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**• Message from your President •**

- I made a run for the border last week. In Laredo I attended the wedding of my friend Jose Greco II, the famous flamenco dancer, to his lovely bride Christina. It took place in a beautiful 1755 church. The next day I crossed the frontier and drove half way to Monterrey. I find that distance and time, space and environment, help put many things in sharper focus. For me it's necessary, and refreshing. Naturally, I had an opportunity to think about our *Gondoliers*.

John Bustin, Austin's dean of entertainment reviewers, wrote that our *Gondoliers* was "perhaps the best local G&S show to date." And I'm happy to report that we actually came out in the black. Mind you, we will not have made a "profit" as such, but we will not have entered the debit side of the ledger. I must confess that I had had my doubts about this. *The Gondoliers* was certainly the most expensive production that I have dealt with, and yet our corporate funding was down. What made the difference was the generous financial contributions of individuals, both old members of our G&S Society, and new. It proves that they must appreciate what we're doing.

And what a very impressive group of people our patrons are. They obviously must like theater and good music. But I suspect it's the uniquely intelligent comedy in the words and ideas of W. S. Gilbert, enhanced by Sullivan's catchy musical settings, that captures their minds as well as their hearts. This tells me why so many fans of Gilbert and Sullivan are highly talented professionals and academics. They know what a good thing Gilbert and Sullivan is. And our Society is dedicated to satisfying that taste by making Gilbert and Sullivan available on a regular basis, and spreading its joy to new audiences, especially school children.

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

**The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin  
gives special thanks to  
Pearl Amster**

for coordinating and setting up the opening night  
*Gala Buffet for The Gondoliers*

**It was a great party!**

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

**Thank You Also  
to  
Libby Weed for the attractive display of photos  
in the theater lobby  
To Reba Gillman for running the G&S Table,  
To Diane Simpson, Brenda Tharp, and  
others who ran the Box Office, and  
to all those who ushered, and ran the  
concessions**

**Coming  
The Pirates of Penzance  
In 1996**

**Still Needed**  
**Pro Bono • Member or Friend who appreciates**  
**Gilbert and Sullivan**  
**An attorney for legal advice**  
**An accountant or CPA for financial help**

**Call the G&S Office at 472-4772**

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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

✓ 243

• Last Meeting and Musicale •  
Monday, April 3, 1995

40 people gathered at Pearl Amster's. Members Pearl, Wren Andersen and mother Joy Sappington, Byron Arnason with daughter Sophia and her friend Dorothy Speyer, Frank & Donna Delvy, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bill & Nan Hatcher with daughters Lauren & Lisa, Janette Jones, Matt Kaplan, his fiancé Alexa and his mother Nancy Owen, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Kay Novak, Virginia Storey, Jess & Emma Walters, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, and Theresa Wilson; and welcome to Norma Garza, a former member who has rejoined; Gary Preuss, who has joined from the chorus of *The Gondoliers*; and Maurice Ommerman who sent in his dues later. Guests from *The Gondoliers* were Director Matthew Buchanan, Costume Coordinator Ellen Hughes; principals Mary Alice Carnes, Anna Derdeyn, and Marty Schwebel; and chorus members Arthur DiBianca, Glenna Gasser and Jonathan Slocum. Members underlined in the above list were also members of the cast. Principals Michael McKelvey and Michael Lucas had planned to be present but couldn't make it. Other guests were Greta Gutman, pianist, who came with Anna Derdeyn, and Freddy Carnes, Director for three of our Fund Raising Events, who came with Mary Alice.

Anna Derdeyn started things off singing "The Topsy Waltz" from *La Perichole* by Offenbach, with Bob Wall at the piano. [See Editorial Note page 4.] President Robert made a few announcements. He welcomed Norma Garza back into the fold, and thanked new members for their generous contributions. [See full list elsewhere.] The show broke even financially, in part because of individual contributions. He offered *Gondoliers* posters and T-shirts still available for sale. And finally he produced a floral spray for Ellen Hughes, to make up for not having her on the list for the opening night bouquets handed out to cast and crew.

The evening's music was an orgy of refrains from *Gondoliers*, with Janette Jones and Frank Delvy leading off with their duet "To help unhappy commoners". Matt Kaplan sang his opening solo "For the merriest fellows are we" after announcing that he wished to make an Award to Loel Graber who was "the most active audience member we ever had." And indeed, Loel's appreciation of the show had been so vigorous that it made itself felt in the theater, and could be spotted from the stage. [Loel was reliving his own participation in our 1983 production of *Gondoliers*.]

Marty Schwebel sang "Take a pair of sparkling eyes", even though Topher, the drummer boy, wasn't there to listen to him. Allen Lawshae filled in for Don Alhambra (the part he played in 1983), and Loel for Luiz, so that Frank, Janette, and Mary Alice Carnes could sing the quintet

"Try we life-long". Robert introduced Mary Alice, our Casilda, and Freddy who told us about his exciting new job as the director of Create and Produce, a program in the schools provided by Austin Lyric Opera. Freddy works with the children to help them develop their own musical show, an experience which is expected to increase their appreciation of musical theater or opera.

Mary Alice then sang her two duets (in reverse order), "There was a time" with Matt Kaplan volunteering as her Luiz, and "O rapture, when alone together" with Director Matt Buchanan filling in for Luiz. Frank then sang "In enterprise of martial kind" with Janette, Mary Alice, and Matt B. singing the choruses. The versatile Matt B. continued to help out by singing Giuseppe to Marty's Marco in the rousing "We're called Gondolieri". They then launched into the finale of Act I, singing "Now pray, what is the cause of this remarkable hilarity," followed by "Replying, we sing As one individual" and continuing with "For ev'ryone who feels inclined, Some post we undertake to find, Congenial with his frame of mind - And all shall equal be" concluding with "O King! Whichever you may be," all sung with the enthusiastic choral help of the audience.

Time out then for introducing all the cast members present, with special thanks to Anna Derdeyn, whose mother helped sew costumes and whose son worked every performance back stage. Kay Novak remarked that the cast deserved special notice for singing the first weekend when half of them were sick, and never letting the audience know how ill they were. Frank said "Yes, Janette was in a coma the whole weekend." All joined in a rousing "Cachucha" to finish off the *Gondoliers* fest.

Asked to sing again, Anna responded saying she had no real songs in *Gondoliers*, so she would sing "Can't help lovin' that man of mine" from *Showboat*, accompanied by Greta Gutman. Frank told us that *Showboat* was his first musical. He had two lines: "I reckon" (said twice). He then sang The Nightmare Song from *Iolanthe*. It sounded perfect, even though Frank confessed he made a boo-boo. Jonathan Slocum volunteered to move us to our next production, and sang "I am a Pirate King" from *Pirates*, with all singing the chorus. Loel sang the opening and we all joined in with a full-throated "Hail Poetry", also from *Pirates*. Then with our traditional "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*) we adjourned happily to munch and chat in Pearl's dining room. Thank you as always, Pearl, for your warm hospitality.

*Die Fledermaus* • U.T. Opera

Jess Walters will play Frosch, the drunken jailer,  
and sing in Act II as "a guest".

April 20 and 21, and April 27 and 29, 1995

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	

April 18, 1995

Savoyard - \$1000 and up

Robert Kusnetz

Pooh-Bah - \$500 to \$999

W.H. "Deacon" Crain  
Reba Gillman

Major General - \$250 to \$499

Richard Anderson, of Armstrong  
Moving and Storage  
Marion DeFord  
William Gammon III  
Willard & Cordelia Hanzlik  
John & Eve Williams \*

Grand Duke - \$100 to \$249

James & Nanni Almond  
Bill & Virginia Binger  
Sue Ricket Caldwell  
Austen H. Furse  
Ronald & Louise Geil  
Doug & Sheila Glenn  
Russell Gregory  
Scott McAfee of GSD&M Advertising  
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Mrs. Benjamin Meritt  
Mary Metz  
Robert Miller  
Mrs. Fred Neff  
Eva Pickerel  
Joyce & Dr. Blair Protzman  
Jim Robinson  
Greg & Katharine Shields  
Eileen Sullivan  
Steven & Louise Weinberg  
Amy Sikkema-Young

Lord High Patron - \$50 to \$99

James Russell Cochran \*  
Mary Ann Courter  
Sid & Lois Frost  
Kenneth Gentle  
Kate Hendricks  
Dudley Houghton  
Susie & Dan Jacobson  
Mary Hobart Key  
Steve Laden  
Patricia Lane  
Benard Laves  
Allen Lawshae  
Jim & Dorothy Kellogg  
Jessie McGrew  
William & Esther McCormick  
Col. George McQueen  
Gary Preuss

G&S Members By CategoryLord H.P. cont.

Russell Prickett \*  
P.J. Roy  
Roman & Louise Smoluchowski  
Jerry Strickland & Stephen Kubena \*  
Carey & Louise Thompson  
Jess & Emma Walters  
Donald Wertz  
Dean & Darlyene Yarian

Patron - \$25 to \$49

Byron Arnason  
Sally Bartkowiak  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bencivenga  
Steve Bickerstaff  
Larry & Irene Black  
Richard Boner & Susan Pryor  
Sylvia Bonnell  
Jane Bullard  
Thad Bynum  
George & Barbara Douglas  
Mr. & Mrs. John H.G. Eason  
M. Patton Echols, Jr.  
Harry & Shirley Ellison  
Al & Celeste Evans  
Rosemary & William Garner, Jr.  
Sue Gordon  
Loel Graber  
Larry & Kay Greenhaw  
Cindy Hager  
Enid Hallock  
Howard Hayden  
Ray Howard  
Bob & Helen Jones  
Carolyn Jones  
Maxine Hairston & David Cooper  
Arthur Keller  
Noel Koran  
Michael & Alice Kuhn  
Carla Lederman  
Dale Lipsett  
Frances Lockhart  
Michael Lucus \*  
Joseph Malof  
Robert Mellin  
Gordon & Betty Moore  
Charles & Helen Morton  
Ben & Carmela Nardone  
James Bert Neely  
Mollie Newman  
Kay Novak  
Barbara Harris Polomé  
Charles & Diane Radin  
Bill & Susan Reid  
Al & Judy Rellstab

Janita Robbins  
Rosemary Russell-Vines  
Mr & Mrs M.A. Saad  
Diane Simpson  
Dan Smith  
Kent & Marion Smith  
Linnea Smith  
G.H. Sprinkle  
David & Joan Stinchcomb \*  
Virginia Storey  
John Tate & Carol Macpherson  
Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch  
Libby & Michael Weed  
Roxanne Kuter Williamson \*  
Theresa Wilson  
David A. White  
Ronald E. Wyllys

Member - \$10 to \$24

This long and important list  
will be printed in the June  
Newsletter

\* Denotes Members who joined  
in March 1995 or later.



Phoebe: Were I thy bride,  
The Yeomen of the Guard

• News of Friends and Members •

New York City is the focus of several of our news items. Tim and Kristina Havenhill have moved there to pursue their fortunes. Tim has been admitted to Columbia Medical School, which was his dream; and Kristina is auditioning and getting roles in area musicals. Way to go!!!

As you remember, the G&S Society gave a scholarship to Julia Lawshae to help her go to New York to study at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy this year. Julia is carrying a full school load, and learning more every day; she is also working full time as a waitress to support herself. She is nearly half-way through the four semester program. Then comes the auditioning and the struggle for recognition.

Some of you may remember Dory Creedle as Lady Jane in our June 1990 production of *Patience* at Hyde Park Theater. She was charming, raw young talent then. I met her recently when she came back to sing at the Memorial Concert for David Garvey. She's living and studying in New York, too, hoping to make her way in the musical world.

And our own Janette Jones, who put in her time in New York with the Light Opera of Manhattan before we ever met her, has just returned from an invited visit to perform with others in *Yeomen of the Guard* for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of New York at their April meeting. Her name was listed on the front page of their newsletter "The Palace Peeper". We'll be hearing more about that!

Locally Robert Rudié has been busy playing the butler in the highly literary Tom Stoppard comedy *Travesties*, produced by Different Stages at The Acting Studio. Unfortunately the run ends this weekend, before you get this Newsletter. Robert was a highly effective butler, in the midst of the very British satire. Oscar Wilde was quoted and imitated, and the leading man frequently proclaimed "I love Gilbert and Sullivan!"

On a totally different wave-length, Allen Lawshae and Kay Novak are vacationing in Venezuela, where Allen spent his early youth (his father was a petroleum engineer).

Question: Was Topher Glenn the youngest performer we've ever had on stage in a G&S production?

\* \* \* \* \*

Editorial Note (from page 2): Anna probably didn't know it, but there is a historic connection between G&S and *La Perichole*. When Offenbach's operetta was about to open in London in 1875 the theater manager (none other than Richard D'Oyly Carte) was looking for a short afterwork to close the evening. He picked Gilbert's new play *Trial By Jury* for the spot, and suggested that Sullivan write the music. The result was a little masterpiece, which was so well received by London theater-goers that it overshadowed the Offenbach opera, and the G&S partnership was set for the many wonderful operas to follow.

See Jess Walters in

*Die Fledermaus* • U.T. Opera  
The McCullough Theater

8 pm April 20 & 21, April 27 & 29, 1995

Buy your tickets ahead at the box office of the

Bass Concert Hall • Noon - 6 pm, M-F

or the Erwin Special Events Center • 10am - 6pm, M-F

Or pay \$2 per ticket extra and order by telephone at

477-6060

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• and other occasional chores •

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May 1 1995 at Pearl's

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