



# THE BINNACLE

Spring 2019  
No. 26

Ocean City's Home for History

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## The History of Tennis in Ocean City

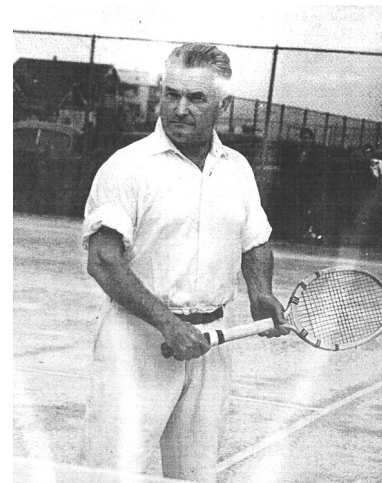
By William K. Pehlert

In the last part of the nineteenth century, tennis came to Ocean City. It was introduced into the United States in 1874 by Mary Ewing Outerbridge, who had seen it played in Bermuda. The game spread along the East Coast, and in 1895 six courts existed in Ocean City. By 1900 Harvey Y. Lake, son of one of the town's founders, had built his own private court on Ocean Avenue. Eventually, courts were also built at the Yacht Club, the Motor Boat Club, and several hotels. Public courts were not built until 1922.

Harvey was a prominent real estate developer and



*His Majesty  
The King of Sweden  
Tennis Trophy  
Won by  
Harvey Y. Lake  
[obscured]  
1927 Monte Carlo*



active in several civic and social organization. He owned the first car in Cape May County, a steam-powered Locomobile, and later was often seen racing his flashy Duesenberg. As a well-known and colorful character, he was in a perfect position to promote this new sport.

In 1900 on his own court, Harvey started the annual South Jersey Tennis Tournament, complete with a silver trophy. It continued annually on his court through 1915, except for 1910. In 1910 and from 1916 to 1921, the tournament was played on OC Yacht Club courts. Harvey, at one time ranked in the top ten amateur tennis players, was a nearly perennial single, doubles, and mixed doubles champion of the tournament. In 1918 he did not enter the tournament, as most of the players were in the war services, and the daily casualty list put a damper on tennis competition. When interest in the tournament by the OC Yacht Tennis Committee waned, the tournament was moved to Atlantic City in 1922. OCNJ regretted its loss, and fortified with its new tennis complex, brought the tournament back in 1923.



(Continued pg. 4)

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hope you are enjoying your Spring! Our museum is getting ready for another season. Over the next several months, we will be changing out some of our exhibits. We are excited that the Sindia exhibit will now be seen in front of the museum and the Grace Kelly vignette will be placed in a more prominent area.



If you missed our Sunday Brunch, join us for our dinner event on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 4-9 pm at Randazzo's. Randazzo's will be donating a percentage of their total sales (take-out or eat in) for the evening. In June, look for our once in a lifetime tag sale. Treasures from the vault will be sold. The two-day sale is on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm.

Again, we appreciate your patience and support as we go through this transition. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Board President,  
S. John Loeper

NEW HOTEL DELAWARE, ON THE BEACH AT 3RD STREET, OCEAN CITY, N. J.



# Curatorial Committee

The curatorial committee has been busy with reviewing the collection. This year we will be having a tag sale, selling off some of our artifacts. Over the past several years, we have accepted items into the collection that are either duplicates or sometimes triplicates. We are still accepting objects, including photographs, clothing from the 60s to the present, and any item that tells the story of Ocean City's history.

A recent acquisition was from Donald P. and Nancy Jane von Krieken, Sr., who gave an unconditional donation of eleven slides of Grace Kelly and the Kelly family during the summer of 1956. We will be adding them to our photo collection, along with another donation from June Appleton who gave us a photograph of Mrs. Kelly with young "Kell" on the beach during the summer of '41 or '42.



Mrs. Kelly and Jack "Kell" Kelly on 26th St Beach.

## Upcoming Events at the Historical Museum



### May

- **Dinner at Randazzo's**  
Wednesday May 15th a portion of the revenue from your purchase will go to support the museum from 5-9pm.
- **Volunteer Rally**  
Tuesday May 21st at the museum at 10am.
- **Museum will be Closed** Monday May 27th for Memorial Day.
- **Grace Kelly Tea**  
Wednesday May 29th at the Flanders Hotel at 2pm.

### June

- **Tag Sale** June 14th and 15th 9am-3pm, you will have the opportunity to buy treasures from the vault at the museum.

### July

- **Antique Fair**  
Saturday July 13th from 9-2pm.
- **History Camp**  
Monday July 15th-Friday July 19th.
- **Sindia Day** Thursday July 18th at the Life Saving Station and The Ocean City Historical Museum.

## Volunteer Meeting

A meeting for current and prospective volunteers is planned for Tuesday May 21 at 10:00 AM in the Museum, 1735 Simpson Ave. There will opportunities to "meet and greet", renew friendships and get ready for a busy summer season. Updates on changes in the museum will be discussed.

The museum is always looking for individuals who love history, Ocean City and people! Come join us. Call the museum at 609-399-1801 if you would like to attend and learn more about becoming a part of this great volunteer organization.

Harvey himself had designed the new tennis complex for the east side of Atlantic Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. The plan included 22 clay courts and a centrally located clubhouse. A third set of courts was planned but never built. The complex opened on August 2, 1922. It was managed by a three-man unpaid Tennis Commission, chaired by Harvey.



For 1923, the OCNJ Tennis Commission and the United States Lawn Tennis Association agreed that the title "South Jersey Tennis Tournament" had been outgrown and that a new title that allowed for enlargement was needed. A tournament similar to the great Pacific Coast Open Championship would be held along the Atlantic Coast. A new trophy was produced, the Atlantic Coast Challenge Bowl, valued at \$500. The new OCNJ tennis complex and the expanded tournament did attract top amateur players. In 1924, two additional tennis tournaments were added--an invitational tournament and an Atlantic Coast Junior Championship.



The same year, the high school was opened across Atlantic Avenue. The tennis clubhouse was used by students during the school year. On the south side of the high school, basketball courts were built, and on the north side was the football/track field. The courts were used until the new high school, approved in

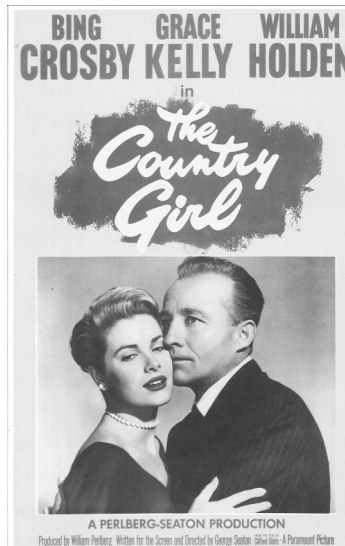
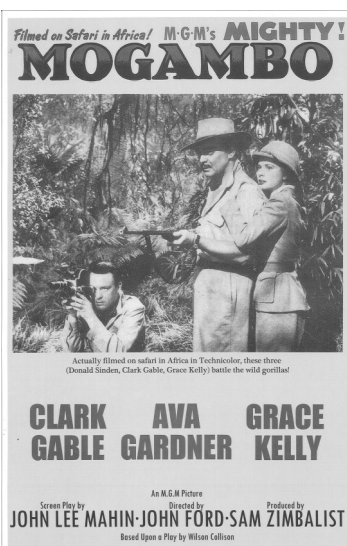
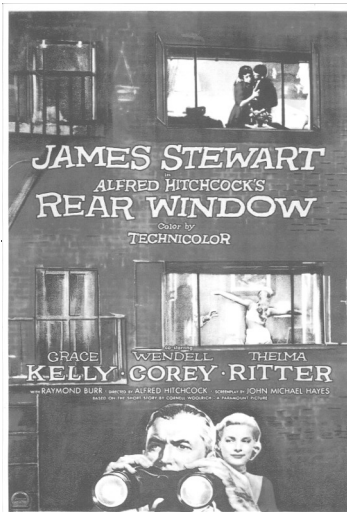
2001, was built on the site. As a replacement, ten paved courts were installed on the west side of Atlantic Avenue, the site of 1924 high school.

Harvey was widely traveled and continued to play tennis in overseas tournaments. In 1927 he won a cup, presented by King Gustav of Sweden, for a veterans' (age 50 and over) tennis championship in Monte Carlo. One of his most prized possessions was a ring given to him by the king after they played a friendly game in Sweden. The ring will be on display at the Ocean City Historical Museum. After the real estate boom collapsed in the late 1920's, Harvey's fortunes declined; he died at Shore Memorial Hospital in 1945. Fittingly, his legacy was honored by the annual Harvey Lake Memorial Tournament, which started in 1946.



# Annual Grace Kelly Tea

This year's Grace Kelly Tea will take place on Wednesday May 29th and will showcase *Grace in the Movies*. Grace starred in 11 movies from 1951-1956 and the tea will highlight her top moments on the screen with a presentation by Al Crescenzo. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$38 for guests and will be on sale at the museum until Friday May 24th. For more information call the museum at 609-399-1801. We hope to see you all there!



# History Camp

**Calling all children!! Welcome aboard!** Come join us and learn the story of the **Sindia**, Ocean City's favorite ship, as well as many other interesting stories from our rich history. Do you know where or when the boardwalk began, or just why Ezra Lake is someone you should know about? The museum is pleased to announce that we are continuing our popular History Camp for the summer of 2019. Once again, the Friends and Volunteers of the Ocean City Free Public Library are sponsoring the camp. Their generosity is providing the museum with funds for books and other supplies to enhance the camp experience.

The first session of the camp will run from July 15-19 and will have campers learning to be docents in the museum. The Making History camp for older or returning campers will be held August 12-16 from 9-11 each morning. In this session the campers will select which exhibit to research, prepare a power point presentation, and present their findings in Chris Maloney Hall on the last day of camp. Games, activities, and snacks will be provided each day. Participants will receive a certificate of achievement. A pizza party for campers, as well as their families and guests, will be the finale of each session.

The cost of the camp is \$40. Spaces per session are limited. Call the museum at 609-399-1801 for more information or to register.



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# Boardwalk



(Fireproof Theatre)

## ALL FIRST SHOWINGS

May 28th thru June 4th

Sat., Sun. (Midnite), Mon., May 28-30—  
"Tulsa" in technicolor, with Susan Hay-  
ward, Robert Preston, Pedro Armendariz.  
Tues. and Wed.—"An Act of Murder" with  
Fredric March, Edmond O'Brien, Florence  
Eldridge.  
Thurs. thru Sat.—"Portrait of Jennie" with  
Jennifer Jones and Joseph Cotten.  
Sat., June 4 at 10 a. m.—Roy Rodgers West-  
ern and 10 Kiddie Cartoon Shows.

## SURF PREVIEWS

"Tulsa"—The saga of Tulsa as the boom  
town of the early 'twenties, riding the crest  
of the golden tide of oil. Oil was still a  
game then—it made fortunes for some, but to  
others, whose lives depended on the grass  
lands, the rivers of black gold posed a threat  
to the finest cattle country in the world. A  
spirited courageous girl of the plains becomes  
embittered and determined to become hard  
and ruthless sets out to make a "killing"  
when oil is discovered on her land. It is  
only after her deal with an unscrupulous  
operator that she sees the mistakes of her  
past.

"An Act of Murder"—Fredric March in  
this suspense-charged film enacts a Penn-  
sylvania judge, who becomes a defendant in  
his own courthouse, charged with the killing  
of his wife. The picture probes the human,  
medical and legal side of a murder in which  
there are mitigating circumstances.

"Portrait of Jenny"—The action in this  
film tells the love of Eben Adams, played  
by Joseph Cotten, for Jennifer Jones, who  
shares with him the strange fears of im-  
pending disaster, and culminates in the heart  
of a devastating hurricane.

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## THE SURF AND SAND

BOARDWALK AT PLYMOUTH PLACE

# Theatres

May 28th thru June 4th

### MOORLYN

Heated and Air-Conditioned

Two Eve. Shows starting 7 P.M.

Mat. Sat. and Holidays

Sat. thru Wed., May 28 - June 1—Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Oscar Levant, Billie Burke in "The Barkley's Of Broadway" in technicolor.

Thurs. thru Sat.—Shirley Temple, Robert Young, John Agar, Josephine Hutchinson in "Adventure In Baltimore."

### STRAND

Heated and Air-Conditioned

Two Eve. Shows starting 7 P.M.

Mat. Sat. and Holidays 2:30 P.M.

Sat., May 28—Joan Crawford, Zachary Scott, Sydney Greenstreet, David Brian, Gladys George in "Flamingo Road."

Mon. thru Thurs.—Betty Grable, Caesar Romero, Rudy Vallee, Olga San Juan in "The Beautiful Blonde From Bashful Bend."

Fri. and Sat.—Gene Kelly, Esther Williams, Frank Sinatra in "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" in technicolor.

### VILLAGE

Heated and Air-Conditioned

Two Eve. Shows starting 7 P.M.

Mat. Sat. and Holidays 2:30 P.M.

Sat., May 28—William Holden, William Bendix, Macdonald Carey, Mona Freeman in "Streets Of Laredo" in technicolor.

Mon. thru Wed.—Jane Wyman, David Niven, Victor Moore in "Kiss In The Dark."

Thurs. thru Sat.—Clifton Webb, Shirley Temple, Tom Drake in "Mr. Belvedere Goes To College."

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Glimpses of the Past from OC Weekly Guide May 1949

## Save the Date for the Annual Luncheon

This year's Annual Luncheon, will be held Wednesday, September 18th at the Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point, NJ. We are excited to announce our guest speaker this year will be former Congressman and Ambassador to Panama, Bill Hughes. As always there will be a lunch service, raffle prizes and a 50/50. We hope to see you there!



## Lecture Series

**Thursdays @ 7pm**

**FREE ADMISSION**

All lectures will be held in the OC Public Library's Lecture Hall at 1735 Simpson Avenue. An American Sign Language Interpreter will be signing the presentations.

**The Lecture Series will begin on July 11th and continue every Thursday until September 12th. More information about the speakers will be in our next addition of the Binnacle and posted around town. We look forward to seeing you there!**



## Antiques and Collectibles Fair

**Saturday,  
July 13, 2019  
9am to 2pm**

**Stainton Senior Center  
Ocean City Community Center  
1735 Simpson Avenue  
Ocean City, NJ 08226**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Shop amongst some of the best known antique and collectible dealers in the region. China, glass, furniture, vintage collectibles, postcards, jewelry, textiles, and more.

For more information: 609-399-1801

# Volunteer Spotlight

By Noel Wirth and  
Susan Hohman

*Volunteering at the Museum takes many different avenues: greeting visitors, becoming a docent and giving tours, making phone calls, performing computer activities, or becoming a researcher. Each issue of The Binnacle spotlights the "unsung heroes" who give their time and energy to the Museum.*

## Elaine Novello



Elaine has been a dedicated volunteer at the Museum for the last 10 years. Although born in Havre de Grace, Maryland, she was a longtime resident of Philadelphia until her marriage. Married life took her to Massachusetts and then back to Pennsylvania. She had many different careers,

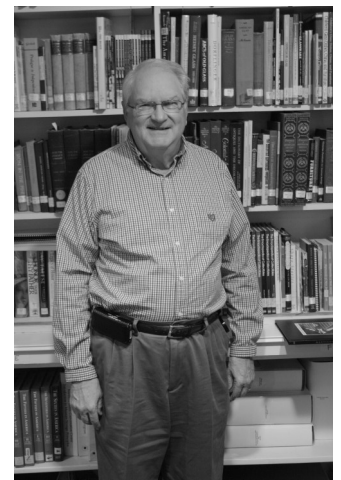
including working in banks and dental offices. As empty nesters she and her husband decided to downsize and moved to Ocean City. They had previously visited family in Ocean City, loved the town and the beach, and knew that this would be the perfect place for them.

After becoming a resident of Ocean City, she wanted to learn more about its history; friends encouraged her to become a volunteer at the Museum. Elaine recalls that the Museum was much smaller when she first arrived. She has watched it grow and develop over the years. At the Museum front desk, she enjoys greeting visitors from all over the world, hearing their points of view, and answering their questions. She works to increase her knowledge of Ocean City history by talking with long-term volunteers and listening to other docents as they lead tours. She finds that the Museum volunteers are a very congenial group. An avid reader, she always has a book about local history at hand. In addition to her work at the Museum, Elaine is also active in the Colony Club where she shares her love of reading by organizing the book club.

## Bob Williams

Bob has been coming to Ocean City since he was a baby—summers, weeks, weekends, whenever he could. His parents bought their first house in 1945 at 4<sup>th</sup> and Central, the historic home of William Lake, surveyor of the island and cousin to the better known Lakes. Bob always loved history, starting in high school. He became a minister of The United Methodist Church, and even while moving many times, he found time to vacation in Ocean City. His last position, located at Drew University, was administrator of the General Commission on Archives and History, caring for the global heritage of the United Methodist Church. Bob retired five years ago and moved into his family's last home, in the 300 block of Central Avenue in the historic district. He is now a member of the Ocean City Historic Preservation Commission and is keen to see that the district maintains its charm and character while cooperating with home owners. His

interest in history led him to our Museum. He loves to greet and talk with visitors at the front desk. His specialty in research and archival work led him to transcribe the diary of S. Wesley Lake, one of Ocean City's founders, a 6-month project. More such projects will be put in his capable hands. He and Renee have a daughter and family in North Jersey and one daughter here in Ocean City. One can often see Bob and Renee racing on the boardwalk trying to keep up with their 3-year-old grandson who was born to run.



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## *2019 Support received from January through March*

### **New/Renewals of Individual & Family Memberships**

Jill Adamson	Peg Heller	Phyllis Moony
Dorothy Aitken	Barbra Henderson	Daniel Money
Frank Allen	Mary Lois Hughes	Dot and Len Mongo
Robert Bieler	F. Joseph Kiefner Jr.	Martin Mozzo
Ed Bonek	Karen LaRatta	James Oryniak
Joanne Budnick	Judith Levy	John and Eleanor Parker
Virginia Coco	Edith Little	Dr. Albert Porreca Jr.
Geraldine Cusato	Vincent Malfitano	Blanche Preston
Meredith Donaldson	Steven Marcus	Lois Rahme
Barbra Evans	Tom and Phyllis Martinson	Colleen and Bob Snodgrass
Lois and Tom Fagan	Joyce McNeely	Mark and Toby Soifer
Mary M. Findlay	Terry Mendenhall	Edwina and Roy Wagner
Sharon Fish	Mark Moffitt	

### **New/Renewals of Benefactor Memberships**

Kenneth Cooper	Ocean City Firefighters Foundation
Carol Dotts	Jean Robinson
Stephen and Mary Ann Gring	

### **Special Donations**

Elizabeth Barranca	Sharon Hood
Colony Club	Mark Soifer
Cape May County History Grant	Ocean City High School Class of 1957
Stephen Gring	

We make every effort to get these names correct. If you believe something is listed in error, please call the Museum at 609.399.1801. We will make corrections in the next issue. Thank you for your patience.

# Princess Grace Forgets Tags

OCEAN CITY (UPI) — Princess Grace of Monaco was forbidden to swim outside her family home Monday because she wasn't dressed properly. She wasn't wearing her beach tag.

A beach guard stopped the princess, her children and her sisters as they headed for a swim from the oceanfront home of the John B. Kelly family of Philadelphia.

They were held up only momentarily while someone quickly returned to the house to pick up the forgotten beach tags.

Under a new law, bathers must buy tags and pin them to their swimsuits while they are on their beach. Ocean City residents buy seasonal tags for \$3.

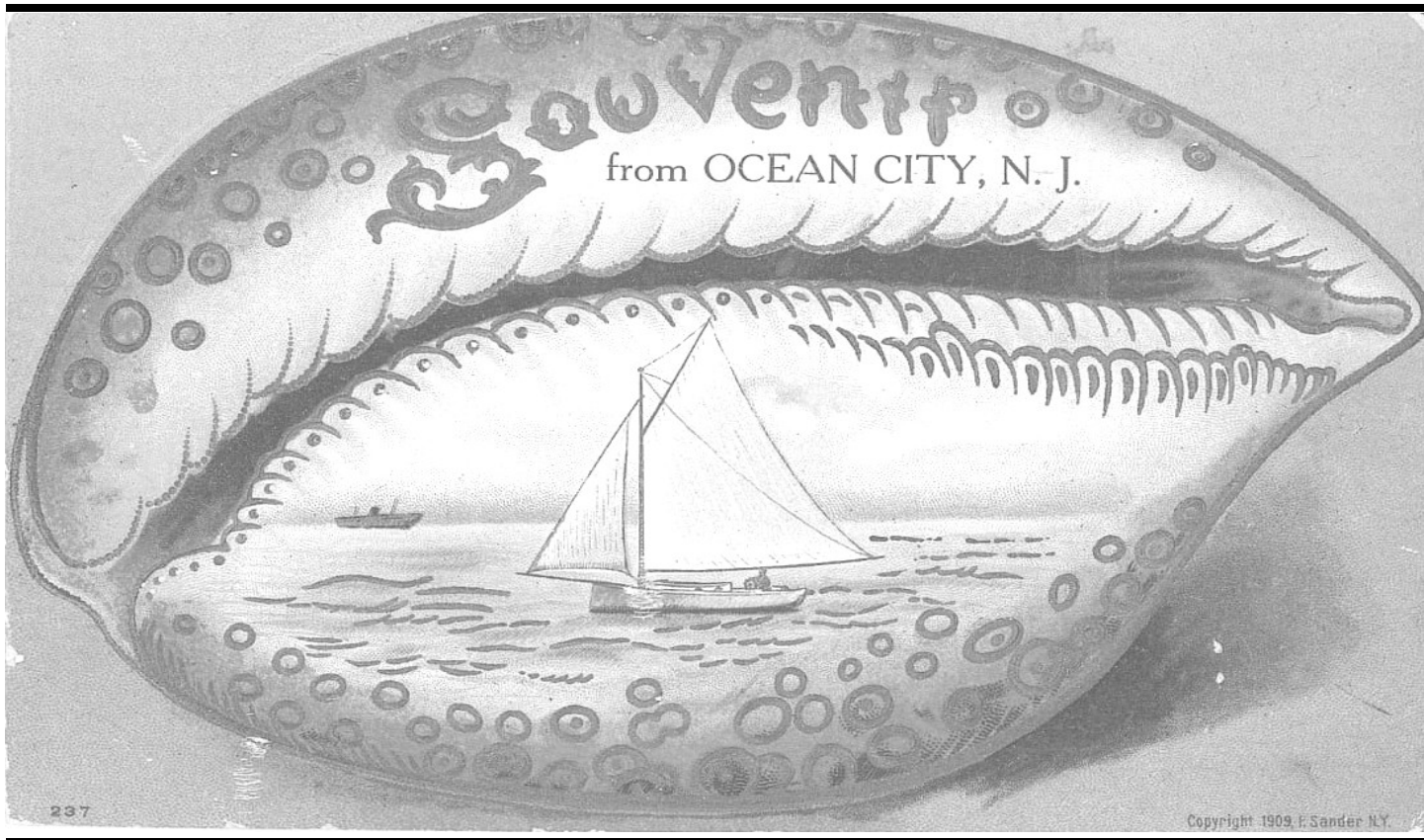


Beach badges were first required in 1976 and initially cost \$3.00. In the first year, \$750,000 was collected in beach badge fees. In 2014 the city began a program of free "special" tags for veterans and in the years since a specific branch of the armed forces is chosen to honor. In the above article you can see Princess Grace would also occasionally forget her beach tag and get caught by the beach guard!

Please consider donating to support The Ocean City Historical Museum this year with a donation to our annual fundraising campaign. Each year, our organization strives to inspire and educate our community and without donations from individuals like you, this would not be possible. The museums is a non-profit and runs solely on donations, and grants to benefit the community which we serve. We are counting on your support. Remember that your gift is tax deductible!

A donor envelope is included for your convenience. Your donation will be recognized in our program book throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your support!





*The Mission of the  
Ocean City  
Historical Museum,  
Inc. is to delight,  
inspire and  
educate the public  
about the story of  
Ocean City, New  
Jersey.*



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