

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2007 NEWSLETTER

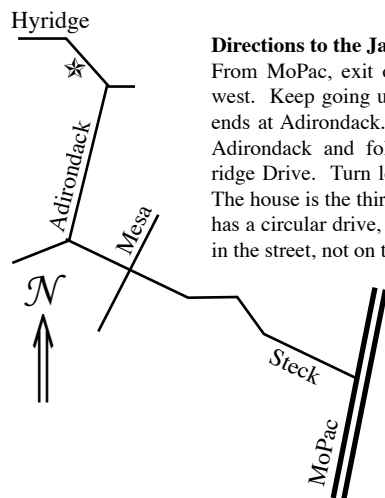
## OUR NEXT MUSICALE

### *An Evening with Rafe*

Monday March 5, 2007, at 7:30 PM  
at the home of Benny and Nancy Jay  
4305 Hyridge Drive — 343-8408

**Please bring munchies.**

A special presentation by our Artistic Director, **Rafe MacPhail**. Rafe writes: "The major part of the entertainment will be a showing of the 1967 Halas and Batchelor animated cartoon of *Ruddigore*, made in England with a soundtrack recorded by the original D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. This has never, to my knowledge, been released commercially, and runs just under an hour. (My copy is a copy of a copy taken off British TV—perhaps by John Reed of the old DCOC, who sings Robin/Ruthven on the soundtrack.) I also will hold forth briefly on the satirical target of *Ruddigore*: Victorian melodrama. And there will also be some airy persiflage and precious nonsense."



#### Directions to the Jays' House:

From MoPac, exit on Steck going west. Keep going until Steck dead ends at Adirondack. Turn right on Adirondack and follow it to Hyridge Drive. Turn left on Hyridge. The house is the third on the left. It has a circular drive, but please park in the street, not on the drive.

## Message from Your President

February marks the month of new beginnings for The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin. *February?* One often thinks of January as the month of "new beginnings". But the spate of ice storms in January forced us to postpone our Annual Business Meeting and Musicale from January 15 (Martin Luther King Day!) to January 22. Nominees for the Board were named at the Annual Business Meeting, and new officers were subsequently elected at the February 5 Board Meeting; typically our election would have taken place in January. Hence the reason why February has earned the "new beginnings" title!

The Board now consists of:

- June Julian, President
- Allan Longacre, Executive Vice President
- Nancy McQueen, Secretary
- Dave Wieckowski, Treasurer
- Byron Arnason, A Man of All Work
- Todd Galbraith, Educational/Community Outreach
- Reba Gillman, Newsletter Editor
- Nancy Jay, Office Manager
- Larry Shepley, Grants Writer, Layout
- Libby Weed, Volunteer Coordinator

We are sad to see the departure of Bill Hatcher as President. However, as is the case with most of our past presidents, he is not out of the picture. (As with Robin Oakapple in *Ruddigore*, our predecessors remain ever present!) Bill is always there to provide timely advice and often still volunteers to help out with various G&S activities. We are most grateful to him for his fine leadership over the past three years. The success of our company today would not be possible without his tireless energy and enthusiasm for all things Gilbert & Sullivan. Thanks again, Bill, for all that you have done!

(Continued on page 3)

Be a part of our first production since 1990 of

## *Ruddigore*

Or, The Witch's Curse

Audition dates:

Saturday March 3, 10AM-6PM

Saturday March 4, 2PM-6PM

Location to be announced — please call

**Chuck Antonie at 733-1006**

for information and to reserve an audition slot.

Note: Modest compensation will be provided for all performers. We will be auditioning for:

SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD baritone

RICHARD DAUNTLESS tenor

SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD baritone

OLD ADAM GOODHEART bass-baritone

ROSE MAYBUD soprano

MAD MARGARET mezzo-soprano or alto

DAME HANNAH alto

ZORAH and RUTH sopranos or sop/mezzo

Choruses of Officers, Ancestors, Professional  
Bridesmaids, Villagers, and Ghosts

## Annual Business Meeting and Musicale

Report by *Reba Gillman*

We finally succeeded in holding our Annual Meeting on Monday January 22, 2007, overcoming the delay from football and icy weather. Despite the late date we gathered a fair number of interested persons, and the required quorum of 15 paid and voting members. All seemed to enjoy the practice and singing planned by three of our Board members, Lynda Oswald's skilled accompaniments, and of course the comfortable surroundings provided by our most adaptable hosts, Benny and Nancy Jay. Benny was in Dallas on business, but Nancy welcomed us and had graciously survived the many changes in date. Refreshments were tasty as always, and I think I detected some delicious cakes left over from the Gala 30<sup>th</sup> Celebrations (frozen for keeping, of course).

Our outgoing President Bill Hatcher was present to do the honors and conduct the business. Arthur DiBianca spoke up to ask for a round of applause to honor Bill for the tremendous amount of hard work he has done. Bill replied saying it had been a lot of work, but very rewarding. "I have taken great pride and pleasure in our productions."

Bill asked that we start with some music and Larry Shepley led us in his selection from *Ruddigore*, Chorus of Bridesmaids: "Welcome, gentry, For your entry Sets our tender hearts a-beating. Men of station, Admiration Prompts this unaffected greeting. Hearty greeting offer we!" Chorus of Bucks and Blades: "When thoroughly tired Of being admired, By ladies of gentle degree — degree, With flattery sated, High-flown and inflated, Away from the city we flee — we flee!" We went over the words, and then the music, and finally put it all together in complicated rhythms. It was hard!

Treasurer Dave Wieckowski presented the annual Financial Report, with a healthy profit from *Pinafore* and good donations already promised to support *Ruddigore* in 2007.

The following announcements were made:

- 1) Larry Shepley reminded us that *The Pirates of Penzance* will appear at the Paramount Theater April 12-13, 2007. This is a production from England, directed by George Rose.
- 2) Loel Graber urged us to attend the choral performances by the excellent Conspirare group (it's too late now).
- 3) Libby reported having enjoyed attending a concert in a private home by the Chamber Music Society, in which Jeffrey Jones-Ragona sang a part in a "Fugue for Four Tenors."
- 4) Bill and Nan Hatcher enjoyed a wonderful special tour of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, given by the new

director Ronnie Tyler. Bill said Paula Tyler sends greetings to all her old G&S friends and wants us to know that they are very happy in their new life in Fort Worth.

5) Nancy Jay has made a DVD of the Gala 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Her excellent DVD of our 2006 production of *Pinafore* is also available.

The nominating committee of Allan Longacre, chair, June Julian, and Larry Shepley then presented the slate of ten nominees to the Board of Directors, noting that it recommended a Board of twelve Directors, although only ten nominees were being presented: Byron Arnason, Todd Galbraith, Reba Gillman, Nancy Jay, June Julian, Allan Longacre, Nancy McQueen, Larry Shepley, Libby Weed, and Dave Wieckowski. Arthur DiBianca moved that we accept the slate of nominees by acclamation; the motion was seconded and passed. The Directors will meet in two weeks to elect the officers of the Board. Warm thanks for their service were expressed to retiring Board members Bill Hatcher and Cecily Johnson.

Allan Longacre chose to lead us in three verses of "God Save the Queen," perhaps to tidy us up for the next time Chris Buggé does his British stuff before a performance. Allan said there are many verses but he picked the three most frequently sung: 1) God save our gracious Queen, Long live our noble Queen, God save the Queen! Send Her Victorious, Happy and Glorious, Long to rule over us; God save the Queen! 2) Thy choicest gifts in store on her be pleased to pour; Long may she reign; May she defend our laws, And ever give us cause To sing with heart and voice, God save the Queen! 3) From every latent foe, From the Assassin's blow, God save the Queen! O'er her thine arm extend, for Britain's sake defend, our Mother, prince and friend, God save the Queen!

Finally, Libby Weed presented a scene from *Pinafore*, just after the Captain has exploded with "Damme, it's too bad!" David Fontenot, as Sir Joseph, sang, "Go ribald, get you hence To your cabin with celerity. This is the consequence of ill-advised asperity!" June Julian took the part of Hebe, and the rest of us sang as the sisters and the cousins, "whom he reckons up by dozens," and the aunts. This all led into a resounding "For he is an Englishman! For he himself has said it, And it's greatly to his credit, That he is an Englishman!"

Bill sang the Pirate King's lead in, as we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry," followed by "Now to the banquet we press," and much invigorated, all trooped to the kitchen to enjoy the munchies and conversation.

Those present were: Lucian Chimene, Arthur DiBianca, David Fontenot with his Katy, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bill Hatcher, Nancy Jay, Sam & Cecily Johnson, June Julian, Patricia Kaplan, Allan & Barbara Longacre, Vivian Mansell, Nancy McQueen, Larry Shepley, Andrée Sjoberg, Libby Weed, Milton Weiss and Jewell Ellis, Dave Wieckowski, Terri Wilson, and pianist Lynda Oswald.



Your Board of Directors for 2007: Nancy Jay, Larry Shepley, Reba Gillman (Newsletter Editor), Allan Longacre (Executive VP), Nancy McQueen (Secretary), Dave Wieckowski (Treasurer), June Julian (President, and Libby Weed. Not pictured are Byron Arnason and Todd Galbraith. Photo by Cecily Johnson

(Continued from page 1)

Another departure from our board is the very talented and highly artistic Cecily Johnson. Cecily is taking a "leave of absence" to pursue her degree in photography. As some of you may know, Cecily is not only a talented photographer – she also has a knack for graphic design which you may have noticed with our recently revamped website (please see [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)). Like Bill, she will remain "in the picture" as our Webmaster, and continues to be involved in other G&S activities.

Nevertheless – Bill, Cecily – we will miss you both!

With Bill and Cecily in retirement, we have two spaces to fill on our Board. If you are interested in being "A Woman or Man of All Work," please drop us a line or visit with us at our next musicale. *Don't let the titles on page 1 fool you – we are all Women and Men of All Work!* On this note, I would like to recognize our "new" returning Board members for their dedication to continuing the tradition of Gilbert & Sullivan. Part of the magic that you see on stage each summer is due to the devotion and desire of each Board member to create something special that will touch many generations going forward. Thank you to Allan, Nancy M., Dave, Byron, Todd, Reba, Nancy J., Larry, and Libby – you have all been such positive influences, and it is a pleasure and privilege to serve on the Board with you.

Last but not least, thanks to our many volunteers who willingly take on tasks that are so important to the continuation of our mission. We couldn't do it without you and we are wholeheartedly appreciative of your time and energy.

With that, I am looking forward to 2007 – the auditions for *Ruddigore* in March, followed by a musicale hosted by none other than the illustrious Rafe MacPhail, the outreach programs in the schools and in the community, and the highlight of the year – *Ruddigore*! We are planning other events throughout the rest of the year so keep your eyes and ears open for their announcements. To new beginnings, yes, forward on we go!

Sincerely yours, June Julian

### Member of the Month

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month". The Member of the Month (who is randomly selected) is entitled to receive a CD of our 2005 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

**Edward O. Kluth**

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

### Relive *H.M.S. Pinafore*!

Nancy Jay's excellent DVD's and CD's of our 2006 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* are available at \$20 and \$15 respectively. Please call our office 472-4772 or visit our website [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org) to order your copies.

An outstanding Gift for any occasion!

## 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)

Name & Address:

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

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your company match donations? \_\_\_\_\_

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  
 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](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  
 Web Master

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

### Board of Directors

<b>June Julian</b>	President	627-3482
<b>Allan Longacre</b>	Executive Vice President	301-5611
<b>Nancy McQueen</b>	Secretary	258-2149
<b>Dave Wieckowski</b>	Treasurer	542-0446
<b>Byron Arnason</b>		801-558-8041
<b>Todd Galbraith</b>	Educational/Community Outreach	989-3317
<b>Reba Gillman</b>	Newsletter Editor	327-2277
<b>Nancy Jay</b>	Office Manager	343-8408
<b>Larry Shepley</b>	Grants Writer, Layout	327-1511
<b>Libby Weed</b>	Volunteer Coordinator	837-5441

### OUR NEXT MUSICALE

Monday March 5, 2007, at 7:30 PM  
 at the home of Benny and Nancy Jay  
 4305 Hyridge Drive  
 343-8408

A special presentation by  
 Artistic Director, **Rafe MacPhail**.

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Auditions Announcement for *Ruddigore*:  
 Please see Page 1

Our Grand Production in June, 2007

*Ruddigore*  
 Or, The Witch's Curse

A Gilbert & Sullivan send-up of Victorian Melodrama—  
 with Wicked Baronets, a Damsel in Distress, a Jolly Jack-  
 Tar, a Virtuous Maiden, and an entire gallery of Ghostly  
 Ancestors that comes to life at midnight! And lots of  
 Sullivan's sparkling music! Plus a Family Curse.



PO Box 684542  
 Austin TX 78768-4542

Return Service Requested

Are you the Member of the Month?  
 See inside!

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