

December 2020

Crossroads

How many times have you found yourself thinking that this year has been both boring *and* hectic?

I readily admit there have been several occasions where I was bombarded with conflicting feelings, emotions and sensations and was left feeling like I was standing aimlessly in the middle of an intersection wondering which way is the *right* way?

Standing in an intersection is not a familiar sensation for most of us - we know it is a very dangerous place, and that no matter which direction you choose to face you ultimately have your back exposed to the things you cannot see. A heightened sense of awareness presents real and imagined dangers rushing towards you.

In the role of fundraiser I have cherished the middle of the intersection assuming the role as a “fundraising traffic guard” helping guide people wanting to help others *towards* the people who need help. This organization finds itself at a crossroads, an intersection that includes a vibrant history, an uncertain present, and a hopeful future.

When I pause and reflect about Gilda’s Club, I think that Ralph Waldo Emerson had it right when he quipped “It’s the not the destination, it’s the journey”. While the landmarks on our path for the next year are not defined, we are guided by a wonderfully simple direction - we move forward “*So that no one faces cancer alone.*”

It takes a little more patience and empathy to feel that we are moving in the right direction in 2020, but thanks to everyone who has been at our side on this journey, Gilda’s Club Simcoe Muskoka is on the right path to a successful future.

Aaron Lutes
Executive Director

Virtual Clubhouse & Program Activities

DECEMBER

at GCSM

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	10-10:45 Slow Flow Yoga 1	9-9:45 Slow Flow Yoga 2 10-10:45 Journaling 1-2:30 Facing Forward Support 3-3:45 Gentle Stretch 4:30-5:15 Winter Family BINGO 6-6:45 Kids Support 7-8 Teens Connect	3:30-4:30 Let's Get Quizzicle: Trivia Social 3 7-8 Youth With Cancer Connect	1:30-2:30 Member Social 4	11-12 Children's Anger Workshop 5
12-12:45 Pilates 7 7:30 - 8:30 Living With Loss Support	10-10:45 Slow Flow Yoga 8 2-3 Memory Boosters & Brain Teasers 6:30-7:30 Virtual Fireside Chat: Coping With the Holidays	9-9:45 Slow Flow Yoga 9 10-10:45 Journaling 1-2:30 Coping With a COVID-19 Winter 3-3:45 Gentle Stretch	2-3 Chair Yoga & Meditation 10 3:30-4:30 Let's Get Quizzicle: Trivia Social 6:30-7:30 Men's Social	1:30-2:30 Member Social 11	
12-12:45 Pilates 14 1-2 Podcast Club: Coping With Cancer During the Holidays 1:15-2:15 Family & Friends Support 3-4 Circle of Life Support 6-7:30 Colour Schemes: Winter Holiday 7:30 - 8:30 Living With Loss Support	10-10:45 Slow Flow Yoga 15 1:00-2:30 Holiday Pop 3-4 Virtual Fireside Chat: Coping With the Holidays 7:00-8:30 Breast Cancer Networking	9-9:45 Slow Flow Yoga 16 10-10:45 Journaling 1-2:30 Facing Forward Support 3-3:45 Gentle Stretch 6:15-7:00 Family Holiday Cookie Decorating	11-12 Blood Cancer Networking 17 3:30-4:30 Let's Get Quizzicle: Trivia Social 6:30-7:30 Adult Virtual Holiday Bash	1:30-2:30 Member Social: Support Through the Holidays 18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

**CLOSED
FOR THE HOLIDAYS**




Questions or comments for our Cancer Support Program?

Email program@gildasclubsm.org!

Gilda's Club

When *Saturday Night Live* comedian Gilda Radner died from ovarian cancer in 1989, her husband, actor Gene Wilder, made a commitment to fulfill one of her most heartfelt dreams: "It was Gilda's wish that there be free support communities for cancer victims and their families," says Wilder. A place where they could find comfort, conversation and laughter. That dream will soon become a reality, when the first Gilda's Club opens its doors in New York City. For a \$25 tax-deductible contribution to Gilda's Club, Gene Wilder will send FC readers a personally signed holiday card. Think of it as a gift to yourself—or someone else—that keeps on giving. Requests must be received by December 15. Send your contribution, name, address and phone number, and the name and address of the person receiving the card (if it's someone other than yourself), to: Gilda's Club, 195 West Houston St., New York, NY 10014



I had the pleasure of receiving a Facebook message recently from a Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka Alumni Member.

"Good morning. I was a member of Gilda's Club in 2011-2012.

I will forever be grateful to this service.

I was going through a Family Circle magazine from November 22, 1994 and came across this article. I thought you might like to see it. Feel free to post it if you would like.

Enjoy your day and thank you for all you do."

GCSM Alumni

2020 Gifts and Receipts



Here's a friendly reminder about year-end giving to Gilda's Club.

There are two ways you can give before the end of the year to ensure you receive a 2020 tax receipt - by mailing a cheque or by [giving online](#) with your credit card.

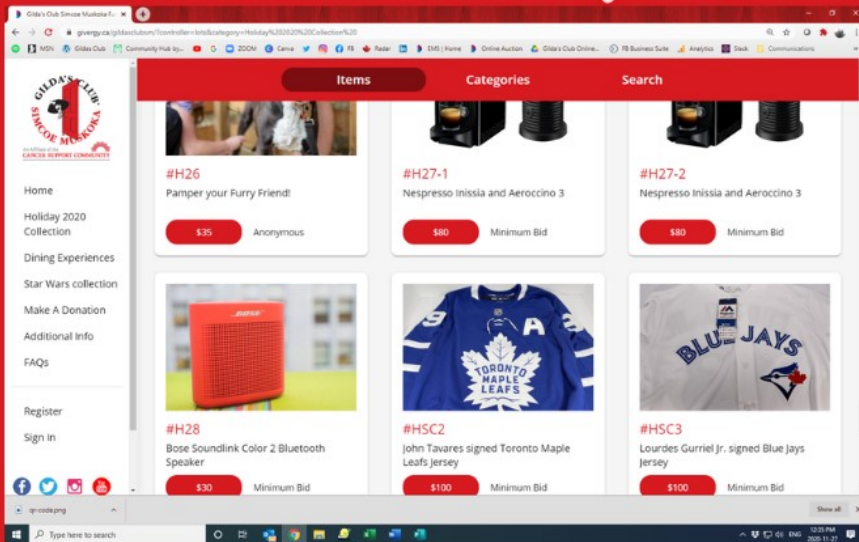
Canada Post may have an unprecedented delivery load this year, but be assured that if your envelope is postmarked December 31st or earlier that it is recognized as a 2020 gift. The cheque must be dated for this year.

Online Holiday Auction NOW OPEN!

We have so many different items from generous donors this year for events that we could not host that we are happy to host our first online auction!

We have signed jerseys of Toronto Maple Leaf players - past and present - along with numerous gift certificates, 2021 golf passes, artwork, cosmetics, technology and items that will raise an eyebrow!

Holiday Auction



NEW ITEMS

CLOSES DEC 15

Auction closes in two weeks on Tuesday, December 15th and just in time for you to add to your holiday gift giving repertoire!

Online Auction Link

Community Events and Activities



Christmas in Italy

4 delicious courses
4 fabulous wines
and tips on where & what to do



In celebration of the upcoming holiday season, Bacio Trattoria, Wine Journeys and Eleanor Dath, Vision Travel are coming together to host an intimate evening to celebrate Christmas in Italy on Wednesday, Dec. 16 & Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Bacio Trattoria's restaurant. The evening will consist of delicious food, fantastic wine, and travel recommendations to have you dreaming of your next trip to Italy.

To follow COVID safety protocols, the event will be strictly limited to 16 people (4 tables of 4 guests). Tables are limited to your bubble and the restaurant will be closed to other patrons.

Tickets are sold by table with a portion of each ticket going toward Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka. Book before Monday, December 14 at Noon to reserve your table.

Visit [here](#) for more information.

NEW 2021 dining experience opportunity!

*Stay Tuned in 2021
for more information!!*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Watson - Board Chair
Christine Charlebois
Eleanor Dath
Patricia Gilbert
Michael Gleason
Mark Jepp
Mike Lassaline
Domenic Maccarone
Lise McCourt
Paulina Molnar
Deb Van Natter
Ashley Oliver
Barbara White
Kathryn Whitehead
Jody Wood-Martin
Natalie Ferguson
Recording Secretary



10 Quarry Ridge Road
Barrie, ON L4M 7G1

Telephone: (705) 726-5199
Fax: (705) 726-7101

admin@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org

Charitable Registration # 87366 4205 RR0001

WWW.GILDASCLUBSIMCOEMUSKOKA.ORG

STAFF

Aaron Lutes
Executive Director
Suzanne Ure
Operations Manager

Sara Desroches
MSW, RSW, *Program Director*
Erin King (Browning)
BSW, RSW, *Program Coordinator*
Jocelyn Leworthy
MSc, CCLS, *Child, Youth
& Family Coordinator*