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## Chicago Cubs Chairman Thomas Ricketts to Speak at GNMAA's First Membership Breakfast

Chicago Cubs Chairman Thomas Ricketts will be the featured speaker on March 18, 2010 at GNMAA's first 2010 Membership Breakfast with Presenting Sponsor Charter One. This is one of Ricketts first presentations to a large audience since the Cubs acquisition.

NEW for 2010, two of the four membership meetings will occur at an earlier hour: breakfast! Traditionally held over the lunch hour, the 2010 Quarterly Membership Meetings will feature two breakfast meetings (March and September) and two lunch meetings (June and December).

The Membership Breakfast will be held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile on March 18 from 7:30am – 9:30am. Seats are filling up quickly, so make sure to send in your RSVP today! Last-minute reservations may not be able to be accommodated. [Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

Bio:

Thomas S. Ricketts is the Chairman and CEO of Chicago-based Incapital LLC, which he co-founded in 2000. Since its launch, Incapital LLC and its acquired entities have underwritten over \$175 billion of corporate bonds for major corporations, banks and federal agencies. Tom was named to Institutional Investor Magazine's "Online Finance 40" representing the nation's most influential people in E-finance five times. In 2009, Tom became Chairman of the Chicago Cubs after leading the Ricketts Family acquisition of the team.

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## Charter One Renews as Presenting Sponsor of 2010 GNMAA Quarterly Membership Meetings

GNMAA is pleased to announce the renewal of [Charter One](#) as Presenting Sponsor of the 2010 GNMAA Quarterly Membership Meetings. Charter One has been a valued partner and supporter of the Association, acting as the Presenting Sponsor of the Quarterly Membership Meetings in 2009. A special thank you to Board Member Stacey Reineking Sather, Senior Vice President, Director of Public Affairs and her team for their continued dedication to GNMAA! Don't miss the first Membership Meeting of 2010 with guest speaker Thomas Ricketts, Chairman of the Chicago Cubs!

## She Said YES!

A nervous Dan Hanson led his unsuspecting girlfriend, Ellen Christiansen, to the TOAST on The Magnificent Mile fireworks on February 13, 2010. Dan entered the "Pop the Question on The Magnificent Mile" after his boss at Mid-America Asset Management, Inc. forwarded him an edition of the GNMAA Weekly News featuring the contest.

Pioneer Court on Saturday evening was filled with sweethearts, friends and families alike, excited to see the Valentine's Day themed fireworks show. The winter sky was punctuated with red, pink and heart-shaped bursts, but the true "ahh" moment came when near the end of the show, a sixteen-foot custom sign created by Rocco Saliano and team of [Lumina, Inc.](#) blazed to life with the enchanting question, "Will you marry me, Ellen?" The rest was a magnificent rush – Dan on one knee, Ellen gasping, beautiful ring, tears flowing, romantic kisses, big smiles and of course, a very big "YES"!

ABC 7 Chicago and John Hale were on site to capture the surprise proposal both on film and in photograph. The story aired that Saturday evening during ABC 7's 10 o'clock news. A big thanks to Kelly Wisecarver of wkpr, Inc. for thinking up and planning the most romantic proposal The Magnificent Mile has ever seen! We also can't thank Rocco enough for his continued dedication to the Association and for going above and beyond with the custom sign for this special proposal. A special congratulations, Rocco, on your 20 years in business!

And to the stars of the show, Dan and Ellen, congratulations!

[Watch the ABC 7 story.](#)



Photographs by John Hale



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**New to The Mile**

- [The Purple Pig](#), 500 N. Michigan Avenue (Opened December 30, 2009)
- [Francesca's on Chestnut](#), 200 E. Chestnut Street (Opening February 2010)
- [Forty Carrots at Bloomingdale's](#), 900 N. Michigan Avenue (Opening February 2010)
- [Harry Caray's Tavern \(click for Tavern in Wrigleyville\)](#), Navy Pier (Opening March 1, 2010)
- [Izakaya Hapa](#), 58 E. Ontario Street (Opening February 2010)
- [Al Primo Canto](#), 749 N. Clark Street (Opening March 2010)
- [Columbia Sportswear](#), 840 N. Michigan Avenue (Opening March 2010)
- [The Art of Shaving](#), The Shops at North Bridge, 520 N. Michigan Avenue (Coming Spring 2010)
- [Hotel Palomar Chicago - A Kimpton Hotel](#), 505 N. State Street (Opening April 2010)
- [Nordstrom Rack](#), 101 E. Chicago Avenue (Opening Fall 2010)

\*New listing

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**Member News**

**Welcome to Lisa Tienken, new General Manager of American Girl Place.** Lisa is replacing Gar Crispell who has taken a position in Shanghai, China. We look forward to working with you, Lisa!

**Congratulations to The James Chicago, named to TripAdvisor's "America's Sexiest Hotels" list.** Travelers and editors appreciated the hotel's modern and sophisticated design, big boutique-style rooms and scrumptious cookies at turn-down. [See who else made the list!](#)

**Avenues and Shanghai Terrace at The Peninsula Chicago have re-opened this week after a month hiatus** so their staff could take vacations. Avenues serves dinner Tuesday - Saturday; Shanghai Terrace serves dinner Monday - Saturday (and will serve lunch during the summer months). Call (312) 337-2888 for reservations.

**Avenues restaurant at The Peninsula Chicago was reviewed this week on WTTW's "Check Please!"** Tune in this Thursday, February 18, at 10:30 pm on WTTW so view the show. Congratulations on the feature!

**The Magnificent Mile In the News:** ABC7 Chicago, KEY This Week In Chicago, Where, [www.10best.com](http://www.10best.com).

*Special accolades or member news to share? Email Melanie Mapes a [mmapes@gnmaa.com](mailto:mmapes@gnmaa.com) for inclusion in an upcoming Weekly News.*

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### BUILD YOUR BUSINESS

**Time is Running Out: Submit Your Complimentary Website Listing!**

Have you submitted your complimentary 50-word description for the NEW TheMagnificentMile.com? The new website is launching in a few short weeks – make sure your listing is positioned to take advantage of our 2.5 million annual page views. [Download website listing form.](#)

**2010 Advertising Space Almost Full!**

Don't miss your opportunity to advertise on the new TheMagnificentMile.com! Space is filling up quickly, don't miss out! [Download an advertising form now.](#)

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**GNMAA Calendar**

Don't miss these upcoming events! Register Now!

**TONIGHT!**

**February Membership Connection celebrating TOAST on The Magnificent Mile®**

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Bloomingdale's  
900 N. Michigan Avenue

Tickets:  
\$20 Member

[Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

**TOAST on The Magnificent Mile presented by Moët & Chandon**

February 1 - 28, 2009  
The Magnificent Mile District  
Champagne and celebration themed events and offers daily  
Winter Fireworks every Saturday at 6:30pm (401 N. Michigan Avenue)

[Click here for events and special offerings.](#)

**Winter Fireworks during TOAST on The Magnificent Mile®**

Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 6:30pm  
401 N. Michigan Avenue

[Click here for more information.](#)

**Annual Meeting**

Monday, February 22, 2010 at 5:30pm  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
220 E. Chicago Avenue

Tickets:  
\$65 Member (\$75 door)  
\$75 Non-member (\$85 door)

[Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

**Educational Seminar:  
Get More Clients! How to Get Your Website Found on Search Engines Naturally with Jim Grillo**

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
8:00am – 9:30am  
401 N. Michigan Avenue, Lower Level Conference Center

Tickets:  
\$30 Member  
\$40 Non-member

[Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

**NEW: March Membership Breakfast**

Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 8:00am  
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile  
540 N. Michigan Avenue

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Tickets:

\$40 Member (\$55 at door)  
\$50 Non-member (\$65 at door)  
\$1,000 VIP Table of 10

[Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

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**Save the Date!**

**2010 Annual Gala:** Friday, May 14, 2010  
The Annual Golf Outing: Monday, June 21, 2010  
June Membership Luncheon: Thursday, June 24, 2010



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## Member Special Offers

Make sure to take advantage of these special offers from fellow GNMAA members!

### \*TOAST Teasers

\***Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile:** Fall in love all over again with the Romance Package. Includes overnight accommodations, Moët for two, breakfast in the morning and 3pm late check-out.

\***Bistro 110:** Enjoy a trio of unique, hand-crafted Moët & Chandon Impérial champagne cocktails paired with three petite dessert creations from Chef Dominique!

[View all TOAST offers and events.](#)

### \*The Peninsula Spa by ESPA

The Peninsula Spa by ESPA is now offering a special, "**Nurturing Spa Day**" for \$175

- Choice of one of the following treatments: 60 minute Intensive Facial, 60 minute Aroma Therapy Massage, 60 minute Body Wrap
- Nurturing Lunch
- Use of the Facilities including accesses to the Pool and Yoga classes
- For spa reservations, please call (312) 573-6860.

### Mike Ditka's

Coach Ditka says, "There's no penalty for coming up short!" Host your event at Mike Ditka's between February 1 and April 1, 2010 (Sunday – Thursday) and **enjoy no food or beverage minimum!** [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Windy City Massage

Windy City Massage is teaching the art of touch this Valentine's Day, offering **massage training sessions for you and your Valentine**. This 75-minute, private session will teach you how to perform a 30-minute soothing and relaxing head, neck and shoulders massage. What better way to show you care! \$165 for 75 minutes. Through March 15. [Learn more.](#)

### Jeremiah F. Bransfield Computer Consultant

Did you purchase a new computer or phone? If so, you may need help! Jeremiah F. Bransfield Computer Consultant is offering **20% off services for GNMAA Members**, such as:

- File transfers from old computer to new computer (Windows or Mac)
- Lessons to use your new computer or new phone
- Configure your new phone to your e-mail account
- Assistance with general technology needs.

Don't let the hassles of new technology prevent you from using it to its fullest potential! Contact Jerry at 312-543-4427 for more information.

### Go Airport Express

Following the success of its Holiday Shuttle program, Go Airport Express has extended its **free shuttle service** for hotel guests to local destinations contingent upon the purchase of a return ticket from the hotel to O'Hare or Midway airports. The Winter Shuttle program will run through February 28 and is available from 10:00am to 10:00pm. [Learn more.](#)

## Member Events

Check out what is happening at member businesses this month!

### Master Sommelier Series

#### Gibsons Chicago

1028 N. Rush Street

Wednesday, February 17

Gibsons Chicago is hosting the second installment in their **Master Sommelier Series** on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Enjoy fine wines from Jordan Vineyard along with seven courses prepared by an all star roster of Chefs from the Gibsons Restaurant Group. \$135 per person, seats are limited! [Learn more.](#)

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**CAFamily Studio Sundays****Chicago Architecture Foundation**

224 S. Michigan Avenue

Sunday, February 21 and Sunday, March 21

Visit CAF on Sundays with your family and enjoy **CAFamily Studio Sundays**. Geared toward children ages 3-12 and their families, the event offers free activities the third Sunday of every month (February 21 and March 21). Drop in anytime between 11:00am – 3:00pm.

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**Four-Course Wine Dinner****Wildfire Chicago**

159 W. Erie Street

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Join Wildfire Chicago for an **exclusive wine dinner experience** as our Executive Chefs masterfully pair a four course meal with the wonderful wines of Hanna Winery. The event begins at 6:30pm and is priced at \$70.00 per person, plus tax and gratuity. To make a reservation or to view the menu, visit <http://wildfirerestaurant.com/wine-dinners/>.

*\*New Listing*

*Do you have a special offer or event you want members to know about? Email Melanie Mapes at [mmapes@gnmaa.com](mailto:mmapes@gnmaa.com) for inclusion in an upcoming edition of Weekly News.*



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**Just for Fun!**

**Tuesday TOAST of the Day**

Build your toast vocabulary during TOAST on The Magnificent Mile and never be caught without something toast-worthy to say. Cheers!

*Funny TOAST:*

*May the winds of fortune sail you,  
May you sail a gentle sea.  
May it always be the other guy  
who says, "this drink's on me."*

[View more TOASTS.](#)

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