

The Newport Dancers' Gazette

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

Volume XV Number 1
Monday, 11 August 2008

WELCOME TO THE 21ST Newport Vintage Dance Week!

I was asked by a few folks at last year's conference if CVD was going to give up putting on dance weeks having reached the 20th anniversary milestone. As you can tell from the (once again packed) program, the answer was a resounding "No"!!!!!! We are back with another exciting week of dancing and sight-seeing. We are delighted to welcome Yvonne Vart of France to her first Newport Dance Week, and are equally delighted to welcome back Marc Casslar and Joan Walton as well as our own Barbara and Antonia Pugliese. Another *first* brings Tony Parkes of Boston to lead the Monday night dance accompanied by the music of *Spare Parts*. Tuesday, we have the outing day offering a mansion tour or Cliff Walk. Everyone will meet up afterward at *Wakehurst* on the Salve Regina campus for tea and a stroll in the garden. Mid-week, we return to the beloved ballrooms of *Beechwood*, *Glen Manor* and Easton's Beach *Rotunda*. Since this will be our last year on the Portsmouth Abbey campus, we couldn't leave without one more train ride from the Portsmouth Abbey Station. We were pleased to learn the luncheon train could be offered in combination with a harbor cruise on board the *Harbor Queen*, the boat we so enjoyed a few years ago, and are greatly looking forward to our Saturday *Rail and Sail Excursion*.

Below are some further details about the week and the events to help you prepare.

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.

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.

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 and 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 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 MODERN WAIST.

Jones (to himself, as he offers Miss Vane a cup of tea and some strawberries). "BY JOVE! SHE TAKES 'EM-SHE'S GOING TO SWALLOW 'EM! BUT WHERE SHE'LL PUT 'EM-GOODNESS KNOWS!"

Punch, 10 August 1889

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 Auditorium, Portsmouth Abbey School

The Sunday Mass will be in the auditorium this year, schedule is as follows: 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am. Daily mass will be at 7:45am. For the location please see Hannah.

FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATION Fitness Center, Portsmouth Abbey School

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 8:30am. The hours of operation will be announced at that time.

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 each event 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

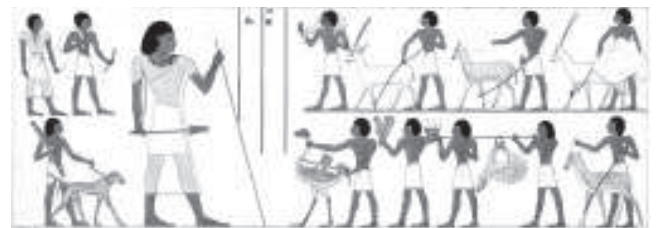
Occasionally help is needed for those without vehicles to get to our off-site events. If you need a ride, or can offer one, for either an outing or to one of the off-campus events, please inform the ride coordinator, (name will be announced Monday evening) or see Victoria Wagner and she will direct you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



Cartouche



We are encouraging everyone to create their own cartouche to help decorate the gymnasium for Saturday’s Fancy Dress Ball. It can be your name or a favorite saying, decorated as you please. Supplies will be available during the week (location to be announced).



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 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

Tuesday's *English Garden Tea*, a special event this year, will take place at *Wakehurst* on Salve Regina's campus after the group tour. Dress will be whatever you wore your afternoon tour or outing.

On Wednesday informal *Tea and Cookies* will be available in the Winter Garden during the Swap and Sell. Have a cup of tea when you need a break from bargain hunting.

On Thursday we will be hosting a *Sports and Pastimes Tea*, dancers should feel free to wear modern clothing, or perhaps a period style sporting ensemble, 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. Enjoy a game of croquet or badminton while sipping tea on the lawn.

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.

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, or an antique hunt.

COSTUME WORKSHOP FINISHING TOUCHES

MONDAY AFTERNOON, NEAR REGISTRATION, WINTER GARDEN



At 2:30pm, there will be a Costume Workshop entitled *Finishing Touches: Period Costume Accessories*. Katy Bishop will offer advice on accessorizing gowns in period styles. There will be period and reproduction samples to look at, as well as period illustrations and photographs. This might be your chance to complete an ensemble for later in the week. You may bring your costumes for the week that still need finishing. This informal workshop will be part show and tell and part sewing circle.



NEWPORT COTILLION

This year Monday concludes with the Newport Cotillion. Usually known as the Welcome Dance, it is an informal dance to kick off the week. We are excited that this year the event will be an informal New England Cotillion enhanced with live music by *Spare Parts* and guest caller Tony Parkes. This is a time to greet old friends, meet new people and be introduced to this year's instructors and staff, and perhaps get a head start on this year's quadrille!

TUESDAY AFTERNOON CLASSES

Afternoon classes will not take place on Tuesday to allow more time for the Group Outing. The classes will take place Saturday morning instead.

GROUP TOUR, PERAMBULATION
& ENGLISH GARDEN TEA
TUESDAY AFTERNOON

TOUR OF *THE BREAKERS*
44 OCHRE POINT AVENUE, NEWPORT

This year's optional Group Tour will be to one of the most famous Gilded age mansions, *The Breakers*, home of the Vanderbilts. We are pleased to offer a reduced group rate of \$10 per person. Directions and a brief introduction to the mansion follows.



DIRECTIONS FROM PORTSMOUTH ABBEY:

Turn left onto Cory's Ln., 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 ½ mi. down Hedley St. there is a stop sign, with a second stop sign almost immediately beyond it at a T intersection. Go straight at the first stop sign and turn right at the second onto route 138 south. Go approx. 4 ½ mi. on Rte. 138. At the Dunkin Donuts 138 intersects with 138A, Aquidneck Ave., turn left onto 138A. Follow Aquidneck Ave. for about 5 miles, until it 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, which is Bellevue Ave. After turning left onto Bellevue Ave., go ½ mi. on Bellevue Ave., turn left onto Narragansett Ave., in ½ mi. take a right onto Ochre Point Ave. *The Breakers* will be on the left in about ½ mi., parking lot is on the right. at the corner of Victoria Ave. and Ochre Point Ave.

HISTORY OF THE BREAKERS

The Breakers is the grandest of Newport's summer "cottages" and a symbol of the Vanderbilt family's social and financial preeminence in turn of the century

America. Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877) established the family fortune in steamships and later in the New York Central Railroad, which was a pivotal development in the industrial growth of the nation during the late 19th century. The Commodore's grandson, Cornelius Vanderbilt II, became Chairman and President of the New York Central Railroad system in 1885, and purchased a wooden house called *The Breakers* in Newport during that same year. In 1893, he commissioned architect Richard Morris Hunt to design a villa to replace the earlier wood-framed house which was destroyed by fire. Hunt directed an international team of craftsmen and artisans to create a 70 room Italian Renaissance style palazzo inspired by the 16th century palaces of Genoa and Turin. Allard and Sons of Paris assisted Hunt with furnishings and fixtures, Austro-American sculptor Karl Bitter designed relief sculpture, and Boston architect Ogden Codman decorated the family quarters. The Vanderbilts had seven children. Their youngest daughter, Gladys, who married Count Laszlo Szechenyi of Hungary, inherited the house on her mother's death in 1934. An ardent supporter of The Preservation Society of Newport County, she opened *The Breakers* in 1948 to raise funds for the Society. In 1972, the Preservation Society purchased the house from her heirs. Today, the house is designated a National Historic Landmark.

-Text courtesy www.Newportmansions.org



THE CLIFF WALK
NARRAGANSETT AVENUE, NEWPORT

As an alternative to the mansion tour we will also be leading a perambulation along Newport's famed *Cliff Walk* for those wanting to take in some sea air and breathtaking scenery. In 1975 it was designated as a National Recreation Trail; it runs for about 3.5 miles along the rocky Newport coast past mansions and beautifully manicured lawns and gardens. It is a public access walking path over private property. Please watch

out for poison ivy along the route while you marvel at the stunning scenery and perilous cliffs leading down to the sea! Parasols, sturdy shoes and walking sticks are recommended for this outing. 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 www.cliffwalk.com for maps, history and descriptions.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLIFF WALK

To meet for the *Cliff Walk*: (See *The Breakers* directions to get to Bellevue Ave.) from Bellvue Ave. go approx. ½ mile and turn left onto Narrgansett Ave, there is on-street parking at the end of Narrgansett Ave near the shore.

ENGLISH GARDEN TEA WAKEHURST MANSION

THE CORNER OF LEROY AND LAWRENCE AVENUES
SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY, NEWPORT

After The tour and *Cliff Walk*, we will retire to *Wakehurst* Mansion, on the grounds of Salve Regina University, for and *English Garden Tea*. During the first decade of the Newport Vintage Dance Week, afternoon tea was served at *Wakehurst*. The gardens are splendid, perfect for a leisurely afternoon stroll. *Wakehurst* is located a short walk from *The Breakers* down Ochre Point Ave. and our *Cliff Walk* starting point.



HISTORY OF WAKEHURST

Wakehurst was the home of international sportsman, political figure and anglophile James J. Van Alen. The mansion, built between 1884 and 1887 was designed to replicate *Wakehurst Place*, an Elizabethan manor house built in Sussex, England in 1570, that still stands today. Charles Eamer Kempe, an English architect drew the original plans for the mansion. Newport architect Dudley Newton supervised the construction, including the assembly of certain rooms that were created and built in England. The building of these rooms, the English Jacobean Long Hall, Dutch

Renaissance den, and Bruges dining room, introduced the concept of the “museum room.” The dining room was also the first actual neoclassical room by Robert Adam to be imported to America. Typical of Prodigy Houses designed for the countryside, *Wakehurst* is characteristic of rural England during the late 16th century. The mansion's roof alone provides a prime example of the distinguished place it holds in America's architectural history. The rooflines and pitch, copper and lead detailing, and exceptionally large slate tiles are all representative of the 16th century technology utilized in the construction of *Wakehurst Place*. Even though *Wakehurst* is a Gilded Age home, it replicates a much earlier source that in its own day was unique. In doing so, its significance as an example of exceptional achievement in architecture and craftsmanship is heightened. It was intended that *Wakehurst* be a dramatic landmark with clusters of diamond-paned bay windows acting as beacons in the night. Because of Van Alen's romantic traditionalism, it was lit entirely by gaslight and candle for many years. The university purchased the property in 1972.

The grounds of *Wakehurst*, created by landscape designer Ernest Bowditch, recall the green serenity of an English country estate where a serpentine drive and footpaths wind under magnificent specimen trees and end at formal gardens. Massive trunks, three-lobed pointed leaves and cherry-sized seed clusters, distinguish London Plane Trees (*Plantus acerifolia*) on the southeast lawn. On the southwest lawn, huge Weeping Beeches (*Fagus sylvatica pendula*) gracefully droop. Stately Atlas Cedars also adorn the landscape. Although English Renaissance in design, the gardens were created by Portuguese master gardener Frank P. Mendes. His son-in-law, Frank Rosa, Salve's former chief gardener, used his father-in-law's photographs to reconstruct the original plans. A beautiful stone wall surrounding the grounds unites the manor house with the other buildings.

-Text courtesy Salve Regina University



LOBSTER DINNER
Tuesday, Abbey Dining Room



Review Your *Lobster Quadrille* figures for the New England Lobster Feast which will be served in the Dining Hall. Alternate fare (and tables!) will be available for non-crustacean eaters. Please remember to bring your meal tickets!

THE WHIRL OF LIFE
Tuesday Evening, Auditorium

This evening we will be screening the movie *The Whirl of Life*. Filmed in 1915, it is an autobiographical version of the life of Vernon and Irene Castle. The film will be presented by Marc Casslar who will be teaching dances from the film in his afternoon specialty class.



...& INFORMAL DANCING
Tuesday Evening, Auditorium

The Film will be followed by informal dancing to recorded music led by Mr. Casslar. Dancing can start as soon as the chairs from the movie are moved aside.

ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE
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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

