

SPECIAL EVENTS

Comedy show to benefit Gilda's Club

"Gilda's Club presents: The Motor City Women of Comedy," Sunday, Aug. 27 at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Show times 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tickets for the 3 p.m. show are \$20 regular and \$30 VIP. Tickets for the evening show are sold out. Call (810) 642-9900. Show proceeds benefit Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit.

By ROBERT RADNER
SPECIAL WRITER

The laughs that the late Detroit Gilda Radner brought to us were a special gift from a special lady, preserved forever thanks to videotape and celluloid. However, another gift from Gilda is still being given to those with cancer and the family and friends they touch — with the help of a driven, talented group of local comedians.

Known as "The Motor City Women of Comedy," this group of nine performers is planning to bring the house down twice at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak this Sunday to benefit Gilda's Club of Detroit. The event, now in its second year, is the brainchild of Alyce Faye of Farmington and Mary Miller of Berkley, who brought the performers together and will serve as co-hosts.

"We're excited to be involved in this because Gilda was our mentor," Faye said. "We came together as both a tribute to her and to help her fulfill her dream. She wanted to have a place where people who have cancer, as well as their family and friends, could go to talk about how they feel."

That dream led to the establishment of Gilda's Club in New York and Detroit by Radner's husband Gene Wilder and psychotherapist Joannita Bull, now the group's executive director. The group's mission is to provide a meeting place where people with cancer, their family and friends, can join with others to build social and emotional support as a supplement to medical care. The metro Detroit chapter, currently in an office suite in Farmington Hills, hopes to raise enough money to build a permanent site for non-residential programs to include support groups, lectures, workshops and social events.

Performers for Sunday's benefit, in addition to Faye and Miller, include Stacey Duford, Kathy Geba, Lisa Golch, Gilda Hauser, Shells Loveley, Jennie McNulty and Jill Washburn. Local comedy connoisseurs can expect about a 10-minute set from each performer at the show, just enough to get a strong sample of the best female stand-up talent the Motor City has to offer.

Last year's event received a tremendous response, raising over \$13,000. But this year's response is overwhelming, leading to the addition of a second show. The evening show, which includes a light buffet, is already sold out. Tickets are still available for the 3 p.m. show.

"Last year we went beyond our wildest dreams," Miller said. "And we would really love to sell out two shows this year. It's neat to bring people together to benefit such a great cause. We have so much comedy talent here in Detroit, to give something back is really important."

Gilda's Club is also hosting a fund-raising 5K (3.4 mile) Family Walk and Block Party on Sunday, Sept. 17, at Cobo Center in De-

troit. Registration begins 11 a.m. and the walk begins at 1 p.m. The Block Party begins 1:30 p.m. in the Macon Room at Cobo Center. Walkers will begin at Cobo Center and continue through Hart Plaza along the Detroit River to Cobo park, and end inside Cobo Center with a Block Party featuring family entertainment. Entry is \$15 per person by September 8

or \$20 after September 8, and the day of the walk. Free entry for children 12 and under. Everyone who pays an entry fee will receive a T-shirt. Entry forms available at AMC Theaters, Big Boy Restaurants, Weight Watchers or call Motor City Striders, (810) 644-9009.

Volunteers are needed, contact: Gilda's Club, Metro Detroit,

31000 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200, Farmington Hills, MI 48334, (810) 851-6557.

If you have a comment or information for Bob Sadler, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1896, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write to him care of Arts & Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

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Mainstreet features Judy Gold

Comedienne Judy Gold will be headlining at the Ann Arbor Mainstreet Comedy Show, 314 E. Liberty, Aug. 24-26. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 25-26. Tickets are \$12, call (313) 996-0900.

Audiences will recognize Gold from her co-starring role on the ABC series "All American Girl," guest spots on "Roseanne," and other shows.

Gold's half hour HBO Comedy Special, which she taped in June in San Francisco, premieres 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24. A native of Clark, N.J., Gold got her start in show business after receiving a bachelor's degree in music from Rutgers University. She has been headlining in comedy clubs around the country for the past six years.

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