

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

February 1994 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

→ Monday March 7th ←

• Monday, March 7th, 1994 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies. **There will be NO February meeting!**

• Don't Miss This One! It will feature a special program to honor and inaugurate the members of our new Advisory Super Board:

Richard Anderson, president of Armstrong Moving & Storage, an agent for United Van Lines. His firm has been a strong supporter of our productions.

W.H. "Deacon" Crain, curator of the UT Humanities Research Center, and a friend of all theater in Austin.

Enid Hallock, a founding member of our Society as well as a stage performer and reliable worker.

Bob Kusnetz, an influential member, financier, and past president.

Jess Walters, dearly loved local and world opera star, UT Voice Professor, and friend of the Society.

• Message from your President •

This will be a short President's message because I'm busy getting ready for our *Pinafore* opening. I have been attending most rehearsals and can state that the show is really coming together. Of course, as you read this you've probably had a chance to see for yourself. But for you that have not yet seen our *Pinafore* be sure to do so. See it even if you have to come from Houston or Dallas or New York City or even Europe.

When this show closes, I think I will need and take a vacation, probably to South America. After that we'll start G&S-ing all over again.

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

• SPECIAL THANKS! •

to

- Cassandra Knobloch and the administration of Austin Community College, Rio Grande Campus, for the use of their theater.
- Pearl Amster for arranging the Gala buffet.
- Andrew Long, Howard Hayden, and Henry Friedman for their talented photography.
- Father Sam Hose and Music Director John Bolka, of St. Mary's Cathedral, and Rev. David Hoster of St. George's Episcopal Church for the use of their rehearsal space.
- Beryl Knifton for serving as dialect coach.
- Sue McFarland for coordinating the ushers.
- Bobette McMillan for her videotaping talents.
- Milton Curry and Regina Collum for their splendid artwork.
- Dan Smith for typesetting.
- Scott McAfee and friend for the drawing of Sir Joseph/Captain Corcoran/Dick Deadeye.
- Betty Clements for serving as Wardrobe Mistress "aboard" *H.M.S. Pinafore*.
- Mike Smith, of St. Stephens Episcopal School, Mark Nixon, and Richard Berger, for technical assistance.
- Bill Hatcher for publicity.
- Geoff Potter for operating the light board.
- Susie Jacobson for mailing labels.

• FLASH •

H.M.S. Pinafore opened successfully on Friday, January 28th to a very appreciative audience. Champagne and good food (orchestrated by Pearl Amster and supplied by our members - THANK YOU!) were enjoyed at the after-show party. Thanks to all who stayed to clean up, especially Jerry Collum and Janette Jones (Pearl says she couldn't have done it without them). Plan now to attend the show.

In the lobby we are selling T-shirts, G&S Lexicons, posters, and raffle tickets (only \$5 each) for the American Airline fabulous offer of 2 round-trip tickets for any American Airlines destination in the lower 48 states. The drawing will be held at the last performance (on Sunday February 13th). You need not be present to win.

Buy Your Raffle Tickets Now!!!

H.M.S. Pinafore Information Hotline

Call 445-1988 for information, and to make reservations. There will be a 10% surcharge on these reservations. Performances: Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2:30 pm. through February 13th.

• Last Gathering and Musicale • The Annual Meeting

On Monday January 10th 14 people gathered at Pearl Amster's. There were 11 members: Pearl, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Bill Hatcher, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Anne Collins Smith, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess Walters, Terri Wilson, and Deborah Zallen, and guests Matthew Kaplan and Freddy and Mary Alice Carnes. Harold Gilbert started things off singing "This helmet, I suppose" from *Princess Ida*. He told us that everywhere he goes he wears his *Pinafore* T-shirt. People respond enthusiastically; he could sell a lot of tickets if he had them. After singing "When a felon's not engaged in his employment" from *Pirates*, he departed for rehearsal, dignified and stately (like the peers in *Iolanthe*).

After introductions all around, President Robert gave us a brief run-down on *Pinafore* finances. Armstrong Moving and Storage has given us \$250, Amoco will give us \$500, and program ads are coming in, as are gifts from individual members. Bob Kusnetz gave us \$750 to be matched by IBM. "Deacon" Crain and Reba Gillman each gave \$500. We have received \$100 each from Sue Ricket Caldwell, Mary Ann Courter, and Greg and Katharine Shields; and \$50 from Susie and Dan Jacobson. Many thanks for the support! Robert is working on a good insurance deal for the show, and on getting a piano lent to us for the run.

Bill Hatcher then presented the slate of officers. There were no nominations from the floor, and Lucy moved and Deborah seconded the motion that the nominations be closed. Motion passed. Bill then moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation. Bob Wall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. President Robert stated that he considers this vote a mandate, but he feels the weight of the responsibility, which he tries to discharge with a certain degree of intelligence. He must make many decisions. "Thank you for your faith in me, but cut me some slack!"

Robert then talked about the proposed amendments to the bylaws. He explained the idea of an Advisory Board of Directors (Amendment # 2) and named the suggested first members [see p. 1]. He said that there are so many jobs to be done that by default the President has to do. How wonderful to have some more people come forth to do the work! That is the purpose of Amendment # 1. Bob Wall moved and Deborah seconded that we approve both amendments. Motion passed. [See p. 3 for text]

There was a brief discussion of how to run the opening Gala: pay for catering, or do it ourselves? Robert will decide.

Jess Walters had to leave, because he was going in for cataract surgery the next morning. Best Wishes, Jess!

Robert remarked that ordinarily we spend only 5 minutes on business, and the customary music began. Freddy Carnes (who directed our December 4th Fund Raiser program) sang "When all night long" from *Iolanthe*; Mary Alice got a chance to sing the songs that her laryngitis had cut out of the Fund Raiser. The first was "Love is a plaintive song" from *Patience*. The second was the duet "There was a time" from *Gondoliers*, with Bill Hatcher singing the tenor role.

Matt Kaplan sang "Why am I moody and sad" from *Ruddigore*, with chorus, followed by "Young man despair, Likewise go to" from *Mikado*. Bill Hatcher sang the Captain's song "Fair moon to thee I sing" from *Pinafore*, and then the duet "Kind Captain I've important information" with President Robert singing Dick Deadeye. [I never fail to admire how much of this music our members know from memory!] Freddy sang Jess's song from *Trial by Jury*, "When I, good friends". Matt returned to *Mikado* to sing "Willow, Tit-Willow". Then we adjourned to the dining room with the traditional "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer*.

Newly Elected Officers

President	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Executive V.P.	Allen Lawshae	459-4858
Production V.P.	Patrick Bennett	442-0528
Publicity V.P.	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Diana McAlpin	258-0407
Historian and Parliamentarian	Theresa Wilson	926-4893

• News of Members •

• Wedding Bells are Ringing for our friend and one-time Treasurer, Amy Lynne Young. On Monday, February 14th she will marry Wytse Sikkema in the Townhall at Buitenpost, Friesland, The Netherlands. We're invited to the reception from 4 to 7 pm. (Call me for details.)

• Twin daughters, Sophie Rose and Reta Pearl, were born on June 15, 1993 to Arthur and Marianna Grossman Keller, who now live in Palo Alto, CA. They're keeping very busy!

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	

• We thank the following individuals •
for making a significant financial contribution
to our 1994 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*

*W.H. "Deacon" Crain
Doug & Sheila Glenn
Lucy Shoe Meritt
Royston & Phyllis Roberts
Edward O. Kluth
Reba Gillman
Sue Ricket Caldwell
Eva Pickerel
Jessie McGrew
Russell Gregory
Bob Kusnetz
Ronald and Marion DeFord
Gregory & Katharine Shields
Jim Robinson*

• We are grateful to the following companies •
for underwriting, playbill advertising,
or in-kind support

*Amoco Corp.
Bank One
Hooters
Four Sons Quality Cleaners
Renaissance Glass
Armstrong Moving & Storage
American Airlines
Benolds
Kelleygraphics
University Federal Credit Union
Motorola
IBM
G & S Typesetters, Inc.
River City Sportswear
Mopac Medical Care*

January 10, 1994

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.

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.

2194-2

- We hear from member Ralph McPhail Jr. of the plans for the annual Elderhostel course at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia this summer, July 10-16. This course is designed for seasoned Savoyards as well as people interested in becoming acquainted with *The Mikado*.

- Bridgewater College, about 125 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., has one of the loveliest campuses in Virginia and is located eight miles south of Harrisonburg in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley.
- Attendance at an Elderhostel is a new, interesting, and not expensive way of taking an educational vacation. I have more information for anyone interested.

A black and white photograph of a rose, with the text "USA 29" overlaid on it. The rose is in the foreground, and the background is dark and out of focus. The text "USA 29" is in a bold, sans-serif font, with "USA" in a smaller size above "29".
