



# 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*

Volume 44 - Issue 3

June 2024

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Membership Restoration Page 1
- Community Survey Volunteer Spotlight
- Ed. Bureau Programs Page 2
- Anti-Harassment Policy/Training In Memoriam Page 3
- Summer Worship Tennis Courts/ Maintenance Biddeford Mills Walking Tours Page 4
- Music Festivals Page 5
- Summer Rentals Page 6
- Real Estate News Page 7
- Annual Meeting Volunteering in OP Page 8

### 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!

**Ocean Park Association Program Booklets will be back in stock shortly!** Don't forget to stop in to Jakeman Hall to pick one up!

The following are new members who have joined the Association since the printing of the previous Bell Tower:

#### Regular Members

- Josh Feuer
- Christine McKinney
- Kathleen Vaccaro
- Jessica Vogel



### OPA LIBRARY RESTORATION, by Lori Gramlich

#### OPA Community rises to the challenge once again



The devastation Ocean Park experienced this winter hit our beloved Memorial Library particularly hard. Our Facilities and Maintenance crew, Tom Hulbert and Sean Stanton, put in countless hours and went over and above to help assure that we were able to restore our Library to its original beauty. The dedication of these hard working staff as well as that of our Librarian, Lori Littlefield, Lisa Hurter Library

Sub-committee chair and all of our incredible volunteers showed once again, that Ocean Park is indeed generous and strong. Over 40 volunteers came to gather on the lawn of Furber Park this past week to unload boxes of books, shelving, furniture and more from the storage PODs that had sadly become an all too familiar fixture in our town center for these past 6 months. We still have a few additional tasks that we are anticipating to be completed this weekend on Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will look forward to opening our Library on June 24<sup>th</sup>, with modified hours as we continue to assure that all of our restoration and moving efforts are indeed completed. And let us not forget – this summer, we will be celebrating our 100 year Anniversary of our OPA Memorial Library. Stay tuned for additional information.



## **COMMUNITY SURVEY - TEMPLE SERVICES**

*by the Religious & Cultural Committee*

The Committee is offering a survey to the OP community concerning your experiences at our Sunday Morning Temple Services. Could you kindly take a few minutes to respond to the questions in this survey?

Just [CLICK HERE](#), or scan the QR code to direct you to the brief survey. It should only take about 10 minutes or less! Please only complete one survey per person.



Thank you for helping us improve your worship experience.

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

There are so many whom make up this incredible community – most all of whom are volunteers – and for that, the OPA staff are grateful.

This month, however, we are highlighting the incredible work of Todd Whitney. As many folks know, the tennis courts really suffered during the winter storms and flooding. As has occurred for years, Todd Whitney and his team of dedicated tennis volunteers once again assured that our historic tennis courts were repaired from our January floods and continued to be maintained for the season's matches. From the rich and long historical perspective Todd brings for OPA Tennis, to recruiting, coordinating and inspiring volunteers, to his passion and commitment to Ocean Park, Todd's commitment and dedication to the OPA has been unwavering. On many a spring day, Todd can be seen, often solo, running the machine or raking the courts. Lets all join in in thanking Todd Whitney for his commitment and contributions to the Ocean Park Association.



## **EDUCATIONAL BUREAU PROGRAMS**, *by Beth Keene, President of the Educational Bureau*

REMINDER - Ocean Park's **KIDZ GOT TALENT Camp** is coming to the Temple in 2024 so time to start practicing your talent show/act! The camp will run Monday through Friday mornings, July 29 through August 2, and culminates in a talent show on August 2. In addition to having practice and rehearsal time, all participants will perform in one or two fun dance numbers learned at the camp. \$100 camp fee for ages 6-18 and all levels of experience are welcome. Preregister by July 15 with Beth Keene via email at [keene1512@aol.com](mailto:keene1512@aol.com).



Another great program this summer is "**The Founding Women of Ocean Park**". Do you enjoy Ocean Park history? Don't miss the OPA's Tuesdays in the Park presentation on Tuesday night, July 2nd, at 7:00 pm at Jordan Hall. Members of the Educational Bureau will introduce you to impressive women who helped develop community programs in the founding years of Ocean Park.

Emeline Burlingame Cheney  
First President of the Free Baptist Women's Missionary Society

## ***NEW ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY AND TRAINING,*** *by the Personnel Subcommittee*

The new Ocean Park Association Personnel Sub-Committee was charged with the goal of “providing a framework on how we do business”; how we ensure that all people, whether they are volunteers, staff or community members, are cared for and treated with respect. To that end, our largest accomplishment to date is the creation of an Anti-Harassment and Sexual Harassment policy and online training program for all OPA employees and volunteers. This was a huge undertaking, but it places us in compliance with not only state and federal requirements, but also best practices.

This Spring we ran two trials of the online training and will begin a complete roll out of the training for all employees and volunteers this summer. Along with this accomplishment we also have a clear policy, including a reporting process, an incident report, and now the OPA can meet the conditions required by federal grant programs.

The Anti-Harassment Policy was approved by the OPA Executive Committee in February of 2024. The Policy states, “The Ocean Park Association (OPA) opposes harassment, including sexual harassment. The OPA is committed to preventing such conduct and addressing harassment when it occurs.” All OPA employees and volunteers are covered by this policy. The policy states that all such individuals will be required to initially participate in an anti-harassment training program with a refresher training program every three years.

Two of the most convenient things about this training are that it has been created specifically for our community and it can be accessed from a personal device such as a phone, tablet or computer (or from a computer at the OPA office if you don’t have a way to access it at home). All OPA volunteers will shortly be notified by their committee chairs on the specifics of how and where to access the training. Once you have been given access, an email invitation will be sent to you from Heather Fountain asking you to join EdApp and complete the Anti-Harassment Training. You don’t have to download an app- but can if you want to-, just go to the website link and enter your login information from your invite. All employees and volunteers (with limited exceptions) are required to complete this on-line training, which takes approximately 15-25 minutes. If you are wondering if this applies to you, consider this: If you are a formally nominated or elected volunteer (e.g. The Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Committee Members) or an individual that plays a leadership role in one of the many OPA sponsored events (e.g. Strawberry Social, Fourth of July Parade, Art in the Park etc.) you will be asked to complete this training. A volunteer who interacts once or twice a year such as Clean Up Day or Deck the Park, will not have to complete the training, but certainly are welcome to do so. This will not affect people who are here in Ocean Park for one program or one event, but rather those who have a greater level of involvement.

The full Anti-Harassment Policy will shortly be posted on the OPA website. Until then, anyone who would like to see the policy may contact the chair of their committee or the OPA office.



## ***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.

Jean Merrill

Willbraham, MA and Ocean Park, ME

May 28, 2024

Wayne Gerry

Jacksonville, FL

June 2, 2024



***SUMMER WORSHIP 2024***, by Rev. Dr. Richard Haley, Chair, Religious & Cultural Committee

With great excitement we welcome back the Ocean Park summer community to our weekly Sunday worship program. We started this season on Sunday, June 23, with the Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, an exciting and dynamic preacher with feet firmly planted in the arenas of ministry, business and higher education!

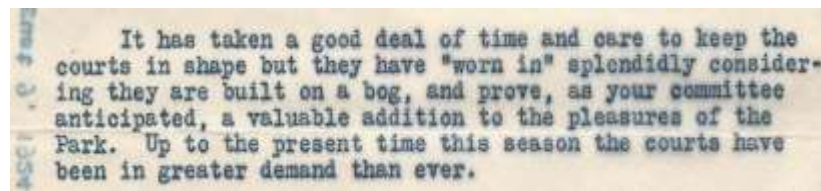
Our worship program this year features leaders and preachers from a variety of denominational, theological, and experiential backgrounds. Some preachers you will recognize, others are new to Ocean Park. Please join each Sunday for an opportunity to be God's people together and enjoy the breadth and depth of what that identity can mean. See you Sunday!

***TENNIS COURTS - MAINTENANCE***, by Todd Whitney

What do you know about the history of clay tennis court maintenance and the "BOG"?

First let's start with the fact that there are few clay tennis courts like ours.

In the 1923-1924 report from the OPA Athletic committee, this response was to answer complaints about the courts being wet and not playable for days.



Some thing never change! This is just one reason our clay courts stay wet longer than most others. The other is court construction and the different materials used to build soft courts. Soft courts are the preferred surface for most players. They are easier on the legs, perfect for every level of player as the ball sets up and gives you more time. This allows player of various skill levels to enjoy longer points in match play. There are 2 types of soft HAR-TRU surfaces (clay), and in Florida where I have played, taught and maintained Fast Dry which is the most prolific. We play all morning and at noon we turn on the sprinklers put out 2" of water. Play starts one hour later. Here on our courts 1/2" rain and we are down for the morning 3/4" and we are down for whole day. After the January 13, 2024 flood - down for two months and faced with hundreds of hours and help from 30 or 40 volunteers.

Note, HAR-TRU is pre-Cambrian Metabasalt (green rock). It was invented in 1931 in Pennsylvania by Henry Alexander Robertson (hence the name). It is mined in the blue ridge mountains of Virginia, processed by the former Lee Company, changing the name to HAR-TRU in honor of the inventor. We received 5 pallets containing 175 bags at 80 pounds per bag. Our Dave Levesque and our new OPA maintenance person, Sean, moved all 175 bags so tennis volunteers could complete the spring set up. Thanks go out to Debbie Sousa for rounding up the many volunteers who had never stepped on a clay court - hammering in 4,500 nails. Courts were up and playable 50 days after we started on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

***BIDDEFORD MILLS WALKING TOURS*** for Ocean Park Members and Friends –

The Education Committee of OPA is pleased to have made arrangements with the Biddeford Mills Museum to host two private walking tours of the mills complex for Ocean Parkers. Tours are led by historians and former mill workers who know well the stories of these historic textile mills. Tours are scheduled for **10am on Wednesday July 17 and 10am on Wednesday August 14**. Cost for adults is \$25 for a 90min tour; children ages 5-17 are free. Maximum of 20 adults per tour. Click this link [OPA Biddeford Mills Tour](#) to secure your spot and join us! Questions? Contact Andrea from the Education Committee at [andrea.lee.esser@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.lee.esser@gmail.com).

# 2024 OPA Summer of Music

## MUSIC FESTIVAL EVENTS - 2024

Come join us this summer for a season of music. All events begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

**Interested in sponsoring a show?  
Contact Lori Gramlich at [director@oceanpark.org](mailto:director@oceanpark.org)**

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

***Special*** VIP Season's Pass (7 shows) Members \$25.00; Non-Members \$50.00  
(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 Jan-son's percussion skills who will play all your favorite songs you all know by heart.

### **Music at the Temple Events:**

**July 14 at The Temple - Seacoast Wind Ensemble:** An array of musical pieces including contemporary, classical and jazz – a performance not to be missed. Cost: Members \$10.00; Non-Members \$15.00; day of show \$20.00. Children are free. To purchase tickets in advance, please see us at Jakeman Hall.

**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 P... female lead vocalist and an awesome light show – a great kick off to Ill... - Definitely a show not to be missed.

**CANCELLED**

### **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 Tempe Brass and the Temple Bells – Donations Welcomed.

***Your financial support of these music events help cover the cost of these outstanding performances. Thank you.***

## **OPR RENTALS, By Chris Whittaker**

We have some prime weeks available this summer and would love to share this special town with you. Email [Chris@OceanParkRealty.com](mailto:Chris@OceanParkRealty.com) for some last minute booking specials.

\*Availability subject to change. Taxes are in addition



June 29- July 6- Six available from \$790/week to \$2000/week



July 6- July 13 – Seven available from \$1200/week to \$2400/week



July 13- July 20 – Thirteen available from \$1200/week to \$4500/week



July 20- July 27 – Four available from \$1800/week to \$2000/week



July 27- August 3- Six available from \$1200/week to \$2500/week



August 3- August 10 – Two available from \$2050/week to \$2600/week



August 10- August 17 – Ten available from \$1500/week to \$4750/week



August 17- August 24 – Ten available from \$1800/week to \$7500/week



August 24- September 2 (Labor Day Weekend overlap)-  
Twenty two available from \$1200/week to \$7500/week







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

SALES and RENTALS  
"Vacation at the Beach"

Phone: (207) 937-5054  
Website: [oceanparkrealty.com](http://oceanparkrealty.com)  
Email: [chris@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:chris@oceanparkrealty.com)  
[jeff@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:jeff@oceanparkrealty.com)



## NEW LISTING in Ocean Park!

6 Oceana Avenue

We hope you could attend the Open House on  
June 23rd!



Please get in touch with Chris if you wish to view this outstanding property! 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths with ocean views from both levels! Over 1600 square feet on an oversized homesite of .14 acres!

Listed: \$1,200,000



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)



14 Temple Ave.  
Ocean Park, ME 04063

Office: (207) 934-9068

Website: [www.oceanpark.org](http://www.oceanpark.org)  
[www.facebook.com/OPMaine/](https://www.facebook.com/OPMaine/)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/oceanparkmaine/](https://www.instagram.com/oceanparkmaine/)

### ***OPA ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER***

Mark your calendars! The 2024 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 was 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 contains the Agenda for the meeting, which includes 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 are 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 are available at the OPA office and will be available at the meeting.

### ***COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERSHIP - VOLUNTEERING IS KEY TO OCEAN PARK'S SUCCESS***, by Martine Taylor, Chair, Leadership & Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Leadership & Nominating Committee, I would like to thank all who are serving on our committees, subcommittees and the Board of Directors. It is said..."It takes a village," and it certainly does. The Ocean Park Association is led by so many committed volunteers, not just in the summer on events and programming, but on strategy and planning all year-long. Our community and the summer seasons are truly gifts we all share, and it wouldn't happen without all of you.

On July 20th, at the OPA Annual Meeting, we will vote on a new slate of committee members and board members who have answered the call to serve. In preparation for the new term, the L&N Committee is inviting all new committee members, current committee members, board members, and staff to come to an **Orientation Gathering in Porter Hall at 8:30 AM**. Our time together will be brief, but it will be an opportunity for everyone to hear from our President, Cindy Benedict and Executive Director, Lori Gramlich, meet your committee chair and fellow committee members, learn about the importance of your role, and learn about our new Volunteer Handbook and Harassment Training. We will conclude in time to be at the temple for the annual meeting at 9:30 AM. Although the new term will begin, we do have some vacancies on our committees and the L&N committee will be actively recruiting. If you are interested in serving and getting more involved on a committee or the board, please reach out to me at [martinet2874@hotmail.com](mailto:martinet2874@hotmail.com), give me a call at 617-593-0744, or visit the OPA website and click on the "[online volunteer survey](#)" that lists the many ways to get involved. Here's to another fantastic summer in the Park and let the planning for 2025 begin. Thank you.