



Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board

Fall 2011 - Vol 17, Number 1

Our Fiftieth Anniversary Year is about finished, and we had great fun with it, as we hope you did. We pulled no punches, from the double bill big show at the start of the year to the novel Summer Show in July. We believe we set aggressive artistic and financial milestones, and had fun doing it. With this issue of our newsletter, we start our Fifty-first year, looking forward to continuing our successes for ourselves, our community, and our charity. If you were attracted to the Savoyards on the coattails of our Fiftieth, we hope you'll stick around. If you're a veteran Savoyard fan, welcome back! We hope we can continue to live up to your highest expectations.

The Milestone: \$200,000

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been the Savoyards' principal charity since the mid-1980s. Over the years since then, all income-over-expenses of our productions has been designated "for relief of world hunger." Some years our contribution was only a few thousand dollars; in flusher years, closer to \$20,000. For our Fiftieth Anniversary year, we set a goal to try to reach \$200,000 in lifetime contributions, and we are ecstatic to say that with our *very* successful double bill of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*, our celebratory weekend, and our novel Summer Show, *Mary Rose*, we can certify that we have exceeded that goal. Congratulations and thanks are due to generations of Savoyards and our audiences for the contributions of both groups over the years.

Our Summer Novelty: *Mary Rose*

To be honest, we did have our doubts about how aggressive we could be with our summer activities after such a busy spring. Summer shows are fun, and a wonderful opportunity to expand our members' experiences and skills, but they do present certain challenges with vacations, hot weather, and staffing. We couldn't let the opportunity pass however, and director **Peter Stark** proposed a "low impact" effort, a staged reading of JM Barrie's *Mary Rose*, his female counterpart to the more famous *Peter Pan*. "Low impact" meant minimal sets, costumes, and props, and the actors performing on-book, meaning minimal rehearsals. In two performances in a single weekend, we delivered maximal impact from the production, however, presenting Barrie's poignant play in riveting style, and making a small profit for UMCOR, our designated charity. Great thanks go out to all who helped us maintain our summer presence and support the Savoyards' goals.

The Craft Fair returns!

On Saturday, October 8, the Savoyards will be holding our ninth annual craft fair at the Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd, Sudbury, from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

More than 36 crafters and artisans will be represented, including Sudbury Savoyard members **Kathy Lague** of *Isobel's Legacy* presenting hand-made baby quilts, wall hangings, runners, and t-shirt quilts; **Dana Farmer** debuting hand-crafted wooden furniture, boxes, and cutting boards; **Marge Langmuir** of *Orion Arts* with metalwork, enameling, jewelry, and hand-forged copper plates and bowls; and **Suzanne White Alepidis** with wooden children's coat trees, step stools and animal money banks.

Additional items this year include many different kinds of hand-crafted jewelry, including beads, crystals, fused glass, hardware, Swarovski and sterling, placemats, table runners, pillows, dichroic, fused and stained glass items, pottery and ceramic items, hand-knitted and crocheted children's sweaters, hats, shawls, afghans and mittens, baby items, doll clothes, holiday items (ornaments, decorations, wreaths, and tree skirts, silk and dried floral arrangements), hand-painted silk scarves, kiln-formed glass items, greeting cards and stationery, mosaics, toys, beds and clothing for pets, and handcrafted pewter.

Food items include herbs and spices, home-made jams and honey products, catnip, jellies, and pickles.

Also featured is the very popular Home-Baked Goodies Table with cakes, cookies, brownies, breads, bars, muffins, sticky-buns, and other home-made delectable items.

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Volunteers are desperately needed to help with setting up on Friday, October 7, staffing during the fair on Saturday, and especially with clean-up at the end of the fair. Volunteers are also needed to provide additional home-baked items for the Bake Table. Please contact **Co-Chairs Donna and Andrea Roessler** at 508-628-9772 or email donnarslr@rcn.com or ajr-asid@juno.com to volunteer to help or bake.

All the proceeds from the Bake Table and the Crafters' Space Fees are donated to the Relief of World Hunger.

***Ruddigore* in 2012**

Robin Oakapple channels Hamlet? Stranger things have happened - and maybe they'll happen again. The Savoyards will present *Ruddigore, or the Witch's Curse*, as their 51st mainstage Gilbert and Sullivan production, from February 24 through March 4 of 2012. *Ruddigore* was the tenth of the collaborations of Gilbert and Sullivan, premiering in 1887. It is often considered one of the most challenging of the operettas from a technical standpoint, as the re-animation of the ancestors in Act II presents opportunities for extremes in sets, lights, costumes, makeup, and other special effects. The piece was last presented by the Savoyards in 2000.

Our production this year will be led by a newly-teamed directorial pair, Stage Director **Peter A. Stark** and Music Director **Katherine Engel Meifert**. Kate has had numerous lead roles in past Savoyard productions, and was last our Music Director for our 2004 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Peter directed this past summer's *Mary Rose*, and was Sir Despard Murgatroyd in our *Ruddigore* in 2000. Peter and Kate promise both some novelty and a return to historical fidelity their treatment of the score. *Expect the unexpected* is the theme!

Auditions for *Ruddigore* will be held in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church at 7:30pm on Monday and Wednesday, October 24 and 26, with callbacks (if needed) between 10:00am and 2:00pm on Saturday, October 29. Prospective leads are *strongly encouraged* to visit our website at www.sudburysavoyards.org to review the directors' guidance for auditioners. There you will also find directions to SUMC, character sketches, vocal ranges, and other information. As is our custom, choristers will not be required to audition, but are strongly urged to come to at least one night of auditions to register. Lead auditioners or choristers can call 978-443-8811 and leave a message with any questions.

The 2-Ring Kicks Off the Season Again!

The best way to kick off the Savoyard year is with a party. The 2-Ring extravaganza is the traditional opportunity for Savoyards to meet old friends and welcome new ones. The focus is on the Big Show, *Ruddigore*. The directors will reveal their plans for the show, the designers will have outlines of their concepts, and there will be a sing-through of the show. *Ruddigore* scores will be available for purchase. This year's 2-Ring will again be held at the home of **Tom and Nancy Powers**, 201 Union Ave in Sudbury, on Sunday, October 16, starting at 7:30pm. Experienced Savoyards, Bring Something To Share, and maybe even a friend who might need an introduction to the Savoyards' brand of community theater. Newcomers (even unaccompanied) are welcome!

Sudbury Savoyards
Sudbury United Methodist Church
251 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

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