

Grace  
Dee May

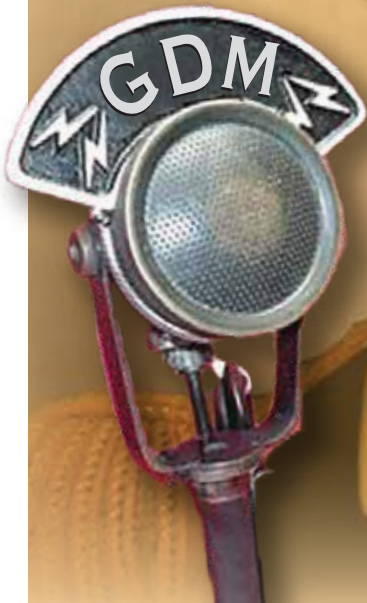
MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY

# ILLUMINATIONS

JULY / AUGUST 2026

"Happiness depends more upon the  
internal frame of a person's own mind,  
than on the externals in the world."

*George Washington*



*This Is Your Life...  
Bro. George Washington*

"Great way to celebrate 250 years!"

"Dynamic overview of history"

"A HOME RUN performance!"

Grace Dee May Museum & Library • 665 W Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007 • [www.gracedeemay.org](http://www.gracedeemay.org)

**ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST**

**Board of Directors**

Board President  
Sean Foran

Board Secretary  
William Hall

Board Treasurer  
Reynold Blight

Board Members  
Merrick Hamer  
Ronald Hopkins  
Melvyn Stein  
Maru Vázquez  
Barbara Weiss

**Grace Dee May  
Museum & Library**

Museum Curator  
Sean Foran

Museum Archivist  
William Hall

Museum Graphics  
Ron & Jane Cooper



Director Emeritus  
Audrey Marie Stein

In 2004, Audrey Marie Stein established the Grace Dee May Museum. Audrey believed that she had been richly blessed by the *Grace* of God. Audrey's nickname was *Dee* and she had been born in the month of *May*. So, as Director of the Foundation, she named the Museum the *Grace Dee May*.



**"First in war, first in peace,  
and first in the hearts of his countrymen."**

– Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee,  
in a eulogy to Congress on December 26, 1799

**A Historic Life That Changed the World**

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the legacy of George Washington's contributions soar in the annals of history. Washington's patriotism, courage, leadership, and self sacrifice clearly established him as the "Father of our Country" during his lifetime and throughout the two and a half centuries since the founding of our nation.

As Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee so eloquently wrote in his eulogy, Washington was unequal in the hearts of a grateful nation as well, as those who, like Lee himself, had served under Washington during the war for independence. Lee, a member of Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 59, Westmoreland, Virginia, was one of a corps of Washington's most trusted officers, who served under him during the Revolutionary War. Historians have noted, in fact, that more than half of the generals who served under Washington were Freemasons.

Delving into the Masonic connections between Washington and the American patriots was a great interest to me personally and over three decades ago following considerable research, I put pen to paper to create what I believe has been the longest running live theater experience in Southern California on the extraordinary life of George Washington – as a man, as a general, as our first president, and as a Mason.

"This is Your Life... Brother George Washington" shares the story of Washington's incredible accomplishments and his Masonic connections with many of our Founding Fathers and Colonial patriots including Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, the Marquis de Lafayette, and even Betsy Ross.

The play balances historical fact with entertainment by recreating the format of an old time radio broadcast where Washington is reunited with many of his Masonic brothers who, each in turn, share the story of the triumphs, and the tragedies of the struggle for America's independence. It has been an honor to have this play produced on so many stages from San Diego to Northern Los Angeles County for more than 30 years. I am grateful to the many talented Masons and members of the Masonic fraternity who have performed in the various productions, and it has truly helped me and the Grace Dee May Museum bring history to life.

Fraternally,  
Sean Foran  
Curator and Board President

**Our Vision:**

The Grace Dee May Museum will seek to present a thematic look at the American West by utilizing its extensive collection of Western Art, and incorporate California history to broaden and deepen the public knowledge and appreciation of the men and women that settled the western part of the United States.

**Our Mission:**

The Grace Dee May Museum is committed to advancing the public knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development.



# *This Is Your Life...*

"At least half of our guests were ordinary people," Edwards once said, "In the beginning we didn't use celebrities at all. But when we did, I think it humanized the stars and gave them more appeal!"

**Ralph Livingstone Edwards** (June 13, 1913 – November 16, 2005)

Oliver Hardy was a member of Solomon Masonic Lodge No. 20 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a member of Hollywood Lodge and Mount Olive Lodge in California. Hardy was also a member of Al Malaikah Shrine.



"This Is Your Life" began as a radio show from 1948 to 1952 and then resurfaced on NBC television, running from 1952 to 1961. Special guests, many of them celebrities, were lured to the studio by a ruse, then surprised by Edwards announcing, "This is your life!"

Relatives and old friends would then be brought on to reminisce about the guest. Among the people he caught unaware were Marilyn Monroe, Laurel & Hardy, Bob Hope, Andy Griffith, Buster Keaton, Roy Rogers, Bette Davis, Harold Lloyd, Jayne Mansfield, Boris Karloff and others.



# *This Is Your Life... Bro. George Washington*

Written and Directed by Sean Foran,  
Curator of the Grace Dee May Museum



A live radio drama about  
the life and times of George Washington  
with special guests including:

Paul Revere, Patrick Henry, Betsy Ross,  
John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, and Lafayette.  
Over the decades, scores of talented Masonic actors  
have portrayed these historical figures  
in various productions.



John Eric Preston  
portraying General Washington

## *Notable Cast*



George Washington

Member of Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia,  
served as Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 39

His closest peers were Masons,  
but no firm documentation has surfaced  
establishing him as a Freemason.

In her two marriages,  
both husbands were Masons.

A member of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia,  
served as Grand Master of Pennsylvania,  
later Venerable Master of the Lodge of  
Nine Sisters in Paris where he initiated Voltaire

Member of St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston,  
served as Grand Master of Massachusetts.

Joined Merchants Lodge No. 277,  
Quebec, Canada. Later affiliated with  
the Lodge of Saint Andrew in Boston.

Joined the fraternity in Paris before arriving  
in America and took degrees at Valley Forge  
with Washington. A member of Jerusalem  
Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Mason New York City.



Patrick Henry



Paul Revere



Betsy Ross



John Hancock



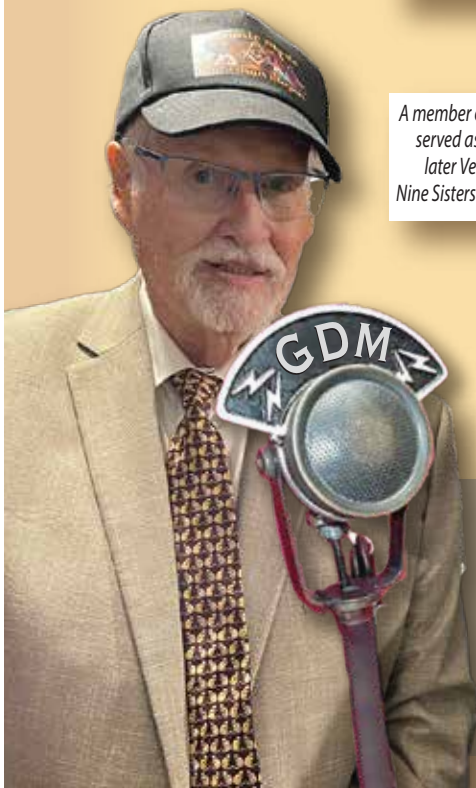
Benjamin Franklin

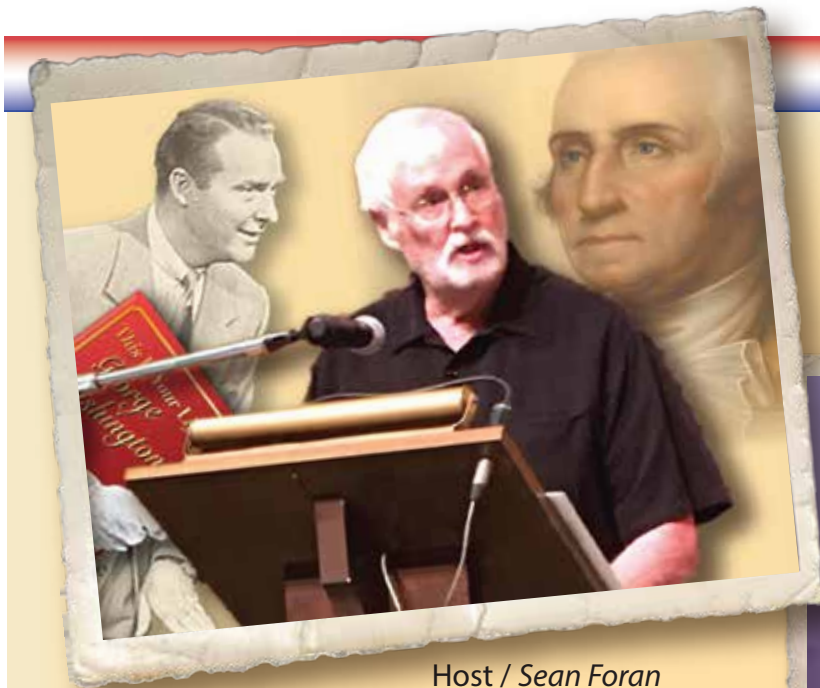


Lafayette



This live production is  
"broadcast" on 357, F&AM,  
Masonic Radio from  
the Grace Dee May airwaves





Host / Sean Foran

Every play needs a playwright, a director, and a host to "set the stage" for the audience and to introduce the cast. The Grace Dee May Museum's Curator Sean Foran accomplishes all this and more.



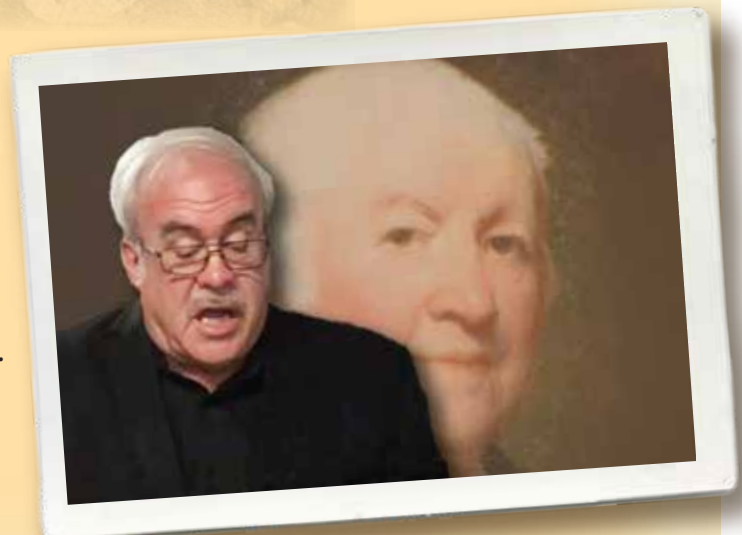
Narrator / Eric Bartolli

The Narrator is the "Town Crier" who keeps the audience apprised of the upcoming cast members



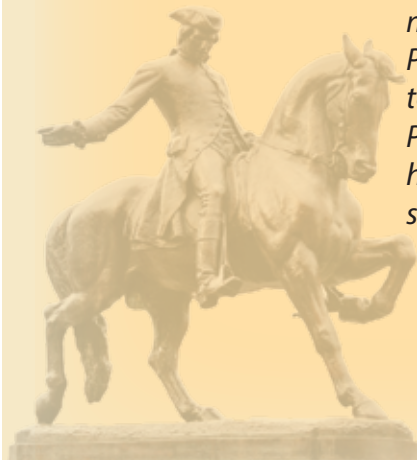
George Washington / Rusty Rotan

General George Washington is the guest of honor of this production and is pleasantly surprised at the number of notable visitors.



Paul Revere / Fred Davis

Completing his historic midnight ride, Paul Revere is here to praise our First President as he honors his contributions to the success of the Revolution.





*"Give me Liberty or give me Death"  
These words were still ringing in the ears  
of all the patriots when Patrick Henry appears  
as a surprise visitor to share an evening  
with George Washington.*



Patrick Henry / William Hall

*Betsy Ross was an upholsterer  
and flag maker. She is  
credited with contributing  
to the design of the first  
Star Spangled Banner.  
She reminds General  
Washington of their first  
meeting and changing the  
stars from 6 pointed to 5 pointed  
to make them easier to sew.*



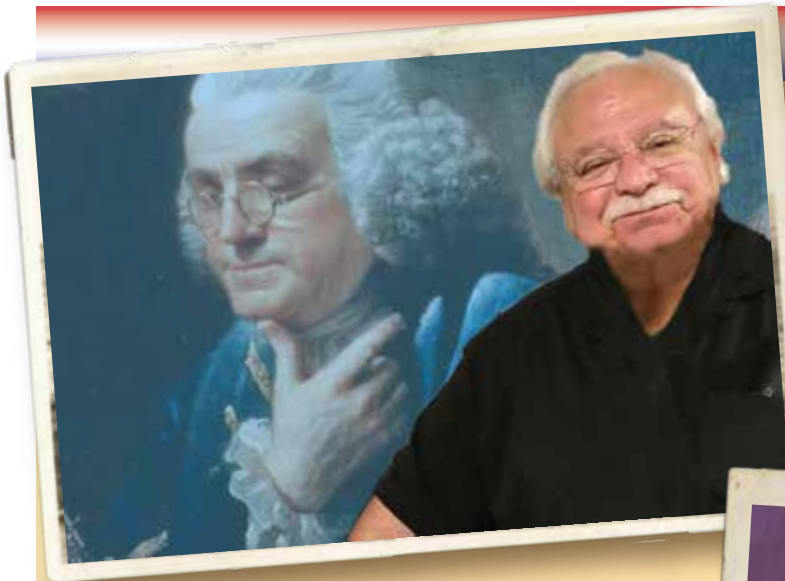
Betsy Ross / Cynthia Wolcott



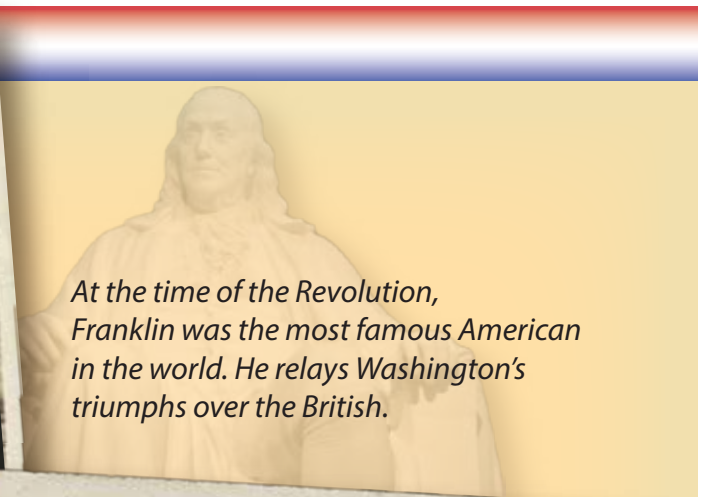
John Hancock / Reynold Blight

*Hancock's bold signature proudly displayed his desire for  
independence from England. He reminds the audience of  
Washington's achievements.*





Benjamin Franklin / Karl Warren

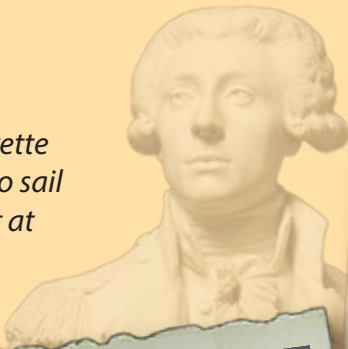


*At the time of the Revolution, Franklin was the most famous American in the world. He relays Washington's triumphs over the British.*



Lafayette / Mathew Hyde

*Marquis de La Fayette purchased a ship to sail to America to fight at Washington's side.*



Cynthia Wolcott and Sean Foran review script



# Ring in 250 Years of History



Let us bring some entertainment and history to your organization.

Sean Foran, BOARD PRESIDENT AND CURATOR  
818-620-2058 | info@gracedeemay.org  
www.gracedeemay.org

*Grace Dee May*  
MUSEUM  
ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Invite the Grace Dee May museum to entertain and enlighten your guests at your meeting or special event. Ideal for civic organizations, layman's nights, and Masonic Table Lodges. Contact Sean Foran at 818-620-2058 or email: info@gracedeemay.org to find out more.

- live theatrical performances
- guest speakers
- films
- multi-media presentations

View trailer for the live performance of "This is Your Life ... Bro. George Washington" at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENx25PaZ5CM>

*Grace Dee May*  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY  
665 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007

Under Fair Use (Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Act), Grace Dee May Museum & Library is a nonprofit organization using materials for face-to-face instruction, research, and criticism. Copyrighted material is used entirely for educational purposes and solely for nonprofit, educational use.



Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution enjoyed the presentation of "This Is Your Life... Bro. George Washington"



Jeff Yates  
portraying Lafayette



Merrick Hamer as narrator