

# The Newport Dancers' Gazette

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

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Friday, 10 August 2007

## MASSAGE WORKSHOP MASSAGE TECHNIQUES FROM THE ORIENT

With Bonnie Carpenter  
Friday, Gymnasium

Come relax those tired feet and legs from all that energetic dancing! Bonnie Carpenter will conduct a therapeutic workshop specifically designed to teach massage techniques to address dancers' needs. She has been studying massage for 10 years in Asia (Japan, Thailand and South Korea) and brings to Dance Week techniques recently learned in Bali, Indonesia. Please bring a small towel or handkerchief to class.

## BATHING BEAUTY TEA

Friday, Manor House Gazebo  
& Campus Beach

Come sit and chat with other Dance Week participants, play a game of croquet, or visit the lovely stony beach adjacent to the lower field where tea is served. Casual dress, modern or vintage, or bathing costume of any period, is welcomed. No need to get wet if you don't want to, *really*.



WHAT THE LADIES THINK.

"WHY LILLIE, WHAT BEAUTIFUL CURLS! ARE THEY YOURS?"  
"CERTAINLY, MY DEAR, THEY ARE. I BOUGHT THEM ONLY LAST WEEK."

LESLIE'S LADY'S MAGAZINE, JUNE 1866



WINSLOW HOMER THE BATHE AT NEWPORT

## MID -19TH CENTURY BALL

Friday, Ochre Court, Newport

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 Street (there is a sign to Portsmouth Business Park). A little over 1/2 mi. down Hedley Street 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 approximately 4 1/2 miles on Route 138; 138 intersects with 138A (Aquidneck Avenue) at a Dunkin Donuts, turn left onto 138A. Follow Aquidneck Avenue for about 2 miles, it eventually intersects with Memorial Blvd. Turn left onto Memorial Blvd., which bears right and past Newport's First Beach (on left). Follow Memorial Blvd. up the hill to the first major intersection with traffic lights (which is Bellevue Avenue). After turning left onto Bellevue Avenue, go approximately 1/2 miles; turn left onto Narragansett Avenue at the first light. Travel down Narragansett Avenue and turn right onto Ochre Point Avenue. Ochre Court will be to your left as you enter campus.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF OCHRE COURT

In the 1890s New York real estate developer Ogden Goelet built the beautiful Ochre Court mansion as a summer cottage where he lived only eight weeks a year. The structure, among the first of the grandiose Newport mansions, cost \$4.5 million to construct.

The Goelets were an established American dynasty that had grown from humble 18th century trade into vast 19th century investments. Ogden Goulet was not only a noted banker and real estate investor, but also one of the world's most renowned competitive yachtsmen. His wife, Mary Wilson Goelet, was one of the most important hostesses of her generation in a time when the operation of Ochre Court during a typical eight-week summer season required 27 house servants, eight coachmen and grooms and 12 gardeners.

Richard Morris Hunt, the famous American architect, designed Ochre Court. Hunt also designed The Breakers, Marble House and Belcourt Castle. He modeled Ochre Court after the great Middle Ages chateaux of France's Loire Valley. The design of Ochre Court is Louis XIII style architecture with high roofs, turrets, tall chimneys and elaborate dormers reminiscent of the late French Gothic period. Hunt emphasized the Goulets' social position and their patronage of learning and the arts with exuberant decoration both in the house and on the grounds in classical ceiling paintings, royal heraldic devices, carved emblems and statues, and a rainbow of antique stained glass.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THIS EVENING POSSIBLE BY BECOMING PATRONS OF THE OCHRE COURT BALL:

**MAZURKA LEVEL**                      **\$500 - \$1,000**  
Peter Fraser                      Bill Hughes

**GALOP LEVEL**                      **\$250 - \$499**  
Michel and Marie-Jo Coclet                      Terry Crumb  
Victoria Wagner

**SCHOTTISCHE LEVEL**                      **\$150 - \$249**  
Anonymous Mary Lou Bloise  
Joshua & Magenta Brooks

**WALTZ LEVEL**                      **\$100 - \$149**  
Jane Allocca                      Joe Delaney  
Diane & Layman Jones                      Roger Kramer  
Kit Northup                      Constantia Rioux  
Leon and Diana Tsai                      Lowell & Sally Weitkamp  
Ernestine Zeli-Bove'

**TANGO LEVEL**                      **\$50 - \$99**  
Anonymous                      Ingrid Gram                      Tim Lamm  
Don & Sylvia Heerens  
Bob Chapman & Mary Lovelock  
Jennifer Ochman

**QUADRILLE LEVEL**                      **\$25 - \$49**  
Diana Leonard                      Helen Silver  
Irene & Hans Warmenhoven



### ASK MRS. ASTORBILT

*Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,*

Last year I decided to skip the Prince Imperial 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*



### SATURDAY MORNING DANCE CLASS

Saturday Morning, Gymnasium

Remember that the final third period Specialty Class will be held Saturday morning in the gymnasium.

### SATURDAY MORNING LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, 10:30am, Auditorium

This year we will be offering two lectures by members of our teaching staff. The first will be **Dancing the Historical Ballrooms of Europe in the 21st Century** presented by Marc Casslar. It will be followed by a discussion of **Tips for Teaching Dance** presented by Richard Powers & Joan Walton.

**FOR AUTOMOBILE LUNCHES**  
 Motor Boat or Camping Trips,  
 Week-end House Parties,  
 Teas and Dances, provide  
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 "Summer Suggestions"  
 fully describing the plan,  
 the liberal delivery limits,  
 the cakes, etc., will be  
 sent free on request.

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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.

### FORMAL TEA AT THE SUMMER GARDEN

Saturday, 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.

### LOBSTER DINNER

Saturday, Abbey Dining Room

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



### CELESTIAL REALMS FANCY DRESS BALL

Saturday, Upper Gymnasium

To celebrate 20 years of Newport Dance Weeks, The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers invites you to join us, as many did twenty years ago, at the Celestial Worlds Ball. Have you ever wanted to be a planet, a moon, a comet, an asteroid? Perhaps you just want to visit new worlds. Or are you happier observing from afar? Come and dance among the stars to the music of the spheres at the Celestial Worlds Ball.

### SUNDAY CHECK-OUT

Check-out time is 11am, Sunday August 12, 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, 2008!

February 2008, Vienna, Austria

Vienna Dance Week will return for its sixth 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](http://www.hofdantzer.at)



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](mailto:Query@VintageDancers.org)  
visit them on the web at: [www.VintageDancers.org](http://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](mailto:Query@VintageDancers.org) or write:  
Newport Gazette, c/o Katy Bishop  
P. O. Box 9  
Nahant, MA 01908  
[www.VintageDancers.org](http://www.VintageDancers.org)