

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

December 1993 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

• Monday, December 13th, 1993 at 7:30 pm.
at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.
Please bring munchies.

• Come and enjoy our informal Gilbert and Sullivan, good fellowship, and food. There will also be a bit of business in preparation for our Annual Meeting on January 10, 1994.

• Bill Hatcher, chair of the nominating committee, has worked hard to line up the following slate of Officers which he will present at the January meeting:

President	Robert Mellin
Executive Vice President	Allen Lawshae
V.P. for Production	Patrick Bennett
V.P. for Publicity	Bill Hatcher
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Diana McAlpin
Historian-Parliamentarian	Theresa Wilson

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the January meeting, and voting will follow. Anyone nominated must have agreed to serve if elected. You must be a paid-up member to vote or hold office.

• Last Gathering and Musicale •

On Monday November 8th 20 people gathered at Pearl Amster's: 18 members and 2 very special guests. Pearl, Wren Andersen, Patrick Bennett, Frank and Donna Delvy, Reba Gillman, Doug Glenn, Loel Graber, Bill Hatcher, Elena Hinderer, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, new member Diana McAlpin, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Bee Polomé, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, and Libby Weed were the members. As guests we were delighted to welcome Pam and Catherine Jaroschy, wife and daughter of our friend Michel Jaroschy of Capitol City Playhouse.
[Correction to last month's report: Marian Alexander does not own Bluebonnet Market. She owns a shop in the Market called "Wild About Music" - go visit it!]

Emcee Allen Lawshae started things off by singing "I stole the Prince" with no possible doubt whatever from *Gondoliers*. President Robert welcomed us all and went
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• Message from your President •

The hours creep on apace sings our Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. But for me the hours, and the days too, fly by much too quickly. So much to do! And I always seem to be running behind, particularly in fund raising. But don't get me wrong, our production of *Pinafore* is coming along just fine, thank you. In fact with every rehearsal I attend the polish and fun are more apparent.

And by the time you read this message our One Time Only, Very Special Holiday Season, All Star Gala Revue and Champagne Buffet Fund Raiser will already have taken place. I hope it will be, is, or was, a big success. Our share of the money derived from this fund raiser, of course, is being dedicated to offset the cost of our *Pinafore* production. Member Doug Glenn must be commended for helping to organize this event with the Unitarian Church.

I wish to thank the 1993 Gilbert & Sullivan Society Board of Directors for their good work. For the 1994 Board we have as nominees some holdovers, some former Board members, and some first timers. Look for excellent things from this Board.

Thought for the future -- I am reading a play with music that we might want to consider producing. It's called "Sullivan and Gilbert" by Ken Ludwig (who also wrote "Lend Me a Tenor", which played recently in Austin). I'll report on it later.

The idea of a Texas Gilbert and Sullivan Seminar hosted here in Austin in the spring is being thought and talked about. More on this later, and your input is welcome.

Remember NOW is your last chance to make a tax deductible contribution to the Gilbert & Sullivan Society for 1993!

God bless us every one.

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

If you have publicity ideas for

H.M.S. Pinafore

Call Bill Hatcher at home: 892-3722

H.M.S. Pinafore Information Hotline

For information only, during December call 445-1988

In January reservations will also be taken at this number. For further information call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

Last Gathering and Musicales, cont. from p.1

around the room introducing each person present. He then brought us up to date on *H.M.S. Pinafore* (cast, orchestra, logo, T-shirts); Robert is worried about funding. This year several previous sources will not be available, so we need to find new donors.

Robert reported that the Executive Board had voted to expand the present Board [an amendment will be presented to the next Society meeting], and also to create a second, honorary Board [see information in box on last page]. He was sorry to report that our hard-working co-treasurers, Kate Hendricks and Diane Simpson, will not be able to continue in these offices.

Robert reminded us of the Fund Raiser coming up on Saturday, December 4th with Jess Walters as star; tickets were on hand for the event.

Back to the music with a *Pinafore* preview from Act II: "Kind captain I've important information" sung by Allen in his role as Dick Deadeye, and Frank in his role as the Captain, with Bob Wall at the piano, Elena Hinderer accompanying on the 'cello, and all joining in lustily on the choruses. There followed a wonderful assortment of excerpts from other G&S operas mixed in with *Pinafore*, with everyone pitching in to sing whatever came up. Frank began with "The law is the true embodiment" from *Iolanthe*, followed by Loel singing "When Britain really ruled the waves" with rousing chorus. "Why am I moody and sad?" from *Ruddigore* followed, sung by Frank with enthusiastic chorus. Frank and Loel sang "You understand? I think I do" the delightful duet also from *Ruddigore*. Libby Weed, a member of the *Pinafore* chorus, then tried her hand at a solo from the show, "I'm called Little Buttercup", and did a very nice job.

Back to *Ruddigore* with the madrigal "When the buds are blossoming" sung by Libby, Diana McAlpin, Elena, Loel, Bill Hatcher and Frank. Frank also sang the operatic "When the night wind howls". Back to *Pinafore* with "Now give three cheers" and "I am the monarch of the sea", sung by Frank, Loel, Libby, Diana, and chorus. To finish off *Pinafore*, Loel, who must be commended for his willingness to sing anything we ask for -- solo or back-up part, gave us "When I was a lad". We all joined in with a resounding "Hail Poetry" from *Pirates* followed by the usual sign-off piece, "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*), then off to the refreshments.



• Volunteers Needed •

- 1) Someone who can help the President with his correspondence, and who has at home a typewriter or computer printer.
- 2) People to help make telephone calls for our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.
- 3) A Wardrobe Mistress for the 9 performances of our production of *Pinafore*.

Call Robert Mellin • 345-5950

• Meeting of the G&S Executive Committee •

The Executive Committee met on November 22, 1993 at 6:30 pm in the O. Henry Room at the Austin History Center. Present were Robert Mellin, Reba Gillman, Diane Simpson, Anne Smith, and invited guests Bill Hatcher and Allen Lawshae. Absent were Patrick Bennett, Donna Delvy, Kate Hendricks (represented by co-Treasurer Diane Simpson) and Bob Kusnetz.

Update: President Robert has got some good props for *Pinafore* which had been stored at Enid Hallock's. He has received the 26 copies we ordered of "A Gilbert & Sullivan Lexicon" to sell during the run of *Pinafore*. We have a logo for the show, which will be used on T-shirts we can sell at the Fund Raiser and at *Pinafore*.

Anne Smith will research material on the connection between O. Henry and Gilbert & Sullivan for publicity use. It is known that O. Henry and his wife performed in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Mikado* in Austin in the late 1800's.

Bill Hatcher, chair of the nominating committee, reported on the slate to be presented for the elections at the January Annual Meeting. Allen will write an amendment to the By-Laws adding 2 or 3 at-large members to the Board, and will present the amendment at the next Society Meeting (December 13). It will then be published in the January '94 Newsletter, and voted on at the January 10th meeting.

Robert suggested that we think about hiring a part-time person to do some of the work for the Society. We discussed the possibilities and problems. We would need to raise money for this purpose, and hire an enthusiastic and capable person. It was agreed that we should pursue the idea.

The meetings of the Executive Committee are held regularly on the 4th Monday of each month, at 6:30 pm in the O. Henry Room in the Austin History Center on 9th St. at Guadalupe. All members are welcome. If you want something discussed call Robert Mellin at 345-5950, and he will put it on the agenda. The next meeting will be on Monday December 27.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin Dues Structure

Member - \$10.00	Patron - \$25.00	Lord High Patron - \$50.00	Grand Duke - \$100.00
Major General - \$250.00	Pooh Bah - \$500.00	Savoyard - \$1,000.00	

GILBERT & SULLIVAN HOLIDAY SEASON ALL-STAR REVUE

Stage Director Music Director
Freddy Carnes Bob Wall

Producer
Robert Mellin

Starring Mr. Jess Walters
featuring

Katharine Shields	Judy Scott
Scott Schroeder	Steve Ruzicka
Julia Lawshae	Allen Lawshae
Matt Kaplan	Elizabeth Hodges
Kristina Havenhill	Sheila Glenn
Harold Gilbert	Scott Ferrell
Frank Delvy	Mary Alice Carnes

And Members of the
January 28th Production of

H.M.S. PINAFORE

Juan Zalles, Lisa Renee Orniston, Dale Smith, Dan Smith,
Libby Weed, Diana McAlpin, Art DiBianca, Lara Britton,
Susan Weed and Bob Nelson

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

ACT ONE

Hail the Bride-Ruddigore-Ensemble
A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One-
Pirates of Penzance-Matt Kaplan
Jess Walters - *Shastina's Bread*

O Rapture When Alone Together-Gondoliers-
KatharineShields, Allen Lawshae
Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes-Gondoliers-SteveRuzicka
Sad is That Woman's Lot-Paience-Julia Lawshae
The Moon and I-The Mikado-Kristina Havenhill
When the Nightwind Howls-Ruddigore--Frank Delvy
* [Love is a Plaintiff Song-Paience-Mary Alice Carnes] *omitted*
Audacious Tar-H.M.S. Pinfore-Kristina Havenhill, Scott Ferrell
First Act Finale -H.M.S. Pinfore-Ensemble

ACT TWO

This Helmet, I Suppose-Princes Ida-Harold Gilbert
Jess Walters - *Out of the dark of the Night*
* [There Was a Time-Gondoliers-SteveRuzicka, Mary Alice Carnes] *omitted*
Alone and Yet Alive-The Mikado-Judy Scott
For Love Alone-The Sorcerer-Scott Ferrell
Love, Unrequited-Iolanthe-Frank Delvy
I Have a Song to Sing, O-Yeoman of the Guard-
Sheila Glenn, Allen Lawshae
Cheerily Carols the Lark-Ruddigore-Elizabeth Hodges
Now to the Banquet We Press-The Sorcerer-Ensemble
When good friends, - Trial by Jury - Jess Walters

* Mary Alice Carnes had laryngitis and could not perform

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• **FLASH** •

We are forming a new Board

People who have been important to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin over a period of time have been, or will be invited to be a member of this Board. It will be an honorary position with no responsibilities.

The first members will be:

Richard Anderson of Armstrong Moving and Storage
"Deacon" Crain, Bob Kusnetz
Jess Walters

More names will be added gradually.

• **Society News** •

• **The Fund Raiser** went off well. A good time was had by all. We apologize for the food. There were some communication problems in the planning. See page 3 for the excellent program. And we made some money, too!

• **A Victorian Christmas** at the O. Henry House on Sunday December 5th, also went off well. The Society had been invited to provide about a half hour of music. Frank Delvy, and Allen and Julia Lawshae sang, with ever-willing Bob Wall at the electric piano.

Make your tax-deductible contribution to
The Gilbert & Sullivan Society
before December 31st
and help finance our production of
H.M.S. Pinafore

Make checks payable to G & S Society
Mail to Reba Gillman

Now is the time to ask your firm about
matching your contribution

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

• **Miscellaneous Intelligence** •

• Have you seen the current "Cheer" commercial on TV? It uses music from *Pirates* ("I am the very model of a modern major general").

• Recently in one of his articles, American Statesman columnist Billy Porterfield quoted "Things are seldom what they seem" from *Pinafore*.

(Above observations courtesy President Robert Mellin.)

International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival

July 31st - August 12th, 1994
 Buxton Opera House, Peak District, England

Notice received by Reba Gillman. Call me for information.

Group Rates are Available for
H.M.S. Pinafore
 Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950

• ***H.M.S. Pinafore* opens** •

Friday January 28, 1994 at 8pm

It plays for 9 performances, Fridays and Saturdays 8pm
 Sundays at 2:30 pm
 January 28 though February 13, 1994
 at
Austin Community College Theater
1212 Rio Grande

For tickets call 445-1988 after January 1st



Ammendment #1

Section 7 of the bylaws currently reads as follows:

The Executive Board (or Board of Directors) shall consist of all elected officers of the Society. It shall carry on the day-to-day business of the Society between meetings of the membership, and shall report its activities at the next membership meeting of the Society. It shall meet upon call of the President or any three officers. Actions of the Executive Board must be approved by a majority of the total Executive Board.

A second paragraph shall be added to Section 7 which will read as follows:

The President of the Society may, at his/her discretion, appoint up to three Society members to serve as Executive Board members at large. Their duties will be prescribed by the President. Their authority and responsibility shall be equal to that of the elected board members including voting privileges. They shall serve at the pleasure of the President, and their terms will expire automatically when the President leaves office.

Ammendment #2

An additional Section shall be added to the bylaws between Sections 7 and 8. It will appear as indicated below:

Section 7a. Advisory Board

The Advisory Board shall consist of persons elected by the Executive Board in recognition of their service to and support of the Society. They shall serve as consultants to the Executive Board. Their terms of office shall be two years.

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