

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

March 1992 Newsletter

• Frederic's 34th Birthday Party •

• Saturday, February 29th: at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028: We're having a Bash for Frederic, from 5 to 7 pm, and even after Y'all come! See Flyer.

«««« A Message From Your New President ««««

A many years ago, when I was young and charming, my eldest brother came home from high school singing Mi-ya-sa-ma from the score of *The Mikado*, in which he had been cast. Ever since that time, I have been an enthusiastic fan of Gilbert & Sullivan. Though I have travelled much around the world, my love for G&S has never taken a holiday.

Now, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin has made me the new President. I consider this an honor and serious responsibility. We are launching a new production of *The Mikado* in June at the Zachary Scott Theater. This will be the Society's grandest and most costly venture in our sixteen year history. Probably by the time you read this, we will have hired the best stage and musical directors available. Expect professional technical aspects as well as the most talented performers. *Mikado* will be the "Big Show" we have talked about for years, and to this end, I promise to devote my full energies.

Naturally, the active help of many members and the prayers and good wishes of all are necessary. Fortunately, the new Executive Board consists of experienced and capable people. I have been heartened to have heard from other members offering to help.

Jacki Chapman, the director for our successful productions of *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *Patience*, has given useful advice. Past President Karen Collier had prepared an excellent grant application to the Austin Arts Commission, for which we have been awarded \$1,500. To secure the necessary liability insurance, we have had to spend \$839 of that money. But every dollar gained is important. As of now we have only a small part of the total money needed.

To raise funds, an appeal will be made to some of our members to help defray some of the expenses. Of course, we

will be contacting businesses, big and small, for sponsorship. We welcome your help and ideas with this too. In fact, volunteers to help in many areas of *The Mikado* production are necessary. But right now, money is the top priority. That is why I am setting a personal goal of raising \$10,000 before *The Mikado* opens in June.

Please contribute to this effort and help guarantee the success of *The Mikado* and our future productions.

«««« Robert Mellin ««««

• Additions and Corrections •

Soirée Report update: Choice bits neglected in our last report: At the last minute Norma Garza suffered from congestion, and Janette Jones stepped in to sing Norma's part in the duet from *Patience* with Jacki Chapman. After all Janette's hard work we were glad to hear her sing, too!

With catlike tread a neighborhood cat came in through the open patio door and stole attention throughout the program, scratching and biting the ankles of several singers. (Hazards of Show Biz they never expected.)

Other Editorial Goofs: Robert Galvan has been suggested as music director, and is the assistant to Morris Beachy.

Loel Graber has a new work number: 838-8425.

• Last Meeting •

Eight members and one visitor braved the deluge to meet at Pearl Amster's on Monday, February 3rd. They were: Pearl, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Susie Jacobson, Robert Mellin, Isobel Stevenson, and Amy Young. Jody Kelly from Round Rock was our visitor. Several members had seen her son perform in the recent shows, *Pirates* and *Damn Yankees*, and pronounced him GOOD.

Robert told us about being throttled and mugged in Peru, which caused the laryngitis he is still recovering from. Reba reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on January 28th. Jacki Chapman and Karen Collier have resigned from the Production Committee due to other commitments. The main business was discussion of the production of *The Mikado*, in June. It must be the focus of all our energy. Reba asked people to call her at 327-2277 with news, information and ideas for inclusion in the Newsletter. The meeting adjourned for good food and good fellowship. Many thanks to Pearl for having us.

Reba

Coming Attractions!!!

All eyes on our June production of *The Mikado* at Zachary Scott Theater.
Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950 with ideas, suggestions, and offers to help. Watch for news as it develops.



Frederic's Birthday Party

Come, friends, who love to sing -
Truce to life's frustrations,
Come enjoy libations -
Let's join and have some fun
With a party second to none.

February 29 comes but once in four years, so let us gaily tread the measure,
make the most of fleeting leisure.

We're having the very model of a modern Gilbert & Sullivan party. So here's a
first rate opportunity to have fun with some impunity. Our capacity for
innocent enjoyment is just as great as any honest man's.

Piratical Charades
A Pirates sing-along (bring a score if you have one)
Fun and Games
Get in the spirit - wear a costume

Door prize for the Pirates quiz

Pot-luck -- bring munchies, a main dish, drinks or dessert if you can. Call
Amy Young: Work 282-6699 (ask for Amy), Home 462-2731, so we can
coordinate our efforts. If you don't bring something to eat, just bring yourself!

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2304 Hartford Road; 472-7028

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