**An Interfaith Prayer in a Time of Pandemic ~ 1**

Adapted from a prayer authored by the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, Vice President of Religion and Senior Pastor, Chautauqua Institution, March 18, 2020

Washing my hands, reminds me of the waters of Ocean Park Beach,
Which reminds me of the majestic tolling of the Carillon,
Which reminds me of the many kinds of music that fills the air and our hearts,
Which reminds me of the laughter of children and the beauty of Ocean Park,
Which reminds me of the beauty of different faces, complexions, generations and faiths,
Which reminds me of dance and art, being challenged by different perspectives,
And the restorative power of prayer,
Which reminds me of how sacred everything feels at our beloved Chautauqua by the Sea,
Which reminds me to give thanks to the Holy One, for all these blessings we share.

Be with us, Divine One, in this time of anxiety,
Comfort those who are infected, soothe all of us who are affected,
Strengthen and protect the medical caregivers and first responders,
Embolden our leaders with strength and wisdom,
Give us permission to do what is best in each moment, even if that’s “hunker down.”
Renew our hope for a world –

With less anxiety and more joy,
With less “me first,” and more “no, please, after you!”
With less fear, and more love.

And bring us safely home, back to the Ocean Park which was, and is, and will be. Amen.

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**An Interfaith Prayer from Chautauqua ~ 2**

Loving God,
All seems adrift.

Is this what it takes to let us know We are One?
Is this what it takes to make us live As One?
Is this the high price of love And solidarity?

We long to regather at Chautauqua This summer,
In such love With You and all our suffering world. May we hold one another till then. May You hold us.

Let it be so.
Let it be so.


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OPA Village Square Survey Update, By Kate Howe

Ocean Park members and visitors may recall that last spring we circulated a survey about Ocean Park’s Village Square businesses. We are thrilled to report that we received over 350 responses! Thanks to all who took the time to respond to the survey. We designed the survey so that we could learn more about what visitors and residents liked and would like to see in the Square. OPA currently rents 4 spaces in the square and we received comments and ratings on all of them. We also asked you about what you might like to see in the Square in the future. We thought you might like some details on the results.

All of 2019’s seasonal businesses received a majority of “somewhat useful” or above responses. We realized that unfortunately, many folks don’t know about the products that OPA itself offers for sale at the OPA office in the Square. We are brainstorming for ways to increase visibility as those products help support the association and all it does. Most importantly, the survey results gave us great insight into what you would like to see in the Park in the future! The last question on the survey was a list of business types you might like to see in the Park. The results were:

As you can see, most of you really wanted to see more food options! After the survey was complete, OPA’s newly staffed Tenant Relations Committee began the task of working with our businesses and community to how the Square could better serve all. We are constrained by the age and current structure of the spaces as well as the short season that new vendors may have for a business. We are unable to offer food options in the Ricker retail space without significant expensive changes.

However, in 2020 and 2021, you will see some changes to the Square! In 2020 the Ricker Retail space (the corner next to the Post Office) has a new tenant and will house the new OP Home Store, run by Lisa Kidd and Deb Dolan. In front of OP Home there will be a new outdoor sitting area to enjoy your food from any Village Square store. Over the next year, in time for the 2021 season, stay tuned for the second phase of the changes in Square! Having the OP Home space will allow Lisa and Deb to offer a new food space next to Cottage Designs. If all works as planned, this option will stay open in the summer evenings.

We are meeting regularly with our businesses to be sure that they have what they need for the current stores so that they can serve you to the best of their abilities. We are also continuing to pursue other ways to offer the Ocean Park community new and exciting features to enhance your summer season.

Our Annual Fund Spring Appeal

Please keep Ocean Park Association in mind as you think about who and what you can help in this time of national crisis. While the staff is working remotely to the extent that it can and, while many or our projects are on hold, many of our expenses are not. We are trying our best to keep OPA healthy during this time and are grateful for your gifts during our Spring Appeal. Thank you!

The following are new Ocean Park Association members approved since the last printing of the Bell Tower:

Regular Members:

Susan Collard
Robert D. Gibson
David Greaves
Lizotte Greaves
Robert J. Krueger
Peter A. Stevens
Reflections on OPA Membership, By Tom Morgan, Member, Development Committee Membership Working Group

As we all stay at home and practice social distancing, I am fortunate that our home quarantine is here in Ocean Park. After years of being summer people, Kim and I are now “full-time” Ocean Parkers. It is a bit quiet normally in the winter here anyhow, but adding the concerns over Covid-19, it has become even more remote. As typical in Ocean Park at any time, there are friendly faces practicing social distancing but still engaging folks with loud “Good Mornings” and enthusiastic waves to anyone walking by your house or passing you on their walks through town.

Like most of you, this unprecedented crisis allows for tons of time for reflection on what matters most to us and how we can help others. For Kim and me, it is the daily facetime calls with our children Allie and Steve (who many of you may remember from their years of service at the Soda Fountain) that we look forward to. They now live out West, but Ocean Park is home to them as it is where lifetime friendships, connections with family, and fond memories were made.

We have a picture in our living room that embodies what Ocean Park means to us. It is from the Annual July 4th Parade circa 1995 and it wasn’t even meant to be a picture of our family. It was a picture, given to us by Emily Hodder (the O’Donnell clan on W Tioga) of her and the extended Sinclair family gang at the Temple after the parade. They were all happily posing but, in the background, there are Steve, Allie and me along with Kim’s cousin Lisa. We didn’t even know each other at the time, but, 10 years later, all of those kids had created deep friendships. They are now all adults who regularly visit Ocean Park and take Ocean Park with them on their journeys.

To us, this picture reflects all that Ocean Park means to us. Family, Friends, and memories that last generations. It is the Ocean Park that we know will be there for us when this crisis ends. We know Ocean Park will be there for all of the things that we cherish. When this crisis ends, the Ocean Park Association will be there for you creating the programs and activities that will help us reconnect and engage with each other.

Membership is the driving vehicle for the funds that keeps the OPA vibrant. 2020 Membership Renewals were mailed out in late January. While mindful that priorities may have changed, we would like to remind you to renew your membership in OPA. Now, more than ever, we need Ocean Park and the Ocean Park Association needs you.

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 February Bell Tower:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lois S. Edgerly</td>
<td>Concord, MA and Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>August 6, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne G. Parlee</td>
<td>Braintree, MA and Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>February 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna Twarog</td>
<td>Lowell, MA and Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>February 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Chisholm Chiricosta</td>
<td>Montreal, Quebec Canada</td>
<td>February 19, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda “Mimi” V. Brown</td>
<td>Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>February 23, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrett Merrill Keene</td>
<td>McLean, VA and Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>March 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart Shuster</td>
<td>Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>March 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret R. Savage</td>
<td>Saco, ME and Ocean Park, ME</td>
<td>March 19, 2020</td>
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To notify the “Ocean Park Association of the passing of a loved one, please contact the office at (207) 934-9068, option 0, or opa@oceanpark.org.
FOLLOW @OPAMaine, By Emily Kidd, Development Committee

As we all look ahead to warm summer weather and look forward to being together in Ocean Park, as well as getting updates on the latest OP news, we want to remind you to follow @OPAMaine on Facebook. We will continue to post about all of the wonderful events you can expect and news on how Covid-19 may be affecting the plans made today for the summer. Your favorites and some new exciting ones are in store in 2020! This Week in Ocean Park information will continue to be shared each week, so you’ll always have a copy available wherever you go! We’re also looking forward to connecting with members of the Ocean Park community! Send us a message, ask questions, tell us about your favorite event! Whether you’re a lifetime member of the OPA or a future member -- we want to hear from you!

As we approach the 2020 season, it’s the perfect time to like or follow @OPAMaine to stay up to date on all of the happenings in our community this summer.

SALES and RENTALS
“Vacation at the Beach”

Phone: (207) 937-5054
Fax: (207) 937-8227
Website: www.oceanparkrealty.com
Email: jeff@oceanparkrealty.com
martha@oceanparkrealty.com

We still have rental openings!
Contact Martha now!