



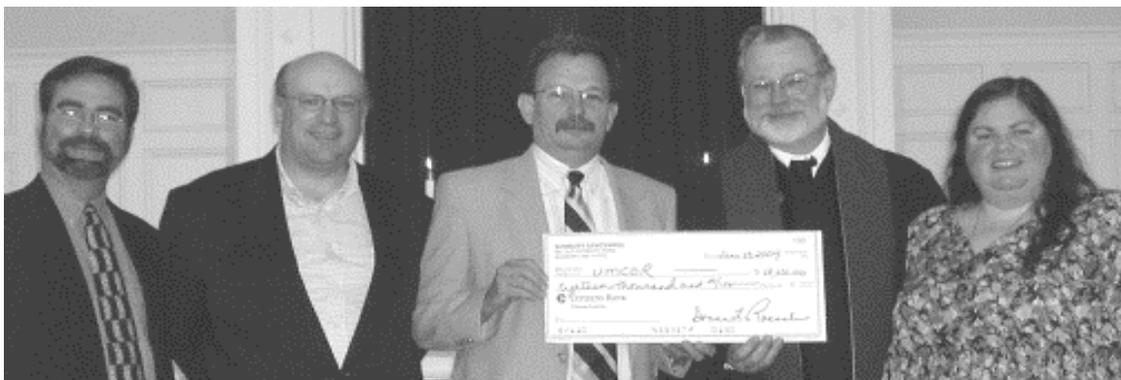
## *The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board*

Spring 2004 - Vol 9, Number 3

There will be no shortage of emphatic adjectives in this issue of the Sandwich Board. It's been a year of successes, but with changes yet in store for the Savoyards in 2004. We report here on spectacular success with our last Winter show, and look forward to a different (for us) kind of Summer Show, and another departure from habit in our Savoy Club project. And yes, there will be a Savoyard Float in the Sudbury Fourth of July parade this year, and another Autumn craft fair. So please take pencil and calendar in hand and jot down what catches your fancy from the Savoyards' Summer and Fall schedules.

### *Pirates*

Our new team of directors led an incredibly energetic and dedicated cast and chorus of sixty members to new heights in this past February's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Stage Director **Emily Snyder** had them dancing in the aisles (literally) and Music Director **Katherine Engel Meifert** had them "Hailing Poetry" with verve almost unprecedented. If such statements seem mere hyperbole, they are supported by clearly unprecedented audience numbers. Over our seven performances we seated over 2000 patrons, many repeat attendees, a number approximately 50% higher than any of our previous years' two-weekend audiences.



The extraordinary outpouring of audience enthusiasm this year allows the Savoyards to make the largest single donation we have ever made to our designated charity, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, members of the Savoyards Board of Trustees presented a check for \$18,000 to Pastor Don Rudalevige on behalf of UMCOR. This donation is twice our previous largest single donation, the \$9000 donated as proceeds from *Patience* in 2003. You may recall that our total donation to UMCOR from all our activities in 2003 totaled about \$14,800. Thus we

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already have a record-breaking year, and our upcoming Summer and Fall activities have yet to be tallied.

All Savoyards and our audience should be extremely proud of our combined success in production values and charitable results. Visit UMCOR's web site at [gbgm-umc.org/umcor](http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor) to see how those successes are improving peoples' lives.

### Summer Show 2004: *The Boys Next Door*

This year the Sudbury Savoyards are taking a step away from their tradition of late Victorian and early 20<sup>th</sup> century British and American plays by producing *The Boys Next Door* by Tom Griffin. Set in contemporary Massachusetts, this play is about a loving yet burned-out social worker, Jack, and four mentally challenged men in his charge: Arnold, Lucien, Norman, and Barry. Jack ponders a career change, while we watch progress - and relapse - in the day-to-day lives of these four men. Catching a rat, buying Wheaties, and going to a dance present challenges to these men that will amuse, entertain, and enlighten audiences.

One out of ten American families is touched by mental retardation. Schizophrenia affects 2.5 million Americans. To quote a monologue from the show, this play was written to "remind the species of the species." Summer show audiences who are used to farce and fast action will be delighted to know that much of this show is just as diverting. The adventures of these four men are told with humor, and yet with a tenderness and compassion that neither patronizes nor minimizes their condition

The Savoyards welcome five new members with the cast of *The Boys Next Door*. **Jeff Harig** (Jack), from Lynn, holds a Master of Arts in Theatre and has directed and acted in several shows across Massachusetts. He has worked with the Starlight Theatre Company in Georgetown, Theatre to Go in Stoneham, and the Fiddlehead Theatre Company in Norwood. **Solomon Sheena** (Barry), a recent graduate of Brandeis University, has worked extensively with Turtle Lane Players where he was in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, and *George M*. **Matt Cogswell** (Norman) comes to us from Boylston, and has worked with Calliope Productions, Southborough Players, and the Wachusett Theatre Company. **Brian Schimpf** (Sen. Clarke/Mr. Hedges/Mr. Corbin) has appeared in many shows at Acton's Theatre III, including *1776*, *Children of Eden*, and *Joseph*. **Charlene Winslow** (Mrs. Fremus/Mrs. Warren/Clara) has just recently finished *She Loves Me* with the Walpole Footlighters. She has also worked with the Millis Theatre Group and the Franklin Performing Arts Company.

In addition to our new members, our cast has four familiar Savoyards. **Mike Lague** (Mr. Klemper) returns for his seventh Summer Show, most recently as Richard Greatham in last year's *Hay Fever*. He has also appeared in many of the Savoyards' mainstage G&S productions. Mike last appeared in Concord Player's *1776* as Caesar Rodney. **Mike Wood** (Arnold) returns to the Savoyards where he played Ed in *You Can't Take It With You* in 2000. **James Laing** (Lucien) was recently seen by Savoyard audiences as the Sergeant of Police in this year's *Pirates of Penzance*. **Janine Gauntt** (Sheila) has been in many of the Savoyards G&S productions including *HMS Pinafore*, *Ruddigore*, and *Yeomen of the Guard*. She has also worked with Quannapowit and Theatre III.

**Corey Jackson** makes his Savoyard directorial debut with *The Boys Next Door*, though Savoyard audiences may also remember him as Mr. Depinna in the 2000 summer production of *You Can't Take It With You*. Corey has also appeared onstage as Rutledge in *1776* and David in *Godspell* at Acton's Theatre III. Most recently Corey performed in Stoneham Theatre's Massachusetts Premiere of *Lizzie Borden: The Musical*.

### Times, dates, and tickets....

Our Summer Show schedule adds an extra performance this year, a second Sunday matinee. *The Boys Next Door* will be presented in eight performances over the three weekends of July 16, 23, and 30. All Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8:00pm, the Sunday matinees (July 18 and 25)

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at 2:00pm, in Hawes Hall, Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, Mass. Tickets are **\$12 for adults**, and **\$9 for students and seniors**. **Order by mail** by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope, with your ticket choices and payment (see the ticket order form below), to Boys Next Door Tickets, c/o Kathy Lague, 9 Marlboro Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776. **Reserve by phone** by calling 978-443-8811. **Order by email** by sending a message to [BNDTix@aol.com](mailto:BNDTix@aol.com). Include your ticket choices, and your name, address, and phone number, and your tickets will be held at the box office until ten minutes before show time. **Order from the web** by visiting our web site at [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org); click to the *Boys Next Door* page and on the link to "buy tickets." Web ticketing uses the PayPal on-line payment system. There is a \$2 per order charge, regardless of the number of tickets purchased.

### Are you interested in being *in* a Summer Show?

While the cast is set, there are myriad other opportunities for participation in the production of *The Boys Next Door*. We can always use help with set building, costumes, stage crew, box office and ushering, refreshments, publicity, and all the other disciplines it takes leading up to and during the performances. If you'd like to try your hand at any element of the show, in whatever depth, call our message line at 978-443-8811 or contact Producer **Mike Lague** at [mlague@cisco.com](mailto:mlague@cisco.com) or 978-579-9435.



### Ticket order form

To order by mail, fill out the form below and mail to Boys Next Door Tickets (c/o Kathy Lague), 9 Marlboro Rd., Sudbury, Mass. 01776. Include a stamped self-addressed envelope and a phone number or email address (for use should questions about ticket availability arise). Make your check payable to "Sudbury Savoyards."

performance	# adult @ \$12	# student/senior @ \$9
Friday July 16, 8:00pm		
Saturday, July 17, 8:00pm		
Sunday, July 18, 2:00pm		
Friday, July 23, 8:00pm		

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Saturday, July 24, 8:00pm		
Sunday, July 24, 2:00pm		
Friday, July 30, 8:00pm		
Saturday, July 31, 8:00pm		
Total \$:		

### ***The Other Summer Show: The Savoy Club***

In another departure from recent practice, the Savoyards this year are redefining our summer cabaret series, the Savoy Club. Rather than variety nights of skills demonstrated by our members, this year we are presenting a special kind of performance.

This year's Savoy Club will be a costumed and staged presentation of W. A. Mozart's opera "The Abduction from the Seraglio". The singers are all from the studio of Robert Gartside (retired Chairman of the Voice Department at Boston University) and features Savoyards **Kathy Lague** (Mabel from this year's *Pirates*) singing the role of Constanze and **Mike Lague** reprising his stage debut with the Savoyards as a palace guard. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in Hawes Hall. Admission will be \$10. Tickets will be sold only at the door.

"The Abduction from the Seraglio" tells the story of Constanze, who has been captured by pirates and sold to the Turkish Pasha Selim. Sold along with her are her maid, Blonchen and Pedrillo, servant to Constanze's lover, Belmonte. Belmonte has come to the Pasha's palace in disguise to rescue the three. But they must not only elude the Pasha and his guards, they must be careful to avoid Osmin, the Pasha's evil gardener, who has designs on Blonchen. Being a comic opera, a happy ending is achieved, with even a Gilbertian twist at the end.

Don't be put off by the term "opera." The piece is sung in English and has dialog between the musical numbers. So, mark the dates down - such an opportunity may not occur again!

**Float.....** with the Savoyards on the Fourth of July! The Savoyards have been a steady presence in the Town of Sudbury's Fourth of July parade for many years now. We usually build a float of magnificent scale and staff it with as many as two dozen costumed Savoyards. Our float helps promote our other summer activities, and this year will be themed in anticipation of our 2005 mainstage show, *The Mikado* as well as the official theme of the parade "*Happy Birthday America*". Would you like to participate this year? Contact float organizer **Laurel Martin** at 978-443-4599 or at [themartinhome@comcast.net](mailto:themartinhome@comcast.net) if you'd like to ride, walk, or just help get the float ready.

**Stagecraft and crafts in general** have a common base - both are skills demonstrated by many Savoyards and their friends. The Savoyards will be sponsoring their second Fall Craft Fair. Last year's fair raised \$800 for world hunger relief, so organizers Donna and Andrea Roessler are eager to get this year's event underway! The fair will be from 9:30am-3:30pm on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Hawes Hall. Admission is free.

There are still some openings for crafters, so if you are interested in renting a space, you can email Donna at [donnarslr@rcn.com](mailto:donnarslr@rcn.com), or call 508-628-9772 for an application. Crafters will pay only a modest table fee, a portion of which will be donated to the Savoyards' designated charity, UMCOR, for world hunger relief.

If you don't do crafts, but like to bake, there will be a bake sale table, and all of those proceeds go to the world hunger relief effort. Please let Donna or Andrea know if you are willing to provide a baked goodie or two.

## **Board of Trustees**

The Sudbury Savoyards operate under the direction of a seven member Board of Trustees, each member of which serves a two year term. Trustees are chosen by the membership at the general membership meeting held during the run of the mainstage show in the spring. Completing terms and leaving the Board this year were **Mike Lague** and **Brendon Chetwynd**. Re-elected to second terms were **Paula Moravek** and **Tom Powers**. Newly elected Trustees are **Dennis O'Brien** and **Patrick Kinney**. Continuing Trustees are **Donna Roessler**, **Ed Fell**, and **Laurel Martin**. Tom will serve as Chairman for the coming year, with Paula as Secretary, and Donna as Treasurer; Dennis will take up the role of Church Liaison, and Ed continues as Theater Liaison. Board meetings are open to the membership. Contact any Board member or check the Savoyard web site for meeting schedules.

## ***The Mikado in 2005***

Recall that our production of *Pirates* this year was the last to be held in the present Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School building. A new, larger, and more modern LS will be completed and outfitted for the 2004-2005 school year. The Savoyards are determined to open the new hall in style, with what many would consider the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, *The Mikado*. (The creation of this blockbuster is the central plot element of the 1999 movie *Topsy-Turvy*. The movie is a must-see for fans and a fun take for the yet-to-be-initiated.) The Savoyards last presented *The Mikado* in 1995.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the directorial team of **Kathy Lague** and **Steve Malioneck** will return to lead our production. Other senior staff recruiting is under way. **Interested senior staff candidates are encouraged to contact the Board** by telephone at 978-443-8811.

## **Staff Roles**

How many Savoyards does it take to run a theater company? The seven-member Board of Trustees reported above leads the year-round effort. We've often noted that it takes 150 or more members to put a big show on the stage. The Savoyards also have an attentive group of volunteers filling Staff roles, taking responsibility for specific areas of work that serve the Company. What's an Archivist? Who are Rental Agents? What does a Second Trombone do? You might have guessed what a Newsletter Editor does, but would you think he reports to a Promoter? Over the next several issues of the Sandwich Board, we'll try to describe some of the chores these people do to support the Savoyards' mission. If there are chores among these staff responsibilities that interest you, out of idle curiosity or a desire to help, let us know, and we'll link you with relevant Staff members.

As you might imagine, the Savoyards have accumulated a great many theatrical accouterments during 40+ years of productions. The Company owns, through purchase, donation, inheritance, and mammoth construction efforts, hundreds of costumes, boxes upon boxes of props, myriad set pieces, and quite a collection of lighting instruments and special effects devices. Some of our supplies, especially costumes, are quite specialized, and particularly applicable to G&S productions (Yeomen Beefeater uniforms; pirate, sailor, and policemen's outfits; kimonos). In addition, we own more generally useful items (Victorian street clothes, fancy dress, hats). We try to make what we own available for use by other theater companies for two reasons: to support the community of theater, and to make additional money for our charitable purposes. Being a web-accessible troupe, we get inquiries from across the country for costumes, props, and the like, as well as local inquiries from other theater groups who know us first-hand. We rent at modest rates, and sometimes just swap what we have for what other companies can offer.

The rental "businesses" raise anywhere from a few hundred to over a thousand dollars a year for our efforts. Our costume rentals are presently overseen by **Janice Dallas**, long-time Savoyard and frequent costume designer for our and other groups' shows. Janice has first-hand knowledge of much

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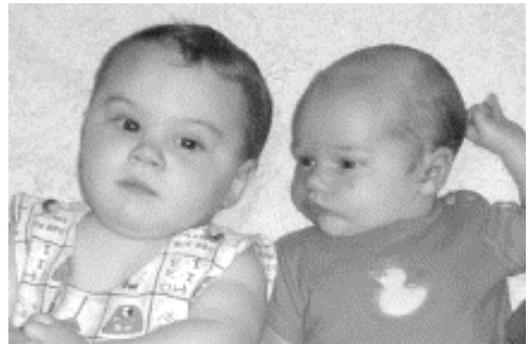
of what we own, having designed or otherwise acquired it. **Mike Bromberg** handles our lighting and special effects business. Mike is a long-time theatrical lighting designer and stage electrician, for us and many other theater groups.

A less readily described Staff position is that of Company Promoter. About ten years ago, when the Savoyards weren't so much a year-round operation, most of our publicity was targeted at advertising that year's show. As the Company began to experiment with expanded activities, we decided we needed someone to keep the Company in the public eye on an ongoing basis. This newsletter was one such expansion, as were a travelling singing group and adult education classes, all operated under the direction of a "Promoter". More recently, our Promoter has been responsible for introducing our group to other community groups, such as the Sudbury Day organizers, and making and keeping up contacts with other area theater groups in support of our rental effort and our common theatrical community. **Jim Parmentier** has been Company Promoter since the position was created. Jim is a long-time G&S fan and actor having worked in several community theater groups here and in other parts of the country.

Remember, no Staff member works alone. If you're interested in helping in any area, let us know.

### More Savoyards in the wings.....

Just as the Sudbury Savoyards have been growing through recent years, so have some of the families that make up the Company. Shown at right are two new Savoyards, cousins, in fact, born to a pair of Savoyard sisters. On the left is **Amanda Brooke Denney**, the first child of **Bryce** and **Kathryn Denney**, born October 24<sup>th</sup> 2003. Kathryn held the title role in our 2003 *Patience*, and produced and performed in our 2003 Savoy Club series, and Bryce has been a rehearsal and performance accompanist for several Savoyard events. On the right is **Daniel Aidan Kinney**, third son of **Pat** and **Elizabeth Kinney**, born May 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Pat and Elizabeth are long-time Savoyard orchestra members and performers, and have held staff positions in the Company; Pat was recently elected a Trustee of the Company.



### Contacting the Sudbury Savoyards

The Sudbury Savoyards are eager to involve our area community in our productions in any way people can help. If you would like to work with the Savoyards, or attend our performances, or support our efforts financially, we want to hear from you, and we want to keep you informed. The Savoyards have an active set of email lists and a vibrant, regularly updated web presence at [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org). If you're not electronically connected, write to us in care of our sponsor, the **Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd., Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776**. You can call the Savoyards' voice message line at **978-443-8811** if you have any questions about any of our activities.