



# The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

Chautauqua-by-the-Sea

14 Temple Ave.

Ocean Park, ME 04063

Office: (207) 934-9068 Fax: 207-934-2823

Website: [www.oceanpark.org](http://www.oceanpark.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/OPAmaine/>

Volume 43 - Issue 2 March 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, by Lori Gramlich

Hello Ocean Park! I wanted to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself. I am Lori Gramlich, and I am excited and honored to have been selected as your new Executive Director for the Ocean Park Association.

Ocean Park has forever reminded me of my childhood and days gone by. I actually fell in love with Ocean Park over 25 years ago, when I had the good fortune to spend summers here with friends. It was no accident that 15 years later, our family settled upon this beautiful treasure, to call our home.

As a proud member of the Ocean Park Association for the past number of years and as a dedicated member of the Old Orchard Beach community, I have always enjoyed being involved and giving back to the community. I see so many wonderful opportunities in this deeply connected community. Whether enjoying a game of shuffleboard or getting a delicious ice cream at the Soda Fountain, or attending Illumination Night, or one of my all-time favorites, strolling along our magnificent beach - being immersed in this community, where we can take a step back to relax, unwind and where one can come to for peace and solitude, is truly a gift.

I am looking forward to working with our dedicated staff, volunteers, and members to lead the Association into its next chapter as we continue to provide the religious, cultural, educational, and recreational programming that so many have enjoyed throughout the years. My thanks and gratitude to the search committee and the OPA team, for this wonderful opportunity. I am so looking forward to greeting old friends and meeting new ones as we embark upon our summer season!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Message From Lori Gramlich	Page 1	What Does Ocean Park Mean to You? / In Memoriam / Membership	Page 5
Early Season Worship Services	Page 2	History of Ocean Park Tennis / What is Wrong With the Rec Hall?	Page 6
Wood Island Tours	Page 3	Real Estate News	Page 7
From the Boardroom / Volunteer Opportunity / New Commemorative Items Coming Soon	Page 4	Spring Clean-Up in Ocean Park	Page 8

## ***EARLY SEASON WORSHIP 2023, By Rev. Jan Hryniewicz***

Since 1889, the Religious Society of Ocean Park, Maine has been offering early season worship services on Sunday mornings. In 2023, services will be offered on May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in historic Porter Hall. Providing an inspiring prelude to the summer season, these creative services will include the music and messages of a variety of gifted musicians and preachers. Rev. Jan Hryniewicz will be the liturgist and **Rob Duquette** will provide music.



**May 28:** Rev. Bill Donoghue is a 1980 graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. He has served as the pastor of four congregations in southern NH during 37 years of parish ministry. Bill and his wife, Karen, live in Saco, Maine. We thank Rev. Bill for his service as a Corpsman in Vietnam with Marine Combined Action Platoons 1-4-5 and 2-7-0 from 1970 -71.



**June 4:** Rev. Jan Hryniewicz is a long time resident of Ocean Park, now chair of the Religious and Cultural Committee of OPA. She served as a youth and Christian education minister in a variety of ABC and UCC for many years before accepting the call to pastor at Union Church in Biddeford Pool, which she served for 16 years until her retirement in 2016. Under her creative leadership, the church grew from a dedicated dozen to over a 100! She is now a member of First Parish in Saco. She is the proud mother of 4 and grandmother of 5 and a best friend to her husband Ed and lovable Lab, Belle.



**June 11:** Rev. Vicki Keene is a retired ordained minister in the United Church of Christ having served churches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Vicki married into Ocean Park over 50 years ago and has served on many OPA committees including Religious and Cultural, Administration and Finance, Tennis, Library, and Bylaws Review. The Keene's spend summers on Oceana Ave and when absolutely necessary, head south to Andover, MA where they are members of South Church, UCC.



**June 18:** Rev. Dr. Geordie Campbell holds the honorary distinction of Pastor Emeritus at First Church of Christ in West Hartford, CT from which he retired as Senior Pastor in January 2020. Prior ports of call include South Church in Granby, CT; First Congregational Church in Newfane, VT; and Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, MA. He received his Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary, his Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School, and his Bachelor of Arts from Susquehanna University. He and his wife Pam live in Saco where they are members of First Parish, UCC.



**Rob Duquette** is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, singer/songwriter, educator, performer and author of Hand Harmonies music education program. He has made his career since the mid-1990s as a well respected and in-demand sideman, most notably as a member of Jonathan Edwards. Rob can be found behind a drum set, on piano, guitar, and xylophone with ease.

## **WOOD ISLAND TOURS, By Rick Koehler - Chair, Education Committee**

It is 1800. Ocean Park is 81 years from being founded by Free Will Baptist Ministers, and the view from the beach is quite different than what one sees today. With the Saco River being a major source of commerce, over a hundred coastal schooners might be moored in Winter Harbor (now Biddeford Pool Harbor) at any one time waiting to off load their goods and be refitted to continue to other ports of call. With the amount of activity taking place in such a small area, and multiple vessels coming and going with the tides, safety became an issue and the United States Lighthouse Establishment saw the need to build a lighthouse on 8 acres of land at the eastern tip of Wood Island.



At that time because of their importance, it was common for the President of the United States to take an active part in the sighting, planning, and construction of lighthouses. Thomas Jefferson accepted his role, and in 1808, Wood Island Light Station was completed, and the lighthouse was lit for the first time. With a lighthouse in use, entrance to Winter Harbor and the Saco River could now be more safely made.

Today, Wood Island Lighthouse remains an active aid to navigation with the light being maintained by the United States Coast Guard. But, because the beacon was automated in 1986, the Light Station was abandoned by the Coast Guard and received little maintenance until The Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse (FOWIL) was incorporated in 2003 and assumed responsibility for maintaining the land and buildings that comprise the Light Station. With the Keeper's House and Light Tower having been fully restored to their 1906 appearance, tours of the entire Light Station commenced. These tours include the Boat House, the Oil House, the Keeper's House, and the Tower which can be climbed by those who are 10 and over.

The Education Committee of the OPA has arranged with FOWIL to set aside some 2023 tours for OPA members, their families, and OPA donors. Specific dates have not yet been established, but the tours commence on or about July 1 and take place on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings. They leave from Vines Landing in Biddeford Pool at 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, and 12 PM, and last for about 1.5 hours. Transportation to and from Wood Island is provided by FOWIL on their boat, Lightrunner, which can accommodate 13 guests on each trip.

If you are interested in taking an OPA tour, please contact the OPA office via email with your name, phone number, and email address. This will give us a count as to how many spaces to request. **IT WILL NOT REGISTER YOU FOR A TOUR.** All participants must be aware of the following:

1. All tour participants must wear proper footwear. **NO FLIP FLOPS!!** You **WILL** be turned away. Sneakers are strongly suggested. Sandals must attach to your foot at both your toes and your heel. Nonslip soles must be on your shoes.
2. All tour participants must be able to walk the .5 miles across the island to the lighthouse, the .5 miles back to the boathouse, around the uneven grounds and in the keeper's house. Climbing the tower is optional.
3. All tour participants must make their own reservation with FOWIL by registering with them at [woodislandlighthouse.org](http://woodislandlighthouse.org) and clicking on tours. We will give you the date and time of the tour; you will have to provide all the information required and pay for the tour. In 2022 the ticket prices were \$35/adult and \$20/child under 12. **OPA WILL HANDLE NO MONEY AND WILL NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS OR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.**
4. Because of limited parking at Vines Landing, carpooling is recommended.
5. If you are not going to be in Ocean Park when the tours are scheduled, you can contact FOWIL at [woodislandlighthouse.org](http://woodislandlighthouse.org) to schedule your own tour. The portal will open on or about June 1, and tours fill up quickly, so register early.

After leaving your contact information with the OPA office, you will be contacted by Rick Koehler, Education Committee Chair and FOWIL Docent, when it is time for you to register with FOWIL for your tour. It will be your responsibility to register, pay for your tour, and make your way to Vines Landing in Biddeford Pool ½ hour before your scheduled tour. Carpool if possible and remember to wear the proper footwear. If your tour is cancelled because of rough seas or foul weather, you will be contacted in advance by FOWIL. If you have any questions, you may contact Rick at [drdk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drdk@sbcglobal.net).

## ***FROM THE BOARDROOM, By Kathy Wade, Board Secretary***



The OPA Board of Directors has been meeting throughout the winter months, focusing on the Executive Director transition and plans for the upcoming season. We were thrilled to welcome Lori Gramlich as our new Executive Director who started this month. A transition team has been appointed to support Lori as she learns the ins and outs of our Association.

The two ad hoc committees that were formed last fall have been very busy.

The *Bylaws Review Ad Hoc Committee* has been meeting regularly since last August and at its meeting held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Board tentatively approved the proposed revisions to the Bylaws. Some of the changes include lowering the age of Adult Members from 21 to 18, creating a new Standing Committee called the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, allowing Members to participate in Association meetings remotely via electronic means (such as Zoom) provided that we have adequate technology in place to allow everyone to participate, giving the Board authority to set the budget while still requiring a full financial report at the Annual Meeting, updating some procedures for Board meetings now possible due to changes in Maine law, and, in general, making the Bylaws easier to read and understand. We hope that the Board will be able to submit the updated Bylaws to the Membership for approval at the Annual Meeting in July.

The *Technology Subcommittee* has been working on evaluating and making recommendations on all things tech, including work on a new and improved website, evaluating upgrades to the computer systems for the office and online payment systems, among other things.

In other action, the Board approved the recommendation of the *Property Committee* to replace the stage curtain in the Temple using funds generously donated by an OPA family for Temple improvements. At the recommendation of the *Recreation Committee*, the Board approved an increase in certain fees this summer for tennis and shuffleboard.

The schedule for the remaining regular Board meetings before the July Annual Meeting is set forth below. Meetings are open to all OPA members, except when the Board goes into executive session to discuss personnel or legal matters. Contact the office to get the link if you are interested in attending.

April 22, 2023 (on zoom)

May 13, 2023 (on zoom)

June 17, 2023 (in person, if needed)

## ***NEW COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS COMING SOON! By Sharon Waterman***

I have been brainstorming with Deb Sousa from the Development Committee; Lori (our new Executive Director); and Jeff Chute and Susan Martin (the interim Executive Directors) on coming up with ideas for a few new commemorative items and this is what we will have to offer shortly (on order!):

**Coasters** - a set of 4, each one with one picturing a special place in the OPA community: The Rec Hall (courtesy of Bill Paterson), The Bandstand (courtesy of Earl Wilcher), The Covered Bridge (courtesy of Nancy Kenney), and the Bell Tower/Temple (courtesy of Jon Hannaford).

A new **Christmas Ornament** - this year highlighting The Bandstand and will feature something different each year in the years to come, offering a new tradition for our Ocean Park members and friends.

## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, By Walt Dowling***

Looking for a FUN volunteer experience? Ocean Park Association is looking for one or two "Plant Managers"! You would plant and maintain 12 large planters around the Ocean Park Square. You would also be responsible for watering the plants as needed. Maximum has been 3 times a week as Mother Nature tends to help out. Hours flexible!

The new volunteer(s) would have hands-on training from the previous volunteers, Walt/Brenda Dowling and Cynthia Chase (who has offered to help out if needed). Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Please contact Sharon at the OPA for further details. 207-934-9068, or via email at opa@oceanpark.org.



**WHAT DOES OCEAN PARK MEAN TO YOU?**, by *Bethany Nichols*,  
Chair of the Development Committee

Some of us are proud to be multigenerational Ocean Parkers, while some of us may have only recently discovered this special community. Whichever category you fall in, get involved and help us to preserve this community. Become, renew, or talk a friend into being an [OPA member](#). Volunteer to serve on a committee or at an event by completing the [OPA survey](#). Contribute to the [Annual Fund](#). Large or small, all donations are appreciated.

The Ocean Park Association owns and maintains buildings and parks -some of which are over a hundred years old. We will be offering over 300 programs this summer – worship services in the Temple, music programs at the bandstand, dances in the Rec Hall, charming or humorous displays on Illumination Night, family events, the 5K race, yoga and so much more that makes us feel that we are a special community. Even if you do not attend a single program or play a single shuffleboard game this summer, you are here because Ocean Park means something to you; and without your support, Ocean Park as we know it would not exist. Think of what you spend every month on coffee, or a dinner at your favorite restaurant, or even attending a concert or a Red Sox game. If Ocean Park means as much to you as it does to me, please consider a contribution to the [OPA Annual Fund](#)! Ocean Park is far more than just another day at the beach to me; I suspect it is to you as well.

**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:

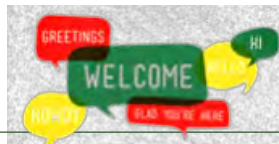
**Regular Members:**

- Holly Dobson
- Marcel Dionne
- Jasmine Durant
- Kevin Hedberg

**Life Members:**

- Jack Randall Bennett
- Rebecca Bennett
- Steven Bennett
- Zaidee Bennett
- Heather Clark
- Charlotte DiAdamo
- Isabel DiAdamo
- Nichols DiAdamo
- William DiAdamo
- Deborah Hills

**Youth Members:**



**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.

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.

<i>E. Frank "Bud" Murphy</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>December 26, 2022</i>
<i>Susan Seabury</i>	<i>No. Kingston, RI and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>January 22, 2023</i>
<i>Nina Robison</i>	<i>Worcester, MA and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>February 18, 2023</i>
<i>Richard E. Lingner</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>February 21, 2023</i>

## ***WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OCEAN PARK TENNIS?***

*By Todd Whitney*

First, start with the history of the Granite State Hotel, 1882, which later became the Ocean Park Hotel, managed by the Thurston Family from 1911-1962. Now the site has become the kids' playground. As a child I would sit on the porch of the hotel and watch my father play tennis with his Ocean Park friends. In 1882 there was a ball field, a horseshoe pit, and one tennis court located where the three courts are today. Sometime between 1890 and 1911 the ball field was removed and replaced by three tennis courts. It was around this time that a young man named Robert Frost, who became a beloved American poet, learned to play the game. He was here with his mother and sister who were working at the hotel. [https://oldorchardbeachhistory.com/index.php?title=Ocean Park Hotel](https://oldorchardbeachhistory.com/index.php?title=Ocean_Park_Hotel)



Starting in the early 1900's, many interesting people got involved in the construction and maintenance of these courts. They were called the OPA Athletic Committee. They contracted a local farmer who, with his oxen team, carted over tons of clay from the old Saco brick company. This became the base for the three courts. The farmer and a member of the Moody nursery family then graded the clay and created the court surfaces. In 2001, the Jodi Wilson Memorial funded the resurfacing of the courts. The Nat Whitney Tennis fund continues to provide capital improvements.

Our current Tennis Director, Todd Sachs, is a PTR certified PRO; and if you have a chance, you should catch the Kids' Clinics on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The kids love Todd's clinics. Today, with the help of countless volunteers, some with prior clay court expertise and others with hammers and nails set up and take down the courts every spring and fall. I bet you didn't know it takes 1500 nails to lay the tapes for each court!

## ***WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE REC HALL?***, *By Stephen Sousa, Chair of the Property Committee*

You hopefully know about the Retro Night at the Rec Hall fundraiser planned for July 1<sup>st</sup> – but you might be asking “what’s wrong with the Rec Hall”? The most important information that we want to let you know about is that the Rec Hall is safe. Like all older buildings, the Rec Hall needs repairs and TLC. If you have walked by the Rec Hall and looked at it closely, you will see that the porch is bowing away from the structure. We are getting estimates to shore up support underneath the porch and to address a couple of other issues before they become major problems. Although we don't know the cost yet, we do know that it may be expensive and any funds we raise through the dance and the silent auction will be dedicated to the Rec Hall.



The OPA owns and maintains nine buildings, the tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, and numerous grounds in Ocean Park. Many of these buildings are over 100 years old and have withstood blizzards, hurricanes, and floods. We have worshipped in them, picked up our mail, danced, and enjoyed raspberry lime Rickie's and cinnamon buns in them. Maintaining and preserving our buildings is important to our heritage and community. Regular dues and even the annual fund sometimes aren't enough and we are thankful for the generous support of OPA members. So please, kick up your heels and purchase a ticket (or two) for July 1<sup>st</sup>, bid (or donate) to the auction. Come inside and enjoy memories from years past or look into the faces of our youngest generation of Ocean Parkers creating their own memories.

Water Color by Russel Whitten, to be included in the silent auction on July 1, 6:00-9:00 pm at Retro Night at the Rec Hall - fundraising event.



14 Temple Avenue | PO Box 7518  
Ocean Park, ME 04063

## SALES and RENTALS

*"Vacation at the Beach"*

Phone: (207) 937-5054

Fax: (207) 934-2823

Website: [oceanparkrealty.com](http://oceanparkrealty.com)

Email: [chris@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:chris@oceanparkrealty.com)

[jeff@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:jeff@oceanparkrealty.com)

Happy Spring Ocean Park! Inventory is low and prices are holding up. Let us help you with your real estate needs this year. We get results!

**Just SOLD**  
57 Winona Avenue  
4 bedrooms, 1/4 acre



We have some prime vacation weeks available for summer 2023. Email [Chris@OceanParkRealty.com](mailto:Chris@OceanParkRealty.com) for availability and rates.

Have you thought about renting your cottage or condo? We book over 400 vacation weeks each summer. Let's work together.



Chris Whittaker  
Designated Broker/Realtor  
(207) 937-5054  
[Chris@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:Chris@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!



Jeff Chute  
Associate Broker/Realtor  
(207) 937-5054  
[Jeff@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:Jeff@oceanparkrealty.com)

# Ocean Park Association

P.O. Box 7296, Ocean Park ME 04063-7296

*Address Service Requested*



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U. S. Postage

PERMIT No. 6

Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064



***HOLD THE DATE!***  
***Want to Volunteer?***  
***It's Time for OPA's Spring Clean-Up Party!***

**When: Saturday, May 6th, 2023**  
**9:00 am—12:00 noon**

**Where: We will meet at the Memorial Library**

Bring rakes, tools, and gloves

**\*Refreshments Provided\***

In the event of rain, this event will be re-scheduled.  
For more information, please contact  
the Ocean Park Association.

