

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

April 1996 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting -Our Monthly Musicale •

• **Monday April 1, 1996 at 7:30 pm** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies. There will be singing as usual.

• **This will be Meet the Directors Night.** Come and get acquainted with our new stage director, Tim Campbell, who is a graduate student at UT in opera directing, Jeffrey Jones the musical director, and Andrea Ariel,, choreographer.

• Musicales on Monday May 6, and Monday June 3 will finish out the season. Mark your calendars!

• Message from your President •

Several members took me up on my request for calls expressing your concerns and interests, and I found this helpful and encouraging. It is very important that we have a board responsive to the membership of our society, so I urge all of you to feel free to call me at any time or to visit with me at one of the monthly musicales.

If you have been a part of the Gilbert & Society of Austin for any time at all, you are aware of what an important part secretary Reba Gillman plays in our organization. But perhaps not everyone is aware of what a real jewel we have in our midst in Reba. Her recent nomination for the "Five Who Care" Community Service Awards sponsored by KVUE television here in Austin provides a golden opportunity to bring this to light.

Reba joined our society in 1978, and has served as secretary in 1980 and again from 1984 to the present (in which capacity, I might add, she writes one of the most interesting and literate newsletters to be found anywhere!). In the intervening period, 1981 through 1983, she was our president. She appeared in productions of *Iolanthe*, *Patience*, *Scenes* (from various operas), *Trial by Jury*, *Gondoliers*, and *Ruddigore* during the years from 1978 through 1985. Her husband, Dr. Leonard Gillman (professor emeritus, UT department of mathematics) has also served in many important ways over the years, providing artistic and organizational leadership. Look at Reba's personalized license plate or listen to her talk about the Savoy Operas and you will know that, as she says, she "bleeds Gilbert and Sullivan."

But Reba's community service goes far beyond her profound contributions to our efforts. For many years she worked with the Austin Community Nursery Schools, a worthy organization that provides high quality child care for low-income families. She served as a teacher, supervisor of teachers, educational coordinator, and teacher trainer. She retired as Educational Director in 1990 and still serves on the ACNS board. She also serves as a volunteer for Literacy Austin, tutoring adults.

One of the most fascinating items in her marvelous vita dates back to her years in Indiana (before New Jersey, which was before New York, which was before Austin), where she created and taught for six years a course in Music for Young Children at Purdue University. How I would enjoy sitting in on such a course!

(Cont. p. 4)

The Pirates of Penzance

June 21 - July 7, 1996

Temple Family Theater

Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephens School

Stage Director	Tim Campbell
Music Director	Jeffrey Jones
Choreographer	Andrea Ariel

• **For Members • reserve the best seats now •**
Children 16 and under are half price at all shows.

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Call 499-8497 and use your credit card.
Please have Acct #, and expiration date ready.

**For the opening night show and Gala
Friday June 21**

Tickets are \$25 for the show and party afterward
or \$14 or \$10 for the show only

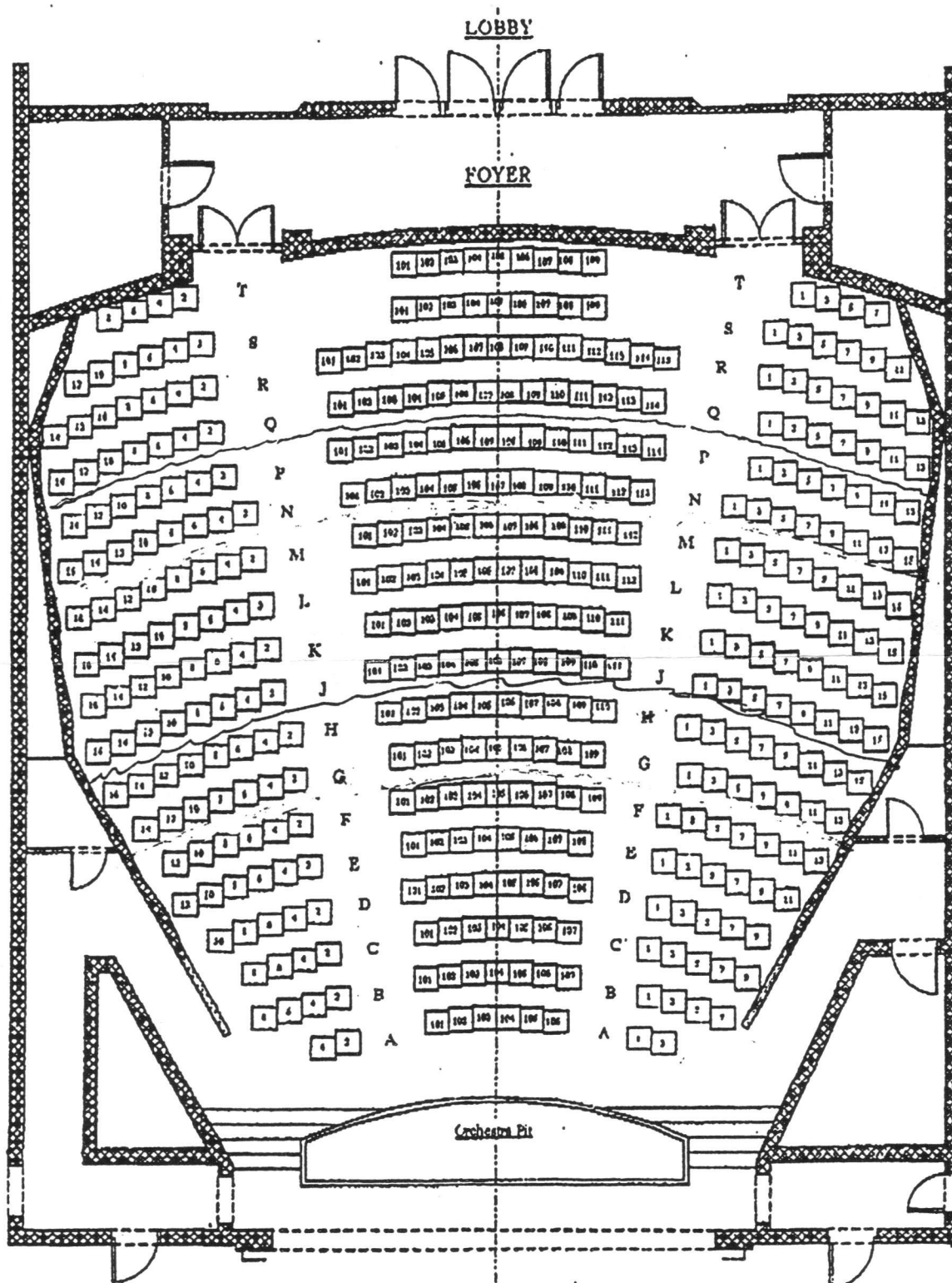
**For all other shows
Sat June 22 through Sun July 7
including Sunday matinées**

Tickets are \$18 first 8 rows (A through H)
\$14 next 6 rows (J through P)
\$10 last 4 rows (Q through T)

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772

Megan Marsee • Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9 - 11:50 am; Tues, Thurs, Fri, 1 - 5 pm
Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

TEMPLE FAMILY THEATRE



Use this floor plan to order your seats. There are 3 Prices:

- | | |
|------|------------------|
| \$18 | Rows A through H |
| \$14 | Rows J through P |
| \$10 | Rows Q through T |

All children 16 and under are half price.
Some seats on the far sides have limited views.

STAGE

For the opening night show and Gala (6/21/96), Prices:

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| \$25 | Rows A through H, Show and Party |
| \$14 | Rows J through P, Show only |
| \$10 | Rows Q through T, Show only |

409 seats

Seats K1, K11, H2, and H1 are handicapped accessible

• Last Meeting and Musicale •

On Thursday February 29, 1996 43 people attended a bang-up party to celebrate Frederic's 35th birthday, with the emphasis on music from *The Pirates of Penzance*. Present were members Pearl Amster, Wren Andersen & Joy Sappington, Byron Arnason, Chris & Jean Buggé, Frank Delvy, Wally & Ruth Ellinger, Reba Gillman, Harold Gilbert & Eve Michaud, Enid and Gary Hallock, Bill, Nan, Lisa & Lauren Hatcher, Edward Kluth, Charles E. Kraus, Allen Lawshae, new member John Mast, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Kay Novak, Maurice Ommerman & friend, Bee Harris Palomé, Marjorie Saad & Patty McNew, Larry Shepley, Lydia Storey, Paula Tyler, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Tasha Waring and Lisa, and Theresa Wilson. Guests were Marilyn Babcock, Joyce & George John, Amy Baker Stinson, Jamie Walker, and Jacob Williams.

Frank Delvy started us off with a rousing "I am a Pirate King!" Executive Director Robert Mellin showed us the new audition flyers, designed for us by our friend Scott McAfee. The new times for auditions were March 23rd and 24th. John Aielli had been playing music from *Pirates* all day on KUT-FM, and also announced our Musicale and Birthday Party. We then launched into "Climbing over rocky mountain" for ladies chorus, with Enid and Reba singing Edith and Kate. Bill Hatcher sang "Oh, is there not one maiden breast" and Amy Stinson sang "Poor wandering one!" with enthusiastic ladies chorus for both songs. Allen Lawshae rattled off "I am the very model of a modern Major-

General" and then switched characters to sing the Pirate King's introduction to "Hail Poetry" which we all stood to sing in full voice.

Quiz and Pun-Meister Gary Hallock then took over to conduct another fun G&S Trivia Quiz. "You can't have your Kate and Edith, too," he assured us gravely. I will reprint some of the questions in a later Newsletter.

Harold Gilbert brought us back to music, singing "When the foeman bares his steel." This was followed by "A paradox, a paradox, A most ingenious paradox." sung by Enid Hallock with Allen and Bill. Allen intoned the King's recitative explaining it all, "For some ridiculous reason" which I will print in its magnificent entirety next month. Harold sang "When a felon's not engaged in his employment" and Amy and Bill gave us the poignant sequence which begins with "Stay, Frederic, stay!"

We all sang a lusty "With cat-like tread". Robert waved a *Pirates* libretto, saying that Larry Shepley had put it together, and we would be selling librettos at the show. Then into the finale from "With base deceit you worked upon our feelings," through to the end with a final "Hip, Hip, Hooray for Bob Wall!" And last of all "Pour, O pour the pirate sherry" and into the dining room for punch with champagne (vintage left-over G&S), cream sherry, delicious cakes, cheeses and nibbles, and the fantastically decorated birthday cake by Diana Sethre D'Emeraude. All sang "Happy Birthday, dear Frederic" to end a delightful evening. Thank you as always to our gracious hostess Pearl Amster!



NOTICE: Date on mailing label indicates when your membership expires.

If you are receiving the Newsletter on an introductory basis the date on the label indicates the last free Newsletter. We welcome contributions, upgrades, and dues from ALL our readers.



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

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2026 Guadalupe Street, #309
Austin TX 78705

Message from President, cont. from p. 1

Thank you, Reba, for giving so much of yourself and your time and talents to the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin. Along with KVUE and the city of Austin, we salute you.

***** Libby Weed *****

• Meeting of the Executive Board •

Monday March 11, 1996 at 7 pm in the Society office. Executive Director Robert Mellin reminded us that the Society lists education as its main mission in our By-Laws. Paula Tyler outlined the best ways to go about setting up small G&S concert programs in the public schools. Ticket structure for *Pirates* will be set after Robert confers with Betty Siegal at The Box Office. In view of the set-up problems at St. Stephens Robert urged that we use a caterer for the opening Gala, and seek food donations from such places as Central Market and Whole Foods. Robert announced that Reba had been nominated for the KVUE "Five Who Care" volunteer award. The next Board meeting will be 4/8/96

• Wish List •

Call 472-4772

Laser Printer - 17 pages per minute

TV

VCR

Touch Tone Telephone

Pick Up Truck or Van

Needed: A volunteer Photographer to take pictures at our various functions.

Needed: Volunteers to help in the office: People who can work a few hours now and then, on short notice.

Needed: Legal Advice (Pro Bono).

Gondoliers Video Tape
Now on Sale

For some years now we have been videotaping our various productions, mainly in order to have a copy for our archives. The videos have not usually been of a very high quality, because of the many difficulties associated with taping a live stage presentation. However with our March 1995 production of *The Gondoliers* things were different because of the expertise, technology, time and care devoted to the project. We now have a product that we are proud to show and offer for sale. Prominently displayed during the playing of the overture at the beginning of the tape, are the names of all the sponsors, Society members, and everyone who worked on the show.

You can own a beautiful videotape of this very popular production for the low price of \$20. Simply call our office (472-4772) to order a tape, and come by the office to pick it up when it is ready. If you prefer to receive the tape by mail, send a check for \$25 (includes postage and handling) payable to the G&S Society at

2026 Guadalupe, Suite 309
Austin, TX 78705

Allow about two weeks depending on availability.

The
Gilbert & SULLIVAN Society
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Meet the Directors

Come to our Monthly Musicales

7:30 pm, Monday, April 1, 1996 at Pearl's

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309 • Austin, Texas 78705