

The Newport Dancers' Gazette

Newport Vintage Dance Week
Editor: Katy Bishop, The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

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WELCOME

The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers are, once again, delighted to welcome dancers from around the country, and beyond, to the Newport Vintage Dance Week! Wow, the 18th! It makes me take a deep breath. When we started lo those many years ago, I'm not sure any of us thought we'd still be spending our summers in Newport 18 years later. Well, here we are, and we think we've got a great week planned! For a number of years we have talked of having a cruise, Newport being so rich in boating history. This year, we found a beautiful boat that was launched this spring. We hope you'll enjoy the Newport Harbor cruise on Tuesday evening. We also look forward to returning to some of our favorite venues, the Astors' *Beechwood*, Glen Manor House and the Rotunda Ballroom on Easton's Beach. Whether you're here for the first time, or 18th, we hope you have a wonderful week of dancing and take home some very special memories.

Happy Dancing!

Hannah Roberts Artuso
Conference Coordinator and Co-Director of CVD

WHICH CLASSES SHOULD I ATTEND?

Those experiencing vintage dance for the first time, including people with other types of dance experience, are encouraged to take the "beginner" classes, as are those with only a little vintage dance experience. This will help you learn or review the basic vintage dance steps. Dancers familiar with basic vintage dance steps may want to try the more advanced classes. Dancers of any level may attend either specialty class.



WARM-UPS

Warm-ups will begin at 8:50 each morning in the upper gymnasium. For safety's sake, to help avoid injury, we urge everyone to take the responsibility to be properly warmed up.

QUADRILLE CLASS

Once again there will be a Quadrille Class after the morning meeting. *The Caledonian Quadrilles* will be danced without calls at the Friday night Ball. It is advisable that all dancers attend these classes to make the Quadrille run smoothly at Friday's ball. Instructions for *The Caledonian Quadrilles* will be printed (almost legibly!) on that evening's dance card, but learning them ahead of time will make things *much* easier.

MORNING MEETING

Attendance at the daily morning meeting is strongly recommended as it is the forum for important announcements relating to the dance week, especially schedule and location updates. Due to time constraints and the short duration of the our meeting, please submit (legibly) written announcements to Hannah before the meeting.



Edith. "I DON'T BELIEVE JACK WILL EVER LEARN TO DANCE!"
Alice (whose dress has suffered). "WORSE THAN THAT—HE WILL NEVER LEARN NOT TO ATTEMPT IT!"

SECURITY

We remind you to be security conscious. Please lock your rooms, as the dormitories themselves are not locked. **REMEMBER YOUR KEYS!!!** Portsmouth Abbey does not have a 24 hour security office. If you do lock yourself out of your room please see the member of CVD who has been designated the “house parent” for your dorm. She or he will have a master key for that building.

SMOKING AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Smoking is not permitted in or near any of the buildings, including dormitory rooms. Please remember that alcohol may not be brought into the dining hall.

PARKING

Please park your car in the hockey rink lot. The parking lots near the dorms are for school staff only; the visitor parking spots are for the admissions office visitors, *not* dance week participants. Some concern has been expressed about people not following this directive in the past — if you must have your car in the lower campus, please contact Hannah first.

AFTERNOON OUTINGS

Please remember that many of our dancers have arrived by aeroplane and are without carriages. If you are planning an off-campus outing and have an extra seat, please consider putting an announcement on the bulletin board in the gym, or get in touch with our rides coordinator (see below). Some suggested outings: Green Animals Topiary Gardens, Corn Maze, Cliff-Walk, Newport Mansions or Beach outing.

RIDES

Occasionally help is needed for those without vehicles get to our off-site events. If you need a ride, or can offer one, for either an outing or to one of the off-campus events, please inform the ride coordinator, (name will be announced Monday evening) or see Victoria Wagner and she will direct you to the appropriate person.

For Further information on the Dance Week or vintage dance please contact:
The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers at:
c/o Katy Bishop, P. O. Box 9, Nahant, MA 01908
(781) 662-8344 or e-mail Query@VintageDancers.org
visit us on the web at: www.VintageDancers.org

VOLUNTEERS

Any questions about Volunteer assignments should be directed to Victoria Wagner. Please check the bulletin board daily for updates on volunteer assignments. The coordinators for the events are also available to answer questions and make further arrangements.



GAZETTE

Two more issues of the Gazette will be published during the Week (Wednesday and Friday) with important advice, news and information about the week's events.

AFTERNOON TEAS

The afternoon teas are an opportunity for dancers to relax, meet and chat with others, and perhaps play a game of croquet. There is no set era for any of the teas, so Vintage dress of any period, as well as modern dress, is acceptable at any of them. The afternoon tea themes are somewhat different from year to year. Tea time is 3:30-5:00pm each afternoon.



DAILY TEA SCHEDULE

Tuesday's *Summer Garden Tea* is informal, modern clothing is acceptable, as well as period summer day wear. You might come straight from class, and relax with a cup of tea while recuperating from a day of classes, compare notes with other dancers, or even take a cup of tea and retreat to your room for a siesta.

Wednesday's *Afternoon Tea* will take place during the vintage *Swap & Sell*. This is also an informal occasion, with the main focus being on buying and selling vintage (or not) treasures.

On Thursday Tea will be self-serve in the Winter Garden for those not going off-campus for outings or on the group tour of *the Breakers* mansion.

You may wish to save your most elegant or elaborate period outfit for the *Formal Tea* on Friday. This event will be the most formal tea of the week (hence its name). Summer day wear of any period is welcome. Hats, parasols, and fans are especially useful for keeping cool while enjoying tea and croquet on the lawn.

Saturday we will have the last tea of the 2005 Dance Week. This is the *Croquet Tea*, with croquet and badminton, period dress with a sporty theme might be appropriate for this event.

NEWPORT COSTUME EXHIBITIONS

Rosecliff Mansion, Rough Point Mansion, The Museum of Newport History, Newport

There are several costume exhibitions in Newport this summer that you may wish to visit on during your free time.

The first is *Portrait of a Newport Lady: The Fashionable Woman in 1900*, The Story of Gwendolen King Armstrong As Seen Through Clothing, Photographs and Letters. The exhibit will be on display at Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. through November 10. Mrs. Armstrong (1876-1968) lived much of her life at Kingscote. From her 1901 Parisian-made wedding trousseau, including ball gowns and riding costumes, to the more casual, department store fashions she favored just a few years later, she epitomized the changing tastes of American women at the beginning of the 20th century, as they began to modify their dress in order to facilitate and accept changing societal roles. The pieces of Gwendolen's trousseau on display include two formal evening gowns, a dinner dress, and a tailor-made walking suit, all by the Paris fashion house of Raudnitz and Co., Huet and Cheruit. There is also a riding habit made in London by habit-maker and tailor J. A. Matheissen, as well as other sportswear items. Each of her gowns had an appropriately matched pair

of evening shoes. Many accessories, from parasols to jewelry and handbags, round out the exhibit. Also on display are copies of letters and photographs and other artifacts. For further information visit the Newport Preservation Society at www.newportmansions.org or call 401-847-1000.

Another exhibit of interest might be *On The Heels of Fashion: 18th Century Women's Shoes* from the collections at the Newport Historical Society's Museum of Newport History. This exhibit displays how Newport Women kept up with the latest English and French fashions in footwear. The museum is located in the historic Brick Market at 127 Thames Street. Visit www.newporthistorical.org or call (401)846-0813.

The third exhibit, on display at Rough Point mansion, is *From Jet Set to Jeans: The Wardrobe of Doris Duke*. Doris Duke was born to a life of privilege and wealth, traveling as part of the jet set, and living a life in high society from 1912 until the day she died in 1993. The exhibition examines the clothing she chose for herself. Opening her closet is a history of high fashion in the 20th century. Starting in the late 1920s when Duke was in her late teens, the exhibition will take the visitor decade by decade through her life and provide a history of high fashion from each period. Balenciaga, Madame Grès, Mariano Fortuny, Yves Saint Laurent and Emanuel Ungaro filled her collection with well-designed, artful and bold clothing. The exhibit will feature beautiful couture clothing such as jackets by Balenciaga, a Fortuny Delphos gown, Pierre Cardin thigh-high boots, and a Christian Dior hat, as well as such simple items such as Miss Duke's 1940s playsuits, 1950s cross country ski boots, and a Claire McCardell day dress. Tickets are available at the Newport Gateway Visitors Center, 401-845-9130 and online at www.newportrestoration.org. For more information call 401-849-7300 X10.

CAMPUS TOUR

Monday, 7:00pm

There will be an informal tour of the Portsmouth Abbey School campus at 7pm on Monday, group will meet in the dining room.



FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATION
School Fitness Center

Portsmouth Abbey School has a new fitness Center which will be available to dance week participants throughout the week. There will be an orientation tour Tuesday morning at 8:20am, meet at the fitness center.

SUMMER GARDEN TEA
Tuesday, Manor House Lawn

Come have a snack, play croquet, or relax and chat with other Dance Week participants. Casual dress, modern or vintage, is welcomed.

NEWPORT HARBOR DINNER CRUISE
Tuesday, 2 Bowen's Ferry Landing, Newport

Embark on the *Harbor Queen* which is celebrating its inaugural season, for an elegant Dinner cruise around Newport Harbor. The ship will be departing from Bowen's Wharf Ferry Landing which is off America's Cup Ave., next to the Newport Harbor Hotel, 25 America's Cup Ave. The evening's festivities will include a formal dinner in the main cabin followed by informal dancing to taped music. Boarding will begin at 6:30pm. Please realize you cannot be late, the ship leaves PROMPTLY at 6:45pm. Our return will be at 10:15pm.



VIEW OF NEWPORT HARBOR

VINTAGE DRESS SERIES BOOKS
BY KATY BISHOP

Katy Bishop is pleased to once again offer her series of Vintage Dress books. To simplify orders (and minimize the lugging of heavy boxes of books), she will be taking book orders throughout the week to be delivered at the end of the week (or at a mutually convenient time), and selling at the Swap on Wednesday. Order forms will be available several times during the week. 2006 Costume Calendars are also available, the theme this year is: *Western Wear*.



ASK MRS. ASTORBILT

Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,

This is my first time at Newport. I used the guidelines from the Newport "Greetings" letter to pick out from my closet the best clothes I had and I borrowed a few nice outfits from friends. Now that I'm here and see some of the beautiful and elaborate gowns some others have brought, I am feeling very intimidated. Will I look out of place in my plain, non-historical, dresses?

Not Yet A Butterfly

Dear Miss Butterfly-to-Be,

Many of the ladies you will see at Newport have been acquiring one or two nice dresses a year for many years, and now own a different lovely outfit for each tea and ball on the schedule. Others are content with a very few serviceable outfits that fit in with a variety of activities.

Mrs. Astorbilt is sure that everyone remembers their first Newport, when they had fewer clothing choices and much less packing to do! If you want to take the opportunity this week to do a little "window shopping" for the future, you will find that most everyone loves to talk about their clothes, and a simple question will elicit floods of information. On the other hand, polite folk will not offer advice on proper dress unless asked.

Enjoy yourself, work on your dancing, and find some congenial companions. While Mrs. Astorbilt feels that wearing historically styled clothing adds a nice touch to the events of the week, she hopes that no one gets so wrapped up in clothing worries that they forget to have fun.

Mrs. Astorbilt