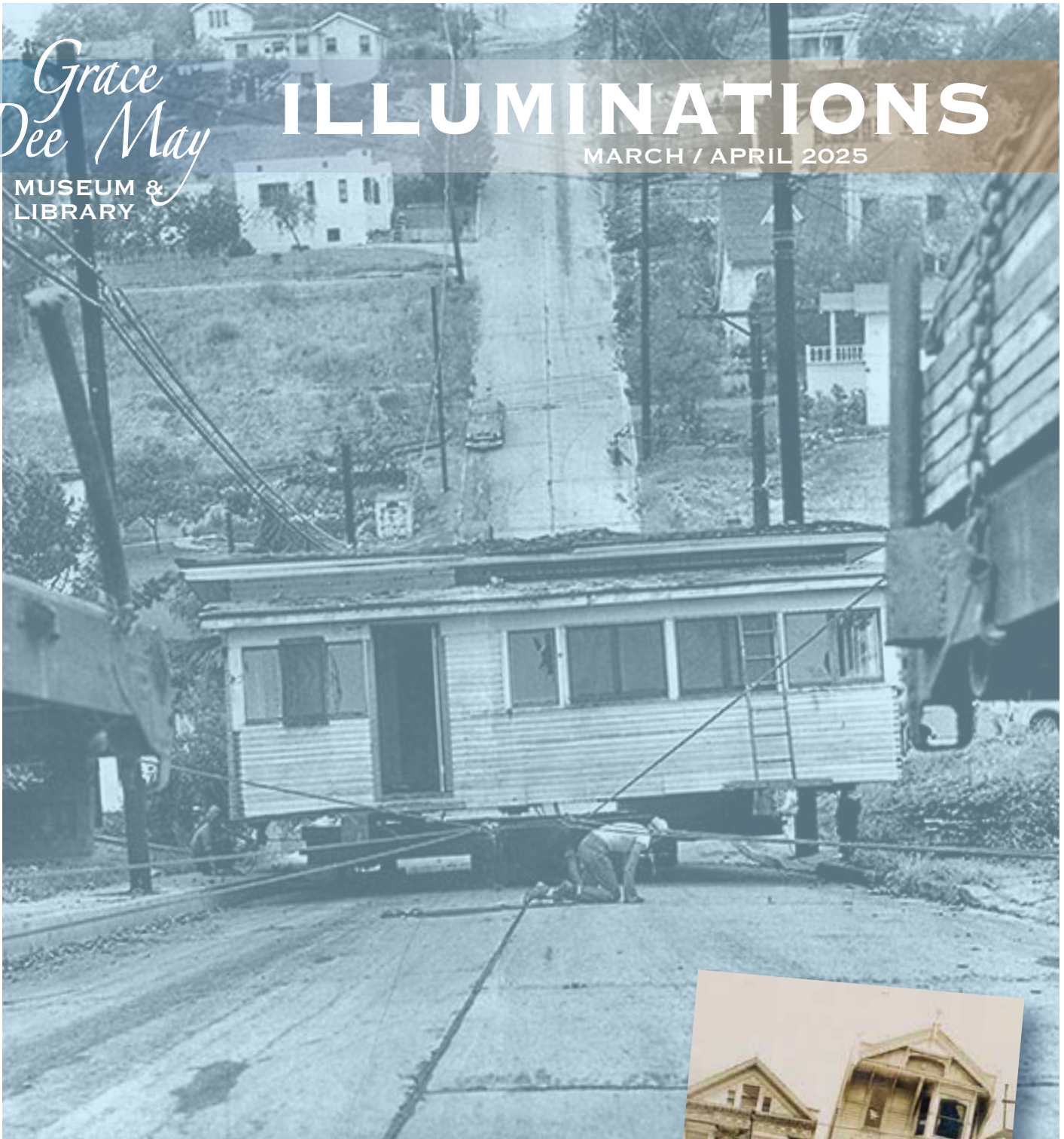


*Grace
Dee May*
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

ILLUMINATIONS

MARCH / APRIL 2025



MOVERS

&

SHAKERS

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

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

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*.



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

MARCH / APRIL 2025 ILLUMINATIONS



*"We are the music-makers,
and we are the dreamers of dreams."*

– Gene Wilder in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*

Willy Wonka?

While many might wonder what the 1971 Academy Award nominated film, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, has to do with Freemasonry, there is a connection to the Grace

Dee May Museum focusing this month on "Masonic Movers and Shakers"

In the fantasy musical film based on a short story by acclaimed British author and poet Roald Dahl, comedic actor Gene Wilder explains the wonder of having imagination to a young girl with these words:

"We are the music-makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams."

The quote used in the film script was from an 1873 poem entitled "Ode" written by another English poet, Arthur O'Shaugnessy. In the first stanza, O'Shaugnessy elevates the importance of writers and artists who may not gain fame and fortune but their creativity can inspire both kings and the common man to do good in the world with these words:

*"Yet, we are the movers and shakers,
Of the world for ever, it seems."*

The last line in the first stanza of "Ode" is considered the origin of the term "movers and shakers" being used as a reference to the influential and powerful in society.

In this issue of Illuminations, we are adding a new twist to "movers and shakers" profiling a Freemason who literally was a "master mover" in the early days of Los Angeles. Also focusing on San Francisco Masons who helped rebuild their city following the Great Earthquake of 1906.

Thank you for helping your Lodge and our Museum lift up the Masonic Fraternity with bigger dreams for the future!

Sean Foran, *Curator and Board President*



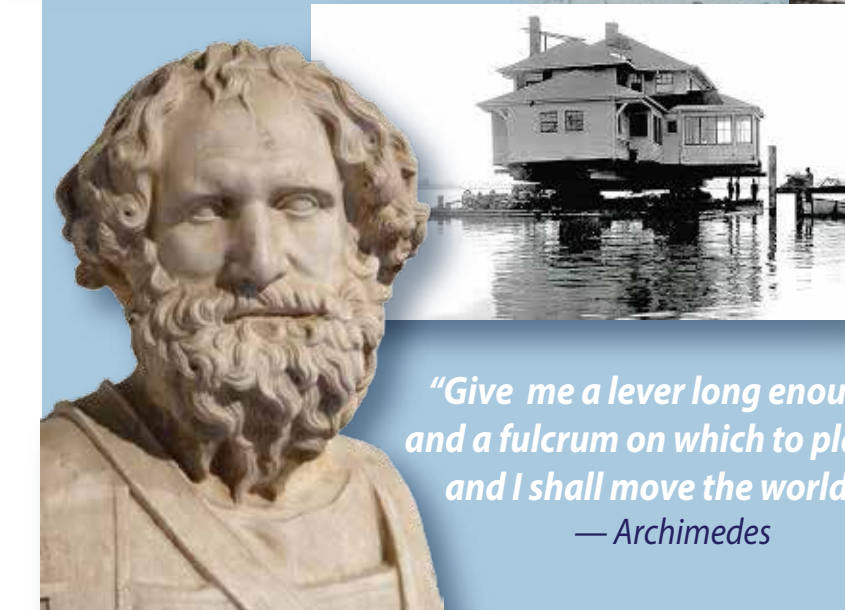
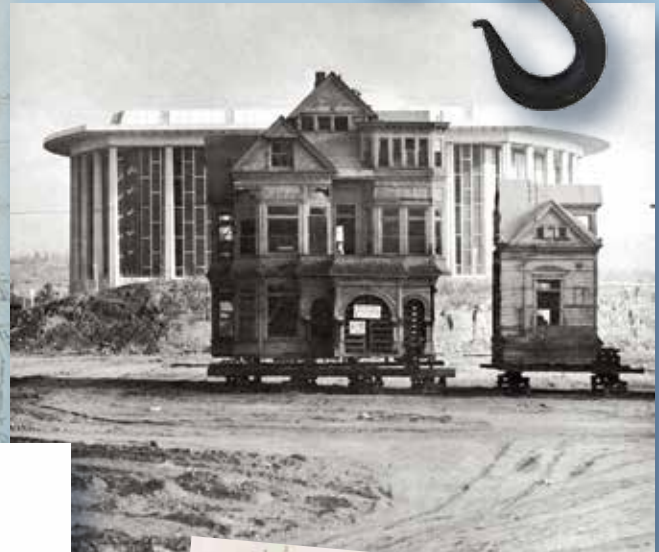
Actor Gene Wilder

California On the Move

As old Spanish haciendas and wide open spaces were being transformed into California's first cities in the late 1800s, the new communities rose up without much planning.

Newly elected city leaders recognized the need to establish blueprints for future growth. This included re-alignment of streets, establishment of essential services including sewers, streetcar routes and many property owners faced having to demolish their homes and businesses or move their structures.

Innovative building movers took up the challenge.



*"Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place, and I shall move the world."
— Archimedes*



Shaking in the West

The earliest recorded earthquake in the state of California was documented in 1769 by the Spanish explorers. Ship captains and early pioneers also shared tales of powerful earthquakes along the Pacific coast.

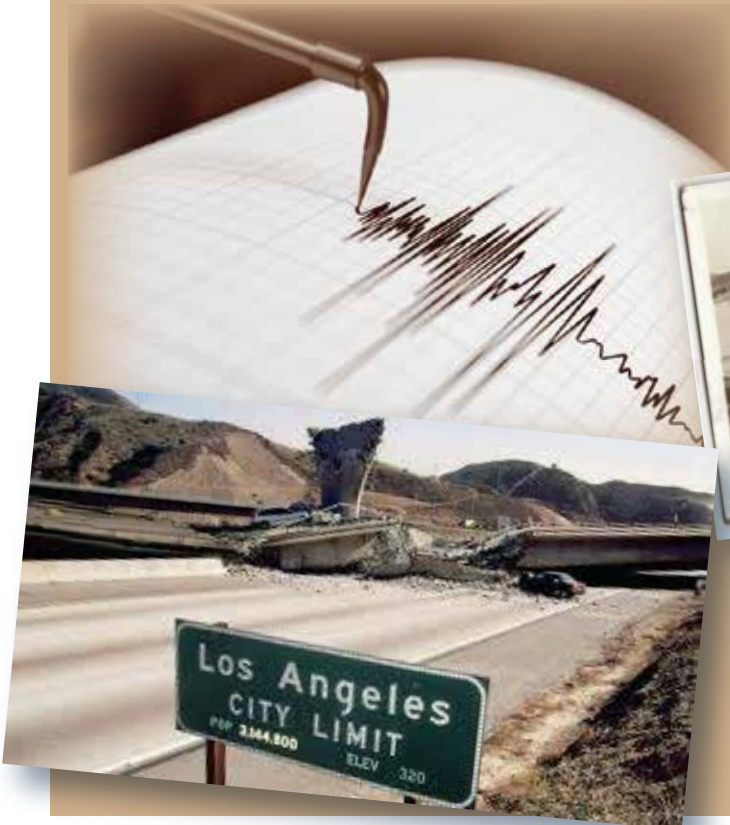
Since 1850, Spanish priests kept records of earthquakes along El Camino Real, noting on average one significant seismic event per year.

The 1812 San Juan Capistrano, 1857 Fort Tejon, and 1872 Owens Valley shocks were in mostly unpopulated areas. The 1868 Hayward quake affected the San Francisco Bay Area – the financial hub of California.

Seismology was still in its infancy and the risk of earthquakes was played down for fear of negatively effecting the economic boom.

The Great Earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco moved the U.S. Government to acknowledge the potential risks.

In 1910 the state's first monitoring program began in Berkeley and later the Caltech Seismological Laboratory in Pasadena became operational.



"The ground seemed to roll under me in waves, interrupted by a violent joggling up and down".

– The 1865 San Francisco earthquake described by Mark Twain, author and member of Polar Star Masonic Lodge No. 79 in St. Louis

San Francisco 1906 – Deadliest Earthquake in U.S. History

Wednesday, April 18, 1906, at 5:12 am

Extreme magnitude 7.9 earthquake followed by devastating fires resulted in 3,000 deaths and destruction of 80% of the city.

The horrific loss of life and property led to the creation of California's earthquake monitoring programs



"Not in history has a modern imperial city been so completely destroyed. San Francisco is gone."

— Jack London, Author



Heroes & Survivors – Great Earthquake of 1906



Academy Award winning actor, **Warner Baxter**, survived the earthquake. Baxter was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42.



The Heroes included firemen, police, military, churches, service groups, and Freemasons.

Ansel Adams survived the 1906 quake with only a broken nose. One of Adams famous photos is "Mendocino Masonic Lodge".



One of the richest bankers in California, **Isaias W. Hellman**, was a survivor and hero who helped restore the financial prominence of California. Hellman was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42.



Victor Hirtzler, Chef at the St. Frances Hotel, served breakfast to victims at the hotel after the quake. The hotel was later gutted by the fires.



The Golden Fire Hydrant, Lotta's Fountain, Masonic relics, and a few buildings were **Survivors**.



Actor **John Barrymore** was also a survivor of the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire. Barrymore starred in the 1915 comedy film "Are You a Mason?"



Make the Grace Dee May Museum part of your legacy.

- **Become a GDM Museum Member**

An annual membership is only \$35.

- **Join the “Founder’s Circle”**

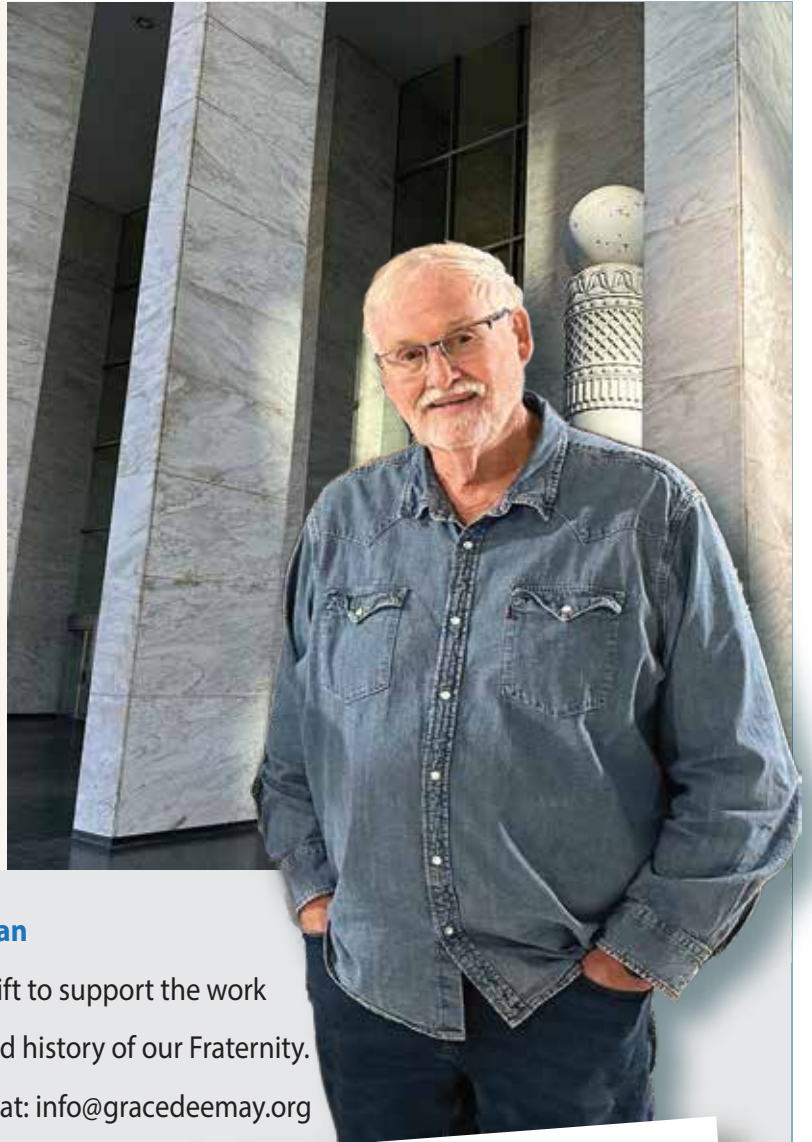
Your donation of \$1000 will secure your status as a VIP at all events.

- **Donate to our “Building Fund”**

The GDM Museum is growing by leaps and bounds. Help us lay the cornerstone for a new campus to house our ever-growing Masonic collections. Your donation will preserve the history and future of Freemasonry.

With your support we can continue to provide:

- **Free videos on Masonic history**
- **Free guest speakers at your Masonic events**
- **Free bi-monthly newsletters**



Talk with our Museum Curator, Sean Foran

Learn about ways you can leave a lasting gift to support the work of the Museum in sharing the principles and history of our Fraternity.

Contact Sean at: 818-620-2058 or by email at: info@gracedeemay.org

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.

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Sean Foran, BOARD PRESIDENT AND CURATOR
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