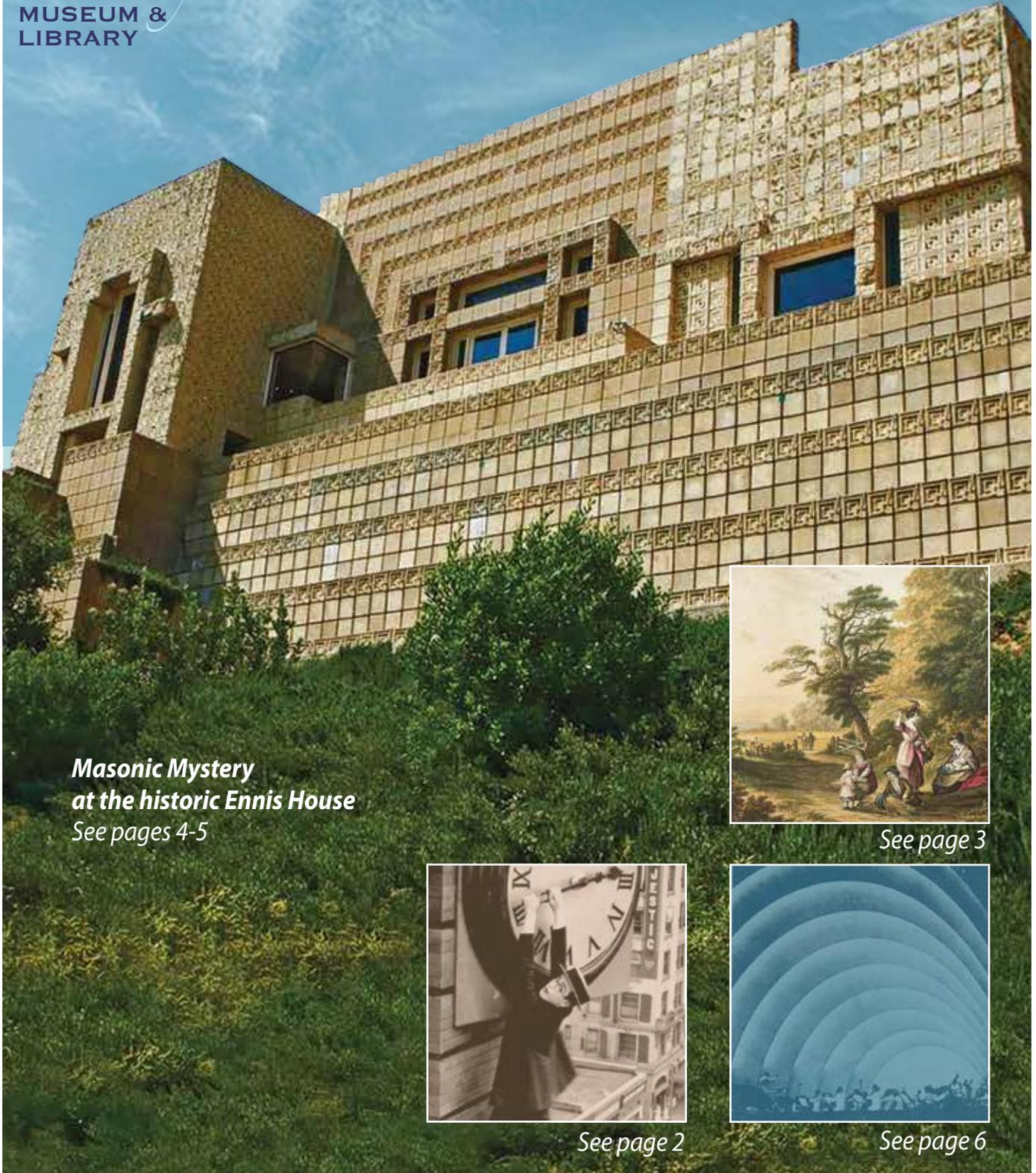


Grace
Dee May

MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

ILLUMINATIONS

JAN / FEB 2022



***Masonic Mystery
at the historic Ennis House***
See pages 4-5



See page 3



See page 2



See page 6

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

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Board of Directors

Sean Foran
Board President and Curator

Fred Davis
Secretary

Reynold Blight
Treasurer

Merrick Hamer

Ronald Hart

Ronald Hopkins

Margaret Jacob

Guy Richmond

Melvyn Stein

Barbara Weiss



Audrey Marie Stein
Director Emeritus

In 2004, Audrey Marie Stein established the Grace Dee May Museum. She 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**.

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



Time to Learn from our Past

"History is a mighty drama, enacted upon the theatre of times, with suns for lamps and eternity for a background."

– Thomas Carlyle (Scottish historian, philosopher and mathematician)

As a new page in history is turned on New Year's Day 2022, there is an opportunity for all of us to learn valuable lessons from the past – and to improve our personal and collective future.

Take a look back at Los Angeles in 1922. Los Angeles residents were still reeling from the global influenza epidemic known as the Spanish Flu. The impact of this deadly virus on life in our region was cataclysmic.

When it appeared that the number of infections from the pandemic were lessening, the City started to open up again only to be hammered by a second wave of illness and death. So, 100 years ago, Angelenos faced similar circumstances as we're all dealing with today.

Harold Lloyd, the talented comedic actor of Hollywood's silent era was a Mason and later served as Imperial Potentate of the Shrine. Lloyd began filming his iconic silent film, "Safety Last" in 1922 which is considered one of his finest films. Hanging precariously onto the hands of a clock high above the streets of Los Angeles, Lloyd's comic genius reminds us that even when life's challenges put us seemingly on the brink – there is always hope to bring us through our most difficult times.

Just as 100 years ago when our predecessors seemed to be teetering on the edge of unfathomable challenges, we are today on our way out of dark days and with common effort, faith, and courage, brighter days are ahead of us in 2022.

From all of us at the Grace Dee May Museum, we wish you a healthy and happy New Year and are looking forward to welcoming you again to our Museum where we strive to illuminate the art and history of the West.

Safety first,
Sean Foran,
CURATOR AND
BOARD PRESIDENT

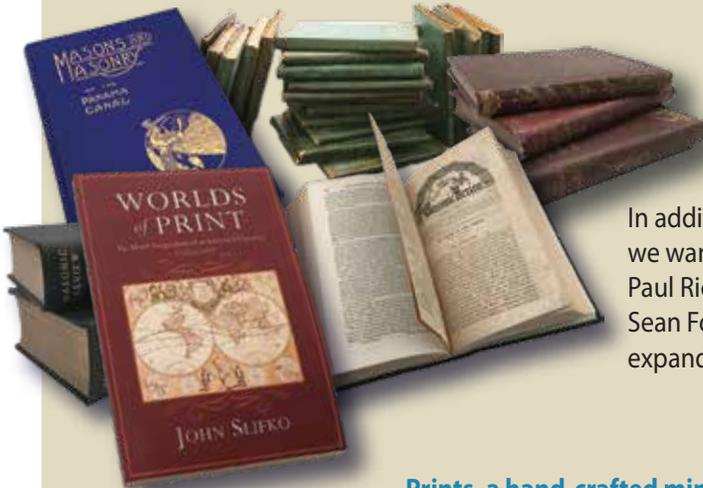


Brother Harold Lloyd in "Safety Last" – Take time now to learn more by reading the GDM Blog at: <https://www.gracedeemay.org/what-s-on>

Generous Donations to our Collections in 2021

The Philip Smookler Postcard Collection

Postcards share our vacation adventures with friends and family around the world. They become treasured memories of travels and snapshots of our lives. The Smookler Collection is especially notable for images of Masonic buildings around the world. Many of these edifices are, sadly, no longer standing. Recapture the travels and interests of Philip Smookler in this expansive collection.



Outstanding New Collections to the Grace Dee May Library

In addition to our fine collection of books from the Los Angeles Scottish Rite, we want to recognize the generosity of publisher and Masonic scholar Paul Rich, the estate of Masonic scholar John Slifko, and our curator Sean Foran. Their donations of rare and unique Masonic books have greatly expanded the Grace Dee May Museum Library.

Prints, a hand-crafted miniature Lodge room, and a collection of Masonic glassware

Thanks to the generosity of Arthur and Margaret Beddoe, the Grace Dee May Museum is showcasing the talent and ingenuity of British artist and master printmaker George Baxter and an exquisite collection of Masonic souvenir glassware.



A treasure trove of Masonic history

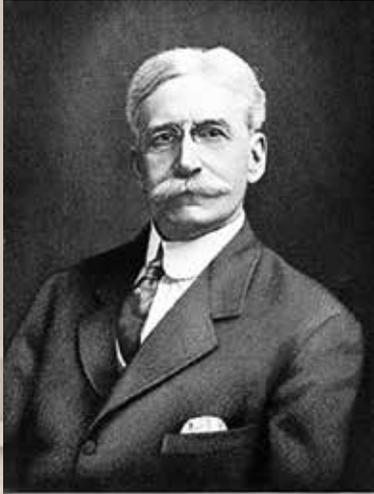
The Grace Dee May Museum is honored to have received a unique collection of documents from the San Fernando York Rite Bodies with files from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

These original documents bring a wealth of information on the early days of Los Angeles and the lives and accomplishments of Freemasons and will be available as invaluable resources for researchers and historians.

In addition, we have received donations of items from various lodges, some much needed display cabinets, and financial donations. Thank you all for your support of the Grace Dee May Museum.

The Masonic Mystery Behind "The House on Haunted Hill"

'The HOUSE on HAUNTED HILL'



C. N. Ennis

The Ennis House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1924, is a Hollywood icon – perhaps, deserving of its own star on the "Walk of Fame" as it has appeared in dozens of films. Recognized as a Los Angeles Historical-Cultural Monument, the home is located in the hillside community of Los Feliz. Constructed with more than 27,000 concrete blocks, the Ennis House features the unique Mayan Revival style later used by Wright when he designed the Arizona Biltmore Hotel.

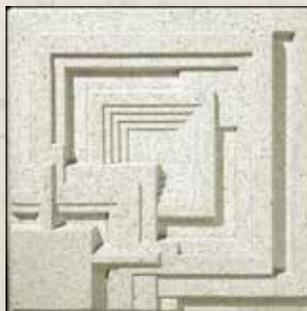
The home was commissioned by Charles and Mabel Ennis. Charles Ennis came to California from Pittsburgh and opened a clothing store located on South Spring Street in downtown Los Angeles. Wright envisioned a striking monumental temple design for the Ennis' residence featuring 16" x 16" interlocking blocks. The dramatic and open design offered plenty of room for entertaining guests amid living and dining rooms with marble floors, concrete pillars, and spectacular views of Los Angeles and Hollywood below.

Charles Ennis was a Freemason and when he passed away in 1929, his brother Masons and members of Los Angeles No. 9, Knights Templar reverently conducted a funeral service in the living room of the Ennis home. This fact has led to a solution of what had been a mystery surrounding the textile-like design of the cement blocks used in the construction of the Ennis House. The Greek Key design features illusions to a stylized "G", a square and compass, and a setting maul – all symbols used in Masonic ritual.

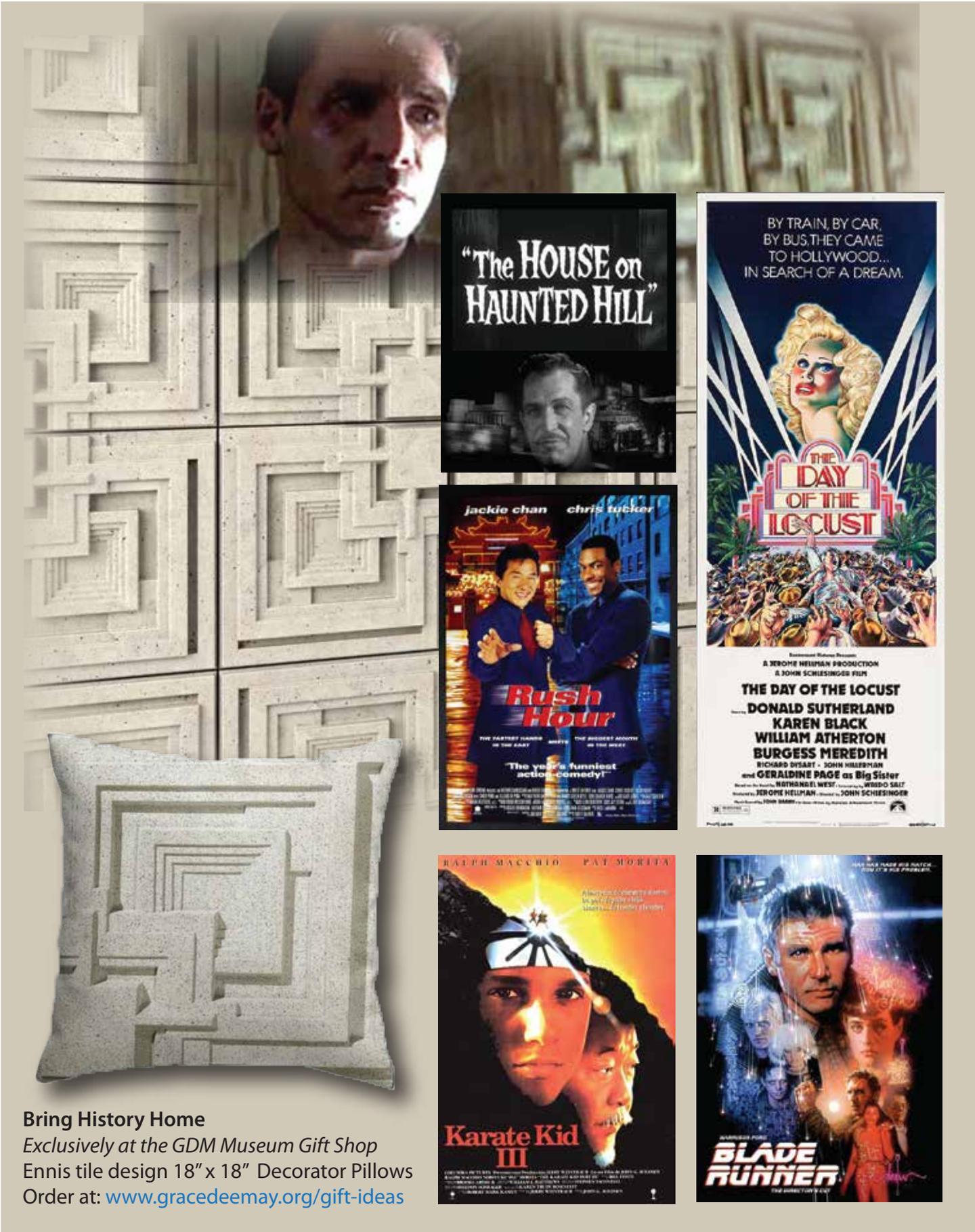
Noted Canadian philosopher Manley P. Hall, would later become the owner of the Ennis House in the 1930s. Hall, a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, founded the Philosophical Research Society located on Los Feliz Boulevard and authored a number of books including *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*.

The Ennis House has been used in countless films and television series including the Vincent Price horror film, *The House on Haunted Hill* and as Harrison Ford's residence in *Blade Runner*. It has also appeared in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Mulholland Drive*, *The Day of the Locust*, *The Rocketeer*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Rush Hour*, *Grand Canyon*, *Predator 2*, and *Karate Kid 3*.

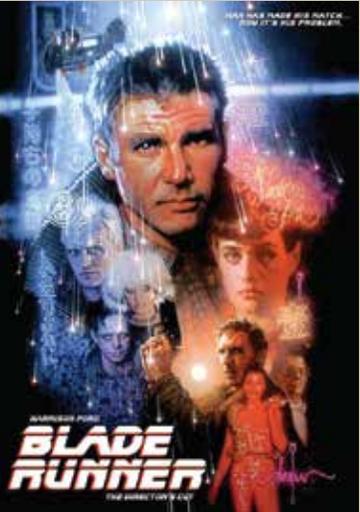
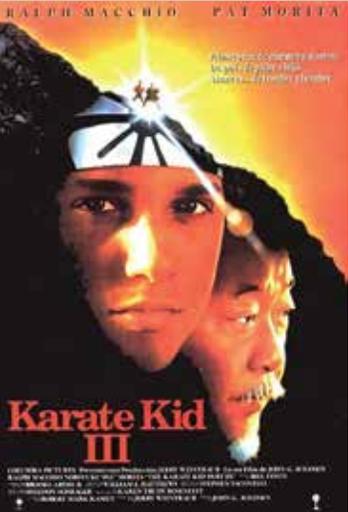
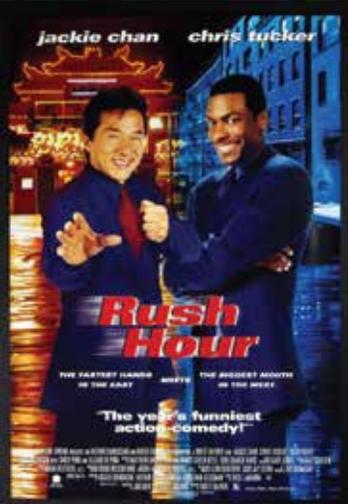
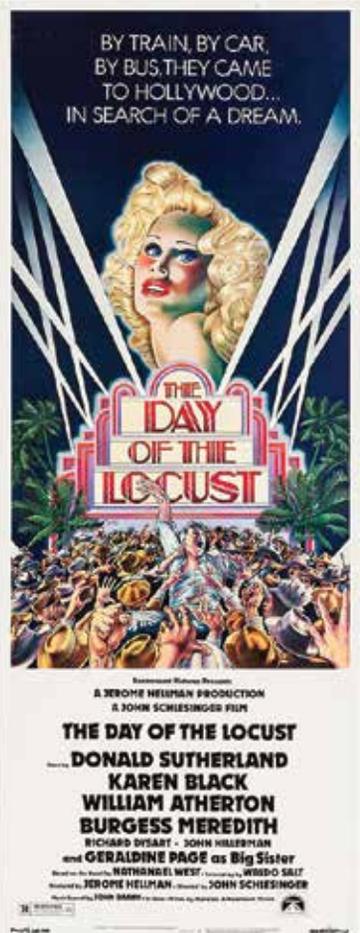
Whether you are a fan of films or iconic architecture, you won't want to miss the replica of one of the Ennis House concrete blocks which is a new addition to the main gallery at the Grace Dee May Museum.



Can you recognize the stylized letter "G", a square and compass, a trowel, and setting maul? Maybe or maybe not? (Suggestion: rotate the page and you may see them)



Bring History Home
 Exclusively at the GDM Museum Gift Shop
 Ennis tile design 18" x 18" Decorator Pillows
 Order at: www.gracedemay.org/gift-ideas



The Builders – The Lives and Times of Early Los Angeles

The Grace Dee May Museum is assembling a unique and dynamic new exhibit, "The Builders", a time line of early Los Angeles which will chronicle the Freemasons and their families who had an extraordinary impact on the development of the City of Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

Among the individuals who helped build the cultural, civic, media, and businesses of the Southland were men and women who will be featured in our upcoming time line exhibit including: Lynden Behymer, Harry Chandler, and Arcadia Bandini Stearns-Baker.

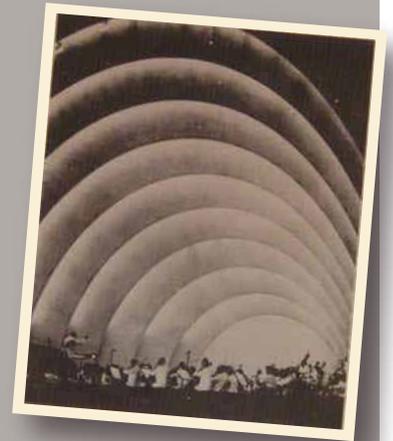


Arts & Entertainment

Lynden "Bee" Behymer

Benevolence Lodge, No. 63, LA Commandery No. 9 KT, and Al Malaikah Shrine.

An impresario extraordinaire, Lynden Behymer founded the Los Angeles Symphony and was instrumental in the creation of the Hollywood Bowl and the Greek Theater. He also served as the music critic for the Los Angeles Herald newspaper. Behymer personally arranged to bring many famous performers to Los Angeles including Enrico Caruso, Isadora Duncan, and Sarah Bernhardt.



Media

Harry Chandler

Southern California Lodge, No. 278. Member of Los Angeles Scottish Rite. Renowned as the publisher of the Los Angeles Times from 1917 to 1944, Chandler was also a developer who helped found the LA Coliseum, the Biltmore and Ambassador hotels, the Los Angeles Athletic Club, Santa Anita racetrack, the restoration of historic Olvera Street and many other cultural and corporate entities.



Land development

Arcadia Bandini, daughter of Juan Bandini, left her father's rancho in San Diego to marry at the age of 14, Able Stearns, an ambitious and powerful Freemason from Los Angeles Lodge No. 42. Stearns and Arcadia became Los Angeles' first "power couple" – entertaining and making real estate deals from their lavish and sprawling Spanish-style home.

Following Stearns' death in 1871, Arcadia and her new husband, Col. Robert Symington Baker, purchased huge tracts of land and founded what became today's Santa Monica. They also built a lavish resort at the Pacific Ocean called the Arcadia Hotel.



New Year's Resolutions & Wishes

Resolution:

Expanding Outreach to the Community

Part of our Mission is to share the history and impact of Freemasonry beyond the Masonic Lodges and organizations which make up the Masonic Family.

Our vision is to have the resources to take exhibits on the art and history of the West and the positive contribution of Freemasons from our galleries into a variety of venues where we can educate and enlighten the public.

To do so, we are wishing in 2022 to gain increased funding for a "mobile gallery" to transport portable exhibits and artifacts to schools, street fairs, festivals and community events.



Resolution:

Increased Space to Showcase Collections

In the two years, since our Museum's Grand Opening of our galleries at the historic Shrine Auditorium, the Grace Dee May Museum's collection has grown at an incredible rate. One of the silver linings of the dark cloud of the pandemic has been that, while we were unable to welcome visitors, donations and cataloging of exhibits exceeded our expectations.

Currently, our Museum is bursting at the seams and we've outgrown our current space and a search is underway for a larger facility.

Our wish is to find a larger space to allow us to not only house all of our collections but to enable us to have dedicated space for lectures and a research library.



Resolution:

Sharing the Untold Stories

The GDM Museum was honored to receive numerous accolades for our 2021 video trailer, "The Knights of Early Los Angeles".

Our wish is to proceed in 2022 with the production of a full length documentary film sharing the story of the Masonic "builders" who were instrumental in turning the sleepy Pueblo of Los Angeles into the international city it is today.



Please help us fulfill these resolutions and wishes with your generous donation.

Behind the Scenes

Artistic Duo Helps to Share GDM's Messaging

The "dynamic duo" of Cooper & Cooper began when two youngsters became rivals in a middle school art class.

Ron and Jane Cooper have spent practically all of their lives together designing everything from Hollywood film studio media kits to floats for the Rose Parade. As the co-owners of an advertising and marketing firm, Cooper & Cooper Creative Services, they have combined their imagination and sense of design for many notable clients including Columbia Pictures, Nestle Corporation, Boys & Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, Exceptional Children's Foundation, UTLA, California Scottish Rite Foundation and, most recently, the Grace Dee May Museum.

The Cooper's have been involved in many Masonic groups. Ron served as Master of Burbank Lodge 406 in 1996, and as Grand Orator in 2000. Jane served as Bethel Guardian for Job's Daughters and has been a member of the Daughters of the Nile, White Shrine of Jerusalem, and continues as a member of Burbank Order of Eastern Star.

They were pleased to be able to help promote Masonry by designing the first website for the Grand Lodge of California, creating the Centennial Brochure for the California Masonic Homes, the Sesquicentennial commemorative Masonic aprons, and a painting depicting the history of early California Masons for the Henry Coil Museum.

"More than a decade ago," explains Ron Cooper, we had the opportunity to meet with Audrey Marie Stein, the Director Emeritus of the Grace Dee May Museum. "Spending time with Audrey at moments when her dream of opening a unique museum was an inspiration to both of us."

While Ron serves as Marketing Director for the GDM, Jane is focusing her creative talents on sharing the intriguing stories of history and art through a variety of media including creating the award-winning video trailer, "The Knights of Early Los Angeles".



Ron and Jane Cooper with one of the many "Best Trailer" awards garnered by the GDM Museum's "Knights of Early Los Angeles."

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's knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development.

Make an Investment in the Art & History of the West.

To Donate to Help the GDM Museum:

- Become a Museum member
- Join the Grace Dee May Founder's Circle

For more information about membership email us at: info@gracedeemay.org

The Grace Dee May Museum appreciates your support

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

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