

SUN LETTER

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

FALL/WINTER 2020 Volume 29, No. 3

Voicing Gratitude Amidst the Turmoil

Over the past few months, I have spoken to countless people who are eager to see 2020 come quickly to an end. The COVID crisis, disruption of family and civic life, economic downturn, wildfires and smoky air, social justice protests, and a high-volume national election have combined to exhaust many and leave us reaching for the reset button. The temporary closure of the Grace Hudson Museum certainly fits into the hard narrative of 2020. As has been expressed numerous times, the Museum is just not the same without its visitors and volunteers, and the constant exchange of ideas around fine art, history and culture, the environment, and community. Despite the many challenges this tumultuous year has brought, I think it's important to reflect upon some areas for which thanks and appreciation are in order.

At the end of this year, Karen Holmes, our Curator of Collections & Exhibits, will retire. We will be very sad to lose her. And yet at the same time, we can't help but celebrate her 25 years of service to the Museum in a variety of different roles, and the deeper understanding we have of the Carpenter-Hudson family on account of her research and writing. And earlier this year, we welcomed Alyssa Boge as our new Curator of Education & Exhibits. In only a few short months, Alyssa has been a powerhouse of energy and ideas; her contributions have already made an impact. We should all be grateful for the continuity of curatorial talent that has blessed our Museum. (See pieces by Karen and Alyssa in the following pages.)

At the beginning of November, COVID numbers in Mendocino County dropped to a level at which the Museum could reopen its interior spaces. Since then, numbers have spiked and we are once again restricted from opening. Meanwhile, we have begun a major project to replace our 30-year old roof, necessitating that all art and artifacts be put under protective cover. Hence, there won't be anything to see inside until after the new roof is completed.

The roof project compels me to express appreciation for the long-time partnership of the City of Ukiah, the Museum's Endowment Fund, and the Sun House Guild. As property owner, the City is responsible for the Museum's infrastructure care. Due to flagging tax revenues caused by the pandemic, they asked for the Endowment's help to pay for the costly roof job. And the Endowment came through. Meanwhile, the Guild pressed on with a 2020 Virtual Gala that raised private funds to help sustain programming through the fiscal year. We are so very thankful to have the leadership of all three.

With a strong national spotlight thrown this year on issues of systemic racism and social justice, the museum field has been taking

a closer look at its own role in ensuring greater diversity and equity in its hiring and programming. This subject cannot possibly be addressed in only a few sentences. For now, I point to the growing call for museums to publicly acknowledge the traditional Native American homelands on which they exist. And so, I close by happily voicing our sincere gratitude—not for the first or last time—to the Pomo peoples, the original caretakers of the land on which the Grace Hudson Museum was built and functions. We take very seriously our duty to protect, care for, and respectfully interpret the Pomo cultural material in our collections and the stories they tell.

– David Burton, *Director*



Three-Rod Coiled Boat Basket, Pomo;
collections of the Grace Hudson Museum



Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON

MUSEUM & Sun House

Hours: Wed thru Sat 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

(from 5:00 pm the month til 8:00 pm)

Sun 12 - 4:30 pm. (707) 467-2836

info@gracehudsonmuseum.org

www.gracehudsonmuseum.org

Temporarily Closed

Entering the Holiday Season

Despite the Museum being closed to the public for all but one week in March, the Guild Board has continued to meet on a regular basis, as we consider new ways to support the Museum's activities. We are thrilled at the success of the virtual events that Museum staff have produced in the past few months, not the least of which was the Museum's first ever Virtual Gala! If you missed it, you can view this one-hour program on YouTube at any time. And please visit the Museum's website, or follow its Facebook and Instagram pages, for news about future programs, both virtual and in the Wild Gardens.

The COVID situation made it impossible for us to plan our traditional Holiday Open House with its variety of arts and crafts vendors, typically held the first weekend of December. We're very happy, at least, to continue with our Holiday Wreath Sale on Saturday, December 5, from 10:00 to 2:00. Wreaths and swag made from bay laurel leaves, rosemary, and other herbs can be ordered in advance and picked up at the Museum on that day; details are in the enclosed flyer. Please order in advance to secure your choices! I'd also like to remind you that, although the Museum Gift Shop is not able to open its doors quite yet, we do offer a number of books for sale through the Museum website. As always, current members receive a 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases, and of course all proceeds benefit the Museum.

Last but not least, the Sun House Guild would like to express its deep gratitude to two long-time members who stepped down from the Board this year. Mark Winkler and Tom Liden both served for many years in various roles—we truly appreciate the innumerable ways they have given their support to the Museum. And to you, we send very best wishes for a calm and enjoyable holiday season as we wind down this challenging year.

— Toni Wheeler, *Sun House Guild President*

Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House Staff

David Burton, DIRECTOR

Karen Holmes, CURATOR
(retiring at the end of 2020)

Alyssa Boge, CURATOR

Kristen Marrow and Diana Thomas,
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*in appreciation of John Moon
and his dedication to the Museum*

Sun House Guild Holiday Wreath Sale

Order by Nov. 30 and pick up at the Museum on Dec. 5 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. 30.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.

WREATH PRE-ORDER FORM 2020

	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	_____	_____
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Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

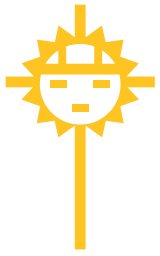
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NAME (PRINTED): _____ PHONE: _____

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Virtual Gala a Huge Success

We'd like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who watched and supported *From the Strength of Women*, our 2020 Virtual Gala. To date we have received donations ranging from \$10 to \$5,000 and totaling over \$39,000, exceeding all of our expectations. Thank you for your confidence, trust, and commitment to the Grace Hudson Museum!

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Life is What Happens While You're Making Other Plans

Dear Everyone,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement from the Museum, effective December 31, 2020. Like all of us during the COVID-19 pandemic who have had to forgo the recognition of milestones, I will not be able to mark the occasion the way I would like. That would include gathering with you to thank you for the way you've been my teachers, collaborators, friends, and fellow adventurers in art, design, history, and research—all while enriching my life in countless ways.

I am grateful for the opportunities presented to me at the Museum, from my initial hiring to process some Carpenter family papers in 1995, until today in my role as Curator of Collections & Exhibits. In my tenure here, I've so enjoyed meeting countless interesting people, doing research in the Museum's fantastic collections, writing books and articles based on that research, learning about the work of the amazing artists in this region and beyond, and developing exhibits and public programs that I hope brought you joy and knowledge, sparked your curiosity, and fed your soul as they did mine. My special thanks to my Museum co-workers over the past 25 years who have shared the journey with me, and to the volunteers who

gave so generously of their time and helped form my Museum family.

The post-COVID world is unclear for all of us right now, but it is my true desire that you will continue to support the Museum, and to appreciate what a truly special place it is. If I have had some part in making that a reality, then I'll consider that I've had a successful career. Perhaps we'll be able to celebrate my retirement together at a later date, but until then please keep in touch. Staff at the Museum will



Karen Holmes

have my contact information. Though I'll miss you all, I must admit that I am looking forward to sleeping in and not commuting! And maybe I'll have time to make some art of my own.

Until we meet again, and in gratitude,

— Karen Holmes, *Curator*

Introducing Alyssa Boge

Hello! My name's Alyssa and I'm the new Curator of Education & Exhibits. Over four months ago, I began a 3,000-mile cross-country road trip with my mom and my not-so-happy cat to begin my new job at the Grace Hudson Museum. I started from Florida where I gained



Alyssa Boge among local redwoods

a tremendous amount of experience as the Education Coordinator for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum which is operated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

On the trip out, I made a detour to a place I love, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, where I worked after my Bachelor's

degree, conducting programs of archaeological sites. I went to Beloit College in Wisconsin (my home state), majoring

in Anthropology and minoring in Museum Studies. It was there that I got my first chance to work in a museum—the Logan Museum of Anthropology. This started me down the museum path which eventually led me to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis where I earned my Masters in Museum Studies. Since that first museum job, I have worked, interned, and volunteered at over ten cultural organizations, doing everything from collections care to education, exhibits, evaluation, and administration.

On arriving in Ukiah, I spent my first weeks reading and learning as much as possible about Grace Hudson and the Museum. (My cat, by the way, was very happy to be off the road!) Since then I've been finding ways to adapt in a time of COVID. My first project was creating a social media series on *The World of Frida*, our summer exhibition which was only open for one week because of the pandemic. Then I learned how to make short documentary

(*article continued on page 6*)



Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

431 South Main Street * Ukiah, California 95482

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Introducing Alyssa Boge *(cont'd from page 5)*

videos for the Museum's Virtual Gala. I also partnered with two other organizations, creating a survey for educators to determine what online resources would be most useful to them. Most recently I've been working on our Fall program series, a combination of virtual and in-person events, so that we can continue to offer opportunities for public engagement while we are closed.

Throughout it all, I have been helped immensely by the staff here, many volunteers, and Sherrie Smith-Ferri, who continues to introduce me to people and share knowledge. I look forward to meeting you in person once we are able to reopen again.

—Alyssa Boge, *Curator*

Special Thanks for Collections Gifts

Bob Brewer for an assortment of A.O. Carpenter studio shots; a Grace Hudson illustration for the California Northwestern Railway; a Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin; a postcard based on Grace Hudson's painting #5, *Little Mendocino*; and a photo of famed 19th century Mendocino County Sheriff, Doc Stanley. We so appreciate your eagle eye, Bob!

Marian Scherf for a collection of late 1970s-era photos of the Sun House, and a variety of newspaper articles, invitations, and announcements that provide valuable documentation of the early years of the Grace Hudson Museum.

Sonoma County Library for an intriguing small Grace Hudson oil sketch that came to the Library indirectly through Gene Warfield, Hudson's long-time friend.