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Weekly News Stories

The GNMAA Annual Meeting Recap

The Greater North Michigan Avenue Association hosted its 2009 Annual Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010, at the [Museum of Contemporary Art](#). Guests enjoyed many high points throughout the evening, including the induction of 2010 directors and officers, the announcement of the first ever Vice Chair and the featured speaker, the Honorable Richard M. Daley.

Peter Simoncelli, Chairman of the Board, welcomed guests to the meeting, recapping 2009 and sharing his vision for 2010, while Zoraida Sambolin of [NBC Chicago](#) acted as the Master of Ceremonies. GNMAA inducted twenty-one new leaders to the board of directors and five new leaders to the executive committee. This is the largest group of new officers and directors that the Association has ever seated. The GNMAA leadership also installed its first-ever Vice Chairman, Grant DePorter, president of [Harry Caray's Restaurant Group](#), for a one-year term prior to taking the role of chairman beginning in 2011.

Guests enjoyed addresses from the Honorable Brendan Reilly and the Honorable Richard M. Daley, both commending GNMAA for its "great commitment to private/public partnerships." Following the Mayor's remarks, Peter Simoncelli announced that the "Tulipa Maggie Daley", the very first tulip christened in honor of a city's first lady, will bloom this spring exclusively on The Magnificent Mile, presenting the Mayor with a pot of blooming, pink tulips to signify the coming occasion.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of the GNMAA Member Recognition Awards, recognizing GNMAA members and businesses that have made extraordinary contributions to the Association and The Magnificent Mile experience. Congratulations to [Charter One](#) (Corporate Member Award), Chicago Riverwalk Project (Development of the Year Award), [John Hancock Center](#) and [John Hancock Observatory](#) (Business Impact of the Year Award), Grant DePorter of [Harry Caray's Restaurant Group](#) (Individual Member Service Award) and [ABC7 Chicago](#) (Chairman's Choice Award). ABC7, NBC Chicago and CBS 2 were all in attendance, highlighting portions of the meeting both in their broadcasts and online. The evening concluded with networking amidst the museum's fine collections.

Congratulations to the GNMAA Member Award Winners!

GNMAA presented Member Recognition Awards to five members and individuals that made extraordinary contributions to the Association and The Magnificent Mile experience in 2009. The categories include Corporate Member Award, Development of the Year Award, Business Impact of the Year Award, Individual Member Service Award and Chairman's Choice Award.

Corporate Member Award: [Charter One](#)

The Corporate Member Award is presented to a business that has contributed significant resources to GNMAA and Chicago's Magnificent Mile. Charter One has supported GNMAA in many ways; the most notable is acting as the first presenting sponsor of the GNMAA Quarterly Membership Meetings in 2009 and again in 2010. Charter One is also a past sponsor of the Annual Gala. Through Board member, Stacey Sather, Charter One has also participated in the strategic development of the Association through the work on the governance task force and the nominations committee. We look forward to the continued participation of Charter One and thank them for their enthusiasm and for directly impacting the success of our efforts and initiatives.

Development of the Year Award: [Chicago Riverwalk Project](#)

The Development of the Year Award is presented to a real estate development or renovation that contributes to the growth of the area while preserving the qualities of The Magnificent Mile and the surrounding area. Blair Kamens, the Chicago Tribune architecture critic, summarized The Chicago Riverwalk as "an audacious dream about to take a big step forward. In simple terms, the walkway was built 17-20 feet out into the river to create a new shoreline. Crews installed sheet piling down to the river floor, drained the water from the newly created channel, and filled the area in with stone and concrete." This new addition will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, while also creating a unique extension of The Magnificent Mile.

Business Impact of the Year Award: [John Hancock Center](#) and [John Hancock Observatory](#)

The Business Impact of the Year Award is presented to a new or existing business that demonstrates innovative business ideas. The business must contribute significantly to the enhancement and/or recognition of the Magnificent Mile Neighborhood. Towering over us all, the John Hancock Center is one of our great architectural treasures. The leaders that own and manage the building and its Observatory, Lee Golub and Daniel Thomas, have done an outstanding job creating renewed experiences for both the residents and visitors of The Magnificent Mile. Surrounded by popular shops and restaurants, the John Hancock Center offers innovative seasonal programming upon the plaza and exciting options atop this famous skyscraper. The Observatory is also a member of the World Federation of Towers and has a global marketing focus – maximizing its reach to share the message of our destination with the

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world.

Individual Member Service Award: Grant DePorter of [Harry Caray's Restaurant Group](#)

The Individual Member Service Award is presented to an individual that demonstrates exceptional volunteer service to GNMAA. Grant is a great leader that makes sure GNMAA is aware of the business community at large. He shares thoughtful insights of the political realm within and outside GNMAA. He has hosted countless events at Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse, has chaired The Magnificent Mile Lights Festival and is chair of the Advocacy Committee. He has co-chaired the Marketing Division, The Magnificent Mile Crystal Carnival and is currently Vice Chair of the Gala Committee. He helped secure John McDonough, Bill Kurtis and Tom Ricketts as speakers for the quarterly membership meetings. He has also connected GNMAA to significant sponsor opportunities that have resulted in positive outcomes.

Chairman's Choice Award: [ABC7 Chicago](#)

The Chairman's Choice Award is selected by GNMAA's Chairman, Peter Simoncelli. From Emily Barr, ABC7's General Manager, to Chris Reller and the wonderful on-air personalities, sales teams, producers and more, each and every person at the station has demonstrated that they support GNMAA's mission to spread the word about The Magnificent Mile and its district. This partnership has taken The Magnificent Mile Lights Festival presented by Harris out to the rest of the country with a nationally syndicated, high-quality broadcast. GNMAA's relationship with ABC7 has expanded to year round support, including the new Walgreens Summer Concert Series that debuted last year with the help of 101.9fm THE MIX. ABC7 is the Chairman's Choice due to their high level of engagement with GNMAA and utter dedication to the Association's success.

Thank you and congratulations to all the deserving award recipients!

The 2009 Annual Report Goes Digital

GNMAA is committed to communicating effectively with members, while sensibly managing costs and practicing green behaviors. The 2009 Annual Report has been designed for easy download from the GNMAA website by [clicking here](#). The Annual Report will not be mailed out, but if you would like to request a hard copy of the report, please contact Megan Williams at 312-642-3570 or mwilliams@gnmaa.com.

GNMAA would like to extend a big thank you to the members involved in the production of this piece, including [At Last Marketing](#) for their talent, clean design and endless attention in this process, and [IDM Group](#) for their timely production and delivery of a high quality piece. Your commitment to the Association is greatly valued and appreciated!

Governor's Conference Recap

Missed the Governor's Conference last week? Tim O'Malley and his team at Concierge Preferred have put together a comprehensible recap of the conference on their [Chicago Hospitality Insider \(chi blog\)](#). Thank you, Tim, for this fantastic resource!

2008 Economic Impact Report of Illinois International Tourism

The [Illinois Bureau of Tourism](#) shared details on the 2008 economic impact of Illinois International Tourism at the Illinois Governor's Conference, highlighting the following figures:

- Travel expenditures of international visitors reached \$2.4 billion in 2008, an increase of 21.0%
- Chicago welcomed 1,368,000 overseas visitors, an increase of 19% and is the 9th most popular US city for overseas visitors
- Top three overseas countries for 2008 inbound travelers: United Kingdom, Japan and Germany

[Click here for more Illinois travel stats and figures.](#)

Contact Your Senators Today and Urge their Support for the Travel Promotion Act

The United States government is on the verge of passing the Travel Promotion Act, a landmark legislation which will for the first time create a public-private partnership to promote travel to the United States. On behalf of the U.S. Travel Association, we urge you to contact your Senators so when the bill is brought to the floor, they are ready to support it! [Read More](#).



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New to The Mile

- [Francesca's on Chestnut](#), 200 E. Chestnut Street (Opening February 2010)
- [Izakaya Hapa](#), 58 E. Ontario Street (Opened 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)
- *M Burger - part of [Tru Restaurant](#) at 676 N. St. Clair Street (Opening March 11, 2010)
(Here's the scoop: Tru Restaurant is opening a new carry out counter for hamburgers. The new addition will feature limited indoor seating, outdoor tables and low prices, plus "a few cute surprises" says Rich Melman, head of Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises.)
- [Columbia Sportswear](#), 840 N. Michigan Avenue (Opening March 12, 2010)
- *[Leonidas](#), 59 E. Chicago Avenue (Opening March 2010)
- [Al Primo Canto](#), 749 N. Clark Street (Opening March 2010)
- [Hotel Palomar Chicago - A Kimpton Hotel](#), 505 N. State Street (Opening April 2010)
- [The Art of Shaving](#), The Shops at North Bridge, 520 N. Michigan Avenue (Coming Spring 2010)
- [Nordstrom Rack](#), 101 E. Chicago Avenue (Opening Fall 2010)

*New listing

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Member News

Congratulations to Holly Agra of [Chicago's First Lady Cruises](#) who has been appointed to the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. The board provides counsel to the Commerce Secretary on government policies and programs that affect the U.S. travel and tourism industry. [Read More.](#)

The following GNMAA restaurants have been named as semifinalists for the 2010 James Beard Awards: [Les Nomades](#) (Outstanding Restaurant and Chris Nugent, Best Chef: Great Lakes), [Spiaggia](#) (Outstanding Restaurant and Outstanding Service), [NoMi](#) (Outstanding Wine Service), [Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises](#) (Alpana Singh, Outstanding Wine and Spirits Professional), [Avenues at the Peninsula](#) (Curtis Duffy, Best Chef: Great Lakes). Congratulations to all on your nomination!

At the recent Chicago Loop Alliance Annual Meeting, the following GNMAA members were elected to leadership roles: Lou Raizin of [Broadway in Chicago](#) (Chairman); Fran Casey of [DePaul University](#) (2nd Vice Chairman); James Doria of [InterPark](#) (Assistant Treasurer); Jennifer Pfeiffer of [The Sutton Place Hotel](#) (Secretary); Mary Ellen Smith of [Golub & Company](#) (Assistant Secretary); and Stanley Nitzberg of [Mid-America Real Estate Corp.](#), Lynn Osmond of [Chicago Architecture Foundation](#), Carrie Heinonen of [Art Institute of Chicago](#), Ralph Hughes of [Macy's](#), Martin Stern of [U.S. Equities](#), John Wozniak of [Harold Washington College](#) (Board of Directors). Congratulations to all, continuing to work together to create a vibrant destination for domestic and international visitors!

Congratulations to Joel Morales who recently launched his own company, [Ext. 45](#), specializing in marketing, branding, public relations, strategic alliances, creative, web development/optimization, and event management. Best wishes in this exciting venture!

Kudos to the Wrigley Building and Colliers Bennett & Kahnweiler for their partnership with Rotary International's, using their building as the canvas for a distinct lighting a display for the "End Polio Now" campaign. [Read more, as highlighted in the Chicago Tribune.](#)

Special accolades or member news to share? Email Melanie Mapes a mmapes@gnmaa.com for inclusion in an upcoming Weekly News.

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BUILD YOUR BUSINESS

“Culture on The Magnificent Mile” 2010 Press Kit

GNMAA's PR team, wkpr, LLC, is developing a 2010 press kit themed “Culture on The Magnificent Mile”. We need your help! Please submit any of your cultural and/or art packages, special offers and events for 2010 on or before March 12, 2010 to Melanie Mapes at mmapes@gnmaa.com. Questions? Contact Melanie at the email above or 312-344-2317.

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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Member Special Offers

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

This is the last week for TOAST on The Magnificent Mile! Support member businesses and finish February strong with some magnificent TOAST offers and events!

[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.](#)

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Member Events

Check out what is happening at member businesses this month!

***Jake Melnick's Corner Tap**

Chicago WingFest

*Bailey Auditorium, 1340 W. Washington Street
Sunday, February 28, from 1:00 – 6:00pm*

Support Jake Melnick's Corner Tap at the 11th Annual "WingFest" on Sunday, February 28, 2010. Twenty of Chicagoland's wing-slinging restaurants will gather together to help raise funding for local and national charities, as well as compete for the title of Best Wings in Chicago.

***The Shops at North Bridge**

Meet the Oscars

520 N. Michigan Avenue
Thursday, February 25 – Sunday, March 7

The Shops at North Bridge will offer Oscar fans in Chicago the first glimpse of the actual Oscar statuette to be presented to the Best Actor winner at the 82nd Academy Awards® on Sunday, March 7, 2010. The statuette appearance is part of "Meet the Oscars®, Chicago." [Read More.](#)

***Water Tower Place**

Pick Your Purse

845 N. Michigan Avenue
Monday, March 1 – Friday, March 26

Water Tower Place has partnered with Northbrook Court, Oakbrook Center and FRESH 105.9 FM to give away 21 FREE purses valued at \$500 or more! "Winning a bag only requires listeners to register online and then call FRESH 105.9 FM within 60 minutes of their name being selected," says Katie Lindsay, marketing manager for Water Tower Place. [Learn More.](#)

Newberry Library

The Play's the Thing: 400 Years of Shakespeare on Stage

60 W. Walton Street
February 16 - May 1, 2010

Explore a surprising variety of materials created by professional and amateur actors, producers, theaters, and newspapers to produce and publicize **the latest Shakespearean creations**. Broadside advertisements, homemade programs, a nineteenth-century fundraising show book, and a hand-made manuscript prompt book from the early nineteenth century are just some of the objects on display. Admission is free!

Chicago Architecture Foundation

CAFamily Studio Sundays

224 S. Michigan Avenue
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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GNMAA Calendar

Don't miss these upcoming events! Register Now!

LAST WEEK!

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.](#)

LAST SHOW!

Winter Fireworks during TOAST on The Magnificent Mile

Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 6:30pm

401 N. Michigan Avenue

[Click here for more information.](#)

Dining and Nightlife Council:

Social Media: How to Approach Social Media Outlets to Position your Brand

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Lux Bar, 18 E. Bellevue Place

Tickets:

Members: Complimentary

Non-members: \$20

[Download the invitation.](#)

Contact Roz Hecim at 312-344-2313 or rhecim@gnmaa.com 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

7:30am Reception; 8:00am Breakfast Meeting

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

540 N. Michigan Avenue

Tickets:

\$40 Member (\$50 at door)

\$55 Non-member (\$65 at door)

\$1,000 Premium Table of 10

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

Save the Date!

Meritage on The Magnificent Mile - A Food and Wine Event: Thursday, April 15, 2010

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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Just for Fun!

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!

Irish TOASTs:

*May you get all your wishes but one
So you always have something to strive for.*

*May the leprechauns be near you,
To spread good luck along your way.
And may all the Irish angels,
Smile upon you St. Patrick's Day.*

*Merry met, and merry part,
I drink to thee with all my heart.*

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New Members

NEW MEMBERS

UGG Australia

Edward Durham, Store Manager
(312) 255-1280

www.uggaustralia.com

Specialty Retail

Pictura Graphics

Ray Krusinski, Vice President
(708) 236-1747

www.picturagraphics.com

Printing & Graphic Design

Columbia Sportswear

Jen Matthews, Store Manager
OPENING MARCH 2010

www.columbia.com

Men's & Women's Apparel

Holabird & Root

Michelle Dremmer, Director of Interiors
(312) 357-1771

www.holabird.com

Architecture Firm

Extreme Organizing, Inc.

Karyn Madorin, President
(312) 832-1690

www.extremeorganizing.com

Home and office organizing

February Anniversaries

Celebrating 57 years!

Commonwealth Edison Co. External Affairs/Large Customer Services
Newberry Library
229 E. Lake Shore Drive Building Tole Management LLC

48 years

The Eli's Cheesecake Company

40 years

The Raffaello Hotel

36 years

Affinia Chicago Hotel

27 years

Friedman Properties Ltd.

25 years

Cartier Inc.

19 years

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers

18 years

The Care Of Trees

17 years

Keep Chicago/Illinois Beautiful
Spiaggia/Levy Restaurants

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Feb 25, 2010

[Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting](#)

Cafe Spiaggia
Jake Melnick's Corner Tap
Bistro 110
Levy Restaurants
Walgreens

16 years

Hoerr Schaudt Landscape
Architecture, Inc.

15 years

Hammerschlag & Co., Inc.
League of Chicago Theatres

14 years

Clune Construction
Modern Luxury Inc.
Baum Realty Group, Inc.

12 years

Hampton Inn & Suites - Chicago Downtown

10 years

142 East Ontario Building - The John Buck Company

Nine years

Fairfield Inn & Suites/First
Hospitality Group

Eight years

Attorney Louis R. Fine
Comfort Inn & Suites Downtown

Six years

SRV Network, Inc.

Five years

Ricoh Business Systems
Anne Fontaine
Romano Special Printing Inc.

Four years

Russian Pointe Dance Boutique
National Graphx & Imaging

Three years

Great Events, Inc.
Midwest Living Magazine
Momentum

Two years

Interviewing Consultants, Inc.

One year

150 E. Huron Building U.S. Equities Realty, LLC.
Gensler
Chiropractic Care Millennium Park
UGL Unicco
The Enterprising Kitchen



Contact Us

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