

SUN LETTER

THE PEOPLE, EVENTS & EXHIBITS OF THE GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

LATE BREAKING: The Museum is closed until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns. Please visit gracehudsonmuseum.org or our Facebook and Instagram pages for status updates.

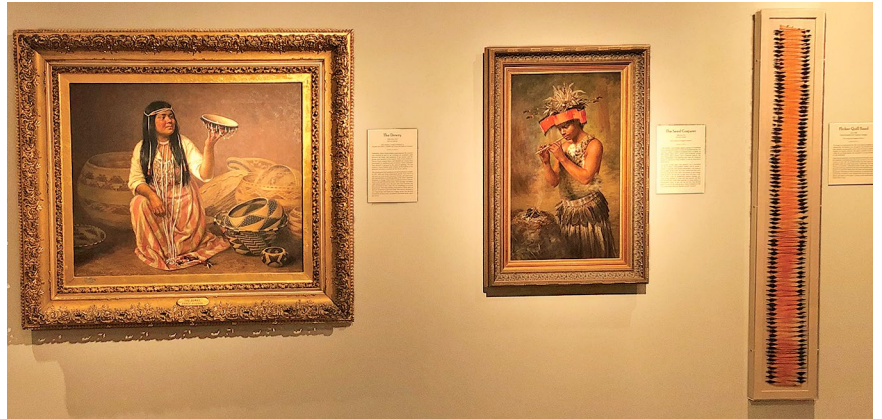
New Additions in Grace's Gallery

SPRING 2020 Volume 29, No. 1

– Karen Holmes, *Curator*

You may most often come to the Museum to see a new exhibit in our changing exhibition gallery, or to enjoy a public program affiliated with the latest show. We hope, though, that you also return from time to time to visit a favorite painting or two (or discover something new) in the room at the rear of the Museum devoted to Grace Hudson's career. Officially known as the "Ivan B. and Elvira Hart Gallery," we also affectionately refer to it as "Grace's Gallery."

Thanks to a longer-than-usual run of five months for our fall exhibit, *Stitching California*, the staff was provided the extra time needed to make some fun changes in Grace's Gallery. I began by installing two objects we had initially borrowed for the *Artful Liaisons* exhibit in 2018/2019 that highlighted Grace's art student days at the San Francisco School of Design. Now on long-term loan to us from



New installation featuring *The Dowry*, *The Seed Conjuror*, and the flicker quill band.

the California Historical Society, these pieces include a striking conte crayon drawing of Achilles that Grace produced for a contest at the school in 1881, along with the gorgeous Alvord Gold Medal that she won for her efforts.

I also redid the displays in the large case in the center of the room. Divided into four sections, the case now features sketchbooks that demonstrate the evolution of Grace's skill during her professional training; a discussion of noteworthy and unusual examples of her work, including her most famous painting, *Little Mendocino*; samples of her exploration of media other than oils, particularly watercolors, gouache, and ink wash; and a look at the illustration work she undertook at the end of the 19th century for publications such as *Overland Monthly*.

Some lovely recent gifts to our collections are also now on display, including a charming 1928 Hudson bitumen sketch of a sorrowful little girl named Ta-le-a, given by the Frugoli Estate in honor of Robert and Rita Frugoli. We are also pleased to add one of Grace's most masterful pieces, *The Dowry*. Given by Karen Keehn in memory of Dorothy and Arthur Schilder, and Vivian and Frank Crawford, *The Dowry* shows a Yokayo Pomo bride (Mary Luff Mitchell) ornamented with stunning clamshell disc bead and magnesite necklaces, and surrounded by her dowry of beautiful baskets. The baskets, as well as many of the artifacts portrayed in the piece, came from Grace and John Hudson's personal collections. To heighten this fact, Curator Sherrie Smith-Ferri and I arranged a case next to the painting to house items that belonged to



The case featuring Pomo items associated with *The Dowry*.

(article continued on page 2)



Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON

MUSEUM

Hours: Wed-Fri 10 am-4:30 pm

(first 5 days of the month til 8:00 pm)

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

info@gracehudsonmuseum.org

www.gracehudsonmuseum.org

Temporarily Closed

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Greetings and Happy Spring!

I first visited the Grace Hudson Museum as a newcomer to Ukiah in 2013, and I signed up primarily as a gift shop volunteer just a few months later. My involvement with the Museum has become an important part of my life in Ukiah, and I'm grateful that working at Mendocino Book Company allows me to be here two or three days each month. I joined the Sun House Guild Board in 2019, and I'm fortunate to succeed Tom Liden as Board President. New Board member Barbara Blake, a dedicated fellow gift shop volunteer, recently began serving as Guild Secretary and has also taken on the role of Gift Shop Committee Chair.

Our challenge is to top the successes of the past year's fundraising events. To that end, a favorite spring event is upon us and promises to be a lot of fun. In this issue of the *Sunletter* you'll see an ad for a preview performance of *Charlotte's Web* at Ukiah Players Theatre on April 14. The Sun House Guild has collaborated with UPT on an annual theatrical event benefiting the Grace Hudson Museum for the past few years, and we are grateful to our friends there for making it possible. The benefit preview serves as the final dress and tech rehearsal for *Charlotte's Web*, which opens to the general public on April 16 for an eleven-performance run.

Your \$25 ticket includes not only an evening of enjoyable theater, but also wine and hors d'oeuvres before the show and dessert at intermission. And there are \$20 tickets for youth and young adults. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum, from Guild Board members, or online at the Museum's website. Save the date and buy your tickets soon!

This is promising to be a busy and fun year at Grace Hudson Museum. It's true that many hands make light work, and I am very grateful for a Guild Board and Museum staff made up of people deeply dedicated to this unique institution.

— Toni Wheeler, *Sun House Guild President*

New in Grace's Gallery *(continued from page 1)*

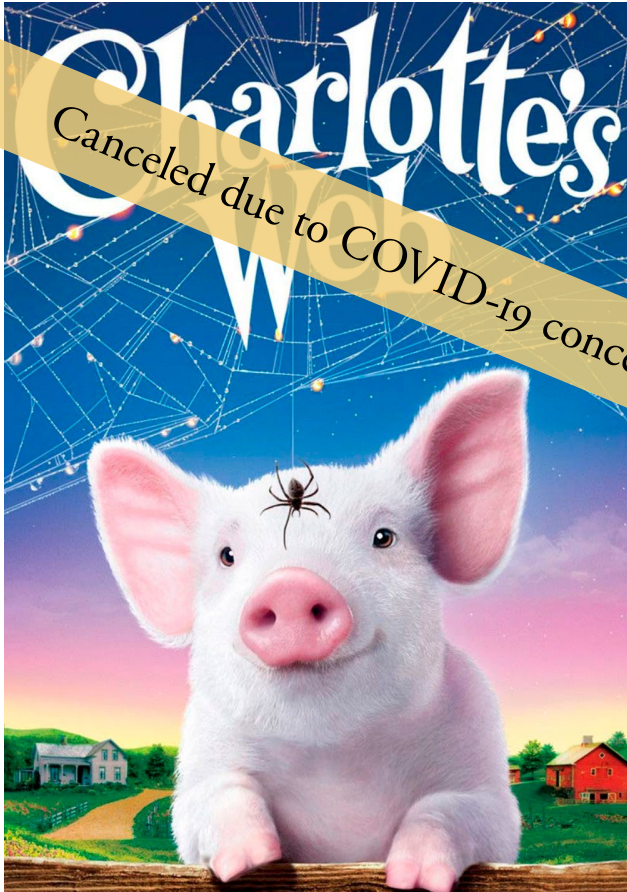
the Hudsons, including one of the baskets shown in *The Dowry*, an intricate net wedding bag shimmering with abalone pendants, and clamshell and magnesite beads similar to those depicted in the painting.

Next to Mary Luff Mitchell in *The Dowry*, we have re-installed *The Seed Conjurer*—this is Grace's portrait of Mitchell's real life husband, Tom, who is wearing a distinctive flicker quill band. In another pairing of painting and artifact, an actual flicker quill band is now on display next to the *The Seed Conjurer*.

To accommodate these changes, some artworks have moved to different spots in the gallery, and a few have gone to rest for a while in our art storage vault. While we invite you to see if your favorites are where they were when you last visited, we trust you may discover some new ones along the way.

Grace Hudson Museum Fundraiser at Ukiah Players Theatre

Join us for a special preview performance of



Charlotte's Web

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Ukiah Players Theatre,
1041 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

Adults: \$25 Under 21: \$20

includes

6 PM: Appetizers & Wine or Soft Drink

7 PM: Performance

Intermission: Dessert and Coffee

All proceeds will benefit the Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House

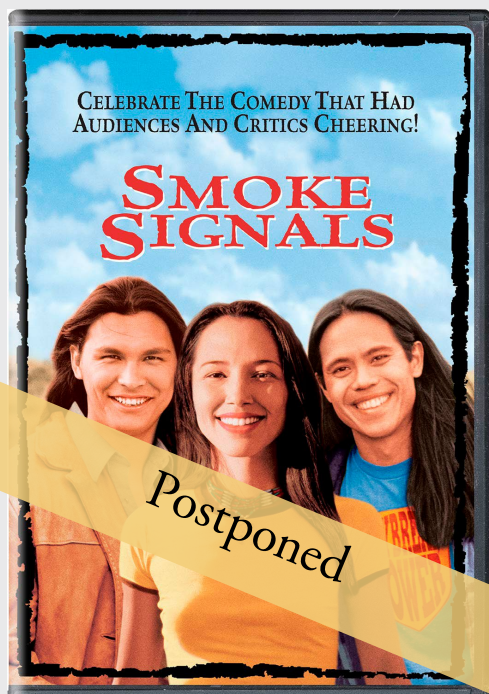
Based on the beloved book by E.B. White, this timeless story about a pig named Wilbur and a spider named Charlotte features madcap and endearing farm animals while exploring themes of bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship.

For tickets and information:

Grace Hudson Museum (707) 467-2836 # gracehudsonmuseum.org

Many thanks to Ukiah Players Theatre for its support!

Join us for a First Friday screening of



Screening of *Smoke Signals*,
Friday, April 3, 6:00 pm, Free.

Following its 1998 debut at the Sundance Film Festival, the movie *Smoke Signals* became a huge sensation with its warmth, humor, pathos, and story about two Native American friends on a road trip. Screenplay by Sherman Alexie.

Coming Soon

The World of Frida,
May 23 to August 16, 2020



Frida: With Wings to Fly, 2017 by Denise Cortes

Special Thanks for Collections Gifts

Bruce and Landis Bernstein for the powerful 1979 Harry Fonseca silkscreen print *Gift from California*, given in honor of Sherrie Smith-Ferri's long tenure and retirement.

Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library for a vintage photo postcard depicting Grace Hudson's oil painting #17, *Turnip Baby*.

Louise Yale for several collections of Limoges china that will bring additional style to the Sun House dining table.

Heartfelt Thanks to the Following Donors

Peggy Agnew & Jonathan Whipple	Joanne Lanz
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Inevitable Change

In this issue's Museum Director column, I would like to briefly update you on some important news that has happened recently or is about to occur. The first regards the retirement of Sherrie Smith-Ferri. For over two-thirds of the Grace Hudson Museum's existence, Sherrie Smith-Ferri had a daily hand



Sherrie Smith-Ferri

in and major influence over the institution's growth—physically, intellectually, and aesthetically. Her accomplishments and impact could fill multiple issues of the *Sunletter*. At the end of February, Sherrie retired from the Grace Hudson Museum, leaving an indelible mark. She has promised to remain involved in the future as an advisor and volunteer. For now, I only wish to observe that when Sherrie started as Director here, very few women occupied museum director positions and people of Native American heritage were scarcely found in the museum ranks. Today, across the nation, there are numerous women in

museum leadership roles, and the profession has become far more diverse. Thank you, Sherrie, for opening doors and being a role model for many. We plan to celebrate Sherrie sometime this summer. Stay tuned.

As Sherrie departs, we are in the final stages of hiring a new curator to replace her. The search began last August and over a number of months we received applications from all over the United States, as well as California. Initial interviews were conducted with seven candidates in mid-December. Three finalists were then brought to Ukiah for interviews in February. As of this writing an offer has been made and we hope to finalize the hiring very soon.

Costs of admission and membership for the Grace Hudson Museum have not changed in...well, it's been so long no one can remember. Beginning July 1, you will see a modest increase in admission fees: the general fee will go up from \$4 to \$5, seniors from \$3 to \$4, and families from \$10 to \$12. Because we are stewards of significant Pomo collections, we've instituted year-round free admission for Native Americans with tribal ID. We are also extending free admission to all standing military personnel in honor of their service. We will continue to be free to everyone on First Fridays. Also on July 1, the price of membership will increase. With the exception of the Senior/Professional Educator level that remains at \$15, membership dues will rise from \$5 to \$25 depending on the level, with

(article continued on back page)

New Life Members

Dot & Brian Brovarney

New Supporter Memberships

Ginevra Chandler

Barbara Francis

Marissa Moroz

Sarah & Michael Owen

Priscilla Rich

Gail & Ronald Unzelman

Other New Guild Memberships

Jane Alameda

Judy Albert

Janet Blankenship

Heidi Cremelle

Gayanne Enquist

Mickey Fernandez

Dorene Foley

Mimi Grant

Bridget Grayson

Julia Green

Dorothy Gayle Haas & Paul Barth

Lucy Haynes

Carla Hills

Monika Kondra

Roberta Lyons

Kerrylea O'Brien

Kathryn Parankema & Lisa Wiley

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Karen Rizzolo

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Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

431 South Main Street * Ukiah, California 95482

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info@gracehudsonmuseum.org to receive
your *Sunletter* via email rather than
as a mailed paper version.

Inevitable Change *(continued from page 5)*

some favorable adjustments to benefits. We are also introducing greater distinction and clarity in defining what constitutes Individual and Dual memberships.

Lastly, you'll soon be seeing some temporary changes to the front of the Museum. The glu-lam beams under the awning are suffering from water intrusion and wood rot. Recent tests by a structural engineer determined that the beams need to be shored up until a more permanent solution can be undertaken. The shoring work shouldn't take but a few weeks, but the supports may be with us for a number of months. We will use this time to assess broader issues such as leaks, and determine potential costs and solutions for repairing the entire roof, much of which is well over 30 years old. We hope to share more roof news with you in the coming months.

– David Burton, *Director*

Now on View

Metaphor, Myth, & Politics: Art from Native Printmakers

January 18 to May 10



Eagle Down Dancer, 1979 by Andy Everson (Kwakwaka'wakw/K'omoks)