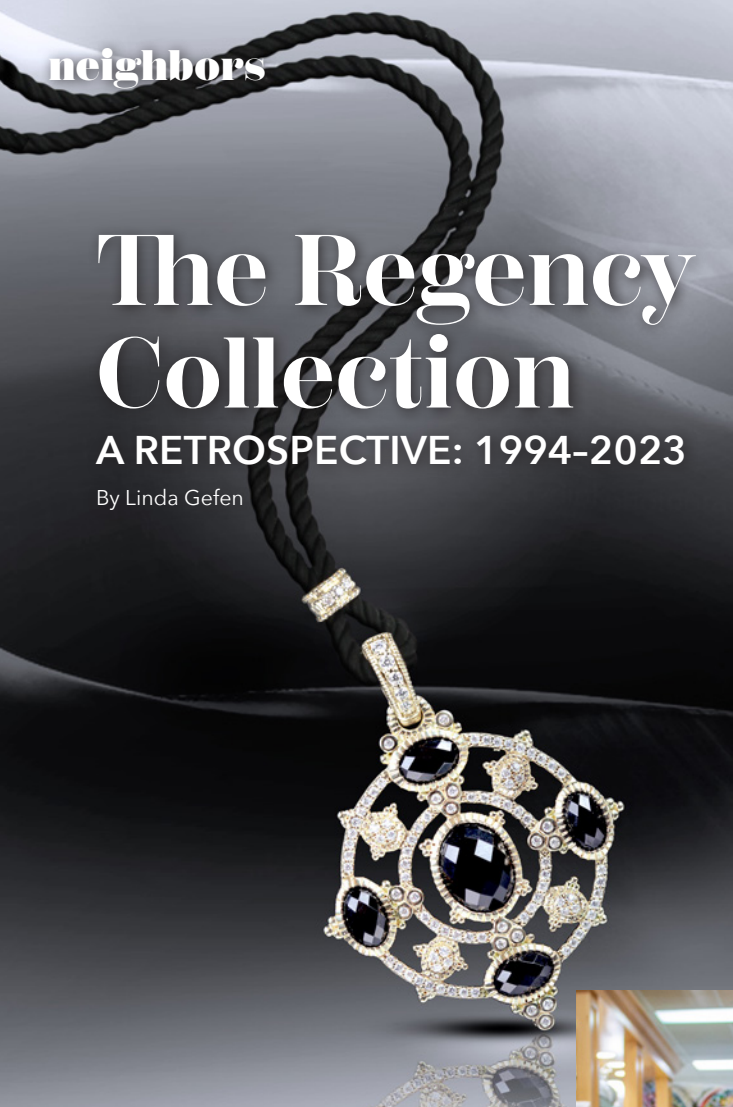


# The Regency Collection

## A RETROSPECTIVE: 1994-2023

By Linda Gefen



The Regency Collection, my beloved boutique in Boca Raton, at Regency Court Shopping Center, retained its location at 3011 Yamato Road A12-13 for more than a quarter of a century. Due to leasing circumstances this wonderful store, filled with fabulous home accessories, handbags, jewelry and not to forget the unforgettable memories and relationships — will soon be gone from that location... forever!

Life must go on... and it will for me in some way or another. But, first let me tell you the story of The Regency Collection. On October 1, 1994 Robin Rose and I opened the doors of The Regency Collection to the quickly growing population of Boca Raton. From the very first day, customers strolled in, found an item or a few for themselves or other, and then continued to come back over and over again, year after year. Remember when Tuscan designs became the "it" decor trend and myriads of vases filled shelves to accommodate all the those arched niches in our homes? Chances are most of the vases were purchased at The Regency Collection.

In the first few years, the store was so successful that we expanded into the space next door and added to our square footage. This space became another iconic part of our business, which featured high-end Jewelry, including the beloved brand, Judith Ripka,



for which we offered an exclusive selection. We then became known as The Regency Collection & Regency Jewels.

The Regency Collection became a reflection of the growing affluence in Boca Raton. It was the place to go when looking for a special gift for Bridal Showers, Engagement Parties, Weddings, Birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, and even a little something special for Valentine's Day. From the unique selection of impressive decor, jewelry and objets d'art — to the signature wrapping — a gift from The Regency Collection was always one to be cherished forever.

For years we developed a relationship with Michael Aram who Robin and I first met in his little booth at a tradeshow in the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City at the beginning of our journey. We knew from the start that he would be successful, and he surely is. Jay Strongwater was also at a small booth called Metropolitan, where we purchased his first frame design that retailed for \$550! We welcomed many store visits with Annie Morhauser, creator of Annieglass, still bigger than ever today, which were enjoyed by all who came to get her signature on a chosen piece. Judith Ripka's appearances truly created a buzz all around Boca and beyond! Trunk Shows and designer appearances became a thing that we were known for!

The Regency Collection also went through the 9-11 in 2001 with our Boca Raton residents, one of the saddest times ever in our history, along with the 2008 financial debacle, which changed our business for the next years to come. Then came online shopping, which changed the way the next generation of

shoppers perused retail. Hurricanes, including the worst for Boca Raton, Wilma, were also part of our history, as was COVID-19. I never sold a mask, but rather gave them out as needed. I would not succumb to making a business out of such a catastrophic time.

The Regency Collection is more than just a store, but rather a happening. Although Robin retired a few years ago, her contribution to Regency will never fade. Our forever staff, better known as friends, will be a part of my life no matter what. We shared our life experiences together through thick and thin. As times have changed,

so have I—my passion for design has also become a part of my business model, and I can't wait to see all of the new connections it brings me in this community. I will continue to work on the future of The Regency Collection. As it's said in the movie, *Field of Dreams*, "if you build it they will come." I will see you all soon. Until then... **stb**

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