

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

March 1995 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting Our Monthly Musicale •

• On Tuesday March 7th, 1995 at 7:30 pm at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please come and bring munchies. Note this is Tuesday.

• The program will include two piano pieces played by Lord High Pianist Bob Wall. He has been taking piano lessons from Pearl: this will be his moment. Russell Gregory and Allen Lawshae will sing. If you would like to raise your voice in Gilbert and Sullivan song, come prepared and let us know. That's part of the fun.

• Plan now for April. Pearl's conflict has been resolved and we can meet again on Mondays at her house. Our April musicale will be held on Monday April 3rd. As promised we have given Tuesday gatherings a three-month try, but Monday is really our established day. I know some of you can't come then, but there are problems with Tuesday, too.

♥ ♥ THANK YOU ♥ ♥

For two ads in the program taken by:
Benold's Jewelers
Fidelity Investments

• Many Thanks to Scott McAfee, who created three handsome flyers for us. One for the December 4th Fund Raiser, one announcing auditions for *The Gondoliers*, and one going out now to our large mailing list inviting attendance at the production.

• Many Thanks to Live Oak Theatre for the use of space in their Colorado Street building for scenery painting for *The Gondoliers*.

• Many Thanks to the Reverend Father Samuel Hose of St. Mary's Cathedral for rehearsal space.

• Many Thanks to Photographer Royal Harold Hayden, for the advance publicity photo-shoot. And to Michel Jaroschy for the use of Capitol City Playhouse, and to Diana McAlpin for arranging for costumes for the photo-shoot.

• Many Thanks to WordSmith Dan Smith for his expert computer help on our big mailing list.

• Message from your President •

"Tripping hither, tripping thither," These words are from *Iolanthe* and not *The Gondoliers*, our current production. However they aptly describe my current state of activity. I've said it before and I'll say it again, it's hard being a producer. In addition to securing the obvious necessities such as money, let's examine just one other need, and that is for space. First we have to find a space to perform. Then a space for auditions, followed by space or spaces to rehearse. Then space for set construction, scenery painting, sewing costumes, and storage. I write about this now because this is what I have been doing a lot of this past week.

But the effort is warranted. If you could attend rehearsals as I have recently, you would realize how magnificently wonderful the progress has been. What a grand sound brought forth by our principals and large chorus under the direction of Music Director Richard Short. And the dancing designed by Choreographer Andrea Ariel will pleasingly impress. Stage Director Matthew Buchanan certainly proves he knows the humor of Gilbert and Sullivan, and is able to impart that fun to the talented cast.

In other words, *The Gondoliers* will be a great show. So bring your friends, neighbors, and relatives. And please do come to the March 17th opening night performance followed by our traditional Champagne Buffet and party with the cast. We expect the food for this Buffet to be contributed by Austin restaurants and food stores. Pearl Amster, as usual, will coordinate. The admission price for the whole evening is only \$8 more than the price of a regular ticket, so please come.

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

The Gondoliers opens on Friday, March 17th in the new Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephen's School.

Can your business place an ad in the playbill program?
Do you know a business that might?

This is your very last chance to support the Society and our production by taking out an ad.

Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772

Brenda Tharp • New Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 1 - 5 pm; Wed & Fri 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Newman Hall, Room 221, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

• Last Meeting and Musicale •
Tuesday, February 7, 1995

18 people gathered at Pearl Amster's: members Pearl Amster, Wally Ellinger, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, Maxine Hairston & David Cooper, Ray Howard, Allen Lawshae & Kay Novak*, Robert Mellin, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Terri Wilson with her mother Virginia Storey*, and Dean & Darlyene Yarian attending for the first time. Guests were Brenda Tharp, G&S Society Office Manager, and Mary Alice Carnes and Jeffrey Jones, playing Casilda and Luiz in our production of *Gondoliers*.

* Kay Novak and Virginia Storey have been frequent guests and have now made their connection official by becoming members at the Patron level. Thank you!

To start us off Harold Gilbert sang "When all night long a chap remains On sentry-go, to chase monotony He exercises of his brains, That is, assuming that he's got any." As Harold explained, this is the opening of Act II of *Iolanthe*. Private Willis is standing guard in front of Parliament, commenting on what goes on inside.

President Robert informed us that the Society has applied for a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, and that letters in support have been written by John Bustin, "Deacon" Crain, William Gammon III, Michel Jaroschy of Capitol City Playhouse, and Jess Walters. All are quality letters, and as a sample Robert asked Brenda Tharp to read the one written by John Bustin. Perhaps others can be read at another time.

Robert introduced Jeffrey Jones, our Luiz, a fine tenor and performer who last year directed our production of *Pinafore*. For this he was nominated for an ACOT B. Iden Payne Award in the category Best Musical Director of a musical. He was out of town for the Awards Ceremony, and Robert now presented the framed citation. Jeffrey spoke briefly thanking Robert. Jeffrey said this was one of the nicest things that had happened in his professional career.

Allen Lawshae then sang the introduction, and led us all in singing "Hail Poetry!" from *Pirates*. Robert was looking around nervously but at that moment our Casilda, Mary Alice Carnes, arrived having driven to Dallas for an audition and back, just in time to join Jeffrey in singing two duets from *Gondoliers*. "O rapture, when alone together" and "There was a time" explain their secret love, and the newly discovered ill fate of that love. Since Casilda was married in infancy to the baby Prince of Baratania she cannot hope to ever unite with Luiz.

Then Mary Alice sang "Love is a plaintive song" from *Patience*. Next Allen played the part of Dick Deadeye to

Harold's Captain in *Pinafore*, as they sang "Kind Captain I've important information". Switching to *Pirates*, Robert Mellin sang "A policeman's lot is not a happy one", with vigorous assistance from the audience on the choruses.

Urged to sing some more, Jeffrey admitted that he knew all of *Pinafore* from directing it, and proceeded to sing the Captain's song "Fair moon, to thee I sing", followed by Ralph's madrigal "The nightingale", and ballad "A maiden fair to see". Allen then took us to *Patience*, for Bunthorne's scene "Am I alone and unobserved? I am!" The program finished with the delightful trio "I am so proud" from *Mikado*, in which Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko, and Pish-Tush each explains why he can't serve as the victim in the execution required by the Mikado. This is a very tricky piece, and as Jeffrey sight-read the tenor part he demonstrated his thorough musical training. He joined Allen and Harold, who have sung the trio often before, and the three of them triumphantly concluded with Gilbert's rapid-fire words: "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!"

Singing "Now to the banquet we press" from *Sorcerer*, we adjourned to Pearl's dining room to feast and chat. But now is the time to observe that we are indeed fortunate to have two such fine and reliable performers as Mary Alice and Jeffrey in our *Gondoliers*.



Volunteers needed to help "run" the show.
Help with sets, scenery, props, lights, back stage chores.
This is a great way to get involved in a show.
Experience preferred.

• Update on *The Gondoliers* •

- **Costumes:** will be rented from Houston. Costumer will be Ellen Hughes.
- **Set Design:** by Keith Donnelly and Susan Weinthal of Broadside Design.
- **Set Builder:** Doug Gessaman.
- **Light Design:** Scott Segar.
- **Technical Coordinator:** Robert Whyburn of St. Stephens School.
- **Rehearsal Pianist:** Jean Stillman.

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	

• G&S Society Wish List •

- **Wanted:** A sound or video system for the office. President Robert Mellin often needs to play cassettes to screen G&S material. We could use a CD player, a radio, even an old TV.
- **Wanted:** Volunteers to help in the Society office with mail-outs and other work. Put your name on the list to be called when the need arises.
- Still looking for a **Lawyer** or a **CPA** for consultation and advice.
- We need an **Accompanist** to back up our Lord High Pianist Bob Wall. For instance, he may be out of town in June, and we will need someone to play for the Musicales.

→ Call our office 472-4772 ←



Try we life-long, we can never
Straighten out life's tangled skein,
Why should we, in vain endeavor,
Guess and guess and guess again?

Life's a pudding full of plums,
Care's a canker that benumbs.
Wherefore waste our elocution
On impossible solution?
Life's a pleasant institution,
Let us take it as it comes!

Set aside the dull enigma,
We shall guess it all too soon;
Failure brings no kind of stigma --
Dance we to another tune!

String the lyre and fill the cup,
Lest on sorrow we should sup.
Hop and skip to Fancy's fiddle,
Hands across and down the middle --
Life's perhaps the only riddle
That we shrink from giving up!

This quintet from Act I of *The Gondoliers* is sung by Casilda, the Duchess, Luiz, the Duke, and Don Alhambra. Bill Hatcher (Society member, VP for Publicity, and chorus member in our production of *Gondoliers*) likes it so much that he brought a print-out of the words to our last Executive Committee meeting. It has long been a favorite of mine, especially the last two lines.

I also enjoy the little picture printed here. Gilbert often drew these illustrations to go with his work, and signed them "Bab".

• Bulk Mail and Other Problems •

As you know we are now sending the Newsletter by bulk mail. Delivery time seems to be erratic, and unfortunately some members have received their Newsletter very late. This issue will be mailed on Thursday, February 23. If yours arrives very late please call the office and let us know. Also please inform us of changes of address, since bulk mail is not forwarded.

Another problem with bulk mail is that no little personal notes (like "Thank You," or "Your Dues are Due") can be included. We are trying to get our membership lists into the computer so Dues notices can be handled automatically from the office; but so far other jobs have come first.

In the meantime, Thank You for your dues and contributions, and for your patience.

Another choice set of words from *The Gondoliers* comes from the song in which the Duke of Plaza-Toro explains his position. Here is the first verse:

In enterprise of martial kind,
When there was any fighting,
He led his regiment from behind -
He found it less exciting.
But when away his regiment ran,
His place was at the fore, O -
That celebrated,
Cultivated,
Underrated
Nobleman,
The Duke of Plaza-Toro

To reserve seats for our production of *Gondoliers*
Call 499-TIXS - now!

Armstrong Moving and Storage
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The Official Movers for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin

3/952

**Helm Fine Arts Center
St. Stephen's School, 2900 Bunny Run**

How to get there:

From the north, go south on Loop 360. Turn right onto Cedar Street, the first traffic light after the bridge over Lake Austin.

Turn left onto Bunny Run, which runs into the St. Stephen's campus.

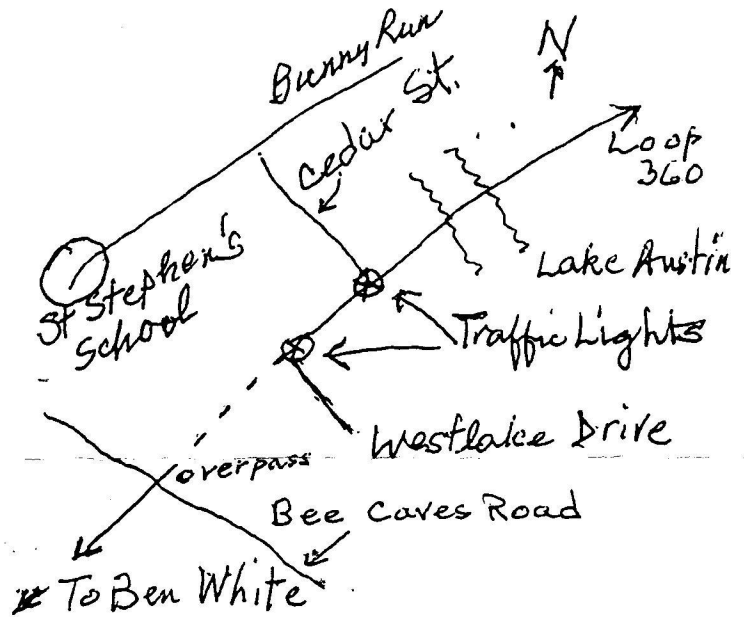
From the south, go west on Ben White Blv'd, and north on its continuation, Loop 360. At the last traffic light before the bridge over Lake Austin, turn left onto Cedar St.

Turn left onto Bunny Run, as above.

Notes: Cedar Street is not a cross street. Neither is Westlake Drive.

Loop 360 runs roughly north-south, curving down to go east and become Ben White Blv'd, which runs roughly east-west.

There are several ways to reach Loop 360 from north Austin. Rte. 2222 is one way. Another way is Anderson Lane, which becomes Spicewood Springs Road at Mopac. Advice: If Loop 360 is unknown territory to you, look at an Austin map for orientation.



NOT TO SCALE



Have a good time, support our show,
Come to the party!

Call now to order your tickets for the Gala
Opening Night Champagne Buffet
Friday March 17 1995 • 8 pm

Tickets are \$25 per person ••• Call 499-TIXS



Tune in to KUT-FM

On Tuesday March 14th at about 11:30 am

John Aielli will feature our production of
The Gondoliers

He will do his usual high caliber interview
of cast and crew members. It's sure to be interesting.
And what good publicity!

Thank you, John Aielli, and KUT!

The
Gilbert
SULLIVAN Society
OF AUSTIN

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 2054
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Come to Our Musicale on Tuesday,
March 7th at Pearl's

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 221 • Austin, Texas 78705