



The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

Chautauqua-by-the-Sea

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THANK YOU, OCEAN PARK!

We are very excited to report that our capital campaign to repair the foundation of The Curtis Guest House not only reached, but has now exceeded our goal of \$100,000! This is due to the generosity of so many families, friends and businesses of the Ocean Park community who responded to our **#Preserve the Curtis** campaign this summer. You have recognized the importance of preserving this historic building, ensuring that it will continue to remain one of the architectural gems of Ocean Park as well as provide reasonably-priced accommodations to visitors.

While we have exceeded our initial goal for the campaign, the actual cost of the repairs will be closer to \$120,000. Thus, we will gratefully accept additional donations from anyone who has pledged or had it on their “to do” list but has not done so yet. Be assured that your gift as well will go toward this important project! You can send a check to #PreserveTheCurtis, P.O. Box 7367, Ocean Park, ME 04063; scan the QR code below to make a donation through PayPal or visit our website at www.curtisguesthouse.org to give by credit card.

I would like to give a special thank you to the Ocean Park Association for its total support of our campaign and to the campaign committee, who worked so hard to make it a success: Pat Hager, Betty Monz, Dana Howe DeFilippo, Heather Fountain, Linda Lauritano and Kathy Wade. We are also grateful to The 1772 Foundation in cooperation with Maine Preservation for recognizing the value of our project with a supportive grant.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you to all who made our campaign to preserve The Curtis a success.

With much appreciation,

Beth Keene, President, The Educational Bureau of Ocean Park



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END-OF-YEAR GIVING

As you know, OPA's books are audited every year. In accordance with our audit policy, **all deposits need to be recorded in the general ledger based upon the date of the deposit** as opposed to the date the check was written. The practice of back dating checks for end-of-year contributions has led to revenue reporting in the wrong period. You will receive credit for your contribution based on the date the check is deposited. To ensure your gift is booked for 2022, please make sure we receive your contributions by Thursday, December 29, 2022. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support!

MEMORIAL BENCH UPDATE FROM THE TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH

The Town of Old Orchard Beach has joined the Ocean Park Association in discontinuing their memorial bench program as of August 15, 2022. Public Works will honor the 30 applications they have on file.

The Town has also forwarded the following wording on how their bench program had worked prior to its discontinuance: "The purchaser does not own the bench, and the bench does not stay on the beach for a lifetime. If the memorial bench maintenance plan was purchased, the bench will be maintained until the bench is beyond repair." Please contact the Old Orchard Beach Public Works Department should there be any questions.

OPA ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

The OPA wanted to make sure that our social media presence using Facebook and Instagram was active this summer – and it was! We had fun posting videos, pictures, and daily updates. We asked people why they were OPA members, we provided some Ocean Park information on properties that we maintain and important issues such as the HWA problem in Guild Park. Just because the 2022 season is over – doesn't mean that we stop posting. So much happens during the fall, winter, and spring that we want you to know about. Get updated! Follow the OPA on Facebook and Instagram. Share your pictures and videos in comments.

How do you find the official OPA Instagram or OPA Facebook?

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oceanparkmaine/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OPAMaine

SUSAN WINCH - A HUGE THANK YOU!!

Have you ever used the OPA website and wondered who was behind it? Probably not. We often take for granted the many things that are required to make an organization like ours run effectively. Susan Winch developed our website 19+ years ago and has been managing it ever since as a volunteer, devoting untold hours of her valuable expertise when many of us were still trying to master the art of email and Zoom. We estimate that Susan's efforts over the years have saved the Association over \$60,000!

Susan has decided that she now needs to focus her time and attention elsewhere. We all wish her the best in her future endeavors and thank her for all that she has done for the Ocean Park Association.

There are many ways that each of us can help our beloved Ocean Park. What talents or energy do you have to give?

Photo credit: James Westmoreland, posted on Friends of Ocean Park Face-



BOARD UPDATE ON THE OCEAN PARK VISION

Work began on developing a new Vision Statement for OPA in 2019, which culminated in the adoption of a new Vision Statement last Spring (see pages 12-13 of this year's Annual Report for the full report). Based on that vision, the Board used as its guidepost what they identified as the common purpose of OPA, namely, to build and sustain an inclusive community so that present and future generations can celebrate traditions, find joy, connection, peace and purpose for their lives.

The Board then developed an action plan to make the Vision a reality. We defined actions around Programming and building an inclusive community, nurturing nature, and organizational Improvements. We prioritized those actions and assigned actions to each committee as well as to the Board, asking all to use the Vision as a guidepost for planning.

What Progress have we made?

2022 included a very full summer of Programming for all ages!

- The Religious and Cultural Committee introduced an overarching theme for 2022 Summer programming "Come to the Water", an invitational message of physical place, spiritual place, environmental care and recreational community. Some new activities around this theme were introduced, like the Bonfire by the Bay with S'mores where all ages participated and new acquaintances were formed. Patricia Jackson created beautiful banners for worship and meditation, inspired by scripture and the summer theme.
- The Education committee hosted a very diverse set of programs for all ages from history to comic books to poetry and a program on LGBTQ: Spectrums of Sexuality.
- There were Sunday night concerts at the Bandstand where you would see folks of all generations enjoying the music and children dancing.
- The Recreation Programming had varied options for all ages and included some new family activities.
- Programming around love of nature included Ecology Adventure Camp, Nature at Night, and a Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge talk and walk at Wells Nature Reserve.

The Committees will continue to work to incorporate new programming that will inspire all ages and generations!

We heard you say that you wanted us to "Engage constituents, especially the young, through social media."

Thanks to Debbie Sousa, we now have active Facebook and Instagram pages, featuring our programs and events as well as many OPA members who make all this happen. This was well received and increased attendance at our programs. We will continue to grow our effort in this area.

Nurturing Nature

- Much work was done this summer to inform the community about the issue of the Woolly Adelgids infestation of the Hemlocks in Guild Park. The Conservation & Ecology subcommittee is working on a plan to manage this. They also continue their work on monitoring the marshes for invasive species and adequate water flow.
- The Composting Program started in 2021 continues to be a success and recycle bins were set up around the square.

Organizational Goals

- Capital Needs Projections are in progress.
- The Technology Subcommittee was established to address the technology needs of the OPA over the next 5 years.
- We are exploring how to involve more volunteers for single events or tasks through a sign up form.

What's next? Visioning Part 2

All committees will meet this fall to discuss their progress, what goals they didn't get to this year, what challenges they faced, and how they can keep engaging the community in this discussion. We plan to come away with an Action Plan for 3 things they can do in 2023 to support making the Vision a reality.

PAVERS FOR CHRISTMAS! A UNIQUE GIFT IDEA!

Before we know it, another season of giving will be upon us. An Ocean Park granite paver is a great way to honor or remember loved ones. The pavers continue to be installed in the walkway to the Memorial Library in Demeritt Square. For only \$300.00 you can add to the history of Ocean Park and permanently celebrate someone special in your life.

If you would like to purchase a paver, you can:

- ◆ stop by the office
- ◆ call Sharon at the office at 207-934-9068, ext. 0
- ◆ email the office at opa@oceanpark.org; or
- ◆ go to the OPA website at www.oceanpark.org and fill out the form that can be found by clicking the button "Order Celebration Pavers" on the main page; then click on the link next to the granite brick to download the form.

USE AMAZONSMILE AND SUPPORT THE OPA!

If you are making purchases through Amazon, you can support the OPA at the same time. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price of all eligible products to OPA when you purchase through AmazonSmile. It's easy to set up an account (if you haven't done so already), which will link with your existing Amazon account. Just go to www.amazonsmile.com and designate Ocean Park Association as your charity.



Thank You To Our Volunteers!

Susan Martin, Judi Boehm, Cliff Kenney, Jeff Chute, Dana DeFilippo, Vicki Keene, Beth Koehler, Phil Nadeau, Marc Guimont (just to name a few!) were all hard at work on getting the Memorial Library up to snuff with some scraping and painting! It sure needs a "new coat"!

Thank you all for your hard work!



IN MEMORIAM

The following is a list of those friends of Ocean Park whose passing has come to the attention of the Association since the printing of the June Bell Tower:

Carol A. Lindsey (Tracey)	Bangor, ME	March 17, 2022
Robert W. McLean	Hardwick, MA and Ocean Park, ME	May 7, 2022
Kenneth M. Fraser	Kensington, NH and Ocean Park, ME	June 26, 2022
Margaret ("Peggy") Lee	Ocean Park, ME	July 23, 2022
Ruth Page	Kennebunk, ME and Ocean Park, ME	July 31, 2022
Nancy MacNider	Ocean Park, ME	August 9, 2022

To notify the Ocean Park Association of the passing of a loved one, please contact the office at (207) 934-9068, option 0, or opa@oceanpark.org.

FROM THE BOARDROOM, by Kathy Wade, Board Secretary

The OPA Board of Directors has had two meetings since the Annual Meeting of Members in July. At each meeting, we review progress made against the OPVision action plans. Chairs of the Standing Committees reported on their activities to date and plans for the off-season. An upgrade to the electrical wiring in the Rec Hall was approved. Two ad hoc committees were formed – one to review the Association Bylaws and the other to review technology needs. The resignation of Jerry Gosselin as Executive Director was accepted and next steps were discussed.

At its September meeting, the Board approved an increase in library fees for non-members. The Board acknowledged that Sue Winch will cease managing the OPA website and expressed its gratitude for her many years doing the work as a volunteer. The Technology ad hoc committee will work on integrating the website with OPA's database to better serve the community. Several actions were approved relating to the upcoming departure of our Executive Director and establishing a search committee for his successor.

The Board is scheduled to meet (remotely) on the dates set forth below. Members are invited to contact a Board member if they wish to bring a matter to the Board's attention or send an email to bod@oceanpark.org.

October 22, 2022
 December 3, 2022
 January 21, 2023
 February 18, 2023
 March 18, 2023
 April 15, 2023
 May 13, 2023
 June 17, 2023



Membership

The following is a list of new Ocean Park Association members approved by the Board of Directors since the June Edition of the Bell Tower:

Regular Members:

Emily Caron
 Charles B. Cianciolo III
 John Crocker
 John Fitzgerald
 Caroline Fohlin
 Rebecca A. Hayward
 Kathy Pike Klein
 Lauren Lepine
 Nancy Mazzapica
 Christine O'Brien
 Anne Polak
 Charles Radomsky
 Bob Stack
 Debra Stack
 Dayle Watts

Life Members:

Kelly Raye
 Eric W. Tobey
 (posthumously)
 Steven Wheeler

Youth Members:

Gregory Hurter
 Nicholas Hurter
 Annabel Moore
 Tyler Sulkala



OCEAN PARK NEEDS YOU!, by the Leadership & Nominating Committee

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the Ocean Park Community?

The Leadership & Nominating committee is searching for people to serve on our Standing Committees. So many of the things you love about Ocean Park are dependent upon the work of the Ocean Park Committees.

After all, it is our volunteers and our staff that make Ocean Park a vibrant community filled with tradition, culture, education, religion and recreation.

Below gives a brief highlight of what each committee is focused on. A more complete description is available in the OPA Bylaws.

Committee Responsibilities:

Religious & Cultural (R&C) – Plan, develop and coordinate the religious and cultural programs. This includes the Temple Worship, Illumination Night and Strawberry Festival, and Musical performances.

Administration & Finance (A&F) – Budget Development and Review, Investments, Audit Review, and Capital Expenditures

Property – Oversee the maintenance and long-range planning for all OP owned buildings, including maintenance, improvements, and grounds upkeep. Oversees the Ecology/Conservation Sub-committee.

Recreation – Develop and coordinate all recreational activities & events. Oversee Tennis sub-committee, Youth Rec program and Shuffleboard courts.

Education – Develop and coordinate all educational programs & events, and oversee the Library Sub-committee, Historic Preservation Sub-committee and Arts Sub-committee.

Development – Promote growth of volunteer and financial resources through planned giving, endowment memorials, Annual Fund, Capital funds, and fundraising. Oversee Membership Sub-committee.

Leadership & Nominating – Identify and solicit candidates to serve on the OP standing committees, as well as, identifying individuals to serve as Committee Chairs, Board Members and Members at Large.

We invite you to get involved and share your talents and interests with the Ocean Park Community. Please reach out to:

Linda Lauritano, Chair of the Leadership & Nominating Committee

Email: llauritano@gmail.com

Phone: 978-793-2600

Leadership & Nominating Committee members: Jeff Chute, Martine Taylor, Kristen Elias, Elizabeth Morrison, Alex Sinclair

If you are a member of the OPA but you do not own property, you are still welcome to serve on any of the committees. If you are not a member of the OPA, we welcome you to join and can assist you in that process.



NEWS FROM THE HISTORICAL ROOM, *By Ruth Gladu*

We have a wonderful display of photos of Ocean Parkers given to us by Lisa Kidd. We want to add to this display. If you have a photo of an Ocean Park person, past or present, you would like included please send it or email it to Sharon at the OPA Office and she will get to us.





**Ocean Park
REALTY**

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SALES and RENTALS

"Vacation at the Beach"

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WINTER RENTALS

Are available October to May. Email Chris@OceanParkRealty.com for an application.



18 Oceana Ave.: 3 bedrooms,
1 bath—\$2,050/month



Unit 72 at Ocean Park Meadows: 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths—
\$1,800/month



27 Winona Ave.: 3 bedrooms,
1 bath—\$1,400/month



24 Ancona guesthouse:
2 bedrooms, 1 bath—
\$1,800/month



FOR SALE



131 Temple Ave., #9
2-story condo with an open
floor plan and many up-
dates! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.

Listed: \$355,000



22 Oceana, #3
1 bedroom, 1 bath condo
for sale just 2 blocks
from the beach!

Listed: \$250,000



Jeff Chute
Designated Broker/Realtor
(207) 937-5054
Jeff@oceanparkrealty.com

Ocean Park Realty

Ocean Park Realty, a subsidiary of the Ocean Park Association, is a full-service brokerage that can serve your real estate needs throughout Southern Maine. If you are looking to purchase or sell your cottage, home or condo, or if you are looking for a seasonal rental, call or stop by the office in Jakeman Hall at 14 Temple Avenue, or call (207) 937-5054. Jeff and Chris are always ready to help you!



Chris Whittaker
Broker/Realtor
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Ocean
Park Association

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OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

Jakeman Hall Winter Schedule 2022/2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Deck the Park!

Sunday, December 4, 12:30 pm, at Jakeman Hall, followed by a Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 pm. Dress warm, bring your wire cutters! Come to one or both! Sign up at the Post Office or call the OPA office at 207-934-9068, ext. 0.

Winter Pot Luck!

Sunday, January 29 (Yikes, 2023 already!), 5:30 pm. Bring a dish to share - sign up at the Post Office or call the OPA office at 207-934-9068, ext. 0.

Mahjongg

Every Tuesday (except the 2nd Tuesday when Naughty Needles is held) now through June 6, 2023, 7:00 pm. Bring your tiles or come learn a new game!

Naughty Needles

Second Tuesday of every month now through June 13, 2023, 7:00 pm. Bring your needle craft project!

Any updates to these schedules will be posted at the OPA Office and at the Post Office.

All this, in addition to various Board and Committee/Subcommittee meetings and mailings that occur throughout the fall, winter and early spring! Interested in volunteering?

Call Sharon at the office (207-934-9068, ext. 0).