

SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF
FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Wooden Latch

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



FALL 2010

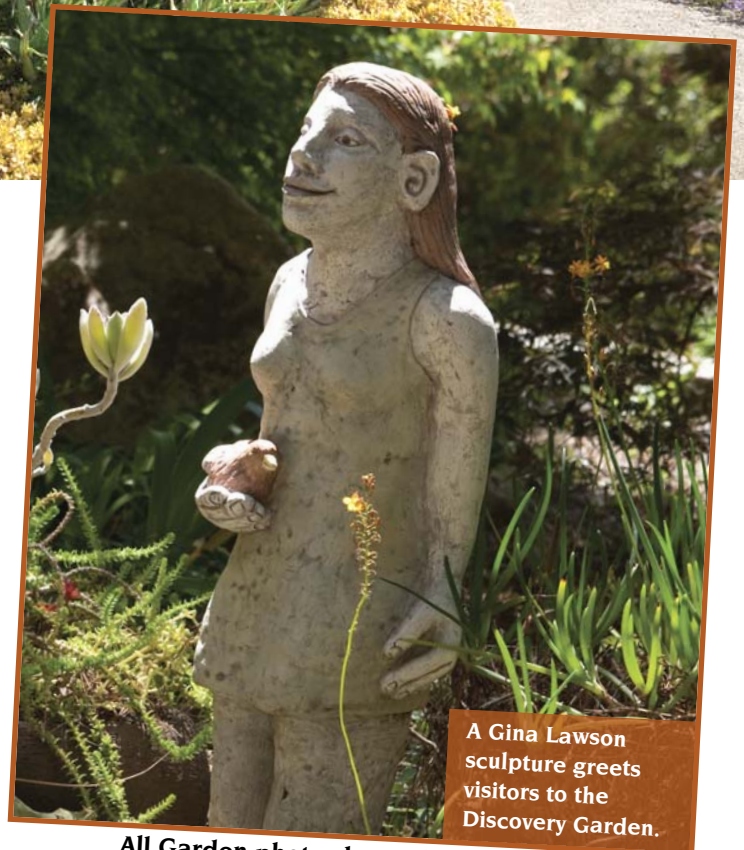


Discovery

A portfolio of new Discovery Garden photos donated to the Foundation

The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts is profoundly grateful to Ruth Borun for generously underwriting the beautiful garden photographs by Kathlene Persoff that appear in this issue of *The Wooden Latch*. A long-time friend and client of Sam Maloof, Ruth is also a first class gardener who has spent many hours with Beverly Maloof in the Foundation's Discovery Garden and who gave the first gift for its endowment. Her wall sculpture of faucet handles is a favorite garden adornment, and the bench she donated in her mother's memory is much appreciated by visitors. In addition to recently providing the Foundation with a portfolio of

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A Gina Lawson sculpture greets visitors to the Discovery Garden.

All Garden photos by Kathlene Persoff

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Discovery



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garden views, Ruth fashioned packets of illustrated garden note cards, which are now for sale in the museum shop. The Maloof Foundation expresses warm thanks to good friend Ruth Borun for these and other acts of kindness.

Garden Days 2010

For *Garden Days 2010*, the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for the Arts and Crafts will host a distinguished lectures series and book signings by well known garden experts. All lectures begin at 11 a.m. in the Jacobs Education Center and are free to the public.

★ On Thursday, November 11, Maloof horticulturist, Nate Benesi, will lecture on "Beyond Drought Tolerant: Winter Green, Summer Shape," a new design style that uses plants which change with the seasonal rains of the California climate, becoming lush in the winter wet and developing bare branch shapes in the summer drought. His slide-illustrated lecture will demonstrate how selecting the right plants can add an exciting sculptural element to the summer garden. Nate holds degrees in biology, environmental science, and landscape architecture.

★ John Greenlee, an internationally known horticulturist specializing in the cultivation and study of grasses, will be the featured speaker on Saturday, November 13. His lecture "The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn" will show how to replace lawn with plantings of drought tolerant grasses.

A familiar host on HGTV and PBS television shows, John holds a degree in horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona. He authored the best selling book, *The Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses* (1992), considered by many to be an indispensable reference on grasses. His latest book, *The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn* (2009), is

Mission

The mission of the Maloof Foundation is to recognize and celebrate fine artists and craftsmen who skillfully create timeless treasures with their hands.



already a must for anyone interested in alternatives to the traditional lawn. There will be a book signing after the lecture and an opportunity to tour his Greenlee Nursery in Pomona.

★ On Sunday, November 14, Bob Perry, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona and an award-winning landscape architect specializing in native plants, will present "Landscape Plants for California Gardens."

Bob's lecture will highlight the use of native plants for water conservation and sustainability, illustrating these points with several of his own projects. He will cover selecting plant palettes for Mediterranean climate zones, estimating water needs of plants, providing plants with wildlife value, and much more. Bob first published a book

Sign up for Pruning and Planting Garden Workshops!

Gardeners of all experience levels are invited to assist with planting and pruning projects at the Maloof Discovery Garden in four upcoming garden workshops. To be led by Maloof gardening staff and volunteers, the workshops will provide many opportunities for hands-on learning about drought tolerant plants for California gardens and meeting other gardening enthusiasts. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own tools, such as clippers, trowels, loppers, and shovels.

All workshops will be held at the Maloof compound at 5131 Carnelian Street in Alta Loma.



Workshop Dates:

Saturday, October 16, 2010
8:30 am to 11:30 am

Saturday, November 13, 2010
8:30 am to 11:00 am

Saturday, March 19, 2011
8:30 am to 11:30 am

Saturday, May 14, 2011
8:30 am to 11:30 am

For more information on these events, please contact info@malooffoundation.org or visit www.malooffoundation.org.

on water conservation, *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes*, in 1981. His second publication, *Landscape Plants for Western Regions*, received an ASLA National Merit Award in 1994. His latest book, *Landscape Plants for California Gardens* (March 2010), an illustrated reference, is already destined to be a classic. There will be a book signing after the lecture.



John Greenlee, an internationally known horticulturist and PBS host to speak during Garden Days 2010.



Connie Ransom

The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts is delighted to announce the election of Connie Ransom to the Board of Directors. Connie is an artist, real estate broker, community activist, and tender of an exquisite drought tolerant garden in Riverside. She holds an MFA in Ceramic Sculpture from the Claremont Graduate University. For ten years she owned and directed The Art Works Gallery, which specialized in contemporary art and fine art and featured the work of over 200 Southern California artists. Her community service includes the Citizens University Committee (of which she served as Chair), Advisory Council for the Barbara Culver Center for the Arts, Advisory Board of the Inlandia Institute, Board member of Friends of Fox Theater, and much more. The Foundation recognizes that it is fortunate to have a new Board member of such energy and accomplishment.

The Maloof Move

Sam's son Slimen stands in front of the procession of trucks ready to begin the 3-mile journey to the new site in 2001.



20 years ago an exception to the "50-year" rule led to the Maloof relocation becoming one of the most significant preservation efforts in all of California's transportation history.

Written by Cherstin Lyon
Photos by Sioux Bally-Maloof

Twenty years ago, in 1990, representatives from several government agencies, including Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration, and the State Historic Preservation Office debated whether or not the structures belonging to Sam and Alfreda Maloof were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Just a year earlier, Caltrans had issued an Historical Architectural Survey of properties that would be negatively affected by the expansion of the 210 "Foothill" Freeway. This report did not consider the Maloof property eligible for the National Register. Even though it was clear that Sam and Alfreda Maloof's property was architecturally significant, the structures were not yet 50 years old.

Sam and Alfreda purchased their small home nestled in a five-acre orchard in 1953. Sam began building his workshop and adding onto the original house between 1954 and 1955. He continued to add a room here and a second story there through the 1980s. When Caltrans surveyed the route that the new freeway would take through Alta Loma, federal law required that any project receiving federal funding avoid or at least mitigate negative effects on properties determined "eligible" for the National Register of Historic Places. The first criterion for eligibility for the National Register, though, is that the property must be more than 50 years old.¹ The buildings constructed by Sam were at most 36 years old.

Through a series of interagency communications and input from Bruce Cannon from the Federal Highway Administration, State Historic Preservation Officer Katherine Gualtieri, environmental lawyer Lindell Marsh, and former State Historic Preservation Officer Knox Mellon, Caltrans was persuaded to reconsider its original assessment. Caltrans agreed that in this case the

significance of the artistic qualities of the home and the craftsman who built it were enough to outweigh the usual 50-year rule. Caltrans accepted recommendations that the Maloof property be considered eligible for the National Register on the basis that it was associated with a significant person and for possessing high artistic value. Caltrans reached this conclusion just in time for public input on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Once the property was finally designated "eligible" for the National Register of Historic Places, the long process of preserving the property could begin. It took more than a decade of intense interagency cooperation and millions of dollars to preserve this one historic property. However, in the opinion of Ty Schuiling, current director of San

Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), the cost and effort were insignificant in comparison with the overall freeway expansion project at hand. The house and associated

historic workshops were moved to a new site of a comparable size containing similar vegetation, and a foundation was created to care for the historic property as a public museum in perpetuity. The property remains a cultural and historic treasure, thanks not only to strong historic preservation laws, but also to the hard work and foresight of individuals and agencies willing to cooperate to make this project a lasting success.

Comparing Historic American Building Survey photos documenting the original property with the new property, one can see that many aspects of the original property were preserved with immaculate attention to detail. Historic preservation experts recognize the Maloof case as one of the most significant and mutually successful preservation efforts in all of California transportation history.

It took more than a decade of intense interagency cooperation and millions of dollars to preserve this one historic property.

The Human Side of Historic Preservation

Sam and Alfreda Maloof were not surprised when they were approached about the expanding 210 Freeway. They had known for years that it was coming and that their property lay in the intended right of way. But nothing could have prepared them for the trauma of negotiating the preservation of their home and Sam's life's work. Even though Sam was widely recognized for his furniture, it was in the construction of his own home that his full artistic creativity and impeccable eye for design were unleashed. His house was his most significant piece of work. Fortunately, the house and workshop would be moved to another comparable property with great care and sensitivity. But some things could not be saved.

In interviews, Sam expressed a sense of excitement about designing a new house since his original house would be converted into a public museum. He expressed hope for the future and a commitment to continue his work through the move. He was optimistic about the fact that landscape architects promised to move as much of the flora that surrounded the home as possible in order to retain the association and feel of the original property. But the towering sycamore tree, a tree he had rescued from a wash during a rainstorm and tended to for 40 years, could not be moved. An even older and more majestic avocado



A big palm that stood on the old grove is being hoisted on a truck for the move to the new site in 2001.

tree, a tree Sam identified as the reason he purchased the property in the first place, would not survive.

Clearly, some aspects of the property could not be re-created or preserved, no matter how much care or engineering went into the project. Maloof woodworker Mike Johnson recalled in an oral history interview that the new location was very different from the original. It was on more of a slope, and the trees were not nearly as large nor the orchard as mature. Even Sam was startled when he first saw his house removed from its original setting under the canopy of his mature orchard and placed on the hillside in its new resting place. It was exposed. For the first time, the architecture of the house was the thing that stood out, not the closeness of the trees.

A reporter noted Sam's ambivalence about leaving the natural spaces behind that had inspired his work for so many decades. He wrote that in the final photograph of Sam Maloof's autobiography he did not display a table, a chair, or a cradle. Rather, Sam ended his book with, "a full page, full color shot of that avocado tree's ancient and magnificent trunk." This was one way in which Sam could preserve the memory of what could not be saved.

Cherstin Lyon is an assistant professor of history and coordinator of the public and oral history program at California State University San Bernardino. She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Arizona and M.A. in history from the University of Oregon. She is currently researching the history of the Maloof case as an example of transportation-related historic preservation with the assistance of student researchers Oceana Collins and Alicia Gutierrez. Collins is a Ph.D. student in public history at UCR; Gutierrez is a Ph.D. student in history at USC.



Timeline

1953: Sam and Alfreda Maloof purchase a two-acre lemon grove with a small house and two chicken coops. They purchase additional acres to the east and west a few years later, bringing the total size of their property to just over five acres.

1954: Slabs poured for construction of the new house and the workshop. Sam's workshop was first to be built.

1956: Sam began work on the new house.

1984: Final addition to the house completed when the guest bedroom (formerly Alfreda's studio) was connected to the staircase room.

1989: Property evaluated by Caltrans February 17th as a part of the Historical Architectural Survey and determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on the "50-year rule."

1990: Caltrans reevaluates the property and determines that it is eligible under Criteria B (association with a significant person) and C (properties possessing high artistic value)

1991-1992: Alternative mitigation plans evaluated, including building a 16-foot sound wall next to the house, tunneling under the house, or moving the freeway further north into the foothills to avoid negative impact on the Maloof property. All were rejected as too costly or unrealistic.

1993: Agencies and Maloofs agree that moving the house and workshops is the best mitigation plan. Other successful moves identified for comparison, including the Gartz Court in Pasadena and Fullerton's Union Pacific Depot.

1996: SANBAG purchases the new site in preparation for the move. Inventory of landscape elements at original site conducted, including hardscapes (walls and paving), vegetation (trees and shrubs), and decorative elements (gates, brick work, containers, etc).

1998: SANBAG purchases original property from Sam and Alfreda Maloof's living trust.

2000: United States Department of Interior's Historic American Buildings Survey conducts extensive survey and documents original site and property. Neighborhood alerted that the first move will begin at 11:30 pm on December 19, 2000 and will conclude by 5:00 am the next morning.

2001: Final moves in February and March of 2001.

¹John H. Spinkle, "Of Exceptional Importance: The Origins of the 'Fifty-Year Rule' in Historic Preservation," *Public Historian* 29, no. 2 (Spring, 2007): 81-103.

Maloof Calendar

Exhibition Extended! Tribal Crafts: A Collector's Seduction

Jacobs Education Center
Extended through October, 2010, Thursdays & Saturdays, noon-4 pm

This stunning exhibition brings together ethnic craft from the private collections of Sam Maloof, Knox and Carlotta Mellon, and John S. Scott and includes objects representing three tribal areas of the world – Africa, Oceania, and First Peoples of the Americas.

Pruning and Planting Workshops

Malooof Discovery Garden
Saturday, October 16, 8:30 - 11:30 am
Saturday, November 13, 8:30 - 11:00 am

Gardeners of all experience levels are invited to assist with planting and pruning projects and hands-on learning at the Malooof Discovery Garden.

Garden Days 2010 Distinguished Lecture Series and Book Signings

Jacobs Education Center
November 11, 13, & 14, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Free to the public. Bring a friend!

Thursday, November 11, "Beyond Drought Tolerant: Winter Green, Summer Shape"
Nate Benesi on a new design style

Saturday, November 13, "The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn" John Greenlee, HGTV and PBS television host

Sunday, November 14, "Landscape Plants for California Gardens"
Bob Perry, Professor Emeritus and Landscape Architect

Mexican Folk Art Weekend

Jacobs Education Center
Saturday and Sunday, November 27 and 28, 10 am – 4 pm
Bring your family and friends to the annual post-Thanksgiving Mexican Folk Art Weekend at the Maloof compound. Now in its 11th year the event brings artisans from many parts of Mexico to demonstrate their crafts and sell their fine work. This year's event will feature Mata Ortiz pottery, Santa Clara de Cobre copper and silver, Oaxaca woodcarvings, Tonala ceramics and carvings, Atzompa ceramic figures, paintings from Rosarito, clay statues, crèches, and trees of life from Metepec, weavings, wool carpets, and more! The historic residence will be open for tours both days from 1- 3 pm with an admission fee of \$5/person. Saturday will feature a Mexican lunch. Reservations required. Call (909) 987-2805.

Exhibition: Generous Spirit: Sam Maloof as Mentor and Collector

Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum, California State University San Bernardino from October 9, 2010 - February 13, 2011 For more information visit <http://museum.csusb.edu>.



Don't miss Tribal Craft, now through October.



Bob Perry to speak on California landscapes.



Jojoba demonstrates Oaxacan carving and painting at the Mexican Folk Art Weekend.

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Support Levels

All levels include unlimited free admission to the historic residence, newsletter subscription, 10% discount in the museum shop, and invitations to lectures, exhibitions, and special events.

Student (\$35)

Subscriber (\$45) 1 free guest pass

Special Offer:

Malooof supporters joining at the Patron level (\$125) or above by December 31, 2010 will receive a complimentary limited edition DVD, Maloof, a highly acclaimed Public Television Special. This is a \$20 value.

Patron (\$125) 2 free guest passes and DVD

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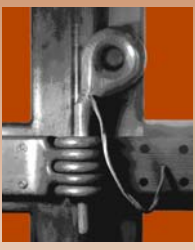
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The Wooden Latch

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION FALL 2010

SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF
FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

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Regular Public Tours

Thursdays & Saturdays
1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm
\$10 per person
Seniors \$8; Students \$5
No one under 14 permitted

Special Group Tours

By appointment

Malooof Garden Hours

Thursdays & Saturdays
Noon - 4 pm

The residence is located at 5131 Carnelian Street in Alta Loma, 2 miles north of the 210 (Foothill) Freeway and 8 miles north of the 10 (San Bernardino) Freeway.

For information and reservations please call
(909) 980-0412 or e-mail us at info@malooffoundation.org

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Art Director and Photography: Sioux Bally, Heartstone Arts
Garden and Flower Photography, Kathlene Persoff

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