



GNMAA Bi-Weekly News

May 5, 2011

## Letter from the Chairman



Dear Members,

*Thank You. Thank You* to everyone who helped make last Friday's GNMAA Gala at Swissôtel Chicago a sold-out success. *Thank You* to Lee Golub and the Gala Committee, to the presenting sponsor John Hancock Observatory, to the magnificent partners who made this elegant event a reality and to everyone who attended.

On behalf of GNMAA, I'd also like to say *Thank You* to Mayor Daley. We thank him for all he has done for Chicago and our district. Over the last 22 years he has accomplished a great deal for the City and for the 42nd Ward in particular. His efforts have improved our community through beautification, tourism development and enhanced cultural and educational experiences, among many others. Thanks to these initiatives, the 42nd Ward represents many of the best amenities Chicago has to offer - Navy Pier redevelopment, Lakefront redevelopment and bike trail, Museum Campus, Millennium Park and our cultural attractions and their expansions.

Mayor Daley also recognized the importance of Chicago being represented on the international stage. His recent efforts to promote Chicago through large scale events included the Annual Magnificent Mile Lights Festival presented by Harris, Oprah's filming on Michigan Avenue and the filming of Transformers 3. All impactful activities that put Chicago in the world spotlight.

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## Calendar

### [The May Membership Connection](#)

Tuesday, May 10, 2011  
Moe's Cantina

### [Professional Development Series](#)

Wednesday, May 18, 2011  
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza

### [Progressive Networking Event](#)

Tuesday, May 24, 2011  
The Allerton Hotel Chicago

### [Annual Golf Outing](#)

Monday, June 20, 2011  
Bolingbrook Golf Course

### [Save the Date!](#)

June Membership Connection: Thursday, June 2, 2011, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

June Membership Luncheon, Presenting Sponsor Charter One: Thursday, June 16, 2011, at Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers

## May New Members

### Active Transportation Alliance

Julia Kim, Open Streets Manager  
9 W. Hubbard Street  
(312) 427-3325

[www.activetrans.org](http://www.activetrans.org)

Finally, *Thank You* to Mayor Daley for allowing North Michigan Avenue to represent our city's motto *Urbs in Orto*, "A city in a garden." Michigan Avenue continues to be recognized around the world for its beautiful streetscape; a streetscape that would not be the same without the addition of the beautiful median gardens. Mayor Daley's lifelong passion and dedication has undeniably made a positive impact on our City and our future. For this, the words *Thank You* do not seem strong enough. We are grateful to have had a leader of such strength, fortitude and sincerity to lead our city to where it is today, and as we prepare to welcome Rahm Emanuel, GNMAA is committed to build upon this great tradition. For all that Mayor Daley has done and will continue to do, we are sincerely and forever grateful.

*Grant DePorter*  
*Chairman of the Board*

## Speed Dating for Businesses



GNMAA's Progressive Networking Event brings members together for a morning of "speed networking". This event is specifically intended for those responsible for developing strategic partnerships, business growth and sales. Do not miss the chance to explore business opportunities and form new partnerships. Tuesday, May 24 from 8:00am - 9:30am at [The Allerton Hotel Chicago](#). [Download an RSVP form](#). [Click here](#) to RSVP online.

## Spring Has Sprung: Tulips, Floral Mural and Spring Special Offers



The chilly spring weather has given the tulips on the Avenue a later start than usual, but just a couple more days of sunshine and the Avenue will be bursting with color as the beautiful tulips officially signify spring's arrival to Chicago. To celebrate this grand welcoming of spring, [Landscape Concepts Management, Inc.](#), is installing a color-rich floral mural depicting an abstract representation of The Magnificent Mile district in the lower level of the John Hancock Center

Plaza.

The mural will be unveiled Thursday afternoon, May 5, just in time for Mother's Day weekend, and will remain in the plaza for approximately one week. In addition, special spring offers will entice visitors to Magnificent Mile hotels, restaurants, spas, retail shops and attractions throughout the month of May. Click through to see the spring special offers! (Don't see your business listed? Email your special offers and events happening in the month of May to Matt

Non-profit

### **Bombay Spice**

Amy Pokrass, Private Dining  
Manager  
111 W. Illinois Street  
(414) 732-9321 [www.bombayspice.com](http://www.bombayspice.com)  
Indian Restaurant

### **Chick-fil-A Loyola Water Tower**

Lauren Silich, Owner  
30 E. Chicago Avenue  
(312) 266-8888  
[www.cfawatertower.com](http://www.cfawatertower.com)  
Quick Bites Restaurant

### **Chicago Beverage Systems L.L.C.**

Mary Lou Polcyn, Director of Customer  
Service  
441 N. Kilbourn Avenue  
(773) 826-4100  
[www.revesholdings.com/  
chicago.html](http://www.revesholdings.com/chicago.html)  
Distribution/Sales

### **Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.**

Caroline Shoenberger,  
Supervising Attorney  
1914 S. Ashland  
(312) 226-2669  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)  
Law Firm

### **Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown Lakefront Hotel**

Syed Hasan, General Manager  
511 N. Columbus Drive  
(312) 836-5900  
[www.chicagoembassy.com](http://www.chicagoembassy.com)  
Hotel

### **Go Roma!**

Landon Heck,  
Catering Sales Manager  
848 N. State Street  
(312) 252-9946  
[www.qoroma.net](http://www.qoroma.net)  
Italian Restaurant

### **Mario Tricoci Salon and Day Spa**

Amanda Schmiede,  
General Manager  
900 N. Michigan Avenue  
(312) 475-7001  
[www.tricoci.com/](http://www.tricoci.com/)  
Beauty Salon

### **MetroLaunch**

Hilary Branch, President  
(312) 878-7728  
[www.metrolaunch.com](http://www.metrolaunch.com)  
Relocation Service

### **Nakamol Design**

Clay Sussman, President  
342 N. Michigan Avenue  
(312) 649-9146  
[www.nakamolchicago.com](http://www.nakamolchicago.com)  
Jewelry

### **Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel**

Fred Khoury,  
Director of Sales & Marketing  
225 N. Columbus Drive  
(312) 565-5258

DiNello, Marketing Intern, at [mdinello@gnmaa.com](mailto:mdinello@gnmaa.com) for inclusion on the website.)

*Image: Landscape Concepts Management, Inc. installing the Floral Mural at John Hancock Center Plaza*

## Enter for Your Chance to Win a Trip to Paris!



Support [The Magnificent Mile Charitable Foundation](#) by [purchasing tickets](#) for their upcoming raffle! The featured grand prize is a trip to Paris with travel compliments of [American Airlines](#) and accommodations provided by [Hilton Worldwide](#). Tickets are \$25 each or \$100 for five tickets. Winners will be drawn at the June 16 Membership Luncheon. [Click here](#) to see more great prizes including a sports package, luxury package and shopping

sprees!

## Do Not Miss New York Times Best Selling Author Stedman Graham



Discover how to organize your personal and professional life based on your identity at the [May Professional Development Series "Nine Step Success Process"](#) with special guest speaker Stedman Graham. Wednesday, May 18 from 8:00am - 9:30am at the [Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza](#). [RSVP today!](#)

## In-Fashion Media Partner *Chicago Magazine* Takes "Front Row Seat" with Fashion

[Chicago magazine](#) is pleased to be the official media partner of In-Fashion: The Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival, debuting August 26 - September 8, 2011. *Chicago* magazine is the largest city monthly magazine in the country, outreaching every other national and regional publication in Chicagoland. Produced by the city's best magazine editors and writers, *Chicago* magazine offers an award-winning combination of smart service journalism and provocative narrative stories, knit together with a colorful and elegant design. Taking a front row seat with fashion, *Chicago* magazine now offers expanded coverage catering to the city's most fashion-forward readers more than ever before.

*Chicago* magazine is unraveling the most lavish fabrics, admirable colors, and avant-garde silhouettes in four of the

[www.radissonblu.com/aquahotel-chicago](http://www.radissonblu.com/aquahotel-chicago)  
Hotel

**Roka Akor**  
Amy Pokrass, Private Dining Manager  
111 W. Illinois Street  
(414) 732-9321  
[www.rokaakor.com](http://www.rokaakor.com)  
Steak and Seafood Restaurant

**Room 509**  
Valerie Russell, Graphic Designer  
(312) 375-2471  
[www.room509.com](http://www.room509.com)  
Graphic Design

## May Member Anniversaries

Celebrating 57 years!  
Woman's Athletic Club

23 years  
Hyatt Regency Chicago  
Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park

22 years  
Garrett Popcorn Shops

20 years  
Chicago Place  
Embassy Suites Hotel Chicago - Downtown  
Where

19 years  
Driehaus Capital Management LLC  
Lester Lampert Inc.

18 years  
ABM Janitorial  
Harry Caray's Restaurant Group  
Lawson House YMCA

17 years  
Hard Rock Cafe  
O'Brien's Restaurant

16 years  
Paul Stuart  
Mesirow Financial  
The Building Group, Inc.

15 years  
Burberry  
Hermes

13 years  
Smith & Wollensky  
Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc.

12 years  
Radio Disney/AM 1300  
Burnham Nationwide  
Homewood Suites By Hilton - Chicago

10 years  
NORDSTROM Michigan Avenue  
Healy Construction Services, Inc.  
CBS Outdoor  
The Leading Hotels of the World

Four years  
Consulate General of the Czech Republic



most important months of fashion-  
March, May, September and  
November. With dramatic stories and  
regular coverage of health care,  
fashion, Midwest travel, entertainment,  
home design, nightlife, and other  
consumer-related subjects, *Chicago*  
magazine continues to be a premier  
resource for residents and visitors  
alike.

Old Plank Antiques on Huron

Three years

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar  
Fresh Market At Fairbanks  
Prentice Women's Hospital  
Softline Studios, LLC

Two years

The ABL Group  
Intrax International Institute

One year

Cimaglia Productions, Inc.  
TeleCascade  
FreshBerry  
Maggiano's Little Italy  
Women-Eye Inc  
Francesca's on Chestnut  
BMS Cat  
Chicago Coffees & Teas  
YBar

## Spring Beautification Walk Surveys Avenue



On Wednesday, May 4th,  
members of the Planning and  
Advocacy Division's Public  
Way Committee took part in  
the Spring Beautification Walk  
along Michigan Avenue judging  
properties on the quality of  
plantings, tree conditions and  
overall presentation of the  
natural environments that  
shape visitors' everyday stroll

down the Avenue. This year's snow packed winter and cool  
spring weather have temporary delayed the Avenue from  
showing off its truest spring colors, but the walk showed  
promise of what is sure to be another beautiful spring on  
The Magnificent Mile.

GNMAA's Spring Beautification Walk is part of a series of  
seasonal walks, including spring, summer, fall and winter  
(new season added for 2011). At the completion of the  
Beautification Walk Series, exceptional properties will be  
awarded for their contribution to enhancing and maintaining  
the world class environment of Michigan Avenue.

*Image: Members of the Planning and Advocacy's Public Way Committee*

## Neighborhood News

### From Alderman Reilly's 42nd Ward Update:

*Alderman Reilly Opposes "Mini-Walmart" at Franklin Street  
and Chicago Avenue*

As reported in Crain's Chicago Business, Walmart has  
expressed interest in opening a new store in the 42nd Ward  
at Franklin Street and Chicago Avenue. Alderman Reilly is  
opposed to opening a "Mini-Walmart" at this location and  
has informed the company of his opposition. Alderman  
Reilly's opposition is based on his concerns regarding traffic

impacts, lack of parking storage and its proximity to important (and busy) CTA bus lanes and stops. [Read More.](#)

#### *New Texting Option Now Available to Provide Information for Chicago Residents*

The City of Chicago's 311 City Services and the Department of Innovative Technology (DoIT) are employing the latest in technology to provide Chicago residents and visitors with answers to commonly asked questions. Now, requests for information can be delivered via text message - without placing a phone call. [Read More.](#)

#### **Get Ready for National Travel and Tourism Week**

*Roger Dow via the U.S. Travel Association*

National Travel and Tourism Week is coming May 7 - 15, 2011. Use this week to leave no doubt in the minds of elected officials and community leaders that travel is more than just fun by doing the following three things... [Learn More.](#)

#### **Street Closures and Construction Updates**

[Children's Memorial Hospital Update: May, 2011](#)

[Northbound Michigan Avenue Lane Closures: May 4 - 6, 2011](#)

#### **New to The Mile**

[Union Sushi + Barbeque Bar](#), 230 W. Erie Street (*Opening week of May 9, 2011*)

[See who else is coming to The Magnificent Mile neighborhood!](#)

#### **Member News**

The [Chicago Architecture Foundation](#) is pleased to announce their newest initiative **October 14-16, 2011, [openhousechicago 2011](#)**. The event will be a culmination of free, "behind-the-scenes" experiences to 150 of Chicago's most interesting places and spaces in a dozen different communities, representing a rich cross section of styles and uses.

[Clarence Davids & Company](#) is celebrating their **[60th anniversary of being in business](#)**. Since the start of business in 1951, Clarence Davids & Company has grown from a landscape company with one truck and the simple goal of providing top-quality workmanship with cost-effective service into a full-service company offering landscape design, installation and management services throughout the Chicagoland area. Congratulations!

The [Executives' Club of Chicago's](#) Real Estate Committee would like to invite **GNMAA Members to a special breakfast: On the Brink as a World Class Convention Destination** at The Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park on Friday, June 3. A distinguished panel will examine what it takes for a city to thrive as a top

competitor for convention business. To register call (312) 263-3500 ext. 10 or [click here](#) (receive a 10% discount as a member of GNMAA.)

**Congratulations to Tony Abruscato as he leads [Flower Show Productions, Inc.](#)** in the acquisition of ownership of the [Chicago Flower & Garden Show](#). Flower Show Productions, Inc. is cultivating the Chicago Flower & Garden Show to have a year-round focus, which means more flowers, more inspiration, more education, more events and more everything!

**[Hotel Cass - a Holiday Inn Express at Magnificent Mile \(640 N. Wabash Avenue\)](#) would like to announce the completion of a half-million dollar refurbishment.** Updates focused on a new fitness room, corridors and guest rooms, plus new carpeting throughout the hotel. The 174-room hotel also upgraded the work spaces in each guest room with granite desktops and leather ergonomic chairs.

Chicago's [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#) was awarded the coveted [2011 Tony Award for Excellence in Regional Theatre](#). The award acknowledges the dedication of Lookingglass to a common theatrical vision of strong storytelling, physical theatre, literary pedigree and collaborative process. Lookingglass will receive its Tony Award during a live ceremony on Sunday, June 12, from the Beacon Theatre in New York, telecast on CBS. Congratulations on this honor!

**NBC News and [NBC Chicago](#) are hosting the national "Education Nation on the Road" spring tour in Chicago at Pioneer Court (401 N. Michigan Avenue) through Saturday, May 7.** Education Nation will provide a week of special programming and will use video and interactive elements to give visitors a glimpse at how students in their community and across America are preparing to compete in the 21st Century workforce, highlight strategies and opportunities for improving student achievement and encourage the public to participate in making the U.S. an "Education Nation."

**The [Spirit of Chicago](#) will soon unveil an exciting, one million-dollar renovation.** Completed just in time for the 2011 spring season, Spirit of Chicago's renovation will feature a completely new look with updated décor and design. Delivering a unique combination of dining, dancing, entertainment and spectacular views for parties of two to 600, the 192-ft. ship sails year-round.

**N.I.C.E. Chicago has honored [Tamar Productions, Inc.](#) for their work on GNMAA's 2010 Gala "Rock the Mile in Style"** with the award for Best Theme Décor for a Budget of \$20,000 to \$50,000. The N.I.C.E. Awards were established to recognize Chicago area members of NACE (National Association of Catering Executives) and ISES (International Special Events Society) for their accomplishments within the special events industry. The joint awards ceremony celebrates achievements in the areas of event planning,

catering, entertainment, creative and support services.

## **Member Special Events and Offers**

- *May 16 - 19*: Enjoy wine and steak pairings at Harry Caray's Italian Restaurant during Steak Week. [Learn More](#).
- *May 29*: Bike The Drive and save with a GNMAA exclusive coupon code. [Learn More](#).
- *Tulips on The Magnificent Mile Promotion, May 1 - 31*: Celebrate your birthday, anniversary or any occasion this spring with a personalized package at the Swissôtel . [Learn More](#).
- *Tulips on The Magnificent Mile Promotion, May 1 - 31*: Enjoy "Film and Fondue" at The Drake Hotel with a special viewing of *Chocolat*. [Learn More](#).

[Click here to view these member special offers and events, plus more!](#)

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