

SUN HOUSE GUILD
& GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM
431 South Main Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

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SPRING 2008



Sunletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE SUN HOUSE GUILD

"Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art & Poetry From Native California"

by Sherrie Smith-Ferri, Director



"Remaking Our World" by Lyn Risling

Dugan Aguilar, Linda Aguilar, Rick Bartow, George Blake, Dalbert Castro, Gerald Clarke, Harry Fonseca, Lorena Gorbet, Janice Gould, Jean LaMarr, Frank LaPena, Judith Lowry, James Luna, Deborah McConnell, Shaunna Oteka McCovey, L. Frank Manriquez, Stephen Meadow, D. P., Julia Parker, Lyn Risling, Mike Rodriguez, Sylvia Ross, Greg Sarris, Kathleen Rose Smith, Richard Stewart, Brian Tripp, Kathy Wallace, and Darryl Wilson.

"Sing Me Your Story is a call to California Native artists and poets to share their cultural knowledge and life experience; leading all of us to understand how culture, history, ancestry, and story have shaped each one of us – Native and non-Native," says exhibition curator Theresa Harlan. "This exhibition carries the potential opportunity for museum audiences to gain an understanding of the complexities of a fuller and richer California."

A unique feature of the exhibit is its accompanying audio tour that features the artists talking about their work or reading their poems. The audio tour is accessible from all phones, at any time. Cell phones may be used in the museum to listen to the audio tour, and again at home after the visit.

The exhibition was organized and produced by California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA) in concert with Heydey Books. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians in Sonoma County graciously provided the funding for its Ukiah venue.

The strong and evocative art of these, and other California Indian artists, has never fit neatly into conventional art genres and has gone largely unrecognized by the general public and the greater art world. It looks little like what most expect to see when they view Native American art – no horses, no turquoise, no feathered warbonnets, no eagles. Instead, it is uniquely embedded in the rivers, beaches, deserts, valleys and mountains of this land called California. It references ceremonies and traditions that are thousands of years old, but which are still being practiced today. It exemplifies the dynamic process of cultural revitalization recently occurring in many California Indian tribal communities.

Currently on display at the Grace Hudson Museum is an exciting exhibition, several years in the making, which features the work of 32 contemporary California Indian artists and authors. It shares their lives, memories, stories, and traditions as they explore themes of family history, ancestral homelands, spiritual traditions, contemporary life and personal identity through a variety of media.

Two of the artists in the exhibit hail from Ukiah – Frank Tuttle (Yuki/Wailaki/Konkow Maidu), whose exquisite mixed-media pieces are akin to Mexican *retablos* and Linda Noel (Konkow Maidu), former City of Ukiah Poet Laureate, whose poetry reading at the exhibition opening earned her a standing ovation. Other artists and authors included in the exhibit are

Mark Your Calendars:
May 10th
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Opening Reception
Northern California
Visionary Art:
A Contemporary Legacy

HEARTFELT THANKS TO:

Kathleen Kohn Fetzer Family Foundation which continued its significant annual support of the Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House, enabling much of our exhibition programming for the coming year.

All those who helped support the Museum's Holiday Open House fundraiser. It was our most successful year ever with almost 400 people visiting the Museum for the event. Special thanks to **Guiness McFadden** and **McFadden Farms**, who once again donated the lovely bay leaf wreaths and swags to decorate the Sun House for Christmas; and members of the **Mendocino Art Association** who created special small sized artworks to sell at the Open House and who donated much of the proceeds to the Museum.

Granite Construction for donating ten yards of fill dirt for the Museum Native Plant Courtyard project. **Amy Bowen Neel** and the **Neel Foundation**, **Clora Lauteren**, **Nelcyme Wright & Richard Smith**, and **Barbara & Walter Eversole** for their gifts to the Courtyard project.

HEARTFELT THANKS TO:

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians for underwriting presentation and programming costs for the *Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art and Poetry from Native California* exhibit at the Grace Hudson Museum; **Poets & Writers, Inc.** and the **James Irvine Foundation** for funding some of this exhibit's public programs; and **Linda Noel and Kathleen Smith** for their assistance in planning these programs.

Ann & Doug Smith, Steve Muchnick and Eric Milliren, Joanne Campbell, Linda Johnson, David and Rachael Smith-Ferri, and Lexie Smith-Kleibe all of whom lent art to, and/or a helping hand with, the *Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art and Poetry from Native California* exhibit.

James York for gifting us with an historic Ukiah Bottling Works beer bottle.

Andrew & Marcia Ellsworth for their annual gift to the Museum's exhibition fund which Microsoft matched.

HEARTFELT THANKS TO:

Gerry Goozee, our volunteer baker extraordinaire, who provided scrumptious treats for attendees to enjoy at the Museum's various public programs this fall and winter.

Robert Brewer for donating two historic photos, one picturing Tom Johnson, a Pomo man from Sonoma County and the other picturing a lovely Pomo basket outside a Navajo hogan!

Shelley Antilla for presenting us with a Victorian-era dress-form with a pigeon breast bust and a detachable bustle, along with several women's corsets to add to our collections.

Susan Wilcox, grand-niece of Sun House architect George Wilcox, for sharing some of the fruits of her research on the life and career of her great-uncle.



Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House Calendar

Ongoing through April 20, 2008

Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art and Poetry from Native California

More than 30 California Indian artists explore themes of family history, ancestral homelands, spiritual traditions, contemporary life and personal identity through a variety of media including poetry, painting, basketry, printmaking, photography and sculpture.

Saturday, March 22, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion on Life, Learning and Education

MODERATOR: Malcolm Margolin PARTICIPANTS: Frank LaPena, Julia Parker, Sylvia Ross, L. Frank Manriquez and Dugan Aguilar

Sunday, April 27, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

6th Annual ukiaHaiku Festival

Ukiah Conference Center, 200 S. School St.

May 10 – September 7, 2008

Northern California Visionary Art: A Contemporary Legacy

A survey of the work of regional artists working in the realm of California Visionary art, portraying personal dreamscapes, utopian landscapes, spiritual awakenings and apocalyptic visions. This exhibit organized by the Grace Hudson Museum, features artists Thomas Akawie, Andrew Annenberg, Don Bear, Bonnie Bisbee, Krista Lynn Brown, Josie Grant, Mark Henson, Nick Hyde, Bill Martin, Paul Nicholson, Gene Avery North, Maire Palme, Paul Pratchenko, Janet Rayner, Mark Roland, Douglas Volz and John Wagenet.

Saturday, May 10, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Opening Reception for Northern California Visionary Art exhibit

Friday, May 30, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Annual Life Members Party

2007 Volunteer of the Year: SHEILA GLASSMAN

by Marge Giuntoli



She loves to read! She loves to bead! But, that's not all this volunteer par excellence is fond of. After 38 years of teaching elementary school in inner city Detroit, Sheila Glassman has taken a fancy to Ukiah's sunny weather, lack of traffic, and friendly people. Having moved to the area only a few years ago, she quickly found her niche volunteering in the Museum Store. Every Sunday will find her behind the counter touting the beauty of the assorted jewelry, or espousing the virtues of work from local artists. Yep, that's every Sunday! And, she brings treats too!

When she is not volunteering in the Store, Sheila pursues her passion for her self-taught delicate work of off-loom beading, using needle and thread and glass beads. She also is an avid reader, preferring an eclectic mix of fiction, which she often shares with both staff and docents.

Assistant Store Manager Maxine Hendricks says, "Sheila is conscientious, dependable, smart, cooperative, and a great salesperson. It's wonderful knowing that she will be there faithfully every Sunday." Museum Director Sherrie Smith-Ferri echoes those sentiments. "Sheila is consistent and personable, both in her duties in the Museum Store, and in her interaction with the public, staff, and other volunteers."

Sheila especially enjoys the diversity of the traveling exhibits, as well as the variety of the visitors who come to the Museum. She says, "The staff is lovely, the people are wonderful, and I love the gift shop! Maxine has a good eye for display, and it is a pleasure to work with her." It just couldn't be a better fit!

On behalf of the Sun House Guild Board of Trustees and the staff of the Grace Hudson Museum, we thank you, Sheila!

GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM & SUN HOUSE STAFF

Sherrie Smith-Ferri, Director
Marvin Schenck, Curator
Karen Holmes, Registrar
White Wolf, Native American Educator
Kristen Marrow, Receptionist/Docent Coordinator
Diana Thomas, Receptionist/Docent Coordinator
Sandi Barekman, Store Manager
Maxine Hendricks, Asst. Store Manager

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Discovery Abounds -The Courtyard Garden Begins To Emerge by Marge Giuntoli

Perhaps you've heard of sedge, manzanita, bulrush, pinole, or acorn mush. Almost everyone today is familiar with the terms Worldwide Web, Wii, Ipod, MySpace, and Blackberry. These are definitely two very different vocabularies for two different periods of time. And yet, the relevance to each culture is indisputable. While the first is that of the land, and the second that of cyber space, each provides a connection between individuals living within those cultural parameters. We can see and touch that which is of the land. We can only believe and imagine that which is of space.



This spring, the long awaited native plant garden in the Museum Courtyard will finally open with a peak preview at the annual Life Members party. Most of the plants are in the ground, thanks to the efforts of designer Nick Thayer of Late Afternoon Garden Design and Michael Higgins of North Coast Horticulture. The ceramic fountain spills water into the rock streambed meandering through the redwood trees, already proving a favorite attraction for local squirrels and birds.

Work continues on creating an educational self-guided garden tour brochure for Museum visitors to use, and funding efforts are on going since the lighting, wooden arbors, and redwood fence still need to be installed. When completed, hopefully the garden will inspire home gardeners to include local native plants in their own backyards; and it will afford the opportunity for viewers to experience a microcosm of the environment of Pomo peoples and their stewardship of nature.

They were extraordinary in their ability to utilize and care for their resources and had a respect not only for the land which provided for their every need, but also held a reverence for the unseen that had brought it into being. They combined the essence of both land and space with beautiful symmetry, which is so obvious in their strong and stunning baskets. A stroll through the courtyard and a pause for an introspective rest on a stone bench will provide a peaceful respite from our 21st century stresses of traffic and workaday worries.

SPRINGTIME IN THE MUSEUM STORE

California Indian artists & authors in the exhibition

- Numerous catalogs and other publications by and about exhibit artists
- Jewelry from George Blake
- Baskets from Linda Aguilar

New Items! From Willits artist Susan Ross

- Exquisite one-of-a-kind glass kaleidoscopes
- Beautiful fused Italian glass earrings & pendant sets

More Local Flavor

- Hand painted ceramic plates by Geoff Graham, Ukiah
- Handblown glass vases by Scott Hegan, Ukiah
- Happy Woman Jewelry from Laura Buckner, Redwood Valley

☆☆☆☆ CLOSEOUT SALE March 28 – April 20 ☆☆☆☆

Remember, 10% discount all day, every day to Museum members

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Naughty Boy Vineyards

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Lane
Michael & Caroline Norris
Kathleen Porzio
Charlene Stone
Clarice Stasz
Susan Janssen
Ann Pitzer
Ada B. Fine
Susan & Dennis Fujita
Steve & Diana Thomas
Susanna Matthey
Phyllis Baldenhofer
Duane Marie Dix
Pat Elliott
Jim & Emjay Scott

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Myrtle Taylor
Raymond & Myrtle Brown

In Memory of Zula Divine
Raymond & Myrtle Brown

In Memory of Ina Scott
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In Memory of Dino Nicolai
Sherrie Smith-Ferri, Karen Holmes

In Memory of Glenda Wiles
John & Margaret Parducci
James & Marilyn Smith

In Memory of William Bruner
Miriam Bruner

IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Donna Ward Hogan's Birthday
Beverly Van Pelt

In Honor of Bob Skelton's Birthday
Florene Pell & Annette Hikichi