Letter from the Editor...

While many people visit our shores only for the brief summer months, the nearly 570,000 residents that call Ocean County home 365 days a year know that our picturesque coastal environment influences the daily life and traditions we celebrate throughout all four seasons. Stumbling upon a painting of Santa by the sea, in the wintertime, or spotting a Christmas ornament artfully inspired by a delicate shell is not an uncommon occurrence. Despite winter's inevitable chill, the ocean marches on with a rugged and stoic beauty.

This issue of *Out & About* is about the sharing of our unique holiday traditions both old and new. *Remembering Christmas Past in Toms River Township* will take you back to the days of old, while the *Holiday Events Roundup* will have you thinking about upcoming holiday arts and heritage event choices. This information will help you to create new traditions through a shared experience with your friends and loved ones.

Along the way, we couldn't help but spread the news about the Ocean County Vocational Technical School's Performing Arts Academy's recent national success and award winning programs through the article *Performing Arts Academy Grows in Leaps and Bounds.*

T'is the season to take in a heartwarming holiday play or concert to uplift your spirit. As the hot cocoa warms your tummy, let the arts warm your heart. Whatever your tradition, religious affiliation, or general outlook on life may be, may you feel the joy of the season.

- Lindsay Dandeo

Publisher: Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
Editor: Lindsay Dandeo
Writers: Victoria Lassonde, Lindsay Dandeo

Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission: Linda Starzman, Chair, Bahiyyah Abdullah, Alison Amelchenko, Joanne Coley, Duane M. Grembowicz, Timothy G. Hart, Roberta M. Krantz, Sidney L. Taylor, Kevin W. Pace.

Staff: Lindsay A. Dandeo, Kim Fleischer

Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural/index.htm
www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural/outabout.htm
14 Hooper Avenue
PO Box 2191
Ph. (732) 929-4779 Fax (732) 288-7871
Toms River, NJ 08754-2191
Email: culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us

Out & About Ocean County was created in order to fulfill the need for a comprehensive resource which caters specifically to Ocean County, providing up-to-date information and articles about county-wide arts, heritage and cultural events. **Out & About** is published 4 times annually and is free. The News Guide is distributed to county offices, all branches of the Ocean County Library, the County Connection at the Ocean County Mall, many retirement communities, arts/heritage organizations, and some public venues throughout the county. If you would like free copies of **Out & About** for distribution, or if you are an organization interested in being featured **Out & About**, please contact us at (732) 929-4779, or email ldandeo@co.ocean.nj.us. View the News Guide on the web at www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural/outabout.htm.

This News Guide is sponsored by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and is funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

© 2008 Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission