

# SUN LETTER

THE PEOPLE, EVENTS, & EXHIBITS OF THE GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

FALL/WINTER 2021 Volume 30, No. 3

## A Gift of Grace

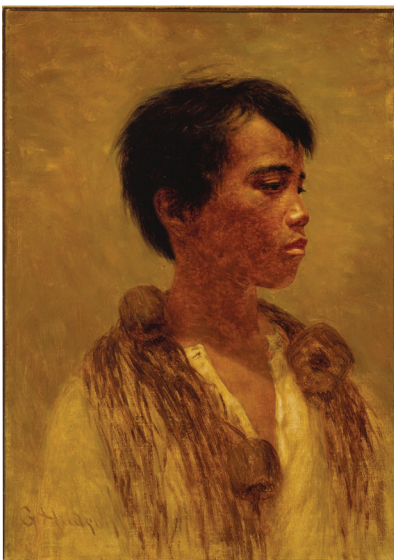
At the beginning of May this year, I received a phone call from Louis Grachos, then the executive director of the Palm Springs Art Museum (PSAM). I did not know Mr. Grachos and had only a cursory familiarity with his museum. I knew they had some Grace Hudson paintings. Established in 1938 as the Palm Springs Desert Museum, its original mission was localized and multi-disciplinary, embracing natural history, Cahuilla Indian material culture, and later fine art. Over the ensuing decades, its visual arts collections significantly expanded, and by the early 2000s its future became strongly tied to modern and contemporary art. The name change occurred in 2005. At the time of the phone call, they possessed 18 Grace Hudson paintings. Mr. Grachos wanted to see if we would like to have them.

After the word “wow” stopped echoing in my head, I asked under what conditions. “As a gift,” came the response. My thoughts then turned to what condition the paintings might be in and, if taken, would they merely replicate what was already in our collection. I asked if PSAM could share an inventory of the paintings with accompanying images. The next day one appeared via email. Assessing the list with current and past GHM curators, we determined that roughly half of them would definitely enhance our collections, while the remainder at

need to be consummated by their incoming executive director, Adam Lerner, who would arrive in August. In the meantime, the Grace Hudson Museum’s Endowment Fund Board set their sights on identifying someone who could underwrite the cost of transferring the paintings to Ukiah—i.e., packing, shipping, insurance. Within a month we were awarded a grant from the Miner-Anderson Family Foundation. San Francisco author Robert Mailer Anderson, a principal in the foundation, is a graduate of Anderson Valley High School and took a keen interest in the paintings returning home to Ukiah. We are enormously grateful to Mr. Anderson and his foundation.

When I first met with Adam Lerner, he was equally enthusiastic about the gift. He did add one stipulation, that PSAM maintain ownership of two of the 18 paintings. He added, though, that they would be happy to provide them to us on a long-term loan. That seemed quite reasonable, and we expect to receive all the paintings just after the New Year. We are looking forward to exhibiting PSAM’s gifted and loaned paintings beginning in February, as part of a temporary exhibition of recent acquisitions to our collections. In addition, we’ll be displaying a variety of baskets, photographs, and other artworks that have been gifted or purchased over the past five or so years. And we’ll offer some insights into why and how collections are built. On behalf of the Museum, I wish to extend deep-felt thanks to Louis, Adam, and the trustees and staff of the Palm Springs Art Museum for their magnanimous gift of Grace.

— David Burton, *Director*



*Boy from Hilo*, 1901 by Grace Hudson. Gift of the Palm Springs Art Museum, originally donated by Mr. C. Frederick Faude.

very least would be valuable for research. So, why would PSAM want to part with them? Their collections focus, I was told, was almost exclusively now on modern and contemporary. The Hudsons would likely just sit in collection storage and they preferred they find a new home where they could be enjoyed and appreciated by the public.

I hastily arranged a trip to Palm Springs to see the paintings and found they were in wonderful condition. Some were truly remarkable. While there, Louis informed me he was leaving for a new job in Santa Fe, NM, and the gift would



*Sun House Guild*

**GRACE HUDSON  
MUSEUM & Sun House**

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please visit our website, call, or email:

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## In Person, At Last!

On October 2, the Sun House Guild Board hosted a Members-Only reception tied to the Museum's current special exhibition, *30 Years On: Liden, Magruder & Knight*. As an added bonus, event attendees enjoyed a pop-up exhibit in the Public Room, featuring additional artwork by Tom Liden and Mac Magruder. After so many months of limited Museum activity and access, it was truly delightful to welcome supporters for festivities that took place both in the galleries and outside on the basket boardwalk. Under a clear sky and in the warmth of the early evening, remarks were offered by Museum Director David Burton, Tom, Mac, and Karen Christopherson, who helped organize the section of *30 Years On* devoted to her late husband, Wayne Knight. Many thanks to all of them for sharing the evening with us. And my personal thanks go to the Guild Board members involved in the planning and logistics of putting together this special evening.

We are all very happy that things are gradually returning to some version of normal. However, one traditional event that we are choosing not to hold for the second straight year is the annual Holiday Open House & Craft Fair. Since this is an indoor event that often packs Museum spaces with shoppers, concerns about health and safety have led us to hold off for at least another year. *HOWEVER*, we will be offering holiday wreaths and swag from McFadden Farms on a pre-order basis. There is an order form enclosed in this newsletter, as well as posted on the Museum's web site. Get your orders in soon, as we sold out in 2020. Pickup will be on December 4. And this year the Gift Shop is back! We have returned to being fully open during all regular Museum hours and on First Friday evenings.

On behalf of Sun House Guild Board, I would like to express gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has supported the Museum through the challenges of the past year and a half. Your generosity has ensured a continuity of programming that we all will enjoy in the coming year. Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

– Toni Wheeler, *Sun House Guild President*

### Heartfelt thanks to the Following Donors:

Donna Booher † George & Ruth Bradford Foundation †  
The Miner-Anderson Foundation † Norma Person † Sharon Peterson †  
Janet Rosen & Stuart Kremsky

### New Guild Memberships

Sara Armstrong † Jane Ball † Pamela Berman † Joel Cohen †  
Carol & Jamie Connerton † Charlene Light † Elizabeth MacDougall †  
Patti McCleod † Katherine McElwee † Shannon & Justin Peterson †  
Barbara Phelps † Rosalba Rubinzer † Jackie Screechfield † Paul Zellman

# Grace Hudson Museum Holiday Wreath Sale

Order by Nov. 29 and pick up at the Museum on Dec. 4 from 10 am to 2 pm

Wishing for a beautiful fragrant wreath or swag for your December holidays? Order by mailing this form and payment, or call the Guild Treasurer at (707) 391-7574 to order and pay. Orders taken until Nov. 29.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.

## WREATH PRE-ORDER FORM 2021

	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
a. Bay Leaf Wreath	\$28	_____	_____
b. Bay Wreath with Chilis and Raffia	\$30	_____	_____
c. Bay Leaf Heart	\$34	_____	_____
d. Bay Wreath with 3 Sets of Chilis	\$34	_____	_____
e. 3-Herb Wreath with Chilis	\$39	_____	_____
f. 3-Herb Swag with Chilis and Raffia	\$27	_____	_____
g. Bay Leaf Swag with Chilis and Raffia	\$22	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>		_____	\$ _____



*Sun House Guild*

**GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM**

431 South Main Street ♦ Ukiah, California 95482

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CHECK (PAYABLE TO: GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM)  CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC #: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_



# Thank You to Our 2021 Virtual Gala Donors

We'd like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who watched and supported *Curiosity, Creativity, Community*, our 2021 Virtual Gala. As we go to print with the Fall/Winter *Sun-letter*, we have received donations ranging from \$20 to \$5,000 and we appreciate every single one. Thank you for your confidence, trust, and commitment to the Grace Hudson Museum!

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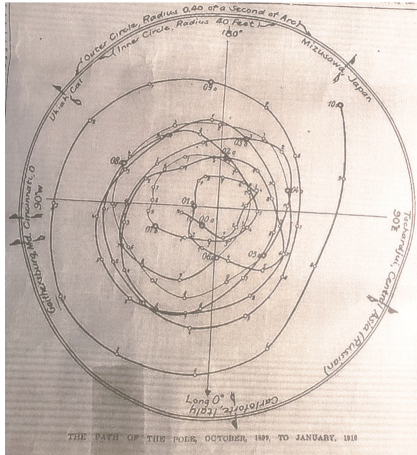


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# Pardon Me, Are We Wobbling?

Did you know Ukiah has an observatory? It wasn't built to explore the heavens, but to understand the movement and shape of the Earth, the study of which is called geodesy. Here's the story. Back in the day, mapmakers found that when they measured latitude from the same location over periods of time, they would get different readings. Latitude appeared to be shifting. The difference was relatively small, but still it posed an intriguing riddle.



Historic chart tracking the path of the North Pole from 1899 to 1910.

The International Geodetic Association tried to figure out this mystery. In 1899, it coordinated with other countries to establish five observatories, all located on the 39th meridian. Known as latitude observatories, they were built in Mizusawa, Japan; Carloforte, Italy; Tschardjui, Uzbekistan; Gaithersburg, Maryland; and Ukiah, California. (One additional station operated in Cincinnati, Ohio but only for a short time.)

Each day, observers stationed in their respective observatories would follow identical procedures, taking measurements of the same stars. They would then send their data to a central office where results from each location were compared. Latitude measurements were tied to the North Star, which initially appeared to change its position just a little bit every night, thus skewing the latitude readings. But the North Star only appeared to be moving because the Earth wobbles on its axis. Tracking this phenomenon over time, patterns of movement were documented, leading to a better understanding of what is known as the Chandler wobble.

Over time, scientists developed instruments that are capable of much greater precision. Consequently, the Ukiah observatory was decommissioned in 1982. Today, the City of Ukiah's Community Services Department manages the historic observatory site, its legacy structures, and the observatory's original geodetic instruments, on loan from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A strategic plan was adopted for protecting the observatory and interpreting its story. This is where I come in. I was offered an opportunity to work on creating a new interpretive exhibit for the site. As part of the process, I've been consulting with Martin Bradley, who has been involved with the observatory for many years and has researched its history. Bradley commented, "Ukiah is part of a significant scientific legacy. It participated in an experiment that spanned over eighty years and literally put Ukiah on the map." The exhibit will be installed in early 2022. Stay tuned for news of its opening!

— Alyssa Boge, *Curator of Education & Exhibits*

## New Life Members

Pinky & Peter Kushner

## Memorial Donations

Patricia Maurer Beach,  
*in memory of Marguerite McCowen Crown*

Mary Louise & Leroy Chase,  
*in memory of Conrad Cox*

Mary Louise & Leroy Chase,  
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## Upcoming Programs

*Additional information on these and other Museum programs can be found on  
the Museum's web site at [gracehudsonmuseum.org](http://gracehudsonmuseum.org).*

Friday, December 3, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

### **A Holiday Season First Friday**

Enjoy caroling, a family-friendly craft-activity, a luminaria stroll through  
the Wild Gardens, and a cup of hot chocolate as we kick-off the Holiday  
Season. Galleries will be open. Masks must be worn inside the Museum.

January 7 to 23, 2022

### **Iconic Mendocino Building Quilts—Pop-Up Exhibition**

The Ocean Wave Quilters will feature an exhibit of 25 quilts depicting iconic  
buildings of Mendocino Village. These include the Mendocino Hotel, the  
Kelley House Water Tower, and the Presbyterian Church (see image, right;  
quilt by Sharon Lau, collection of Jeff Omodt). The show will open on a  
First Friday.

Thursday, January 20, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

### **Kashia Pomo Stories—Virtual**

Kashia Pomo artist and storyteller, Eric Wilder, returns for another evening  
of traditional stories incorporating contemporary art and imagery. Last year,  
this was our most popular virtual program. Don't miss it!

## Current Exhibit

Through Sunday, January 16, 2022

### ***30 Years On: Liden, Magruder & Knight***

This exhibit explores the artistic journeys of  
three local artists, showcasing dynamic art-  
work from throughout the arc of their careers.

