

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

JUNE 2006 NEWSLETTER

## *H.M.S. Pinafore*

*or, The Lass that Loved a Sailor*

Crockett High School Performing Arts Center  
5601 Manchaca Road at Stassney in South Austin  
(With accommodations for the physically impaired)  
(This production is not a Crockett High or Austin ISD production)

Tickets: Adults \$20 , 18 & under \$5, Students \$15  
(for group prices, please contact Bill Hatcher 892-3722)  
Thursdays: Adults \$15, 18 & under \$5, Students \$10  
Open seating (no reserved seats)

Thursday June 15, 8 PM (preview, reduced price)  
Friday June 16, 8 PM (opening night with dessert buffet)  
Saturday June 17, 8 PM  
Sunday June 18, 3 pm (with captioning)  
(special children's activities at 2 PM)

Thursday June 22, 8 PM (reduced price)  
Friday June 23, 8 PM  
Saturday June 24, 8 PM  
Sunday June 25, 3 PM

Thursday June 29, 8 PM (reduced price)  
Friday June 30, 8 PM (with captioning)  
Saturday July 1, 8 PM (with captioning)  
Sunday July 2, 3 PM (final performance)

For tickets call 1-800-494-TIXS, or visit  
[www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

### From Your President

Dear Friends:

This will be our last newsletter before *Pinafore* opens, so please make your plans to attend now. Music rehearsals have been underway for over a month, and by the time you get this, our Stage Director, Ralph MacPhail, Jr., will be here conducting stage rehearsals. Your Board has worked very hard to ensure that this is a first-rate production. Many of you have provided direct monetary support to the production, and for this I thank you. Your help has been invaluable.

Our production team consists of Ralph MacPhail, Jr., Stage Director; Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Music Director; and Natalie George, Production Manager. This team was so successful last year with *Mikado*, and I am very excited that we were able to bring them back. We were not able to use Austin High School this year due to summer school activities that conflicted with our production dates, but Crockett will be very satisfactory, and everyone there has been very nice to us. We have an outstanding cast, and the rehearsals I have attended have been delightful.

We have done the planning and put the team together. They have excellent material to work with — the very popular script and music of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The magic is happening right now and you will enjoy the results. I guarantee it. See you in the theater.

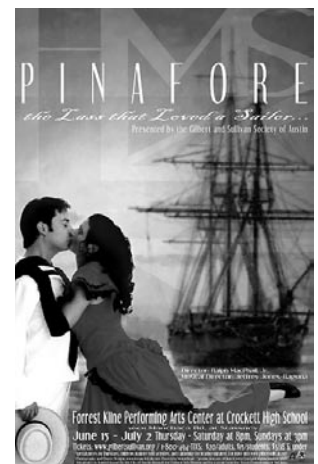
Fond regards, *Bill Hatcher*

### 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.



## Last Musicale

Reba Gillman

On Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, about 50 people gathered in the welcoming home of Benny and Nancy Jay to enjoy one of our best programs ever. The tone was set as Chris Buggé greeted the arriving guests in a bowler hat and his best British accent. Seven-year-old Katy Fontenot was his charming and enthusiastic assistant, passing out the colorful programs. June Julian worked hard and did a spectacular job assembling excellent performers, and a good sampling of our upcoming show, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, involving the audience in all the choral responses. The overall effect was greatly enhanced by the dramatic action worked up by Janette Jones and Wayne Wyman, a knowledgeable newcomer to our ranks. Wayne also served as guest conductor of the G&S music, and gave brief introductions letting us in on amusing historical tidbits. Lynda Oswald was the excellent accompanist.

President Bill Hatcher opened the evening welcoming us all, and especially our many visitors. Reba Gillman introduced our Guest of Honor, Anna Buchanan Miller, a long-time member and the widow of Robert Miller of Miller Blueprint Co., a third generation Austinite. Robert's grandfather played the part of Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. in a production of *Pinafore* given in the late 1800s on the show boat the Ben Hur, a popular entertainment venue on what was then Lake MacDonald (now Lake Austin). The dam forming that lake broke around 1897, and washed away the Ben Hur. Anna did not live in Austin before she married Robert, but she herself had played the part of Josephine in a Junior High School production of *Pinafore* in Rutherford, Texas. She and Robert joined our Society around 1981. They had often hoped to attend a Musicale but had never managed to do so.

Reba also spoke of the public's enthusiastic welcoming of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas in Austin and the entire U.S.A. when they were first produced, and their continuing popularity to this day. She said she was passing around a sign-up sheet and for a historical perspective asked that everyone indicate what year they came to Austin. (More on this later.)

June then took over and introduced the singers. She mentioned that her first experience with our productions was with *Pinafore* in the year 2000. She said an important thing about Gilbert and Sullivan was telling stories, as we would see in this program.

There followed a rousing good time with good music, and excellent performances. At the end, after singing our traditional offerings, "Hail Poetry" and "Now to the Banquet we press," we adjourned to munch and chat as usual. Many thanks to the Jays, who both had to be away, but generously opened their lovely home to us, anyway. Thanks also to Nancy's sons Brad and Marcus, who were present to help us.

For the record, those present were: Byron Arnason, Stephanie Blackwood, Chris Buggé, Katy Fontenot, Len and Reba Gillman, Lisa Harris, Bill Hatcher, Carrie Heinley, Pat Hobbs, Cecily Johnson, Judy Johnson (Sam's mother, and a fourth generation Austinite), Hink Johnson, Matt Julian

with daughter Desirée (12 years old), Patricia Kaplan, Allan & Barbara Longacre with Ethel Harvey - their daughter's mother-in-law, Lyetta Maixner, Vivian Mansell, John Mast, Emma McNairy, Nancy McQueen, Brad Merrell, Marcus Merrell, Anna Buchanan Miller, Maurie Ommerman, Gaylon Oswald, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, André Sjoberg, Ron Snell, Marc Taslit - opera and drama coach of some of the performers - visiting from Florida, Patricia & Alfredo Torrey, Milt Weiss, Theresa Wilson, Ingrid and James Yaple, and performers: Bruce Douglas, David Fontenot, Sam Johnson, Janette Jones, June Julian, Claire Vangelisti, and Wayne Wayman and Lynda Oswald.



### *We Sail The Ocean Blue* Musicale of May 8, 2006

Produced by <b>June Julian</b>	Stage Direction by <b>Janette Jones</b>
Guest Conductor <b>Wayne Wyman</b>	Accompanist <b>Lynda Oswald</b>

### PROGRAM

#### Singer's Choice

"C'est moi, c'est moi" from <i>Camelot</i>	<b>Sam Johnson</b>
"Villja" from <i>The Merry Widow</i>	<b>June Julian</b>
"Cain't say no" from <i>Oklahoma</i>	<b>Janette Jones</b>
"Be my love" from <i>The Toast of New Orleans</i>	<b>Bruce Douglas</b>
"Quando men vo" from <i>La boheme</i>	<b>Claire Vangelisti</b>
"If I were a rich man" from <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	<b>David Fontenot</b>

#### Pinafore Sing-Along

"We sail the ocean blue"	<b>Bruce, David, &amp; Sam</b>
"Sorry her lot"	<b>Claire</b>
"Now give three cheers"	<b>David &amp; Sam</b>
"When I was a lad"	<b>Sam</b>
"A British tar"	<b>Bruce, David, &amp; Sam</b>
"Never mind the why and wherefore"	<b>Claire, David, &amp; Sam</b>

#### Closing Numbers

"Hail, Poetry" from <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	<b>Ensemble</b>
"Now to the banquet we press" from <i>The Sorcerer</i>	<b>Tutti</b>



### 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

coming in October or early November. Ann Coltman is in charge but will be away in June and July. If you have ideas or information, please let us know. Call our office at 472-4772, or e-mail us at [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org).

or e-mail Ann at [annbev@freenet.de](mailto:annbev@freenet.de).

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

### Coming

Monday September 11, 2006, the opening Musicale for next season. Look for an announcement in the next Newsletter — September 2006.

## News of Members

**Libby Weed** is excited to be part of the Round Rock Community Choir's June performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Choir was honored to be invited to perform, but had to add members to meet the requirement of 150 singers. They will be singing Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, with soloists and full orchestra, in the legendary NYC performance hall.

Also Libby has agreed to be **Volunteer Co-ordinator**, especially for our performances of *H.M.S. Pinafore* June 15 through July 2, 2006. Helping at a performance can be lots of fun, and gives one the feeling of being part of the show. It's also a way to meet other G&S workers and possibly even the performers. **Anyone interested should call Libby at 837-5441.**

**Jean Smootz** has regretfully resigned from the G&S Board of Directors. Her mother was scheduled for knee surgery and is experiencing other problems of getting old. Jean has taken time off to be able to help her mother.

**Dan Smith** had triple bypass surgery in April and is now out and about and doing fine. Dan attributes his fast and fine recovery to his otherwise excellent health due to his regular exercise regime.

**Russell Gregory** sounds as vigorous as ever. He reports that he doesn't let a little physical injury keep him from his performing appointments. Two days before his knee surgery he sang for the Wednesday Morning Music Club and a week or so afterward he performed for his UT 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. However, he's not planning on carrying any more laundry around. He'll use the laundry chute. (To refresh your memory: Russell fell down stairs carrying a basket of laundry and suffered severe injuries.)

That peripatetic retiree, **Ralph MacPhail, Jr.** — Rafe — was cited in Linda F. Burghardt's article "The Wit of Gilbert and Sullivan, the Joys of Yiddish: Jewish Experiences Add Another Layer of Satire to Three Famous Works," which appeared in the Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> edition of *The New York Times*. The article concerns The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Long Island's productions of Al Grand's Yiddish transliterations of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Mikado*. Rafe was interviewed by phone concerning the appeal of these productions.

**Pinkstone Productions, LLC** (a company formed by G&S Board Member, **June Julian**) is now accepting applications for its summer opera workshop. The dates are August 11–27, 2006 in Austin, Texas. Courses will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 8001 Mesa Dr. near Spicewood Springs Road. Instructors include: Karen Coe Miller from the Wesley Balk Institute; Kathleen Juhl, Alexander Technique; Cindy Sadler; Wayne Wyman; and Juli Wood. Deadline to apply is **June 30, 2006.**

Classes will include:

- Acting / Dramatic interpretation
- Alexander Technique
- The Business of Singing
- Master Classes
- Mock auditions
- Individualized instruction (vocal coachings; voice lessons; Alexander Technique)
- Perform opera scenes with orchestra before a live audience

Applicants can choose to take the Complete Workshop or A la Carte courses.

For more information and application, visit the website:

[www.pinkstoneproductions.com](http://www.pinkstoneproductions.com);

or contact June Julian by email:

[junejulian@pinkstoneproductions.com](mailto:junejulian@pinkstoneproductions.com).

**SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 26–27, 2006**

**Pinkstone's Summer Opera Revue!**

### 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:

**Michael & Alice Kuhn**

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)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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:

## 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  
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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](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. 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.

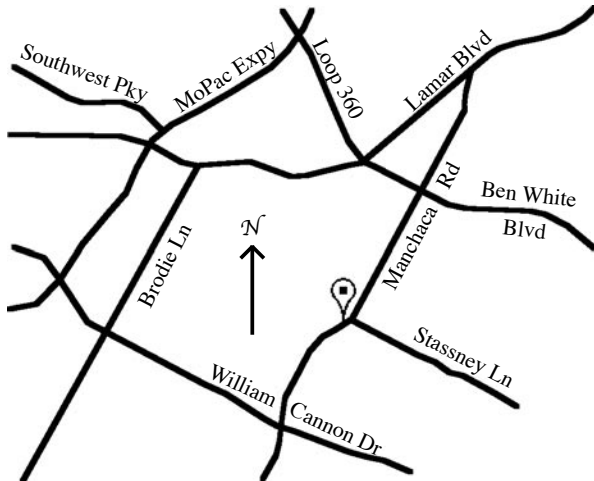


Artistic Director  
Music Director  
Database Manager

**Ralph MacPhail, Jr.**  
**Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**  
**Arthur DiBianca**

### Board of Directors

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## *H.M.S. Pinafore*

in celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> 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  
Captioned performances June 18, June 30, July 1

For tickets, visit [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)  
or call 1-800-494-8497

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

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See inside!

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June 2006