

THE

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

OCTOBER 2000 NEWSLETTER

• Our Next Musicale •

Sunday October 1, 2000 • 3:00 pm

At Paula Tyler's • 4400 Balcones Drive • 459-4639

At the corner of Shinoak and Balcones
Between 35th St. and Perry Lane (45th St.)

Brian Gaston is planning the Program

Please bring munchies

~~~~~  
Looking Ahead

Late October or early November

Our annual Gala Fundraiser

Date, Time, and Place  
to be announced

## B. Iden Payne Awards

Austin Circle of Theaters

Brian Gaston, our General Manager, has been nominated in the category Plays for Youth for Outstanding Director of *Liu, the Dragon King*, which he also wrote.

**H.M.S. Pinafore Video**  
Now Available

**\$25 Including Shipping and Handling**  
Send order and check to the G&S office  
2026 Guadalupe, #309  
Austin, TX 78705

## Report from your President

Larry Shepley

In our by-laws we state that the G&S Society's major emphasis is on education. We mean that, at least I do, being a former university professor. I feel that the G&S operas are fun, but more than that, they teach both the actors and the audience much about life and art. I would like to see our In-School program become far more active — and Brian Gaston, our General Manager, most definitely agrees and is working to activate it on a twice per month basis. I would also like to see more opportunities for members to participate in productions, either by singing and acting or by playing in the orchestra or by working behind the scenes.

The Board of Directors met for a planning session a few days ago, prompted by a worksheet provided by the Hogg Foundation. This worksheet is meant to help us apply for grants, and it helps us think about long range plans. The consensus among board members is that we are in a state of artistic growth. Our annual production has become of professional quality, and we anticipate that it will continue to be as good as any professional group could want. Our In-School program needs work, true, but Brian is aiming toward a scripted program (based on *The Pirates of Penzance*), which should not only be popular with children but also with other groups.

I would like to see us do a second major production each year. Allan Longacre conducted a study for us a few months ago which indicated that our members also would like us to increase our production schedule. Personally, I think this second production should be more of a member-run activity, with actors, singers, orchestra, costumers, stagehands, set constructors all being drawn from our membership, with emphasis on participation rather than on the very tops in professional quality. Of course, we would want our work to be the best it could be. However, for example, in our "professional" show (next summer it will be *The Sorcerer*), we might insist that whoever plays the youthful tenor actually be youthful, but in our "homestyle" production we could waive the youthful requirement (I'm treading on thin ice here; I'm trying to be tactful). The expansion of our production program to include such a "homestyle" show would necessitate hiring a full-time music director — I know that if I were to be in the orchestra, the more rehearsals the better! Your comments and input would be very welcome.

Our last Musicale postdated our last full Board meeting, so I reported on that meeting then. Here is a brief summary: We had an update on profits and loss from *H.M.S. Pinafore*: even though we did make money on the show, our finances for the year so far show a loss. It is thus very important that our October Gala (which may be in early

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CG 6/10

## Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

On Sunday September 10, 2000 at 3 pm we opened our season with a Musicale at Paula Tyler's. As we have announced, we are giving Sunday afternoons a good try for these events. Any comments, complaints or approval, (and suggestions!) are encouraged. Call the office (472-4772) and leave a message, or call Reba (327-2277) or Larry (327-1511).

As promised, President Larry Shepley opened the events with a session on the actions of the Board. His report appears in this Newsletter in the message from the President.

Our General Manager Brian Gaston told us that all the pianists he had called on for service had cancelled, so he introduced his last minute substitute Quinn Arbeitman. Quinn is a local actor and jazz pianist, who has been in Austin for a few months. He acquitted himself very well as sightreader and piano backup man.

Frank Delvy passed out the words for Despard's song "Oh, why am I moody and sad?" from *Ruddigore*, which he proceeded to sing with appropriate help from the audience on the refrains. Frank explained some of the plot and noted that he is playing a Despardlike character in his new job with the City of Austin's Water Conservation program. He has drawn on G&S for some of his portrayal of Wicked Wally in the Dowser Dan program, which he later demonstrated singing "Oh, why do I love to pollute?"

Frank introduced Claire Vangelisti, our recent Josephine, who told us that she had just tried out for a concert version of *The Mikado*, to be performed in San Antonio. She sang us her audition piece, "The sun whose rays are all ablaze." She then sang the "Prima Donna" song from Victor Herbert's *The Enchantress*. And finally she joined Frank and Jim Hunter in a reprise of their delightful trio from *Pinafore*, "Never mind the why and wherefore." When asked by a member of the audience if he would "do the hip wiggle," Jim replied that Brian had told him he could do it only for a paying audience.

Frank told us that we could enjoy his Wicked Wally performance at 4 pm on Thursday, September 14, at the Dougherty Arts Center, when they put on a showcase performance.

To finish off the program Allen Lawshae obligingly sang the Pirate King's lead in, and led us all in a rousing "Hail Poetry." Frank then cued us in for "Now to the banquet we press," (*Sorcerer*). Before departing, our new pianist Quinn played an audition piece he wrote himself, first apologizing that he was all sung out from a children's show he had done. Then we folded up chairs, pulled out the table and gathered round the refreshments to enjoy the usual delicious spread. It was a very pleasant afternoon, and we thank Paula for having us.

Present were General Manager Brian Gaston, who planned the event, and members Byron & Mayda Arnason, Lucian Chimene, Frank Delvy, Harold Gilbert, Reba Gillman, John & Carolyn Gregory, Sandra Grimes, Jim & Patrice Hunter, Allen Lawshae & guest JoAnn Reeves, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Barbara Harris Polomé & Chuck Kraus, George & Marge Reiter, Mary Roche, Martha

Schumacher & Errol Tyrone Olson, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Martha Spiegel, David Tampke, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson. Guests were Margaret & Nick Nichols, and performers Quinn Arbeitman and Claire Vangelisti.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Oh, Why Do I Love To Pollute?

Lyrics by Frank Delvy, for the Dowser Dan Show  
Music by Arthur Sullivan

1. Oh, why do I love to pollute?  
This action has been my strong suit  
I actually don't give a hoot  
That owl, he means nothing to me.  
I love to pour paint down the drains  
And oil on the ground when it rains  
It makes Dowser Dan go insane  
He really is such a good boy.

2. As long as there's water to waste  
I know it will be to my taste  
The result, I will not have to face  
I'll soon have my very own lake.  
But I've got to keep Dan in my spell  
So authorities, he doesn't tell  
My plan is so far going well  
At least, I think it's the case.

3. Now, innocent students I go  
So please, keep your voices down low  
So Dowser Dan never will know  
Just where I have gone to pollute.  
Oh, innocents, listen in time  
Polluting is such a fun crime  
And you can be wicked as I'm  
And now, if you please, I will leave.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MANY, MANY THANKS To Our Members For Their Generosity!

**CHRIS BUGGÉ**, Director at Large, has bought a golf cart and will make it available for G&S patrons to assist in their playgoing enjoyment for performances at St. Stephen's School. The golf cart has been specially equipped with seats to carry four, and will ferry patrons needing assistance from the parking lot up the hill to the Helm Fine Arts Center.

**BOB KUSNETZ**, our first and only Life Member, has contributed \$250 to be matched by IBM. He is leaving IBM to set up his own consulting firm, and this will be his last gift eligible for IBM matching.

Message from your President - continued from page 1

November) be a true fund-raiser. Actually, we decided that this Gala will be "homestyle" in the sense I described above, with other fundraising events to take place next year. We also will be expanding our efforts to obtain grants.

On more mundane matters, we are in the process of putting together an office manual, containing guidelines for our General Manager and other employees of The Society. These guidelines will become more and more important as we expand our artistic endeavors, so we are taking our time and trying to get the thing right. We also want to produce guidelines for non-paid workers such as interns and volunteers. In terms of actions taken, we decided that the October Gala will be in late October and that we will hold a Musicales in early October (on October 1, sticking to the principle that the Musicales be in the first week of the month, either the first Monday or, as on October 1, the first Sunday if at all possible). Paula Tyler has graciously agreed to make her house available again for the October 1 Musicales — many thanks, Paula! That date is the second day of Rosh Hashanah, but we hope that won't present a problem, and we apologize if it does.

Again: Send me (or the Board) your ideas, comments, and complaints! Thanks in advance.

**Reba  
Gillman**

Photo by  
Ernie Welch



**WINNERS OF THE DRAWINGS  
At H.M.S. Pinafore**

**Marouani Claudine  
George McQueen  
Bob & Karen King  
Jean Smootz  
Katherine B. Baker  
Fred & Pat Bothwell  
John C. Hille Jr.  
Philippe Thuillier**

Some of you may remember that we asked people to sign up at our performances of **H.M.S. Pinafore**, and promised a prize to the winners of the drawings. We now have a winner for each performance, and will be sending a **Pinafore** T-shirt to each.

Many Thanks to the following corporate sponsors of our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*:

*Armstrong Moving & Storage  
Austin American-Statesman  
Audio Systems  
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Capital City Men's Chorus  
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Many thanks to IBM for a generous donation.

## 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 (472-GSSA)

Name (as you want it to appear) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_  
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What company do you work for? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:

- ☐ Member: \$10-\$24
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- ☐ Major General: \$250-\$499
- ☐ Pooh-Bah: \$500-\$999
- ☐ Savoyard: \$1,000 and over
- ☐ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.
- ☐ I'm interested in volunteering.

## The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of  
Gilbert & Sullivan through

**Annual Grand Productions**

**School Outreach Concerts**

**Free Monthly Musicales**

**Musical Scholarships**

**Monthly Newsletters**

**Holiday Season Shows**

**G&S Office:**

**Monday – Friday 1:00–5:00 pm.**

**2026 Guadalupe Street, Suite 309 • Austin, Texas 78705**

**(512)472-4772 [472-GSSA]**

### Executive Board

|                             |                     |          |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| President                   | Larry Shepley       | 327-1511 |
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| Director at Large           | Chris Buggé         | 345-9551 |
| <b>General Manager</b>      | Brian Gaston        |          |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>    | Reba Gillman        |          |
| <b>Layout</b>               | Larry Shepley       |          |

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

E-mail: [gilbsulv@altavista.com](mailto:gilbsulv@altavista.com)

An Afternoon of Airy  
Persiflage with  
Rafe MacPhail  
June 4, 2000

Photo by Lord High  
Photographer  
Ernie Welch



THE  
GILBERT  
&  
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