



The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

Affirming our heritage through our summer assembly embracing and celebrating diversity and programs centered on religion, education, recreation and culture

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Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership for 2024



We encourage you to [renew your membership online](#). If you wish to become a new member, please complete the [new member application online](#). And for general information [click here](#) for membership information on our website. If you need a new sign, just stop by the office - you can buy a new one for just \$10.00!

OPA RESTORATION EFFORTS, By Lori Gramlich

The last four months since our community was so significantly impacted from intense storms and flooding has been challenging to say the least. And while the circumstances of rebuilding our community and restoring our homes and businesses has been so overwhelming at times, I have been heartened by the ongoing good will, generosity and strong sense of community and resiliency I have witnessed over these past several months. We are hoping to have the final stages of our restoration completed within the next several weeks, including the restoration of our beloved Memorial Library, which took a significant hit during these terrible storms. While we have raised a little over \$200,000 to assist us in our restoration efforts, which is again a testimonial to the commitment and generosity of our strong and gracious community, we are still in need of an additional \$100,00, thus we are continuing to raise funds to remediate the cost of these damages.

Donations to 2024 Flood Relief Fund can be made at: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/OceanParkAssociation/flood2024relieffund-1.html>

If you have already given, thank you so very much. If you have the capacity to give, we appreciate your donation.

#oceanparkstrong

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WELCOME BACK!, *By Cindy Benedict, OPA President*

For many of us, the Memorial Day weekend is the kick-off to the season of Ocean Park! For others who are able to enjoy all the seasons in Ocean Park, it is the time to welcome back our friends and neighbors. Many will be returning to Ocean Park for the first time since the devastating winter weather events. I think that most will be surprised to see how well Ocean Park has recovered and bounced back, just as we always have.



Through hard work and determination, we have been able to repair most of the damage and, in some cases, have taken the opportunity to check a few things off our wish list. Long-overdue improvements to our technology and phone services are being accomplished. Roofs have been replaced and buildings have been rebuilt with more resilient and robust materials. Unfortunately, the fairies that live in our fairy garden were enjoying the off-season elsewhere, so we needed put a call out to our amazing Ocean Park friends. Not surprisingly, our community has a way of responding to our requests. Not only did many donate very generously to our campaign, but they and others donated their time (and muscles!) to help in the clean-up day held this past weekend. The fairies will be very happy to see their garden when they return. It is a true testament to the strong connection that we all have for our community. Ocean Park can only continue with the love and support of all.

LIVE IN THE LIGHT, *By Lori Gramlich, Executive Director*

After overcoming significant adversity with back to back storms this winter, I am happy to report that we are finally able to resume our most all of our OPA operations from our offices in Jakeman. The fact that we can work at our desks in Jakeman, and have our Post Office fully operational is a testimonial to the hard work and perseverance of our dedicated and hardworking staff, and I cannot thank them and our incredible volunteers enough. We are poised to open our Summer 2024 season, with our theme “Live in the Light” being a beacon for all that is good to come in our beautiful Ocean Park. We have been busy interviewing seasonal staff and are pleased to welcome many staff back again this season. We also have a full maintenance crew who have been busy assuring that our properties are ready for our summer season. We anticipate our program books to be available over the next couple of weeks. I am so pleased that we will once again welcome so many to Ocean Park, to enjoy our magnificent beach, our lovely grounds, and to participate in the many programs we have come to appreciate and love. And this summer we will also celebrate the 100 year Anniversary of our beloved Memorial Library!

We truly have so much to be grateful for – namely, our lovely seaside community – a community of generosity, strength and hope – a community that so many of us call home.

EARLY SEASON WORSHIP - 2024

Since 1889, the Religious Society of Ocean Park, Maine has been offering early season worship services on Sunday mornings. In 2024, services will be offered on May 26, June 2, 9 and 16 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 is coordinator and liturgist.

May 26: Rev. Dr. Peter Gray



The Reverend Dr. Peter Gray is a graduate of Eastern Baptist Seminary. He is a gifted singer and faithful choir member and lives in Old Orchard Beach with his wife Judy. They are active members of First Parish Congregational Church in Saco. He is an avid golfer and enjoys frequent adventures with his grandchildren.

Music provided by the Temple Brass, directed by Dan Evans. The Temple Brass is a talented group of musicians who come together in the summer to provide music for Temple worship every Sunday and special events in Ocean Park.

June 2: Rev. Vicki Keene



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.

Music provided by Neal Zweig and Cheryl Sager. Cheryl loves singing and has since she was very young. She taught music for many years, has performed with various ensembles and has also done solo work. Besides singing, Cheryl plays guitar, standup bass and currently performs in a duo group called Nice & Naughty as well as in an American Roots Folk group called Cold Spring. She also enjoys singing with her guitar-wielding husband Neal! Neal has been a performing and session recording guitar musician for 16 years. He adds a blend of acoustic and electric finger style accent guitar to many genres of music. Neal believes that it is not about how many notes you play but how caringly you choose to play them.



June 9: Rev. Dr. Geordie Campbell



Rev. 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.

Music provided by Rob Duquette, 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. Rob and his gifted wife, Amanda, offer a wonderful, interactive Kind Kids program for children involving music, puppetry and lyrical dance.



June 16: Rev. Renee Kaufman



The Reverend Renee Kaufman is originally from West Virginia and is an ordained American Baptist USA pastor. She has pastored churches in West Virginia, New York, Ohio, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Rev. Kaufman is currently serving as the Minister of Christian Education at The South Congregational Church in Kennebunkport, ME. Rev. Renee and her husband, Rev. Scott Cousineau, have fostered nearly 90 dogs nurturing them with boundless love and compassion.

Music provided by Will Sawyer. William Sawyer earned his Bachelor degree in Music Education and also in Music Performance from the University of Maine, Orono in 2013. Since graduating he has been teaching piano and music at all levels. While teaching he is also accompanying multiple choirs, theaters and touring groups. He specializes in piano, vocal teaching and percussion. Currently he is on the music staff at First Parish UCC Church in Saco. He is a superb pianist offering classical music, pop ballads and original songs.



2024 OPA Summer of Music

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS, By Jerry Scheinfeldt

With the summer season upon us, you are invited to join in the music at the Temple.

Temple worship begins on Sunday, June 23rd. The first choir rehearsal will be Saturday, June 22nd at 5:00 pm in the Temple. The choir will also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. The Temple Bells and the Temple Brass will also play. If you have questions please contact Audrey Cabral (Bells); Dan Evans (Brass) or Jerry Scheinfeldt (Choir) [Contact info is in the Annual program booklet.]. Or simply call the Ocean Park Association Office at (207) 934-9068, ext. 0.

MUSIC FESTIVAL EVENTS - 2024

Come join us this summer for a season of music. Funds raised from the music events will go towards the OPA flood relief efforts! All events begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Interested in sponsoring a show? Contact Lori Gramlich at director@oceanpark.org

Music at the Bandstand Events: \$5 Members; \$10 Non-Members

Special VIP Season's Pass (7 shows) Non Members \$50.00; Members \$25.00
(to purchase, see us at Jakeman Hall)

June 23 at the Bandstand - Alive in the Root: A roots band from southern Maine performing original music – a mix of bluegrass, folk, blues, jazz – and covers. **Sponsored in part by the Sousa and Belanger Families in Memoriam of Janet and Albert Belanger**.

June 30 at the Bandstand - Trevor & Co: *Trevor* is a piano player/singer/performer who plays classic rock tunes. Songs from artists like; Billy Joel, Beatles, Elton, John, David Bowie, and more.

July 7 at the Bandstand - North River Music: An Americana band covering Crosby Stills and Nash, The Eagles and Dylan to traditional American standards.

July 28 at the Bandstand - Mule Fuel: Local residents' Don Bouchard and Alex MacPhail perform classic pop and rock songs combining elements of blues and jam music with modern arrangements of traditional sounds and songs.

August 4 at the Bandstand - Par 5: A local band of five members who live in the OOB Dunegrass community, playing a little bit of something for everyone, from Country, Folk, Rock and Roll, and everything in between.

August 18 at the Bandstand - Trevor & Co: *Trevor* is back for an encore presentation not to be missed.

August 25 at The Bandstand – Kids at Play: Combines Al Smith's bass guitar and Ken Janson's percussion skills who will play all your favorite songs you all know by heart.

Music at the Temple Events: 10 Members; \$15 Non-Members; \$20 Day of show
(to purchase, see us at Jakeman Hall)

July 14 at The Temple - Seacoast Wind Ensemble: An array of musical pieces including contemporary, classical and jazz – a performance not to be missed.

August 2 at The Temple – All Together Now: A unique approach to the best hits from the Fab Four. Come enjoy an evening with The Beatles music, featuring a female lead vocalist and an awesome light show – a great kick off to Illumination Weekend - Definitely a show not to be missed.

No Cost

August 11 at The Temple - Temple Choir: Directed by Jerry Scheinfeldt, presenting an evening of music featuring a wide variety of musical styles to appeal to all age groups. Featuring the Temple Brass and the Temple Bells – Donations Welcomed.

OPA CLEAN-UP DAY: THANK YOU EVERYONE! *By Lori Gramlich*

On Saturday, May 18th, we welcomed over 50 volunteers of all ages who came together to clean up winter debris around Ocean Park and to begin to spiff up the interior of our buildings. Our enthusiastic volunteers did everything from clean windows and the insides of Jordan and Porter to rake the outside all around the Temple, Bell Tower, Fairy Garden, the Cheney and more. In addition to work around the Temple Complex, countless volunteers also worked to tend to grounds at the Memorial Library and to paint shelving in the children's room at the Memorial Library. Countless loads of debris were taken to the landfill. It is amazing what can be accomplished in just one day with a group of awesome Ocean Parkers! Huge thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and amazing coordinators of this event—Deb and Steve Sousa and our incredible maintenance team.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are highlighting the incredible work of **Debbie Sousa**. Debbie, along with her husband Steve, who chairs the OPA Property Committee, were instrumental in coordinating this year's Community Clean Up Day, where we have nearly 50 volunteers working to beautify Ocean Park.

Debbie is a member of the Development Committee, where she has taken on assisting the OPA with volunteer coordination. In addition to her work as a member of the Development Committee, Debbie has tackled coordinating with OPA Board Committee chairs to ascertain the myriad of tasks necessary to pull off many of our summer programs. Debbie's tenacity and enthusiasm are two of the hallmarks illustrating the energy she brings to Ocean Park. She is always ready to jump right in and do what ever is necessary, from organizing and coordinating volunteers, to pulling together data for fundraising, to her kindness of OPA staff with surprise donuts and cinnamon buns, to her social media posts, to her signature picture and video productions – Debbie is always there to lend a hand.

Debbie's great-grandparents started coming to Ocean Park and now their kids and eight grandchildren are carrying on the tradition. They love living on West Casco Ave in the home that her parents once owned. The Sousas split their time between Boston and Ocean Park and are both association executives -Debbie works with mortgage lenders and Steve with real estate appraisers.



WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING SEASONAL STAFF, By Lori Gramlich

NEW STAFF



Tom Hulbert, Facilities Supervisor– Tom joined our OPA team in April of this year and his work around the Park during this short time frame has been commendable. Hailing from Bar Harbor, Tom comes to OPA with years of experience both as a business owner in the hospitality industry as well as a contractor with outstanding skills in carpentry, and maintenance oversight.

Sean Stanton, Grounds – Sean has a long history with Ocean Park, with his family residing in OP for generations. Sean is responsible for grounds maintenance throughout the Park and comes to OPA with years of experience in both culinary as well a background in education. Sean’s dedication to our community is impressive; he resides in OOB with his wife Sarah and their three children.



Cassie McKiel, Recreation Coordinator – Cassie is a recent graduate of the University of New England with her degree in education. She most recently completed her student teaching with the science and social studies team at Loranger Memorial School. Cassie brings enthusiasm and great experience working with elementary and middle school aged children.

RETURNING STAFF

John Pollard, who has been with OPA for several seasons, remained with us all winter and was a huge help in snow removal, trash maintenance and recycling. John continues with OPA this summer to assist with custodial, grounds and events set up. He remains an asset as part of our dynamic facilities team.

Lori Littlefield, our Memorial Library librarian will join us once again this season. Lori has gone over and above her summer responsibilities with frequent trips to Ocean Park this winter and spring, providing input in our reconstruction of the Library. The OPA is quite fortunate to have Lori joining us once again as we celebrate our 100 Anniversary of our beloved Library.

Todd Sachs returns again this summer to over see our tennis program., while **Cameron Jackman** and **Jesse Grace** return for Shuffleboard.

We continue to round out staffing, including an additional recreation coordinator as well as office and tech staff support. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new and returning staff.

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 March Bell Tower.

To notify the Ocean Park Association of the passing of a loved one, please contact the office at (207) 934-9068, ext. 1, or opa@oceanpark.org.

Charlotte Bradbury	E. Hartford, CT and Ocean Park, ME	November 29, 2023
Evelyn Gorham	Clearwater, FL and Ocean Park, ME	April 20, 2024
Audrey Watters	Denver, CO and Ocean Park, ME	May 5, 2024



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

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Fax: (207) 934-2823
Website: oceanparkrealty.com
Email: chris@oceanparkrealty.com
jeff@oceanparkrealty.com



Welcome Back to Ocean Park Summer 2024
We have prime weeks available at many of our cottages and condos.
Still need a place for 4th of July? How about these options...



180 West Grand.
\$4500/weekly + tax.
5 bedrooms, 2 kitchens



72 Ocean Park Meadows
\$2100/weekly + tax
2 Bedroom condo with pool
and pickleball court



28 Seaside Ave.
\$7500/weekly + tax
5 bedrooms



6A Marshview
\$2200/weekly + tax
3 bedroom 1 story



25 Oceana Ave.
\$1800/weekly + tax
2 bedrooms close to beach



UNDER CONTRACT
47 Winona Ave.



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

OPA ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars! The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Members of the Ocean Park Association will be held on Saturday morning, **July 20, 2024** at 9:30 am in the Temple. Written Notice of the Annual Meeting will be sent (via email or regular mail) to all Adult Members who have paid their 2024 dues as of June 18th and those who are Life Members. The Notice will contain the Agenda for the meeting, which will include election of Officers, Directors and members of Standing Committees, and such other matters that may come before the meeting. Also included in the Written Notice will be written reports of each of the Standing Committees and financial information, including the 2024 budget.

Those who wish to vote at the meeting must have paid this year's dues prior to the Annual Meeting. Extra printed copies of the Notice of Meeting will be available online at www.oceanpark.org or at the OPA office.

WISH LIST

As we quickly approach our summer season, donations of the following items for the Rec Hall would be most appreciated:

- Friendship bracelet kits
- Colored pencils
- Drawing paper
- UNO game or game cards
- Kickballs
- Sidewalk chalk
- Colored markers
- Educational (board) games
- Oreo snack cookies
- Fla-vor-ice popsicles
- Veggie straw snacks
- Dorito snack packs
- Small children's art paint brushes

A MESSAGE FROM THE OCEAN PARK POST OFFICE

Just a gentle reminder regarding U.S.P.S. mail:

There is **no** home delivery in Ocean Park. All mail and packages will be delivered to your Post Office Box or General Delivery. Per U.S.P.S. regulations, packages and mail can only be held for two weeks.

OCEAN PARK POST OFFICE
15 COLBY AVE. ♦ OCEAN PARK ♦ ME 04063
(207) 934-1627



YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS MORE THAN EVER!

Please visit the local stores in Ocean Park!

The Ocean Park Association provides leases to these businesses, and your patronage helps further our mission.

Thank you!

