

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

DECEMBER 2004 JANUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

Evening of Entertainment Musicale and Annual Meeting

Monday January 10, 2005, 7:30 PM

at Paula Tyler's house
4400 Balcones
459-4639

Please bring munchies!
Come one, come all!

Start the evening with **Len Gillman** at the piano, playing Schubert, *Impromptu in A-flat*, Opus 90, and Mozskowski, *Etude in F*. Mix a short business meeting with enthusiastic singing. Suggested choruses:

From *The Mikado*:

Gentlemen of Japan
Willow, tit-willow
Mi-ya sa-ma

From *The Pirates of Penzance*:

With catlike tread

From *The Gondoliers*:

Dance the cachucha

Program organized by **Brad Merrell**.

From Your President

Dear Friends:

I was happy to see so many of you at our concert edition of *Patience* last month. We had several hundred at each of two performances. There were quite a few from Westminster Manor and then of course many more of our membership. It was a very enjoyable evening. Westminster's Harris Bell Hall was filled with warm hospitality, and the music was very beautiful. The cast worked very hard in rehearsals to make the evening so special, I expressed my thanks to all. Thank you **Brad Merrell** for producing the show.

Ralph MacPhail, our Director for *Mikado* will be in Austin from February 25 to March 2 of 2005 for *Mikado* auditions. He has graciously offered to present an evening program entitled "*The Mikado: Red, Hot, and Swing!*" on February 28. Detailed information including time and place will be in a later newsletter, but I wanted to share this much with you now. This is the same program he presented with great success at the University of Rochester recently. We really are so fortunate to have established a friendship with Ralph and his wife Alice.

With regard to *The Mikado*, let me quote Josephine in Pinafore - "The hours creep on apace". That pace is still fairly leisurely as we firm up key production personnel, venue, and budget. These will be the subject of a future message. However, you can mark your calendar now for a three weekend run beginning June 16.

I will see you next at our January meeting, where we will again hail poetry and press to the banquet.

Very truly yours, *Bill Hatcher*

Election of Directors — Annual Business Meeting

The Nominating Committee consisting of Reba Gillman, Chair, Enid Hallock, Larry Shepley, and Jean Smootz presented the following slate of Directors at the Board meeting on Monday, December 6, 2004: Presently on the board and continuing as Directors, **Bill Hatcher**, **Reba Gillman**, **Randall McIntyre**, **Brad Merrell**, and **Dave Wieckowski**; and new Directors, **Byron Arnason**, **Ann Coltman**, **Allan Longacre**, **Nancy McQueen**, **Larry Shepley**, and **Jean Smootz**.

The Board approved this slate, and announced that the Board of Directors will number eleven (11) in the year 2005. The Board of Directors for 2005 will be elected by the Membership at the January 10, 2005, meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor with the consent of the nominees. Self-nominations are allowed. Only dues paying

Members are eligible to vote.

We have been operating under our new Bylaws since January 2003. The one problem we have encountered is difficulty in obtaining a quorum in order to conduct our business. The Board therefore proposed two amendments to the Bylaws:

1. Set the quorum for all meetings of the Membership at 15 voting members.
2. Set the quorum for all meetings of the Board of Directors at 4 if there are 7 or 8 Directors, and 5 if there are 9 to 12 Directors.

It should be noted that the present Bylaws state that there may be 7 to 12 Directors on the Board, and that the number

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Patience

Reba Gillman

On Monday, November 8, and Friday, November 12, enthusiastic audiences gathered in the hospitable Harris Bell Hall at Westminster Manor to enjoy a delightful concert presentation of *Patience*. **Brad Merrell**, the Director and Producer, did a fine job of condensing the opera to keep it within 90 minutes. Only two important favorites were omitted (Colonel Calverley's "If you want a receipt for that popular mystery, Known to the world as a Heavy Dragoon," and Lady Jane's "Silvered is the raven hair, Spreading is the parting straight."). But all the other delights were presented by the very good cast, wearing ingenious, effective, but minimal costumes, designed by **Randall McIntyre** and **Kristina Horacek**. I especially enjoyed **Art DiBianca**'s excellent Bunthorne, and **Meredith Groeschel**'s charming Patience. A trumpet fanfare by the talented Music Director **Mel Witcher** came as an intriguing surprise in the second act. Thanks also to **Gloria Kim**, accompanist; to **Westminster Manor** for their hospitality; and to **Benny and Nancy Jay** for hosting rehearsals. A rollicking good time was enjoyed by all — especially the performers!

G&S Videos, DVDs, CDs & Memorabilia

Call our office or write us to order our delightful merchandise: T-shirts, librettos, DVDs, CDs, and videos; all at reasonable prices. Phone 472-4772.

(Election of Directors — Continued from Page 1)

shall be announced by the Board at the Annual Business Meeting each January. The present quorum for membership meetings is 20 voting members; the present quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors is a majority of the Directors.

Our Society is kept operating by the hard work of our Board of Directors. We thank the 5 Directors who are willing to continue on the Board. We are sorry to lose **Libby Weed**, **Paula Tyler**, and **Chris Buggé** who have requested a leave this year. Libby has been a Director for around 10 years, and served as President for 4 (January 1996 through December 1999). **Kristin Burritt** has three young children at home, one of them a newborn baby. She is eager to return to the Board, but right now she also needs a vacation.

We are fortunate to have found replacements, and we welcome to our slate 6 new Directors, some of whom you may remember as they have already served us well. **Larry Shepley** was President for four years. He continues to help us with many tasks, including writing grant proposals for City money, as well as setting up the layout for this Newsletter. **Allan Longacre** has advised us, and served a year as Board member. **Jean Smootz** has also served on our Board, and has been a hard-working volunteer, visiting the Society office, depositing checks, and selling tickets at performances among other chores.

We are happy to welcome three new candidates to our slate. **Byron Arneson** has long been an ardent supporter of Gilbert & Sullivan and our Society. His profession takes him to the far reaches of our country searching, for instance, for veins of copper ore to be

Patience

or, Bunthorne's Bride

Westminster Manor (Harris Bell Hall)

4100 Jackson Ave.

Monday November 8 and Friday November 12, 2004

Produced and Directed by **Brad Merrell**

Music Direction by **Mel Witcher**

Piano Accompaniment by **Gloria Kim**

Costuming by **Randall McIntyre** and **Kristina Horacek**

Cast:

Officers of Dragoon Guards:

Colonel Calverley	Randall McIntyre
Major Murgatroyd	Trey Deason
Lieut. The Duke of Dunstable	Brad Merrell
Reginald Bunthorne (<i>A Fleshly Poet</i>)	Arthur DiBianca
Archibald Grosvenor (<i>An Idyllic Poet</i>)	Derek Smootz
Mr. Bunthorne's Solicitor	Michael Middleton

Rapturous Maidens:

The Lady Angela	Kristina Horacek
The Lady Saphir	Amanda Hatfield
The Lady Ella	Chelsea Manasseri
The Lady Jane	Mandy Summers
Patience (<i>A Dairy Maid</i>)	Meredith Groeschel

Chorus of Rapturous Maidens:

Laura Merrell	Laura Witcher
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Chorus of Dragoon Guards:

Ben Bell	Michael Middleton
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We thank Westminster Manor for the use of Harris Bell Hall. We also thank Benny and Nancy Jay for the use of their home for rehearsals.

exploited by a copper company. Wherever he goes he also looks up the local cultural groups and especially any G&S enthusiasts. He reports that last summer in Winnemucca NV he enjoyed a performance of some portions of Pinafore put on in a barn by the Sagebrush Savoyards. **Ann Coltman** is the daughter of **Felicity Coltman**, who runs the very successful Austin Chamber Music Center. Ann was one of the Society's original founders and served as President when the total membership was about 30. She has lived in Germany where she and her three children (now teenagers) enjoyed the opportunities to perform together. She is now back in Austin, where she teaches dance at the Waldorf School. **Nancy McQueen** is one of those quiet people who will help out when needed and do whatever she does with calm reliability.

This is a brief introduction to some of our talented members. I hope to add information about other Directors as space is available in the Newsletter.

Reba Gillman

News of Members

Rafe MacPhail, our Director for next summer's *Mikado*, gave a lecture "The Mikado: Red, Hot, and Swing" at the University of Rochester, New York, on November 13 in conjunction with the exhibition "Gilbert and Sullivan: From London to America." He will give this lecture under a slightly different title for our Musicales on Monday February 28 (see the notice on the back page, and look for a more detailed announcement in a subsequent Newsletter).



Rafe & Alice MacPhail in Rochester; photo by Jesse Shereff

Larry Shepley, a Past President, has just returned from Egypt, where he viewed the pyramids from atop a singularly unimpressed camel. He was on a tour with the Flying Longhorns of the Texas Exes.



Contributors to *Gondoliers* 2004

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé • Larry Shepley • Michael & Libby Weed.** Contributors: **Chuck Antonie • Norma & Floyd Brandt • Barbary Phillips in memoriam Lucile Convers • Ann Rogers in memoriam Lucile Convers • John, Christie, & Lori Fisher • Russell Gregory • Cindy Hager • William P. & Naomi Haight • James A. Hitt • Benard Laves • Norman & Emilia Martin • George & Nancy McQueen • Joan Pearsall • B.M. Phillips • Priority Copy • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • D.A. Rutishauser • Jean and Ed Smootz • Patricia Spurr • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation • Michael & Libby Weed • Dr. Claire Ellen Weinstein • Westminster Manor.** We wish to thank especially the following individuals for their continuing support: **Byron Arnason, Marion DeFord, Russell Gregory, Andrew, Enid, & Gary Hallock, Kristine M. Olson, Allen Lawshae, Barbara Lee, Katharine Shields, Patricia Spurr, Rose Taylor, Steve & Louise Weinberg.**



The Gondoliers is funded in part by the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission and supported by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



Members of the Month

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month" (who is randomly selected). The Member of the Month is entitled to contact our office and order one free piece of merchandise: a video, CD, Society History, T-shirt, or mug. The Members of the Month for December and January are:

December 2004: **George & Barbara Douglas**

January 2005: **John & Marj Loehlin**

Congratulations! We value your membership! Please see our web site for a list of what's available, choose your prize, and we'll mail it to you: www.gilbertsullivan.org

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 a membership category. Membership benefits include our Newsletter and 10% discount on tickets.

- ☐ Individual: \$20 or more
☐ Family/Group: \$30 or more
☐ Donation only (no membership)
☐ I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider becoming a member 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). Donor members receive additional benefits. Please call our office or visit our website (www.gilbertsullivan.org) for further information.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

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G&S Office: **4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756**

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Phone: (512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]



The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. We are pleased to receive funding from the City of Austin under the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas commission on the Arts.



Board of Directors

President	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Executive Vice-President	Chris Buggé	834-7766
Secretary	Libby Weed	837-5441
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	477-5566
Historian	Kristin Burritt	528-8352
Directors	Reba Gillman	327-2277
	Brad Merrell	257-1742
	Randall McIntyre	422-3565
	Paula Tyler	459-4639

**Newsletter Editor
Layout**

Reba Gillman
Larry Shepley

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org
E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

Upcoming Events

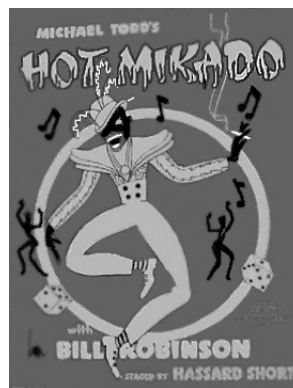
Our major production this coming year will be

The Mikado

June 16 - July 3, 2005, directed by Rafe MacPhail and Jeffery Jones-Ragona.

Auditions will be February 26-27, 2005. Come, be a part of the most popular piece of musical theater ever written!

Watch for our **Gala Fundraiser** in late April or early May (to be announced)



**Special Musicale:
Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
*The Mikado:***

Red, Hot, and Swing!

7:30 Mon. Feb. 28, 2005

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Austin
4700 Grover Ave.

Don't forget our
Business Meeting
7:30 Mon. Jan. 10, 2005



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