

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

July 1991 Newsletter

Next Meeting

- **Monday, September 9th:** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028: 7:30 pm, sharp.
- After the summer off, let's come together with renewed vigor to get started on the projects of the new season. Many plans are in the works and will need volunteers to finish up.
- Look for the September Newsletter with details.

Garage Sale A Success!!!

- **Saturday June 15th** in the parking lot of the **Ridgetop Baptist Church**, we took in \$600! Not bad for our first effort. We're aiming for another next spring.
- About 20% of the Society members volunteered their time, their junk, or their labor. Just think what we could do with 85% support!
- Start saving your junk now for next March or April and be part of the production team for the next G&S show: *The Mikado*!

- Thanks a Million to the following people who donated stuff or time to the Garage Sale:

Marion DeFord	Judith McCown
Michael Drousche	Mrs T.R. McNeely
Mr & Mrs Harry Ellison	Mr & Mrs Charles Morton
Heidi Epp	Leslie Phillips
Al & Celeste Evans	Dr & Mrs Blair Protzman
Georgia Frazier	Charles & Diane Radin
Norma Garza	Bill & Suzy Reid
Reba Gillman	Jim Robinson
Doug & Sheila Glenn	Judy Scott
Loel Graber	Katharine Shields
Russell Gregory	Diane Simpson
Enid Hallock	Kent Smith
Carla Hammock	Eileen Sullivan
Bill & Nan Hatcher	Carey & Louise Thompson
Kate Hendricks	Mr & Mrs Robert Tull
Susie & Dan Jacobson	Sherry Vance
Janette Jones	Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch
Mr & Mrs Robert Jones	Chris Wing
Allen Lawshae	Amy Lynne Young
Frances Lockhart	

And of course Jacki Chapman
and David & Karen Collier

~~~~~Aids Benefit~~~~~

- The Austin Chamber Music Marathon, the benefit for AIDS Services of Austin, went off splendidly on June 1st. They raised nearly \$7,000, and put on an incredibly exciting and moving program. G&S was ably represented by members Michael Drousche, Allen Lawshae, and Katharine Shields, with excellent assistance from non-members Brett Barnes, Russ Prickett and Will Rice. Member Bob Wall was the pianist. Later on the program member Carla Hammock presented a charming group of songs by Leonard Bernstein.

We were in excellent company amid the top classical, jazz, and folk musicians of the Austin area. The Marathon is becoming nationally known as a unique event, and people are already asking "When is the Fourth Annual Marathon?"

~~~~~Production Update~~~~~

Report from Jacki Chapman, Chair

Many have expressed their pleasure at the production quality of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The joint budget of the G&S Society and Live Oak for this show was close to \$30,000. This puts us on the spot for future productions. We need to work toward similar production standards, and that means MONEY.

We have set a budget of \$25,000 for a '92 production of *The Mikado*. With the funds we expect to have on hand we will have to raise an additional \$15,000 in the next nine months. We are planning several fund-raisers, and welcome all ideas and suggestions. Please let your voice be heard!

- A British Tea fund-raiser is planned for:
Sunday October 13, 1991
3 to 5 pm
At The Four Seasons Hotel
With exciting G&S entertainment

Put this date on your calendar now; it's sure to be a delightful event. Invitations and more information later.

- A G&S Soirée is planned for mid-January. Pearl Amster will open her home for the event; all proceeds will go to the Society. We are going to ask another musical organization to perform on the program with us.

- Another idea we are pursuing, but probably not to raise money, is a joint program with Reagan High School. A cooperative effort would benefit us both, and demonstrate our interest in community activity. No definite plans have been made yet. If you are interested let us know!

Membership Dues

Dues, dues, dues! In September a new batch come due. 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.

7/19/91

• Last Meeting •

• **Celebration, Awards, Fun and Games!!!** On Monday, June 3rd, twenty members gathered at the home of Pearl Amster. They were: Pearl, Jacki Chapman, Dave and Karen Collier, Michael Drousche, Norma Garza, Leonard and Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Carla Hammock, Telisa Harwell, Bill Hatcher, Dan and Susie Jacobson, Janette Jones, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Katharine Shields, Linnea Smith, and Isobel Stevenson.

• “For he’s going to marry Yum Yum” opened lustily with Pearl at the piano as the singing began while some people were still coming in. Linnea took over when she arrived, on through other favorites, finishing with “For he is an Englishman!”

- President Karen opened the awards ceremony. She remarked that often people work very hard for the Society with no notice and very little thanks. Tonight we want to give special attention to some of those people.

First she presented flowers to Pearl Amster in appreciation for opening her home for our meetings, providing extra napkins and cups, cleaning up afterwards, and all the little chores that go with hospitality.

Next she offered flowers in thanks to Enid Hallock, who has also served as hostess for our meetings many times. Since Enid could not be present, Reba volunteered to take the flowers to her the next day.

Norma Garza is our most involved new member. She joined us last November while performing in *Ruddigore*, and immediately pitched in as a willing worker. She now serves on the Production Committee. Karen presented her with a book containing G&S memorabilia from the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City.

We have special certificates for the following six members who have worked especially hard for the Society in the last two years:

Reba presented the name of Susie Jacobson, an A-1 Volunteer. If she can do it, when asked she does it efficiently, intelligently and above all pleasantly! She and Dan discovered the Society during the run of *Pinafore* in April 1989. They became Patrons at once. Susie sold T-Shirts in the lobby for *Sorcerer* and *Ruddigore*. On several occasions she called a list of members to tell them of meetings or other business. But Susie's outstanding and invaluable contribution is this: when we asked her to take

over the Society mailing list she typed over 2200 names into her new computer. Working nights and Sundays for nearly two weeks she also called to check addresses and weed out duplications. We first used her mailing labels for the Champagne Musicale at Katz's last October. Since then she has cheerfully responded to every request for labels.

Michael Drousche presented the name of Janette Jones, the Performer Of The Year. He enjoyed working with her in *Patience*; without her enthusiastic attitude the show would have been much flatter and much less fun. She loves to perform and gives her best effort to any part. Ken Johnson said "There's a leading lady lurking beneath the surface", as she later proved in her excellent Mad Margaret (*Ruddigore*).

Carla Hammock presented the name of Bob Wall, Pianist Extraordinary. We roped him in, and he comes through whenever he's free. He has played for performances, for rehearsals, and for auditions. He plays cheerfully and musically. And "where would we be without pianists?" Bob was not present to receive his certificate, having left town the day before for California, and later a semester in Europe.

Jacki Chapman presented the name of Georgia Frazier, Costumer for *Patience*. She worked long hours to collect creative ideas and material; on a budget of \$12 a costume she built 20 costumes, using curtains, fake leather and anything she could lay her hands on. Miraculously she stayed within her budget. She devoted more than 200 hours in a five week period to the G&S production. Her time and talents helped make this production the success that it was. "We owe you, Georgia, a great Thank You for what you have done for us!" Georgia also had another commitment and was not present to receive her certificate.

Bill Hatcher presented the name of Robert Mellin, for Publicity and Advertising. He is creative, cheerful, hardworking, and bursting with energy; a busy back-stage worker, and faithful cast member. He did a fantastic job putting together the money-raising Champagne Musicale at Katz's. He secured a piano for *Ruddigore*, lined up program ads and got free ads in the American-Statesman worth \$500. He arranged for ordering T-Shirts, and planned the logos, using professional quality art.

Jackie Chapman presented the name of David Collier, Lighting Expert. Just three years ago Dave and Karen rolled into town. He helped a great deal with *Pinafore* but in this last year David's expertise shone through. He designed, hung and ran the lights for *Patience*. During the run he was there for every performance (including Saturdays and Sundays). His electrical engineering skills came to the res-

[illegible]

Don't forget -- Go see *Easy Does The Stars*

Now playing at Capitol City Playhouse; call 472-2966 for reservations

Cast includes our very own Robert Mellin

cue when he did some needed rewiring. After *Patience* he served on the Production Committee. He again volunteered his services and lighting talents for *Ruddigore*. Immediately after that he served as a member of the nominating committee for 1991 officers. He continues to offer ideas and suggestions for the production process, and has expressed interest in working on further shows.

Karen announced a special award to Bob Kusnetz. He served as President for seven years -- about half of the total life of the Society. People don't know how much work that means. Rising to challenges, and solving production problems, Bob put in many hours as President. He was the force that held the Society together through hard times. Bob was not present (out of town on his job), but Karen showed us the lapel pin he would receive in recognition of his dedication and hard work.

Jacki then announced that she had a surprise for us: Len Gillman singing "The Elements", to music from *Pirates*. Len said it was about ten years ago that he last performed the song as adapted by Tom Lehrer. He explained how he had changed the coda, to bring the list of elements up to date. After singing "The Elements" Len produced a new set of words, to be sung to the same tune. Called "The Formulary Song", it comes from The New England Journal of Medicine (3/3/77) via The Palace Peeper, the newsletter of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of New York. "There's Omnipen and Principen and Tegopen and Torecan" for starters.

At this point some people had to leave for rehearsal, and the rest of us joined in the fun and games planned by Jacki. She pinned a slip of paper with a word or two on each back. We were told to move around chatting and asking questions until we found the person with words that matched ours, and figured out what G&S opera they came from. For example, Bob Mellin was running around with the word "Snee" on his back, and eventually teamed up with "Snicker" (*Mikado*).

Next we played Charades, acting out phrases from G&S that Jacki handed out. I got stuck with "Here we are at the risk of our lives" (*Gondoliers*). I thought this an impossible task, but the other players were magnificent guessers, and the answer was soon found.

The final game very cleverly used G&S T-Shirts as rewards, and so we phased out our supply of *Sorcerer*, and *Ruddigore* T-Shirts. We were asked to guess what character was associated with a quotation (a phrase or song).

Meanwhile, we were also enjoying the delicious refreshments provided by the Executive Committee. In short, a friendly and amusing finish to our season.

See you in September! Watch for the next Newsletter then.

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

Exciting News: Jacki Chapman is directing *Così Fan Tutte* produced by Different Stages
Opens August 16th at Live Oak Theatre; David Mead - Musical Director
Watch the paper for details

2191-2