Award for Creativity given for the first time

As 90 guests looked on, John Van de Kamp, President of the Board of Trustees of the California Historical Society, presented the organization’s Californian Award for Creativity to master woodworker Sam Maloof. It was the first time the California Historical Society, the State’s official historical society, had given such an award. In honoring Sam, Van de Kamp said, “Sam Maloof is not just a California treasure, he’s an American treasure. The best known woodworker of his time, this MacArthur Fellow has made his furniture-making an art. At 87 he’s going strong, creating new pieces, as well as sharing his craft teaching master classes. What Frank Gehry is to architecture, Sam Maloof is to furniture making.”

In accepting the award, Sam said, “I thank you for this award. God has given each of us a special talent – some
At the September 3, 2003 meeting of the Rancho Cucamonga City Council, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California presented a check for $75,000 to the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts for development of the Maloof California Discovery Garden. In presenting the check as part of the District’s “City Makeover Project”, MWD representative Charles Gale, Jr. said, “We were very impressed with the application from the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the Maloof Foundation and are delighted to award $75,000 for the Maloof garden project.” The grant will provide drought tolerant landscaping, walking paths, an irrigation system and help educate the public about outdoor water conservation.

As she received the check, Mayor Pro Tem Diane Williams said, “The City is excited to be on board with this project. The Maloof residence and gardens are quite a treat for visitors.” Beverly Maloof added, “Sam and I are pleased to serve as ambassadors for the District’s water conservation efforts by showcasing the beauty of native and other drought tolerant plants. Water-preserving gardens can be beautiful, exciting and cost effective and help save our precious water.”

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Robert Turner, Master Ceramicist

His issue’s featured artist is Robert Turner, one of America’s finest ceramists. A devout Quaker, Turner was born in 1913 in Long Island, New York. He began his formal art training at the Pennsylvania Academy for Arts in Philadelphia where he studied painting. After World War II, Turner switched from painting to pottery-making and attended Alfred University, where he studied with Charles Harder and Marion Foidick. After completing his master’s degree at Alfred, Bob Turner joined the faculty at Black Mountain College in Asheville, North Carolina. Turner started Black Mountain’s pottery program and taught there from 1947-1951. Returning to Alfred, New York, Turner devoted most of his time to pottery-making. In 1958 he became a part-time instructor in pottery and sculpture at Alfred University and in 1966 a full-time instructor there. After retiring from Alfred University, Turner continued to give workshops at Anderson Ranch, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, and Penland. He also continued to make pottery. In constructing pots, Turner uses clay and glazes that he formulated for his work.

There have been numerous exhibitions of Turner’s work, including at the Smithsonian Institution’s Renwick Gallery, the Ohi Museum of Fine Arts in Kanazawa, Japan, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Evanston Art Center and the Nelson-Akins Museum.

Richard J. Wattenmaker, Director of Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, wrote in a review of the newly released book, Robert Turner – Shaping Silence, by Marsha Miro and Tony Hepburn, “Robert Turner…inspired a sense of risk and discovery that has significantly advanced the field of American ceramics. The robust simplicity and forthright geometry Turner expresses in his work marks a highly personal contribution to the modern tradition in which he has played an important role for more than fifty years.”

Sam and Alfreda Maloof first met Bob Turner and his wife Sue in 1963 in El Salvador on a U.S. State Department village industry project. Their assignment was to help develop marketable handcrafted items. A deep friendship formed and the families often shared vacations in New Mexico visiting various Native American pueblos. Reflecting on Turner as an artist and a friend, Sam Maloof writes, “Bob is an icon in American pottery, an innovator and leader in his craft who is open to new ideas and not afraid to experiment. A fine teacher, he is one of the most respected people in the craft world. He is the kindest and most thoughtful person I know. Bob, I love your book.”

Robert Turner and an El Salvador village potter.

Model for proposed gallery made by Larry White, pictured here with Sam. More information in the next issue of The Wooden Latch.

Maloof Home and Studio Tour a Sellout

dA Center for the Arts and the Maloof Foundation host the fundraiser

Once again the “dA Center for the Arts” and the Maloof Foundation collaborated successfully on a fund raiser that benefited both non-profit organizations. Reservations for the September 20th special tour of the Maloof residences, woodworking studio and gardens organized by the dA Center were filled a week before the event.

In conjunction with the tour, the dA held an exhibition curated by Katherine White entitled “Sam Maloof Collects”, which included pieces from local artists represented in the Maloof Collection. Joan Weldon, director of the dA, said, “It has been one of our most successful tours and shows and was further enhanced by a thoughtful and much enjoyed talk and slide show by Sam himself. Our gratitude to all the docents from both the Maloof Foundation and the dA, with special thanks to Sam and Beverly for their generosity of spirit in allowing us this privilege.

Many of the 250 visitors enjoyed seeing Sam Maloof’s workshop. (Regularly scheduled Maloof Foundation tours feature the historic residence and gardens and do not include the workshop.) One guest, Carl Christensen, said, “It was a special treat to meet and talk with Sam Maloof. As a woodworker I enjoyed seeing his equipment and set-up.” His wife Irene added, “One really got a sense of what a genuine, humble, generous, sharing person Sam Maloof is. You just know he loves his work and has not been spoiled by all the celebrity. I was impressed that he would want to share his love of arts and crafts with others.”
Friends' contributions help conserve and maintain the Foundation's art collection, structures and grounds, as well as support Foundation programs that seek to create an awareness of the way in which crafts enrich our culture.

Sustaining/$1,000 and above: Newsletter subscription, unlimited free tours during regularly scheduled public tours; 20% discount at book/gift shop, free attendance at symposia and lectures.
Supporting/$50: Newsletter subscription, 5 free tours during regularly scheduled public tours; 15% discount at book/gift shop, free attendance at symposia and lectures.
Patron/$125: Newsletter subscription, 5 free tours annually during regularly scheduled public tours, 10% discount at book/gift shop, member rate for symposia and lectures.
Subscriber/$45: Newsletter subscription, 2 free tours annually during regularly scheduled public tours; member rate for symposia and lectures.
Student/$35: Newsletter subscription, 1 free tour annually during regularly scheduled public tours; member rate for symposia and lectures.
Corporate/$2,500 and above: Sustaining member benefits and special arrangements to suit your needs.

A warm welcome to the following new Friends:
Portia and Larry Adams, Subscriber
Elana Barach, Subscriber
Linda and Barton Beek, Supporting
Kathleen L. Bernath, Subscriber
William Bilisland III, Subscriber
Tim Burgess, Supporting
Ed and Pat Butler, Subscriber
Carl and Irene Christensen, Patron
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Anne and James Gould, Patron
Bruce and Capri Haga, Supporting
Connie Herman, Subscriber
Mary Humboldt and Bob Buster, Subscriber
Ruth Issacks, Supporting
Jaguar Computer Systems, Inc., Corporate

We thank the following Friends who renewed their memberships:
Andrew Chan and Wei Cheng, Supporting
Chattel Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Inc., Corporate
Annie Lynch, Subscriber

A SAD NOTE:
On September 23, 2003 Edward Nelsen lost his battle with cancer. He was 54 years old. Edward Nelsen spent the major portion of his career in the medical supply industry. Lee’s hobbies are photography and gardening. Lee and his wife Suzanne, who also is a docent for the Maloof Foundation, recently purchased a motor home which they plan to use to explore interesting areas of the United States, Mexico and Canada. They also enjoy spending time with their two daughters and five grandchildren.

Meet Lee Nelsen
Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Lee Nelsen spent the major portion of his career in the medical supply industry. Lee’s hobbies are photography and gardening. Lee and his wife Suzanne, who also is a docent for the Maloof Foundation, recently purchased a motor home which they plan to use to explore interesting areas of the United States, Mexico and Canada. They also enjoy spending time with their two daughters and five grandchildren.

Like many of our docents, Lee volunteered because he is a great admirer of Sam and his fine craftsmanship. He became interested in Sam Maloof after reading a newspaper article about him. While not a wood craftsman himself, Lee appreciates quality in arts and crafts, a trait he inherited from his mother who would do without something rather than compromise on quality. From his father, Lee learned that if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

Lee believes Sam’s work embodies these philosophies. ‘I love that Sam continually refines his art and strives to make each piece of furniture better than the last. Being around Sam and his incredible arts and crafts collection is inspiring and thrilling. I feel privileged to share Sam’s work and home with our visitors through the tours I lead.’ Thank you Lee for your excellent work as a docent, for helping with our special events and for your great photographs.

If you would like to become a docent, please contact Carlotta Mellon at (909) 980-0412

David and Margaret Home Special Tour of Maloof Historic Residence and Woodworking Studio
1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, November 8
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sunday, November 9
$35.00 per person
For reservations, call the David and Margaret Home at (909) 596-5921

Woodworking Class with Sam Maloof
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, November 15, 2003
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, February 7, 2004
Sam Maloof Woodworking Studio
3131 Carnelian St., Alta Loma, CA 91701
For reservations contact UC Riverside Extension
(909) 787-4105 or (800) 442-4990

Mexican Artisans Weekend: Mata Ortiz Potters, Oaxaca Woodcarvers and Zapotec Weavers from Oaxaca area
10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, November 29 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.: Complimentary Mexican lunch 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., Sunday, November 30
Special $5.00 historic residence tour fee for attendees
Do your holiday shopping at the Maloof bookstore

Looking for a unique gift item and a quiet, serene place to do your holiday shopping? Visit the Maloof Foundation's bookstore where you will find Mata Ortiz pottery, Oaxaca wood carvings, Bally digital paintings, Wade wooden tulips, and rocking chair tote bags, t-shirts, posters, magnets and note cards. The bookstore also is stocked with Sam's books, wood finishes and videos. The bookstore is open during tours and by appointment.

All sales benefit the Maloof Foundation.

Maloof Historic Residence
Open for Tours

Our tour information is as follows:

**Regular Public Tours:**
Thursdays & Saturdays,
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.;
$10 per person;
Seniors $8; Students $5;
No one under 14 permitted;

**Special Group Tours:**
By appointment;
$15 per person.

**Maloof Garden Tours:**
Thursdays & Saturdays
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Maloof 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 call (909) 980-0412 or e-mail us at malooffoundation@earthlink.net

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