



The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

...more than just a day at
the beach

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2023 SEASON CLOSE, By Cindy Benedict, OPA President

It was hard to believe, but before we knew it, another summer season had passed. Despite the unprecedented amount of rain our region received, our Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers remained undeterred and dedicated in their efforts to provide our community with the many activities and programs that we have all come to know and love about Ocean Park. In addition, discussions and planning preparations were already underway for an exciting 2024 season.

As the season came to a close, I was asked by someone how I would explain Ocean Park to friends who have never visited our community? I tried to come up with an appropriate answer – *a southern Maine beachside community, a Chautauqua community, etc.?* I know that so many of us tend to default to our usual “Happy Place” phraseology, or the place we go every year to gather with our friends and family, to enrich our souls and to recharge our batteries. However, I soon realized during my reflection that there were simply no words or phrases that could ever come close to expressing what Ocean Park is and what it means to all of us.

Ocean Park is more than a place - it is a feeling, it is a community of individuals who have come to love and support its rich history and to work together to preserve its future for our children, grandchildren and generations to come.

Ocean Park is a self-supporting community that is ONLY made possible with the commitment and dedication of HUNDREDS of volunteers, our incredible team of 30+ seasonal and year-round staff, and the generous financial support of so many Ocean Park Association members and visitors.

Thank you all for everything you do to keep our community
of Ocean Park so special.



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. You will receive credit for your contribution based on the date the check is deposited. To ensure your gift is booked for 2023, please make sure we receive your contributions by Thursday, December 28, 2023.

Thank you for your generous and ongoing support!



By Pamela Savage, Head Usher

The ushers and greeters who volunteer their time on Sunday mornings are very special people. You can find the greeters standing at the Temple doors on Sunday mornings welcoming everyone with a "good morning" before handing you your Temple Bulletin. Many times, they know you by name. The ushers, you will see participating in the Temple worship service collecting the offering or assisting attendees. There are many other ways in which these individuals help to make your worship time enjoyable. They set up the altar table, make sure the candles are lit and fresh flowers are displayed, assist those who need the hearing impaired devices, pass out Temple bench cushions to make those benches just a little bit softer, provide activity packets for the children, count attendance then record it on the attendance board, distribute This Week in Ocean Park and watch out for your safety. This season, these responsibilities and more happened each and every Sunday for eleven weeks. The individuals listed here have shown more than hospitality to our worship attendees. Some of these individuals volunteer their time each and every Sunday morning of the season. The dedication to the usher/greeter team is certainly appreciated by all.

"Thank You" ushers and greeters for providing a warm welcome to everyone who came through the Temple doors for this 2023 season and helping to make it a special Ocean Park worship experience!

Levon Akoghlanian
Peg Beck
Cindy Benedict
Joe Benedict
Patricia Campbell
Bryan Christoforo
Kim Christoforo
Nancy Drake
Rob Drake
Terry Gallagher
David Keene
Linda Kenniston
Cliff Kenny

Nancy Kenny
Gary Knight
Lynn Knight
Linda Lauritano
Mark Lauritano
Anne Parsons Marchant
David Marchant
David Allen Prescott
Lexi Prescott
Janet Wade
Kathy Wade
Ted Wade

FROM THE BOARDROOM, By Kathy Wade, OPA Secretary

Welcome to the new Environment & Natural Resources Standing Committee. When the OPA Members adopted the Amended and Restated Bylaws at the Annual Meeting in July, a new Standing Committee was created – the Environment & Natural Resources Committee (ENR, for short). This allowed the Board to appoint a Chair to lead the ENR Committee and to elect members, each to hold their appointments until the next Annual Meeting of Members in July 2024. The Board appointed Justin Foster as the ENR Chair prior to the August Board meeting so that he could participate as a voting member of the Board. Then, at the Board’s August meeting, the Board elected the following ENR Committee members to serve until the next Annual Meeting:

Doug Burns	Alice Thurston
Caroline Fohlin	Scott Tucker
Mark Lauritano	Tammy Twarog
Irvin Paradis	

New Board Committees.

Personnel Subcommittee. At its August meeting, the Board agreed to establish a new Personnel Subcommittee for the purpose of supporting the Executive Director in personnel and human resources matters, including review of personnel and compensation policies and practices; review employee retention issues; and being available to receive workplace complaints about employees or volunteers, working with the Executive Director when appropriate, to ensure that they are investigated and addressed. This Subcommittee will be comprised of at least three members, who will be appointed by the President and will report to the Executive Committee.

Property Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee. At the recommendation of the Property Committee, the Board authorized the establishment of an ad hoc committee to assess the capital needs of the Association.

Joint Development & Finance Ad Hoc Committee. An ad hoc committee comprised of members from the Development and Administration & Finance Committees was created during the summer to study and suggest improvements to our approach to membership, giving and long-term financial support of the Association. A report to the Board is expected in October, which will include suggestions for energizing this year’s annual fund appeal to help close the gap between revenue and expenses and providing a framework for increasing support by members and others in the future.

Board Sets Regular Meeting Schedule for the Year. The Board will meet via Zoom on the last Thursday of each month through June, except for December, beginning at 7:00 pm. In an effort to make Board meetings more efficient and productive, reports and committee minutes will be made available well in advance of the regular meetings for review by the Directors, allowing more time for discussion of time-sensitive and/or strategic matters. Once the “Members Only” section of the OPA website is finalized, upcoming meeting agendas and minutes will be posted.



**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 on Donate - then scroll down to the section on Memorial/Honorary Pavers; then click on the link that reads [2023 Paver Order Form](#).

**OOB MUNICIPAL TRASH
COLLECTION,**

By Lori Gramlich, Executive Director

The Town of Old Orchard Beach has overhauled its trash delivery and pick up effective September 9th, 2023. Residents should have received containers for both trash and recycling. Curbside collection is provided on public streets only, and only to properties which abut a public street and are not required to utilize private collection and disposal. For more information, or to obtain containers, contact the OOB Public Works Dept at 934 - 2250.



DON'T FORGET -

**OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION HAS IN STOCK ONE-OF-A-KIND
COASTERS (SET OF 4)**

FOR \$25.00

AND

**HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS,
FEATURING THE BANDSTAND**

FOR \$15.00!



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, ext. 0, or opa@oceanpark.org.

<i>Raymond A. Waterhouse</i>	<i>Saco, ME</i>	<i>April 13, 2023</i>
<i>Nancy Carson</i>	<i>Marbury, AL and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>May 11, 2023</i>
<i>Brenda Vaccaro</i>	<i>Merrimack, NH and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>June 20, 2023</i>
<i>William Walker</i>	<i>Steep Falls, ME and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>July 3, 2023</i>
<i>Mary F. Kerrigan</i>	<i>Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>July 5, 2023</i>
<i>Arthur B. Bradbury</i>	<i>E. Hartford, CT and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>August 4, 2023</i>
<i>John L. Moore</i>	<i>Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>August 8, 2023</i>
<i>Elaine A. Dickinson</i>	<i>Windham, ME and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>August 24, 2023</i>
<i>Elizabeth "Betty" Allen</i>	<i>Saco, ME and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>August 26, 2023</i>
<i>Rev. Dr. Victor F. Scalise</i>	<i>Seattle, WA and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>Sept. 15, 2023</i>

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX ~ SUMMERS FAREWELL,

By Lori Gramlich, Executive Director

As we end our 143rd Summer Season at Ocean Park and enter into the cool crisp days of Fall, I am reminded that we had an equal balance of day and night on the Equinox. Maintaining a balance in life during both our busier times as well as during our times which are slower, often provides reflection for me. Having had the wonderful opportunity to work with so many incredible dedicated Ocean Parkers and an amazing staff, was truly a rewarding experience. While I find myself enjoying the quieter times we find ourselves in at our beautiful seaside community, I am mindful that our next season will be upon us before we know it.



Time – the elusive commodity that often plays tricks on us.

Thank you all for a wonderful season! Enjoy time with family and loved ones during these gorgeous Autumn days before us – See you next Summer!

“It is the summer’s great last heat,
It is the fall’s first chill: They meet”

~Sarah Morgan Bryan Paitt, American Poet

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

Regular Members:

Barbara Larkin Anderson
Suzanne Hennig
Stacey Hess
Dorothy Keville
Teresa Nizza
Lynda Schuepp
Paul Schuepp
Elizabeth Sides
Bill Thorburn
Scott Tucker
Rob Wade
Dana Whittaker
Karen Young
Nancy Young

Life Members:

Pietro Abruzzo
Blythe Anderson
Mandy Brush
Jean Galvin
Joe Galvin (posthumously)
Gabriel Reid
Marci Scalise
Zoe Scalise
Stephen John West

Youth Members:

Isabella Doubleday
Cate Sides
Charlie Sides
Coco Sides



WITH MANY THANKS, By Rev. Jan Hryniewicz

When you pack up the 2023 summer season, be sure to gather up magnificent sunrises and glorious sunsets, peaceful walks on the beach, concerts at the bandstand, worship in the Temple, chimes at 5:00.



Don't forget refreshing raspberry lime Rickey's, tasty cinnamon buns, lighted cottages and candles on the beach. Tuck away conversations with old and new friends, fun on the courts, nature walks, Illumination night and oh so much more!

Take away a precious piece of Maine...cherished memories of Ocean Park to warm the cockles of your heart all year long.

With gratitude to everyone who made it possible...with love and peace to one and all!

We have come to the water and refreshed our spirits. Our hearts are overflowing!

DEFINITION OF HOME/OPA: WHERE YOU FIND PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL SPECIAL, By Levon Akoghlanian, Chair of the Recreation Committee

The summer of 2023 proved to *be* a success for the Rec Committee with the return of Sophia Du-bois and newcomer Morgan Pendriss. The pair worked successfully as co-chairs, implementing events like ice cream night, strawberry shortcake, and teen and junior dances. The last dance of the season brought in 35 eager dancers! Sophia and Morgan are grateful to the families who participated in the Rec Hall programming this summer. On top of providing evening events, they offered the usual 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, programs with engaging and innovative daytime activities. On Fridays from 4-5 p.m., Dodgeball was a welcome addition and is sure to be offered next season.

Despite a rainy start to the season, the Tennis Committee, chaired by Todd Whitney, managed a successful summer, and full-season tennis memberships increased from last summer. The Tuesday and Thursday children's clinics were well attended. Todd Sachs, Tennis Director, and his assistants did a great job teaching the kids. Unfortunately, the adult fundraising tournaments were canceled due to the weather. August improved weather-wise, and the postseason was active at the courts. In early October, the tapes will be pulled to remove 4,500 nails with the help of many volunteers. (let us know if you can help.)

Cam Jackman and his team, Jesse, Grace, and Andrew Bouthet, greeted over 4,000 visitors to the Shuffleboard courts this summer. The family fun tournament continued to be very successful every Thursday, and the crew is already looking forward to even more fun on the courts in 2024.

New traditions made their way into the Park this past season, and Retro Night was a highlight with several committees involved under the coordinated efforts of Deborah Sousa. Gathering the best efforts of the OPA, the event raised over \$11,000 to help with improvements to the Rec Hall.

Look for some of your favorite past events, like Bike Decorating, Walking Club, Yoga, Zumba, and the Sand Sculpture competition, along with some new activities being planned for the summer of 2024!

I want to thank all the Rec Committee members who worked over the winter and summer to bring forth a successful summer 2023 season to all OPA families.

Rec Committee: Julie Arruda, Chelley Casey, Catherine Guliani, Lisa Hurter, Jennifer Jameson, Linnea Koval, Carolyn Krahn, Steven Rogers, Suzanne Scalise, Mary Taggart



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SALES and RENTALS *"Vacation at the Beach"*

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Fax: (207) 934-2823

Website: oceanparkrealty.com

Email: chris@oceanparkrealty.com

jeff@oceanparkrealty.com

Exceptional Oceanfront Condo for Sale!



39 West Grand Ave., Unit 550

2 Bedrooms, 2 balconies, full remodel completed in 2023.
Amazing oceanfront views.

Listed: \$875,000



We have winter rental opportunities available right now.

2 bedroom house-\$1800/month

4 bedroom house -\$3000/month

3 bedroom oceanfront -\$2500/month

Please email Chris@oceanparkrealty.com for more information.

Thank you, Ocean Park, for a wonderful 2023 rental season. We served over 400 families who came from all over the country to share in this piece of paradise.



HAPPY FALL!

*Photos by Laurie Blair Ernst -
thank you!*



Chris Whittaker
Designated Broker/Realtor
(207) 937-5054
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
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**OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION
Jakeman Hall Winter Schedule 2023/2024
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Deck the Park!

Sunday, December 3, 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 28 (Yikes, 2024 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) October 3 through June 4, 2024, 7:00 pm. Bring your tiles or come learn a new game!

Naughty Needles

Second Tuesday of every month now through June 11, 2024, 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!