

Coping with cancer

Local Gilda's Club helps all touched by illness

BY BARR PERT TEMPLETON
SPECIAL WRITER

When Kristina Nagy recently took a friend with her to a pot luck supper and karaoke night at her local "club" she wasn't sure how things would turn out. There was, of course, laughter and singing and silliness, still Nagy's friend relayed that she was amazed by the experience.

"My girlfriend just couldn't believe how relaxed and fun everything was because she thought all these people would be sitting around talking about their cancer," Nagy said. "But really, it's like God hand picked everybody that works at Gilda's Club. They are just all the most wonderful, caring and supportive people."

The club is named in memory of native Detroit Gilda Radner, comedian best known for her work on Saturday Night Live. She lost her two-and-half year battle with ovarian cancer in May 1989. It was Radner's dream to create a place beyond the medical setting where people could go to share and support each other in the battle against the devastating illness.

When Oakland County's Gilda's Club opened Jan. 28 in a renovated three-story home along Rochester Road in Royal Oak, it became the third



Gilda's Place: Earline Crane and Florence Anderson chat in the "It's Always Something" room at the new Gilda's Place on Rochester Road in Royal Oak. It is a place where people with cancer and their families can find support and programs.

Please see GILDA, A6

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Esteemed as a gem,
one that is rare,
precious or fine.

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