
The Knickerbocker Chicago

163 East Walton Place
Chicago, Illinois 60611
+1 312.751.8100



Afternoon Tea in the Library Room at Martini Bar

1 pm – 4:30 pm

Selection of Finger Sandwiches

Scones and Preserves

Selection of Pastries

Organic Herbal Tea Brewed to Your Preference

Ask for a glass of bubbly for an additional charge

The Knickerbocker Chicago

Monday, May 16, 1927 the doors opened as notable architects Rissman & Hirschfield, who are responsible for many impressive structures in the city's skyline, built the 350 room, 14-story, gothic inspired gem in less than one year. It was an intoxicating time in America, one that fueled rapid change and invention, artistic ingenuity and high society pleasantries. Throughout the years, the Georgian-style Crystal Ballroom, with its expansive 25-foot, gilded dome ceiling and its graceful balcony, has been the setting for many prominent gatherings, conventions, business meetings and extravagant galas. During the early years of the hotel, guests could watch the famous dance act of Veloz and Yolanda twirl about the illuminated glass dance floor, casting a brilliant spectrum of colors. When one of Yolanda's heels cracked the floor, a glass square could be replaced in under 60 seconds, ensuring the show went on. Now plexiglass the illuminated floor, the only one in a Chicago hotel, still dazzles guests after all these years. Rumor has it that when the stock market plummeted and prohibition reigned, Al Capone's brother Ralph operated a casino and speakeasy on the Penthouse Floor. Since access needed to be controlled, only one of the hotel's three passenger elevators was able to reach the top, where the illegal rooms were found. Adding some credibility to this story of connections to a shady underworld was a secret door leading to a stairway, which was discovered during a 1980's remodeling.