



# THE BELL TOWER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

From the Board  
By Linda Lauritano, President  
Dues Increase Approved

Message from  
the Board

At the special meeting of the members of the Association held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 14, the members approved an increase in membership dues. Annual dues for 2026 will be \$175 for adults and \$50 for youth. The one-time fee for life membership will be \$5,000.

#### Strategic Planning Committee

We have named a Subcommittee to work on a draft of a Strategic Plan for the Ocean Pak Association. Most are members that have been active in the OPA as committee members or committee chairs and some folks bring possible new & different perspectives.

Janet Anderson  
Jeff Chute  
Fran Day  
Suzanne Dix  
Terry Gallagher  
Patty Hurter  
Barry Jackman  
Linda Lauritano  
Elizabeth Morrison  
Chris Root  
Martine Taylor  
Susan Symington (Real Estate OOB)  
Cathy Stackpole (ED at Ferry Beach)

The group will meet at Jakeman Hall on February 28th to work together on a draft strategic plan. Don Hurter will be facilitating the work session. Don is a long-time Ocean Parker who spends summers at 9 Tioga Ave. He is currently President at Rae-Cox Group/Medical Management Services and serves as a Board Member on 3 different boards providing strategic oversight and corporate growth. He also provides consulting services to Private Equity Firms.

This will be important work to strengthen Ocean Park as a vibrant, financially sound, multi-generational Chautauqua community—rooted in our heritage yet open to new ideas. We will talk about expanding programs, improving infrastructure, deepening member engagement, and building the organizational capacity needed to support future growth.

We will update you on our progress in the next Bell Tower.



## Saco Bay “Neighbors” in action: the UNE Oral History Project

Have you ever told a friend or child or grandchild a story about Ocean Park? One of the major storms when sea water topped the dunes? Skating on frozen ponds in the woods near The Pines? Cross-country skiing down Randall on a clear crisp January day? If you have or would like to, please let us know! The January Bell Tower announced this opportunity and invites you to e-mail Ruth Gladu or Karen Brindle to follow up.

The Oral History Project coordinated with our OPA Historical Preservation Committee is part of a longstanding neighborly connection between OPA and UNE. On December 8, 2025, several Ocean Parkers met in Jakeman Hall with visitors from the University of New England (UNE) to support a local oral history project. Karen Brindle, Chair of the OP Historical Preservation Committee, was joined by Historian Ruth Gladu, Executive Director Fran Day, and our new OPA colleague Michael Nicholas, a UNE alum, for this gathering of Saco Bay neighbors. Oral Historian Molly Graham and UNE student Rosalie Bridge interviewed Karen, Ruth, and Fran to gather their personal stories and experiences as Ocean Parkers and lovers of Saco Bay and environs. UNE is gathering many personal accounts focusing on coastal Maine environmental change and adaptation. Karen shared prior OPA oral history initiatives such as Jan Wangarrd’s transcripts of interviews gathered some twenty years ago. UNE is collaborating with “Maine Sound and Story” and “NOAA Voices” to build a collection of personal stories and images and documents. This UNE activity is supported by the UNE Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Lisa Herchsbach, Director, and the David Evans Shaw Innovation Fellowship Program. As many Ocean Parkers know, our community has enjoyed a longstanding friendly set of connections with UNE which has been beneficial in many ways over the years. Tom Morgan, Stuart Goldstein, David Jackson and many other Ocean Parkers have worked, studied, and volunteered at UNE.

Contact Ruth at [cgladu@maine.rr.com](mailto:cgladu@maine.rr.com) or Karen [kbrundle123@yahoo.com](mailto:kbrundle123@yahoo.com) or Michael [mnicholas@oceanpark.org](mailto:mnicholas@oceanpark.org) to arrange an interview.



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**3 bedrooms 1 bath**  
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**Also, COMING SOON**

**We have two new additions**  
**arriving soon for booking**  
**summer 2026, including**  
**16 Sandpiper Ave. three**  
**bedrooms two baths \$3500 per**  
**week plus tax**

**146 West Grand Ave. unit 48**  
**two bedrooms one bath one**  
**story condo \$2500 per week**  
**plus tax**



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## GUILD PARK UPDATE

The tree thinning in Guild Park is now complete. The final logs have been removed and the stones restored at the entrance on Temple Ave. Bark mulch has been laid on the trails.

The ENR committee has put in an order for 1,500 beetles as well as 500 seedlings for the spring and they will be organizing a volunteer event to plant the seedlings. Details will be announced at a later date.

## BOOK CLUB

We will discuss “Coda” by Mary Ann Murray on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10AM in Jakeman Hall. She is an OP resident and will lead the discussion!

Looking ahead, the next book discussion will be “Frozen River” by Ariel Lawhon on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. It is a historic novel set in Hallowell and is a true story based on the life of Martha Ballard. PBS produced a documentary series in the 80's on the story.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Michael Nicholas joined OPA in December as Database Coordinator. A lifelong Mainer, Michael grew up in Westbrook and spent many childhood days in Ocean Park. He brings over a decade of experience from his role as Sales Operations Manager at CHART Metalworks, a Portland-based jewelry manufacturer, and most recently worked with the Greater Portland Board of Realtors.

Outside of work, Michael runs a local website and social media project, Meet York County, highlighting businesses and communities across southern Maine. He lives in Springvale with his wife and 2 crazy dogs.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out these off-season opportunities for residents & friends, in Jakeman unless otherwise specified.

- Mahjong:  
Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 - 8:30pm
- 2nd Tuesday of each month—  
Naughty Needles—6:30 pm
- 4th Tuesday of each month—  
Naughty Needles—3:00-5:00 pm
- Every Tuesday & Wednesday at  
9:00 am—Chair Yoga and other  
fun exercise activities
- Every Thursday from  
2:00-4:00—Games day

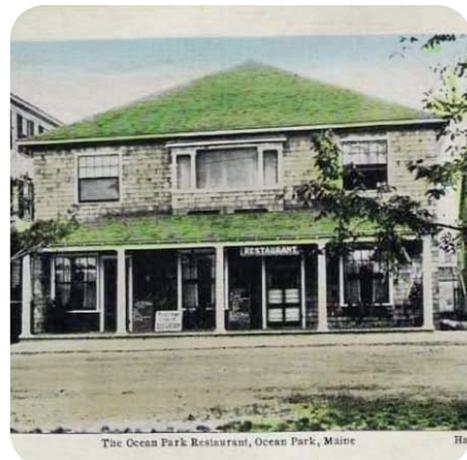


# WHAT'S YOUR STORY

Join the Historical Preservation committee and the University of New England as we listen, gather, share and celebrate Ocean Park stories as part of an oral history project. Do you have a memory you'd like to contribute?

Email Ruth Gladu or Karen Brindle at the following emails.

[cgladu@maine.rr.com](mailto:cgladu@maine.rr.com)  
[kbrindle123@yahoo.com](mailto:kbrindle123@yahoo.com)



The Ocean Park Restaurant, Ocean Park, Maine

## 2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER:

ADULT (PER INDIVIDUAL) \$175  
 YOUTH (PER INDIVIDUAL) \$50  
 LIFE MEMBER (PER INDIVIDUAL) \$5,000

LEARN MORE ONLINE: [HTTPS://OCEANPARK.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://oceanpark.org/membership)



## OCEAN PARK TRIVIA

1. The name Chautauqua is named for a Lake in which State?

- a) Ohio                      b) New York  
 c) New Hampshire      d) Michigan

2. In 1889 the Berlitz School of Languages taught classes here in OP in which languages?

- a) French & German,    b) German & Greek  
 c) French & Greek      d) Greek & Hebrew

3. The Tanglewood Guest House which was located across from the Temple would offer how many meals a week for \$19.00?

- a) seven    b) ten    c) fourteen    d) twenty-one

4. In what year did the Ocean Park Restaurant & Bakery which is now Jakeman Hall at 14 Temple Avenue) open?

- a) 1888  
 b) 1895  
 c) 1903  
 d) 1911

5. In 1959 Tennis fees were how much per person per game for adults?

- a) .50 cents    b) .80cents  
 c) \$1.00      d) \$1.25



### LAST MONTH'S OP TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 1921    2. Cheney    3. 20 Days  
 4. Robert Frost    5. Prince of India