

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

May 1994 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

• On Monday, May 2nd, 1994 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please come and bring munchies. You never know what interesting delights you will encounter at our gatherings. Janette Jones is putting together this program with old favorites and new. We welcome Katharine Shields and Enid Hallock among the performers.

• Last Gathering and Musicale • Monday April 4, 1994

Each Musicale tops the last. People jammed into Pearl's usually ample space and more kept coming. Most signed the Sign-In Sheet, and I've added everyone else I could think of. But if some were missed, forgive me. At least 47 people gathered in Pearl's music room. We welcomed members Walt & Betty Ligon from Kingsland, attending for the first time, and Maxine Hairston & David Cooper who joined on the spot. Other members were Jim & Nanni Almond, Pearl Amster, Frank & Donna Delvy, Reba Gillman, Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Janette Jones, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Ben & Carm Nardone, Al Rellstab, Dan Smith, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed, and Terri Wilson. Guests were Leslie Duchschi, Glen Fillmore, Bonnie Johnson, Matt Kaplan, Julia Lawshae, Nancy & Caitlin Owen (Pearl's daughter and granddaughter), Denise Parker who until recently lived in Dallas and performed G&S there, Carl & Barbara Percy, Sterling Price-McKinney, Kaye Roth, Les Rudolph, Mark & Brian Taylor, and Bobbie Yauger.

Frank Delvy started things off with "Rising early in the morning" from *The Gondoliers* ("Oh, philosophers may sing Of the troubles of a King; Yet the duties are delightful, and the privileges great"). Then President Robert Mellin made introductions around the room (with assistance from the many newcomers, who introduced themselves). Allen Lawshae then took over. Janette Jones and Matt Kaplan sang "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" from *The Mikado*, followed by seven songs from *Gondoliers*. Allen sang the patter song "In enterprise of martial kind" with everyone helping out on the choruses. Then came two duets between Casilda and Luiz, with Janette singing Casilda in "O rapture, when alone together", and Sheila Glenn singing Casilda in "There was a time". Mark Taylor, Janette's talented guest, sang Luiz for both ladies. [to p. 2]

• Message from your President •

On my first trip to England in 1970 I was excited at the prospect of possibly seeing Gilbert & Sullivan performed by the D'Oyly Carte company on their own ground. I soon discovered that was impossible because D'Oyly Carte was on tour to God knows where. I swallowed my disappointment as I was to learn to do often in my travels as well as in my regular life. After touring England I travelled on the continent until I arrived at the train station in Copenhagen, Denmark. The kiosks were papered with flyers and posters. On one poster was advertised D'Oyly Carte performing *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Concert Hall. My poor heart beat rapidly as I checked the dates and Lo and Behold the performance was to be that very night. My ecstasy and enthusiasm must have been contagious because the 2 or 3 travelling Gringos that I'd met on the train decided that they had to see the show too, even though I suspect that possibly some might not even have known who Gilbert & Sullivan were. But we did manage to buy tickets and get good seats, and it was a magnificent production. There were even 5 encores for the Bell Trio. That was the first and last time I had the pleasure of seeing a D'Oyly Carte performance.

Now, if this story needed a moral lesson perhaps it might be that one should travel to find what one wants. However I'm not looking to give moral lessons. But what I would like is to know your Gilbert and Sullivan story. Where and how were you introduced to Gilbert & Sullivan? When did you first perform G&S? By what companies and in what cities have you seen it performed? Please tell us. We would like to put this information in our Newsletter. Submit this information to Reba Gillman [return address on Newsletter].

Notice that in my president's message for May not once did I mention the need for contributions.

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

• SOCIETY WISH LIST •

- 1) A Pianist to give our stalwart Bob Wall a rest (which even he occasionally needs).
- 2) For people to come up with 5, 10, or 20 minute non-musical G&S presentations for our Musicales. (Do you know some interesting bit of G&S lore? Do you have a theory? An interesting experience?) Call Robert Mellin 345-5950.

Calling All Members!

Come to our monthly gatherings for fun, fellowship and food, and lots of Gilbert & Sullivan.
Come and sing, solos or sing-along choruses, let us know your interests. Send me your news for the Newsletter (327-2277).

Musicale, April 4th, cont.

Dan Smith sang Don Alhambra's song "I stole the Prince", which explains a very important part of the plot. Janette sang Tessa's song on the joys of marriage, "When a merry maiden marries", and Julia Lawshae and Allen described how a Duke and a Duchess make a living, in the duet "To help unhappy commoners". A short diversion to *The Yeomen of the Guard* for the trio "A man who would woo a fair maid" sung by Sheila, Julia and Frank. Then back to *Gondoliers* with Don Alhambra's "There lived a King", which concludes with these words of wisdom: "When everyone is somebody, Then no-one's anybody!"

Julia then sang "As if we never said goodbye" from *Sunset Boulevard*, the new musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, which led us to our surprise treat. The entire cast of a new and original musical soon to open in Austin were present to sing us samples of their show *Electric Street* by Stirling Price-McKinney. Frank Delvy is appearing in this show, which might explain the connection.

Stirling took over the piano from Bob Wall, and told us that his show was an ode to Austin and to 6th Street. Karen Kuykendahl who leads the cast as Jade, the owner of The Electric Street Cafe, opened with the songs "I slept late today, as I usually do", and "Something old and something new". Frank sang "You there, out on the street!". He plays Shoe Shine, who hangs around mysteriously. "As Buttercup says - things are seldom what they seem" remarked Frank.

The others in the cast are Stacey Amorous, Leslie Scherer, Paul Parker, Rich Upton, and Martin Vasquez, who proceeded to give us several other samples from the show.. The entire cast finished up with "We're dancing in the street" to enthusiastic applause. This finale to the first act is reprised to end the show. Robert thanked them all for coming and said of Karen and Stirling, "These people are the premiere Saloon Act in Austin -- the closest thing we have to cocktail lounge artists." *Electric Street* opens on Friday May 6th and plays through Sunday May 29th at Chicago House -- call 473-2542 for information.

Robert called attention to the Motorola T-shirt worn by Donna Delvy, and told us Motorola will give us \$500. Then with a rousing chorus of "Now to the banquet we press" off we went to the dining room.

Note: Treasurer Diana McAlpin has a long-term commitment to sing in the Austin Civic Chorus on Monday nights, which is why we don't see her at our Musicales.

• Meetings of G&S Executive Committee •

1) On Monday February 28, 1994 at 6:30 pm in the O. Henry Room at the Austin History Center the newly elected Executive Committee held its first meeting. All were present except Theresa Wilson and Reba Gillman, secretary. No one took the minutes, and there is no report.

2) On Tuesday March 29, 1994 the Executive Committee met at 7 pm in the University Federal Credit Union. All officers were present, plus Bob Kusnetz, former Executive Vice President, and now member of the new Advisory Board.

- We need to record, document and list on grant applications all in-kind services received.
- We voted to donate \$200 to Capitol City Playhouse; in return we will receive listings in their programs.
- Operational procedures were discussed. Patrick Bennett would like to put together a production manual.
- Bill Hatcher will pursue the subject of small G&S concerts in the schools, and find out what we can do to support music education in the schools, especially at the lower grades.
- Terri Wilson and Diana McAlpin will work as a committee to develop criteria for qualifications and investigate the process of setting up scholarships for singing lessons for worthy young G&S performers.
- Allen Lawshae and Terri Wilson will serve as the committee to work on planning a Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Convention in Austin.
- We discussed hiring part-time clerical help and concluded that first we needed to find a small office space. Diana McAlpin and Patrick Bennett will make inquiries.
- The Austin Public Library has approached us about providing some short G&S musical programs for their Summer Reading Program for Children, June 6 - July 31.
- We have been invited to provide a 20-30 minute program for the Jane Austen Society picnic in Northwest Park on Sunday afternoon, June 12.
- The next Exec. Com. meeting will be on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 pm, Austin History Center, O. Henry Room.

Officers for 1994

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
Hist. & Parlmtn.	Theresa Wilson	926-4893

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 and Sullivan Society of Austin
List of Productions

<i>Ruddigore</i>	February 1977		Creek Theatre
<i>Pirates</i>	August 1977	*	Zachary Scott Theatre Center
<i>Sorcerer</i>	November 1977		Town Hall, Hancock Center
<i>Mikado</i>	August 1978	*	Paramount Theatre
<i>Iolanthe</i>	December 1978	*	St. Edward's University
<i>Patience</i>	March 1980	*	Zachary Scott
Scenes from G & S	May 1981	*	Zachary Scott
<i>Trial By Jury</i>	January 1982 July 1982	*	Zachary Scott Capitol City Playhouse
<i>Gondoliers</i>	May 1983	*	Zachary Scott
<i>Ruddigore</i>	January 1985	*	Zachary Scott
Scenes from G & S	May 1987		Hyde Park Theatre
<i>Trial By Jury</i> (and assorted scenes)	February 1988		Concordia Lutheran College
<i>Pinafore</i>	May 1989		Hyde Park
<i>Sorcerer</i>	November 1989		Live Oak Theatre
<i>Patience</i>	June 1990		Hyde Park
<i>Ruddigore</i>	October 1990		Reagan High School Theatre
<i>Pirates</i>	April 1991	*	Live Oak Theatre
<i>Mikado</i>	June-July 1992		Zachary Scott
<i>Iolanthe</i>	April-May 1993		Dougherty Arts Center
<i>Pinafore</i>	January-February 1994		ACC Main Theater

* Co-production

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• News of Members and Friends •

Exciting news from member Kristina Havenhill (recently our Josephine in *Pinafore*). She will spend the summer in Charlotte, SC, singing with the Central Piedmont Summer Theater. They will produce four musicals: *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Grand Hotel*, *Barnum*, and *Aladdin*. She will receive Equity pay, and will be eligible to become an Equity member at the end of the summer. The theater invites guest Equity artists to perform, which will provide a valuable experience for the rest of the cast. Her husband Tim gets out of the army at the end of May, and will spend the summer living with Kristina's parents and taking classes. He is in the process of applying to medical school, and this ambitious young couple hopes to be able to go to New York City -- Tim to one of the prestigious med schools there, and Kristina to try her skills in the theater. "Break a leg, Kristina!"

Allen Lawshae is branching out, too. He's going to try out for a part in *The Gondoliers*, which the Houston Gilbert & Sullivan Society is putting on in July. He used to sing with the Houston G&S Society, so this would be like old times for Allen. Good Luck!

Allen's daughter Julia (Hebe in our recent *Pinafore*) will be off to study in New York City this fall. She has been accepted at the Academy of Drama and Dance. Congratulations! There goes another young talent on her way!

Carla Hammock, former Treasurer and continuing member, sends love and best wishes from Paris where she leads a busy life. She takes classes in French, and French history, attends art and political lectures, belongs to two charity groups, and serves as a Crisis-line volunteer. In addition she teaches voice and theater students in her home and does a little singing, as the opportunity arises. She and David started off the New Year in Budapest, and were looking forward to a theater weekend in London. Ah c'est la vie! She misses the Wednesday Morning Music Club, and enjoys receiving the G&S Newsletter and hearing the news about so many of her old friends.

Former member Dr. Bill Girard also lives abroad, in Germany, where he has a post as assistant conductor. He and his wife Shirley, and their three children, Mardi, Shana, and Cal, live at:
Kaiserlauterer Strasse 66
70499 Stuttgart 31
Germany

With sorrow I report the death of Arthur Fuscaldo, a talented young Austin actor, who showed humor and style when he sang with us for our October 1991 fund raising Tea in the Wedgwood Room at Stouffer's Hotel. He had recently starred in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and was rehearsing for *Falsettos*, scheduled to open April 30 at Zachary Scott Theatre Center.

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



Come to our Musicale • May 2nd at 7:30 pm • 2304 Hartford Road • Sing • Eat • And Be Merry!