The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin February 1997 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

Next Meeting - Our monthly Musicale

- Monday February 3, 1997 at 7:30 pm at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.
- Come and enjoy what the fortunes bring us this month. Dan Smith is planning the program.

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• G & S CONCERTS in SCHOOLS •

Our small performing group continues to provide delightful tastes of the Gilbert and Sullivan repertory to enthusiastic school children. Recently the pianist failed to arrive for the concert at Zavala Elementary School. Nothing daunted the experienced performers put on the show a capella.

We have performed at Zavala
Brooke
Sanchez
O. Henry
Martin Junior High
Johnston High School

The Society is now a member of:

Texas Non-profit Organization
Austin Chapter of National Society of Fund Raising
Executives (NSFRE)

We have been a member of Austin Circle of Theaters (ACOT) since its inception.

Message from your President

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Society, I would like to thank the membership for your vote of confidence in us shown by your reelection of the Board for another one-year term at the January Annual Meeting. I would also like to thank Enid Hallock, nominating committee chair, and her committee of Katharine Shields and Bee Polomé for their willingness to serve in this role.

One of the serendipities of service on the Board has been the pleasure of getting better and better acquainted with a group of very interesting and delightful people, Paula, Chris, Edward, Reba, Bill, Larry, and Robert are a rather diverse collection of folks. Every one of them, not surprisingly, has a deep and abiding love for the arts -particularly for music, and more particularly for the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. Each one brings different talents to the Board, but each one has been indispensable and has made lasting contributions during the past year.

We have just completed what could well be described as the most successful year the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin has ever had. If you look at our membership, at participation in monthly musicales, at our production of a first-rate operetta which drew large crowds and glowing reviews, and at our presentation of a December gala which closed the year on an emotional and artistic high, I think you will agree that 1996 was a grand year. A lot of credit goes to an outstanding board and a gifted, hard-working, and tireless Executive Director. A great deal also goes to the large body of supporters who are a part of every grand occasion.

We need your continued support in the form of membership dues (in whatever category of membership you choose), attendance at monthly gatherings and annual performances, and suggestions to Board members about any phase of our work and events. Finally, don't forget to tell your friends and fellow lovers of the arts about our thriving group and its activities. We love to make new friends!

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

• Annual Meeting and Musicale •

A small but dedicated group gathered at Pearl Amster's on a wintry Monday, January 6th to conduct the Society's Annual Business Meeting and sing Gilbert and Sullivan. Members present were: Pearl, Allise Burris, Lucian Chimene, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bill Hatcher, Edward Kluth, Robert Mellin, Gary Preuss, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess and Emma Walters, Libby Weed and Lord High Photographer Ernie Welch. Guests were Cynthia Hill and Amy Woodruff, our new Office Manager.

President Libby Weed presided over the business meeting. Allise Burris moved that we accept the slate of officers received from Enid Hallock and her Nominating Committee of Katharine Shields and Bee Polomé. Robert Mellin seconded the motion, which passed. Libby noted that three positions of Director-at-Large remained open to be appointed by the newly elected Executive Board. Treasurer Bill Hatcher passed out his year-end report, stating that not all figures were in for December, and the Gala Fund Raiser. These will be available next month. The Society showed a net profit for 1996 of \$4,500. Some concern was expressed that the Society had put money into conservative income accounts rather than even safer money market or asset management accounts.

Next item of business was consideration of revisions to the By-laws. Libby pointed out that the minimal proposed changes were suggested to preserve the original volunteer quality, with a little more flexibility, and to respect the will of the membership not to spend a lot of time on Society business. Concern was expressed that we had deleted the phrase authorizing disbursement of money to other 501(c)3 organizations. This concern was answered by pointing out that the phrase is still found in the Society's articles of incorporation. Another question concerned requiring two signatures for checks for over a certain amount. After discussion Allise Burris moved that checks for amounts of money over \$1500 must also be signed by the Treasurer. Bob Wall seconded the motion which passed. Reba Gillman moved that we accept the revisions to the By-laws. Emma Walters seconded the motion, which passed.

Finally the Executive Board announced that it had voted to give \$500 to the fund for the education of the Jaroschy children, and asked for the approval of the membership. Live Oak Theater has set up a 501(c)3 fund for this purpose. Questions were raised about the legality of such action. Robert said he would get a written legal opinion on the matter and consult further with Allise Burris, who is a lawyer. Robert introduced our guests, Amy Woodruff and Cynthia Hill. He also announced two pieces of good news. We had received \$500 from Amoco, and Richard Brown has agreed to be our Technical Director.

At last Libby turned the meeting over to Robert who had planned the musical program. Loel started us off with "When I was a lad" from *Pinafore*, with all joining in the chorus. Then Cynthia, one of our Mabels last summer, sang "Poor wandering one" from Pirates with a lusty chorus of male and female "maidens." Robert reported that he had won two tickets to ALO's The Ballad of Baby Doe (by Douglas Moore) by answering John Aielli's question on KUT, "In what opera is the leading man not a tenor?" Robert replied that if G&S counted it was Strephon in Iolanthe. Of course Rigoletto is also a better-known answer. Bill sang "Oh better far to live and die a Pirate King" from *Pirates* demonstrating that this rousing aria can also be sung by a light-voiced tenor, and not always a sturdy bass-voiced Russell Gregory. Cynthia sang Elsie's "Tis done, I am a bride" from Yeomen.

Loel produced an interesting CD he had come across, A Gilbert & Sullivan Festival performed by the King's Singers, sometimes to accompaniment (not always recognizable Sullivan), and sometimes very effectively a capella. He played "Ah leave me not to pine alone" Pirates, and "Here's a how-de-do" from The Mikado. Gary Preuss sang "When all night long" from Iolanthe, remarking that with the legislature going into session he thought this appropriate ("When all night long a chap remains On sentry go, to chase monotony He exercises of his brains, That is, assumng that he's got any," followed in the second verse by "When in that House M P's divide, If they've a brain and cerebellum, too, They've got to leave that brain outside, And vote just as their leaders tell 'em to.")

Jess sang "The learned judge" from *Trial by Jury*. Jess told us he had received an invitation to the celebration of 50 Years of Covent Garden, and would leave on Friday to travel to London. He wondered how many of his old colleagues he would see. Bill sang the introduction to "Hail Poetry" from *Pirates*, and we all stood to sing our best. Then with "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*), we flocked to delicious refresnments.

Note: Ernie Welch got a good shot of us all singing "Hail Poetry", which I print on page 4, with names. Some are mere heads poking out from behind someone else, but you get a feeling for what it's like to stand and deliver in Pearl's Soirée room. Only four people are not shown at all: Bob Wall (at the piano). Libby Weed, Amy Woodruff, and Ernie Welch, who was busy taking the picture..

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.		459-4639	
Production V.P.		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	
Executi	ve Director Robert N	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

Willing to work on 24 hours notice to help with the bulk mailing and other chores

IBM Selectric Typewriter Laser Printer TV VCR

Call 472-4772

Many Thanks to

Richard Brown

who has agreed to serve as our Technical Director.

Richard is the person responsible for cleaning up Capitol City Playhouse, making it pretty, and getting it ready for our December 8th Gala.

He is truly a magician!



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.

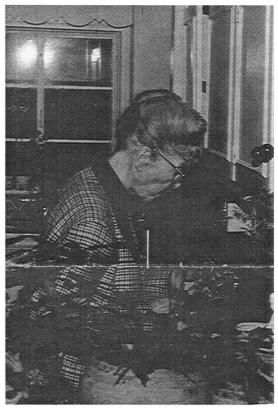


If you like Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to support our efforts ... Join our society for a mere \$10. Members receive a monthly newsletter with information about G&S, our activities and our members. Our monthly informal G&S musicales are open to the public at no charge.

- → 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

O Savoyard \$1,000 O Grand Duke \$100 - \$249 O Member \$10	O Pooh-Bah \$500 - \$999 O Lord High Patron \$50 - \$99 O I prefer to keep my identity anonymous	O Major General \$250 - \$499 O Patron \$25 - \$49 O I do not wish to receive the Newsletter			
Name	Phone	e			
Address		Zip code			
Do you work for a company that matches contributions? Company Name:					





The Hostess with the Mostest Pearl in her kitchen

MUSICALE at Pearl's

All join in --"Hail Poetry"

Robert Mellin's back, Gary Preuss, Reba Gillman,
Lucian Chimene, Jess Walters, Bill Hatcher, Ed Kluth,
Loel Graber, Emma Walters, Pearl Amster, Cynthia
Hill, Allise Burris





ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED





Come to our Musicale Monday, February 3, 1997 At Pearl Amster's The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

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February 22, 1997 Vol. 151, No. 8 Pages 113-128



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