

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

January 1991 Newsletter

Elections - Annual Meeting!!!

• **Monday, January 7th:** At the home of Enid Hallock, 4001 Cherrywood, 477-0858, at 7:30 pm. Slate of officers:

President	Karen Collier
Executive Vice President	Bob Kusnetz
V.P. for Production	Jacki Chapman
V.P. for Publicity	Bill Hatcher
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Carla Hammock
Historian	Michael Drousche

Also on the agenda will be information about our coming appearance at the Amster Soirée, and discussion and plans for other projects in the works. This includes *Pirates* in April, and shows for fall 1991 and spring 1992.

Plan to attend this important meeting. In order to vote or run for office you must be a paid up member. Refreshments welcome.

Amster Soirée

• **Sunday, January 27th at 7 PM:** At the home of Pearl Amster, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Come and enjoy the music and delicious desserts served afterward. Bill Girard is in charge of the program, and Susan Adams-Johnson is handling the producing details. A \$2 contribution is requested for Pearl's Scholarship Program.

Last Meeting

Brief Report: Eighteen members attended the meeting on December 3rd at Enid's house. They were: Susan Adams-Johnson (complete with 1 month old Hannah and 2 year old Ross), Pearl Amster, Bob Bobo, David and Karen Collier, Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock, Bill Hatcher, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Al Rellstab, Katharine Shields, and Anne Smith.

Reba apologized for omitting from the December Newsletter the information that Jacki Chapman had withdrawn her name from consideration for the position of Director of *Pirates* because the schedule for her degree

program at UT conflicted with our April production. Reba also remarked that she regretted the wording with which she had reported Bob Kusnetz's question. It should have been "What significant event took place on November 22nd, 90 years ago?" since the answer was: Sir Arthur Sullivan died.

Bob Mellin spoke strongly supporting the value of the Champagne Buffet. It was not just an enjoyable party, but also served as publicity for our production of *Ruddigore* and an effective way of promoting the purchase of advertisements in the program, and led to an arrangement with Strait Music Company for the use of a piano.

Other business included announcements about the Amster Soirée, some discussion of members' opinions about doing non-G&S operettas, and the report of the nominating committee. Loel Graber, as Chairman of the committee, made a statement explaining the composition of the committee and how it had worked. He said, in part:

"The nominating committee felt that in general the current officers fulfilled the duties of their offices very well. All ... except Allen [Executive Vice President] indicated their willingness and desire to continue to serve the Society on the executive board. The nominating committee was however made aware of Bob Kusnetz' desire to turn over the leadership of the Society to a different person after one more year. In light of this indication that there was going to be a transition of leadership, the committee felt that it was important to send a signal that the society wants to encourage wider participation."

Accordingly the committee proposed the slate printed at the beginning of this Newsletter. Discussion and questions followed. In response to a question Karen stated her view that there were basically three issues for the Society:

- 1) Division between the old and the new points of view.
- 2) Need to work on the Society's reputation in the theater community. We have come a long way, but there is more to be done.
- 3) We have a lot of people who want to get involved and to work. It is important to put such people to good work and to give them a feeling that their work is appreciated and useful.

The slate was unanimously accepted, and it was agreed that the committee had done a wonderful job. There were no nominations from the floor.

Membership Dues

The red "DUES" on your label means it's time to renew. Pay now and start the year right!
Only paid-up members may vote. Use the handy insert.

LG
6/10

For our information President Bob K. read the following excerpt from the Society's Bylaws:

Section 2. Purpose.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc. is organized exclusively for educational purposes ...

These educational purposes also include production and encouragement of production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and excerpts thereof, in the traditional manner; and the study of the lore of Gilbert and Sullivan and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

News of Members

Member Anne Collins Smith is the author of the following:

A Ruddygore Clerihew

Poor Robin left the castle
'Cause crime was a hassle.
When the truth was given
With grief he was Ruthven.

Anne explains that a clerihew is a humorous quatrain about a person who is generally named in the first line. The form was invented by Edmund Clerihew Bentley, an English writer. (And don't forget that Ruthven is pronounced Rivven.)

FLASH !!!

Our very own first Poo-Bah, Dr. William H. "Deacon" Crain was written up in Time Out in the December 22nd issue of the American-Statesman. As the curator of the UT Theatre Arts Library he is responsible for an exhibit "Ballet from Court to Theatre" at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center through February 1. It displays original costumes from Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, lithographs of Romantic ballerinas, 20th-century photographs, 19th-century playbills and souvenir programs dating from 1911. Dr. Crain owns several of the items included. For information call 471-8944.

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary



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