# The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin September 1994 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

### Next Meeting -- Our Monthly Musicale First of the New Season

- · On Monday, September 12th, 1994 at 7:30 pm. (Try to come a little early.) In St. Austin's, where our new office is, we will meet in a beautiful room set aside for special use, in the Paulist Hall. See page 4 for a map showing how easy it is to get there.
- Entertainment: Featuring Scott Ferrell, Jess Walters, and Others. In addition, Allen Lawshae, Julia Lawshae and Juan Zalles, with Bob Wall at the keyboard, will perform a portion of a musical show based on a work of O. Henry. Elsworth Schave has written a contemporary play, using music from the almost century-old original production.
- · We will all sing "Hail Poetry" twice, and "Now to the banquet we press". Please bring munchies as usual.
  - Nominations for the B. Iden Payne Awards •
  - ACOT Celebration on September 19th 6:30 pm at the Omni Hotel You can come too, Call ACOT at 499-8388.

H.M.S.Pinafore garnered 5 nominations in the Musical category. Congratulations to:

Jeffrey M. Jones Frank Delvy Scott Ferrell Kristina Havenhill

Janette Jones

Outstanding Musical Director Outstanding Lead Actor Outstanding Lead Actor Outstanding Lead Actress **Outstanding Lead Actress** 

Thank you, and good luck to all!

Armstrong Moving and Storage United Van Lines

The Official Movers of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin

## • Message from your President •

Welcome to a new season of G&S. After the summer holiday our Newsletter, faithfully produced by Reba Gillman, returns to keep you abreast of the happenings. And the first happening is the monthly musicale on September 12 at the location of our new office. We want to show off the facilities. The musicale will take place in the Paulist Hall on the ground floor, but we'll take groups of six, for those interested, up in the elevator to see our office.

The acquisition of an office is only one of our goals achieved. Then there is hiring an office administrator in the person of the capable Claudia Olson. (Say hello to her at the insicale.) Awarding a \$1000.00 Scholarship to Julia Lawshae is another. And we have two dates to put on our calendars: Sunday December 4, 1994 will be our Third Annual One Time Only Holiday Season All-Star G&S Revue, back again at Capitol City Playhouse, courtesy of our friend Michel Jaroschy. And Saturday March 18, 1995 will be the opening night for The Gondoliers, at the 410 seat Temple Theater at St. Stephens School, You will learn more details about all these things as they develop. But I'm excited. Please offer your good wishes and help in making our Society more effective and fun.

\* \* \* \* \* \* Robert Mellin \* \* \* \* \*

### OUR NEW OFFICE

Our office is now furnished and equipped thanks to our faithful supporters:

Dr Blair Protzman donated a desk. University Federal Credit Union donated the rest of the office furniture.

Thanks to Treasurer Diana McAlpin for arranging this. Armstrong Moving & Storage delivered the furniture, thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Rick Anderson. IBM through Lerov Wormlev donated a new computer and printer. Thanks to our good member Doug Glenn for arranging this.

We truly value such contributions from our members.

We are honored to have as neighbor across the hall "Deacon" Crain, our friend and Pooh-Bah member.

# Last Gathering and Musicale Monday June 6, 1994

Once long ago in June we enthusiastically enjoyed the last Musicale of the season. Present were a rare assortment of old timers, people we never see, and guests (three of whom joined up on the spot), 47 people in all. They were members Pearl Amster, Wren & Joy Andersen, Marion DeFord, Frank Delvy, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock with guests son Gary, his wife Chris, and Enid's grandsons Andrew, Thomas and Bobby, Bill & Nan Hatcher, Ray O. Howard & guest Benton Howell, Janette Jones, Noel Koran, Allen Lawshae & guest Demp Toney, Diana McAlpin, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Charles & Helen Morton, Ben & Carmela Nardone, Bee Palomé, Joyce & Lord High Physician Dr. Blair Protzman, Diane & Charles Radin with guest Michael Starbird\*, Anne Collins Smith, Dan Smith, and Lord High Pianist Bob Wall. In addition there were guests Floyd Pettengill and Juan Zalles; performing guests Bob Nelson, Denise Parker\*, and Martin Vasquez\*; and Special Performing Guests Andra Mitchell Harkins, Elizabeth Hodges, and Linda Nenno, and their guest (a charming but nameless lady). The newly joined members are noted by an asterisk \*.

The fun began with "A British Tar is a soaring soul", the glee from Pinafore, sung by Martin Vasquez, Allen Lawshae, Harold Gilbert, Dan Smith and Bob Nelson. President Robert Mellin welcomed us, and went around the room introducing everyone. MC Allen Lawshae then took over greeting three special guests, well known in the theater community for their outstanding performances: Andra Mitchell Harkins, Elizabeth Hodges and Linda Nenno. Elizabeth Hodges responded "I am not a member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, so if I mess up you can't kick me out." She added "Everyone has said, Surely you're going to sing 'Three little maids from school', so here is a 'Three little maids', unaccompanied and down-home style." They proceeded to sing in true gospel style, "Gotta home on that rock, and I'm never gonna leave it!" Andra and Linda then sang a florid Handel piece "Sound the trumpet" with Elizabeth capably in charge at the piano. As a finale Elizabeth offered a real Gilbert & Sullivan song, Mad Margaret's "Cheerily carols the lark" from Ruddigore, with Bob Wall at the piano. It was a rare treat to have these three talented ladies perform for us.

Next Allen introduced Denise Parker, one of our newest members. She recently moved to Georgetown from Dallas, where she sang with the Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company. Denise sang "I cannot tell what this love may be" from Patience. Next Frank Delvy confided that he was keeping in shape for the G&S performance coming up Sunday at the Jane Austen Society picnic, and launched into what has become his trademark, "The Nightmare Song" from Iolanthe. Denise and Janette Jones sang the duet "Long years ago" from Patience; Bob Nelson brought his deep bass to bear on "When a felon's not engaged in his employment" from Pirates. Then to keep us on our toes Janette sang "When a merry maiden marries" from our next show The Gondoliers, and Martin Vasquez sang the wonderful tenor aria "Take a pair of sparkling eyes", also from Gondoliers. "Hail Poetry" from Pirates was sung by Bob Nelson, Janette, Denise, Martin and Allen, with the audience joining in lustily. We finished with "Now to the banquet we press" (Sorcerer) and adjourned to the goodies in the dining room. Thanks as always to our hostess, Pearl Amster, and to our Lord High Pianist, Bob Wall!

#### • Sad News •

Ronald Kinnison DeFord, UT Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences, died peacefully at his home on Saturday May 7, 1994 at the age of 92. He had had a long and distinguished career, and was also known for his enthusiastic support of many Arts and Civic organizations, including the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, of whom he was a member. He and his wife Marion attended our productions faithfully. We will miss him. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Marion, and hope to see her often at our shows and monthly musicales.

#### More Sad News

Carl O. Bergquist, UT Professor Emeritus of Architecture, died in a tragic car accident in New Mexico on June 26, 1994 at the age of 75. Two young grand-children died with him. We did not know him, but our deepest sympathy goes to his sister, Linnea Smith, who is a longstanding G&S member.

#### Some Happy News

Scott Ferrell, who played "Rafe" in our recent *Pinafore* will marry pianist Aimee Hurst on September 30, 1994.

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



# • SCHOLARSHIP for JULIA LAWSHAE • August 1994

After thorough discussion the Executive Committee of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin decided to grant its first scholarship for further musical study to Julia Lawshae. In this time of expanding horizons and new and ambitious goals we agreed that we wanted to lend a helping hand now and then to the young talent we are charmed to discover in our casts. What better first recipient than Julia, who is preparing to go off to New York City in October for study at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and needs all the financial aid she can get.

I have known Julia casually since as a child she came to see her father perform -- in *Patience*, *Trial by Jury*, *Gondoliers*, *Ruddigore*. Then she went away to college. She earned a Bachelor's degree in International Studies at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. She was all set to go to law school and study International Law, but she had been taking voice lessons and appearing in shows while in college and the performing bug got her. She decided to have a try at the musical field, and came back to Austin (city) where she has been earning her living singing telegrams, doing clown shows for kids, and waiting on table, meanwhile taking some voice lessons from Leonard Johnson and Rose Taylor, and performing, as we well know, in our *Iolanthe* and *Pinafore*. She also is the lead in the alto section of the University Christian Church.

The American Musical and Dramatic Academy is basically the only school that prepares students for Broadway. It is a two year program; the students don't do full shows, but concentrate on preparing scenes. Julia auditioned here in Austin, and was one of 300 or so students accepted from all over the U.S. She was awarded a small vocal scholarship, and has applied for student loans, but will be working as a waitress to help pay the bills. October 15th is "Move-in Day" -- Good luck Julia!

If your company would like to be a sponsor of our production of *Gondoliers*, please call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

This page is printed on a replica of our new Gilbert and Sullivan stationery.

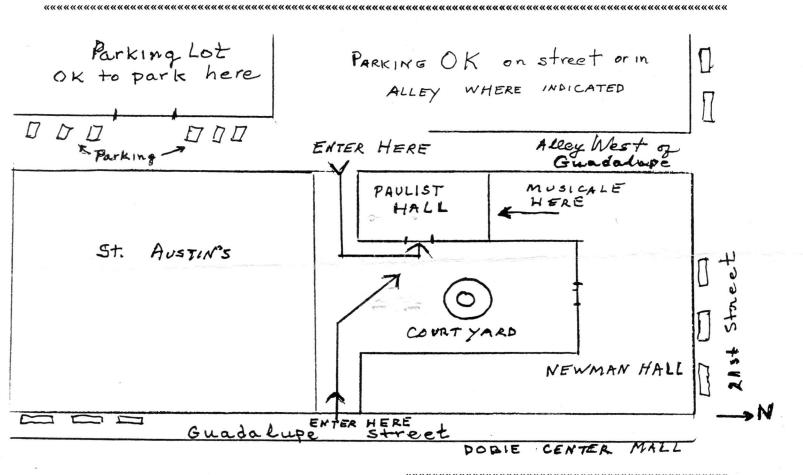
The logo was developed for Karen Collier, when she was President in 1991.

#### News of Members

- Last February I reported that <u>Amy Young</u> had married Wytse Sikkema in Holland. In late July they came to Austin to retrieve Amy's stored belongings and ship them to their new (although temporary) home in The Hague. I have their address, so call me if you want it.
- Mary Lu Barras has moved to Lubbock. Her address: 3227 62nd St., Lubbock TX 79413
- Doug & Kathie George have moved to Henderson State University in Arkansas. Address:
   846 Faculty Pl. Arkadelphia, AR 71923.
- Allen Lawshae has a new address:

   7744 Northcross Dr., Apt. N 221 (78757)
   Phone is the same: 459-4858
- <u>Diana McAlpin</u> has a new address: 11500 Jollyville Rd., #1913 (78759)
- Patrick Bennett and Allen Lawshae have been stalwart helpers in getting the new office set up (moving furniture, renting computers, opening a telephone account, etc.) Many Thanks!
- The most stalwart worker of all, of course, has been our President. His work never ceases. Thank You Robert Mellin!

We were sorry to receive the resignation, for personal reasons, of Theresa Wilson, our Historian-Parliamentarian. This position on the Executive Committee is now open.



• Save the Date •

Third Annual One Time Only Holiday Season All-Star G&S Revue

Sunday December 4th • Capitol City Playhouse

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

Gala Opening Night • The Gondoliers

Saturday March 18, 1995 Temple Theater at St. Stephens School





Welcome to the New Season • Come to our Musicale • Monday September 12th • at St. Austin's Paulist Hall