

# SUNLETTER

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

FALL/WINTER 2022 Volume 31, No. 3

## Commemorating Evert Person

On October 6, a group of invited guests gathered in the courtyard garden on the northeast side of the Grace Hudson Museum to dedicate this outdoor space in memory of the late Evert Person, former publisher of *The Press Democrat* in Santa Rosa. Over multiple decades, Mr. Person and his wife Norma graced the Museum as its most significant benefactors. This past summer, a beautiful redwood fence was constructed to enhance the aesthetics of the garden and provide it with a greater sense of quiet and calm, further encouraging its public use as a reflective and meditative space, and as a suitable setting for small special events. The occasion of the fence completion became the catalyst for officially recognizing Mr. Person's impact on the growth and maturation of our beloved Museum.



Director David Burton, far right, addresses the gathering in the Evert Person Courtyard (photo by Bob Anderson)

Evert Person's involvement with the Museum started in the 1990s with his acquisition of Grace Carpenter Hudson's first numbered oil painting, *National Thorn*. He immediately donated it to the Museum



Norma Person by the courtyard sign commemorating her late husband (photo by Bob Anderson)

where it has become a centerpiece in the growing and largest known collection of Hudson paintings and associated artwork. Later, the Persons contributed to the expansion of the museum building, underwriting the cost of a gallery—known now as the Person Gallery—that highlights the histories of the Carpenter and Hudson families. After Evert's passing, Norma made a generous contribution to name the courtyard garden in his honor.

At the dedication, Mrs. Person was personally thanked by current and former Museum

staff, Ukiah City Manager Sage Sangiacomo, City Councilmember Juan Orozco, and board members of the Museum's Endowment Fund and the Sun House Guild. Gaye LeBaron, noted North Coast history writer and long-time columnist for *The Press Democrat* (recently retired), accompanied her dear friend Norma to the dedication. LeBaron regaled and dignified those assembled with her reflections on the evolution of the Grace Hudson Museum. She recalled the time she sat down in a booth at the Palace Hotel restaurant with a group led by Barbara Eversole and listened to their plans for building a museum and cultural center to honor artist Grace Hudson. LeBaron found the project compelling, but at the same time "wondered whether these good people understood the hard work and dedication it would take to make a museum happen."

(continued on back page)



*Sun House Guild*

**GRACE HUDSON  
MUSEUM & Sun House**

For current hours and admission fees,  
please visit our website, call, or email:

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## An Abundance of Connection

This year at the Grace Hudson Museum has truly been a time of reconnecting with the greater Ukiah community. In May, we celebrated spring with a plein air art fundraiser in the Wild Gardens, benefiting both the Museum and Art Center Ukiah. On September 24, we gathered around and in front of the historic Sun House for our traditional in-person fall gala, following two consecutive years of virtual galas due to the pandemic. *Celebrating Pomo Arts*, our 2022-themed event, drew a capacity crowd who enjoyed a comfortably warm evening, sensational food and drink, and—as dusk began to fall—an exciting live auction. I'd like to thank everyone who participated! Special mention goes to our caterer, Beth Keiffer, who consulted with *Gathering Time* guest curator Meyo Marrufo to create a menu that reflected the richness of Pomo foodways; our DJ, Jerry Schultz; Senator Mike McGuire, who pulled out all the stops as auctioneer; Sun House Guild board members and an assembly of other volunteers for all the work that goes into the preparation and presentation of a large happening; and, not at all least, all of our generous sponsors.

As of this writing in mid-October, just about all the totals are in and it's looking like the Museum will have netted a little over \$40,000, which is fabulous. We will share final numbers in the next issue of the *Sunletter*, along with a thank you list of everyone who supported the event, including all of those who bought tickets, won auction items, made paddle pledges, and sent donations in lieu of being able to attend.

Looking ahead, we will finish out the year by bringing back our Holiday Open House and Craft Fair after a two-year pandemic absence. This will be held the first weekend in December, with vendors in the Museum selling their specialty arts and crafts. The Guild will also be selling holiday greenery—wreaths and swag—from McFadden Farms (see the enclosed form for preordering), and the Gift Shop will be offering a 10% discount on purchases during the event, 15% for Museum members!

This free event takes place on First Friday December 2 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and will continue on Saturday December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. That Saturday, we expect Santa to make an appearance in the Sun House, and we'll have caroling throughout most of the day.

— Toni Wheeler, *Sun House Guild President*

### New Supporting Members:

Barry Deutsch † Jim Flaherty III † Neil & Andrea Davis †  
Peter & Florence Passof

### New Guild Memberships

Judy Hummel † Judith Kayser † Tom Shaver † Leslie & John Wieland

# Grace Hudson Museum Holiday Wreath Sale

Order by Nov. 28 and pick up at the Museum on Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. or Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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. 28.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.

## WREATH PRE-ORDER FORM 2022

	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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NAME (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Special Thanks for Collections Gifts

*Received over the past 18 to 24 months*

**Constance M. Allen, M.D.**, for her generous donation of a Dirk van Erp arts and crafts style lamp which will grace the Sun House. Dirk van Erp (1862–1933) was one of the most important arts and crafts metalsmiths, known for his remarkable lamps.

**An anonymous donor** for one small gold ring with a connection to the Hudson family.

**Robert Brewer** for three Pomo baskets, including one very impressive twined tray, 39 inches in diameter, with bands of peeled and unpeeled willow. That specific piece was donated in honor of Sherrie Smith-Ferri, former Director of the Grace Hudson Museum. The donation also includes several portraits from the studio of A.O. and Helen Carpenter.

**Terry Burke and Michael Burke** for the Salvador Frances Burke Collection. The collection, which was gifted to the Burke siblings by Elsie Allen, includes twelve Pomo baskets and two necklaces. It also includes three beaded baskets, several single-rod coiled baskets, several twined baskets, and a stunning feathered basket. Sherri Smith-Ferri believes the basketmakers may have included Salvador Frances Burke, Elsie Allen, Lydia Faught, Annie Burke, and others.

**Janet King** for six salt spoons which will be used for display in the dining room of the Sun House.

**The Palm Springs Art Museum** for their donation of sixteen Grace Hudson paintings (see the Fall/Winter 2021 *Sunletter* for the full story).

**Rich Parducci** for three Pomo baskets including a Pomo twined winnowing basket dating from the 1850s–1870s, a Pomo or Miwok women's netted bag woven from dogbane and decorated with clamshell disc beads and abalone pendants, two Klamath River twined baskets, and three southwestern beaded purses.

**Leslie Pittman** for five beautiful Pomo and Pomo/Wappo baskets including a stunning beaded basket attributed to Alice Elliott. They were donated in memory of Wayne and Lorraine Pittman.

**Marsha Woodbury** for two southwestern baskets which will decorate the Sun House.



Beaded basket donated by Leslie Pittman, women's netted bag donated by Rich Parducci, Dirk van Erp lamp donated by Constance M. Allen, M.D.



Feathered basket of mallard and oriole feathers, decorated with clamshell disc beads, abalone pendants, and quail feather top knots; beaded basket possibly woven by Lydia Faught; and large twined basket likely made by Annie Burke. All items donated by Terry Burke and Michael Burke.

## Recent Cash Contributions

Anonymous, *for Exhibitions & Programs*

George & Ruth Bradford Foundation, *for the Endowment Fund*

Linda Corwin Burris

Cupples & Sons Construction, *for the Endowment Fund*

Marvin & Beverly Dutra

Eleanor Hamilton

Bernice Peltier Huber Charitable Trust

Karen & John Moon, *for the Endowment Fund*

Katarzyna Rolzinski, *in memory of Adele F. Pruitt*

Janet Rosen & Stuart Kremsky

Gerald Schroedl

Theresa Sessoyeff

Sandra Sider, *in honor of Holly Brackmann*

# Coming Soon: *The Curious World of Seaweed*

The area from where ocean waves touch land to where the ocean floor descends to 300 feet comprises the perfect environment for seaweeds. It combines enough sunlight and nutrients in its upper depths with a solid bottom for plant life to grab hold. Making up less than 2% of the entire sea floor, this area is perfect for bull kelp, surfgrass, nori, and many other species to thrive. In turn, these sea plants oxygenate the waters and provide rich habitats for many other organisms, serving as the base of a food chain that is fundamental to our planet. One of the richest of these zones ranges from Alaska to Baja California, where the Pacific Ocean meets the North American continent.

In our upcoming exhibition, organized and traveled by Exhibit Envoy, visitors will get to explore this rich and incredibly important ecosystem. Running from January 29 to April 30, 2023, *The Curious World of Seaweed* was created by Josie Iselin, a photographer, author, and book designer. It is based on her publication of the same name. The exhibition looks at the science of seaweed and its human

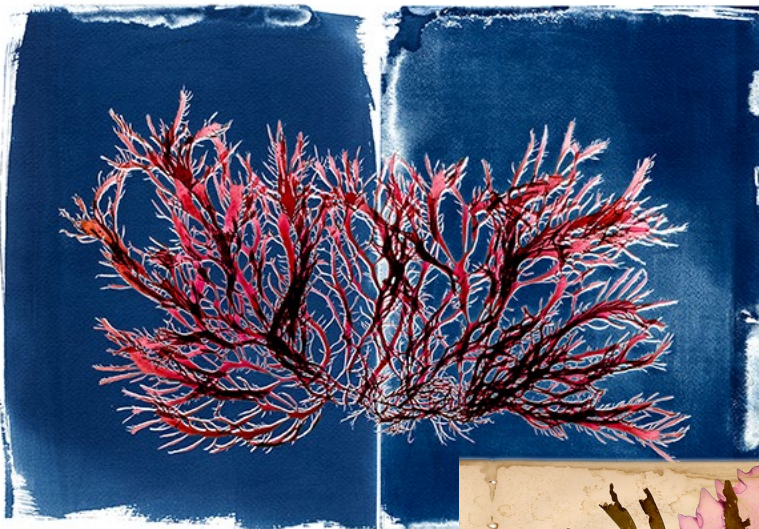


*Oceans Edge I*, by Josie Iselin; photographic mural (courtesy of Exhibit Envoy)

connections. For thousands of years, seaweeds have been important to the indigenous peoples of what is now California, where they continue to harvest and use these plants. European explorers collected samples during their expeditions, and in the late 1800s fresh specimens gathered around the Monterey Peninsula were sent to UC Berkeley. With kelp forests facing many threats today, scientists and environmental groups are working diligently to protect and preserve these habitats. The exhibition will feature these stories along with colorful artworks created by Iselin using her flatbed scanner.

We are excited to be the first venue for this new traveling show. In the weeks leading up to our opening, I will be looking for compatible connections within our collections to supplement the exhibition and augment its themes. This includes looking more deeply at baskets that Pomo peoples have used to gather, store, or process seaweeds, and at a specimen of seaweed that John Hudson collected over 100 years ago (which no longer looks quite so much like seaweed). And, for all you flavor hounds, I will think about ways to incorporate seaweed into our opening night snacks.

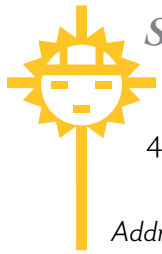
— Alyssa Boge, *Curator of Education & Exhibits*



Above: *Pikea and its Cyanotype*, by Josie Iselin; aluminum (courtesy of Exhibit Envoy)

Right: *Three Color Group*, by Josie Iselin; archival digital print (courtesy of Exhibit Envoy)





*Sun House Guild*

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your *Sunletter* via email rather than  
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### **Commemorating Evert Person** *(continued from Page 1)*

Subsequently, LeBaron supported the museum-building endeavor by writing several columns about Hudson, her pioneer family’s history, and her unique approach to visually depicting Pomo peoples and culture. By 1985, Eversole had tapped into widespread community support and raised \$1 million to build the original museum structure that stands adjacent to the Sun House, the historic home and studio of Grace and her husband, Dr. John Hudson. LeBaron closed her comments by referencing the depth and complexity of the institution (combining fine art, Pomo material culture, and local history) by offering that today “the Grace Hudson Museum has evolved into the most complete museum between San Francisco and Portland.”

Also acknowledged at the courtyard dedication was Mendocino Redwood Co. for donating high-quality redwood for the new fence, as well as other contributors to the courtyard fence project, including contractor Rick Cupples, Sebastopol architect Don Alameida, local landscape designer Vicki Sangiacomo, Nor Cal Powder Coating, and Ross Liberty’s company Factory Pipe LLC.

— Mike Geniella, *Endowment Board* with  
David Burton, *Museum Director*



Former director Sherrie Smith-Ferri presents Gaye LeBaron and Norma Person with gifts of hand-crafted Pomo pepperballs (made from the nut of the Bay Laurel tree) along with dried, fresh-ground Manzanita berries, a delicate Pomo spice (photo by David Burton)