

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

Frederic's Birthday and Gala Fundraiser

On Leap Day, Sunday February 29, 2004, at 4:00 PM
Genesis Presbyterian Church, 1507 Wilshire Blvd.
Holton Harrison Johnson, Producer and Director

A wonderful program of excerpts from eight G&S operas will be performed by a stellar cast. Refreshments will follow. Help us celebrate Frederic's 37th Birthday! For information and ticket reservations, please call the G&S office after February 11th: 472-4772.

OPERAS: *The Gondoliers, Iolanthe, The Mikado, H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, Princess Ida, Ruddigore, and The Yeomen of the Guard*

PERFORMERS:

Kristin Burritt
 Frank Delvy
 Arthur DiBianca
 Kristina Horacek
 Jim Hunter
 Holton Harrison Johnson
 Janette Jones
 Eric Peabody
 Claire Vangelisti
 Christine Walsh
 Oliver Worthington

Our Flexible-Moveable Newsletter

As some of you may have noticed, our Newsletter is coming out on a more variable schedule than heretofore. At the end of 2003 we put out a joint issue dated December 2003 - January 2004. The current issue will be a little late for February. We are guided by the schedule of events and the news we need to advertise. We hope our flexibility does not confuse anyone.

Our Next Board Meeting

7:00 pm, Monday February 9, 2004, at Paula Tyler's.

Society Officers

Libby Weed • Secretary

The first order of business at the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors Monday, January 19, 2004, was to elect officers for the coming year. The following officers were elected:

President	Bill Hatcher
Executive Vice President	Chris Buggé
Secretary	Libby Weed
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski
Historian	Kristin Burritt

Board member **Reba Gillman** will continue to prepare our newsletter along with active Society member and former President **Larry Shepley**. Board member **Brad Merrell** will serve as our web master. **Art DiBianca** will continue to serve as an office volunteer.

President Bill Hatcher encouraged all board members to strive for another successful year such as the one we just completed under the leadership of Larry Shepley and Brad Merrell. Board members expressed appreciation to Brad Merrell for doing a fine job of filling out the unexpired presidential term of Larry Shepley in 2003.

Last Meeting and Musicale

Reba Gillman

On Monday January 5, 2004, the coldest day of the year, a faithful group gathered at the home of Paula Tyler for our Annual Business Meeting and Musicale. It quickly became apparent that attendance was lagging and we were going to have trouble making a quorum (20 members). Aside from the important business of electing Directors to serve on our Board, the program was to consist of singing a few choruses led by different members. Loel Graber appeared with copies of his choice from *Yeomen of the Guard*, and announced that he was suffering from a 24 hour intestinal flu and had to leave immediately. In response to our critical problem, we got him to leave his proxy with Ron Tyler, who was working in his study downstairs.

President Brad Merrell suggested that we start our musical program in the hope that a few more members would arrive. With Karl Logue at the piano, Kristin Burritt started us off singing the magnificent double chorus "When the foeman bares his steel" from *Pirates*. Kristin passed out copies of the music. She asked Chris Buggé to sing the Sergeant of Police, and Libby Weed to sing Edith, while she undertook the part of Mabel, and the audience joined in on the chorus parts (police and daughters). We sang through the work twice with great enthusiasm. Arthur DiBianca then passed out his selection from *The Grand Duke*. He sang the parts of the Herald and of the Prince of Monte Carló ("and his bee-uuu-ti-ful daughter"). We sang this twice, and then President Brad announced that we had attained a quorum, and could conduct our business.

Brad thanked us all for coming. The quorum had been achieved by a few late arrivals and several dues payments, including a donation to make our pianist, Karl Logue, a member. We called on Ron Tyler to join us with Loel's proxy vote. Brad said it had been a fantastic year with the production of *Pirates* garnering 6 nominations for Austin Circle of Theaters B.Iden Payne awards, actually winning 3 of those nominations: Claire Vangelisti, Holton Johnson, and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. Our three performances of a concert version of *Iolanthe* were very successful. Many new members have joined us, and our plans for producing *The Gondoliers* are going ahead vigorously. Plans are not firm yet, but we will probably perform in a new venue, the fine Davis Auditorium on the campus of the Austin School for the Deaf, 1102 South Congress Avenue.

Brad announced some changes: The Board has decided to simplify the dues structure. Dues will be \$20 (1 vote), and \$30 for family membership (2 votes). There will be no Youth or Senior memberships, but other, higher donor levels will continue. For the year 2004 the Board of Directors will be reduced to 9 Directors.

Brad then called on Larry Shepley, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Larry told us that the committee presented a slate of Directors: Chris Buggé, Kristin Burritt, Reba Gillman, Bill Hatcher, Randall McIntyre, Brad Merrell, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Dave Wieckowski. Of these only Randall McIntyre is new to the Board. Two who served as Directors this year, Chuck Antonie and Steve Schwartzman, were unable

to continue on the Board, and Larry thanked them for their service. Larry stated that nominations from the floor would be accepted, but none was made. It was suggested that Larry should serve on the Board, but he explained that his heavy travel schedule this year precluded service. Arthur DiBianca moved that we close the nominations, and Reba Gillman seconded the motion, which passed. Art then moved that we accept the slate by acclamation; Reba seconded the motion, which passed.

Business accomplished, we returned to our singing. In Loel's absence Libby passed out the music for his choice, the four part, á capella madrigal "Strange Adventure" from *Yeomen of the Guard*, with Loel's suggestion that we all sing it. Karl Logue played it on the piano as we sang, which kept us on pitch and helped those not familiar with the piece. Next came Libby's choice, "For he is an Englishman!" from *Pinafore*. Reba Gillman sang the part of Hebe, Arthur DiBianca sang Sir Joseph, and Brad Merrell the part of the Captain, and we all chimed in lustily with "for he is an Englishman!" Finally to finish off, we lit into Brad's choice, "Dance the Cachucha" from our upcoming show, *The Gondoliers*, which we sang through twice.

Chris Buggé then volunteered rather diffidently to sing us a sea chantey, "The Greenland Fishers" — not Gilbert & Sullivan, he apologized, but calling for a support chorus repeating the last line of every verse, like so many G&S pieces. Hot on that success, Chris was then nominated to sing the Pirate King to lead into "Hail Poetry", which we all rose to sing, with Lord High Pianist Karl Logue. No one had the music for "Now to the Banquet We Press," so we did a valiant job of singing it from memory without accompaniment.

Brad announced that we would celebrate Frederic's 37th birthday on Leap Day, Sunday February 29th with a Gala Fund Raiser Birthday Party. Details to be announced later, but Save The Date!!!

There followed the usual delicious spread and friendly conversation. Many thanks, Paula, for your boundless hospitality and to Ron for helping us out in a pinch and accepting Loel's proxy vote.

For the record, those attending were (members all!): Byron Arnason, Zelda Austin & Arthur Grubnick, Chris Buggé, Kristin Burritt, Lucian Chimene, Arthur DiBianca, Reba Gillman, (Loel Graber, who left his proxy with Ron Tyler), Nancy McQueen, Brad Merrell, Joan Pearsall, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, David Wieckowski, Theresa Wilson & Antonio Fuentes, and our newest member, Karl Logue. Jean Buggé came by later, after the voting was over.

*But when away his regiment ran,
His place was at the fore, O—
That celebrated,
Cultivated,
Underrated
Nobleman,
The Duke of Plaza-Toro!*



Welcome Savoyard!

Many thanks to **Russell Gregory** for a very generous donation. Not only has Russell been our friend and loyal performer for many years, but he has now given us a healthy check, which will be matched by Prudential Insurance, thus doubling its value.

Lucy Shoe Meritt

August 7, 1906 – April 13, 2003

The UT College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Classics will celebrate **The Legacy of Lucy Shoe Meritt** on Sunday, February 15, 2004 from 2 to 5 pm in the Santa Rita Room of the Texas Union, 24th and Guadalupe. There will be a round table discussion, **“To see what you look at”:** **From the Etruscans to Post-Modernism in Austin Architecture.** There will also be a musical program, and refreshments. This is open to all, but if you plan to attend please respond by February 10 to Clare Hudspeth at 512-471-8861, or by e-mail, chudspeth@ma il.utexas.edu, to give an estimate of numbers for the caterer.

Contributors to Pirates 2003

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé, Larry Shepley**

Individual: **Reba & Len Gillman, David & Roslyn Gutman, Jean & Ed Smootz, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Chris Buggé, Virginia Ehmann, Dan Girardot, Allan & Barbara Longacre**

Corporate, Government, and Foundation: **Still Water Foundation of Austin, Priority Copy, Eyes of Texas Laser Center, Cedra Corporation, Westminster Manor, Cleve H. Tandy Foundation, Consolidated Insurance Agency, Genesis Presbyterian Church, HEB & HEB Central Market, Texas French Bread**

Thanks to our many volunteers and to **Enid Hallock**, who coordinated them.



The Pirates of Penzance was 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.



Berkshire Choral Festival

Are you a serious choral singer? Do you have a friend who is? Every year at this time I receive brochures announcing “The Week That Lasts a Lifetime.” This year the choral festival is offering five week-long sessions from July 4 to August 8 to be held at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Massachusetts. Applications should postmarked by February 27, although they may be accepted later.

Their standards are high, they work you hard, and it’s not cheap. There is a discounted rate for college-age students and singers under 40, and some scholarships are available. If you would like a brochure, please call me at 327-2277.

Reba Gillman

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.

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**

Since 1976 , we have been spreading the joys of
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Board of Directors

President	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
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Secretary	Libby Weed	837-5441
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	Randall McIntyre	422-3565
	Brad Merrell	257-1742
	Paula Tyler	459-4639

Newsletter Editor Reba Gillman
Layout Larry Shepley

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

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

SAVE THE DATES

Coming in June, 2004

Frederic's Birthday

and

Gala Fund Raiser

Sunday February 29, 2004, at 4:00 PM

Program planned by Holton Harrison Johnson

(See Page 1)

The Gondoliers

or, The King of Barataria



Auditions in March

Watch for an announcement
in the March Newsletter

The
**& Gilbert
SULLIVAN** *Society*
OF AUSTIN

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February 2004