GLHF
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN
HALL OF FAME

2010

City of Chicago
Commission on Human Relations

Richard M. Daley                              Dana V. Starks
Mayor                                       Chairman and Commissioner

Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

William W. Greaves, Ph.D.
Director/Community Liaison
CITY OF CHICAGO
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES

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Director
In Memoriam

Martin Gapshis
Renae Ogletree
Laird Petersen
Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 20th annual Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Today's event serves as a wonderful opportunity to honor outstanding Chicagoans for their achievements. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities of Chicago have all made wonderful contributions to the growth and wellbeing of the city and state, and they deserve our utmost respect and commendation for the great work they have done.

I am honored to congratulate each individual and organization being inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2010. In your unique endeavors, you have achieved terrific success while serving as an inspiration to all our communities. You have been outspoken advocates for equal rights and have worked hard time and again to serve the interests of all LGBT citizens. I thank you for your ongoing dedication — you are all very deserving of induction into this prestigious Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes to all for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Pat Quinn
Governor
GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warmest greetings to the participants, sponsors, and supporters of this 20th annual induction ceremony for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Tonight, I am delighted to join the Commission on Human Relations and its Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, in congratulating the 2010 Hall of Fame inductees on their achievements. A forum to discuss human rights and to celebrate the accomplishments of talented individuals and dedicated organizations, the Hall of Fame highlights the contributions of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents and their efforts to keep Chicago strong, vibrant, and diverse. In recognizing and appreciating the differences between us, we also find the bonds that unite us.

I value the LGBT communities' continued work to ensure that all Chicagoans are treated equally and with dignity.

May you all have an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Daley
Mayor
November 10, 2010

Dear Friends,

No other city in the nation has an established, municipally sponsored Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. On behalf of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, I am honored that our Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues is in the forefront of recognizing the contributions that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals and organizations have made to Chicago.

Our Council and the Hall of Fame belong to a larger family, the friends of human rights. The LGBT communities have a well-deserved and long-standing tradition of advocacy for fair treatment for all segments of our diverse city. We urge those communities to persevere in the fight against bias, discrimination, and prejudice.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is a crucial reminder to the City of Chicago that in honoring a specific community we are also singling out individuals and organizations that are committed to making Chicago everyone’s city and ultimately a bias-free city.

The 2010 inductees of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame have my admiration and support. I congratulate them for their achievements, and I thank them for their dedication, personal sacrifice, and commitment to making Chicago a city that works for all of its residents.

Sincerely,

[Dana V. Starks]
Chairman and Commissioner

[Signature]
The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is both a historic event and an exhibit. Through the Hall of Fame, residents of Chicago and the world are made aware of the contributions of Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and the communities’ efforts to eradicate bias and discrimination.

With the support of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (now the Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues) established the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in June 1991. The inaugural induction ceremony took place during Pride Week at City Hall, hosted by Mayor Richard M. Daley. This was the first event of its kind in the country.

The Hall of Fame recognizes the volunteer and professional achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, their organizations and their friends, as well as their contributions to the LGBT communities and to the city of Chicago. This is a unique tribute to dedicated persons and organizations whose services have improved the quality of life for all of Chicago’s citizens.

A nominee must have made either (1) a single, far-reaching contribution or (2) significant long-term contributions to the quality of life of Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender communities or the city of Chicago.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is privately funded through generous donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations. Staff support is provided by the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, members of the Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, and volunteers.

The selection of inductees for the Hall of Fame is made by former recipients of the award based on nominations from the general public. Planning is under way for a permanent location for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame display.

www.GLHallofFame.org
2010 PLANNING COMMITTEE
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

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2010 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

Claudia Allen
Dan Di Leo
Scott Free
Bob Gammie
E. Patrick Johnson
David Ernesto Munar
Achy Obejas
Paul G. Oostenbrug
Jose Rios
The Rev. Stan Sloan
Mark E. Wojcik
Asians and Friends Chicago
International Mr. Leather
American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois
   Friend of the Community
Chicago History Museum
   Friend of the Community

*In the text of the following brief biographies of inductees, the abbreviation LGBT repeatedly appears. It is currently a widely accepted term and stands for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.” Its use is intended as a reminder of Chicago’s diversity.*
CLAUDIA ALLEN

Claudia Allen is a prolific contemporary playwright. Almost half of her repertoire of produced plays focuses on lesbian relationships or incorporates lesbian or bisexual characters.

Allen is playwright in residence at Chicago’s Victory Gardens Theater, with which she has been affiliated for more than 20 years. Her plays have also been produced at other Chicago venues and in theaters across the United States.

She described a recurring theme of her work as “people finally getting the nerve to do what they want.”

Born in 1954, Allen grew up in Clare, Michigan. She moved to Chicago in 1979 after graduation from the University of Michigan and began to write. “I wrote lesbian-themed plays,” she recalled, “because I wasn’t seeing what I wanted to watch.” Many of her plays were ahead of their time in theme, passion, and humor. “I started writing them thinking I was never going to make any money at them,” she added, “but that they were important stories to tell. The directors and actresses in those early productions were also pioneers, because it was not many years ago that so many actors just wouldn’t play lesbian and gay roles, out of fear.”

Allen’s most frequently produced lesbian play is Hannah Free, which premièred at Chicago’s Bailiwick Repertory in 1992. The story focuses on a complicated, lifelong lesbian relationship. She also wrote the screenplay for a feature film version of Hannah Free, which cast the actress Sharon Gless in the title role.

Movie Queens, The Gays of Our Lives, Raincheck, Roomers, Dutch Love, A Gay Christmas Carol, and a musical comedy, Xena Lives!, are among her other works. The famed actress Julie Harris starred in the 2001 première of Fossils, a play about two 70-year-old women who meet at a bed-and-breakfast and fall in love, which was staged at Victory Gardens Theater. Several of Allen’s lesbian-themed plays have been published, as well as a novel version of the film Hannah Free (Bella Books, 2010).

In 1999, Allen was recognized as Best Playwright by Chicago magazine. She is the recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards and five Jeff nominations. She also received the Trailblazer Award from Bailiwick Repertory “for demonstrating excellence in playwriting and for moving lesbian plays from the theatrical fringe to the artistic center.”

Claudia Allen’s work has consistently and courageously depicted the complications, joys, and sorrows of lesbian lives. Her work has achieved national recognition and made a lasting contribution to the theater in Chicago and across the nation.
Di Leo was a fighter throughout his life. Born at Cook County Hospital in 1938, at the age of 6 he was placed in foster care and lived with more than a dozen families in northern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. He attended Marquette University in Milwaukee and, while still a student, began his newspaper career at the Milwaukee Sentinel. After being drafted into the military in 1961, he served two years at Fort Carson, Colorado, before re-enlisting and taking an assignment as an interpreter and intelligence agent in West Berlin, where he also worked for The Berlin Observer, an English-language newspaper. After leaving military service in 1967, Di Leo held a variety of editorial positions at the Decatur Herald and Rockford Morning Star. Upon moving to Chicago, he became a copy editor at the Chicago Sun-Times.

Di Leo’s experience, knowledge as a journalist, and experience as a businessman were largely responsible for the early growth of Gay Chicago Magazine, which remains strong to the present day. In the years when Di Leo and Gernhardt published the magazine (along with Gay Detroit, Gay Ohio, Midwest Times, and Gay Milwaukee, none of which lasted very long), they worked to build Gay Chicago and increase the staff of journalists to meet the demands of changing times. The two men learned from each other and taught their staff lasting lessons in editorial and business honesty, integrity, and ethics.

Di Leo was one of the founders of Strike Against AIDS and the Mr. Windy City contest. He was also one of the original contributors to Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, now the Howard Brown Health Center.

For the last years of his life, Dan Di Leo lived with AIDS, fighting opportunistic illnesses one by one and succeeding beyond the expectations of medical authorities. He succumbed to his illness in 1989, but his memory lives on, both in the Chicago community and in the enduring strength of Gay Chicago Magazine.
Chicago native Scott Free has been actively involved with the city’s LGBT communities for more than 20 years. Though he is best-known as a musician, his involvements reach across production, musicianship, photography, and activism in a broad and impressive range of venues and commitments.

As one of the leading openly gay male artists in the United States, he continues to rack up awards and honors, most recently as 2009 OUTMusician of the Year at the OUTMusic Awards. His “Happy Again” video was among the Top 10 Videos of 2009 on Logo’s Click List.

Free’s sometimes-funny, sometimes-angry, always-touching songs of queer life have earned him acclaim nationally and worldwide. He was twice recognized as OUTMusician of the Year by the OUTMusic Awards, and his many CDs have earned glowing reviews in *The Advocate*, *Out* magazine, and numerous other LGBT publications.

In the 1990s, Free performed as Plaster of Paris in the art/drag show “Tuck” at Foxy’s nightclub on North Halsted Street. In 1996 he debuted his hardcore punk songs, and the following year he was a featured artist in the “Feast of Fools” cabaret.

In the autumn of 2000, he founded Grinder at the Willow Café in Chicago’s eastern Edgewater neighborhood, which evolved three years later into Homolatte. This twice-a-month series at Big Chicks and Tweet is the longest-running queer performance series in the United States. It has recently expanded to include shows in St. Louis, Missouri.

Also in the autumn of 2000, Free began producing Queer Is Folk for Chicago’s Old Town School of Folk Music, an annual LGBT music festival that has been known since 2006 as Alt Q. Proceeds from the event have been donated to a wide range of LGBT organizations, from Howard Brown Health Center and AIDS Foundation of Chicago to the Gerber/Hart Library, Illinois Gender Advocates, Equality Illinois, Black LGBT & Allies for Equality, and Haitian LGBT organizations.

For years, Free has provided sound equipment for the OUTMusic Open Mic and T-OUTMic, the trans-run, all-inclusive open-mic series at Center on Halsted. He has performed in many Chicago venues and at festivals across the continent, from Northalsted Market Days to Camp Trans to Bearapalooza to Toronto’s Pride Week festival.

Free is a member of Chicago’s Gay Liberation Network and led protests of performances by Jamaican musicians and the Chicago area’s Evil Incarnate band, whose lyrics advocated anti-gay and -lesbian violence. For several years he has served as opening performer for GLN’s annual Matthew Shepard March. He is also a member of Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together and in 1993 served as director of arts programming for that organization’s national convention in Chicago.
BOB GAMMIE

Affectionately known as “Ma” or “Gammie,” Bob Gammie has been an activity organizer and fundraiser in Chicago’s gay communities since he took up residence here in 1949. His leadership and commitment to gay Chicagoans—as the consummate “party-boy host” and much more—are today the stuff of legend.

In the 1950s and 1960s, with the exception of a few bars, there were scant opportunities for gay men to socialize in relaxed safety. Gammie became one of the first in Chicago to organize large social activities outside bar settings.

Starting with his weekly Tuesday-night barbecues, Gammie moved to organizing softball games for gay men that were grounded in comradeship instead of competition, with team assignments chosen by lottery and no rejections. They would form the basis of today’s Chicago gay softball leagues. He was also one of the first organizers of volleyball games in Lincoln Park, which grew into the Lincoln Park Lagooners— which still flourishes, sponsoring camping, river rafting, skiing, and other social events throughout Chicago.

Gammie developed a unique talent for combining fun with fundraising and has tirelessly aided local LGBT organizations. Chief among these was Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, for which he held numerous fundraising parties at his home.

By the mid-1980s, in conjunction with the Lincoln Park Lagooners, he was organizing mega-events, such as “Kong in Heat” and “Wash Cycle.” Two of these—“Tropical Lei” and “Cruising the Nile”—were held at the Aragon Ballroom with more than 5,000 attending. All profits went to support Howard Brown, Horizons Community Services, and other LGBT charities. Those who attended still remember them, along with Gammie’s dedication to making them memorable.

Bob Gammie continues his activism through Chicago Prime Timers, where he served for 12 years as a board member. He continues to hold fundraising events at his home and elsewhere. For more than 60 years, he has hosted gala Halloween and New Year’s Eve parties, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for gay men, many of whom had no place to go. This selfless, energetic man has been rightfully dubbed the “Perle Mesta” of gay life in Chicago.
E. PATRICK JOHNSON

Dr. E. Patrick Johnson has lived in Chicago for more than a decade and has contributed prolifically to the visibility and well-being of LGBT communities in the city, the United States, and beyond.

An award-winning author, nationally touring performer, world-recognized scholar, and community activist and philanthropist, he has distinguished himself in several venues while sustaining his focus on documenting and disseminating knowledge about the lives, creativity, and histories of LGBT persons, especially those in African American communities.

A member of the Northwestern University faculty, Johnson has published two books that center on black LGBT life: *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South* and *Black Queer Studies*. He has taught and inspired hundreds of students at Northwestern, many of whom have gone on to work in academic, artistic, and activist venues focusing on LGBT issues.

His performances and public programs, such as “Gays and Gospel” at the Chicago History Museum and his one-man play *Sweet Tea* at the Viaduct Theater, have translated his research for large audiences, who are often empowered by his generous, engaging, and poignant chronicles of LGBT lives. He has also toured a one-man show, *Strange Fruit*, throughout the United States since 1999.

As the first African American born and raised in Hickory, North Carolina, to earn a Ph.D. degree, Johnson was honored by that community on July 26, 1996, after black residents persuaded the City Council to proclaim the day in his honor.

Johnson instituted and hosts an annual dessert-party fundraiser at his home, generating contributions for Pediatric AIDS Chicago and Kids Fight Cancer. He is also significantly involved with outreach and fundraising for the Black AIDS Institute and for Lambda Legal.

From 1994 through 1998, David Ernesto Munar, a first-generation, bicultural, and bilingual Colombian American, served as president of the Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA). Under his leadership, ALMA worked on a number of coalition and advocacy projects that helped to further the visibility of Latino/a LGBT communities and to bring attention to their needs.

After stepping down from the ALMA presidency, Munar continued to work with the organization and its members on local and national LGBT and Latino/a issues. Today he is a key leader in the group’s Unity in Strength coalition, which has helped to develop a statewide health advocacy agenda to meet the needs of both the general Latino/a LGBT community and, more specifically, LGBTQ immigrants.

Currently, Munar serves as vice president for policy and communications at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. As an individual living with HIV, he is active in helping to influence local, state, and federal public policy on HIV/AIDS, and he is a frequent and well-recognized blogger on such issues, with multiple contributions to The Huffington Post as well as other highly regarded websites.

Munar also serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including the Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, the National Association of People with AIDS, which he chairs, and the AIDS Action Council, where he holds the position of policy chair. He has been appointed to several federal advisory committees with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

At the time of his nomination to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, Munar was training for his fifth marathon with the National AIDS Marathon Training Program, to benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.
ACHY OBEJAS

An award-winning author, journalist, and political activist, Achy Obejas was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1956. She came to the United States at the age of 6, after the Navy plucked her from a 28-foot boat that was adrift in the Atlantic Ocean with her family and 40 other refugees on board. Her family moved from Miami to the Midwest, and Obejas arrived in Chicago after graduating from college in 1979.

Obejas began her journalism career at the Chicago Sun-Times in 1981. From 1996 to 2002, she was a staff writer for the Chicago Tribune. She has also written for several local publications—Windy City Times, the Chicago Reader, and The Chicago Reporter—and served as a stringer for The Washington Post, The Advocate, and Ms. magazine. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a shared Pulitzer Prize in 2001 and the Studs Terkel Community Journalism Award in 1996.

As an activist, Obejas was appointed by Mayor Harold Washington to the city’s first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues and by Mayor Eugene Sawyer to the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. She worked with mayoral liaison Jon Simmons, the “Gang of Four,” and other community groups to secure passage in 1988 of a historic human-rights ordinance to prohibit sexual-orientation discrimination. Bilingual, she lobbied extensively among Latino aldermen and their constituents to gain their support for the ordinance.

Obejas is the author of several works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Her first books, *We Came All the Way From Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?* and *Memory Mambo*, were published by a lesbian press. Later works, such as her critically acclaimed novels *Days of Awe* and *Ruins*, were published by mainstream presses. Her books have received numerous awards, including Lambda Literary Awards, and her creative writing achievements have secured teaching positions at the University of Chicago, Roosevelt University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Northwestern University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and, most recently, the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz chair at DePaul University.

As a writer, activist, and Cuban American, Achy Obejas has consistently presented herself as an out lesbian. Her accomplishments and achievements have added stature to Chicago’s LGBT communities.
Paul Oostenbrug has been an exemplary volunteer organizer in Chicago for more than a decade and typifies those who are unceasing in their commitments and quietly effective in pursuing them.

Oostenbrug joined Team Chicago in 1998 and became its board secretary. He subsequently served as Team Chicago’s male co-chair for five years, playing a significant role in planning Gay Games VI in Sydney and leading a uniformed delegation of 125 Chicagoans who traveled to Sydney for the games.

Soon after arriving in Chicago, Oostenbrug also joined the board of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, where he was the treasurer for several years. In 2008, he received the Founder’s Award for having raised more than $100,000 during his board tenure.

An indefatigable worker on behalf of LGBT athletics, Oostenbrug served as Team Chicago’s male delegate to the Federation of Gay Games between 2001 and 2006, when he was elected the federation’s vice president for membership. He played a leading role in efforts to recruit new member organizations to that international body and helped to administer the Gay Games Scholarship Program, which made it possible for 125 individuals from around the world to come to Chicago for Gay Games VII — people who would not otherwise have been able to participate.

In preparation for Gay Games VII, Oostenbrug led an active board in recruiting 1,250 members to join Team Chicago. He helped to obtain sponsorship for uniforms and marched at the head of the 2,200 participants representing Chicago in the procession at the games’ Opening Ceremony.

Between 2000 and 2007, Oostenbrug played a significant role in Team Chicago’s presentation of the annual Midwest GLBT Sports and Cultural Festival, raising the visibility of multiple Pride Month events and making significant strides in fundraising for athletics. He continued to serve on the board of Team Chicago after his election to the board of the Federation of Gay Games, assisting Team Chicago in bringing a group of more than 100 Chicagoans to Gay Games VIII in Cologne, Germany, in the summer of 2010.

Oostenbrug has been an active member of Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago and participated on Team Frontrunners in the Chicago Area Running Association’s circuit for five years. He won third place in his age group on the CARA circuit in 1999 and 2003 at the respective ages of 49 and 53.
JOSE RIOS

Chicago Police Officer Jose Rios is assigned to the 23rd District as its GLBT liaison between the Chicago Police Department and Chicago’s LGBT communities.

His tenure since 2001 has had an enormous impact and improved the relationship between LGBT communities and police in the city. His work has contributed to breaking down barriers and prejudices that historically have compromised access to police services for LGBT individuals and groups in Chicago.

Rios chairs the district’s GLBT advisory group and is a member of the board of directors of the Association of Latin Men for Action. He serves as first vice president of Chicago’s Lesbian and Gay Police Association/Gay Officers Action League. For his services, in 2005 he received a Chicago Commission on Human Relations award, and in 2006 he received a Trailblazer Award from Bailiwick Repertory.

As liaison to LGBT communities, Rios responds to victims of LGBT hate crimes both within the 23rd District and throughout the city. He provides individual assistance in filing complaints, makes referrals to other community service agencies, and provides support and encouragement to crime victims.

Rios has worked tirelessly with other community agencies to develop programs that range from Operation Play Safe within the LGBT communities to LGBT domestic violence training for police officers. He participates in LGBT sensitivity training programs for new recruits at the Chicago Police Academy. He assisted in developing—and starred in—two diversity training videos that the Chicago Police Department uses to familiarize personnel with LGBT issues. He has also provided specialized awareness training for members of Chicago’s deaf LGBT community.

A native Chicagoan, Rios received his bachelor’s degree in law enforcement management from Calumet College of St. Joseph. He is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, English, and American Sign Language for the Deaf.

As an openly gay police officer, Jose Rios serves as a role model for other professionals, both within the law enforcement community and the greater civilian population.
THE REV. STAN SLOAN

The Rev. Stan Sloan is the longest-serving CEO in the history of Chicago House, which provides housing and supportive services to HIV-affected families and individuals who may also be affected by poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness.

Over the past decade, Sloan has led Chicago House out of annual deficits while more than doubling its services and revenue. An Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Chicago, he has been a leader in the homeless and AIDS service communities for more than 15 years.

Sloan has been an innovator with regard to HIV/AIDS issues, developing a citywide Centers for Disease Control Prevention Program. Most recently, he has led Chicago House in pioneering Chicago’s first HIV/AIDS Employment Initiative, opening the doors of Sweet Miss Giving’s Bakery as a job training site in 2008. Today, the bakery’s products are sold at more than 50 locations in and around Chicago, with more than half of the profits going to Chicago House.

A native of Guthrie, Oklahoma, who has lived in Chicago for the past 20 years, Sloan cites “a couple of master’s degrees and over a dozen years in working with the homeless and HIV/AIDS-affected” as his training for the work he has undertaken. He was the founding president of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness, and in that capacity he successfully lobbied for increased housing for people with disabilities. He co-chairs the board of the Chicago Housing for Health Partnership and is a former American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois board member. Sloan also serves on the Museum of Contemporary Art’s Audience Development and Diversity Committee, on the Chicago Community Trust’s Advisory Board for People with Disabilities, and on an advisory committee for the American Public University System.

For more than a decade, Sloan served as the chaplain of St. Gregory’s Episcopal School, an inner-city institution that served kindergarten through eighth grade, and he is a former pastor of the Caribbean American parish of SS. George and Matthias in Chicago’s Roseland neighborhood.

In 2006, Sloan received a Human Relations Award from the Chicago Commission on Human Relations for his work with the city’s LGBT, homeless, and religious communities. More recently, he was the recipient of an Illinois Department of Public Health Red Ribbon Award and the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago’s Advocate of the Year Award, both in recognition of his efforts on behalf of those experiencing homelessness and HIV/AIDS.
MARK E. WOJCIK

Mark E. Wojcik joined the faculty of The John Marshall Law School in 1992. Today, as professor of law, he is an inspiration to students “as a professor, a mentor, and as the best resource any GLBT individual in Chicago could hope for.”

Wojcik, a native of Evergreen Park, graduated from Bradley University and received his initial law degree from John Marshall and a master’s degree in law from New York University. While a student at John Marshall, he founded the Gay and Lesbian Law Association (GALLA), which is still in existence. After graduation, he clerked for judges on the Nebraska Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of International Trade.

In 1997, Wojcik founded the Chicago Bar Association’s Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, for which he has served as chair and vice chair. The committee provides unprecedented opportunities for open discussion of issues faced by gay and lesbian lawyers as well as their clients and constituents. He has also served as a board member and president of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.

In 2004, the Northern Illinois University Law Review published his article, “The Wedding Bells Heard Around the World: Years from Now, Will We Wonder Why We Worried About Same-Sex Marriage?” just before Massachusetts made marriage equity a reality for same-sex couples. He was co-author of the first legal casebook on AIDS law and has published a number of articles on legal issues affecting LGBT communities, including HIV status, immigration, relationship matters, AIDS and funeral directors, and other legal questions of marriage equity.

Wojcik has also been active in promoting legislative change at the state and federal level, including help in advancing the sexual-orientation amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act, lobbying for civil unions and marriage equity, and advocating for repeal of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Mark Wojcik’s students offer perhaps the best testimony to his efforts on behalf of LGBT communities when they aver that, as one of them says, he “was right there with us, encouraging and motivating us to learn more about the difficult legal situations faced by many in our community.”
At the end of August 2010, Asians and Friends Chicago completed a year of events celebrating its 25th anniversary, including a black-tie fundraiser that collected $12,000 for a local AIDS-awareness charity and an orphanage run by Carmelite sisters in the Philippines, a “naked sushi” fundraiser with partly clothed male models as serving trays, and a “25 and Growing” plant-themed float in Chicago’s 2010 Pride Parade.

Founded in 1984 in a time before Facebook—and even before e-mail—AFC provided an opportunity for gay men of Asian descent to engage in social interaction with the larger gay community more confidently. Today, as the group enters its second quarter-century, technology has advanced, yet a stigma attached to Asian men by many in the gay majority can still be palpable. As AFC puts it, “being minimized for the shape of one’s eyes, accent, or physical form leads to animosity, distrust, and self-hate.” AFC has worked to create a supportive social network, encouraging the embrace of heritage while directing both inner and outer negativity toward positive social experiences for gay men of Asian descent and their friends.

Today, AFC manages a 250-member database and hosts at least two gatherings a month averaging around 20 attendees each, with a Chinese New Year celebration topping 70 this year. Community service activities have included pass-the-hat collections at local gay bars to raise money for Thai tsunami victims, a bachelor auction that took in over $2,000 for AIDS-awareness education in Chicago public schools, and ongoing collaboration with Asian Human Services that includes outreach and HIV-risk reduction.

In 2006, AFC organized several social events for athletes participating in Gay Games VII. The organization has helped to inspire similarly named groups elsewhere and has hosted three International Friendship Weekends for more than 200 registrants from around the world, who came together to celebrate diversity and camaraderie while enjoying a safe, fun weekend among friends. AFC also organized a reception for George Takei, who appeared as Mr. Sulu on the Star Trek television series, when he served as grand marshal of Chicago’s 2006 Pride Parade.

The group has organized cultural events, such as meals featuring Filipino, Thai, Chinese, and Vietnamese cuisines; viewings of David Henry Hwang’s M. Butterfly and Golden Child; and mah-jongg nights in collaboration with the Wild Pug bar in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood. AFC has participated in several of the annual Pride Parades and has collaborated on events with Long Yang Club Chicago, West Suburban Gay Association, and Windy City Times.

Relatively few organizations get to celebrate their silver anniversaries. For more than 25 years, Asians and Friends Chicago has served the community by providing fellowship, entertainment, and a sense of belonging.
INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER

Founded in 1979, International Mr. Leather is one of the oldest LGBT institutions in Chicago and the United States. For more than three decades, IML has made far-reaching contributions in Chicago’s gay business, entertainment, health, and tourism arenas. Named “the granddaddy of all leather events” by San Francisco’s Bay Area Reporter, IML brings thousands of gay men to Chicago annually on Memorial Day weekend. In recent years, the event has also been attracting women and people of all sexual orientations to its festivities. This homegrown contest has brought people from around the world to Chicago over the years.

IML was founded by Chuck Renslow and Dom Orejudos, both of whom are previous inductees into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. The organization’s history reflects that of the greater LGBT communities: Often led by the commitment and passion of its titleholders, IML has, over the years, confronted and publicly addressed issues such as AIDS, racism, sexism (and other forms of discrimination), addiction and recovery, crystal meth, and barebacking. The IML stage has been shared by various races, religions, and nationalities, with contestants representing gay, non-gay, bisexual, and transgender people. While women have not competed, IML was instrumental in establishing and supporting the International Ms Leather competition and has placed women on its own yearly panel of judges.

As an event that brings sexually adventurous individuals together, IML has enjoyed a unique opportunity to stress the importance of safe sex. In 2009, the organization made a decision that took the importance of safe sex in the gay leather community to a new level when it banned the sale or promotion of barebacking films or parties at IML events. The group received a great deal of negative publicity from erotic film companies and their supporters and may have turned away some attendees, but the policy made IML’s commitment to safe sex advocacy perfectly clear.

Since the Leather Archives & Museum was founded in Chicago in 1991, IML has been that institution’s largest financial supporter. The LA&M is the only institution in the United States dedicated to the preservation of and access to leather and fetish sexuality, with a collection of papers, records, artifacts, art, and memorabilia that attracts both scholars and casual tourists from around the world. Without the financial support of IML, the museum would not be where it is today, as the only leather organization in the country to own its own building.

International Mr. Leather is both a long-lived community institution and one of the many reasons that Chicago is a great place for LGBT individuals to live, work, and visit.
The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois has a proud Chicago lineage. The national ACLU was founded in 1920 by Roger Baldwin, along with prominent Chicago activists Jane Addams, Duncan McDonald, and Clarence Darrow. Six years later the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, the forerunner of the ACLU of Illinois, opened its offices on Washington Street. The Illinois affiliate was formally incorporated into the national ACLU in 1946.

For several decades, the fight for LGBT rights has been an essential component of the ACLU’s mission to advance equality and end discrimination. Few other organizations in Chicago can match the ACLU’s long-term contributions to the quality of life of the city’s LGBT communities. Through legislation and litigation on issues ranging from relationship recognition to workplace discrimination to birth certificates for transgender individuals and advocacy on behalf of LGBT youth, the ACLU has been an important friend and ally.

One ACLU case involving LGBT discrimination dates from the late 1980s, when it filed suit against the Northeastern Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group as a result of a raid on Carol’s Speakeasy, a popular Chicago gay bar. Police subjected bar patrons to physical and verbal harassment, detained them for an unreasonable amount of time, and forced them to provide private information and sign waiver-of-rights forms against their will for fear of physical harm.

At the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s, the ACLU led efforts in Illinois to ensure that the epidemic would be treated as a public health crisis and not be seen as a reason to discriminate against gay men and others with HIV/AIDS. In 1984, ACLU staff served as primary authors of the Illinois AIDS Confidentiality Act, the first law in the United States expressly to protect the rights of individuals with HIV. Efforts to protect HIV/AIDS-affected individuals from unjust discrimination have proceeded throughout the intervening decades. One recent legislative victory is a change in state policy that bans discrimination against individuals with HIV/AIDS by hospitals, doctors, dentists, psychologists, social workers, colleges, and insurance companies.

The ACLU provides free legal advice or representation to hundreds of LGBT persons annually. In addition to legal advice, the organization actively engages in public education efforts aimed at informing members of Chicago’s LGBT communities about their legal rights and the procedures for challenging discrimination. Through precedent-setting litigation, lobbying efforts, and legal advice and representation, the ACLU has proved itself to be a lasting friend to LGBT individuals and communities in Chicago and Illinois.
The Chicago History Museum has boldly undertaken the challenge of documenting Chicago’s rich history in general since it was founded as the Chicago Historical Society in 1856. CHM has proved its outstanding commitment to Chicago’s LGBT history, in particular, through programming that highlights the struggles, triumphs, and everyday experiences of the city’s LGBT communities.

Since its inception in 2004, the Out at CHM event series has featured thought-provoking discussions of LGBT experiences in Chicago and nationwide, inviting scholars to speak in detail about the history of LGBT communities. Topics have ranged from drag balls to lesbians in the ballpark, from gay liberation to transgender activism, and from gays and gospel to Richard Nixon as gay liberationist and to changes in Chicago’s landscape of gay neighborhoods, invariably providing depth and perspective to Chicagoans’ understanding of LGBT issues. The series has been invariably well-attended and extremely well-received.

In May 2011, CHM will unveil a major exhibition, “LGBT Chicago,” that will showcase compelling stories from the city’s LGBT history in intricate detail. CHM intends to draw from a rich collection of costumes, paintings, photographs, archival records, film/video, and audio recordings to illuminate the stories of notable public figures, such as Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame inductee Jane Addams or blues icon Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, along with the stories of lesser-known LGBT pioneers. In addition to the exhibit itself, a number of ancillary programs are being planned, including an LGBT film festival, a teen media project, pub crawls, a walking tour of Joliet Prison, a Leather Archives & Museum tour, and a Halloween drag ball.

The museum’s outreach to Chicago’s LGBT communities has further affirmed CHM’s commitment to LGBT history by actively engaging local organizations and leaders to create programs for the Out at CHM series and inviting many local luminaries to co-sponsor or lead events, including Hall of Fame inductees Vernita Gray, John D’Emilio, and Center on Halsted.

By helping to bring Chicago’s hidden LGBT history to light, the Chicago History Museum has significantly contributed to the city’s LGBT communities, preserving some of their storied legacies for generations to come.
ANGEL ABCEDE (2003): To help prevent more AIDS deaths, he drew on experience as a dancer, choreographer, and writer to form the Sex Police in 1990. Its shows have brought anti-AIDS messages to high school students throughout the Chicago area. He is now president of Asians and Friends Chicago.

ABOUT FACE THEATRE (2003): It is a leading force in Chicago theater, an emerging national center for LGBT theater, and an important resource for education about sexual-minority issues in Chicago schools. Its Youth Theatre component is nationally recognized.

ACT UP/CHICAGO (2000): The group, which lasted until 1995, was the local chapter of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, a national organization committed to using direct action and civil disobedience to fight AIDS. It challenged both institutional responses to AIDS and homophobic discrimination.

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF PROUD BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (1993): The committee was formed in 1993 to create positive gay and lesbian visibility in Chicago’s African American community and to march openly in the 65th annual Bud Billiken Parade. After filing and mediating a human rights charge, the group marched and was warmly received.


JANE ADDAMS (posthumous 2008): During her lifetime (1860–1935) she fought for rights of the disenfranchised here and elsewhere. Best-known for founding one of the nation’s first settlement houses, she was also the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She had at least two long-term same-sex relationships, one of which lasted 40 years. She is a true Chicago icon, and her passionate work on behalf of peace, justice, and equality makes her an exemplary role model.

AFFINITY COMMUNITY SERVICES (2002): Since 1994, the group has become a leading organization serving black lesbian and bisexual women by fostering visibility, empowerment, and leadership with programming that addresses health, networking and socialization, and social justice issues.

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO (2009): Since 1985, it has been an invaluable leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in improving the lives of those affected by the epidemic. It funds, coordinates, and collaborates with service programs, besides conducting public-policy advocacy. It has distributed more than $15 million for HIV prevention, care, and advocacy.

AIDS LEGAL COUNCIL OF CHICAGO (2003): Formed in 1988, the group has helped more than 15,000 persons with free legal assistance, conducted educational outreach efforts, and engaged in public advocacy on behalf of persons affected by HIV.

ORTEZ ALDERSON (posthumous 1991): Born in 1952, he was an actor and activist who, among other achievements, helped to organize the People of Color AIDS Conference. He died of complications from AIDS in 1991.
AVA ALLEN (1999): Longtime owner of what was the city’s oldest lesbian bar, Lost & Found, she maintained it as a home away from home for generations of lesbians and, through it, helped to raise thousands of dollars to fight cancer and meet women’s health needs.

AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS—CHICAGO CHAPTER (2007): Throughout its 19-year history, the group has served as a voice for LGBT veterans; provided them with moral, financial, and social support; and served as an effective advocate for them in the Chicago area.

JACQUELINE ANDERSON (1996): As educator and writer, she has contributed to academic discussion of lesbianism and feminism. She helped to launch a Lesbian Community Cancer Project clinic on Chicago’s South Side; led Yahimba, which held citywide conferences on African American lesbians’ needs; and has supported the Institute of Lesbian Studies, the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, and Gerber/Hart Library.

MARGARET ANDERSON and JANE HEAP (posthumous 2006): This couple were key figures in Chicago’s literary renaissance of the early 20th century. Through their avant-garde journal The Little Review, they provided an early forum for some of the era’s greatest thinkers and writers. Born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1883, Heap died in London in 1964. Anderson, born in Indianapolis in 1886, died in Le Cannet, France, in 1973.

TONI ARMSTRONG JR (1997): A leader since the 1970s in documenting, producing, and performing lesbian and feminist music, she has also been an openly lesbian high school teacher in the forefront of efforts to promote the welfare of lesbian and gay students and teachers.

SUZANNE ARNOLD (2008): A mainstay of local and national LGBT sports communities for more than two decades, she has served as female vice president of the Federation of Gay Games and as a co-chair of Team Chicago and Chicago 2006, Inc. She was sports co-director for Chicago’s Gay Games VII and has consistently worked to create safe spaces for LGBT athletes on all levels to compete proudly and openly.

ARTEMIS SINGERS (2008): Founded in 1979 as the first lesbian chorus in the United States, it continues to perform at lesbian, LGBT, and women’s events to the present. Artemis has been an important part of Chicago’s lesbian feminist cultural life through the years. It is composed of women from diverse backgrounds but with a common commitment to exposing audiences to music written by women and to sharing a sense of community.

ASSOCIATION OF LATIN MEN FOR ACTION (2000): Known as ALMA (Spanish for “soul”), it has offered a place for bisexual and gay Latinos to address their issues, both as sexual-minority members of Latino communities and as ethnic-minority members of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities.

MIGUEL AYALA (1997): He helped to start the first school-approved organization for lesbian, bisexual, and gay students in any Chicago public high school; helped to form and then led a national alliance of such groups; and was the first openly gay honorary student member of the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees. He now lives in Washington, D.C., and is deputy press secretary to U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

BAILIWICK REPERTORY’S PRIDE SERIES (1996): Starting in the late 1980s, the annual Pride Series presented well over 100 gay and lesbian plays, musicals, and performance pieces as part of the only regional theater in America with an ongoing programming arm serving the lesbian and gay communities. The series also financially empowered nonprofit lesbian and gay organizations through benefit performances.
TRACY BAIM (1994): She has labored untiringly as publisher, reporter, editor, columnist, photographer, and advocate for more than 25 years in offering a voice to all. In 2000, her company bought the Windy City Times, which she had helped to found in 1985. She co-founded the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce as well as Chicago 2006, Inc. In 2008, she set up the chicagogayhistory.com website and edited a first-of-its-kind history book, Out and Proud in Chicago. In 2010, she produced another book, Obama and the Gays.

JOHN J. BALESTER (1999): He was a leader of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force and in 1990 was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to chair the city’s Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. He worked to improve liaison between city government and activist organizations of all stripes.

CARRIE BARNETT (1998): She co-founded People Like Us Books, which at the time was Chicago’s only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore and which helped to nurture the local literary community. She also headed the Gerber/Hart Library board and co-chaired large fundraisers for community organizations.

ROBERT SLOANE BASKER (1993, now deceased): He founded Mattachine Midwest in 1965, began Chicago’s first gay and lesbian telephone hotline, and started discussions with police amid arbitrary raids and arrests. He also took part in pre-Stonewall national organizing and in Dade County organizing during the Anita Bryant era. Born in 1918 in New York, he remained an activist for a variety of causes until his death in San Francisco in 2001.

LORRAINNE SADE BASKERVILLE (2000): She founded transGenesis in 1995 as an agency to address concerns of persons in the city’s transgender community, such as gender identity, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, sex work, harm reduction, and self-empowerment. She served on several Chicago organizational boards and later moved to Thailand.

PAULA BASTA (2009): She has set new standards for supporting the needs of aging LGBT persons by both government and private sectors. Besides this, as a former Equality Illinois board president, she has helped to widen the base of LGBT activism through involving more women and encouraging attention to women’s rights.

DAVID BRIAN BELL (posthumous 1999): After being diagnosed with AIDS, he became a visible public advocate for persons with HIV/AIDS and helped to build support, information, and protest networks for use in their struggle.

CARYN BERMAN (1995): A psychotherapist and social worker, for more than two decades she has worked professionally and as a volunteer and political activist to improve Chicagoans’ lives. Focusing on the health and civil rights of lesbians and gay men, she has also skillfully built coalitions and has been an influential HIV/AIDS educator and policymaker.

ALEXANDRA BILLINGS (2005): As a transgender actor, she has gained prominence both onstage and as a mentor, fundraiser, and educator on sexual-minority issues and the importance of living with AIDS.

DAVID BLATT, M.D., and DAVID MOORE, D.O. (2007): For more than 25 years, Drs. Blatt and Moore have been outstanding advocates and champions of the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, putting a human face on AIDS and offering compassionate and personal attention to patients at a difficult time.
KEVIN G. BOYER (2008): He served as president of Chicago’s Gerber/Hart Library and as a member of the original coordinating committee for the national Gay and Lesbian History Month. He was a co-founder of the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and has been an effective fundraiser for many causes, including Chicago’s Gay Games VII in 2006. He was also active in preparing for 2010’s Gay Games VIII in Cologne, Germany.

LORA BRANCH (2001): A public health professional, video producer, and community activist, she has directed Chicago’s Office of Lesbian and Gay Health and the city’s STD/HIV Prevention and Care Programs; produced an acclaimed HIV/AIDS video, Kevin’s Room; and co-chaired Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays.

CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN (2007): As the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate, and throughout her entire political career, she has been a staunch and outspoken supporter of LGBT rights and marriage equality. She opposed the U.S. military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy at a time when many others were willing to accept it as a compromise. For this, she was selected as a Friend of the Community.

MICHAL BRODY (2008): A Chicago native, she was a founding member of Chicago Gay Liberation in 1969, helped to found Chicago Lesbian Liberation, and helped to produce the newspaper Lavender Woman. She also contributed to the early years of women’s music in Chicago at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse. In 1993 she co-founded the Institute of Lesbian Studies. She now teaches Mayan linguistics at the Universidad de Oriente in Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico.

ROGER BROWN (posthumous 2004): Through his internationally known paintings as a leader of the movement called Chicago Imagism, he commented pointedly on social issues, urban infrastructure, nature, history, and events both personal and societal. He also was a noted collector. Born in Hamilton, Alabama, in 1941, he died in Atlanta of complications from AIDS in 1997. Two of his mural locations are the Howard Brown Health Center and the façade of 120 North LaSalle Street.

BUDDIES’ RESTAURANT AND BAR (2003): From 1988 to its closing in 2004, it was a neighborhood business with a true sense of community, financially supporting innumerable good causes and encouraging its clientele to be themselves in a safe, supportive atmosphere.

ROBBIN BURR (2007): As a result of her efforts, American Airlines became the first major U.S. air carrier to implement domestic partnership benefits. She served as the first executive director of Center on Halsted, where her nationally recognized credibility and leadership were integral to completing its construction and solidifying relationships with donors, community leaders, and community organizations.

GEORGE S. BUSE (1994, now deceased): As journalist, activist, actor, and minister, he made his mark on Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities. A subject of Studs Terkel’s The Good War and the video documentary Before Stonewall, he was a World War II Marine veteran (discharged from a later Navy chaplaincy for being gay) and a civil rights and anti–Vietnam War activist. Born in 1924, he died in 2000.

JAMES A. BUSSEN (1994): Since 1973, his engaging personality and senses of humor and fairness have aided many Chicago gay and lesbian efforts. Besides much activity in gay rights lobbying and fundraising, he is a longtime leader of Dignity/Chicago, the organization for lesbian and gay Roman Catholics, and was president of Dignity/USA from 1985 to 1989.
CHEF TANIA CALLAWAY (posthumous 2003): As an out lesbian and organizer of community events, she ran house parties that were legendary in Chicago’s African American lesbian community and beyond. She often donated services and was chef at the Heartland Cafe for some 10 years. Born in 1952, she died in 2000.

LORI CANNON (1994): She was named a Friend of the Community for her work with Chicago House and the NAMES Project and for co-founding ACT UP/Chicago and Open Hand Chicago. For Open Hand, she raised funds, handled public relations, and oversaw a food pantry’s development.

EVETTE CARDONA (2002): As an organizer, she has helped to lead or found organizations such as Women of All Cultures Together, Amigas Latinas, the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, and the Center on Halsted Steering Committee. As a philanthropic administrator, she has helped to fund groups serving historically underrepresented community sectors.

MEGAN CARNEY (2005): In About Face Youth Theatre and other theatrical work, she has changed the landscape of Chicago’s sexual-minority communities through her commitment to the healthy development of LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, allied) youth. Her work has also addressed other social justice issues such as racism and homelessness.

C. C. CARTER (2002): Since her 1996 Chicago arrival, she has been a writer, poet, and performer and has helped to develop audiences for poetry, music by women of color, writing by women in prison, African American literature and art, and women’s health awareness. As a fundraiser and board member, she has helped to sustain numerous groups.

ALDO CASTILLO (2005): A tireless fundraiser, an ardent and expert advocate of Latin American art, and a committed human-rights activist, this openly gay, openly HIV-positive, and award-winning gallery owner and curator has blazed trails of distinction since coming to Chicago from Nicaragua in 1985. In 2010, he moved to Florida to become associate director of the Miami International Art Fair.

ROBERT CASTILLO (2001): An almost indefatigable organizer, when inducted into the Hall of Fame at age 33 he already had a decade’s history of committed work in launching or supporting grassroots sexual-minority campaigns involving Latinas and Latinos, gender-identity bias, homophobic violence, neighborhood activism, history, human rights laws, and HIV/AIDS.

ARMAND R. CERBONE, Ph.D. (2003): He has applied psychological research to LGBT concerns and has worked to guide psychology toward an enlightened understanding of the lives of sexual minorities. He co-wrote official guidelines on psychotherapy with lesbian, gay, and bisexual clients and has held leadership posts in state and national professional groups.

ROGER “RJ” CHAFFIN (1997): One of Chicago’s most visible gay businesspersons for more than 25 years and a reliable volunteer for gay and lesbian and AIDS groups, he has produced numerous large charitable and special events, raised thousands of dollars for local organizations, given his own money as well, co-produced a hate crimes documentary film, and been an active member of business groups.

SAMSON CHAN (posthumous 1995): During a short, courageous life, he built a legacy of social change here and overseas. In 1984 at age 23 he co-founded and became first president of Asians and Friends—Chicago, a group for gay Asians and non-Asians that is now replicated in other cities internationally. After failing to gain permanent U.S. residence in the face of exclusionary policies, he returned to Hong Kong in 1991, became a pioneering, visible gay and AIDS organizer there, but died of AIDS complications in 1995.
JOHN CHESTER (1994): He has been a leader in lesbian and gay rights efforts, philanthropic organizing, Chicago House development, and both gay and non-gay religious activism since 1971. At the same time, he has been much involved in political organizations and election campaigns. Since the late 1960s he has also aided programs for affordable housing and community development. He retired to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2004, where he is still involved in gay and electoral organizing.

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (2003): Since 1993, it has represented a citywide coalition of individuals and groups dedicated to social change and development through activism and visibility both in communities of color and in LGBT communities.

CHICAGO GAY MEN’S CHORUS (2001): Since 1983, it has offered audiences a mixture of choral ensemble and musical theater presented by more than 1,000 past and present members, who have also appeared at benefits and represented Chicago nationwide.

CHICAGO HOUSE AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY, INC. (1994): Opening its first facility in 1986, this was Chicago’s first grassroots agency to respond to immediate housing needs of persons with HIV disease and AIDS. It established the Midwest’s first “continuum of care” within supportive housing for such persons, accommodating residents ranging from those with an initial HIV diagnosis to those with late-stage AIDS.

CHICAGO 2006, INC./GAY GAMES VII (2007): The board and staff of Chicago 2006, Inc., brought a great gift of pride, athletic competition, and celebration to LGBT Chicagoans in the form of Gay Games VII, planning and coordinating a series of sporting events that encompassed Chicago and several suburban venues.

GARY G. CHICHESTER (1992): He has provided more than 35 years of commitment and work to the gay and lesbian communities. In 1971 he co-founded the Chicago Gay Alliance, which created Chicago’s first gay and lesbian community center. He has served on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues since 1989 and has sat on the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Committee from its inception in 1991 (chairing or co-chairing it since 1992).

E. KITCH CHILDS, Ph.D. (posthumous 1993): She was a prominent clinical psychologist and advocate of gay and lesbian human rights legislation since 1973 as a feminist, lesbian activist, and founding member of the Association for Women in Psychology. She worked to revise the American Psychological Association’s attitudes toward homosexuality. Born in 1937, she died in 1993.

THOMAS R. CHIOLA (1998): He was the first openly gay candidate elected to public office in Illinois, winning a Cook County Circuit Court judgeship in 1994. While on IMPACT’s board and as a state agency’s general counsel, he lobbied to pass state and county sexual-orientation nondiscrimination laws. He also is a veteran leader in the gay sports movement and is a longtime AIDS volunteer.

ANN CHRISTOPHERSEN (1992): As a successful businesswoman (of Women & Children First bookstore), she has provided a positive role model and developed activities and programs to meet the needs of Chicago’s gay and lesbian community.

CHRISTOPHER CLASON (posthumous 2004): After launching a career as a locally popular singer-comic and actor, he was diagnosed with HIV and soon led in creating Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) in 1987, serving as its first executive director. Born in 1953, he died in 1991.
CHARLES E. CLIFTON (posthumous 2004): For nearly 15 years before his 2004 death at age 45, the last nine of those years in Chicago, he advocated for the health of persons living with HIV/AIDS. He was Test Positive Aware Network’s executive director and Positively Aware editor, directed the Men of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition, and assisted numerous other efforts to fight AIDS.

SAM COADY (2008): He has been a leader and supporter in Chicago’s LGBT athletic community since moving here in 1986, serving as a co-chair of Gay Games VII and on the boards of numerous organizations. He has also been a strong advocate for workplace equality. He is known for his passionate belief that the LGBT athletic community empowers and advances the whole range of LGBT communities here and nationally.

JERROLD E. COHEN (posthumous 1993): He helped to form more than a dozen groups, including Chicago Gay Liberation, Chicago Gay Alliance, Windy City Gay Chorus, and Chi-Town Squares. He played a key part in the NAMES Project’s Chicago chapter and was a charter member of Test Positive Aware Network. Born in 1943, he died of AIDS complications in 1991.

CONGREGATION OR CHADASH (2006): Founded in 1975, in response to the prejudice and invisibility that LGBT Jews faced in mainstream synagogues, the congregation has provided a home where Chicago’s LGBT Jews can pursue religious, social, cultural, and educational interests.

R. SUE CONNOLLY (2003): As a bank officer, she has brought expertise, her employer’s resources, and her own to help charities, especially those serving sexual-minority communities. She has been a leader in the Chicago House social service agency, the Gay Games efforts of Chicago 2006, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Center on Halsted.

LOU CONTE (2009): A dancer, choreographer, and teacher, he founded Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in 1977 and led it to earn international acclaim. Its fusion of ballet and jazz styles has made it one of the most prominent U.S. dance companies and a worldwide cultural symbol of Chicago.

LORI A. COOPER (2009): As an out lesbian in the Chicago Police Department since 1992, she has been a pioneer in promoting liaison between police and LGBT Chicagoans, recruiting them for the force, fostering equal opportunity there, and heightening efforts against hate crimes and domestic violence.

T. CHRIS COTHRAN (1995, now deceased): He was a veteran member of PrideChicago, which plans the annual pride parade. He helped to lead local and national gay and lesbian business organizations; the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; Kupona Network; and the current Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues’ precursor entities. He died in 1996.

SARAH CRAIG (posthumous 1995): She joined GayLife’s staff in the late 1970s and rose to be co-editor. Then she started a typesetting business that helped many gay and lesbian groups. She became heavily involved in gay and lesbian political efforts and, as journalist and colorful speaker, pushed for a city gay rights bill. In the late 1980s she was associate editor of Windy City Times for five years. She died in 1994.

JACQUES CRISTION (posthumous 2006): A lifelong Chicagoan, he performed in, choreographed, and designed costumes for South Side drag balls and dance concerts. For several decades he hosted his own annual Halloween drag balls. He died in Chicago in 2003.
RICHARD M. DALEY (2006): His years in office as mayor of Chicago have marked the longest uninterrupted period of LGBT-inclusive policies in the city's municipal history. Since his election in 1989, Daley has consistently been one of the LGBT communities' most significant allies, for which he was inducted as a Friend of the Community.


JAMES C. DARBY (1997): After co-founding the Chicago chapter of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America (now American Veterans for Equal Rights), he tirelessly promoted it during a period of intense controversy over equal military service rights that continues today. He became recording secretary of the city’s Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs and ultimately national president of GLBVA. He is also an inveterate photodocumentarian of gay and lesbian public events.

SAMUEL F. DAVIS, JR. (posthumous 1994): From 1987, as entrepreneur and attorney, he developed a nurturing environment particularly for Chicago’s gay and lesbian African Americans. Bars he co-founded were Dëeks, Pangea, and the Clubhouse. He also aided the Kupona Network, the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, and the Reimer Foundation. Born in 1958, he died in 1993.

JACK DELANEY (1996): A supporter of many groups, he joined Dignity/Chicago in 1977 and later was its president and a member of DignityUSA’s board. He has chaired Chicago House’s board, served as Windy City Athletic Association commissioner, co-chaired the 48th Ward Gay and Lesbian Coalition, and sat on the boards of the Frank M. Rodde III Memorial Building Fund, the Illinois Federation for Human Rights PAC, and the Edgewater Community Council.

THE REV. GREGORY R. DELL (2008): Inducted as a Friend of the Community, he has served as an exemplary ally to LGBT communities in Chicago and beyond and as a model activist for social justice. He is a former pastor of Chicago’s Broadway United Methodist Church and is now retired. Involved for decades in issues of social change, he has been a pioneering and courageous supporter of same-sex unions in the face of opposition from his own church and elsewhere.

JOHN D’EMILIO (2005): His work in the field of LGBT history has had wide impact. He has published eight books and has been on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1999, where he is professor of history and of women’s and gender studies. His research was cited in the Supreme Court’s Lawrence v. Texas decision invalidating sodomy laws. He has lectured widely and served on numerous boards, including that of the Gerber/Hart Library for several years.

DIGNITY/CHICAGO (1997): Since 1972, the local Dignity chapter has served the needs of gay and lesbian Roman Catholics and advocated for the full participation of sexual minorities in church life. It has also been outspoken on issues of lesbian and gay rights in civil society.

TARRINA DIKES (2007): For many years, she has been a dynamic presence as one of the most dependable and committed lesbian members of Chicago’s LGBT communities. Her background in accounting and business operations was a significant asset to Gay Games VII, where she served as a member of the board’s executive committee and as board secretary.
LAURIE J. DITTMAN (1998): She has been active in local independent politics and in gay and lesbian organizing. She was a chief lobbyist during passage of city and county laws against sexual-orientation discrimination. A former official of IVI-IPO, IMPACT, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, she became a deputy city treasurer and the highest-ranking openly gay or lesbian Chicago city official at that time.

THOM DOMBKOWSKI (1992, now deceased): He was a leader in conceiving and organizing Chicago House and Social Service Agency, where he also was main fundraiser and then executive director. He also conceived the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and brought it to fruition while a member of the city Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Born in 1950, he died in 2006 of complications from AIDS.

KATHERINE “KIT” DUFFY (2008): In 1984 she was appointed by then-Mayor Harold Washington as his liaison to Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities, the city’s first such position. Then she became the AIDS Foundation of Chicago’s first executive director. After Washington died in 1987, she took part in 1988’s successful effort to pass a historic city ordinance against sexual-orientation discrimination. Inducted as a Friend of the Community, she remains an ardent advocate.

EDDIE DUGAN (EDWARD L. DAVISON, JR.) (posthumous 2008): A brilliant showman and popularizer, he helped invent the 1970s disco phenomenon and helped break new ground by getting corporations to sponsor events at gay clubs. He was an early supporter of many organizations, including the start-up of Gay Chicago Magazine. His legendary club, Dugan’s Bistro, still lives in the memories of many Chicagoans and their friends nationwide. Born in 1944, he died in 1987.

RANDY DUNCAN (1999): An internationally known choreographer, he has used his dance talents to raise funds to fight AIDS and to include gay and lesbian themes in his body of work. He was artistic director of Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre for seven years, and his works have been performed by other companies including the Joffrey Ballet. He currently chairs the Chicago Academy for the Arts’ dance department.

MURRAY EDELMAN, Ph.D. (2008): Born in Chicago and a founder and central figure in Chicago Gay Liberation, he worked to develop public, visible, and militant LGBT activism during the movement’s early years. He was later responsible for path-breaking work to have gay, lesbian, and bisexual self-identification made part of electoral exit polling.

KEITH ELLIOTT (2001): A dancer, choreographer, and producer, since 1992 he has organized Dance for Life fundraisers and ancillary events to benefit dancers and others coping with HIV/AIDS. He has also contributed to other activities such as Howard Brown Health Center fundraisers and the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus.

EQUALITY ILLINOIS (2005): Formed in 1992 as the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, it joined in efforts to pass the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance in 1993 and then benefited all of Illinois in 2005 by leading to success a 31-year campaign for a statewide law against discrimination because of sexual orientation and, now, gender identity.

SARA FEIGENHOLTZ (2001): She was selected as a Friend of the Community for her service since 1995 as a state representative from the North Side’s 12th District in supporting human rights protection and in helping to win funds to fight HIV/AIDS and assist other community projects.

JAMES W. FLINT (1991): A well-known businessman, he is founder and owner of the Miss Continental Pageant, a national contest for female impersonators, and owns the long-established Baton Show Lounge and other businesses. He has also been active in Democratic Party politics.

JEANNETTE HOWARD FOSTER, Ph.D. (posthumous 1998): Born in 1895 in what is now Oak Park, she was an educator, librarian, translator, poet, scholar, and author of the first critical study of lesbian literature, Sex Variant Women in Literature (1956). She was also the first librarian of Dr. Alfred Kinsey’s Institute for Sex Research, and she influenced generations of librarians and gay and lesbian literary figures. She died in 1981 in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

ROBERT BONVOULOIR FOSTER (posthumous 2003): As an openly gay, high-achieving student and lawyer, he was chief founder of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and a volunteer attorney at Howard Brown Memorial Clinic. He died of AIDS complications in 1991. His bequest helped to open Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Chicago office.

FRONTRUNNERS/FRONTWALKERS CHICAGO (1995): Formed in 1982 as Frontrunners Chicago to promote running-related activities, the gay and lesbian club now has dozens of counterparts in this country and abroad. It is the largest walking and running club in Chicago and has raised thousands of dollars for lesbian and gay groups as well as AIDS, lesbian health, and general community charities.

HENRY BLAKE FULLER (posthumous 2000): Born in 1857, he was an author, poet, critic, and composer. He wrote novels and short-story collections that were set in Chicago. His 1896 play At Saint Judas’s was effectively the first play on a homosexual theme published in America. In 1919, he courageously published a philosophic novel centered on homosexual characters, Bertram Cope’s Year. He died in 1929.

FRANK GALATI (2004): An internationally known actor, director, screenwriter, and playwright, he has shed new light on the works of Gertrude Stein. He has been an ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company since 1985 and a Goodman Theatre associate director since 1986. He is also a professor emeritus at Northwestern University.

MARTIN GAPSHIS (2007, now deceased): He was a leader and role model for Chicago’s LGBT communities, noted not only for a wide range of philanthropic and fundraising efforts—benefiting Center on Halsted, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and a range of other organizations—but also for his ever-present humility and the depth of his kind and generous spirit. Born in Chicago in 1946, he died here of a heart attack on Aug. 30, 2010.

RICK GARCIA (1999): After moving to Chicago in 1986, he continued as a high-profile activist and helped to lead the final stage of a 15-year struggle to pass a 1988 ordinance against sexual-orientation discrimination. He was the founding executive director of Equality Illinois. In Roman Catholic circles, he also has worked extensively in behalf of the church’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adherents.

RICHARD GARRIN (1993): He was founding director of Windy City Gay Chorus and for more than 15 years brought musical excellence to local and national audiences, serving as an ambassador of goodwill for the gay and lesbian community.

JIM GATES (2002): Soon after his 1967 Chicago arrival, he was a leader in the early homophile organization known as ONE of Chicago. By 1975 he had opened Little Jim’s, North Halsted Street’s first gay bar, which helped to pave the way for the commercial district’s revitalization. This pioneer has consistently supported community charities and encouraged his customers to do so.
GAY CHICAGO MAGAZINE (1991): Founded in 1976 as *Gay Chicago News*, the magazine has continued to publish up-to-date information on lifestyle, entertainment, bar, and organization events in Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities.

CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (2000): Beginning in 1994, through organizing, advocacy, and in-school programming, the group benefited youth, staff members, and the community by fostering nondiscrimination in school settings. It has now merged into the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

HENRY GERBER (posthumous 1992): He was the founder of Chicago’s Society for Human Rights in 1924, the first gay rights organization in the United States. Born in 1892, he died in 1972.


RALPH PAUL GERNHARDT (2004, now deceased): Beginning in 1975, he brought news to Chicago through *Gay Chicago Magazine* and other media. He also launched and sponsored sports groups, organized fundraisers for a variety of causes, promoted safer sex, and raised thousands of dollars to fight HIV/AIDS. Born in 1934, he died of cancer in 2006.

FRANK GOLEY (posthumous) and ROBERT MADDOX (now deceased) (2001): They helped to pioneer openly gay businesses in Chicago beginning in 1972 with their Male Hide Leathers store. There, Goley created many designs that found favor with leather and motorcycle enthusiasts worldwide, gay and non-gay, for their originality and craftsmanship. Born in 1943, Goley died in 1994. Maddox, who was born in 1935, later sold the business and lived in Chicago until his death in 2009. Both of them were buried in Pineville, Kentucky.

ADRIENNE J. GOODMAN (1994): She was named a Friend of the Community for her commitment to lesbian and gay inclusion in politics. She chaired Grant L. Ford’s openly gay 1975 campaign for 44th Ward alderman. As City Council staffer and Democratic Party activist, she advocated for gay and lesbian rights.

THE GRAHAM FAMILY (2003): William, Nannette, Will, and Amelia Graham received a Friend of the Community award for efforts against racism and homophobia within their United Methodist denomination, including their pursuit of a sexual-orientation discrimination claim against a campground in Des Plaines.

JEFF GRAUBART-CERVONE (1993): He has been an activist and advocate for gay and lesbian human rights for more than 35 years in the Midwest and Chicago. He participated in the passage of human rights legislation, in the campaign to overcome the anti-gay and -lesbian efforts of Anita Bryant, and in 1970s demonstrations for same-sex marriage.

RICHARD LEE GRAY (1992): A professional social worker, he has committed himself since the 1970s to serve the needs of the African American gay and lesbian community. He has also developed and presented educational programs for gay and lesbian youth dealing with sexuality and health, as well as an African American LGBT photo exhibit, “We Are Here!”

VERNITA GRAY (1992): She organized a gay and lesbian hotline in 1969 and hosted support groups in her home. She has published extensively in literary and poetry magazines and was an early leader in the Chicago gay liberation movement. She has done much work in the Cook County state’s attorney’s office to aid crime victims and witnesses.
IDA GREATHOUSE (posthumous 1997): As mother and activist she drew national attention to the needs of herself and of others living with AIDS. She advocated visibly for increased AIDS funding and for special programs for women and children with AIDS. For this, she was selected as a Friend of the Community. Born in 1952, she died in 1995.

PEG GREY (1992, now deceased): She provided key leadership over two decades in building lesbian and gay athletic programs and organizations and in organizing lesbian and gay teachers, besides being a champion athlete herself. She helped in creating the annual Proud To Run race against AIDS, in forming Frontrunners Chicago, and in organizing Team Chicago. Born in 1945 in Chicago, she died in Hinsdale of complications from multiple myeloma in 2007.

ARLENE HALKO (1996, now deceased): After joining Dignity/Chicago in 1975, she became its first lesbian president and was on its board for five years. She co-founded Chicago House in 1985 and tirelessly assisted it. As a medical physicist, she was a familiar face on Cook County Hospital’s AIDS ward until 1993. As owner of Piggens Pub from 1982 to 1989 she used the bar as a community support vehicle. Born in 1933, she died in 2007.

JOEL HALL (1993): As impresario, choreographer, company founder, and dance instructor, he is one of Chicago’s cultural treasures. With international credentials and recognition, he is committed to the art of dance and the training and presentation of Chicago’s youth through the dance medium.

JOHN R. HAMMELL (posthumous 1997): As an American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois lawyer, he fought for gay and lesbian rights and for the rights of persons living with HIV and AIDS. He also helped to lead in other groups, including Howard Brown Health Center and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Born in 1957, he died of AIDS complications in 1995.

PHILIP A. HANNEMA (2000): For many years, he has provided ongoing and reliable volunteer support to a variety of Chicago gay and lesbian community organizations as staff member and officer, treasurer and photographer, cheerleader and fundraiser, and constant donor. He celebrated his 80th birthday in 2006 and is still actively involved.

RENEE C. HANOVER (1991): A well-known attorney who often provided her services pro bono, she was long a high-visibility advocate for lesbian and gay rights. She has worked for civil rights legislation of all kinds and has vigorously opposed all forms of discrimination in the law and in society. In 2000, she retired to Los Angeles, where she now lives at age 84.

LORRAINE HANSBERRY (posthumous 1999): Born in Chicago in 1930 and best known for A Raisin in the Sun, which in 1959 became the first play by an African American woman to open on Broadway, she was an early supporter of equal rights regardless of sexual orientation. Same-sex attraction figured in some of her work, and she is credited with writing two pro-lesbian 1957 letters in The Ladder, an early lesbian periodical. She died in 1965.

JEAN V. HARDISTY (1995): She helped to open Chicago’s first shelter for battered women; has written and organized for women’s social and health needs; and, besides private philanthropy, co-founded the Crossroads Fund, a nontraditional funder of many gay, lesbian, and AIDS groups. In 1981, she formed what is now Political Research Associates, of Cambridge, Mass., which educates the public on right-wing tactics.
JORJET HARPER (1998): For more than 25 years, she has commented on gay- and lesbian-related topics in publications throughout the country. Her “Lesbomania” columns and performances have tackled homophobia and built community through humor. Books include *Lesbomania* and *Tales from the Dyke Side*. More recently, she has been a speaker, editor, and educator in lesbian and gay issues and history. She is also an accomplished painter.

GREGORY “GREG” HARRIS (1996): As an openly gay man living with AIDS, he was chief of staff for 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith from 1992 to 2006 and helped to secure same-sex domestic partnership benefits for Chicago city government employees. He has given much volunteer time to AIDS-related causes and was co-founder and first president of AIDS Walk Chicago and Open Hand Chicago. In 2006, he succeeded retired state Rep. Larry McKeon of the North Side’s 34th District as the only openly gay Illinois state legislator then in office.

PEARL M. HART (posthumous 1992): She spent her entire legal career of 61 years defending the civil rights of all persons. Born in 1890, she died in 1975.

JANE HEAP (posthumous 2006): See MARGARET ANDERSON and JANE HEAP.

DERRICK ALLEN HICKS (1999, now deceased): He organized in the African American lesbian and gay communities of Chicago and Washington, D.C., for more than 20 years. He founded *Diplomat* magazine and helped to lead AIDS, political, and social service groups. Born in 1955, he died in 2002.


SARAH LUCIA HOAGLAND (2000): She has been a collective member of the Institute of Lesbian Studies and an influential exponent of lesbian feminist values during some 20 years on the faculty of Northeastern Illinois University, where she is professor of philosophy and women’s studies. Her work includes a 1988 book, *Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Value*.

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES (1992): Established in 1973 as Gay Horizons, the organization served as the Midwest’s largest and most comprehensive social service agency meeting the needs of Chicago’s diverse gay and lesbian community. The services traditionally provided by it now form the core of programming at Center on Halsted.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER (1991): Founded in 1974 as Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, it has distinguished itself as the Midwest’s leading provider of support services to and for people living with AIDS and HIV disease, and as an internationally recognized center for hepatitis and AIDS/HIV research.

TONDA L. HUGHES, Ph.D., R.N. (2003): She has made outstanding contributions to lesbian health. Besides innovative research, she has advised government and private health and social service agencies, led conferences, and made public educational presentations. She is a professor in the College of Nursing of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she heads the Department of Health Systems Science.

CHUCK HYDE (2001): While working away from the limelight as businessman and fundraising adviser, he has helped sexual-minority community organizations since 1982 to produce successful benefits and has assiduously fostered relationships between them and underwriters in the business community.
ANTONIO DAVID JIMENEZ (2001): A social service administrator and HIV/AIDS educator, he conducted more than a decade of innovative risk-reduction activism among African American and Latino men who have sex with men, chiefly as leader of the Minority Outreach Intervention Project.

JUDITH S. JOHNS (1991): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for her dedication to the gay and lesbian community in the development and promotion of programs and services in response to the AIDS pandemic. A former executive director of Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and assistant commissioner at the Chicago Department of Health for HIV/AIDS policies and programs, she is chief executive officer of Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc.

CAROL A. JOHNSON (1991): She was the Midwest AIDS Project Coordinator at the Service Employees International Union in Chicago. She led workshops for lesbians, lobbied for legislation, and worked to institute public policies favorable to the lesbian and gay community.

ARTHUR L. JOHNSTON (1998): For more than 30 years, he has been a community activist. As partner in the innovative video bar Sidetrack, he aided gay and lesbian businesses’ growth and made many contributions to charitable and political efforts. He was an early leader of what is now the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association and was a lead organizer in passing Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois human rights legislation.

IRA H. JONES (posthumous 1998): In Mattachine Midwest and other venues, for well over 20 years he was one of Chicago’s most visible, energetic spokespersons for sexual-minority rights. He was a leader in the gay and lesbian activist and business communities, involved in Episcopal religious circles as an openly gay advocate, committed to racial justice, and a worker in Regular Democratic organizations. Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1925, he died in Chicago of a heart attack in 1986.

STEPHEN (WANDA LUST) JONES (posthumous 2008): An entertainer and health advocate, he was known widely in Chicago’s gay communities in his 1970s drag persona, Nurse Wanda Lust. He served as the poster person for VD testing and is remembered by many for his tireless promotion of sexual health awareness. His life was cut tragically short in 1978, when he was murdered in Kansas City, where he had moved two years earlier.

RICK KARLIN (1997): During three decades, he has been a visible public figure in print and onstage. He has lent his talents to countless charitable events, co-founded the city’s first gay parents group, volunteered extensively for Horizons Community Services, been a leading advocate for gay and lesbian teachers, and contributed his writings to all the local gay and lesbian media.

NANCY J. KATZ (2000): She became the first self-identified lesbian judge in Illinois when she was named in 1999 as an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court. Her community and professional work dates to the 1970s in lesbian feminist, domestic violence, political, legal assistance, and family welfare settings.

CORINNE KAWECKI (1997): Beginning in 1985, she became a quiet but indefatigable volunteer and ultimately a leader at Horizons Community Services. She has also been active in women’s sports groups, the Chicago Abused Women’s Coalition, and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, serving as president of the latter.
CLIFFORD P. KELLEY (1998): A former Chicago City Council member, now a WVON radio host and an American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois board vice president, he is a Friend of the Community for becoming in 1973, at political risk, the pioneering lead sponsor of Chicago’s first proposed ordinance to ban sexual-orientation discrimination. His perseverance helped to get it taken seriously. Though his Council tenure had already ended, a version of the proposal finally passed in 1988.


NICK KELLY (1995): As an activist and a creative talent, he was a vibrant part of Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities for decades before moving to Wisconsin. He helped to organize Chicago Gay Liberation and the Chicago Gay Alliance as the 1970s dawned. As a graphic designer, he produced much material for Chicago gay and lesbian organizations. He was founding president of Toddlin’ Town Performing Arts, encompassing gay and lesbian band and choral groups, and later headed the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus.

BILLIE JEAN KING (1999): Building on her tennis stardom to create social change, she has elevated the self-esteem of girls and women through her lifelong struggle for equality in the sports world. She has also raised large sums to fight AIDS, has contributed funds to combat homophobia in schools, and has supported efforts to stem gay and lesbian teenage suicide rates.

DOROTHY KLEFSTAD (1998): She is a Friend of the Community for having begun a ceaseless career as a volunteer for lesbian, gay, and AIDS causes after learning that her daughter was a lesbian. This has been in addition to her ongoing volunteerism in non-gay church, cultural, health, and environmental activities.

FRANKIE KNUCKLES (1996): As producer, mixer, and DJ, he is the inventor and popularizer of “house” music, known worldwide as “Chicago house” and named after Chicago’s Warehouse nightclub, where he drew huge crowds between 1977 and 1982. He is now a DJ and album producer of international stature.

BRUCE KOFF (1994): He has significantly aided Chicago’s and the nation’s gay and lesbian communities in social services and mental health, especially from 1984 to 1990 as executive director of Horizons Community Services after being on its staff since 1976. He is now chief operating officer and a partner in a clinical and teaching practice in psychotherapy.

DANNY KOPELSON (2000): Since 1981, he has been a tireless arts and AIDS fundraiser and a mainstay of the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, of which he is a founding member. He has produced special events, including the annual Dance for Life, that have raised millions of dollars to fight AIDS.

SUZANNE MARIE KRAUS (2004): She has fostered social change through activism since 1977. She was a founder of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, helped to promote the 1993 March on Washington, developed sexual-minority outreach by the Cook County state’s attorney’s office, and was a leader of the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials. She is a member of the Lesbian Leadership Council of the Chicago Foundation for Women.
MARIE J. KUDA (1991): For more than 40 years, she has worked as activist, historian, archivist, writer, lecturer, and publisher to promote and preserve positive images of lesbians and gay men. She organized five national lesbian writers conferences, published the first annotated lesbian bibliography, *Women Loving Women*, and is still contributing to literary reference materials and writing articles.

JOE LA PAT (posthumous 2008): Born in 1943, he built a successful career restoring buildings in Chicago and, with his partner Dick Uyvari, supported many LGBT community organizations, as well as providing early seed money for Gay Games VII. He died unexpectedly in 2008 on the day of the annual Pride Parade, but his impact on countless individuals and organizations lives on.

LOUIS I. LANG (2002): As the state representative of Cook County’s 16th District, he has distinguished himself by his attention and commitment to human rights and human welfare. For this and for his support of AIDS funding and of laws against hate crimes and sexual-orientation discrimination, he was chosen as a Friend of the Community.

NANCY LANOUÉ (1993): She is a leader in the movement to combat violence against women and to promote their self-defense. Herself a survivor, she has also been a major leader in education, outreach, and service delivery for survivors of breast cancer.

MICHAEL A. LEPPEN (2001): As philanthropist, fundraiser, and board member, he has provided leadership and financial support for a large variety of nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area and elsewhere, many of them serving sexual-minority communities and addressing concerns such as HIV/AIDS, lesbian health, youth work, and mass media.

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (1999): Beginning in 1990 as the first effort of its kind in the Midwest, it provided one-on-one support, direct services, and peer support groups for women with cancer and their families of choice. It also educated medical providers about lesbian health needs. In 2007, it merged with Howard Brown Health Center to become the center’s Lesbian Community Care Project.

LESBiGAY RADIO (1998): Founded by Alan Amberg, for more than five years it was unique for presenting a Chicago-area radio broadcast serving a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender audience. It was the nation’s first such show in a daily drivetime slot. It launched many service projects, helped to publicize the activities of all community sectors, and achieved wide local and national recognition.

ELLIS B. LEVIN (1994): A state representative of Chicago’s North Side from 1977 to 1995, he was named a Friend of the Community for his longtime sponsorship of lesbian and gay rights bills, women’s rights measures, and other legislation addressing gay and lesbian, AIDS, and women’s health concerns.

LINCOLN PARK LAGOONERS (2004): This group, which developed from volleyball games regularly held in the park during the 1970s, is devoted to social interaction, organized activities, and charitable fundraising. It has contributed thousands of dollars over the years to groups fighting HIV/AIDS, cancer, and homophobia.

LIONHEART GAY THEATRE COMPANY (1994): It was the first Midwest performing arts organization to produce gay and lesbian works. This all-volunteer group under Rick Paul’s guidance mounted more than 40 original plays in more than 100 performances from the 1970s to 1994, often donating proceeds to lesbian and gay organizations.
MARCIA J. LIPETZ, Ph.D. (2009): Trained as a sociologist, for more than 30 years she has put her professional and leadership skills to work for Chicago nonprofit groups, among them the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Donors Forum of Chicago, and WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation. She is now president and CEO of the Executive Service Corps of Chicago.

PATRICIA M. LOGUE (2003): For more than 13 years since opening Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Chicago office, she worked tirelessly for full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT persons and persons living with HIV disease, here and nationally. Cases in which she led, including *Lawrence v. Texas*, established important precedents. In 2007, she became an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

PATRICIA S. McCOMBS (2000): She is a veteran organizer and social service volunteer. Besides co-founding Executive Sweet, a “traveling club” for women of color, she has assisted the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival for decades and has helped to lead several lesbian and African American organizations.

JEFFREY E. McCOURT (posthumous 2007): As founding publisher of *Windy City Times* newspaper, businessperson, theater producer, and activist, he made significant contributions to Chicago and its LGBT communities during the 1980s and 1990s. Born in Newburgh, New York, in 1955, he died in Chicago in 2007 of complications from HIV.

JOEY McDONALD (2009): He has moved from being an openly gay and honorably discharged sailor in the 1970s to years of involvement with the International Mr. Leather organization, assistance to Equality Illinois, and a long list of volunteer achievements in helping leathermen and other gay men cope with hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse, all in the unselfish name of “giving back to your community.”

MIKE McHALE (2005): During law school and as an assistant Cook County state’s attorney since 1991, as a leader of Equality Illinois, and as a neighborhood activist, he distinguished himself by professional excellence, personal openness, and mentorship. In 2006, he was elected a judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

LARRY McKEON (1997, now deceased): He made a historic mark on Chicago politics in 1996 by winning an Illinois House of Representatives seat as the state’s first openly gay or lesbian state legislator. Later he became known as openly HIV-positive and then a cancer survivor. In earlier life, he directed Chicago’s Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, worked in social service administration, and was a police officer. Born in 1944, he retired at the end of his term in January 2007 and died suddenly four months later in Springfield after a stroke.

HARLEY McMILLEN (1992): He played an important role in formation of the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, now known as the Howard Brown Health Center. He was instrumental in organizing the AIDS Action Project, which contributed in large part to development of the City of Chicago’s comprehensive AIDS Strategic Plan. He is now retired in Wisconsin.

SCOTT McPHERSON (1992, now deceased): He was one of the first openly gay, HIV-positive American artists, a renowned playwright and accomplished actor. He was the author of the critically acclaimed play *Marvin’s Room*, later made into a film. Born in 1959, he died of AIDS complications in 1992.

ROBERT MADDOX (2001, now deceased): See FRANK GOLEY and ROBERT MADDOX.
AMY MAGGIO (2009): She is widely known as a leader in many HIV/AIDS and LGBT organizations, for which she has increased donor and volunteer involvement and has helped to raise millions of dollars during more than two decades. Her marketing and development skills have been deployed in both for-profit and nonprofit health-care sectors, where she has focused on HIV/AIDS needs.

MARIGOLD BOWL (2006): From its opening in 1941 to its closing in 2004, Lake View’s Marigold Bowl, owned and operated by members of the Fagenholz family, was a vital neighborhood meeting place and charity outlet for gay and lesbian Chicagoans, standing as a beacon of inclusiveness in that neighborhood. For this, it was inducted as a Friend of the Community.

MATTACHINE MIDWEST (2002): From 1965 to 1986, the group carved a permanent place for itself in Chicago history as the city’s first enduring gay rights organization. Formed in a period of repression, it pursued a course of political activity, education, and social service that blazed paths for successor organizations. Many of its members have already died, but their contributions remain.

MERRY MARY (2005): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for her countless volunteer contributions since 1979 to Howard Brown Health Center, local choruses and Roman Catholic groups, Chi-Town Squares, Vital Bridges, and other community efforts.

METROPOLITAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION (1992): Now known as the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association, this group is a recognized leader in the Midwest and the nation in providing organized athletic activities, including local, national, and international athletic events.

JILL M. METZ (2006): Since the 1970s she has served Chicago’s LGBT communities through her law practice, civic activities, and personal commitment. She helped to found Tortoiseshell Productions and Footsteps Theater Company and has been involved with numerous legal and activist groups. She now is board president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

ELLEN A. MEYERS (2001): As a lesbian and gay political organizer and now deputy director of intergovernmental affairs for Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, she has spent more than 15 years in supporting human rights laws, persons affected by HIV/AIDS or aging, and electoral involvement.

CHARLES R. MIDDLETON, Ph.D. (2006): As president of Chicago’s Roosevelt University since 2002, he is the first openly gay man to serve as a major U.S. university president. He has been active in national education and civic boards and serves on the boards of several Chicago nonprofit and activist organizations.

TONY MIDNITE (1996, now deceased): After coming to Chicago in 1951 as a female impersonator, he opened a costume design studio and eventually worked 16-hour days to meet worldwide demand. He defied police disapproval of such shows in the early 1950s by booking the Jewel Box Revue for a sold-out run, which set a precedent. Born in 1926, he died in 2009 in Las Vegas, where he had moved in 2000.

CARLOS T. MOCK, M.D. (2007): He has provided years of dedicated service to Chicago’s LGBT communities as physician, activist, and author. He has been active in many organizations, including Orgullo en Acción, Equality Illinois, and Howard Brown Health Center.
The Rev. SID L. MOHN, D. Min. (1993): He was the first openly gay individual ordained in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. As president of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, he continues to be a prominent leader in Chicago’s nonprofit social service community, having major impact on policies and services to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, homeless, youth, and persons living with HIV and AIDS.


MARY F. MORTEN (1996): The first African American president of the National Organization for Women’s Chicago chapter, she contributed to books and created a video documentary on African American lesbians’ experiences. She campaigned for a revised home-based—business ordinance, chaired the Chicago Abortion Fund and the city Advisory Council on Women, and directed the city Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues and the city Office of Violence Prevention. She now heads her own social-change consulting firm.

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE FOR WOMYN AND CHILDREN (1993): It was the longest-lived, continuously running, women-only space in the nation. For more than 30 years, it presented lesbian—feminist—oriented culture and music. The collective was operated totally by volunteers and was open to all “womyn-born womyn” who wished to participate. It presented the final performances of its final season in 2005.

MULRYAN AND YORK, ATTORNEYS AT LA W (2004): Starting in 1989, this professional partnership formed by Mary M. York and Rosemary Mulryan has been a resource for specialized legal representation as well as a contributor of leadership and expertise to numerous nonprofit organizations. York, who was born in 1955, died of renal cancer in 2008; Mulryan continues in practice.

KATHRYN MUNZER (2001): As a social service professional and volunteer arts booker, she has spent more than 20 years in helping Chicago’s Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, in developing lesbian musicians and other artists, and in fostering lesbian culture.

NAMES PROJECT CHICAGO CHAPTER (2002): Since being formed in the wake of Washington’s 1987 AIDS Memorial Quilt display, Chicago’s NAMES Project chapter has been a Quilt custodian and has brought its message to schools, churches, and other venues during the continuing battle to bring an end to AIDS.

IFTI NASIM (1996): Born in Pakistan, he wrote *Narman*, an award-winning book of Urdu poetry said to be the first direct statement of gay longings and desires ever to appear in that language. Its courageous publication met with revilement but critical acclaim and inspired other Pakistani poets. He co-founded Sangat/Chicago and has been president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council of America.

EDWARD NEGRON (2006): He has provided years of dedicated service to Chicago’s LGBT, Latino/a, and recovering communities, promoting social welfare, justice, and LGBT health while speaking publicly about his life as a former addict, gang member, and drug dealer. He works as the housing assistance coordinator for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

CHARLES EDWARD NELSON II (2002): Since 1989, when he helped to found the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, he has worked on HIV-prevention programs for same-gender—loving men of color. Always self-identifying as gay, he developed a “down low” social categorization that has helped in devising new prevention programs for such men.
DAWN CLARK NETSCH (1995): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for her long and distinguished career of public service as Illinois constitution writer, legislator, and state comptroller, especially her support of lesbian and gay rights and of efforts against HIV/AIDS.

CHARLOTTE NEWFELD (1996): A civic activist and tenacious advocate for gay and lesbian Chicagoans since the early 1970s, this Friend of the Community lobbied for human rights ordinances, for a mayoral liaison and committee on gay and lesbian issues, and for increased city AIDS budgets. She led the Lake View Citizens’ Council’s board in support of a domestic partnership ordinance in 1996. For more than 30 years she has urged and actively backed gay and lesbian political participation.

MONA NORIEGA (2002): As an activist since the 1970s, she has developed programs to serve lesbian mothers and their families, organized programs for Latina lesbians and other lesbians of color, helped to open Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Midwest office, served as a business consultant, and co-chaired the original effort to bring the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago.

RENAE OGLETREE (1998, now deceased): She engaged in wide-ranging volunteer and professional activities that brought people together around issues of diversity, development, and health care within Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities. Besides activity in several LGBT groups, she was a health care activist, a professional youth services executive, and a public schools official. She co-founded and co-chaired Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays. Born in 1950 in Passaic, New Jersey, she died in Chicago on April 23, 2010, of complications from lung cancer.

DEAN ROBERT OGREN (1998): He is an exemplar volunteer who has tirelessly shared his talents with many organizations, including the NAMES Project, Open Hand Chicago, AIDS Walk Chicago, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, United Way, International Mr. Leather, and state Rep. Larry McKeon’s historic 1996 electoral campaign. He puts in more volunteer hours in a year than many do in a lifetime.

OPEN HAND CHICAGO (1994): Founded in 1988, it became Chicago’s only in-home meals program for persons living with AIDS and served more than 3 million meals. It expanded throughout the city, added other nutrition programs, and cooperated with other groups targeting specific ethnic populations. In 2002, it merged into the new Vital Bridges organization.

DOM OREJUDOS (posthumous 1992): He was a dancer and choreographer with the Illinois Ballet for 15 years, a respected businessman, a major figure in founding the International Mr. Leather pageants, and an internationally known artist, famous for his male physique studies drawn under the name Etienne. Born in 1933, he died of AIDS complications in 1991.


DAVID G. OSTROW, M.D., Ph.D. (1997): He has been a bold, innovative leader in addressing critical issues of gay men’s health for more than three decades. He was a co-founder of Howard Brown Health Center, has inspired and helped to lead major national HIV/AIDS studies, and is an award-winning writer and teacher in psychiatry, biochemistry, and epidemiology.
PFLAG/CHICAGO (2004): Inducted as a Friend of the Community, this chapter of the national Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays traces its local origins to a group organized by Guy Warner in 1977 called Parents of Gays. For serving both parents and their children so devotedly over the years, this group consistently receives acclaim whenever it makes a public appearance.

JOSÉ (PEPIN) PENA (1995): As a pioneering video artist at Sidetrack, he has created a unique style of showtune entertainment in a bar environment for thousands of Chicagoans and visitors to enjoy as they grow communally. With his business and domestic partner, Arthur L. Johnston, he has also helped make the bar into a source of political and financial support for AIDS work and lesbian and gay rights efforts.

JOHN PENNYCUCK (2003): On front lines, on sidelines, and behind the scenes, besides supporting reproductive choice and AIDS funding, he has been an outspoken, proud, and ceaseless activist since 1991 for sexual-minority rights in civil society and the United Methodist Church. His commitment, courage, and energy have made him a model for direct-action, educational, and political work toward equality.

CHILLI PEPPER (2007): For more than three decades, Chilli Pepper has entertained thousands of people as a female impersonator, serving as an ambassador for LGBT communities, building bridges with other communities, and gaining media exposure in the days when people barely acknowledged drag, drag queens, or HIV/AIDS.

ADRENE PEROM (1999, now deceased): She was a Friend of the Community whose North Side gay bar, Big Red’s, nurtured Chicago institutions in their growth during the 1970s and 1980s. She sponsored sports teams that were supportive social milieux for hundreds, held countless fundraisers, worked with other business owners, and helped to start and supported Chicago House. Born in 1935, she died in 2000.

LAIRD PETERSEN (2006, now deceased): A Chicago native, he contributed more than 25 years of service to LGBT communities, helping to raise more than $12 million for community-based organizations, working with Center on Halsted, on HIV/AIDS issues, and with Equality Illinois, and volunteering for numerous other organizations. He had been diagnosed with HIV for more than 27 years and died at age 53 on Oct. 6, 2010, in Richmond, Virginia, where he had moved with his partner of 16 years and where he became director of social services for the Fan Free Clinic.

RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993): For more than 35 years he has been an activist and an organizational volunteer. He headed the Chicago Gay Alliance (which ran the city’s first sexual-minority community center) and founded the Gay Activists Coalition (the first gay and lesbian organization at a City Colleges of Chicago campus). He is best known for leading PrideChicago, which facilitates the annual Pride Parade.

JIM PICKETT (2005): As writer, activist, openly HIV-positive gay man, and policy leader, he has played a prominent community role for more than a decade. He has worked to empower those in the LGBT and the HIV/AIDS populations to take responsibility for their health. He is now director of advocacy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

MARY D. POWERS (1992): She was recognized as a Friend of the Community for what is now more than 35 years of commitment in addressing abusive police behavior and being a consistent advocate for gay and lesbian rights both in civil society and in her church as a Roman Catholic.
QUEER NATION CHICAGO (1995): As a direct-action group supporting those who are bisexual, gay, lesbian, or transgender (collectively, queer), it developed test cases under nondiscrimination ordinances, mounted public protests and commemorations, and sponsored an annual anti-violence march.

MIKE QUIGLEY (2009): During his decade on the Cook County Board, this Friend of the Community oversaw adding gender-identity protection to county law, providing health insurance for county government employees’ same-sex partners, and creating a same-sex domestic partnership registry for county residents. As a U.S. House member since 2009, he has been a prominent sponsor of LGBT legislative efforts.

A REAL READ (2007): From 1996 to 2001, people from all over the city flocked to the performances of this African American LGBT performance ensemble. Through original poetry, prose, and plays, it gave voice to a community and issues that had often been silenced. Even after the ensemble dissolved, its impact continued to have a ripple effect.

The Rev. JUAN REED (2005): After his 1991 arrival at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church as an out and affirming vicar, this ex–social worker made a once-declining parish into a place where progressive LGBT persons could share worship openly with their fellow heterosexual Christians.

CHARLES “CHUCK” RENSLOW (1991): An internationally known gay businessman and photographer, he opened the Gold Coast in 1958. It was one of Chicago’s first openly gay enterprises and one of the first leather bars in the world. He also published GayLife, has financially aided many gay rights efforts since the 1960s, and has been active in local and national Democratic Party politics. He co-founded the annual International Mr. Leather contest and established the Leather Archives & Museum.

FRANK M. ROBINSON (2009): This journalist, activist, and award-winning novelist gave crucial help to early-1970s Chicago LGBT groups in publicizing and memorializing their work. Later, in San Francisco, he wrote speeches for Harvey Milk and has produced numerous individual works and anthologies of fiction, including science fiction.

LINDA S. RODGERS (1993): As a successful businesswoman, fundraiser, and activist, she combined her entrepreneurial skills and community consciousness to promote projects and political actions in support of lesbian and gay human rights and community needs. She now lives in Florida.

JULIO RODRIGUEZ (2004): For more than 20 years, he has been a tireless advocate for Latinos and Latinas among LGBT persons and for LGBT persons among Latinos and Latinas. In 1989, he co-founded ALMA, the city’s first group for gay and bisexual Latinos. He has aided Center on Halsted, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and philanthropic and youth substance abuse programs.

CAROL RONEN (2005): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for more than 10 years as a state legislator who worked tirelessly for a law against sexual-orientation and gender-identity discrimination and for greater HIV/AIDS funding, as well as a variety of other progressive goals including children’s development, health care, violence prevention, women’s rights, education, nurse utilization, and economic justice.
RON SABLE, M.D. (1993, now deceased): As an openly gay physician he co-founded the first comprehensive HIV/AIDS clinic at Cook County Hospital. He was active in local politics, running as an openly gay candidate for 44th Ward alderman and founding IMPACT, a gay and lesbian political action committee. Born in 1945, he died in 1993 of AIDS complications.

TIFFANI ST. CLOUD (1996): By age 18 in 1996, she was a chief organizer of the Pride group at Chicago’s Whitney Young High School. It soon became the school’s second-largest organization, despite some initial student resistance. It aimed to support the self-esteem and rights of students, including gay, lesbian, and bisexual students. She now works for the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C.

JANE M. HUSSEIN SAKS (2009): She has consistently been a social change activist on a variety of fronts, has led numerous institutions in responding to LGBT issues in programming and grantmaking, and is the first director of the Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at Chicago’s Columbia College.

JESUS SALGUEIRO and ART SMITH (2008): The openly gay celebrity chef Art Smith and his life partner, the artist Jesus Salgueiro, founded Common Threads, a charity that fosters familial environments where children learn to value each other and discover universal understanding and mutual acceptance. The two have contributed to charitable fundraisers within and outside LGBT communities, including the Center on Halsted, and their philanthropy extends worldwide.

VICTOR A. SALVO, JR. (1998): After chairing Chicago’s 1987 National March on Washington Committee, he helped to found the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization and IMPACT, joined the NAMES Project’s local host committee, helped to start Open Hand Chicago’s meals-on-wheels and grocery programs, promoted the 1993 March, and co-founded Gay and Lesbian Building and Trade Professionals.

ZAIDA SANABIA (2009): In her teens, she became an advocate for LGBT youth and made a prize-winning video on forming a high school Gay-Straight Alliance. The video resulted in her own suspension from school, but she graduated; formed Amiguitas, the first queer Latina youth group in Chicago; fostered high school organizing throughout Illinois; and has put her documentary skills to work for the LGBTQ safe-schools movement.

NORMAN L. SANDFIELD (1999): For more than 30 years, he has been an organizer of gay and lesbian Jewish activities and of Jewish AIDS programs, in Chicago and internationally, as part of his membership in Chicago’s Congregation Or Chadash. He co-founded the Jewish AIDS Network Chicago and has worked on interfaith relations.

MIKE SAVAGE (posthumous 2005): A social-service activist, he led in building a 41-clinic network for medically underserved persons. He also worked to help persons with addictions and AIDS, the homeless and poor, immigrants, and women with cervical cancer, and he was active in GLBT civil rights and Roman Catholic groups. He was born in 1952 and died in a 2004 rafting accident.

NAN SCHAFFER, D.V.M. (2004): Having achieved distinction by both charitable and scientific contributions, she has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and much time and wisdom to a wide range of Chicago organizations during the past three decades. As a veterinary doctor, she is also an internationally known expert on rhinoceroses and their reproduction.
BRUCE C. SCOTT (1993, now deceased): A Chicago resident for more than 50 years, he successfully fought federal anti-gay employment policies in groundbreaking lawsuits. In a 1965 decision with far-reaching implications, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., ruled that a vague charge of “homosexuality” could not disqualify one from federal government jobs. Scott was also a founding officer of Mattachine Midwest. Born in 1912, he died in 2001.

KAREN C. SENDZIAK (2007): She has served the Gerber/Hart Library for over 20 years with intense devotion. In a variety of positions, most recently as president of the library’s board of directors, she has been one of the key individuals responsible for nourishing and protecting that important resource for all Chicagoans.

GREGG SHAPIRO (1999): He is both a literary figure and a music and literary critic. Besides writing his own poetry and fiction, he has fostered awareness of Chicago’s gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender literary excellence. His expertise in popular music is widely recognized.

PATRICK SHEAHAN (2007): He has compiled a record of civic, business, banking, educational, and LGBT community leadership in Chicago since 1995, most notably as a prime mover behind the 2007 opening of Center on Halsted, the most comprehensive LGBT community center in the world.

HELEN SHILLER (2000): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for more than 30 years as a progressive activist and for service as 46th Ward alderman since 1987. During that time, she has often advocated for sexual-minority communities and for persons living with HIV and AIDS.

SIDETRACK (2006): Since opening in April 1982, Sidetrack, its owners, and its staff have been indispensable elements of LGBT campaigns, hosting countless activist events and making untold donations of goods, services, and money to a broad range of organizations, groups, and political figures.

CATHERINE SIKORA (2005): She has successfully campaigned for sexual-orientation and gender-identity legal protection at city, county, and state levels; has documented Chicago LGBT life and activism through skilled photography, including permanently exhibited works depicting the transgender community; and has served in numerous organizational board seats and volunteer roles.

DAVID B. SINDT (posthumous 1995): In the 1970s and 1980s, he fought homophobia in civil and religious spheres. As a social worker, he advocated for gay parents and gay children. As a clergyman, he formed what became Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns but later had to leave the ministry because of gayness. Born in 1940, he died of AIDS complications in 1986. His house became the first residence owned by Chicago House.

PATRICK SINOZICH (2009): For more than 20 years, this pianist, choral director, arranger, composer, and accompanist has been a leader in Chicago LGBT musical organizations, including Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus and Windy City Chorus. He has also been music director of a vocal ensemble, Chicago a cappella, and is on the music staffs of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Music Festival.

LAWRENCE E. SLOAN (posthumous 2005): He was an innovative Chicago director, producer, and playwright who attracted new, broader audiences to Remains Theatre. He was also the first executive director of Season of Concern, an AIDS fundraising organization in the theater community. Born in 1959, he died of AIDS complications in 1995.
NORM SLOAN (1996): Since 1988, as a volunteer registrar, he has registered at least 38,000 voters. In some weeks, he registered as many as 1,000 or 2,000. He helped to form the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization and later has worked through Equality Illinois. He also gives volunteer aid to Chicago dance and theater efforts.

ADRIENNE J. SMITH, Ph.D. (1991, now deceased): She was one of the first openly lesbian psychologists within the American Psychological Association. She wrote and edited several publications and appeared on local and national television and radio programs promoting gay and lesbian rights. Born in 1934, she died of cancer in 1992.

ARMANDO L. SMITH (1995): A licensed clinical social worker, he has worked in community-based organizations for more than 20 years and is a mainstay of Chicago lesbian, gay, and AIDS groups. He has led Horizons Community Services’ telephone helpline, has headed the AIDS Foundation of Chicago’s Service Providers Council, and has served on numerous boards including that of Kupona Network.

ART SMITH (2008): See JESUS SALGUEIRO and ART SMITH.

CHRISTINA SMITH (2002): Since at least 1994, when she joined efforts to set up a South Side community center for African American lesbian and bisexual women, she has worked to assist women of color. She helped to form Affinity Community Services and served it as board president.

JAMES MONROE SMITH (1995, now deceased): As a quietly persistent young lawyer, in 1988 he founded the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, an unprecedented vehicle for involving the city’s legal community in helping persons with HIV/AIDS. Before leaving ALCC in 1993, he received the Chicago Bar Association’s Maurice Weigle Award for his work. He published two textbooks on AIDS and health care and taught AIDS-related college and law school courses. Born in 1957, he died in 2003.

MARY ANN SMITH (1997): As alderman of Chicago’s diverse 48th Ward, this Friend of the Community has encouraged gay and lesbian ward leadership and advocated for gay and lesbian rights. Despite opposition, she also firmly backed location of Chicago House’s first facility and the San Miguel Apartments in the ward.

MAXSONN “MAX” C. SMITH (1991): This lifelong political and cultural activist has resided in Chicago since 1976. He was treasurer of the Illinois Gay Rights Task Force; founder of the Chicago chapter of the National Coalition of Black Gays; an organizer of United Faith Affinitas Church; a member of Adodi Chicago; a columnist for BLACKlines and Identity magazines; and editor of a book on black men’s same-gender—loving relationships, Staying Power!

DANIEL SOTOMAYOR (posthumous 1992): He was an openly gay, nationally syndicated political cartoonist and prominent Chicago AIDS activist, notably as part of ACT UP/Chicago. His creativity heightened visibility for anti-AIDS efforts. He died of AIDS complications in 1992.

LAURENCE E. SPANG, D.D.S. (2003): After losing his job as a federal prison dentist in 1991 because of his HIV status, he led in organizing a Chicago dental clinic for low-income HIV-positive persons, persons with tuberculosis, and those of advanced age. He has also been active in a range of community service activities and now resides in California.
GREGORY A. SPRAGUE (posthumous 1994): Nationally known for research in Chicago lesbian and gay history, he co-founded the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History of the American Historical Association and was active in the Gay Academic Union. In 1978 he founded the Chicago Gay History Project, a precursor of the Gerber/Hart Library. He died of AIDS-related tuberculosis in 1987.

STAR GAZE (2006): The bar became a contributing and supportive member of Chicago’s LGBT communities from its opening in 1998. Owners Mamie Lake and Dustin Fermin earned a well-deserved reputation as selfless public citizens who embody outstanding community spirit.

LAUREN SUGERMAN (2002): For more than 20 years, she has led as an out lesbian in improving economic status and working conditions for women in construction and manufacturing trades. In 1981, she co-founded Chicago Women in Trades, of which she has been director and president. She has served on state and federal boards and chaired the national group Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow.

MARGE SUMMIT (1993): As a successful businesswoman, she has contributed time, energy, and resources to numerous community organizations. She was a founder of the Chicago chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), appeared in several video projects, and initiated the “Gay $” project.

VALERIE TAYLOR (1992, now deceased): Born in 1913, she was an outspoken advocate of lesbian and gay concerns from the 1950s onward and wrote several lesbian-themed novels and poems. She edited the Mattachine Midwest Newsletter while in Chicago and was active in the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. Retired in Tucson, she was writing and active in social change until her 1997 death.

STUDS TERKEL (2001, now deceased): The renowned author and oral historian, broadcast host, commentator, arts supporter, and activist was chosen as a Friend of the Community for more than half a century of social-justice championship, which was consistently marked by support for sexual-minority rights—from backing Pearl M. Hart for alderman in the 1940s to including gay interview subjects in his books. Born in 1912, he died in 2008 at age 96.

TEST POSITIVE AWARE NETWORK (2005): Founded in 1987 by the Hall of Fame inductee Christopher Clason and 16 others, TPAN has enabled HIV-positive persons to share experiences and information in order to combat isolation and fear. It publishes a renowned national magazine, Positively Aware, and has touched and saved many lives.

ELIZABETH E. TOCCI (1994): She opened her first gay bar in 1963 and, beginning in 1971, owned and ran The Patch in Calumet City, which became one of the oldest lesbian-owned establishments in the nation. She has been active in local business circles and has long given financial aid and a supportive environment to lesbian and gay persons.

JOANNE E. TRAPANI (1993): After a decade of New York City activism, she co-chaired the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force for several terms and has served as liaison to state and local governments and agencies. In 1997 she joined the Oak Park village board as the first open lesbian elected to office in Illinois, and in 2001 village voters elected her as board president. She retired from that board in 2005 and now chairs Elmwood Park’s Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

THOMAS M. TUNNEY (1995): In 1981, in his early 20s, he bought Lake View’s venerable Ann Sather Restaurant and built it into a virtual community center for lesbian and gay Chicagoans and for older adults. He has been active in business groups, IMPACT, Human Rights Campaign, and the Democratic Party. He backed Open Hand Chicago’s home-meals program, hosted countless gay and lesbian efforts and the White Crane Wellness Center, and in 2003 was elected Chicago’s first openly gay alderman, representing the 44th Ward.
RICHARD B. TURNER (1991): As a senior philanthropic administrator, he was co-founder and national president of Funders Concerned About AIDS. He is now manager of corporate contributions for Peoples Energy Corporation. He has led in numerous civic, cultural, and charitable groups and is on Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s advisory board.

MARILYN URSO, R.N. (2009): For 17 years she was Howard Brown Health Center’s research registered nurse and is a Friend of the Community for her unprecedented dedication to her job and to clients. For them, frequently in times of crisis, she was a warm, welcoming, and supportive presence, nurturing both clinic and clients with professionalism and encouragement.

DICK UYVARI (2006): Since 1979, he has been a major force in Chicago’s organized LGBT sports world, serving as an officer or on the board of numerous sports-based organizations and as a major philanthropist and fundraiser, much of that time with his late partner, the Hall of Fame inductee Joe La Pat.

JORGE VALDIVIA (2009): Through media, arts, and public service, he has sought to create safe spaces and build visibility for the Latino LGBT community. He founded Homofrecuencia, the country’s first Spanish-language radio program on LGBT issues; helped organize the first annual prom for queer Latino youth; and served as performing arts director for the National Museum of Mexican Art.

MODESTO “TICO” VALLE (1998): He founded the Chicago NAMES Project in 1989, helped to take the 1996 display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt to Washington, D.C., and helped to create a national high school Quilt curriculum. He was Open Hand Chicago’s first volunteer services director, served on the Horizons Community Services board, and is now chief executive officer of Center on Halsted.

RENE A. VAN HULLE, JR. (2000, now deceased): Since the 1970s, he was vigorously active in community organizations and instrumental in many of their fundraising projects. He co-founded the Tavern Guild of Chicago and for years helped to raise community center funds, sponsored sports teams, and supported Chicago House. He died in 2007 at age 53.

LUULE VESS (1998): By founding Project VIDA in 1992, she took the battle against HIV and AIDS far from the lakefront to the streets of Chicago’s low-income South Lawndale neighborhood. Project VIDA has won awards and has quickly grown into a major lesbigay-friendly AIDS service provider. Earlier, she helped to develop a Cook County Hospital substance abuse program for homeless, HIV-positive injection drug users.

STEVEN F. WAKEFIELD (1994): He has held gay and lesbian executive positions since 1976, including leadership of Howard Brown Memorial Clinic until 1988. He later directed Test Positive Aware Network and the Night Ministry; was a leader in many social service and religious organizations, including several African American ones; and served on the Chicago Board of Health. In 2000, he moved to Seattle, where he works in community education for an HIV vaccine trials program.

GUY WARNER (2008): His activism began in the 1970s with Mattachine Midwest, when he revived its telephone referral hotline. In 1975, he became its sixth president. Under his leadership, the newsletter was reinstated, debt reduced, and a gay AA group founded. He was a founder of an early group for parents and friends of gays, a volunteer in the AIDS ward of Illinois Masonic Hospital, and co-chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, among other activist engagements.

HAROLD WASHINGTON (posthumous 2007): As mayor of Chicago from 1983 to 1987, he promoted and facilitated LGBT political participation and empowerment, helping to pave the way for eventual passage of the city’s 1988 ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. He had also supported LGBT rights as a state legislator. Born in 1922, he died in office in 1987. For this record, he was selected as a Friend of the Community.

VERA WASHINGTON (2007): For more than 25 years, she has served Chicago’s LGBT communities as an organizer, promoter, youth community activist, social service volunteer, STD and HIV/AIDS counselor, and youth services coordinator. She co-founded Executive Sweet, a social and networking club for women of color.

DJ SHERON DENISE WEBB (2003): She has been “playing music to suit any occasion” for more than 30 years. During that time, her contributions expanded from simply playing music to paving the way for African American lesbians to gather freely and safely. She has also organized large commercial social events.

JESSE WHITE (1999): This Friend of the Community is a longtime Chicago political figure and African American community leader whose support for lesbian and gay rights is part of supporting equal rights for all. In 1974, he became a state legislator and backed bills against sexual-orientation discrimination and hate crimes. He continued to uphold sexual-minority rights as Cook County recorder of deeds and now does so as Illinois secretary of state.

ALBERT N. WILLIAMS (2003): Since 1970, as journalist, theater artist, teacher, and activist, he has made important contributions to Chicago cultural life. His Chicago Reader theater reviews won a George Jean Nathan Award, and in the 1980s he was an award-winning editor of GayLife and Windy City Times newspapers. He has performed and written for musical theater and participated in activist groups. He is also a senior lecturer in theater at Columbia College.

PHILL WILSON (1999): A Chicago native, he has achieved national prominence as an advocate for persons with AIDS, particularly those of color. He has served as an innovative executive in Los Angeles AIDS agencies and has made many national media appearances. He also helped to found and co-chaired the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. He is now chief executive officer of the Black AIDS Institute.

TERRI WOMAN (2004): An openly lesbian community organizer for AARP, she has organized film festivals and senior health and benefits fairs, developed presentations on aging and job issues, and co-chaired the Chicago Task Force on LGBT Aging.

ISRAEL WRIGHT (2000): For more than 20 years, he has held volunteer leadership posts in business, social service, cultural, AIDS, and African American organizations. His photographs of community life, including the lives of leathermen, African Americans, and persons with AIDS, have been widely published. He currently serves on Team Chicago’s board and is the Federation of Gay Games’ vice president for membership.

YVONNE ZIPTER (1995): As a syndicated columnist, she has often documented the lives of Chicago lesbians and gay men. An award-winning poet, humorist, and essayist, she wrote a book on lesbian softball, Diamonds Are a Dyke’s Best Friend, as well as The Patience of Metal and Ransacking the Closet. She is now a massage therapist, known as The Knot Whisperer.
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