



# The Bell Tower

*Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association  
Chautauqua By-The-Sea*

Volume 38 - Issue 1 "More than just a day at the beach..." February 2018



## **PORTER HALL RESTORATION TO BEGIN SOON** *By Jerry Gosselin*

On January 16, I sent a community email updating you on the progress of the restoration of Porter Hall. Since this communication, we have received Liberty Mutual's determination of the cost of repairs and have actually received a settlement check in the amount of \$59,364.54. A \$5,000 deductible was applied. Liberty Mutual has also paid the bulk of other storm-related expenses.

On February 2, we received an estimate from a local contractor who is available to do the restoration work. His scope includes items not accounted for by Liberty Mutual such as: allowance for capitals replacement (above the columns) in front of Porter Hall, removal and reinstallation of the stained glass window at Porter, replacement lamp post and hardware outside Porter, replacement of lamp posts and lights at the Temple, replacement signage in front of the Temple, landscaping costs, and repair of the front step at the entrance to the Temple. So, we will be in touch with the insurance company in due course to request a supplemental check to cover these items.

The contractor, Cory Hussey, says he can begin work on or about March 15 with the goal of completing the restoration by May 15. That is certainly good news!

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## ***THE CHAUTAUQUA TRAIL IS COMING!*** by Frank Gwalthney

From July 26 to July 30, the North American organization, The Chautauqua Trail will have its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Ocean Park. The Chautauqua Trail was started by Alfreda Irwin of Chautauqua, NY, David Glick of Lakeside, OH, and Dick Burns of Ocean Park, ME in the late 70s. Did you know that at one time there were over 200 chautauquas in the US and Canada? Did you know that Ocean Park was known as Chautauqua-By-The-Sea as early as 1890? Did you know that all meetings of the Chautauqua Trail are open to the public? All of the above are true. The visitors from other chautauquas always look forward to the homestays in the host chautauqua. This enables folks from all over North America to share their experiences from their “special place on Earth”. One of the traditions that all who are new to The Chautauqua Trail have come to love is the 5-minute presentation each visiting chautauqua makes at our opening meeting[s]. The purpose of this annual gathering is to share ideas, successes, and failures each has encountered over the last year. We also share trends that seem to be emerging at our own Summer Assemblies. Many a new program, or initiative, has happened because of what was learned at another chautauqua. For example, Ocean Park’s involvement through the decades has led to Illumination Night, The Teddy Bear Picnic, The Fairy Garden, and the Temple Garden, just to name a few.

If you want to get the complete experience of attending a Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting (including meal functions and receptions), you can for \$150 per person. Please contact Frank Gwalthney at [gwalthney11@verizon.net](mailto:gwalthney11@verizon.net), or at his New Jersey home, 856-845-5531, if you want more information on registering for this great event. You can also get a better “feel” of the Chautauqua Trail by visiting our website, [Chautauquatrail.com](http://Chautauquatrail.com) or visit our Facebook page, Friends of The Chautauqua Trail (Formerly known as The Chautauqua Network).

**CT Annual Meeting Schedule (All meetings will be in Porter Hall):**

**Friday, July 27, 9 am to noon**

**Saturday, July 28, 9 am to noon**

**Monday, July 30, 9 am to noon.**



Ocean Park, Maine - Chautauqua-by-the-Sea



2016, Monteagle’s meeting room



Some Chautauqua Trail attendees in Monteagle, 2016



Muskoka, 2017, Chautauqua Trail attendees



Muskoka, 2017, Meeting Room



Muskoka, 2017, Chautauqua Trail attendees

## 2017 FINANCIAL RECAP, by Jerry Gosselin

For all who enjoy a bit of drama, the creation and execution of the OPA budget always provides a window into the unpredictable nature of nonprofit operations. Take the 2017 budget. It was adopted by the membership at the July 2016 Annual Meeting – and that was four months after the first budget drafts were crafted in March. So, the 2017 budget was literally built on the performance of the organization in 2015! Then we literally didn't know how well we performed until the last contributions to the Annual Fund were received in the final week of the year. Once again, your generosity put us over the top and we ended the year with a positive variance of \$8,397.

Let's get into the weeds a bit. At the recommendation of our auditor, all windstorm-related financial activity did not (and will not) impact regular operations and the bottom line. A new fixed asset account was added to the balance sheet to account for all the ins and outs. So, insurance company checks to pay for repairs and independent contractor payments will be accounted for outside the regular budget process but clearly seen on regular balance sheet activity.

On the income side of the ledger, both Membership and Annual Fund numbers remained strong. Sunday Plate was down because we donated 100% of the final week's collection (which amounted to an amazing \$11,650) to hurricane relief.

While various income categories saw both increases and decreases from 2016's performance, the largest impact was felt in the area of Commercial Property Rents. Across the board rent increases to the Village Square businesses and Ocean Park Realty allowed for extra revenue to positively impact the budget.

Our expenses also increased with personnel costs leading the way. Transitioning our Facilities Manager (Warren Kenniston) to a year round position was the major driver in this category.

We are still receiving pledge monies from the Restore and Renew Capital Campaign. All these funds along with the proceeds from the sale of commemorative pavers will continue to be deposited into the Endowment. When all anticipated pledges have been received, the Capital Campaign CD will be closed with the remaining funds to be deposited into the Endowment.

We also reduced the amount of money we can borrow on the Line of Credit (with Saco-Biddeford Savings Institution) from \$150,000 to \$75,000. The corresponding amount of money needed to secure the line was also reduced from \$120,000 to \$60,000. The newly freed up \$60,000 was deposited in the Endowment. At year's end the balance on the Line of Credit was lowered to below \$12,000 and the balance in OPA's endowment shot up to over \$823,000.

## OPA Budget Results 2017

	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
<b><u>Income (unrestricted funds)</u></b>		
<b>Membership</b>	70,455	66,770
<b>Contributions</b>		
Annual Fund (incl one-time gifts)	106,131	108,675
Memorial (incl bequests)	9,630	8,135
Sunday Plate Collection	<u>23,630</u>	<u>26,306</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	139,391	143,116
<b>Corporate Gifts/Sponsorship</b>	3,700	8,000
<b>Program Income</b>	84,981	72,905
<b>Commercial Property Rents</b>	103,382	79,110
<b>OP Realty</b>	18,629	19,576
<b>Product &amp; Service Sales</b>	5,371	6,996
<b>Fundraising Events (Net)</b>	4,113	3,905
<b>Post Office Contract</b>	38,832	38,832
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	3,602	12,530
<b>Endowment Draw</b>	<u>22,213</u>	<u>20,933</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>494,708</b>	<b>472,673</b>
<b><u>Expenses (unrestricted funds)</u></b>		
<b>Personnel</b>	262,443	247,397
<b>Program</b>	45,865	37,252
<b>Operations/Professional Services</b>	80,740	79,308
<b>Property</b>		
Operations	84,179	80,659
Maintenance & Renovation	<u>13,067</u>	<u>19,423</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted Expenses</b>	<b>486,311</b>	<b>464,039</b>
<b>Net Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>8,633</b>

What remains to be seen are the practical effects of the newly passed tax reform bill. Will contributions remain steady despite changes to individual and married standard deduction levels? Once again, the budgeting process for the 2019 budget will not have a running history of current year giving levels as a guide. In prior years, forecasting income levels was fairly predictable. Not so for this year. My hope is that the affection people have for Ocean Park as a Chautauqua community and as a special place for people to stay and visit will continue to guide everyone's giving choices in a positive way.

Keep yourself busy during the winter months with Ocean Park's series of activity groups that meet at Jakeman Hall (across from the Memorial Library), such as:

**Naughty Needles** happens the second Tuesday of every month until May 8. Bring your newest needle craft project. "Needlers & Hookers" meet at 7:00 pm.

**Mahjongg** group meets every Tuesday night (other than the second Tuesday when Naughty Needles is held) at 7:00 pm through May 29. For more information, contact Deb Guimont at 207-934-5917.

Questions? Call 207- 934-9068 to learn more!



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT, By Jerry Gosselin**

The following has been approved for the 2018 Let's Talk About It series: "Liberating Imaginations: Readings in Modern Irish Fiction". Here are book titles:

- 7/12: "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man", by James Joyce
- 7/19: "The Country Girls", by Edna O'Brien
- 7/26: "The Collected Stories", by John McGahern
- 8/2: "Antarctica", by Claire Keegan
- 8/9: "A Star Called Henry", by Roddy Doyle

A special



To all the volunteers who make the Ocean Park Association a success, from the busy and hectic summer to the cold winter - we can't do it without you!

**GOOD ENERGY CAFÉ, By Jan Hyrniewicz**

*Peace and positive energy promoted here...  
Music and Appetizers by the Sea*

These refreshing musical gatherings are designed to lift and heal our spirit...to put a positive spin on our outlook and to generate peace and understanding through the arts and community.

Gather and enjoy musical performances, appetizers and fellowship, coffeehouse style! Celebrate the beautiful, peaceful energy of Ocean Park!

**Seven Mondays: 4:30 – 6:00**

July 9, 16, 23 and 30

August 6, 13 and 20 – all in Jordan Hall

I hope you can all join in this inspiring program!

**2018 WEDNESDAY EVENING AT JORDAN SCHEDULE  
7:30 pm at Jordan Hall:**

- July 11:** Ian Mackenzie and Cilantro, guitarists
- July 18:** Three Friends on a Piano Bench
- July 25:** Julianne Eberle, cello
- August 1:** Ocean Park Temple Brass
- August 8:** Back Bay Four, a capella quartet
- August 15:** Roland and Patricia Jalbert
- August 22:** The Flukes, ukulele group
- August 29:** Messengers of Hope, gospel quartet

**2018 MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE  
7:30 pm at the Temple:**

- June 24:** saloon pianist Bob Milne
- July 8:** world renowned pianist Paul Bisaccia
- July 15:** Opera Maine Studio Artists present "Three Decembers"
- July 29:** Michelle Currie, pianist/jazz vocalist
- August 12:** Ocean Park Choir Concert
- August 19:** Downeasters Chorus

## ***SECURING OUR TOWN'S FUTURE TOGETHER,***

*By Pam Savage, Membership Chair*

The Ocean Park Association cares about our town and its business community. It is committed to representing your interest and works together to shape how the town develops. There are critical challenges facing the community as we go forward and a need for participation from community members. Here are a few ways for you to be involved and help protect the future of our community.

- Be a member of the Ocean Park Association. As a member you join a group of individuals who feel strongly about the community and its direction.
- If you are a member, choose to become a leader. Strong and effective leadership is an essential ingredient for an effective organization. Leadership motivates others and creates action. Whether it be a board, staff or volunteer position, they are all important in the decision making process.
- Help build resources to strengthen the organizations financial foundation. Your membership, annual fund giving, celebration paver, memorial gift or planned giving can be ways for you to contribute.

Let's work together to achieve balance and stability for the future of Ocean Park. It is the commitment of time, money and efforts that will protect the future of our community.



### ***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!***

The following is a list of new Ocean Park Association members approved at the November and January Board of Director's Meetings:

**Adult Members:**

Christopher O'Leary  
N. Lee Perkins  
Martha Perkins

**Life Members:**

Leland T. Murray, Jr.  
Christine S. Murray  
Sean Moreau  
Stephanie Moreau Ennis  
Michael Ennis, Jr.  
Kimbark Smith

**Youth Members**

**(gifted with Life memberships):**

Samuel J. Ennis  
Sophie M. Ennis  
Madelyn Fraser  
Emma Fraser

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

The following is a list of those Ocean Parkers whose passing has come to the attention of the Association since the printing of the November Bell Tower:

<i>Esther N. Yeamans</i>	<i>Waltham, MA and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>October 5, 2017</i>
<i>Ruth Gillin</i>	<i>Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>November 22, 2017</i>
<i>Stephanie Blecharczyk</i>	<i>East Boothbay and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>December 21, 2017</i>
<i>Robert Stack</i>	<i>Somerville, MA and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>December 26, 2017</i>
<i>Eleanor (Langevin) Mullen</i>	<i>Scarborough, ME and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>December 29, 2017</i>
<i>Betty Melville (Eleanor Mullen's sister)</i>	<i>Plantation, FL</i>	<i>December 31, 2017</i>
<i>Reuben D. Cole</i>	<i>Lebanon, NH and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>January 4, 2018</i>
<i>James Walker</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA and Ocean Park, ME</i>	<i>January 30, 2018</i>

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.

## ***LATEST ON THE STOCK MARKET***

*by James Macleod, President of Portland Trust, the company overseeing our Endowment*

In light of the weakness in the equity markets today and over the last week, we wanted to send you a quick note with our thoughts:

- The recent rise in long term interest rates appears to be the initial culprit. Yields on the 10 year Treasury hit 2.88% today, up over 40 basis points in the last month. Economists are expecting inflationary pressures, including wage growth, to push rates higher.
- Two months ago, the market was worried about the yield curve inverting. Now the market is worried about a steepening curve!
- All growth data has remained robust. Earnings so far this quarter are up 12-14% across US, European and Japanese markets.
- Credit markets are behaving well, not signaling concern about economic growth or financial markets tightening.
- Fed Fund futures now have three hikes priced in through next February, clearing the way for the Fed to make their intended moves. We would rather have the yield curve steepening to accommodate this than have it flattening to prevent it.
- We have gone nearly 80 weeks without a 5% correction in the S&P 500, compared with an average of 10 weeks historically. A correction is overdue.
- The weakness today and over the last week strikes us as more likely to be a normal correction exacerbated by emotional selling.

These periods of market volatility are always unnerving, even for the long term investor. Most of our customers have been through these many times before. Holding the course has always been the best strategy for the long term investor. This time is no exception.



## ***2018 GUEST PREACHER SCHEDULE***

- June 24** – Rev. Dr. Liz Walker  
Roxbury Presbyterian Church  
Roxbury, MA
- July 1** – Rev. Hamilton Coe Throckmorton  
Senior Pastor, Federated Church, United  
Church of Christ  
Chagrin Falls, OH
- July 8** – Rev. Cody J. Sanders  
Pastor, Old Cambridge Baptist Church  
Cambridge, MA
- July 15** – Rev. Julie Flowers  
First Baptist Church in Beverly  
Beverly, MA
- July 22** – Neddie Winters  
President, Mission Mississippi  
Jackson, MS
- July 29** – Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo  
President, Evangelical Assoc for the Adv of  
Education  
Davids, PA
- Aug 5** – Rev. Brynn Harrington  
Associate Pastor, Highrock North Shore  
Salem, MA
- Aug 12** – Sister Simone Campbell, SSS  
Executive Director, NETWORK  
Washington, DC
- Aug 19** - Rev. Dr. Amy Butler  
Senior Minister, The Riverside Church  
New York, NY
- Aug 26** – The Very Rev. Ben Shambaugh  
Dean, Cathedral Church of St. Luke  
Portland, ME
- Sept 2** – Rev. Jan Hryniewicz  
Retired Pastor, Union Church  
Biddeford Pool, ME





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

## SALES and RENTALS

*“Vacation at the Beach”*

(207) 937-5054  
 (207) 937-8227 (fax)

**Owners:** Most all owners have submitted their available dates. If you are contemplating allowing us to help you rent your property, please check the following link: [www.oob.gov](http://www.oob.gov) (please search for “Town of Old Orchard Beach business license”). As owners of vacation property, most of you are familiar with all the processes. If not, please feel free to contact me. This is the time of year to start looking at possibly replacing items or adding something new on what might ‘wow’ you if you were renting your home. **Past owners**, don’t forget to update your license annually.

**Renters:** If you have not had the pleasure of staying in Ocean Park or if you have decided just recently on your vacation dates, please contact me soon and be persistent. There are properties with open weeks and some new rentals.

**Sellers:** There are many potential buyers interested in Ocean Park. Ocean Park Realty would be pleased to be your full-service real estate company of choice. At this time, available homes for sale are few!

*Thank you,*

*Jeff*

**BEST SALES YEAR EVER...**

Ocean Park Realty is pleased to report a record year for transferring of property. We wish to thank Ocean Parkers for their support!

In terms of sales volume, we had 18 Sales units (9 listings sold; 9 sales). Properties transacted in 2017 included:

54 Temple	65 Orange Pippin (OOB)
1 Dune	Atlantic Birches Inn (OOB)
45 Colby	11 Adelaide
11 Casco	131 Temple Ave. (#38)
69 Temple	24 Winona
39 Winona	

Ocean Park Realty looks forward to another great year in 2018!

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!



### 20 Oceana Avenue in Ocean Park

Multi-family in Ocean Park! Lower has 2 bedrooms/2 baths, can sleep 6. Upper has 4 bedrooms/2.5 baths and sleeps 9. The kitchens and baths are updated and the property is served by central heat. Year round use may be possible. This is a grand property with lots of possibilities! Excellent rental history and owners are already booking for 2018. Furnishings are included.

Renovated and winterized in 2001! Call or email Jeff for more information on this outstanding property!

List: \$648,000



Jeff Chute  
 Designated Broker/Realtor  
[Jeff@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:Jeff@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 (14 Temple Avenue, Ocean Park). Jeff is always ready to help you!

# Ocean Park Association

P.O. Box 7296, Ocean Park ME 04063-7296

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Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064

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## WHAT MAKES OCEAN PARK SPECIAL?

**Education**

The Library

Family Fun

The Rec Hall

Clowns

Cinnamon Buns

**Cultural Arts**

Worship

Sun

strawberry  
Shortcake

Morning Watch

Kazoos

Sand

The Beach

**Religion**

The Temple

Independence  
Day Parade

Raspberry  
Lime Rickey

Art Shows

**Recreation**