

# SUNLETTER

THE PEOPLE, EVENTS & EXHIBITS OF THE GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

FALL/WINTER 2019 Volume 28, No. 3

## It Began in Our Collections: A Hawaiian Mystery Solved

*For this issue of the Sunletter, I turn this space over to Karen Holmes, our Curator of Collections & Exhibits. Karen will share with you one of the delights of curatorial work—uncovering the answer to a mystery involving a work of art, in this case a Grace Hudson painting. (You can find some additional brief remarks of mine on the back of the wreath insert.)*

—David Burton, Director

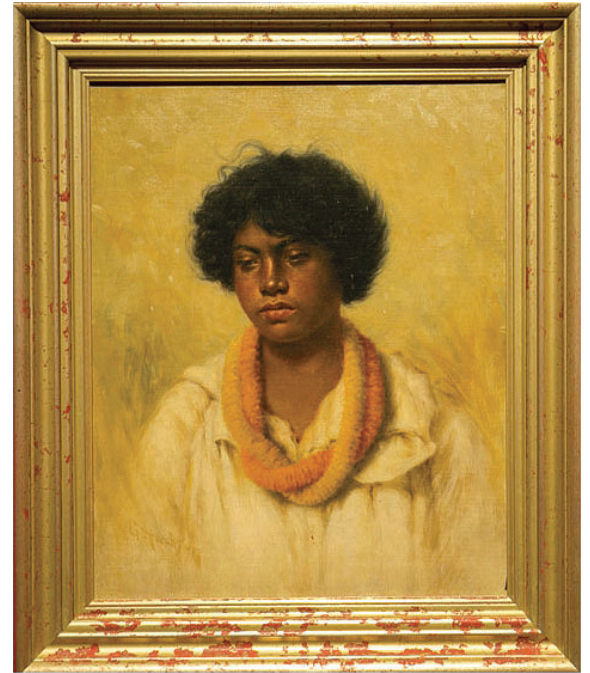
One of the greatest (though somewhat hidden) assets of the Grace Hudson Museum is its vast collection of Carpenter/Hudson family-based material. While just a fraction of it is on long-term display, Museum staff regularly draws upon what is in storage to supplement changing exhibits and conduct in-house research.

One example of this took place some five years ago, when then Director Sherrie Smith-Ferri and I developed an exhibit about the eleven months Grace Hudson spent in the Territory of Hawaii in 1901. Entitled *Days of Grace: California Artist Grace Hudson in Hawaii*, the exhibit was on display at the Grace Hudson Museum in the fall of 2014, and then was shown in an edited version at the Honolulu Museum of Art in Hawaii from November 2015 until March 2016.

For the exhibits and accompanying catalog, we drew heavily on Museum collections of correspondence, painting diaries, photographs, and scrapbooks for our original research on Grace's Hawaiian year. In particular, we sought clues about the circumstances surrounding the 26 numbered oils that she produced of Asian and Native Hawaiian women and children during her sojourn. Our research revealed that many of Grace's Hawaiian numbered oils were given or sold to friends and acquaintances she made in Hawaii, and that these people were often essential to the development of the Territory at the time.

We did not know the whereabouts of eight of Grace's numbered Hawaiian canvases when the exhibit catalog went to print, though we hoped that the catalog and two exhibit presentations would bring some missing paintings to light. Happily, this became true, when an Oahu couple learned of the upcoming show in Honolulu and disclosed that

*(article continued on page 3)*



Painting #186, *Head of a Hawaiian Girl—Ilina Leis.*

Don't Miss Our Annual



HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE



Two opportunities to join the fun!

First Friday, December 6th  
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, December 7th  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Friday & Saturday:

Local art, crafts, specialty foods & wreaths,  
15% Gift Shop discount

Additionally on Saturday: Sun House tours,  
visits with Santa, carolers & more!

***Pre-order holiday wreaths using the  
enclosed order form***



*Sun House Guild*

**GRACE HUDSON**

**MUSEUM & Sun House**

Hours: Wed thru Sat: 10 am – 4:30 pm

(first Friday of the month til 8:00 pm)

Sun.: 12 – 4:30 pm. (707) 467-2836

info@gracehudsonmuseum.org

www.gracehudsonmuseum.org

Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House Staff

David Burton, DIRECTOR

Sherrie Smith-Ferri, CURATOR

Karen Holmes, CURATOR

Kristen Marrow and Diana Thomas,  
RECEPTIONISTS & DOCENT  
COORDINATORS

Marian Scalmanini, STORE MANAGER

Sun House Guild Board

Toni Wheeler, PRESIDENT

Linda Coursey, VICE-PRESIDENT

Barbara Blake, SECRETARY

Candace Horsley, TREASURER

Donald McMullen, ASST. TREASURER

Julie Beardsley, Holly Brackmann, Ginevra  
(Giny) Chandler, Tom Liden, Karen Moon,  
Irma Turner, Bonnie Weiss, Mark Winkler,  
TRUSTEES

Grace Hudson Museum Endowment Fund

Monte Hill, CHAIR

Ed Eversole, VICE-CHAIR

John Moon, INVESTMENT CHAIR

Carolyn Welch, TREASURER

Michaelyn Wipf, SECRETARY

Mike Geniella, Wanda Mannon,  
Ann Moorman, Myrna Oglesby,  
BOARD MEMBERS

# A Source of Community Pride

On the tail of a very successful Gala fundraiser, my term as President comes to an end. With great enthusiasm I welcome our new Guild President, Toni Wheeler. Toni brings much community involvement and cultural spirit to this position. We are all very fortunate that she has stepped up to take this on.

We've come a long way since 1975 when the City of Ukiah helped form the Sun House Guild, and then from the completion of the original museum building in 1986 to what we have today. My first term on the Guild was in the 1990s, serving as President from 1994 to 1995. I remember well our initial discussions to fulfill the dream of a separate gallery to house a permanent exhibit of Grace Hudson's work. In 1998 under the guidance of the Guild's President, Nancy Baltins, we began in earnest to fundraise in partnership with the Endowment Board, and in 2001 reopened the Museum doors to a facility which consisted of four gallery spaces, new and enlarged offices, two collection storage vaults, a new and enlarged store, new bathrooms, and an additional meeting room. And now, thanks to the efforts of Sherrie Smith-Ferri and the City, we have enhanced this wonderful museum with The Wild Gardens.

I would like to take this opportunity thank the many talented and hard-working Sun House Guild board members I've had the pleasure to serve with, all of our supporters past and present, our generous community, the City of Ukiah, and the many dedicated Museum staff over the years for making this dream a reality. Please take pride in, enjoy, and share what you have created.

– Tom Liden, *retiring Sun House Guild President*

## Heartfelt Thanks to the Following Donors

George & Ruth Bradford Foundation

Bob Brewer

David Burton

Miriam Gruver

Bob & Susie Hardie

Karen Holmes & Eric Neilson

Watters Martin & Christina Hassell

Jim & Arlene Moorehead

Norma Person

Robert Rios

Carol Rosenberg

Joan & Max Schlienger

Janice Stokes

Nelson & Jane Weller

Dennis & Madelyn Yeo

*Information on Museum events  
can be found on the Museum's website at  
gracehudsonmuseum.org.*

## It Began in Our Collections: A Hawaiian Mystery Solved *(continued from page 1)*

they had Grace's "lost" painting #186, *Head of a Hawaiian Girl—Ilima Leis*, and lent it to the exhibit there. Additionally, the portrait of the Native Hawaiian girl with short, tousled dark hair, loose white blouse, and twined orange and yellow ilima flower leis was featured in a Honolulu Museum of Art blog as a promotional teaser for the exhibit. Significantly, the text describing the work mistakenly identified it as painting #192 in Grace's list of oils.

Following the close of the Honolulu exhibit, we received an intriguing email from a woman in California who had seen the online photo of painting #186. She explained that her mother in Ohio also had a "#192 Grace Hudson painting," but the girl in that painting had green leaves in her leis. She wrote, "It is curious there are 2 paintings with the same number, as we understand the paintings were numbered sequentially. Perhaps one of the paintings is misnumbered? Perhaps my mom's painting is a 'lost' painting as well."

It became clear to Sherrie and me that the woman in Ohio had Grace's actual painting #192, featuring a girl with a similar haircut, blouse, and leis as the young woman in #186—with the addition of a green maile vine lei. Entitled *Minamina* ("regret" in Hawaiian), #192 was first owned by Henry P. Baldwin, co-founder of Alexander & Baldwin, one of the "Big Five" Hawaiian sugarcane processing companies of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In subsequent communication, the Ohio woman told me that she sold antiques, and in the late 1990s had purchased #192 in a lot consisting of framed art and empty frames from the son of an antiques dealer she knew. She did not know its provenance beyond that. When I noted that the painting had first belonged to Henry Baldwin, her daughter said that there was a Baldwin family in their area, members of which had written a book about early agricultural business in Hawaii. It was probably this family that brought *Minamina* to the Mainland.

In late 2016, when Hawaiian fine arts dealer Doug Frazer happened to contact me, I mentioned that #192 had surfaced. Doug had been instrumental in the development of our *Days of Grace* exhibit, introducing us to important dealers and collectors, and loaning his own paintings for the show. He was looking for Hawaiian Hudsons to buy, and I thought the woman in Ohio might be interested in selling. I introduced the two, and the sale was made in 2017.

Recently, as thanks for the introduction, Doug had a lovely giclée print of *Minamina* made for us. We will welcome home this "lost" work of art by hanging the framed giclée in the Sun House, thus giving our docents a way to talk about one of the most important periods in Grace Hudson's life.

—Karen Holmes, *Curator of Collections*



From left, painting #192, *Minamina*, and giclée print. Doug Frazer carved a beautiful, simple wooden frame of Hawaiian design for the original, and placed the print in the older frame.

### New Supporter Memberships

David Gengoux  
Julia Green  
Lyndah Kolkmann

### Other New Guild Memberships

Dan Borghi  
Sherry Collins  
Seth Delaney  
Irehne Dishman  
Robin Goldner  
Kristin Groessl  
Vicky Groom  
Wiley Hall  
Monica Haven  
Mike & Jennie Henderson  
Duane Hill  
Sarah Jolley  
Laura Lush  
Monica McCabe  
Tom & Cyndi Montesonti  
Shelley Ownsbey  
William & Sandy Parrott  
Katie Pasquini Masopust  
Pamela Perry  
June Prestino  
Meredyth Reinhard  
Anita Sison & Rick Hawley  
Janferie Stone  
Charles Taylor & Suzy Ogawa  
Cathy Vaughan  
Mary Vickers  
Leslie Wieland  
Hilarie Wilt & Pamela Simondi  
Leslie Young



Photo by Alyssa Ballard

## For the Love of Art and Gallery Changes

In September, the Museum hosted its annual Gala and I'm thrilled to say it was a great success, both in terms of money raised (over \$50,000 netted) and the way the evening connected our guests with the mission and importance of Ukiah's beloved museum. Thank you to everyone who participated as a guest and a donor. Thank you as well to Ukiah Poet-Laureate, Roberta Werdinger, for her original poem written and presented especially for the occasion. And thank you again to our sponsors, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Flow Kana, Adventist Health of Ukiah Valley, The Eversole Family, Whispering Winds Nursery, and Cupples & Sons Construction.

Karen Keehn's gift to the Museum of Grace Hudson's splendid 1902 painting, *The Dowry* (noted on page 4 of the *Sunletter*), immediately became a catalyst for making a few changes in the Hart Gallery. First and foremost, we didn't want to waste any time getting *The Dowry* out on display for the public to enjoy. We also plan to augment this work of art with an exhibit case featuring baskets depicted in the painting that are from our collections. Alongside these, you will find the return of *The Seed Conjurer*, which was on loan for exhibits at St. Mary's College and the Cloverdale Historical Society. We installed a few additional paintings and put away others to give them a rest. See if you can spot the changes next time you visit Grace's gallery.

— David Burton, *Director*

## Annual White Elephant Sale

At the upcoming Holiday Open House on December 6 and 7, make sure to stop by the Museum's White Elephant Sale. You will find treasures of all sorts, including fine art, jewelry, collectibles, books, lamps, tea sets and more, all of them ready to be appreciated and enjoyed by new owners. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Museum's exhibit needs.



*Sun House Guild*

**GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM**

431 South Main Street • Ukiah, California 95482

*Address Service Requested*

This issue of the *Sunletter* brought to you  
through the generosity of:



Submit your email address and name to  
[info@gracehudsonmuseum.org](mailto:info@gracehudsonmuseum.org) to receive  
your *Sunletter* via email rather than  
as a mailed paper version.

## *Special Thanks for Collections Gifts*

**Bob Brewer** for two beautiful plain-twined Pomo baskets used for pounding and cooking.

**Cynthia Coale** for intriguing Pomoan lithic materials from the Eagle Rock Ranch.

**Jackie Conner** for two attractive twined baskets from the Klamath Lake region for display in the Sun House.

**Karen Keehn** for the incomparable gift of Grace Hudson's original oil painting, #212 – *The Dowry*. This painting depicts a Pomo bride surrounded by her dowry of baskets and other cultural artifacts, several of which are held in the Grace Hudson Museum collections.

**Lorraine Lipani and Jolly Smith** for two charming Tlingit baskets that will grace the Sun House.

**Louise Yale** for a lovely large Limoges platter that will complement the china in the Sun House.



*The Dowry*, 1902 by Grace Carpenter Hudson