



Graduated brass weights cast in the shape of elephants (page 47).

Previous page

A sampling of decorative boxes that the Annenbergs received as gifts over the decades.

TREASURES AT SUNNYLANDS:

SELECTIONS FROM THE GIFT COLLECTION
OF WALTER & LEONORE ANNENBERG

January 25, 2015 through January 17, 2016



by Anne Rowe



THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION TRUST
AT SUNNYLANDS

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An illustration of Washington, D.C. from
the interior of the decoupage presentation
box given to the Annenbergs by
Jay and Sharon Rockefeller (page 51).



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This eighteenth-century silver creamer was a gift from David Rockefeller (page 45).

The Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands

For more than forty years, Sunnylands served as an oasis for presidents of the United States, other heads of state, international royalty, and leaders from government, business, education, science, entertainment, and the arts—a place for reflection, relaxation, and conversation.

Believing that the beauty of the setting could inspire a unique brand of informal, collegial, and productive deliberations, Walter and Leonore Annenberg created The Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands as a venue for small, high-level meetings designed to advance world peace, facilitate international agreements, and create solutions to important problems. After a thorough renovation, the 200-acre estate reopened in early 2012 as a spectacular site for private meetings.

The Annenbergs also wanted the public to have access to Sunnylands to experience its beauty, art, and history. Sunnylands Center & Gardens is the public access point where visitors can learn about this special place.

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands launched a publications program to document the exhibitions featured at the Center & Gardens and to interpret the various Sunnylands collections. This volume highlights the fascinating collection of gifts that the Annenbergs received during their lifetimes. The social history of gift giving is seen in the range of objects and the variety of impulses that prompted the gifts. The Sunnylands archives continues to add gifts to its collection, like the scroll from Chinese President Xi Jinping who showed his appreciation of Sunnylands during his visit with President Barack Obama in June 2013.

Geoffrey Cowan

President, The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands

Walter and Leonore Annenberg

Sunnylands was the winter home of Walter and Leonore Annenberg. It was their wish that in addition to the high-level retreats, Sunnylands should be accessible to the public for the purpose of experiencing the unique home they had created together.

Walter Annenberg (1908–2002) was a communications expert, diplomat, and philanthropist. His company, Triangle Publications, Inc., published the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Seventeen*, and *TV Guide* and broadcast *American Bandstand*. Under President Nixon, Walter served as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's (United Kingdom) from 1969 to 1974.

Leonore Annenberg (1918–2009) served as Chief of Protocol under President Reagan from 1981 to 1982. A consummate hostess, she welcomed world leaders and entertainment icons to Sunnylands for four decades.

Among the world's most generous philanthropists, the Annenbergs funded a wide variety of cultural and educational organizations. Their love of art resulted in a renowned art collection. Their Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings were donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City where they are on permanent exhibition.

The extensive research by Anne Rowe, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, and other Sunnylands staff provides fascinating new insights into the social history of the Annenbergs.

Janice Lyle, Ph.D.

Director, Sunnylands Center & Gardens



TREASURES AT SUNNYLANDS



Midcentury golf-themed clock given by Bob and Dolores Hope (page 54).

TREASURES AT SUNNYLANDS

In March 1966, Walter and Leonore Annenberg began wintering at their custom-built modernist estate in Rancho Mirage, California, traveling from their primary home in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Married in 1951, this charismatic couple shared a love for a life filled with people. They designed Sunnylands as the ideal place to entertain family, colleagues, and friends in a magnificent but peaceful setting. Striking the perfect balance between formality and comfort is difficult to achieve. Both Walter and Leonore were celebrated for this unique social skill by their family and many friends.

Left
On February 14, 2014, President Barack Obama hosted King Abdullah II of Jordan at Sunnylands, where they sat for a discussion in the living room.

Official White House photo.



The genesis of the current exhibition, *Treasures at Sunnylands: Selections from the Gift Collection of Walter & Leonore Annenberg*, emerged from President Obama's second visit to Sunnylands in February 2014. When it was confirmed that the president would meet with King Abdullah II of Jordan at Sunnylands, staff sought to discover any prior relationship between the king's family and the Annenbergs and/or Sunnylands. Wonderful photographs emerged depicting King Hussein of Jordan, King Abdullah's father, with Leonore Annenberg in a variety of settings during her year of service as the United States Chief of Protocol. A mystery likewise emerged. A letter was found in the archive written by Walter Annenberg in November 1981 thanking King Hussein for a cigarette case:

“ *May I thank you for your gracious generosity in presenting me with so handsome a silver cigarette case and which I will keep on display in my home, 'Sunnylands,' in Rancho Mirage, California. I expect to have President and Mrs. Reagan with us over the New Year's holiday and I shall take pleasure in showing them your splendid gift. With all good wishes to you, Sir, and Her Majesty the Queen. Respectfully,* Walter Annenberg. ”

Many tabletop mementos at Sunnylands, such as silver cigarette cases or boxes, are engraved or depict the crest of the presenter, facilitating identification and the historic narrative. Silver boxes and property inventories were excitedly examined to determine which of the many silver cases in the collection had been a gift from King Hussein of

Jordan. The results were not conclusive and this research continues. In the swirl of a busy household, this particular gift was either not identified as such or, more likely, the identification was separated from the cigarette case during the 33 years that it has resided at Sunnylands.

Despite the unsolved mystery, the staff was thrilled by what lay before them: a glistening bounty of gorgeous silver cigarette boxes and cases from a variety of notable twentieth-century figures. Each case is distinct and all are rich in history. This impressive physical reminder of lives fully lived was quite something to behold. Sunnylands staff are aware of the record demonstrating the honorable and generous lives the Annenbergs had led. It was exhilarating to see a collection of the tangible markers of their extraordinary lives. These gifted objects from all over the world, in all shapes and sizes, and signed with warm expressions of love and affection, created a powerful narrative.

Many of the gifts received over the years at Sunnylands were perishable and were long ago imbibed, ingested, composted, or replanted. Botanical gifts, including cut flower arrangements (often calla lilies, casa blanca lilies, roses, cymbidium orchids, dendrobium orchids, and mixed florals), were popular. Fragrant bouquets from California friends (Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, and the desert communities) would greet the Annenbergs upon their return to Sunnylands each winter. Potted plants and trees were also delivered by courier as special gifts.

Walter, well known for his sweet tooth, inspired edible gifts from See's Candies, Fun in the Sun Candies (now, Palm Springs Candy Company), Enstrom Candies, and Edelweiss Chocolates in Beverly Hills. Various cookies and fresh gallons of artisanal ice cream, including a favorite flavor "Death by Chocolate," were flown in from his favorite creamery in Pennsylvania for special occasions. Delicious goodies arrived by courier. Henry Kissinger sent indulgent amounts of Beluga caviar as a New Year's Eve gift and Richard Nixon sent California oranges. In addition, figs, dates, wines, almond butter, and gourmet food assortments arrived regularly.

Below
President William Jefferson Clinton poses with the Annenbergs outside the front entrance of Sunnylands on Valentine's Day, 1995.

Official White House photo.



Books were also a common gesture of friendship at Sunnylands. Of the 3,687 volumes at Sunnylands, as many as 1,200 are attributed as gifts; they are signed and/or inscribed—with many having the original gift card or letter still tucked inside.

The gift of quality time spent at Sunnylands inspired beautiful cards or letters from guests thanking the Annenbergs. Creative writings from family members were also presented as gifts. For Christmas in 1985, Leonore Deshong, Leonore's granddaughter, wrote two poems for the Annenbergs.

“Granny and Pop-Pop, I know that this is not a typical Christmas gift. But it is something that I wanted to share with you, from my heart. I think the written word, whether sad or happy, whether filled with the possibility of change or not, is one of the most precious gifts you can give anybody. So, I give you my writings, my words, for your Christmas gift.”

Other gift themes emerge related to Leonore's and Walter's favorite things. These include gifts depicting elephants (possibly reflecting the Republican symbol); glass objects (including Steuben, Lalique, and Boucheron); and many beautiful silver objects such as letter openers, pens and pencils, trays, and vases. Leonore was particularly enamored of the small English enamel boxes from Halcyon Days, also known as “Battersea boxes” referring to the company's collaboration with Bilston and Battersea Enamels. French porcelain trinket boxes from Limoges were also received as gifts. Leonore happily surrounded herself with this sentimental collection in the master bedroom.

Left

Leonore Annenberg says goodbye to First Lady Nancy and President Ronald Reagan in the Game Room, following a New Year's Eve visit at Sunnylands.

January 1987.

Official White House photo.

Opposite above

Then California Governor Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy enjoy refreshments on the terrace with former President Dwight Eisenhower.

c. 1967.

Sunnylands Collection.

Opposite below

Outside the Game Room, Leonore Annenberg holds the Nixons' granddaughter, Jennie Eisenhower, while Richard and Pat Nixon look on.

April 1979.

Sunnylands Collection.



Seven presidents of the United States visited the Annenbergs at Sunnylands. Commemorative, White House-issued, and personal presidential gifts were received by the couple—the largest number from Ronald and Nancy Reagan. Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower were among the earliest guests to visit Sunnylands—first signing the guest book in April 1966. That month Dwight wrote to Leonore:

“ Dear Mrs. Annenberg: Your dinner party Friday evening was one of the most enjoyable I have ever attended. Without exception I found every guest interesting and in spite of my passion for going to bed early I must confess that I was completely astonished that I found I was still sitting at the table at 11:15! On top of this I was deeply touched by your gift of the little painting of the Sunflower. Anyone closely connected with Kansas is quite sentimental about the state flower and I assure you that your picture will be placed where I can see it often. In expressing my sincere thanks to you and Walter I send also my warm regard, Affectionately,
Dwight D. Eisenhower. ”

Former President Richard Nixon presented his own inscribed golf clubs to Sunnylands in 1975. He wrote of the gift and Walter’s left-handedness, “I hope you find these golf clubs to be a worthy addition to the treasures of Sunnylands. They are right-handed clubs—consequently of no use to you personally. But I’m authorizing you to let any of your right-handed guests play with them.”

President Jimmy Carter did not visit Sunnylands but did thank the Annenbergs for quite a generous gift, a ride on their private airplane. President Carter wrote in the Gulfstream V guest book in May 1998, “Great trip home from University of Pennsylvania—Thanks!”



One of the most cherished gifts presented to Walter was the result of a 1949 dinner when he was seated next to Sir Winston Churchill. As chronicled in the book, *Only the Best: A Celebration of Gift Giving in America* by Stuart E. Jacobson, Walter plucked up his courage and recounts:

“ About one in the morning, after endless wines and beakers of brandy, I turned to Churchill and said, ‘Sir, I hope you don’t think me presumptuous, but I must tell you how saddened I was at the electorate in your country rejecting you as they did after you had saved their empire and their way of life.’ Now he could have shriveled me up with a few well-chosen words, but he looked at me for about ten seconds, put his hand on my shoulder, and said, ‘Young Annenberg, look not for rewards from others but hope you have done your best’. After about ten minutes of very privileged conversation, he said, ‘Annenberg, I am going to do something I rarely do, which is to leave my autographed picture for you upon my departure. Don’t tell anyone until I am out of the country because I don’t readily hand out my autograph to people!’... the place of honor is reserved for this autographed portrait, taken in 1941 by Yousuf Karsh, ‘probably as fine as gift as I have ever received.’ ”

Below
Queen Elizabeth II visited Sunnylands during her trip to California in February 1983. On that occasion the Queen and Leonore Annenberg shared a moment in the Room of Memories.

Sunnylands Collection.



Walter and Leonore were true anglophiles. Following their years spent in London (1969 to 1974) where Walter served as the Ambassador to the Court of Saint James's, two areas of their home at Sunnylands were dedicated to celebrating the new relationships they had established in England. In the Royal Sitting Room at Sunnylands, a collection of engraved boxes and signed portraits were proudly displayed reflecting their British relationships. In the Room of Memories, an entire hallway wall was dedicated to displaying framed wedding invitations, correspondence, and a photo collage of the Queen's visit to Sunnylands in 1983. Another grouping consisted of the framed holiday cards sent by the Queen Mother to her inner circle—a rare gift to receive. The cards were carefully arranged chronologically dating from 1972 to 2001. In 1987 Walter wrote:

“ *Your Majesty, Your annual Christmas card was happily received and I cannot underscore for you my pride in this continuing remembrance with which you favor me. Visitors to Sunnylands who see the collection of your cards that I have framed on a wall in my Room of Memories grow lyrical over the display and this, of course, increases my pride of stewardship. May this acknowledgment find you well and content in the knowledge that there is no more beloved figure worldwide than the Queen Mum. My wife and I are hopeful of being in London for the June 2nd Gala at Covent Garden. With respect and admiration, Walter Annenberg.* ”

During the 1990s, Walter and Leonore hosted an annual birthday luncheon at Claridge's in London for the Queen Mother and 40 of her closest friends. To everyone's delight, Queen Elizabeth II joined the party in 1995, her mother's 95th birthday.

Below
Walter Annenberg visits with the Queen Mother in July 1981. The Annenbergs were in London for the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer.

Official White House photo.



Former Prime Minister to the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher became a lifelong friend of the Annenbergs, having met them in London while serving in her role as the Secretary of State for Education and Science. She visited Sunnylands on at least five occasions. She recalled Walter's diplomatic impact in the UK:

“ *He did so much to strengthen the relationship and the natural ties which already existed...Walter could, as the saying goes, walk with kings and not lose the common touch...He has that marvelous generosity of spirit that is America.* ”

Thatcher, her husband Denis, and their children Carol and Mark were guests at Sunnylands at various times.

Left
Denis and Margaret Thatcher pose with the Annenbergs and a silver tray that was a gift from the Thatchers during their February 1991 visit to Sunnylands.

Sunnylands Collection.



Entwined fish objects represent the Annenbergs' shared astrological sign, Pisces. These objects adorned tabletops and shelves in the Room of Memories and the master bedroom. Eagle motif gifts reflect Walter's patriotic perspective and adorned the Room of Memories and his private office. Bird- and flower-themed gifts reflect the Annenbergs shared penchant for these aspects of nature. Neighborly traditions occurred at Sunnylands as well; the 1981 gift list indicates that Rancho Mirage resident Betty Ford sent over a lovely tray of Christmas cookies that year.

Boehm porcelain birds, flowers, and other figures were an additional gift that the Annenbergs delighted in

receiving. Walter's sisters were particularly fond of surprising their brother with an original Boehm figure to add to the collection. Objects were also on occasion engraved with the Sunnylands emblem. Friends Carol and Charles Price were particularly known for this type of thoughtful gift. Beautiful cashmere sweaters, cozy shawls, well-tailored shirts, silken nightgowns and robes from Juel Park, and scarves from Tiffany & Co. and the French clothier Chanel were also presented on special occasions. Music recordings and movies were given on holidays and birthdays. Poems, cards, and certificates of philanthropic donations in honor of Walter and/or Leonore were consistently received over the years, honoring their lifelong involvement in philanthropy. Often, photos of those benefitting from their philanthropy were included.

Frank Sinatra gave to the Annenbergs what might be considered one of the most outrageous and surprising gifts presented: a 1967 Austin Mini Moke automobile. Walter's grandson Gregory Annenberg Weingarten fondly recalled:

“ *Pop-Pop would pile all of us kids into the Mini Moke and take us to Sambo's in Palm Desert for hamburgers and milkshakes.* ”

Perfumes for Leonore were American, Tiffany & Co.; French, Christian Dior; and Italian, Buccellati. Needlepoint and cross-stitch objects (such as pillows featuring whimsical comments), candles, bath soaps—many from Asprey in London, photos in engraved silver frames, photo albums, and tabletop clocks were also received over the years. Golfing- and fishing-themed gifts were popular at Sunnylands. The men's and women's locker rooms brimmed with delightful and funny sports-themed objects. For each other's 80th birthday, Leonore and Walter enlisted their friends to write a letter to the other in lieu of a gift. These were then placed in handsome red leather keepsake volumes to be enjoyed.

Leonore's daughter Diane Deshong shared a memory that communicates volumes about the value of humor and witty gestures at Sunnylands.

“ *Mom and Uncle Walter were not easy to buy for. My favorite gift to Uncle Walter was borrowed from a story he told me. When he didn't know what to buy for his own dad, he would take some of his dad's socks and give them to him. I took some of Uncle Walter's socks and wrapped them up in very special paper and gave them back to him. He had a real laugh over that.* ”



Below

Walter Annenberg's birthday celebration, March 1992.

Left to right:

Leonore Annenberg, her son-in-law Howard Deshong Jr., granddaughter Liz Sorensen, daughter Diane Deshong, and Walter Annenberg.

Sunnylands Collection.

Gifts given in the 1960s have been identified through interviews and oral histories. The keeping of gift records became more formalized over time as the family grew and Walter and Leonore's social, business, international, and national political circles expanded. Lists of gifts were typed by secretaries and reviewed, ensuring that thank-you cards, telephone calls, or "in person" words of thanks were appropriately delivered.

Gifts included in the exhibition represent family gifts from Walter's daughter, Wallis Annenberg, and Leonore's two daughters, Diane Deshong and Elizabeth Kabler, and from a wide variety of friends representing British royalty, presidents and first ladies of the United States, national and international political figures, entertainers, and leaders of industry.

The exhibition *Treasures at Sunnylands: Selections from the Gift Collection of Walter & Leonore Annenberg* features gifts from a wide variety of eras and people. Upon Leonore's passing in 2009, the Sunnylands estate and its contents entered the public



trust. The house remained as it had been during the Annenbergs' residency. Every item was in its original place. It was evident that both Walter and Leonore prioritized displaying gifts from family and friends in their personal spaces. Paintings by grandchildren hung in Walter's private office and Leonore created personal arrangements of gifts from family and close friends on her desk and in her dressing room. End tables throughout the house were filled with both rare and common items spanning a lifetime of shared laughs, challenges, and rewards. Those who knew the Annenbergs express a similar sentiment: they truly appreciated their lives. Leonore remarked in 1985, "I've been very, very lucky, and I don't forget it." In 1951, Walter said, "When one is fortunate enough to gain a measure of material well-being, however small, service to others should be uppermost in his mind."

A Chinese proverb reads, "If you receive a gift of great value, it is your obligation to share this gift many times over." The Annenbergs' lifestyle aligned with this philosophy. When Sunnylands entered the public sphere, the house, as well as the art, interior furnishings, and the Annenbergs' personal treasures were included in the gift to convey to today's visitors what it was like to be an honored guest at the estate. With this incredible gesture, the Annenbergs certainly did share the gifts they received many times over and continue to do so in opening Sunnylands to the world.

Left
Senator Dianne Feinstein with Leonore Annenberg at Sunnylands, 2005.

Sunnylands Collection.

Opposite
Leonore Annenberg shows off a whimsical T-shirt while friends gather in the Game Room to present Walter Annenberg with gifts for his 90th birthday. March 1998.

Sunnylands Collection.



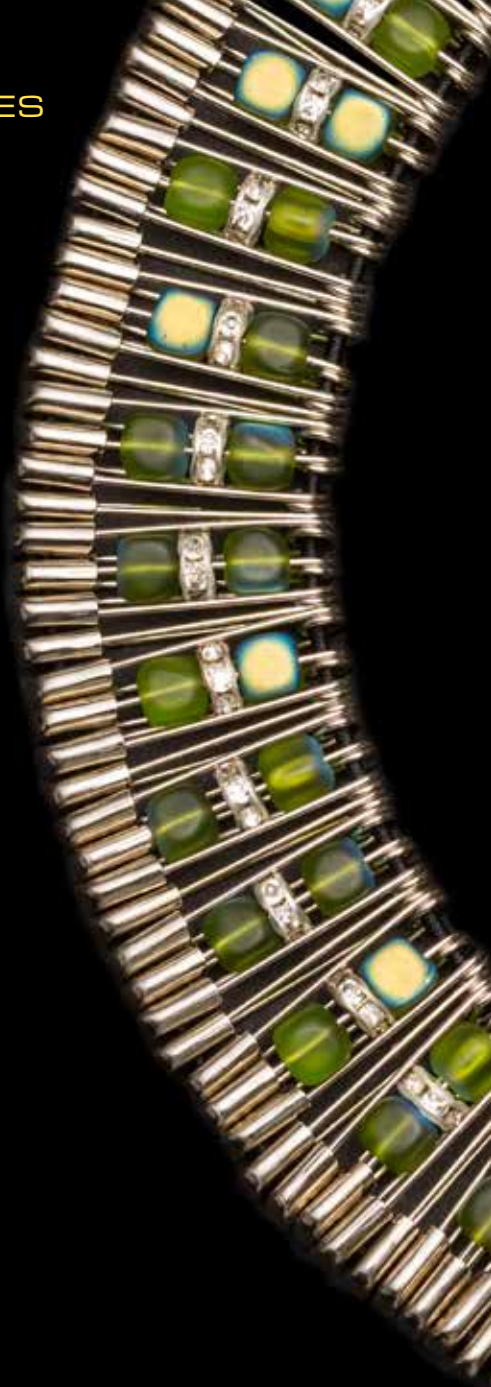
TOO MANY
MOGULS
CAN CAUSE
SERIOUS
NEGATIVE EFFECTS

GIFTS FROM PRESIDENTS & FIRST LADIES

Seven presidents of the United States and nine first ladies visited Sunnylands during the Annenberg residency. The Sunnylands archive contains written communications between the Annenbergs and presidents and first ladies of the United States. These holdings number over 2,800 individual pieces of correspondence. Holiday, birthday, congratulatory, and get well cards as well as letters written on crisp, embossed White House stationery or personalized stationery abound and speak to relationships formed over many years. Thank-you notes from the Eisenhowers suggest that flowers and plants were a common gift exchanged between the two couples. Thank-you notes from other presidents praise the Annenbergs for their generous hospitality and time spent together at Sunnylands. Donations to presidential causes and libraries are also prevalent throughout the correspondence.

The presentation of symbolic diplomatic gifts is a traditional activity while working in a high-ranking governmental capacity. This type of official presidential gift usually carries the presidential seal, is government-issued, is generally produced in a large series, and is typically a ceremonial gesture marking a certain event or date. White House and governmental gifts of this nature are abundant at Sunnylands.

Personal gifts from presidents in their civilian roles, on the other hand, were also given and reveal true friendships between the Annenbergs and their famous political friends. For instance, the Big Mouth Billy Bass motion-activated singing fish plaque is an iconic American gift that was quite popular in the early 2000s. Former President George Bush and wife Barbara apparently could not resist delighting the Annenbergs with this humorous novelty item which reflects President Bush's affinity for fun, humor, and fishing at Sunnylands.



GIFT OF

Hillary Clinton

Annenberg staff at Sunnylands remember First Lady Hillary Clinton giving Leonore this beaded safety-pin necklace designed by Ruth Rosenthal. Hillary Clinton owned her own Ruth Rosenthal design, which she was photographed wearing while visiting a museum in New Delhi in 1995. Leonore loved Hillary's necklace and cherished the one that was given to her. It was kept in her safe among her finest jewelry.

Hillary Clinton (b. 1947) served as First Lady from 1993 to 2001, United States Senator from New York from 2001 to 2009, and Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013.

Necklace

Ruth Rosenthal, United States

Safety pins, beads, elastic cord

Length: 19.5"; Width: 1"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3983





GIFT OF

William Jefferson Clinton

This glass vase, bearing the Seal of the President of the United States, is engraved with the signature of President Bill Clinton. This gift was likely presented to the Annenbergs during President Clinton's visit to Sunnylands on February 14, 1995. It was displayed on the end table in the Room of Memories.

William Jefferson Clinton (b. 1946) served as Attorney General of Arkansas, as Governor of Arkansas for five terms, and as the 42nd President of the United States from 1993 to 2001.

Vase engraved with the Seal of the President of the United States, a depiction of the White House, and President Bill Clinton's signature
Glass

Height: 7.5"; Width: 6.3"; Depth: 2"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3985



GIFT OF

Barbara Bush



These ceramic boxes depict different residences of George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush. They include the White House, the Bush residence in Kennebunkport, Maine, and the official Vice Presidential residence in Washington, D.C. All are signed and include personal handwritten notes from Barbara Bush on the undersides. These unique boxes were displayed on Leonore's desk in the master bedroom.

Barbara Bush (b. 1925) founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy while she served as First Lady from 1989 to 1993. Her father was Marvin Pierce, the publisher of *McCall's* and *Redbook*, two popular women's magazines.

Suite of three trinket boxes in the shape of buildings (left to right)

Official residence of the Vice President of the United States
1981

Wendy Bowen & CKJ Malley, Hurley Porcelain, United States
Ceramic, glaze
Height: 2.75"; Width: 3.4"; Depth: 2.8"

Bush family residence in Kennebunkport, Maine
1994

Wendy Bowen, Hurley Porcelain, United States
Ceramic, glaze
Height: 2"; Width: 7"; Depth: 2.5"

The White House
1989

Wendy Bowen & Colleen, Hurley Porcelain, United States
Ceramic, glaze
Height: 1.75"; Width: 4.25"; Depth: 4"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4025 (for all 3)



TREASURES AT SUNNYLANDS:
SELECTIONS FROM THE GIFT COLLECTION OF WALTER & LEONORE ANNENBERG





GIFT OF

George H. W. Bush

The lighthearted Big Mouth Billy Bass novelty fish plaque sings Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy," and Al Green's "Take Me to the River." It was a gift from President George H.W. Bush, who signed his name in the Sunnylands guest books as "Bush 41." Bush looked forward to fishing in the lakes at Sunnylands during his many visits. The humor and sense of fun inherent in this gift speaks to the close nature of the friendship. This delightful amusement was installed in the men's locker room.

George H.W. Bush (b. 1924) served as Ambassador to the United Nations, Congressman from Texas, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Vice President of the United States, and the 41st President of the United States from 1989 to 1993.

Singing fish plaque—Big Mouth Billy Bass
1998

Joe Pelletieri, Bass Pro Shops,
and Gemmy Industries, China

Latex rubber, plastic mechanical frame, plastic, metal
Height: 9"; Width: 13.5"; Depth: 4"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4026



GIFT OF

Ronald & Nancy Reagan

These decorative door hinges were preserved from the former State, War, and Navy Building, a French Second Empire-style structure completed in 1888. The hinges were mounted onto bookends and given to the Annenbergs by President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan for Christmas 1987. The pair was used in the Room of Memories.

Ronald Reagan (1911–2004) was an American actor and politician. He was Governor of California from 1967 to 1975. He later served as the 40th United States President from 1981 to 1989.

Nancy Reagan (b. 1921) worked as a Hollywood actress in the 1940s and 1950s and served as First Lady of the United States from 1981 to 1989.

Bookends displaying nineteenth-century door hinges

1987

Wood, metal

Height: 8.75"; Width: 9"; Depth: 6.75"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4020







GIFT OF

Richard Nixon



Richard Nixon gave this 16-piece set of personalized golf clubs to the Annenbergs along with a handwritten note to Walter. Each club has custom engraving or painting that reads "President Nixon." On occasion, special visitors without golf clubs were surprised to be loaned this unique set. The handsome gift in a red and white leather golf bag was stored in the men's locker room.

Richard Nixon (1913–1994) served in the United States House of Representatives, as a California Senator, as Vice President, and as the 37th President of the United States from 1969 to 1974.

Leather bag containing golf clubs
engraved *President Nixon*
c. 1970

Wilson, Chicago, United States
Steel, wood, leather

Height: 48"; Diameter: 15".

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4035



GIFT OF

Gerald & Betty Ford

The Fords and their children were guests at Sunnylands in the summer of 1974, just weeks before Gerald Ford was sworn in as President of the United States upon President Nixon's resignation. In a letter thanking the Annenbergs for their hospitality, Ford wrote, "Included in the mailing is a painting of a scene from your estate...P.S. The artist did the painting from a photograph we took while your guests." This painting hung in the Game Room.

Gerald "Jerry" Ford, Jr. (1913–2006) served as a Representative from Michigan for nearly 25 years, as House Minority Leader, as Vice President, and as the 38th President of the United States from 1974 to 1977.

Elizabeth "Betty" Ford (1918–2011) served as the First Lady of the United States from 1974 to 1977. In 1982, she founded the Betty Ford Center, an alcohol treatment center and drug rehabilitation clinic in Rancho Mirage.

Painting of a *Beaucarnea recurvata* plant on Sunnylands grounds
1974

Attributed to Watts

Watercolor on paper

Height: 28.5"; Width: 24"; Depth: .75"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4030



GIFTS FROM ROYALTY

Walter Annenberg regarded his appointment by Richard Nixon as the Ambassador to the Court of St. James's in 1969 as "a chance to serve one's country." Leonore added, "It would be the highlight of anyone's life."

In this diplomatic role, ceremonial interactions with members of the royal family are expected. What evolved, however, was much more. The Queen Mother (the mother of the reigning monarch) and Walter shared a similar quick, intelligent wit that ignited a true friendship.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip paid the Annenbergs the ultimate compliment when they visited Sunnylands for a luncheon in February 1983. Other members of the royal family have also been happy recipients of the Annenbergs' hospitality at Sunnylands over the years. The Queen's sister, Princess Margaret, visited twice; and three of four of the royal couple's children have visited. Prince Charles visited twice; Prince Andrew visited three times, once with his wife Sarah, "Fergie," Duchess of Kent; and Prince Edward visited once with Princess Sophie.

Walter said that the years in London were among the happiest days of their lives. They left London in style, throwing a final party at Winfield House to say farewell to 200 new friends, who presented the Annenbergs with two silver goblets in appreciation of their friendship.

In 1976, the Queen appointed Walter an honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)—an unprecedented gesture for the American ambassador to the Court of Saint James's. Leonore was awarded an honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by the Queen in 2004 in recognition of her contribution to the preservation of important British cultural and educational institutions and her work in promoting British-American relations. The families stayed in touch throughout the years, writing cards and letters, and seeing each other at Sunnylands, abroad, and when the Queen visited Philadelphia in 1976 in celebration of the American Bicentennial.

Gifts from English royalty usually contain symbols used to identify the specific presenter. These include monograms, royal ciphers, arms, crowns, heraldic badges, and coronets.



GIFT OF

Queen Elizabeth II

This regal box was a gift from Queen Elizabeth II. The Annenbergs enjoyed Her Majesty's company on numerous occasions. This box depicting her royal cipher was proudly displayed in the Royal Sitting Room alongside personally signed photographs of the royal family and other British friends.

Queen Elizabeth II (b. 1926) has served as the Queen of Great Britain and other Commonwealth realms since her coronation in 1952. The Queen has undertaken an impressive number of state visits to foreign and Commonwealth countries, making her one of the most widely travelled monarchs in history.

Royal presentation cigarette box
1972

Adrian Gerald Benney, London, England
Marking: royal cipher of Queen Elizabeth II
Sterling silver, enamel
Height: 1.6"; Width: 4.1"; Depth: 2.75"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.258

GIFT OF

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother



This gift from the mother of Queen Elizabeth II, affectionately known as the "Queen Mum," is unique for its personalized inscription and informal salutation, "For Walter and Lee Annenberg with best wishes, from Elizabeth R." The Annenbergs developed a personal friendship with the Queen Mother during Walter's service as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's from 1969 to 1974. This lovely box was also displayed in the Royal Sitting Room at Sunnylands.

Queen Elizabeth (1900–2002), the consort queen of King George VI, was known for her moral support of the British Empire during World War II. After the coronation of her daughter Elizabeth in 1952, she became known as the Queen Mother.



Royal presentation cigarette box
1966

W.H. Manton Ltd., Birmingham, England
Marking: royal cipher of the Queen Mother
Sterling silver, partial gilt
Height: .75"; Width: 3"; Depth: 2.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4033



GIFTS OF

Charles, Prince of Wales, & Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall

This royal presentation box, festooned with the heraldic badge of Charles, Prince of Wales, was a special gift displayed in the Royal Sitting Room. The Annenbergs attended the investiture of Prince Charles in 1969. When Prince Charles visited Sunnylands in 1974 and 1986, he said of his hosts: "I will never forget their kindness and hospitality."

Charles (b. 1948), Prince of Wales, also known as the Duke of Rothesay in Scotland and the Duke of Cornwall in West England, is the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

Camilla (b. 1947), Duchess of Cornwall, joined the royal family in 2005 when she married Prince Charles.

Royal presentation box
1983
Adrian Gerald Benney, London, England
Marking: heraldic badge of Prince Charles
Sterling silver
Height: .8"; Width: 3.8"; Depth: 2.3"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4005



This silver pencil was sent to Leonore by Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, during the 2005 holiday season. In a letter Leonore wrote: "Thank you for the beautiful silver pencil that I will treasure as a reminder of our long and lasting friendship." Leonore used this gift at her desk in the master bedroom.

Tasseled pencil
c. 1999
Maker's mark: JFR, Birmingham, England
Marking: heraldic badge of Prince Charles
Sterling silver, string, graphite
Height: 6.3"; Diameter: .2"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4007



This is one of a set of six floral dessert plates that Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, gave to Leonore for Christmas in 2007. Each plate depicts an image of an original watercolor painting of a botanical specimen growing in the gardens of Highgrove, the English country estate of the royal couple.

Highgrove Florilegium dessert plate
depicting *Helleborus argutifolius*
c. 2007
Jenny Phillips, Caverswall, England
Porcelain
Height: .75"; Diameter: 9"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4032





GIFTS OF

Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

This porcelain trinket box was a gift from Princess Margaret and features her royal cipher. The feminine trellis detail is a unique expression in the collection of royal boxes at Sunnylands. Princess Margaret visited Sunnylands on two occasions and spent social time with the Annenbergs at the United States Embassy in London. This box was displayed with other royal boxes and signed portraits in the Royal Sitting Room.

Princess Margaret (1930–2002), Countess of Snowdon, was the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II. Margaret dedicated her philanthropic interests to children's charities, music, and ballet.

Royal presentation box
1993

Angelique de Folin, Hand Bone China Bibelot, England
Marking: royal cipher of Princess Margaret

Porcelain

Height: 1.8"; Width: 5"; Depth: 3.3"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4006



Princess Margaret presented this silver-gilt cigarette box to the Annenbergs during the course of their friendship. When the box is opened, the front flange reveals an engraving of the cipher of Princess Margaret. This box was displayed in the Royal Sitting Room alongside personally signed photographs of the royal family and other British friends.

Royal presentation cigarette box
1967

Stuart Devlin, London, England

Marking: royal cipher of Princess Margaret

Silver-gilt, rosewood

Height: 1.8"; Width: 3.25"; Depth: 2"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3969



In 1996 Princess Margaret presented this sculpture to Leonore at a dinner that the Annenbergs hosted in her honor at the Beverly Hills Hotel. This twentieth-century work, a reproduction of a classical sculpture depicting Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love, was displayed on the west patio of the historic estate.

Reproduction of first or second century B.C.
head representing Aphrodite
c. 1996
British Museum, England
Bronze
Height: 16.5"; Width: 11.2"; Depth: 10.75"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3982



GIFTS FROM DIPLOMATS

Leonore and Walter Annenberg were involved citizens. Walter once said, “You will not be satisfied unless you are contributing something to or for the benefit of others.” Their record of targeted philanthropy throughout and beyond their lives reflects this philosophy. They were both gifted in the ways of diplomacy and were therefore selected to serve in ambassadorial roles—Walter as the Ambassador to the Court of St. James’s (1969–1974) and Leonore as the Chief of Protocol during the first year of the Reagan administration (1981–1982).

Margaret Thatcher, Dianne Feinstein, George and Charlotte Shultz, titled nobility throughout the United Kingdom, and former Ambassador to the United States from Iran and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Ardeshir Zahedi are just a few of the individuals with whom strong relationships were formed. As appointed and natural diplomats, the Annenbergs often became intimate friends with the people whom they encountered in the course of their service.

Diplomatic gifts are symbolic gestures to mark a shared experience. The warmth and personalized nature of the gifts the Annenbergs received as an extension of their diplomatic roles reflects their unique ability to migrate political relationships into true, intimate friendships while maintaining the professional demeanor and integrity necessary to continue to negotiate complex transactions.



GIFT OF

George & Charlotte Shultz



The witty and warm card attached to this Swarovski crystal cockatoo is one of a number of gifts that reflects Charlotte Shultz's skill in crafting sentimental greetings. The card reads: "Lee, stay sparkly and in the pink!" The Shultzes were frequent visitors to Sunnylands, signing the guest book at Sunnylands nine times together. George signed on 17 occasions starting in 1982. This delightful cockatoo was displayed in the Game Room.

George Shultz (b. 1920) served as a senior staff economist on President Dwight Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisors. During the Nixon administration, he served as Secretary of Labor, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Secretary of Treasury. He was appointed as United States Secretary of State under President Reagan from 1982 to 1989.

Charlotte Shultz (b. 1934) currently serves as the Chief of Protocol for California and the city and county of San Francisco.

Cockatoo figure
2005

Roland Schuster (b. 1954), Swarovski,
Wattens, Austria

Crystal, wood, metal

Height: 7.9"; Width: 4.3"; Depth: 2"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3987

GIFT OF

Friends & colleagues from the United Kingdom

The Annenbergs hosted a farewell party in 1974 at Winfield House, the official residence of the United States ambassador in London, to mark the end of their years of service. They gathered 200 friends and colleagues to mark this special occasion. According to Michael Comerford, former butler to the Annenbergs who was in attendance that night, two of the guests, on behalf of all the guests in attendance, stepped forward to present these silver goblets to the Annenbergs.

Pair of George III silver goblets engraved with modern arms
1789

Edward Fernell, London, England

Sterling silver

Height: 6.5"; Diameter: 3.25"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3993





GIFT OF

Dianne Feinstein

This colorful box was given to Leonore as a Christmas gift in 2005 by Senator Dianne Feinstein and displayed on the coffee table in the living room. Senator Feinstein visited Sunnylands several times over the years, including for a political fundraiser supporting her run for the Senate in 2002. In December 2003, Senator Feinstein joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senator Barbara Boxer, former President Gerald Ford, former Secretary of State George Shultz, and 30 state legislators at Sunnylands for a bipartisan conference to discuss California's future.

Dianne Feinstein (b. 1933) served as the first female mayor of San Francisco (1978–1988). She is the current United States Senator from California, a position she has held since 1992.

Box
c. 2005
Dilek Collection, Istanbul, Turkey
Wood, paint, metal
Height: 2.75"; Width: 6.25"; Depth: 4.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4022

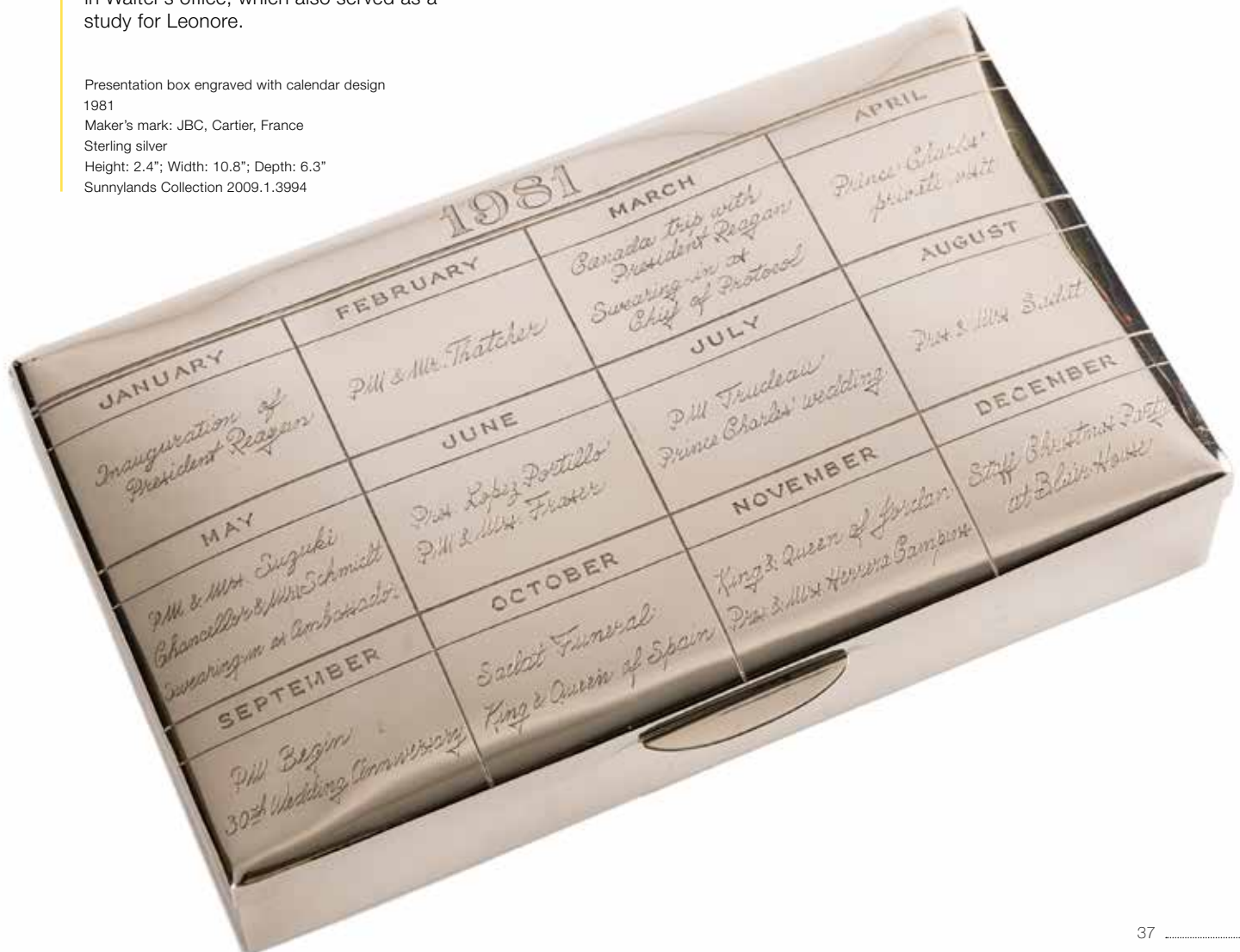


GIFT OF

U.S. Department of State staff

This thoughtful gift reflects Leonore's reputation as the ultimate diplomat. This presentation box was given to her by State Department staff during her tenure as the United States Chief of Protocol. The interior is engraved: "Presented to our Chief of Protocol Ambassador Leonore Annenberg from your staff, December 1981." The box was proudly displayed in Walter's office, which also served as a study for Leonore.

Presentation box engraved with calendar design
1981
Maker's mark: JBC, Cartier, France
Sterling silver
Height: 2.4"; Width: 10.8"; Depth: 6.3"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3994





GIFT OF

Margaret Thatcher

This engraved silver ashtray, which was displayed in the Royal Sitting Room at Sunnylands, was a gift from former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher. A warm friendship developed between the Annenbergs and the Thatchers during the years Walter served as Ambassador to the Court of Saint James's (1969–1974). Margaret visited Sunnylands at least five times between 1991 and 1998, four of those visits with her husband, Denis. Their children visited Sunnylands: Carol in 1984 and Mark five times between 1985 and 1991, four of those visits with his wife, Diane.

Margaret Thatcher (1925–2013) was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990. She is the only woman to have held the office and was the longest-serving British prime minister of the twentieth century.

Ashtray engraved with signature of Margaret Thatcher

1992

C. J. Vander, London, England

Sterling silver

Height: .5"; Diameter: 4.75"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3998





GIFT OF

Warren Burger

This depiction of the death mask of Italian poet Dante Alighieri was made by Warren Burger, former Chief Justice of the United States. The reverse of this work is engraved: "For Walter Annenberg: This recast of a piece I made 62 years ago has no artistic or intrinsic value other than as a manifestation of a valued friendship. October 1985, Warren E. Burger." This unique gift was displayed in a guest cottage at Sunnylands.

Warren Burger (1907–1995) was an advocate of a literal, strict-constructionist interpretation of the Constitution. President Richard Nixon nominated him as the Chief Justice of the United States, a position he held from 1969 to 1986.

Re-cast of the death mask of Dante Alighieri
1923

Cast by Warren E. Burger

Plaster, paint

Height: 8.75"; Width: 6.5"; Depth: 5"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4028



GIFTS OF

Ardeshir Zahedi

Ardeshir Zahedi gave a porcelain box to Walter and Leonore during the mid-1970s. The box depicts an image of Shah Mohammad Reza and the Pahlavi family. This was an exclusive gift presented to political figures such as the President of the United States, Vice President, and high-ranking White House staff. Zahedi gave these special boxes as Christmas and New Year's Eve gifts. He visited Sunnylands in 1975.

Ardeshir Zahedi (b. 1928) served as the Iranian Ambassador to the United States from 1960 to 1962, Ambassador to the United Kingdom from 1962 to 1966, and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Iran from 1966 to 1971. Between 1973 and 1979, he again served as Ambassador to the United States.

Presentation box (depicting an image of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran, and his family)
1970s
Rosenthal, Germany
Porcelain
Height: 1.75"; Width: 4.75"; Depth: 3.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4013



This profusely engraved presentation box was given to the Annenbergs by Ardeshir Zahedi. The interior of the box is inscribed "To the Honorable Walter Hubert Annenberg from Ardeshir Zahedi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Tehran, January 14, 1971." A close friendship developed between Zahedi and the Annenbergs evidenced by the Annenbergs providing a safe haven at Sunnylands for the family of the Shah of Iran during the escalation of the Iranian revolution in 1979. This silver box was displayed on a table in the living room.

Presentation box
1971
Iran
Sterling silver
Height: 1.75"; Width: 9"; Depth: 9"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3995







GIFT OF

Sir Denis Greenhill & Sir Burke St. John Trend

This red briefcase was a gift from two colleagues, Sir Denis Greenhill and Sir Burke St. John Trend, while Walter served as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. It is a replica of the iconic and symbolic attachés informally known as "red boxes" used for the transportation of important documents by ministers in the British government. Like the originals, this box is hinged to open at the bottom where the lock resides, ensuring that the box is locked prior to being carried. It was proudly displayed in the Room of Memories.

Denis Arthur Greenhill (1913–2000) was the British Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Head of the Diplomatic Service from 1969 to 1973.

Burke St. John Trend (1914–1987) served as Cabinet Secretary from 1963 to 1973.

Replica of a ministerial box, inscribed Hon. Walter Annenberg
1973
Barrow and Gale, London, England
Red-stained ram leather, pine, metal
Height: 11"; Width: 12"; Depth: 4"
Markings: Royal cipher of Queen Elizabeth II
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4014



GIFT OF

Winston Churchill

This 1941 photographic portrait by Yousuf Karsh brought lasting fame to the photographer. He said, "My portrait of Winston Churchill changed my life. I knew after I had taken it that it was an important picture, but I could hardly have dreamed that it would become one of the most widely reproduced images in the history of photography." The intensity of Churchill's expression reflects both the context of the wartime era as well as Karsh's insistence that Churchill remove the cigar that was firmly situated between his teeth. This rare signed portrait was on view alongside portraits of other political leaders in the Room of Memories.

Winston Churchill (1874–1965) was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. Churchill is celebrated as a significant wartime leader as well as a regularly quoted, witty scholar and writer who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953.

Signed photograph of Winston Churchill,
The Roaring Lion
1941
Yousuf Karsh (1908–2002), Ottawa, Canada
Height: 18.5"; Width: 15"; Depth: .75"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.5166



1944
1944
1944
1944
1944

1944
1944
1944
1944
1944



GIFTS FROM BUSINESS LEADERS

Walter and Leonore Annenberg were talented and personable individuals who achieved high levels of success in a wide variety of pursuits. Through the various journeys they undertook, they met and befriended many individuals who shared their desire to make a difference on a grand scale.

To frame the impact of their inner circle of friends in a contemporary context, of the 60 friends and family who attended the Sunnylands New Year's Eve party with President-elect Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan in 1980, nearly 70 percent of the guest list have their own, or are mentioned on at least one, Wikipedia page.

An impressive array of business leaders representing industries as varied as medicine, retail, entertainment, transportation, manufacturing, ranching, defense, commerce, couture clothing, broadcasting, banking, office supplies, publishing, and cultural arts spent time at Sunnylands. Rupert Murdoch, Bill Gates, David Rockefeller, Stanton Avery, Alfred Bloomingdale, and Justin Dart are just a few of the many notable twentieth-century figures who enjoyed the remarkable hospitality at Sunnylands.



GIFT OF

Charles & Carol Price



This French art glass piece, displayed on a table in the Room of Memories, was a gift from Carol and Charles Price. Figures of Pisces, depicting two entwined fish, represent both Walter and Leonore's astrological sign. There are at least three examples of art objects representing Pisces in the decorative art collection at Sunnylands.

Charles Price II (1931–2012) was a prominent American businessman who served as Ambassador to Belgium and to the Court of St. James's from 1983 to 1989.

Carol Price (b. 1937), daughter of former Swanson Foods President W. Clarke Swanson, played an active role in cultural and diplomatic communities, and worked with Leonore Annenberg, Lee McGrath, and Wendy Luers to institute the Foundation for Arts & Preservation in Embassies (FAPE).

Sculpture—*Deux Poissons*
1953

Marc Lalique (1900–1977), Lalique,
France
Crystal

Height: 10.75"; Width: 9.75"; Depth: 5.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3989

GIFT OF

David Rockefeller



In a series of four enthusiastic letters sent within a period of less than a month, Walter Annenberg and David Rockefeller shared niceties in reference to this silver creamer that David gave to Walter and Leonore. Rockefeller also sent the Annenbergs a set of volumes titled *The David and Peggy Rockefeller Collection* in which the creamer is featured. David Rockefeller visited Sunnylands in 1967 and again in 1998 when the creamer was presented.

David Rockefeller (b. 1915), grandson of John D. Rockefeller and brother of former Vice President of the United States Nelson Rockefeller, served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Chase Manhattan Corporation from 1960 to 1999.

George I creamer engraved with the arms of Radcliffe
1723

William Fawdery, United Kingdom
Sterling silver, ivory

Height: 3.25"; Width: 3.75"; Depth: 2.25"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3962





GIFTS OF

Armand & Harriet Deutsch

This custom ostrich egg, featuring important aspects of Walter's life, was a birthday gift from Harriet and Armand Deutsch. This piece was purchased from Elizabeth's Staircase on Sunset Plaza in Los Angeles. Harriet visited the store, which happened to be next to her hair salon, and was inspired to commission ostrich eggs for the Reagans and the Annenbergs. The Deutsches were longtime friends of the Annenbergs and signed the guest book at Sunnylands together on 79 occasions. Walter and Leonore met in 1950 at a party at Harriet's Palm Beach, Florida home. The personalized gift was displayed on the bookcase in the Room of Memories.

Armand Deutsch (1913–2005), the grandson of Sears, Roebuck & Company CEO Julius Rosenwald, produced American films. A longtime friend of Ronald Reagan, Armand was appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts in 1981.

Harriet Deutsch (1917–2005) was a founding member of The Colleagues, a group that raises funds to help prevent child abuse, and of the Women's Guild at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Painted eggshell on glass stand
1986
Barbara Embree (1929–2012), California, United States
Ostrich eggshell, paint, glass
Height: 9.5"; Diameter: 4"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4016



These graduated "opium" weights were a gift from close friends, Harriet and Armand Deutsch. Weights like these were used in Asia to measure and trade raw materials, such as spices, in the marketplace. These charming elephants were displayed in the Game Room.

Graduated opium weights in the shape of elephants on a pedestal
Southeast Asia
Brass, wood
Height: 5"; Width: 21.5"; Depth: 4.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3984



GIFT OF

Robert & Marcia French

Marcia French, who had the same birthday (February 20) as Leonore, commissioned a local Palm Springs artist, Jennifer Johnson, to design 18 unique dining table chargers depicting scenes inspired by Sunnylands. To understand the beauty of the estate, Johnson worked directly with the Annenbergs during several visits to Sunnylands. Walter and Leonore, enthusiastic about the project, toured Johnson throughout the home and grounds to inspire her work. These chargers were specifically intended for use in the colorful Game Room.

Robert French (1926–2013) worked as an independent oil and gas operator and rancher in Midland and Fort Worth, Texas.

Marcia French (b. 1941) serves as president of Sacahuista Management, president of the William M. Fuller Foundation, and as a trustee of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Chargers decorated with scenes of Sunnylands
1995–1996

Jennifer Johnson (b. 1945), Palm Springs,
California, United States

Earthenware, glaze

Height: 1"; Diameter: 12.75"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4017







GIFT OF

William & Jean French Smith

The Development of the Golf Club was a gift from William and Jean French Smith. It depicts five stages in the evolution of the golf club. William presided over the swearing-in ceremony of Leonore as Chief of Protocol at the White House. This display sat on a shelf in the Game Room.

William French Smith (1917–1990) was Ronald Reagan's personal lawyer and business advisor. He served as the United States Attorney General from 1981 to 1985 and on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Jean French Smith (1918–2012) served as the national President of the Association of Junior Leagues from 1958 to 1960.

Golf club display box—*The Development of the Golf Club*
Stefan White and David Stirk, Hurley Style Limited, England
Polymer resin
Height: 2.75"; Width: 10"; Depth: 3.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4034



GIFT OF

Jay & Sharon Rockefeller



This splendid box, a gift from Sharon and Jay Rockefeller, reflects a close friendship with Leonore Annenberg. The inside is engraved "Dearest Lee, With enormous love, deep appreciation, and best wishes on your 90th birthday, Sharon and Jay Rockefeller." The Rockefellers signed the guest book at Sunnylands on three occasions over a period of 22 years. This box was displayed in the Inwood Room at Sunnylands.

John "Jay" Rockefeller IV (b. 1937), the great-grandson of oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller, is the senior United States Senator from West Virginia.

Sharon Rockefeller (b. 1944) is the Chief Executive Officer of WETA-TV in Washington, D.C.

Decoupage presentation box depicting the Washington Monument with a cherry blossom tree
2008

Designed by Willan, Tiny Jewel Box, Washington D.C., United States

Copper, cardstock, lacquer

Height: 1.75"; Width: 12"; Depth: 9.25"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4021





GIFT OF

Randolph & Veronica Hearst

This silver box, which Walter described as “superbly handsome,” was given to the Annenbergs by Randolph and Veronica Hearst. The top reads “With fond remembrance of the friendship and association started by our fathers and lasting over these many years, Merry Christmas 1990, Veronica and Randolph Hearst.” This special keepsake was displayed on the coffee table in Walter’s office at Sunnylands. The Hearsts visited the Annenbergs at Sunnylands in 1994.

Randolph Apperson Hearst (1915-2000), the fourth son of William Randolph Hearst, worked at the Hearst Corporation, his family’s media and information company, beginning in 1938. For many years, he served as President of the *San Francisco Examiner* until he became Chairman of the Hearst Corporation from 1973 to 1996.

Veronica Hearst (b. 1940s) played a role in supporting AIDS research and adult literacy.

Presentation box engraved with message
from Randolph and Veronica Hearst
1910
Frederick Haberling, London, England
Sterling silver, wood
Height: 3.25”; Width: 8.75”; Depth: 5.75”
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4004



GIFT OF

Justin & Jane Dart

Walter was thrilled by the rarity of this monumental Narwhal whale tusk, a gift from Jane and Justin Dart. Narwhals are now a protected species that can be hunted only by Native Americans. The nearly eight-foot tusk was installed in the Game Room and mounted vertically.

GIFT OF

Justin Dart (1907–1984) was an executive of Walgreens Drugstore, a company owned by his father-in-law. Dart took over the Rexall Drug chain in 1945 and eventually developed that into Dart-Kraft Inc.

Jane “Punky” Dart (1918–2013) was an actress who was cast alongside Ronald Reagan in *Brother Rat* (1938) and *Brother Rat and a Baby* (1940).

Narwhal tusk
Arctic circle
Ivory
Height: 94”; Diameter: 2.5”
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.193



GIFTS FROM ENTERTAINERS

Guests began to sign the first of the now-fabled Sunnylands guest books on March 8, 1966 upon completion of the construction of the estate. These guest books reveal that captains and stars of the entertainment industry were among the first visitors. Mervyn Leroy, who among other accomplishments produced the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, signed the guest book on April 1, 1966. Three days earlier, renowned composer Frederick Loewe (of Lerner and Loewe) enjoyed the breathtaking views and unique hospitality at Sunnylands. Loewe composed *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot* to name just two of his famed scores.

It should come as no surprise that high-ranking members of the entertainment industry were consistently represented in the guest books over the years. Though most well known for publishing, public service, and philanthropy, Walter had interacted with the entertainment social scene beginning in the 1930s. "In 1931 I met Ethel Merman who was then starring in 'Girl Crazy' and we became great pals. Ginger Rogers was also starring in the same show and I wanted to ask her out, but her mother wouldn't let her accept a date with me." Later in the 1950s, it was Walter Annenberg's Pennsylvania television station WFIL that launched the popular teenage dancing show, *American Bandstand*. Leonore had direct connections to the Hollywood entertainment scene as well. She was raised in Los Angeles by her uncle and aunt, Harry and Rose Cohn. Harry was the president and a founder of Columbia Pictures.

Over the years many writers, singers, composers, directors, producers, and actors visited Sunnylands. Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Kirk Douglas, Dinah Shore, Jimmy Stewart, Sidney Sheldon, Gregory Peck, Rosalind Russell, and Princess Grace, the former Grace Kelly, were among the many famous visitors and close friends.

Whether a dinner or overnight guest in someone's home or when attending a holiday or birthday celebration, it is considered impolite to arrive empty-handed. One should always present a host gift as a gesture of appreciation. Gifts from entertainers reveal the warm, fun, and humorous tone that was prevalent at Sunnylands—no doubt directly inspired by the Annenbergs' appreciation for those with a clever sense of humor.



GIFTS OF

Bob & Dolores Hope



Whimsical golf-themed gifts, such as this clock from Bob and Dolores Hope, were heartily enjoyed at Sunnylands. Displayed in the men's locker room, this midcentury piece reflects Bob Hope's wit and time spent golfing at the Annenberg estate.

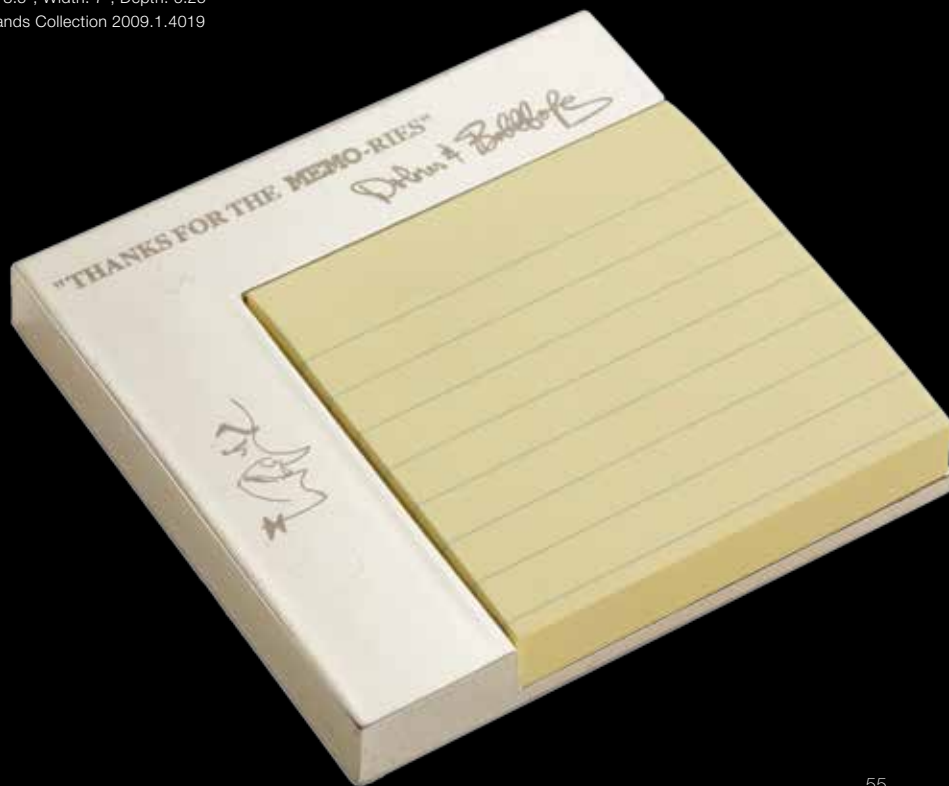
Leslie "Bob" Hope (1903–2003) was a well-known singer, actor, comedian, and dancer who appeared on Broadway, television, and radio as well as in numerous movies.

Dolores Hope (1909–2011) made a singing career on the New York club circuit. From 1941 to 1991, the Hopes worked with the United Service Organizations to entertain American soldiers.

Analog clock designed in a golf theme
Signed "BS"
Ceramic, glaze, metal clock components
Height: 8.5"; Width: 7"; Depth: 6.25"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4019

This amusing notepad holder, which is engraved "Thanks for the MEMO-ries," was a gift from Bob Hope. Hope and Shirley Ross recorded an Academy Award-winning best original song, "Thanks for the Memory" in 1938. Hope references that song in this clever gift that Walter used in his office at Sunnylands. Bob and Dolores Hope were friends of the Annenbergs and frequent visitors to Sunnylands. They signed the guest book together on 18 occasions and Dolores signed an additional 31 times.

Notepad holder
China
Silver-plate
Height: .5"; Width: 4.1"; Depth: 4.1"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4008





GIFT OF

Sidney & Alexandra Sheldon

Alexandra Sheldon presented this tiny porcelain box in the shape of a telephone to Leonore in 1998. Leonore wrote in a thank-you note: "This delightful piece already has a special place on my desk and Walter agrees that it is most appropriate since he thinks I spend too much time on the telephone!" This reproduction of an eighteenth-century *tabatierre*, or tobacco box, was formed in Limoges, France and further developed by Rochard. Leonore's affinity for these miniature boxes resulted in a large collection, which she displayed in the master bedroom. The Sheldons signed the guest book together at Sunnylands 16 times and Sidney signed an additional six times.

Sidney Sheldon (1917–2007) was a best-selling author, known for *Rage of Angels*, *The Other Side of Midnight*, and *Master of the Game*. He was the creator of television shows, including *The Patty Duke Show*, *I Dream of Jeannie*, and *Hart to Hart* and wrote Broadway musicals, such as *Roman Candle* and *The Merry Widow*.

Alexandra Sheldon (b. 1943), a former child actress, is an advertising executive and philanthropist. During her marriage to Sidney, Alexandra recorded details of settings while traveling, adding flavor to Sidney's novels.

Trinket box in the shape of a telephone
c. 1998
Rochard, Houston, Texas and Limoges, France
Porcelain, glaze, metal
Height: 2.1"; Width: 2.1"; Depth: 2"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4015



GIFT OF

Pearl Bailey

This tambourine was one of four sent as a gift in 1990 from Pearl Bailey, a friend who visited Sunnylands on one occasion. A Sunnylands interoffice memo reads: "I am placing them [the tambourines] in the music closet of the Game Room...Young Elizabeth might enjoy them while she is here over the holidays." That the tambourines were used as musical instruments by the grandchildren may explain why only one of the tambourines remains in the collection.

Pearl Bailey (1918–1990) started out in vaudeville and went on to perform in multiple Broadway productions, motion pictures, and television shows, including *The Pearl Bailey Show*. She also wrote and/or recorded songs for 31 albums. In 1968, she won a Tony Award for her role in an all-black production of *Hello, Dolly!*

Tambourine depicting the image of Pearl Bailey
1990
REMO Inc., Hollywood, California, United States
Wood, metal, acousticon shell, jingles
Height: 1.75"; Diameter: 11"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4023





GIFT OF

Kirk & Anne Douglas

This sculpture by Yaacov Agam was a gift from Kirk and Anne Douglas, who were part-time residents of Palm Springs, friends of the Annenbergs, and frequent visitors to Sunnylands. The Douglasses employed a thoughtful approach to gift giving by presenting to the Annenbergs a unique work by one of their favorite contemporary artists. The Annenbergs began collecting Agam's work in 1976 when a solo exhibition of his work was shown at the Palm Springs Desert (now Art) Museum. This colorful piece was displayed in the Game Room.

Kirk Douglas (b. 1916) is a well-known stage and film actor, author, and film producer. He has performed in motion pictures, such as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *Spartacus*, and *Lust For Life*.

Anne Douglas (b. 1930) is a producer known for *Scalawag*, *Deep River*, and *Kirk Douglas: Before I Forget*.

Sculpture—British American Flag, numbered 165/300
c. 1980

Yaacov Agam (b. 1928)

Paper, ink, acrylic

Height: 11.5"; Width: 18"; Depth: 7"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.97

GIFT OF

Frank Sinatra



Surprise gifts, such as the British Mini Moke vehicle Frank Sinatra gave to the Annenbergs in 1968, reflect his generous personality and oversized sense of fun. Sinatra was known as a prankster with a wonderful sense of humor. As a former resident of Tamarisk Country Club in Rancho Mirage, he was a close friend and neighbor of the Annenbergs, signing the guest book 18 times, often with the comment that he traveled from “Next door!”

Francis “Frank” Sinatra (1915–1998), the most well-known male singer and performer of the mid-twentieth century, is remembered by popular musical hits such as “My Way” and “Fly Me to the Moon” and motion pictures including *The House I Live In* and *From Here to Eternity*.

Austin Mini Moke
1967

Designed by
Sir Alec Issigonis (1906–1988)

Manufactured by
British Motor Corporation, England
Height: 58"; Width: 53"; Depth: 120"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3997



GIFTS FROM FAMILY

It is impossible to quantify or qualify gifts exchanged between family members over a lifetime. Gestures and gifts exchanged between family members at Sunnylands range from the symbolic to the grand. Leonore's daughter Diane Deshong recalled a memorable gift: "My last gift to mom was a special, custom-made silk nightgown from Juel Park of Beverly Hills. In their day, all of mom's friends bought their robes and night sets from them. I know mom wore them even in the hospital when both Elizabeth and I were born. Mom was thrilled about it."

Creative gestures of love were hallmarks of gifts from the Annenbergs' seven grandchildren. For instance, Walter's granddaughter Lauren Bon surprised Walter and Leonore one year with a balloon bouquet personally delivered by a clown in full costume. Paintings by Walter's grandson Gregory Weingarten and granddaughter Lauren Bon hung in Walter's office at Sunnylands.

Gifts from family members were largely placed in the master bedroom and other private spaces to be enjoyed in a more personal, intimate setting.



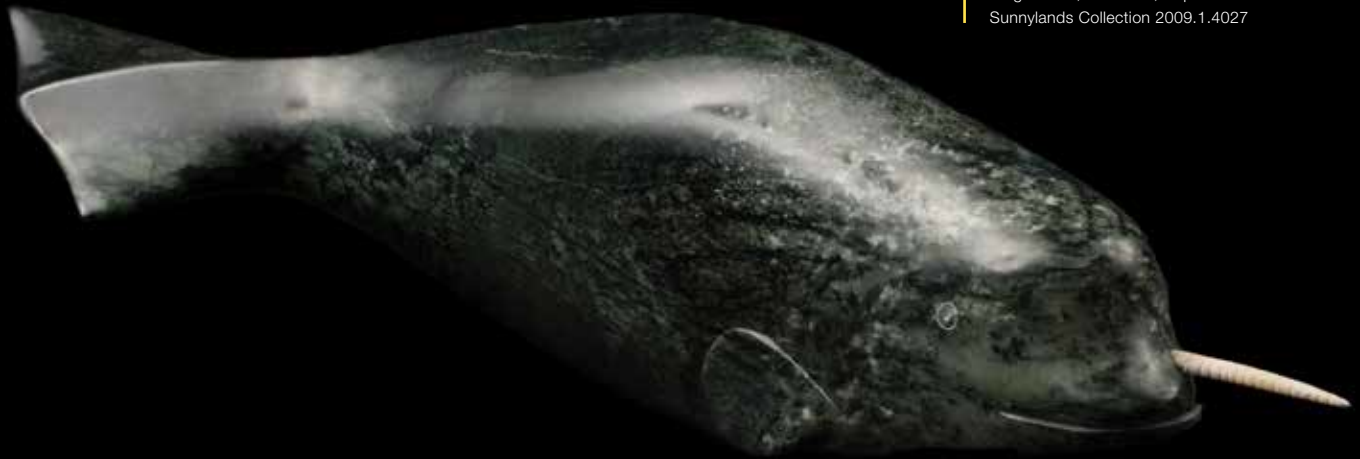
GIFTS OF

Wallis Annenberg

This Narwhal figure was a gift from Walter's daughter, Wallis Annenberg, who often gave the Annenbergs sculpture. This whale figure was displayed on a coffee table in the atrium. Figures of arctic animals carved from stone are a common art form produced by Native American groups in Canada. At first glance, it may appear that the Narwhal whale's tusk is off-center. This is no mistake on the artist's part: the Narwhal's tusk almost always forms from the left side of its mouth.

Wallis Annenberg (b. 1939) is Walter's daughter. She worked for *TV Guide* from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s. Today, she serves as President and Chairman of The Annenberg Foundation and as a trustee of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands.

Sculpture in the shape of a narwhal whale
Inuit, Canada
Serpentine stone, ivory
Height: 4.5"; Width: 6"; Depth: 20.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4027



These jewel-encrusted bird-motif table ornaments, given by Wallis Annenberg, Walter's daughter, adorned a credenza in the living room. Under the tail feathers is the artist's mark, "EK." Erwin Klein was one of the primary carvers of animal figurines for Boucheron in Paris, specializing in carving rock crystal (transparent quartz). The Annenbergs were enamored with Boucheron decorative objects, having personally chosen other animal-themed objects from the Paris boutique while abroad.

Pair of sculptures in the shape of birds
Designed and fabricated by Erwin Klein,
Boucheron, Paris, France

Rock crystal, green quartz, coral stone,
onyx, diamond, ruby, silver-gilt

Height: 6"; Width: 4.5"; Depth: 4.5"

Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3988





GIFTS OF

The Deshong Family

This Swedish heart-shaped vase was given to Leonore as a birthday gift from her daughter's family. It is engraved, "2-20-88 We Love You H.D.H.L." The initials stand for son-in-law Howard Jr., Leonore's daughter Diane, grandson Howard III, and granddaughter Leonore. This vase was displayed in the master bedroom alongside other intimate gifts from friends and family.

Diane Deshong (b. 1942), one of Leonore's two daughters, supports organizations promoting children's education and is a trustee of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands.

Howard Deshong Jr. (1940–2010) married Diane in 1965 and they opened a studio specializing in food photography in 1975.

Howard Deshong III (b. 1967) has worked for a variety of organizations, including the U.S. Congress. He currently sits on the boards of several nonprofit organizations in the United States and Canada, including The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands.

Leonore Deshong (b. 1969) is a granddaughter of Leonore Annenberg, an animal rights activist, amateur poet, and a trustee of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands.

Vase in the shape of a heart
1988
Désirée Svend Jensen, Benløse, Denmark, manufactured in India
Silver-plate
Height: 3"; Width: 3.75"; Depth: 1.5"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4002

Leonore displayed personal gifts from her children at her desk in the master bedroom. This miniature tray, given by her daughter Diane and son-in-law, Howard Jr., reads, "TO A WONDERFUL MOM WITH ALL OUR LOVE DIANE AND HOWARD."

Two-handed tray
1963
Maker's mark: A M AC^o, Birmingham, England
Sterling silver
Height: .5"; Width: 5.75"; Depth: 1.75"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4037



A gift from the Deshong grandchildren, Howard III and Leonore, this translucent object inscribed with the phrase "World's greatest Grandma" was centrally displayed on Leonore's desk in the master bedroom.



Rectangular prism inscribed
"World's Greatest Grandma"
Acrylic, paint
Height: .75"; Width: 7"; Depth: .75"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.3991

GIFT OF

Elizabeth Kabler

This sentimental engraved heart-shaped box from Leonore's daughter Elizabeth Kabler reads, "HAPPY 80TH LOVE ELIZABETH 2-20-98." Organic, sensuous designs are characteristic traits of Elsa Peretti's work, a designer for Tiffany & Co. This box adorned Leonore's desk among other intimate gifts displayed in the master bedroom.

Elizabeth Kabler (b. 1949), one of Leonore's two daughters, is a trustee of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands. She founded the New York Center for Living, a nonprofit organization committed to the treatment of substance abuse disorders and dual diagnosis disorders in adolescents and young adults.

Box in the shape of a heart
1998
Elsa Peretti, Tiffany & Co., manufactured in Italy
Sterling silver
Height: 1.5"; Width: 4"; Depth: 3.75"
Sunnylands Collection 2009.1.4002





Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Walter and Leonore Annenberg. Together they lived life to the fullest and left a legacy for future generations. While they were in residence, Sunnylands was constantly filled with people. Additional guest suites were added just ten years after the house was completed to accommodate their burgeoning lists of overnight guests. Their individual and joint calendars brimmed with appointments, meetings, parties, family gatherings, galas, lunches, tee times, and both local and distant travel plans. Such full lives included physical expressions of affection and appreciation from others in the form of gifts. Many rooms within Sunnylands are punctuated by groupings of photographs and displays of sentimental gifts. These remembrances of time well spent with their nearest and dearest friends and family were clearly their most treasured keepsakes.

The Board of Trustees of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands provided generous support for this exhibition and publication. Trustees are Wallis Annenberg, Lauren Bon, Diane Deshong, Howard Deshong III, Leonore Deshong, Elizabeth Kabler, Elizabeth Sorensen, Charles Annenberg Weingarten, and Gregory Annenberg Weingarten. Also supporting the exhibition and related programming was Geoffrey Cowan, President of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands. Editorial oversight and direction was provided by Center Director, Janice Lyle, Ph.D., and copy editor Carla Breer Howard.

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The exhibition was the result of a collaborative effort among many professionals. The curatorial committee at Sunnylands included Janice Lyle, Ph.D., Director, Center & Gardens; Kathy Carr, Tour Manager & Programs Coordinator; Michaelleen Gallagher, Director of Education and Environmental Programs; Susan Davis, Communications Specialist; and Anne Rowe, Director of Collections and Exhibitions. The Collections and Exhibitions department's efforts included those of Kacey Donner, Collections Assistant, who provided significant curatorial support; Frank Lopez, Librarian and Archivist; Daniel Modlin, Photo Archivist; Mary Velez, Senior Art Handler; Irma Alonzo, Art Handler; and summer staff Luz Gonzalez and Elizabeth Garza.

Kamil Beski of Beski Projekts in Los Angeles and exhibition designer Karina White designed and installed the exhibition. Mark Davidson of Mark Davidson Photography photographed the gifts for the catalog. This catalog and other collateral materials supporting the exhibition were designed by John Crummay and Robin Rout of JCRR Design.

