Some Very Special Visitors

The Maloof Foundation was proud to host 50 students of the Chaffey High School Special Education program. It was a very wonderful and inspiring day for them, and for Sam and the docents who spent their day with the group. According to teacher Jana Vargas, those who meet these teenagers learn as much about themselves as they do about the kids. The young adults are “severely handicapped” according to the California guidelines and are functioning at preschool to third grade level. However, according to Vargas “we have seen that these developmental delays have not curbed their enthusiasm for life, including the excitement they felt at the Maloof compound.”

The docents, accustomed to the mostly reflective adult tours, found the students enthusiastic and inquisitive about the furniture, architecture, artwork and personal objects in the historic residence. Some students have shown special interests in woodworking and in art. One student, named Anthony, spent the afternoon sketching the exterior of the historic residence with remarkable detail and gave it to Sam, who added it to his impressive collection of art.

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Many groups visited the historic residence and gardens in 2004...such as the Japanese American Ambassador’s Council, the Orange County Woodworkers, the Los Angeles Craft & Folk Art Museum, Friends of the Riverside Library, the UCI Academy of Lifelong Learning, the California Art Educators, Brandeis Women’s Groups, several Red Hat Society groups and the Long Beach College Senior Program.

If you would like to visit with your group, please contact Joyce Allingham at 909-980-0412.
Three Artists from the Maloof Arts & Crafts Collection

one  Don Reitz, Ceramist

Born in Sunbury, Pennsylvania in 1929, Don received a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education from Kutztown State College in 1957 and a Master of Fine Arts from the New York State School of Ceramics at Alfred University in New York. He is the past president of the National Council on Education in Ceramic Arts. His 30-year teaching career includes the Dover New Jersey Public School System, Alfred University, and the University of Wisconsin, respectively. Throughout his prolific career, Don has received numerous awards, including the first Ceramic Art Award to be presented by the American Ceramic Society, and the Gold Medal from the American Craft Council. He is a fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters; the World Craft Council, and the National Council on Education in Ceramic Arts. He was named “one of the twelve greatest living ceramic artists worldwide” in the Ceramic Monthly Reader’s Poll, cited by the Maori people of New Zealand (and honored by them in a carved totem pole) for “distinguished leadership in the dispensing of knowledge to peoples;” and honored by the Smithsonian Institution, Building of Science and Industry in Washington, D.C., as a “production” ceramist, but instead focused on the craft of the objects he created, insisting that “if you don’t have something to put in [the vessel], it would have to have enough strength of character to be an object in itself”. Harrison typically throws 5 to 8 distinctly shaped vessels at one time, then ornaments them once the clay becomes leather-hard or dry.

Harrison McIntosh, Ceramist

Harrison was born in Vallejo, California on September 11, 1914, a second generation American with ancestors from Spain and Scotland. As a young adult, his family moved to Los Angeles where he held various jobs, including assistant to the director of the Foundation of Western Art. Becoming intrigued by pottery during a visit to the San Francisco World’s Fair, Harrison eventually turned to pottery before being drafted into WWII, where he served as a medic. When he was discharged, like many men he chose to take advantage of the GI Bill and attended Scripps College as a graduate student. He met his wife of over 50 years soon after, at the Pomona Fairplex, during her visit from Paris, on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Along with his studio mate, Rupert Deese and other local artists, Harrison sold his pieces at the Padua Theater in Claremont. In fact, according to Harrison, “we gathered a following of people, locally, which carries to this day”. He never became a “production” ceramicist, but instead focused on the craft of the objects he created. Harrison's work has been exhibited in museums throughout North America, including the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. His work is also represented in museum collections in Europe and Japan and such American museum collections as the American Craft Museum, New York, and the Oakland Museum, California.

Kay Sekimachi, Fiber Artist

Kay Sekimachi was born in 1926 in San Francisco and studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland and at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Liberty, Maine. She served on the faculty of the adult division of San Francisco Community College from 1956 to 1986. She was married to the celebrated wood turner Bob Stocksdale, with whom she also worked, presenting a series of matching “Marriage Sets” vessels, and showed concurrently at the Mingi International Museum in the Balboa Park in San Diego in 2001, two years before her passing. Ms. Sekimachi’s chosen instrument is the loom on which she has made three-dimensional monofilament hangings, linen-fold boxes and other objects. The soft and pliant creations are exquisitely simple and reflect a natural sense of form. She has received numerous awards including an NEA fellowship in 1974. She was named a Fellow of the American Crafts Council 1985 and in 1997 was the recipient of the Women’s Caucus for Art Honor Award. Kay received the American Crafts Council’s Gold Medal for consummate craftsmanship.

Her works have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the American Craft Museum, both in New York; the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts; the San Francisco Museum of Craft and Folk Art; and internationally at the National Museums of Modern Art, in Kyoto, Japan; the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, and the Central Museum of Textiles, Lodz, Poland, to name a few.

Kay Sekimachi will lecture at the Maloof Compound Thursday, May 19th. See Calendar, page 5.
Maloo Foundation
Loses Good Friend

Philanthropist Dr. Joseph Jacobs, a generous benefactor of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, passed away October 21st 2004 at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife Violet, his daughters Linda, Margaret and Valerie, and two grandchildren. A first generation Lebanese American, Joe was born in Brooklyn, New York, the seventh son of a notions peddler. As a young businessman, he moved to Pasadena and in 1947 founded Jacobs Engineering, which became the third largest engineering firm in the nation. From its establishment 55 years ago, Jacobs Engineering grew from a staff of two (he and his wife Violet) to a company of 35,000 employees and $4.6 billion in revenues in 2003. He authored The Compassionate Conservative: Assuming Responsibility and Respecting Human Dignity and his autobiography The Anatomy of an Entrepreneur: Family, Culture and Ethics. His message for building a successful business was to remember one’s moral and ethical obligations to the community. As successful as Joe became, he never forgot his humble beginnings. A true philanthropist, he established two Jacobs Family Foundations to promote community-based economic development, focusing on aid to families and at-risk youth, and to provide educational and other opportunities to under-represented groups. Through the Jacobs Family Foundation, Joe contributed $12 million to various nonprofit organizations. The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts was honored to have Joe Jacobs as a member of our Advisory Board.

Welcome Joyce Allingham

We are pleased to introduce Joyce Allingham as our bookstore manager and docent coordinator. She has been an active docent with the Foundation for years and stepped into the job when Sally Jenkins left to pursue her teaching career. Joyce says it is the serenity of the compound and the interesting visitors, who come from all over the world to discover what Sam has created, that she enjoys most.

Listed in “Who’s Who in America”, “Who’s Who in Engineering”, and “American Men of Science”, Joe was a Fellow in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering, the American Institute of Chemists and the National Academy of Engineers. In 1983, President Reagan awarded Jacobs the Hoover Medal, which recognizes the civic and humanitarian achievements of professional engineers.

The Woodlatch

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The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Artist Lecture Series

featuring Three American Crafts Council gold medal winners.

These intimate lectures will be held in a tent on the site of the future Maloof Gallery at the Maloof Compound. Artist receptions will follow lectures.

Optional tours of the historic Maloof residence will be offered. Please contact Margie Lowe at (951) 827-5801. Lecture fees are $35 each or $95 for the series.

Sam Maloof, April 21st, 6:30-8:30 pm

Kay Sekimachi, (see page 2) May 9th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Kay is a fiber artist and weaver. Her works include leaf bowls, paper cylinders and woven hanging art that have been shown in more than two dozen exhibitions, including the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of American Art.

Don Reitz, (see page 2), May 19th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Don has exhibited extensively and has had many solo exhibitions worldwide. He lectures and consults institutions and organizations on the building of kilns. His constantly evolving body of work includes platens, wall hangings, tea bowls, prints, and sculptures.

Don has received the first Ceramic Art Award by the American Ceramic Society, is an Honorary Fellow of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts and a Fellow of the American Crafts Council as well as a Trustee Emeritus of the American Crafts Council.

UC Riverside Extension Weekend Workshop

February 9th, March 19th and May 7th from 9 am to 3 pm.

Learn the “how” and “why” of Sam Maloof’s work and techniques in a one-day woodworking workshop. Sam discusses and demonstrates some of his methods of furniture making. Participants have a chance to see the furniture Sam has made for his own home. This course is designed for professional and amateur woodworkers. For reservations, contact UC Riverside extension at (951) 787-4105.

Annual dA Gallery Art Sale

June 25th from 10 am to 3 pm

Sam and Beverly will host the Second Annual dA Center for the Arts Summer Sale in the gardens. The invitational art sale benefits the dA Gallery in Pomona. The sale features 20 local artists and includes pottery, garden art, painting, sculpture, jewelry and more. Free and open to the public.

dA artisan, Dee Marcellus Cole
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.

We are deeply grateful for your support.

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The crowds arrived early and stayed late, as the Folk Art Weekend celebrated its third year at the Maloof Compound. Oaxacan carvers Maria and Jacoba Angeles Ojeda presented over one hundred intricately painted animals and Mata Ortiz potters Jorge Quintana and Michael Wisner offered numerous ceramic vessels of various shapes and sizes, painted with complex geometric patterns. A number of artists added to the busy hum of the weekend, with tapestries and rugs folding and unfolding in a blur of color.

Visitors also took advantage of the developing gardens, some showing their fall blooms under the darkening winter sky. Cuccas Restaurant provided a Mexican buffet lunch, offering warmth and encouraging visitors to spend a little more time touring the historic residence and walking the grounds before taking their new purchases home.

We are thankful to Nick and Carol Brown for coordinating and sponsoring our annual event. Twenty-five percent of the sales proceeds benefit the Secondary Schools of Mata Ortiz, CHI and San Martin Tilcajete, OXA and the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation.

Mexican Folk Art Weekend

During your next visit to the Maloof compound, not only will you see new and blooming plants, you will also see the multitude of identifying plant stakes. As a discovery garden, it is our sincere desire for visitors to see how beautiful and low maintenance the drought-tolerant plants can be. Before your next trip to the neighborhood garden shop, consider a visit! The garden is open, and free to the public, Thursday and Saturday from 12 noon until 4 p.m.

Beverly’s Garden

Sam was recently awarded the American Craft Council’s Aileen Osborn Webb Award in Philanthropy, one of the most prestigious honors the Council bestows. Since its inception in 1943, only nine individuals have received the award. The Council trustees believe it is a fitting tribute for Sam, in consideration of his tremendous generosity to the Council, his patronage of other worthy organizations and his role as an extraordinary craftsman. Sam and his wife, Beverly, flew to Palm Beach, Florida for the inaugural benefit, where Sam was given the award.

Amoment with Sam

Pottery by Jorge Quintana

Photo by Juanita Hall

A group of Mexican artists pose with Sam at the event.

Photo by Laurent Martres

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