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BEVERLY HILLS

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COIN. connoisseur

MONEY TALK WITH SUPERIOR
GALLERIES' SILVANO DIGENOVA

Around Town

with Bonnie Carroll

THE POWER TO INSPIRE

In 1984, following my work with the Olympics, I was selected to travel as a media escort with the Olympic Gold Medallists and their parents on a Southland Corporation/USOC sponsored media tour. The kick-off was a breakfast in Los Angeles with **President Ronald Reagan**, and I was given the job of standing a few feet from the President and First Lady as each medallist was photographed with them.

As President Reagan approached the podium, I was moved to a position just in front of him. I remember feeling stunned and so honored to find myself standing in front of the President of the United States singing the National Anthem. The 1984 Olympic Tour included a ticker tape parade in New York with Mayor Koch. The patriotic expression of love that the crowd was showing for the athletes as they walked through the streets of the Big Apple brought us all to tears. I cried through the entire parade, listening to people yelling "America we love you", and waving back at people hanging from their office windows proudly holding little American flags.

It has always been obvious to me that following the dark period in our country when people felt frozen from the grief, shame and disillusionment of the assassination of four great leaders, the loss of life during the Viet Nam War, and the resignation of a President, that this gentle man from Illinois gave the American people back their sense of dignity and national pride.

As I watched the ceremony being televised from the Rotunda, following the President's death, once again I could see his face, and once again I was overcome with that same patriotism he inspired in me and everyone else standing in the Century Plaza ballroom that morning in 1984. His



example of faith opened the hearts of men and women in America and throughout the world. How graced we all were to have known him.

AN AFTERNOON WITH FRIENDS

The **Premiere Friends of Greystone Afternoon With Friends** event attracted renowned artist **Robert Walker**, City of Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation Commissioners **Martin Geimer**, **Jill Collins**, and FOG members, all of whom enjoyed an extremely informative historical lecture on Greystone, presented by **Katherine Hyman**. A tour of the first floor of the mansion was given by board members **Daniel Houston**, **Norma Zager**, **Bonnie Carroll**, **Marilyn Granas**, **Nancy Krasne**, and **Shirley Arconti**. The social reception, held in the beautiful upper pool area, included culinary delights and refreshing beverages which were generously donated by the Four Seasons at Beverly Hills Hotel, Shawn Saedian of The Beverly Hills Market, Viktor Benes Bakery, Serendipitea. Flowers were donated by The Empty Vase. FOG President **Lou Milkowski** thanked everyone for coming and stressed the importance of all Beverly Hills residents joining the Friends of Greystone, a broad based community support group created to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic property, as well as promote ongoing activities for the enjoyment and enrichment of the public. For membership information go to www.GreystoneMansion.org.



[GreystoneMansion.org](http://www.GreystoneMansion.org).

Photo: Friends enjoying social refreshments at Greystone Mansion)

WALKING THE WALK FOR CHARITY

The **Fashion Forward Los Angeles Showcase** to benefit **Friendly House & The CLARE Foundation, Inc.** transformed the Beverly Hills Ltd. Mercedes-Benz showroom into a couturier dream sequence that featured the stunning collections of **Frankie B.**, **Pamela Barish**, **Waraire Boswell**, **Desanka**, **Monah Li**, **Tree**, **Richard Tyler** and **Edwards Lowell Furs**. Shoes were by **Allen Edmonds**, **Jimmy Choo**, **Sigerson Morrison**, **Tyler** by **Richard Tyler** and **Vans**. Celebrities present included **Kirsty Hume** and **Donovan Leitch**, event hosts, **Meredith Baxter**, **Matthew Perry**, **Karina Lombard**, **Amber Benson**, **Michelle Phillips**, and **Steve Jones**. The **Friendly House**, founded in 1951, provides two recovery home facilities and services to women recovering from alcoholism and/or drug addiction. The **Nerine Shatner Friendly House**, located just south of Beverly Hills, was donated by **The Shatner Family Foundation** in memory of **William Shatner's** late wife **Nerine**. The **CLARE Foundation**, founded in 1971, provides services to all those seeking recovery from substance abuse, regardless of their ability to pay. In 2004, over 18,000 people received service from the foundation. Kudos to **Stephen Smythe**, President



& CEO, and the staff of Beverly Hills Ltd. Mercedes Benz for hosting this worthwhile event.

Photo: Actress **Meredith Baxter** chats with **Nicholas Vratovic**, **CLARE Foundation Director** and **Peggy Albrecht**, **Executive Director of Friendly House**

OLYMPIC TORCH FEVER

The route for the 2004 Olympic Torch journey to the Summer Olympics in Greece included a short, but very exciting run through Beverly Hills. I joined a huge crowd on Doheny Drive that began at the Four Seasons at Beverly Hills and dotted the street into West Hollywood. The parade then traveled up Sunset Boulevard on the way to Dodger Stadium, where once again Olympic Gold Medalist **Rafer Johnson** ran the final lap and lit the City of Los Angeles torch. This month has seemed like a retake of my fondest days in 1984, and what a great feeling.

A BEVERLY HILLS FATHER'S DAY

This special day in Beverly Hills included a viewing of some of the hottest collector cars and classic Ferraris in the world at **Concours on Rodeo**, including lunch furnished by **Sharky's** and **Nate 'n' Al**, compliments of **Geary's**. The seventh annual event benefited the **Amie Karen Cancer fund**. In the afternoon, **Robert Gore Rifkind** and his sons treated guests of the Beverly Hills Symphony opening summer program at Greystone Mansion to a delicious dinner, following a 4p.m. performance conducted by musical director **Bogidar Avramov**. For future performance or membership information please call 310-276-8385.

Photo: Olympic Torch Traveling Through Beverly Hills

