

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

November 1996 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting -- Our Monthly Musicale •

• **Monday November 4 at 7:30 pm** Welcome back at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.

• Program Information is not available at press time, but we all know it'll be good fun, so come and join the G&S frolic. We can hardly top the October John Bustin Night, but that was a rare treat!

• **Coming Events:** Mark your calendars now!

• Sunday December 8th • Our Annual Holiday Season All Star G&S Revue, and Fund Raiser, see notice elsewhere.

• Monday January 6, 1997 • The Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Musicale.

• Last Meeting and Musicale • John Bustin Night

On Monday October 7, 1996 over 75 people gathered in Paula Tyler's home to honor the Dean of Austin Theatrical Critics, and have a ball. It was a wonderful occasion. The program appears on an insert in this Newsletter. The list of those in attendance will appear at the end of this report. Unfortunately only about half of the people signed the roster, and I couldn't see everybody.

Frank Delvy got things started singing "When the night wind howls" from *Ruddigore*. (A good Halloween song, Frank said.) Robert Mellin announced that our annual Fund Raiser will take place on Sunday, December 8th at Capitol City Playhouse. Janette Jones will direct. Ours will be the very last performance ever in that theater, which will be replaced by a higher rent paying bar. We will offer the usual All Star Revue and Champagne Buffet. In addition, we will run a silent auction, something new for our Society.

President Libby Weed greeted John Bustin, our guest of honor, and welcomed everyone. She thanked the Society Executive Vice-President Paula Tyler, and her husband Ron, for opening their home to us. She gave a special thanks to Pearl Amster, who has been our gracious hostess for so many Musicales, and hoped that Pearl would enjoy this break.

Gary Hallock, the incorrigible Master of the Pun, rose at Robert's request. He said his first thought on hearing of John Bustin was "Oh gosh! the toilet's broken." He delivered a few more puns, and then Robert introduced an old friend of John Bustin's: Clifford Zerkel, Mr. Big Band Music in Austin, and also a Methodist minister. John and Clifford exchanged a few nostalgic memories. Finally Clifford remarked that like all critics John did a lot of name dropping, but then you realized that all the emphasis was on the people named. He also said, "We appreciate what John has come through recently, but John, when you feel you can dispense with that hair piece we'll be happy." John replied that he was planning to give it to Russell Gregory.

Robert presented John with an impressive silver ice bucket, reading the inscription aloud. John responded that this occasion was very thrilling and very humbling. "I'm a G&S fan, but not an aficionado. I remember the cold rainy night at Lynallice's Creek Theater when the G&S Society really got started with *Ruddigore*. Cont. on p 2



John Bustin

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772

Sylvia Reeves is our new Office Manager • Office Hours: Mon - Fri 1 - 5 pm
Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

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Cont. from p.1 And I'm pleased to see how well you've come along. You came in there and not only survived but prospered. But the biggest thrill is being here."

The music then began in earnest, with friendly remarks interspersed in a wonderful atmosphere of love and appreciation. Katharine Shields ended her offerings by substituting at the very end "My heart belongs to John Bustin." Amy Stinson told us she had asked Robert if she could sing "Poor wandering John", and with his impeccable taste he had said no -- "but he didn't realize that John in Spanish is Juan ..."

About half way through the program Sandy Vincent, a writer new to our group, read "A Man for All Reasons," a piece she had written in appreciation of John Bustin. As the last strains of the finale to *The Mikado* died away we all picked up our folding chairs to move them out of the way, the food was brought in, and we all nibbled and chatted happily. Through the whole evening volunteer photographer and new member Ernie Welch expertly wielded his camera. As the crowd thinned a group of enthusiastic singers gathered around the piano as John Gregory played. Oh, what a beautiful evening!

Those present (who signed up or were noticed by Reba): Members, Pearl Amster, Byron Arnason & daughter Sophie, Allise Burris, Chris Buggé, Lucian Chimene, Frank & Donna Delvy, Yvonne Vautier Delay, Harold Gilbert & Eve Michaud, Reba Gillman, Russell Gregory, Enid & Gary & Andrew Hallock, Bill Hatcher, Joyce & George L. John, Janette Jones, Allen Lawshae, Victoria LeBlanc, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Kay Novak, Maurie Ommerman, Bee Harris Polomé & Chuck Krauss, Joan Pearsall, Bob Sharron, Larry Shepley, Katharine Shields, Dan Smith, Lydia Storey, Paula & Ron Tyler, Vashti & Dale Tucker, Bob Wall, Emma & Jess Walters, Tasha Waring, Libby Weed, Ernie Welch, and Theresa Wilson; Guests, John & Rosalind Bustin, Andrea Bell, Cindy Brandt, Dona Brooks, Jerry Conn, Carolyn Gregory, John Gregory, Mandy Henderson, Maurine Manson, Richard Williford, and Arlene & Clifford Zirkel.

• Wish List •

A Volunteer Costume Mistress
A Volunteer Technical Worker
Volunteer Office Workers
Laser Printer
TV
VCR
Touch Tone Telephone
Pick Up Truck or Van
Call 472-4772

• Message from your President •

What a glorious time we all had at Paula Tyler's house for our October musicale! It was delightful to have John Bustin, a man so many of us have admired for so long, as our special guest. John and Rosalind were a wonderful addition to a spirited crowd. We filled the listening areas to overflowing and we filled the house with song. Then we all did a little more filling around the bountiful buffet tables! Before the house emptied, Victoria LeBlanc, Harold Gilbert and his fiancée Eve, Chris Buggé, Emma Walters, and quite a few others enjoyed some spontaneous singing around the piano. After Lord High Pianist Bob Wall departed, the singers were accompanied by the very talented John Gregory (whom you may have heard in the past at The Common Interest.)

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we had the largest crowd we have ever had for a musicale. Several members came for the first time, and I believe they would tell you it was worth the expedition. On November 4, we will gather again at Pearl Amster's, the scene of so many warm and enjoyable soirees. You will hear some very familiar voices and some less familiar ones, and you will also have the opportunity to raise your own voice with ours before the evening ends.

Now is a good time for us to extend thanks to Paula and Ron Tyler for their gracious hospitality on October 7 and to Pearl Amster for opening her home and her studio to us so many times. We would also like to thank Ernie Welch, a new Austinite who called in response to a newsletter appeal to donate his services as a professional photographer in any way we could use them. He took some beautiful photographs at the gathering, making a fine record of a momentous occasion.

Our board of directors believes that these evening musicales are one of the real gems our society has to offer. We are looking at ways to continue a wonderful tradition but also to bring in some new and fresh ideas, with perhaps a little more variety of format. Don't miss out on any of the fun -- join us at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, at Pearl's!

**** Libby Weed ****

Many Thanks
to
George & Barbara Douglas, for donating a copier
for our office
Ernie Welch for Photography
and
Bob Sharron for Chairing the Committee on the
Silent Auction

Photographs by Ernie Welch
Printing the Newsletter by LCRA
Many Thanks!!!

Michel Jaroschy
Founder and Heart and Soul of Capitol City
Playhouse

It was a sad day for Austin theater when Michel Jaroschy died on Friday, October 11, 1996 of a heart attack at the age of 49. Michel founded Cap City in early 1982, and kept it going through boom and bust, instilling courage in other struggling theaters, and advancing the growth of downtown Austin as an entertainment center. Ironically, now the former warehouse district has become a high rent area, and the landlord had doubled and tripled the theater's rent, forcing it to seek another venue. The theater announces that *The Glass Menagerie* will go on as scheduled, ending its run on December 7th. The G&S Annual Holiday Season All Star Revue and Fund Raiser will play on Sunday, December 8th, the very last show in that space. Michel lived by the precept that in the theater "The Show Must Go On."

As the theatrical world gathered on October 16th to mourn Michel's death and celebrate his life, there were many testaments to Michel's friendship and help to Austin artists. The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin knew him well, and had often worked with him. He was our friend. We will miss him sorely.

• News of Members •

- Jess and Emma Walters threw a big party to celebrate Emma's 90th Birthday. Emma, surely you're only 80!
- To honor Lucy Shoe Meritt, who also turned 90 this year, the UT Classics Department sponsored a Symposium and reception on September 27-28., accompanied by an exhibit of Lucy's architectural drawings of ancient Greek mouldings.
- Harold Gilbert and Eve Michaud announce that they will wed on December 1. Congratulations and Best Wishes!
- Bee Harris Polomé has four musically talented children, three of whom are playing in Austin this week. Violinist Carole Marie Harris, and 'Cellist Marilyn Harris, are the subject of an article in The Statesman. Lawyer and violist Lana Harris will join them in a concert for the Austin Chamber Music Center. (Their brother plays the bass.)

- Richard Williford and Mandy Henderson, our friends from *Pirates*, announce the production of *A Christmas Cactus* November 14 - 24, at the Tarrytown Baptist Church. Call Richard at 835-1223 for information.

- **Volunteers urgently needed** to help plan the Silent Auction for our Gala Fund Raiser on December 8th. Call Bob Sharron, 837-7072! Paula Tyler and Chris Buggé are working with Bob, but they need Help.

- Thanks to those thoughtful members who have noticed the expiration date on their labels and mailed in their dues. We hope to send reminders, but so far we're not up to it.



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 •

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| <input type="radio"/> Savoyard \$1,000 | <input type="radio"/> Pooh-Bah \$500 - \$999 | <input type="radio"/> Major General \$250 - \$499 |
| <input type="radio"/> Grand Duke \$100 - \$249 | <input type="radio"/> Lord High Patron \$50 - \$99 | <input type="radio"/> Patron \$25 - \$49 |
| <input type="radio"/> Member \$10 | <input type="radio"/> I prefer to keep my identity anonymous | <input type="radio"/> 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

• FUND RAISER •

Sunday December 8, 1996

Time to be announced

The very last performance to be played in the historic Capitol City Playhouse

Our Annual Fund Raiser Holiday Season All Star Gilbert & Sullivan
Revue and Champagne Buffet

People committed to participate so far:

Jess Walters
Amy Stinson
Katharine Shields
Alien Lawshae
Janette Jones
Cynthia Hill
Dan Girardot
Frank Delvy
David Beussman

And Special Guest Star, Jose Greco II (Pepe)
World Famous Flamenco Dancer, who will dance the Cachucha (*Gondoliers*)

Janette Jones • Director

Reservations • If you want the very best seats, send a check for \$30 per person
to the Society office, SOON

Food: Expect a call from Pearl and plan now to send something yummy!

Help your Society build its scholarship fund for worthy students.
Consider including us in your estate planning.

The
Gilbert
& SULLIVAN *Society*
OF AUSTIN

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ORGANIZATION
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AUSTIN, TEXAS

Come to our Monthly Musicale
Monday, November 4 1996 at 7:30 pm
Welcome Back At Pearl's

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309 • Austin, Texas 78705

**THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF AUSTIN
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

HOLIDAY GALA & CHAMPAGNE BUFFET

Sunday, December 8, 1996

5:00 P.M., Wassail Bowl & Silent Auction

6:00 P.M., All-Star Review

8:00 P.M., Champagne Buffet

*Dedicated to the Memory
of
Michel Jaroschy*

*the last performance in
CAPITOL CITY PLAYHOUSE
214 West 4th Street*

*For the silent auction, we need items valued from \$50.00:
goods, services, and objects
food gifts, restaurant nights, dinner parties and entertainment
one-of-a-kind surprises*

*To help or to have your tax-deductible contribution picked up,
call Society Vice-President Paula Tyler 414-5818*

W/az

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Frank Delvy	"When the night wind howls" from <i>Ruddigore</i> Sung by Sir Roderic and ancestors
Enid Hallock	"On the day when I was wedded" from <i>The Gondoliers</i> Sung by the Duchess of Plaza-Toro
Allen Lawshae	* "Beware of the green-eyed dragon", an English children's song. Words by Greatrex Newman; Music by Wolseley Charles
Katharine Shields	* "Can't help lovin' that man of mine" from <i>Showboat</i> by Jerome Kern * "My heart belongs to Daddy" from <i>Leave It To Me</i> , by Cole Porter
Frank Delvy	"The Nightmare Song" from <i>Iolanthe</i> Sung by the Lord Chancellor
Janette Jones	"If somebody there chanced to be" from <i>Ruddigore</i> Sung by Rose Maybud
Enid Hallock, and Allen Lawshae	"I once was a very abandoned person" from <i>Ruddigore</i> Sung by Despard and Mad Margaret
Jess Walters Pianist Don Crandall	* "Pralines and Fudge" by Roberto Xavier Rodriguez Text from a cookbook, music in the baroque style. * "Go down Moses" a spiritual
Janette Jones, and Frank Delvy	* "An old-fashioned wedding" from <i>Annie Get Your Gun</i> by Irving Berlin
Amy Baker Stinson	"Poor wandering one" from <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Sung by Mabel and chorus of girls
Russell Gregory	"A more humane Mikado" from <i>The Mikado</i> Sung by the Mikado and chorus
Russell Gregory All (including audience)	"Although our dark career" from <i>Pirates</i> (lead-in to) "Hail, Poetry,"
All	"For he's gone and married Yum Yum" Act II finale, <i>The Mikado</i>

All pieces by Gilbert & Sullivan except those marked by an asterisk (*).
Bob Wall at the piano, except that Don Crandall accompanied Jess Walters, as noted.

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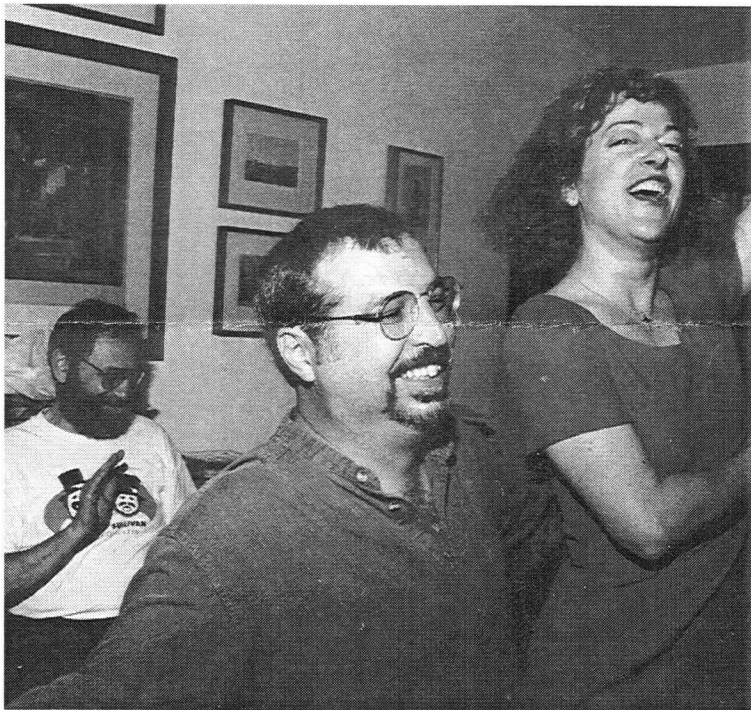
JOHN BUSTIN NIGHT
October 7, 1996



Jess Walters



Russell Gregory and John Bustin



Robert Mellin, Frank Delvy, and Janette Jones



Libby Weed and John Bustin