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Diamond Anniversary for Kirk and Anne Douglas

Montecito twosome, veteran actor Kirk Douglas and his wife, Anne, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary when Kirk’s Oscar-winning son, Michael, 69, and his wife, Welsh actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, hosted a gala evening at the historic Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills, the 55-room, Tudor-style 16-acre estate of oil tycoon Edward Doheny.

Fellow residents of our rarefied enclave, sculptor Aris Dimetrios, jewelry designer Corinna Gordon and academic Ilene Nagel also attended the 150-guest party, as did a host of Hollywood bold-faced names, including mega director Steven Spielberg, TV producer George Scholatter, and crooner Frank Sinatra’s widow, Barbara Marx. I can exclusively reveal. The stellar evening began with a lengthy cocktail hour in the impeccable...
The Butler – who co-starred with Oprah Winfrey. The movie also stars Cuba Gooding Jr., as Fred Gray and Stan Houston as Sheriff Clark.

Oprah says that recently deceased civil rights protester and writer Maya Angelou was delighted she’s making the film.

Speaking to the TV show Entertainment Tonight, Oprah recounted: “She was so proud that I was doing this movie. And she said, ‘Take it baby. Take it all the way. Take it all the way.’”

The Search is on
A number of Montecito denizens are winging their way to New York to be at Christie’s auction house in Rockefeller Center for the sale of property belonging to the late recluse copper heiress, Huguette Clark, on Wednesday, June 18.

Texan billionaire Harold Simmons’ widow, Annette, and Susan McCaw, wife of cellular phone billionaire, Craig; Sandi Nicholson, wife of former Amway head honcho, Bill; and lawyer Robert Lieff and his wife, Gretchen, are among them.

It is hoped the monies raised from the sale of artworks, Gilded Age furnishings and rare books, will help toward funding the Bellosguardo Foundation, which will run Clark’s former Santa Barbara oceanfront estate as a museum and art gallery.

Mayor Helene Schneider, who has been charged with finding seven suitable candidates from the area to be part of a 10-member committee, tells me she has yet to finalize her selection, although Law & Order producer Dick Wolf, venture capitalist Frank Caufield, and Susan McCaw, former U.S. ambassador to Austria, are names being considered, according to my mole with the martini.

And there is the not-so-small matter of $18 million in penalty fees outstanding to the IRS, which it is hoped will be waived...

Season Sampler
Social gridlock gripped the Montecito Country Club when...
Celesta Billeci, Miller McCune executive director of UCSB Arts & Lectures, announced its 54th season.

So far the five-year endowment campaign, with a target of $20 million, has raised a healthy $14 million, nearly 70 percent of the target.

The new program features 62 events, with highlights featuring The Joffrey Ballet, 17-time Grammy-winning crooner Tony Bennett, violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, Herbie Hancock, Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, Joshua Bell, and basketball legend Magic Johnson.

Included are 25 Santa Barbara debuts and the world premieres of seven new pieces.

“It’s a season of mindboggling diversity,” says Celesta. “It showcases A-list artists and speakers from the widest spectrum of arts and ideas. “We’re also bringing back the Marquee series featuring King Lear, top Tony Award-winner Audra McDonald, the iconic taiko drummers Kodo and celebrated chef Ina Garten, aka the Barefoot Contessa.”

Among the 180 guests hearing about the exciting new season were chancellor Henry Yang and his wife, Dilling, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Hiroko Benko, Mary Ellen Tiffany, mayor Helene Schneider, Robert and Gretchen Lieff, Christopher Pilafian, Natalie Orfalea, Larry and Nancy Koppelman, Jonathan Fox, Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin, Robert Weinman, and Dan and Meg Burnham...

Bravo to the Bergers

Wayne and Sharol Siemens opened the doors of their charming Toro Canyon home to welcome Howard and Fran Berger, who have just donated a collection of 21 Rembrandt prints...