

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

September 1992 Newsletter

• Next Meeting •

• Monday, September 14th, the second Monday, at 7:30 pm. At Pearl Amster's: 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Come to the first Society meeting of the season. It will be a PARTY to thank members who helped to make *The Mikado* a success, and also to welcome our many new members. A Gilbert & Sullivan Musicales: champagne and refreshments provided by the Society.

• G&S Society Needs List •

1) Storage Space for
Costumes
Props
Some set pieces (broken down)
Space the size of a garage would do nicely. Have you got it?

2) An Assistant to the President, to help with correspondence, flyers and other communications. The President does not type or own a computer. He needs help!

Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950 to volunteer!

• News of Members •

• All good wishes to Harold Gilbert, who underwent successful hip-replacement surgery in July. After six weeks flat on his back, he has now graduated to "limited activity". When he moves along in mobility you will be hearing plans for the Living Room Light Opera project.

• Congratulations to Jacki Chapman, who loves her new job teaching music in the Lake Travis Schools. One of her responsibilities is 4th to 6th grade choir.

• President Robert Mellin is appearing in the current run of *Amadeus* at Capitol City Playhouse. Performances are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm, through October 10th. There will be matinees on Sunday, September 13, 20 and 27 at 3 pm. This is an excellent production! Call 472-2966 for reservations. Robert plays the part of Kapellmeister Giuseppe Bono (a silent role).

• Janette Jones and Allen Lawshae are both appearing in *Ruth, The Musical* at the Dougherty Arts Center. This production ends September 6th.

• Message from your President •

"I am so proud", the title of a song from *The Mikado*, perfectly expresses my feelings about our recent success with that production. Most, if not all, who saw the show will agree it was satisfying. We also made a profit. This profit is seed money for our next spring's production.

But you need not wait until next spring to enjoy Gilbert and Sullivan music and events. There will be a one-night Gilbert and Sullivan Special at the Capitol City Playhouse on Sunday evening, December 6th. You will hear more about this later.

In addition our monthly business meetings, which in the past have oft-times been lengthy and tedious, will be transformed into enjoyable Gilbert and Sullivan affairs with music and games, and good snacks. Whatever the theme of the month may be, it will be fun. And our first meeting of the season on September 14th will be a self-congratulatory party to celebrate our *Mikado's* success. We certainly want the Society members who worked on the show to attend this meeting. There will be music and refreshments supplied by the Society. See you at the party!

***** Robert Mellin *****

• Welcome to New Members •

Eleven more have joined since the last Newsletter. Bill and Virginia Binger, of College Station, joining at the Lord High Patron level (plus gift), wrote that they had sat next to one of our members on July 19th at the Houston G&S Society performance of *Princess Ida*. Another new Lord High Patron is M. Patton Echols, Jr. of Arlington, VA. He wrote that he had attended the final performance of our *Mikado*; he is the director of the Washington (DC) Savoyards, and hopes the two organizations can exchange news and information.

Joining as regular members were Wren Andersen (who played the Child in *The Mikado*), Ljubomir Vilickovic (who played the violin in our tiny orchestra), and Irene & Larry Black, Marcia Kelley, Betty Ligon, James Bert Neely, G.K. Sprinkle, Nell Trimble, and Arthur Wood.

Wren is a talented young lady, and certainly our youngest member. She drew a picture of the entire cast of *The Mikado*, which is printed on the third page of this Newsletter, courtesy of Robert Mellin.

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ Thank You and Welcome ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Come to the PARTY on September 14th. Pearl Amster would like to know approximately how many to prepare for.
So please try to call her at 472-7028, and let her know if you can come.

• The Gilbert & Sullivan - O. Henry Connection •

Report from Enid Hallock

The Barker History Center at UT was the setting, July 13th, for the opening of an exhibit, "Life in Austin at the time of O. Henry". Music of Gilbert and Sullivan performed by members of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, and cast members from the recent production of *The Mikado*, added a rich touch to the exhibit. The performers included Frank Delvy, Russell Gregory, Kristina Havenhill, Janette Jones, Allen Lawshae, Victor Sterzing, and Martin Vasquez, all admirably coordinated by Allen Lawshae and accompanied by Bob Wall at the piano.

An appreciative and enthusiastic crowd applauded the music. Delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all, compliments of the O. Henry Museum Board of Directors, who hosted the event.

The numbers performed were: *A More Humane Mikado*, *Were You Not To Koko Plighted*, *The Sun Whose Rays*, *I Am So Proud*, *Here's A How-de-do*, *Alone And Yet Alive*, *Tit Willow*, *There Is Beauty In The Bellow Of The Blast*, and *I've Got A Little List*.

• Other Matters •

• **More about O. Henry:** We have been invited to contribute a short performance to the O. Henry Birthday Celebrations on Sunday, September 13th. See the invitation below -- you are all welcome to attend. If you read some of the O. Henry short stories you will see that there really is a connection between his sometimes wry humor, and colorful, economic use of words, and the scintillating wit of Gilbert's verse.

• Enid Hallock is a good correspondent, and consequently also receives letters. She has recently heard from member Carla Hammock, who described some of her activities in Paris. Carla was expecting to be in Austin briefly, did anyone see her then?

Enid also heard from former member Gina Poole, who now lives in her native England. Gina sent samples of a new issue of British stamps, honoring none other than Gilbert and Sullivan (in the USA we immortalize Elvis Presley). Enid should bring them to the next meeting so we can all appreciate them!

• **Many Thanks** to Ruth and Hugh Eckols for their July donation to the *Mikado* coffers.

The Friends of the O. Henry Museum invite you
to join us for

O. Henry's Birthday Party

on Sunday, September 13, 1992, 2 - 4 pm, at the
Central Presbyterian Church on Eighth and Brazos.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin will perform selections
from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertory.

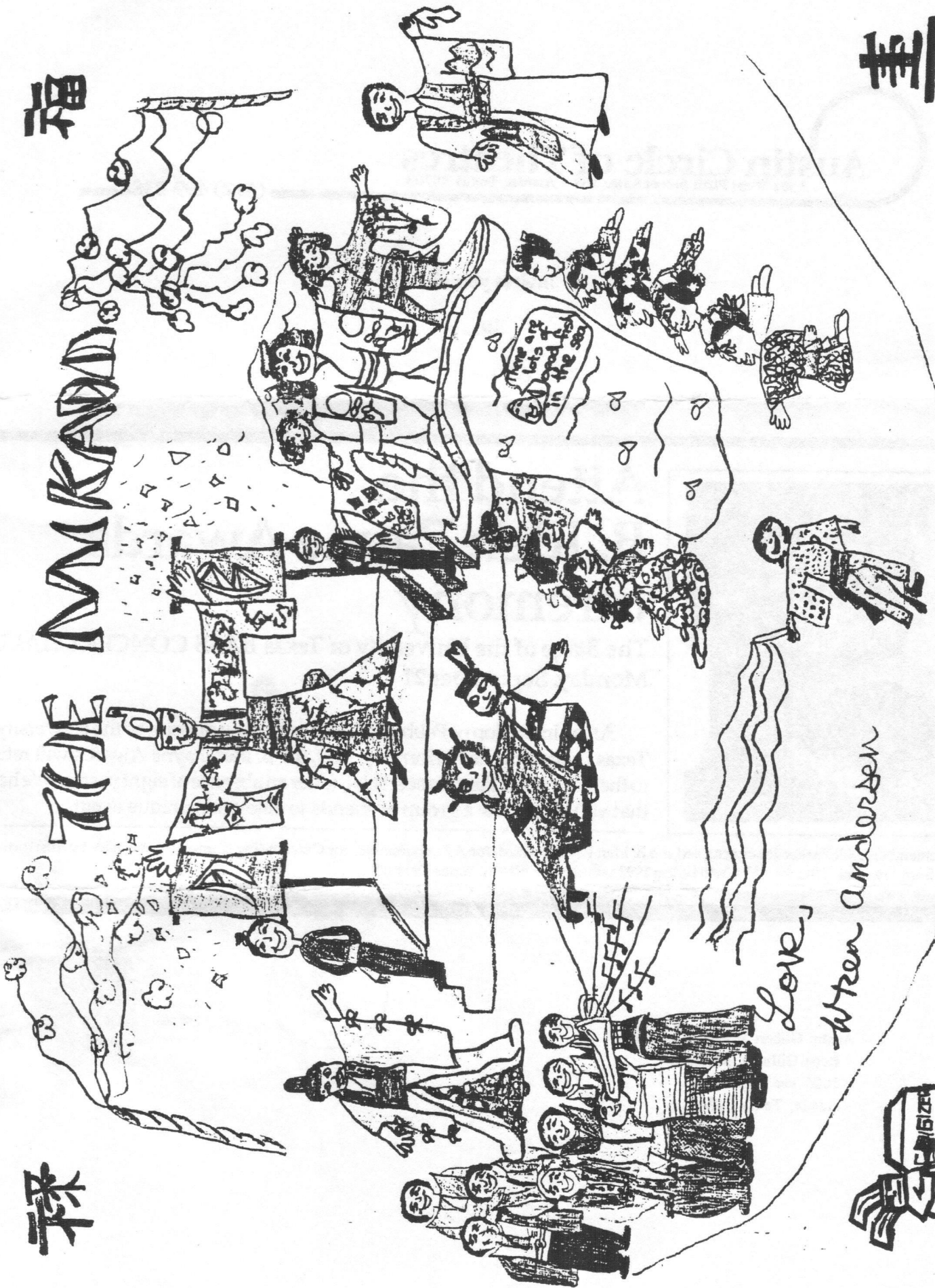
Entertainment will also include a dramatization of O. Henry's
"Roads of Destiny"

and original poetry, both performed by Austin area youth under the direction
of Corey Chambers. The O. Henry Fund Raiser Video produced by

2 Georges Productions will premier during the serving of cake and punch
after the performances. For more information, call the

O. Henry Museum, 472-1903.

THE MUKADD



invites you all

to



Attend the B. Iden Payne Awards ceremony

The Stage of the University of Texas BASS CONCERT HALL
Monday, September 21

At the invitation of Pebbles Wadsworth, new director of the University of Texas Center for the Performing Arts, the B. Iden Payne Awards will return to the stage of the Bass Concert Hall (after an absence of eight years). We hope that you will invite a group of friends to enjoy this unique event.

Let's remember. . . Jill Parker-Jones accepted the B. Iden Payne Award for *A Texas Romance* for Outstanding Comedy a new play by Ellsworth Shave from Live Oak Theatre. Who will be the 1992 winners ??? (Photo: James Oakley)

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society
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