

LIFE'S **LADY IN RED** IS TURNING 30!

*Where Our Gala Performers Worked
Before They Became Famous*

June 7, 2023



Dear Friends:

For the past 30 years, we have been privileged at our annual Lady in Red Gala to host some of the world's most prolific, entertaining, and beloved musicians and comedians. They have had us dancing between tables (as well as on the dance floor), roaring with laughter at our seats, and singing along to their hits – sometimes loudly and off-key, but that's another story for another day!

As we are already deep in planning our 30th Annual Lady in Red – or since it will be on St. Patrick's Day, maybe we should call it the 1st Annual Lady in Green – I have begun a little reminiscing about just how fortunate we have been in landing so many A-Listers. While thinking about this, I have also been reflecting on where all these talented individuals were 30 years ago: Where did they come from? What was their first job?

Did they – like me, growing up in Philadelphia post-Depression with aspirations of being an actress, singer, and Broadway and movie star – come from humble beginnings but with big dreams?

It turns out that most of them did, indeed, have modest upbringings. For example, the legendary comedian and talk show host Jay Leno, who will again perform at the 30th gala, started out slicing potatoes at a local McDonald's and rearranging cars as a "lot boy" at his hometown Ford dealership. "I would alternate between the two," he has said. "It was cars and hamburgers, which are actually still two of my passions."

Rita Rudner, who will also amuse us again at the 30th with her sidesplitting anecdotes on marriage and life, had a much different passion. She graduated high school in Miami at age 15 and immediately headed for New York for a career as a professional dancer. But after struggling to realize that dream, she started doing stand-up in local comedy clubs. I guess her career change has worked out well.

Our friend Gloria Estefan may now be a multiple Grammy Award-winning singer – and one of the best-selling female singers of all time – but while attending the University of Miami, she helped pay her tuition as an English, Spanish, and French translator in the Customs Office at Miami International Airport. She was so adept that the CIA offered her a job!

Diana Ross, who has graced our stage several times, has been associated with Motown music for her entire celebrated career. Surprisingly, she didn't start with a microphone in her hand, but with her fingers on a typewriter – she was a secretary at Motown first!

Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys – who “swept” us all off our feet at one of our earliest galas – collected his first paycheck as a part-time carpet sweeper for a jewelry store. Howie Mandel, one of our funniest gala performers, wasn't laughing when it came to his first job.

After being expelled from high school for impersonating a school official, he worked as a carpet salesman. And fellow comedian, Martin Short, wasn't always the man of many memorable “Saturday Night Live” and “Second City TV” characters. Rather, his longtime career goal growing up was to become a social worker. I guess you can say that he is still helping people through tough times, with his comedic genius.

And speaking of helping people: from our very first Lady in Red, our mission has always been to raise funds to aid and support the most vulnerable here in Florida, across the country, and around the world. Through our generosity, we have transformed millions of lives, for which we should all feel enormous pride.

Of course, this year will be no exception: Proceeds will again benefit hungry children through the Lois' Food4Kids program at the Palm Beach County Food Bank and disabled veterans through the Pups4Patriots program at American Humane.

So, I look forward to seeing you next March 17th, 2024, at The Breakers for our 30th Annual Lady in Red Gala. Please call or email me to reserve your tables and sponsorships – it promises to be yet another completely sold-out affair. And remember that just like the many amazing performers who have starred at the Lady in Red over three decades – just like our LIFE organization itself – “from humble beginnings come great things.”

With Love Always,

Lois

ReBARKable! World's Oldest Dog Turns 31!



Bobi makes the Guinness Book of World Records!

CONQUEIROS, Portugal (AP) — The world's oldest dog recently celebrated his 31st birthday, according to Guinness World Records.

Bobi, a purebred Rafeiro do Alentejo, a breed of Portuguese dog, celebrated during a party Saturday at his home in the Portuguese village of Conqueiros, where he has lived his entire life. More than 100 people attended the “very traditional” Portuguese party, owner Leonel Costa said.

Local meats and fish were served to up to 100 guests, with extra for Bobi, who only eats human food. A dance troupe also performed with Bobi participating in one of their routines.

Costa has owned several old-age dogs in the past, including Bobi's mother, Gira, who lived to age 18. However, Costa said he never imagined any of his dogs would reach their 30s.

“We see situations like this as a normal result of the life that they have, but Bobi is one of a kind,” Costa said.

One of the biggest contributing factors to Bobi's longevity is the “calm, peaceful environment” in which he lives, according to Costa.

Throughout his life, Bobi has freely roamed the forests surrounding the Costa house. He has never been chained or leashed. The “very sociable” dog was never lonely because he grew up surrounded by many other animals, Costa said.

Now in his senior years, Bobi finds it difficult to walk, so he prefers to hang out at home in the yard. His eyesight has gotten worse, meaning he often bumps into things when he walks. Just like old-age humans, Bobi sleeps a lot. He immediately lies down in bed after eating, although on cold days he chooses to nap by the fire, his owner said.

Bobi's birth date has been confirmed by the Veterinary Medical Service of the Municipality of Leiria, which registered Bobi in 1992. His age also has been verified by a pet database authorized by the Portuguese government.

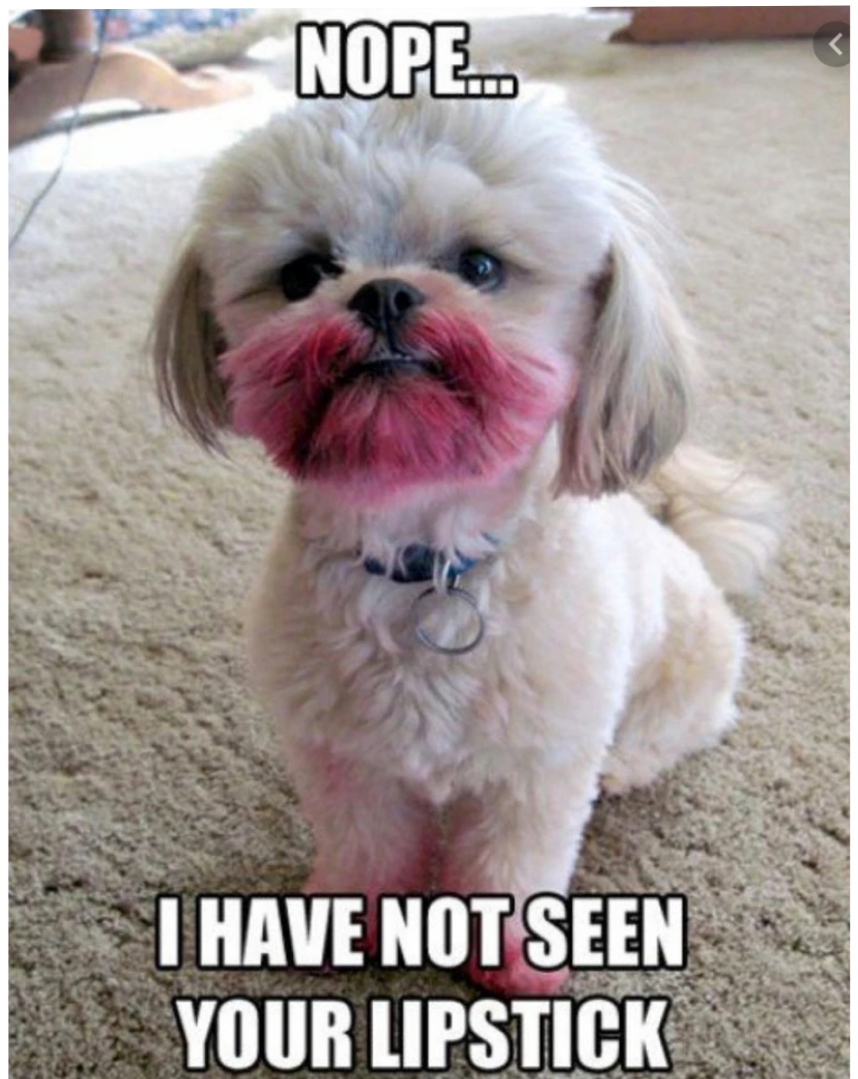
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO THE LIFE GALA . . .
HOLLYWOOD A-LISTERS STAND UP FOR THOSE IN NEED



June Funnies



"Here comes your crush. Act natural."
Me:



SAVE THE DATE

**Lois Pope and the Board of LIFE
proudly present LIFE's 30th Annual**



LADY IN RED GALA

**The Breakers, Palm Beach
March 17, 2024**

life@life-edu.org

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www.life-edu.org

*Reserve your tables
and sponsorships early
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a truly historic event.*

**Proceeds benefit:
Disabled Veterans
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"Pups4Patriots" Program
and South Florida youth through
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