

# LIFE notes

## The 31st Annual Lady in Red Gala Welcomes Back Jay Leno and Paul Anka

October 2, 2024

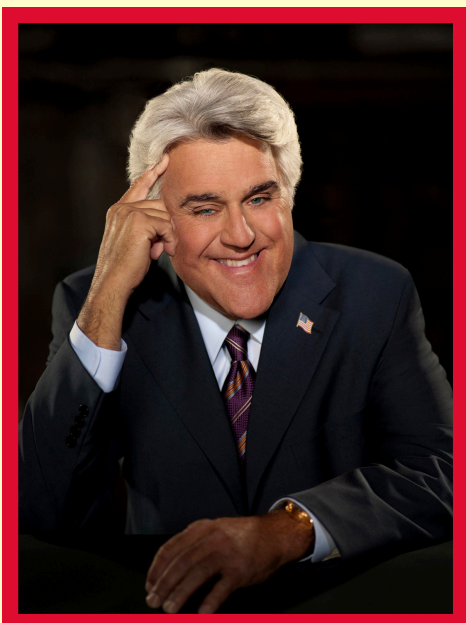


Dear Friends:

You know how much I love games – I've been hosting a weekly game night for some of you at my home for several years now. So let's play a little game, this one of trivia: What do Tom Hanks, Drew Barrymore, Steve Martin, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and Scarlett Johansson have in common?

If I were host Ken Jennings or the now late host Alex Trebek, I would have the theme from one of America's favorite game shows, Jeopardy!, playing in the background as you spent 30 seconds trying to answer this -- of course, in the form of a question..

But I'm not Ken or Alex, so here's the answer: Who are among the 25 TV, film and music stars who have hosted NBC's legendary Saturday Night Live at least five times?



Comedy Icon Jay Leno

What's this have to do with LIFE, you may be asking? Well, for the first time in our 31 years of presenting our Annual Lady in Red Gala, we will have our own five-timer -- Jay Leno! He will be one of our featured entertainers at the upcoming 31st Lady in Red on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at The Breakers Palm Beach.

That Jay leaves us in stitches whenever he headlines the Lady in Red comes from his lifetime of experience; he's been making jokes from the time he was a kid, first in New Rochelle, NY and then in Andover, MA. In fact, I've heard he came out of the womb with a one-liner and one of the books he authored is called "How to be the Funniest Kid in the Whole Wide World!"

Jay then honed his talents as a student at Emerson College, then as a comedian on stand-up stages, in comedy clubs, and at philanthropic events like ours across the country and world. Of course, as host of The Tonight Show on NBC, Jay brought his comedic repertoire to countless millions of living rooms, dens and bedrooms five nights a week for a quarter-century.

All that, and he somehow still finds time to spend quality time with the love of his life, his wife of many years, Mavis, and to maintain his museum-worthy collection of some 180 antique, classic, muscle, sports and other cars and 160 motorcycles that fill up three airplane hangar-sized garages in Burbank, CA. Among the many cars are several very rare ones, including the 1969 Lamborghini Miura S, the American LaFrance Fire Truck, the 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado, and the 1909 Stanley Steamer.

Speaking of steam, fellow headliner Paul Anka, who will be a three-timer at the Lady in Red, can still steam up a room just by crooning a few of the ballads he has written and performed since he was a mere lad growing up in Ottawa, Canada. His parents owned a restaurant there called the Locanda, a hugely popular hangout for entertainers, politicians, and journalists.

Like Jay, Paul began performing as a kid, singing in the choir at St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral. By 13, Paul had his own vocal group, the Bobbysoxers, and they performed at every amateur night they could get to in his mother's car -- unbeknownst to her!

Soon after, he won a trip to New York by winning a Campbell's soup contest that required him to spend three months collecting soup can labels. It was there his dream was solidified -- he was going to make it as a singer and composer.

Of course, he did – and big time! He returned to New York in 1957, got a meeting with Don Costa of ABC-Paramount Records, and played him a batch of songs that included “Diana.” Costa was enthusiastic about Paul's potential, for good reason: the rapid and enormous success of “Diana”- his first number-one hit - made Paul a star.

In the half-century since, he has written so many hits – for himself or for others – among them being “Put Your Head On My Shoulder,” “Puppy Love,” “Diana,” “You're Having My Baby,” “My Way,” and so many more – that he has more gold than Fort Knox!

The upcoming 31st Lady in Red is itself worth its weight in gold...and red...because proceeds will benefit three red-star organizations: Palm Beach County Food Bank and its Lois' Food4Kids program, American Humane and its Pups4Patriots initiative, and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and its Lois' Vision4Kids endeavor.



**Global superstar singer and songwriter Paul Anka**

I can tell you from experience that when you see the children who, by getting their Lois' Food4Kids backpacks filled with healthy and nutritious meals and snacks, aren't going to have to go hungry...or the kids who can now read their books and what their teacher writes on the blackboard in their classrooms because they received their first pairs of prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, thanks to Lois' Vision4Kids...or the military veterans with PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury whose lives have been saved and transformed because they were paired with a Pups4Patriots service dog...well, your eyes will turn red with tears of joy.

And it's all because of you, our red-letter supporters of LIFE and our annual Lady in Red gala. So, I urge you to buy your tickets, tables, and sponsorships now – I know it will be another sold-out night.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 2 at The Breakers Palm Beach. I'll be the one in the red gown!

With love always,

*Lois*

# In Loving Memory of Tova Leidesdorf



All of us at LIFE deeply mourn the passing of our dear friend and inspiration, Tova Leidesdorf. She magnificently lived what her name, Tova, translates as: GOOD. Indeed, it was her conviction that it is not how many days one counts on this Earth, but how you make all those days count. And she made them all count by doing good – indeed, great – things as a humanitarian and philanthropist.

It is because of my love for her and her love for her own “sweetheart”—her beloved dog Motek—that I made a lead gift to endow the TOVA LEIDESDORF IMAGING CENTER in the Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri-County Animal Rescue. This center will provide MRIs, CAT scans, and other x-ray and radiological testing for dogs, cats and other animals. As you know, the pet clinic, itself, is the only center of its kind in the tri-county region that provides a full complement of veterinary health and medical treatment and services at little or no cost to families without the financial means for such care.

It is my hope that Tova’s many other friends who were blessed by knowing her will want to make their own contributions to this initiative. To do so, I kindly ask that you contact Suzi Goldsmith, the founder and director of Tri-County, at 561.482.8110.



*Lois Pope Deeply Mourns  
the passing of her  
fabulous longtime friend*

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**TOVA  
LEIDESDORF**

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*By honoring her profound  
love of her “sweetheart,”*

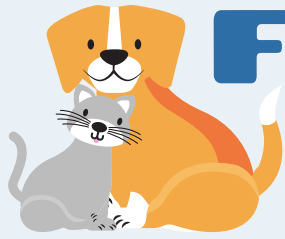
**HER DOG MOTEK**  
*and all other dogs*

*Through endowing, as a blessing to her memory, the*  
**TOVA LEIDESDORF IMAGING CENTER**  
*in the Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri-County Animal Rescue*

The clinic is the only one in the tri-county region that provides a full complement of veterinary health and medical services and treatment at little or no cost for families who cannot afford such care for their pets. The new imaging center will provide MRIs, CAT scans, other X-rays and radiology tests for these animals.

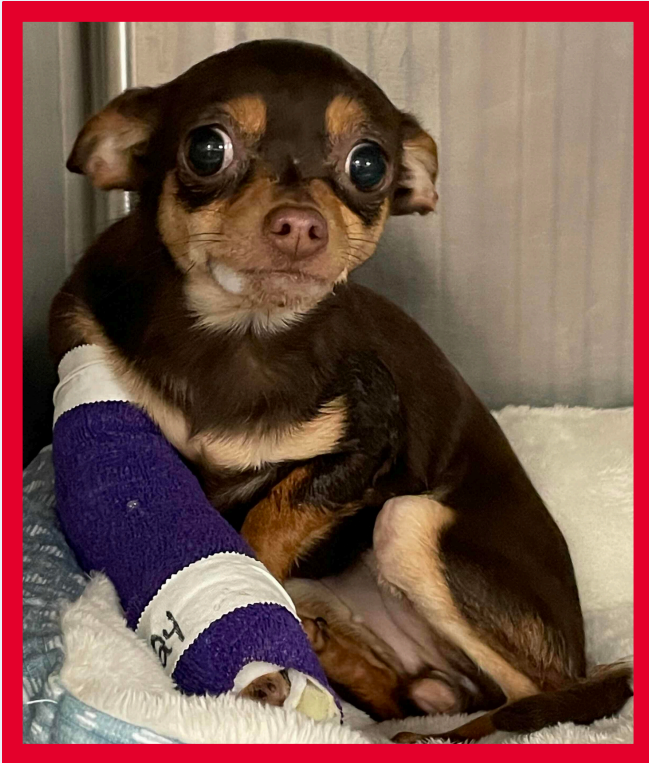
## **Support Veterinary Care for Pets in Tova’s Memory**

For more information, and to contribute to the endowment of the Tova Leidesdorf Imaging Center in memory of Mrs. Leidesdorf, please contact Suzi Goldsmith at **561-482-8110** or go to the Tri-County website at **[tricountyanimalrescue.com](http://tricountyanimalrescue.com)**.



# Friends4LIFE

*You can't buy love, but you can rescue it.*



Say hello to **\*Precious\***, a tiny 13-month-old Chihuahua with a heart as big as her name! Rescued from Palm Beach Animal Care & Control, this little cutie only weighs 4.5 pounds. Despite coming in with a broken leg, she hasn't let it slow her down one bit. The wonderful medical team at the Lois Pope Pet Clinic has been giving her the best care, and Precious continues to brighten everyone's day with her playful personality and gentle, loving nature.

Both Precious and Tabitha have shown incredible resilience and love despite their rough starts. If you're looking for a tiny pup who will always make you smile or a beautiful kitty to curl up with, meet these two today! They're waiting for the perfect family to share their sweetness with.



And then there's **\*Tabitha\***, a stunning tortoiseshell Domestic Shorthair who's as sweet as can be! This 8-pound bundle of love was abandoned at our property but is now thriving with the excellent care and attention she's receiving from clinic staff and volunteers. With her soft fur and cuddly nature, Tabitha's favorite pastime is snuggling. She's fully vaccinated, microchipped, and ready to fill a forever home with purrs and joy.

To learn more about how to adopt or donate, visit [www.tricountyanimalrescue.com](http://www.tricountyanimalrescue.com)

**SAVE *the* DATE**

**LOIS POPE AND LIFE CELEBRATE  
LIFE'S 31ST ANNUAL**

# **LADY IN RED GALA**

**MARCH 2, 2025 ✨ 6PM  
THE BREAKERS | PALM BEACH**

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**STARRING GLOBAL SUPERSTAR  
PAUL ANKA**

**AND COMEDY ICON  
JAY LENO**

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*Reserve your tables and sponsorships early for what promises to be a truly historic event.*

***Proceeds Benefit:***

Disabled veterans through the Pups4Patriots initiative at American Humane and South Florida youth through PBC Food Bank's Lois' Food4Kids program & Lois' Vision4Kids program with Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

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