

SUNLETTER

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

SUMMER 2022 Volume 31, No. 2

Gathering Time Approaches

Pomo artist, curator, and educator Meyo Marrufo also holds tribal, state, and national positions in the environmental protection arena. As COVID-19 spread across the globe and to America, she received relentless updates from the Center for Disease Control about this deadly threat. Soon, she began seeing family and friends struggle with social distancing and other precautionary health mandates. That's when she turned to her artmaking to create a poster imploring people to wash their hands regularly. She followed by collaborating with fellow Pomo artist Bonnie Lockhart to send out cards and masks that conveyed public health messages. One card read, "Your elders would do anything for you, wear your mask for them."

Meyo also began noticing how other Pomo artists were reacting to the pandemic. Unable to meet in person and participate in normal social activities, they found themselves with more time. Many turned to the virtual world, participating in online classes where they learned new things and could see family members on screen. The Pomo Weavers Society met regularly through Zoom and issued monthly challenges to its members to make different types of baskets and weavings. Martina Morgan, a Kashaya weaver, completed many of these projects and wrote, "Weaving helped me to forget the pandemic and the illness and death which came along with it."

They also adjusted to new restrictions. Clint McKay, an experienced basket maker from the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, explained, "Usually, we have a large group of people that go to gather, and we enjoy visiting, telling stories, and sharing meals while we do this." During this time such large gatherings were not recom-

mended and so Clint made adjustments, gathering with fewer people. He continued to weave baskets, sharing, "Making a baby basket during COVID symbolized the strength and enduring nature of my people, even in the middle of a pandemic."

Meyo saw that in a time of darkness, Pomo peoples were creating beautiful art—paintings, baskets, regalia. Many pieces expressed hope. This is the story she wanted to explore when we asked her to curate an exhibition for us featuring con-



Wash Your Hands, Meyo Marrufo

temporary Pomo artists and their work. Given her own experience as an artist and extensive connections with Pomo communities from Clear Lake to the Coast, Meyo seemed a natural choice.

The exhibition, currently titled *Gathering Time: Pomo Artists in a Pandemic World*, will open this September 2 and run through January 15. It will be the first exhibition organized by the Grace Hudson Museum focused solely on contemporary Pomo art. As Clint McKay suggests, gathering time is when Pomo peoples come together over a common purpose. As Meyo and Museum staff have been developing this show—reviewing the pandemic stories and creative work of numerous artists—gathering time has taken on additional meaning. It represents the newfound intention Pomo peoples have asserted to create, stay connected to their culture and each other, and ensure a future by employing appropriate precautions. We are excited to share these stories with you this fall.

— Alyssa Boge, *Museum Curator*, with Meyo Marrufo, *Guest Curator*



Culture Doesn't Stop, Eric Wilder



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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The Ongoing Return of Social Events

Greetings! I want to thank everyone who supported our outdoor fundraiser, *A Corner in the Gardens*, on May 7. The entire day proved to be a success on all fronts. We experienced breezy but sunny weather in the Wild Gardens, surrounded by spring wildflowers, old and new friends, art makers, and art lovers. Guests enjoyed wonderful hors d'oeuvres by Beth Keiffer, libations, and a sparkling musical performance by BP3 (the Back Porch Trio). In the process we raised just under \$5,000 for the Museum and roughly \$1,000 for Art Center Ukiah.

In addition to giving a shout out to the boards of the Sun House Guild and Art Center Ukiah for all the work they put into organizing the day, I'd like to express much gratitude to the seven participating plein-air artists—without whom the event would not have been possible—and our generous event sponsors, Factory Pipe LLC, Mendocino Book Company, and Tamar Distillery.

Following on the success of this event, I am pleased to announce that the Guild is planning a return to our traditional in-person

fall Gala, featuring great food and drink, music, and both live and silent auctions. This year's theme will be tied to our fall exhibition, *Gathering Time* (described in this issue), as we honor and celebrate Pomo arts and culture. The Gala will occur the evening of Saturday, September 24, starting at 5:00 p.m. Please save the date, and stay tuned for more details.

If you've visited the Museum's Gift Shop recently, we hope you've enjoyed the selection of original art, gift items, and books for all ages, along with a wide variety of locally-crafted wares. Our kids section is currently featuring art- and nature-related kits to encourage exploration and discovery. There's always something new to find!



Top: Entertainment by Steve Hahm, Roseanne Wetzell, and Jeff Taylor of BP3.

Middle: Artist Tobin Keller talks with guests as he paints.

Bottom: Hors d'oeuvres served by Lynda Coursey, Guild board.

– Toni Wheeler, Sun House Guild President

The Endowment Soldiers On

We don't speak very often in these pages of the Grace Hudson Museum's Endowment Fund and the work of its board. The Endowment Fund is kind of like the silent partner in the triumvirate public-private partnership that supports and governs the Museum, the other two partners being the City of Ukiah and the Sun House Guild. The City is the major player, as it owns the Museum, the historic Sun House, the property on which they are located, and the Museum's collections. It also hires the staff and provides sizeable backend support through its Finance, Payroll, HR, IT, and Facilities departments. The Sun House Guild, led by its board, raises private money from individuals and grantors specifically to support exhibitions, programs, and marketing. So what of the Endowment?

The Endowment Fund exists to provide long-term financial stability for the Grace Hudson Museum. Contributions of cash, stock, and real estate comprise the Endowment corpus—the core assets that are invested to achieve exponential growth. A modest annual draw was strategically established to ensure faster growth of the overall fund, with the amount of the draw used to help support operations and cover specific capital expenses when needed. Since its inception in the early 2000s, the value of the Endowment has grown to between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000, depending on current market conditions. Any growth of the fund is important and has impact, but were it to pass \$15,000,000 and approach \$20,000,000, it's not inconceivable that a preponderance of Museum expenses could be covered with a slight increase in the annual draw.

Simple ways of giving to the Endowment are through periodic or annual cash gifts, or becoming a life member of the Museum. Options that require additional foresight and very likely the aid of an accountant or tax attorney involve including the Museum in one's estate planning. We'll have more to share about that in future issues of the *Sunletter*.

There is no way the Endowment Fund could have grown to where it is now without the leadership of two very important board members, Monte Hill and John Moon. While Monte plans to continue serving on the board, he recently decided to step down as Chair, a position he held for roughly two decades. John has decided to step off the board completely after a long stint as its Investment Chair. John, by the way, has served at different times on both the Endowment and Sun House Guild boards. We are enormously grateful for their innumerable contributions, among them being a keen knowledge of the market, a steady hand, and a great love for the Museum. Monte and John, you have our eternal gratitude!

— David Burton, *Director*

Recent Contributions:

Paul Babwin ✱ Harold Bennett, *in honor of Susan Sparrow* ✱ Patty & Mark Bowers ✱ Kim & Zeke Sechrest ✱ Ronald Chew Wong

Memorial Gifts

Helena Bell, *in memory of Paul Wagner*

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New Patron Member

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Sarah Garcia

Jenn Gaskin

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Current Exhibition

Through Sunday, August 14, 2022

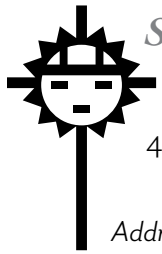
Pulped Under Pressure: The Art of Handmade Paper

This exhibition showcases exquisitely handcrafted artworks all made from paper. While aesthetically intriguing and beautiful, they also attempt to explore important social issues of the day such as environmental crisis and social disparity around the globe.



Diver IV, by Marilyn Propp

Information about upcoming Museum programs can always be found on the Museum's web site at gracehudsonmuseum.org/



Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

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Observatory Celebration!

In the Fall/Winter 2021 issue of the *Sunletter*, the Museum's very own Alyssa Boge wrote about Ukiah's historic latitude observatory and the work she was doing to create a new interpretive exhibit for the site. Well, on Friday, August 12, her labors—and those of her collaborators, Martin Bradley chiefly among them—will be unveiled to the public at Observatory Park starting at 7:00 p.m. To cap off this family-friendly evening, at dusk the City's Recreation Department will host a free outdoor film screening of the Disney-Pixar futuristic space fantasy, WALL-E. Make your plans to be a part of the fun! At left, Observer Alfred Schlesinger in front of the historic observatory, circa 1900.

So Long, Diana!

After more than ten years of service to the Grace Hudson Museum, Diana Thomas, one of our receptionists and volunteer coordinators, has decided to retire. Before taking on the reception desk, Diana spent some time working in the Gift Shop. And she's always been an eager volunteer docent. She has said she'd still like to lead a Sun House tour every now and then, and we will count on it. The staff will miss her terribly, but offer our deepest thanks and nothing but the best as she kicks up her feet and enjoys her grandkids and family. Diana will be working through the end of July. Come stop by to wish her well.