

2025 SUMMER ISSUE

OCEAN COUNTY OUT & ABOUT

SUMMER ART

BY TOMS RIVER
ARTIST COMMUNITY

SALUTE TO OCEAN COUNTY AWARDS

& MORE!

***SUMMER
EVENT
LISTINGS***

A FREE ARTS & HERITAGE MAGAZINE

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**ON THE
COVER:**
Sun and Sail
by Jo Guscott

—Greetings from Commissioner Robert S. Arace



On behalf of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, I welcome you to the summer 2025 issue of Ocean County: Out & About, A Free Newsguide to Arts & Heritage Events. The pages of this issue are graced with artwork received in response to a call for contributions from the Toms River Artist Community.

Please take special note of our exciting palette of summer cultural opportunities in the event listings and for updated events check: <http://www.oceancountytourism.com/frmEvents>.

Many of our towns and boroughs provide wonderful summer concerts including the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation's The Carousel of Music Concert Series. The Carousel concerts will be offered at a variety of locations including the Ocean County Library in Toms River. Please check inside for time and locations of all offerings.

The Ocean County Board Commissioners continues to offer a traveling *American Revolution in Ocean County* exhibit trailer. For arrangements to bring the trailer to your public event in Ocean County call 732-929-4779.

This year, 19 art and 7 history organizations received a total of \$268,000 in grant support through the Ocean County Board of Commissioners funded by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

The 2026 grant cycle for Ocean County non-profits will begin with an informational workshop on August 6, the mandatory notice of intent is due August 20, and the application is due September 8. Local Arts Program grants will total \$150,000, the County History Partnership Program will total \$88,000, and the Alternate Sponsorship Program will provide an additional \$30,000 in funding. This year, the applications will be online at www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=occhc

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners is proud to announce that Ocean County Artists' Guild received the 2025 Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award. The Barnegat Light Museum and Garden received the 2025 Historic Preservation Award. Dr. Jeffrey Schenker received the 2025 Virginia E. Haines Historic Advocate Awards. Virginia E. Haines received the 2025 John C. Bartlett Government Leadership Award. And Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr. (R-9) received the first Lila W. Thompson Legislative Recognition Award.

Nomination forms for future awardees and lists of past awardees are at: <http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/ch/frmSaluteAwards.aspx>.

Commissioner Robert S. Arace
Chairman of Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission, a division of Ocean County
Department of Parks & Recreation



SALUTE TO OCEAN COUNTY

A CELEBRATION OF ARTS & CULTURE

The Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission's awards celebration, the 14th annual *Salute to Ocean County*, was held on May 15th at the Gateway Building at Ocean County College in Toms River. The 2025 awardees include some of Ocean County's leaders in the humanities – individuals and organizations dedicated to preserving history, culture, and the arts in their communities and regions. Each of the awardees received a short documentary produced by local high school students.

To submit nominations for Salute awards, please complete a nomination form and submit to thart@co.ocean.nj.us or mail to 1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, NJ, 08753
<https://rb.gy/96w9f5>



2025 AWARDEES

Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts:

Ocean County Artists Guild - <https://youtu.be/idNoPJui78s>

John C. Bartlett Government Leadership Award:

Commissioner Virginia E. Haines - <https://youtu.be/DIs7QCfgUTQ>

Virginia E. Haines Historic Advocate Award:

Jeffrey Schenker - <https://youtu.be/FZ33Glz4i48>

Historic Preservation Award:

Barneget Light Museum - <https://youtu.be/Bt93R2Ed7K4>

Lilia W. Thompson Legislative Recognition Award:

Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr.



SALUTE TO OCEAN COUNTY

RECENT PREVIOUS AWARDEES

Check the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage website for awardees prior to 2017.

Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Past Awardees

2024: Malcolm Robinson - Decoy Carver
2023: Harry Bower - Visual Artist
2022: Mary May - Basket Weaver
2021: Art Birdsall - Decoy Maker
2020: Robert Popovics - Naturalist, Innovator, Artist
2019: Thomas E. Rutledge - Visual Artist
2018: Eva Lucena Welch - Dance
2017: Kate Leigh Cutler - Visual Artist

Founders Award

Past Awardees

2017: Sherry D. Schnepf from Our Gang Players

Art Advocate Award

Past Awardees

2020: Carol Ann Herbert

Pauline S. Miller Lifetime Achievement Award for Ocean County History

Past Awardees

2024: Thomas P. Farner
2023: Gretchen Coyle
2022: Eleanor Ditton
2020: Deborah C. Whitcraft
2019: Margaret Thomas Buchholz
2018: Alfred T. Stokely
2017: Jeanette Llyod

Ocean County Cultural Response Award

Past Awardees

2021: Brick Children's Community Theatre
2021: Lighthouse International Film Festival
2021: Ocean Professional Theatre (Surflight)

John C. Bartlett, Jr. Government Leadership Award

Past Awardees

2024: Michael T. Mangum
2022: Bahiyyah Abdullah
2019: Elaine H. McConnell
2018: J. Mark Mutter

Special Recognition for Advancement of the Arts in Ocean County

Past Awardees

2023: Paul Hartelius
2018: June Sullivan

Historic Preservation Award

Past Awardees

2024: Seaside Heights - Dr. Floyd Moreland Carousel
2023: LBI Historical Association - Fisherman's
Cottage
2017: Ken Fredericks & Larry Midrano - 1877 The
Buhler Mansion Pine Beach

Virginia E. Haines Historic Advocate Award

Past Awardees

2024: Kathy D. Conrad
2024: W. Grove Conrad
2020: Virginia E. Haines

Special Award of Merit

Past Awardees

2024: Cheryl Kirby - Echoes of LBI magazine
2022: Reisa Sweet - Contributions to Ocean County
Human Relations Commission
2021: Andrew Anderson and Patrick Leon Asay -
Ocean County Memories Founded 1850!
2019: William de Camp, Jr. - Contributions to
Barnegat Bay
2018: Joseph Lappin - Lifetime of service to boating
on Barnegat Bay
2017: Richard Morris - Historic Preservation
Advocate
2017: Valerie Vaughn - Giving Voice to the Stories
of Ocean County

Ocean County Artists Guild: Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

By Pat Johnson



Watercolor class at the Guild. Photo credit: Pat Johnson

The Ocean County Artists Guild in Island Heights has received the Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award for providing a home for artists for over 68 years. William Pike, new President of the Guild refers to the group's headquarters at 22 Chestnut Avenue as the "Victorian Lady." It is a marvelous, gingerbread adorned house built in 1879 that is a blessing to over 300 members of the Guild. Every week, the

aging beauty is open for workshops, both adult and children's; gallery viewing, music and soon to be included--poetry nights. Pike has been president for just a short time; he jokes that he took a watercolor class a year ago in August and nine months later he woke up as president! But he has thrown himself into the preservation and expansion of the Guild wholeheartedly. Pike is himself an accomplished artist but always worked in a business capacity and so his appointment is a timely one.

"To preserve this place we have to run it like a business," he said during a recent interview. "I hope to help to shore up our financials. Unlike a lot of arts organizations we have this building and it is expensive to maintain, but it is worth it," said Pike.

To this end, the Guild is applying for a Historic Preservation Grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. "This building is a work of art," he said as he pointed out the fireplace tiled in the arts and crafts style, the pocket doors, the high, light-filled windows and plaster ceilings.

He also appreciates and venerates the past. "One of the things I love about this place is the history of how it came about. In 1957, women in white gloves took charge," said Pike. "The seven women who came together to start the Guild saw a need. Island Heights was an art colony but there wasn't an arts institution."

Edna Thompson Feerick spearheaded an Ocean Arts and



The Robert Given House (c. 1879-80)
Photo credit: Pat Johnson

Crafts Club with six friends that met in various locations in Toms River. In addition to offering art classes the women held exhibitions—sometimes hanging work on a clothesline. They supported a monthly Art Appreciation program as well as Sunday afternoon music and ballet programs. When membership grew to 30, they changed the name to the Ocean County Artists' Guild. In 1974, one of the founding members, Edith Grace, donated the Victorian house in honor of her late husband and the Guild had a permanent home.

"They were true trailblazers," said Pike. "And women of this type of character have kept this place alive for 68 years. It has seen decades of change—but this institution is still standing, still making art."

Today the Guild offers art classes for adults Mondays through Thursdays that vary from drawing to watercolor to linocut and more. Children's programs are offered two days a week and there is an art book club every second Friday. Pike says the children's programs will be expanded moving forward. "We offer a kids' art summer camp for a couple hours a day 4 days a week but we are hoping to expand the hours depending on our volunteers."

The Guild had six galleries with exhibits that are changed every month and also includes a 'pop-up' gallery for special exhibits. Recently the Guild offered Island Heights grammar school to have an art show and reception complete with juice boxes and cookies. "Schools have scaled back art programs significantly," he notes. "Usually there's one art teacher that comes once a week for grades 1 through 6."

"Part of my directive is to attract teens and college age students, we are going to start more programs to fill that gap." This past March all the Toms River High Schools displayed their art in the Guild galleries. "These kind of things attracts new members—mom and dad and grandparents come," said Pike.

Besides art classes and art exhibits, the Guild has periodic music events on Fridays and plans to have poetry nights as well through an intern from Georgian Court University. They also offer programs for

underserved youth in collaboration with Bright Harbor Healthcare and Hearts of Mercy. The Guild has installed ADA compliant hardware and incorporates adaptive teaching methods for children with special needs. Pike is happy to report that younger people are on the board of trustees. The Guild is also looking for ways to partner with the Toms River Arts Center, the Peto Museum and the Cottage Museum, both in Island Heights. "Having a consortium of art institutions increases our cultural and historical tourism and benefits all," said Pike. "We're trying to jam as many events into the calendar as we can, we always want to have something new."



Guild President Pike and photo of the founding women of the Guild.
Photo credit: Pat Johnson

A committee is presently researching Guild history for a website "Island Heights Virtual Art Museum," that will include all of the artists that lived in Island Heights or were associated with the OCAG. "We have discovered that at least two of the founders had direct family links to the original Island Heights art colony that began fifty years before (the Guild), almost as soon as the resort was founded in 1878," wrote board member Marilyn Kralik. Research has also turned up a famous summer resident of the house—Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, prominent in the Civil Rights Movement and who spoke at the 1963 March on Washington where Martin Luther King gave his 'I have a Dream,' speech.

While acknowledging all of the artists, "We're not focused on the past alone. Our beautiful home contains the history, but is focused on bringing art to all and to becoming an even more active community center," said Kralik.

Commissioner Virginia E. Haines: John C. Bartlett Government Leadership Award By Pat Johnson



Ocean County Commissioner Virginia E. Haines has earned the highest award presented at the Salute to Ocean County: A Celebration of Arts & Heritage, the John C. Bartlett Jr. Government Leadership Award through her dedication and support to the people of Ocean County.

She is retiring next year after a decade as a member of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners where she served as Director of the Board in 2019 and Deputy Director in 2022. She is currently liaison to the Ocean County Department of Human Services and the Ocean County Board of Social Services.

During her five years as chairwoman of the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission and liaison to the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Committee she worked to make many county playgrounds all-inclusive and as a member of the board of the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund she helped preserve thousands of acres of open space and farmland. To date, the county has preserved 33,000 acres of open space—some developed for recreation, others left in their natural state.

“We are working on our 28th park that will be located in Manchester –about 300 acres dedicated to passive and active recreation for young and old.”

A lifelong resident of Ocean County, Haines grew up on the grounds of the first Ocean County Park—the former John D. Rockefeller Estate in Lakewood. Her love of the outdoors, history and of place is chronicled in a video that can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xULPkHtsids>.

“Lakewood is a very historic town. In 1850 when

Ocean County was created there were very few downtowns and Lakewood was a resort. We had the (George Jay) Gould Estate (later Georgian Court University) and the Rockefeller Estate.” Haines’ family goes back 300 years in the area that became Ocean County.

Haines has spent most of her adult life in the service to her constituents. She was a state Assemblywoman for the 10th Legislative district from 1992 to 1994, was clerk of the New Jersey Assembly and worked as a Legislative Aide for state Senator Robert Singer. When Christy Whitman was governor, she appointed Haines Executive Director of the New Jersey Lottery from July 1994 to February 2002. She served on the Toms River Township Committee in 2002. Haines also served as the National Republican Committeewoman for New Jersey for 20 years until 2024 and had served as a co-vice chair of the Republican National Committee Northeast Region since 2013. She also served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Haines gives credit to the late Freeholder John C. Bartlett for starting her political career. Bartlett is a man much admired for his 39 years as Freeholder, his dedication to

the county, especially to the Parks and Recreation Department and to preserving and promoting the County's rich history. Haines worked as Bartlett's secretary for six years.

"I don't think that there's anyone I would have received a better education from," she said. She also credits Hazel Gluck, the first female elected Ocean County Freeholder as inspiration. Haines was only the second female Freeholder (now Commissioner) in the county.

"John Bartlett was always dedicated to Ocean County and made sure we did the right thing for the people of Ocean County--something that was instilled in me. I always want to do the best for Ocean County, I love the county and it means an awful lot to me. But its time to retire-- It's been ten years. I loved every department I was liaison to and believe that those who are there and those who come after me will continue to do what is right for the people of Ocean County."



Forked River Mountains with former OC Parks Director Mike Mangum



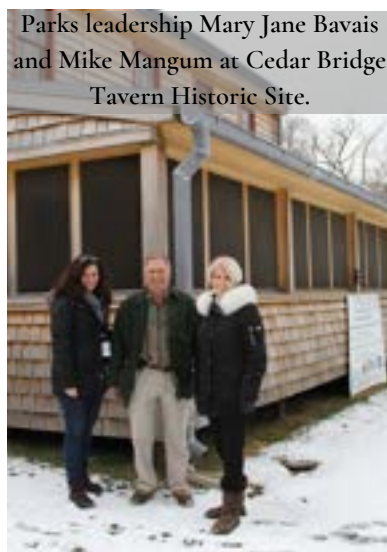
World War I Commemoration



Daughters of the American Revolution



Colonial musicians, Ministers of Apollo



Parks leadership Mary Jane Bavaia and Mike Mangum at Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site.

Preservation of the Cox House in Barnegat, rejuvenation of the Ocean County Park and the continuing creation of Cedar Bridge Tavern as a historical showplace (started by Bartlett) are just some of the highlights of Haines tenure on the boards.

The Cedar Bridge Tavern located in Barnegat is on the National Historic Registry and is a popular stop for school children and families. "There is always someone there to explain the history to them," said Haines.

"We just purchased land on Old Halfway Road, close to Cedar Bridge Tavern to expand that park."

Haines will close out her time as Commissioner while serving as liaison to the Ocean County Department of Human Services and the Ocean County Board of Social Services Social Services.

"When I first came on in 2016 -2018 I was on the social services committee. It's a board I believe everyone should be on so they can see what we provide to help so many people--seniors and veterans. And even so, some fall through the cracks and we have to open other avenues for people with issues like drugs, alcohol and health issues. We have wonderful partners that work with the Mental Health Board. This is a great county and we will continue to provide the services we need and if we need more--we will do that too."

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time in all of my capacities that I served the people of Ocean County and the State. It's been a pure honor to do it. I'm grateful to the voters that put me in to be their legislator. I just do my best on any of the boards I am on and I will continue to do that."

In retirement she will continue to serve on the Ocean County Mental Health Board, the Ocean County Historical Society Board and as Regent of the Joshua Huddy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Haines also serves on the Ocean County College Foundation board, a position she has held for over twenty-five years.

Barnegat Light Museum & Edith Gwinn Gardens: Historic Preservation Award

By Pat Johnson

The Barnegat Light Museum & Edith Gwinn Gardens has earned the Ocean County Historic Preservation Award for meticulous upkeep and preservation of Barnegat Light's one-room schoolhouse museum that houses the first order Fresnel lens that used to shine forth from the Barnegat Lighthouse.

The sparkling glass first order Fresnel lens has 984 rectangular prisms and 24 'bulls eye' prisms. The pyramid-shaped "lens" was first lit in 1859 by kerosene lamps and decommissioned in 1927 when a lightship took up the job of marking the inlet. The Fresnel lens was then sent to Staten Island. It was taken out of storage twice to be exhibited in the 1931 Chicago World's Fair and later exhibited in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Society President Karen Larson said it was the wives of Norwegian fishermen who established the Barnegat Light Historical Society. They were given the schoolhouse in 1954 to use as a museum and after they petitioned legislators for the return of the Fresnel lens, it came back to the borough in 1957 in time for the borough's 50th Anniversary.

Larson's roots in Barnegat Light fuels her dedication to the Museum; she has been president since 2005 and still offers tours to the public. The schoolhouse, located at 501 Central Avenue, educated the borough's children from 1903 to 1951. The Society exhibits photos of each class and two of the schoolhouse alumni, Margaret Buchholz and Edith Parker, still volunteer at the museum. Larson's father John attended the school and Ethel Jacobson was his teacher.

Between 1910 and 1930, many Norwegians immigrated to Long Beach Island to work on the pound nets, said Larson. The nets were located two miles off the beach. Nets set in poles directed the fish into ever-narrower corrals. Retrieving the fish required strong men to row the heavy surfboats through the waves out to the nets where they scooped the fish into the boat. A model of

the pound fishery nets show how they functioned.

"My grandfather, Uncle Ole and their brother Lars came here in 1923—Lars wound up in Oregon on the scallop boats."

Larson's Grandfather and Great Uncle plus eight or nine other Norwegians started Independent Docks (present day Viking Village). They captained pot boats, setting their pots out for lobster and sea bass.

Other exhibits tell the story of early tourism at the shore. Barnegat Bay was well known for gunning. President Grover Cleveland and baseball legend Babe Ruth used to come to hunt ducks.

Museum President Karen Larson and the fresnel lens.
Photo credit: Pat Johnson.



There was a railroad up and down the island and these served three hotels in town. The Oceanic, a large wooden hotel used to be on East 4th Street; after many terrible storms the ocean undermined it in 1921. The Sunset was on the bay and was a sportsmen's paradise. It burnt down in 1931, and it is now under Barnegat Bay. The third was a rooming house called The Social.

A popular exhibit is that of 'Sinbad the Coast Guard Dog.' Sinbad was a stray dog that became a mascot for the Coast Guard ship 'Campbell' in 1937. He traveled all around the world during WWII and was made a non-commissioned officer. He was featured in a book, Sinbad of the Coast Guard. Sinbad would 'pawtograph' the book at events, said Larson. "He appeared at Macys in Newark and thousands waited in line to get his autograph." He was furloughed to the Barnegat Light Coast Guard Station and is buried there.

The horrors of World War II were felt up and down the Jersey Coast as Nazi u-boats torpedoed merchant ships—two oil tankers were sunk off Barnegat Light.

"My father was 9 years old in 1942 when his teacher took the class to the beach to see the burning boat that had been torpedoed," said Larson. "He said his heart was beating so fast because he was scared the Nazis would get him."

Of particular interest to children are the fossils of mammoth teeth and whale bones that were found on the beach. "We are very child-friendly," said Larson. "You can touch most things." Children can learn the points of the compass during a Treasure Hunt and they get a treat at the end.

Larson also has an interesting tale to tell about a Friendship quilt made in 1861 that was given to the first lighthouse keeper's daughter before the family moved west to Iowa. On each square was stitched the name and town of the friend.

"That quilt was returned to us by a woman from Washington state in 1980 where it had been in her attic in Spokane, Washington."

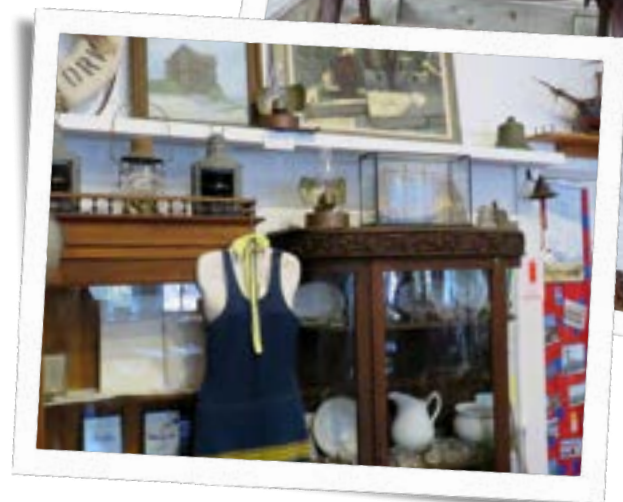
Once the find made the local newspaper, the museum received a fascinating letter from the great granddaughter of the woman who received the quilt. She recalled playing with fragile glass animals that had been salvaged from a shipwreck off Long Beach Island.

"There's so many things here--so many stories," said Larson. "This is why I love history."

The Museum opens weekends in June and is open everyday in July and August except Mondays; hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; tours are by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. The museum hosts a Wine and Cheese party on the last Sunday in August, and in September the museum offers lectures on local history. The museum is also open during the annual Lighthouse Challenge in October.

Surrounding the museum are the Edith Duff Gwinn Gardens run by the Long Beach Island Garden Club. The gardens are open for a wander from dusk to dawn all year round. And in the garden is one more Barnegat Light artifact--a huge iron cauldron that was used to melt tar to coat the lobster pots and nets.

Above:
Schoolhouse bell.
Below: Museum
artifacts on display.
Photo credit:
Pat Johnson.



Dr. Jeffrey Schenker: Historic Advocate Award

By Pat Johnson



Dr. Schenker, 2025.
Photo credit: Pat Johnson.

Dr. Jeffrey Schenker has earned the Virginia E. Haines Historic Advocate Award for 2025. Schenker has earned this honor by enriching the cultural fabric of Ocean County through dedication to the organizations and the people of Ocean County through his work with the Ocean County Historical Society as President and Vice-President and for his years as AP History Teacher at Toms River South and as Adjunct Professor of History with Ocean County College.

Schenker has devoted eight years in governing the Society, he was vice president for four years and will end his second term as president on June 1. That doesn't mean he will step away from the Society he loves; Schenker and Vice-President Pat Moore will both stay on as trustees as the Society steps up their role in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission and the state have been promoting the Anniversary for several years already, this year is the anniversary of the 'shot heard around the world' and next year will be the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Celebrations will culminate in the anniversary of the signing of the constitution in 1787. There is a speaker series at the Society's museum pertaining to the Revolutionary War and a timeline will juxtapose events in the country with those in Ocean County (when it was part of Monmouth County.)

The Society is based in the Elizabeth Sculthorp Force Victorian house, 26 Headley Avenue in Toms River, which serves as a museum and research center. The top floors of the museum reproduce what it was like to live in the 1850s. This is the second year the Society offers tours to all the third grade school children in Ocean County. Schenker said the children are fascinated with the artifacts. "For instance, I show them a writing desk and explain that was the lap top of the Victorian Age."

A newer addition to the house contains the Richard L. Strickler Research Center with books on history and genealogical materials. "One of the things we're very proud of is our professional research team. We take calls from all over the country from people with ancestors here. We have files on people, houses and places in Ocean County, cemetery records and

newspapers going back to the 1800s."

Besides the Revolutionary War exhibits, the Museum also houses an extensive Native American artifact and fossil collection, a collection that Schenker was instrumental in taking out of storage boxes. Also find exhibits on the Civil War and World Wars I and II and the roles citizens of Ocean County played in them.

Schenker said he is very proud of his initiative to establish an annual Ocean County History Day held in September, now in its fifth year. "We invite all the historical societies in the county to come and tell their story and fundraise. We have historic reenactors and museum tours." Historical societies are also invited to a holiday event held in November at Toms River High School South.

Schenker grew up in Fairlawn, New Jersey and was always interested in American history—although he graduated from Ryder College in 1979 with a business education degree. He moved to Toms River right after college to teach in Toms River High School South, where he taught for 23 years. “I fell in love with the area and I realized it was very rich in history.”

He went back to school to get certified to teach history and later completed a Masters Degree in History from Monmouth College and a Doctorate in American History from Drew University.

Schenker is currently an adjunct history professor at Ocean County College. “I think that whether somebody does or does not like history depends on if they had good teachers –history is about telling stories and personalizing it,” he said.

“I’ve always been exceedingly interested in the Revolutionary War,” said Schenker. He portrays George Washington and Toms River privateer Joshua Huddy for historical societies and senior communities free of charge. He also volunteers lectures on other historical subjects: the D-Day invasion of WWII, November armistice of WWI and the part New Jersey played in them.

This year the Ocean County Historical Society is celebrating their own milestone, their 75th anniversary. Schenker has written an article on the Society’s history in their newsletter, *The Scroll*. “During the Centennial of the birth of Ocean County, a group of

gentlemen realized it was the only county in the state that did not have a historical society. Initially the Society didn’t have a home of their own; they met in the 1850 county court house. The founding fathers collected 300 artifacts and we still have them on display.”

Schenker explained that the Scoffer family had sold the Victorian building to the county in the early 1800s and it was located on Hooper Ave. As Ocean County grew, the county had no use for the house and they gave it to the Ocean County Historical Society for \$1. It cost \$5,000 to have it jacked up and moved to its present location on land donated by the Birdsall Family. The museum opened in 1970.

“We have the charter signed by 88 of the 89 members and the first president was Dr. Hilliard from Manahawkin,” said Schenker. “Sometimes I look at the charter and am in awe that my name now will be linked with those early people. It means a lot to me.”

The Ocean County Historical Society’s Museum is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday and first and third Saturdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. Group tours should make appointments. The research center is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays and first and third Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., but call first. Both museum and research center are staffed by volunteers from their 200-plus membership.



Recreated schoolhouse room, Ocean County Historical Society.
Photo credit: Pat Johnson.

Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr.: Lilia W. Thompson Legislative Recognition Award



The Commission created this award to give special recognition to those elected to represent the people of Ocean County in our legislature. In Ocean County, we are honored to be represented in the legislature by four Senators and eight members of the Assembly. Each year, we plan to invite one of those representatives to our annual Salute to Ocean County to share the triumphs of the Ocean County Teen Arts and our community award program.

The award is named after Lila W. Thompson (1875-1933), the first woman to represent Ocean County in the New Jersey Legislature (1924 & 1925). She was a vocal champion for Ocean County and courageously stood up to those spreading hate. State highway Route 9 between Lakewood and Manalapan is named the Lila W. Thompson Highway.

Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr. (R-9) was selected as the first Ocean County legislator to receive the Lila W. Thompson Government Recognition Award. Senator Amato was elected to represent Ocean County in the Senate in November of 2024. He serves on following senate committees: Budget and Appropriations, Community and Urban Affairs and Higher Education.

Senator Amato is now in a powerful position to advocate for the arts and heritage community of Ocean County. He is a humble man of integrity and dedication.

A 53 year resident of Bayville in Berkeley Township, Senator Amato has been elected to serve his community as mayor (2012-2023), councilman (2006-2011) and school board member (1993-2011). He also served on the Zoning Board and County Utilities

Authority. During his time in municipal government, Senator Amato prioritized updating and modernizing infrastructure, including parks, playgrounds and recreation areas. He was a leader in recovery of his town's waterfront from the damages of Super Storm Sandy. He was also instrumental in preserving thousands of acres as open space. In being responsive and transparent to his constituents, Mayor Amato prioritized improving the quality of life for veterans and senior citizens among others.

Senator Amato is deeply involved in his community as a member of St. Barnabas Roman Catholic Church and as a volunteer for many nonprofits including various recreation groups including Little League, the historical society, Italian American Heritage and INSPIRE t/a the people's pantry.

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission understands that the New Jersey legislature provides the funding supplied to Ocean County by the New Jersey Historical Commission, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Tourism Council, and the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism. The NJ Hotel/Motel Occupancy Fee (Tax) funds all of these activities that have a direct impact on Ocean County. The majority of these funds are granted to Ocean County non-profits through the Ocean County Board of Commissioners.



The Ocean County Board of Commissioners presents:

Celebrating our 175th Anniversary:

Ocean County Art Contest

for Ocean County Community Members,
18 years old and up

For submission information, including general rules, regulations,
accepted mediums, sizes, and process of submitting
visit: www.bit.ly/4iNk6cf

Artists will submit one image of an artwork for judging.
Submissions are due no later than October 1, 2025, by email only.

Prizes are as follows:

1st place: \$500 gift card to Blick Art Materials

2nd place: \$200 gift card to Blick Art Materials

3rd place: \$100 gift card to Blick Art Materials



2025 LBI ARTIST STUDIO TOUR

SAT-SUN AUGUST 9-10, 10am - 4pm



SAVE THE DATE!

This is a FREE self-guided
tour of LBI artists' studios
& galleries.

Meet local artists
at select venues
on Long Beach Island.

Visit lbiartists.com
for more information,
free map and list of artists
& galleries.



Ocean County Celebrates 175 Years

By Pat Johnson

Ocean County was created on February 15, 1850 from the lower half of Monmouth County. Lines were drawn from the Manasquan River south, encompassing Jackson, Plumstead, Dover, Stafford, Union and Brick townships. Little Egg Harbor was still part of Burlington County, only joining in 1891. Assemblyman Joel Haywood of West Creek introduced the bill to form the county and it was passed by one vote. Haywood then became one of twelve Freeholders.

In February of this year, the Ocean County Board of Commissioners (formerly the Board of Chosen Freeholders) held a ceremony to mark the anniversary by burying a time capsule in front of the Ocean County Administration building in Toms River.

Inside the capsule were more than 60 items from nearly 30 Ocean County departments and agencies including patches and pins from county law enforcement agencies, department annual reports, brochures and maps from Ocean County Parks and natural lands acquisitions, training guides, resource guides for seniors, county budgets and ratings information—all to give a snapshot of life in 2025 Ocean County. Ocean County

Commissioner Robert Arace served as the Master of Ceremonies at the event and quoted John Jay Chapman,

an American author born in 1862. “One of the deepest impulses in man is the impulse to record, to scratch a drawing on a tusk or keep a diary...The enduring value of the past is, one might say, the very basis of civilization.”

“Today as we celebrate Ocean County’s 175th anniversary, we look back at its history –the enduring value of its past—and we look forward to its very bright future,” said Arace.

Arace then outlined the population growth and growth of services to the more than 650,000 Ocean County citizens. “We maintain more than 1,600 county lane miles, 35,000 traffic signs, 400 traffic lights and 259 bridges and culverts. We are a government housed in 135 county government buildings. We are home to more than 30,000 veterans and over 200,000 senior citizens. Ocean County was the first two-year college in the state of New Jersey and our vocational Technical Schools are award

Photo above, L to R: Commissioner Virginia E. Haines, Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr., Commissioner Robert S. Arace, Commissioner Jennifer Bacchione, Ocean County Historian Tim Hart, and Commissioner Frank Sadeghi.
Photo credit: Ocean County.

winning. We have 27 Ocean County parks, 2 county-run golf courses, nearly 30,000 acres of preserved open space and 5,500 acres of preserved farmland. Our largest employer is Six Flags Great Adventure followed closely by Joint Base MacGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. We also have the largest public library system in the state of New Jersey and the list goes on.”

A definitive timeline of Ocean County seminal events was also developed for the occasion. When Ocean County was set-off from Monmouth on February 15, 1850, it was the state’s 20th county and the second largest but with a population of just over 10,000.

In 1862 railroads begin to service the area and tourism begins. Two bridges were built across Barnegat Bay in 1914 to the barrier islands and seaside tourism took off. More people discovered the attractions of the county.

“With everything they see and read that is in this time capsule, I believe the one thing that will stand out the most is the pride we take in our County. This is a county of opportunities, of diversity that we embrace and one of perseverance to make certain it is the best place to live, work, raise a family and retire.”



Commissioner Frank Sadeghi assists the Buildings & Grounds crew seal the time capsule.
Photo credit: Ocean County.

Arace also announced the formation of several contests to highlight the 175th anniversary; a poster contest for fifth and sixth grade students, an art contest for residents 18 years and older and an essay contest for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students. The theme for all three is “What makes Ocean County a great place to live.” Each school will hold its own in-house contest and pick one entry for the county contest. Gift cards for art supplies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in the poster contest will be awarded and gift cards for books will be awarded in the essay contest. The deadline for the art contests is October 1.



Commissioner Robert S. Arace and Commissioner Frank Sadeghi.
Photo credit: Ocean County.

To find information on contests go to co.ocean.nj.us, click on Meet Our Commissioners, then search, ‘175th Anniversary.’ For more information contact Kristen Kosa at kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us.

The Ocean County Division of Public Information, Donna Flynn, director, planned the time capsule and contests to celebrate the 175th anniversary with assistance from the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Timothy G. Hart director. Hart also serves as the Ocean County Historian and will give a presentation on “175 Years of Ocean County” at Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site on Sunday, July 13 at 2:00 PM. Registration is \$5, call Ocean County Parks at (732) 506-9090 to register. The Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation also contributed, as did the Ocean County Department of Building and Grounds.

Seaport Stitches Quilt Guild

By Pat Johnson

In 2024, the Seaport Stitches celebrated their 25th Anniversary. This dedicated group of seamstresses in Southern Ocean County love their art and helping others through charity giving. They meet every Tuesday and two Saturdays each month for a “free sew” at Little Egg Harbor’s Edward B. Thornton Community Center to work on their projects and to socialize. Once a month they have their business meeting at the First United Presbyterian Church in Tuckerton where they participate in a ‘Show and Tell.’

On a recent Tuesday, six members of the club were working at their sewing machines; Lisa Baldwin and Laurie Didyk from Little Egg Harbor, Heather Reenstra from Toms River, Nancy Daniani from Barnegat, Loreen Wise from Mullica Township, and Jill DeFelice from Tuckerton.

Laurie Didyk is a retired nurse practitioner and finds she is working harder than ever on her charity work with the Seaport Stitches and another quilting group, ‘Quilts of Valor, New Jersey Shore Chapter.’ She and Loreen Wise from Mullica Township started the local chapter a year ago and that group has already donated 15 red, white and blue quilts to veterans. “We realized there was a need in Ocean County.”

Nancy Daniani, a quilter from Staten Island found Seaport Stitches when she moved to Barnegat in January. She enjoys the camaraderie. “They meet all year long and are the most focused group in their charity works. It’s very unique.”



Seaport Stitches display at Tuckerton Seaport.
Photo credit: Tuckerton Seaport.

Each year the guild chooses three charities to focus on. This year they are making and donating comfort quilts for hospice patients at the Hackensack Meridian Hospital in Manahawkin and the nation-wide ‘Quilts for Kids’ program that makes quilts for children facing serious illness, trauma, abuse or natural disasters. And they continue to make placemats and napkins for Meals on Wheels recipients in Ocean County. “We usually disperse these around the holidays with a small gift,” said Jill DeFelice.

This year they are proud to be participating in the 250th Anniversary of the nation by partnering with the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission on an ‘America 250’ quilt that will tell the story of Ocean County through the municipal seals of the 33 county towns. Individual members will stitch the panels to create a large quilt that will be dedicated to the county. They will also make a duplicate panel to give to the towns.

The guild holds quilt raffles and sales of finished work. Each member donates something to sell. Every year they have at least one show and sale at the Tuckerton Seaport, the next is on May 3rd in the Hunting Shanty. They also are part of the Seaport’s Jersey Shore Folklife Center and they exhibit during the annual Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning show in September.



Top: Stitchers hold handmade centerpieces for their 25th anniversary celebration, 2024.
Middle: President's Day Pinwheel Class.
Bottom: Stitchers bag making workshop.
Photo credit: Seaport Stitchers.



In just a few years the guild has doubled in size to include 40 members. Guild members have the privilege of buying fabric from the guild at reduced prices and using the bulk-purchased batting. Few quilts are hand sewn these days; the quilting of the pieced fabric is almost always made by machine—guided by each seamstress. Many of the members own a long-arm machine which can be loaded with the roll of fabric and then guided by them over the surface of the quilt. This allows for a variety of quilt patterns.

The Stitchers occasionally offer a Beginner's workshop, usually for 4 weeks on a Saturday to teach the basics of quilting and how to care for their machine, participants get to take home a finished project. "Quilters are like artists," said DeFelice, "They mentor each other."

The Guild also holds workshops for their members from well-known quilters who have a special technique or challenging pattern to teach. Many of the members admit they are a bit compulsive about their hobby. Lisa Baldwin said she gets up at 6 a.m. to sew for an hour before going to work and then sews a couple of hours after work. "It's my therapy," she explained. "I enjoy the creativity of it."

Both DeFelice and Didyk both admitted to taking their sewing machines when on vacation. And the group sponsors two quilting retreats—one to Lancaster Pa. in the fall where there are quite a few quilting fabric shops and a second to American Keswick in Whiting in the spring. Both the hotel in Pa. and Keswick accommodate the Stitchers by providing conference rooms, tables and enough electrical outlets for their machines. "It's wonderful," said Jill. "You can quilt from eight in the morning until midnight if you want."

43^d Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show

STANLEY "TIP" SEAMAN COUNTY PARK

SAT., SEPT. 27, 7 AM - 5 PM

SUN., SEPT. 28, 7 AM - 4 PM

Free Shuttles at: Pinelands Regional High School, Tuckerton
Seaport, Freedom Fields County Park

HANDS ON ACTIVITIES

Archery
Kids Crafts
Carving & Folk Art Demos
Drop-in Folk Art Crafts
Life-size checkers/chess
Cornhole
Ornament weaving
Decoy Painting

FEATURING

Dock Dog Demos
New & Antique Decoys
Duck Boats
Boat Rides
Presentations
Hunting & Fishing Gear
Food Vendors
Art & Photo Exhibit
Musical Performances

CONTESTS

NEW! Advanced Carvers
Decoy Carving
Boat Building
Model Boats
Calling
Skeet Shooting
Retrievers
Art & Photo



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Robert S. Arace, Chairman
Ocean County Parks & Recreation
Mary Jane Bavais - Director





The Ocean County Teen Arts Festival is proudly hosted by the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts at Ocean County College. The festival is cosponsored by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners through the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Held in mid-March, the Ocean County Teen Arts Festival invites high school students to showcase their artistic talents to their peers, receive professional feedback from adjudicators, and participate in free cross-disciplinary workshops on campus. Top students from each category are nominated to participate at the New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival. The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commissioners evaluate those

adjudicated for excellence and pick finalists to showcase at the *Salute to Ocean County*. The Commission supports the students by providing an award of \$650. Additionally, several Ocean County high schools receive \$1,000 each to produce documentaries on the *Salute to Ocean County* awardees. Central Regional High School was selected to receive an award of an additional \$1,000 for the best production in the documentary category for their production on Ocean County Artists Guild for the Lifetime Achievement in Art. The following schools were selected for outstanding achievement:

Visual Arts:
Central Regional High School - *R.K. in Charcoal*
by Brooke Baranyay

Student Film:
Jackson Liberty High School - *Risk*

Dance:
Toms River High School North

Vocal:
Southern Regional High School

Instrumental:
Barnegat High School - *Halcyon Hearts, Second Suite in F for Military Band*

Literary Arts:
Point Pleasant Boro High School - *A Recipe for Growing Up*
by Meredith Killi

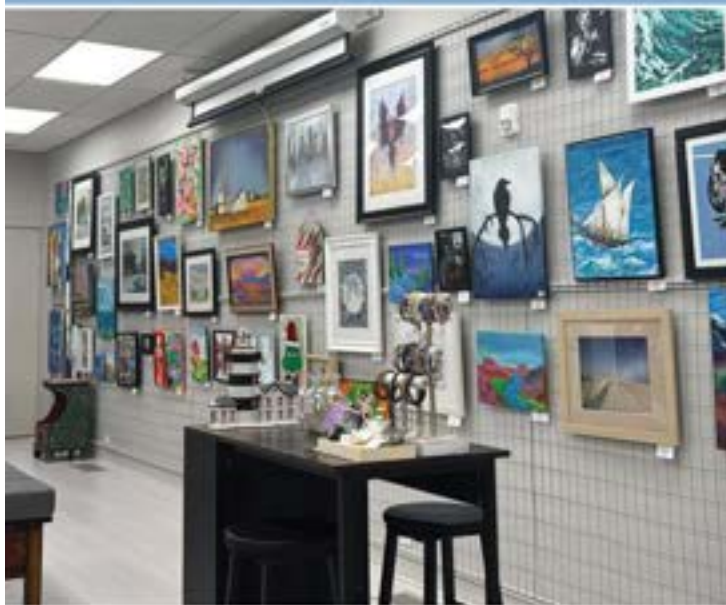
Small Theater:
OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy - *The Murder was Staged*

Large Theater:
OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy - *Bikini Bottom Day*

R.K. in Charcoal by Brooke Baranyay



TOMS RIVER ARTIST COMMUNITY TRAC



Discover all that TRAC Gallery has to offer!

Memberships, artisan and vendor space rentals, engaging art classes for adults and children, a book nook, and kids corner. Our special needs individuals will find a welcoming sensory room, and much more. TRAC hosts a variety of special events throughout the year. Our newly updated private room is now available for your own personal gathering. TRAC is a vibrant hub for creativity and community.

We're proud to collaborate with local businesses to keep the arts thriving in our town. Whether you're an artist, supporter, or simply looking for something fun and inspiring, stop by and browse our creativity! You will be amazed—and maybe even inspired to join our community!

Thank you to our sponsors!



Funded in part by a grant from the Ocean County Board of Commissioners
Explore more at
OceanCountyTourism.com

TRAC Gallery received funding this year from the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission through funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of State. This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

TRAC THE HEART OF #40MAIN
TOMS RIVER ARTIST COMMUNITY

40 Main Street
Toms River • NJ • 08753
(732) 377-0290

TRAC732.ORG

Loggerhead Turtle by Judy Goddard



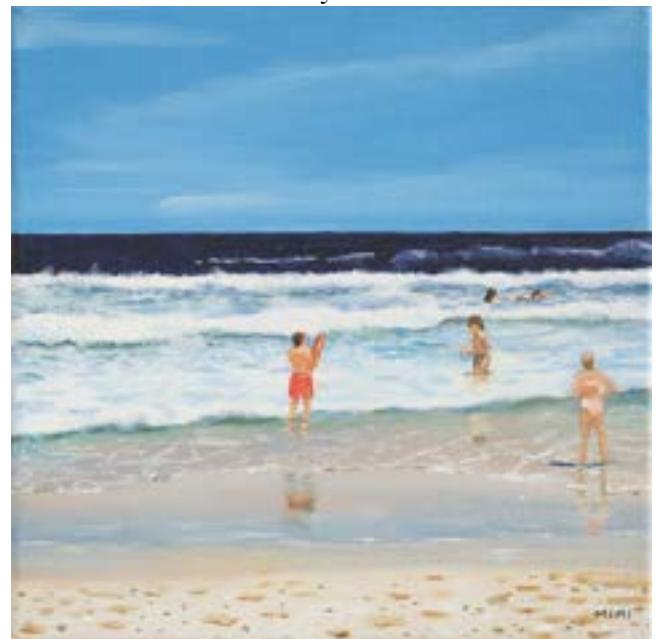
Barnegat Light by Tom Nulton



The Twins by MJ Torres



Brothers on the Beach by Mimi Sabatino



Beach Sunrise by Lorraine Dey



Mermaid by Chris Sleckman



View of Toms River from Beechwood by Peter Dant



Sitting by the River by Robert Henne



Sea Pottery
by Kat Howarth



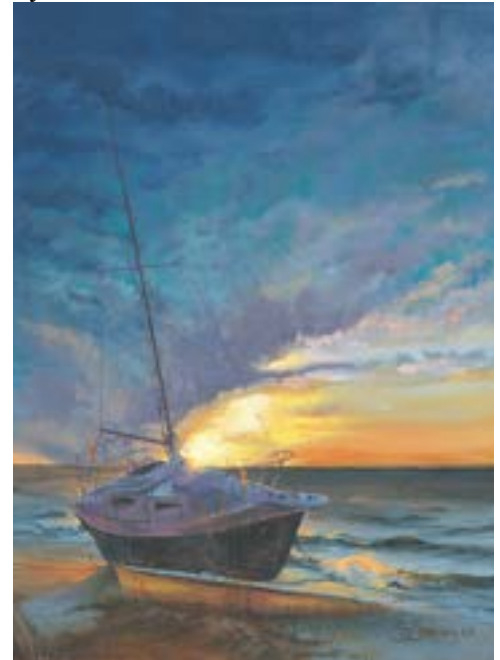
Jersey Shore
by Lisa Morante



Pine Beach Pier and Seagull
by Denise Brown



Run Aground, Barnegat Bay
by Steve Schreiber



Out for a Swim by Dorothy Brady



Above and Below Caldwell's Diving Museum

By Pat Johnson

The history of early deep-sea exploration and commercial diving is told through the lifetime achievements of 98-year-old Jim Caldwell at the Above and Below Caldwell's Diving Museum located at 82 East Water Street in Toms River.

Caldwell was just seventeen when he began diving in the U.S. Navy in what would become the Navy Seals. He took part in historical events such as the nuclear experiments at Bikini Atoll, laying intercontinental underwater cable communications and exploration of the deep sea and shipwrecks.

In a recent interview with his son Stephan, Caldwell related his incredible achievements. His son created the museum and produced a movie on his father's life that can be viewed at the museum. The centerpiece of the museum is the 'Diver Dan' mock-up of Jim Caldwell's original diving suit. It used to be part of the diving shop he operated when he first got out of the Navy.

It is an impressive sight—the bronze helmet weighs 54 pounds, each canvas-encased boot weighed 40 pounds and Caldwell wore a 90-pound weight belt when he dove. On shore he was a weighted down turtle but underwater he was incredibly buoyant—a control valve on his belt would control the amount of air. Early divers were tethered to their boats by air hoses and men would operate the pumps that supplied regular air to the diver. Only later with the advent of scuba were divers able to swim free with air tanks.

Caldwell enlisted with the Navy when he was 17 and volunteered for dive school. He was stationed in the



Jim Caldwell and son Stephan Caldwell, with Jim's original diving suit.
Photo Credit: Pat Johnson.

South Pacific during World War II. His unit was charged with underwater demolition. "We would go in ahead of a landing force and set off dynamite to clear the way for the landing force," he explained.

He was also part of the underwater team that followed the 1946 nuclear tests on Bikini Island. The detonation site was ringed with captured battleships and submarines to test the force of the nuclear explosion. "We raised two of the submarines that were sunk, one we (the Navy) towed back to Pearl Harbor and one back to San Francisco. Servicemen were not fully aware of the dangers, nor were scientists since this was the first test of a nuclear bomb. "Scientists would come out and measure your radiation and would tell you when you could dive, in another day or

Children engaging with
Diving Museum exhibit.
Photo credit: Above and Below: Caldwell's
Diving Museum.

two days—depending on the amount of radiation you received,” said Caldwell.

Upon his discharge from the Navy, he opened Ocean County Diving Ltd. Located in Toms River in the early 1960s. He taught sport diving

and his first wife Jerry took care of the store. “She never swam,” said Stephan of his mother, “She used to teach the business end of diving. They also taught the military, local police and fire departments search and rescue and recovery skills.”

In the 1970s, Caldwell transitioned from teaching scuba to using his knowledge and skills to start an underwater construction business, Caldwell Diving Ltd. The company specialized in underwater dock and dam repairs, bridge-work, repairs to water towers and beach replenishment operations. As his reputation grew, Caldwell Diving Ltd. began laying transatlantic communication cables.

Stephan said his father revolutionized the cable laying process. “He designed a jetted underwater plow that went down at the stern of ship, dug the hole, laid the cable and then covered it up—all in one pass.”



Since divers work in all kinds of places and under all kinds of conditions, working in murky water, under docks or even under ice, communications are key to safety. Laying pipelines and communication cables took Caldwell and his divers all over the world. During his trips Caldwell collected many artifacts and diving helmets that are on display in the museum. The evolution of Caldwell's business is the evolution of diving.

Caldwell is sanguine about his many achievements—he grew up in the Toms River area and dropped out of high school to join the Navy. It's a story of hometown boy does good.

“I was fortunate to come out of the service and start Caldwell Diving and I traveled all over the world—it's been a good life.”



The Museum is open from 12 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and is just around the corner from the Toms River Maritime Museum. Admission is free, donations accepted.

Stephan Caldwell gives visitors a
tour of the Museum.

Photo credit:
Above and Below: Caldwell's
Diving Museum.

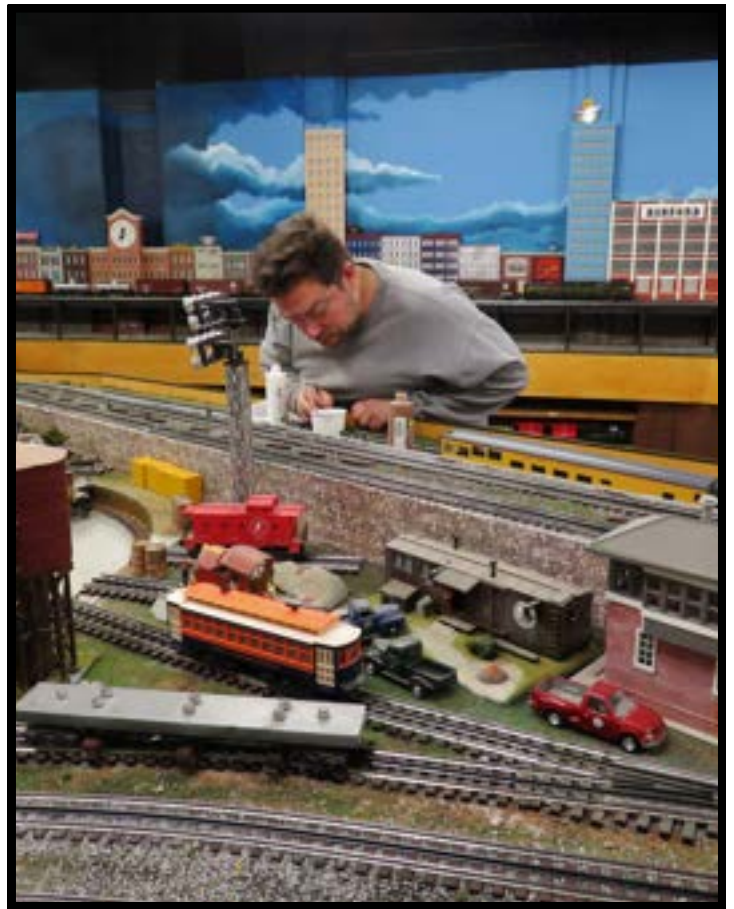
Ocean County Model Railroaders

By Pat Johnson

The sound of model trains clicking along tracks is unmistakable—it easily brings back childhood memories of time spent in parents’ basements. Away from supervision, children of the 50s and 60s bent over model buildings, intensely gluing plastic parts together, snapping tracks into snaking rivers of rail, and with a spirit of creativity, built their own worlds.

It’s this nostalgia that brings the members of the Ocean County Society of Model Railroaders together. The OCSMR was formed in 1987 by a group of HO scale model railroad enthusiasts. Its mission is “promoting the best and most fun hobby in the world—model trains,” said President Ted Bertiger.

The Society has been chugging along for 38 years—five founding members started the club in a former Amoco Gas Station on Route 88 in Lakewood and then moved to the basement of the All Saints Episcopal Church where they stayed for 24 years. In 2016 they moved to their current location at the invitation of Lakewood Mayor Ray Coles and Committeeman Menashe Miller. The group began the painstaking process of renovating the basement rooms in the former Newman School in Lakewood Park. The Lakewood Historical Society’s Sheldon Wolpin Historical Museum is located on the two floors above them. Today the OCSMR has completely refurbished two large rooms—one for the tiny HO scale trains and another for O-gauge model railroads plus tracks for America Flyer S gauge.



Artist John Tedesco paints tiny barrels on O gauge layout.
Photo Credit: Pat Johnson

On a recent Saturday, Bertiger and his O-gauge gang were gathered around their layout. John Tedesco was hunched over a siding, painting the iron rims on a group of tiny barrels. Tedesco is the artist who painted the landscape of low autumn-clothed mountains that frame the miniature towns. Authenticity of the layout is paramount. “It’s never fully completed,” he said.

Bud Phillips has been a member since 1990 and helped construct the setups during each move. Phillips and Bertiger were the architects of the present O-gauge layout that includes four distinct railroad tracks and resembles the New York/Long Island Railroad of the 1950s. “We taught people how to lay track,” said Phillips.

Many of the O-scale buildings are automatons. Phillips pushed the buttons that energized a car dealership, gas station and car wash. Tiny cars moved in and out of a showroom, drove to the pumps and swooshed in and out of the car wash. “Kids really love to make these work,” said Phillips. And some of the town buildings are dedicated to past members such as the ‘Lackomoney Tavern.’

Children also enjoy making the horns and whistles of the engines sound, said Phillips. “They ask me, ‘Can you crash them?’ I say, ‘Sure, how big is your parents’ checkbook?’”

Members are given access to the large rail setup and bring their own trains to run on the rails. The setup accommodates traditional transformers, newer remote control or Wi Fi connections. Both replica steam and diesel trains run side by side. Phillips said OCSMR members usually pack their trains in old suitcases. Phillips estimates that he owns over a thousand individual train cars and around a hundred engines. “I bought some of them for my two sons when they were children. I told them they could run them but not play with them!”

A HO setup in the second basement room is in the process of recreating the local shore railroad lines that ran through such stations as Matawan, Aberdeen, South Amboy, Belmar and Long Branch. Everything is done to scale and very intricate. Bertiger said the club is hoping to enlist more members who gravitate to the smaller HO scale.

Besides work on the model railroads, the group also refurbishes donated train sets and equipment in their engine room and then sells them at various events to



Top: Ted Bertiger and Bud Phillips with layout of O gauge.
Photo credit: Pat Johnson.

Below: Model Trains. Photo Credit: OCSMR.

raise funds. The group also travels and sets up demonstration railroads—On May 18 from 9 a.m. to 2p.m. they will be at the Brick Elks Lodge, 2491 Hooper Avenue in Brick. Go to the website OCSMR.com to view their events and to request their presence.

The OCSMR welcomes visitors to view the model trains. Hours are Tuesday and Friday nights from 6:30 to 10 p.m. and by appointment. Supervised children are welcome. The basement is chairlift accessible.

Model layout with alien ship.
Photo Credit: Pat Johnson.





2025 Art & History Grants



Commissioner Robert S. Arace is happy to announce a total \$238,000 in grant funding has been awarded to 26 (19 arts and 7 historical) Ocean County arts and heritage organizations in 2025 through a highly competitive, peer reviewed application process. Each year, the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission offers funding to Ocean County based non-profit arts and heritage organizations, units of local government, and institutions of higher education seeking to provide quality arts and history programming and services to the public.

The following organizations received a total of \$88,000 in grant awards from Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission's County History Partnership Program Grant towards General Operating or Special Project Support in FY 2025:

4Th New Jersey Volunteers (\$1,000)
Barneгат Bay Maritime Museum (\$12,200)
Berkeley Township Historical Society (\$15,000)
*John F. Peto Studio Museum (\$18,800)
*LBI Historical Association (\$15,000)
Navy Lakehurst Historical Society (\$11,500)
Stafford Township Historical Society (\$14,500)

* Citation of Excellence

These organizations will receive funding this year from a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

The following arts organizations received a total of \$150,000 in grant awards from the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission's Local Arts Program Grant towards General Operating or Special Project support in FY 2025:

Arc of Ocean County (\$5,000)
Borough of Ship Bottom (\$2,500)
*Brick Children's Community Theatre (\$14,200)
Island Singers (\$7,500)
Jackson Township (\$2,500)
Jewish Federation of Ocean County (\$5,000)
*John F. Peto Studio Museum (\$17,800)
Laurelton Art Society (\$4,500)
Lighthouse International Film Festival (\$11,100)
NJ Rising Stars, Inc. (\$5,000)
O.C.E.A.N. Inc. (\$5,000)
Ocean County Artist's Guild (\$13,200)
Ocean Professional Theatre Company (\$12,400)
One Ocean County (\$5,000)
Pine Shores Art Association (\$13,800)
Special Children's Center (\$5,000)
Stafford Township Historical Society (\$2,500)
Toms River Artist Community (\$13,000)
Toms River Business Development Corp. (\$5,000)

* Citation of Excellence

These grants are given to local groups in order to support, promote, and develop the arts in Ocean County. The Local Arts Program Grant is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

For more information regarding the grant program, contact the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission at 732-929-4779, visit their website at www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural/index.htm, or email culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us.

2026 Local Arts & History Program Grant Applications Available This Summer

Grant applications become available in late July/Early August. Grants are offered in Special Project Support and General Operating Support. These grants are competitively awarded based on project/program merit and other criteria. Grants do not need to be matched by the organization for Fiscal Year 2026 thanks to new rules from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and New Jersey Historical Commission.

Contact the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission office at (732) 929 – 4779, or at culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us for more information, or to request an application at your earliest convenience. More information on the FY 2026 applications will be available on our website at: co.ocean.nj.us/ch/frmGrants.aspx in late July or early August.

Important dates for FY26 Local Arts / History Grants:

Grant Information Workshop:

Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 3:00 or 7:00 PM

Mandatory Declaration of Intent Deadline:

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 5:00 PM

Mail to: Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
1198 Bandon Rd.,
Toms River, NJ 08753

Application Deadline:

Monday, September 8, 2025, 5:00 PM

Mail to: Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
1198 Bandon Rd.,
Toms River, NJ 08753.

Ocean County Vendor? Register your organization here:
ocgvss.co.ocean.nj.us/webapp/VSSPROD/AltSelfService



Art re-grantee One Ocean County.
Photo credit: Brian Crockett.



Lenape program by Art & History
re-grantee John F. Peto Museum.
Photo credit: Peto Museum.



History re-grantee Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum.
Photo credit: Brian Crockett.

Alternate Sponsorship Program

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission offers a variety of capacity building opportunities to non-profits and to date, has awarded over \$3.2 million in grants. The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission has announced \$238,000 in grant awards for 2025.

An additional \$30,000 is available for 2025 through the Alternate Sponsorship Program for Art and History projects. The program offers reimbursable sponsorships a rolling deadline throughout the year, simplified request process, and short time frame from request to award. Limited funds are still available in 2025.

Total Funds Available for Art-based projects:
\$20,000

Maximum awards:
\$1,000 or \$2,000

Total Funds Available for History-based projects:
\$10,000

Maximum Award:
\$1,000

Be sure to read the updated FY 2025 Guidelines in full before submitting your application.

For complete guidelines for the Alternate Sponsorship Program, visit the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission website:

co.ocean.nj.us/OC/ch/frmAlternateSponsorship.aspx

Applications and reporting are available online! Please follow directions on the Cultural & Heritage website and in the guidelines.

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission's other resources and support for the cultural community include;

- the Local Arts Program and County History Partnership Program grants,
- professional development workshops,
- technical assistance,
- publicity and publication,
- partnerships,
- co-sponsorships,
- professional consulting,
- access to national memberships,
- STEPs assistance,
- and recognition through awards.



The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission receives grants from both the New Jersey Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission in the Department of State.



Carousel of Music 2025

Ocean County Parks
& Recreation Administration
Office

1198 Bandon Road
Toms River

Start time 6:30pm

80s Revolution
June 27

Underwater Airlines
July 4

The Chiclettes
July 11

Jukebox Legends
July 18

70s Rock Parade
July 25

Sensational Soul Cruisers
August 1

One Hit Wonderers
August 8

The Kootz Band
August 15

Mushmouth
August 22

Erich Cawalla
& The Uptown Band
August 29

Gille Park
102 Manchester Ave.
Forked River

Start Time 6:30pm

The Wag
A Beatles Tribute Band
July 30

Str8Up
August 27

Ocean County Library
101 Washington Street
Toms River

Start Time 6:30pm

Soul Sounds
June 19

63rd Army Band
June 26

Toms River Municipal Band
July 3

Toms River Municipal Band
July 10

Bob Kulik
A Salute to Frank Sinatra
July 17

Strictly 60s
July 24

Toms River Municipal Band
July 31

Toms River Municipal Band
August 7

Toms River Municipal Band
August 14

Wilbur Wittemann Big Band
August 21

Sentimental Journey Big Band
August 28

Brass Tacks
September 4

Heritage Gazebo
Bay Ave., Lavallette
Start Time 7pm

Wilbur Wittemann Big Band
August 24

Veterans Park
489 Forest Hills Parkway
Berkeley Township

Start Time 7:30pm

Naked Jake Band
July 2

We May Be Right
July 16

Mid-life Crisis
July 30

Suit \$ Mai Tai
August 13

23rd Ave.
Seaside Park
Start time 5pm

Alotta Colada
August 30

Waterfront Park
10th Street & Shore Ave.
Ship Bottom

Start time 6:30pm

The Jersey Tenors
July 3

Simmerr
July 10

Dread Pilot Roberts
July 17

The Counterfeiters
July 31

The Chris Fritz Band
August 7

Danny's 52 Street Band
August 21

Jimmy and the Parrots
August 30



Bring a Blanket or Beach Chair...See our website for more www.oceancountyparks.org

Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners Robert S. Arace – Chairman of Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Bacchione, Virginia E. Haines, John P. Kelly, Frank Sadeghi

SUMMER CONCERTS

NOTE: Check with venue for confirmation of time, conditions, date, etc. Listings are abridged from organizational information and may lack full details. Subject to change without notice.

BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP

609-698-0080 X122
www.barnegat.net/
Barnegat Municipal Dock at 6:30 PM
Saturdays, June 7 - August 30

BARNEGAT LIGHT

609-494-9196
www.barnegatlight.org
Bay Breeze Park at 7:00 PM
Mondays, Jun 30 - August 25

BERKELEY TOWNSHIP

732-269-4456
twp.berkeley.nj.us
Veteran's Park at 6:00 PM
July 2, 16, 30 August 13 September 20
South Seaside Park - August 23

BRICK TOWNSHIP

732-262-1044
www.bricknj.gov/
Windward Beach Park at 7:00 PM
Thursdays; July 3 - 24

HARVEY CEDARS BOROUGH

609-361-6000
www.harveycedars.org
Sunset Park at 6:30 PM
Wednesdays, July 9 - August 13

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

732-928-1200
www.jacksontownship.net/218/recreation
Jackson Justice Complex at 6:30 PM
June 5 & 19; July 17; Aug 7 & 21

LAVALLETTE BOROUGH

732-793-7477
www.lavallette.org/concerts.html
Heritage Gazebo at 7:00 PM
Sundays, June 29 - August 31

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

732-657-8121
www.manchestertwp.com
Harry Wright Lake
Saturday, June 28 - Manchester Day +
Concert at 2:00 PM
Wednesdays, July 9 & 23 August 6 & 20
at 6:00 PM

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP

609-597-1000
staffordhistory.org/concert.html
Manahawkin Lake Park at 7:00 PM
Mondays, July 7 - August 25

SEASIDE PARK BOROUGH

732-793-3700
<http://www.seasideparknj.org>
Police Station Lawn between 5th &
7th Avenues at 7:30 PM
Mondays, June 30 - August 25

SHIP BOTTOM BOROUGH

609-494-2171
www.shipbottom.org
Waterfront Park, 10th St. & Shore
Ave. at 6:30 PM
Thursdays July 3 - August 28



Summer Events

NOTE: Check with venue for confirmation of time, conditions, date, cost, etc. Listings are abridged from organizational information and may lack full details. Subject to change without notice.

* - indicates FREE event

Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department

732-506-9090

<https://www.oceancountyparks.org/>

Kids to Parks Day! *

Sat, May 17; times vary by park; Cattus Island, Cloverdale, Jakes Branch, Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, Wells Mills all participating! Bring the kids to enjoy free crafts, animal meet and greets, scavenger hunts, trail challenges, and more!

Summer Picnic Party *

Thurs, June 26; 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.
John C. Bartlett Jr. County Park, 399 Brennan Concourse, Bayville
Live music & food truck (or pack a picnic). Bring your blankets/chairs.

Touch-A-Truck Festival *

Fri, June 27; 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.
Jakes Branch County Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beachwood
Kids can touch, get behind the wheel, climb, explore, learn, and have fun!
Sensory friendly 10:00 am-11:00 am.

Ocean County Fair

Wed -Sat; July 9 - 13
Wed & Thurs; 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm.
Fri & Sat; 11:00 am - 11:00 pm.
Sun; 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.
1623 Whitesville Road, Toms River
732-914-9466 or ferraroh@optonline.net
\$10 admission / Free kids under 10.

Night of the Stars *

May 31, June 28; 9:00 pm-11:00 pm.
Jakes Branch County Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beachwood
Use telescopes, locate constellations and gain knowledge.

Beach Ball Blast *

Fri, July 24; 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
1198 Bandon Rd, Toms River, NJ
Music, food trucks, games, dancing, crafts, and more! Bring a beach chair/blanket.

43rd Annual Old Time Barnegat Bay

Decoy & Gunning Show *

Sat, Sept. 27; 7:00 am - 5:00 pm &
Sun, Sept. 28; 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.
Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, 120 Lakeside Drive (Rt 9), Tuckerton
Carving demonstrations, dock dogs, new family activities, & more!

Barnegat PRIDE

PO Box 305,

Barnegat, NJ 08005

<https://barnegatpride.com>

info@barnegatpride.com

Barnegat Pride's 1st Annual Pride Festival *

Sat, May 31; 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm.
382 N Main St, 382 N Main St,
Barnegat, NJ 08005

Beach Haven Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1093

Beach Haven, NJ 08008

beachhavenchamber@gmail.com

Beach Haven Art Walk *

Sat, May 31; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
A fine arts and crafts festival along Bay Avenue from Pearl Street to 8th Street, the annual Art Walk offers art for display and sale to the public.

Downtown Toms River

Washington Street

732-341-8738

<https://downtownomsriver.com/>

Downtown Night Out *

Every Fri & Sat night; May 30-Oct 18
Downtown Toms River comes alive with music, shopping, and more!

June Sip & Shop Vendor Fair *

Wed, June 7; 12:00 pm-4:00 pm.
Garden State Distillery, 13 Washington Street. An afternoon of sipping delights, shopping, live entertainment, and cruisin' downtown!

Borough of Lakehurst Historical Society

300 Center St. Lakehurst, NJ 08733

<https://lakehurstmuseum.org/>

Lakehurst Historical Society Annual Car show & Gift Auction *

Fri July 4; 9:00 am-1:00 pm.
Lakehurst Elementary School, 301 Union Ave, Lakehurst, NJ 08733
Come to see the Fourth of July Parade and over 200 vintage cars at this free event!

Brick Historical Society
Herbertsville Firehouse
601 Herbertsville Rd.
Brick, NJ - (732) 785-2500

Civil War Encampment *

Sat & Sun, August 9 & 10, 10 am-3 pm.
Civil War Encampment: soldiers will interact with the public.

Harvey Cedars Activity Committee
Sunset Park, W. Salem Ave,
Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008
<https://www.harveycedars.org/>
(609) 361-6000

Harvey Cedars Craft Day by the Bay

Sat, July 5; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.
Fine Crafts for purchase from vendors.

Harvey Cedars Art Festival

Sun, July 20; 9 am-3 pm.
Fine Arts for purchase from vendors.

Jay and Linda Grunin Center
for the Arts
Ocean County College, College Drive,
Toms River, NJ - (732)-255-0400
www.grunincenter.org

A Broadway Tour of America

2:00 pm: July 12, 13, 19, 20
7:30 pm: July 10, 11, 12, 19
Black Box Theater (Building 11B)
A dazzling journey through
Broadway's greatest hits!
Adults \$26, Seniors \$24, Students \$22.

The Island Singers
PO Box 622
Forked River, NJ 08731
<https://www.islandsingersnj.com>
islandsingersnj@gmail.com

The Road of Life *

Fri, June 13; 7:00 pm; St. Paul Lutheran
Church, 130 Cable Ave, Beachwood
Sat, June 14; 2:00 pm; Community
Reformed Church, 36 Lacey Road,
Whiting
Fri, June 20; 7:00 pm; Forked River
Presbyterian Church, 131 N Main St.
Forked River

Jetty Rock Foundation
(800) 900-6435
<https://jettyrockfoundation.org/>

Hop Sauce Festival

Sat, June 14; 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.
Taylor Avenue Waterfront, 325
Taylor Avenue, Beach Haven, New
Jersey 08008
Craft beer vendors, hot sauces &
spicy food vendors, live music all
day.

John F. Peto Studio Museum
102 Cedar Avenue, PO Box 102,
Island Heights, NJ 08732
732-929-4949
<http://www.petomuseum.org>

Scenes From the Shore: An Exhibition
of Artists by the River

May 17- Sun Aug. 31; Sat & Sun Tours,
1:00 pm and 2:30 pm.
Must register to attend: Adults \$10,
Seniors \$8, children under 12/students:
free.

Lecture Series: The Beach Bum's
Guide to the Boardwalks of New
Jersey*

June 5, 3:00 pm-4:00 pm.
The authors will stoke old memories
and tell funny boardwalk stories as
you learn about the miles of Jersey
Shore boardwalk.

2025 Summer Concert Series *

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Thurs, May 29; Fri, June 20; Fri, July
18.

Peto's Art Camp 4 Kids

Session I: Mon, July 14– Fri, July 18
9:30 am – 11:30 am
Session II: Mon, July 14 - Fri, July 18
12:30 – 2:30 pm
Session III: Mon, Aug. 4 - Fri Aug 8,
9:30 – 11:30 am
Session IV: Mon Aug. 4 - Fri, Aug 8
12:30 – 2:30 pm
Each session will conclude on the
following Sat. with a gallery exhibition
of the student's work. \$150 per session.

2025 Peto Cup Fundraiser and Regatta

Fri, Aug. 15; 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Toms River Yacht Club, 1464 Riviera
Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753
BBQ, Auctions, 50/50 Raffle, and Live
Music! A-Cat Boat Registration: \$100
Participating Sailors: \$40.
Adult: Regular Admission: \$85.

Lighthouse International Film Festival
Venue: Long Beach Island Foundation
of the Arts and Sciences
120 Long Beach Blvd
Long Beach Township, NJ 08008
609-494-1241
<http://www.lighthouseff.com/>

Lighthouse International Film Festival

June 4 - 8; 10:00 am-11:00 pm
Film Only Pass: \$125; All Access Pass: \$165

Long Beach Island Foundation of the
Arts and Sciences
120 Long Beach Blvd
Long Beach Township, NJ 08008
609-494-1241
<https://www.lbifoundation.org/>

Intermediate/Advanced Drop-In
Ceramics

Tuesdays, beginning June 3- Sept. 9;
10:00 am - 12:00 pm; \$70.

Ceramics: Wheely Fun Time

Thursdays, June 5, July 10, 24, Aug. 7, 21;
4:00 pm- 6:00 pm. \$55.

Figure Drawing (Draped & Nude, 18+)
Fri, June 6 & 13; 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. \$50.

Drop in Ceramics/Fire Me Up (Family & Beginner friendly)
Saturdays, beginning June 7 - Sept. 13; 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Adults: \$45, \$35 for students w/valid ID.

Create a Sterling Silver Chunky Bangle Workshop
Weds, June 11; Tues, July 8; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; \$135.

Create a Sterling Silver Bangle Workshop
Tues June 17; July 22; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; \$120.

Learn to Block Print (Card Workshop)
Weds, June 25, July 24; 11:00 am - 2:00 pm; \$50.

Create a Glass Mosaic Class
Thurs, June 26, July 17, Aug. 21; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; \$70.

Speaker Series Lectures: *
Samantha Friedman, Curator in the Department of Prints & Drawings at MoMA: Sun, June 29; 4:00 pm.
Architecture Panel Discussion: Sun, Aug. 3, 10:00a - 11:45 am.
Michelle Hinojosa, Asst. Prof. of Art at The School of Visual Art at Penn State Uni.: Sat, Aug. 16; 5:00 pm.

Works on Paper Reception *
Sun, June 29; 5:00 pm

Developing Large Shapes in a Composition: A Guided Sketch Along Event
Mon, June 30; 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, \$50.

Create a Sterling Silver Sea Glass Necklace Workshop
Tues, July 1, Aug. 12; 11:00am - 3:00pm; \$135.

Watercolor Techniques
Wednesdays, July 2 - 30; Aug. 13- Sept. 3, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; \$40.

Mala Beading Workshop
Thurs, July 3; 11:00 am - 1:00 pm; \$40.

Session 2 Ceramics: Wheel Specific
5 Thursdays, July 3-31, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm; \$295.

Make Your Own Rubber Stamp
Tues, July 8; 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm; \$50.

Create a Ceramic Fairy House Workshop (Family Friendly)
Tues, July 8, Aug. 5; 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, \$50.

Learn to Marble Paper
Thurs, July 10; 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm; \$40.

One Night Only Art Gala + Fundraiser
Sat, July 12; 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm; \$25-\$50

Series at Seven Concerts 7:00 pm; \$30; at door: \$35.
Sun, July 13; Sat, July 19; Sun, Aug. 3; Fri, Aug. 8; Sun, Aug. 17; Mon, Aug. 25

Master Class: Portrait Workshop
Mon, July 14 & Tues, July 15; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; \$50.

Learn to Block Print (Tote Bag Workshop)
Tues, July 15, Aug. 5; 11:00 am - 2:00 pm; \$50.

Create a Sterling Silver Sea Glass Ring Workshop
Weds, July 16; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; \$135.

Making Dyes and Inks from Natural Materials
Weds, July 16; 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm; \$40.

A Fashion Forward Evening with Cricket Luker
Fri, July 18; 4:00 pm; \$25.

Pastel Painting Seascapes
Tues, July 22, July 29, Aug. 5, 12; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$45.

Master Class: Eco Printing
Thurs, July 24; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; \$165.

Family Night *
Thurs, July 24; 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Master Class: Plein Air on the Shore
Sun, July 27; 6:30 am - 10:00 am & 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm/Mon, July 28 6:30 am - 10:00 am; \$250.

Figure Sculpture
Tues, July 29, Aug. 8; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, \$45.

Two-Day Digital Emulsion Transfer and Mixed Media Workshop
Weds & Thurs, July 30 & 31; 9:15 am - 12:30 pm; \$55.

Master Class: The Essentials of Art Materials *
Mon, Aug. 11, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Master Class: Eco Printing
Thurs, Aug. 14; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: \$165.

Master Class: Paper Weaving
Fri, Aug. 15; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: \$50.

Master Class: Ani Kasten Ceramics Workshop
Mon-Fri Aug. 18-22-; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; \$700 for nonmembers, \$600 for members.

Master Class: Capturing Light and Atmosphere, A Plein Air Workshop
Tues - Thurs, August 26-28; 7:00am - 10:00am + 4:30pm - 7:00pm; \$500.

Create a Sterling Silver Akoya Pearl Bracelet Workshop
Aug. 26; 11:00am - 3:00pm: \$130.

Ocean County Artists' Guild
22 Chestnut Avenue
Island Heights, NJ 08732
732-270-3111
<http://www.ocartistsguild.org/>

Long Pose Nude Figure Drawing & Painting

Tuesdays; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Members model fee: \$20; Non-members: \$25

Members only: Do Your Own Thing (DYOT)

Thursdays; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Work with others in a creative atmosphere. Bring your own equipment.

Undraped Figure Drawing

Saturdays; 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Live model and short poses (1 - 15 min).
Members Model fee: \$20
Non-members: \$25.

Portrait Group

2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays;
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Studio Portraits from live clothed models in long poses in all mediums.
Members Model fee: \$20 / Non-members: \$25 / Teen members, college & high school students free!

Members Only: Printmaking

Tuesdays, 12:30 pm- 4:00 pm; Materials provided at cost. \$7 fee.
Reduction printing in all forms using water-based ink and hand painting.

Members only: Sculpting with Clay

Fridays, 11:00 am- 1:00 pm. \$5.

Art Book Club 2025 *

Second Friday of each month; 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Art Chat 2025 *

Fourth Friday of each month, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm.
Come talk about your art!

June 2025 in the Gallery *

Opening Reception: Sun, June 1; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Children's Art Classes

Tues, June 3, 10, 17, 24; 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm.
Weds, June 4, 11, 18, 25; 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm. Inquire for price.

Oil Painting: Indirect Method w/ Michelle Dillion

6 weeks: June 9, 11, 23, 30, July 14, 28; 6:00 pm- 8:30 pm. \$230.

Needlefelt Classes: \$50

Hamster: June 14, 1:00 pm- 4:30 pm.
Wren: July 12, 1:00 pm- 4:30 pm.
Turtle: Aug. 16, 1:00 pm- 4:30 pm.

CAG 2025 Acoustic Concert Series *:

doors open 6:30 pm
Fri, June 27; Fri, July 18

Pine Shores Art Association

94 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, NJ 08050
140 E. Main Street (Rt 9)
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
609-597-3557
www.pineshoresartassociation.org

Art History Lecture with Prof. Kate Ogden: "Whistler, The Impressionists, and a Duct-Taped Banana" *

Weds May 28, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm,
Stafford Township Library.
Refreshments served.

Beach Haven Borough Hall Gallery

Show Now through Sept. 16.

Art Chat

1st Tues of the month, 1:00 pm;
Tuckerton Library.
3rd Tues of the month, 1:00 pm;
Barnegat Library.
Bring your artwork to share and talk about with the group.

Do Your Own Thing (DYOT)

Thursdays 10am-3pm, Stafford PSAA; no alcohol inks.
Fridays 2:00 pm-5:00 pm, Stafford PSAA. Using alcohol inks.
Fridays 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Tuckerton PSAA; no alcohol inks.

Portrait Sessions: Stafford

Thursdays, 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm. Clothed model, all welcome. Model fee: \$5.

Painting Marshes in Watercolor & Gouache: Stafford

4 Fridays, June 6- June 27, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Learn techniques to convey this rich ecosystem realistically. Non-Members: \$175.

Figures of All Sizes in Watercolor: Stafford

Tues & Weds, June 10 & 11, 10:00 am- 3:00 pm; All levels welcome. Non-members: \$235.

Composition with Botanicals: Stafford

Mon, June 16 & Wed, June 18, 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. Non-members: \$ 175.

Spring Flowers in Watercolor: Tuckerton

Sat, June 21, 10:00 am- 1:00 pm.
\$55 + \$10 supply fee.

Painting Farm Stands & Markets" Stafford

4 Fridays, July 11- 25; 10:00 am- 3:00 pm, Learn how to filter out visual chaos and focus on cohesive compositions. Non-Members: \$175.

Sandy Beaches in Watercolor:

Tuckerton

Sat, July 12, 10:00 am- 1:00 pm.
\$55 + \$10 supply fee.

Zen Meditative Drawing: Patterns for

Focus: Tuckerton

Tues, July 15, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.
Drawing repetitive patterns will let you
retreat into a meditative, mindful state.
\$40.

Vintage Upcycled Creations: Tiered
Plate Towers: Tuckerton

Sat, July 19, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, All
supplies included. \$45.

Ultimate Beginner: Pastels: Stafford

2 Tuesdays, July 22 & 29, 9:00 am- 11:30
am; Supplies Included! \$80.

Seascapes in Pastels: Stafford

2 Tuesdays Aug. 5 & 12; 9:00 am- 11:30
am; All level students will learn how to
create realistic waves crashing on the
shores using pastels. \$80.

Stafford Township Arts Center
1000 McKinley Ave
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
609-489-8600
<https://stacnj.com/>

The Papas and the Mamas:
Tribute to the Mamas and the
Papas

Sat, June 7; 7:30 pm; \$50-60.

The "Sweet Caroline" Tour:

Starring Jay White

Thurs, July 17; 3:00 pm; \$55-65.

Face 2 Face: A Tribute to Elton
John & Billy Joel

Sat, Aug. 16 ; 7:30 pm; \$55-65.

The Strand Theater

400 Clifton Ave.

Lakewood, NJ 08701

732-367-7789

<https://www.strand.org/>

My Son, The Waiter

Thurs, June 19, 7:30 pm, doors open
6:30 pm; \$45-65.
Actor/Comedian Brad Zimmerman
performs.

Daybreak: The Music and Passion of
Barry Manilow

Sat, June 28, 8:00 pm, doors open 6:30
pm; \$42-51.
Experience greatest hits from one of
the most authentic tribute acts!

Comedy, Magic, & Mentalism

Sat, July 12; 8:00 pm, doors open 7:00
pm; \$22.
Audience members get to play a role
too.

Let's Hang On: A Tribute to Frankie
Valli & The Four Seasons

Fri, Aug. 8; 8:00 pm, doors open 6:30;
\$42-51.
These performers pay tribute to the
group and the famed Broadway show.

Southern Steel and Classic Skynyrd
Live!

Sat, Aug. 23; 8:00 pm, doors open 6:30
pm. \$36-47.
Southern rock at its finest!

Surflight Theatre

201 Engleside Ave., PO Box 1155

Beach Haven, NJ 08008

609-492-9477

<http://www.surflight.org>

**Shows, dates and times are subject to
change. Run times are approximate.**

Musicals for Children: Weds thru Sun

All shows begin at 6:00 pm. \$14.00. Geared
for kids 3-10. Reservations Strongly
Recommended.

Peter Pan: June 25-29; July 30 & 31; Aug. 1-
3

Snow White: July 2-6

Wizard of Oz: July 9-13; Aug. 6-10

The Little Mermaid: July 16-20; Aug. 20-24

The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition

July 23-27; Aug. 13-17

Cinderella: Aug. 27-31

Irving Berlin's Top Hat

2:00 pm: May 28 & 29; June 1-4, 10-12, 15
8:00 pm: May 29-31. June 3, 12-14.

Step into the glamour of the 1930s with
Irving Berlin's dazzling dance-filled
celebration of romance and rhythm.

Adult: \$46, Children under 12: \$36

9-5, The Musical

2:00 pm: June 18, 19, 22, 24, 29. July 1, 6.

8:00 pm: June 18-21, 24-28. July 1-3, 5.

Dolly Parton's hits fuel a hilarious,
empowering workplace rebellion.

Adult: \$46, Children under 12: \$36

42nd Street

2:00pm: July 10, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27

8:00pm: July 8-12, 15-19, 22-26

A razzle-dazzle, tap-filled romp where
dreams take center stage!

Adult: \$46, Children under 12: \$36

West Side Story

2:00pm: July 31, Aug. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17

8:00pm: July 29-31, Aug. 1, 2, 5-9, 12-16

A timeless tale of forbidden love and
street rivalry set to Bernstein's
unforgettable score and electrifying dance.

Adult: \$46, Children under 12: \$36

Buddy...The Buddy Holly Story

2:00 pm: Aug. 21, 24, 26, 31, Sept. 3, 4, 7

8:00 pm: Aug. 19-23, 26-30

7:30 pm: Sept. 3-6

A rock-'n'-roll celebration of Holly's meteoric rise and timeless tunes.

Adult: \$46, Children under 12: \$36

Calendar Girls

2:00 pm: Sept. 10, 11, 14, 16, 21

7:30 pm: Sept. 10-13, 16-20

A heartwarming comedy of friendship and courage as women create an unconventional charity calendar.

Adult: \$46, Children under 12: \$36

Winslow Eagles Tribute: Hotel California

Mon, June 30 5:00pm & 8:00pm.

This tribute band celebrates the iconic American band, The Eagles!

\$44-50

The Dupree's

Mon, July 14; 5:00 pm & 8:00 pm.

This well-loved has been making chart topping hits for 60 years!

\$44-50

My Broadway-Concert by John D. Smitherman

Mon, Aug. 4, 5:00 pm & 8:00 pm.

You'll hear Broadway favorites with a full orchestra highlighting John's career!

\$44-50

The Edwards Twins

Mon, Aug. 25; 1:00 pm & 6:00pm.

These twin brothers are the country's premier celebrity illusionists!

\$44-50

Stand up Comedy Nights

June 23, July 21, Aug. 11: 8:30 pm. \$25.

Mike Marino

Sun, Aug. 3, 8:30 pm.

Known to millions of his fans worldwide as "New Jersey's Bad Boy". \$37.50.

Taylor Mason: Family Comedy Night

Mon, Aug. 11, 6:00 pm.

Taylor Mason blends ventriloquism, music, magic, and comedy into an interactive show.

\$15.00.

Tuckerton Historical Society

35 Leitz Blvd, West Tuckerton/LEH

609-294-1547

www.tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org

Yard Sale Fundraiser

Sat. June 7; 9:00 am until sold out; 220

South Green Street, Tuckerton. Visit

Tuckerton's "Crik" Museum during the Town-Wide Yard Sale for goods and tours—proceeds support the Historical Society.

History Boat Tour Fundraiser

Fri. July 25;

10:00 am - 12:45 pm

Cruise to Crab Island Fish Factory w/authors Ken Able & Jim Allen.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm.

Explore Tuckerton & Barnegat Bay's folk art, history, & environment.

Reserve at: TuckertonSeaport.org; \$35.

Antique Appraisals

Sat. Aug. 9; 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Registration is recommended.

50th annual Ye Old Antique Clamtown Flea Market

Sat. Sept. 6, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, 120 Lakeside Drive (Rt 9), Tuckerton

Join us for the 50th Clamtown Flea Market! Vendors, food, gifts, and \$5 antique appraisals.

Historic Viking Village

19th & Bayview Avenue

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

609-361-8039

<https://vikingvillageshows.com/>

Toms River Artist Community (TRAC)

40 Main Street

Toms River, NJ 08753

732-377-0290

<https://trac732.com/>

Art Walks

Every Fri, May 30 – Oct. 18; 5:00pm

- 8:00pm. Art Walk is located outside of the TRAC Gallery.

4th Annual Senior Art Exhibition

Sat, June 14 - Sat, July 5; To

participate, visit TRAC732.com for dates/rules.

Resin Magic: Create Stunning Art

Tues, June 3, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Create your own unique coastal resin art piece! \$65.

7th Annual Toms River Pride

Sat, June 14; 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Annual LGBT+ Pride Festival with food, vendors, performances, shopping, and festivities! ASL Interpreters at main stage.

Kids Monthly Art Class

Sat. June 7, Fri July 4, Sat Sept. 6;

9:00 am- 12:00 pm; ages 5-12.

Kids explore art basics in a fun and engaging way. \$35.

Art Classes for Veterans & First Responders

Every 3rd Thurs of each month, 5:00

pm- 7:00 pm. Explores various

mediums & styles of art. \$20/ supplies included; \$15 BYOSupplies.

Open Paint Nights

3rd Fri of each month; 5:00 pm –

8:00 pm. Nonmembers: \$10, Free to members. BYOB & Snacks, bring what you're working on!

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**JERSEY
ARTS**

connect with us



Subscribe today to stay connected to New Jersey's arts and entertainment scene through weekly feature stories, videos and podcasts along with updates on upcoming events.

JerseyArts.com

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**Check out the upcoming events
that are happening in Ocean County!**

Visit OceanCountyTourism.com and click
on "Upcoming Festivals and Events" for an overview,
OR go to the Events tab at the top of our HOME page
to search our full calendar.

(Please be sure to "know before you go" and contact
the venue to confirm that their event or attraction is open
and what safety guidelines are in place.)

**Enjoy, Be Safe, and
Explore the Fun in our own backyard!!!**



Ocean County Dept of Business Development and Tourism
732-929-2000

Ocean County
Cultural and Heritage Commission
1198 Bandon Road
Toms River, NJ 08753

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1198 Bandon Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
(732) 929 - 4779
www.co.ocean.nj.us/ch/

Ocean County Board of Commissioners
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www.oceancountyparks.org

Visit www.oceancountytourism.com
to view up to date cultural events or list your organization's own.



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