

Vintage Dance Northeast presents

A Fancy Dress Ball

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

Saturday, March 24, 2012

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, schottisches,
quadrilles and more!*

Display your costume in the Grand March!

Feast on delicious Victorian treats!

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



Hotel Block

A small block of rooms has been arranged at the lovely New Haven Hotel, located across the New Haven Green three blocks from the ball site, with a special discounted room rate for Friday and Saturday nights of **\$109.00/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 7th** and use the code "Vintage Dance Northeast" to get the special rate. After March 7th, rooms may not be available at the special rate but may be reserved at the normal (higher!) rate if available. Parking at the hotel costs \$18/day. Street parking is free in New Haven after 7:00 pm on Saturday evening.

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 the Center for the Arts Undercroft at Christ Church, 84 Broadway, New Haven from 2:00-5:00 pm 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. The Undercroft is five blocks from Pratt Hall or about eight blocks from the New Haven Hotel, in the historic church at the fork of Elm and Broadway. The entrance is on the Elm Street side through an iron gate. Driving and walking directions are available on the ball website.

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. Changing space is available at the hall starting at 7:00 pm.

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

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

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 \$30 per person in advance, or \$20 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. *Special early-bird reservation rate: only \$25 per person if you register by January 31, 2012!*

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 15th 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. **A \$3 handling fee per person must be included**. Please include in the Paypal notes the names of all registrants, mailing address(es), and email address(es).

ADVANCE BALL REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15th

For more information: **website:** <http://www.blank.org/susan/fancydress> **email:** susan@LSE.org