

Grace  
Dee May

MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY

# ILLUMINATIONS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023



Curator Sean Foran, newly raised Master Mason Jason Temple, and Archivist William Hall

**"Finding Your Masonic Roots"**  
**at Grand Lodge 2023**

See story on page three ►

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**

# Grace Dee May

**MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY**

## Board of Directors

Board President  
**Sean Foran**

Board Secretary  
**Fred Davis**

Board Treasurer  
**Reynold Blight**

Board Members  
**Merrick Hamer**

**Ronald Hart**

**Ronald Hopkins**

**Margaret Jacob**

**Guy Richmond**

**Melvyn Stein**

**Maru Vázquez**

**Barbara Weiss**

## Grace Dee May Museum

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**.



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023 ILLUMINATIONS



*"The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it."*

– William Howard Taft, 27th U.S. President  
and member of Kilwinning Masonic Lodge No. 356, Ohio

In this issue of Illuminations, we're sharing just a few of the memories from the recent Communication of California Masons.

For those of you who could not attend the three-day gathering in San Francisco, I can assure you that it was an uplifting experience.

In recent years due to the COVID lock downs and post-pandemic fears, the attendance at Grand Lodge had naturally been limited. However, this year there were larger crowds of Masons than we've seen in decades!

The Grace Dee May Museum's booth on the Exhibition Floor was "Masons on the Move" – and certainly we welcomed hundreds more Masons and guests who thoroughly enjoyed the exciting stories of Freemasons who made their mark in fields of transportation. Our video and exhibits beginning with the courageous expedition of two Masons, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who explored uncharted territory in 1803 to the bravery of astronaut, Buzz Aldrin who was the first Mason to walk on the Moon.

"Masons on the Move" is a 5-minute lighthearted zoom through history and I urge you to visit the Grace Dee May Museum YouTube Channel to view this fun video history lesson. If you'd like to receive a copy of the video to show to your Masonic organization or to use as part of a membership campaign, please email your request to: [info@gracedeemay.org](mailto:info@gracedeemay.org).

As a museum dedicated to illuminating the contributions of Freemasonry in the West, it is our privilege to serve as a resource to the Family of Freemasonry.

Sean Foran  
Curator & Board President



[Click this link to view "Masons on the Move" video](#)

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

# "Finding Your Masonic Roots" at Grand Lodge 2023

## Finding Masonic Roots at Grand Lodge 2023

On October 28th which was the second day of this year's Annual Communication, Jason Temple, a newly raised member of Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 in Lake Forest, CA, stopped at the Grace Dee May Museum booth and pointed to one of the images on our banners and exclaimed, "That's my ancestor!"

Jason recognized one of our "Masons on the Move", Freemason William Workman.

William Workman left England in 1820 and five years later settled in Santa Fe, Nuevo Mexico, where he worked as a fur trapper before opening a business with John Rowland. The two men left Taos in 1841 – the first pioneers from the East to travel the Old Spanish Trail into California. Both men became prominent leaders in Los Angeles. Workman was a member of Los Angeles Lodge No. 42, Lexington Lodge No 104, and LA Chapter 33 of Royal Arch Masons. William Workman's daughter Antonia married a Freemason, Francis Pliny Fisk Temple in 1845. Their marriage united two prominent families in early Los Angeles – Workmans and Temples that included civic leaders, land developers and businessmen who helped transform the Pueblo of Los Angeles into a thriving city. Frances Pliny Fisk Temple was a member of Lexington Lodge No. 104, Los Angeles Chapter No. 33 Royal Arch Masons, and LA Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar.



Jason Temple –  
newly raised  
Master Mason

## ***“Masons on the Move” at Grand Lodge 2023***



### **Masons go where no man has gone before**

On foot, on horseback, in canoes, on rafts, in stagecoaches, on tall ships, aboard trains, in automobiles, in trolleys, in hot air balloons and dirigibles, in airplanes, and in spacecraft – Masons have explored the world while making incredible discoveries.

The Grace Dee May Museum devoted its exhibition booth at Grand Lodge 2023 to “Masons on the Move.” We showcased early explorers including Lewis and Clark – two Masonic leaders who heroically discovered, mapped, and documented a large section of our country. To quote part of the mission statement of a popular science-fiction television show: “...to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before” – could aptly be used to describe the accomplishments of Freemasons who made their mark in taming the wild west. Our exhibit featured many Masons including the Big Four, Phineas Banning, Eddie Rickenbacker and Brother Buzz Aldrin, the first Mason to walk on the moon.

Many hundreds of visitors to our booth expressed enthusiasm for the many stories we shared at the Annual Communication of 2023.

# "Masons on the Move" at Grand Lodge 2023



"You mean Phineas Banning did all that?"



"Aye Cap'n, heading due East."



"Nice Jacket!"



"And that's the whole nine yards."

**A glimpse of the activities**  
We'll let pictures of our visitors tell the story of the Museum's "Masons on the Move" display.



**Toot! Toot!**



# "Masons on the Move" at Grand Lodge 2023



...rst pioneers to travel the Old Spanish Trail to California"



"W-W-WOW!"



"I really didn't know that!"



## Unique Holiday Gifts

### Shop early for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts.

Look no further than the Grace Dee May Museum online Gift Shop for unique extraordinary gifts that are available nowhere else. T-shirts, Ball caps, Pillows, Mugs, Coasters, and more. Shop now without leaving home and remember DELIVERY IS ALWAYS FREE.  
[www.gracedeemay.org](http://www.gracedeemay.org)



18"x18" Pillows \$60.



Coffee Mugs \$22.



Men's T-shirts \$40.



Free Videos, Power Point Presentations, Historic plays with live cast, Educational Materials, Give-aways, and Display materials

# Masons on the Move

Programs and videos include:



**"Mason on the Move"**  
A light-hearted history of Masons and Transportation.



**"Mason in the Movies"**  
A fast-paced overview of famous on-screen Masons.



**"Raise a Glass to Masonry"**  
A brief introduction to the development of winemaking in California and the Freemasons who made it possible.

Many of the visitors to our exhibit booth at Grand Lodge were surprised what great resources the Museum provides for Masonic Family groups.

Entertaining short videos, fun history quizzes, power points on early Masonic history that you can use at your Masonic meetings and events or as part of a membership drive.

We also perform a variety of live theatrical events for table lodges, Masonic dinners and gatherings. These include our live "radio broadcasts" which brings history to life by sharing historical details of famous Masons like George Washington.

Please visit our website to learn more or email: [info@gracedeemay.org](mailto:info@gracedeemay.org) to learn how the Grace Dee May Museum can enhance the experience of your Masonic presentations and events.



**"Knights of Early Los Angeles"**  
An award-winning portrayal of early Los Angeles and the Freemasons who changed a sleepy pueblo into a booming metropolis.

**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

Sean Foran, BOARD PRESIDENT AND CURATOR  
818-620-2058 / [info@gracedeemay.org](mailto:info@gracedeemay.org)  
[www.gracedeemay.org](http://www.gracedeemay.org)

Grace Dee May  
MUSEUM  
ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Grace Dee May  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY  
located at the historic Shrine Auditorium  
665 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007