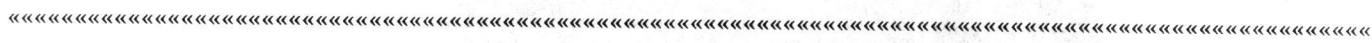


The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

January 1990 Newsletter

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Next Meeting: Monday, January 15th, at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood, 477-0858. Please come and bring munchies.

Last Meeting: Nineteen people met at Enid's house on Monday, December 11th. They were members Pearl Amster, Bob Bobo, Karen and David Collier, Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock, Bill Hatcher, Dan and Susie Jacobson, Jan Jones, Bob Kusnetz, Joan Pearsall, Katharine Shields, and Anne Smith, and guest Jean Baker.

President Bob K., presiding, remarked that the date of death of Allen's mother had been incorrectly given. It was actually November 30th. Six members and one cast member attended her funeral. Memorial donations in honor of Bula Lawshae may be sent to the Sloane Kettering Cancer Research Foundation.

Nominations for new officers:

President	Bob Kusnetz
Executive Vice President	Allen Lawshae
Vice Pres. for Production	Jacki Chapman
Vice Pres. for Publicity	Bill Hatcher
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Carla Hammock
Historian	Michael Drousche

Since we were late in making these nominations it was voted to postpone the elections until the February meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at that meeting.

Bob reported on various aspects of our show, *The Sorcerer*, followed by a thorough discussion. The final figures are not assembled yet, but 1175 people saw the show. Many more had crowded into Hyde Park Theatre to see *Pinafore*. Bill Hatcher did a fine job on publicity, and we got some good reviews, but a little known show and tremendous competition were some factors contributing to the disappointing attendance. Some good results: Bob K. and Marian Hampton have been invited to speak to the spring semester course at UT on writing reviews; we learned a lot from our mistakes; we had good relations with the theater.

Many questions were raised and discussed. A more thorough report will be available later, but much concern was expressed that an electric piano had been used for this production. Eric Daub did a wonderful job playing it, but an electric piano is not acceptable to our musical standards. It was agreed that a matter of this importance should in the future be voted on by the members of the society, or at least by the officers. It should be understood that we will place major emphasis on high musical standards; we should explain our expectations when planning a show and hiring the Musical Director.

Jacki Chapman is in charge of plans for our performance at the Amster Soirée on Sunday, January 28th at 7 pm. Call Jacki at 836-7599 if you have questions or suggestions.

Bob K. reported that he had attended the very fruitful Producers Meeting sponsored by the Austin Circle of Theatres (ACOT). One hope of the group is that they can make up a register of show openings, thus encouraging planning to avoid a jam-up of theatrical presentations. Austin American Statesman drama critic Michael Barnes was present and very much interested in this evidence of cooperation in the theatrical community. Several meetings a year are planned.

Last on the agenda were prospects and plans for the next show. We are pleased that Don Toner has expressed interest in continuing to work with us, especially on a production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. It was agreed that we prefer a spring production, and would like to aim for Spring 1991, but that Fall 1990 remains a possibility. Michael reminded us that Ken Johnson has also expressed interest in continuing to work with us. Bob K. raised anew the question of sources of funding. Bob Mellin (vacationing in South America!) had talked with Bob K. about developing corporate support. It is time to work on this.

The meeting adjourned for the usual good food and good fellowship.

Note: This is a "short form" Newsletter, done late and in a great hurry. Please excuse any resulting errors, and look for more complete reporting in the next issue.

Happy New Year !!!

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

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