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**ADLER WOMEN'S BOARD TO LAUNCH RED-HOT SALUTE TO RED PLANET**

**AT *10th ANNUAL CELESTIAL BALL: CELEBRATE MARS!* NOV. 6**

CHICAGO, Oct. 11, 2004 -- A red-hot evening toasting the closest planet to Earth is set for lift-off on Saturday, Nov. 6, when the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum presents the *10th Annual Celestial Ball: Celebrate Mars!*.

The *Celestial Ball* supports a distance-learning program that brings the Adler into science classrooms across the state and inspires the next generation of space explorers.

Mary Ann Childers and Jay Levine of CBS 2 Chicago are Honorary Chairs of the *10th Annual Celestial Ball: Celebrate Mars!*, which will blast-off at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction featuring an array of out-of-this-world getaways and coveted luxury items including a \$1,000 Escada shopping spree and one-of-a-kind prizes such as Chef for a Day with Jacky Pluton at his new River North restaurant.

Renowned auctioneer Sean Susanin will lead an exciting live auction at 7:30 p.m. in the Adler's Sky Theater. Guests will bid on far-out prizes including a Breakfast at Tiffany's package and a weekend in Washington D.C.

Following the auction, guests will be ushered into Rice Solarium, where they will enjoy a sumptuous dinner catered and underwritten by Food for Thought and take in breath-taking views of the Chicago skyline from the unique vantage point of the Adler.

Dancing to the Eden Orchestra will cap this spectacular evening. Dramatic décor by Heffernan Morgan will set the stage for the gala salute to the Red Planet.

Event sponsors include: Universe Sponsor: Food for Thought; Galaxy Sponsor: United Airlines; Quasar Sponsor: Don and Ellen Clark; Supernova Sponsors: The Boeing Company, ComEd: An Exelon Company, Dr. Sarmed G. Elias, Midwest Generation and Peoples Energy; Nova Sponsors: Jill Adler, Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, Ariel Capital Management, Bank One, Dr. George T. Caleel and Rebecca Childers Caleel, Ernst & Young, Fifth Third Bank, William J. & Karen W. Lutz, Pacific Construction and Orli and Bill Staley.

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## 10th Annual Celestial Ball, Add One

The *10th Annual Celestial Ball: Celebrate Mars!* is presented by the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum. The gala is chaired by Rebecca Childers Caleel; co-chairs are Katherine C. Hunt and Caroline Becker Joss.

Joining Caleel, Hunt and Joss on the Women's Board are Cynthia Ballew, President, and Marilyn Athas, Sharon Batterson, Sherry Schmitter Block, Kathleen M. Boege, Betty Brown, Linda Celesia, Pamela Cramer, Colleen Creighton, Susan V. Downing, Kathleen Fox, Sarah M. Fritz, Lea Goldblatt, Catherine E. Goy, Lois Harb, Mel Cooney Higgins, Nancy Hoffman, Susan C. Hull, Anna Igoe, Mary Ann Karris, Naomi Knappenberger, Adrienne Kolb, Carlette McMullan, Laura Myntti, Penelope J. Obenshain, Bonnie Vaughn Perry, Orli Staley, Judith C. York and JoEllen Bursinger Zacks,

Tickets for the *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Celestial Ball: Celebrate Mars!* are \$300 per person. Sponsorship packages, starting at \$3,000, are also available. For more information, contact Ben Beadles at (312) 322-0523 or [bbeadles@adlernet.org](mailto:bbeadles@adlernet.org).

Through its support of the museum's education, research and advocacy missions, the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum helps young people reach for the stars.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum opened in 1930 as the Western Hemisphere's first planetarium and has been at the forefront of innovation ever since. Celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005, the Adler promotes leading edge research in astronomy and its fascinating history. In addition to one of the world's most important antique instrument collections, the Adler is the only museum in the world with two planetarium theaters, including the world's first StarRider Theater, the most technologically advanced digital planetarium. The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. For more information, call 312.922.STAR, or visit our website at [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)

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