

# OCEAN HOUSE

WAVES

WATCH HILL, RHODE ISLAND

*Morning glories awaken  
at dawn to greet the sun,  
boat sails swell with summer  
winds and fireworks emblazon  
the sky. Summer is here, and  
the Ocean House is bustling  
with the activity of the season.*

## Simply Summer

Guests dot the croquet lawn in their crisp white linens, playing the traditional game set against the incredible backdrop of the Block Island Sound. History is being repeated as visitors to Watch Hill and Stonington cross Little Narragansett Bay on the Gansett during the day, and sip cocktails as they tour the harbor at sunset, and view the Watch Hill 15's race against each other. Summer breezes provide an escape from the heat of the city, and the Ocean House provides guests with an escape from the routine of their everyday lives. We look forward to welcoming you at the Ocean House this summer, and hope that we can bring you back to a simpler time, allowing you to truly enjoy all that summer and Watch Hill have to offer.



*July 2010*



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR



Summer is here, and the doors of the Ocean House are open once again. We have already had the pleasure of welcoming many of you as our guests in the hotel, our restaurants, the OH! Spa and at our opening events. We look forward to welcoming each and every one of you many more times throughout the summer and the rest of the year. Our summer activities are underway, offering guests of the hotel a range of daily entertainment, and providing the community with new opportunities to take advantage of all that Watch Hill has to offer.

We also hope to see you on the Gansett, a classically-restored lobster boat offering passenger cruises between Watch Hill and Stonington as well as sunset harbor cruises, a Sunday Brunch cruise, and private charters.

We look forward to welcoming you as our guest,

DANIEL A. HOSTETTLER  
President and Managing Director

### Social Notes

### RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



### MEMBERS' WEEKEND

### OPENING DAY CEREMONY





## Recollections of the Ocean House

In June of 1948, Dr. Hughes arrived in Watch Hill for the first of four memorable summers that he spent at the Ocean House. The war had ended a few years earlier, and Americans were spending money on travel again – flocking to the coast to avoid the heat of summertime in the cities and enjoy the classic resort experience. Big bands played in the ballroom, and young couples frolicked in the surf.

Behind the scenes, all services were run by college students on summer break, and the head waiters ran the restaurant with an “iron fist,” demanding perfection from the rest of the employees, most of



whom had no experience or training and were learning their jobs on the fly. For their uniforms, employees provided their own tuxedo pants, which were washed by Lonny, a friend of Hughes' who worked in laundry to make sure all of the uniforms were crisp and immaculate.

The staff all lived in a separate wing of the hotel and ate all of their meals together in the employee dining room, located underneath the kitchen. In between shifts, they spent time playing horseshoes at the employee pit behind their housing, starting pick-up games around the basketball hoop, and using the special employee beach access to bask in the sun on East Beach – out of the sight of their guests! On the rare day off, Dr. Hughes left “the Hill” to visit Westerly, where he remembers getting his first suits tailor-made for him – one was tweed! Now an accomplished doctor, Dr. Hughes visited the Ocean House this spring and was “thrilled to see that while many things are different, the spirit of the hotel is still the same.”

## OH! THE SPA AT THE OCEAN HOUSE



### CABANA SERVICE

Get pampered with the warm, soothing sound of waves crashing on the shore in the background. The Ocean House OH! Spa has a dedicated Spa cabana to provide guests with the ultimate, relaxing experience. Spoil yourself by booking a treatment in this intimate cabana set on the resort's sandy white private beach. From the classic Swedish massage to the Beach Stone Massage, there are many ways to relax. Treat your hands and feet to a manicure and pedicure as you sit back in the oceanfront cabana, and sip on a glass of infused water or a signature cocktail.

To reserve an hour or a weekend of relaxation, call Destination Services at 401.584.7000.

## MORTIMER MOUSE RETURNS!

Yes, there is a new Mortimer Mouse book, *Mortimer Mouse and the NEW Ocean House*, just published this month! The first book, *Mortimer Mouse of the Ocean House*, written and illustrated by Watch Hill resident, Ardi Schneider told the story of two mice living in the old Ocean House before its demolition in 2005. Right after the hotel went down, the cousins picked themselves up from the rubble and ran across the street to the chapel. There, they were welcomed in by the resident church mice who watched the two newcomers in amazement as they cavorted around town, investigated the Trailer Office and explored the construction site with ease.

While all along Mort and Max planned to get back into their old home, now replicated and splendid, they began to realize... Well, you can read about it very soon and attend the book signing on the Ocean House porch – Friday, July 2nd, from 3 to 5 in the afternoon – and get your own signed copy!



## INDEPENDENCE DAY BEACH BALL

Find a spot under the great white tent and feast on shellfish and fresh seafood as we honor America on its birthday with a traditional New England celebration at the Independence Day Beach Ball. Clambakes are a true local custom done over beachfront bonfires, and at the Ocean House you can see the live action in the spitfire area adjacent to Dune Cottage. Following dinner will be music and dancing under the

stars while guests are serenaded by Al Copley's twelve-piece band. The evening will end with an extraordinary fireworks display exploding over the Atlantic Ocean.

To make reservations for the ultimate summer ball, call 401.584.7000. \$85 per person.



## CABARET: AN AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Coming to serenade us on Friday evenings, starting July 9th, is a talented local resident who many have seen gracing the stage during Shakespeare in the Park – none other than Marion Markham! With songs spanning the last century, the selections will include old classics and forgotten favorites. Accompanied by the talented Michael Campbell, “An American Songbook” and Marion’s delightful performance will appeal to all music lovers!

*Fridays starting July 9th, 9:30 - 11:30 pm in the Drawing Room*

LOCAL FAVORITE

## OCEAN HOUSE HOME

New to Bay Street and Watch Hill visitors is Ocean House Home, our boutique located at the old firehouse, offering cutting edge fashion, perfect summer accessories, classic home goods, and local products that allow you to bring a piece of the Ocean House home with you! Summer favorites include Havaiana flip flops, Sailor Bags, elegant tunics from Hale Bob and Tory Burch, enamel bracelets from Andrew Hamilton Crawford and Manuel Canovas bathing suits. To bring the Ocean House home with you, peruse the Lilly Pulitzer selection, or purchase a set of feather-soft Frette sheets.

For the perfect hostess gift and the foodie in each of us, we have locally made honey and maple syrup or a carving board from Vagabond House. For those with a green thumb, the incredible garden accessories from Napa Home & Garden make a stylish statement.

Other classics from Barbour, French Sole and Pur Cashmere are also available, as well as special treats from many more talented designers.



OCEAN HOUSE

## THE WATCH HILL LIGHTHOUSE

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Rhode Island’s second oldest lighthouse was first built in 1745 by the state’s colonial government. The watchtower itself served as a naval guide, and kept those in the community safe from incoming attacks. A storm in 1781 destroyed the lighthouse, and in 1808 construction on the new 35-foot tower was completed. Throughout the years, weather dictated the fate of this village beacon, causing it to need to be reforged and reinforced several times.

Today the 45-foot granite tower stands surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on three sides. With stunning views of Block Island, and Fishers Island, visitors can stroll on the pristine, green lawn surrounding the building. The lighthouse remains an active aid for navigation, and the new Watch Hill Lighthouse Museum in what was once the oil house, exhibits its history, including its former Fresnel Lens.



### HISTORIC TIMELINE

- 1745 : Colonial government builds watchtower and beacon
- 1781 : Both tower and beacon are destroyed by storm
- 1806 : President Thomas Jefferson signs act to build new tower, to mark eastern entrance of Fisher Island Sound, and 4 acres are purchased for \$500 from George and Thankful Foster
- 1808 : 35-foot wooden round tower is completed
- 1827 : Lighthouse is changed to be rotating to differentiate it from the Stonington Lighthouse
- 1834 : Jonathan Nash, the first lighthouse keeper, loses job after 27 years for political reasons and goes on to open Watch Hill’s first hotel
- 1855 : Because of erosion, the lighthouse is rebuilt as a 45-foot granite tower lined with brick
- 1856 : The new tower first lighted, has fixed white light; two story lighthouse keeper house and granite sea wall built same year
- 1879 : First female light house keeper Sally Ann Crandall takes over husband’s post after his death
- 1888 : Fanny K. Sckuyler replaces Ann becoming second woman in position
- 1938 : Hurricane, worst in New England history, damages lamp and floods the tower with water
- 1986 : Lighthouse is automated and leased to Watch Hill Lightkeepers Association





In June and July there is no excuse when it comes to getting the freshest just caught, just snipped and just picked seafood and produce. Here are some tips on choosing and storing the edibles available right outside your back door this time of year (or at least at your local farmers market!)

**HERBS** Let's start with herbs, since we advised you on how to plant them after the last newsletter. If it is necessary to wash them, wait until you will be using them, as moisture promotes spoilage. Fresh herbs are best kept in a resealable plastic freezer bag, stored between 40-50 degrees F (temp in refrigerator crisper). Most herbs will remain fresh over a week, but flavor does diminish over time. Tough leaved plants such as thyme and rosemary will last a couple of weeks, but delicate leaves, such as lemon verbena and chervil, will last only a few days.

Standing herbs in a glass jar with water like flowers maintains herbs for a couple of days. Remember, basil does not like cool temperatures, and it is best to not place it in the refrigerator.

Now, use this recipe to sweeten anything from fruits and sponge cake to lemonade and iced tea...

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**HERB-INFUSED SIMPLE SYRUP**

1 cup sugar  
 3/4 cup water  
 4-5 4" sprigs of your choice herb (lemon thyme, lemon verbena, mint, rosemary, basil or lavender)  
 Additional flavoring if desired (1/2 vanilla bean, 1/2 cinnamon stick or 4 1/4 inch slices of fresh ginger)

Combine sugar and water in a small saucepan and place over medium heat. As soon as the syrup comes to a full boil and the sugar is completely dissolved, add the herbs and flavoring, push them under the surface and remove from heat. Cover the pan and let steep 30 minutes. Strain, press down firmly on the herbs to extract the last bit of flavor. Store in a covered bottle or jar in the fridge for up to 3 months.

*Attributed to The Herbfarm Cookbook, by Jerry Traunfeld*

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**BLUEBERRIES!** This month is prime time! Blueberries must be ripe when purchased, as they do not continue to ripen after harvesting. Avoid those with a soft and watery appearance. Keep them unwashed, refrigerated and in a rigid container covered with plastic wrap – they should last a few weeks! Blueberries are perfect for freezing. They only lose a bit of their juiciness. Once again, do not wash until ready to eat.

**FISH** Looking for fresh fish is similar to purchasing diamonds. Bright and clear eyes, shiny, and clean (no discolored patches). Other tips, that have nothing to do with diamonds, are looking for rich red gills and smelling it – fish should smell like clean water or a touch briny, not fishy!

Fish is very perishable and must be stored on ice in a container that drains – do not let the fish swim in water. Cover with ice and be sure to eat it within a couple of days!

FROM OUR KITCHEN

**SCHARTNER FARMS  
 WARM RHUBARB &  
 STRAWBERRY GRATIN**

This recipe comes from Chef Adam Young, our Pastry Chef. Makes dessert for 8.

**FOR THE GRATIN**

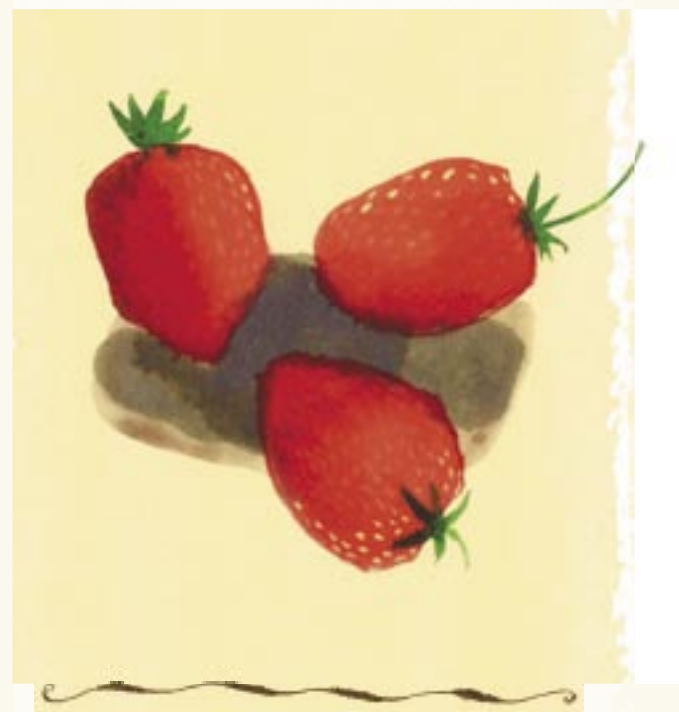
4 cups Rhubarb  
 2 cups Strawberries  
 1.5 cups Cane Sugar  
 1 each Vanilla Bean (preferably bourbon)  
 1 oz Butter with sea salt  
 4 oz Strawberry Rhubarb Preserve

Sauté first five ingredients together until tender, but not overcooked. Let cool, fold in preserve, and discard vanilla bean.

**FOR THE CRÈME FRAICHE**

4 oz. Crème Fraiche  
 2 T Honey  
 1 T Freshly Cracked Pepper

Combine all ingredients; use a handheld whisk and whip until light and it has slightly thickened.



**TO ASSEMBLE**

Gently warm the gratin in a sauté pan, then pour into desired vessel. Top with the Crème Fraiche, and garnish with a shortbread cookie!

*Sunday Jazz Brunch*

What better way to end a Summer weekend than Sunday Brunch with breathtaking views of the ocean in a soothing dining room setting at Season's Restaurant. Starting June 26th, the Ocean House will host brunch beginning at 8:00 a.m. every Sunday. In addition to selecting from the lavish buffet, and building your own bloody mary, you will also be able to order from the farm-to-table inspired menu. As guests recap their week with family and friends, they will be entertained by the music of Greg Piccolo and his trio. Brunch is Prix Fixe, and reservations are recommended.





RESIDENCE HIGHLIGHT

OCEANFRONT RESIDENCE, B204

As any beach lover knows, there's nothing quite like looking out your window towards the horizon, where the rippling Atlantic meets an endless blue sky. If you've ever thought that living amid salt air and ocean breezes was a pipe dream — think again! In the Ocean House's gracious oceanfront residence, B204, you can enjoy the comforts of a private beach cottage along with all of life's finest amenities.

*B204, a charming two bedroom, two and a half bathroom suite, boasts a spacious 25'x-19' great room, perfect for lounging or entertaining with the ocean as your backdrop. Vast picture windows reveal manicured lawns, grassy dunes and white sand beaches. A cozy balcony permits the rays of coastal sun to warm your skin and the sound of the ocean to come through open windows. What's more, the sand is just steps away; oceanfront residences lie just above sea level and provide direct access to the Hotel's private beach.*

Owning an Ocean House residence comes with more than just beach views and comfort by the sea. Not only do owners have access to a private seaside residence, but the landscaped lawns that lie within their view are kept up by the Hotel, providing all the perks without the hassle. Owners can enjoy the ease of coastal living with the help of cabana staff on our private beach, fitness and spa facilities within the Hotel itself, and private parking spaces just outside their residence.

"We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea — whether it is to sail or to watch it — we are going back from whence we came." Ocean House residences, so close to the shore, are a hidden gem amongst beach cottages along the New England coast, and are a dream come true to anyone who's ever dreamed of life by the sea. *Price available upon request.*



The view from Ocean House Residence B204





## CLAMBAKES: A NEW ENGLAND TRADITION

Roaring fires on the beach lit by seaweed can only mean one thing – the start of a new tradition! On July 9th, we will host our first clambake, and will continue every Friday thereafter for the rest of the summer. Guests will watch our chefs build the special pits, with seaweed and wood carefully layered to cook the freshest seafood with natural steam. Following a bountiful, family-style dinner at rustic picnic tables, s'mores will be served, and throughout the entire evening a band will serenade under the stars – with a new band each week!

*For reservations, please call 401.584.7000. Tickets are \$75 per person.*



### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



#### RENEE GWALTNEY

SPA MANAGER

A passion for the spa experience and guest service are what drive OH! Spa Manager, Renee Gwaltney. Joining us from the Westmoor Club in Nantucket, Massachusetts, Renee is a certified Massage Therapist with a degree from the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, and a Paul Mitchell-certified esthetician. Having worked as a therapist and manager, Renee's love for the beach and the ocean, as well as leading a healthy lifestyle, drives her passion for the OH! Spa and its Ocean and Harvest inspired treatments.

### PAST PRESENCE AND FUTURE

#### THE ELEVATOR

Riding up to your guest room, you will be struck by the incredible detail and intricate metal work in the elevator. Original to the hotel, the elevator panels were carefully removed from the interior, and refit to the dimensions and technology of a modern elevator. While you can no longer see the walls moving as the elevator rises up through the floors, the beautifully carved molding and historic mirror make you feel as though you have stepped back in time to the golden days of the Ocean House.





## SUMMER EVENTS IN WATCH HILL

### 3 JULY – Independence Day Beach Ball

Celebrate the birth of our nation with a traditional clambake that includes dancing on the sand to the sounds of Al Copley and his band and a stunning fireworks display!

Tickets available at <http://oceanhouseweb.dyndns.org>

### 9 JULY – Weekly Clambakes Begin

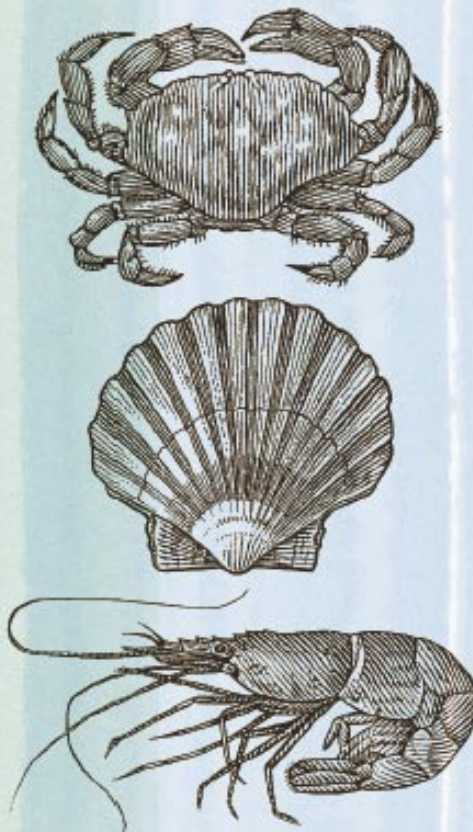
Taking place each Friday, featuring classic New England clambake cuisine and a different band each week, they are sure to become a weekly tradition.

Clambakes are \$75 per person, and open to the public!

Tickets available at <http://oceanhouseweb.dyndns.org>

### 9 JULY – Cabaret Begins

Every Friday evening this summer, the Ocean House will host a night of cabaret, featuring the incredibly talented Marion Markham, one of our very own local summer residents! Taking place in the Drawing Room, each intimate performance will follow our weekly clambake and showcase classic cabaret selections.



### ~ MIDWEEK SUMMER GETAWAY ~

Why wait for the weekend? Sometimes you just need to break free from your daily routine and get away! Avoid the weekend traffic and crowds.

Relax...Unwind...And enjoy life's simple pleasures.

Deluxe Ocean View  
Accommodations  
\$695  
per room, per night

Deluxe Bay View  
Accommodations  
\$675  
per room, per night

#### PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Deluxe Ocean or Bay View accommodations
- Enjoy a bottle of Ocean House Signature Label wine upon arrival
- Daily breakfast for two and \$50 resort credit
- Available Sunday through Thursday from July 1 through September 7, 2010, for new reservations booked by July 31, 2010

General program restrictions apply.

## What They're Saying About Us...

These notable publications have recently written about the Ocean House!

"From the 12,000-square-foot OH! Spa to the open-air, farm-to-table Verandah restaurant (from which Block Island can be seen on a clear day), the hotel's interiors make the most of its dramatic perch high atop a white-sand bluff spying the Atlantic Ocean."

TIME MAGAZINE, MAY 6, 2010

"What's more idyllic than a Victorian mansion overlooking the sea? A Victorian mansion overlooking the sea after a \$140 million restoration."

HEMISPHERES, MAY 2010

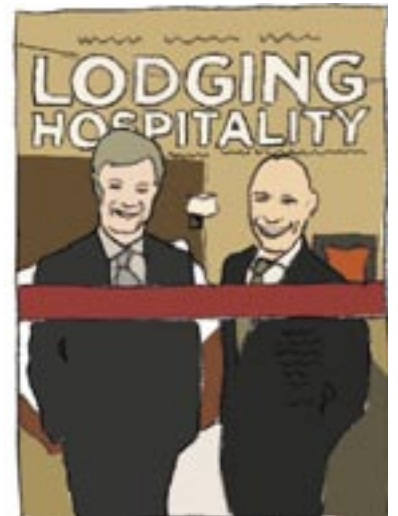


"Dine, spa, and be butlered like a blue blood, then go bodysurfing. Rhode Island's oceanfront hideaway has just as many gorgeous beaches as the Hamptons but none of its hype. In fact, the seaside enclave has been pretty much off New Yorkers' radar until now, with the Ocean House, a reconstructed Victorian mansion spread across thirteen acres on a bluff above the Atlantic."

NEW YORK MAGAZINE, APRIL 12, 2010

"Since some 'questionable additions' were made to the property over the years, the team decided it wouldn't make sense either aesthetically or financially to replicate the additions. The final product encompasses a replica of the hotel building from its early-1900s heyday with two new wings that jut away from the main structure and serve as a shield to residences surrounding the property."

LODGING HOSPITALITY, APRIL 8, 2010



"Ocean House is ready to once again wow visitors with its farm-to-table cuisine, a luxurious lap pool, a state-of-the-art fitness center and a serene spa. The most relaxing element does not come from a spa treatment but instead from the views of the Atlantic Ocean, which are right at the property's door step."

TRAVEL WITH VAL, MAY 24, 2010

"Few tours of buildings have astonished me as much as this tour of Ocean House. The diligence of Centerbrook, and the general contractor, Dimeo Corp., in copying the past was brilliant, including the extensive reuse of lobby furniture, stonework and ornament salvaged from the sainted old Ocean House. Just as amazing was the equally faithful-to-the-past use of the building's historical style in the additions that transform it from an old to a new building. In every corner of the new Ocean House the spirit of the old Ocean House lives on."

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, MAY 20, 2010

