



~ NEGASS EVENTS ~

NEGASS Annual Election Meeting, Sunday, June 23, 2013, 2 - 5 pm, Park Avenue Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington, MA

Please join NEGASS members and friends on Sunday, June 23 for our Annual Election Meeting and "Singing Choruses in Public"! We will be electing the following officers: President; Treasurer; Program Chair; and two Members-at-Large.

After the bureaucracy of elections, let it all out with *FANTASY DAY*. Are you a soprano who's always wanted a crack at the Nightmare Song, or a baritone who'd like to lament "Silvered is the Raven Hair"? Anything and everything is possible this afternoon! Of course, things can be sung in the "normal" way, too!

Directions:

-Rte. 2, exit 58 (Park Avenue North) onto Mass. Ave; continue on Mass. Ave, left at lights onto Park Ave.; church is on right, corner Paul Revere Rd.

<http://www.pacc-ucc.org/directions>

-Buses to Arlington Heights:

62 - Mass Ave and Rte. 2 from Alewife

77 - Mass Ave, from Harvard Sq

79 - Rte. 2 from Alewife

NEGASS Edwardian Summer Party, Sunday, August 18, 2013, 2 - 5 pm, Home of Nancy Burstein, 108 Oakland Avenue, Arlington, MA

Join with fellow NEGASSERS to celebrate summer with cucumber sandwiches and ice cream in decorative molds in the Edwardian manner (as illustrated below). Enjoy songs by Sir Arthur Sullivan that are not from the G&S canon – e.g. *Ivanhoe*, *Rose of Persia*, *Golden Legend*, and read a part from a short play by W.S. Gilbert. Scripts will be distributed in advance.

RSVP to [impresaria AT comcast DOT net](mailto:impresaria@comcast.net) by Sunday August 11 to ensure that the cucumber sandwiches don't run out, and to claim a role in the play.

Directions to the Edwardian Summer Party:

-Rte. 2W, exit 58 (Park Ave/Arlington Heights); at lights, turn right onto Park Ave, right onto Oakland (.5 mi); 108 is on the right; park on street.



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GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to editor AT negass DOT org . Reviews may be sent to editor AT negass DOT org.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Standard membership in NEGASS pays for a printed or electronic copy of the Bray, plus access to the current issue of the online PDF version. NEGASS membership dues are \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$100. To join, please contact membership chair Janice Dallas, 63 Everett St. Arlington, MA, 02474-6921, email memb AT negass DOT org, or join online at www.negass.org.

Members receive the Bray via US mail or as a PDF email attachment. To receive the Bray via email, please send a request to memb AT negass DOT org. All editions are available online. The current edition is available online to NEGASS members only.

ARCHIVES Past issues of *The Trumpet Bray* can be read or downloaded from <http://www.negass.org/bray>

BETWEEN-BRAY ANNOUNCEMENTS Available to NEGASS members through online member profile.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL: 15th of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

www.negass.org

NEGASS NEWS

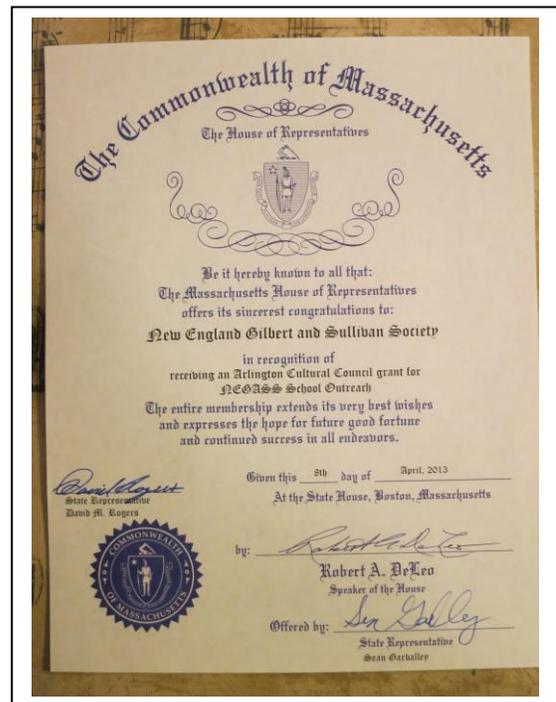
NEGASS Wins Arlington Cultural Council Award

As reported in the April Bray, NEGASS was recently awarded an Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) grant to bring our presentation on Gilbert and Sullivan to the Bishop Elementary School in June. On April 8, the ACC hosted a reception for all the 2013 grant winners. NEGASS was represented at the reception by Board members Jenna Lourenco, Angela Jajko, and Nancy Burstein.

State Senator Ken Donnelly, Arlington Board of Selectmen member Joe Curro, and Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine joined with the ACC in congratulating NEGASS.

We were presented with a beautiful certificate (see below) with language reminiscent of Pooh-Bah’s toast, signed by the Speaker of the Massachusetts House Robert De Leo and State Representative Sean Garballey. We look forward to our performance in June.

-Nancy Burstein, Chairman, NEGASS School Outreach Committee



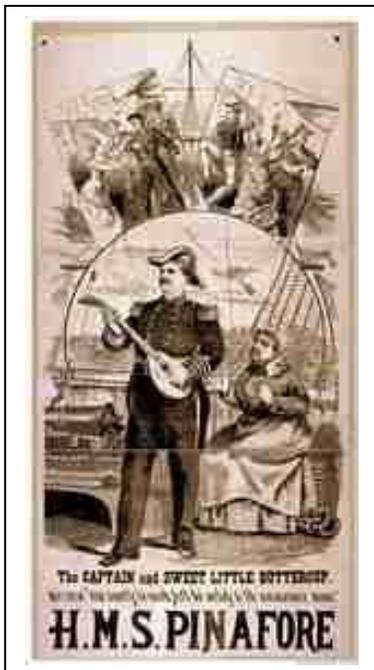
Award presented by the ACC to NEGASS.

Recent Productions

H.M.S. Pinafore & Trial by Jury, NEGASS LMLO (Last Minute Light Opera), May 5, 2013

If you were not at the Park Avenue Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon, May 5, you missed the splendid grand opening (and closing) of LMLO's G & S double bill, *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *Trial by Jury*. As is the rule for this type of NEGASS event, the principal parts were pre-assigned to volunteers, while the audience sang chorus, all unrehearsed.

The afternoon was full of delights for the 25-30 attendees. The first of these was the ravishing voice and lovely appearance of Angela Jajko as Little Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. She was joined on stage by Brad Amidon, whose sensitive expression never fails to charm, in the role of Ralph Rackstraw. New to me was the excellent bass Thaddeus Bell, providing a novel and brilliant interpretation of Dick Deadeye. Instead of a melodramatic villain, this Dick Deadeye was completely and simply earnest. It was as if he was an ordinary reasonable man who had been cooped up in a madhouse whose inmates were full of fantastical ideas which he patiently tried to refute. Conversely, Tony Parkes played Sir Joseph Porter as the most insufferably obnoxious snob imaginable. Dafydd Mac an Leigh's Captain Corcoran was humane and melodious, and Ann Ferenz carried off Josephine's difficult arias and ensembles beautifully.



In the smaller roles, we were happy to see and hear Ken McPherson as the Boatswain, Jim Miller as the Carpenter's Mate, and Martha Birnbaum as Cousin Hebe. My admiration was especially roused by the perfect tuning of the a capella trio "A British Tar" by Brad, Jim, and Ken. Amusing moments included Dave's

thunderous backstage up-ending of a pile of folding chairs during "Carefully on Tiptoe Stealing", in lieu

of the Captain's stamping, and the interpolation of Schubert's "Erlkönig" motif into Little Buttercup's song "A-many years ago" by accompanist Thomas Dawkins.



Following an intermission, during which we devoured the few remaining leftovers from the Act I intermission, of the feast provided by Kaori Emery – heart-shaped cucumber and cream cheese sandwiches, home-baked cookies, fruit punch, etc. – we reconvened for *Trial by Jury*. Brad Amidon returned in quite a different character as the devil-may-care Defendant, Ken McPherson as the

Learned Judge, Dave Leigh as the Usher, and Tony Parkes as the Foreman of the Jury. New performers were Marion Leeds Carroll, lovely and appealing as the Plaintiff, and Juliet Cunningham as her clever Counsel. Tom Dawkins sang the "Echo" from the piano. As his page turner, I committed several blunders throughout the afternoon (the consequences of which Tom skillfully evaded), but performed flawlessly during the complex ensemble "A nice dilemma". A fine touch at the end was Ken's presentation to Marion of "a ring that looked like a ruby", with a stone the size of a hen's egg.

This event showed NEGASS at its finest. The principals were all excellent, several of them even off-book. The lack of rehearsal gave the performance a freshness and spontaneity, including impromptu blocking and choreography. Throughout the long afternoon Tom was the accompanist we all wish for, inspiring us with awe and admiration for his playing, artfully supporting the soloists as needed, and somehow always having a spare hand to bring in and cut off the singers. We audience members kept our endorphins up by lustily and correctly singing the choruses, and the lavish refreshments were the crowning touch to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. So, we've settled with a job, and a GOOD JOB TOO!

-Nancy Burstein

The Gondoliers, Sudbury Savoyards, **February - March, 2013**

Gilbert and Sullivan have inspired generations of devotees around the world. Among them are the Sudbury Savoyards, who have been presenting main stage G&S productions for 53 years. In six performances, February 22, 23, and 24, and March 1 & 2, 2013, in the auditorium of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, the Sudbury Savoyards presented *The Gondoliers*.

This reviewer saw the last three performances of the six, and this review is based on notes made shortly after return to California, happy recollections, and a DVD made by the Sudbury Savoyards of a performance on the first weekend.



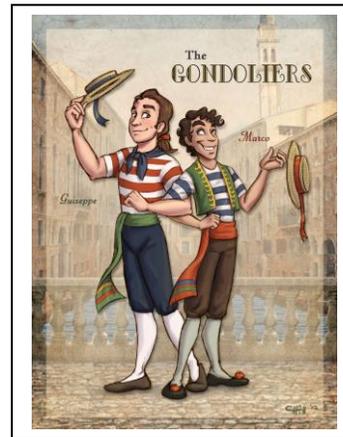
General impressions first: These were rousing good shows, with infectious enthusiasm, gaiety, and enjoyment clearly experienced by the ensemble and conveyed to

highly appreciative audiences. For this reviewer, it was a revelation just how much and how well a dedicated amateur company can do. The high school auditorium – an excellent space – lent itself well to the production and to the comfort and enjoyment of the audience. The sets, while simple, were excellent and colorful, particularly the Venetian campo and the hint of the adjacent canal. Costuming was excellent, with bright colors attracting the eye and creating colorful patterns during the dance. The orchestra was very good, under the able direction of **Katherine Engel Meifert**. Choreography by **Allison Smith-Vaniz**, who also sang the role of Giulia, was very good and also very clever. Special note must be made of the excellent blocking. The movement of the principals and even chorus members was intricate, clever, witty, and a large part of the fun of the shows.

There were also a number of very clever gags that added a lot to this production of *The Gondoliers*:

– At the Act I arrival of the gondolier brothers Giuseppe and Marco, the “gondola” bearing them came along with its own moving blue-water waves

and preceded by a leaping fish. One special effect, used only once in the show, a smart idea calling for much effort to execute it.



– Then, as the brothers sang “Buon giorno, signorine” and especially during the immediately following “We’re called gondolieri,” as Giuseppe and Marco passed by or touched various of the young contadine, the latter fainted dead away, one by one.

– The next scene (“From the sunny Spanish shore”) was begun with a hilarious Flintstone foot-powered gondola, propelled by a muscular gondolier and holding the Duke of Plaza-Toro, his duchess, their daughter, and drummer Luiz, tossed in a storm. Each iteration of “If ever, ever, ever they get back to Spain.” was marked by a foot-propelled violent spinning of the gondola with, at one point, the daughter heaving over the side. This bit was well done and very funny. (Unfortunately, after this the rest of the scene with the Duke, Duchess, their daughter Casilda, and the Duke’s attendant and drummer, Luiz, dragged; but this is the fault of W.S. Gilbert, who unaccountably wrote three solid pages of somewhat numbing plot-expository dialogue before segueing into the Duke’s patter song, “In enterprise of martial kind.”)

– In the quartet “Then one of us will be a queen,” sung by Gianetta, Tessa, Giuseppe, and Marco, the tutti refrain, “Oh, ‘tis a glorious thing, I ween,” was sung at a fast pace and was used for a historical review of dance, going from the Charleston and its contemporaries to John Travolta-Uma Thurman moves from “Pulp Fiction” to current-day dance moves that are beyond the ken of this reviewer – but the effect was witty.

– At the end of Act I, instead of the “Xebeque” to be hauled up to the quay to carry off Giuseppe and Marco to Baratara where they will rule jointly as king, a ship was formed by the chorus of gondoliers linking arms, with a figure-head that was used later in Act II. An affecting and clever way of transporting the gondoliers and ending the act.

– When, in Act II, the Duke, Duchess, and Casilda, now the presumptive Queen of Baratara,

enter, with chorus, the trio this time dressed in resplendent garments, the duchess's gown has the figure of a gondola built into it. In the shows this reviewer saw, the duchess was made to have difficulty getting through the ranks of the retinue because of the prow and after portion of the gondola sticking out of the sides of her gown. At the end of the scene, she gored one of the retainers with the gondola.



The Sudbury Savoyards have a long and intensive rehearsal schedule for their shows, and the efforts pay off. The dedication of cast, musicians, crew, and volunteers who take care of the outside of the house is clear to see, as is also the fun that everyone is having. And it's all for a good cause, with profits from the shows going to support world food

programs of the Methodist Church.

The singing and acting in this show were at a high level. Especially notable were **Tom Frates** (Giuseppe Palmieri), **Tom Ostrowski** (Marco Palmieri), **Shalia Sakona** (Gianetta), and **Angela Jajko** (Tessa). (Full disclosure: Miss Jajko is this reviewer's daughter.) Equally noteworthy were **Dennis O'Brien** (Duke of Plaza-Toro), **Donna DeWitt** (the Duchess), **Caitlin Hadelor** (Casilda), and **Johanna Shriver** (Fiametta). The cheerfulness of **Iain Kilty** (Antonio) imbued his singing. **Bill Kuhlman** played Luiz with a swagger the least bit reminiscent of "Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya..." **Mike Lague** played an oily, rather dirty-minded Grand Inquisitor.



The stage director was **Ed Knights**; choreography was by **Allison Smith-Vaniz**. Set designer was **Laurel Martin**; props designer was **Nancy Powers**. Costume designer was **Donna Roessler**. Lighting designer was **David H. Silber**. Music director was **Katherine Engel Meifert**.

There are too many other people in the cast and on the technical side to



mention. They should all be, and undoubtedly are, justifiably proud of the 2013 production of *The Gondoliers* by the Sudbury Savoyards.

The show will become "historic" in 2014 and DVDs will become available for purchase via the Savoyards' web site or in the theater at future shows.

-Ed Jajko

≈G & S Events≈

Oberlin College G & S Players Reunion

Calling all Oberlin College Gilbert & Sullivan Players who performed on Cape Cod from 1953 to 1968!

We are having a reunion on July 27th & 28th at Highfield Theatre for anyone who was in the company in those years. We would love to see all of you who performed with the Oberlin Players.

This is a ONCE in a LIFETIME event - so please contact Muriel Minot at: mminot@earthlink.net for more information.





Upcoming NEGASS Events

<i>NEGASS Annual Elections and Fantasy Day</i> NEGASS	June 23, 2 - 5 pm vicepres AT negass DOT org see page 1	Park Avenue Church 50 Paul Revere Rd. Arlington, MA
<i>NEGASS Edwardian Summer Party</i> NEGASS	August 18, 2 - 5 pm impresaria AT comcast DOT net see page 1	108 Oakland Avenue Arlington, MA

Upcoming Events

<i>Iolanthe</i> CLOC	June 25 - 29, 2013 www.collegelightopera.com	College Light Opera Company 58 Highfield Drive Falmouth, MA
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Mansfield Music and Arts	July, 2013 www.mmas.org	Black Box Theater 377 North Main Street Mansfield, MA
<i>G & S Summer Concert</i> <i>Here's a How-De-Do!</i> NELO	July 24, 7:30 pm www.newenglandlightopera.org	Hamilton Wenham Community House 284 Bay Rd Hamilton, MA
<i>Opera Night: G & S and Others</i> Greater Worcester Opera	August 7, 7:30 pm www.greaterworcesteropera.org	Briarwood Community Center 65 Briarwood Circle Worcester, MA
<i>5th Great G & S Singout</i> Victorian Lyric Opera Company	August 30 - September 1 www.vloc.org	The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre 603 Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Methuen Young People's Theater	September 7, 2 & 7:30 pm September 8, 3 pm www.mmmh.org	Methuen Memorial Music Hall Rte. 28 - 192 Broadway Methuen, MA
<i>Yeomen of the Guard</i> Connecticut G & S	October 19, 20 www.ctgands.org	TBA
<i>The Mikado</i> SLOC	November 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 www.savoyardlightopera.org	Corey Auditorium Church St. Carlisle, MA

Auditions

<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Methuen Young People's Theater	June 6, 6:30 pm June 8, 9 am www.mmmh.org	Methuen Memorial Music Hall Rte. 28 - 192 Broadway Methuen, MA
<i>Yeomen of the Guard</i> Connecticut G & S	June 9, 6 pm & June 11, 7 pm www.ctgands.org	Congregation Adath Israel 8 Broad St. Middletown, CT