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**Folder Title:** Nancy Reagan: Amazing Blue  
Ribbon Lunch. Jan 4, 1983

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(Parvin)  
December 17, 1982  
4:30 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: AMAZING BLUE RIBBON LUNCHEON -- REVISED CLOSING

-- You in this Grand Hall care also; you care about the great gifts of music and dance and theater. (I would call you pillars of the performing arts community, but as carefully as most of us watch our weight, pillar doesn't seem quite the word.) But you raise over a million dollars a year in voluntary support of the arts, and the only word for that is splendid.

-- I wanted to come today not only to see old friends, but to thank you for your contributions to our cultural life. You've done so much for Los Angeles. Robert Louis Stevenson once said that a friend is a present you give yourself. Well, Los Angeles certainly has given itself a present and a friend in the women of the Amazing Blue Ribbon. This day has been something of a present for me, as well. So thank you again for inviting me and for allowing me to be with so many friends. And thank you for making me feel so welcome.

(Parvin)  
December 17, 1982  
4:30 p.m.

MRS. PEAGAN: AMAZING BLUE RIBBON LUNCHEON -- REVISED CLOSING

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(Parvin)  
December 17, 1982

Closing

Amazing Blue Ribbon Luncheon - Revised ~~Final Paragraph~~

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(Parvin)  
November 29, 1982  
4:00 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: AMAZING BLUE RIBBON LUNCHEON  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1983

-- Thank you. And I especially want to thank the children for their performances. And John, the way you can improvise, you ought to go into politics. Last season on PBS we began a series at the White House called Young Artists in Performance. Name artists like Beverly Sills, Dizzy Gillespie, Gene Kelly and Itzhak Perlman bring in their candidates for future musical greatness. And let me say we have some tremendously talented young people waiting in the wings. And perhaps someday these children here will perform in one of our Young Artist broadcasts.

-- I know that all of you associated with the Amazing Blue Ribbon understand the importance of music to children. I'd like to explain the special importance of the music John improvised from a few minutes ago. It is called "To Love a Child." The song was written by Hal David and Joe Raposo and recorded by Old Blue Eyes himself, Frank Sinatra. By the way, Frank and I sang the song a while back at an event at the White House, and . . . this is the truth . . . we've since been offered a booking in the Catskills. But all the proceeds from this song go to a program very close to my heart called Foster Grandparents.

-- You often hear that California is the birthplace of so many trends, and in the case of Foster Grandparents that is certainly

the case. When my husband was Governor, I visited Pacific State Hospital in Pomona. That day in 1967 was the first I'd heard of Foster Grandparents. Then it was a program that used volunteer elderly to care for mentally retarded children. Since that time, it's grown greatly, helping all kinds of children who need love and attention. But in one important way it's all the same -- it still benefits both the caring and the cared for.

-- You here today care also; you care about the great gift of music. As a Californian, I want to thank you for all you're doing for music here, and I want to thank you especially for this luncheon today. You have made me feel very welcome.