



# 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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### **THE BELL TOWER**, by Stuart Macmillan, Interim Executive Director

The Bell Tower. Deb and I had our engagement photos taken at The Bell Tower. I want to say that after 10 months as the Interim Executive Director for the Ocean Park Association, the Bell Tower means so much more to me than it did.

I believe I mentioned in my first Bell Tower message that I was told that the Bell Tower was the geographic center of Ocean Park. Having been through an off season and literally watching the community come to life; it appears to me that the Temple Complex and Furber Park (the Memorial Library and the Bandstand) are the cultural centers of our precious community.

We have dealt with property issues and environmental issues over the past year, and it became clearer to me how we need to protect our Historical Buildings and “cherish the earth”; from Guild Park to the Dunes and the nesting Plovers. I will say however, that while I have been blessed over 6 decades to come and cherish the place we call Ocean Park, my greatest blessing this past year has been to find a community of extraordinary people. So, while I remain fully committed, even after I leave this position, to preserving the legacy of Ocean Park, I encourage all of us to cherish the relationships, the people, the friendships we have made over the years and will continue to make in the years to come. We call ourselves a diverse community and we speak of kindness. I further encourage us to go through the mental exercise of saying if I am truly embracing diversity, am I willing to embrace ideas, people, and activities that I do not necessarily agree with. We pride ourselves on being kind. Are we kind to people we don’t agree with or don’t even particularly like? As we cherish and preserve this community, let’s preserve relationships and kindness first and foremost.

To Fran Day, your new Executive Director, I say, you will never find a place like this anywhere in the world. You will face the challenge of preserving history and legacy whilst advancing new ideas in a new world. The greatest asset you have at your disposal are incredible people who give readily of their time, their talents and their treasure. I know that is what impressed me the most over the last year. I commit to staying involved for as long as the community needs me.

God Bless you all, God continue to Bless our community, and I encourage you all to Keep Shining and Be a Light.



## 2025 OPA Sundays in the Park Concert Series

Join us for the 2025 Sunday in the Park Concert Series! Good music and entertainment in a timeless setting! Bring your beach or lawn chair to Bandstand events!

All performances are held at the Bandstand and begin at 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). All events are no cost.

### Upcoming Performances:

- July 13** Seacoast Wind Ensemble, performing an array of musical pieces including classic marches, contemporary compositions, jazz and popular tunes. Held at the Temple.
- July 20** The Alumni Band, performing a wide variety of music including marches, jazz, showtunes and seasonal favorites.
- July 27** Ben Lyons & Brian Rex, offering music options from soft and gentle acoustic guitar with violin to classic upbeat songs.
- August 1** Kids at Play, featuring Al Smith on bass guitar and Ken Janson on percussion (Friday) with selections from Jimmy Buffett, The Eagles, Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith and more. They will sing and play all your favorite songs you know by heart!
- August 3** Small Boy Pete's (an encore performance) see July 6.
- August 10** Bold Riley, an acoustic folk quintet band from western Maine featuring fiddle, guitar, banjo, accordion, and more.
- August 17** Ocean Park Choir Concert, featuring choral and instrumental music in a wide variety of musical styles for all ages. Held at the Temple.
- August 24** Bluehill, is a seasoned blues/roots/rock band from the Portland area group offering favorites from Zach Bryan, Chris Stapleton, Van Morrison, Jonathan Edwards, and more.



**2025 GUEST PREACHERS AND SPEAKERS** (Sunday services 10:30 am at the Temple)



**Sunday, June 22**  
 Rev. Nikita G. McCalister  
 President  
 American Baptist Churches  
 USA  
 Bloomfield Hills, MI



**Sunday, June 29**  
 Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson  
 Dean  
 Worcester Polytechnic Inst.  
 Bus. Sch.  
 Worcester, MA



**Sunday, July 6**  
 Rev. Steve Garnaas-  
 Holmes  
 Retired Pastor  
 United Methodist Church  
 Wells, ME



**Sunday, July 13**  
 Dr. Sean McDonough  
 Professor, New Testament  
 Gordon-Conwell Theologi-  
 cal Seminary  
 So. Hamilton, MA



**Sunday, July 20**  
 Rev. Dr. Allen Ewing-  
 Merrill  
 Executive Director  
 The BTS Center  
 Portland, ME



**Sunday, July 27**  
 Rev. Cheryl Harris  
 Retired Sr. Pastor  
 First Baptist Church  
 Attleboro, MA



**Sunday, August 3**  
 Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise  
 Pastor  
 Brewster Baptist Church  
 Brewster, MA



**Sunday, August 10**  
 Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel  
 Executive Minister  
 American Baptist Churches of  
 MA TABCOM  
 Groton, MA



**Sunday, August 17**  
 Rev. Dr. Quintin L. Robertson  
 Director  
 Urban Theological Institute  
 and Black Church Studies  
 United Lutheran Seminary  
 Philadelphia, PA



**Sunday, August 24**  
 Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor  
 Senior Minister Emeritus  
 Old South Church  
 Boston, MA



**Sunday, August 31**  
 Rev. Matt Laney  
 Co-Pastor  
 Dr. Virginia-Highland Church  
 Atlanta, GA





***EDUCATIONAL BUREAU OF OCEAN PARK***  
***2025 SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS***

*By Beth Keene, President*

June 23, 10:00 am	Annual Educational Bureau Meeting at the Curtis Guest House
July 2, 10:00-11:00 am	Fair Garden Day, Temple Ave across from Jordan Hall
July 7-11, 9:00-11:30 am	Theater Dance Camp in the Temple
July 10, 10:00-11:30 am	Coffee and Cottage, 17 Manor St
July 14-18, 9:00-11:00 am	Art Explorers Camp in Jordan Hall
July 16, 9:00 am-1:00 pm	70th Annual July Bazaar on the Curtis Lawn (rain date July 17)
July 21-23, 9:00-11:30 am	Ecology Adventure Camp, various Ocean Park field trip locations
July 24, 10:00-11:30 am	Curtis Open House and Coffee Celebrating our founding 140 years ago
July 28-Aug 1, 9:00-11:30 am	Ocean Park's Kidz Got Talent Camp at the Temple
Aug 4-8, 9:00-11:30 am	Beach Olympics, top of Temple Ave board walk
Aug 13, 9:00am-1:00 pm	Annual Flea Market/Lawn Sale on the Curtis Lawn (rain date Aug 14)
Aug 18, 10:00 am	Adjourned Annual Meeting at the Curtis Guest House
Aug 30, 10:30 am	Ukesters play for "Music on the Porch Day" at the Curtis Guest House

## THE EDUCATIONAL BUREAU—2025 BAZAAR DATES, *by Nancy Kenney,*

The Educational Bureau of Ocean Park will be holding their 2025 bazaars on the following dates:

**Wednesday, July 16—rain date, July 17**

**Wednesday, August 13—rain date, August 14**

If you are interested in purchasing a table (\$25/each), an application form can be found at:

- ⇒ FB: Educational Bureau of Ocean Park, click on Forms-email or deliver to Nancy Kenney at [nancykenney@aol.com](mailto:nancykenney@aol.com)
- ⇒ Or by texting (include name please) Nancy Kenney @ 978-502-2615.

***NOTE: Last year, we ran out of tables so get your request in early!***



If you have donations for the Educational Bureau, white elephant tables, please contact Dana DeFilippo @ 978-430-3414

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

Mark your calendars! The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Members of the Ocean Park Association will be held on Saturday morning, **July 19, 2025 at 9:30 am in the Temple.**



Written Notice of the Annual Meeting were sent (via email or regular mail) to all Adult Members who have paid their 2025 dues as of **June 6** and those who are Life Members. The Notice contained 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 the written reports of each of the Standing Committees and financial information, including the 2025 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 at the OPA office and at the meeting.

## ***Ocean Park Clean Up Day***

On May 17th, nearly 50 generous volunteers gathered for Ocean Park Clean Up Day—and what a difference you made! Thanks to your time, energy, and care, we were able to clean both inside and outside the Temple, Porter Hall, Jordan Hall, the Fairy Garden, the Temple Garden, and the Post Office.

We're deeply grateful for this incredible show of community spirit. Whether you raked a garden bed, swept a walkway, or simply showed up with a smile, you made Ocean Park shine! From the bottom of our hearts—thank you!



# ***Thank You!***



## ***The Piping Plover in Ocean Park!***



It is Piping Plover season in Ocean Park, and that means being on the lookout and protecting their fragile dune nests. The Piping Plover is an endangered species, and its numbers in Maine are very low. Unfortunately, in Old Orchard Beach and Ocean Park, the plovers are not reproducing well; according to Maine Audubon, the reproductive success rate in our area in 2024 was a grim 0.25 chicks per breeding pair, which means they are not replacing themselves, much less growing in population. In OOB there were a total of 4 breeding pairs and only one chick survived to fledge. Piping Plovers need sandy beaches in order to nest and raise their young. Of course, people also love to live near and visit the beach. Over time, the development and construction of seawalls, jetties, piers, homes, parking lots, and other structures has significantly reduced the available shoreline habitat for these species of birds. The increase in Maine's beach-

front population has also brought more people and their pets to nesting beaches. This can keep adult plovers from tending to their eggs and chicks, which leaves the nests vulnerable to predators and the elements.

### **Some facts on plovers:**

Piping Plovers arrive in Maine as early as mid-March, among the first shorebirds to arrive and the first to fly south in late summer. Plovers and terns lay their eggs directly on the sand. The eggs (and chicks) are sand colored, and can be extremely difficult to see. When an adult Piping Plover perceives that a predator is threatening its nest, the bird will attempt to distract it by moving a few feet away, pretending to have a broken wing, and sounding a distress call. Even if this ruse works, the adult bird's absence leaves the eggs or chicks vulnerable to the elements. When a plover chick feels threatened, it will freeze in the hope of being overlooked. Sometimes people mistake this for an injury and pick the chick up, which puts the chick at risk of injury or even death. Chicks regularly move up and down the beach in search of food and shelter, sometimes traveling miles from the nest. They can be found anywhere on the beach, including far away from signs and fencing. Encroaching development has limited nesting habitat, and has also caused an increase in the numbers of foxes, raccoons, skunks, gulls, and crows, which prey on eggs and chicks. Piping Plovers and Least Terns are well-adapted to surviving losses in the naturally dynamic system of a coastal beach, but only if the system is intact. The best (and only) place for these birds is on the beach. Please enjoy watching these amazing endangered birds from a distance!

### **How to share the beach with Piping Plovers:**

- ⇒ Stay clear of fenced areas. Observe the birds from a distance. If you see a hole that someone has enjoyed digging but abandoned for the day, fill the hole in so no chicks are inadvertently trapped.
- ⇒ Keep dogs leashed and all pets far away from nesting areas. Roaming dogs and cats are among the top threats to the eggs and chicks of Piping Plovers and Least Terns.
- ⇒ Fly kites well away from nesting areas. Plovers and terns mistake them for predators and leave their nests to ward off the "intruders."
- ⇒ Take your trash and food scraps with you when you leave the beach for the day. Garbage attracts gulls, foxes, raccoons, and skunks, which prey on plover and tern eggs and chicks. Notify Maine Audubon of any plover nests or disturbances to plover nest, at (207) 245-2353, or the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 657-2345.

## 2024 TEMPLE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

by the Religious & Cultural Committee

During the 2024 summer season, the OPA Religious & Cultural Committee conducted a survey of the Ocean Park community to gather insights for enhancing the Sunday morning worship experience. A total of 67 individuals responded, and the key survey results are noted below.



### 2024 Temple Survey Highlights

#### Affirming

- ◆ **Minister Selection Satisfaction** – 54.5% of respondents are satisfied with the minister selections, while 28.8% are neutral and 13.6% are dissatisfied.
- ◆ **Music Preferences** – Traditional, contemporary, and instrumental music styles are the most favored among respondents (60%), with a strong preference for more upbeat hymns.
- ◆ **Service Start Time** – 50.8% prefer the 10:30 am service start time.
- ◆ **Guest Preacher Engagement** – Respondents generally appreciate the variety of guest preachers (57.6%), though some would like more consistency or familiar faces returning.
- ◆ **Community Connection** – There is strong support (76%) for community engagement programs such as discussions, Q&A sessions, and fellowship hours, highlighting both Morning Watch and Coffee Hour.

#### Areas of Opportunity

- ◆ **Visibility Concerns** – Approximately 1 in 5 attendees (20%) experience visibility issues during worship services, particularly in seeing the choir and musicians.
- ◆ **Choir Placement Preference** – A significant portion of respondents (42%) prefer relocating the choir to the stage behind the speakers for better visibility and acoustics.
- ◆ **Youth Interest** – Respondents (59%) indicated that alternative methods are needed to engage young families, offering suggestions such as having young people participate in services, engaging young preachers, and providing more contemporary music.
- ◆ **Acoustics and Sound System Issues** – Several respondents (25%) noted challenges with hearing the sermon and music clearly, suggesting a need for sound system improvements.
- ◆ **Need for Clearer Communication** – Respondents indicated they would appreciate better communication about service details, preacher schedules, and special events.

#### Actions Taken

The OPA has taken the following steps to enhance the 2025 Temple Worship Experience:

- ◆ Retained a new Music Director, William Fred Scott, as Jerry Scheinfeldt retires.
- ◆ Moved the choir risers back to the stage.
- ◆ Purchased new audio equipment and improved sound quality.
- ◆ Adjusted the seating for services to enhance greater accessibility and community.
- ◆ Invited a mix of both returning and new preachers to the pulpit for 2025.
- ◆ Added additional Coffee Hours after Sunday services.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey! Should you have additional questions or comments regarding the 2024 Temple Survey, please contact the OPA Religious & Cultural Committee c/o opa@oceanpark.org. And, if you would still like to take the 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!



## Anyone Notice Trees Marked with Blue Paint?

by Mark Lauritano

If you take a walk through Guild Park, you may notice that many of the trees have recently been marked with blue paint. While there has always been a blue dot trail in the park, there are now blue stripes across many trees and a blue mark on the ground near the base of these trees. These trees marked in blue will be cut down and removed this winter as part of a forest management plan endorsed by the Maine Forestry Service.



Many of the hemlock trees in the park are suffering from symptoms of mortality because of an insect, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This insect feeds on the tree sap, causing weakening and eventually death of the tree. Once dead, hemlocks can fall over posing a safety risk to those who use Guild Park. In addition to this challenge, other trees found in the park such as White Pine are very old, and either dying or at risk of shedding limbs and/or tipping over in the future. Some dead trees away from the trails will be left standing to support animal habitats. Many of the remaining hemlock trees that are still healthy, but showing evidence of some Woolly Adelgid infestation, will be appropriately treated to minimize the damage caused by this insect. This will give these trees a better chance of long-term survival.



The Ocean Park Association (OPA) is committed to maintaining a healthy forest in Guild Park to be enjoyed by future generations for decades to come. To learn more about the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Guild Park Forestry Management Plan please join us for an educational program that will be offered for the next three Thursdays (July 10 th , 17 th , and 24 th ) at 7 PM in Jordan Hall.

If you have questions about the forestry management plan or would like to volunteer to help care for Guild Park, please email [oceanparkconservation@gmail.com](mailto:oceanparkconservation@gmail.com).

## ***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.

Linda R. Digan	Saco, ME	May 6, 2025
Pamela Scheinfeldt	Ocean Park, ME	May 27, 2025
Charles E. Gladu	Ocean Park, ME	May 31, 2025
Chad Sulkala	Northampton, MA	May 31, 2025
Alice B. Foster	Wentzville, MO	June 12, 2025

## ***MEMBERSHIP***

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! AND, new in 2025, we have a membership decal!



# **Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership for 2025**

## ***OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT***

The purpose of the Ocean Park Association is to affirm the traditions and spiritual heritage of which we are heirs, through a summer assembly program where Christian worship, principles and ideals are at the focus; where diversity is celebrated and the dignity of all is embraced and respected; where the natural beauty of our seaside resort is conserved and enhanced; and where programs centered on religion, education, recreation, and culture provide opportunities for individual growth and family enrichment.





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)

### Welcome Back to Ocean Park Summer 2025

We have some great cottages for rent! Reach out to [chris@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:chris@oceanparkrealty.com) to secure your spot. Check our website for availability.



**SOLD!**  
**12 Oceana Avenue**  
Welcome Scott and Kristin to the neighborhood when you see them!



**Under Contract!**  
**6 Oceana Avenue**



**Under Contract in 18 Days!**  
**6 Maine Avenue**



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

### *Ocean Park Realty*

Hey, Ocean Parkers! Did you know? If you rent or sell your home/cottage through Ocean Park Realty, some of the proceeds go to the Ocean Park Association and its work in supporting the mission of our Park.

Ocean Park Realty, a subsidiary of the Ocean Park Association, is a full-service brokerage that can serve all 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.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Order # \_\_\_\_\_

### Temple Service Flower Order Form 2025

Those who wish to pay tribute to their loved ones by placing flowers in the Temple for Sunday services can do so by completing this form and submitting it to the OPA office by **4:00 pm** no later than the **Monday before** the desired date. Arrangements are **\$60 each**, and are provided by Prestige House of Flowers in Biddeford.

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrangement: \_\_\_\_\_ *We will contact you if this date is not available.*

Text for Sunday Bulletin: (no more than 15 words, please) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Floral Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type (select one):     Check     Credit     Cash    Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:     Visa     MC     Disc.     Amex    3/4 Digit Sec. Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Ocean Park Association

Mail completed forms to: Ocean Park Association, PO Box 7296, Ocean Park, ME 04063

Or Call the office at 934-9068 (ext. 1) or via email at opa@oceanpark.org.