

THE *Gilbert & Sullivan*

OCTOBER 1997 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

G&S SOCIETY HONORS REBA GILLMAN

ROBERT MELLIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reba Gillman, who many consider to be the foundation of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, will be honored for her outstanding service at our monthly Musicale on Oct. 6. Although a reliable supporter of various Austin arts organizations, she is primarily known for her love and devotion to Gilbert & Sullivan and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Her respect for the integrity of artistic intent of Gilbert & Sullivan's works has been a pillar around which lovers of this beloved art form gather. Since joining the society in 1978 as a performer, she has been consistently involved. Before her long-term position as secretary, Reba had been president. But, it is as editor of the Society's newsletter that she perhaps makes the biggest impact. Its informative and yet folksy format has been called the glue that holds the Society together. And although Reba is a generous financial contributor, she can often be seen at the office putting address labels on mailings. For more information about the Musicale, please call the G&S office at 472-4772.



ERNIE WELCH, PHOTOGRAPHER

REBA GILLMAN WILL BE HONORED AT OUR OCTOBER MUSICALE FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

CHECK YOUR LABEL! MEMBERSHIP LIST TO BE UPDATED

Periodically, the G&S Society has to update its membership list. We have not heard from some members for a long time; they need to renew their membership. Some have not paid any dues in two years but we still send them the monthly newsletter.

We must learn if they still want to be kept informed about society events and members. We suspect that some do not even realize that their yearly fee is past due. We at the G&S office must accept some of the responsibility because we really haven't been sending special reminders to those in arrears. We were depending on people to read the small print on the membership and renewal form that is part of each newsletter. There it tells that you can learn your renewal date by reading the date that appears next to your name on the top right of the mailing label. If that date is past or is about to be, simply complete the form and mail it along with your check to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Special October Musicale

PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS TRIBUTE TO

Reba Gillman

The mainstay of the G&S Society

Performer
Board Member
Financial Contributor
Secretary
Newsletter Editor

Monday, October 6 at 7:30 PM

LOCATION FOR THIS EVENT

at the home of Paula Tyler
4400 Balcones (459-4639)
Map inside, page 4

CALL THE G&S OFFICE FOR MORE INFO 472-4772

Holiday Season All-star show

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

AT

ST. STEPHENS SCHOOL

SEE INSIDE

LAST MEETING AND MUSICALE

REBA GILLMAN, SECRETARY

On Monday Sept. 8, 1997, we opened the season with 39 G&S enthusiasts in attendance at Pearl Amster's. Members Pearl Amster, Byron Arnason, Lucian Chimene, Deacon Crain, Frank Delvy, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Enid Hallock & son Gary, Bill Hatcher & daughter Lauren, Janette Jones, John Mast, Nancy McQueen, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Bee Harris Polome & Chuck Kraus, Larry Shepley, Andree Sjoborg, Dan Smith, Leland L. Smith, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Jess & Emma Walters, Libby Weed, Lord High Photographer Ernie Welch, and Theresa Wilson attended. Several new members also joined us: Stuart Inglis, Glenn A. Breed, Robert Dole, Cynthia Hill, Teresa Kim, Mark Long, Melissa Raymond, and Mark Shannon. Three guests also participated: Jeanette Lay and Martha & Barry Williams.

President Libby Weed welcomed us to another happy year of Gilbert & Sullivan. She introduced Executive Director Robert Mellin, who took over the proceedings. He announced that our big production this season will be *The Mikado* playing in June at the Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephens. It will be a wonderful, authentic production.

Robert told us that a lot of the Yeomen cast were with us tonight, ready and eager to sing music from the show. To open, Robert Dole, Mark Long, Mark Shannon, Dan Smith, Melissa Raymond, and Teresa Kim, a lusty six-person chorus, sang "Here's a man of jollity," with Frank Delvy and Cynthia Hill entering as Jack Point and Elsie Maynard, and continuing with their duet, "I have a song to sing, O!" Janette Jones, as Phoebe, then sang the song that opens the opera, "When maiden loves, she sits and sighs." Enid Hallock was prevailed upon to sing the dramatic but difficult "When the gallant Norman foes," Dame Carruthers' bloodthirsty recital, with the chorus joining in on the ominous refrain "The screw may twist and the rack may turn, And men may bleed and men may burn, O'er London town and its golden hoard I keep my silent watch and ward!"

Continuing to sample here and there, we skipped ahead to the second act and Frank sang "Oh! a private buffoon is a lighthearted loon," with all five verses by popular demand — several were omitted from our pro-

duction. Then back to the first act, with Cynthia Hill, our charming Elsie, singing "Tis done! I am a bride!" Robert declared this won the Bread Prize and produced a loaf donated by Texas French Bread — more was distributed later. With a flourish, Robert brought forth a *Yeomen* T-shirt and a video tape of our *Pirates*, both available for sale. Scrolling past while the orchestra plays the overture, all the members' names appear on the opening display of the video. The chorus sang the somber opening to Act II, "Night has spread her pall once more," with Enid again providing Dame Carruthers' solo "Warders are ye? Whom do ye ward?"

The new members then introduced themselves, all having sung in our *Yeomen*. Dan Smith said he had appeared in our last five productions. As for Frank, he's sung in eight, starting back in 1983 with our first production of *Gondoliers*. Janette has also appeared in eight of our shows, starting in 1988 I believe.

Back to Act I, the chorus sang "The pris'n'r comes to meet his doom;" with Cynthia supplying Elsie's solo. Janette sang "Were I thy bride," in which Phoebe steals the jailer's keys, and then returns them unnoticed.

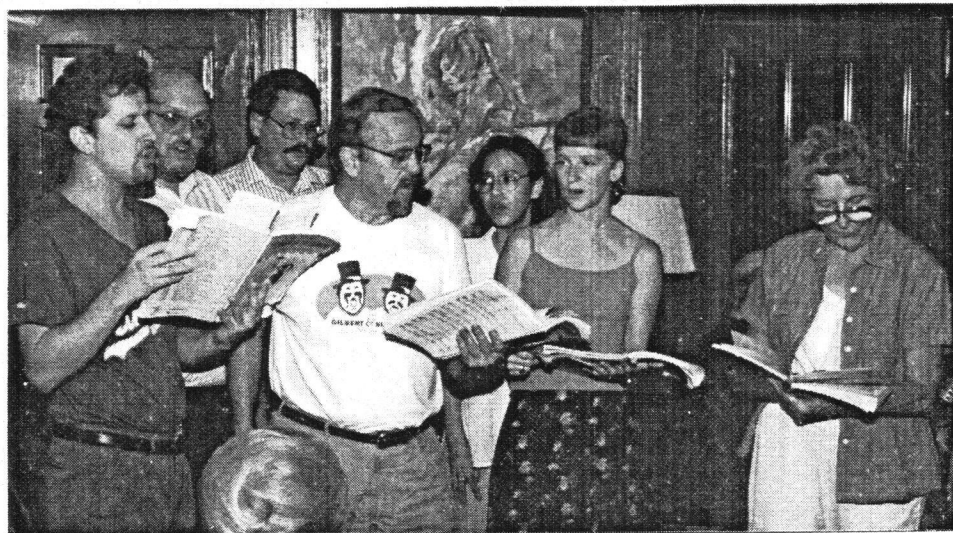
Mike Shannon volunteered to sing the part of Shadbolt to Frank's Jack Point in the song "Hereupon were both agreed ... What a tale of cock and bull!" from Act II. Frank undertook to sing the tenor part, joined by Cynthia and Janette, in "A man who would woo a fair maid." And to wind it all up, Elsie

(Cynthia) sang "A suppliant at thy feet I fall." The chorus joined in, and Frank sang "Oh, thoughtless crew! Ye know not what ye do!" to introduce the very last song of the opera, "I have a song to sing, O!"

Looking forward to our next show Frank and Enid sang "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" from *The Mikado*. Lucian Chimene reminded us that the Mikado had decreed "That all who flirted, leered, or winked (Unless connubially linked), Should forthwith he beheaded." Now, a town in Oregon has passed a law making it a crime to wink. Lucian said, "It's only a matter of time before Gilbert's ability to foresee the future will be fully evident."

Robert gave us a brief report on his attendance at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Philadelphia in July. He said he saw the rarely produced operas, *Princess Ida*, and *Utopia Limited* as well as two versions of *Cox and Box* and all the familiar operas. Asked if he thought we might put on one of the less well-known operas, he replied that *Princess Ida* might well be done here.

Then standing, we all sang "Hail Poetry!" from *Pirates*, and "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer*. We gave a rousing thank you to our faithful pianist, Bob Wall. Welcome back, Bob! Then, we went off the chat and munch in Pearl's dining room. And through it all, Ernie Welch was taking the pictures we love, some of which are printed in this newsletter. Thank you Ernie!



ERNIE WELCH, PHOTOGRAPHER

CAST MEMBERS ROBERT DOLE, MARK LONG, MARK SHANNON, DAN SMITH, TERESA KIM, MELISSA RAYMOND SING FROM *YEOMEN*, JOINED BY ENID HALLOCK AS DAME CARRUTHERS.

IN SCHOOL CONCERTS TO CONTINUE

We are in the process of filling in the schedule of in-school concerts by our corp of specially trained performers. Bedichek Middle School in South Austin will receive a visit from our troop on Sep. 22.

Every one of our school concerts has been a tremendous success. The students love them – they write us and tell us so.

Already committed to perform this season, Bob Wall, piano accompanist, Janette Jones, Dan Girardot and Frank Delvy will introduce the wonderful music of Gilbert & Sullivan to these children.



ERNIE WELCH, PHOTOGRAPHER

YEOMEN CAST MEMBERS CYTHIA HILL, JANETTE JONES AND FRANK DELVY SING MUSIC FROM *YEOMEN* AT OUR SEPTEMBER MUSICALE.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION FOR OUR DECEMBER 6 GALA FUND-RASIER

Our Dec. 6 G&S Holiday-Season All-Star Revue and Champagne Buffet Gala at St. Stephens is really a fund-raiser to provide money for next season's production of *The Mikado*. In addition to the sale of tickets, silent auctions have become a very popular way of raising funds. At last year's gala fund-raiser at Capitol City Playhouse, we attempted a silent auction for the first time. We made almost \$1,000. Naturally, we

would like to see that kind of success again. We need the help of the Society's members and friends to ensure that success. Here is how you can help. Those of you who have a business, please donate an item. Perhaps you could also ask a business friend to make a donation. We also need volunteers to collect the donation items and set it all up. If you can help, please call the G&S office at 472-4772.

VOLUNTEER CHORAL DIRECTOR NEEDED

SOMEONE WHO COULD CONDUCT OUR NEW G&S CHORUS. THE IDEA IS TO PERIODICALLY GET TOGETHER TO LEARN AND SING G&S JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT. CONTACT ROBERT MELLIN AT 472-4772

Ernie Welch
Lord High Photographer
Thank you for your
wonderful pictures.
We forgot to mention
you in our newsletter
last month.

THANK YOU BEVERLY SEFFEL AND
LCRA EMPLOYEE'S UNITED CHARITIES FOR
THE PRINTING DONATIONS

THE WISH LIST

A VOLUNTEER COSTUME PERSON TO HELP
ORGANIZE COSTUMES ALL YEAR ROUND

VOLUNTEER OFFICE WORKERS TO HELP WITH
BULK MAILING AND OTHER CHORES WHO CAN
WORK ON SHORT NOTICE

A TELEVISION FOR OUR OFFICE

FOR SALE

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE VIDEO
OUR 1996 PRODUCTION
\$20.00

THE VERY POPULAR YEOMEN T-SHIRTS
\$15.00

AVAILABLE AT THE OCTOBER MUSICALE
AND THE G&S OFFICE

GILBERT & SULLIVAN HOLIDAY SEASON ALL-STAR REVUE AND CHAMPAGNE BUFFET FUND-RAISER

Michael McKelvey, the "busiest man in Austin with the pretty baritone voice" has agreed to be stage director for our Holiday Season All-Star Revue Champagne Buffet Fund-Raiser. The location will be the Helm Fine Arts Center at St. Stephens School where we performed *The Gondoliers* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. The date will be Saturday, Dec. 6. A very special cast of performers is now being recruited and will be announced soon.

THANKS TO MAURICE STOUSE AND FIDELITY
INVESTMENTS FOR A DONATION TO THE DEC. 6
ALL-STAR REVUE FUND-RAISER AT
ST. STEPHENS SCHOOL

10/07

ABOUT GILBERT & SULLIVAN

THE ROLE OF D'OYLY CARTE

DIANA BELL

The man who was to forge the talents of these two disparate personalities into a creative sword that cut through the banality and parochialism of native English light opera, was christened Richard Doyle McCarthy and was born in Greek Street, Soho, On 3 May 1844. His father was a flautist who owned an instrument making company, Rudall, Rose and Co., which later became the famous firm of Rudall Care and was the first to import the saxophone into London. Richard invented a "new" flute, which is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Like Sullivan, he had Irish blood, and had a woodwind player for a father; indeed the two men became devoted friends. His mother, Eliza Jones, was the daughter of a cultivated and literary clergyman. She claimed French descent and made Richard speak French for two days a week at home. He was the eldest

of six children and the whole family were creatively orientated: he mounted plays in a model theatre, which were so impressively atmospheric that a younger sister is reported to have burst into tears and vowed never to watch another production by her brother.

Carte went to University College School from 1856 to 1860, and, like Gilbert, proceeded to London University, but did not take his degree, deciding instead, after a year, to go into his father's business. By 1870, he had set himself up as a concert agent in Charing Cross Road with singers, dramatists and lecturers on his books, including the great Adelina Patti, the poet Matthew Arnold and Oscar Wilde. But he had always wanted to be an impresario, and became manager of the Royal Theatre, Soho, which specialized in operas and burlesques. Now, he was poised to fulfil his 1869 ambition, when he had stated that his life's aim was to establish "English comic opera in a

theatre devoted to that alone."

His childhood creativity continued into adult life and he wrote several operettas, under the nom-de-plume Mark Lynne. He produced the first, *Dr. Ambrosias*, when only 24. It was reasonably successful. *Marie* followed at the Opera Comique in 1871, the same year as *Thespis*, and his last work at the Royalty in 1877 was called *Happy Hampstead*. By 1871 he was married to Blanche Prowse, whose father was one of the founders of Keith Prowse, but she died ten years later, leaving him with two sons, Lucas, who became a barrister, and Rupert, born in 1876, who was to succeed his father in the management of his opera company.

ARTICLE TAKEN FROM *THE COMPLETE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN*, WELLFEET PRESS, 110 ENTERPRISE AVENUE, SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY 07094.

MAP TO MUSICALE HONORING REBA GILLMAN



HOME OF SOCIETY V.P. PAULA TYLER 459-4639
4400 BALCONES DR. BETWEEN 35TH STREET AND 2222
PARK ON SHINOAK AND PLEASE BRING MUNCHIES

A MESSAGE FROM THE G&S SOCIETY PRESIDENT

LIBBY WEED, PRESIDENT

Get out your calendar or planner now and mark Monday, Oct. 6, at 7:30 p.m.. Check the announcement in this bulletin for Paula Tyler's address and directions to her house. If you were at Paula's house last October when we honored John Bustin, you know this will be a wonderful event.

This year our special honoree is Reba Gillman, the person most responsible for this newsletter and for a great many of the day-to-day operations of this society. A year and a half ago when Reba was nominated for the "Five Who Care" Community Service Awards sponsored by KVUE television, we dedicated some space in this column in her honor. Now that she has been nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award as an outstanding board member of a theatrical society and has been selected as the honoree at our October Musicale, I would like to turn the spotlight on Reba again.

Reba has been a guiding light of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin since 1978. For a total of eighteen years she has served as our secretary and editor of our newsletter. During the period from 1981 to 1983, she was our president. Her lovely soprano voice was featured in productions between 1978 and 1985: *Iolanthe*, *Patience*,

Scenes (from various operas), *Trial by Jury*, *Gondoliers*, and *Ruddigore*.

Reba and her husband, Dr. Leonard Gillman, professor emeritus, UT department of mathematics, have both provided leadership and support to the Society. Last April, Len delighted the group gathered at Pearl Amster's with Tom Lehrer's "The Elements." After singing Tom's catalog of the 102 elements that had been discovered at the time the song was written, Len added a coda he wrote when the list had reached 109, adding "hahnium, lawrencium, and also rutherfordium, and 106-7-8 and 9. No more yet, thank the Lordium!" Len, we're still

waiting for your next verse, bringing the song up to date with all the elements since discovered! Reba and Len are surely one of the most interesting couples in Austin — as they probably were when they were in Rochester, Princeton, Lafayette (Indiana), and Washington, D.C. before coming here. Last December they threw a combined birthday and anniversary bash to commemorate their natal days and their marriage.

Please come on Oct. 6 to find our more fascinating things about Reba and to share us in thanking her for her many contributions to our Society. Reba, we couldn't have done what we have done without you!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our office.

The label will also tell you what your membership level is so you will know how much to send. Of course, you may change that level — preferably to a higher category. We really want you to be a member so we know you like G&S and appreciate the many activities that help spread the good news of G&S.

There are others who receive our newsletter because we are inviting them to become members. Their mailing label lists

them as being at the development level. They are people who expressed an interest in our society. We send them complimentary newsletters for a given period of time. Remember, you can be a member and continue to receive the newsletters for as little as \$10 a year.

If after a limited time we do not hear from you, your name will be transferred to a list that will only inform you about big shows. If you are not interested in that, please let us know by using the same form.

New or renewal membership form

Please check your membership level on the top of the mailing label. If you are in the "Development" category you will receive three complimentary newsletters. We encourage you to join our society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal date on the top right corner of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership or become a member, complete this form and mail it to us at:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
2026 Guadalupe, #309
Austin, TX 78705

Name: (As you want it to appear) _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Do your company match contributions?

Company Name: _____

Please Check One:

- ☐ Member \$10
- ☐ Patron \$25-\$49
- ☐ Lord High Patron \$50-\$99
- ☐ Grand Duke \$100-\$249
- ☐ Major General \$250-\$499
- ☐ Pooh-Bah \$500-\$999
- ☐ Savoyard \$1,000 and over
- ☐ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.

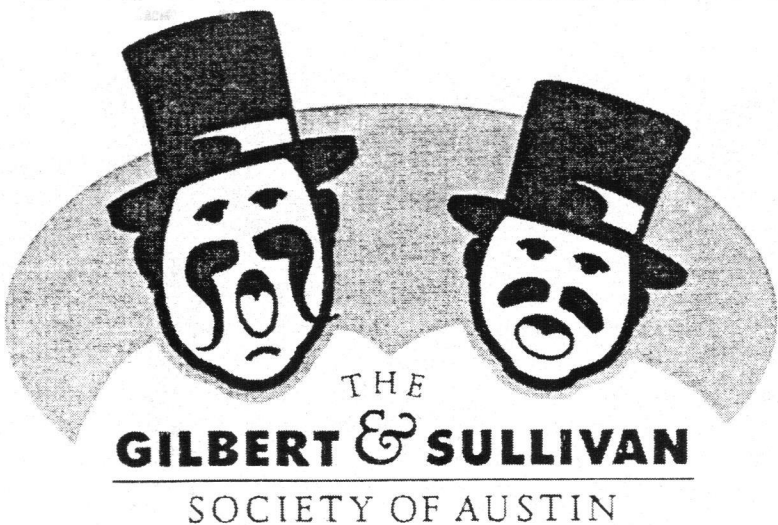
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE
GILBERT & SULLIVAN
SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

22812-0114

2026 GUADALUPE STREET, SUITE 309 * AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 2054
AUSTIN, TEXAS



Honor Reba Gillman

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN
SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

MISSION:

SINCE 1976, WE HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO TEACHING THE JOYS OF COMIC OPERA THROUGH PERFORMANCES AND CHILD-INTENSIVE PROGRAMS.

WHAT WE DO:

Annual Grand Production
School Outreach concerts
Free monthly Musicales
Musical Scholarships
Monthly Newsletter
Holiday Season Show

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	LIBBY WEED	837-5441
EXECUTIVE V.P.	PAULA TYLER	459-4639
PRODUCTION V.P.	CHRIS BUGGE	834-7766
PUBLICITY V.P.	EDWARD O. KLUTH	476-6209
SECRETARY	REBA GILLMAN	327-1511
TREASURER	BILL HATCHER	892-3722
HIST. & PARL.	LARRY SHERLEY	327-1511
DIR. AT LARGE	ROBERT MELLIN	345-5950

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT MELLIN
OFFICE MANAGER HUNTER STANCO

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR REBA GILLMAN
LAYOUT HUNTER STANCO

2026 GUADALUPE STREET

SUITE 309

AUSTIN, TX 78705

(512) 472-4772

[HTTP://MEMBERS.AOL.COM/MAHTABEL/GASSA/HOME.HTML](http://members.aol.com/mahtabel/gasssa/home.html)