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# The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

## October 1995 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting -- Our Monthly Musicale •  
ALO Night

• **Monday • October 9, 1995 at 7:30 pm** at  
Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.

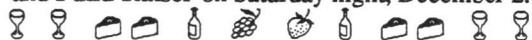
• **Featuring performers from the Austin Lyric Opera.** We enjoyed an evening of Gilbert & Sullivan from these fine singers last November, as some of you will remember. Lord High Pianist **Bob Wall** will perform his usual magic at the piano.

• **Come join the fun** (and please bring munchies, as usual).

• **Looking ahead, save these dates:**  
November Musicale on Monday November 6.  
No December Musicale:

*Trial By Jury*  
and

*All-Star Revue and Champagne Buffet*  
and Fund Raiser on Saturday night, December 2.



• **Monday January 8** for the Annual Meeting, election of officers and a good program.

♪♪ Many Thanks ♪♪

To the good people who help us out in  
one way or another

Austen and Margaret Furse, who have put in  
a good word for us at Cambridge Towers

Barbra Horak, manager of Kinko's at 6th and Brazos  
for many layout and printing favors

Edward O. Kluth, who responds to our calls for help  
and comes to fold and count when we need him most

Dan Smith, who has put in many hours' work  
setting up our computer system  
(and the work goes on!)

We couldn't do it without you!

• Message from your President •

So many exciting events G & S events are in development. You no doubt have read or will read about them elsewhere in this Newsletter. The biggest and most immediate event will be our Gilbert & Sullivan Convention December 1 - 3. It will be a first, at least for us, so naturally I'm a little nervous. But with the support and goodwill of our members it should be a success. I certainly hope so because it will be the last event I preside over as your President. That's right, after four years in office, I will be moving on to some other endeavor. But my heart will always be with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and its members.

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

**Make your reservations**  
for  
**Saturday Night, December 2**

***Trial by Jury***  
Texas G & S Company from Dallas  
and  
***Holiday Season G & S***  
***All-Star Revue***  
**and Champagne Buffet**  
Our annual Fund Raiser  
at  
**Scottish Rite Theater**  
**Reception at Cambridge**  
**Towers**

Both at 18th and Lavaca

Donations \$25 per person

Call 499-TIXS (499-8497)  
For Information and Reservations  
Do It Now!

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772

Brenda Tharp • Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 1 - 5 pm; Wed & Fri 11:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

6/110

• **Last Gathering and Musicale •**  
**Monday, September 11, 1995**

32 people gathered at Pearl Amster's to greet the new season. And what a splendid welcome it was! **Broadway a la Carte**, the new group formed by some of our members, performed with flourish, style, and precision, with Bob Wall at the piano, better than ever. They've obviously been working hard!

There were simple, but well-designed and effective programs, elegant costumes by Diana McAlpin, and a few well chosen props. Janette Jones served as director. The cast: Frank Delvy, Janette Jones, Matthew Kaplan, Diana McAlpin, Garrett Maddox, Carrie Skinner and Dan Smith. They opened with "Small titles and orders", **Gondoliers**: "The Duke (Frank) & the Duchess (Janette) explain their capitalistic scheme." I quote from the program.

Announcements - Robert Mellin, President - followed. He reminded us that Frank and Janette have sung together many times, and held up some beautiful color photographs, including a shot of the Captain and Buttercup in **Pinafore**. He announced that Janette had been nominated Outstanding Featured Actress in a musical, for the Austin Circle of Theaters B. Iden Payne Awards, and presented her with a framed certificate and warmest congratulations.

Robert then called for a round of applause for Diana McAlpin who has served well as Treasurer, but is now resigning because of the press of other commitments. Bill Hatcher has taken over the job, and has been officially nominated by the Executive Committee as our new Treasurer. Robert asked if there were any other nominations or volunteers. There being none Bill was elected by acclaim.

Finally Robert told us to save the first weekend in December (1 - 3), for our Gilbert & Sullivan Convention, with performances on Saturday night December 2, of our Holiday Season Gilbert & Sullivan All-Star Revue and Champagne Buffet, and the Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company coming down from Dallas to perform **Trial By Jury**. The performances will be held in the Scottish Rite Temple Theater, and the reception afterward will be across 18th Street in Cambridge Towers. It will be a lovely and wonderful affair.

The program resumed with "The nightingale ... A maiden fair to see" **Pinafore**: "Ralph Rackstraw (Garrett), a British 'tar', sings of the woes of his lowly station in life" with the rest of the cast singing the chorus. All but Frank then left the stage for "Love unrequited" **Iolanthe**: "The Lord Chancellor (Frank) can't sleep and so sings the longest of the Gilbert & Sullivan patter songs".

"Three little maids" **Mikado**: "The three little maids (Carrie, Janette & Diana) sing of their escapades to come" while snapping their fans open and using them to good effect. As they left the stage on came the men's trio to sing "If you go in" **Iolanthe**: "Lord Mountarat (Matthew) & Lord Tolloller (Garrett) convince the Lord Chancellor (Frank) to woo the young lady he adores".

"Cheerily carols the lark" **Ruddigore**: "Mad Margaret (Janette) sings of being wronged", in a thoroughly mad way, and with the only costume change of the show, wearing a lovely gossamer blue gown torn to show the heroine's fragile condition. There followed "I am so proud" **Mikado**: "The three possible candidates (Matthew, Frank & Garrett) discuss the relative merits of being beheaded". In a macabre touch the charming Carrie appeared at an appropriate moment to hand over a very stagey ax, which figured splendidly in ensuing business.

"Never mind the why and wherefore" **Pinafore**: "The Captain (Frank) tries to convince his daughter (Diana), who loves a lowly tar on her father's ship (remember Ralph Rackstraw, above?), she must marry Sir Joseph (Dan)". "Oh false one, you have deceived me" **Pirates of Penzance**: Frederic (Garrett) accuses Ruth (Janette) of not having told him the entire truth". Appropriately Janette had changed out of the Mad Margaret costume, and reappeared in the elegant Duchess gown. The final number brought the entire cast on stage for "When I was a lad" **H.M.S. Pinafore**: "Sir Joseph (Matthew) relates his rise to the top of the Royal Navy", complete with chorus and the waving of suddenly produced little British flags at the end.

The whole program went by so fast that there was still time for the group to respond to the clamorous applause with a few encores. Frank and Janette returned to sing a duet, "Things are seldom what they seem" from **Pinafore**, and Frank took the opportunity to remark, "I think you should all know that Janette was very ill during the first weekend of **Gondoliers**. She says maybe she was nominated for the B. Iden Payne Award because they felt sorry for her. But the fact is that she's a better actress ill than most people are well."

Matt then marched out with the ax to enhance his military bearing, and sang "When all night long a chap remains" from **Iolanthe**. And finally Matt, Frank, and Garrett gave us a repeat of "I am so proud" from **The Mikado**. Robert announced that next month's musicale will take place on Monday October 9th, and the cast filed in to lead us all singing "Now to the banquet we press".

Those present were Pearl Amster, Frank Delvy, Reba Gillman, Bill Hatcher, Janette Jones, Matt Kaplan, Robert

**Note that the Society office has moved upstairs.**

In order to allow another office to expand its space, we were asked to vacate our second floor office.

We are now in room 309. Take the elevator to the third floor, turn left and walk to the end of the hall. Same phone number.

Mellin, Diana McAlpin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerrman & daughter Rachel, Bee Harris Polomé, Blair & Joyce Protzman, Dan Smith, Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, and Libby Weed. Guests were performers Garrett Maddox and Carrie Skinner, relatives Nancy Owen & Stephanie Kaplan, and friends Clare Hawkins, George and Joyce John, Janice Langlinais, Jeannette Lay, Bonnie Marston, Alexa Maurer, Andy Szender, and Mei-Juang You.

### • Meetings of the G&S Executive Committee •

It's been a long time since I published any news about the activities of the Executive Committee. But we've been busy, meeting regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month, working on results you all know about. Any member is welcome to attend, just call President Robert at 345-5950. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 24th.

### • Wish List •

For use in the Society Office

Fax Machine  
17 page per minute Laser Printer  
CD Player  
VCR  
TV  
Tape Player  
File Cabinet

For use at public affairs  
Folding Screen for display purposes

Call office, 472-4772; or Robert Mellin, 345-5950.

For about 16 months we have maintained a centrally located office, and employed a part time office manager. Our Newsletter is now sent out by bulk mail to an impressive list of members, professional groups, and possible new members. Recent news is the move from room #221 to #309. Also we welcome a new member-at-large, Jeff Fischer, a second year law student at UT. *The Pirates of Penzance* is our next production. We are pencilled in to perform again at the Helm Fine Arts Theater at St. Stephens, June 21 - July 7, 1996.

A new concern is the task of finding a new President when our dedicated Robert Mellin departs. We will be discussing very seriously our Society structure and future.

With sorrow I report the death of our member **Ray Howard** on July 31, 1995 at the age of 81. We knew him only toward the end of a long and interesting life. He had been a journalist, owner of an office supply store in Midland, where he was active in Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Theater. Later he came to Austin and went into real estate. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Gilbert & Sullivan and Capitol City Playhouse. We will miss him!

### Officers for 1995

President	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Executive V.P.	Allen Lawshae	459-4858
Production V.P.	Position open	
Publicity V.P.	Position open	
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Hist. & Parl.	Libby Weed	837-5441
Member at large	Jeffrey Fischer	345-0363
Member at large	Loel Graber	836-2273

If you like Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to support our efforts ...

... you can do so by becoming a member of our society for a mere ten dollars.

Members receive a monthly newsletter with information about G&S, our activities and our members.

Our monthly informal G&S musicales are open to the public at no charge.

• Your tax-deductible contribution in any of the other categories are welcome and will help us mount our yearly productions and pay our monthly expenses •

☐ Savoyard \$1,000      ☐ Pooh-Bah \$500 - \$999      ☐ Major General \$250 - \$499  
☐ Grand Duke \$100 - \$249      ☐ Lord High Patron \$50 - \$99      ☐ Patron \$25 - \$49  
☐ Member \$10      ☐ I prefer to keep my identity anonymous      ☐ I do not wish to receive the Newsletter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin** and mail with this form to:  
2026 Guadalupe Street, #309  
Austin TX 78705

• News of Friends and Members •

• Congratulations to Dorothy and Jim Kellogg who announce the birth of their second son. Stephen Jackson was born on August 21, 1995, and weighed in at 9 pounds even.

• Marty Schwebel and his wife Catherine are now living in San Francisco, where everything is going well for them. They would welcome news of Austin and visits from friends. Address:

71A Parnassus  
San Francisco CA 94117  
Home 415-664-1497  
Work 415-281-4635

Many of you will remember Marty as Giuseppe in our recent production of *Gondoliers*.

• Director Set for All-Star Revue •

Good news! Allen Lawshae will serve as Director for our December 2nd *Holiday Season Gilbert & Sullivan All-Star Revue & Champagne Buffet*. Cast will be announced next month.

We are also excited about the production of *Trial By Jury*, that same night. The Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company, based in Dallas, is taking their show on tour around Texas, and will perform for us at our Gala event in the Scottish Rite Temple Theater.

• CHARITech '95 •

A Showcase of Community Involvement

The G&S Society was one of 150 non-profit organizations participating in this event at the Convention Center on Wednesday September 20. Robert Mellin got together a fine display of photos for our booth, and played a CD of G&S excerpts (thanks to Lisa Hatcher for the use of her "boombox"). Reba Gillman and Brenda Tharp also helped out, and Frank Delvy stopped in to visit. We enjoyed chatting with the interesting people who came by.

• Membership Update •

Welcome to new members Tasha Waring, Carolyn and Jack Treybig, and Tony Burns.

Thanks for renewals to Steve and Louise Weinberg as Grand Dukes; and Linnea Smith as Patron.

• G & S Concert Group •

Frank Delvy, Janette Jones, Garrett Maddox, and Amy Baker will sing, with Bob Wall at the piano. The first performance is set for November 16 at the Onion Creek Country Club.

G&S member Tom Ashbaugh, Music Director at Brooke Elementary School, will arrange a performance of this group for the children at his school.

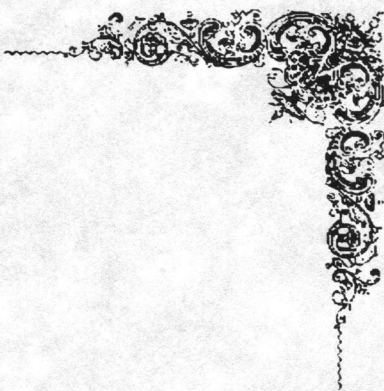
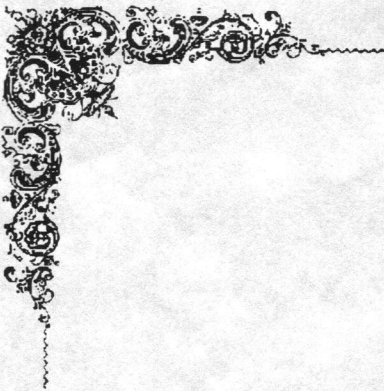


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AUSTIN, TEXAS

ALO NIGHT

Come to Our Musicales on Monday,  
October 9, 1995 at Pearl's





# *A Texas 3 Day*

## *Gilbert & Sullivan Convention*

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 1-3, 1995

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**Featuring on Saturday Nite...**

***Direct from Dallas***

*Trial by Jury*

*by the*

**Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company**

*and a*

Holiday Season Gilbert & Sullivan  
All-Star Revue & Champagne Buffet



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

10/95



# About Gilbert & Sullivan

*and*

## The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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During Queen Victoria's reign (about one hundred years ago or so), two Englishmen who really didn't like one another very much at all were joined together for the purpose of creating popular comic operas. The results were of such brilliance that these gems are still being performed all over the world. You are familiar with the names of some such as the Pirates of Penzance, the Mikado, and H.M.S. Pinafore.

Since 1976, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin has been regularly and faithfully producing and performing this unique form of musical theatre. With other dues paying members plus thousands of fans, the society has become one of Central Texas' premier cultural institutions. In addition to the yearly grand production, free monthly musicals are held, scholarships are being awarded and targeted schoolchildren are invited guests at the shows. A program to bring Gilbert & Sullivan into the schools is in development.

Financial support comes mainly from corporate sponsorship, ticket sales, membership dues and individual contributions. Your interest is welcome.

### **Contact**

#### **The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin:**

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309

Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 472-4772

*Coming in June 1996*

# **THE BIG ONE**



## *Pirates of Penzance*