

# The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

## June 1992 Newsletter

### • Next Meeting •

• **Monday, June 1st:** at 7:30 pm at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.

### • Living Room Light Opera •

by Harold Gilbert

At a recent Society meeting I suggested transplanting a G&S activity that has been popular around New York. The Living Room Light Opera is based on one of the major forces that drives G&S enthusiasts after over 100 years: the pure pleasure of watching and participating in "such precious nonsense."

In order to give everybody an opportunity to share, LRLO would meet in member's homes to read through a designated G&S opera. The principals would be set in advance, on a volunteer basis, the rest would sing, hum, or think along as the chorus. The props and staging are entirely the responsibility of the individual. There is no rehearsal, and the outcome can range from sublime to absurd. It can be a polishing exercise for the potential star of our next stage production or a flyer on that part you really don't have the voice for. No one keeps score or makes judgments, unless they're compliments. Casting is based on first volunteer; talent is incidental; enthusiasm is mandatory; it's a blast.

In order to get started, we'll have to document our resources, including available scores, appropriate living rooms, accompanists (some talent required, virtuosity not mandatory; at least 2 per performance), interest (enthusiasm preferred), and ideas.

We'll need to know who can provide any of the above. Please call Harold Gilbert, (512) 858-1704, or in Austin, Allen Lawshae, 459-4858.

It is expected that our first "production" will be in the late summer. It will be *Trial By Jury* (we may do it twice) or *Iolanthe* (open to change under ideas, above). Please let's hear from you and help us jump start this fun activity for all of us.

### • Message from your President •

The time is almost here! Thursday night, June 11th we open *The Mikado* for 18 performances at the Zachary Scott Theatre with a great big champagne party. Lots of artistic talent, and the hard work of many Society members are involved. This production has been in the works for a long time, and we expect it to be a smash hit.

Achieving the goal of raising \$10,000 before opening has not yet been reached. Remember, music alone for *The Mikado*, including a small orchestra, costs thousands of dollars. So friends, make a special donation to help with production costs.

And when you come to see *The Mikado* bring your friends, neighbors and relatives -- and spread the word!

See you at the grand opening!

Robert Mellin

### • THANKS •

Money continues to trickle in. Many thanks to William Gammon, who gave us \$200; and to staunch community arts supporters Eva Pickerel and Steven & Louise Weinberg, who each sent \$100.

Special thanks to our faithful members who continue to help with production costs: Marion & Ronald DeFord for \$100; Frances Lockhart for \$70; Mary Hobart Key, William & Esther McCormick, and Pam Sabrin (all the way from New York City), for \$50 each; and smaller amounts from Mark Graber & Julia Frank, Joe Haggard, Arthur Keller (in California), and Dean & Darlyene Yarian.



They'd all of 'em be missed!

And last but far from least, \$2000 from former President, and present Executive Vice-President, Bob Kusnetz. This money will be matched by IBM through ACOT (Austin Circle of Theatres). By virtue of this gift we now proclaim Bob "Savoyard Plus".

### Gala Opening • *The Mikado* • June 11th



8 pm -- Good Show, Good Food, Good Chance to Meet the Cast  
Call Zachary Scott Theatre now to make your reservation: 476-0541; A Bargain at \$20



6/1/92

• Last Meeting •

**On Monday, May 4th,** 9 stalwart members gathered at Pearl Amster's home: Pearl, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Larry Shepley, Anne Collins Smith, and Deborah Zallen.

Reba noted some Newsletter corrections: the meeting time was omitted in the last two Newsletters. PLEASE tell me when I goof, so I can correct the error! Also omitted was the name of Deborah Zallen, who did attend the April meeting.

President Robert reported with regret the resignation for reasons of health, of Susie Jacobson from the post of V.P for Publicity. Donna Delvy has stepped in as substitute -- Thank You, Donna! Susie still has the master mailing list, and will be able to provide labels -- Thank You, Susie!

- Robert reported that the rehearsals of *The Mikado* are proceeding very well; the chorus is fine but may need one more tenor; the principals rank from good to magnificent; staging begins tonight.
  - Robert is working hard at raising money. To date we have received about \$4,000, which leaves us \$6,000 to go before the opening. We do need people to work on helping to compile the list of Donors, Sponsors, and Big Business possibilities. We also need someone to make a master list of this information for future use.
- Harold Gilbert volunteered to do the typing into his computer, but explained that he lives in Dripping Springs and any phone call to him is a toll call. We still need help lining up the names of proper contact persons, phone numbers, and addresses..
- Robert introduced Larry Shepley, who with Dorene Cohen is going to make up the program for *The Mikado*. Dorene is quite familiar with the publishing aspect, and Larry is in charge of gathering information. He had several questions about what we want, and Robert offered to meet with him later. It was suggested that the programs be printed on recycled paper, and all agreed.
  - GSD&M Advertising Agency is working on designs for ads, T-Shirt logo, flyers, and the cover of the program, all free of charge. Thank you GSD&M!
  - Through Katharine Shields, who sings in the choir at the University Methodist Church, Robert met the head honcho of the Aids Services of Austin. The result was an agreement for the Aids Services to buy the house on a Wednesday night early in the run of *The Mikado*. They will sell the tickets and take whatever profit they make.
  - We discussed various options for the opening night Gala. Deborah will look into possibilities of getting a restaurant

to donate the food.

The **Pun-Off** went off as scheduled on Sunday, May 3rd. We opened the affair at about 12:30 pm, with half an hour of excerpts from *The Mikado*. Allen did a magnificent job as master of ceremonies and Singer of All Sorts of Parts. Bob Wall accompanied on the electronic keyboard, and the five singers cozied up to the microphones. This was a good thing since the Pecan Street Festival was in full swing all around us, and several loud bands were blasting away. Allen expressed his great appreciation to Bob Wall and the singers (all from the cast of *The Mikado*):

Christina Havenhill playing *Yum-Yum*, Martin Vasquez as *Nanki-Poo*, Blake Yelavich as *Pish-Tush*, and Frank Delvy as *Pooh-Bah*.

Allen opened with the *Mikado's* song "My object all sublime". There followed "Were you not to Ko-ko plighted", "I am so proud", and "Here's a howdy do", with a grand finale of all singing Anne Collins Smith's version of "I've got a little list" (as printed in the April Newsletter).

Anne was a contestant in the Pun-Off and reported that she made it through the first three Trials (out of four). Wow!

In New Business, Harold Gilbert presented a plan called The Living Room Light Opera. He has written it up and it appears on page 1 of this Newsletter. It sounds like what some people have been wanting for a long time.

We then adjourned for the usual goodies and sociability. The group was so small we sat around Pearl's ample dining table to eat and chat. Thank you, Pearl, as always!


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It is with sorrow that I report the recent death of one of our members, Mrs. W. Lynn Brown. The world is diminished by the loss of anyone who knows and appreciates the works of Gilbert and Sullivan.

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Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary

 Let me remind you all that I welcome news items and other contributions for the Newsletter. Call me at 327-2277, or drop me a note (try to get it to me by the 15th of the month): 1606 The High Road  
Austin, TX 78746

[illegible]

Collecting Dues seems to be a never-ending process. It will help me a lot if you respond promptly when you receive a notice.

**We do need your money!**

And thank you very much, to all who have responded promptly!



# The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

**Invites you to attend**

**The opening performance and Gala**

**of**

***The Mikado***

Join us on Thursday, June 11th at 8 pm • At the Zachary Scott Theatre Center  
Kleberg Stage for a delightful show and a great party.

Call the Box Office now for reservations: 476-0541  
• A Bargain at \$20 •

Show will run June 11 through July 5 • No performance on July 4th  
Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 pm; Sundays at 3 pm



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