

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

November 1991 Newsletter

Next Meeting

- **Monday, November 4th:** at Sue Caldwell's, 6804 Rockledge Cove, 343-7700 or 343 7800: 7:30 pm, sharp.
- Come catch up on what's going on. Please bring munchies. Map on last page.
- News and Ideas: Bring them to the meeting or call Reba, 327-2277. Or write a note to Reba Gillman, 1606 The High Road, Austin 78746. Always glad to hear from you.



• Welcome •

to

Mitchell Evan Collier

Born October 17, 1991 at 3:47 pm
8 pounds, 8 1/2 ounces

to

David and President Karen Collier

Dochen, for superior service, and for donating fresh flowers for the buffet and the use of the piano; and last, but not least, Anne Collins Smith, who wrote the introductory patter for Patter Pandemonium (to the rhythm of "Modern Major General"):

I'm here to introduce you to the G&S Society
A group that's widely known for its ingenious variety
We handle words of passion and of pure and simple prettiness
Of course they're all invested with Sir William Gilbert's
wittiness

And if you're into music we're the group that you should pick
to see

For excellent performances of Sullivan's inTRICacy
So now that I've delivered all this flattering encomium(pause)
I'd like to welcome everyone to Patter Pandemonium
We've songs from the "Mikado" which has never ever been a
bore

And if you have some "Patience" you will hear a song from
"Pinafore"

And so for entertainment of ingenious variety
I'm happy to present the Austin G&S Society!



• News of Members •

- Jacki Chapman is the director of a children's play at UT: *James and the Giant Peach* will play at the B. Iden Payne Theatre at 2 pm on Sunday November 3, Saturday November 9, and Sunday November 10.

- Allen Lawshae and Robert Mellin have been cast in the fancy new production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Paramount Theatre December 11 - 22.

- Robert Mellin is also keeping busy as the new Membership Chairman for Austin Circle of Theatres.

• Coming Events •

- **Amster Soirée:** 7 pm, Sunday January 12, 1992

- **Garage Sale:** March, 1992. Please save your junk!

- **The Annual Pun-Off** and Benefit for the O. Henry Museum: Sunday May 3, 1992. We have been invited to perform G&S patter songs and punning dialog.

- **The Mikado:** Opening June 5th or 6th 1992, at the Zachary Scott Theatre Center.

• Report on Fund Raising Tea •

64 people attended the delightful and delicious event at the Stouffer Hotel on Sunday afternoon, October 13th. Of these 48 were full-price tickets, 5 were at-cost (members who organized the event), and 11 were complimentary (performers and guests). It was a *succes d'estime*, but financially we didn't quite break even.

Warmest thanks go to the performers:

Dory Creedle	Soprano
Arthur Fuscaldio	Tenor
Wesley Grove	Tenor
James Sanders	Baritone
Heidi Spoor	Soprano
Linnea Smith, at the piano	

Many thanks also to Norma Garza, who coordinated the fund-raiser; Jacki Chapman, who planned and directed the program; Telisa Harwell, who arranged for the use of the tea service, and helped at the tea; Cen-Tex Rental Centers, who provided the tea service; the Stouffer Hotel and Samia

Membership Dues

It's that time of year for most of us. The red "DUES" on your label and a dues form inside, mean it's time to renew.
Many thanks to those who pay promptly. If you want to drop your membership please let me know.

11/91

Appology: for a serious mistake. The correct Society P.O. Box # is 684254 (Zip 78768).

• Last Meeting •

Fourteen people met on Monday, October 7th at the home of Sue Ricket Caldwell. They were members Sue, Karen Collier, Michael Drousche, Norma Garza, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock (with guest, Gary Hallock), Carla Hammock, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Juanita Robbins (returned from Dallas), and Anne Smith.

Allen reported that he had talked with Connie Barr, Assistant Principal at Reagan H.S., about our Adopt-A-School project. He asked for volunteers to work with him.

Karen reported that we have signed a contract with ZSTC to rent their Kleberg Theatre space in June 1992 for our production of *Mikado*. Some problems about insurance have to be worked out.

Karen reported that in addition to reservations for the October 13th Tea, we had received \$135 in donations. Reba reported that she had received a letter from a member suggesting that \$25 per person was too much to ask for two hours at a Tea. Norma explained that we had to charge that much because of the catering costs at the hotel.

Guest Gary Hallock spoke to us about the Annual Pun-Off. It takes place the first Sunday in May at the O. Henry Museum, and is their only fund raiser. The author O. Henry lived and wrote in Austin at the time that the Gilbert & Sullivan operas were first produced; he and his wife were members of a contemporary G&S Society. In view of this connection it seems appropriate to invite our Society to perform at this year's Pun-Off. Gary, as a member of the Pun-Off Board, officially asked that we consider preparing a

short, low-budget, low-key program of excerpts or scenes as warm up entertainment. A crowd of between 1,000 and 3,000 people usually attend the Pun-Off; this could be an excellent opportunity for us to publicize our June production of *Mikado*. We agreed to do it, and Bob K. and Anne will work on selecting material.

We spent the rest of the meeting discussing our ideas and goals for the Society. People have joined for a variety of reasons. Karen thinks most join to support production of Gilbert & Sullivan operas, and to receive the Newsletter which keeps them informed. A small minority are interested in performing, production or coming to meetings. She believes we need to solicit volunteers, and to make sure they have fun doing their jobs. We need more officers so that the work is spread out more.

Loel stated that the purpose of this organization is to have fun. He thinks we ought to get together and do a show at a church for our own pleasure. Robert Mellin said he believes that our purpose is to produce quality G&S.

Bob K. thinks our problem is our loose organization. We need a Board of Directors who would raise the money and provide the framework for the members to put on shows. Bob has taken on the responsibility of revising the By Laws. Robert M. is interested in working with him on this.

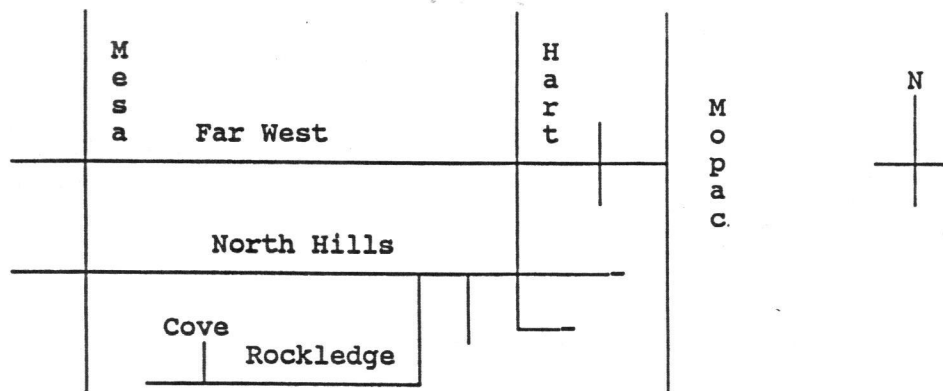
Carla announced the formation of a new group she is involved with, Opera Ensemble of Austin. She invited us to their opening fund raiser: on Saturday, October 26, at 8 pm, at Saint Martin's Lutheran Church.

The meeting adjourned for fun and food. Many thanks to Sue for having us!

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

Jim and Sue Caldwell
6804 Rockledge Cove
343-7700 or 343-7800



Going west from Mopac on Far West, turn left at the second light (Hart). Go one block; turn right on North Hills. Take the second left, which is Rockledge Drive. The first right is Rockledge Cove; 6804 is the second-from-the-left house on the cul-de-sac.