

THE  
**TRUMPET BRAY**  
 A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY



~ NEGASS NEWS ~

**NEGASS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!**

Inside the August Bray was a Member Renewal Form. If you haven't yet, please fill it out and return it with your check to Membership Officer, Janice Dallas, 63 Everett St., Arlington, MA 02474-6921. Or you may renew online at [www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org) using PayPal. Please note any e-mail changes, as that's how we'll let you know that your form and check have arrived.

Unsure about whether you've already renewed? If you look at the envelope that this Bray arrives in, you will see a letter and some numbers in the upper right hand corner. The letter stands for your membership category, and the month and year are when your membership expires. If it's highlighted in red, you need to renew.

The majority of our members are Y - Yeomen at \$20 a year. Besides them, we also have P - Peers and Peris at \$30, B - Bucks and Blades at \$50, and F - Flowers of Progress at \$100. These are our Members Extraordinary, who help us keep going. For those students and others for whom even \$20 a year is a struggle, we have a "Please You, Do Not Hurt Us"

category. Please contact Membership Officer, Janice Dallas ([memb AT negass DOT org](mailto:memb@negass.org)) for the details.

Lacking the means for a Display of Fireworks in the Evening, we celebrate our Members Extraordinary by printing an annual list of these special friends.

MEMBERS EXTRAORDINARY 2011-12

**FLOWERS OF PROGRESS**

Nancy Burdine  
 Arthur & Jean Koykka  
 Miles Cary Leahey

**BUCKS AND BLADES**

Peter Ambler  
 David Baldwin  
 Martha Birnbaum  
 Nancy & Philip Burstein  
 Elizabeth Crone  
 Janice Dallas  
 Diana Dawkins  
 Tom Dawkins  
 Dean S. Edmonds, Jr.  
 Ann Ferentz  
 Tom Frates  
 Alexander Frieden

Laura Schall Gouillart  
 Rebecca and Tyler Hains  
 Win Hindle  
 John and Irene Howard  
 Arthur and Jean Koykka  
 Vance R. Koven  
 Isabel A. Leonard  
 Jim Miller  
 Donald Smith  
 Jonathan Strong  
 Harold Trinkoff  
 Tom Weber  
 Stephen Zykofsky

**PEERS AND PERIS**

Judith Chasin  
 John E. Dreslin  
 Thomas Drucker  
 Barry E. Garden  
 Alan Harwood  
 Alice Hochman  
 Alessandra Kingsford  
 Jenna Lourenco

Neil McCormick  
 Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Miller  
 Erwin H. Miller  
 Eric Reines  
 Dr. David Sheldon, D.D.S.  
 David Stieber  
 Fred Ward  
 Constance Wilson  
 Jane S. Young

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THE TRUMPET BRAY is published six times a year on the 1st day of February, April, June, August, October, and December by the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS), P.O. Box 367, Arlington, MA 02476-0004.

GENERAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to editor AT negass DOT org . REVIEWS may be sent to progchair AT negass DOT org. CALENDAR ITEMS may be sent to calendar AT negass DOT org.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Standard membership in NEGASS pays for a printed or electronic copy of the Bray, plus a password 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 or email memb AT negass DOT 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 except the current edition 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: 15<sup>th</sup> of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 2011.

[www.negass.org](http://www.negass.org)

Additional Donations were received from:

Harry Benford  
Sarah Cole  
Ruth Colson  
Andrew Gabriel  
Stephen Zykofsky

Finally, Negass would never have been in existence if it weren't for our much appreciated Charter Members. Listed are those who are still members.

Eleanor Babikian	Alexander Nicoll Gerli
Harry Benford	Mr. and Mrs. Alan
Mrs. Loni Brower	Hopfenberg
Ruth E. Colson	Walt Howe
Juliet Cunningham	Richard N. Sewell
Dean S. Edmonds, Jr.	William C. Venman
Jim Ellis	Jeff Weisenfreund
	Peter Zavan

⌘ UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS ⌘

***The Mikado*, Harvard-Radcliffe G & S Players, November 2 - 18, 2012, Agassiz Theater, Radcliffe Campus, Cambridge, MA**

Come see Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan Players' *The Mikado*! Nanki-Poo has gone into hiding to escape an undesirable marriage, and pines for the schoolgirl Yum-Yum. But when *The Mikado* issues a decree to criminalize the dangerous act of flirting, a wild lampooning of bureaucracy and romance ensues. Join us for one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operettas! *The Mikado* runs November 2-18 in the Agassiz Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and tickets can be purchased at the Harvard Box Office. For more information, contact 617-938-9761 or [www.hrgsp.org](http://www.hrgsp.org).



***Gondoliers - Auditions, Sudbury Savoyards, Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA***

The Sudbury Savoyards announce auditions for lead roles in their 2013 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* on Monday, November 12 and Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 pm at the Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA. Call-backs will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 pm. Chorus

members need not audition but must attend November 12 or 13 to register and participate. Performances will be February 21 - March , 2013 at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater.



The Gondoliers, Gilbert & Sullivan's 12th comic opera, was a rousing success when it opened at the Savoy Theater in 1889 and has continued to delight audiences ever since. Gilbert was able to sharpen the satirical sword he points at nobility by setting the scene in the fictitious country of Barataria. Sullivan's delightful melodies make the

show the closest to modern musical comedy of any he wrote. There are dances with a Spanish flair, including the extravagant "Cachucha", in which the cast will magically double in size!

This production will highlight the farce, promising a rollicking adventure for one and all. Stage Direction is by Ed Knights and Music Direction by Katherine Engel Meifert. For additional information about character descriptions, performance dates, vocal scores, and the rehearsal schedule visit: <http://www.sudburysavoyards.org> or leave a message at 978-443-8811.

## RECENT PRODUCTIONS

### ***Over The Bright Blue Sea, Opera Comique & Sudbury Savoyards, August 19, 2012, Sudbury United Methodist Church, Sudbury, MA***

About a dozen members of the Opera Comique (based in Portsmouth, UK) joined forces with some thirty Sudbury Savoyards on Sunday August 19 to present back-to-back concert versions of *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. The British contingent was handicapped by having arrived less than 24 hours previously, with little time for joint rehearsal. Nonetheless, the afternoon was largely enjoyable.

Musical direction and accompaniment were provided by **Kevin Sivyer** and **Nigel Smith** of the Opera Comique. The dialogue of both operettas was substantially shortened by the use of character narrators – Dick Deadeye for *Pinafore*, Samuel for *Pirates*.

The stars of the afternoon were undoubtedly Sudbury Savoyards **Connell Benn** as Mabel and

**Tom Frates** as the Pirate King, who jointly stole the show with their respective solos. Other locals providing fine solo performances were **Mike Lague** as Dick Deadeye, **Dennis O'Brien** as the Bo's'n, and **Randy Divinski** as Sergeant of Police. While vocally and dramatically strong, **Kathleen Larson Day** was rather over-the-top for my taste as Buttercup and Ruth.

Among the visitors, the best of the bunch was tenor **Simon Cooksey** as Ralph and Frederick. While **Irene Kent** did well in her small roles of Hebe and Edith, **Penny Bullough** (Josephine and Kate) seemed to be struggling with the music as well as some of the words. **Gary Shepherd** narrating as Samuel skipped over the Pirate King's song but fortunately **Tom Frates** was not shy – he interrupted to say "Before we go on, let me tell you about myself ..." The greatest difficulties were experienced by **Ken Hick** (Captain Corcoran) and **Max Bullough** (Sir Joseph Porter and the Major General), such as singing one verse twice and leaving out the other or simply singing gibberish in places, despite being on-book.



Some of the directorial decisions were not completely successful. The narration device seemed like a good idea, but it was confusing that Dick Deadeye abruptly transitioned from sympathetic narrator to misanthropic villain during the Act I Finale. Likewise, the concert version concept was reasonable given the constraints, but Josephine and Ralph should not have been looking longingly at each other while singing the last lines of their "Refrain audacious tar" duet. While some musical cuts were understandable for technical reasons, e.g. the girls' chattering chorus in *Pirates*, it was puzzling and unsatisfactory that "A British Tar" was sung by the entire men's chorus.



Most of the leads were at least partially costumed, adding to the festivity. Particularly excellent in this regard were the beautiful striped leg-of-mutton sleeved blouse worn by **Penny Bullough** as Josephine, and the Pirate King regalia of **Tom Frates**. Superb brownies and other

refreshments were sold at intermission in order to help combat both local and world hunger. The afternoon concluded with all present singing both "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Save the Queen".

-Nancy Burstein

## ➤ G & S NEWS ➤

### Seeking Back Issues of *Utopia News: Newsletter of Utopia, Ltd*

Ralph (Rafe) MacPhail, Jr., Artistic Director of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, TX is seeking copies of early issues of *Utopia News: Newsletter of Utopia, Ltd*. This newsletter was published by The American Gilbert & Sullivan Preservation Society, an organization which appears to be no longer in existence. This organization was in existence in Boston in 1976; Tony Poythress and Randall Norcross were associated with it, and those names may jog someone's memory.

Rafe would like to obtain photocopies (or perhaps even originals) of issues of this newsletter for his Gilbert & Sullivan Repository, an extensive collection of Gilbert & Sullivan-related publications (newsletters, magazines, journals, memorabilia). If any readers of The Trumpet Bray have information on The American Gilbert & Sullivan Preservation Society, or copies of *Utopia News*, please contact Rafe at RafeMacPhail@Yahoo.com, or P. O. Box 14, Bridgewater VA 22812-0014.

### Eileen St. David - Obituary



Eileen St. David, a beloved teacher of the art of performing Gilbert & Sullivan, died on August 4, 2012 in Danvers, MA. Many NEGASS members will remember Eileen's wonderful

Master Classes for the insights they gave in understanding the nuances of G & S and for the performance skills she imparted to aspiring Mable's, Fredericks, and Major-Generals.

Eileen was an expert in all aspects of G&S performance: she was a director and voice teacher for many years, on both coasts of this continent. The Trumpet Bray of June 2005 reported:

*"The Second Annual NEGASS Masterclass took place on Sunday, 13 May with a "crowd" of some 20 avid NEGASSers in attendance. Eileen St. David, who ran the*

*class (with able accompaniment by Eric Schwartz), encouraged the performers to "dare to try new ideas" and "risk success" in doing things which they would NOT dare to do in the context of auditions or rehearsals when they were under certain constraints.*

*Armed with her standard roll of masking tape, with which she always threatens to tie down the arms of performers who let extravagant gestures get in the way of their singing or interpretation (which she never used), Eileen let each of the five participants sing through his/her aria of choice, then helped each one dissect it so that with additional thoughts on their interpretation, each of the performers, however good before, demonstrated marked improvement - noticeable even to the most tone-deaf member of the audience.*

*After Janice Dallas began with her rendition of Princess Ida's "I built upon a rock", there was a Sorcerer trio, with Bob Russell blasting his way through Dr. Daly's opening recitative and aria, Dan Kamalic introducing John Wellington Wells and Elaine Crane as Constance lamenting Dr. Daly's lack of attention in "When he is here." Tony Parkes 'punished' the audience with "A more humane Mikado."*

## G & S Trivia Quiz

How many can you identify?

1. "I know the value of a kindly chorus,  
But choruses yield little consolation."  
Which love-lorn tenor sings these lines?

- a. Edwin
- b. Frederic
- c. Ralph
- d. Arthur

2. Who could trace his ancestry back to a  
"protoplasmal, primordial, atomic globule"?

- a. The Pirate King
- b. King Gama
- c. Pooh Bah
- d. Sir Marmaduke

3. Colonel Calverley is one of the three named officers of the Dragoon Guards. Name the other two.  
Major Murgatroyd and

- a. the Duke of Dunstable
- b. the Duke of Pfennig-Halpfennig
- c. the Duke of Plaza-Toro
- d. the Duke of Ploverleigh

4. Name the two operas which do not have alternative titles.

- a. The Mikado and The Gondoliers
- b. Princess Ida and Ruddigore
- c. Trial by Jury and The Sorcerer
- d. Iolanthe and The Yeomen of the Guard

5. Who is the Midshipmite in HMS Pinafore?

- a. Bob Becket
- b. Bill Bobstay
- c. Tommy Tucker
- d. Ralph Rackstraw

6. Who performs her pre-nuptial toilette in her erstwhile fiancée's garden?

- a. Yum-Yum
- b. Princess Zara
- c. Princess Ida
- d. Angelina

7. In The Gondoliers, the Duke of Plaza-Toro teaches Marco and Giuseppe a gavotte. In which of the other operas is a gavotte also danced?

- a. The Yeomen of the Guard
- b. Ruddigore
- c. The Sorcerer
- d. Princess Ida

8. Who begins to sing, but leaves unfinished, the couplet "The cat and the dog and the little puppee"?

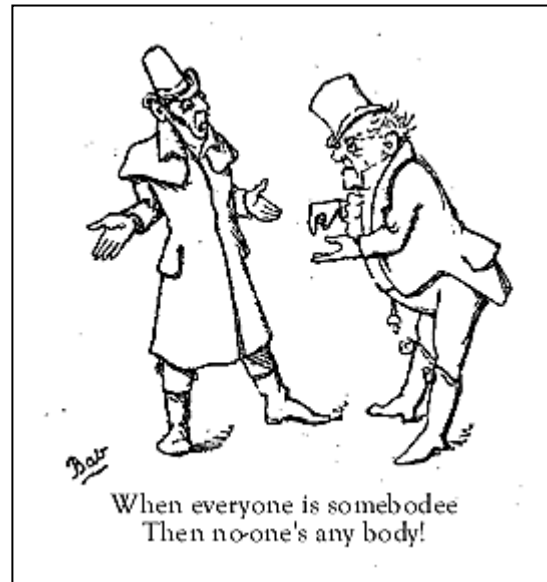
- a. Little Buttercup
- b. Lady Blanche
- c. Mad Margaret
- d. Lady Jane

9. Mrs. Partlett appears in which opera?

- a. Princess Ida
- b. Trial by Jury
- c. The Pirates of Penzance
- d. The Sorcerer

10. What is the name of Sullivan's Cambridge College?

- a. Clare
- b. Trinity
- c. St John's
- d. King's



Answers:

1-c, 2-c, 3-a, 4-c, 5-c, 6-a, 7-b, 8-c, 9-d, 10-b



### Upcoming Productions & Events

<i>Mikado</i> Lyric Stage	October 3 - 7, 10 - 13, 2012 more information at <a href="http://www.lyricstage.com">www.lyricstage.com</a>	Lyric Stage 140 Clarendon St. Boston, MA
<i>Pirates of Penzance</i> Stagecoach Productions	October 26, 27 (7:30 pm), 28 (2 pm), 2012 <a href="http://www.stagecoachproductions.org">www.stagecoachproductions.org</a> 603-320-3780	Janice B. Streeter Theater 14 Court Street Nashua, NH.
<i>Ruddigore</i> CTG&SS	October 28 (7:30 pm), 29 (2 pm, 7:30 pm), 2012 <a href="http://www.ctgands.org">www.ctgands.org</a> 800-866-1606	Middletown High School Performing Arts Center 200 LaRosa Lane Middletown, CT
<i>Mikado</i> Harvard-Radcliffe G&S	November 2 - 18, 2012 <a href="http://www.hrgsp.org">www.hrgsp.org</a> 617-938-9761	Agassiz Theater Radcliffe Campus Cambridge, MA
<i>Patience</i> BUGS	November 16 - 18, 2012 <a href="http://students.brown.edu/BUGS/">students.brown.edu/BUGS/</a>	Brown University Alumnae Hall 194 Meeting St. Providence, RI
<i>Pirates of Penzance</i> MITG&SP	November 30, December 1, 6, 7 (8 pm) December 2, 8 (2 pm), 2012 <a href="http://www.mit.edu/gsp">www.mit.edu/gsp</a>	MIT Student Center (2nd floor) 84 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA
<i>The Sorcerer</i> NYGASP	December 1, 2, 2012 <a href="http://www.symphonyspace.org">www.symphonyspace.org</a> 212-769-1000	Symphony Space Broadway & 95th Street New York, NY
<i>New year's Eve G&amp;S Gala</i> NYGASP	December 31, 2012 <a href="http://www.symphonyspace.org">www.symphonyspace.org</a> 212.864.5400	Symphony Space Broadway & 95th Street New York, NY
<i>Gondoliers</i> Sudbury Savoyards	February 21 - March 2, 2013 <a href="http://www.sudburysavoyards.org">www.sudburysavoyards.org</a> 978-443-8811	Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Sudbury, MA
<i>Ruddigore</i> Joint NEGASS/Longwood Opera event	March 3, 2013 more details to follow	Christ Episcopal Church 1132 Highland Ave. Needham, MA
<b>Auditions</b>		
<i>Gondoliers</i> Sudbury Savoyards	November 12, 13 (7:30 pm), 2012 <a href="http://www.sudburysavoyards.org">www.sudburysavoyards.org</a> 978-443-8811	Sudbury United Methodist Church 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA