

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

JANUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

## Annual Business Meeting and Musicale

Monday, January 6, 2003  
at Paula Tyler's house  
4400 Balcones Drive  
459-4639

7:00 pm Review of Bylaws  
7:30 pm Start of Meeting  
(see below)

Please bring munchies

**Business:** Revision of Bylaws; Election of Directors. Come at 7:00 pm to review the Bylaws. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

**Program:** Catherine Bartoli, who played Lady Sangazure in our 2002 production of *The Sorcerer*, will be bringing her group **Stardust Four** to sing 40s songs. The group consists of Ann Moeller, Judy Ratliff, Catherine Bartoli, and Vernon Moeller, piano.

## Slates

The Nominating Committee (Bill Hatcher, Chair, Sue Caldwell, and Reba Gillman) presents the following slates:

If the new bylaws pass, a 10 member Board of Directors will be elected. Nominees are: Charles Antonie, Chris Buggé, Reba Gillman, Bill Hatcher, Brad Merrell, Steve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Dave Wieckowski.

If the new bylaws do not pass, the nominees for officers under the old bylaws are: President: Larry Shepley, Executive VP: Libby Weed, Production VP: Bill Hatcher, Publicity VP: Charles Antonie, Secretary: Reba Gillman, Treasurer: Dave Wieckowski, Historian/Parliamentarian: Brad Merrell.

## Summary of Bylaws Changes

*Sue Ricket Caldwell • Chair, Committee for Bylaws Revision*

There were two problems with the current bylaws that led us to write new ones: they don't reflect the way we currently operate, and they are in conflict with legal requirements.

Some of the ways in which we no longer obey the current bylaws are: The bylaws specify monthly membership meetings, except during the summer; we have had to reduce this to quarterly meetings (though we call the last portion of each Board meeting a "membership meeting" to meet the letter of that by-law). The bylaws specify the election of a Production VP and a Publicity VP with significant duties; it has proven difficult to impossible to find volunteer officers willing and able to perform these tasks, so the work defined for these officers has been reassigned to the executive director or others.

The Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, under which we are incorporated, requires the following structure:

**Articles of Incorporation → Membership  
→ Directors → Officers**

That is, the Articles of Incorporation defines the membership; the members elect the Directors; the Directors elect Officers from among their ranks. Instead, our bylaws require direct election of Officers by the membership. Also, the bylaws refer to an "executive board," while the Articles of Incorporation do not.

The proposed bylaws follow this required structure. It defines the membership more clearly (explaining, for example, that honorary members do not have voting rights). It requires only the annual meeting of members, allowing the Directors to hold as many Musicales or other membership events as the current level of funds, volunteers, and available venues may warrant. It defines a quorum for the annual meeting as 20 members (rather than as the number present and voting).

The proposed bylaws allow for a variable number of Directors (between 7 and 12), to provide some flexibility in coming years; the initial number has been set at 10, matching the current board size. Instead of running for a particular office or place, all candidates for the Board of Directors run at-large; each member can vote for up to 10 candidates, and the 10 candidates receiving the most votes are declared elected.

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Suggested date of next Board meeting  
Monday January 13, 7:00 pm, at Paula Tyler's

## Message from your President

Larry Shepley

I would normally devote much of this message to the recent actions of the Board, but I had to miss the last Board meeting because of family business. I asked our Executive VP (and former President) Libby Weed to fill in — see her message at the right.

We have started submitting proposals for funding from various foundations. This is a big task, since each proposal is a large packet, consisting of budgets, descriptions of our projects, and of course a plea for money. Actually, in many ways these packets are a pleasure to compose, for they remind me of our many worthwhile projects. Of course we need help, so please volunteer to assist us in raising badly need funds.

I had promised myself (and everyone else, too) that I would step down as President after this year, but Bill Hatcher talked me into staying on the job, at least temporarily. That is why my name is listed in the slate of nominees under the current Bylaws and as a candidate for the Board of Directors under the Bylaws which I hope you-all will pass at this upcoming meeting. (I said that I would accept the Presidency if the new Board elects me.) There are plenty of other people who are quite capable of taking over from me, and I hope that in a short while one of them will agree to serve.

This past year was one of accomplishments and disappointments. We had to postpone our production of *Pirates* until next June, since our finances did not permit a grand production — which it deserves. We did quite well, though with *Trial by Jury*, in large part because of our able Directors G'ann Boyd and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona (and I won't forget to thank G'ann's daughter Cheryl Borden!). The variety of scenes and choral pieces which accompanied *Trial* were most delightful, too.

This past year we presented our first productions of two operas, *Princess Ida* and *The Grand Duke*. Both were in concert form, and both were so successful that we plan on concert operas about one a year from now on. These concert versions were scaled down most ably by Brad Merrell and Art DiBianca, and I do wish to thank Westminster Manor, where they were presented, for their gracious hospitality.

And now on to 2003, with new Bylaws and a new and grand production of *Pirates*. Happy New Year!

## Message from your Secretary

Reba Gillman

It is with regret that we see some temporary (we hope) departures from our Board of Directors. We thank them very much for their hard work.

**Sue Ricket Caldwell**, who is one of the original members of our Society, has two teen-aged sons at home, and finds that her involvement with their high school often conflicts with Society meetings. She says that when the younger son graduates from high school in May 2004, she'll be able to return to our Board.

**Jean Smootz** has been a valuable new member of our Board, and has also volunteered to help run our business by going in to the Society office every Saturday. She lives in Leander and has commuted faithfully to our Austin activities. She is deeply involved in her efforts to control development in her neighborhood and is doing all the work for a lawsuit brought by her neighborhood group against the developers. Until this matter is resolved she cannot devote the necessary time to Society affairs.

**Arthur DiBianca** is another departing Board member. Art continues to volunteer countless hours to work on our membership data base and many other aspects of our office work. He has served several terms on our Board as a Director-at-large, and always serves conscientiously and attentively.

Congratulations to our Shreveport, LA, member, **Stanton Taylor**, who has become a Grandfather. Carina Leland was born two days before Thanksgiving, and conveniently lives in Austin with her mother (Stanton's daughter) and father. Stanton has faithfully attended our annual productions and will certainly continue to do so.

**Lucy Shoe Meritt** wishes to greet all the Society members whose company she has so often enjoyed at our Musicales. She may be visited at the Summit in Westlake, in the Health Care Center on the third floor.

Finally, a reminder: Only paid up members may vote. You may bring your dues up to date by paying at the Annual Meeting, on Monday, January 6, 2003.

### G&S Mugs & Memorabilia

Our mugs are tastefully designed with the G&S Logo. Only \$10. Call our office or write us for one of these handsome mugs (lead-free and microwave and dishwasher safe)



And don't forget our other delightful merchandise: Tee shirts, videos, librettos; all available at very reasonable prices. Call us at 472-4772.

### Randalls/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

Please register your Randall's Remarkable Card — Randalls will donate 1% of your bill to us (and up to two other charitable groups, if you wish). To register, visit the customer counter and use our name and number:

**Gilbert and Sullivan Society 10090**

This is an easy and cost-free (to you!) way to help us out.

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# Message from your Executive VP

Libby Weed

Since President Larry Shepley had to miss our last Board meeting, he invited me to write a brief message to our members.

The Board has been very busy lately with several important committees. We designated a fund-raising committee that has been writing grant applications and letters to corporations requesting support for our grand production of *The Pirates of Penzance* in June 2003. We will be eager to see if those efforts bear fruit in the coming months. We have newly formed a publicity committee that is already generating great ideas for publicizing *Pirates* as it deserves to be publicized and will be working hard on implementing these ideas over the coming weeks.

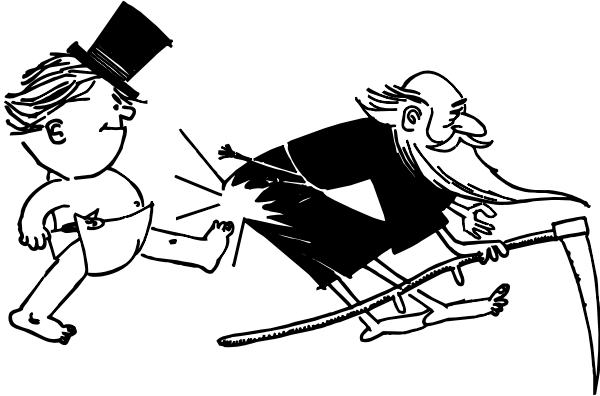
One of our hardest-working committees has been the by-laws committee. Sue Caldwell headed the committee, and her group (Arthur DiBianca and Reba Gillman) has done yeomen's service for us in constructing a new document that is fully compliant with the laws governing 501(c)(3) membership organizations and that accurately outlines what we do as a Society. Please see Sue's summary of the changes on page 1 of this newsletter.

Monday, January 6, is the date of our Annual Meeting of Members, and it is at this meeting that we will consider the proposed by-laws and vote on their passage. Please join us for this important meeting at Paula Tyler's house — we need your careful consideration of this matter and your participation in our decision. Copies of the bylaws will be available at 7:00 pm, and the meeting will officially begin at 7:30 pm.

Have no fear — we would never meet just to discuss business! We have a delightful musical program planned as well, and we will also enjoy the goodies we bring. As you can see, our January meeting will be a well-rounded and important event. See you on Monday, January 6, 2003!

The current bylaws define 7 officers elected by the members: President, Executive VP, Production VP, Publicity VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian-Parliamentarian. In addition, there are 3 at-large members appointed by the officers. The proposed bylaws define 4 officers, elected by the Board of Directors in their first meeting: President, Executive VP, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The proposed bylaws include a number of standard "house-keeping" provisions recommended by long-standing member Jim Robinson, a lawyer who has helped write bylaws for a number of non-profit corporations. This, coupled with addressing the additional level of Board of Directors separate from officers, has caused the proposed bylaws to run 8 pages, compared to 4 for the current bylaws. We encourage you to come early (7 pm) to the annual meeting on January 6 to review the old and new bylaws and ask any questions you may have.



# Happy New Year!

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
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**

**Pirates in School**

**Musicales**

**Musical Scholarships**

**Monthly Newsletters**

**Holiday Season Shows**

**G&S Office**

**4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756**

**P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542**

(512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]

**Executive Board**

President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Executive Vice-President	Libby Weed	837-5441
Production Vice-President	Sue Ricket Caldwell	343-7700
Publicity Vice-President	Charles Antonie	733-1006
Secretary	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	391-8400
Historian & Parliamentarian	Jean Smootz	259-2373
Director at Large	Paula Tyler	459-4639
Director at Large	Chris Buggé	345-9551
Director at Large	Arthur DiBianca	707-2809

**Newsletter Editor**

Reba Gillman

**Layout**

Larry Shepley

Our web site: [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

E-mail: [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org)

The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

**G&S Society Season Schedule for 2002-2003**

**Annual Business Meeting  
and Musicale**

Monday January 6, 2003, 7:30 pm

**Fundraising Gala**

February 2003

***The Pirates of Penzance: an Evening of Airy***

*Persiflage with Rafe MacPhail, Jr.*

Monday March 3, 2003

**Executive Board Meetings**

Monthly, dates to be announced

***The Pirates of  
Penzance***

**Auditions: Weekend of March 1, 2003**

**Performances will be in June 2003**

Helm Theater, St. Stephen's School



T E X A S  
COMMISSION  
ON THE ARTS

*The Pirates of Penzance* is funded in  
part by the City of Austin under the aus-  
pices of the Austin Arts Commission.



*The*  
**Gilbert  
& SULLIVAN** *Society*  
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