

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

DECEMBER 2001 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

• Next Meeting •
• Our Monthly Musicale •

Monday December 3, 2001, at 7:30 pm
At Paula Tyler's: 4400 Balcones Drive;
459-4639

Please bring munchies

Program: Excerpts from *Precious Nonsense*,
the program recently put on in San Antonio
by their G&S group.

Faith DeBow will play the piano,
and some of the San Antonio singers
(including Leslie Salas) will perform.

Looking Ahead • Save the Date
January Annual Business Meeting
and Musicale

Monday January 7, 2002, at 7:30 pm
at Paula Tyler's

Looking ahead!

OUR GRAND & GLORIOUS
GALA FUNDRAISER &
LAVISH CHAMPAGNE BUFFET

Saturday January 12, 2002
at 8:00 pm

Sanctuary of the Unitarian Church
3700 Grover Street

Directors: Frank Delvy & Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Watch for ticket information in the next Newsletter

Message from Your President

• Larry Shepley

We have several projects going on, all of which are interesting and somewhat difficult. First, there is the matter of the December 3 Musicale. We plan to have members from the San Antonio G&S Society present excerpts from their recent well-received show *Precious Nonsense*. The SA Society is reorganizing itself, and this will be a good chance to meet our fellow Savoyards and lend them our support.

Next, we have the upcoming January 12 Gala Fundraiser and Lavish Champagne Buffet to plan for. If you would like to help, please contact our office or me personally. If you would like to shower us with money or know someone or some corporation who would, please help us get in touch with them. We will be sending you personal invitations for this event, which Frank Delvy and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona promise will be a most delightful evening. We also have set up a committee to handle publicity and, most important of all, a committee to make sure the champagne buffet is truly lavish.

We are starting to gear up for our home-grown presentation of "A Night at the Operetta" on March 4 (the date of our monthly musicale). Arthur DiBianca, Gary Hallock, and Derek Smootz have agreed to direct any and all — this is your chance to sing, dance, recite, play, or organize this concert version of *Princess Ida*. I've committed myself to being the Producer, and since I have never produced anything (except a couple of physics monographs and a seminar or two) and don't even know quite what a producer should do, this will be a fun evening for all, full of surprises.

Now is the time to start planning for *The Pirates of Penzance* next June, or rather to shift into a higher gear. We have the Stage and Music Directors (Rafe MacPhail and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona), the venue (St. Stephen's Helm Theater), and the dates (the opening gala will be Friday June 14). We are in the process of finding a producer and securing such things as costumes, sets, props, etc. Volunteer! We can use help with all these things, plus publicity, office work, etc. Auditions will be the weekend of March 2-3.

(Continued on page 3)

Plan a Musicale

Bring your interests and talents to the monthly gathering. Find ways to involve the audience. Plan a sing-along. Depart from the beaten track. Invite new performers. Give a talk about something you know and love.

We can suggest accompanists, performers, and other useful information.

LL 6/10

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

On Monday November 5, 2001, Libby Weed welcomed us at Paula Tyler's house for the monthly Musicale. She told us that our very busy hostess had received a last minute call to attend yet another School Board meeting and could not be present. [The AISD is agonizing over the future of the magnet schools and calling many meetings.]

Libby announced that Secretary Reba Gillman had been fêted by the Austin Community Nursery Schools for her 30 years of committed service as an employee and Board member. Libby introduced Leslie Salas, the pianist for the evening, and her daughter Eileen, who was to be five years old in a few days. With some encouragement from her mother, Eileen proceeded to sing/recite the Major General's song from *Pirates*.

President Larry Shepley then took over with some announcements. He told us that post cards sent to members whose dues were now payable had been enormously successful. He thanked Jean Smootz, Nancy McQueen, Louise Geil, and Martha Schumacher, who have been working on developing corporate financial support. He told us that he hoped to have a surprise for our December Musicale program, thanks to Leslie Salas and her San Antonio G&S connections. Larry also told us that plans were proceeding for the "Do-it-yourself *Princess Ida*" in March 2002; Art DiBianca, Gary Hallock, and Derek Smootz have volunteered to direct the three acts. He noted that JoAnn Reeves and Allen Lawshae had brought a home-baked Sally Lunn for our enjoyment tonight. Finally, he called on Reba, who announced that the Jess Walters Tribute was now set for Sunday November 18, 2001, from 5 to 8 pm, at the One World Theatre.

Larry then turned the proceedings over to Allen Lawshae, in charge of the program. Allen told us that he had been reading a novel by John Updike entitled "In the Beauty of the Lilies," in which among some strange goings on there appeared the town of Basingstoke, Delaware. As a result, Allen had decided to make the theme of this Musicale Madness and Eccentricity in some G&S characters. To open he brought up Bill Hatcher to sing "Oh, why am I moody and sad?" Despard's entrance in *Ruddigore*, with audience responses (aided by copies of the words), followed by explanatory dialog. Allen then introduced guest Carol Hopkins, now a teacher at Porter Middle School, who sang with our group in February 1988, in a performance of G&S excerpts at Concordia Lutheran College. Allen reminded us that Carol had sung the part of Lady Jane from *Patience*, and accompanied herself on the 'cello. Tonight she played the part of Mad Margaret from *Ruddigore*, singing "Cheerily carols the lark," and then with Bill Hatcher, the duet "I once was a very abandoned person," followed by the dialog in which Basingstoke is introduced as the word to calm down Margaret when she begins to go wild. Carol performed these scenes with wonderful, subtle facial expression and body language.

Next Allen introduced Katisha from *The Mikado*, who was, he said, if not mad, at least bloodthirsty. With Enid Hallock as Katisha they proceeded to recite some dialog, and Enid sang "Alone, and yet alive!" There followed the dialog leading into "Willow, tit-willow" sung by Allen, with dialog leading into the

duet, "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast."

Finally Allen introduced Wilfred Shadbolt, the head jailer and assistant tormenter from *The Yeomen of the Guard*, played by Larry Shepley (with a fake ax, but no singing). Wilfred, Allen said, was eccentric, mad, and willful. Larry and Carol then recited some dialog and led into Phoebe's song "Were I thy bride," which Carol sang.

Larry then called for a round of applause for capable pianist Leslie Salas and asked Allen to sing the Pirate King lead in, after which we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" (*Pirates*), followed by "Now to the banquet we press" (*The Sorcerer*). Then on to good food and good conversation, with many thanks to our absent hostess.

There were 31 people present. Members: Chris Buggé, Lucian Chimene, Reba Gillman, Enid Hallock, Gary Hallock, Bill Hatcher, Allen Lawshae & JoAnn Reeves, Nancy McQueen, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurie Ommerman, Bee Harris Polomé, Mary Roche, Martha Schumacher & Errol Olson, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Andree Sjoborg, Leland L. Smith, Derek Smootz, Jean Smootz, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Terri Wilson, plus members-in-doubt Kathleen Bryant and John McInroy, and performing guests Carol Hopkins and Leslie and Eileen Salas.



From our archives: *The Sorcerer*, 1989, with Al Rellstab, Yvonne DeChance, and David Ketcham.

Nominating Committee

At the January Business Meeting (Monday, January 7, 2002, at 7:30 pm, at Paula Tyler's), we will be electing officers. The Nominating Committee is Bill Hatcher, Chairman, Allan Longacre, and Theresa Wilson. They will present a slate in our next Newsletter, and of course nominations from the floor will be in order, too. Remember to pay your dues in order to vote or run for office.

(Continued from page 1)

Leland Smith's History of our Society is approaching final form. Look for it soon!

Our In-School program would be in fine shape except for the fact that we find it difficult to contact the right person at the right school. Please, please, if you can put us in direct touch with someone you know at a local school, please do. You will be helping us reward the students with the delights of Gilbert & Sullivan. Remember how you loved G&S when you were a child? Well, we would like to encourage this appreciation of good music and clever lyric among modern kids.

The Board has decided to reinstate the \$50-\$99 level of contribution, calling it Patron. All contributions at the \$50 level and above include family membership where appropriate as well as other benefits.

Finally, we do need financial support, and particularly we need to contact corporations who can support the arts and our educational purpose. If you can help, either through contacts at your company or by volunteering, please call our office.



From our archives: *The Gondoliers*, 1995, Frank Delvy, Janette Jones, and Mary Alice Carnes

NEWS

Of other G&S doings in Texas

We have heard from Mr. Piers Chapman of the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University that *The Sorcerer* will be performed in Bryan, Texas, on January 10-12, 2002. St. Michael's Academy is putting on the show at the Rudder Forum Theater on the Texas A&M Campus. The performance on Thursday, January 10 is a Gala at \$25 a ticket, with snacks at the interval. Other performances are \$8.00. For information call St. Michael's Academy at (979) 822-2715.



Frank Delvy & Janette Jones do their stuff. From our archives.



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
P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

Name (as you want it to appear) _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Address _____

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What company do you work for? _____

Please check membership category:

- ☐ Individual: \$20
 - ☐ Family/Group: \$30
 - ☐ Youth (18 & under): \$10
 - ☐ Senior (65 & over): \$10
- Membership benefits include our Newsletter & 10% discount on tickets.
- ☐ My donation of _____ is enclosed. (For levels & privileges, see below.)
 - ☐ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.
 - ☐ I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider contributing to The Society at one of the following **Donor Levels**: **Patron** (\$50-\$99), **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249); **Major General** (\$250-\$499); **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999); **Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499); **Savoyard** (\$2500 & up). Donors receive various benefits, including membership, listing in programs, and other benefits. Please call our office for further information.

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

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Newsletter Editor

Reba Gillman

Layout

Larry Shepley

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

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From our Archives: *The Sorcerer*, 1977, starring Allen Lawshae and a distinguished cast, including two Hallocks, one at the far left and one at the far right.



THE
**GILBERT
& SULLIVAN**
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