

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

May 1991 Newsletter

Next Meeting

• **Monday, May 6th:** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028, at 7:30 pm. Just east of Mopac, drive south on Hartford. Please bring munchies!

• Allen Lawshae has something up his sleeve for our enjoyment, and Jim Robinson, former member of the Houston G&S Society, will talk to us for ten minutes about how that Society manages. **This is an important meeting, please come!**

Last Meeting

• Our last meeting was held on Monday, April 1st, at Pearl's. Thirteen people were present: Members Pearl Amster, Bob Bobo, Sue Ricket Caldwell, David and Karen Collier, Michael Drousche, Norma Garza, Loel Graber, Telisa Harwell, Bill Hatcher, Allen Lawshae, and Robert Mellin, and guest Celeste Booker. Allen took the minutes since secretary Reba Gillman was in Czechoslovakia.

Correction: The proposed High Tea at the Caswell House or a similar location was to occur in October, not earlier.

• **The Pirates of Penzance:** President Karen reported that because of Bob Kusnetz's illness she continues to serve as our official representative to Live Oak Theatre. A sign-up list was passed around for volunteers to usher and help in other ways. A flyer had been mailed to over 800 people on our mailing list. Karen thanked Susie Jacobson for printing the mailing labels, and David Collier for folding the flyers. In addition, a phone bank had called Society members to urge that they attend the opening night performance and Gala. Karen thanked Michael Drousche, Loel Graber, Carla Hammock, Allen Lawshae, and Bob Mellin for calling.

• **Other Business:** Readers assigned to our City Grant Application are GABRIEL FOLSE and ELIZABETH MCCOMBS. • Plans are going ahead for the Garage Sale in June, probably the 15th. See accompanying flyer for details.

• Michael continues to ask for help planning programs to liven up our meetings. A sign-up list was passed around, but all volunteers are welcome. Call Michael at 459-9298. • Our June meeting will focus on Fun with a Sing-along and Volunteer Recognition. • Allen reported that he had assisted in the strike at Live Oak Theatre of the set for *A Texas Romance*, the show that preceded *Pirates*.

• The Production Committee is working on plans to pair Sullivan's musical *Cox and Box* with Gilbert's play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* for production August 9 through 25, probably at the new ZSTC Arena Theatre. Jacki will direct. There will be a production meeting in mid-May. We need lots of willing workers in order to cut production costs. Volunteers please call:

- Jacki Chapman (323-0562), Director.
- Karen Collier (288-5329 h, 338-3551 w) in charge of Box Office; volunteers needed to manage and run box office.
- Michael Drousche (459-9298), House Manager, in charge of Ushers.
- Norma Garza (441-7148), Stage Manager; volunteers for Costumer, and other assistants.
- Carla Hammock (258-2481), Props; people are needed to run props at each performance. **PLEASE CALL.**

A mixed quartet was set to perform a selection of G&S excerpts as part of the Noon Concert Series at Central Presbyterian Church on April 11, 1991. [Update: Karen reports that this went off well. Bret Barnes, Janette Jones, Bart Sprayberry and René Williams, with Bob Wall at the piano, did a wonderful job.]

Ann Ciccolella, Executive Director of ACOT, has applied for the position of Director for the fall show. Ann will direct the summer musical, *Shenandoah*, in Zilker Hillside Theater, and she encourages the G&S Society members to audition and participate.

The Society has been invited to participate in the **Third Annual Austin Chamber Music Marathon** at the First Unitarian Church on Saturday, June 1, 1991. This is an AIDS Services benefit -- an exciting gathering of the best talent in Austin. We will have an eight minute slot in the afternoon. It's a great opportunity for us to put a rousing sample of our work before the public. If you would like to perform call Norma Garza at 441-7148 AT ONCE. We must have final information about performers and program by May 1st. We're thinking Big Choral Group.

Last Month's G&S Quiz: What musical number in *Pirates* was written for and performed in another G&S opera?

Michael reported that Anne Smith was the only person who responded correctly: The opening chorus for the girls "Climbing Over Rocky Mountain" first appeared as the "Entrance of the Thespians" in the opera *Thespis*.

Membership Dues

Collecting dues has become a year-long process, and very time consuming. The red "DUES" on your label means it's time to renew. Please pay promptly, or let me know if you want to drop your membership.

[Note by Reba: In fact this is the only music from *Thespis* that survives. Apparently it was preserved by the accident that Sullivan used it when he misplaced his original music for the entrance of General Stanley's daughters.]

The meeting concluded with a presentation and discussion by Celeste Booker, pianist and musical director for our *Patience*, of some of the music written later for *Thespis*. Thank you, Pearl, for your generous hospitality!

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• **News of Members:** Bob Kusnetz is alive and well and was seen at the Opening Gala of *Pirates*.

Also seen at the Opening Gala was Enid Hallock. She has been spending a lot of time with her mother, who is in ailing health. Best Wishes to Mrs. MacPherson!

Go see Judy Scott and Diana Sethre in *The Octette Bridge Club* at Hyde Park Theatre through May 18th; call 452-6688. Colleague John McNeill is the director.

Congratulations to Jacki Chapman whose pre-thesis directing project was accomplished with the performances on April 19 and 20 of *The Little Princess*, Sara Crewe at the UT Drama Department Lab Theatre. Also, Jacki has a part in *Pippin* at UT in June.

MODE Productions announces its performances of the one act operas, *Gianni Schicchi* and *The Secret of Susanna*, opening June 7th at the Gallery Theatre of the Rio Grande Campus of ACC. The producers are members Susan Adams-Johnson and Bob Bobo and colleague David Ketcham. Michael Drousche and Carla Hammock are in the cast.

The Society has a few far flung members. One of the most illustrious of these is Ralph MacPhail, Jr., of Bridgewater College, in Bridgewater, VA. He is one of 11 people singled out for special thanks in the acknowledgments for "The Gilbert and Sullivan Lexicon". His college participates in an international ELDERHOSTEL program this June and July, which includes short courses on a variety of topics related to Gilbert & Sullivan. Anyone over the age of 60 who wants information about this interesting program should call me at 327-2277.

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• **The Lyric Opera of Dallas** has sent us their summer season schedule (call Reba at 327-2277 for info):

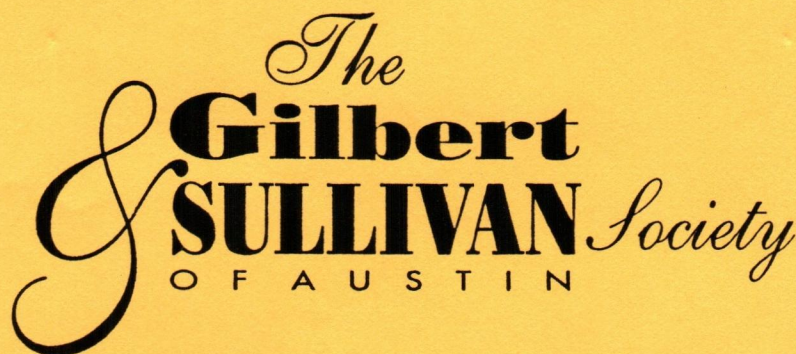
Man of La Mancha July 18-21
The Pirates of Penzance . . August 21-25

Reba

Call now for your reservations for *The Pirates of Penzance* at Live Oak Theatre
 This lively show continues Thursdays through Sundays through May 11th
 Order your tickets now: 472-5143

5/91

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society
 Reba Gillman, Secretary
 1606 The High Road
 Austin, TX 78746



is having a
Garage Sale

and

We Need Your Support!!!

The success of this garage sale depends on your donations, which can be dropped off at any of the following locations between May 15 and June 1. (We recommend you call first to arrange a time.)

North Austin Locations

Michael Drousche	8512 Contour (near Ohlen and 183)	459-9298
Carla Hammock	7213 Fireoak (off 183 near T.I.)	258-2481

Central Austin Location

Jacki Chapman	4320 Bull Creek, #120	323-0562
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South Austin Location

Karen Collier	10500 O'Rourke Lane (Circle C Ranch)	288-5329
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If you are unable to drive or have large items that must be picked up, call Karen or Dave Collier at 288-5329, and we will make arrangements for you.

We also need volunteers to help up sort and tag on the Friday evening before the sale and to work during the sale, and we must find several tables and clothing racks to borrow. If you can help, call any of the individuals listed above.

Next month's newsletter will have details on the date and location of the garage sale.