



# The Historical Society of Ocean Grove

## Ocean Grove Happenings Then & Now

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### MESSAGE FROM HSOG PRESIDENT

As we approach the holiday season and we are still facing the COVID-19 Pandemic which is affecting our friends, family and community, our hearts go out to anyone who has been directly impacted by the virus. A special thank you goes out to those volunteer and health care professionals. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

In spite of the Pandemic and being closed all season, the Historical Society of Ocean Grove has continued working to improve existing programs and develop new programs to improve exhibits and collections; launch our new website; remodel Centennial Cottage; purchase an addition to the museum; update the Archives and the 1907 Founders Park Fountain and add an 1890s Wesley Lake boat to our museum, just to mention a few of the 2020 projects. We continue to develop new ways to stay connected with members and visitors through social media, newsletters and our new website. Deadra, our Administrative Assistant, is working from home to keep us all updated and we have conducted the HSOG Board meetings and General Meetings through video conferencing. Like everyone, we hope this Pandemic ends quickly so we can reopen next spring.

We upgraded our website with videos, photos and information about exhibits and projects that we are working on. We closed on a contract to purchase the condo directly behind the museum which doubles our current space to allow for exhibits, research, lectures and educational talks to schools and groups year-round. This came with a mortgage that we will now have to struggle to pay since many of our revenue sources such as the 52<sup>nd</sup> house tour and historical walking tours, which are over 40% of our annual budget, were canceled in 2020.

We need your help more than ever. Your membership and donations will help sustain us during this crisis to continue our work to bring the importance of the history of Ocean Grove to our ever-increasing audience. We are grateful and want to thank you for your continued support of the Historical Society of Ocean Grove.

We are a 501(C) (3) charitable organization. Membership and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Your tax consultant or financial advisor can discuss choices with you.

**Bob Waite, HSOG President**

## HSOG ARCHIVES PROJECT RENOVATION

Over the past year and a half, the HSOG archives were completely renovated to meet archival standards. Eric Landsberg, a digitization specialist who retired from the Museum of Modern Art in NYC, served as a consultant to the archives project. We addressed temperature and humidity control by installing new systems so that objects are stored at a relatively constant 70 degrees with 35% - 50% humidity throughout seasonal changes. All masonry walls and floors were waterproofed and tested and new 2''x4'' walls with moisture-resistant sheetrock were constructed around the area's perimeter. All paper, photographic and clothing collections



and materials were re-housed in archival boxes and clothing bags under the direction of Patricia Gigon and Deborah Osepchuk. This project was the HSOG's commitment to our members and residents to preserve the history of Ocean Grove for research and future generations.



**The HSOG is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Historical Society received a SAGE General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.**

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## CENTENNIAL COTTAGE RESTORATION



Centennial Cottage is an authentic Ocean Grove seashore home built in 1884 by the Fell family of Philadelphia.

Centennial Cottage needed repairs and due to the pandemic, we had to close it for the season, offering us the opportunity to make much needed repairs. Since there is no heat and extremely limited electricity in the Cottage, it was impossible to do this work in the winter.

The lack of heat in the winter caused plaster on the second floor to crack, requiring repairing and repainting of the walls and ceilings on the entire second floor. The downstairs kitchen also required wall and ceiling repairs. On the outside the decking on both the upstairs and downstairs porches were replaced. New lattice work was added to the foundation area and new steps on the rear porch. John Case of Case Enterprises of Wall was the general contractor and completed the work in October.

New custom-made shutters were made by Ruding & Wood of Bradley Beach to protect and secure the cottage during the winter months.



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Please consider making a tax deductible gift to the Historical Society to continue our preservation initiatives.

## **A Treasure of Glass Negatives**



In order to take a photo these days, most of us simply pull out our cell phones.

During the first century and a half of photography, capturing an image was far more difficult. Before film, photographic emulsions were made on glass supports, known as glass plate negatives.

The Ocean Grove Historical Society is extremely fortunate to have a large collection of glass plate negatives. They are extremely fragile and require special storage conditions. Even under the best of circumstances, the chemical breakdown of the glass is always a concern. Scanning and digitizing is the best way to preserve these rare images and create user copies.

In order to ensure their survival, we turned to Geanna Merola, a Professor of Photography, and her husband, Erik Landsberg, a digitization specialist. These two Ocean Grovers have volunteered assistance and guidance so that one day we can achieve our preservation goals.

We hope to not only preserve these images from the past but be able to share them with others. This is not an inexpensive endeavor. A grant application has been made and we are anxiously awaiting word. Fingers crossed.

## **TO SERVE AND PROTECT EXHIBIT** *“Saluting Ocean Grove Police and Firemen”*



Our latest exhibition brings together the extensive firemen and police related collections of the HSOG. It provides an appreciation for all that these two service and protection departments have done for Ocean Grove throughout the Historic District's history. The Ocean Grove Police Department ran from 1869 through 1977. The first Fire Department was started in 1886 and still operates today in that capacity. The exhibition includes uniforms and components such as badges, patches, ceremonial objects; and historical photographs.

**Please remember the HSOG in your estate planning through appreciated stock, or your will or trust to help with Ocean Grove history preservation. Please contact your estate attorney to discuss. Thank you.**

# Building For Our Museum's Future



Prior to the pandemic, we purchased and mortgaged the adjoining space behind the Museum (53 Olin St), which doubles our footprint. We will be breaking through our back wall and joining this new space to our current museum over the winter. It will provide space for more in-depth exhibitions and research, and space for lectures and education programs.

## HSOG New Website Is Launched!

Visit us at [oceangrovehistory.org](http://oceangrovehistory.org)

We are excited about our **new website** at [oceangrovehistory.org](http://oceangrovehistory.org). Be sure to check it out as it features new videos and sections highlighting the fascinating historical aspects of Ocean Grove. Many events and programs sponsored by the Society will be posted on the website.

Many thanks to Kearny Bank for their financial support, Steven Kass of ShoreSite Web Designs, LLC and James McNamara of Arts Branding for their assistance in the website development/design.

**Stay Safe, Be Well & Most Importantly,  
Don't Forget to Wear Your Masks**



## Many Thanks...

We are grateful for the support of these entities.

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Funding has been made available in part by an operating support grant from Kearny Bank.

### 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.

