Benson, the most published photographer in the history of LIFE Magazine, photographed every president from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Barak Obama. Richard Nixon, though, was his favorite presidential subject.

"Nixon was clever. I liked him. He wouldn't hide from people like me," Benson said. "He was actually a good guy."

As a photojournalist, "your camera is never too far away," Benson said. "Your business is to photograph what you see – and what you see should inform."

"Sometimes you get it right away…and sometimes you know you'll eventually wear the person down," he said. "A happy picture is one of the most difficult things a photographer can do," he added.

Among the other wisdom he imparted: don't chase your subjects, don't talk too much, and don't manipulate your images.

"I think the secret of your genius is in your charm," Maltz-Leca said to Benson, an observation many in the audience in the agreed with.

The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 10. Admission to the Redwood and the exhibition is free.