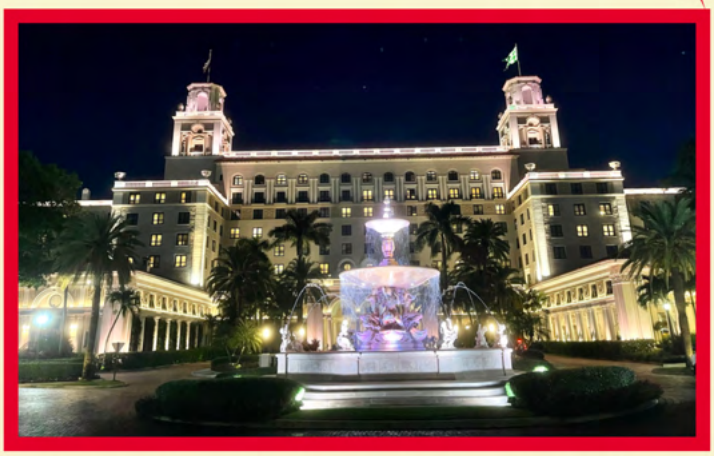
# LIFEnotes

# The Lady in Red
## Delivers the Hottest Ticket in Town

**October 1, 2025**

Dear Friends:

Welcome to October, which happens to be *National Pizza Month, National Popcorn Month,* and *National Origami Month* – who knew? Of course, these are just casual diversions from the real celebration, the day beloved by children: Halloween. It's a time when people decorate their homes with oversized and often gaudy plastic blow-up skeletons, Frankenstein monsters, black cats, ghosts, and other things that are supposed to create a sense of spookiness and scariness. For children, though, there is nothing fearful about filling up pillowcases with candy galore during Trick or Treating.



LIFE's 32nd Annual Lady in Red Gala will take place at the beautiful Breakers Palm Beach on February 7, 2026.

Lois Pope and Suzi Goldsmith are the *chairs* of LIFE's 32nd Annual Lady in Red Gala, February 7, 2026.

What you may not know is that October is also the month of limitless opportunities– at least if you know the story of Homer Hickam Jr., a coal miner's son from Coalwood, West Virginia who, inspired by the launch of Sputnik on October 4, 1957, went on to win the National Science Fair with some of his high school friends, then became a decorated U.S. Army Veteran, and most notably a legendary NASA engineer. His life story was told in both a best-selling book and a popular film called "October Sky."

When I think of limitless opportunities, it's not that book or that film, though. Rather, it is the North Star that guides us in the work we at LIFE do – and that you engender with your support, especially through our Annual Lady in Red Gala.

Indeed, it's the limitless opportunities that can now be realized by underserved children in the region who can now learn better in school because they aren't going hungry. Rather, they have access to backpacks filled with healthy and nutritious food, snacks and drinks, thanks to the Lois' Food4Kids program we support at the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

And, for children with vision problems, their learning is further nurtured because they can now receive free eye screenings and, if deemed necessary, two free pairs of prescription glasses and a pair of sunglasses, thanks to our support of the Lois' Vision4Kids initiative at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Then, there are the infinite possibilities that can now be pursued and realized by Veterans who came back from war suffering from PTSD and the other invisible wounds of war, but whose lives have been transformed for the better, all thanks to the Certified Service Dogs they are paired with free of charge, through our support of Pups4Patriots at American Humane Society.

Of course, even our furry friends can have infinite possibilities – well, at least long lives filled with unconditional love and lots of good health and many treats, thanks to our support of the Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri County Animal Rescue, the only clinic in the entire region where low-income families can receive a full complement of free medical services for their pets.

For all these organizations that benefit from the Lady in Red proceeds, it's like Halloween every day, filled with treats, with infinite possibilities.

At the same time, the Lady in Red is like Halloween for everyone in attendance because the night is filled with treats galore. In fact, when it comes to Palm Beach's philanthropic season, our gala is unparalleled for combining top-flight headline entertainment, a magnificent cocktail reception, a meal, and a dessert fit for royalty, the greatest musical hits to dance to, and, very importantly, the absolute shortest speeches.

From Left to Right: **Ari Rifkin, honorary chair and Marti LaTour; Diana & Mike Retzer; Gail Worth & Frank Orenstein, *co-chairs of the 32nd Annual Lady In Red Gala, on February 7, 2026 at the Breakers.***

The Temptations will perfom at LIFE's 32nd Annual Lady in Red Gala, February 7, 2026.

The 32nd Annual Lady in Red Gala promises to keep this three-decades-old tradition alive and well. For sure, the expected sold-out crowd of 700 attendees at the gala, set for Saturday night, Feb. 7, 2026 at The Breakers, Palm Beach, will be singing and dancing to the rhythms of the legendary Motown group The Temptations, laughing uproariously to the jokes and life's insights from comedienne Rita Rudner, devouring giant shrimp and other delectable appetizers during the cocktail hour, during which the Palm Beach Symphony will perform Broadway melodies, enjoying the most tender filet mignon dinner, wolfing down the over-the-top make-your-own ice cream sundaes for dessert, and then dancing even more to the sounds of the Famous Legends Band From the very outset, I wanted the Lady in Red to be different from other fundraising galas. In season, there are dinners almost every night, and they all. feature a bunch of speakers making a plea for the charity sponsoring the event. While that is certainly a successful formula, I felt that the Lady in Red should be more of a big party. I had confidence that people would still buy tables, become sponsors, and make donations because of the important causes we support. But having a party atmosphere with A-list performers in music and comedy would entice the attendees to want to dress up for a great night out. And it's worked. We've had top-flight entertainment, from music legends The Beach Boys, Diana Ross, Gladys Knight, and Paul Anka to comedy legends like Jay Leno, Dana Carvey, and Martin Short.

Very importantly, we've raised many millions of dollars and helped hundreds of thousands of underserved people of all ages, all while having one heck of a time!

I hope to see you all on Saturday, Feb. 7, for LIFE's 32nd Annual Lady in Red Gala. I will be chairing the evening, alongside Suzi Goldsmith. Honorary chair is Ari Rifkin, and co-chairs are Marti LaTour, Mike and Diana Retzer, and Gail Worth and Frank Orenstein. The possibilities for having the best of times are limitless – like being treated with all your favorite candy on Halloween.

So, treat yourself by purchasing tickets and tables, becoming a sponsor, and making donations. You can do this by contacting me at LIFE at 561.582.8083, life@life-edu.org, or www.life-edu.org.

In the meantime,

Love always,

Lois

LOIS POPE AND LIFE CELEBRATE
LIFE'S 32ND ANNUAL

# LADY IN RED GALA

**FEBRUARY 7, 2026 ✦ 6PM**

THE BREAKERS | PALM BEACH

STARRING
WORLD-RENOWNED SUPERSTARS

# THE TEMPTATIONS

AND

COMEDIENNE EXTRAORDINAIRE

# RITA RUDNER

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

*life@life-edu.org*

*561.582.8083*

*life-edu.org*