

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

December 1994 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• No Meeting in December •

• Please come to our Fund Raiser on December 4th. See information on page 3.



• Next Meeting in January •

• Musicale and Annual Meeting •

• The burning question is when and where. Our gracious hostess, Pearl Amster, has a conflict this year (a Monday evening piano student). We can change to Tuesday, and go to Pearl's, or we can stay with Monday and meet at the Paulist Hall, where we have to provide a piano substitute (some people have complained about the electronic keyboard). Of course, some people have told us they couldn't come on a Tuesday, and others say the Monday meeting time keeps them away. We're considering holding some meetings on a Monday and others on a Tuesday, but we wonder if that would just confuse everyone. Soooo - what we want to know is what you members think about it. Let me know!

Reba Gillman • 327-2277

• In any case, the next gathering will take place in the second week of January, either Monday January 9, or Tuesday January 10. Come and enjoy our informal Gilbert and Sullivan, good fellowship, and food. The annual business meeting will be short, consisting mainly of the election of officers for 1995. Nominating Chair Enid Hallock will present the following slate:

President	Robert Mellin
Executive V.P.	Allen Lawshae
Production V.P.	Patrick Bennett
Publicity V.P.	Bill Hatcher
Secretary	Reba Gillman
Treasurer	Diana McAlpin
Historian-Parliamentarian	Libby Weed
Member-at-large	Loel Graber

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

• Message from your President •

Audition turnouts for our *Gondoliers*, opening March 17th, 1995, were quite satisfactory. We cast a large number of talented performers, some veterans as well as some fresh new faces. As of this writing, the casting is not quite finalized. Therefore officially you will have to wait until the next Newsletter for the complete cast list. However, I can tell and boast about a new, important addition to our artistic staff. She is Andrea Ariel, one of the most respected choreographers in Austin. We should have a fine cachucha!

Richard Short, our Music Director, is seriously campaigning for an enlarged orchestra and I would like to see him get it. (Some donations earmarked for that purpose would make it easier.) Richard also engaged the services of the competent David Mead as audition pianist, and we hope to have him as our rehearsal pianist, as well as performer for the run of the show. Of course, our Bob Wall played for auditions, too, for which we thank him! Matt Buchanan, our Stage Director, and I have had some in-depth Gilbert and Sullivan discussions, and again I will go out on a limb and predict a well researched and executed *Gondoliers* that promises to be the fun and exciting production it should be.

On to matters of our December 4th All Star Fund Raiser. You have seen the remarkable lineup of performers on the program. Each and every one is a Star in his or her own right, or is on the verge of making a positive impact on Austin's theater and music scene. If there are some whose names you do not recognize come to the show and you will be amazed. Because we play Sunday evening and some must be at work the following morning the show starts early, at 7:30, and if you need to be, I am sure you can be home by 9:30.

There will be a large mail-out promoting this Fund Raiser, because I would like to fill Capitol City Playhouse to capacity. The performers like to play to a full house, and the Society needs the money.

We must particularly thank Reba Gillman who single-handedly performed the time-consuming chore of going through our original mail-out list of about 2600 names, and editing it down to about 1400 more useful names. There is no one who could have done this with so much knowledge.

Hope to see you all at Cap City on December 4th!

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

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772

Alas, goodbye to Claudia Olson. Our new employee, Brenda Tharp, will start on December 5th.
Newman Hall, Room 221, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

• Last Gathering and Musicale •
Monday November 7, 1994

32 people gathered at the Paulist Hall, 2026 Guadalupe Street, including 20 members with their guests: Wren Andersen & Joy Sappington Andersen, Byron Arnason, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Enid Hallock & Gary, Bill Hatcher, Janette Jones, Matthew Kaplan, Allen Lawshae & Kay Novack, Diana McAlpin, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Barbara (Bee) Harris Polomé, Dan Smith, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed, Susan Weed, and Terri Wilson & Virginia Stacey. Others were G&S employee Claudia Olson, and 7 performers from the Austin Lyric Opera Chorus, invited by Janette Jones to sing Gilbert and Sullivan for us: Anna Derdeyn, Marvin Frank, Greta Gutman, Mark Long, Russell Prickett, Jonathan Slocum, and Joe C. White. Harold Gilbert opened the program with "When a felon's not engaged in his employment" from *Pirates*, with all joining in on the choruses.

President Robert showed us the three versions of the flyer designed by Scott McAfee, announcing the auditions for *Gondoliers*, one of which had been included in the November Newsletter. Harold Gilbert complained that he had received his Newsletter only Friday, November 4. The Newsletter was sent by bulk mail on Friday October 28. Many members received it the next day or so. [If you think you are receiving yours too late, please let us know! Call the office, 472-4772, and leave a message.]

Janette Jones then took over the program to offer us "Austin Lyric Opera Night". This proved to be a short but delightful entertainment, impressive because each ALO guest sang Gilbert and Sullivan music from memory. Janette especially thanked Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, who was providing the accompaniments without any rehearsal.

Joe White sang an expressive "Tit Willow" from *The Mikado*, followed by Mark Long singing "When I went to the bar, as a very young man" from *Iolanthe*. Janette sang "If somebody there chanced to be" from *Ruddigore*. Russ Prickett gave us a rousing "Oh better far to live and die" from *Pirates*, with lusty chorus from the assembled gathering. Jon Slocum sang a sweet-voiced "Fair moon, to thee I sing" from *Pinafore*. Anna Derdeyn and Marvin Frank performed "Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted" from *The Mikado*, complete with fan, loud kisses and delightful facial expressions. Greta Gutman accompanied them. The ALO contributions ended with Dan Smith singing "I stole the prince" from *Gondoliers*.

Robert announced that our next gathering would be the

Gala All-Star Fund Raiser on Sunday December 4th, at Capitol City Playhouse, starring Jess Walters. [For the official list of performers and other information see the flyer on p. 3] Pearl Amster is organizing a fabulous champagne buffet, which will be served from 6 to 7:15 pm. The program will start at 7:30.

Robert then called for volunteers for more singing. With a little urging the inpromptu program proceeded with Matt Kaplan singing the operatic "When the night wind howls" from *Ruddigore*. Allen Lawshae sang "There lived a king" from *Gondoliers* with choral assistance from some. Janette gave us Katisha's lament from *Mikado* "Alone, and yet alive," followed by "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" with Joe White singing Ko-Ko. From *Pirates* Allen gave us the Pirate King's introduction and all rose to sing "Hail poetry" through twice. We continued to provide enthusiastic responses as Allen sang "Oh, why am I moody and sad?" from *Ruddigore*, and Bill Hatcher sang "When Britain really ruled the waves" from *Iolanthe*. After a little experimenting Bob Wall figured out how to use the electronic keyboard's transposing feature, and provided a more comfortable accompaniment for Wren Andersen to sing "The flowers that bloom in the spring" from *Mikado*. This inspired Gary Hallock to sing "Time was when Love and I were well acquainted ... I was a pale young curate then" also transposed down.

Matt Kaplan, Joe White and Allen then put their heads together to sing the trio from *Mikado* which starts with "I am so proud", proceeds with "My brain it teams" and "I heard one day a gentleman say" and explodes into "To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock, In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock, Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp shock, From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!" Mark Long remarked that with the Election coming up next day we ought to do an ode to the two-party system, as he launched into "When all night long, a chap remains" from *Iolanthe*.

Robert informed us that Enid Hallock, chair of the nominating committee, had reported that the present officers of the Society have all agreed to continue to serve for the coming year. There will be no Musicale in December ... See you all at Cap City at the Fund Raiser! We will vote on the officers at the Annual Meeting in January. Pearl Amster has a very special student she has to teach on Monday evenings, so we are considering holding our monthly Musicales on Tuesdays.

Bee Polomé urged us all to attend the Civic Orchestra concert on Saturday. And with "Now to the banquet we press" we adjourned for coffee and goodies.

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'd
BE THERE
if we
COULD."

**GILBERT & SULLIVAN
ALL-STAR REVUE**

Champagne Buffet Fundraiser

Capital City Playhouse
December 4, 1994

Champagne Buffet 6:00 - 7:15 • Show at 7:30
\$25.00 per person

For Reservations Call The Box Office 499-TIXS • Credit Cards Accepted



Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900



W. S. Gilbert 1836-1911

Featuring
MAESTRO JESS WALTERS

Stacy Amorous
Sharron Bower
Matthew Buchanan
Mary Alice Carnes
Yvonne DeChance
Kevin Farr
Daniel Girardot
Janette Jones
Matthew Kaplan
Allen Lawshae
Paul Parkinson
Leigh Ann Rector
Kara Galbraith Word

and Special Guest Star
BIL PFUDERER

Stage Director
FREDDY CARNES

Music Director
BOB WALL

This Fund Raiser honors the Gilbert & Sullivan Society's First Advisory Board of Directors
Richard Anderson • Deacon Crain • Enid Hallock • Bob Kusnetz • Jess Walters

You may linger after the program to meet the cast and directors. Or you can hurry home and be there by 9:30 pm.

• A Night at the Opera •

• I'm sure many of our members enjoyed a performance of *Faust* by the Austin Lyric Opera. It was a magnificent production, for which we have to thank the vision of Walter DuCloux and his many supporters. But I wish to mention those members who were part of the action on stage in the chorus: Katharine Shields as the lovely maiden in white, twirling distractedly at the end of the scene until she sank into a puff of white dress; Dan Smith in charge of barrels - the lead barreler on the left; Harold Gilbert resplendent in army uniform, ably marching around - no canes or shepherd's crook for him these days - his bout with hip surgery seems well behind him now; Janette Jones in black, animatedly reacting. I didn't spot Sid Frost, but he was there, too.

• In the non-member department, Russ Prickett was right up there in the village celebrations. And in the earlier UT production of *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*, his wife Rose Taylor gave a magnificent performance in the lead role of Mother Superior.

• Goodbye to Claudia •

Sad to say we are losing Claudia Olson to a full-time job with benefits at Zachary Scott Theater Center. She'll be working the box office. Glad to say we have hired a replacement, recommended by Claudia and ACOT's Ann Ciccolella. Brenda Tharp will start on December 5th. She's a theater person, too.

• Group Sales •

Do you belong to a church, synagogue, or retirement community? Bill Hatcher is approaching these and other groups now, to find out how to promote group sales for our *Gondoliers* in March. He needs leads and suggestions from Society members - personal contact is all important. Please call Bill at 892-3722. You can help sell our show!

**Members! Volunteer to help out in our
Gilbert & Sullivan Office!**

A 2 hour commitment is suggested. Call Robert Mellin
at 472-4772 or 345-5950
Answering phone and simple chores, preferably in A.M.

• News of Members and Friends •

- Members David and Carla Hammock are expecting a baby girl in February. Congratulations!
- Go hear friend Scott Ferrell, Tenor, sing his DMA Recital on Friday December 9th at 8 pm, in UT's Jessen Auditorium in the old Music Building. No charge.
- Go hear friend Su Sun Wong, Soprano, sing her DMA Recital on Thursday December 8th at 8 pm, also in UT's Jessen Auditorium; no charge. Su Sun was our Yum Yum.

**Still Needed • a member who is an
accountant or a CPA
and**

A member who is an Attorney • for advice.
Call Robert Mellin at 472-4772 or 345-5950.

• Thank You •

With the new bulk mailing of the Newsletter we haven't yet got Thanks and Dues Notices under control. Be patient, and know that we are grateful for every dues payment, and every contribution! We'll get a new system soon!

**Last Chance to make your Tax Deductible
Contribution to Gilbert & Sullivan
for 1994!**

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