

THE

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

OCTOBER 1999 NEWSLETTER

• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

Monday October 4, 1999 • at 7:30 pm

• At Pearl Amster's • 2304 Hartford Road • 472-7028 •  
Please bring munchies.

• Libby Weed and Frank Delvy are planning  
the program •

Featuring our Lord High Pianist Bob Wall,  
G&S virtuoso Frank Delvy,  
and several other favorite performers.

We will hear music from a variety of shows and join  
in some choruses together.



Yvonne DeLay

Photo by Doug DeLay

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Libby Weed

One of the nicest things that happened at our last musicale and meeting at Paula Tyler's house was the inauguration of Yvonne DeLay as our volunteer coordinator.

Yvonne agreed to take on this role last month, after having been of immense service to the Society over the past two years. Her most notable contribution has been as our dialogue coach for *The Mikado* and *Patience*. She is a person who dearly loves to be involved in something she cares about, and she has a way of making others want to be a part of the fun, too.

As we socialized around the table and enjoyed goodies and Paula's icy limeade, nine of our members said to Yvonne a version of "I thought you'd never ask!" Each of them has agreed to help with tasks ranging from making phone calls to helping with newsletter layout. A great time awaits each one!

Volunteer effort is the backbone of a group such as ours. In 1976 when Enid Hallock, Allen Lawshae, Sue Caldwell, and other music lovers founded The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, every show was produced by volunteers. Our early shows featured volunteer casts, directors, and pianists - not to mention costumes sewn by the cast.

We may have come a long way from those days in terms of production values and critical acclaim, but at least two things have remained constant: (1) We have a lot of fun, and (2) We need lots of volunteer support.

Don't be shy, and don't wait for a call. Call Yvonne today at 794-5839 and ask her where you can fit in. We'll all be the better for it!

## MEMORIAL PARTY to honor and remember MICHEL JAROSCHY

November 6, 1946 - October 11, 1996

Founder of Capitol City Playhouse and friend of the G&S  
Society

Monday, October 11, 1999 from 7 pm on

at FADO IRISH PUB,

present occupant of the former Capitol City Playhouse  
214 West 4th Street

Tom Kennedy, President, Capitol City Playhouse  
Board of Directors, and Robert Mellin,  
from the G&S Society,

invite all Michel's friends to this event.

For more information call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

## Last Musicales and Meeting

Reba Gillman • Secretary

A relaxed and friendly gathering, the first of the new season, took place at Paula Tyler's on Tuesday, September 7, 1999 with 28 people present. We welcomed members Pearl Amster, Lucian Chimene, Doug & Yvonne Vautier DeLay, Frank & Donna Delvy, Wyndy & Edgar Ellis, Reba Gillman, Bill Hatcher, Allan & Barbara Longacre, John Mast, Nancy McQueen, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerman, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, David Tampke, Nell Trimble, Paula Tyler, Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, Libby Weed, Dave Wieckowski, and Theresa Wilson, and newcomers Mary Roche, who joined on the spot, and Bett Fields.

President Libby opened the evening with thanks to all for coming, and a short review of the amazing adventures experienced during the run of our very fine production of *Patience*. Libby explained that because of the forced move from the Helm Fine Arts theater to the gym we were not able to make the video of the show we had intended. Instead we are offering the initial version made in the theater, with the expectation that cast and crew and friends and relatives would enjoy the video, even though it was not of professional level. It is available for \$12 a tape, with a \$5 additional charge if it is mailed.

Libby asked that the new faces introduce themselves. Allan and Barbara Longacre were especially welcome to our ranks: They are good friends of Leonard Johnson and Rose Taylor. Allan is retired from a long career working with arts organizations and has volunteered to lend us his expertise in assessing the strengths and needs of our Society - an organizational audit, he called it. Allan told us he had already been talking to the City Arts Commission, and to the Interim Dean of Fine Arts at UT. He expects to be talking to the press, and to individual members of the Society. He hopes to get from all sides feelings, impressions, and opinions.

Libby told us that Yvonne DeLay had agreed to serve as our Volunteer Coordinator, working to get more people involved in Society activities. Yvonne passed around a sign-up sheet. Libby also reminded us that we're looking for backup sites for Musicales, and asked anyone with suggestions to speak to her, Larry, or Reba. Finally, she asked for volunteers to form a nominating committee to work on a slate of officers to be elected at the January Annual Meeting.

Larry Shepley then took over and explained that we were trying an experiment, alternating serious discussion with choruses from *Pinafore*. To warm up we all sang the opening chorus "We sail the ocean blue" with all the men singing bass, and the ladies singing the tenor parts, and stalwart Bob Wall at the piano.

Paula Tyler and Bill Hatcher then took places as our "panel" to open up discussion. It seemed that everyone enjoyed the monthly musicales, and many stressed that regular time and place helped them plan to attend. It was felt that December was not a good month for a Musicale, or a

Gala Fund Raiser - there's too much else going on. It was suggested that it was important to get the Austin American-Statesman to list our Musicales in their Community Calendar. Frank pointed out that many performers do not know much Gilbert & Sullivan.

All agreed that the In-School programs are very important, and serve to introduce both children and teachers to the joys of G&S. It was suggested that we send Prepared Curriculum packets to the schools before performing for them, and that we involve the children as much as possible. Paula observed that the product is not the problem. The problem is cultivating the public perception that Gilbert & Sullivan is something they want and need. Doug urged that we follow the example of Austin Lyric Opera and sell our product as FUN.

Taking some time out for fun ourselves we all joined in singing "Carefully on tiptoe stealing" and "For he is an Englishman!" Allan and Barbara then told us about a very large fund raiser in Dickensian style they had enjoyed at Christmas time in Oklahoma. It had included lectures, food, fun, and music in a festive setting, and served to introduce people to G&S in an easy, fun way. Frank told us there was a yearly Dickens Festival in Austin on 6th Street that we might look into. Larry remarked that Austinites all love to dress up in costumes for such occasions. Discussion of possible other sites for large Musicales brought the suggestion that this was a job for the volunteers - calling around to find out what was available.

Frank then sang the Major General's patter song "When I was a lad" with choral refrains enthusiastically sung by everyone. Music was passed out and all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" (*Pirates*), and "Now to the banquet we press" (*Sorcerer*) before partaking of the delectables supplied by our members. An unexpected excitement occurred at the very end of the gathering when the lights went out, and the few remaining members had to grope their way out to their cars assisted by the Tyler flashlight brigade. The entire neighborhood was dark, although we soon came in sight of the rest of the city all lit up as usual.

Have a look at our Web Site

Thanks to Bill Hatcher  
for providing and maintaining this site  
[members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa](http://members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa)

NOW AVAILABLE

*Patience* CD of our show  
Made in June 1999

\$12 each; add \$5 if you want it mailed.

This video is not the one we hoped to make, but might be enjoyed by cast and friends.

Call the Society Office at 472-4772, to order.

## SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome to **Allan Longacre** who has retired from a long career as an Arts organization administrator, and has offered his services as a consultant to the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. He is engaged in an Organizational Audit to determine our strengths and weaknesses, and has already presented many creative ideas about ways to solve our problems. He will be speaking to individual members as part of his study of our Society. If you would like to talk to him call 301-5611.

To all members: we welcome any news you can give us, to print in the Newsletter. Call Reba at 327-2277.

### News of Members Theatrical Department

**Art DiBianca, Sheila Glenn, Allen Lawshae, and Kay Novak** are busy with rehearsals in Leander for their appearances in a production of Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*. It opens Friday October 8th, and plays Friday and Saturday nights for three weekends, ending on October 23rd. It will play in the LEO Center, in the old Leander middle school, on the west side of West Avenue, which runs parallel to Rte. 183. There will be one Sunday matinee on October 17th at 2 pm. For more information call Allen at 459-4858.

### Elections in January!

A nominating committee has been appointed: **Bill Hatcher, Chair, Bob Wall, and Theresa Wilson**. They will welcome your suggestions. Call Bill at 892-3722.

Many Thanks to the following corporate sponsors of our production of *Patience*

Amoco  
Armstrong Moving & Storage  
Austin American-Statesman  
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"He is an Englishman!"

*H.M.S. Pinafore*

## 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 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
What company do you work for? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

- ☐ Member: \$10-\$24
- ☐ 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.

We want your opinion! At our September Musicales, we had a spirited discussion on a wide variety of subjects, including our Musicales themselves, our in-school programs, and our relationship with the community. Please join this discussion, and send us your praise, your criticisms, and your ideas. If you like, use the form below, and send your thoughts to our office.

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Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you, The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin*

## 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**  
**School Outreach Concerts**  
**Free Monthly Musicales**  
**Musical Scholarships**  
**Monthly Newsletter**  
**Holiday Season Show**

### Executive Board

President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Executive Vice-President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Production Vice-President	Benard Laves	452-8940
Publicity Vice-President	Robert Mellin	345-5950
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	477-5566
Historian & Parliamentarian	Leland Smith	327-6813
Director at Large	Paula Tyler	459-4639
Director at Large	Arthur DiBianca	707-2809
Director at Large	Doug DeLay	794-5839

Newsletter Editor	Reba Gillman
Layout	Larry Shepley

2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309 • Austin, Texas 78705  
(512) 472-4772

Our web site: [members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa](http://members.aol.com/mahitabel/gassa)

THE  
GILBERT  
&  
SULLIVAN

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