

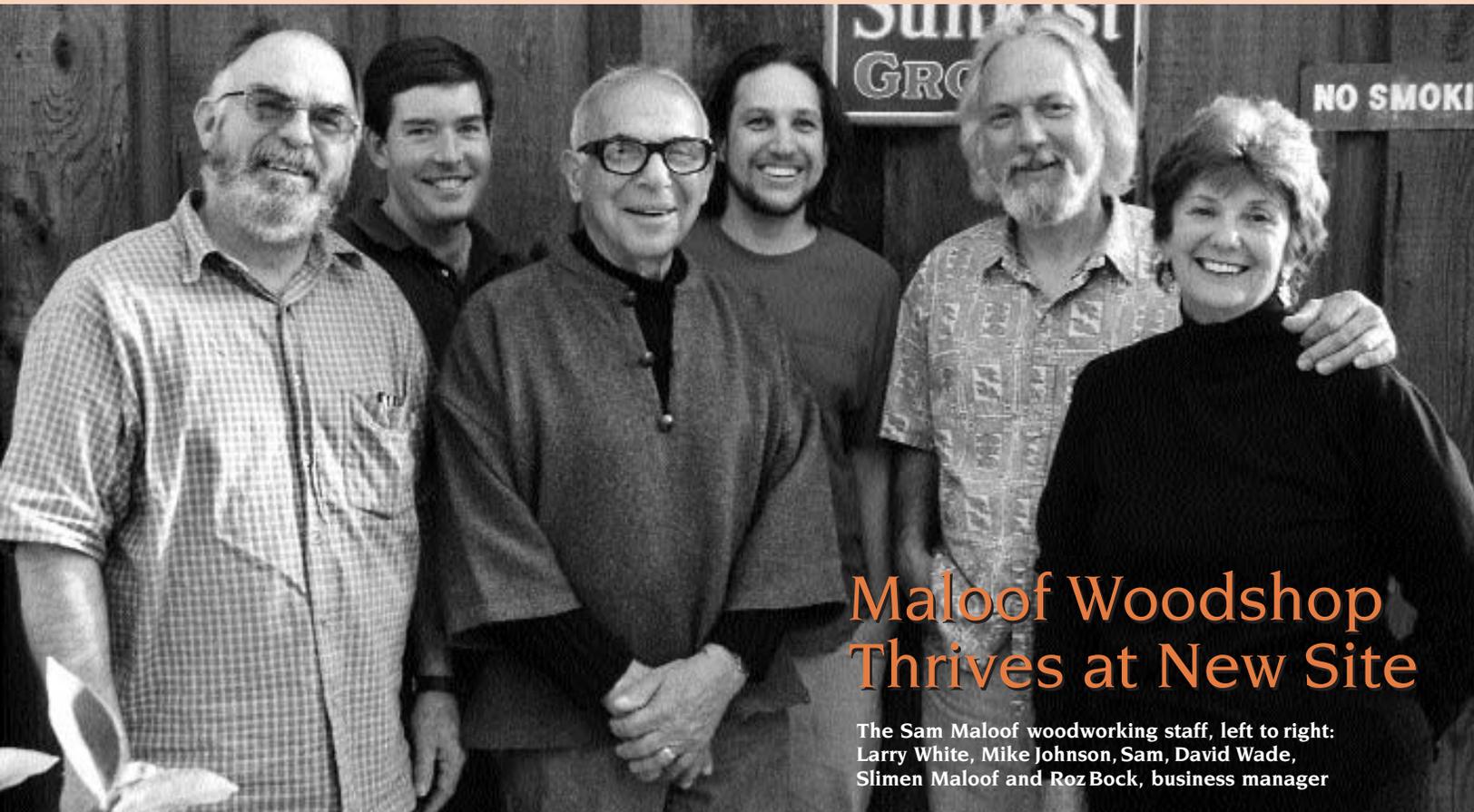
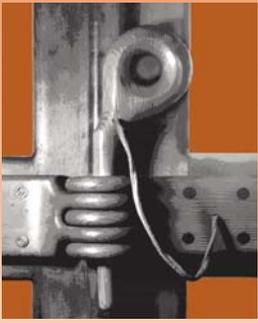
SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF  
FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

# The Wooden Latch

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



SUMMER 2003



## Maloof Woodshop Thrives at New Site

The Sam Maloof woodworking staff, left to right: Larry White, Mike Johnson, Sam, David Wade, Slimen Maloof and Roz Bock, business manager

Even after fifty years of furniture making, Maloof says "I still feel a bit anxious when I send a piece to a client. I still wonder if they will like it."

**S**am Maloof began making furniture in 1948 in a garage in Ontario with simple tools his father-in-law had used. In 1953, Alfreda

and Sam moved to Alta Loma. He worked in an old chicken house for two years until he could afford to lay a slab of cement for a new shop and home where the Maloofs lived and worked until the 210 freeway came through in 2000. Since Maloof's studio and home were historic residences, they were saved by relocation to a site three miles to the north.

For nearly two years during the move, furniture making at Sam Maloof Woodworker, Inc. was disrupted. Today, Maloof and three associates are busily handcrafting furniture. Sam designs and constructs each piece of furniture. Woodworkers Mike Johnson, Larry White and David Wade perform the tasks of shaping, sanding, finishing and oiling the pieces. Approximately sixty pieces of furniture are produced each year. Maloof signs and dates each item he makes.

Johnson came to work for Maloof in February of 1981 shortly after graduating from California State University, Long Beach. Larry White was

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Selected by the National Trust . . .



### Sam Maloof's Residence and Woodworking Studio Join Associate Sites

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has chosen the Sam Maloof Residence and Woodworking Studio to join its Historic Artists' Homes and Studios group of Associate Sites. The new participants were chosen by an 11-member advisory committee comprised of top art historians and historic site administrators. There are a total of 28 Historic Artists' Homes and Studios in the National Trust's associate sites program, which has been funded by grants from the Henry Luce Foundation. The group of Associate Sites is focused on identifying and helping American art-related historic sites to preserve, document and interpret their collections and buildings. "Artists open our eyes and give us a fresh vision of the world. Preserving these marvelous homes and studios helps give us a better understanding of the artists themselves and their contributions to the heritage we share as Americans," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust.



### Maloof Site Nominated to National Register



At its February 7, 2003 meeting, the California State Historic Resources Commission voted unanimously to nominate the Maloof historic residence and workshop to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the highest designation a historic site can receive. In commenting on the application submitted by the Maloof Foundation, State Historic Resources Commissioner Bill Hildebrandt said, "The National Register nomination for the Sam and Alfreda Maloof compound is an excellent contribution that highlights the lives and work of some important people I knew very little about. It's a great story about how hard work, combined with creative vision and perseverance, can result in art and architecture with local, national, and international significance. I found the story highly inspirational, and think it's great that the compound and its associated materials will become an important part of California history, hopefully creating inspiration for others well into the future."



Sam and Beverly share a tender moment before greeting guests.



Marie Hempy and Sally Johnson

## Beverly's Garden

### Tea Party Opens the Garden

Over 140 people gathered on May 25th at the Maloof compound to celebrate the opening of the Maloof California Discovery Garden to the public. Guests referred to a color-coded map as they walked along new pathways lined with drought tolerant plants such as California Lilac, Foothill Penstemon, Kangaroo Paws and copper-toned sedum. Beverly Maloof, who provided the vision for the garden, said "Our goal is to create a demonstration garden with a wide variety of planting situations that are long-lived, low maintenance, and attractive. The gardens are planned to be a partner to the Maloof historic residence. . . places of discovery, delight and inspiration. We hope your visits to this garden will inspire you to plant water-wise landscaping and that you will find new plants to add pleasure to your walks in your own garden."

Self-guided tours of the garden are 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays, starting at the Visitor's Center at 5131 Carnelian Street.



People of all ages enjoyed the days festivities.

### Maloof Garden Receives \$75,000 Grant from the Metropolitan Water District

The Maloof Foundation, partnering with the City of Rancho Cucamonga, has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The MWD, anticipating the impact of population growth that is expected to double in less than 20 years and realizing the strain this will put on water resources, has given grants to several cities in Southern California to install water-conserving landscaping that will demonstrate to the public how attractive (and cost effective) drought tolerant landscaping can be.

The generous grant will be used to complete a major portion of the Maloof master garden plan. Landscape architect, Rick Fisher, will oversee the installation of a dry stream bed for storm-water management, irrigation, pathways with resting places overlooking a natural arroyo, and plantings which will include California natives and unique specimens from compatible growing conditions around the world. Once established, plants will need watering only once or twice a month.

The generous grant will be used to complete a major portion of the Maloof master garden plan.



Pictured left to right at the the grant presentation ceremony held on May 21: City of Rancho Cucamonga project coordinator, Cam Amos, Foundation director Carlotta Mellon, MWD board president, Philip Pace and actress Rene Russo with Sam.



# Maloof Woodshop

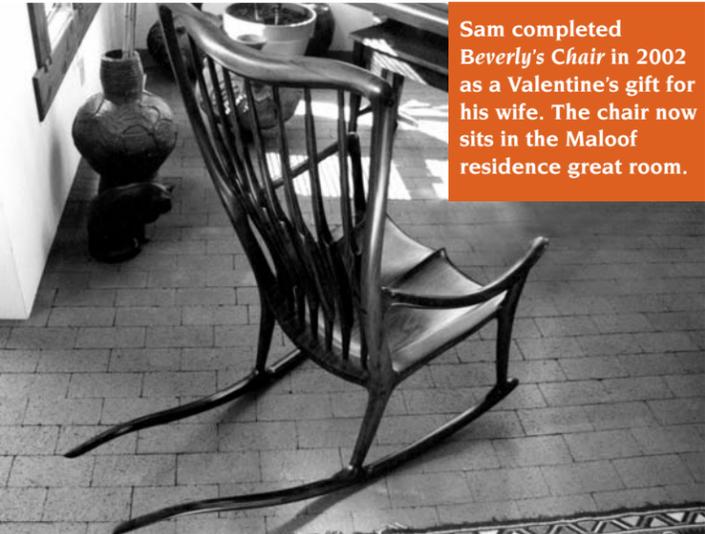
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Sam's first paid employee, joining Sam Maloof Woodworking in 1962 at the age of 19. In 1976 White left Maloof to pursue his own art work, but returned in 1992. The youngest of the crew, David Wade joined Sam

Maloof Woodworking in 1989 right out of high school. Together, the three men share a combined total of 44 years working for Maloof. As a young boy, son Slimen was Sams first shop helper. He still maintains an interest in the business and serves on the Foundation Board.

The first furniture Maloof made was for his own family. When he started making furniture for sale in 1949, he earned just \$555 and \$1,160 in 1950. It was a daily struggle to keep food on the table. Two years ago, two of his rockers sold for \$140,000 each at a charity auction. Maloof attributes his success to his late wife Alfreda Maloof, who encouraged him to pursue his dream even though it meant an uncertain future and very modest living conditions. "When I would say maybe I should get a regular job, Alfreda would reply, 'No Sam, we can do it.' She was my inspiration. I could not have done it without her."

Maloof's favorite wood is walnut, but he also uses other woods. Almost 90% of his work is by hand. It may be time consuming, but there are some things that can only be done by hand Maloof says. It is the handcrafted aspect that contributes to the high quality of his furniture. Maloof will not let anything out of the shop that is not



Sam completed Beverly's Chair in 2002 as a Valentine's gift for his wife. The chair now sits in the Maloof residence great room.



Woodshop activities include: tracing arm pattern (opposite page), cutting out rocker arm on bandsaw (see Sam on cover), grinding chair seat, sanding small tabletop and shaping chair. Every piece of furniture gets 5 coats of Maloof oil mixture.

right or he does not like. Even after fifty years of furniture making, Maloof says "I still feel a bit anxious when I send a piece to a client. I still wonder if they will like it."

As Maloof received commissions from individuals like industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss, his reputation grew and in 1950 his work was first shown in New York City and over the years he exhibited in many museums throughout the country. In 1975 Sam Maloof was made a Trustee of the American Craft Council. The MacArthur Foundation Genius Award in 1985 enhanced Maloof's reputation and brought widespread publicity. He was awarded honorary doctorates from the Rhode Island School of Design and Aurora University in Illinois. In September 2002 Maloof received The Gamble House Master Craftsman Award for Excellence, which had been conferred just once before in 1987. Maloof's furniture is found in some of the most important private collections in the nation and in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Art Museum, the Boston Museum of Art, the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Oakland Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and many other fine museums. There have been more than 100 exhibitions of his furniture, including at the Vatican Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the American Crafts Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

In reflecting on more than fifty years of woodworking, Maloof said, "I am blessed to have done something I truly loved. With Freda's support and now with Beverly's help, I followed my dream."

"I am blessed to have done something I truly loved."



# Friends of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts

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; private group tour available upon request
- Supporting / \$250:** 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

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Willis Andersen, Jr. Supporting             | George Jensen, Subscriber               | Mary and Tony Roggero, Subscriber           |
| Adnan and Barbara Aswad, Patron             | Mary Lou Jensen, Supporting             | Ted Russell, Subscriber                     |
| Jean Beckner, Subscriber                    | Howard Kanengiser, Subscriber           | Betty and Sandy Sanford, Patron             |
| Jennifer Berkley and Alan Jones, Supporting | Fred Killam, Patron                     | Les and Marie Selindh, Patron               |
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| Dick Bobo and Ann Sorgen, Subscriber        | Poppy Kwong, Subscriber                 | Peg Sperry, Subscriber                      |
| Pat Brusca, Subscriber                      | Randall and Janell Lewis, Supporting    | Marci and Jack Stewart, Subscriber          |
| Nancy Chaffee, Subscriber                   | Jacqueline Killam Lovell, Supporting    | Dave Strickland, Subscriber                 |
| Kenneth Cochran, Subscriber                 | Joe and Yvonne Maloof, Subscriber       | CleoBell and Sid Tice, Patron               |
| Dee Marcellus Cole, Subscriber              | Mr. and Mrs. Sam Maloof, Patron         | Mr. and Mrs. William Ullrich, Patron        |
| Frances Culver, Supporting                  | Karen and George Morris, Supporting     | Curt Vosberg, Subscriber                    |
| Diane Dieterich, Subscriber                 | Carol Muira, Subscriber                 | Betty and Jephtha Wade, Patron              |
| Javier Dominguez, Patron                    | Mary Nichols, Patron                    | David Wade and Michelle Gunnell, Subscriber |
| Tom Edholm, Patron                          | Roy and Rose Nisheo, Patron             | Chris Wahl, Student                         |
| Gary and Helen Feller, Subscriber           | Phyllis Outhier, Subscriber             | Julia Walker, Patron                        |
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| Jean Jack, Subscriber                       |   |   |

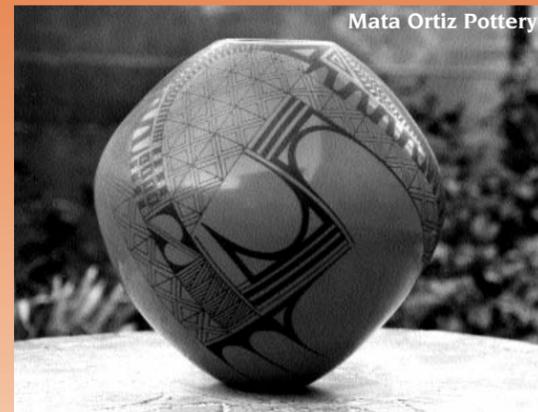
## We thank the following Friends who renewed their memberships

- |                                       |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Frances Barilotti, Subscriber         | Willard and Mary Louise Hunter, Subscriber       | Gail Sparks, Subscriber                |
| Louise Bloom, Subscriber              | Don and Marsha Milner, Subscriber                | Nancy and Glen Stephens, Subscriber    |
| Edward Bosley, Patron                 | Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce, Supporting | Katherine and David Warren, Supporting |
| Bill and Irene Coburn, Subscriber     | John and Beth Reff, Patron                       | Stuart and Patricia Winston, Patron    |
| Joan Golding, Subscriber              | Garrett Short, Patron                            | Ray Wisniewski, Subscriber             |
| Mr. and Mrs. James E. Gregory, Patron |  |  |

## Maloof Foundation Loses Good Friend

"I'll meet you at Walter's" was said by people in the Pomona Valley for almost a half-century. The popular Claremont restaurant was founded in 1958 by its namesake, Walter Boldig and his partner Herb Hafif. Walter died on April 6, 2003 from heart surgery complications. After Walt completed his restaurant career, he came to the Herb Hafif law office as its lay administrator.

After working seven years with Herb, he left to administer the law firm of Shernoff, Bidart and Darras where he stayed for 25 years. Walt was very involved with many community organizations, but was most proud of his development of Cedar House, an alcohol and drug rehabilitation hospital in San Bernardino County and the University of La Verne School of Law. Throughout his varied career, he never lost his love of woodworking. He proudly served the Maloof Foundation as an enthusiastic board member. Remembering his long-time friend, Sam said, "through thick and thin Walt remained a true friend to the very end. He will be missed."



## Art in the Bookstore

Now Available in the Foundation Bookstore: Mata Ortiz pottery and fine art digital paintings by Sioux Bally. The store continues to stock visitor favorites like the books *Sam Maloof: Woodworker*, and *The Furniture of Sam Maloof*, Sam Maloof's woodworking video, and rocking chair posters, t-shirts, magnets and tote bags.

### Meet Sally Jenkins, Bookstore Manager

In March of 2003, the Maloof Foundation was fortunate to obtain the services of Sally Jenkins as bookstore manager. A former engineer and mother of two young boys, Sally was the Foundation's first volunteer.



## Director's Column



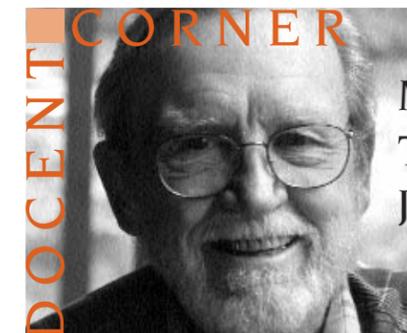
Carlotta Mellon

► There is lots of exciting news to report. Our biggest story is a \$75,000 grant from the Metropolitan Water District, made possible by a partnership between the Maloof Foundation and the City of Rancho Cucamonga. What a happy coincidence that the grant was announced four days prior to the Foundation's Garden Tea Party that celebrated the opening of the garden

to the public! Many thanks to all who came to the Garden Tea Party on May 25. Your presence and enthusiasm made it a true celebration. I want to thank those individuals who could not come, but made a donation to the Foundation. Your support helps the Foundation do its job and will bring new blooms to the garden.

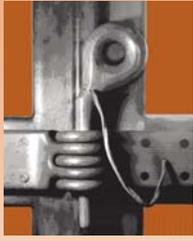
► Our "Friends" memberships also help the Foundation fulfill its mission to preserve and make available to the public the Maloof historic residence, which is filled with Sam's exquisite furniture and arts and crafts collection from diverse media that includes an extensive collection of Native American pots, blankets and rugs, paintings by noted artists Milliard Sheets, Sue Hertel, Paul Darrow, Phil Dike, Evelyn Sheehan, Milford Zornes, pottery by Rick Dillingham and Bob Turner, turned wood bowls by Ed Moulthrop and many other wonderful pieces. Our new and continuing Friends are listed on page 6.

► The Foundation is very proud that Sioux Bally won awards for her design of the Foundation logo, brochure and newsletter. Congratulations Sioux!



### Meet Tom Johnson

**W**hen Tom Johnson, who grew up in Ontario, retired after 41 years of practicing general dentistry, he didn't waste any time pursuing a great love, woodworking. An amateur woodworker and photographer, Dr. Johnson also makes stain glass and jewelry. Having admired Sam's work for a long time, he eagerly signed on as a docent for the Maloof Foundation. He shares his knowledge and appreciation of woodworking and arts and crafts with the visitors he guides through the historic Maloof residence. Speaking about his work as a docent, Tom said, "I hope that I can help our docent team increase the public's appreciation of Sam's skill as a woodworker and his contributions to the world of artists and craftspeople. It's a privilege for me to be a part of this cultural endeavor and I hope the effort of our docent team will compliment Sam's work." Thank you Tom for your enthusiasm, dedication, commitment to excellence and hours of service.



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A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION SUMMER 2003

SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF  
FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

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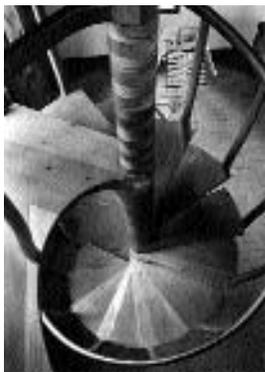
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September 28, 2003  
California Historical Society to Honor  
Sam Maloof with its first "Californian  
Award for Creativity"

4:00 – 7:30 p.m., \$200 per person. Tours of  
the historic and new Maloof residences and  
the historic Sam Maloof woodworking studio  
followed by a dinner and awards ceremony.  
Contact the Maloof Foundation for  
reservations at (909) 980-0412.



Saturday, September 20, 2003  
dA Center for the Arts Tour of the  
Maloof home and Workshop

10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., \$25 per person  
or \$45 for two people. Tour of historic  
and new residences and Sam Maloof's  
workshop. Proceeds from the tour  
benefit the dA and the Maloof  
Foundation. For reservations call the  
dA Center at (909) 397-9716.

## 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.

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

## Board of Directors

Anne Ashford, *Director of Development, House of Ruth*  
Paul Eaton, *Mayor, Montclair and Board of Directors,  
San Bernardino Associated Governments*  
Patrick Ela, *Arts consultant*  
Jerry Foster, *Woodworker*  
Randell Makinson, *Director Emeritus, Gamble House*  
Sam Maloof, *Woodworker*  
Slimen Maloof, *Woodworker*

Ted Maloof, *Attorney*  
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SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

P.O. Box 397, Alta Loma, CA 91701 • 5131 Carnelian Street, Alta Loma, CA 91701  
(909) 980-0412 • Fax (909) 980-0442 • malooffoundation@earthlink.net

Editor: Carlotta Mellon

Art Director: Sioux Bally, Heartstone Arts

Photography: Sioux Bally; Gene Sasse, cradle, pg. 2; MWD, grant event, pg. 3