



## *The Sudbury Savoyards' Sandwich Board*

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In Spring, a Savoyard's fancy turns to, well, a Summer Show! This Summer marks both the tenth anniversary and the tenth instance of the Sudbury Savoyards' Summer Season. (Lest you think we've miscounted and the tenth anniversary must represent the eleventh instance of an annual event, we must remind you that we missed one year early in the sequence.) We also have our recap of the past Winter's show, and a recounting of other plans for the Summer and Fall, Trustee election results, Yeomen of Regard, and the lead-in to next Winter's show. Thanks for sticking with us!

### ***The Grand Duke***

"The Grand Duke" is a phrase even many ardent Savoyards still hesitate to contemplate, but the *Sudbury Savoyards* can now proudly claim to have tacked that opus, the last of the G&S collaborations, onto our collective resumes. The piece was a challenge, both logistical and artistic. The Savoyards rose to those challenges and prepared and presented a show of significant artistic achievement. In these pages we normally have the directors preview their plans and personally entice performers and patrons to join us. Here, however, we'll let **Paula Moravek**, Stage Director for our *Grand Duke*, provide the summation:

"*The Grand Duke* provided the opportunity to add the challenging last collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan to the repertoire of the Sudbury Savoyards. This proved a fantastic trip into unknown territory for many of us. I got to direct my first large-scale operetta, and everyone got the opportunity to interpret a complex and lesser-known piece free of the constraints of historical precedent of performance.

"As always with this group, I was overwhelmed by the talent and resolve of our members. This began with **Steve Malioneck's** initiative in proposing the show and the re-working of the score, and then burgeoned quickly into all departments, with all designers, and of course, to the performers.

"We produced a fantastic show in spite of the heavy technical burdens (nearly fifty people on stage, two completely different sets, two costumes - or more! - for each cast member, multiple period properties, etc., etc.), and the demand for multiple lead actors and extensive integration of the chorus into the action. My most heartfelt gratitude goes out to all who participated. I could not have done my job without the help and support of every person involved.

"Again, I thank the Trustees for this opportunity along with their support. My appreciation also goes out to our Assistant Director, **Jim Parmentier**, who provided creative and material assistance and collaboration that sustained me throughout pre-production right through to our performances, and beyond."

By the time you read this, the Savoyards will have presented our donation for UMCOR to the Sudbury United Methodist Church, our sponsor. Our donation this year is \$5000, somewhat smaller than in past years, but disappointing only with respect to the two blockbuster years of *Pirates* and *The Mikado*. Thanks go out to all our supporters: on stage, behind the stage, and (of course!) in the audience.

## Summer Show 2006: *California Suite*

In the last decade we have covered the ground from classic Victorian drawing room comedy, “lost” Gilbertian farce, modern American alternative comedy, and the semi-musical. This year we go with a more contemporary mainstream piece than with any of our previous offerings with the modern American comedy, Neil Simon’s *California Suite*. Neil Simon is one of the most prolific and commercially successful playwrights of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. *California Suite* is typical Simon, a situation comedy in four vignettes that explores (mostly) one-on-one relationships between people who know one another well, or perhaps not so well as they think.



The Savoyards welcome a new director to our Summer Season. **Harriet Friedman** is a giant in community theater in eastern Massachusetts, with a resume far too long to recount faithfully. Harriet founded the Eastern Massachusetts Association of Community Theaters (EMACT), and she remains active in that organization. Harriet’s most recent directing experience was with another Neil Simon play, *The Dinner Party*, for the Nashoba Players of Westford.

And what does Harriet have to say about *California Suite*?

“Ever imagined what goes on with people in fancy hotel rooms? Well here is your chance to find out as we microscopically take a look at five couples, their lives, and the consequences of their actions as told by Neil Simon in four separate vignettes. One of Simon’s best known works, *California Suite* is filled with laughter, tears, comedy, and disappointment as well as a mirror for some of us into problems that many of us face or will face in the future. Come on this fun-filled journey into the lives of five very interesting couples as each, in turn, inhabits Suite 203/204 at the Beverly Hills Hotel, temporarily relocated to Hawes Hall.

“*California Suite* presents the opportunity for a new performance style for the Savoyards. The play will be presented on the floor of Hawes Hall, in the round, rather than on stage. This will put the audience right into the action, part of Suite 203/204 itself. My personal vision for the production is to make the audience feel as much in the moment as possible, which I believe should be the object of all live theatre, to have you feel and react as you are one with the actors.”



### Who’s Who in *California Suite*....

Harriet is backed up in this summer’s production with a stellar staff and cast. Our producers are **Laurel Martin** and **John Gorgone**. Laurel is a veteran of Savoyard management, having produced last summer’s *The Matchmaker* and currently serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees. John is new to Savoyard management, but has performed in the last three G&S productions. **Chris Carda** has designed lighting for several recent Savoyards Summer Shows and returns to light a set designed by Savoyard newcomer **Sarah Roth**.

Our cast for *California Suite* is a wonderful mix of Savoyard veterans and welcome newcomers. The four vignettes of the play involve five couples: the New Yorkers, the Philadelphians, the Londoners, and the Chicagoans.

Our New Yorkers, Hannah Warren and Billy Warren, are played by two Savoyard newcomers, **Sharon Kivnik** and **Steven Friedman**. **Sharon** hails from Framingham and was last seen as Mrs. Higgins in Needham Community Theatre’s production of *My Fair Lady*. **Steven** has been playing Neil Simon roles for 15 years and is beginning to think he is his alter ego. Being married to his director gives theater an interesting turn and has happened ten times, including this one, in the last twenty years.

Our Philadelphians, Marvin and Millie Michaels, are **Jim Ravan** and **Ellen Simmons** and **Robyn Steriti** (double cast). **Jim**, from Nashua, has been a Savoyard longer than there has been a Summer Show, as Music Director and Conductor in past G&S shows, and as Stage Manager for the past two. This is his first acting role with us. **Ellen**, of Marlboro, was Gertrude and Cook in last summer’s *The Matchmaker*, and has been in the chorus of the last two G&S shows. **Robyn** lives in Haverhill and just finished *Cabaret* (Fr. Schneider) with the Lexington Players.

Our Londoners, Diana and Sydney Nichols, are **Rachael Robiner** and **John Gorgone**. **Rachael**, a Sudbury

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resident, was recently seen as Mariette Levieux in Neil Simon's *The Dinner Party* at the Nashoba Players theater in Westford. **John**, a Marlborough resident, is co-producer of the show.

Our Chicagoans, Beth and Mort Hollender and Gert and Stu Franklyn, are **Nicole Hatlevig**, **Jon Saul**, **Jennifer Jagolinzer**, and **Jesse Strachman**. **Nicole**, of Stow, was last seen on stage as Ruth in the Savoyards' 2001 Summer production of *Blithe Spirit*. **Jon**, of Natick, has been in almost every Savoyard Summer Show ever and is a regular in the big G&S shows as well. **Jennifer**, of Wayland, recently performed as the Fiancé in "Scrooge & Marley" at Arlington Friends of the Drama and a Bird Girl in "Seussical the Musical" with the Wellesley Players. **Jesse**, from North Billerica, was most recently seen on stage in Wellesley College's production of *Crimes of the Heart*.

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



*California Suite* will be presented in eight performances over the three weekends of July 14, 21, and 28, 2006. All Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8:00pm, with the Sunday matinees (July 16 and 23) at 3:00pm, 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 California Suite 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 *California Suite* 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.



### How can you help a Summer Show?

While the cast is set, there are myriad other opportunities for participation in the production of *California Suite*. 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 **co-Producers John Gorgone** or **Laurel Martin** at [johngorgone@comcast.net](mailto:johngorgone@comcast.net) or [themartinhome@comcast.net](mailto:themartinhome@comcast.net), respectively. (Ushers get to see the play for free!)

**Another Summer Float!** 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 as well as the official theme of the parade "*the Good Old Summertime*." 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.

**More Fall Crafts!** For the past three years many Savoyards and their friends have displayed and sold unique, hand-made items at our Fall Craft Fair. This year, the Savoyards will be sponsoring a fourth Fair. Each year's fair has raised about \$1000 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 21<sup>st</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 Winter. Completing their terms and leaving the Board this year were **Tom Powers**, **Paula Moravek**, and **Dennis O'Brien**. **Pat Kinney** was re-elected to a second term. Newly elected Trustees are **Ellen Simmons**, **June McKnight**, and **Lin Olsen**. Continuing Trustees are

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**Andrea Roessler, Laurel Martin, and Ed Fell.** Laurel steps into the Chair for the coming year, with Lin as Secretary, Pat as Treasurer, and June taking up the reins as Church Liaison. 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.

### **Yeomen of Regard**

The Sudbury Savoyards' program of service recognition honored **Ron Dallas** and **Janice Dallas** as Yeomen of Regard at the annual membership meeting held in concert with this year's presentation of *The Grand Duke*. We are proud to recognize their years of dedication. Photos and transcripts of the presentation can be found on our web site.

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).

### ***Iolanthe* in 2007**

Fall will be here before you know it and planning for the Sudbury Savoyards' next big production, *Iolanthe*, is already underway. The 2007 performances will be February 23, 24, 25, 28, and March 2&3. **Producer Andrea Roessler** and **Technical Director Dave Lopshire** are recruiting for the many staff and designer positions as well as assistants for jobs already filled. If you have any interest in taking on a Tech or Production Staff role please email Andrea at [ajr-asid@juno.com](mailto:ajr-asid@juno.com) or leave a message on the Savoyards phone at 978-443-8811. Music and Stage Directors will be announced on the website in July or August, along with the dates for the traditional Two-Ring Circus, auditions, and rehearsals, so please keep an eye there for all the important information.

### **Contacting the Sudbury Savoyards**

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.