

The Newport Dancers' Gazette

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

Volume XIII, Number 1
Monday, 14 August 2006

WELCOME TO THE 19TH NEWPORT VINTAGE DANCE WEEK!

The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers, once again, are excited to bring you a delightful week filled with dancing and other period activities. The dance faculty has exciting and diverse classes planned for you. We are delighted to welcome back Hannelore Unfried, who brings the influences of 19th century European ballrooms to us, and Penny Shaw, an expert in Alexander technique and yoga, who will be helping us warm up our bodies each morning. Two faculty members are new to Newport, but we've been wanting to bring them here for a long time. Cathy Stephens from Canada will be running Tuesday's dance party as well as teaching ragtime classes. Ian Whitcomb is sure to delight everyone with his concert, "Treasures of Tin Pan Alley," and a lecture on the career of Irving Berlin. CVD's own Patri and Barbara Pugliese and Idy Codrington round out the talented staff. Bonnie Carpenter's "Massage for Dancers" workshop was so well-received last year that we are pleased to present another. We are also delighted that tea expert, Nolan Noble, has agreed to give a lecture on this favorite pastime. Another first this year, as we explore pastimes and pleasures of bygone days, will be a viewing of 19th century horsedrawn coaches and a driving demonstration in Newport. Of course, we look forward to returning to many of our favorite venues: Astors' Beechwood for Wednesday's late 19th century ball, Thursday we return to Glen Manor for the ragtime dinner and ball, and on Friday the Rotunda Ballroom at Easton's Beach will be the setting for our mid-19th century ball. Whether you are here for the first time or the 19th, we hope you take home some treasured memories of your week here.

Happy Dancing!

Hannah Roberts Artuso
Conference Coordinator and Co-Director of CVD

CAMPUS TOUR Monday, 7:00pm

Learn more about the campus where you are staying! A short campus tour will be given at 7:00pm on Monday. Those interested in a tour should gather outside the dining hall. In the event of heavy rain, the tour will not be offered.

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 and will be led by Penny Shaw. For safety's sake, to help avoid injury, we urge everyone to take the responsibility to be properly warmed up.

PENNY SHAW

Penny Shaw was a soloist with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and taught in the Hawkins School for many years, where she trained dancers and teachers of dance. She has a master's degree in dance education and is trained in neuromuscular reeducation and the *Alexander Technique*. Penny has taught modern dance, social dance, and yoga at Hunter College for over thirty years and is the director of a sports program for people with disabilities at the Hunter campus. She has a private practice in the *Alexander Technique* in New York City.



A DISAPPOINTMENT.

ELIGIBLE BACHELOR: (*Gallantly*). "Of course your Daughter's engaged for every remaining dance, Mrs. Jones? I need scarcely ask such a Question!"
ANXIOUS MAMA (*delighted*). "No indeed Mr. MoneyPenney—"
ELIGIBLE BACHELOR: "Oh—er—I am!"

HARPER'S BAZAR, 10 AUGUST 1872

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.

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.

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.



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.

RIDES

Occasionally help is needed for those without vehicles to 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.

FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATION

School Fitness Center

Portsmouth Abbey has a fitness center that is available to dance week participants for a fee of \$10 for the week. Anyone wanting to use the center during the week, must attend the orientation at the Fitness Center on Tuesday morning at 8:45am. Be aware that hours are limited in the summer to 9am - 5pm.

SATURDAY BOX LUNCH

DUE TO A PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL EVENT, LUNCH WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE DINING HALL ON SATURDAY. The dining hall staff will be preparing box lunches for all dancers for lunch Saturday. We will transport lunches to Newport for those going to the Coach Demonstration at the Elms who would like to picnic afterwards. Anyone not going to the Elms will need to pick their box lunch up after breakfast and may store it in their dorm's refrigerator. Sign up forms will be available at registration to choose a lunch. CHOICES MUST BE RETURNED BY TUESDAY, AUG. 15 or you will be responsible for making your own lunch arrangements.

COAT OF ARMS

We are encouraging everyone to design and decorate their own personal coat of arms shield, to be displayed as part of Saturday's Fancy dress ball decorations. Supplies will be available on the stage at the back of the auditorium during the week.

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 *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.

Wednesday'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.

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 Green Animals Topiary Gardens*.

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.

On Saturday we will have the last tea service of the 2006 Dance Week. This is will be a self-serve tea Winter Garden, starting just before the Saturday lecture series.

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

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.

NEWPORT COSTUME EXHIBITION

Rosecliff Mansion, Newport

There is a costume exhibition in Newport this summer that you may wish to visit on during your free time.

On display at Rosecliff this Summer is the exhibit *Pilgrims to Park Avenue: The Marguerite Almy Allyn Collection* (150 years of Family Fashion). The collection of clothing collected by Marguerite Almy Allyn (1885-1985), and belonging to her family, documents the developments in American fashion as seen through the lives of a colonial family that went from farming, to 1840s New England textile mills, concluding with the late 19th and early 20th century world of finance in New York. The exhibit covers fashions from the 1840s to the early 20th century, and includes items such as a silk taffeta ballgown dating to about 1865. The exhibit is on display at Rosecliff (1902), one of the Preservation Society of Newport County's Mansions. The exhibit, included as part of the Rosecliff mansion tour, will be on display in the Costume Gallery on the second floor through October. Rosecliff is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

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 & Sell on Tuesday. Order forms will be available several times during the week. Corset supplies and gentlemen's gloves will also be available.



SWAP AND SELL
Tuesday, Auditorium

The Vintage Swap and Sell will be held Tuesday afternoon in the Auditorium. Everyone is welcome to bring items to sell or trade. You might find what you have always wanted to complete that vintage outfit, or something you never knew you needed, to add to the pile of stuff in your room. Really, you *need* it. Please see Katy Bishop if you need table space.

... & AFTERNOON TEA

Tea will be served in the Winter Garden during the Swap and Sell. Feel free to wear casual modern or period dress.

TREASURES OF TIN PAN ALLEY
A CONCERT BY IAN WHITCOMB
Tuesday, Auditorium

CVD is delighted to announce a very special event on Tuesday evening. Ian Whitcomb, America's Foremost Tin-Pan Alley Man, Ukulele Virtuoso, and Grammy Award-Winning Recording Artist, will lead us on a trip into the pop song industry of New York between 1892 and 1925, when sheet music sales were the chief money-makers. He will also play songs of the period ranging from ballads such as "Shine on Harvest Moon" through novelties such as "Lemon in the Garden of Love," to the way Tin Pan Alley handled World War One with songs such as "The Terrible War in Snider's Grocery Store."

CATHY'S LOUNGE, DANCE PARTY
A CONCERT BY IAN WHITCOMB
Tuesday, Auditorium

The concert will be followed by "Cathy's Lounge" Dance Party, informal dancing to recorded music led by Cathy Stephens. After sitting for the concert it will be time to move!

KIMONOS

Bonnie Carpenter has brought many lovely Kimonos from Japan to be sold at the Swap & Sell!





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

