



Historical Society of Ocean Grove

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012
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The HSOG is a non-profit 501(3)(C) independent organization. This newsletter is published by the HSOG and is supported by the New Jersey Historical Commission.



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Museum Gift Store**

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www.oceangrovehistory.org



HSOG to restore fountain

In the past, there were many ornamental urns and water fountains in Ocean Grove. These public memorials represent the early commitment of the community to the permanence of Ocean Grove and in memory of special events and persons. The last remaining fountain is the Fitzgerald Fountain in Founders Park.

The Fitzgerald Fountain was a four-tiered bronzed cast iron J.W. Fiske, New York Fountain. Damaged in 1976, it came under the auspices of the Society in 1987.

Several years ago the HSOG created a committee to investigate the feasibility of restoring the fountain but due to the cost of such an endeavor tabled this commitment temporarily. Then, in the last several months, the HSOG has received several inquiries as to its restoration from members of the community. This encouraged us to reexamine our position. A dedicated research team revisited the options. The Robinson Iron Company in Alexander City, Alabama is known worldwide for its architectural metal work and historical restoration/conservation projects. The company has many of the original Fisk molds. An estimate of \$110,000 including site preparation was proposed. (\$89,000 restoration and \$30,000 site).

This is an extremely complicated undertaking, requiring the Robinson Iron Company to dismantle the fountain, ship it to Alabama, and restore it. Upon its return it will be reconnected to the existing water pipes and electric outlets to resume its proper place, sprinkling arcs of water in the serene and lovely setting of Founders Park.

Mark your calendars for our annual House Tour , Friday, July 19, 2013. For reservations call 732-774-1869

MISSION

Since its founding in 1970, the Historical Society of Ocean Grove has pledged itself to preserve, document, and encourage community interest in the history of Ocean Grove. The purpose of this non-profit Society is to sustain the heritage and honor of being designated a National Historic District. A legacy of past tradition which in current practice is preserved and includes:

- The Camp Meeting heritage of Ocean Grove and Ocean Grove's unique history
- The family seashore resort of natural beauty that has welcomed and delighted vacationers including U.S. presidents and other famous people
- The Historic District buildings, structures, and objects that we control and maintain
- The largest assemblage of authentic Victorian architecture in the nation established as a 19th century planned community.

President's Message

It has not been a good few weeks for Ocean Grove and the HSOG. Mega storm Sandy hit the Grove on Monday, October 29, in the early evening. Some have reported the ocean went up the streets for a half a mile. Our neighbors at the south end were more severely hit than the rest of us. The roof of the Auditorium, the boardwalk and the fishing pier were damaged. But compared to the rest of the Jersey shore we were most fortunate. The museum and Centennial Cottage suffered no ill effects.

On a happier note, the HSOG has taken on a new large project, the restoration of the Fitzgerald Fountain in Founders Park (see page 1). The fountain was operational until 1976 and if it is not restored soon it will no longer exist. We will be organizing a campaign to make the restoration possible.

In order to complete this project as well as operate the museum, Centennial Cottage and maintain the records of Ocean Grove history, we need your help! Would you volunteer some time to help us? For more information call the museum, we would love to hear from you.

Now, for the bad news. Much to my distress, Susan Roach, our long time Administrative Assistant, is retiring as of January 1. She will be sorely missed as she has been the face of the HSOG for many years. Her bright smile and warmth have made the museum a happy place to come and visit. Her management of so many of our activities is why we have had so much success. Farewell Susan, you will be missed.

Gail Shaffer

11th Annual Dollhouses of the Past Exhibit Coming this November and December

This year's exhibit has a special theme: "*Hip Hip Hooray, A Red, White & Blue Holiday*". Dollhouses will have a patriotic theme. Once again, the generosity of our dollhouse contributors has been outstanding. The show started Saturday, November 24th, and continues Saturday, December 1st, 8th from 10am to 4:30pm and Sunday, December 9th from Noon to 4pm. The show is free. Come and get into the Holiday spirit at your museum.

Vicki Bacolo

Treasurer's Report

Our summer season was a mixed bag financially. We started off strongly with a well attended Spring Postcard show, but the Memorial Day weekend auction was very disappointing in terms of attendance and revenue. We had robust sales in our museum store thanks in no small part to the new book on the Great Auditorium. Our Walking Tours while not intended to be a fundraiser, were more popular than ever. Strong pre-event sales of House Tour tickets prevented the torrential rains from ruining the day – at least financially. The Labor Day weekend auction was a bit of a comeback from the earlier event. Attendance and revenues were in line with previous years.

As we head into the lean (revenue-wise) winter months, we will be watching our cash flow very closely as we are well below previous years in terms of major corporate and private donations. We are hopeful for a strong response to our winter membership renewal appeal to replenish our operational account.

Dan Garrow

As of September 30, 2012, the following are the balances in our accounts:

ACCOUNT	30-SEP-12
Operational Account	\$21,395.89
Payroll Account	\$3,627.17
Total Checking	\$25,023.06
Fountain Fund	\$4,289.85
Savings Account	\$581.15
Angel of Victory Fund	\$8,392.72
Mary Buckman Cottage Endowment Fund	5,281.09
Endowment Fund	\$2,725.64
Savings 18 mo CD	\$10,414.49
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	\$56,708.00

IN MEMORY

Gladys Aanensen
Ellen Dixon Bennett
Shirley Connelly
Lewis A. Daniels
Dorothea K. Holmes
Edward Ogden
Tina Skokos

HSOG OFFICERS

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Liz Ogden

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Lottie Smith

Membership Report

As a Museum docent and a Walking Tour guide, I have been a familiar face around HSOG for several years. I am now happy to also be your new Membership Chair. We have increased our dues to cover rising administrative costs. The dues period has also been changed from a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to a calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Hopefully, this will avoid the confusion that arose in the past. Those who are paid up for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 have received a free six-month extension to cover this transition period.

If you would please pay your Jan. to Dec. 2013 dues in the enclosed envelope, you will save us the additional cost of billing you. Paying your dues entitles you to receive our spring and fall newsletter, a 10% discount on purchases at the Museum store, and the opportunity to vote at our annual meeting. We have some exciting new activities planned for 2013, and these will be announced in future mailings. If you have any questions or know someone who would like to be a member, please contact the Museum or call me at 732-502-9145.

Linda Bauer

Museum Report

Many tourists, **4,810** toured the Museum during the summer. In addition the museum hosted visitors who came to see the exhibit "The Great Auditorium" based on the book by our curator Wayne T. Bell. Sales at the Museum store were brisk, especially with the addition of Ted Bell, Cindy Bell and Darrell Dufresne's new book on the Great Auditorium which was a huge success. The new Chamber of Commerce multi-street sign on the corner of Main Avenue and Pilgrim Pathway directed many new people to our doors.

The store will be open on Saturdays through December 15th for the holiday season. Do stop in and enjoy some Christmas shopping. **Liz Ogden**

Pictured left to right; Ted Bell, M. Claire French and Monmouth County archivist, Gary Saretsky.



SANDY HITS OCEAN GROVE OCTOBER 29

*The fishing pier as we knew it no longer exists. Sandy damaged the pier and the boardwalk. Houses on the south end had a great deal of water damage as the ocean washed up the streets into cellars and first floors. Many lost furnaces, hot water heaters and electrical services. (photo courtesy of **BLOGFINGER**)*

Archives Day

On October 13 the Monmouth County Archives Day was held at the County Archives Building in Freehold. Ted Bell, long time member of the HSOG was presented with the prestigious 2012 Jane C. Clayton Award.

"Mr. Bell has done an excellent job chronicling the local history of Ocean Grove with a special emphasis on the Great Auditorium," "It is largely because of his work in the 1970s that the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting is a National Historic Site," said County Clerk M. Claire French.

Bell is the lead author for the June 2012 Book, *The Great Auditorium: Ocean Grove's Architectural Treasure*. This new 137- page book traces the history and development of the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, a distinctive historic structure from the national Camp Meeting movement of the late 1800's. The book has been researched by Bell for over a decade and is based on materials found in the Monmouth County Archives in 1999.

Ted is a founding member of the Historical Society which recognized him for his outstanding service to the community with the annual Beersheba Awards and nominated him for the 2012 Jane G. Clayton Award for his exceptional contribution to awareness, understanding and preservation of the history of



Centennial Cottage Report

"'Tis the last rose of summer,
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone." -

Thomas Moore, *the Last Rose of Summer*, 1830

Our season is over at the cottage, but we're in the midst of making plans for next year. 2012 brought us some challenges, but our docents, who dedicate so much time and effort to running the cottage, helped us to make the season successful.

Each year the cottage opens for the first weekend in May to participate in The Old Monmouth Weekend sponsored by the Monmouth County Historical Society. Unfortunately, we were unable to participate as our local squirrels decided to reside in the kitchen ceiling and damaged the area. The kitchen had to be repaired and thanks to John Case and his crew, we were able to open for the season.

Almost immediately upon opening, the weather was quite uncooperative, and we experienced oppressive heat, which forced us to keep the cottage closed. Heavy rains also were responsible for some closings, and as a result, we had to keep our doors closed for ten and one half days during the summer. Despite our tribulations, we were fortunate to welcome approximately 851 visitors who arrived from twenty eight states and seven countries.

Throughout the summer, twelve workshops were held in the gardens of the cottage welcoming eighty-five people who spent two and one half hours learning and developing new skills & meeting and sharing ideas with new and old friends. The workshops have seen an increase in the number of participants each year and that is due to the talented instructors who grace our gardens each year. Thank you to Vicki Bacolo, Margaret Cotton, Robin Elodie Dabler, Laura McHugh and Mindy Shapiro for your wonderful classes. We have created a schedule for 2013 and ask you to check our website for more information or call the museum at 732-774-1869.

The Teddy Bear Tea was held in August and all who participated agreed it was a wonderful day. Children were introduced to the cottage and had a scavenger hunt looking for hidden teddy bears; they then moved to the gardens where they participated in story-telling activities; the next session brought them to *Days* where they created pieces of jewelry, and finally they moved on to learn about the influence of Teddy Roosevelt on the development of the teddy bear. Lunch was served and the highlight was ice cream from *Days*. Our thanks to all who participated and special thanks to Gayle Aanensen, Jeannie Buckley, Kim Byham, Margaret Cotton, and Louise Olshan for creating a memorable day for our youngsters.

Calligraphy Workshop in garden

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all who help to preserve the story of the Fell Family, the original owners of Centennial Cottage, and who share their story and the history of Ocean Grove. The men and women who contribute their time each week to continue the tradition, you are our heroes!

Mary Solecki



Highlights of the Cottage Season



Crazy Quilting class is busy piecing squares for a quilt



Paper Flower participants work intently on their flowers



The Paper Cutting instructor explains the intricacies of the cutting task

House Tour Report

This year the House Tour was held on July 20th. Though it poured rain on and off all day, the tour was a success. We sold the majority of tickets prior to July 20th and 100 more on the day of the House Tour, despite the weather. Only three people who purchased tickets in advance did not brave the rain. Nine houses, two tents, and one inn were featured on the tour as well as the Museum, Great Auditorium and Centennial Cottage.

Let me share a story from the day of the House Tour. I was standing in front of the Museum talking to a woman while she waited for the rain to subside. Two more ladies stood under the overhang with us. The four of us continued talking for a while. The three ladies decided to go to the Starving Artist for lunch. When they finished lunch, the rain had stopped. They went on the House Tour together. At the end of the day they came back to Days for ice cream and parted as newfound friends—just another delightful sideline to the tour.

Next year our House Tour will be held July 19, 2013.

Liz Ogden



Walking Tour Report

We had 930 people take our Walking Tour in the 2012 season, with the largest number (300) during the Monmouth County Weekend in May. Other groups included Walk for the Ages, St. Phillips Academy, and the Girl Scouts. All participants learn the history of Ocean Grove by visiting the Museum and the Great Auditorium. They experience tent life first-hand by visiting one, and they see the Victorian way of life in the furnishings at Centennial Cottage. Cottage curators, Mary Solecki and Julian Hamer, then treat the walkers to lemonade and cookies in the beautiful Cottage gardens (available for weddings and private parties).

Many thanks to our tour guides: Linda Bauer, Ted Bell, Gail D. Shaffer, Marty Rakita and Bob Waitt, and especially to our administrative assistant Susan Roach, who organizes groups, sells tickets, and answers questions with unflinching grace.



Dell O'Hara leading her tour group around town (photo by BLOGFINGER)

A wonderful and very popular addition to our tours this year was “The Early Ocean Grove Women’s Tour,” highlighting the predominance of professional women property-owners in the early years. Historian Dell O’Hara researched these historical women and led three tours through town showing their actual houses or places of business.

Marty Rakita

Remembering HSOG in your Will

By remembering the Historical Society of Ocean Grove in your will, you can help educate people and preserve the proud history of Ocean Grove. We are registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(3) c non-profit organization. Your attorney or financial advisor can assist you in remembering us



The Beersheba Awards dinner was held in June. Two of the award winning homes are shown (lft; 26 Lake Ave.; rt.;31 Ocean Pathway). The Awards Banquet Committee pictured in Days Restaurant Gardens.

HSOG WINS GRANT

A matching Grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission of \$800 was awarded to the HSOG for the repair of the cast iron Founders Urn located at the corner of Central Ave. and Surf in Founders Park.

A long crack had developed about half way down the bowl due probably to repeated ice formation over the winters. A new creative system was designed by Darrell Dufresne to solve the problem. The OGCMA assisted in the removal of some 16 cubic feet of soil and rocks that had to be removed in order to seal the crack.

The time capsule placed there by Frederick Herbst in 2002 was also reinserted. Our thanks to Ted Bell, Rose Myers, Jed Schroeder and the Beautification Committee for their assistance on this project. Our two other large urns will be monitored to determine if similar problems exist.



Removing a pipe from the urn for repair work

Avenue Travel Supports Fountain Fund

The HSOG's project to restore the fountain in Founders Park has been offered a unique fundraising opportunity from residents here in Ocean Grove. Two of our neighbors own the Avenue Travel Group which includes five New Jersey Travel offices located all over the state. They have created a partnership program with us which will donate 3% of the value of travel packages purchased through them to the HSOG for the fountain fund.

When booking a trip through Avenue Travel Group all you need to do is identify yourself as a supporter of the HSOG Fountain Fund, and they will add the trip details to their records. Upon the completion of the trip, a check will be sent for a 3% donation to the Fountain Fund. (See page 7 for details.)



Authors, Ted Bell Cindy Bell and Darrell Dufresne sign their book, "The Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove's Architectural Treasure." The book was featured at HSOG two History days this summer. Next year's History days will feature Dell O'Hara's research on Women in Ocean Grove.

Support the FOUNDER'S PARK FITZGERALD FOUNTAIN RESTORATION FUND

through the Partnership Program with *Avenue Travel* and the Historical Society Of Ocean Grove

The Founder's Park Fountain Restoration Fund has been offered a unique fundraising opportunity from one of its neighborhood businesses. *Avenue Travel Group*, with five conveniently located offices has created a partnership program with the HSOG which will donate 3% of the value of travel packages purchased in their offices, back to our organization. (HSOG)

When booking a trip through *Avenue Travel Group*, all you need do is identify yourself as a supporter of the Fountain Restoration Fund and they will add the program details to our record. Upon completion of the trip, a check will be sent for a 3% donation to Founder's Restoration Fund in the traveler's name. This would allow the traveler to claim the donation and take the appropriate tax advantage offered. The 3% applies to any Land Package, tour or cruise. Air arrangements do not apply.

As American Express Travel Representatives, their offices are able to offer clients competitive land and cruise rates. American Express card holders will get double points on most travel arrangements, and may also pay for their vacations with points. All of these methods of payment also qualify for the 3% donation to the fund. If paying with points, the 3% donation would be calculated off the monetary value of the vacation, just as if they were paying with funds.

Stop into one of our five offices or call our representative (see below) and see how they can help you with your travel needs. You will enjoy the benefits of working with an experienced travel representative while generating funds to help support our organization!

Please Note: *The Historical Society of Ocean Grove, its principles or employees, shall not be held responsible for any damages resulting in, or satisfaction resulting from any travel arrangements provided by Avenue Travel Group American Express, as a part of this program.*

For details, contact Sue Lincoln: 973-822-3222, ext 35

Avenue Travel Group

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Gladstone**
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Don't Miss Our
Spring Broadway
Theater Show
"KINKY BOOTS"
May 16, 2013

Historical Society Tel. 732-774-1869

www.oceangrovehistory.org

Museum Donations

Andrews, Jan	1895 photo
Beglan, John	Ocean Grove photos
Bove, Joe	Ocean Grove slide tour
Broome, Jean M.	Postcards
Brinser, Nancy	Hotel brochures
Buckley, Jean	Ocean Grove Antique memorabilia
Cuttrell, Martha	Eagle Fire Company artifacts
DiLiberto, Helen	Dollhouse
Fenimore, William	Victorian hats & boots
Horner, Leroy & Mary Jane	Homestead Restaurant Memorabilia
Joffee, Priscilla	Jerusalem model pictures
Lindemuth, Jim	Various OG Historical items
McHale, Anna	O.G. memorabilia
Rakita, Martha	Ocean Grove photos
Shaffer, Maureen	Grand Atlantic memorabilia
Skokos, Andy & Susan	Robin Woods Doll-16"
Vandermeer, Nancy	Manchester Inn booklet & pin cushion
Wielert, Kathy	Ocean Grove plates & plaque
Yarnell, Ann & Horan, Ann	Sampler Restaurant menus