

# Lee Fryd's Social Life



*Matt Johnston, Patti LuPone, Bonnie Comley, Stewart Lane, Alex Washer  
photo by Rob Rich SocietyAllure.com*



*Laura Benanti  
photo by  
Rob Rich  
with  
SocietyAllure.com*



*Audra MacDonald  
photo by Rob Rich  
with SocietyAllure.com*



*Cady Huffman  
photo by Rob Rich  
with  
SocietyAllure.com*



*Karen LeFrak at  
Kennel Clubs Event  
photo by  
Ann Watt*

There's no business like show business," sang stars from "Memphis," "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," "Billy Elliot" and "Jersey Boys," at The Drama League Gala honoring Patti LuPone. Out of the corner of my eye, I glimpsed Broadway producer Stewart Lane lovingly squeeze wife Bonnie Comley's hand. This was her second year as the Benefit Gala Chair (and his as a Vice Chair). Before that, they were honored. Somehow, that national anthem of show business never gets old, especially when one of the stars of a show you're producing, "Priscilla," is singing. For me, there's no benefit like the Drama League benefit. Broadway stars give their all for a one night only program, to support young directors. What other event ends with Audra MacDonald and Patti LuPone singing together?

Vanessa Redgrave introduced LuPone. The embodiment of Broadway, LuPone

has held onto the spotlight through sheer talent and will for more than thirty years. She stood, applauded and threw kisses to the friends and costars who paid tribute. Among them, Laura Benanti, who appeared with her as Gypsy Rose Lee in the 2008 revival that won them both Tony's, and recently, in "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown."

"Working with Patti in any capacity is just a marvelous situation for any actor," Benanti told the *Resident*. "She's just so committed to the play, to the investigation of characters and to the illumination of the relationship between characters." In the past two years, Benanti segued from a sensitive, nuanced "Gypsy" portrayal, to a hilarious, over the top turn in "Women." "I think people are surprised to see the more comedic side to me," Benanti said, "which is interesting, because that's how I know myself."

For Karen LeFrak, there's no business like doggie show business. Her Standard Poodle, Ch. Ale Kai Mikimoto on Fifth, has won 88 champion prizes and sired nearly 100 champions. LeFrak chronicled some of her ring experiences in her third children's book, "Best in Show." "I wanted to show children that they could learn responsibility, camaraderie and sportsmanship in the ring," she told us, at her cocktail party for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and The American Kennel Club at Wendy Carduner's "Doubles," co-hosted with Ellen Charles.

Karen said she got her first Standard Poodle when "my children got too big to cuddle." When she wanted a second, her breeder, Wendell Sammet, only had a show dog. "The next thing you know," she remembers, "I was going to shows; I was breeding; I was collecting ribbons and having the time of my life."