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# The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

## September 1987 Newsletter

**Next Meeting:** We will start the year with a Bang (if you help) on the second Monday of September, September 14th at 7:30 pm, at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Come and bring Good Ideas and Good Munchies. Agenda:

- 1) Plan for shows
- 2) Structure and direction of the G & S Society

**Reminder:** These are the ideas we discussed at our meeting in June:

1) For shows repeat **A Gilbert and Sullivan Sampler** soon; mount a major production in September 1988 - **The Yeomen of the Guard** would be appropriate to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its opening; perhaps work on something lighter for spring, 1988. (**Pinafore?**)

2) For structure and direction we need to consider such subjects as establishment of an outside Board of Directors, with emphasis on the three W's (Work, Wealth and Wisdom); appointing a fund-raising director, and an artistic director (Bill Girard has expressed interest), aiming for a partially professional staff after 3, 5 or 7 years. We need to decide what to do with our meetings . . one suggestion was that we plan to go through about 4 G&S operas a year, learning the music on our own and presenting an opera informally to the members. It was further suggested that this be open to the public, and that we charge a small fee to non-members, which might become membership dues. We also need to consider raising our dues and adding some higher donor categories. Finally, we agreed to hire Mike Workman to conduct a survey of the members, to work on suggestions and proposals, and to present three options with pros and cons for our consideration in September. For reasons which will be explained at our meeting this last plan has fallen through.

**Report:** Our Northcross Mall show on July 18th was a great success, despite poor acoustics and including vocals from two parrots during a rehearsal. We gave two afternoon performances for a total audience of 200 to 300 people. There was a cast of 13, of whom 10 had appeared in the **Gilbert and Sullivan Sampler**. Bill Girard was musical director, and Bob Wall played the piano. Thank you!

Special Thanks to Allen Lawshae and Enid Hallock for tremendous efforts in legwork and coordination. Without them there would have been no show. Costumes were culled from the supply at Capitol City Playhouse (Thanks there, too), and Props were scrounged from all over. Special Thanks also to Lamme's Candies, whose nearby shop donated half a pound of "excellent peppermint drops" to hand out to the audience as Little Buttercup sang.

Bob Kusnetz still has a number of G & S Sampler cast photos. Please call him to arrange to pick up your pictures (and pay for them!). Home: 836-1853; Work: 823-2714.

**News of Members:** Congratulations to Bill Girard for his new post of Conductor and Music Director of the Austin Civic Orchestra. Rejoice with Bob Kusnetz over the arrival of a nephew, David Matthew Kusnetz, who begins a new generation in the Kusnetz family.



A Modern Major General  
Pirates

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### More News of Members:

The melodrama, **Trapped in the Shaft**, with our own Bob in a supporting role, will move to Lockhart for three weekends in September ... Fridays and Saturdays, starting September 11th, at Black's Barbecue. It has been showing to enthusiastic audiences all summer on Thursdays in Wimberley.

#### Note changes of address:

Arthur Keller  
1075-A Tauland (?) Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-3739  
(415) 424-1133

Bob Wall  
1204-H Elm Street  
Austin 78703 474-6208

#### Add two new members:

Martha J. Harkin  
2901 Barton Skyway, #3102  
Austin, 78746 328-0359

Joan Pearsal  
2502 Indian Trail  
Austin, 78703 478-2269

**Other News:** We are sorry to learn of the closing of the Austin Fifth Street Theatre. It was a good space and will be missed. We hope some enterprising group will soon reopen the theater, and that it is not permanently lost to Austin.

**Dues Paying Time is Here!** We will be discussing new higher rates at the September meeting. Please come prepared to pay your dues whatever they turn out to be! For those not at the meeting, a formal announcement will be sent in the October Newsletter. Note: New members who joined in May or later will not have to pay dues until September 1988 ... a bargain!

**Finally:** Apologies from your secretary for typo's in the last Newsletter. Correct spellings are definitely: Yeomen (of the Guard), Musak, and Laura Ledet.

See you in September,

*Reba*

Reba Gillman, Secretary

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