

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

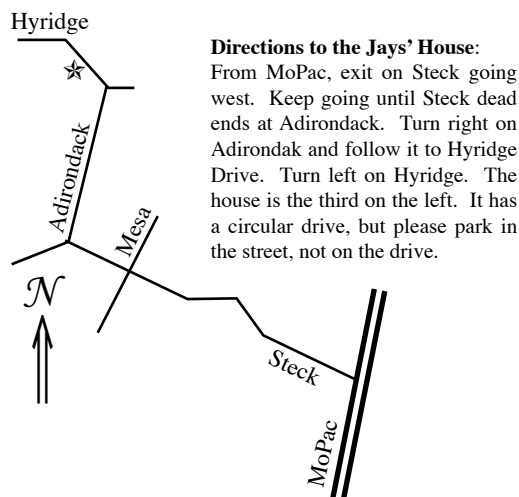
Our Next Musicale

Monday September 11, 2006, 7:30 PM

at the home of Nancy and Benny Jay
4305 Hyridge Drive
343-8408

Please Bring Munchies!

Start the season right with an evening of good music, good fellowship, and tasty munchies. **Libby Weed** has lined up a few of our favorites and a number of enthusiastic choristers from our production of *Pinafore*. We will hear **David Fontenot** and **Todd Galbraith**, among others, and **Janette Jones** will join **Frank Delvy** to give us a preview of *Ruddigore*, which is our next grand production (June 2007).



* * * * *

SAVE THE DATE

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday November 4, 2006, 7:00 PM

At the Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio

A sit-down dinner, with Musical Entertainment (G&S favorites conducted by **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**), **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.** flying in for the occasion, and a Silent Auction (to raise money).

More information later.

From Your President

Dear Friends:

Wasn't our recent *Pinafore* grand? I know you can't answer me directly, but I think I already have your answer. I saw it on your faces in the lobby at intermission and after each final chorus. I heard it in your conversations as you left with your friends and families. I also spoke to people (I hope I spoke to each of you). I said "I hope you enjoyed the show" and "Thank you for coming" and things like that. I heard very many nice comments. I always left the theater feeling quite exhilarated. So, for all these reasons, I feel very confident that you enjoyed the show. And of course how could you help but enjoy it? Here I should be sparing with my remarks as I could easily go on and on. I will say simply that it was beautiful. It was beautiful to the eye and to the ear. That's what I think. (Note to self: Seek a full time paying job where you are surrounded by milling crowds of smiling people that tell you how much they are enjoying themselves.)

Let me move on to another subject and I will try to be succinct. Beginning in January I took on some other responsibilities in my "other" life and have discussed it at several Board meetings. We have a plan that will bring new leadership and further development of our Society and will free me up. Through the end of the year, Allan Longacre and June Julian will be doing pretty much everything I have been doing. Also, I have involved them in what I have been doing for several months already. January will bring new elections and a new President. These arrangements are ideal in that they will permit a good transition. I am very indebted to the Board and Allan and June in particular for working out these arrangements. Allan and June are really very remarkable people with fascinating backgrounds and lots of ideas.

Nancy Jay and Cecily Johnson, our two other new Board members, also bring enthusiasm and impressive backgrounds and skills to our increasingly active Board.

In *Patience*, Lady Jane says "Little will be left of me in the coming by and by." Now, I don't expect to wither away, but you will see less and less of me in the coming by and by. However, if you would like to talk about how much you enjoy our shows and our programs and our wonderful actors and actresses, then please call, write or drop by. I still have time for that.

Very sincerely yours, *Bill Hatcher*

News of Members

Reba Gillman

My boy, you may take it from me,
That of all the afflictions accurst
With which a man's saddled
And hampered and addled,
A diffident nature's the worst.
Though clever as clever can be —
A Crichton of early romance —
You must stir it and stump it,
And blow your own trumpet,
Or, trust me, you haven't a chance!

Robin Oakapple, *Ruddigore*



Ann Coltman has regretfully resigned from the G&S Society Board of Directors. She teaches at the Waldorf School and has been besieged with so many new and interesting projects at work that she cannot spend time on G&S right now. She hopes to return when things let up a bit.

Natalie George, our Production Manager, like some others, is suffering from the suspension of the year's program at the State Theater. In June a city water main broke in the alley behind the theater, flooding its lower part, and backstage spaces in the basement. Major work will be required and there is so far no schedule for the reopening of the theater.

Russell Gregory, his wife **Kay**, and his sister **Peggy Brunner**, attended the ElderHostel "Pira-Mika-For" run by Rafe MacPhail and Deb Lyon in August at The Incarnation Center, Ivoryton CT. After a delightful week-long immersion in Gilbert and Sullivan, Russell enjoyed singing with Peggy in the performance on the last evening: "Things are seldom what they seem" (*H.M.S. Pinafore*) and "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" (*The Mikado*).

Andrew Hallock will be home soon for a late summer visit, and then back to his studies in Early Music at The Hague in the Netherlands.

Dr. **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** finished the last requirements and officially received his Doctorate of Music (DMA) in June. He also informs us that the performance of Monteverdi's 1610 *Vespers*, which he led last fall, has been named "Outstanding Choral Concert of 2005" by the Austin Critics' Table. Congratulations, Jeffrey!

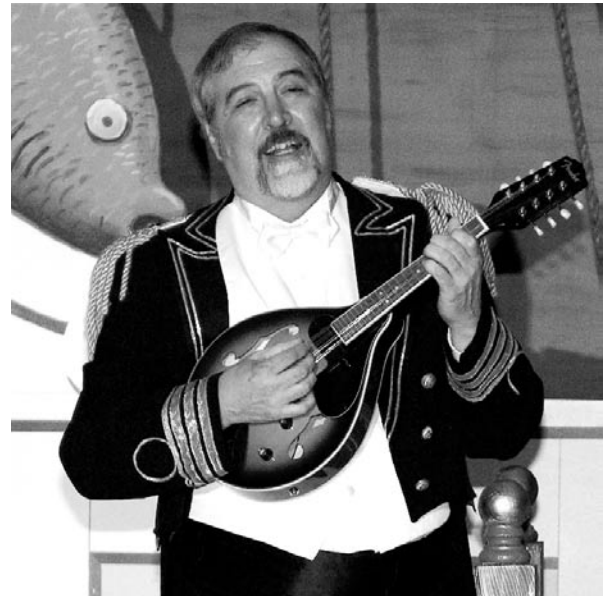
Board member **June Julian**'s ambitious summer opera workshop is just finishing a successful second season. **Randy Harriman** gave Pinkstone Productions a very favorable write up in the *Austin American-Statesman* (Sunday, August 20; see <http://www.austin360.com/news/content/arts/stories/2006/08/20pinkstone.html>), which revealed the source of its name. The closing performances, August 26 and 27 at the First Presbyterian Church of Austin, promise to be excellent.

Erstwhile Lord High Pianist **Gloria Kim** has deserted us to further her education. She completed her Master's degree at UT in May, and is off to the University of Minnesota to study for her DMA. She devoted the summer to extensive travel and a stint as accompanist at the Austrian American Mozart Academy in Salzburg. Best Wishes, Gloria!

Christiana Little (our 2005 *Yum Yum*) is also off to further her career. Her teacher, **Claire Vangelisti**, tells me Christiana has been admitted to the prestigious Manhattan School of Music in NYC. She will be studying voice with Cynthia Hoffman, a great and very well connected teacher, who is also head of the voice department at Juilliard. Way to go, Christiana!

Board Member and Lord High Bureaucrat **Larry Shepley** enjoyed a two-week river cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg, with an extension to Helsinki, under the auspices of the Texas Exes. Moscow is on the Moscow River, which is connected by a canal with a series of locks to the Volga, which in turn is connected by more canals, lakes, and locks to the Neva, which runs through St. Petersburg. All those locks and no bagels!

Paula Tyler and her husband, **Ron**, have embarked on an interesting new life in Fort Worth. Ron was offered the position of Head of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and retired from his long-time position of History Professor at UT Austin. Their address is 5536 Collinwood Avenue, Fort Worth TX 76107. Telephone: 817-377-1297. We'll miss them!



Frank Delvy as Captain Corcoran with Fish;
photo by Cecily Johnson

Pinafore Survey Winners

Pinafore DVD & CD

As part of our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, we conducted an audience survey. Ten lucky participants in this survey have won a DVD of the show. We wish to thank all who participated in the survey. We are especially thankful for all your comments, which included much praise and a few complaints (which we will certainly try to make right for future shows).

The *Pinafore* DVD has been produced by **Nancy Jay**, and it is of excellent quality. She also has available an audio CD of the show. Each may be purchased (the DVD is \$15 and the CD is \$10) by contacting our office at 472-4772 or e-mailing us at info@gilbertsullivan.org.



RALPH MacPHAIL, Jr.
 Box 114 Bridgewater College
 Bridgewater, Virginia 22812-1599

Sunday, July 2, 2006

Dear Fellow Sailors of the Ocean Blue,

Alice and I have almost finished packing for the trip home to Virginia tomorrow morn, and as I think on my past six weeks here, I am filled with delight and the warmth of happy memories of our production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. It really was a remarkable and lovely production, thanks to *all* of you.

I value so opportunities to collaborate with **Jeffrey** and am grateful for all he brings to these productions not only in serving Sullivan so well in rehearsal and in performance but also in recruiting such a **wonderful orchestra**. **Bill**, in agreeing to "serve a[nother] term" as President of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society did more to make the show possible than any of us will ever realize. I am grateful to **Natalie and the incredible staff** she assembled to handle various technical areas of production, to **Monica** for running, um, a tight ship. **The many Society volunteers at the front-of-house and members who support the enterprise financially and in many other various ways deserve the thanks of all of us.**

And of course I'm also very grateful for **our wonderful cast** for auditioning and then for working so hard in a concentrated staging rehearsal time—with such good humor and dedication and cooperation and talent and enthusiasm. What a wonderful cast you are—were!

Whenever a new theatrical process gets under way, I always think of it in terms of that elusive ideal final result. Thank *all of you* for all you did to bring us to that end. Our audiences assured us that we'd succeeded well. And we could *feel* it, couldn't we?

Finally, I thank you for your personal kindnesses extended toward Alice and me while we were in Austin. We really do leave part of our hearts here when we return "back east," and we will think of you often with gratitude and many happy memories.

With love and good wishes from both of us,

Yours sincerely,



The Pinafore Company — Front and center are Bill Hatcher, Brian Wieckowski, Rafe MacPhail, and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona; photo by Cecily Johnson



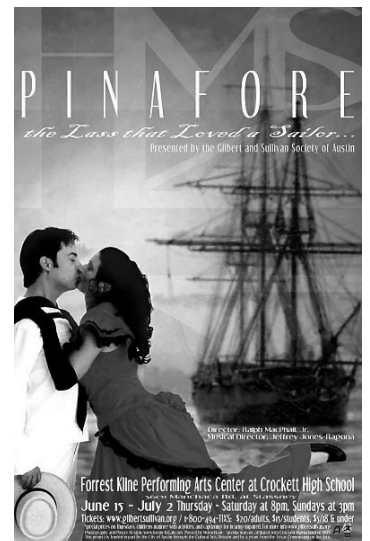
Brian Wieckowski, Midshipmite, and his father Dave, Marine; photo by Cecily Johnson



Janette Jones as Little Buttercup, with a crowd of admiring sailors, including our Database Manager, Arthur DiBianca in the upper right; photo by Cecily Johnson



Claire Vangelisti as Josephine with Fish; photo by Cecily Johnson



Our poster and postcard; photography by Kenneth Gall



Russell Gregory as Sir Joseph Porter, KCB;
photo by Cecily Johnson



Claire Vangelisti as Josephine and Holton Johnson as Rafe Rackstraw; photo by Cecily Johnson

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.



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:

Tom & Nancy-Jane Griffith

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

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)

Please check a membership category.

- ☐ **Individual** (\$20-\$29)
- ☐ **Family/Group** (\$30-\$49)
- ☐ **Patron** (\$50-\$99)
- ☐ **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249)
- ☐ **Major General** (\$250-\$499)
- ☐ **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: ☐

Name & Address (if different from label):

Phone(s): _____

E-mail address: _____

Employer: _____

Does your company match donations? _____

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

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

Mail Address: P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542

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

Board of Directors

President	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Executive VP	Allan Longacre	301-5611
Assistant to VP	June Julian	301-7316
Secretary	Nancy McQueen	258-2149
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	542-0446
Newsletter Editor	Reba Gillman	327-2277
Layout	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Web Master	Cecily Johnson	331-4607
	Byron Arnason	801-558-8041
	Nancy Jay	343-8408

Our Next Musicale

Monday September 11, 2006, 7:30 PM

at the home of Nancy and Benny Jay

4305 Hyridge Drive — 343-8408

(See map on page 1)

* * * * *

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday November 4, 2006, 7:00 PM

At the Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio

More information later.

Our Grand Production in June, 2007

Ruddigore
Or, The Witch's Curse

Here's a bit of trivia: When objections were raised concerning the original title, *Ruddy Gore*, as being too coarse for a respectable audience, Gilbert suggested *Kensington Gore, or Not so good as the Mikado*, but quickly settled on *Ruddigore*, which for some reason was considered less offensive.



PO Box 684542
Austin TX 78768-4542

Return Service Requested

Are you the Member of the Month?
See inside!

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 2054
AUSTIN, TEXAS



Top line of mailing label is date when your membership expires

September 2006