



*The  
Sudbury Savoyards'  
Sandwich Board*

Spring 2005 - Vol 10, Number 3

Maybe the least-read line in our newsletter is the date slug just above this introduction. We call your attention to it this time, because that "Vol 10, Number 3" means that this issue completes the tenth year of publication of this newsletter. *The Sandwich Board* has recounted our successes and our plans, and reported the growth of the organization into a Summer Season, with cabarets, parades, opera, craft fairs, and more. What's ten? A milestone, to be sure, but in more mundane terms just a precursor to eleven, which will come this fall. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. "Ten" still needs to tell you about *Mikado 2005*, and the upcoming *Matchmaker*, parade, and *Grand Duke 2006*, among other events. Thanks for sticking with us!

### ***The Mikado***

The brand new Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School opened on schedule in September of 2004, and in February of 2005 the Savoyards moved in with the Company's sixth production of *The Mikado*, which many regard as Gilbert and Sullivan's finest collaboration. We entertained nearly 2000 patrons over the two weekend run, and on June 19<sup>th</sup> we presented a check for \$13,000 to the Sudbury United Methodist Church for the benefit of UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief, our designated charity). In February, we had presented a check for \$4000, representing the proceeds of last summer's show, *The Boys Next Door*, and our fall 2004 activities. Thanks go out to all our supporters: on stage, behind the stage, and (of course!) in the audience.

### **Summer Show 2005: *The Matchmaker***

When you were in high school, you probably read Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. At some point, you may also have seen the musical *Hello, Dolly*. The connection? *The Matchmaker* is the 1954 play by Thornton Wilder that was eventually turned into that musical.

The play is a fast-paced farce about Dolly Levi, a widow who pretends to be a matchmaker for Yonkers' miserly half-a-millionaire Horace Vandergelder, while secretly plotting to put his money into "circulation" by marrying him. Her web of romantic complications sweeps up his two assistants, Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker, with an attractive widow millineress, Irene Molloy, and her assistant Minnie Fay. Dolly also outwits Vandergelder by matching his beautiful niece Ermengarde with the poor artist Ambrose. The theme of the play is "kicking off the traces." All of the principal characters are determined to lead freer, fuller lives than circumstances have imposed. The play is full of wildly absurd action, but underneath is an affirmation of life, a fundamental optimism that underlies much of Wilder's work.

So take a trip down memory lane this summer with Thornton Wilder's 1890's farce, *The Matchmaker*. The Savoyards' own barbershop quintet (didn't know we had one, did you?) will have you humming along with old chestnuts like "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie," "East Side, West Side," and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Even the principals get a few songs in, and the quintet will be performing between acts, providing dance music in Act III, and offering a musical greeting as

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patrons arrive. So if you're looking for "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," come see Wilder on the wild side.

We have this year perhaps the largest cast ever assembled for a Savoyards' Summer Show. **Laura M. Crook** is The Matchmaker herself, Dolly Levi. **Mike Lague** is the curmudgeonly hardware magnate of Yonkers, Horace Vandergelder. **Tom Powers** is the wily perpetual apprentice, Malachi Stack. **Jon Saul** is artist Ambrose Kemper, beloved of Horace's niece Ermengarde, played in dual casting by **Debbie Crane** and **Laurel Martin**. Laura, Mike, Tom, and Jon last appeared together in the Savoyards' Summer 2003 production of *Hay Fever*. Sudbury newcomers **Chris Erath** and **Reed Lockwood** are Vandergelder's abused clerks and would-be adventurers, Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker. **Jennifer McCartney** is the frustrated millineress, Irene Molloy, with her naive but curious shop girl Minnie Fay, played by **Mo Dane** and **Karen Powers**. Summer show veteran and all-around Savoyard **Kathy Lague** is the protector of young lovers, Flora Van Huysen, and **Tony Parkes**, **Ellen Simmons**, and **Tom Sandock** round out the cast as barber, waiters, cook, housekeeper, and cabman. Our barbershop quintet is **Neil McCormick**, **Tony Parkes**, **Tom Sandock**, **Jon Saul**, and **Michael Zimmer**.

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

*The Matchmaker* will be presented in eight performances over the three weekends of July 15, 22, and 29. All Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8:00pm, with the Sunday matinees (July 17 and 24) at 2:00pm, in Hawes Hall, Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, Mass. Tickets are **\$13 for adults**, and **\$10 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 on the insert page), to Matchmaker Tickets, 9 Marlboro Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776. **Reserve by phone** by calling 978-443-8811. **Order by email** by sending a message to [SudSavTix@aol.com](mailto:SudSavTix@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 *Matchmaker* 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 Matchmaker*. We can always use help with set building, costumes, stage crew (especially 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 **Laurel Martin** at [themartinhome@comcast.net](mailto:themartinhome@comcast.net) or House Manager **Mariah Howland** at [carbrey@yahoo.com](mailto:carbrey@yahoo.com). (Ushers get to see the play for free!)

**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 upcoming Summer Show, *The Matchmaker*, as well as the official theme of the parade "Great American Heros." Would you like to participate this year? Contact float organizer **Donna Roessler** at 508-628-9772 or at [DonnaRslr@rcn.com](mailto:DonnaRslr@rcn.com) 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 third 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 22<sup>nd</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.

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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 winter/spring. Completing her term and leaving the Board this year was **Donna Roessler**. Re-elected to second terms were **Laurel Martin** and **Ed Fell**. The newly elected Trustee is **Andrea Roessler**. Continuing Trustees are **Tom Powers**, **Paula Moravek**, **Pat Kinney**, and **Dennis O'Brien**. Tom will continue as Chairman for the coming year, with Paula as Secretary, and Pat as Treasurer; Dennis remains Church Liaison, and Ed continues as Theater Liaison. Board meetings are open to the membership. Contact any Board member or check the Savoyards web site for meeting schedules.

### *The Grand Duke in 2006*

*The Grand Duke* was the last collaboration between W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. In one sense, it returns them to the topic of their first collaboration, *Thespis*, about a theater company that perhaps gets in over its head in misplayed roles. Neither piece is often done nowadays, *Thespis* because most of its source material has long been lost, and *The Grand Duke* because of its scope, history of neglect, and challenge to production. Indeed, this production of *The Grand Duke* is the first attempted by the Sudbury Savoyards.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the directorial team of **Paula Moravek** (assisted by **Jim Parmentier**) and **Steve Malioneck** will lead our production. Steve has served as music director and conductor for five of our last six G&S productions, and Paula most recently directed our 2001 and 2003 Summer Shows, *Blithe Spirit* and *Hay Fever*.

Because *The Grand Duke* is unfamiliar even to many G&S aficionados, our production schedule is likely to be a little different this coming fall and winter. Auditions will be moved up to late October or early November, and we will be holding workshops in September to help familiarize potential leads and choristers with the libretto and the score. You'll be getting your fall newsletter in time to plan for auditions, but keep an eye on the Savoyards' web site for the latest on schedules and other advance information.

Senior staff recruiting is under way. **Interested senior staff candidates (producer, technical director, designers) are encouraged to contact the Board** by telephone at 978-443-8811.

### Staff Roles

For the past few issues of *The Sandwich Board*, we have been outlining some of the staff positions that accomplish so much of the day-to-day workings of the Savoyards. On the occasion of the completion of the tenth year of production, it seems apropos to mention the **newsletter editor's** job at this point. Those of you who have been reading *The Sandwich Board* for a while recognize the template. We aim for our members, potential performers and staff, in the Fall edition, leading up to auditions and production season. In the Winter, right before the Big Show goes up, we report the progress of the production, and provide the contact and ticket information our potential audience members will need to make it to the show. In the Spring (this issue), we recount the outcome of the Big Show, hopefully with a large donation report reflecting our success in support of UMCOR, our designated charity; then we're into projecting our summer events, notably the summer play, parade news, and any special events we have planned. In each issue, we add a dollop of news about births, retirements, and other elements of note (like this!).

*The Sandwich Board*, with its idiosyncratic name, was born ten years ago in an effort to consolidate the disparate mailings the Savoyards used at different times of the year. (Ten years ago, personal email was not a given, and the World Wide Web was still beyond the horizon for most people not in the computing industry.) We hoped that a consistent (albeit somewhat crude, but we want to work on that) visual format would give us a recognizable graphic identity and develop a sense of continuity among our members and patrons. *The Sandwich Board* was developed by **Promoter Jim Parmentier** and **Newsletter Editor Tom Powers**. Both retain those roles to this day.

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*The Sandwich Board* is open to submissions from members and others. If you have an idea, or a contribution, let us know through any of the paths noted at the end of the newsletter. Remember, no Staff member works alone. If you're interested in helping in any area, let us know.

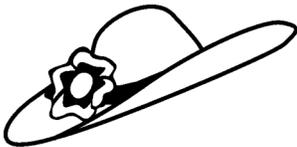
### Yeomen of Regard

The Sudbury Savoyards' program of service recognition honored **Dick Sewell** and **Roy and Bev Paro** as Yeomen of Regard at the annual membership meeting held in concert with this year's presentation of *The Mikado*. Dick, Roy, and Bev have been Savoyards since before the Company took on the name back in the early 1960s. Among them, they have served in virtually every role the Company has offered over the years. Dick retired to Maine ten years ago, an occasion documented in the second issue of this newsletter. Roy and Bev remain active Savoyards. We are proud to recognize their 40+ years of dedication.

The Yeomen of Regard program is an ongoing effort to honor Savoyards who have dedicated extraordinary service to the Company. Please see our list of honorees and a more complete description of the program on our web site. The Board of Trustees solicits nominations for Yeomen on a continuing basis. If you would like to suggest a candidate for the honor, send a note identifying yourself, your nominee, and a brief statement of his or her contribution to our Archivist, **Andrea Roessler** at [ajr-asid@juno.com](mailto:ajr-asid@juno.com).

### 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 (including general and specific contact information) 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.



# The Matchmaker

July 15-17, 22-24, 29-30, 2005

tickets and info: 978-443-8811 - tickets on the web: [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org)