

n

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

January 1994 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •
The Annual Meeting

- Monday, January 10th, 1994 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.
- Start the year right, come vote on the Society's business and enjoy a Special Musicale with good food and good fellowship to follow.
- Two amendments to the bylaws will be presented and voted on. [See the text on page 3.]
- Bill Hatcher, chair of the nominating committee, will present the following slate of officers:

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, 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 December 13th a small but faithful group met at Pearl Amster's: Pearl, Patrick Bennett, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bill Hatcher, and Robert Mellin. We especially missed Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, who was off to Spain to give a talk on Linguistics and enjoy a winter holiday. Bob Kusnetz was also far away - in India on his vacation, and other members were at the *Pinafore* rehearsal, or occupied in the pre-Christmas scramble. Nonetheless, we were able to conduct some necessary business, and enjoy a little *a capella* music, followed by good eats and good conversation.

President Robert reported that the Executive Board had voted to suggest some changes to the bylaws; he passed out two amendments prepared by Allen Lawshae. (Cont. p. 2)

• Message from your President •

This is both the first message of 1994 and the last before the opening of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Let me begin by listing the highlights of '93 that come to mind. At the top was our production of *Iolanthe*. Although financially we did no better than break even, *Iolanthe* was viewed as an artistic success. Frank Delvy, for his portrayal of the Lord Chancellor, won the B. Iden Payne Award as Best Male Lead in a Musical. Our All-Star Holiday Revue Champagne Buffet Gala Fund Raiser with the Unitarian Church in December was a unique and entertaining affair. We even made money. During 1993 we performed several times for the O. Henry Museum, as well as in February for the University Ladies Club at the Westwood Country Club. Our monthly Musicales at the accommodating home of Pearl Amster are becoming ever more popular. Happily our membership list keeps expanding.

Now we again look to the future. And for me the future scarcely reaches beyond *Pinafore*.

I promise a first-rate production. But financially, I don't know. We obviously have not yet mastered the art of securing corporate sponsorship. Therefore we still must depend on the generosity of individual members and supporters to help defray production costs. Please keep those checks coming in. Incidentally we're working on ideas to demonstrate our appreciation to contributors.

I do wish everyone a Happy New Year, and join me in wishing success for our Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

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

**The Principal Sponsor for
*H.M.S. Pinafore***

is American Airlines, the Official Airline of the
Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

They are contributing 2 round trip tickets to any American Airlines destination in the lower 48 states. These will be raffled off at \$5 per chance. Purchase tickets for the raffle by sending a check for however many tickets you might want (at \$5 per ticket) to the Gilbert & Sullivan Society at 7630 Wood Hollow, # 112, Austin 78731. Tickets will also be for sale at every performance of our *Pinafore*. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held on stage before the final performance of *Pinafore*.

H.M.S. Pinafore Information Hotline

Call 445-1988 for information, to make reservations, or just to listen to a delightful message.

There will be a 10% surcharge on these reservations. See page 4 for instructions on how to reserve without surcharge.

46
6/10
1/94

Last Gathering and Musicale. cont. from p.1

There was objection to the wording of one amendment. [This was later reworded by Allen Lawshae; the amendments will be found on page 3 of this Newsletter.] We discussed ideas for publicity for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Harold Gilbert sang "A more humane Mikado" from memory, unaccompanied, and departed for the *Pinafore* rehearsal.

Robert reported on the Fund Raiser. The program went off well, we made some money (and so did the Unitarian Church), but the food was a disaster. Pearl said she would never do a joint food project again. It just didn't work. Charging two prices (\$25 for the Champagne Buffet and front row seats; \$10 for open seating farther back with no champagne) seemed to have been a good idea, although it had its awkward moments. Families were able to buy \$10 tickets when paying \$25 each for four or more people would have been too much. Another benefit from the Fund Raiser was tapping into the Unitarian Church membership and adding a new group of names to our mailing list.

Bill Hatcher presented the slate of officers, and sang his version of "A more humane Mikado", also unaccompanied and from memory. Robert reported the donation from American Airlines of two round-trip tickets on their airline. In order to realize any money from this gift we have to sell chances for the tickets, raffle them off, or run an auction. Loel sang "There lived a king" from *Gondoliers*, ending with that gem of wisdom "When everyone is somebodee, Then no one's anybody". Robert brought things to a fitting conclusion by singing "Now to the banquet we press" to usher us on to refreshments. These sturdy souls are much to be commended for providing the music for our score-less and piano-less evening.

• New Advisory Board •

Five people who have been important to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin over a period of time have been invited to be members of this Board. It will be an honorary position with no responsibilities. More names will be added gradually. The first members have accepted and will be:

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

They will be installed and honored at a party at the Monthly Musicale on Monday February 7, 1994.

• Volunteers Still 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 Monday December 27, 1993 at 6:30 pm in the O. Henry Room at the Austin History Center. Present were Robert Mellin, Reba Gillman, and invited guest Allen Lawshae. President Robert brought us up to date on the many on-going items of production for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Concerns include need for money, piano, insurance, photographer, posters, and flyers. Other problems are how to get the greatest benefit from the gift of airline tickets from American Airlines, and how to plan the Gala Opening Night for *Pinafore*. Should we do it ourselves? More work for Pearl and contributed food from members. Or should we cater? Easier, but more expensive, and often not as tasty. [Reactions from members welcome: call Robert at 345-5950 or Reba at 327-2277.]

Ticket reservations for the general public will be handled by Publication Services, and a fee will be charged for the service. Part will come from the 10% surcharge paid by the customer, but the Society will make up any difference in the overall fee. For this reason we are inviting our members to make early reservations directly with Robert Mellin; this can only be done before January 20th. Tickets will be held at the door. [See information on page 4 of this Newsletter.] For information or reservations made after January 20, call our Hotline number: 445-1988.

The Executive Committee meets 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 President Robert Mellin at 345-5950, to put it on the agenda. The next meeting will be on Monday January 24th.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Have you come into any money lately?
We need all we can get to help fund *Pinafore*.

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	

A tape was made of the December 4th Fund Raiser. It has been shown several times on ACTV. We would like to have it shown continually throughout January, as publicity for the opening of our *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Our members can help by calling ACTV at 478-8600, to request that it be run. Your call should be directed to Kent, the head program manager.

Start the New Year Right!

Come to our Annual Business Meeting
7:30 pm, Monday January 10th

• Good News •

- Libby Bunch has agreed to act as consultant for the costumes for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. This will be a big help. Libby is a knowledgeable theater person, and one of the founding mothers of Austin Circle of Theaters. We're very pleased to be associated with her!

- *Pinafore* T-Shirts are available for \$10 (less for cast members). They will be sold at performances, but meanwhile you can get one from Allen Lawshae, 459-4858.

- Also for sale at performances will be "The Gilbert and Sullivan Lexicon" by Harry Benford, and posters from *The Mikado* and *Iolanthe*.

December 21, 1993

Amendment # 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 Executive Board has discretionary power to select up to three members of the Society to serve as Directors at large on the Executive Board. They shall be appointed annually, their terms not to exceed the terms of the appointing Board.

[Note: This is a revision of the amendment presented to the December 13th meeting of the Society. It was rewritten to satisfy the concerns raised at that meeting.]

Amendment # 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.

1/94-2



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin.

Invites you to attend

The opening performance and Champagne Buffet
of

H.M.S. Pinafore

On Friday January 28, 1994 at the Austin Community College Theater
1212 Rio Grande

Call Robert Mellin now for reservations: 345-5950

• Enjoy the show and meet the cast • \$25 opening night only •

Run will continue January 29 through February 13 • Order tickets now
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm; Sundays at 2:30 pm

Tickets: \$16 for better reserved seats; \$14 for unreserved seats

Members avoid the 10% service charge: Call 345-5950 before January 20
or send check payable to G&S Society of Austin

7630 Wood Hollow Dr. #112

Austin, TX 78731

If you call the Hotline at 445-1988 to order there will be a
10% surcharge



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

