



## Waunakee Rotary Club

May 1, 2008  
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When Gilda's Club opens near Middleton's Greenway Station this summer, it will be the 23rd such clubhouse in the country.

Marcia Whittington, CEO of Gilda's Club, told the Waunakee Rotary about the services her club will offer members.

Gilda Radner came up with the idea for a support network when she had cancer. The Saturday Night Live comedienne was diagnosed with cancer in the 1980s, Marcia said. While Radner felt her medical support was adequate, she wished she had had more social support.

After Gilda Radner died, her husband, Gene Wilder, spearheaded an effort to start Gilda's Club, which would bring people with similar experiences together.

The goal of Gilda's Club is to offer support groups for all people affected by cancer – both adults and children with cancer and their families. Networking groups would also be available, and it would offer an educational aspect to discuss treatment and research.

The club also offers a social side, Marcia said. Many people with cancer isolate themselves as their bodies change with the treatment, she said.

Gilda's Club offers an environment where everybody can get together. Children under 12 can play, attend groups and participate in activities in the "Noogieland." There is also a teen room and groups geared for that age group.

Gilda's Club is free to all members, and donations from the community support the club. So far, the club has raised the funds for the building and two years of the operating costs, Marcia said.

The building is slated to open this summer, and a sample week of activ-

ities could include wellness support groups, breast and prostate cancer groups, t'ai chi and yoga classes, and groups for children, teens and young adults.

Volunteers are needed to offer administrative support, work on the gardens and cook meals, Marcia said.

The 16,000-square-foot facility is the largest of all the Gilda's Clubs around the country. It will serve Dane County and 14 surrounding counties, Marcia said. Many residents of other counties come to Madison because they are patients at UW-Hospital, she said.

A Waunakee resident, Marcia said she spent seven years doing marketing and fund-raising for HospiceCare and afterwards Meriter Hospital.

Marcia was very young when her parents died, she said, and she felt lost and very alone.

"If I had known others with the same experience, it would have been easier for me," she said.

#### Other items:

- Waunakee has received a \$2,000 grant for the Rotary Walk, the project around the pond near the Village Center.

- Phil Willems said Rotarians are asked to join him Thursday, May 1, at 5 p.m. at Rotary Plaza to spruce up the flower garden there.

Guests: Diane Anderson, guest of Ellen Schaaf.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: May 2, Jim Jukes; May 2, Steve Schlaver.

Anniversaries: May 4, Jim and Betsy Starling; May 6, Don and

### OFFICERS

LYNNE SPIELMAN, PRESIDENT • DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT ELECT  
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY  
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

### DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

### Calendar of Events:

• District Conference, April 25-26

Joanne Tierney.

Prayers: May 1, Leonard Allen; May 8, Kim Wilde; May 15, Pat Durden.

Programs: May 1, James Chancellor's and Shelley Moffatt's classification talks and club assembly.

Greeters: April 24, Luke Tierney and Jon Townley; May 1, Bob Tucker and Jim Tubbs; May 8, Susan Vergeront and Mary Weber.

*I come from a large family, five sisters and three brothers. My sisters and I were looking through the family photo album one day. Picture after picture, we were all dressed in matching clothes. I asked my mother why she dressed us all alike, right down to the baby.*

*She explained, "When we had just four children, I dressed you alike so we wouldn't lose any of you. Then," she added, looking at the pictures in the album, "when the other five came along, I started dressing you alike so we won't pick up any that don't belong to us."*

See you next week!

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.