The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society April 1992 Newsletter

• Next Meeting •

- Monday, April 6th: at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies. Agenda:
- 1) Elect a new Treasurer. <u>Loel Graber</u> is the nominee. Goodbye to Amy Young, who served a brief but energetic stint as Treasurer. See farther on for information.
- 2) Meet the new Directors for *The Mikado*. Come and say Hello to some of our artistic staff, and hear what they have to say. A rare and informal opportunity to ask questions and socialize with these creative talents before they become totally engrossed in their disciplines. (Best not to bother them once they get started on the job. It might be as dangerous as trying to take food from a hungry dog.)

• Mikado Update from your President •

I have very good news! The first phase of our production of *The Mikado* is coming along beautifully, thank you! We have acquired the services of three very talented and enthusiastic directors.

Stage Director is <u>Chris Jennings</u>. He recently directed the well-received <u>Street Theater</u> at the Capitol City Playhouse and is a lover of Gilbert and Sullivan. <u>Wesley Grove</u> is Musical Director. He is working on his Master's degree at UT, specializing in Voice and Conducting. The Choreographer is <u>Bud Coleman</u>, who is Stage Director for *Into The Woods* currently playing at Saint Edward's University. He was a member of The Ballet Trocadero in New York.

We are engaged in the process of recruiting the very best designers for the other artistic specialties necessary to make our *Mikado* the best show in Austin. Announcements of the production have already been sent to the media by Susie Jacobson, as have been audition notices. The Zachary Scott Kleberg stage will be the location for auditions on the evenings of April 12th and 13th. Inserts advertising *The Mikado* are in all the programs at the Zachary Scott and Capitol City theaters. The logo for this production has been designed by our new member, Howard Hayden of Houston, and will be used for all advertising.

Yes, everything is rolling along perfectly. I promise the show will be a hit. But the time to sell the show is not after it opens. The time to sell it is NOW. By selling, I

mean promotion and publicity and raising money to pay for it. This is our most expensive show ever, and excellent audience attendance alone won't cover it. We are working on corporate underwriting, but ultimately it will be up to you, friends of Gilbert and Sullivan, on whom we must depend. You will be receiving a letter stating just how you can help. Please be responsive and let's make the Gilbert and Sullivan Society the cultural force in Austin that it deserves to be. Feel free to call me about anything, at 345-5950.

God bless you, and anticipate a grand Mikado.

News of Members

Amy Young, the Treasurer we elected in January, has worked hard for us in the short time since then. She got our books into shape, brought new energy and ideas to the Executive Committee, and organized the food for Frederic's Birthday Party. Just when we were congratulating ourselves on having tapped in to a wonderful new resource, Amy came to us with the news that she had been offered the opportunity to transfer to London on her job with Landmark/Zycor. Well! Exciting for her, and we wish her well; but oh! we will miss you, Amy!

Do we detect a trend here? Become Treasurer for the G&S Society and travel abroad? After all, Carla Hammock, our last Treasurer, is now living in Paris.

News from <u>Carla Hammock</u> recounts the joys of homehunting in a foreign land. She and David were on the verge of signing a contract on an apartment near the Sorbonne and other delights of the Latin Quarter. We hope to hear from her when they've moved in and have a real address.

Congratulations to our member and faithful supporter, <u>Dr. William H. "Deacon" Crain</u>, who is the subject of an informative article in the March 5th West Austin News. He had just been awarded the Zachary Scott Theatre Center's annual "Papa Noel" honor in recognition of his significant contributions to ZSTC, as well as his "interest and support for Austin's theater and arts institutions."

We call "the Deacon" <u>Poo-Bah</u> in honor of the high level of his contribution to our Society. And we're in good company. Almost every program in Austin carries his name as donor and supporter. He turns up at the opera, the dance, the theater, UT, community, fancy and ambitious, and small and earnest. He is truly the "Papa Noel" of the arts in Austin, and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts!

Announcing Auditions!!!

For our June production of *The Mikado*; at Zachary Scott Theater, Kleberg Stage Sunday, April 12, 6 - 10 pm; Monday, April 13, 7:30 - 10:30 pm; Questions? Call 345-5950

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Happy Frederic's Birthday to you all! We had a wonderful time celebrating on Saturday, February 29th at Pearl Amster's. There were 37 adults - a few in costume, 7 children, good food, and cheerful entertainment.

As people began arriving at 5 pm Bob Kusnetz handed out a *Pirates* quiz, which we all struggled valiantly to fill in. With what drink are the Pirates celebrating Frederie's birthday? How old is Ruth? Name three of General Stanley's daughters. Who likes to lie abasking in the sun? Et cetera. No one knew all the answers, but Allen Lawshae won the prize of a CD of Gilbert and Sullivan Excerpts for getting the most right.

We sang our way lustily through the first act of *Pirates* with Bob Wall at the piano. Welcome back, Bob, we have missed your genial presence and musical playing! We took a break for pot-luck supper -- delicious food, many thanks to those who brought it! A high spot was singing a rousing Happy Birthday Dear Frederic, and eating the fantastically decorated cake created by Diana Sethre.

Some of us finished singing through the second act, and a very few remained for Charades, led by Bob K.

Reba

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

Thanks go to all who worked on this event: Bob K. who organized the fun and games, Amy Young who coordinated the food, Bob Wall who played for us, and Pearl Amster whose gracious hospitality makes any gathering in her home an Event. Credit should also be given to Enid Hallock whose stationery design formed the border on the invitational flyer. And I must modestly claim that I did quite a lot of work, too, to make it all happen.

But most of all, thanks to those who came: Pearl Amster, Sue Ricket Caldwell with son Laurie, Alistair and Molly Campbell-Dick, Frank and Donna Delvy with friend Donna Pool, Michael Drousche, Harold Gilbert with friend Carolee Ramsey-Stall, Reba Gillman, Doug and Sheila Glenn with son Topher, Loel Graber, Mark Graber with daughters Naomi and Rebecca, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock with grownup son Gary, Susie and Dan Jacobson, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Dr. Jean Lee with friend Kathy Sheely, Bob Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Joan Pearsall and grandson, Michelle Perris and Jerry Moscona and their son Ronny, Diana Sethre, Katharine Shields with Greg and their sons Michael and James, Anne Collins Smith, Isobel Stevenson and friend, Bob Wall and Amy Young.

• Wish List •

Wanted and Urgently Needed: Volunteers to make telephone calls to big businesses to find out the name, phone number and address of the individuals responsible for corporate arts support. Bob Mellin will do the more difficult follow up calling.

Wanted: Someone with easy access to a copy machine, who can run off limited numbers of flyers, announcements, instructions, etc.

Volunteers please call Bob Mellin at 345-5950.









Everybody's favorite Gilbert & Sullivan Show...

THE MIKADO

As members of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, we want to make this production of the MIKADO first rate in every way.

Producing a first rate show requires a first rate effort. So let's pull together to create a production worthy of this delightful musical satire. This letter is your invitation to participate to the best of your ability -- be it through donations of time, talent, money, or property. Simply put, we need help. So if you can supply it in any form, please use the enclosed questionnaire to let us know. Feel free to check as many items as you want! Return the questionnaire to:

Enid Hallock 1120 Clayton Lane Austin, Texas 78723

(Enid will be calling to follow up on this questionnaire, so if you hurry and send it back right away, you'll save her some effort.)

Basic Information:

- Auditions: Kleberg Stage @ Zachary Scott Theater Center;
 April 12 from 6-10 p.m. and April 13 from 7:30-10:30 p.m.
- Opening night (June 11) will be a gala performance with a champagne reception. Tickets: \$20.
- Tickets for the run of the show are \$14-\$12.
- The show runs Wednesdays through Sundays, June 11 through July 5th, 1992.

Evening performances -- 8:00 p.m. Sunday matinee -- 3:00 p.m.

Make your reservations early!
Zachary Scott Theater Center Box Office: 476-0541

Director: Chris Jennings Music: Wesley Groves Choreographer: Bud Coleman

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin:	
Robert Mellin, President	
Bob Kusnetz, Vice-President 836-1853 or 838-4919	
Reba Gillman, Secretary	
Loel Graber, Treasurer	
or Fnid Hallock 453-4431 or 459-6650	

Sincerely, Robert Mellin, President

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SIGN UP TODAY! Become One of the Mikado's Minions!

Name:	Phon	e: (day)	(evening)			
INVES	TMENT OPPORTUNITIES:					
To	make this a first rate show, we need to	raise ab	out \$10,000 by opening night.			
\$						
\$_	\$ Be an Angel. Just send money. It's that easy!					
	Be an Agent. Purchase blocks of tickets for friends, clients, customers. Convince groups to which you belong to come together and take advantage of group discount rates.					
	Be a Supporter. Attend the show. Make your reservations early by calling Zachary Scott Theater Center Box Office at 476-0541.					
	NTEER OPPORTUNITIES:					
Ad	ministration:					
	solicit funds		sell advertising for the program work on publicity			
	coordinate information for the program help the president		run errands			
	pass out flyers to choirs and other group)S	coordinate volunteers			
	loan pick-up truck for errands		sell advance reservations for groups			
	help with mail-outs		drive on errands			
_	recruit other volunteers	_	bring food to the cast			
Pro	oduction:					
-	AUDITION to act and sing (Kleberg Stage @ Zach Scott; April 12, 6-10 p.m. & April 13, 7:30-10:30)		help president be stage manager or assistant			
	build sets	_	paint sets			
	gather props		hang lights			
	do costumes		sew costumes			
	coordinate the gala		help with the gala			
_	do make-up	_	teach make up			
Ru	n-of-the-Show: (June 11July 5)					
	run lights		usher			
	act as dresser	_	run props			
	clean up		help with make-up			
	run the house	_	handle hospitality			
	attend often and bring friends!					

Return this form promptly to:

Enid Hallock 1120 Clayton Lane Austin, Texas 78723

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