The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin December 1996 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

No Musicale in December

- · Sunday December 8 at Capitol City Playhouse • Make your reservations now for Our Annual Holiday Season All Star G&S Revue and Fund Raiser featuring Jose Greco II (Pepe) world famous Flamenco dancer . (See Flyer on page 1)
- · The Annual Meeting and Musicale · Monday January 6, 1997 at 7:30 pm: Election of officers. Also, the Executive Board has been updating the By Laws and these changes will be circulated and voted on at the Annual Meeting. A summary of the changes will appear in the January Newsletter. If you wish to see a copy of the proposed revisions earlier call the Society office at 472-4772.



Two long-time members Katharine Shields and Lucy Shoe Meritt

Message from your President

Those of you who attended the last musicale at Pearl Amster's home heard that Enid Hallock, Katharine Shields, and Bee Harris Polomé are serving as a nominating committee for the election of officers at our Annual Meeting in January. They plan to present a slate of proposed officers, or Executive Board members, at that meeting.

When the nominating committee was announced, we reminded those gathered of the fact that the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin would not exist today if it were not for volunteers. We thrive on the active participation of people who love the works of Gilbert and Sullivan and believe in what we do.

You may know of someone who would be a wonderful addition to our Executive Board. Or perhaps you are ready to step forward and volunteer your own services and talents to serve on the Board. If so, please give a call to one of these committee members and let her know.

We are always eager to know of others who are willing to serve. Besides that, we have a very exciting year ahead of us, as we anticipate the production of The Yeomen of the Guard. What a great year to get involved!

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

Nominating Committee

Enid Hallock, Chair Katharine Shields Bee Harris Polomé

453-4431; 477-0858 327-2488

928-3107

▼ ▼ THANK YOU ▼ ▼ ▼

Bee Harris Polomé for the Dodge Van You've made Executive Director Robert Mellin's fondest dreams come true. Astonishing!

Photographer Ernie Welch

whose professional shots enlivened our last Newsletter. We will continue to enjoy examples of his work in this and later Newsletters.

And LCRA for printing the Newsletter.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772 Call and leave a message • • or call Robert Mellin at 345-5950 Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705



Presents Its

Annual Gala Fundraiser

One Show Only Sunday December 8 Last Performance Ever At The Historic



Jose Greco II

World Renowned Flemenco Dancer Who Will Dance

the Cachucha from *The Gondoliers* and More and

Holiday Season All-Star Gilbert & Sullivan Revue

with Jess Walters and

Stacey Amorous Mary Alice Carnes Russell Gregory Allen Lawshae David Beussman Frank Delvy Cynthia Hill Sharon Bower Dan Girardot Janette Jones Susan Lubin

Director: Janette Jones

Music Director: David Mead

Followed by Our Traditional Lavish Champagne Buffet and Reception

Incidental keyboard music by John Gregory

UNIQUE SILENT AUCTION and WASSAIL

Sunday December 8, 1996 at 5 pm SHOW at 6 pm, Followed by the CHAMPAGNE BUFFET Capitol City Playhouse 214 W 4th Street (4th and Lavaca) Austin, Texas

Donations \$30.00 per person
For Cedit Card Reservations (No Fee) Call 499-TIXS (499-8497)
For Other Information Call 472-4772

• Last Meeting and Musicale •

On Monday November 4th, we gathered at Pearl Amster's. 43 strong. Members (and their guests) present were Pearl, Byron Arnason, Lord High Substitute Pianist Marilyn Babcock, Jean & Chris Buggé, Allise Burris, Doug & Yvonne Vautier DeLay, Frank Delvy, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, John Gregory, Enid Hallock with daughter-inlaw Kim, Joyce & George John, Janette Jones, Chuck Kraus, Victoria LeBlanc, Moise Levy, John Mast, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerman, Barbara (Bee) Harris Polomé, Bob Sharron, Larry Shepley, Katharine Shields, Dan Smith, Leland Smith, Robert Spiegel, Lydia Storey, Paula Tyler, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed, Ernie Welch, and Theresa Wilson. Other guests were Jeff Smith, soprano Julie Brown with Eric Mahum, and pianist Jackie Jacobson.

Larry Shepley opened the evening's music playing the flute, accompanied by guest Jackie Jacobson, in the first movement of Suite Modale by Ernest Bloch. President Libby Weed then greeted us and thanked Larry for planning an unusual program (with much help from Robert Mellin, Larry was quick to say). Libby welcomed us back to "home base" at Pearl's, but mentioned that the job of hosting the musicale would be passed around more in the future. She then addressed a small but important piece of business: selecting a nominating committee. She proposed three long-time members, Enid Hallock, Katharine Shields, and Bee Polomé. Dan Smith moved that we accept this committee, and Janette Jones seconded the motion, which passed.

Executive Director Robert Mellin told us, "I thought I was the only one who wore our Society T-shirts, but yesterday I met a lady on the hike and bike trail wearing a pink *Sorcerer* shirt." He urged us to wear our G&S T-shirts and "show you're proud". He thanked Mrs. Marjorie Saad for giving us a micro-wave, and Barbara and George Douglas for the gift of a copier. "But the best thing happened today -- Bee Polomé gave us a Dodge Van. It's a wonderful van, it runs like a top!"

Robert urged us to go to see the Live Oak production of *On Golden Pond*, the next night -- a benefit for the children of Michel Jaroschy. He also announced a special variety show at Capitol City Playhouse, on November 25th, as a fund raiser for Michel Jaroschy's theater.

Larry then took over as M.C. and introduced Loel Graber singing "Rising early in the morning" from Gondoliers. Larry passed out program information and thanked Marilyn Babcock for serving as our accompanist while Bob Wall was in Denmark. He introduced Janette Jones, Director of our Gala Fund Raiser, who spoke briefly about the pleasures to come on December 8th, and said that Jess Walters would be our star. "He'll be the Judge -- and a good judge, too!" Then removing a shoe and disheveling her hair to create the right atmosphere, Janette gave us Mad Margaret's scene "Cheerily carols the lark" from *Ruddigore*. Larry introduced a new face: Julie Brown, who finished a Master's degree in Vocal Art at SMU, and has moved back to Austin and set up a private voice studio. She teaches ages 6 to 60 and even older. Julie sang a beautiful "Caro Nome" from Verdi's Rigoletto. Cont. p. 4

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	you o Members receive a Our m	u like Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to support our can do so by becoming a member of our society for a m monthly newsletter with information about G&S, our a onthly informal G&S musicales are open to the public contribution in any of the other categories are well our yearly productions and pay our monthly exper	ere ten dollars. activities and our members. at no charge. come and will help us moun	ıt
		our yearly productions and pay our monthly exper		
O Savoyar	d \$1,000	O Pooh-Bah \$500 - \$999	O Major General \$	

Grand Duke \$100 - \$249 O Member \$10	O Lord High Patron \$50 - \$99 O I prefer to keep my identity anonymous	O I do not wish to receive the Newsletter
Name	Phone	
Address		Zip code

Cont. from p. 3 Katharine Shields then took the stage to introduce us to the delights of Anna Russell, a British comedian and singer who has produced a wonderful take off entitled "How to write your own Gilbert & Sullivan opera." With charming humor Katharine gave us a quick sketch of the plot and rehearsed us in our brief choral lines. Parnassus Q. Vanderfeller's daughter Pneumonia is scheduled to marry

Claudebelly Bunion, although she is in love with plain John Smith. Katharine took the part of Dandelion, the female nurse, who rushes in to reveal that she mixed those babies up, and lost the "baby with the birthmark like a Spanish onion." Sentient words repeated by our chorus.

Continuing in a post-Halloween mood, Frank sang "Oh why am I moody and sad?" from *Ruddigore*, with Janette cuing us all in as the chorus. Frank and Janette sang the duet "I once was a very abandoned person", and went into the following dialog, with Loel entering to join them and finish the scene with the patter trio "My eyes are fully open." Larry remarked that he had fully enjoyed singing the *Mikado* chorus in October, so now he had provided the music and asked us all to join in singing "For he is an Englishman" from *Pinafore*, which we did with enthusiasm.

Bob Sharron and Paula Tyler explained the Silent Auction to us. It will take place at the Gala Fund Raiser on Sunday December 8th. The Silent Auction and Wassail Bowl will open the evening at 5 pm; the performance will follow at 6 pm; the winners will be announced at the Champagne Buffet after the show. We were all urged to help gather donations of exciting and interesting articles or services to be auctioned. Now is the time to cash in on your connections: restaurants, tire business, flower shops, whatever. Speak to Paula tonight, or leave a message at the Society office.

To finish up Frank sang the lead-in Pirate King solo, and we all joined in a lusty "Hail Poetry" (*Pirates*), followed by "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*). It helped considerably to have the printed words Larry had thoughtfully provided.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

GALA FUND RAISER Sunday, October 8 1996 from 5 pm Capitol City Playhouse (See p.1)

• Wish List •

Volunteer Office Workers
A Volunteer Costume Mistress
A Volunteer Technical Worker
Laser Printer
TV
VCR
Touch Tone Telephone
Call 472-4772

G&S Concerts in Schools

With 200 kids in the audience our Concert Quartet put on a delightful half hour of G&S music at the O. Henry School on Friday November 15. Programs are planned for Zavala and Brooke Elementary Schools, Covington Junior High, and Johnston High School.

Our Gala Fund Raiser

Robert Mellin was chatting recently with the world famous Flamenco dancer, Jose Greco II, and mentioned our fund raiser -- the last performance in Michel Jaroschy's theater, Capitol City Playhouse. Greco said he would like to perform one last time in his friend Michel's theater. And so it was arranged, and Greco will make a special trip to Austin from Spain to dance the cachucha, while our performers sing the chorus from *The Gondoliers*. There will also be some Flamenco dances.

So give yourself a good time, and help support your G&S Society on this Gala evening to raise money for our projects. Reserve your tickets NOW! See p.1.

A Mozart Fest

Our member <u>Lucian Chimene</u> asks that we urge our members to call 371-7217 for information about this annual program in celebration of Mozart's birthday.

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