yet town academies have endured. Their continued success demonstrates why this model still matters. In an era when schools face increasing challenges and evolving expectations, town academies offer a unique balance of independence, community accountability, innovation, and mission-driven leadership. Their ability to adapt while remaining true to their founding purpose has allowed them to remain relevant across generations.

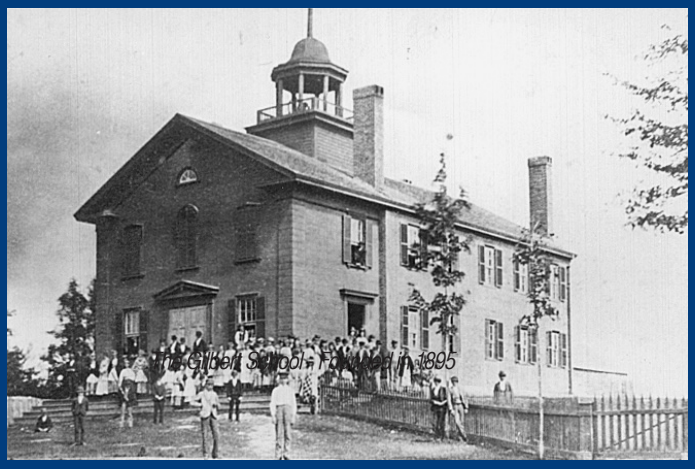
More than 130 years after its founding, The Gilbert School remains a living example of William L. Gilbert's vision. As one of only twenty remaining town academies, it stands as both a steward of a remarkable educational tradition and a model for how independent schools can serve the public good. Its history is unique, but its mission remains timeless: preparing young people to become engaged citizens and contributing to the improvement of mankind.



Freyburg Academy - Founded in 1792



Washington Academy - Founded in 1792



Lincoln Academy - Founded in 1801



Woodstock Academy - Founded in 1801



Thornton Academy - Founded in 1811



Norwich Free Academy - Founded in 1854

AlumniNews

Class Notes – Where are they Now?

Items included in the *Class Notes* Section of the *YellowJacket* are submitted directly to us by alumni or are gathered from public sources and social media. The purpose of alumni news is to pass on good news, good wishes, and to recognize your accomplishments. The more information we receive from you, the more fun and informative we can make this section, **so PLEASE keep us up to date on your latest news!**



1962
Gail Hoxie writes:

I'm happy to say I have just published two new books that are available on Amazon. ***Congratulations, Gail!***







1966
George Felgate writes:

I'm proud of that fact that my education at Gilbert enabled me to get an appointment to the US Naval Academy, serve 26 years in the US Navy, retiring as a senior officer, and spending 47 years supporting the commercial nuclear power industry worldwide. I believe that my excellent high school experience and academic high standards at Gilbert enabled me to get an appointment at a service academy, something I initially thought was out of reach. I am grateful to Gilbert. ***We are grateful for you, George, and thank you for your service!***





1972
Gail Fetzer writes:

I am a proud member of the Class of 1972! I now live in Santa Monica, California, where I teach television production at Santa Monica College. ***Great to hear from you, Gail!***



Danny and Diane '73

1973
Diane Dombrowski Cook

Diane Writes: To The Gilbert School Alumni, After 28 years as the Business Affairs Manager at The Gilbert School, it is with mixed emotions that I announce to the 'alumni world' of my retirement.

Many are probably saying, 'you're still working?', 'you haven't retired yet?'", 'it's about time!', or 'finally!' I have enjoyed ALL of these years and have enjoyed working with ALL of the staff here at The Gilbert School. They truly are members of a Family that we have here, something that not many can fully appreciate.

I've spent over 1/2 of my life involved with TGS, as a student, parent of a student, or as an employee. All of them have been wonderful years, very rewarding years, and I wouldn't change any of it. I've made long-lasting friendships along the way and experienced the ups and downs of everyday life with so many. I will miss the daily contact with everyone here at school. I have on-boarded, and outlasted all except two staff members who are currently here at Gilbert. Only Adam Atkins '90 and Tony Sullivan, '86 were hired before I came to Gilbert, and they are still here.



Wendy Sultaire, Donny Crossman '99, Diane

I've witnessed a lot, organized building projects, seen changes in administrative structures, class rotations, class offerings, relations with the town, watched staff families grow, etc. It's all part of the process and I am fortunate and proud to have been part of it ALL.

What lies ahead is the unknown. I definitely want to spend more time visiting with my granddaughter in PA, maybe do some travelling, catch up on lunches with friends, take those daily walks, take up golf again, or just work in my garden more often. Whatever it is, I am looking forward to retirement and all that awaits.

Lastly, I encourage and thank you for your continued support of The Gilbert School over all the years. It truly is a very unique place, as you all know. No other school compares to The Gilbert School.....and that's a good thing! Thankfully yours, Diane Dombrowski Cook '73 ***Congratulations Diane!***

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





1975
Eleanor Cook-Venezia

Eleanor has sent us notice that she is the founder of Miss Ellie Network, a publishing brand that specializes in multiple genres, including fiction, non-fiction, coloring books, journals, activity books, homeschooling, and curricula. ***Congratulations, Eleanor!***

The Miss Ellie Network-branded books can be viewed at the QR Code

1975
Honoring the 1975 State Championship Team

During Homecoming, The Gilbert School proudly recognized members of the 1975 Football Team on the 50th anniversary of their run to the state championship. Led by Coach Dave Cox, the team was the epitome of smash-mouth football, combining a powerful wishbone offense with a dominant defense that allowed an average of just four points per game. The celebration also honored the memory of four teammates and respected coaches Ron Daniels and Charlie Youmans. Fifty years later, the members of this championship team remain exceptionally proud to represent The Gilbert School, and Gilbert remains proud to celebrate their lasting legacy.



Coach Dave Cox, Tim Ramsay, George Ransom, Tyler Stone, Mike Zonghetti, Bob Hegan, Mike Gersky, Wayne Lippincott, Dave Marolda, Steve Rulli, Steve Fracasso, Joe Gersky, Juno Gomez.

1979
A Lasting Gift from the Class of 1979



The Gilbert community is grateful to the Class of 1979 for their thoughtful gift of commemorative benches to our campus. As they celebrate their enduring connection to their alma mater, this donation provides a welcoming place for students, faculty, alumni, and visitors to gather, reflect, and enjoy the beauty of The Gilbert School.

More than simply a place to sit, these benches represent the friendships, memories, and shared experiences that began in the halls of Gilbert and have continued for decades. They serve as a lasting reminder that the bonds formed here extend far beyond graduation and that each generation of alumni plays an important role in preserving the school's traditions.

The generosity of the Class of 1979 is an investment in both the present and the future of Gilbert. Current students will benefit from this gift every day, while future generations will see it as a symbol of the pride and loyalty that Gilbert alumni have for their school.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Class of 1979 for giving back in such a meaningful way. Their gift will leave a lasting legacy and inspire others to continue the tradition of supporting The Gilbert School and its students.



Michael Fixer, Shari-Lynn LaForge Cormier, Kurt Williams

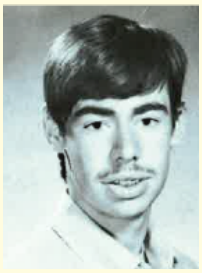
1983
D.J. Koloski writes:

Some short updates – I still live in Winsted, I got married eight years ago to my lovely wife Stephanie. I'm working at Ward Leonard in Thomaston, Connecticut. I've been employed there for nine years as their Cost Accounting Manager. My plan is to finish up my career there. A little background on my company – Ward Leonard is a Department of Defense contractor. We primarily supply the US Navy and Coast Guard with various motors, generators, and controllers. Many are used for new ship builds across many different designs. FFG, LHA, CVN, DDG, LHD and more. Currently we are striving to get qualified to produce low noise motors for submarines.



DJ and Stephanie

I send well-wishes to all of my Gilbert classmates, both old and new. My time at Gilbert was incredibly rewarding; this was due in part to the teachers and staff. The teachers of our day were professional, but stern. For the most part, I feel as if we behaved well while learning the important early building blocks of life. Hard work, paying attention to details, and forward thinking are a few of these invaluable lessons we learned while at The Gilbert School. ***Thank you, D.J. and best wishes!***



1986
Tony Sullivan Celebrating 40 Years of Dedication

We are thrilled to recognize Tony Sullivan '86, who is marking an incredible milestone—40 years of service at The Gilbert School. Tony is a valued member of our outstanding facilities department, whose dedication ensures our school remains clean, safe, and welcoming for students every single day. His commitment to creating a positive environment for learning hasn't gone unnoticed.

As the longest-serving staff member in the Gilbert community, Tony exemplifies what it means to be truly invested in an organization and its mission. Four decades of showing up, contributing, and making a difference, that's a legacy worth celebrating. ***Congratulations and Thank You, Tony!***



Tony Sullivan '86



Principal Debra Lewis, Tony '86, Head of School Mike Susi





2021
Caleb Goodell & Mason Goodell

Mom, Georgi Andrews writes: I'd like to share an update of not just one but two alumni! Of course, they've always been known to be accomplishing lots of things together so it is fitting to send an update on both! My dynamic duo, as I like to refer to them, have been busy!



Caleb Goodell '21 Winsted Laurel King, attended CCSU, graduated in 2025. While at CCSU and after, he ran "The Duos" landscaping business and coached soccer both at TGS and the Winchester Youth Soccer Association. His WYSA team took the championship just before Caleb left for the ARMY, where he became a platoon guide in basic training and earned the highest award for a trainee SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE. He is currently in AIT and eventually will apply for OCS as his goal is to become an Officer in the US ARMY. ***Cheering you on, Caleb, as you take on these amazing new endeavors!***



Mason Goodell '21 Winsted Laurel King runner-up, attended CCSU, graduated in 2025. While at CCSU he earned the highest award, MAJOR OF THE YEAR, in Exercise Science. Mason is currently studying at University of Hartford for his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and working as a Certified Functional Strength Coach at Relentless Physical Therapy & Performance in Farmington, Connecticut. Mason is also currently The Drumline Instructor at TGS. ***Best wishes, Mason, with all of your incredible plans.***

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

Annual Homecoming Alumni Volleyball Game

The Gilbert gym was filled with energy and laughter as alumni returned to the court for the annual Homecoming Alumni Volleyball Game. Players representing many generations enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competition, camaraderie, and Gilbert spirit. We look forward to welcoming even more alumni to the court at Homecoming 2026! ***Special thanks to Mary Ellen Staszowski Vaccari '72, P '02, P '04 for her continued dedication and assistance in making this beloved Homecoming tradition possible.***

Back Row, Left to Right:
1. Lori Hague Beecher '82
2. Ali Brochu '17
3. Amanda Jassen Jasenski '01
4. Jessica Leifert Elias '01
5. Lisa Mangione Brochu '84
6. JoAnn Young Leifert '80
7. Emily Griswold '08
8. Stephanie Jones '07
9. Mary Ellen Staszowski Vaccari '72

Front Row, Left ot Right:
1. Karley Padin '19
2. Marci Moore Fritch '98
3. Abbey Beecher '21
4. Avianna Tejeda '25
5. Emily Fedorowicz '25
6. Mackenzie Steeves '25



First Annual Homecoming Alumni Soccer Game

The first-ever Homecoming Alumni Soccer Game brought Gilbert students and staff together with alumni on the Gilbert pitch in a spirited match led by Coach Jared Fritch, Athletic Director Josh Penn, and Coach Matt Janco. Players from across generations joined in for a fun, fast-paced game filled with laughter, reminiscing, and plenty of running as alumni returned to the field where their own school memories began.

A great time was had by all, and the energy on the field made it clear this is a new tradition in the making. We hope next year to see even more alumni take the field so we can have an all-alumni matchup on the Gilbert pitch.
See you all in October for the second annual Homecoming Alumni Soccer Game!

Left to Right:
1. Josh Penn, Athletic Director
2. Mattias Blachere '29
3. Matt Iwanow '29
4. Emma Dean '30
5. Malia Bordonaro '31
6. Wilnerys Ortiz '28
7. Clara Sundie '29
8. Tobias King '28
9. Matt Janco, Coach
10. Dylan Thomson '18
11. Tyler Tucker '19
12. Mason Goodell '21
13. Devon Scherer '19
14. Dylan Amery '19
15. Jake Krassner '19
16. Caleb Goodell '21
17. Jared Fritch, Coach



Faculty
Peter and Debbie DiMartino

Peter and Debbie continue to be amazing Gilbert supporters – generously donating to The Gilbert Faculty Scholarship Fund. They write: We both retired in 2002 and relocated to Tucson, Arizona at that time. We now live in Melbourne, Florida and have two children and four grandchildren. ***Thank you Peter and Debbie, for your continued generosity!***



Peter DiMartino



Debbie DiMartino

Annual Alumni Basketball Game

The annual Alumni Basketball Game was held on Saturday, February 1, 2026. This year's event included Alumni and Middle School All Star Games and all proceeds to go support The Gilbert School Basketball Program. Organized by Kristopher Kelsey, '02, this is a yearly event. Next season's game will be held on **Saturday, February 6, 2027** at The Gilbert School Gymnasium. Please contact Coach Kelsey at kelseyk@gilbertschool.org for more information.



Left to right: Matthew Janco (Faculty), Joe Pennell '04, Dylan Crowley '20, Anthony Carfiro '21, Jeremy Decker '98, Coach Mark Douglass (Former Boys Basketball Coach), Baby Beckham Kelsey, Coach Kristopher Kelsey '02, Adam Biraga,'23, Greyson Ursone '23, Aiden Roy '21), Brian Seaback '02, Josh Alexander '25, Kurt Werner '96. Calling all Alumni – We hope to see you in 2027!



Coach Mark Douglass, Baby Beckham Kelsey

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!
Send us your news for the next issue!

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, went on an adventure, or just want to send greetings to your classmates, – we want to know! Photos for publication are always welcome! Send your news to the Alumni Department at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org.

Let us hear from you!

Save the Dates!

Mark your calendars and make plans to reconnect with Gilbert friends and classmates. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming alumni events and gatherings.

Homecoming Weekend 2026

Friday, October 9, 2026
Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration

Saturday, October 10, 2026
Homecoming at The Gilbert School

- *Alumni Volleyball Game*
- *Alumni Soccer Game*
- *Alumni Basketball Game*
- *School Tours*
- *Archive Display*
- *Football Game*
- *Halftime Show*
- *Alumni Band & Cheerleaders*
- *Class Reunions*
- *So Much More!*



Gilbert *On the Road*

Our recent regional alumni gatherings have provided wonderful opportunities to reconnect with graduates, share updates on the exciting progress taking place at The Gilbert School, and hear firsthand about the experiences and accomplishments of our alumni. These events are a reminder that, no matter how far our alumni may travel, the Gilbert community remains strong, connected, and proud.

Be on the lookout for where Gilbert will be next!

Watch your email and mailbox for additional details on these upcoming gatherings:

- **West Hartford – Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - 5:30 - 7:30 PM. - Barcelona Wine Bar**
- **New York City – Monday, October 19, 2026 - 6 - 8 PM. - The Wilson (Manhattan)**
- **Boston – February 2027**
- **Florida – February 2027**
- **Baltimore/Washington, D.C. – March 2027**

We would love to see you there!

Planning a Reunion?

Celebrating a milestone year? The Alumni Office is happy to help organize class reunions and connect classmates.

Reunions

Class of 1966 — 60th Reunion, October 10, 2026
Class of 1976 — 50th Reunion, September 5, 2026

Stay Connected

Be sure we have your current contact information so you don't miss invitations, event announcements, and alumni news. Contact the Alumni Office at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org
We hope to see you soon!

The Impact of Giving: *When Generosity Meets Purpose*

By Chris Sandford, Director of Development



For more than 130 years, The Gilbert School has been shaped not only by the students who walk its halls, but also by the generations of alumni, families, and friends who have chosen to give back. Their generosity has helped ensure that today's students have opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.

As I complete my first year at Gilbert, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the impact of philanthropy on both our school community and the individuals who choose to support it. Through conversations with alumni, visits with donors, and simply walking our campus, I have seen how giving creates meaningful connections while transforming the educational experience for our students.

This year alone, more than 500 donors supported Gilbert students and programs. These gifts came in many forms: new scholarships, endowed funds, support for the Yellowjacket Fund, legacy gifts, capital improvements, and contributions toward specific initiatives. Each gift, regardless of size, reflects a shared belief in the importance of investing in future generations.

Several donors chose to create lasting legacies through endowed funds. This year, alumni and families established new scholarships such as



Elbert Grant Manchester



Kenneth J. Fracasso

The Elbert Grant Manchester 1924 Memorial Scholarship, created by his son, Paul Manchester '60, and **The Kenneth J. Fracasso '75 Scholarship,** established by members of his family and classmates. These funds will support Gilbert students for generations to come while honoring the lives and memories of those who helped shape our community.

The impact of giving extends far beyond scholarships. This year, supporters helped fund improvements to student spaces, expand experiential learning opportunities, support our regionally competitive drone team, and provide additional gathering spaces throughout campus. Milestone classes came together to support the purchase of a 14-passenger van, providing a cost-effective transportation solution for student activities, athletic programs, field trips, and educational experiences.



John Adam Groth

We also partnered with the Groth family to renovate the school's historic small gymnasium. This transformed space, now named **The John Adam Groth '06 Memorial Gymnasium,** stands as a testament to the lasting impact a family can have on future generations of students and will be formally dedicated during Homecoming this fall.

While the impact on students is easy to see, the benefits of giving extend beyond those who receive support. Philanthropy creates a lasting connection between donors and the school community. It allows alumni to honor the teachers, coaches, mentors, and experiences that helped shape their lives. It provides families with a meaningful way to celebrate loved ones through scholarships and memorial funds that continue to make a difference long after they are established. Most importantly, it allows individuals to become part of something larger than themselves.

Many donors tell us that one of the most rewarding aspects of giving is seeing the direct impact their support has on students. Every gift helps create opportunities that can change lives.

Giving is more than an act of generosity, it is an investment in possibility, a celebration of legacy, and a powerful way to make a lasting difference.

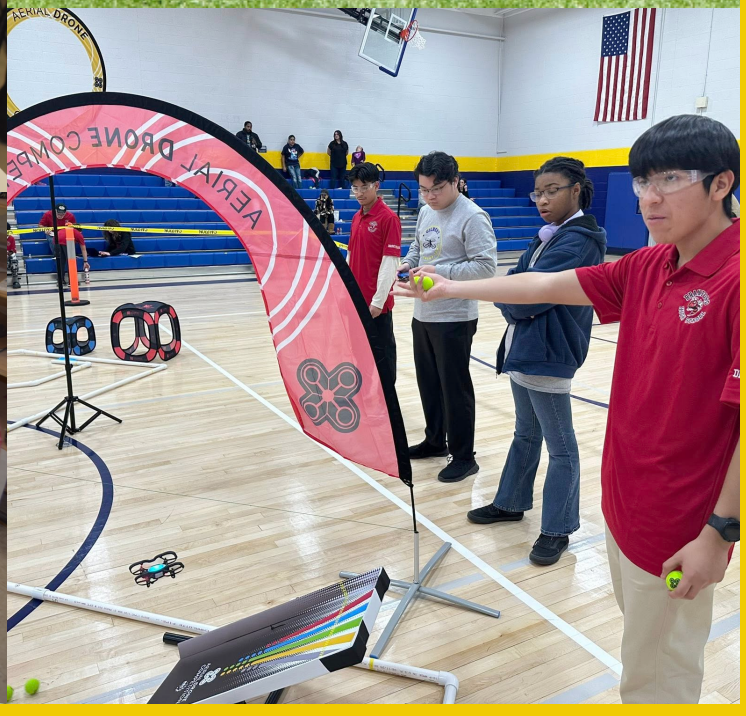
On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, thank you to everyone who supported The Gilbert School this year. Your generosity is helping shape the next generation of Yellowjackets and ensuring that Gilbert's legacy of opportunity continues for years to come.

If you would like to learn more about establishing a scholarship, creating an endowed fund, making a legacy gift, or supporting a project that is meaningful to you, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. Please feel free to contact me at sandfordc@gilbertschool.org.








AERIAL DRONE



Looking Back: *The Impact of Gilbert on Members of the Class of 1972*

By Richard Beebe '72

This spring, we invited six members of Gilbert's Class of 1972, Karen Holmes Cornell, Jean Fracasso, Roger Leighton, Dennis Marolda, Ellen Vaccari Seaback, and Richard Beebe, to look back at their years at the school and to share which experiences or individuals at Gilbert have had the most meaningful and long-lasting impact on their lives.

"Looking back," said Roger, "the adventure at Gilbert was amazing! Many of my memories are still fresh today. The teachers, sports, and friendships made a lasting impact on my life. I was well-prepared for the next stage and incredibly blessed by the education. Thank you, Gilbert."

Not surprisingly, several of the classmates interviewed recalled teachers who especially inspired them in ways both small and large that impacted their lives in the coming decades.

Roger shared glimpses of how several beloved faculty members, half a century later, still remain present in his daily life today. In Roger's mind, "Miss McGowan, who taught Latin, is cheering the Carmina Burana — in Latin — that I am singing today with the choir. Coach Youman's 'Come on, Leighton, stop dogging it!' rings in my ears while I'm exercising. And Miss Barton's discipline in math laid the foundation for my engineering career."

"One of my most memorable teachers," Dennis said, "was Mr. Trout in English. I will never forget that he made me feel good about myself."

"My experience at Gilbert was probably not typical," Dennis added, "as I went on the work-study program in my junior year. I was only in school



Rich Beebe



until about noon every day. Because of my work schedule, I missed many events and class outings."

"Nevertheless," Dennis said, "I was very involved with the music program. I played in the concert band and jazz band, for musicals and pretty much anything that came up. Mr. Keeley, the band director, had a profound impact on my life; he was a great mentor. He often asked me to play with the community band in the summer and in the orchestra for local theater productions outside of school. I also played for a few years with the alumni band with him conducting."

"I went on to become a military musician for 38 years," Dennis said, "and even today I am either performing or rehearsing on a daily basis, and still loving it!"

Mr. Keeley also had a major impact in Ellen's life.

"My parents thought it would be a good idea for me to be well-rounded and that I should learn a musical instrument," Ellen recalled. So, early in her freshman year she stopped in to see Mr. Keeley. "He needed an oboe player, and I remember thinking, 'What's an oboe?" she said with a laugh. "He provided the oboe and taught me how to play. At times, I was scared of him — he was demanding — but he also had a good sense of humor, and he was always encouraging." With his guidance, Ellen made progress throughout her years at Gilbert. "I did rise to first chair by the time I was a senior."

Looking back, Ellen realized, "It wasn't just what Mr. Keeley did for me, it was what he did for the whole band, expanding our awareness of music, and giving us all sorts of experiences we otherwise would never have had." During her senior year, for example, Ellen joined other band members performing in the orchestra pit for Gilbert's first musical production, *Oklahoma!* Then, for spring break, Mr. Keeley had organized the band to go on a week-long trip to England, complete with their instruments, uniforms, and faculty chaperones.



Class of 1972 50th Class Reunion Photo – from left Richard Beebe, Susan Brown Smith, Ellen Vaccari Seaback, Karen Holmes Cornell, Jean Fracasso, Dennis Marolda, Roger Leighton

Along with visiting historical sites around London such as Stonehenge and Runnymede, the band stayed with host families in Winchester, England, where they performed in Winchester Cathedral to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Winsted.

"That trip was quite an undertaking for Mr. Keeley," Ellen said, between all the fundraising and logistical arrangements to enable the band to travel abroad. For Ellen and for many other band members, the trip marked their first time traveling overseas.

Several teachers have a special place in Jean's heart. "Because I took a bookkeeping course taught by Mr. Fortuna," she noted, "it led me to a lifelong career in accounting and bookkeeping."

In addition to Mr. Fortuna, Jean said that several other teachers at Gilbert "were important to me because they shaped me coming into my own as an adult. Mr. Tirrell in math classes always made me feel as if I could do something that I hadn't thought I was capable of doing. And Mr. Trout supported me when I was unexpectedly placed in his honors English class during my senior year.

He was a very good teacher and kind man. I ended up doing really well in his class. I also thought Miss Burpee, who taught my freshman English class, was a fabulous teacher. She wasn't easy and she required a lot of us, but she put a lot of work on herself as well. She spent all that time grading and writing comments on our assignments, and she gave us really constructive criticism — both voluminous and illuminous!"

Looking back, Karen singled out two other Gilbert staff members "who really influenced my decisions in my choice of schools after Gilbert and in my profession. They were also women who served as strong role models. Pam Wright, who supervised the girls' athletics program, came to the school just before Title IX came into effect, and she was able to open up sports opportunities to girls at Gilbert, and that was really important to me. My other role model was Ann Griffin, who was a guidance counselor, and inspired me to choose my future career. Both Pam and Ann were very interested in and very supportive of their students." Both Jean and Karen also noted that their time at Gilbert was the source of lifelong friendships.

"The most important part of my time at Gilbert," Jean said, "is that I have four really good friends who I would not have in my life if I hadn't gone to Gilbert. They are a regular part of my inner life." Jean said she also values the many other connections with other students with whom she still stays in regular contact.

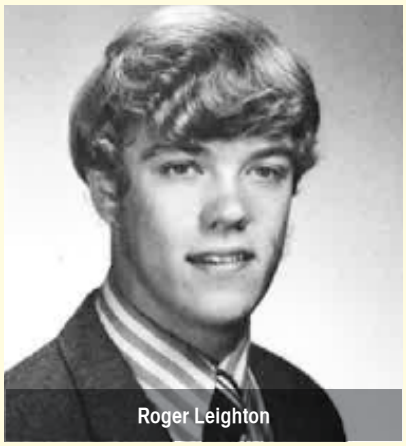
"The friendships I have made in high school," Karen said, "have been a part of every major event in my life, every milestone — marriage, children, grandchildren, retirement. I think it is remarkable that I have been friends with them for 54 years, since our graduation. Even with those friends who no longer live in the area, we can easily pick up wherever we left off the last time we were in contact."

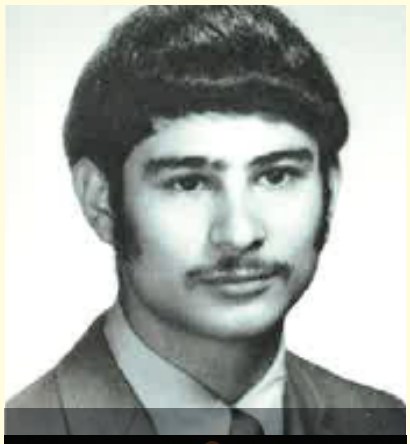
Those bonds were created, Karen added, "because we had opportunities to take part in activities in a small-school environment that easily formed the foundation for friendships that last a lifetime."

Like his classmates, Richard still values the impact that his teachers at Gilbert had on his life, and he enjoyed taking part in school activities like Glee Club and the News Board. But his favorite memories from his time at Gilbert involved an early morning ritual shared with classmates.

"At some point early in sophomore year," Richard recalled, "I discovered that many of my classmates would gather around one or two of the long tables in the school's library for a half hour or so before we would all have to head to our homerooms. That became a special time of the school day for me for the rest of my time at Gilbert. The multiple conversations happening around the table would cover all sorts of topics — sometimes homework assignments or a dreaded test looming that day, sometimes a major news story happening in world, sometimes just the latest gossip floating around the school. There was always laughter, energy, and connection."

"I didn't realize it at the time," Richard added, "but for someone who was shy and definitely not socially active, those early morning conversations became a safe space for me to feel comfortable and to learn how to listen, and the daily ritual taught me the 'people skills' that were invaluable in my future career in various forms of media and communications. And decades later I am blessed to have reconnected with so many of the classmates who sat around those tables every morning."

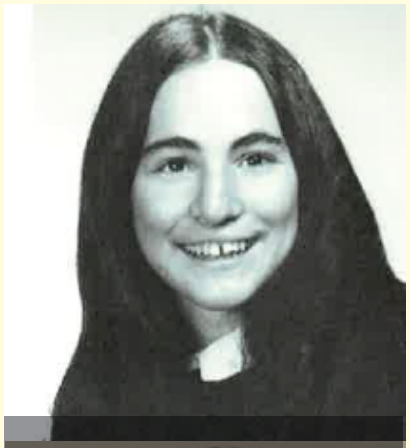

Roger Leighton




Dennis Marolda




Ellen Vaccari Seaback




Jean Fracasso




Karen Holmes Cornell


Ms. McGowan


Mr. Tirrell

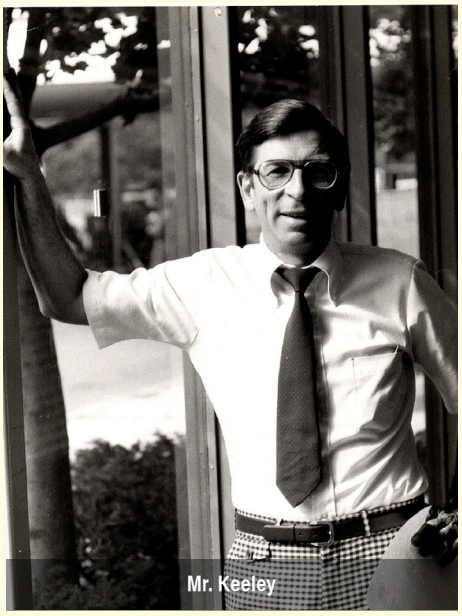

Mr. Trout


Mr. Youmans


Ms. Wright


Ms. Barton


Ms. Griffin


Mr. Keeley


Ms. Burpee


Mr. Fortuna

A Renewed *Tradition of Honoring Gilbert Alumni*

By Chris Sandford

The Gilbert School is proud to announce a revitalized Distinguished Alumni Awards Program designed to recognize the remarkable accomplishments, service, and leadership of members of the Gilbert community.

For generations, Gilbert alumni, coaches, educators, and supporters have made meaningful contributions to their professions, communities, and our school. Through this renewed awards program, we celebrate those individuals whose achievements reflect the values, character, and traditions that have defined Gilbert since 1895.

THE UPDATED PRESTIGIOUS HONORS

The W.L. Gilbert Heritage & Legacy Award

Recognizing alumni and members of the Gilbert community whose lifetime achievements, leadership, and professional accomplishments have brought distinction to themselves and honor to Gilbert.

The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service

Honoring individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving their communities through humanitarian, philanthropic, or volunteer service.

The Gilbert Athletic Hall of Fame

Celebrating outstanding athletes, coaches, teams, and contributors whose accomplishments and commitment have left a lasting impact on Gilbert athletics.

We are pleased to recognize the inaugural class of inductees under the revitalized program:

- ***Michele Boutin Cousins '99*** *– Heritage & Legacy Award*
- ***Raegan Horvay '95*** *– Outstanding Community Service Award*
- ***John Adam Groth '06*** *– Athletic Hall of Fame, awarded posthumously*
- ***Darek Schibi '99*** *– Athletic Hall of Fame*
- ***Devin Schibi '02*** *– Athletic Hall of Fame*
- ***1986 State Champion Women's Volleyball Team*** *– Athletic Hall of Fame*
- ***2000 State Champion Women's Volleyball Team*** *– Athletic Hall of Fame*

The 2026 induction ceremony will take place on **Friday, October 9, 2026,** as part of the opening festivities of Homecoming Weekend.

As we celebrate this year's honorees, we invite alumni, family members, faculty, staff, students, and friends of Gilbert to help identify future recipients. If you know someone whose achievements, service, or dedication deserve recognition, we encourage you to submit a nomination using the QR code below.

Together, we can continue to honor the extraordinary individuals whose accomplishments strengthen and inspire the Gilbert community.

Learn More about the New Awards

Nominate Someone Today



2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients
Emily Griswold '08, Steven Sedlack '60, Scott Crossfield '91,
Bob Sparks '83, Karen Flaherty-Olxer '70



2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients
Bob Gage '83, A.J. Bunel '01, Linda Madin, wife of Everett Madin '69
Alan Colavecchio '69, Christopher Morehouse '89



2017 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients
Mary Lou Cassotto '67, Andrea Darcey Ellinger '82
Jennifer Sherman Willoughby '99
Elaine A. Fortuna, Honorary Diploma

Reunions



Class of 1955 – 71st reunion

Class of 1955 Celebrates 71 Years of Friendship

The Gilbert School Class of 1955 gathered on Saturday, June 13, 2026, for its 71st class reunion, enjoying a wonderful afternoon of friendship, conversation, and memories at Mario's Restaurant in Winsted.

Seven classmates came together to reminisce about their years at Gilbert and the many experiences they have shared since graduation. As they reflected on the past, classmates recalled how the historic Flood of 1955 altered many plans during their senior year and early adulthood. Yet, as they noted, it never dampened their enthusiasm for the future or their determination to succeed.

The afternoon was filled with lively discussions about family, friends, travel adventures, children, grandchildren, and the many milestones that have marked their lives over the past seven decades. While careers and former jobs have long since been left behind, plans for the coming year and wishes for continued good health and happiness remained important topics of conversation.

The class was also pleased to welcome Gilbert's new Development Director, Chris Sandford, who stopped by to share updates from their alma mater. Classmates enjoyed learning about the many exciting developments at The Gilbert School, including the International Boarding Program, extensive gymnasium renovations, and the opportunities available to today's students.

The Gilbert School is always delighted to welcome alumni back to campus and to alumni gatherings throughout the year. The enduring friendships of the Class of 1955 are a wonderful reminder of the lasting connections formed at Gilbert. The class encourages any classmates who are not currently receiving reunion information to update their contact information with the Alumni Office so they can be included in future events and communications.

We are grateful that the Class of 1955 continues to gather, celebrate old memories, and remain connected to both one another and the future of The Gilbert School.

Class of 1958 – 67th Class Reunion

The Reunion Committee of the Gilbert School Class of 1958 wrote to share news of their 67th Class Reunion. As graduates of the "old school," they are proud to continue a tradition of gathering every five years, making them one of Gilbert's longest-running reunion classes. Held on September 26, 2025 at Green Woods Country Club, classmates enjoyed good food, great conversation, and the chance to reconnect with lifelong friends. Their reunion was a wonderful reminder that, no matter how many years have passed, the bonds of the Gilbert family remain strong. Friends Forever!



Front Row Left to Right: Ellen Olszanski Ayotte, Ann Curtiss Sussman, Anne Sturm Tyrrell, Mary Jane Miller Briscoe, Louise Raabe Hayes, Lois Kellogg Mangione, Joan DeMar Candler, J. Thomas Light, Bob O'Connor. Rear Row Left to Right: John Rohlfs, Larry Hannafin, Joe Nardi.

Class of 1963 – 80th Birthday Party and Class Luncheons

Class of 1963 member Carolyn Hawley Day wrote to share a heartwarming update from the "Gilbert Girls of 1963." For several years, classmates have gathered regularly for lunch and friendship at the home of Sally Passini Wabrek, creating a wonderful tradition of staying connected and supporting one another. Last year, the group decided to celebrate a special milestone together by hosting an 80th birthday party for the entire class. Held on September 6, 2025, at the Little Red Barn Brewery, the gathering brought together classmates and spouses for good food, laughter, and the opportunity to reminisce and make new memories. Their continued friendship is a wonderful example of the lasting bonds formed at Gilbert.



Gilbert Girls Luncheon December 2025 - Back Row Left to Right: Mary Lou Chamberlin Keefe, Sheila Olszanski Jackson, Karen McCornick Onion, Beverly Simons Fratini, Barbara Jones Adams, Linda Vogellus Turgeon. Front Row Left to Right: Carolyn Hawley Day, Sally Passini Wabrek



Seated: Jim Barber, Alfred Hyde, Mike Picard, Mimi (Janet Jones) Baker, Lisa (Angarano) Taylor, Standing from the left: Charlie Gabelmann, David Goulet, Alan Colavecchio, Brian Hotchkiss, Terry (Cornelio) Tower, Ellen Reidy, Mike Barrett, Sharon (English) Scelza, Carole (Correnti) Swanson, Suzie (Vaccari) Weber, Terry (Groppo) Jacob, Fred Correnti, Belinda Barrett, Diane Resha, Mark Roberts, Terry (Goodenough) Ryalls, Thom Whittingham, Irene (LaRue)Redford, Mariann (Royer)Stone, Pam (Flaherty) Colavecchio, Bob Weber, Missing from the photo are: Paul Patch, Barbara (Weih) Patch, Ginny (Salling) Schoonmaker, Lorrie Dalene, Gerald Hicks, Suzanne (Holland) Carfiro, Wayne Dove, Shirley (Veronesi) Murphy, Brian Griswold, Larry Kraiza



Paul Patch, Shirley (Veronesi) Murphy, Barbara (Weih) Patch

Class of 1969 – 56th Class Reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1969 gathered on Sunday, October 26, 2025, for their 56th Class Reunion at the Knights of Columbus in Winsted. Classmates came together from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for an afternoon filled with hors d'oeuvres, lively conversation, and the joy of reconnecting with old friends.

In a warm and welcoming atmosphere, alumni enjoyed catching up, sharing stories, and reflecting on their years at Gilbert and the paths life has taken since. Whether attending their first reunion or returning as longtime participants, classmates were reminded of the special bond they continue to share.

The gathering offered a meaningful opportunity to celebrate friendship, shared history, and the milestones of life, with many noting how special it is to come together and reconnect after so many years. Laughter and conversation filled the room, making for a memorable afternoon for all who attended.

The Class of 1969 Reunion Committee extends its appreciation to everyone who joined the celebration and helped make the event a success.

For the Class of 1969, these gatherings continue to be a treasured reminder that Gilbert connections remain strong and enduring across the decades.



Ginny (Salling) Schoonmaker, Clark Schoonmaker, Lorrie Dalene



Suzanne (Holland) Carfiro, Frank Carfiro

Class of 1975 – 50th Class Reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1975 marked its 50th Reunion on Saturday, October 11, 2025, with a day full of memories, laughter, and renewed friendships. More than 80 classmates, many traveling from across the country, returned to celebrate this special milestone, joined by several beloved former faculty members who helped make the evening even more meaningful.

The festivities began with a special guided tour of The Gilbert School. Classmates enjoyed walking the familiar hallways, revisiting favorite spots, and getting an exclusive look at the newly renovated gymnasium. For many, returning to the school building brought back cherished memories and provided an opportunity to see how Gilbert continues to grow while honoring its traditions.

The celebration continued at Fairview Farm Golf Course in Harwinton, where classmates, teachers, and guests spent the evening reconnecting, sharing stories, and reminiscing about their Gilbert days. With excellent food, a beautiful setting, and plenty of laughter, the reunion was a wonderful reminder that the friendships and connections formed at Gilbert truly stand the test of time.

A special thank you to the dedicated reunion committee whose hard work made this memorable celebration possible. Congratulations to the Class of 1975 on a successful 50th Reunion!



Class of 1975



Mr. Gamari and 1975 Basketball Team



Fun Times!



Class of 1975 Reunion Committee

Class of 1978 – 65th Birthday Party Reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1978 celebrated a major milestone on August 9, 2025 with "The Class of '78 Turns 65 Birthday Bash" reunion at Ma'asser Park. The Reunion Committee reports that it was a fantastic day with 100 attendees, including 70 classmates, 20 guests, and 10 Teachers & Staff & Guests. A remarkable turnout for an off-year-reunion! Classmates from coast to coast attended, and from as far away as Hawaii!

The reunion committee: Julie DeAngelis Love-Committee Chair, Marilyn MacGregor Gagner, Ned Lavernoich, Michele Emond Marquis, and Joe Nichols whose expertise from planning and executing past reunions was invaluable! There were so many more who helped! It was truly a team effort!

Norbrook Farms Brewery (Bob Cormier) allowed us use of their refrigerated van with beer taps! It was a perfect set up for the kegs! Ned Lavernoich put together an extensive list of music from 1978 for Phyllis 'DJ' Kaplan to play throughout the event. And a set of live music by our talented Class of '78 classmates, Wayne Andrighetti and Ron Mele, was enjoyed.

The presentation portion of the event began with a moment of silence for our dearly departed classmates, followed by a thoughtful speech given by Mr. Schroeder. Marilyn then read the beautifully written and heartfelt letter that Mrs. Tresky wrote to the Class of '78! Following Julie's grateful acknowledgements for everyone who helped make the event such a success, a champagne toast was given. Food was served, and the rocking & rolling music of our youth resumed!

Pulled pork and shredded chicken sliders were cooked and prepared by Julie & Marilyn. Also, slider fixin's, potato and pasta salad, cole slaw, Caesar salad, fruit salad, and tiramisu cupcakes. Classmates, Teachers & Staff each received a gift bag that included a 15oz Class of '78 65th Birthday Bash commemorative mug, as well as other

trinkets to remember this milestone celebration.

The Friday night pre-reunion gathering at Norbrook Farm Brewery, attended by 30 or so guests, was organized by Lynn Kittredge Hegan.

Once again, the Class of 1978 went above and beyond!



Frank & Lynn Kittredge Hegan, Dave Battista, Patti & Ned Lavernoich



Jennifer Devanney Barry, Julie DeAngelis Love, Becky Devanney Moran



Marilyn MacGregor Gagner, Meg Brown McGinnis, Tamora Cox, Barb Cuatt Naugle, Mrs. Trout, Lisa Holmes



Wayne Andrighetti

Class of 1980 – 45th Class reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1980 gathered on Saturday, September 20, 2025, to celebrate its 45th Reunion at Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook. Classmates came together for an afternoon of good food, great conversation, and plenty of laughter as they reconnected and celebrated the friendships that began at Gilbert.

Set against the beautiful backdrop of Norbrook Farm, alumni enjoyed sharing stories and memories from their school days while creating new ones. The casual atmosphere, delicious local fare, and live entertainment made for a memorable afternoon, with classmates reminiscing about the late 1970s and their time as Yellowjackets.

The reunion was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, strengthen lifelong connections, and celebrate the lasting bonds of the Class of 1980.

As classmates reflected on 45 years since graduation, the gathering served as a reminder that while much has changed over the years, Gilbert friendships continue to endure.

Congratulations to the Class of 1980 on a successful 45th Reunion, and we look forward to celebrating with them again for their 50th!



Class of 1980 Reunion

Class of 1985 – 40th Class Reunion

The Gilbert School Class of 1985 gathered on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted to celebrate their 40th Reunion. In a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, classmates enjoyed a delicious buffet, shared stories, and spent the evening reconnecting through laughter and memories of their Gilbert days.

Earlier in the day, some classmates took the opportunity to tour The Gilbert School, walking through familiar hallways, revisiting old "haunts," and noticing both meaningful changes and cherished spaces that remain just as they remember them. The visit offered a special chance to reflect on how the school has grown while still holding onto its familiar spirit.

The evening at Little Red Barn Brewers was filled with warmth, conversation, and genuine connection. Classmates expressed appreciation for the chance to reconnect after so many years, and many noted how natural it felt to fall back

into easy conversation, as if no time had passed at all. The sense of comfort, laughter, and kindness throughout the gathering made the celebration especially meaningful. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who helped organize and attend the reunion, and to those who made the effort to travel and reconnect. The strong turnout reflected the lasting bond shared by the Class of 1985 and the enduring impact of their time at Gilbert.

As the evening came to a close, many classmates were already asking the same question—"When is our next get-together?"—a testament to the spirit of the class and the joy of reconnecting.

Looking back through photos and memories, the Class of 1985 reunion stands as a reminder of how meaningful these lifelong connections remain. The Class of 1985 continues to embody warmth, friendship, and Yellowjacket pride.



Class of 1985



Gwen Crunden Welcome, Tracy Centrella Hoskins, Denise Royer Jones



Tracy Centrella Hoskins, Korie Richards Valickis, Angela Hakulin Root



Tim Dutton, Norm Lallier



Karen Bardino, Amy Tresky, Ann Ganem DeMichiel



Dawn Charity Crunden, Kathleen Oyanadel

Class of 1995 – 30th Class Reunion

The Class of 1995 gathered together to celebrate their 30th class reunion on October 4, 2025, at the Little Red Barn Brewers. Classmates traveled from near and far, including New Jersey, Maryland, and Washington, to reconnect, reminisce, and share memories from their school days. The evening was filled with laughter, storytelling, and renewed friendships as classmates caught up on life's journeys over the past three decades. The warm atmosphere and shared memories made the reunion a truly special occasion for everyone who attended.

In addition to celebrating together, the class also gave back in a meaningful way. Money raised through the reunion was donated to the Gilbert Trust toward scholarships in honor of classmates who have passed away.

This thoughtful contribution added a heartfelt and lasting impact to an already memorable event.

Overall, the reunion was a wonderful success — a meaningful celebration of friendship, memories, and the enduring bond shared by the Class of 1995.



Class of 1995



Class of 1995



In the class photo is left to right: Jagger Dillon, Ian Scherer , Jonah Sherrod, Lydia (Yukash) Riendeau, Steve Fortier, Josh Suarez, Shachelly De La Paz , Shanna Shotwell, Lexi Denning, Alyssa Jamieson, Amber Tymeson, Sierra Barber, Julie Vincent, Lauren Madde, Paige Shelesky, Julien Gagnon, Isaiah Veras, Rik Emery, Jake Schoenberger, Mike Barry



Blue vs. Gold Trivia Contest

Class of 2015 – 10th Class Reunion

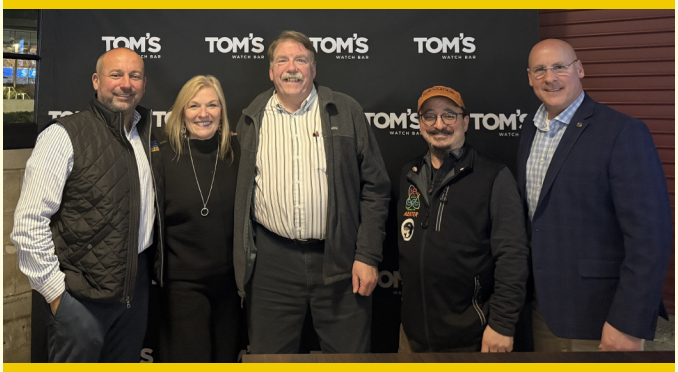
The Class of 2015 reunion was a night full of laughter, memories, and reconnecting with familiar faces. Held at World of Beer in West Hartford, Connecticut, on August 23, 2025, the evening brought together over 20 classmates along with their families, for a casual and fun-filled celebration. Guests enjoyed light appetizers and drinks while catching up and reminiscing about their time together at TGS and Pearson.

After a few hours of mingling, the highlight of the night began — a spirited Blue vs. Gold Jeopardy competition. The game featured questions centered around unforgettable moments from our school years, including memorable basketball and football games, Spirit Week wall contests, pep rallies, and favorite school traditions. One of the most talked-about categories was the legendary Mr. TGS competition, a National Honor Society favorite that everyone still remembers fondly.

The reunion was a perfect reminder that while the years may pass, the memories and friendships from the Class of 2015 continue to bring everyone together. Class members traveled from across New England, the west coast and even other countries to attend. We all look forward to our next class gathering.

Seattle Alumni Gathering

On February 25, 2026 Head of School Mike Susi and Director of Development Chris Sandford traveled to Seattle, Washington, to host a special gathering of Gilbert alumni living on the West Coast. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with graduates, share updates on the exciting progress taking place at The Gilbert School, and hear firsthand about the experiences and accomplishments of our alumni. It was a reminder that, no matter how far our alumni may travel, the Gilbert community remains strong, connected, and proud.



Chris Sandford, Laura Bunch Steinsvik '77, Al Jones '77, Steve Smith '89, Mike Susi

Upcoming Reunions *Save the Dates!*

CLASS OF 1996 – *Save the Date!*
Celebrating Our 30th Class Reunion



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026
The Gilbert School Class of 1996 is planning a special 30th Reunion, and all classmates are invited to join the celebration!

The class plans to gather at The Gilbert School for the Homecoming festivities and football game, returning to their old stomping grounds to reconnect with classmates and celebrate their Gilbert memories.

Following the game, classmates are invited to continue the celebration with an informal gathering at Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted, where there will be plenty of time for reminiscing, laughter, and catching up with old friends.

Whether you've attended every reunion or haven't been back to Gilbert in years, we hope you'll join us for this milestone celebration!

For more information or to help with reunion planning, please contact Jeff Osborne: josborne@simsburyschools.net
Save the date and make plans to celebrate 30 years of Gilbert friendships and Yellowjacket pride!

We are celebrating reunions! When you are ready, let us know how we can help.

Contact us at: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

CLASS OF 1976 – *Save the Date!*
Celebrating Our 50th Class Reunion









SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026
Join your classmates as we celebrate 50 years of Gilbert memories, friendships, and Yellowjacket pride!

Old Newgate Coon Club
133 Colebrook Road, Norfolk, CT

- **Noon – Lunch Gathering**
- **6:00 p.m. – Dinner Buffet**

Plans include:

- **Possible tour of The Gilbert School**
- **Raffle prizes**
- **Class of 1976 commemorative T-shirt designed by John Athorn**
- **Donations toward a Class of 1976 Memorial Tree to be planted at Gilbert**

We're also on the hunt for our missing classmates! Help us spread the word and make this milestone reunion one to remember.

For reunion information or to help us reconnect with classmates, please contact: gilbertschoolclassof1976@gmail.com

Your Reunion Committee:
Andrea Blanchette Devereaux, Debbie Parmelee Pattison
Gail Fancher, Paul Goodneough, Paul Stavnitzky
Lillian Mazzarella Cardin
We can't wait to celebrate 50 years with the Class of 1976. See you in September!

Endowments that Enlighten and Gifts that Inspire

By Patricia Martin

The Gilbert School is honored by the financial support of numerous alumni and donors who create endowments that enlighten and contribute gifts that inspire generations of young minds. Their generosity has enriched the lives of countless students who have passed through our hallways, helping them achieve academic, athletic, creative, and social excellence before they embark on a successful future.

TGS appreciates each and every donor and would like to highlight just a few examples of the impact their support has had.



THE SUSAN GIFFORD DELEON MEMORIAL FUND

The three "Gifford Girls" were well known when they attended Gilbert, and it's been said many young men had crushes on one (or more) of the sisters. Sue graduated in 1980, Amy in 1985, and Lida was in the class of 1987. They were close-knit siblings, and it was a devasting loss when Sue passed away in 2011 at the age of 49.

Sue's good friend Julie Phillips graduated with her in 1980 and spearheaded a fundraising golf tournament in Sue's memory after discussing the idea with then Science teacher, Craig Schroeder. Together with Amy and Lida, the trio were determined to raise $30,000 to fund an endowment as a tribute to Sue that aligned with the issues she cared about, such as the environment, science, and technology.

The first golf tournament was held in 2013 and raised close to $10,000. In the following two years, tournaments achieved the goal and $30,000 was allocated to the Susan Gifford DeLeon Memorial Fund.

"Julie and Sue were organizational tours de force," said Lida. "Julie was a well-connected golfer who had lots of energy. Sadly, she passed away in 2016. Following her death, many of her fellow alumni and friends donated to Sue's endowment in her honor and continue to do so."

"We were excited that we built a good foundation for the endowment and that the funds are being put to good use," said Amy. "They've enabled students to go on field trips and have some great experiences with science and technology. And the parameters are broad enough that Gilbert can use the funds for years to come and evolve with the times."

Craig Levesque is a teacher and science department liaison who serves as the Robotics and Drone Team advisor, which is supported by the Susan Gifford DeLeon Memorial Fund. "The aerial drone program is exactly what I was looking for in an extracurricular activity," he said. "It's given students the opportunity to work on coding and drone piloting, develop their teamwork skills, and hone their problem-solving and critical thinking abilities. Also, the technical skills they learn can open career paths for them after graduation."

"The Drone Project is a great application of the endowment," said Amy. "I'm sure Sue would have approved of it,"

"I am really happy that Gilbert is utilizing the endowment money in ways that are directly benefiting students and having such an important impact on them," added Lida.

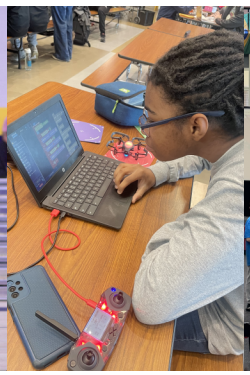
A CLASS ACT, A REVAMPED GYM

Gilbert participates in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) "Class Act Schools" initiative. This student-led council promotes sportsmanship, fosters a respectful environment for student-athletes, and helps build leadership skills.

Class Act Schools focus on instilling core sportsmanship pillars: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, teamwork, and good citizenship, qualities that TGS and its students embody.

Class acts deserve topnotch facilities, like the newly revamped gymnasium on the Gilbert campus. More than 60 years old, the outdated gym was completely overhauled in time for a ribbon cutting at Homecoming in October 2025. The renovations were made possible by generous donations and the Blue & Gold Alumni Golf Tournament.

Improvements were made from floor to ceiling, including new flooring, painting, bleachers, scoreboards, hoops, soccer goals, wall pads, wrestling mats, lighting, and an enhanced sound system. Among other TGS alumni, former




volleyball players were thrilled to donate when they found out that the gym was going to be outfitted with brand new volleyball stanchions.

"It's been much needed to have the gym redone and replace the outdated equipment," said Gilbert Athletic Director Josh Penn. "There's been a lot of buzz about playing in the new gym. The kids really appreciate being able to use new things and we are grateful to the alumni who invested in it."

"Our kids have had the opportunity to see firsthand how once they graduate they can continue to be a part of school life and have an impact by contributing to Gilbert," added Principal Deb Lewis.

THE CARTER FAMILY FUND TOUCHES STUDENTS AND FACULTY



Gillian Magee Fenton '80, established The Carter Family Fund in 2019. She was motivated because she was an only child and, after settling the estate following the death of her mother and uncle, she received an inheritance. "Now that I had the resources I wanted to do something to reflect the legacy of my mother, Priscilla Anne Carter '49, and my uncle, John Angus Carter, III, '54," she said. "Winsted and Gilbert were important parts of their lives. Also, because my uncle did not always have an easy time, I wanted to do something to honor him that would make the future better for others." Gillian's mission for the funds were threefold:





- To offer support for kids, especially those who may be having a difficult time;
- In honor of her uncle, who was a member of the Geological Society of America, she wanted to get kids outside to learn about the natural world; and
- Gillian's mom was a 6th grade teacher in Barkhamsted and had an interest in regional history, introducing students to local tribes and organizing geological field trips. Gillian wanted to perpetuate her mother's legacy and inspire kids to learn about the area's rich history and magnificence of the world around them.

One recent use of the Carter Family Funds brought nationally known motivational speaker Terrence Talley to Gilbert, where he made presentations to both the middle school and high school students. Terence travels across the country speaking at school assemblies and is known for combining comedy, emotional storytelling, and interactive games to deliver messages to students about hope, resilience, kindness, and mental health.

"I thought bringing Terrence to Gilbert was going to be worth it and, overwhelmingly, it was amazing!" said Principal Deb Lewis. "His presentations touched students and teachers deeply. I've been in education for 26 years and this was by far the best assembly I've ever been a part of."

Students agreed that Terrence was phenomenal. Tenth grader Wilnery Ortiz said, "He touched a part of my heart that related to my life and made me emotional in a good way. Afterwards, Mr. Talley gave us 'dad hugs' and spoke to us each personally. Afterwards my friends and I talked about how he affected us and how happy he made us feel."

Tenth grader Kyleigh Kinsman had very strong, positive words to say about Terrence. "He told powerful true stories and was empathetic and intuitive. He could tell some of the kids were struggling, and told us not to give up, that people care about you. He made us realize that there are people right here at Gilbert who care about us."

Ninth grader Penelope Goldie said, "The stories Mr. Talley shared were about different people who all had struggles. He told one story about a student in crisis who got saved from thoughts of suicide during one of his presentations. When he heard Mr. Talley speak, it hit a deep spot that helped him."

Terence's inspiring presentation did not shy away from real-world issues kids face today, such as difficult home lives, addiction, and pregnancy. According to tenth grader Wyatt Rodriguez, "He knows what he's talking about. I felt impacted."

The students and teachers were very moved, and Terrence opened a door for them to be able to share stories when they went back to their classrooms following the event. One student commented, "His presentation changed my life. I'll never forget it."

Deb said that she ordered several copies of Terrence's book "Don't Give Up" for the Gilbert library. She said students hunted her down after the assemblies and said "Mrs. Lewis, you need to bring him back!" He had such a deep, positive impact, Deb is making plans to do so!



The stories in these pages are just a few examples of the extraordinary impact that generosity can have on The Gilbert School community. These funds and endowments are not simply investments in programs or projects—they are investments in our students and their futures. Through scholarships, academic enrichment, athletics, the arts, and countless other opportunities, these gifts are making a meaningful difference today while building a stronger Gilbert for generations to come. You, too, can be a part of this lasting legacy. Whether by contributing to an existing fund, supporting one of our many established endowments, or creating a new fund that reflects your family's values and passions, your gift can have an immediate and enduring impact on the lives of Gilbert students.

If you would like to learn more about the many ways you, your family, friends, or classmates can support The Gilbert School through charitable giving, we invite you to contact Sandi Lynn Fratini Scherer '85, P'15, P'19, Alumni Director, at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org. Together, we can honor Gilbert's proud traditions while creating new opportunities for the students who will carry its legacy into the future. We welcome you to join us in making a difference.

The Journey Continues: *Giving Back to Gilbert*

By Joe Fortuna ’82, CIMA

The Gilbert Community has a long history of philanthropy. Since 1895, through the generosity of William L. Gilbert, our school was founded by his vision “ … for the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens.” It was here, surrounded by enduring friendships like many generations of Gilbert students, that I first recognized learning as a journey rather than a goal. I have pursued that journey ever since.

For me, the connection between Gilbert and my family is inseparable. My earliest memories are intertwined with Gilbert; classrooms 206 and 305 felt like an extension of my home. I recall countless weekends spent with both of my parents as they prepared for the upcoming week or readied themselves during late summers for the new school year. I felt the vibrant pulse of Yellowjacket pride on the sidelines and in the stands during fall football, winter basketball and spring baseball games and assumed that all of my friends knew the entire faculty of Gilbert as they held such a cherished place in my parents’ lives, and thus, in mine. Today, my fondness and appreciation for The Gilbert School remains strong. I recognize the lasting value of an exceptional education. Superior academic programs supported by rigorous coursework, enriched electives, and skilled educators—prepared us for selective colleges, meaningful careers, and informed citizenship.

A strong endowment is the surest way to sustain Gilbert’s mission—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. Unlike annual fundraising,



Joe Fortuna



which can fluctuate with economic cycles and competing priorities, an endowment is designed to provide a reliable, long-term stream of support. Thoughtfully invested and prudently managed, it can help stabilize budgets, preserve program excellence, and respond quickly to emerging needs without compromising our Gilbert student’s experience. An endowment fosters a thriving school culture that strengthens confidence, character and belonging that sustains academic enrichment, technology, arts, athletics, student counseling and faculty development. Endowment giving is also a powerful tool for broadening access and opening doors for talented students. This investment in opportunity elevates our entire community by bringing diverse perspectives into classrooms, teams, clubs, and leadership roles. By investing in Gilbert’s future, we honor our history, empower current students and ensure the level of excellence that we experienced.

The Gilbert School Development Team can help customize a charitable giving strategy by meeting with each donor to formulate a plan based on goals, timeline and personal financial planning. The full array of charitable giving vehicles is available to support the Gilbert School. Giving can come through outright gifts of cash; appreciated securities; donor-advised funds; private foundations; and qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. Planned giving vehicles such as bequests in a will or trust, beneficiary designations on retirement plans or life insurance, charitable remainder trusts and lead trusts, special needs and wealth replacement trusts can be effectively structured. Other options may include gifts of real estate or other non-cash assets, each potentially offering distinct tax benefits. There has never been a better time to blend your philanthropic desire with sophisticated family financial planning. Together, these tools make it possible to build an endowment that protects excellence, expands opportunity, and strengthens the lifestyle and learning environment that defines The Gilbert School.

To learn more about how charitable giving strategies and personal financial planning can help you support The Gilbert School while achieving your own financial goals, please contact Chris Sandford, Director of Development, at sandfordc@gilbertschool.org.

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Dr. Kris Roberts
Managing Partner

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In Memoriam

1942
Helen Linkovich Ross
July 4, 2025

1946
Edward Albert Sweeney
November 13, 2025

1947
Joan (Beecher) Della Valle
January 5, 2026

1949
Ethel (Truelove) Carpenter
September 3, 2025

1949
Dale Parsons-Marchione
February 14, 2025

1949
Nancy L. Suydam
August 1, 2025

1950
Margaret (Lachat) Angino
July 12, 2023

1950
Elizabeth "Betty" (Dings) Kelsey
December 6, 2025

1950
Rose Mary (DiCara) Surdam
March 14, 2026

1951
Joseph W. Bender, Sr.
November 15, 2025

1951
Genevieve (Nichols) Hill
April 10, 2026

1951
Edna LaChat
September 6, 2025

1951
Dolores Ann (Ringwood) Nast
April 10, 2026

1952
Mary (Stannard) Manion
May 6, 2026

1952
Dorothy (Chicos) Zecchin
October 31, 2025

1953
Linda (Thomas) Ellis
March 23, 2026

1954
Herbert G. Isaacson
May 25, 2026

1954
Dwight "Dick" Richard Ransom
July 1, 2025

1955
Marcella (Casey) Miller
May 10, 2026

1956
Anne (Schaefer) Camp
February 1, 2026

1956
N. Gary Jamieson
May 26, 2026

1956
Beverly (Royer) Riiska
April 17, 2026

1957
Norman Anthony Dallis
January 16, 2026

1957
Charles Louis Day, Jr.
April 22, 2205

1957
Austin Leonard Kelley
August 22, 2025

1957
Catherine (Merwin) Mayhew
April 12, 2026

1957
Robert John Shopey, Sr.
April 6, 2026

1958
Claire (Toussaint) Holtman
September 10, 2025

1959
Roslyn "Roz" (Hayes) Dzielak
September 30, 2025

1959
Walter Machowski
July 18, 2025

1959
Judith (Rakyta) Schaller
February 14, 2026

1960
Thomas Richard Fragale
January 23, 2026

1960
Elizabeth (DiCara) Germon
September 30, 2025

1961
Janice (Lossin) Bacon
December 30, 2025

1961
Carol (Jones) Deane
October 6, 2025

1961
Neil R. Taty
September 5, 1999

1961
Pieter Van Why
April 11, 2026

1962
John R. Colavecchio
March 30, 2026

1962
James V. DiVita
November 13, 2025

1962
Barry Alan Lawrence
September 17, 2025

1963
S. John DeLutrie, Jr.
February 9, 2026

1963
Elizabeth F. "Betty" (Lawson) Foglia
February 15, 2026

1963
Cecelia "Cele" J. (Bascetta) Hoffman
March 4, 2026

1963
Rosemary "Amber" (Curtis) Roy
May 22, 2026

1964
Charlene (Falzone) Voyer
August 18, 2025

1964
Earl R. Ransom
June 14, 2024

1965
William P. Gagner
August 28, 2023

1965
Harold E. MacFarland
June 2, 2026

1965
John E. O'Brien, Jr.
February 12, 2026

1965
Gerald "Jerry" R. Seymour
June 5, 2026

1965
Jean Taty
August 27, 2021

1966
Thomas Michael Kelley
May 7, 2026

1966
Lucinda "Cindy" Sherwood
September 10, 2025

1967
Sandra (Brentnall) Cummiskey
December 30, 2025

1967
Patricia (Counihan) Martin
August 6, 2025

1968
Charlanne (Fenty) Dubay
January 3, 2026

1968
Timothy John O'Connor
May 5, 2026

1969
Allan J. Boutin
August 20, 2025

1969
Delbert Allen Duchesne
June 3, 2021

1969
Rose Mary (Consolini) Gruber
December 27, 2024

1969
Emerick Nelson
August 25, 2025

1969
Glenn E. Winn, Sr.
October 22, 2021

1970
Richard "Dick" James Carl
June 2, 2026

1970
Lance E. Fradette
January 1, 2026

1970
Ronald Clyde Pattrell
April 6, 2026

1971
Frank I. Holt, III
July 30, 2025

1972
Gary Michael Whiting
June 11, 2025

1976
Joyce (Blecher) Nalette
February 19, 2021

1976
Lawrence Russell Williams
April 20, 2026

1977
Lester Clayton Pease
July 7, 2025

1980
Carolyn D. (Cox) Borgman
April 29, 2026

1981
Colin Barry Lawrence
October 21, 2024

1985
John Poole
June 24, 2025

1988
Keith Eric Eisenlohr
December 23, 2025

1989
Carrie (Crossfield) Stetson
June 8, 2026

1991
Wendoline D. Esbjerg
July 3, 2025

2000
Michael David Brady
January 21, 2024

2024
Thatcher Judson Rupert
December 9, 2025



Faculty & Staff





Roberta Scaia
February 2, 2026
In Memory of Ms. Scaia
Ms. Scaia dedicated 35 years to The Gilbert School, teaching from 1968 to 2003.

Beginning as an instructor of stenography and typing, she later served in the Business Department and as Business Department Chair. Beyond teaching technical skills, she helped generations of Gilbert students develop professionalism, confidence, personal pride, and the workplace habits that would serve them throughout their lives. Her students learned not only how to type and conduct business, but also how to carry themselves with dignity and represent both themselves and The Gilbert School with excellence.

Known for her high standards and unwavering commitment to her students' success, Ms. Scaia cared deeply about the young people she sent out into the world. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and also shared her expertise by teaching evening business classes at Tunxis Community College. She will be fondly remembered by countless alumni for the skills, confidence, and work ethic she instilled in them.



Ronald Clyde Pattrell '70
April 6, 2026
In Memory of Ronald "Ron" Pattrell
Ronald "Ron" Pattrell, Gilbert School Class of 1970, served as a night custodian at The Gilbert School for nearly 24 years, from 2000 to 2024. A proud U.S. Army veteran, Ron also worked for many years as a dispatcher for the Winsted Police Department. Known for his dedication and quiet commitment to the school community, Ron will be fondly remembered by students, faculty, staff, and fellow alumni.



Carolyn D. (Cox) Borgman '80
April 29, 2026
In Memory of
Carolyn "Carrie" Borgman
Carolyn "Carrie" Borgman served as School Nurse at The Gilbert School from 2011 to 2017 and continued to substitute in the Nurse's Office through 2020. A proud Gilbert alumna and graduate of the University of Connecticut, Carrie pursued her passion for nursing with warmth, professionalism, and genuine compassion.

After dedicating several years to raising her children, Carrie returned to Gilbert to care for the students and staff of her alma mater. Whether providing medical care, a listening ear, or a reassuring presence, she approached every interaction with kindness and concern for others.

Carrie touched countless lives during her years of service and was loved by students, colleagues, and families alike. Her caring nature and commitment to helping others reflected the very best of The Gilbert School community. She will be remembered with gratitude and affection by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

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