

The Preservation Society of Newport County



**NEWPORT
MANSIONS**

NEWS

2009 Calendar of Events at the Newport Mansions

(Newport, RI) The Preservation Society of Newport County will sponsor a full calendar of educational and fundraising events in 2009. A preliminary list of major events is included here. For more information, and calendar updates, please visit www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000. Schedule is subject to change.

A Gilded Age Garden Tour For Spring

March 26, 2009, 11 a.m.

The Breakers

44 Ochre Point Avenue

Newport, RI

The Breakers is endowed with a spectacular setting on a 30 foot cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The site was a challenge to both the gardener and landscape specialist, who defied nature to create a grand Gilded Age estate. A survivor of hurricanes and snowstorms, the grounds of The Breakers are a remarkable feat of horticulture and design. Walk through the grounds of The Breakers with a gardener, an arborist, and a historian who share their insights into the rare trees, gardens, terraced lawns, and preservation challenges of a great American landscape. Admission: Preservation Society members \$10, general admission \$15. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch

April 11, 2009, 10 a.m.

Rosecliff

548 Bellevue Avenue

Newport, RI

Bring the children to meet the Easter Bunny and gather eggs on the oceanside lawn of this Gilded Age mansion, then sit down for a scrumptious Easter brunch in the ballroom and terrace. Rhode Island author Joan Creamer will make a personal appearance, signing copies of her children's book, *The Magic Sceptre: Reginald the Rabbit*. Advance reservations required. Reserve online at www.NewportMansions.org or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 140.

Admission:

	Preservation Society Members	Non-Members
Adults:	\$35	\$40
Child 6-12 years:	\$20	\$25
Child 3-5 years:	\$15	\$20
Child 2 years and under:	\$7.50	\$ 7.50

The Newport Symposium

Great Escapes: Villas, Country Places and Pleasure Pavilions

April 27 to April 29, 2009

The desire to escape from daily cares has created a rich legacy of splendid buildings and interiors. The 17th annual Newport Symposium will examine the exceptionally rich social, architectural, and decorative heritage of buildings designed to both dazzle and relax those who sought an escape from reality over the centuries. The Symposium will be headquartered in the Hotel Viking at One Bellevue Avenue in Newport. Morning lectures and lunches will take place at the Hotel Viking. Afternoon lectures, tours, receptions and dinners will be held in various historic buildings in Newport. Presented in conjunction with Christie's; U.S. Trust Company, Bank of America Private Wealth Management; and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Advance registration and fee required. Call (401) 847-1000 ext 154 for information, or visit www.NewportMansions.org.

Green Animals Plant Sale

May 9, 2009, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Green Animals Topiary Garden

380 Cory's Lane

Portsmouth, RI

Jump into spring at our annual plant sale. Find Mother's Day gifts, topiary, bedding plants, hanging baskets, perennials and vintage garden items.

Lecture: The First Tycoon-The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt

Author and Historian T.J. Stiles

May 19, 2009, 7 p.m.

The Breakers

44 Ochre Point Avenue

Newport, RI

In *The First Tycoon*, author and historian T.J. Stiles has written a powerful account of a man whose life was as epic and complex as American history itself. Hear Stiles recount how Vanderbilt helped to launch the transportation revolution, propel the Gold Rush, reshape Manhattan and invent the modern corporation. Founder of a dynasty, builder of the original Grand Central, creator of a vast fortune, Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt is an American icon. Reception and book signing to follow the lecture. Admission \$10 for Preservation Society members, general admission \$15. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

Lecture: Richard Morris Hunt-Gilding the American Renaissance

Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History, University of Virginia

June 4, 2009, 7 p.m.

The Breakers

44 Ochre Point Avenue

Newport, RI

What to call the architecture and the art of the period 1870-1910 has been controversial, with terms as diverse as *Gilded Age* and the *American Renaissance* perhaps the most common. Both speak to the attempt by Americans to try to rival the Old World and its cultural supremacy. Architect Richard Morris Hunt took this competition as his agenda, and in his various houses such as The Breakers created a distinctive American expression. This talk will explore Hunt's work, with particular focus on Newport.

Admission \$10 for Preservation Society members, general admission \$15. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

Preservation Society Annual Meeting

June 11, 2009, 6 p.m.
Rosecliff
548 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

All Preservation Society members are invited to attend the annual meeting. A reception on the terrace will follow the meeting.

The Newport Flower Show

June 26-28, 2009
Rosecliff
548 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

The Newport Flower Show celebrates its 14th year as America's premier summer flower show, staged in the elegant reception rooms and on the oceanfront lawn of Rosecliff, one of Newport's most beautiful historic mansions. This year's theme, *Glorious Green, The Natural Path*, will lead us to discover the extraordinary beauty of nature, as well as how to preserve and protect its treasures. Special guest lecturers include internationally-renowned floral designer Hitomi Gilliam, and David Howard, long-time head gardener to HRH Prince of Wales at Highgrove. Visitors will enjoy judged floral arrangements and horticultural specimens, lectures and demonstrations, shopping in the Oceanside Boutiques and Gardeners Marketplace, and an oceanfront café. Show admission \$15 in advance, \$20 day of Show. More information and ticket packages: www.NewportFlowerShow.org or call (401) 847-1000.

Green Animals Children's Party

July 14, 2009, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Green Animals Topiary Garden
380 Cory's Lane
Portsmouth, RI

Children and adults of all ages are invited to enjoy the festivities at the annual Children's Party at Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth, RI. The party will feature circus acts, music, magic, clowns, puppets, pony rides, refreshments and much more on this historic 7-acre estate overlooking Narragansett Bay. Admission: Preservation Society member adults \$10, general admission adults \$15; member children (6-12) free, general admission children (6-12) \$5; all children 5 and under free. Tickets sold at the door.

Lecture: Splendor by the Sea—Newport Villas of the Gilded Age

Michael Kathrens, independent scholar and author

July 15, 2009, 11 a.m.

Rosecliff

548 Bellevue Avenue

Newport, RI

American plutocratic families of the late 19th and early 20th centuries wanted to escape the heat and grime associated with urban summers. Increasingly, those at the very pinnacle of the social and financial pyramid found their way to the shores of Newport, RI. Here they created a world of wealth and fashion unequalled in this country's history, with the social spectacle centered within a group of spectacular summer villas. This lecture will speak to the architecture and ornament of Newport's villas, as well as their sociological framework. A book signing will follow the lecture. Admission is free for Preservation Society members, general admission \$5. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

A Weekend of Coaching

August 20-23, 2009

A colorful, triennial historic tradition of horsemanship and elegance returns to Newport. Authentic 19th century coaches, drawn by teams of four horses, participate in a series of daily drives and demonstrations through the streets of Newport and the grounds of the Newport Mansions. The weekend includes a free demonstration on the grounds of The Elms on Saturday morning, August 22, and an elegant black-tie dinner dance at The Breakers on Saturday evening, with the proceeds benefiting The Preservation Society of Newport County. More information, www.NewportMansions.org, (401) 847-1000

End-of-Summer Members' Sale

August 28-30, 2009

Newport Mansions Stores

Preservation Society of Newport County members enjoy 25% savings on all merchandise at the annual end-of-summer members' sale. Shop at The Breakers, The Elms, Marble House, Rosecliff, Green Animals Topiary Garden and Bannister's Wharf in downtown Newport.

Fall Family Festival

September 19, 2009, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Green Animals Topiary Garden

380 Cory's Lane

Portsmouth, RI

Scarecrow building, kids' crafts, storytelling, local produce, artisans, a Dutch Bulb sale, and live music highlight our Fall Family Festival at Green Animals. A full day of fun for the whole family. Admission free for Preservation Society members, general admission adults \$12, children 6-17 \$4.50, children under 6 free. More information and tickets, www.NewportMansions.org.

Lecture: Lost Houses of Newport

Paul Miller, Curator, The Preservation Society of Newport County

September 16, 2009, 11 a.m.
Rosecliff
548 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

Preservation Society Curator Paul Miller will present an illustrated talk highlighting over 50 former summer estates vanished from the Newport scene, largely through demolition since World War II; using vintage images, the wide chronological and stylistic range of these last summer cottages, now mostly lost to memory, will be brought back to life. A book signing will follow the lecture. Admission free to Preservation Society members, general admission \$5. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

Newport Mansions Wine and Food Festival

September 25-27, 2009
The Breakers
44 Ochre Point Avenue &
Marble House
596 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

Held in one of the most spectacular settings in America, this event has quickly taken its place among the most anticipated food and wine events in the country. This remarkable weekend experience features a gala celebration and collectible wine auction at The Breakers, two days of Grand Tasting at Marble House with hundreds of wines from around the world, fabulous food, and cooking demonstrations by celebrated chefs. More information and tickets, www.NewportMansions.org or call (401) 847-1000.

Lecture: A History of Ocean Drive, Newport, RI

Mack Woodward, Senior Architectural Historian, RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
October 7, 2009, 11 a.m.
Rosecliff
548 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

Ocean Drive is one of the most significant picturesque landscapes in America. Recent research has revealed just how important this historic place is in our nation's landscape history. This lecture will focus on the layout of the Drive itself, the masterful development of the entire district in the late 19th century, its comparison with similar picturesque sites, and how critics of the time responded to the planning of the area. Admission free to Preservation Society members, general admission \$5. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

Lecture: Dumfries House—The Evolution, Survival and Rescue of a Scottish Treasure House

Lady Cynthia Shaw Stewart
October 28, 2009, 11 a.m.
Rosecliff
548 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

Dumfries House was rescued in 2007 by a consortium led by the Prince of Wales weeks before the sale and dispersal of its contents. By this graceful gesture, a perfect 18th century house—which retains its original fixtures and fittings—has been saved for posterity and can be visited for the first time in its history. Admission free to Preservation Society members, general admission \$5. Advance registration requested, www.NewportMansions.org, or call (401) 847-1000 ext. 154.

Pre-Thanksgiving Members' Sale

November 19-22, 2009

Newport Mansions Stores

Preservation Society of Newport County members enjoy 25% savings on all merchandise at the annual end-of-summer members' sale. Shop at The Breakers, The Elms, Marble House, and Bannister's Wharf in downtown Newport.

Christmas at the Newport Mansions

November 20, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Make lifelong memories with a visit to the Newport Mansions during the holiday season. The glitter of gold and the sparkle of silver will dazzle, as you tour The Breakers, The Elms and Marble House, decorated with period-style ornaments, trees, and evergreens.

All three houses are open daily for tours. Winter Passport ticket for admission to all three houses is \$28 for adults, \$9 for children 6-17, children under 6 free. More information and tickets, www.NewportMansions.org or call (401) 847-1000.

Holiday Evenings at The Breakers

November 28, December 5, 12 and 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Breakers

44 Ochre Point Avenue

Newport, RI

Enjoy live musical performances and refreshments as you tour The Breakers in the evening in all its holiday splendor. Adult admission \$28 in advance, \$35 at the door, children 6-17 \$10, children under 6 free. More information and tickets, www.NewportMansions.org or call (401) 847-1000.

Holiday Evening Duet: The Elms and Marble House

December 19, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

367 Bellevue Avenue and 596 Bellevue Avenue

Newport, RI

See both houses for the price of one. Enjoy live musical performances and refreshments in each house.

Adult admission \$28 in advance, \$35 at the door, children 6-17 \$10, children under 6 free. More information and tickets, www.NewportMansions.org or call (401) 847-1000.

Holiday Dinner Dance

December 19, 2009, 7 p.m.

The Breakers
44 Ochre Point Avenue
Newport, RI

Join us for our 8th annual Holiday Dinner Dance, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a seated dinner and dancing in the Great Hall of The Breakers. Advance reservations required. More information and reservations, call (401) 847-1000 ext. 140.

The Preservation Society of Newport County, Rhode Island is a non-profit educational organization accredited by the American Association of Museums and dedicated to preserving and interpreting the area's historic architecture, landscapes and decorative arts. Its 11 historic properties—seven of them National Historic Landmarks—span more than 250 years of American architectural and social development.

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