LISTEN/™ Dear Cancer:
2020 Teen Essay Contest

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
Gilda’s Club Twin Cities is looking for honest, personal reflections and original insights by writers 13-18 years old who demonstrate an authentic ability to move readers by sharing their cancer experience. To enter, write a creative essay about how cancer has touched your life – whether you have it, had it, or know someone who has.

ELIGIBILITY
Open to teens in middle and high school ages 13-18
Must be a Minnesota resident. Not open to previous LISTEN/Dear Cancer contest award winners.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
Middle school and high school teens impacted in the following ways:
- Teens living with cancer or survivors
- Teens who have/had a family member or friend living with cancer or who has died

For full entry rules, go to:
www.GildasClubTwinCities.org/DearCancer

AWARDS
Grand prize
Laptop valued at $1,500
* A single grand prize will be awarded, judged among all submissions

1st iPad valued at $750
2nd Gift certificate $250
* 1st & 2nd place prizes awarded in both middle school & high school categories

Contest Deadline:
December 31, 2019

Are you a teen living with cancer or a cancer survivor? Has someone you love experienced cancer? How has cancer shaped the life of someone you know?

2020 CELEBRITY JUDGES

Jana Shortal
Journalist and KARE 11 co-anchor for Breaking the News. Still wants to be a part of Destiny’s Child.

Ed Bok Lee
Poet, essayist, teacher at Metropolitan University. Works with youth, communities of color and the incarcerated.

Sarah Ahiers
Author of two critically acclaimed young adult books Assassin’s Heart and Thief’s Cunning.

Carolyn Holbrook
Writer, educator, and advocate for the healing power of the arts. 2010 MN Book Awards Kay Sexton Award winner.

Bryan Bliss
Author of three books, including We’ll Fly Away which was a 2018 Minnesota Book Award finalist.
ETHICS STATEMENT & ENTRY DETAILS
No purchase or obligation necessary. Essay submissions will be evaluated in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging process. Teens of a judge or Gilda’s Club staff are ineligible.

HOW WILL MY ESSAY BE JUDGED?
Personal Voice: Judges will look for an interesting, engaging essay told in your own words. The essay should describe your experience and an overall message about how cancer impacted your life.

Clarity and Style: Judges will look for a clear and consistent focus in your writing and a logical progression of ideas. Good grammar, accurate word choices, correct punctuation and sentence structure is required.

To enter go to: www.GildasClubTwinCities.org/DearCancer

DATES & TIMES:
October 17 from 1-3pm
November 18 from 6:30-8pm
December 9 from 6:30-8pm

COST: FREE!

SIGN UP:
GildasClubTwinCities.org,
My GCTC app,
or 612.227.2147

LOCATION:
Gilda’s Club Twin Cities
10560 Wayzata Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55305

Dear Cancer: LISTEN UP!
Interested in submitting to our essay contest but needing some inspiration or help to get started? Check out a free workshop led by writers who will help kick start your process. No judgement, no pressure, no previous writing experience necessary. All are welcome, even if this is your first time to Gilda’s Club. Simply sign up! Come to one or all sessions. Snacks provided.

Thank you to our generous funders:

Thank you to our local schools for helping your students tell their stories!