



## *The Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board*

*Spring/Summer 2011 - Vol 16, Number 3*

The Savoyards had a spectacular Winter Show this year. We had the best houses ever since moving into the new LS in 2005, and we were near our record full-run attendance for the entire history of the Company. Clearly, you, our audience are enthused and attracted by our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities, *and we're not done yet!* This Spring newsletter is a bit earlier than usual because we're so eager to share our *Trial/Pinafore* good news with you, but also because the big event of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is coming up on the weekend of May 14 and 15, and we want to make sure you know about it. We're pulling out all the stops to bring back the good

times and fond memories of the past 50 years. Check out the full program below. And our year doesn't stop there. There will be a Summer Show this year, our 15<sup>th</sup>, and it's a style of production the Savoyards have never done before. And we're already planning for next year's Big Show, *Ruddigore*. We'll close with our regular Spring news about our Trustees' elections, and we'll see what else we can fit in. It's an exciting time to be a Savoyard! Welcome Aboard!

### *Trial by Jury/HMS Pinafore*

Our schedule was unusual this year, with the hiatus weekend having us wonder whether we'd get better or worse word-of-mouth for our second weekend, and whether the extra technical steps of striking and re-installing our show would cause any problems. That said, the 60+ members of the cast came through, the whole crew came through, and best of all the audiences came through to give us near-record total paid attendance of almost 1700 patrons over our seven public performances. We are set to deliver our first donation from the proceeds of this production in the sum of \$5000 to SUMC during our celebratory weekend on May 15. This puts us within just a few thousand dollars of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary goal of \$200,000 donated to UMCOR since they became our principal beneficiary back when "in relief of world hunger" became our charitable watchwords. Thousands of people over dozens of years deserve thanks for helping to meet this goal. Particular thanks go out to this year's contributors: Thank You, All!

### **Fifty years of Gilbert and Sullivan "on a Grand Scale"!**

**Join us Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15 for a Weekend-long Anniversary Celebration!**

The Sudbury Savoyards kicked off the 50<sup>th</sup> year observances with the very successful double bill production of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*, plus a Reunion Brunch on February 27 attended by 120 Past and Present Members.

On **May 14 and 15**, we will present an entire weekend of festivities taking place at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. On **Saturday, May 14**, the celebration starts at **9:30am** with Hawes Hall opening as a **Museum** with 50 years of memorabilia on display. The **Savoyard Shoppe** will offer commemorative items and Savoyard merchandise including the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook, Limited Edition Re-Mastered DVDs of past productions (starting with the 1986 production of *The Mikado*), songbooks for the Sunday Sing-along, special logo items, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative DVD to be premiered during the weekend.

A "**Discovery Room**" for active exploration and play will be available for the "Junior Savoyards" (age 4 and up). Independent children can be a Princess or a Pirate, make their own props and costumes, play theater games, or enjoy coloring, crafts, or Legos while the parents enjoy other events. *Note: this is not a crib room or babysitting service, but is appropriate for children who can work comfortably on their own. See complete schedule on the Savoyard website for times the room will be available.*



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Weekend May 14&15**  
**Summer Show: *Mary Rose* - auditions May 22&23, performances July 15&16**  
**watch the web: [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org)**

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There will be live musical performance programs featuring many familiar faces and voices with topics including “*Three’s Company, Four’s a Madrigal*,” coordinated by Tony Parkes; “*On the Matter of the Patter*,” coordinated by Dennis O’Brien; and “*Copying the Masters: Gilbert & Sullivan Parodies*,” coordinated by Larry Seiler.

**Morning coffee, lunch, and afternoon beverages** will be available throughout the day in Hawes Hall. This service is sponsored by the God Squad, SUMC’s high school youth group, to raise funds for their summer trip to New Orleans, where the teens will participate in the ongoing effort to rebuild homes in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The official **Welcome** takes place at 1:30 in the Sanctuary. Keynote Speaker Royston Nash, former conductor of the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company, will present “*View from the Pit*” (or: “*14 Operas and 8 Recordings of G&S*”), with a more intimate Q&A reception to follow in Hawes Hall.

Tony Parkes will present “*Not My Job: Unlikely Celebrities Sing G&S*” at 3:00 with audio and video clips revealing the high (and low!) points of G&S as performed by celebrities such as Groucho Marx, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Shore, and others.

The Sudbury Savoyards **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Video** will be debuted at 4:00. The video includes rarely-seen historic photos, musical recordings from the Savoyards’ very early years, video clips from many of the past twenty-five productions, back-stage and company photos, and stories from noteworthy members from the first days of the Savoyards to the present. Copies will be available for \$25 in the Savoyard Shoppe in Hawes Hall.

“**Places, Please**,” a compendium of favorite G&S selections compiled by Benjamin Keaton and directed by Kathryn Denney, will be presented at 8:00 in the Sanctuary. The performance will feature soloists from past productions and an ensemble chorus. All are invited to attend this free concert and a reception following in Hawes Hall to celebrate Sir Arthur Sullivan’s 164<sup>th</sup> birthday.

During the **Sunday, May 15 church service**, at 9:30am, the Sudbury Savoyards will present the donation check from the proceeds of “*Trial-by-Pinafore*” to the Sudbury United Methodist Church. Since the late 1970s all net proceeds from Savoyard activities have been donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). During that time over \$190,000 has been donated to this worthy cause. ***The Company’s goal is to reach \$200,000 during this 50<sup>th</sup> year!***

Following the church service, the Savoyards will host the Fellowship Coffee Hour in Hawes Hall. There you can also meet a representative from Heifer International, the beneficiary of our net proceeds, and see how wisely and widely the donation dollars are being used.

At noon on Sunday, Tom Powers will moderate “***Behind the Scenes of The Sudbury Savoyards on a Grand Scale***,” a panel discussion about what it takes to put on a Sudbury production, from both technical and organizational angles.

Also at noon we’ll have an encore presentation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Video.

At 1:00, in Hawes Hall, you can test your knowledge of Gilbert and Sullivan trivia with “***G&S Jeopardy***,” hosted by recent (real) *Jeopardy!* contestant Kathy Lague. This will be a team challenge - teams can be any number of people from 1 (if you’re brave!) to 6. Rules will be explained at the beginning of the contest.

The weekend concludes with “*50 Years of Great Choruses*,” a Sing-along at 3:00 in the Sanctuary, co-sponsored by the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS). Directed by David Larrick, it will feature soloists from recent and not-so-recent productions, a **14-piece orchestra**, and **you** as the chorus! You are even invited to wear a costume from your favorite operetta. Song books of the lyrics will be available for \$5 in the Savoyard Shoppe, or you can download and print your own copy from our website.

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A reception in Hawes Hall will follow the Sing-along to wrap up the weekend celebrations.

**Admission to all weekend events is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted!**

This weekend would not be possible without the support, in part, by a grant from the *Sudbury Cultural Council*, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. We are also grateful to the *Highland Street Foundation* for their financial support, as well as the dedication and efforts of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, and all our valued Savoyard members.

***But we can't do all of this without our members' help!*** Volunteers are needed to provide home-baked items for the receptions, staff the Savoyard Shoppe, and to help welcome and usher for all events. Please contact Ellen Simmons at [esimmonsesq@comcast.net](mailto:esimmonsesq@comcast.net) to offer your assistance.

For a complete schedule of events and updates as they occur, as well as DVD and Cookbook order forms, please visit the Savoyard website at [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org), or visit our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sudburysavoyards50th](http://www.facebook.com/sudburysavoyards50th), or contact Andrea Roessler, Archivist & 50<sup>th</sup> Committee Chair, at [archivist@sudburysavoyards.org](mailto:archivist@sudburysavoyards.org).

You can also leave a message on the Savoyard phone line at 978-443-8811.

**One more chance for World Hunger Relief: Thursday, May 19 UNO's DoughRai\$er Fundraiser**

On **Thursday, May 19** the Sudbury Savoyards are raising some more dough for the Relief of World Hunger! Uno Chicago Grill at 70 Worcester Road (Route 9) in Framingham will donate a percentage of their sales that day. Depending on qualifying sales volume, we could receive up to 20% of those sales. Uno's opens at **11:00am** for lunch and doesn't close until **12:30am**, and you can take advantage of Dine-in, Bar Receipts, Take-out, on-line orders, and even Curbside pick-up – it all counts (except for gift cards and the tax and tip)!

All you have to do is present the coupon at the right to the server and the Sudbury Savoyards get the credit! Spread the coupons around at your office, school, church - anywhere you like! Print out additional coupons from the website at: [www.sudburysavoyards.com](http://www.sudburysavoyards.com). Questions? Email: [donnarslr@rcn.com](mailto:donnarslr@rcn.com).



## Summer Show 2011 - JM Barrie's *Mary Rose*

In 1996, the Savoyards expanded our yearly performance schedule to include a Summer Show. The goal was to offer our members a different kind of theatrical opportunity, perhaps to test or expand their skills in smaller, non-musical theater, and also to offer the community artistic outlets often hard to find in the off-season. We've done mostly comedies, some dramas; some American, some British; some Victorian, some 20<sup>th</sup> century; two little-known works by WS Gilbert, some classic pieces, and one musical. What we plan this summer is lower-impact production, something that allows us to focus more resources on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary efforts, but still keep the goals of 15 years ago alive.

This summer, we will be presenting a semi-staged reading of JM Barrie's *Mary Rose*. Barrie is, of course, most widely known as the creator of Peter Pan, but he was a wildly prolific writer, active from about 1888 to 1936, publishing more than 50 novels and plays during that period.

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*Mary Rose* is, as Barrie himself put it, the female counterpart to the Peter Pan tales. The story is part comedy, part drama, and a poignant mystery besides. The play will be directed by Peter Stark.

Our “semi-staged reading” of the play will feature real actors reading from the script, but providing all the characterization and personal interactions a fully-staged play would offer. As the play progresses, a narrator will read Barrie’s amazingly detailed and evocative stage directions, which he wrote with the intention of supporting a presentation like ours. In many ways, it’s like a radio drama you can watch.

Auditions will be held at SUMC on the evenings of May 22 and 23, and performances (also at SUMC) on July 15 and 16. Watch the Savoyard website as we roll out more details: character descriptions, schedules, and a copy of the script.

### **Board Elections and Bylaw Amendment**

The Savoyards operate under the direction of a seven member Board of Trustees. Each Trustee is elected to a two-year term, and is eligible to be re-elected to a single, second consecutive term. Three Trustees are elected in odd-numbered years, and four in even-numbered years. Elections are held as part of the Annual Membership Meeting, typically during the closing weekend of the annual Gilbert and Sullivan production. Leaving the Board this year at the conclusion of their terms were **Laurel Martin** and **John Gorgone**. Newly elected Trustees are **Ann Ferentz** and **Dennis O’Brien**. **Bill Fisher** was re-elected to a second term. Continuing Trustees are **Kate Meifert**, **Brad Amidon**, **Bill Johnson**, and **Kathryn Denney**. Board meetings are held monthly on a schedule set by the sitting Board and are open to all Savoyards. Minutes of Board meetings are posted on the Savoyard website.

This year, a Bylaw Amendment was voted on and passed by the membership. This amendment allows the Savoyards to accept designated donations as capital endowments, separate from the cash flow surrounding normal Savoyard activities, but available to bolster and stabilize Savoyard finances. Any such donations are subject to the same non-profit donation privileges as normal donations. Questions about the effects of the new bylaw can be directed to the Board via email or phone message; contact information can be found on the website.

### ***Ruddigore* 2012**

The Board of Trustees has selected *Ruddigore*, or *The Witch’s Curse*, as the Savoyards’ 2012 Gilbert and Sullivan mainstage production. Senior staff recruiting has begun, and directors’ interviews will be held starting in June. Prospective staff, including directors, can make their interests known or direct questions to the Board via email or phone message.

Sudbury Savoyards  
Sudbury United Methodist Church  
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