

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OCEAN GROVE

## NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer

### *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.

#### **Museum Hours:**

**50 Pitman Ave.**

May 3: 10-5pm | May 4: 12-5pm  
May 10-24, June 7&14 Sat. 10-3pm  
June-17-Sept. 2: Wed,-Sat.10-3pm  
June 17-Sept. 2: Tues.10-12:30pm  
Sept.12-Dec. 6: Fri. & Sat. 10-3pm  
*\*Please call or see website for hour changes or special occasion hours*

#### **Centennial Cottage Hours:**

**43 McClintock St.**

May 3:10-5pm | May 4: 12-5pm  
June-18-Sept. 5:Wed.-Sat. 11-3pm

*\*Please call or see website for hour changes or special occasion hours*

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.



### **MESSAGE FROM HSOG PRESIDENT**

#### Welcome to the 2025 Season

“When Chekhov saw the long winter, he saw a winter bleak and dark and bereft of hope. Yet we know that winter is just another step in the cycle of life.”

Like the Phil Connors’ quote in the movie Groundhog Day, the HSOG uses the winter shut down to renew and refresh our exhibits, our programs, and facilities.

Our Board meets monthly and besides working to improve some financial guidelines and supporting some requests from committee chairs, we have approved a part time addition to our staff. In addition, we’ll be offering a 10% discount to our Veterans and their families on all purchases.

Bob and Deb have been working on the rejuvenation of the Centennial Cottage first floor and making plans for the replacement of the roof. Bob and Cindy are finishing up the urn project and looking at maybe some work needed on Beersheba.

Deb, Anne, and Mary are putting together the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual HSOG House tour, signing up homes, advertisers, and docents.

Mary is putting together another of our exciting Collete Travel tours. The next trip is to Ireland, this September 2025.

Deb and Anne have refreshed our museum store and added some great new items.

Tara and Lorrie have streamlined our online payment system, and Lorrie and Louise are busy getting familiar with the new accounting system they put in place.

Deb has completely redone the exhibits in the museum so every year there is a new reason for you to visit us.

Barbara has completed an annual donor appeal and Dell is working on a new Women’s History tour.

Jean is looking for a trailer for our members to ride on in the Independence Day parade.

Deb and Jenny are putting their heads together to come up with some subjects for our lecture series. I’m also fine-tuning my lecture on the History of Camp Meetings.

Candy has been working to get the membership computer system back online.

Besides trying to stay out of everyone’s way and remembering to take out the trash, I am starting work on a records retention project with Lorrie, dealing with some electrical and insurance issues and working with our condo board on some maintenance and other building issues.

So, if you happen to go by our Museum or Cottage be assured that we’ll be ready and waiting to welcome you on opening day.

- Art



**We are grateful for the support of these entities:**



## MUSEUM EXHIBITS 2025



The Ocean Grove North End Redevelopment is still making news. Our exhibit includes vintage photos of the North End Hotel, Merry Go Round, Theater and Pool.



The Eastlake desk and bookcase that graces the front of our Museum now displays our extensive souvenir glass and China collection. Most of it once sold on the North End boardwalk.



Through the generosity of Lee and Barbara Morgan, oversized vintage beach photo enlargements are now on display for the first time.

How did the 19th Century women dress? We have the answer.

The Museum Annex has on exhibit the Collections of Ocean Grove neighbors and friends as well as selected collections from our own archives. Antique children's chairs made in New Jersey, teapots, original Monmouth County art work, tin type and daguerreotype portraits are on display and the history of the Wright Brothers Air Show in Interlaken.

## 56th ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR

**Friday, August 8th from 10:30am—4:30pm**

Featured on the tour will be the unique architecture and interiors in this beautiful unique Victorian community. This is a self-guided day-long tour. The tour includes buildings with features covering the whole spectrum of Ocean Grove's Victorian palate. Tickets for the Annual House Tour are \$35 in advance and \$40 the day of the tour. Tickets can be bought at the Historical Society of Ocean Grove Museum (50 Pitman Ave.) during open hours or online at: [www.historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](http://www.historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org).

- \* The tour begins at the Museum, 50 Pitman Ave.
- \* Complimentary Trolley transportation to each tour stop will be available.
- \* The tour is held rain or shine.
- \* ***Sorry, Children under 12 are not admitted. Tickets are non-refundable.***



## INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Join us in the Independence Day parade on Saturday July 5th. Email or call the Museum to register with us. Black bottoms, White shirts, it isn't that hard to come up with a simple Victorian look. Hope to See you there!



## OLD MONMOUTH WEEKEND MAY 3 & 4

On the first weekend in May, the Monmouth County Historical Society sponsors its "***Weekend in Old Monmouth***", an annual two-day event during which 46 Monmouth County Historic Sites open their doors to visitors and waive their admission fees for interactive guided and self-guided tours.

**Museum Hours:** Saturday, May 3rd from 10am-5pm and Sunday, May 4th from 12pm-5pm.

**Centennial Cottage Hours:** Saturday May 3rd, 10am-5pm & Sunday, May 4th 12pm-5pm.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in History? Enjoy meeting new people? Get involved with the Historical Society! Consider being a docent in the Museum, Centennial Cottage or even for special events like our Annual House Tour.

Please contact Mary at: [info@historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org](mailto:info@historicalsocietyofoceangrove.org) or call us at: 732-774-1869

## HISTORIC URN PROJECT WRAPS UP SUMMER 2025

Our three-year project to restore and refurbish the cast iron Victorian Urns around town is nearing completion. We received almost \$50,000 in donations to cover the costs of restoring two large urns, which traveled to Robinson Iron in Alabama for complete makeovers in 2024. Over the winter months, the two smaller urns around the Auditorium (“Grace” and “Gratitude,” from 1879) received cosmetic work (power-washing and painting) by OG contractor John Case; local mason Brendan O’Connell rebuilt the small brick base on Front Circle, behind the Auditorium. John Case and crew also re-painted the 1875 Memorial Vase in Founders Park. All urns are now painted the same color as the Fountain. A \$2850 matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission was applied towards the urn restorations.

Ocean Grove Beautification Project continues to maintain the annual plantings and flowers for our Urns. Bronze Plaques for the restored 1877 Pioneer Women Vase (northeast corner of Auditorium) and 1878 Summer Worship Vase (Broadway and Central) are ordered and will be installed in June. A second grant from the OG Ladies Auxiliary covers the cost of the bronze plaques, over \$3000. A Re-Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for July, in coordination with the OGCMA, at the Pioneer Women Vase outside the Auditorium.

The small Vase  
behind the Auditorium  
(is it “Grace” or “Gratitude”??)  
is on a new brick foundation.



The partial paint job on the 1875 Memorial Vase in Founders Park looked stunning in April in front of the blooming forsythia. This urn previously underwent major restoration in 1996, under the direction of HSOG member Herbert Herbst.



## TRAVEL WITH HSOG & COLLETTE



If you’ve thought it was time to travel to new places, we have a few exciting adventures for you to consider.

The Historical Society in conjunction with Collette Tours will be offering **three tours in 2026:**

Our first tour will be *Iceland’s Magical Northern Lights* from **March 20-March 26, 2026**. In addition to the Northern Lights, you will experience the beauty and natural wonder of Iceland. The trip runs 7 day and 11 meals will be provided to the travelers. If you are interested in learning more, check out the Historical Society’s website. Our Collette representative will be providing more information at the museum which is located at 50 Pitman Avenue on **Wednesday, June 11 at 2 PM.**

The second tour to be offered is *The Colorado Rockies*. **This will be offered in May 2026.** It is a 9 day trip and provides 12 meals. You’ll be visiting Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Museum of the Mountain West, Mesa Verde National Park, Pikes Peak Cog Railway, and much more. Interested in learning more? Our Collette representative will discuss that trip when he conducts an information session on **Wednesday, June 11 at 2 PM.**

Our final trip for **2026** is *Greek Island Hopper*. This is a 11 day trip with 14 meals. You will be visiting Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini and the trip takes place in **September 2026**. If you are interested in learning more about this trip, our Collette representative will be at the museum on **Tuesday, August 19 at 2PM.**

If you wish to attend any of these meetings, please call the museum to reserve a spot. (732-774-1869) We have a limited number of spots on each trip, so don’t be left out! Expand your horizons, meet new friends, and explore new destinations. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## MUSEUM STORE | "We Honor Our Heroes"



We are proud to announce that we are participating in "We Honor Our Heroes" Monmouth County Clerk Military Appreciation Program. Veterans showing their Monmouth County Veteran ID card will receive 10% off all purchases made in our store.



## WOMEN'S WALKING TOUR



Historian Dell O'Hara will continue to present a Women's walking tour this Summer. Details and dates are still being worked out. Please check our website for updated tour information.

## ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR



Our **Architectural Tour** is led by Architectural Historian Jenny Shaffer, who will walk you through Ocean Grove and bring awareness to the complexity and changes of Ocean Grove's Architecture over the years. *Dates to be announced.*

## HSOG HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Our **Historical Walking Tours** include visiting the Great Auditorium, Centennial Cottage, the Historical Museum and a summer Tent. Tour starts at the Historical Society Museum at 50 Pitman Avenue. The tours run approximately 1 hour. This tour is limited to 20 people, so it is recommended to make reservations or advance purchase tickets are also available on our website.

**Starting Wed. June 18 Tours are available:**

Wednesdays 1:00pm, Fridays 1:00pm & Saturday 11am.  
*Special Group Tours are available on Tues. & Thurs. 11am*



## ANNA DEYOUNG SKOLD MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICK



Commemorate a special someone with a brick that borders our butterfly garden at Centennial Cottage. The Anna DeYoung Skold Memorial Garden that encompasses the Centennial Cottage grounds gets much acclaim in Ocean Grove for its beauty and serenity. You may purchase a brick on our website or in person at the Museum.



## GIFTS TO HSOG ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

As you consider your charitable giving, please keep in mind the work of the HSOG to preserve the history of Ocean Grove. We are a 501(c)(3) and gifts to the HSOG are tax deductible. Your donation can be designated to be used to fund the museum which includes the archives, exhibits, lectures, Fountain/Urns or general operating expenses.

## MEMBERSHIP

Your Membership counts by helping HSOG bring to life and preserve the history of Ocean Grove. Ocean Grove was honored by being entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. HSOG needs your support through membership and donations. HSOG continues their commitment to update and archive Ocean Grove history for generations to follow.



## HSOG GENERAL MEETING



To be held on: **Mon. September 8, 2025 at 7pm** in the Museum. We're asking **ALL HSOG members to attend this meeting** as there will be elections of HSOG officers.

If anyone is interested in running for a Board seat, please contact the HSOG by **August 1, 2025**. The nominating committee will have names available by August 31. Please make sure your Membership has updated information including an email.

*Ballots will be available at the meeting*