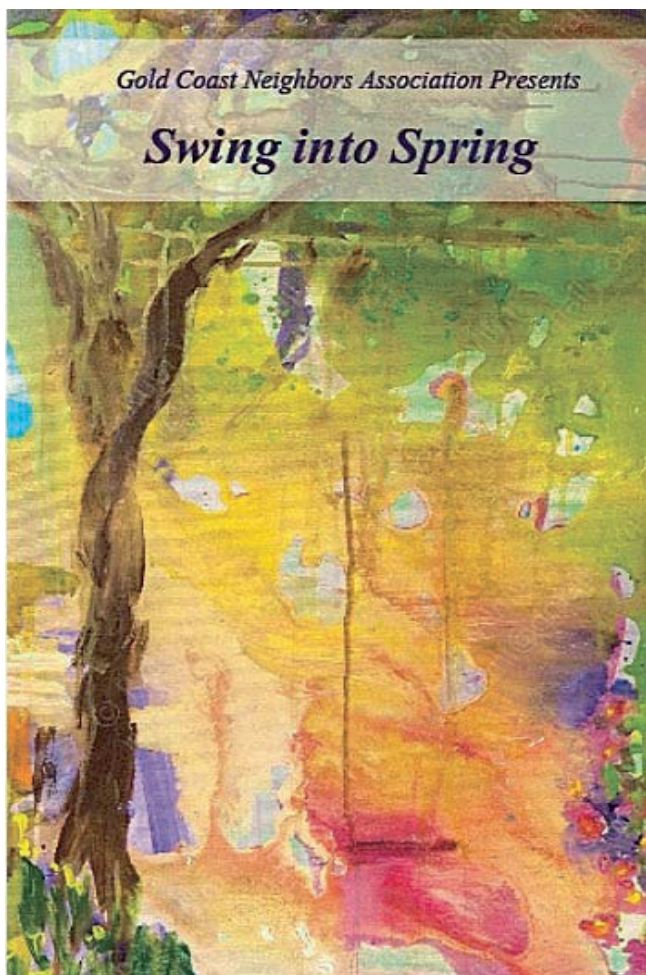


# Gold Coast Neighbors Association



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

Spring 2011



**Save the Date! May 11, 2011**

***“Swing into Spring” at this year’s themed Gold Coast Neighbors Spring Event!***

Come and celebrate our commitment to preserving our neighborhood’s architectural heritage. Don’t miss our live auction featuring a trip to Pristine Bay Resort in Roatan, Honduras and more. Take a chance on our exciting raffle - A helicopter trip of Chicago, with limo service and dinner at Fred’s Restaurant.

Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and live music, all to be held at the historic Racquet Club of Chicago located at 1365 North Dearborn from 6-9 p.m.

Bring your friends, meet your neighbors, have some fun, leave with something special, and celebrate spring!

Event Tickets \$80 members, \$100 non-members.  
Raffle Tickets \$50 for one, \$90 for two.

For further details visit our website [www.goldcoastneighbors.org](http://www.goldcoastneighbors.org) or call our 2011 Spring Event Chair Gabrielle Weisberg (312-420-1762) or our Executive Director Kim Klein (312-332-6122).

**Gold Coast Neighbors’ mission is to build a sense of community and enhance our quality of life by**

- advocating on behalf of our members
- serving as a forum for community issues
- fostering a sense of belonging among our neighbors
- and promoting safety, preservation and beautification.

## Gold Coast Neighbors Association

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✉ info@goldcoastneighbors.org

🌐 [www.goldcoastneighbors.org](http://www.goldcoastneighbors.org)

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Tom Thilman

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Vern Broders

### VICE PRESIDENT

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### VICE PRESIDENT

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Kim Klein

## Bill Staples elected to Emeritus status



William L. Staples

His face could easily remind you of that favorite uncle whom everyone loves and admires. His demeanor is that of a person on the mission of a lifetime, and his repertoire of service speaks to this. Bill Staples has engaged in this mission for the past three decades through neighborhood based organizations including the Near North Preservation Coalition, the Green Lake Conservancy Foundation, the 1540 Lake Shore Drive Co-Op, and Columbia College's Museum of Contemporary Photography. Their diversity reflects his passions and commitment. After 26 years of service to the Gold Coast Neighbors Association we might say, mission accomplished.

Bill Staples moved into the Gold Coast neighborhood with his wife Margie decades ago and has not missed an air show since. The Gold Coast was a natural choice for Bill and Margie as they are avid dog-lovers with a special love for Lakeland Terriers and their newest addition "Heather." Their summer home on Green Lake, WI has become a quiet retreat from the city, where they enjoy their boat and the intellectually challenging entertainment of Par puzzles.

In the 1980's, Bill was pursued by the neighborhood's social advocate, Mary Lou Maher, who recruited him to be a voice for the zoning issues of concern. He joined the Gold Coast Neighbors Association as director in 1985 after a high-rise threatened to block precious views and diminish the quality of life for many neighbors. Consequently, in the early nineties, Bill labored to collect 2,000 petitions and approached the courts asking for "no more high-rises" in the Gold Coast. The results have been profound as 1418 Lake Shore Drive is the last building to touch the skies over the Gold Coast. It should come as no surprise that Bill's energy and focus led to his natural leadership of GCNA as president from 1997-2000.

(continued on next page)

## Bill Staples elected to Emeritus status (continued)

Since then, Bill Staples has worked on many other zoning issues, all focused on providing a safer neighborhood for all you morning runners and walkers. Pedestrians and cars alike have seen drastic improvement when the underpass at North Avenue was rebuilt and no longer floods with eight feet of rain water. He also galvanized the collective voice of the GCN members to petition the alderman for the city to install a stoplight at Burton Street, on Lake Shore Drive. Consequently, there have been no accidents since.

Bill has been instrumental in the yearly planning and coordinating of the Gold Coast Neighbors Association's largest fundraising event each year, "Evening on Astor". He greatly enjoys what is now known as "the world's most elegant block party" as it helps create neighborly community and fund all that has been and will be accomplished by the association.

Some might say Bill Staple's most notable accomplishment came in the early nineties when the association faced tough legal issues. Bill used his corporate finance and investments background, honed and practiced daily at his namesake firm, to stabilize GCN and get it back on solid footing.

Among many accomplishments, Bill is particularly proud of leading GCN to be connected with the broader community. He gathered and donated a large sum of money to policemen who were out of a job and raised funds to provide a new kitchen for firefighters who have not traditionally seen city support for this need. It is his desire that we continue to engage in collective outreach for less-advantaged individuals in our community.

When asked where Bill would like to see Gold Coast Neighbors Association grow in the future, he spoke to the need for more pressure on zoning to ensure quality of life, and more petitions around CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) which encourages community members and police to work together to reduce the occurrence of crimes. Most importantly, Bill would like to see the fine organization, North Dearborn Association, and Gold Coast Neighbors Association merge to reduce confusion among neighbors and to speak with a strong singular-voice to our aldermen.

Bill would also like to encourage those considering involvement to join in and jump on a committee. Be a voice and activist for change, safety, preservation and beautification of our wonderful neighborhood. If you take interest in your neighborhood and finally say "I'm going to do something about it", then you can be a part of change that is very fulfilling.

Bill Staple's passion and service to the Gold Coast Neighborhood Association is one that is matched by few, so he raises the bar for all who take part in such a rewarding experience as serving our neighbors. After such a successful term of director leadership, and his service as president from 1997 -2000, Bill is now transitioning to Director Emeritus. The term "Emeritus" originated in the mid-18th century from Latin. As the past participle of Emereri, it denotes "earning one's discharge by service." This term has come to be used when a person of great importance in a given role or profession hands over his position. Bill Staples is that person. His years of service and investment in GCN has produced a first rate organization. Many have benefited from his vast knowledge and patient counsel again and again. Though Bill Staples will no longer sit on the board of directors, he will remain a true "Emeritus"; one who will hold the rich history of the Gold Coast and its seasons of change very near and dear for many years to come.

- Kate Jung

## **A New Member's View**

by Michelle Dermenjian

### ***I love where I am...***

My husband David and I moved to the Ambassador West in the fall of 2007. We moved here for a variety of reasons, but our favorite "perk" of the neighborhood is the community. I grew up in a small cul-de-sac in Glen Ellyn and my next door neighbors from there now live a floor above me in our condo building. They have been like family to me, so it is fun to have them just upstairs! My husband's brother lives and works in the neighborhood too, so he stops by often. We were lucky to have all these old friends, but we were so grateful to meet so many new friends as well. It was a fun surprise when I learned that my dad and

GCN President Tom Thilman had known each other for many years, unbeknownst to me. They had even been to The Master's golf tournament together! It's been fun to make so many connections.



### ***Becoming the (helpful) social butterfly...***

Joining Gold Coast Neighbors Association has been a great way for me to become even more social and get involved in the neighborhood events. I have already started helping with "Evening on Astor", the newsletter and lending some insight to the new website. I am especially excited about "Evening on Astor" and helping Larry Gard with table arrangements and logistics. The event seems to have really wonderful support from the neighborhood. All the people I have met during the planning meetings have been incredibly nice, especially Jackie Chesler. She always has great ideas, strong leadership and keeps my wine glass full!

### ***I am the neighborhood carnivore...***

Despite all the wonderful neighborhood restaurants (Elysian! Chicago Q!), I absolutely love to cook at home. Four years ago, I left a career in the beauty industry to sell beef for my family farm. Growing up with a farm background, I have always had a really strong connection to food and natural ingredients but left the cooking to my mom. When I moved to the Gold Coast, cooking became my new hobby. My condo has a beautiful kitchen and I began by spending hours trying new recipes for the cuts of meats I was selling. From there, I started experimenting with breads and then specialty vegetables I would find at the farmers' markets. I was lucky to be able to ask my chef customers like Paul Virant (Vie) and Kevin Hickey (Seasons at the Four Seasons) for advice and tips. Now, I can cook just about anything. This spring my family's farm will be featured in a cookbook and in a specialty retail meat sauce. I am happy to have been able to mix business with my favorite new hobby. I know everything there is to know about meat, so I welcome everyone to visit me at my booth in the Green City Market this summer and ask me any beef-related questions. I am happy to share my knowledge!

### ***"State Street, that great street..."***

My husband and I are very passionate about the history and architecture in Chicago, especially in the Gold Coast. We even themed our wedding around State Street! We lived at the Ambassador, were married at Holy Name Cathedral and held a reception at the Palmer House in the State and Grand Ballrooms.

### ***Joining was a great choice...***

I have developed a very strong connection to this neighborhood over the past four years. The Gold Coast Neighbors Association has given me an opportunity to lend a hand in all of the wonderful things this neighborhood has to offer while meeting great new people. I wish I had joined a long time ago and would recommend anyone living in this area to become involved. I look forward to meeting more friendly neighbors in the years to come as I take on more responsibility with the GCN.

## A Message From GCN's President . . .



Dear Neighbors,

Not a minute too soon - spring has arrived in Chicago!

Though our trees remain leafless, there are significant signs that winter is over. Major League Baseball is underway along with playoffs in pro basketball and hockey. Yellow school buses line Stockton Drive as school children file into the Lincoln Park Zoo. Of course, our Spring Event at the Racquet Club with Gabrielle Weisberg at the helm is just around the corner.

Other members of your Gold Coast Neighborhood Association board have remained active over the winter. Our reformed Beautification Committee, ably headed by Peggy White, has some exciting projects underway. Jackie Chesler, her co-chairs Michele Frame Miller and Jane Lenkman, and the Evening on Astor Committee are well along with plans for "The world's most elegant block party". Our Gold Coast Neighbors Association Newsletter provides you with up to date happenings of your organization. We're also finalizing plans for improving our website. Not only will [www.goldcoastneighbors.org](http://www.goldcoastneighbors.org) link you to community resources, but we expect to have even more timely information on events, concerns and accomplishments specific to our neighborhood.

An important news item, though somewhat bittersweet, is that Bill Staples has requested emeritus status on the GCN board. Bill has been the right man at the right time. He has been responsible for much of the growth and enthusiasm that GCN enjoys today. Please read the accompanying article which details Bill's many accomplishments and contributions to our neighborhood.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Rahm Emanuel will become the next mayor of Chicago. Though change can create uncertainties, I believe our new mayor will support the beauty and heritage of the Gold Coast Neighborhood. Like most cities, Chicago will be forced to pare its budget. Police and fire protection are said to be exempt, but the possibility of cutbacks still exists. Regardless, it is important to remain vigilant for our own safety and the safety of our neighbors.

Finally, after a harsh winter, I look forward to seeing you on the street! We've been bundled up too long and what a pleasure it is to reconnect with familiar faces. Don't forget to add a GCN event to your spring and summer calendar...you'll be glad you did.

With warm regards,

Tom Thilman



### **Report from CAPS Meeting held on March 8, 2011 - Jim Kinoshita**

- Permit Parking - Discussion around permit parking, as people were seeking 24 hour permit parking between the 1200 to 1600 blocks of Astor and State. This request should be made through their respective aldermen who will request a CDOT survey.
- Summer - The influx of unruly beach-goers this year is being anticipated. Rather than being caught off-guard:
  - Extra details will be assigned
  - Patrol will be beefed up
  - More cameras will be installed on the streets, beach, and around the neighborhood
- Theft Mobs - recent smash and grab robberies on Michigan Avenue. These people were using the internet, Twitter and Facebook to set up theft meetings. The police made 7 arrests on 2/19 and from these 15 additional arrests. The police are also better monitoring the internet.
- No real mention of the new mayor or police chief and the corresponding changes/ramifications. This will be addressed in upcoming CAPS meetings.
- Summer - the police want neighbors to be cognizant that theft increases in the summer months.
- Block Clubs - if neighbors/neighborhoods want to come together and address problems and work on solutions, the police would like offer certified trainers to assist in the process.
- Next meetings: May 10th and July 12th, both at the Ambassador East at 7 p.m.

### **Help GCN Keep Our Database Current!**

GCN strives to communicate with our members in a timely and efficient fashion. When important matters arise, we need your correct email address in order to reach you quickly. We value your privacy and your time; please know that GCN will not sell or share your email address, and we promise not to flood your inbox. Kindly provide us with your current email address by phoning the office at (312) 332-6122, or email us at [info@goldcoastneighbors.org](mailto:info@goldcoastneighbors.org)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM – PLEASE PRINT

### Membership Incentives

New and renewing members will receive the following . . .

\$10 coupon for dinner at Mario's Gold Coast Ristorante  
\$20 credit toward your airport transfer from ChicagoLimosineService.com  
25% off selected spa services at Spa at the Gold Coast  
30% off room rates at the Hotel Indigo (based on availability)  
Buy one get one free bicycle tour from Bobby's Bike Hike  
Complimentary interior design consultation from Noble Design Group  
30% off your first order from At Your Service Dry Cleaning

Please also consider a donation for our General Fund! Kindly send this form along with your tax deductible check or charge card authorization to:

Gold Coast Neighbors (or GCN) · 216 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 625 · Chicago, Illinois 60606

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone; \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories:

Neighbor, Building Association,  
and Associate (*for those outside our area*)

Annual Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*All categories are \$50 per year*

**(New option: 3-year renewal for \$120)**

General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• I would like to volunteer for the following Committee(s): *please indicate your choice(s)*

Annual Meeting

Goudy Parkways

Police & Streets

Beautification

Ghoully Halloween

Spring Event

Bylaws

History/Education

Website

Communication/PR

Membership

Zoning

Evening on Astor

Newsletter

**Please visit our website:**

**[www.goldcoastneighbors.org](http://www.goldcoastneighbors.org)**

**for more information about  
our committees and the work  
they do.**

Questions? Please call GCN office at 312-332-6122. Please share your comments & suggestions:

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## Membership Report

I have good news and better news.

The good news is that membership in the Gold Coast Neighbors Association this year is slightly above anticipated budgeted levels. We are offering both new and renewing members a set of 7 coupons, the value of which easily exceed the cost of membership, so I expect this trend to continue. What's more, we are in the final stages of preparation for sending out a mailing to people in our neighborhood who are not yet members, to encourage them to join. That should further increase our membership.

As we succeed in attracting new members and keeping existing members, we generate the funds necessary for us to achieve our many worthwhile goals.

The better news is that new and renewing members are volunteering their considerable skills. Some are becoming board members. Others are working with one or more of the Committees to help the Association achieve its goals. Others are soliciting new members and donations.

The result is a very encouraging level of energy and innovation.

Won't you consider becoming more active in your association? Let me give you some ideas as to how you can do that:

- You probably have neighbors that you would like to get to know a little better – right? Why don't you invite them to join you at our Spring Event? It is a beautiful event (I promise, they will be impressed). You and they will have a chance to greet other neighbors. Best of all, you will have a great opportunity to get to know your guests much better.
- Do you love to throw a great party? Then volunteer to work with either our Spring Event Committee, our Evening on Astor Committee or our Halloween Committee.
- Do you love making things more beautiful? Then join our Beautification Committee as it works to enhance the appearance of our wonderful neighborhood. They will be doing everything from the "hands on" planting and caring for flowers to working with city government to make the neighborhood more attractive.
- Are you a communicator? Then volunteer your services to help write things like this newsletter.

Those are just a few of the many opportunities available for you to participate and contribute. Please send us an e-mail at [info@goldcoastneighbors.org](mailto:info@goldcoastneighbors.org) and we will get you connected to the right people.

Remember: "**Great neighborhoods don't just happen.**" Please... get involved.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Gable*