

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MUSICALE

WE SAIL THE OCEAN BLUE

Produced by **June Julian**
 Stage Direction **Janette Jones**
 Guest Conductor **Wayne Wyman**
 Pianist **Lynda Oswalt**

Featuring

David Fontenot • Sam Johnson
Janette Jones • June Julian
Claire Vangelisti

Monday 8 May 2006 — 7:30 PM

at the home of

Nancy & Benny Jay
4305 Hyridge Drive, Austin TX 78759
 (512) 343-8400

Please Bring Munchies!

The first half of this Musicale will be "Singer's Choice."
 The second half will be a "Pinafore Sing-Along." Come
 and enjoy yourselves as we prepare for our wonderful
 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* in June.

From Your President

Dear Friends:

I have a set of 78 RPM records of Gilbert & Sullivan music. I think this album must have been relatively popular and some of you have heard of it. Some of you may even have it. It is called "Patter Songs from Gilbert & Sullivan" and belonged to my parents. Nelson Eddy is the soloist, singing baritone with a chorus and orchestra. I haven't played these records for years as my 78 RPM turntable is in the attic and needs a new needle. I had not looked at the album in years and I must say it is beginning to look a little like an antique. I found these recordings beautiful and fascinating and developed a love for G&S from them. My brother and I would play them and sing the songs. I loved listening carefully to the words (many of which were new to me) because it was in these words that the humor was hiding. We would have friends over and play the records and explain the jokes and think it was just the best fun.

The album is part of the Columbia Masterworks set and sold for 79 cents. I can't find a date but I suppose they were pressed in the forties. There is a small pamphlet of notes that begins thus: "The persistent popularity of Gilbert and Sullivan defies the Hollywood formula for successful musicales". Certainly no one can deny the truth of that statement. The pamphlet is really a rather interesting commentary on the works. There is particular mention of Gilbert's vocabulary, rich in polysyllables and set to rhyme. These interesting examples are

(Continued on page 3)

H.M.S. Pinafore • The Company

Stage Director/Choreographer **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**
 Production Manager/Publicity Director.... **Natalie George**

Music Director & Conductor **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**
 Stage Manager..... **Monica Kurtz**

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. **Russell Gregory**
(First Lord of the Admiralty)

Bob Becket **Todd Galbraith**
(Boatswain's Mate — Carpenter)

Captain Corcoran **Frank Delvy**
(Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore)

Tom Tucker *(Midshipmite)* **Brian Wieckowski**
 Josephine *(The Captain's Daughter)* **Claire Vangelisti**

Ralph Rackstraw *(Able Seaman)* **Holton Johnson**

Hebe *(Sir Joseph's First Cousin)* **Heidi Hargrove**

Dick Deadeye *(Able Seaman)* **David Fontenot**

Mrs. Cripps *(Little Buttercup)* **Janette Jones**

Bob Bobstay *(Boatswain)* **Alan Pochi**

(a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman)

First Lord's Sisters, his Cousins, his Aunts, Sailors, Marines, etc.

Rachel Albrecht • Jenna Beaird • Stephanie Blackwood • Michael Borgsow • Jasmine Crist
Arthur DiBianca • Andy Fleming • Amy Kelley • Robert Kieras • Mark Long • John Lopez
Jennifer McKenna • Paul Nixon • Kert Petersen • Rachel Plitt • Austin Powell
Penny Wendtlandt • Katherine Wiggins • Natalie Wilemon • Jay Young

News of the Society

Reba Gillman

A Wedding: **Lisa Hatcher**, elder daughter of President **Bill Hatcher** and his first lady **Nan**, will marry **Michael Andrew Carter** on Saturday, April 22nd. **Chris Buggé** has offered to drive the couple from the church to the reception at UT in his historic baby blue Rolls Royce. When Lisa was in third grade she played Hercules in our 1989 production of *The Sorcerer*. Bill hung out back stage with her for every performance. Lisa graduated from UT Austin, where she played clarinet in the Longhorn Band. This gave special pleasure to Bill, who had played the flute in the band. Lisa and Andy met at UT, where Andy played trumpet in the Longhorn Band. The young couple have jobs in the Dallas area and will live in Grand Prairie.

Local Performances: **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**, our very busy Artistic Director in charge of Music, will play the part of Chaim Yonkel, a Catskills-style Jewish vaudeville performer, in a production of *TinTypes*, which will open Friday April 28 at the Dougherty Arts Center. Jeffrey says it's a good show and especially urges attendance at the Thursday, May 11th show, which will be a fund-raiser for the Capital City Mens Chorus, which Jeffrey heads. Jeffrey will direct the Capital City Mens Chorus in a concert at 4 PM on Sunday May 7th, at the first United Methodist Church at 12th and Lavaca. They will sing with a 25 piece orchestra, including members of the Austin Symphony. Tickets for the May 11th fund-raiser performance of *TinTypes*, and Tickets for the CCMC concert can be purchased at ccmcaustin.org or by calling 477-SING (7464). For tickets for all other performances of *TinTypes* call 301-3656.

National Performances: Ralph MacPhail, Jr., our Artistic Director in charge of Staging, is now a retired professor, free to accept G&S invitations to "take Gilbert & Sullivan on the road," and he's been keeping busy. On Monday, April 3rd he gave a talk "The Secrets of *H.M.S. Pinafore*" to the Bridgewater Retirement Village Community Association in Virginia. On Sunday, April 9th he presented "Curtain Going Up on *The Mikado*," a pre-performance talk at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for the Fulbright Association of Southeast Michigan. This was before the UMGASS production of *The Mikado*. Then April 22nd-29th, he will be in Medford, Oregon, to teach "Gilbert & Sullivan and Pira-Mika-Fore; or The Big Three" at Rogue Valley Manor, which is a repeat of last fall's very successful Elderhostel, sponsored by Harry and David. After that it will be only three weeks until Rafe flies into Austin to direct our 2006 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

And then come the Elderhostels at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, Connecticut, run by Rafe and **Deb Lyon**. **Larry Shepley** and **Patricia Kaplan** have both attended one of these sessions and can enthusiastically recommend them. The first will be "Gilbert & Sullivan and Ruddigore," July 16th-21st. This promises to be a very interesting session on one of the lesser known G&S operas (which, by the way, we are planning on presenting in 2007), with some wonderful music. The second will be the old favorite "Gilbert & Sullivan and Pira-Mika-Fore; or The Big Three," July 30th-August 4th. For information see Summer Elderhostel Catalog under "Connecticut," pages

36-37. The Incarnation Center is a delightfully rustic place to vacation in the summer — perhaps this is the new experience you have been looking for!

At the May 8th Musicale we will honor **Anna Miller**, a member with connections to the early history of Gilbert & Sullivan in Austin. Her husband, Robert of Miller Blueprint, died a few years ago, but he was a third generation Austinite, and his grandfather performed in a production of *Pinafore* on the entertainment ship Ben Hur, when it was a popular site on then Lake MacDonald (now Lake Austin). Ms. Miller did not live in Austin until she married Robert, but she played the part of Josephine in 1936 when she was in Junior High School in Rutherford, TX, where she grew up.

Not all News is Good: We are sorry to report that **Russell Gregory** fell downstairs carrying a load of laundry, and banged himself up royally. He will have knee surgery on Thursday, April 20th. Good Luck, Russell!!!

Member 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 receive a CD of our 2005 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

Enid Hallock

Congratulations! Please call our office (472-4772) to let us know where we should send your CD.

CELEBRATION

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin is 30 years old!

Ann Coltman, who was a member in the first years of the Society and is now on our Board of Directors, is teeming with ideas for a grand festival. She is pursuing early members, some of whom left Austin long ago, with the hope of getting some of them to come back to Austin for a party. Current thinking is to plan a Bang-Up Event for the fall. Ann is thinking of so many ways to celebrate that she needs time to organize.

Ann is also hoping to update our very popular *A History of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, Texas, Inc. 1976-2001* by Leland L. Smith.

If YOU have ideas or information please call or email Ann at 394-0852 or annbev@freenet.de.

The Mikado 2005 on DVD and CD

Thanks to Nancy Jay, we have high quality recordings of our 2005 production of *The Mikado*. The two-disc DVD is available for \$20, and the two-disc CD (audio only) is available for \$10. Please include a \$2.00 shipping fee per item ordered. These recordings may be ordered through our website

www.gilbertsullivan.org

or by calling our office at 472-4772. Please also ask about our many other recordings, tee-shirts, and other memorabilia celebrating our 30 years of bringing G&S to Central Texas.

(Continued from page 1)

cited: hypotenuse - lot 'o news; more wary at - commissariat; Heliogabalous - parabolous; tautology - nosology; astrology - 'lectrobiology. (As an aside, I will note that my spell checker is baffled by several of these terms, so I take full responsibility for the spellings.)

These shows are smart, amusing and timeless. What great fun. What great music. Each of you should pat yourself on the back for doing your part to keep this wonderful material on stage. And please plan to attend our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* this summer. How could you not love this stuff?

Fond regards, *Bill Hatcher*

Contributors to *H.M.S. Pinafore* 2006

Patricia Van Buren Almond • Richard & Jennifer Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Marilyn Babcock • James Black • Jim & Eleanor Cochran • Ray & Keena Cole • Peter & Felicity Coltman • Marion DeFord • Wanda Fisher & Maddie Renbarger • Loel Graber • Maudi Greenwood • Russell Gregory • Chris Hinds • James A. Hitt • Reba & Leonard Gillman • Brent & Una Jacob • Edward Kluth • Rafe & Alice MacPhail • Elaine Martens • Norman & Emilia Martin • Betty B. Morgan • P. S. Neff • James Plugge • Bee Harris Polome & Milt Weiss • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • Eugene & Betty Ripperger • Dorothy Rutishauser • Jane Dunn Sibley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Becky Stewart • Still Water Foundation, Inc. • Bernadette Tasher • The Voloch Family • Libby & Michael Weed • Joyce & Wayne Wilson • John Wood

Orchestra sponsored by Reba & Leonard Gillman



This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



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

Thank You

We again thank IBM for their generous donation of computer equipment and **Stephanie Blackwood** for providing the contact. We thank the following general donors: In honor of **Bee Polomé**: Peter & Felicity Coltman, Marilyn Babcock, Jean & Ed Smootz, Libby & Michael Weed. In honor of **Bruce Hallock**: Libby & Michael Weed. We thank the following for their continuing support: Chris, & Gary Hallock • Kristine M. Olson • Allen Lawshae • Barbara Lee • Randall McIntyre • Rosemary Russell-Vines • Cynthia Ryan & Valerie Ryan in memory of James C. Ryan • Katharine Shields • Patricia Spurr • Rose Taylor • Steve & Louise Weinberg.

Contributors to *The Mikado* 2005

Underwriters: Chris Buggé • Lawrence Shepley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Michael & Libby Weed. Contributors: Anonymous • Richard & Jennifer Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Mr. & Mrs. John C. Besperka • Larry & Becky Brenner • Chris Buggé • John Dailey • Marion DeFord • Betty B. Evans • Charlotte & William Flynn • Len & Reba Gillman • Loel Graber • Russell Gregory • William P. & Naomi Haight • Bruce & Enid Hallock • Betty R. Hatcher • James A. Hitt • Karen & Bob King • Edward Kluth • George & Nancy McQueen • James S. Moore • Mr. & Mrs. James Plugge • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • Charles & Diane Radin • James Robinson • Dorothy A. Rutishauser • Lawrence Shepley • Mrs. D.J. Sibley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Earl R. Hunt & Susan C. Spruance • Still Water Foundation, Inc. • Cleve H. Tandy Foundation • Jean Tolman • Paula Tyler • Bill & Mary Weaver • Michael & Libby Weed • Westminster Manor • Eve & John Williams • John & Betty Wood.



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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 with your check, payable to "GSSA":

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

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I'd like to volunteer. I'm interested in:

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- Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999)
- Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499)
- Savoyard** (\$2500 & up)

We are proud to list our members in our programs,, but if you would prefer NOT to be listed in our programs, please check here:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of G&S through
Annual Grand Productions • G&S in School

Musicales • Musical Scholarships
Monthly Newsletters • Holiday Season Shows

G&S Office: 6901 N. Lamar Blvd. #139, Austin, TX 78752

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

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. 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.



Artistic Director
Music Director
Database Manager

Ralph MacPhail, Jr.
Jeffrey Jones-Ragona
Arthur DiBianca

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	Nancy Jay	343-8408
	June Julian	301-7316
	Jean Smootz	259-2373



Janette Jones will be Little Buttercup. This picture is from *The Story of H.M.S. Pinafore* by Sir W.S. Gilbert, illustrated in colour and black and white by Alice B. Woodward (G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., London, 1913).

For tickets, please visit us at www.gilbertsullivan.org or call 1-800-494-8497 after May 10. The official opening night, Friday June 16, will offer a lavish dessert buffet, and Thursdays will feature special reduced prices.

H.M.S. Pinafore

will be our production in 2006
in celebration of our 30th Anniversary

June 15 – July 2, 2006
Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8 PM
and Sunday Matinées at 3 PM

Crockett High School
5601 Manchaca Road

Special Children's Matinée organized by Gary Hallock
Sunday June 18, with pre-show activities at 2 PM

The
Gilbert & SULLIVAN Society
OF AUSTIN

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May 2006