

# The Newport Dancers' Gazette

Newport Vintage Dance Week

Editor: Katy Bishop, The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

Volume XIV, Number 2

Monday, 6 August 2007

## WELCOME TO THE 20<sup>TH</sup> NEWPORT VINTAGE DANCE WEEK!

It sounds clichéd, but I can't believe this is the 20<sup>th</sup> welcome to Newport we are sending. What is most amazing is that CVD is as excited about this year's conference as we were about the first—maybe even more, as the first year trepidation is long past, and we know the wonderful events planned and look forward to seeing the delightful folks who will be attending. We are thrilled that Richard Powers, one of our original teaching staff, will be back this year. It is also a pleasure to welcome Joan Walton and Marc Casslar, who have been frequent Newport instructors. We are also pleased to welcome Susan de Guardiola. CVD's own Barbara Pugliese, Antonia Pugliese and Idy Codington round out the week's staff. Our period events this year will include a silent movie night and we will once again feature a "Bathing Beauty Tea." The balls will be at many of our favorite venues: Wednesday we are at Astors' *Beechwood* for the late 19<sup>th</sup> century ball and Thursday we return to Glen Manor for the ragtime dinner and ball. It is a special pleasure to return on Friday to the site of our first mid 19<sup>th</sup> century ball: *Ochre Court*.

As you prepare for your trip, here are some further details about the week's activities and hints on preparing for them.

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

## 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 Prince Imperial Quadrille* 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 quadrille will be printed (almost legibly!) on that evening's dance card, but learning them ahead of time will make things *much* easier.



A. Kline, New York, 1911

## STARRY NIGHT

We are encouraging everyone to construct their own star to help decorate the gymnasium for Saturday's Fancy dress ball. Supplies will be available during the week on the auditorium stage.

## 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.

## LAUNDRY FACILITIES

There are coin operated washers (\$1.75) and dryers (\$.75) in each dorm. Some machines use tokens, these are for faculty members use only.

## PORTSMOUTH ABBEY DAILY MASS

The Daily Mass schedule in the campus chapel is as follows: Mon-Sat 7:45am, Sun 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am.

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](mailto:Query@VintageDancers.org)  
visit us on the web at: [www.VintageDancers.org](http://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.

## 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 afternoon at 1:00pm. Be aware that hours are limited for conference attendees to 6am - 8:50am.

## 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.



## 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.

### DAILY TEA SCHEDULE

Thursday'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 Friday the *Bathing Beauty Tea* returns, dancers should feel free to wear modern clothing, or perhaps a nautically inspired period outfit, or don period swim-wear if they wish and partake in a bathe (or just look like they will have a bathe) at the Abbey's beach.

You may wish to save your most elegant or elaborate period outfit for the *Formal Tea* on Saturday. 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.



### SWAP AND SELL Wednesday, Auditorium

The Vintage Swap and Sell will be held Wednesday 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 Barbara Pugliese if you need table space.

## 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 opposite). Some suggested outings: the *Green Animals Topiary Gardens*, Beach outing, Newport Mansions, local costume exhibitions, or a perambulation on the Cliff Walk. If you haven't been on the Cliff Walk lately, it has been restored in recent years and more of its length is accessible, for detailed info see <http://www.cliffwalk.com/> for maps, history and descriptions.

### NEWPORT COSTUME EXHIBITIONS Rosecliff and Rough Point Mansions, Newport

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

At Rosecliff Mansion is *In Vogue: Newport and the American Fashion Press 1880-1920* showcases 22 Gilded Age costumes, including women's, men's and children's wear. Highlights include a c.1885 afternoon dress, and a c.1910 evening dress by Maison Worth. Also on display are turn of the 20th century swimwear, and costumes that may have been worn for golf, bicycling and an assortment of outdoor activities. The exhibition showcases not only clothing, but a full range of accessories, illustrations and photographs of the period. The exhibit, included as part of the mansion tour, is on display in the Costume Gallery on the second floor. Rosecliff (548 Bellevue Ave.) is one of the Preservation Society of Newport County's Mansions, and is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Further down Bellevue there is an exhibition called: *The Look! Doris Duke's Day & Evening Wear*. Known for her style and glamour, willowy heiress Doris Duke was a designer's dream. Admire couture from fashion houses she frequented such as Yves St. Laurent, Chanel and Christian Dior. Learn how day and evening styles evolved from the 1930s to the 1980s through this remarkable personal clothing collection. *The Look* is on display in the galleries at Rough Point, Doris Duke's oceanfront home, 680 Bellevue Avenue, Newport and is open Tuesday - Saturday 9:45am - 3:45pm.

GROUP TOUR

Tuesday, *Chateau-Sur-Mer*  
474 Bellevue Avenue, Newport

This year's optional Mansion Tour will be to *Chateau-Sur-Mer*, one of the properties maintained by the Newport Preservation Trust. We are pleased to offer a reduced group rate of \$9 per person. The Tour group will depart from the Winter Garden promptly at 2:00pm.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHATEAU-SUR-MER

Chateau-sur-Mer is a landmark of High Victorian architecture, furniture, wallpapers, ceramics and stenciling. It was the most palatial residence in Newport from its completion in 1852 until the appearance of the Vanderbilt houses in the 1890s. It was the scene of memorable entertainments, from the Fete *Champetre*, an elaborate country picnic for over two thousand guests held in 1857, to the debutante ball for Miss Edith Wetmore in 1889. Chateau-sur-Mer's grand scale and lavish parties ushered in the Gilded Age of Newport. Chateau-sur-Mer was built as an Italianate-style villa for China trade merchant William Shepard Wetmore. Mr. Wetmore died in 1862, leaving the bulk of his fortune to his son, George Peabody Wetmore, and a generous allowance for his daughter, Annie Derby Wetmore. George married Edith Keteltas in 1869. During the 1870s, the young couple departed on an extended trip to Europe, leaving architect Richard Morris Hunt to remodel and redecorate the house in the Second Empire French style. As a result, Chateau-sur-Mer displays most of the major design trends of the last half of the 19th century. The house was purchased by the Preservation Society in 1969. In 2006 it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

-Text courtesy of the Newport Preservation TrustWebsite

KIMONOS

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



MOVING PICTURE

EVENING

Tuesday, Auditorium

CVD is delighted to announce a very special event on Tuesday evening: a viewing of the film *Skinner's Dress Suit* (1926).

SYNOPSIS OF THE FILM

Honey Skinner is proud of her successful husband. When he tells her he's going to ask for a raise, she knows he'll get it and is already making plans for how to spend that extra \$10 a week! Her plans include the purchase of a new evening dress for herself and a dress suit for her husband. He asks his boss for the raise just as their big client announces he's not renewing his contract. He doesn't get the raise, but he's too embarrassed to tell his wife the truth. The bills pile up, the job situation is getting worse, how will Skinner extricate himself from this mess? Find out Tuesday evening.

**THE** man with five daughters has a keen realization of the cost of living. He doesn't always say so, but in his heart he wants good value with every family purchase.

Whether you are an only daughter or one of five, you can help father out by using Skinner's Silks.

Skinner's gives so much more than is ordinarily considered good silk service that every yard you buy means economy.

Skinner wearing quality is a live, pertinent fact, not merely a 72-year-old tradition.

**"Look for the Name in the Selvage"**  
None genuine without it

**WILLIAM SKINNER & SONS**  
Established 1848  
New York Boston Philadelphia Chicago  
Milwaukee, Mass.

Skinner's  
WILLIAM SKINNER & SONS  
ESTABLISHED 1848