

THE

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

DECEMBER 1998 NEWSLETTER

★ Next Meeting ★
★ Our Monthly Musicale ★

Monday December 7, 1998

Come & Go

7:00 – 9:00 pm at Paula Tyler's

4400 Balcones Drive

[On the corner of Shinoak and Balcones between
35th Street and Perry Lane (45th Street)]

459-4639

Christmas and Hanukkah

Singing ★ Tree Trimming ★ Wassail

Families Welcome ★ Bring the Kids!

Paula and Larry Shepley are arranging the program and promise interesting musical variety and holiday activities. Please bring Holiday Goodies.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

COMING ★ SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting and Monthly Musicale
Elect Officers

Monday, January 4, 1999, at 7:30 pm
Back at Pearl Amster's

Nominating Committee: Chris Buggé, Chair ★ Bill Hatcher
★ Robert Mellin ★ Please call them to make suggestions.

Message from Your President

Libby Weed

No one could have been more deserving of honor than Jess and Emma Walters, and no one could have been more gracious in receiving it. Our gala tribute to this wonderful couple on October 16 was a fine event indeed. The music, the buffet, and the conversation were all top-notch. We owe a great debt to the outstanding musicians who performed, and we thank all of you who joined us to fete Jess and Emma.

The November 2 musicale at Paula Tyler's house featured some excellent singers who have never sung for us before, as well as the thrilling voice of Cynthia Hill. We joined in with the performers on several choruses and later to John Gregory's accompaniment, as Reba chronicles elsewhere in this issue.

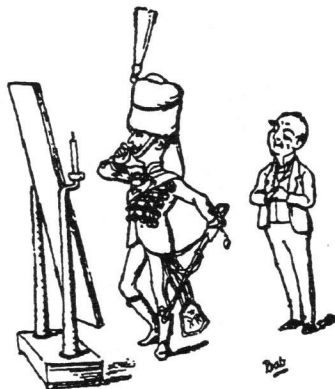
That whetted our appetite for the treat we have coming on December 7, our Christmas/Hanukkah family sing-along at the Tylers'. Please plan to bring a special holiday treat and be with us at least part of the time from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Bring some music to share, if you like. Is there perhaps a family group that would like to present a special number? Or is there a holiday song you haven't heard for a while and would like for us to sing? We'll be ready — see you there!

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NEWS FLASH

“Bridgewater Prof to Lecture in New York”

Our very own director, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., will speak on “The Partnership: Gilbert, Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte,” on Saturday February 27, 1999, at 4 pm at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. This will be followed at 7 pm by a concert by the Blue Hill Troupe. This will be the third in a series planned to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Blue Hill Troupe, a Gilbert & Sullivan group popular in the New York area. Rafe is in excellent company, and this should be a stimulating event. Tickets for the series are \$90, but any single tickets available for the final event will be \$40 each. Call (212) 520-3949 for tickets or information.



When I first put this uniform on, I said, as I looked in the glass,
“It's one to a million that any civilian my figure and form will surpass.
Gold lace has a charm for the fair, and I've plenty of that, and to spare,
While a lover's professions, when uttered in Hessians,
Are eloquent every where!”

Last Musicales

Reba Gillman ★ Secretary

On Monday November 2, 1998, we gathered at Paula Tyler's for a happy evening planned by Paula and Libby Weed, with some new voices to entertain us. Paula had enlisted the aid of Malcolm Nelson, choir director at her church and at Johnston High School (who also, it turns out, runs a travel agency: Capital of Texas Travel); and Mark Rosholt who is a computer guru by day and a singer in his spare time — as in the summer musicals. The third new talent was Paula's sister-in-law Leslie Salas.

There were 28 people present: Members Pearl Amster, Reba Gillman, Carolyn & John Gregory, Enid Hallock, Kim Hallock, Bill & daughter Lauren Hatcher, John Mast, Nancy McQueen, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Paula & Ron Tyler with their niece helping with the hospitality, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Libby Weed, Dave Wieckowski, Benné Willerman with her guest Chuck Ohlman — just moved here from Seattle, and Theresa Wilson. Guests were Owen Russell and performers Malcolm Nelson with his guest Takao Nonaka, Mark Rosholt, and Leslie Salas.

President Libby Weed opened the evening by welcoming the hardy souls who came to Gilbert and Sullivan and passed up the many events in competition that evening. She mentioned the sign-up sheet and urged us all to sign it and keep it moving. She noted that it was time to appoint a committee to nominate a slate of officers for our Annual Meeting in January, and asked anyone interested in being an officer, or serving on the nominating committee, to speak to her or another Board member. She announced that Robert Mellin had with him a supply of the video tapes for *The Mikado* and would be happy to sell them to anyone interested. Larry Shepley spoke up to remark that both the *Mikado* video and the CD make excellent presents for birthdays, Christmas, and other occasions.

Libby said that most of us had been present on October 16th at the Gala Tribute to Jess and Emma Walters and knew what a wonderful evening it had been. She gave thanks to Robert who made it happen, and all gave him a round of applause.

Libby then introduced the new singers and the music began. Libby passed out programs and some music, and with Lord High Pianist Bob Wall at his usual post, Mark Rosholt sang "Oh, is there not one maiden breast" from *The Pirates of Penzance*, with the ladies responding enthusiastically "No, no - not one!" At the appropriate moment Cynthia Hill stepped forward to sing "Yes, one!" and proceeded to delight us with Mabel's coloratura show piece "Poor wandering one!" again supported by the ladies chorus. Next Leslie Salas sang "Sorry her lot" from *H.M.S. Pinafore*, after telling us that "things happened at our house last night. I was up until 3 am, so I hope I can remember the words." Libby then told us that a squirrel had gotten into Leslie's house and been electrocuted, knocking out all the lights, and a child had fallen and pushed his teeth up into his gums, requiring a trip to the emergency room — all in the wee hours of the night. Despite this excitement Leslie sang beautifully, and then moved on to something she said was more in her usual repertory, "Vedrai Carino" from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

Mark then returned to sing something perhaps more in his usual style, "Some Enchanted Evening," from *South Pacific* by Richard Rodgers. This song evoked powerful memories for me of Frank Delvy's performance in *South Pacific* at Michel Jaroschy's Capitol City Playhouse long ago. Then it was mentioned that Frank had promised to be with us to sing a duet from *The Yeomen of the Guard* with Cynthia, if his day at the dentist's hadn't been too bad. Evidently it was bad, so instead Cynthia sang Elsie's solo "'Tis done! I am a bride!" from *Yeomen*.

Others were invited to sing, but no one came forward, so Malcolm directed as all sang lustily "For he is an Englishman!" from *Pinafore*. Then came "Happy Birthday to Malcolm!" with the promise of a fantastic cake shortly to be served. Bill Hatcher volunteered to sing the Pirate King's introduction, and we all stood to sing "Hail Poetry" from *Pirates*, followed by "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer*. The chairs were quickly cleared away, the refreshments brought out, and we all enjoyed delicious food and delightful conversation. After a bit, John Gregory drifted toward the piano to play his astonishing repertory by ear and from memory, and voices were again lifted in song. As the oldies resounded, everyone had a good time.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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CHASKI

Will Perform on Saturday January 9, 1999

at Central Market Café ★ 6:30 to 9 PM

Central Market ★ 4001 N. Lamar Blvd

Many who heard Adrienne Inglis play the flute with Len Gillman at our special musical reception for Ralph MacPhail last April, were especially interested in Chaski, Adrienne's group that plays Latin American music on a variety of authentic instruments. Here is your chance to enjoy the group in a relaxed atmosphere with no admission charge. Put it on your calendar!

Len Gillman to Receive Award

Len Gillman, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at UT and long-time member of the Austin G&S Society, is the 1999 recipient of the Mathematical Association of America's Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics, the MAA's most prestigious award.

The citation by the nominating committee mentions "outstanding contributions to our profession throughout his long career ... Especially memorable is his leadership as MAA Treasurer (1973-1986) and President (1987-89) ... As a faculty member at Purdue, Rochester, and Texas, he inspired generations of students and young instructors, many of whom are active leaders in the MAA.... In addition to his mathematical leadership, we recognize him for his musicianship, recalling in particular his superb and very popular concerts at our national meetings."

Len was a Fellow in piano at Juilliard for five years before switching to mathematics and earning a PhD at Columbia — thus surprising Reba, who thought she was marrying a musician. He has appeared as soloist with school and civic orchestras in concertos by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, Grieg, and Tschaikowsky. He also shows up now and then at a Society Musicales to sing Tom Lehrer's rapid-fire "The Elements" or a floor-you-with-'em-flat "Nightmare Song".

During the 70s and 80s Len was very active in G&S musical affairs. This began in 1978 when he played the part of the Lord Chancellor in the Society's first production of *Iolanthe*. In 1982 he was musical director for *Trial by Jury* and recruited Jess Walters to play the part of the Learned Judge. The following year he served as music director for our first *Gondoliers*.

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Katisha and Ko-Ko to Wed

Debra Mandel and Ezra Johnson have announced that they will be married in September. They met at rehearsals for last summer's THE MIKADO. Debra sang in the chorus and was the cover for Katisha, playing the role twice. Ezra stole the show as Ko-Ko.

Congratulations!

G&S is STILL LOOKING for an EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Or, do you know a Producer for our annual show?

This year it's *Patience*
June 10 – 20, 1999

Stage Director: Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Music Director: Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
at St. Stephen's School, Helm Fine Arts Center

Please send suggestions and applications to

President Libby Weed
11822 Eubank Drive
Austin, Texas 78758

or call our office for information: 472-4772

Gilbert & Sullivan In-School Programs A Fresh Look

One effect of our very successful Tribute to Jess and Emma Walters, on October 16, was to refocus our attention on the important in-school concerts. Another was to provide some money to work with. The G&S Board has asked Robert Mellin to plan and set up the In-School Programs through May 1999. He is already at work on an expanded concept and the results promise to be exciting.

Robert's plan is to develop abridged versions of G&S operas using four performers. Each program will present an opera in miniature form so the children can get a feeling of what it's all about. It will be strong on story, humor, and action, with emphasis on the involvement of the audience. This approach will strengthen the educational effect of our programs.

New or renewal membership form

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, Texas 78705 Phone: 472-4772

Name (as you want it to appear) _____
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- ☐ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been dedicated
to spreading the joys of Gilbert & Sullivan
through performances and in-school programs.

What we do

**Annual Grand Production
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Free Monthly Musicales
Musical Scholarships
Monthly Newsletter
Holiday Season Show**

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