

THE CHICAGO MARKET: LIVING AND GIVING™ ANNOUNCES NOT-TO-BE-MISSED CELEBRITY AND EDUCATIONAL SPECIAL EVENTS THIS JANUARY

CHICAGO, IL (November 6, 2007) – The Chicago Market: Living and Giving™, January 17-23, 2008, will be bustling with an action-packed calendar of celebrity and educational special events. The Market's highlights include the Signatures Series where buyers will meet celebrity sommelier and television host Alpana Singh and world-renowned broadcast journalist Bill Kurtis and The Power Lunch Seminar Series where attendees will gain valuable retailing knowledge about industry trends from the best in the business.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Signatures

Sunday, January 20, 2-3 p.m.

Signatures Room, 8th Floor

Meet Alpana Singh, author of *Alpana Pours: About Being a Woman, Loving Wine, and Having Great Relationships*. As the youngest woman to be a member of the exclusive Court of Master Sommeliers and a successful television host of the Chicago-station WTTW-TV series *Check Please!*, Singh's entertaining commentary informs readers on all things important—relationships, entertaining and wine!

Monday, January 21, 2-3 p.m.

Signatures Room, 8th Floor

Meet Bill Kurtis, world-renown broadcast journalist for more than thirty years, on WBBM-TV Chicago, CBS and A&E and author of *Prairie Table Cookbook*. This fascinating history and cookbook will immerse readers into the world of cowboys, while teaching of the growing Tallgrass Beef movement—a return to the "classic", more healthy and better-tasting ranching method of raising grass-fed cattle—and featuring recipes from celebrity-chefs, such as Charlie Trotter, of the celebrated Charlie Trotter Restaurant, and Rick Bayless, of the nation's number one restaurant, Frontera Grill.

Power Lunch Seminars

Fuel your business and your body through our complimentary Power Lunch Seminar Series. R.S.V.P. required by January 5. E-mail shall@mmart.com or call 312.527.7885.

Turning your Store into a Lifestyle Destination: Mary Carol Garrity Shares how she Built her Store, Nell Hill's, into a Retail Wonder

Sunday, January 20, 12-1 p.m.

Power Lunch Room

Mary Carol Garrity, owner of the famous Nell Hill's in her small hometown of Atchison, Kansas, will share the inside story of how she turned her small store into one of America's favorite shopping destinations with more than 75,000 yearly visitors. Garrity will discuss what

it takes to make any retail store a nationwide success.

How to Build Your Business through Handcrafted Product

Monday, January 21, 12-1 p.m.

Power Lunch Room

Brought to you by *Country Business Magazine*, buyers will learn the fine art of handcrafted, artisan work and how it can truly impact their business. Presented by *Country Business* Editor Susan Wagner.

Immediately following this Power Lunch Seminar, stay for a champagne toast as *Country Business* recognizes this year's top specialty gift retailers and gift and home décor vendors at the Country Business Magazine Retailer and Vendor of the Year Awards.

Cozy up with Lake Living

Tuesday, January 22, 12–1 p.m.

Power Lunch Room

Susan Fredman, owner of Michigan Harbor Country's very own At Home with Nature store, will teach buyers how to maximize their store's potential through incorporating the growing Lake Trend.

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Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI) is a trade show and property management firm, specializing in managing buildings devoted to wholesale showrooms and commercial office space. MMPI produces more than 300 trade shows, market events and conferences each year. MMPI manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 W. Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; and the Washington Design Center and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.

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