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**Cancer Support Community Los Angeles 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gilda Gala  
Honors Ken Jeong, Dr. Annette Stanton, and Bedford Breast Center  
Alonzo Bodden to Emcee**

***Comics Zoe Rogers, Tamer Kattan, Kira Soltanovich, Chris Bryant  
Featured at Gilda Gala After Hours Comedy Show***



Ken Jeong



Dr. Annette Stanton



Bedford Breast Center



Alonzo Bodden

**LOS ANGELES, CA** (September 11, 2019) – Cancer Support Community Los Angeles ([CSCLA](#)) presents the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Gilda Gala, Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the InterContinental Hotel, Century City. This special evening benefits the comprehensive free of charge services, for cancer patients and their families, that CSCLA has provided since 1982. Cocktail reception begins at 6 pm., Dinner and Gala program at 7 pm., followed by the After-Hours Comedy Show at 9:30 pm. The annual Gilda Gala is named for the late, legendary comedian Gilda Radner, an early participant and supporter of the CSCLA mission. The Cancer Support Community was founded with the belief that ***no one should face cancer alone***<sup>®</sup>.

The evening of achievement and celebration will honor award-winning actor and comedian **Ken Jeong** with the “Gilda Award: Community Champion.” UCLA Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology, **Dr. Annette Stanton**, will be presented with the “Harold H. Benjamin Innovation Award,” named for the CSCLA founder. **Bedford Breast Center of Beverly Hills** will be honored with “Gilda Award: Wellness Legacy.”

**Alonzo Bodden**, actor, comedian and regular panelist on NPR’s *Wait Wait Don’t Tell Me*, is the 2019 Gilda Gala Emcee. This year, CSCLA adds an After-Hours Comedy Show to the evening’s celebrations. Hosted by the hilarious **Zoe Rogers** and featuring comics **Kira Soltanovich**, **Chris Bryant**, **Tamer Kattan** and others, the Comedy Show will bring standup comedy to the Glass Lounge, and cocktail sipping and star gazing to the Intercontinental Garden. Also available as a separate ticket, the Comedy Show offers a late-night destination to celebrate and show support for the Gilda Gala honorees and Cancer Support Community Los Angeles.

“The power of humor and joy to lift spirits, promote wellbeing, support mental health, and buoy recovery efforts was well known by founder Dr. Harold Benjamin. One of CSCLA’s first participants, Gilda Radner, leaves a legacy of joyful living that CSCLA team never loses sight of,” said **Julia Forth, CEO, CSCLA**. “We are delighted to honor Ken Jeong, whose humor explores love, support and recovery so skillfully in his comedy special, with the *Gilda Award: Community Champion*.”

Ken Jeong, the 2019 *Gilda Award: Community Champion* honoree is an actor, producer, writer and comedian. Well known for his scene stealing abilities, Ken Jeong is one of the top comedic stars in television, movies and live appearances. Recently featured in the global movie hit, *Crazy Rich Asians*, in February 2019, Jeong returned to his stand-up roots for his first-ever hit Netflix comedy special, *Ken Jeong: You Complete Me, Ho*. Filmed at The Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena, California, where Jeong first got his start in comedy, the special reflects on how he went from being a doctor to a comedy superstar. Jeong opens up about how his wife’s courageous battle with breast cancer coincided with his star-making role in one of the biggest comedy franchises of all time, *The Hangover*. Jeong earned his medical degree at the University of North Carolina and completed his Internal Medicine residency in New Orleans, while developing his comedy. Jeong became a beloved series regular on the award winning, critically acclaimed NBC show, *Community*. Following that, he was the creator, writer, Executive Producer and star of ABC’s *Dr. Ken*. Jeong is currently familiar to many viewers as a judge on the FOX hit celebrity reality singing competition *The Masked Singer*. In 2015, Jeong directed an ESPN 30 for 30 documentary *Student Athlete*, and he also starred in and produced the Sundance award-winning film *ADVANTAGEOUS* which received an Independent Spirit Award nomination. His upcoming movie projects include *My Spy* starring Dave Bautista, and *El Tonto*, written, directed and starring Charlie Day.

“Dr. Annette Stanton’s research the psychology of cancer survivorship, and new approaches to improve and support mental health throughout their journey, embodies CSCLA’s mission to empower our community with the tools to live their best possible lives,” said Forth. “We are very honored to present the Howard H Benjamin Innovation Award to Dr Stanton, with grateful thanks for her tireless commitment to improving mental health and quality of life for cancer patients and their families.”

Dr. Annette Stanton, recipient of the *Harold H. Benjamin Innovation Award*, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at UCLA, where she also has appointments in Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, and the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control Research in the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. An author of more than 250 publications, Dr. Stanton investigates factors that promote or impede psychological and physical health in adults, with a focus on the experience of cancers of the breast, eye, pancreas, lung, and prostate. Stanton translates her findings into action by developing and testing approaches to enhance psychological and physical health over the course of the cancer trajectory. Dr. Stanton has served as President of the Society for Health Psychology of the American Psychological Association. Her research has received awards from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, the International Society of Behavioral Medicine, and the Society of Behavioral Medicine’s Cancer Special Interest Group. Professor Stanton has also received awards for her undergraduate and graduate teaching and mentoring. Funding for Dr. Stanton’s research is provided by the National Cancer Institute, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the California Breast Cancer Research Program, the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, and the American Lung Association.

“In four short years, [Bedford Breast Center](#) has emerged as a leader in breast care for women, by women. The Center’s focus on dedicated, expert, calm and emotionally supportive medical protocol illustrates the inspiration of the original Wellness Center founded in 1982, and embodies the warm, joyful optimism of Gilda Radner, who continues to inspire our community” said Forth.

Honored with the “Gilda Award: Wellness Legacy”, the Bedford Breast Center was founded in 2015, by plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Lisa Cassileth, former Chief of Plastic Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Led by Cassileth, Dr. Leslie Memsic, Dr. Heather Richardson, and Dr. Kelly Killeen, the team at Bedford Breast Center manages all breast care needs – from routine screenings, genetic testing and 3D mammography, to biopsy, lumpectomy, nipple-sparing mastectomy, and breast reconstruction surgery. Industry-leading breast reconstructive surgeons Dr. Cassileth and Dr. Kelly Killeen deliver excellent, aesthetic breast reconstruction results to patients from around the world. The dynamic team at Bedford Breast Center stay on the cutting edge of breast reconstruction techniques and state-of-the-art technology. Bedford Breast Center is dedicated to disease eradication, patient support and guidance to improve self-confidence and optimism, and beautiful aesthetic outcomes in a calming, welcoming environment.

Gilda Gala sponsorships are available at the \$25,000, \$15,000, \$10,000, \$5,000 levels and underwriting opportunities are available. Individual Gilda Gala tickets are available for \$375. After Hours Comedy Show tickets are available for \$75 and are not included in the price of individual Gala tickets. Comedy Show tickets are, however, included with purchase of a table. Program advertising opportunities range from \$250 - \$2,000. For more information, please contact Madison Shearer at [mshearer@cancersupportla.org](mailto:mshearer@cancersupportla.org) or 310.314.2563, or visit [www.Bit.Ly/19GildaGala](http://www.Bit.Ly/19GildaGala).

#### **About the Cancer Support Community Los Angeles**

CSCLA’s mission is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. Cancer Support Community Los Angeles offers 100% free of charge invaluable emotional and psychological support and healthy life-style services, including education, child and family programs and social activities. Cancer Support Community was founded in 1982 in Santa Monica, California by Dr. Harold and Harriet Benjamin as The Wellness Community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda’s Club Worldwide joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a global network of 175 locations, including CSC and Gilda’s Club centers, health-care partnerships, and satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year. The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the Institute of Medicine advocate that services provided by CSC are an integral part of quality “patient-centered” cancer care.

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