

# January 1997 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Annual Meeting and Musicale •

- **Monday January 6, 1997 at 7:30 pm at Pearl Amsters, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.**

- In addition to a musical program there will be a short business meeting 1) to elect officers; 2) to vote on amendments to the Bylaws.

The proposed amendments will be available at the meeting. Or you may ask for a copy earlier by calling the Society office at 472-4772. An abstract appears inside this Newsletter. The nominating committee will propose the following slate of officers, who have all agreed to serve another year:

President  
Executive V.P.  
Production V.P.  
Publicity V.P.  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Historian-Parliamentarian  
Directors-at-large

Libby Weed  
Paula Tyler  
Chris Buggé  
Edward O. Kluth  
Reba Gillman  
Bill Hatcher  
Larry Shepley  
to be selected by the  
Executive Board



Rep. Lloyd Doggett, Libby Weed, Bill Hatcher

• **Message from your President** •

There wasn't a better show in town Sunday night, December 8. Hands down, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society's bash was the way to usher in the holiday season!

Beginning with our wassail hour, we had a marvelous time. The silent auction, our first such venture, was a success because of the incredible dedication and boundless energy of our Executive Vice President Paula Tyler. Paula and her committee (Bob Sharron, Allise Burris, and Kay Novak) took on a difficult task and made it great fun for us.

Janette's beautifully choreographed show, with sparkling performances by Susan, Stacey, Cynthia, Mary Alice, Frank, Allen, Dan, David, and Jess was a delight to the ears and eyes. Then there was Pepe--Jose Greco II--bringing the audience to its feet with his powerful and moving flamenco dances. After the encores, there was a sumptuous champagne buffet, with delectable main dishes augmented by our own members' wonderful side dishes and desserts.

All of that was enough to constitute a full and wonderful evening, but there was still more! We sang, talked, and enjoyed the lovely sounds of John Gregory's piano stylings in a lively social hour after the performance.

To add to all of this, we had the presence of our very special guest, Representative Lloyd Doggett of the U.S. House of Representatives. He just had to be there on such a history-making occasion, after all it was the efforts of his office that had tipped the balance and led to the unprecedented decision by the IRS to open a padlocked theatre and allow our show to go on.

Toward the end of the evening, we even had the presence of a few IRS agents, reminding us that we had to clear the theatre by the designated hour and remove every dish and paper we brought in before the padlocks were put back in place. Talk about adding drama to an already dramatic event!

Perhaps you followed some of this exciting story in the newspaper and on television in the days leading up to our gala, but very few know the scope of Robert Mellin's heroic efforts to preserve the evening. He was determined when nearly anyone else would have been hopeless, and he persevered until the Gilbert & Sullivan Society was assured that it would indeed be the closing act for Capitol City Playhouse. Some day, I hope you all get to hear the story of the week that led up to the Miracle on 4th Street.

\* \* \* \* \* Libby Weed \* \* \* \* \*

**Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772**

Welcome to Our New Office Manager: Amy Woodruff; Office Hours M - F, 1 - 5 pm  
Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

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

Abstract of Proposed Revisions to  
**BYLAWS**

*The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc.*

*Section 1 - NAME - No change.*

*Section 2 - PURPOSE - Deletes reference to distributions to organizations and maintains reference to educational purposes, including production and encouragement of production of G&S operas.*

*Section 3 - MEMBERSHIP - Connects two paragraphs into one and specifies that categories of membership are established by the Executive Board.*

*Section 4 - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS - Modifies statement about regular meetings to indicate that they might not be held in every summer month; states that the officers of the Society shall apprise members of actions of the Board at monthly meetings.*

*Section 5 - ELECTED OFFICERS - Gives the President the authority to appoint an interim officer to serve until the next regular meeting of the Society in case of a vacancy; maintains the authority of the Society to elect the new officer at the next regular meeting. States that the Executive Board will appoint a nominating committee at least two months before the Annual Meeting each year.*

*Section 6 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS - Deletes reference to each officer serving ex officio as a committee chair; indicates that committees may be formed and officers may chair them as needed to perform their duties. Defines the Production Vice President as chief production liaison to the Executive Board. Stipulates that one of the duties of the Secretary is to be responsible for the publication of the newsletter. Indicates that the Treasurer shall oversee receipt, deposit, and dispersal of all funds through office staff and the Executive Director; stipulates that the Treasurer shall make a financial report to the membership at the Annual Meeting.*

*Section 7 - EXECUTIVE BOARD - States that if the Executive Director serves as a member of the Board, he or she shall not participate in discussion or vote on matters concerning his or her position.*

*Section 7A - ADVISORY BOARD - No change.*

*Section 8 - DAILY OPERATIONS - Substitutes this name for "Committees" and states that the Board may be assisted in its duties by such committees as it may establish. States that the Board may secure the services of an Executive Director to perform the day-to-day business activities of the Society, conduct fund-raising activities, and serve as production manager under the supervision of the Board; also stipulates that the Executive Director shall report on activities at each Board meeting and shall consult with the Board on all activities.*

*Section 9 - FINANCES - States that membership dues shall be set by the Executive Board for each fiscal year and that dues are payable on each member's anniversary of membership. Indicates that checks may be signed by the Treasurer, President, or Executive Director.*

*Section 10 - PROCEDURE - No substantive change; clarification in wording.*

*Section 11 - AMENDMENTS - States that members may propose amendments to the Executive Board at least two month prior to the Annual Meeting; that amendments must be introduced in abstract form in the newsletter immediately preceding the Annual Meeting; and that amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting.*

*Section 12 - IMPLEMENTING BYLAWS - No change.*

1197





Robert Mellin  
with Cristina and Jose Greco II



At the end everyone was happy



Beverly Seffel, of LCRA  
Executive Director Robert Mellin  
and Executive Vice-President Paula Tyler

• The Gilbert & Sullivan Society •

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is organized for educational purposes, including production of the G&S operas in the traditional manner. We produce one large show a year. Our monthly G&S musicales are free and open to all. Our monthly newsletter is sent to our many members and friends. We bring small, quality concert groups to the schools. Students from Adopt-a-Schools are invited guests at our large productions. We award musical scholarships.

Executive Board

President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Executive V.P.	Paula Tyler	459-4639
Production V.P.	Chris Buggé	834-7766 (w)
Publicity V.P.	Edward O. Kluth	476-6209
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Hist. & Parl.	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Dir. at large	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Executive Director Robert Mellin		

• Wish List •

A Volunteer Costume Mistress

To help organize costumes all year round; our small Concert Group performances need Victorian costumes

Volunteer Office Workers

to help with the bulk mailing and other chores

A Volunteer Technical Worker

Laser Printer

TV

VCR

Call 472-4772

G&S Concerts in Schools continue to enchant school audiences. We'll have news of more performances in our next Newsletter.

• FLASH •

Two of our members are celebrating Christmas by acting in Austin shows. Robert Rudié plays Scrooge in the Zach Scott production of Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, and Allen Lawshae has an important role in *The Christmas Schooner*, produced by Austin Theatre for Youth.

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 ... Join our society for a mere \$10.

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.

→ Please use this form to join, to renew, or for change of address (and-help us keep our mailing list up-to-date). ←

• 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 •

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <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 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you work for a company that matches contributions? Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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**Come to our  
Musicale and Annual Meeting  
Monday, January 6, 1997 At Pearl Amster's**

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309 • Austin, Texas 78705