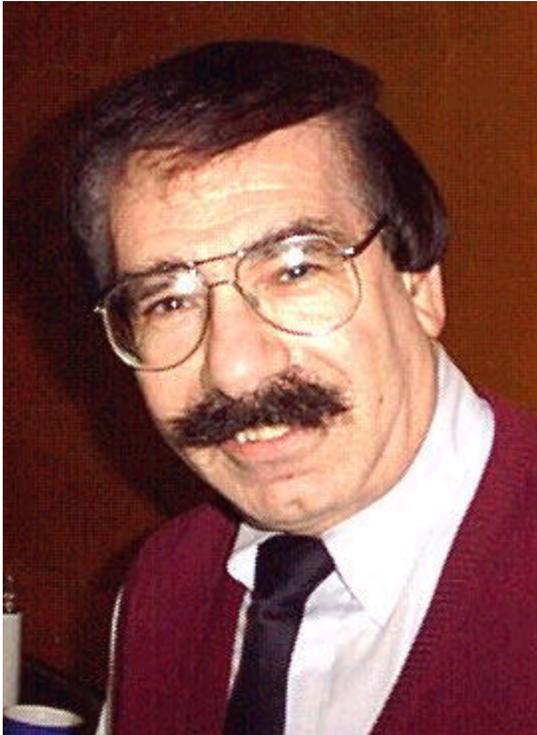




May, 2002

# Troupers *Trumpet*

*“Loudly let the trumpet bray” – Iolanthe*



## **Steve Levinson, the Man with the Big Heart**

Troupers were shocked on Monday to learn that our own **Steve Levinson** had died suddenly in his sleep of a heart attack.

Steve was the kind of Troupers who was always there—building sets, painting scenery, as secretary on the Board of Directors, as stage manager for many years, as ticket chairman, helping **Lizbeth Leonard** keep up the scrapbooks, as photographer—behind the scenes in innumerable ways. Steve leaves a huge gap in Troupers that can never be filled.

I keep thinking of things to ask Steve about. Our publicist, **Lucy Hedrick**, dropped off press clippings from *Pinafore* and *Trial* and my first thought was, we’ll give these to Steve to put in the scrapbook. Then I remembered. I was going to ask Steve if I could borrow a projector from Middlesex Middle School for a presentation, then I remembered. This will keep happening to all of us—we’ll think of something to ask Steve, and then we’ll remember.

His funeral service was held at Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford. As I sat there in the back with about 25 other Troupers watching people file in, and file in, and file in, I realized how many lives Steve had touched—young and old. Like a diamond, we only knew one facet of Steve in Troupers. We didn’t know him as a father and brother, as a teacher, as a sports enthusiast and derring-do master of the Middlesex Adventure Club, as the man who had five pairs of shoes outside his classroom and a poster on his door reading, “The child first, last, always.”

We didn’t know that when his students saw him stay so late at school, they thought he had a bed there. Or that when he directed the school musicals, he made certain every child who wanted a part could have one. We didn’t know he edited the school newspaper, and sponsored the Adventure Club, where he was the most adventurous of all and had more fun than the kids.

Many of us didn’t know he had a daughter, Diane, whom he raised as a single parent, and who said about him that the joy she finds in her life is because of him. His brother Bobby remarked that most people say the person has gone to a better place, but he could hear Steve asking, “Where is a better place?” Bobby went on to talk about the competitive side of Steve when he played tennis. When Steve lost a point, he said it was “like taking candy from a dragon.” His sister-in-law, Arlene, commented that Steve would have been embarrassed by such a large turnout and so many kind words spoken about him. A teacher from his school shared letters written by students about how he’d touched their lives, turning them into actors, singers, dancers, and writers.

Steve was known at school as Dr. Lev. “Lev” is the Hebrew word for “heart” **Steve Levinson** October 1, 1939 - May 6, 2002—the Man with the Big Heart.

We’ll miss you, Steve.

-- Barbara Stretton

**Mark Your Calendar**



**Diana  
Gladden and  
Richard Huie**  
have invited all

Troupers and friends to an "No Effort Family Picnic" on Saturday June 29th, Rain date: June 30 at their home on Long Island Sound in Branford. Bring your family, and your picnic, beer, towels and toys.

Richard and Diana will supply coffee, wine, seltzer, a beach, a lawn with view, a diving rock, and an outdoor shower. For directions and to RSVP, e-mail [dglad@juno.com](mailto:dglad@juno.com), or call 203-481-3285.

If you are coming from New York City, they will meet the Metro-North train that leaves Grand Central at 10:07 AM, and take you back to whatever return train you select.

**NOTE:** In the next issue of Trouper Trumpet, we'll give you details about our annual meeting.

**The Verdict is In: Ticket Sales for *Trial* and *Pinafore* a Rousing Success!**

Ticket chairman **Paul Vidulich** reports that ticket sales were most successful this year. Here are the statistics:

- \* 461 tickets sold by Troupers
- \* 252 from mail order list
- \* 72 sold by orchestra members
- \* 69 from publicity

Of those sold:

- \* 206 tickets came from our early bird discount
- \* 23 orders (68 tickets) came from the Internet

**President and Vice-President Needed**

This year both the president and vice-president of Troupers will not be seeking re-election, so Troupers needs nominees/volunteers for these two positions. There are also openings on the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in running or nominating someone, please contact **Bill Abbott** at [wabbott01@snet.net](mailto:wabbott01@snet.net), or call (203) 579-4110. Meeting monthly, the Board sets Troupers policy and oversees its activities.

**Order Photos from the Web**

**Jim Cooper**, with the help of **Steve Levinson**, has taken some smashing pictures of the show. They are on our website with an order form. Jim will provide them at cost. In addition to the two cast pictures on the front page of the site, you can see more by clicking on "Show Pictures" on the right side.

**Trumpet Trouper**

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