

MCW Special Activity Announcement

As MCW Members, we are occasionally privileged to be able to tour the homes of wood art collectors in the DC area. We have recently been treated to viewings at Jerry & Deena Kaplan's and at Fleur Bresler's uncommon homes. This September will give us another such unique opportunity.

We are invited to visit the "Laurel" home of doctors **Jeff Bernstein and Judy Chernoff** on **Sunday afternoon, September 23, 2018, from 2-5 p.m.**, to explore and discuss their rare and cutting-edge (pun intended) collection of wood art, much of it turned, along with other fine contemporary creations in glass, ceramic, fiber, and metal.

Those of you who have been in MCW for many years may remember an earlier visit we made in April of 2010. Since that time, they have completely remodeled their display spaces and added many new works to their trove. You may also remember Jeff & Judy as two of our Critique Panel members from our second-ever Critique session in January of 2011. They have both served, separately, as President of the national Collectors of Wood Art (CWA) organization for a combined period of five years.

Here is what Phil Brown had to say about their portfolio prior to our 2010 visit: "I had the opportunity to see this collection at a CWA function and it is OUTSTANDING!! There are attractive and simple forms, but also wonderfully complex pieces, sculptural work, texturing, dying, negative spaces, miniature to large – all of the best available today from creative turners and artists. While mostly wood items, there are also very fine bamboo baskets, wire sculpture, glass, and clay. This collection is much more exciting than you will ever see in a museum."

If Phil was led to that level of praise, you've got to know it's special.



In Jeff's own words: "Like others who love to collect art, the collecting bug bit us long before we knew what it was or where it would take us. In addition to living with works that are incredibly creative, visually beautiful, and of exceptional craftsmanship, we have had the pleasure and honor of knowing many of the artists whose work is in our collection and hearing some of their stories and inspirations." (That's Jeff on the right in the photo.)

There is also an art to the act of displaying such works, and Jeff and Judy are masters. They group their items together very thoughtfully so that each one relates well with its companions. As we wander around a bit, Jeff and Judy will tell us their personal stories behind the pieces.

This will be an "RSVP-only" event. Our numbers will be limited, so no guests will be permitted. More details will be forthcoming. To begin with, a sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September 6 Meeting. Gary will then send an email asking for more reservations to complete our quota.

This is a unique opportunity to see, discuss, and contemplate a premier, private collection of contemporary wood art, and more. Please put this date on your calendars and plan to join us.