

# The Newport Dancers' Gazette

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

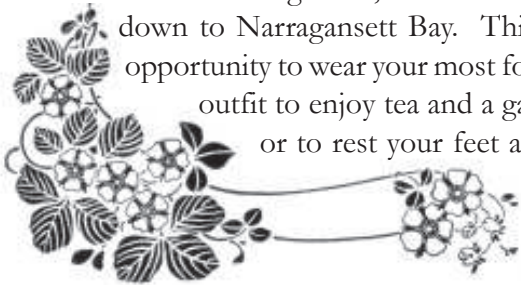
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Friday, 18 August 2006

## MID -19TH CENTURY BALL Friday, *Rotunda Ballroom*, Newport



## FORMAL TEA AT THE SUMMER GARDEN Friday, Manor House Gazebo

The Formal Tea will take place under the grove of trees near the gazebo, on the lawn which sweeps down to Narragansett Bay. This event is your opportunity to wear your most formal afternoon outfit to enjoy tea and a game of croquet, or to rest your feet after a full week of dancing.



Friday's ball will be held at the Historic *Rotunda Ballroom* adjacent to the Carousel on First Beach (Easton's Beach) in Newport. We are happy to be returning to this lovely Ballroom to enjoy the music of *The New River Dance Orchestra*. If weather permits we will enjoy refreshments on the terrace overlooking the moonlit Atlantic Ocean. Once again the Carousel will be open for rides during the intermission.

**DIRECTIONS FROM PORTSMOUTH ABBEY:**  
Turn left onto Cory's Lane, drive to the intersection with route 114, turn right onto 114 and almost immediately, at the first light, turn left onto Hedley St. (there is a sign to Portsmouth Business Park). A little over 1/2 mi. down Hedley St. there is a stop sign, with a second stop sign almost immediately beyond it. Go straight at the first stop sign and turn right at the second onto route 138 south. Go approx. 4 1/2 mi. on Rte. 138; 138 intersects with 138A (Aquidneck Ave.) at the Dunkin Donuts, turn onto 138A. Follow Aquidneck Ave. for about 2 miles, it eventually intersects with Memorial Blvd. Turn left onto Memorial Blvd., which bears right, and passes Newport's First Beach (on left). The carousel and ballroom will be on the left at Easton's (First) Beach. Parking is adjacent to the building.



IT'S NOT "THE GETTING IN."



BUT IT'S "THE GETTING OUT!"



### ASK MRS. ASTORBILT

*Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,*

Last year I decided to skip the Caledonian Quadrille class, and planned on sitting out the dance at the Friday ball. As the sets were forming, however, I found myself near a set that was short a couple, and a nearby gentleman asked me to join the dance with him. I declined on the grounds that I did not know the dance, but the gentleman was very insistent and I finally agreed to give the dance a try. My performance was every bit as bad as I feared it would be. When the dance ended, no one said anything - no one said anything at all. What should I have done?

*Confused Quadriller*

*Dear Confused,*

Mrs. Astorbilt has a good deal of sympathy for everyone in the situation you describe. Etiquette books of the nineteenth century often include advice such as, "Never stand up to dance in a quadrille, unless you are perfectly familiar with the figures, depending upon your partner to lead you through. You will probably cause utter confusion in the set, annoy the others forming it, and make yourself appear absurd." (Florence Hartley. *The Ladies' Book of Etiquette* (1860), p.170.) As a general rule (a universal rule except for the "special" quadrille at the Friday ball), one really should ignore this bit of advice as it is customary at our modern balls to walk through, or even teach from scratch, all of the figure dances. The Friday quadrille is an exception as it is not taught on the spot and is not even called. For most vintage dancers this is a rare opportunity to dance a social quadrille as it would have been done in the mid-nineteenth century, that is, without calling. Most people in the set probably attended classes, practiced the figures and devoted mental energy towards memorizing the dance. It is understandable that having prepared for this dance, they would be very disappointed that their hard work was undermined.

In brief, you should not have joined this particular dance. You should also not blame yourself too harshly as the gentleman who encouraged you to join against your better judgment must share that blame, perhaps deserving the greater part of it. Etiquette books emphasize the idea that a ballroom should be a place of harmony and good feelings, and it is particularly rude for anyone to pressure another into dancing when it would lead to the discomfort of them and others.

*Mrs. Astorbilt*



### COACH DRIVING DEMONSTRATION 10:00-11:00am, The Elms 367 Bellevue Avenue, Newport

16-18 authentic 19th century coaches drawn by teams of four horses are expected to participate in the 2006 Coaching Weekend. The public is invited to enjoy a free exhibition of coaching driving skills and a horn blowing contest. Coaches will be taken on various drives on Bellevue Ave. and other nearby sites during the weekend.

### TOUR OF THE ELMS MANSION 11:15-12:30am, 367 Bellevue Avenue, Newport

Optional tour of *The Elms*. The interiors and furnishings were designed by *Allard and Sons* of Paris and were the setting for the Berwinds' collection of Renaissance ceramics, 18th century French and Venetian paintings, and Oriental jades. The elaborate Classical Revival gardens on the grounds were developed between 1907 and 1914. They include terraces displaying marble and bronze sculpture, a park of fine specimen trees and a lavish lower garden featuring marble pavilions, fountains, a sunken garden and carriage house and garage.

### FREE TIME

Free time is available on Saturday afternoon for outings in Newport and its environs. A perfect time for a stroll on the Cliff-Walk or a tour of a mansion or two.

### AFTERNOON TEA 2:30pm, Winter Garden

Tea will be served in the Winter Garden. Feel free to prepare a cup of tea and enjoy our Saturday Lecture Series.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

THE ART OF TAKING TEA  
with Nolan Noble  
Saturday, 3pm, Auditorium

The first lecture is *The Art of Taking Tea* at 3pm, by long-time Newport attendee Nolan Noble.

THE EARLY RAGTIME CAREER OF  
IRVING BERLIN  
with Ian Whitcomb  
Saturday, 4pm, Auditorium

The second lecture is at 4pm with Ian Whitcomb will discuss *the Early Ragtime Career of Irving Berlin (1909 -1919)*, showing how he almost single-handedly revived ragtime and how he cannily caught the waves of what people were dancing in the dance halls (in songs such as "Everybody's Doing It Now"). Ian will illustrate the talk with recordings.

LOBSTER DINNER  
Saturday, Abbey Dining Room



Review Your *Lobster Quadrille* figures for the New England Lobster Feast which will be served at lunch time this year in the Dining Hall. Alternate fare will be available for non-crustacean eaters.

KING ARTHUR'S COURT  
FANCY DRESS BALL  
Saturday, Upper Gymnasium

Knights, ladies, peasants, wizards, sprites, dragons, architectural elements (come as your favorite castle), and perhaps a Connecticut Yankee or two, will fill the hall at this year's fancy dress ball. From specific legendary characters to everyday inhabitants of Arthur's realm, all are welcome to attend and join in an evening of dancing and merriment.



SUNDAY CHECK-OUT

Check-out time is 11am, Sunday August 20, you must be out of your rooms by this time. Please return keys to Hannah or your house parent. Your key deposit checks will be returned to you upon return of your key(s).

DANCES OF THE STRAUSS ERA  
VIENNA DANCE WEEK, 2007!  
February 2007, Vienna, Austria

Vienna Dance Week will return for its fifth year. The event will take place February 4-10 and will include a Fancy-Dress ball, Dance Tea and Strauss Ball. Recreate the dance culture of the Austrian imperial and royal monarchy in all its charm and splendor in historic Viennese ballrooms. For further information please contact Hannelore at unfried@hofdantzer.at or visit the Hof Dantzer website at www.hofdantzer.at

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED  
FOR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are always searching for interesting photographs of the various events at Newport and other CVD events for inclusion in publicity materials and for placement on our webpage. This year we are have a new mission, this year we are looking for photographs of the past. The Dance Week's 20th anniversary will be celebrated next year. We are beginning to organize a retrospective web-page, so any photos and remembrances of Newports past are needed. If you have any photos or memories to share that you think would be appropriate, please send them to the address on page 4, attn.: CVD Photos, or give them to Katy Bishop (let us know if you wish to have them returned).

For further information on the Dance Week or vintage dance please contact:  
The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers at:  
(781) 662-8344 or e-mail Query@VintageDancers.org  
visit them on the web at: www.VintageDancers.org

To submit information to the Gazette, make suggestions, or to put your name on the Gazette mailing list please contact Katy Bishop at Query@VintageDancers.org or write:  
Newport Gazette, c/o Katy Bishop  
P. O. Box 9  
Nahant, MA 01908  
www.VintageDancers.org

REVIVING THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY AT THE BELGIAN INDEPENDENCE FETES: THE TOURNAMENT.

Drawn by Georges Scott, our Special Artist at Brussels.



THE BRUSSELS TOURNAMENT: BREAKING A LANCE BEFORE THE BOX OF THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY.

*At the recent fetes commemorating the declaration of the independence of Belgium, one of the most picturesque of the spectacles was the revival of a tourney in Flanders in the fifteenth century. King Leopold was present and presided over a magnificent assemblage. Among the spectacles were the pas d'armes, the running at the quintain, and the tourney proper, where knights in armour and trappings faithfully copied from those of the century they represented ran at each other and splintered lances with a gallantry worthy of the best days of chivalry. The costumes of the knights representing Philip the Good, the Count of Charolass, and the Duke of Cleves were especially admired.*