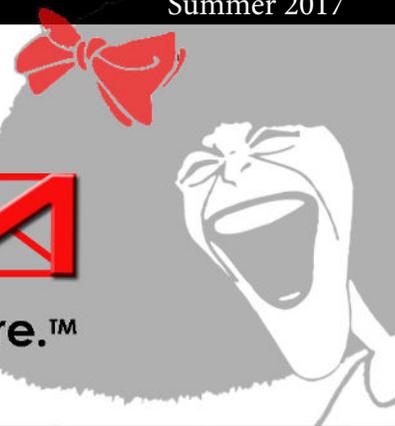


GILDA'S CLUB NEW YORK CITY

GildaGram

Living with Cancer? Come as you are.™



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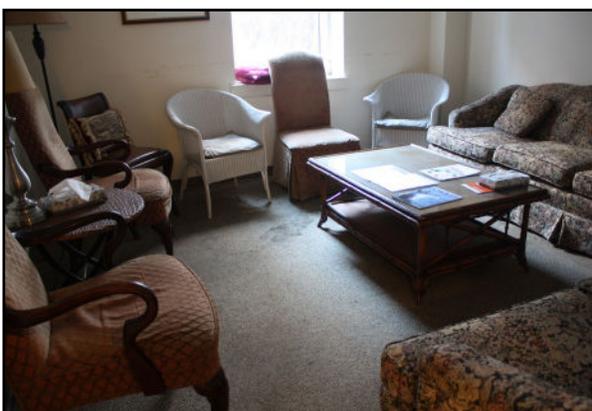
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Group Room 4

Monday & Tuesday:
*Friends & Family
Group*

Wednesday:
*Wellness, and Family &
Friends Groups*

Thursday:
Bereavement Group

For 22 years, our little brownstone in the West Village of Manhattan has been a community of support for thousands of individuals and families who have been impacted by cancer.

Over these years, many more have walked through our Red Door to take a tour of our facility and hear about our program which includes support groups, healthy lifestyle workshops and educational lectures. These visitors are often prospective members, volunteers, or donors.

The tour generally starts at our iconic Red Door which opens up to a lovely mural depicting Gilda Radner in her various personas, her dog Sparkle, and scenes from her home in Connecticut. Then it's on to the reception area, Dance Hall and Noogieland before heading up to the 2nd floor where our four group rooms, pantry, Gilda's Study Corner, and library are located.

It is here where you can truly see how worn down our beloved Clubhouse had become. Most of the group rooms are furnished with a mishmash of sofas, couches, chairs and tables of varying conditions.

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Publication of the Development Office
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Gilda's Club New York City, Inc.

195 West Houston Street • New York, NY 10014
(212) 647-9700 • development@gildasclubnyc.org
www.gildasclubnyc.org • @gildasclubnyc

Getting to Know

Eileen Jackson

Gilda's Club NYC Associate Director of Special Projects

Getting to Know is a new column we're adding to GildaGram to highlight a staff, Board, or Associate Board member, or volunteer of Gilda's Club NYC.

Eileen is a familiar face at Gilda's Club NYC - she's been with the organization for 18 years! Get to know a little more about Eileen:

1. What area of NYC do you live in?

Queens

2. What is your favorite NY sports team?

NY Mets

3. Name three of your favorite hobbies or interests.

Crocheting for charity, being part of Soroptimist International, a global charitable organization, spending time with my daughter

4. Where would go if you could travel anywhere in the world?

Cruise the Panama Canal

5. Name three things that you couldn't live without if you were stranded on a deserted island.

Bakery cookies, Shamar Moore & my crochet hook/yarn



Eileen Jackson, Age 6

Ways to Give

Here are some of the ways you can show your support of Gilda's Club NYC.

- Make an annual or recurring donation
- Double your gift with a matching gift from your employer
- Attend or sponsor an event
- Encourage your friends to donate or attend an event
- Join our Legacy Society with a planned gift
- Hold your own fundraiser
- Join our Bike or Marathon teams
- Volunteer your time and skills
- Become a Corporate Partner
- Join our Associate Board
- Follow us on social media

Renovations Planned for the Second Floor

Continued from page 1

The wall to wall rug had become stained and terribly worn and the lighting very dim. For many years, we have wanted to update this heavily trafficked area but our priorities remained in supporting and growing our program.

On a recent winter day, an out of town group wanted a tour of the facility to compare the similarities and differences of what we offered to one of our sister Gilda's Club's. As we reached the 2nd floor, it was explained that one of our members who recently lost his wife, wanted to make a contribution to update the area known as Gilda's Study Corner, where our youth members come to do homework before their support groups. In addition to this, Arlene Sullivan, an artist and painter had recently completed a whimsical mural in the same area. However, the group rooms remained a sore sight.

At the end of the visit, the group asked a myriad of questions and then left. Within a few weeks, a contact from the group reached out to say that they would be interested in making a gift to help with renovations. That gift turned out to be significant enough to provide us with a 2nd floor makeover including new furniture, replacing the carpeting with wood floors, updating the kitchen, and adding recessed lighting. Moreover, several vendors have offered to help defray costs so that we can expand renovations to the library with new flooring and paint.

We recently completed an appeal to our donors to assist with this renovation project. Needless to say, we are thrilled and extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, members, and vendors. The major project renovation will begin in July and should be complete by September when we will have an Open House to showcase our new space.

We'll keep you updated on the progress!

Want to help with the renovations?

Donate on our website at

www.gildasclubnyc.org,

text **Challenge2017** to **41444**, or
contact us to help in other ways.

2nd Floor Pantry Walls



2nd Floor Bathroom Walls



2nd Floor Bathrooms BEFORE



2nd Floor Bathrooms AFTER

Biden Cancer Initiative Takes on Cancer

On June 26, 2017, Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden launched the **Biden Cancer Initiative**, their new venture to continue the fight to make progress in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and care. This initiative will “develop and drive implementation of solutions to accelerate progress in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, research and care, and reduce disparities in cancer outcomes”.

As an affiliate of the Cancer Support Community, we are proud to recognize our very own Kim Thiboldeaux, CEO, Cancer Support Community who will represent communities like Gilda’s Club as a member on the Biden Cancer Initiative Board of Directors. “The Biden Cancer Initiative offers people diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones hope that our nation’s leaders truly recognize the urgency that ending cancer as we know it demands. I am humbled to be a part of this important



GCNYC CEO, Lily Safani joins Kim Thiboldeaux and the CSC team at the launch on June 26th

Initiative, and committed to bringing the patient voice to inform all that the organization endeavors to achieve,” says Ms. Thiboldeaux.

Gilda’s Club NYC Turns 22

The Gilda’s Club NYC community came together to celebrate 22 years of free cancer support at our Clubhouse on June 23rd. Members and guests enjoyed a beautiful and delicious cake provided by Magnolia Bakery, light refreshments, a lively game of pin the bow on Gilda and each other’s company. Thank you to the members, staff, Associate Board and Board of Directors for celebrating with us.



Cake donated by Magnolia Bakery



Pin the Bow on Gilda

Empowerment through Creative Expression

In April, we hosted *An Evening of Creative Expression* to showcase the creativity and talents of our members. This special reception invited members to exhibit the work that they developed in Gilda’s Club workshops.

The evening featured painted works, poetry and essays, origami, and original songs developed in the John Lennon Real Love Project collaboration between Gilda’s Club and Theatre Within.

Part of our mission is to empower our community through healthy lifestyle workshops, which includes Creative Expressions. Researchers believe artistic expression is an important activity for the mind. It can serve as a type of therapy, helping to sort through emotions and thoughts. It can empower by giving an individual control over what and how they express themselves and it can help reduce stress as it focuses one’s thoughts.

At Gilda’s Club, we offer workshops in writing, art projects, knitting, stand-up comedy, plus many others.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lilliana Aponte Yap

GCNYC Member, Noogie Parent, 2016 Gala Member Speaker and #TEAMGILDA Marathon Team Runner



I met my husband 23 years ago, and when I saw him my first thought was, *“if he only looked at me, I would be the happiest girl,”* - and he did!

And I was the happiest girl ...

We supported each other through grad school, moved to different states, and he encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor. We worked very hard for many years. He believed in me more than I believed in myself, and he was my rock; my knight in shining armor.

We had promising careers and after years of hoping and praying, and with the help of wonderful doctors, we had our beautiful miracle baby, Catalina. A month after celebrating Catalina’s first year, Claudio said to me, *“Lilly I have a hole in my mouth.”* From that moment on, our lives changed forever.

He was diagnosed with a rare form of Adenocarcinoma in the Palate (roof of the mouth). His treatment included 4 surgeries and 33 radiation treatments. He had grafts to reconstruct his palate, which included extensive surgeries to both arms and neck. The recovery was slow and difficult, but after about eight months he was active and back on his feet.

We tried to rebuild our lives, but the trauma of the experience and the fear of a relapse or metastases followed both of us.

In 2011, we received devastating news: his cancer had metastasized to his lungs. It had rapidly and extensively

spread to both lungs, therefore surgery was not an option nor was radiation, and there was no specific chemo treatment approved for his kind of cancer.

He then joined a clinical trial of an immunotherapy medication, which he had to stop after one year due to intolerable side effects. A year later he failed a second clinical trial. In the meantime we were blessed with our second miracle baby, Liam Gabriel. His last few months were extremely difficult, with blind hope and stern denial, trying to fight back and praying for a miracle.

In March 2016, he was very weak, thin, and mostly in bed when he developed a sore throat. He had the flu. He passed away on March 28 of 2016.

My daughter, Catalina and I come to Gilda’s Club every week, to give support to others in similar situations as well as feel the support of wonderful Gilda’s employees, fellow members and volunteers. They fill our lives with love, support and understanding.

Because of Gilda’s, I don’t feel alone. I can muster the strength to move on as best I can, with faith. My daughter Catalina is full of joy because she has Noogieland at Gilda’s Club on Thursdays, where she has been able to make friends who together will be able to survive the loss of a parent.

She had the best time in the summer program; her birthday at Gilda’s was the highlight of her day. Every year we look forward to Noogiefest, the best Halloween Party ever! Thank you very much for the healing you bring to our little family.

Over \$313,000 Raised at our 10th Anniversary *Celebrating Women*



(L-R) Beth Meagher, Honoree; Vicki Goodman, MD, Honoree; Lily Safani, GC-NYC CEO; Denise Albert, Host; Gerri Willis, Keynote Speaker

Over \$313,000 was raised at our annual luncheon, **Celebrating Women Working and Living with Cancer**. This year marked our 10th Anniversary and we celebrated with more than 200 guests at the Metropolitan Club. Jami Rubin, Board of Directors, GCNYC, chaired the event once again.

We are proud to have honored Dr. Vicki Goodman, VP & Developmental Lead for Opdivo/Yervoy, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Beth Meagher, Principal & Leader, Federal Strategy, Translational Medicine and Health Non-Profit Practices, Deloitte Consulting LLP, for their outstanding work in the cancer community.

Keynote Speaker Gerri Willis, Fox Business Network Anchor and Personal Finance Reporter, and cancer survivor, inspired the room with her speech, and Host Denise Albert, Co-Founder TheMOMS.com and Mamarazzi, Award-Winning Journalist & Television Producer, shared her own cancer story.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event and helped us to recognize these amazing women.

Associate Board

WHAT'S NEW?



NEWS:

The Associate Board (AB) has reached its full capacity of 35 members! Individuals interested in being on a wait list or simply interested in participating in any of the AB activities can join the Friends of the AB – or F.A.B.

EVENTS:

The 6th Annual Gildie Awards was held on Thursday, March 30th at Webster Hall. More than 250 guests enjoyed an evening of silent auction, raffles, food by Pinch Food Design, open bar, and music by DJ Vida and Temporary Grace. Cristina Cote, graciously hosted the event which honored Mailet Lopez, CEO & Founder, IHadCancer.com and Co-Founder & Managing Director, Squeaky. Honored posthumously was Sharon Jones, iconic lead singer of Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings, who passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2016. Guitarist, Binky Gripite accepted the award on her behalf. More than \$37,000 was raised by the young professional group.



Announcing our new AB Executive Committee for the 2018 Fiscal Year!

Neil Heckman, *Chair*
 Jessica Serre, *Vice-Chair*
 Ashley Loesch, *Secretary*
 Katherine Wynkoop and Emily Sanchez,
Events & Development Co-Chairs
 Mandy Cheuk and Remi Tseng,
Volunteer & Outreach Co-Chairs

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

The ABs held their annual Health & Wellness Day on Saturday, March 11 for Gilda's Club's members. Activities included: a presentation on integrative medicine, by K. Simon Yeung, PharmD, LAc; a writing workshop with Caren Geberer; Music Therapy with Eileen Esposito, and a Mediation & Relaxation workshop by Annette Dorfman. Special thanks to Chairs Blaike Hannay and Remi Tseng for organizing the day.

Save the date...

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

GILDA'S CLUB
NEW YORK CITY

Benefit
Gala



Celebrating
22 Years of
Free Cancer
Support

Run in the TCS NYC Marathon on No-
vember 5, 2017 with

#TEAMGILDA

RUN FOR GILDA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more information about any of the listed events, please visit our website at www.gildasclubnyc.org or e-mail development@gildasclubnyc.org

July



July 10-14
Special Youth Program
Club Sparkle
(pre-registration required)

July 28
Clubhouse Closes at 1pm

August

August 14-18
Special Youth Program
Club Sparkle
(pre-registration required)



August 11 & August 25
Clubhouse Closes at 1pm

September

September 1
Clubhouse Closes at 1pm

September 4
Clubhouse Closed
Labor Day

September 15
Social Event
Celebration of Our Members

September 22
Special Youth Program
Family Fun Night

Gilda's Club New York City Mission:

To Support, Educate, and Empower Cancer Patients and Their Families
Our free comprehensive cancer program includes support groups, educational lectures and workshops for everyone impacted by cancer – men, women, teens, and children.



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