



# Historical Society of Ocean Grove

## NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2022  
XLVIII No. 102



### 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. The Historical Society aims to:

- Advocate for the protection of Ocean Grove's historic structures, material culture, and built environment
- Maintain Ocean Grove as the largest assemblage of authentic Victorian architecture in the nation, and its establishment as a nineteenth century planned resort community
- Enrich the Camp Meeting heritage of Ocean Grove and the town's unique heritage.

[historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](http://historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org)

### MESSAGE FROM HSOG PRESIDENT

It was an exciting summer for the Historical Society of Ocean Grove, and we thank all the volunteers, members and supporters who continue to help our efforts to preserve the history of Ocean Grove. We held a series of well-received lectures on various historical themes, items, and places. We continue changing our exhibits every year to bring more of Ocean Grove history to the public.

Our Architecture, Women's and Historical walking tours were expanded and continued to draw sellout numbers.

The museum's recent expansion, doubling the size for additional exhibits, lectures and meetings was a surprise for residents and visitors. The new archival area that meets archival standards has assisted us in preserving documents and artifacts from Ocean Grove. The museum's new research center has become a first stop for homeowners restoring, renovating, or researching their home. All this was made possible through the efforts of Dr. Dell O'Hara, Jim Twerell, HSOG Research Director David H. Fox and a grant from Kearny Bank.

The 1884 Centennial Cottage restoration was completed in time for the season opening. Over the past two plus years, John Case of Case Enterprises Inc., did a complete restoration of the second floor and this spring completed the exterior porch and gingerbread replacement work.

The four-tiered historic 1907 fountain in Founders Park is up and running with new lighting, thanks to a donation from the Ocean Grove Ladies Auxiliary. Additional landscaping and fencing will be completed next spring.

For the second year in a row, we presented a virtual house tour due to Covid concerns. Five wonderful homes in Ocean Grove were shown along with historical information and renovation pictures.

As a national and state historical site, visitors from all over the United States and many foreign countries come to Ocean Grove to learn about its rich and unique history. In one day, Saturday, August 13th, Victorian Day, 410 visitors came to the HSOG Museum and Centennial Cottage, a new one-day record.

We need your help more than ever through membership, donations, and volunteers to continue this important work for future generations. We're a 501(C) (3) charitable organization, membership; and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Contact us at 732-774-1869 or

[info@historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](mailto:info@historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org)

Wishing you all the best; your friends at the  
Historical Society of Ocean Grove.

*Bob Watt* HSOG President

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY! NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!**

**HSOG, P. O. BOX 446, OCEAN GROVE, NJ 07756 | 732-774-1869 | [INFO@HISTORICALSOCIETYOFOCEANGROVE.ORG](mailto:INFO@HISTORICALSOCIETYOFOCEANGROVE.ORG)**

## Virtual House Tour Thank you brunch

In order to thank the homeowners of 5 extraordinary Ocean Grove homes for allowing us to showcase their residences in our virtual house tour, a celebratory brunch was held on September 18, 2022 in our David Fox Annex. It afforded homeowners the opportunity to meet each other and share stories of their own renovations and filming experiences. Discussions also focused on next year's tour and what future improvements could be made. It was a lovely Sunday afternoon.



**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

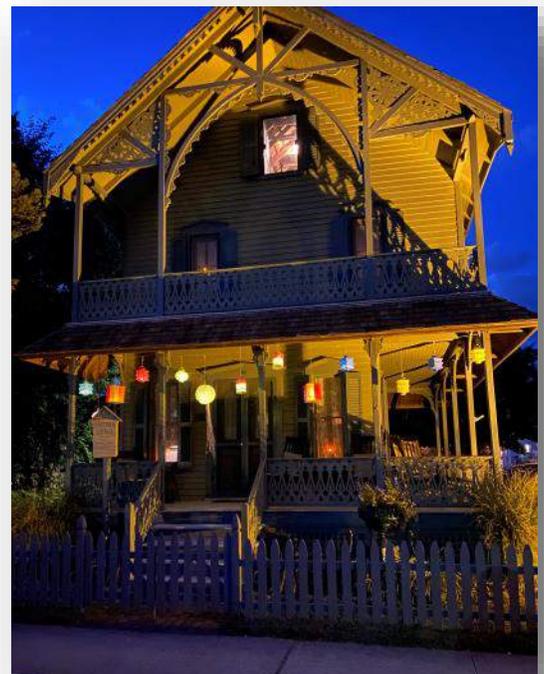
*A sincere thankyou to all of our Museum and Centennial Cottage docents, as well as our House Tour volunteers and Women's Tour volunteers as well as our re-enactors! This exceptional summer could not have been as successful as it was without you!*

**THANK YOU  
FOR VOLUNTEERING**

"THE SMALLEST ACT OF KINDNESS  
IS WORTH MORE THAN THE  
GRANDEST INTENTION."  
- OSCAR WILDE

## ILLUMINATION NIGHT

**All was aglow!  
How beautiful was the Centennial  
Cottage when it was lit with tea lights and  
paper lanterns for  
Illumination Night?  
Thank you Bob, Art and Lenny for  
decorating.**



## OCEAN GROVE: SKETCH OF ORIGIN

*The following was written by Rev. E.H. Stokes, Feb. 1872*

“A brief outline of the history of the Ocean Grove enterprise, seems appropriate. Its origin was simply this: A few familiar friends, after protracted labors in the pastorate, felt that an annual respite of a few weeks from these toils, was an absolute necessity. But where, in connection from congenial society, free from fashion and folly, at an expense within their means, could such rest be found? This was a grave question, and for several years remained unanswered. The first crude thought was, is there not, somewhere along the sea, a convenient place, where a few families of like mind, can pitch their tents, and for a little while in Summer, enjoy the sea-air, bathing, fishing, etc., having such social and religious exercises intermingled...

Meanwhile, Rev. W. B. Osborn, whose interest in Camp Meetings is generally known, traveling extensively through the State, and conversing with many persons on the subject, associated with this thought of a Summer resort for Ministers, a long cherished idea of a camp-meeting by the sea, and soon became interested in the selection of a proper place.

In this work, the New Jersey coast, from Sandy Hook to Cape May, was thoroughly explored, and the grounds now occupied, six miles South of Long Branch, having a magnificent ocean front, with splendid grove, bounded North and South by fresh water lakes, with every other convenience needed, was selected as the best adapted to our wants.

It was soon decided to purchase six acres of this land, lying in the grove...a few of us proposed...to assemble from year to year, and enjoy our Summer rest in bathing, fishing, worshipping, or sauntering along the shore, free from the heavy cares which we felt was resting upon us, welcoming from the immediate neighborhood such as might chose to join us in our simple service by the sea.

...As our plans became known, others wished to unite with us, and we were earnestly desired so to extend our enterprise as to include all who sought similar relief from the heavy cares of professional or business life. Yielding to this request, in the Winter of 1869, an

Association consisting of thirteen Ministers and thirteen laymen, was formed, and a charter obtained from the New Jersey Legislature, under the following title: ‘The Ocean Grove Camp-Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church.’

...The land, when originally purchased, was in many places overgrown with a tangled wildwood, while in others, it was rough, unsightly and barren... (now) over three hundred cottages, some of them very beautiful, varying in cost from one hundred and fifty to over three thousand dollars, are already built, and many more will be erected the coming season.

...Superior water for drinking and general household purposes is everywhere found, by means of tube pumps, at a depth of from fifteen to twenty-five feet, and the supply is inexhaustible. A number of buildings have been erected by the Association, for business and other purposes. Among these are a store for general merchandise and general provision, also, a building used by the Association for post office, telegraph office, general news office, book store, etc. The Grove Cottage, just inside the gate, has been recently purchased by the Association, of Mr. Charles Rogers, raised, and otherwise improved, and will be kept open the year round for the accommodation of visitors. Ice houses, bathing houses, bathing lines, boats, etc., are provided, and will be multiplied as necessity demands.

...Efforts still are necessary to complete our plans, but, as we believe our work is of God, we shall toil, and pray, and wait.”

## CENTENNIAL COTTAGE



This past year the Centennial Cottage had a bit of a facelift. Thank you to John Case and Case Enterprise Inc. for the wonderful work they did on the Cottage.



## 1890's WESLEY LAKE WOODEN BOAT



This 1890's Stokes era boat remains on display in HSOG museum. It was donated by the DeLauro Family. This boat was recently found under their porch on Seaview Ave. in Ocean Grove. In the past, it was used for recreation, fishing and as a ferry on Wesley Lake to ferry people between Ocean Grove and Asbury Park. It has a flat bottom and was constructed with handmaid nails. Rev. Stokes owned a similar boat which he named the "Silver Dale" and he frequently rowed on Wesley Lake. Historical restoration was done by Ruding and Wood.

## VICTORIAN DAY



Victorian Day was quite successful with record amount of visitors. Our very own Mary Solecki (left) and David Fox (right). Mary dressed for a prominent doctor's role in the Women's Walking Tour by Dell O'Hara, and David dressed in period appropriate clothing for the day.



## TREASURES



### **Aurora Hotel Grandfather Clock**

The HSOG recently received a donation of the grandfather clock that stood in the lobby of the Aurora Hotel from 1890 until it was sold in 2017 and converted to condos.



### **The Anna DeYoung Skold Memorial Garden**

Commemorate a special someone with a brick that borders our butterfly garden at the Centennial Cottage. The grounds get much acclaim for its beauty and serenity.

### **Founders Park Fountain**

Looking spectacular, the Founders Park Fountain was running and lit at night thanks to the generous donation for lighting from the Ladies Auxiliary of Ocean Grove.



## LECTURES & EXHIBITS



Women's fashions in the late 1800's lived up to Mark Twain's moniker for the Era, The Gilded Age. Elaborate construction, rich colors, lavish fabric and trim and a general love of excess typified high styles of the 1870's through 1890's. Trends included corsets, long-boned bodices, gloves and hour glass shapes. Women wore floor length dresses and changed clothing three times a day. Gowns were replete with ornamentation including bows, fringe, buttons and beading, lace, frills and crystal embellishments. All contributing to a variety of textures on one garment. Long sleeves and bustles accentuated the female figure.

For the 2022 Museum Season, the Historical Society searched our clothing archives for those garments that best typified that era. Because of the small waists and tiny bodices we had to fit most of the garments to mannequins meant for children. Hats, jewelry, lace collars and capes were a few of the items added to enhance the exhibit. Our visitors were not only amazed at the size of the dresses but the attention to detail evident on all of the garments.

Our David Fox Annex was a home to a collection of art work depicting Ocean Grove in all mediums by a variety of artists. Water color, oils, photography and computer generated images are all on display. The Annex also hosted a series of lectures that ranged from the proper placement of color on your historic home to what it was like to live on the International Space Station given by a NASA Ambassador.

We look forward to offering an interesting and varied selection of lectures in the 2023 Museum Season. Perhaps there is a topic you would like to learn more about?

Send us an email with your thoughts and suggestions at:

[info@historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](mailto:info@historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org)



# In Memory Of Michael Kzirian VP



Michael Kzirian, a former AT&T executive, died on August 3 at the age of 81. Michael was born in Lansing, Michigan, the first son of Armenian immigrant parents. He grew up in the Albany, NY area, lived in Westchester County, NY., and finally in NJ for the last 36 years. Michael's parents decided that for him to have a better life he would become an engineer. That idea didn't sit quite right, so he joined the Air Force. Michael did subsequently complete college, attending Siena College at night, and started a career in New York Telephone that led to his calling as a "sales guy", ultimately charged with running AT&T's Consumer Sales Division. In later years, Michael was an incredibly active volunteer, serving numerous Boards including Affinity Federal Credit Union, Lutheran Federal Credit Union, Cancer Hope Network, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore, and the Historical Society of Ocean Grove. On a personal level, Michael shared his passions for food, wine, and travel with his loving wife Lorrie Losapio. Oh, and golf! He loved to be out on the golf course. He adored his daughters Lydia Deyo and Nadine Al-Ostta, and doted on his 5 grandchildren (Danielle, Justine, Keely, Ella and Axel) and 2 great-granddaughters (Arhianna and Gia). Michael is also survived by a brother Richard and was predeceased by his brother Tom. Michael was a friend, a mentor, and role model to so many people who will miss his caring, sincerity, and wit.

## 2022 VIRTUAL HOUSE TOUR

### Historical Society of Ocean Grove



## Virtual House Tour

### This Year's Fabulous Five!



Tickets are \$25.00  
Available for Viewing:  
August 12, 2022  
Through  
December 31, 2022



Purchase Tickets at:  
[www.HistoricalSocietyofOceanGrove.org](http://www.HistoricalSocietyofOceanGrove.org)  
Or visit us at:  
50 Pitman Ave. Ocean Grove, NJ 07756  
Or Call us at: 732-774-1869

We are grateful for the support of Ocean utilities | |

Tickets are still available for our Virtual House Tour. It will be available for viewing until December 30, 2022.

Please visit Our website to purchase tickets for \$25.00 at:

[www.historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](http://www.historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org)

**The HSOG is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization.**

The Historical Society received a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

Interested in History? Enjoy meeting new people?  
Proud of Ocean Grove?  
Get involved with the Historical Society!

Visit [www.historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](http://www.historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org) and volun-

Or Call 732-774-1869



Like us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram to keep up with our events, news, and much more!

