

*Grace
Dee May*
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

ILLUMINATIONS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026



HAPPY 2026

Grace Dee May Museum & Library • 665 W Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007 • www.gracedeemay.org

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

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Grace Dee May Museum & Library

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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**.



"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army.

We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die."

– George Washington, Freemason & America's First President

Courage & Conduct

2026 will be a year like no other. Certainly, it will be a year of celebration as, on July 4th, we'll recognize and honor the patriots who overcame countless challenges to

transform 13 disparate colonies into the United States of America.

In the annals of history, 250 years is a scant period of time. Yet, when representatives of the colonies struggled to agree on a Declaration of Independence – the world changed forever. Never before in history had appointed representatives, nine of which were members of the Masonic Fraternity, bravely declared, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

As we turn the page on a New Year, we've taken a look back at some of the life stories of Freemasons that our Museum has shared with our members and the public. Masons who have made their mark with courageous action on historic battlefields from Lexington and Concord to their performances on the fields of sports. Other Masons have led our citizens to break the color barriers, explored the Wild West and risked their lives to further the exploration of outer space. We've also shared stories of the writers, artists, filmmakers, and musicians whose works have brought beauty and inspiration to the world.

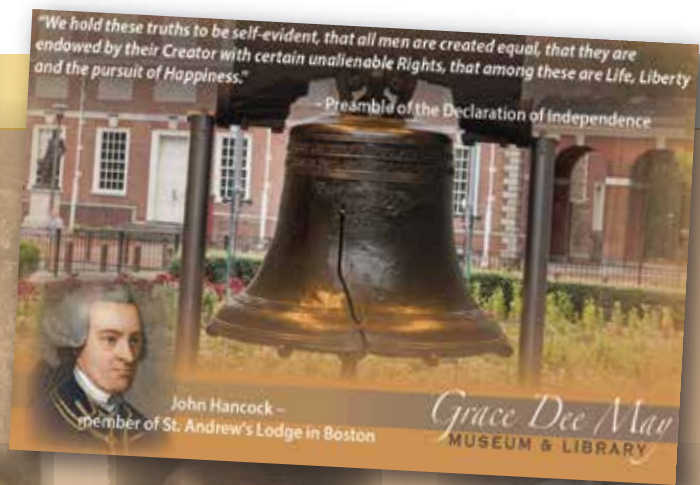
Being January, we will look to our past 250 years and look forward to the future. Of course, there is some confusion as to what we should call this historic anniversary. Is it America's "Semiquincentennial" or the "Sestercentennial", the "Bisesquicentennial" or, perhaps, the "Quarter Millennium"? No matter what title individuals may call this year – may your year be filled with good health, curiosity, and positivity!

Sean Foran
Curator and Board President



December 28, 1732 – Benjamin Franklin first published "Poor Richard's Almanac." Franklin had become a member of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia in 1731. He was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734 and Provincial Grand Master in 1749. Franklin was also a member of the Lodge of Nine Sisters (La Loge des Neuf Soeurs) in Paris during the Revolutionary War serving as Venerable Master from 1779 to 1781. Benjamin Franklin was an active Freemason for over 50 years.

Ring in a New Year



George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, and John Hancock were all Masons.

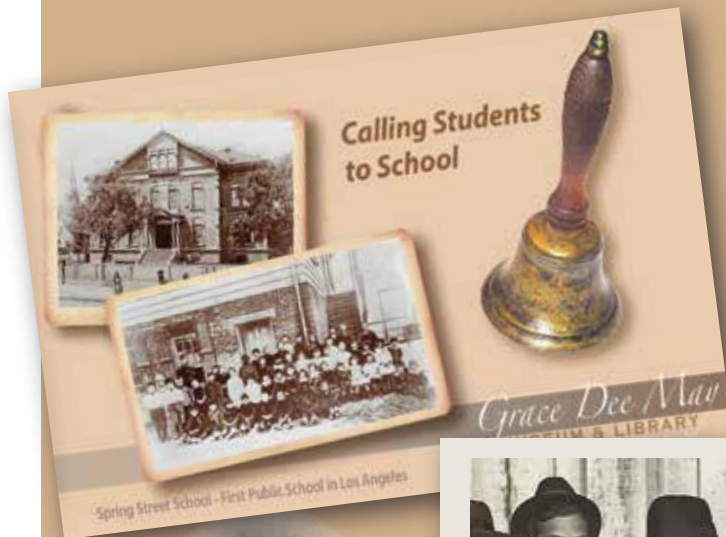
George Washington –
member Fredericksburg
Lodge in Virginia

Benjamin Franklin –
member St. John's Lodge
in Philadelphia

Paul Revere –
member of St. Andrew's
Lodge in Boston

John Hancock –
member of St. Andrew's
Lodge in Boston

*Signers of the Declaration of Independence included nine who were Freemasons.
The United States Constitution was signed by thirteen members of Masonic Lodges.
33 Generals of the Continental Army were Freemasons.*



Charles Strong Walton, 33rd
Leader of the Silver Bell project.



Charles Walton and other Scottish Rite Masons
hard at work collecting the silver to create the bell

Monster Silver Bell of Sweet Memories

*Made of contributed silver pieces
of various kinds gathered
by Scottish Rite Masons*

PLEASE HELP!
Missing from the Los Angeles Scottish Rite.
Your help is needed in locating
this important artifact

Masons in Sports



"You know what a champion is? A champion is someone who's ready when the gong rings - not just before, not just after - but when it rings."
— Jack Dempsey

Jack Dempsey -
a Freemason,
member of
Kenwood Lodge
No. 800,
Chicago, Illinois



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"Rhythm is everything in boxing. Every move you make starts with your heart, and that's in rhythm or you're in trouble."
— Sugar Ray Robinson

Sugar Ray Robinson -
a Prince Hall Mason,
member of Joppa Lodge
No. 55, New York



"I am a Freemason
and as long as I live I shall be one."
— Jack Johnson

Jack Johnson -
a Freemason
who remains
the most famous
member of Forfar
and Kincardine
Masonic Lodge
No. 225, Dundee,
Scotland



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Sir Malcom Campbell

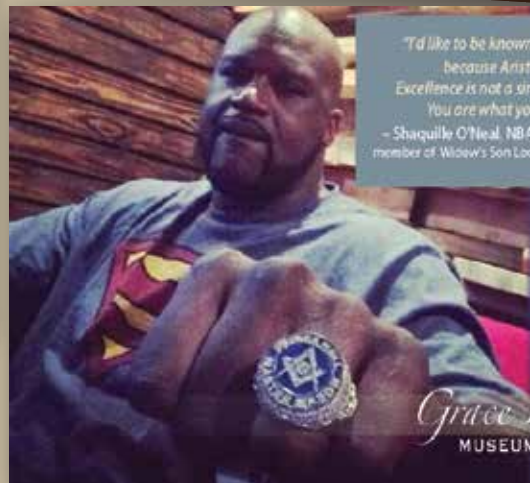
(March 11, 1885 - December 31, 1948)



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Sir Malcolm Campbell "The Speed King"

was a member of Old Uppinghamian Lodge No. 4227
and other Masonic organizations in both
the United Kingdom and the United States



"I'd like to be known as 'The Big Aristotle' because Aristotle once said, Excellence is not a singular act; it's a habit. You are what you repeatedly do."
— Shaquille O'Neal, NBA Star and Sports Analyst
member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 28, FMA, Boston, Mass.

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"In order to excel, you must be completely dedicated."
— Willie Mays, Center Fielder

Willie Howard Mays
May 6, 1931 - June 18, 2024

member of
Prince Hall Boyer Masonic Lodge No. 1,
New York City, NY



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Don Bradman
Australian Cricketer

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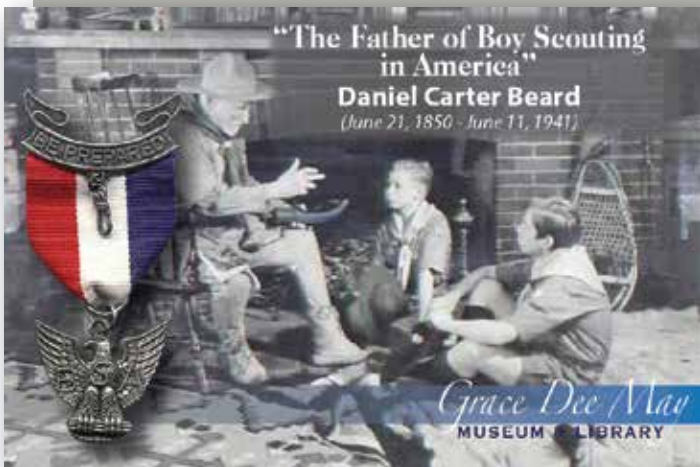


Don Bradman - Bradman was
a Freemason and member of Lodge Arcadia No. 177,
Sydney, New South Wales.

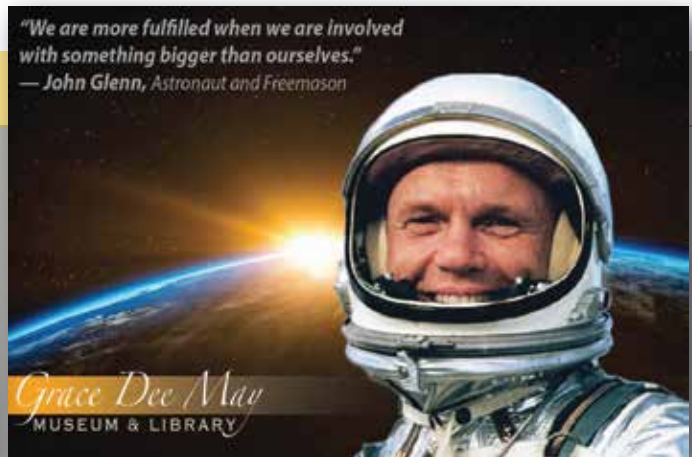
Pioneering Masons



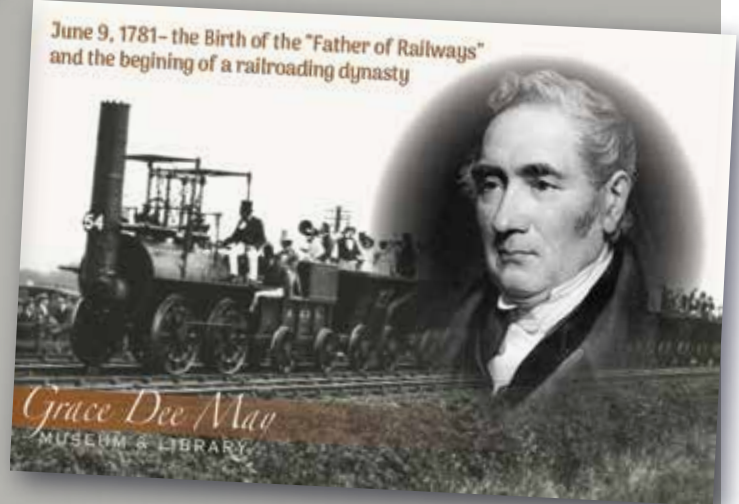
First Motion Picture - June 15, 1878. Leland Stanford hired film pioneer Eadweard Muybridge to capture on film a running sequence of Stanford's horse "Sallie Gardner". Stanford was trying to prove his theory that a horse sometimes, while running, has all four legs off the ground. Muybridge photographed many scenes of Stanford's palatial home, early panoramas of San Francisco, and photos from around the world. **Leland Stanford** was a member of Prometheus Masonic Lodge No.17 and Michigan Masonic Lodge No. 47



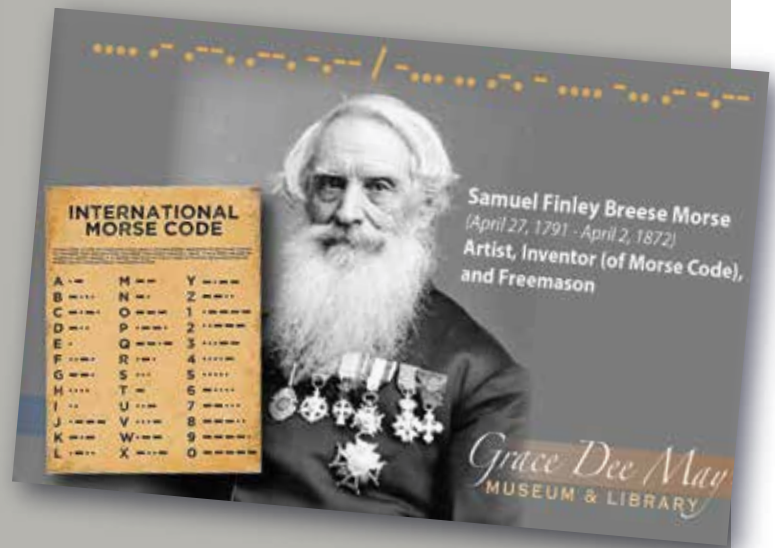
"Uncle Dan" brought Boy Scouting to America. He was an illustrator, author, outdoorsman, and youth leader. He shared his knowledge of the wilderness with countless young boys and inspired them with the principles of Freemasonry. "Uncle Dan" became an Eagle Scout at the age of 64 in 1915. **Daniel Carter Beard** was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Mariners Lodge No. 67 in New York City, and later affiliated with Cornucopia Lodge No. 563 in Flushing, New York.



February 20, 1962 – **John Glenn** becomes the first American to orbit the Earth. Glenn was a member of Concord Masonic Lodge No. 688 in New Concord, Ohio.



George Stephenson (1781-1848) a mechanical engineer created the first steam locomotive train which carried passengers at the frightening speed of 15 mph. His son Robert (1803-1859) carried on the railroad engineering legacy and was called, "the greatest engineer of the 19th century". On his travels to America, Robert was impressed with Freemasonry and became a Mason in New York.



Music, Film, and Literary Masons



Oscar Wilde (1854 -1900) was an Irish playwright, novelist, essayist, and poet. Oscar Wilde was a member of Apollo University Masonic Lodge No. 357, Oxford, England



Billy Wilder (June 22, 1906 – March 27, 2002) Filmmaker, writer, and Freemason. Member of J. F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge No. 251, Lutz, Florida



Terence Hanbury "T.H." White (May 29, 1906 – January 17, 1964) Author, Falconer, Hunter, Fisherman, and Freemason. T. H. White was a member of Oxford City Masonic Lodge No. 777



Masonry is for Lovers?

Giacomo Casanova (born April 2, 1725 in Venice, Italy) thought so! In 1750 Casanova was initiated into Freemasonry in Lyons, France and became a Master Mason in Paris



Jean Sibelius was a member of Soumi Masonic Lodge, No. 1, Helsinki, Finland



May 28, 1951 "Crazy People" (later known as The Goon Show) premieres on BBC Radio starring Spike Milligan, **Peter Sellers**, Michael Bentine, and Harry Secombe. This radio comedy prompted a long legacy of influence on shows like Monty Python and Saturday Night Live. Peter Sellers was a member of Chelsea Masonic Lodge No. 3098 which meets at the Freemasons Hall in London

Political Masons



On April 8, 1779

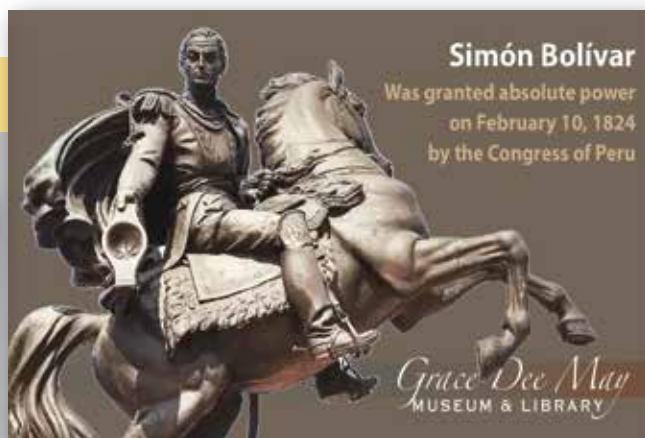
General **Benedict Arnold** married Peggy Shippen in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was a British Loyalist and instigated Arnold's move to the British side of the Revolutionary War. Through his wife Peggy, Arnold made contact with the British spy master Major André. Benedict Arnold was a member of Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 1 in New Haven, Connecticut.



Booker Taliaferro Washington

(April 5, 1856 - November 14, 1915) was an educator, author, activist, orator, and Mason.

Booker T. Washington was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the Cherokee Lodge No. 4 in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1883.



Simon Bolivar was initiated in Cadiz, Spain in 1803. He was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft November 1805 and raised to the degree of Master Mason in May 1806 at Mother of St. Alexander of Scotland Lodge in Paris, France. Bolivar received his Scottish Rite degrees in Paris in 1807 and became a member of the Knights Templar in France the same year. He received the 33rd degree in 1824. Bolivar founded and served as Master of Protectora de las Vertudes Lodge No. 1 in Venezuela and founded the Order and Liberty Lodge No. 2 in Peru.



Earl Warren (March 19, 1891 - July 9, 1974) was Grand Master of California Masons, Governor of California, and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Warren was a member of Sequoia Masonic Lodge No. 349 in California.

Tender Act of 1862 is passed by Congress, authorizing the first paper money that is legal tender in America.

Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, politician and jurist whose picture appears on the first U. S. "Green-back". Chase was a member of several Masonic Lodges in the Midwest and also a member of the Scottish Rite.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Grace Dee May Museum can provide:

- Free videos on Masonic history.
- Free guest speakers to your group
- Free bi-monthly newsletters

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

Grace Dee May Inc.
(EIN: 03-0591428)
is a qualified tax exempt
entity under Section 501(c)(3)
of the Internal Revenue Code