

OBITUARY

Harriet Kelso Gilman, 104

Harriet Kelso Gilman, Hampden County, Massachusetts’ oldest citizen, passed away on Jan. 9, 2026. She was 104 years old.

In 2015, Mrs. Gilman was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, US Army Col. (Ret.) James Wilbur Gilman. Together, the couple lived a military life of service for 25 years. They were stationed around the United States and in post-WWII Europe, before they “retired” back to the beloved Kelso Homestead Farm in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts. It was there that Harriet Phyllis Kelso had been born to Leon Joseph Kelso and Elizabeth Miller Kelso on June 3, 1921. She was the sixth generation of Kelsos to live on the farm, which had been established by Revolutionary War Captain John Kelso in 1779. Harriet’s older brother, John Higgins Kelso, died in 2002.

Young Harriet attended the one-room school in Chester Center for grades 1 through 8, and graduated from Chester High School in 1939. As a rural youth, she was active with leadership in 4-H Club work and at local fairs. She then was accepted to Massachusetts State College, now the University of Massachusetts and graduated in 1943 with a B.S. in home economics. While at college, Harriet met fellow student Jim Gilman, an ROTC cadet and football player. Upon graduation, Jim was commissioned a

2nd Lt. Cavalry officer in the Regular Army.

They married in 1943, and his young bride followed him to various Army posts during his training. Son James was born in 1944, days before they parted when Jim sailed to England for assignment to his wartime unit.

Harriet and 19-month old Jimmy departed for war ravaged Nuremberg, Germany in 1946. They sailed on one of the first ships of dependents able to join their husbands in the Army of Occupation. Jim became executive officer of the Army battalion headquartered inside the Nuremberg Palace of Justice, responsible for conduct of the “Nuremberg Trials” for leaders of the Nazi regime.

Because of Jim’s role, Harriet got a first-hand view of history in the making. She was able to visit the courtroom as the most notorious Nazi leaders were tried for their crimes against humanity during WWII. After returning to the U.S. in 1947, the family relocated to northern Virginia and son Lee was born. The Army soon moved them to Ft. Knox, Kentucky and then Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas before they returned to Virginia in 1954.

Now, Harriet had the opportunity to achieve some of her goals. She earned her Elementary School Teacher’s certificate from George Washington University in 1956 and did master’s work

at the University of Maryland. She taught elementary school and home economics for 15 years in Fairfax County, Virginia. The family was posted to Orleans, France in 1957.

Harriet spoke rudimentary French and enjoyed visiting wives of Americans stationed there, many of whom were home-sick living in neighborhoods where few spoke English. The next year Jim was promoted to commander of a tank battalion and the family moved to an Army combat command in Gelnhausen, Germany.

Here, Harriet devoted herself to boosting morale of the officers’ wives by organizing receptions, social events, and outings. They moved back to northern Virginia in 1960, where Harriet resumed teaching home economics.

Just as in her early marriage days, Harriet was again on her own when Jim was posted to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam in 1966 and to Huntsville, Alabama in 1968. In 1974, Harriet returned to Kelso Homestead Farm to care for her widowed mother. There, she and her husband began planting a blueberry orchard.

Harriet immersed herself in local affairs, serving as deacon of the First Congregational Church of Chester, as a member



of the National and Chester Bicentennial Committees, as a library trustee, and as a Noble Hospital (Westfield) volunteer.

Perhaps most noteworthy, she also was a member of the “Hopefully Well Affected” Club in Westfield. In 2014, Jim and Harriet moved together to Armbrook Village, a Westfield retirement community where they lived until the respective end of their days. During the Armbrook years, as always, Harriet developed a cadre of friends and admirers. Armbrook made her an ambassador to welcome new residents, drawing on the quintessential joy and caring heart that made her a natural hostess for everyone.

Shortness of breath in early January caused Harriet to be admitted to Noble Hospital on Jan. 9, 2026. Her condition declined as the day faded. As midnight approached, Harriet heard blessings and love expressed by three generations of her family, either at her side or by phone. Then she closed her eyes and was gone.

Harriet is survived by her two sons, James Gilman (Betsy), Albuquerque, New Mexico and Lee Gilman (Rebecca), Charlotte, North Carolina. She is also survived by grandchildren Chad Gilman (Laurie),

Denver, Colorado; Connor Gilman, Prescott, Arizona; Adam Gilman (Luisiana), Parker, Colorado; Annie Gilman Luis (Matthew), San Antonio, TX; Seth Gilman (Megan), Albuquerque, NM; Michelle Giammarco Cohen (Jason), Oak Park, Illinois; Jackson Gilman (Lauren), Lakeland, Tennessee. Her great-grandchildren are Grant Gilman, Denver, Colorado; William and Henry Gilman, Parker, Colorado; James and Kinsley Luis, San Antonio, Texas; Elliot and Oliver Gilman, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Jonah Cohen, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Ben Cohen, Boston; Emmett, King and Talia Gilman, Lakeland, Tennessee.

In addition to family, Pastor Miriam Howland, Harriet’s dearest friend, was with her throughout her final hours. Harriet asked family to remember how Miriam was very much like a sister, checking on her daily for over 30 years, helping her with local needs and keeping her sons informed between their visits.

The Gilman family is being served by Firtion Adam Funeral Home, Westfield. Interment will be private. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Chester, 334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011. A reception will follow the service. Memorials can be made to the church.

DEATH NOTICE

GILMAN, HARRIET KELSO

Died Jan. 9, 2026
Celebration of Life
June 13 at 10:30 a.m.
First Congregational Church
of Chester,
334 Skyline Drive, Chester

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Art Center hosts giant parade puppets during April vacation

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center will offer a lively and imaginative April Vacation program, Giant Parade Puppets, for students ages 8 and up, April 20-24 from 9:30a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Citizens’ Hall, 130 Willard Hill Road, in Stockbridge.

The workshop will be led by artist and educator Eric “Homeslice” Weiss. During the week-long program, students will design and build larger-than-life parade puppets, sculpting giant puppet heads and mounting them on wooden frames with fabric arms and hand rods to create

towering characters.

Inspired by global parade traditions from Chinese New Year dragon puppets to the whimsical creations of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade students will learn about the art, engineering and storytelling behind these festive forms while collaborat-

ing on their own imaginative designs.

The program will conclude with a puppet performance for family and friends on the Berkshire Art Center lawn. Puppets will then be stored by BAC so students can return to march with them in Pittsfield’s Annual

Fourth of July Parade on July 4.

For more information or to register, people may visit berkshireartcenter.org. Sponsors are Mass Cultural Council, Feigenbaum Foundation, Lee Bank, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Mill Town, Berkshire

Bank and Rotary Club of Pittsfield

Berkshire Art Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and advancing creativity in the Berkshires through classes, workshops and community art programs for all ages, backgrounds and skill levels.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Chesterfield Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearings will be held starting at 6:30 PM on **Monday, April 6, 2026** in the Davenport Town Offices, 422 Main Road, Chesterfield, MA to consider the following Zoning Bylaw changes. The full proposed changes to the bylaw can be found on the town website, www.townofchesterfieldma.com, and in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Section V: SPECIAL USE REGULATION: Amend Section 6.1.3 Accessory Dwelling Unit Standards to delete paragraph which is non-compliant with State Laws that requires ADUs in a Water Supply Protection District (WS) cannot require a Special Permit Review; amend Section 6.1.3.3 to comply with State Laws which do not allow a Special Permit Granting Authority to require more than one parking space.

Section 7.4 SITE PLAN APPROVAL: Amend Section 7.422 Application to explicitly allow Special Permit Granting Authority to request funding of

studies under Special Permit Review (MGL Ch 44, Sec.53g).

Section 6.3.4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LARGE-SCALE GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION (LSGM-SPI): Amend Section 6.3.4.1 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations to require the construction and operation of all LSGMSPI be consistent with all building and fire codes in addition to other requirements.

Sarah Hamilton
Acting Chair, Planning Board
03/19/2026

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL 71 section 38N, the Worthington School Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 6:30 PM at R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, Worthington and via Google Meet** to consider the proposed school district budget for Fiscal Year

2027.

School Committee Meeting
via Google Meet
Thursday, April 2, 2026
6:30 - 10:00pm
Join Virtual Meeting
Link: meet.google.com/xho-xahh-dgk
Join by phone:
(US) +1 678-769-4479
PIN: 343357737

Copies of the proposed budget are available in the main office of the R. H. Conwell Elementary School and will be available below on March 13, 2026:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ce3Sn4PkaEDQNpOiNVcxnhGLd4Z24Gcj/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112661335339212920932&rtfpof=true>
03/19/2026

TOWN OF BLANDFORD PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Bland-

ford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at **6:00 PM on April 3, 2026**. The nature of this hearing is to present and discuss the proposed replacement of the Blandford Zoning Bylaw pertaining to Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations. The proposed bylaw will include Section VIII 8.1 – 8.15.

Section VI11 - Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations

8.1 Purpose and Intent, 8.2 Definitions, 8.3 Applicability and Permitting, 8.4 General Requirements for all Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, 8.5 Dimension and Density Requirements, 8.6 Design, Site, and Operational Standards, 8.7 Safety and Environmental Standards, 8.8 Monitoring and Maintenance, 8.9 Special Permit Criteria, 8.10 Outside Consultant Fees, 8.11 Severability, 8.12 Enforcement Remedies, 8.13 Appeals, 8.14 Effective Date and Applicability, 8.15 Waivers.

Copies of the proposed By-

law change will be available for review at the Public Hearing and at the Town Hall by appointment only. Contact the Planning Board at Planning@townofblandford.gov to make an appointment during regular business hours.

Greg Garfield, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
03/19, 03/26/2026

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