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 continued on page 2

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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 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 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.

Mission

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

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 5111 Cornell 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.
The Maloof Move

Sam's son Silmon 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

Wetly 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 later, 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 added onto the original house between 1954 and 1995. 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 federal law required that any project receiving federal

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 he full creative 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 house 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
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 recreated 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 210 Freeway. “That orchard was placed on a hillside in its new resting place.” 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 procession of trucks ready to begin the 3-mile journey to the new site in 2001.

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

By Cherstin Lyon

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 he full creative and impeccable eye for design were unleashed. His house was his most significant piece of work.

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It took more than a decade of intense interagency cooperation and millions of dollars to preserve this one historic property.
Join the fun and become a Friend!  
Your support will help preserve the handcrafted Maloof compound and advance the Maloof Foundation’s mission of recognizing and celebrating fine artisans and craftspeople who skillfully create timeless treasures with their hands.

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

Student ($35)  
Special Offer:  
Maloof supporter joining at the Patron level ($125) or limited edition DVD, Maloof, a Highly Acclaimed Public Television Special. This is a $20 value.  
Questions?  Call (909) 980-0412

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1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm
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No one under 14 permitted

Special Group Tours
By appointment

Maloof 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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