

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

March 1997 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

• Next Meeting - Our monthly Musicale •

• **Monday March 3, 1997 at 7:30 pm** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.

• **Frank Delvy** will entertain us, playing the guitar and singing some non-G&S music. There will be some old favorite G&S as well. Come and enjoy the fun. Please bring munchies.

♪♪♪ • *Yeomen of the Guard* • ♪♪♪

Coming! Announcements of our June production of *The Yeomen of the Guard* in our April Newsletter.

Watch for information about open auditions, directors, locations, and times.



Yeomen tells the tale of an itinerant jester and his maid, laid onto the pageantry and tragedy of Britain's historic Tower of London. It's a story of injustice overcome, and an executioner who unlike Ko-Ko in *The Mikado* enjoys chopping off heads; love triumphs for two, while others swallow a bitter pill. Far from the usual G&S happy ending for all.



• Texas Non-Profit Theaters •

We are now a member of this organization; Executive Director Robert Mellin attended the recent Festival and symposium in San Antonio put on by their Quad 3, which covers the area from Central Texas to the Mexican border. A featured part of this gathering was performance in the Josephine Theater by the following: Victoria Community Theater doing *Dracula*; S.T.A.G.E. Inc. from Bulverde, performing *For Whom The Southern Belle Tolls*; Temple Civic Theater doing *Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking*; Bastrop Opera House performing *The Fantasticks*; and the Circle Arts Theater of New Braunfels presenting *Greetings*.

• Message from your President •

It's fun to be around interesting people, and that is one reason our monthly musicales are so enjoyable. If you listen to the conversation at our gatherings, it ranges far beyond our interest in music and the arts. This month's message highlights the culinary ability of some of our members by featuring recipes for two dishes that have been stars at recent events.

Potato Salad by Mayda Arnason

3 large potatoes	salt and pepper	1/2 onion, grated
6 boiled eggs, diced		6 stuffed green olives
1/2 c. mayonaise	3 T wine vinegar	dab of mustard

Peel and dice potatoes and cook till very soft with salt and pepper to taste. In a separate bowl, mix grated onions, sliced green olives, and other ingredients. Add this mixture to cooked and drained potatoes while they are hot, and mix well. Potatoes should be creamy. Chill and serve.

Texas Caviar by Lucian Chimene

2 15-oz. cans black-eyed peas	4 scallions, green parts only
2-3 jalapenos, seeded and chopped	
1/4 c. chopped fresh cilantro	1/2 c. corn oil
1/2 c. fresh lime juice	1/4 c. apple cider vinegar

Drain and rinse the peas, transfer to a bowl. Put all remaining ingredients in a processor and add about a quarter of the peas. Blend to a thick liquid. Pour over remaining peas and toss. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Marinate at least a day, stirring to mix the ingredients. The liquid will thicken. Serve in a shallow glass bowl with round tortilla chips for scooping.

Mayda's potato salad is a family recipe from Cuba, and she and Byron say that it's one of those recipes you need to taste as you go to get the proportions just right. She has never actually measured the mayonaise, so adjust this to taste. This recipe was requested after our December fund-raising gala. Lucian's appetizer was featured at the January musicale, and it beats any dip I've ever tasted. Lucian says that the peas may all be kept whole, if you prefer, rather than some being processed. But I personally wouldn't dare meddle with the way he made it for our gathering.

Bon appétit!

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

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Office • Phone: 472-4772
Office Manager • Amy Woodruff • Office Hours M - F, 1 - 5 pm
Newman Hall, Room 309, 2026 Guadalupe St., Austin TX 78705

• Last Meeting and Musicale •

37 people assembled in Pearl's studio (Soirée room) on Monday February 3, to enjoy an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan and other treats. Members present were: Pearl Amster, Byron Arnason, Dona Brooks, Allise Burris, Lucian Chimene, Yvonne & Doug DeLay, Harold Gilbert with his new wife Eve and their neighbor Charlotte Feuer, Reba Gillman, Doug Glenn, Loel Graber, John Gregory, Enid Hallock with daughter-in-law Kim, Bill Hatcher, Chuck Kraus, Allen Lawshae, Moise Levy, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerrman, Kay Novak, Bee Polomé, Bob Sharron, Dan Smith, Leland L. Smith, Bob & Martha Spiegel, Ginger Storey, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson. Guests were Carolyn Gregory, Tom Griffith, and Cathy Jackson.

As President Libby Weed opened the meeting Reba passed around pamphlets received from the Berkshire Choral Festival which takes place this summer in Sheffield MA. There are five separate weeks in Sheffield, and one each in Santa Fe, Canterbury England, and Salzburg Austria. [If you are interested call Reba at 327-2277.] Executive Director Robert Mellin said that he would be making announcements about our production of *Yeomen* soon, when details have been firmed up. The evening was then turned over to Dan Smith who had planned the program.

Dan said he thought the audience didn't get as much chance to sing as they'd like so he had prepared copies of what he called "a hymnal", containing ten choruses from G&S. He asked us to turn to page 1 and sing along at the proper moments while Allen Lawshae relived those glorious days "When Britain really ruled the waves" (*Iolanthe*), with Bob Wall at the piano. Dan then introduced his long-time performing partner Tim Griffith, who took over the piano to accompany Dan as he sang "not Gilbert and Sullivan, but very much in their spirit" "Im the *bon vivant* you want" by Johnny Mercer.

Bob Wall returned to the piano and Harold Gilbert sang "When all night long" from *Iolanthe*, first telling us he would not attempt "the dazzling presentation of arms between verses". Dan then proclaimed "We need an Admiral" and drafted Robert Mellin to do the job. Robert good-naturedly made an entrance to the audience's choral accompaniment. He then deferred to Dan who sang the Admiral's "When I was a lad" (all from *Pinafore*), with rousing sailor's chorus from the audience. Bill Hatcher, a light tenor, announced that he wanted to sing a bass aria - "Let's see how low it goes -- I have a fall-back plan." He plunged into "When a felon's not engaged in his employment" (*Pirates*) with Harold singing the very low notes for Bill, and enthusiastic support from the chorus of all present.

Enid Hallock then sang "Sir Rupert Murgatroyd," Dame Hannah's explanation of the curse of *Ruddigore*, with the ominous echo from the chorus. Dan again turned to light British, non-G&S patter, and sang "I've grown accustomed to her face" from *My Fair Lady* by Lerner and Lowe. The lines "Marry Freddie - what a silly idea!" brought from Robert the question as to what G&S character invokes the probable future if she goes through with her wedding. The answer: Josephine in *Pinafore* as she sings "The hours creep on apace, My guilty heart is quaking! Oh, that I might retrace the step that I am taking." Robert then passed around a souvenir brought by Yvonne DeLay -- an announcement preserved on silk of *H.M.S. Pinafore* to be performed at the Academy of Music in 1886. A quick mental review decided that this was in Philadelphia -- Robert's home town, not the Academy in Brooklyn as suggested by some.

Dan told us that this had been a rather impromptu program with many last minute replacements for performers who had conflicts and family problems come up. He, Harold, and Bill, then joined in singing the Pirate King's introduction, followed by a lusty "Hail Poetry" sung by all. With "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*) we concluded the musical program a little earlier than usual and went off to enjoy good sociability and good food. The evening ended with some happy singers around the piano, and John Gregory at the keyboard.

* * * *

Note: I'm sorry to say that the group photo of the January Musicale came out too dark in the February Newsletter. It was impossible to see those little figures peeking out of the background.

• Walter Ducloux •
Hail and Farewell

Austin has lost a great man. After an interesting, achievement-filled life Walter retired from UT Austin, and with Joe McLain founded the Austin Lyric Opera. It thrived, and this year is celebrating its tenth successful year. It will remain a fitting memorial to Walter Ducloux, who died on January 25th. Anyone who had any direct contact with Walter will remember with affection his unassuming wisdom, his enthusiasm, and above all his passion for opera. We'll miss him!

Our member Ernie Welch is a professional photographer

Call him at 833-8127

You have enjoyed his excellent shots in our recent Newsletters

• 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

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Executive Director Robert Mellin		

♥ ♥ ♥ Many Thanks ♥ ♥ ♥

to

Mr. & Mrs. William Haight

For the donation of an IBM Selectric Typewriter.

• 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

Laser Printer

TV
VCR

Call 472-4772

• News of Members •

Tasha Waring, our youngest member, has been singing with the Austin Children's Choir, and has been invited to appear in the Austin Lyric Opera's March performance of *La Boheme*. We'll be watching for her!

And on the other end of the scale, our oldest member Lucy Shoe Meritt will be receiving yet another honor on Saturday, April 5th at 9:30 am in the LBJ auditorium on the UT campus. At that time Lucy will receive the *Pro Bene Meritis* Award given by the College of Liberal Arts of the University of Texas.

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). ➔

 **NOTICE: A date on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires.**

We welcome contributions, upgrades, and dues from ALL our readers.

Many thanks to those observant members who send in renewals when they are due. 

• Your tax-deductible contribution in any of the higher 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 |
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Name _____ Phone _____

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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



The Pirates of Penzance
June 1996

Photos by our Houston member
Howard Hayden

Janette Jones as Ruth
Russell Gregory as the Pirate King
and chorus of Pirates

Robert Nelson, Sgt. of Police
with Major General Stanley's
daughters



The
Gilbert
& SULLIVAN Society
OF AUSTIN

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Come to our Musicale
Monday, March 3, 1997 At Pearl Amster's

