

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

FEBRUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER

## Message from Your President

Larry Shepley

On January 18, Brad & Laura Merrell and I drove down south to see the San Antonio Lyric Opera production of *The Mikado*. Singers and orchestra were great; sets weren't; staging was traditional. Overall, our 1998 production was better.

The new Bylaws, passed at our annual business meeting on January 6, changed our structure somewhat. For example, you-all elected a Board of Directors and not a slate of officers. At the first official Board meeting, January 13, the Board chose its officers. I was elected President. I had previously expressed a desire not to continue, but several people requested that I stay until *Pirates* this summer. The advantage of our present Bylaws is that a new President can be elected at any time, so I anticipate retiring sometime in the next half year. It really is fun being President, but I'm more than willing to share the joys.

The other officers mandated by the Bylaws are Executive Vice-President — Brad Merrell; Secretary — Libby Weed; Treasurer — Dave Wieckowski. Reba Gillman, who has been everything, most recently Secretary, wished to step down, but she agreed to continue as Editor of the Newsletter. The Board also created the office of Historian and elected Bill Hatcher. The other Board Members are Chuck Antonie, Chris Buggé, Steve Schwartzman, and Paula Tyler.

We also transacted some essential business. Dan Smith was confirmed as Executive Producer for *Pirates*, a position we actually had contracted for last year. He starts in earnest now. Jeffrey Jones-Ragona will be our Music Director, and Rafe MacPhail our Stage Director.

The Board also set up some committees: The Gala Fundraiser committee will oversee Rafe's Musicales on March 3 (more information in next month's Newsletter) and our annual Fundraiser, scheduled for April 6 (again, more information will be in next month's Newsletter). Brad Merrell is the chair, with Chuck Antonie, Reba Gillman, Paula Tyler, and Dan Smith as the other members.

Paula Tyler is the chair of the Publicity committee, with Chuck Antonie, Chris Bugge, Brad Merrell, and Dan Smith as members.

Libby Weed is the chair of the Fundraiser Committee; other members are Bill Hatcher, Steve Schwartzman, and Dan Smith.

Over the next several months, our main activity will be *Pirates*. Auditions will be on the weekend of March 1-2.

## Save the Date

7:30 pm, Monday, March 3, 2003  
at Benny & Nancy Jay's house  
4305 Hyridge Drive, 343-8408

*The Pirates of Penzance: an Evening of  
Airy Persiflage with Rafe MacPhail, Jr.*

Look for map and directions  
in the March Newsletter

*Fundraising Gala*  
Postponed to April 2003

Please call our office for more information and an appointment. Music rehearsals will take place over the ensuing months. Rafe will return to Austin at the end of May for intensive stage rehearsals. Since *Pirates* is of course very popular, we will have three weekends of performances (at the Helm Fine Arts Center of St. Stephen's School). Even with its popularity, however, we need to solicit contributions to cover the many expenses:

- If you would like to donate frequent flyer miles to help us bring Rafe here, please call our office.
- If you have corporate or foundation connections, we would like you to help us solicit sponsorships.

Chris Buggé and I have agreed to underwrite much of the cost of the production. The Still Water Foundation and the City of Austin have agreed to partial support. Reba Gillman has made a generous contribution. This is a fine beginning, but we need more. *Pirates* will cost about \$45,000, and ticket sales can only cover about half of that (we will stick to our policy of reasonable ticket prices, with special discounts for Young Persons, of course). Please help!

## Bylaws

Copies of the new Bylaws are available from Reba Gillman. Please call 327-2277.

## Next Board meeting

Monday February 3, 7:00 pm, at Paula Tyler's.

## Annual Business Meeting

Reba Gillman

The Annual Business Meeting went off well on Monday January 6, 2003, at Paula Tyler's, with 34 people in attendance, not all paid up members. It was fun to be together again and to sample the goodies brought by members, as in "the good old days." In August we decided to reduce the number of our musicales because putting them together monthly was becoming increasingly difficult and labor intensive (meaning that the burden was borne by only a few people). But I really do miss them. Perhaps in the future we can add a few more musicales to the yearly schedule. [Hint: Anyone with a good idea for a theme and performers let us know!]

The main business of this meeting was 1) To vote on the proposed new Bylaws, and 2) To elect either a Board of Directors, if the new Bylaws passed, or a slate of officers if they did not. Copies of the old and the new Bylaws were available at Paula's starting at 7 pm, and many people drifted in to take advantage of the opportunity to read them. President Larry Shepley opened the meeting at about 7:40 pm. Treasurer Dave Wieckowski gave the financial report for the year 2002. He said the bad news was that we lost money, but the good news was that we didn't lose as much as in 2001. Copies of his report were available for anyone interested. There followed questions and discussion concerning the productions and why we lost money on them. In response to a question Larry stated that the budget for this year's *Pirates* was about \$45,000.

Larry then outlined the changes required in our Bylaws, in order to make them legal and to reflect what we are actually doing. Sue Caldwell reported on the work of her committee (consisting of Arthur DiBianca and Reba Gillman, with advice from longtime member Jim Robinson, who is a lawyer and has had a great deal of experience writing Bylaws for nonprofit organizations). Sue then went through the new Bylaws explaining changes and new sections. One of the important changes is that Directors are elected by the Society members at the Annual Business Meeting, but the officers are later elected by the Board of Directors. She told us that we had to accept or refuse the whole document as it was. However one typo was pointed out and corrected. In the ensuing discussion, questions were raised and the situation clarified. Finally Libby Weed moved that we approve the new Bylaws; Harold Gilbert seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 25 Ayes and no Nays.

Larry then introduced Bill Hatcher, chair of the nominating committee (other members were Sue Caldwell and Reba Gillman). Bill listed the nominees for a ten-member Board of Directors. They were Charles Antonie, Chris Buggé, Reba Gillman, Bill Hatcher, Brad Merrell, Steve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Dave Wieckowski. Larry asked if there were any nominations from the floor. As there were none, Libby Weed moved that we accept the nominees for Board of Directors as presented; Harold Gilbert seconded the motion, which passed with no negative votes.

There followed a few announcements: 1) We were told that the Lyric Opera of San Antonio was presenting *The Mikado* in San Antonio on January 17, 18 and 19, further information available from Jean Smootz. 2) Auditions for our production of *Pirates* will take place on Saturday & Sunday, March 1-2. 3) On Monday March 3 the subject of our Musicales will be *The Pirates of Penzance: An evening of airy persiflage, with Rafe MacPhail, Jr.* 4) Our production of *Pirates* will open on Friday June 13, 2003, with a preview performance on Thursday June 12. The Gala will not occur on opening night. The show will run for three weekends, with a probably total of 12 performances.

Art DiBianca then told us that as a volunteer in the Society office he had the opportunity to see at first hand the enormous amount of time and effort put in by President Larry Shepley and proposed a round of applause. Larry replied that he has taken credit for work done by others, notably Jean Smootz and Art.

Larry then introduced "The Stardust Four" to provide the evening's entertainment: songs from the 30's and 40's sung by Ann Moeller, Judy Ratliff, and Catherine Bartoli, with Vernon Moeller at the piano. We know Catherine from her charming performance as Lady Sangazure in our 2001 production of *The Sorcerer*. The tone was set when the ladies entered snappily, wearing yellow rain gear, and burst into "Singing in the rain." After removing the rain coats they continued with such favorites as "The Man I Love" (Gershwin), and "I can't give you anything but love, baby." The ladies retired and Vernon Moeller gave us a musically complicated interlude, "I've got rhythm" ("Gershwin with a little bit of Mozart," Vernon told us). The ladies returned for three more songs, "Chattanooga Choo-choo," "In the mood," and "Boogie, woogie, bugle boy of Company B." After the applause died away Vernon came back to accompany the customary "Hail Poetry" and "Now to the banquet we press," with all joining in enthusiastically. His sight reading was impressive!

Refreshments were abundant and delicious as always, and included some "sausage rolls" which I had discovered at the local Randall's (going by the misleading name of "Bagel Dogs"). They seemed disappointingly bland, and perhaps as Ludwig puts it in *The Grand Duke*, "It is quaint, and it is droll./ But it's bilious on the whole." And thus ended another delightful evening at Paula's house. A resounding Thank You to Paula, and all who brought goodies to eat.

Those present were members and friends Charles Antonie, Chris Buggé, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Lucian Chimene, Arthur DiBianca, Harold Gilbert, Len & Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Carolyn Gregory, Bill Hatcher, Nancy McQueen, Robert Mellin, Brad Merrell, Bee Polomé & her new husband Milt Weiss, Martha Schumacher & Errol Tyrone Olson, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Andrée Sjoberg, Leland L. Smith, Jean Smootz, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, Dave Wieckowski, Theresa Wilson with friend Antonio Fuentes, and Cheryl Youngberg; and performers Vernon Moeller, Ann Moeller, Judy Ratliff, and Catherine Bartoli.

### News of Members

Congratulations to **Bee Polomé** and **Milton Weiss**, who were married at 5:00 pm on January 3, 2003, at the Crestview United Methodist Church. A happy evening with potluck supper and steel drum band followed.

**Larry Garvin** is a visiting member this year, but he gets around. He is Music Director of a SavoyNet production of *Utopia Limited* to be presented on Tuesday August 5, 2003, at The International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England. Unfortunately, Larry will be leaving us in May, but we hope to see him and his wife Robin again, often.



### Contributors to Pirates 2003

(Please add your name to this growing list!)

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé, Larry Shepley**

Individuals: **Reba Gillman**

Corporate, Governmental, and Foundational:  
**The Still Water Foundation of Austin**



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

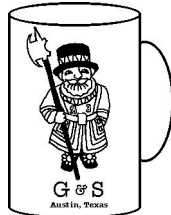


### A Very Modern Major General — Two Views

The right drawing is by Gilbert; the left photograph is ... who? If you know, come to our Musicale on March 3 and receive a very special glass of wine.

### 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.

## 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**

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**G&S Office**

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**Board of Directors**

President	Larry Shepley	327-1511
Executive Vice-President	Brad Merrell	257-1742
Secretary	Libby Weed	837-5441
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	391-8400
Historian	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Directors	Chuck Antonie	733-1006
	Chris Buggé	345-9551
	Reba Gillman	327-2277
	Steve Schwartzman	453-2334
	Paula Tyler	459-4639

**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**

**The Pirates of Penzance: An Evening of  
Airy Persiflage with Rafe MacPhail, Jr.**

7:30 pm, Monday March 3, 2003

At the home of Benny & Nancy Jay  
4305 Hyridge Drive, 343-8408

**Fundraising Gala**

Postponed to April 2003

Meetings of the Board of directors

Monthly, dates to be announced

*The Pirates of  
Penzance*

**Auditions:** Saturday March 1, starting 11:00 am  
Sunday March 2, starting 2:00 pm

Place to be announced

Please call for information and an appointment: 472-4772

Performances will be in June 2003  
Helm Theater, St. Stephen's School

*The*  
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SULLIVAN**  
Society of Austin  
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