

Specialty Productions and Vintage Dance Northeast present

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# A Fancy Dress Ball

*Victorian dancing in creative costume  
of the style of the 1880s*

*Saturday, April 2, 2011*

*8:00 to 11:30 p.m.*



*Pratt Hall ~ 311 Temple St. ~ New Haven, Connecticut*

*with the delightful music of*

*Spare Parts*

*and dance precepting by*

*Susan de Guardiola*

*Please join us at beautiful Pratt Hall in New Haven, Connecticut, for  
a Fancy Dress Ball in the style of the 1880s!*

*Enjoy the lively dancing of the era -- waltzes, polkas, quadrilles and  
more!*

*Display your costume in the Grand March!*

*Feast on delicious Victorian treats!*

*(See reverse side for registration, costume, and workshop information)*



### **Dances & Afternoon Workshop**

The dances will include the standard couple and set dances of the 1880s: waltz, polka, schottische, galop, quadrilles, and country dances, as well as a Grand March with presentation of costumes and a set of dance games. All set dances are accessible for beginners and will be taught at the ball. A workshop focusing on the couple dances of the 1880s will be held at Pratt Hall from 3:00-5:00pm on the afternoon of the ball for those who would like to improve their couple dance skills. The workshop is included free with ball registration. Changing space is available at the hall between the workshop and ball.

### **Make a weekend of it with an evening of waltz on Friday night!**

Come up a day early and enjoy a second evening of dancing at New Haven's own Elm City Waltz, with live music by Spare Parts and an energetic crowd of young dancers from Yale! 8:30-11:30pm with beginner cross-step waltz lesson 7:45-8:30. Co-sponsored by Mostly Waltz at Yale. \$14/person, \$9 for students. Christ Church Undercroft, 84 Broadway (entrance on Elm Street). See <http://www.LSE.org/waltz> for details and below for our special hotel block for Friday and Saturday nights!

### **Fancy Dress**

This is a formal evening event in the style of a fancy dress (costume) ball of the 1880s. Fancy dress in this sense is similar to a masquerade ball, though masks were not required or particularly encouraged -- see the front of this flyer for illustrations of fancy dress ideas. ***Fancy dress or Victorian costume is not required***, but we encourage everyone to take advantage of the theme! Costumes can range from those of earlier eras ("A Lady of the Napoleonic Era," "A Nobleman of the 14th Century") to the abstract ("Queen of Mirth," "Winter"), the literary ("Romeo and Juliet") and the ethnic ("Swiss Peasant Girl," "Persian Princess"). While "steampunk" is not a period term, ladies and gentlemen of that persuasion might attend as "Airship Pilot of the Next Century" or similar. The more imaginative might dress as a flower, a butterfly, a Japanese lantern, a deck of cards, or the postal service. Any of these might be worn by ladies -- hilariously -- over the corset-and-bustle silhouette of the era. Gentlemen of the era were fond of historical and literary costume, especially those that included tights, though the more conservative might simply wear a regular evening wear with a simple boutonniere to symbolize a flower costume. Please keep in mind that costumes should be suitable for couple dancing -- generally fit to the body, with no long trains or parts that shed or stick out. A display area will be available for props to be left during dancing.

For more information about Victorian fancy dress and for costume ideas and illustrations, please see

**Historical Fancy Dress** <http://www.historicalfancydress.com>

or email Susan de Guardiola ([susan@LSE.org](mailto:susan@LSE.org)) for assistance.

Simple evening dress of the era (white tie for gentlemen, bustled evening gowns for ladies), modern or historical military uniform, Victorian daywear, or modern formal wear (best available -- business suit or cocktail attire minimum) are also completely acceptable. We encourage people to be creative in their costuming, but ***Victorian costume is not required***. Please bring indoor-only or freshly-cleaned shoes to avoid damaging the beautiful dance floor surface in Pratt Hall. Gentlemen: hobnailed shoes, boots, and spurs are *not permitted* in the ballroom. Ladies, spike-heeled shoes are *not permitted* in the ballroom.

### **Advance registration**

Advance registration (afternoon workshop included) is \$25 per person in advance, or \$18 for ages 13-21. Children under 13 may attend but are expected to display mature manners and be supervised throughout by a parent. **Note that due to the size of the hall this ball is strictly limited to 80 people; advance registration is recommended. At the door on a space-available basis only with \$10 surcharge.**

Checks should be made payable to **Susan de Guardiola** and mailed to: **Susan de Guardiola, P.O. Box 8997, New Haven, CT 06532**. In the event of a cancellation, registration is refundable through March 25th only. Please provide an email address as well as a postal address to receive further information regarding the dinner. Online registration may be sent via Paypal to [susan@LSE.org](mailto:susan@LSE.org). A \$3 handling fee per person must be included. Please include the names of all registrants, mailing address, and email address.

### **Hotel Block**

A small block of rooms has been arranged at the New Haven Hotel, located across the New Haven Green three blocks from the ball site, with a special room rate for Friday and Saturday nights of \$129.00/night for two people, with up to two more people at an additional \$10/person/night. Call the New Haven Hotel at (203) 498-3100 **by March 16th** and use the code "Vintage Dance Northeast" to get the special rate. After March 16th, rooms may or may not be available and will be at the normal (higher!) rate.

**ADVANCE BALL REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 25th**

**For more information:** website: <http://www.blank.org/susan/fancydress> email: [susan@LSE.org](mailto:susan@LSE.org)