Friends of the
Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

Gary G. Chichester
Co-Chairperson

Mary F. Morten
Co-Chairperson

Israel Wright
Executive Director

In Partnership with the
CITY OF CHICAGO
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor

Mona Noriega
Chairman and
Commissioner
In Memoriam

James A. Bussen

Harley McMillen

Dawn Clark Netsch
November 12, 2013

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 2013 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Today’s event serves as a wonderful opportunity to honor outstanding Chicagoans for their accomplishments. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities have made wonderful contributions to the growth and wellbeing of this city and state, and they deserve our respect and commendations for the work they have done. All Illinoisans should be proud of the efforts of these individuals and organizations to provide fairness and equality.

I am honored to congratulate each individual and organization being inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame this year. I know that each of you has worked hard for the success that you enjoy today, and I applaud your constant diligence and dedication. I am pleased to join with your family and friends in honoring you on this special occasion.

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Governor
Ms. Mary Morten & Mr. Gary Chichester
Co-Chairpersons
Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame
3712 North Broadway Street
Suite 637
Chicago, Illinois 60613

Dear Ms. Morten and Mr. Chichester:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am pleased extend warmest greetings to all of those gathered for the 2013 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Founded in 1991 with a multifaceted mission centered on uplift and inclusion, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has been committed to preserving the distinguished legacies of gay and lesbian activists and leaders. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities have made countless contributions to Chicagoland for decades. Ongoing involvement in the city’s cultural, economic, and political spheres highlights the very important roles the LGBT community continues to play in Chicago’s bright future. The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame offers a means for Chicagoans to learn about how individuals and organizations within LGBT and LGBT-friendly communities have been at the forefront of efforts to unify and enrich our city.

This special event presents an opportunity to celebrate all of those who work to better society by tackling human rights issues. I congratulate the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame on its 22nd anniversary, and commend the organization for creating an enduring institution that highlights the accomplishments of our LGBT residents. I look forward to continued work with the LGBT community to ensure that all Chicagoans are treated equally and with dignity.

Best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor
November 12, 2013

Dear Friends,

Let’s celebrate the 22nd annual Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and join me in congratulating this year’s inductees. The Chicago Commission on Human Relations enforces the City of Chicago’s anti-discrimination laws and works toward a vision of a city free from discrimination and hate. Through the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, we celebrate the individuals and organizations that challenge harmful stereotypes and help create a better Chicago for all.

On this 22nd anniversary, I thank the Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for their continued commitment and delivery of yet another remarkable and historic event and I thank each inductee for their outstanding work in improving the quality of life for all who call Chicago home.

Inductees are selected for their outstanding contributions that have had a significant impact on the well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities and have had an affirmative impact on the City of Chicago. Similar to previous inductees, the fourteen individuals and two organizations selected, continue to exemplify selflessness in working on behalf of the larger good—and it is for this reason that we recognize their work and celebrate their achievements.

Sincerely,

Mona Noriega
Chairman and Commissioner
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, its Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (later 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.

Today, after the advisory council’s abolition and in partnership with the City, the Hall of Fame is in the custody of Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation with a recognized charitable tax-deductible status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

The Hall of Fame honors 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 volunteers associated with Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

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
Lora Branch  
*Selection Committee Facilitator*

Gary G. Chichester  
*Co-Chairperson*

Philip A. Hannema

Chuck Hyde

William B. Kelley

Mary F. Morten  
*Co-Chairperson*

Jim Pickett  
*Selection Committee Facilitator*

Bryan Portman

Dick Uyvari

Israel Wright  
*Executive Director*
2013 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

Gaylon Alcaraz
James L. Alexander
James L. Bennett
Jorge Cestou
Rocco J. Claps
Rudolph Johnson, Jr.
Lee A. Newell II
Paté
Andrew Patner
Laura Ricketts
Burr Tillstrom
David Zak
Lambda Legal - Midwest Regional Office
POW-WOW
Neil Steinberg
Friend of the Community
Brenda Webb
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.
Gaylon Alcaraz is an activist, organizer, and human-rights advocate who currently serves as executive director of the Chicago Abortion Fund. In that role, she works to advocate for low-income women seeking to exercise the freedom to control their reproductive life. She also serves on boards of the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health and the Midwest Access Project.

Alcaraz was a founding board member of Affinity Community Services when it transformed itself from a collective to an Illinois not-for-profit agency. Affinity is an organization that advocates for the rights of black lesbian and bisexual women in the Chicago area and was inducted in 2002 as an organizational member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. During her board tenure at Affinity, Alcaraz assumed leadership roles in all areas of the group’s work, including service as vice president of the board.

For almost 20 years, Alcaraz has worked on behalf of sexual-minority women and of efforts to combat violence, promote gender equity, heighten health access, protect reproductive rights, and address issues of race and culture. She has consistently applied her knowledge toward quality improvement, increased access, and challenges to frameworks that suppress the exploration of diversity. In so doing, she has worked for the welfare of all women, black lesbians, and children.

Alcaraz is also a writer and poet. Her book *Tales of a Woojiehead* appeared in 2002. She has been published in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Defender*, *Streetwise*, and the East Coast’s *Venus* magazine.

Born and raised in Chicago, she received B.A. and M.A. degrees from DePaul University in 2008 and 2011. She was a member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ former Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, and she has been an active member or officer of numerous groups, including the Ogden Corners Resident Council, the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, United Sisters (US), and the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

Honoring her work for reproductive rights, health, and justice, she has received awards from the Chicago and the Northwest and Northwest Suburban Illinois chapters of the National Organization for Women; Choice USA; and the Chicago Foundation for Women.
JAMES L. ALEXANDER

As a philanthropic trustee, active and committed board member, and public-spirited lawyer, Jim Alexander has helped to develop Chicago’s cultural sphere, bolstered its nonprofit organizations’ effectiveness, and heightened diversity in their programming and in civic life.

A lifelong Chicagoan, Alexander joined his father in the law firm of Alexander & Alexander, where for more than 30 years he has focused on the law of probate, trusts, and estates. With JPMorgan Chase Bank and the Bank of America respectively, he serves as the co-trustee for the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust.

During his co-trusteeship over the years, the trusts have directed millions of dollars not only to help Chicago’s LGBT communities but also to help mainstream cultural institutions in serving a diverse Chicago population. He has been a force for change both inside and outside the board room.

Some of the LGBT programs for which Alexander has secured financial assistance include the Chicago History Museum’s Out at CHM lecture series and its pioneering Out in Chicago exhibition, as well as services and programs offered by Center on Halsted; Chicago House; the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago; the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; Better Existence with HIV; Equality Illinois; the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN); the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance; Lambda Legal; Open Hand Chicago; and the Howard Brown Health Center.

Alexander’s assistance has gone beyond grants and has included advice, counsel, and (for Center on Halsted) exceptional board leadership. And, since 2006, he has helped to develop the LGBT Community Fund housed at the Chicago Community Trust.

He has provided steadfast board support to many nonprofits, including his current service as board chairman at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance and his director’s role at the new Chicago High School for the Arts. He serves or has served on 15 Chicago nonprofit boards, always giving his all and expanding diversity at those institutions.

For many years Alexander has been supporting LGBT rights and welfare. His impact on Chicago is immeasurable.
Jim Bennett’s has been a powerful and humorous voice for LGBT lives and concerns in organized religion, in Chicago sexual-minority communities, in theater and broadcast media, and in legal activism.

Since 1996, he has found a home and a platform for social justice at Chicago’s Broadway United Methodist Church. When the church’s pastor—the Rev. Gregory R. Dell, a 2008 Hall of Fame “Friend of the Community” inductee—was put on church trial for conducting a Service of Holy Union for two men, Bennett led the campaign that raised nearly $200,000 to pay for his defense and supported a program for the pastor to speak on church inclusivity throughout his yearlong suspension.

Later, in 1999, Bennett was named to In All Things Charity, a national task force convened in Chicago, to challenge the national denomination on its policies. He has also led in frequently changing the Broadway church’s exterior signage to incorporate quotations and aphorisms that speak to the congregation’s welcoming nature.

Bennett is a graduate of The Second City Chicago Training Center’s Conservatory program and has been a longtime company member of GayCo Productions. There, he has written and performed in 14 sketch-comedy revues, where “gay is the given, not the punch line.” He has also written and performed for Second City Theatricals and Annoyance Productions, and he has emceed or performed without charge for numerous progressive and political events.

He was the host of Windy City Radio, an FM show aired by Chicago’s former WCKG from 2001 to 2005. He has also recently served as commentator, representing a gay point of view, for WBEZ’s election-night chat room.

For the last five years, Bennett has been the Midwest regional director in charge of Lambda Legal’s Midwest Regional Office in Chicago. For the past year, he has also chaired the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition, which is working to pass a marriage equality bill in the Illinois Legislature, while Lambda Legal itself is working with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois on a lawsuit challenging Illinois’ denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples.
JORGE CESTOU

Jorge Cestou’s tenure at the prestigious social-service agency Jane Addams Hull House Association sparked his interest in improving the lives of immigrant communities in Chicago and began his activism in 1997.

Cestou has been a catalyst of change for several local organizations, including the Association of Latin Men for Action (ALMA), which he served as treasurer for eight years; Entre Familia: PFLAG en Español (part of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays’ Metro Chicago chapter); Enlace Chicago; The Resurrection Project; and Center on Halsted.

As an advocate for culturally sensitive HIV services for Latinos, he was instrumental in inclusion of special populations in the Illinois Comprehensive HIV Services Plan from 1999 to 2003. Between 2004 and 2006, with other activists, he created Orgullo en Acción, a regional organization meant to serve as a clearinghouse between Latino or Latina LGBT local organizations and national groups.

In 2007, Cestou was elected as the Midwest representative to Unid@s LGBT - The National Latin@ LGBT Human Rights Organization, which he has chaired since 2008. Under his leadership, Latina and Latino persons have been included in planning bodies at the federal level. Unid@s, in collaboration with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign, developed A La Familia, a resource book that helps individuals bridge their faith and their sexual identity. He has also been a presenter on the status of the Latina and Latino LGBT movement in the United States and Puerto Rico at six of NGLTF’s annual Creating Change conferences.

Cestou is also active in the Chicago leather community and in 2007 won the title of Mr. Chicago Leather. He is part of Mama’s Family, a leather fraternity that raises funds for needy leather causes, where he is known as “Spicy Leather Toro.”

He is currently director of programs and services for Vida/SIDA, part of the advisory board of Center on Halsted, and a member of the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council.
Rocco Claps has been committed to public service since 1987. In 2003, he became the first openly gay Cabinet member in the history of Illinois when he was appointed by Governor Rod Blagojevich as director of the state Department of Human Rights. He has since been reappointed by Governor Pat Quinn.

In his position, he oversees the department’s primary objective: to eliminate discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order-of-protection status, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation (which now includes gender-related identity), unfavorable discharge from military service, citizenship status (for employment), or familial status (for real estate transactions), in connection with employment opportunities, housing and real estate transactions, access to financial credit, and the availability of public services and public accommodations. In addition, the department oversees charges of sexual harassment.

Under Claps’s leadership, the department was instrumental in passing legislation to include sexual orientation in the Illinois Human Rights Act in 2005, making Illinois the 15th state to offer such protections.

Before being appointed the state Human Rights director, Claps served as deputy assessor in the Cook County assessor’s office in Chicago. Before that, he held several positions during the Clinton administration between 1993 and 1999, highlighted by his tenure as chief of staff of the 1996 Democratic National Convention held in Chicago, helping to create one of the party’s most successful conventions in history while expanding minority contracting opportunities.

Claps also held a key post in the federal Department of Health and Human Services as director of scheduling and advance for then-Secretary Donna E. Shalala. In addition, at the Democratic National Committee, he served as director of the secretary’s office and deputy director of constituency outreach, advising the party chairman and White House staff on issues important to key constituencies, in particular lesbian and gay communities.

He started his public-service career working for Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan as communications and special projects coordinator from 1987 to 1992, developing and advising lawmakers on statewide legislation and local constituency issues. A high point of his work was passage of hate-crimes legislation that included penalties for anti-gay and -lesbian violence.

Claps graduated magna cum laude from Illinois State University in 1983 with a bachelor of science degree in communications and minors in political science and public relations.
RUDOLPH JOHNSON, JR.

Born in Chicago’s Lakeview neighborhood in 1947, Rudolph Johnson, Jr., led several Lakeview business organizations with distinction. He ran a bar that has sponsored numerous gay sports teams and events, and he aided many local social-service and political organizations.

Johnson had a 50-year association with North Halsted Street. His parents’ first home was a cold-water flat near Sheffield and Lincoln avenues. From 1952 to 1979 he grew up at 2112 North Halsted, and from 1983 to his sudden death in 2006 he was a founder and partner of The North End bar at 3733 North Halsted. Johnson learned the building trades from his contractor father and from his Lane Technical High School education. While driving along Halsted, the father could point out the numerous projects on which he had worked.

Because of his trusted leadership, Johnson was the longest-serving president of the Northalsted Merchants Association (now the Northalsted Business Alliance). During his six terms, the annual Northalsted Market Days became the financial powerhouse that it is today. Other signature recurring events begun during his tenure were Taste of Halsted Street, Chicago Pride Fest, and the Northalsted Halloween Parade. He encouraged saving money from such events, and some of the funds then went toward establishing and supporting the Center on Halsted. Johnson himself invested in much real estate along more than two miles of the street and helped to revitalize the area.

The North End became the city’s first “gay sports bar.” It has sponsored leagues in both the Windy City Athletic Association and the Metropolitan Sports Association (now the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association), primarily in bowling and softball. Many bowling and softball fundraisers and other events have been held at the bar. In 2006, less than three months before Johnson’s death, it was the official host bar for the Gay Games VII bowling event, which attracted 576 participants from around the world.

Among groups that Johnson aided were the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, Open Hand Chicago, Direct Aid, IMPACT, the Illinois Federation for Human Rights (now Equality Illinois), the NAMES Project, Chicago House, and Horizons Community Services (later Center on Halsted). He was also an active contributor to political candidacies.
Lee Newell played critical roles in maintaining Chicago’s LGBT social-service organizational infrastructure from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. He was also active in broader community organizations, and he became a photodocumentarian of Chicago LGBT life for almost 10 years.

One year after moving here in 1975, Newell volunteered as a help-line operator at Gay Horizons (the forerunner of today’s Center on Halsted). Two weeks later he was elected chairperson and learned at the first board meeting that the group was several thousand dollars in debt—and that the only fundraising planned would be a raffle, in cooperation with Rogers Park Gay Center, offering a car as a prize but relying on ticket sales to buy the car!

He then met with community leaders, bar owners, and other organizations, soliciting funds. With the help of the rest of the board, all the debts were paid within two months. A week later, there was a fire in an electrical distribution closet. The switchboard worked by candlelight for another week, and then Gay Horizons had to find new quarters. Again, Newell took the lead in fundraising. After two months, the group was able to move into an Oakdale Avenue basement office. Later, Newell became the first Horizons chairperson to have served an entire term.

He continued his Horizons association for nearly 10 more years, including service as delegate to the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, switchboard co-director, public-relations committee chairperson, and (for six years) a peer counselor.

In 1985, having worked with photographer Jack Sitar at GayLife newspaper, he was hired as a freelancer to be the first photographer for the new Windy City Times. He took nightlife and news photos and wrote stories for the next two years. From 1989 to 1994, he was the Chicago news and nightlife photographer for Michigan’s Metra Magazine. Some 5,000 of his photos documenting LGBT news and nightlife are in the Chicago History Museum.

In 1986, Newell served as the last president of OPEN (Organization for Political Equality Now), Chicago’s first LGBT political action committee. Later, he was active on zoning issues in the Lake View Citizens’ Council and the Triangle Neighbors Association, helping to pass an anti–high-rise zoning measure. He moved away from Chicago in 2001.
The bar personality known as Paté, a native and lifelong resident of the Chicago area, has been an active member of Chicago’s LGBT community since she began working at the Swan Club and The Closet in 1986. Her loyal customer base and her volunteer work for LGBT and AIDS organizations have brought her acclaim, but she has regarded nothing as more meaningful than her years of animal-rescue commitment.

Other venues where she has tended bar include Club 950, Berlin, Spin, the Holiday Club, Cocktail, and, currently, Parlour on Clark. During her career, she has won mixology awards from major brands in the liquor industry, including Bacardi and Stolichnaya.

Paté has also volunteered for organizations that have included Chicago House, Ride for AIDS Chicago, and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project. She has organized or tended bar for fundraisers benefiting such groups as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Humane Society of the United States, Guide Dogs for the Blind, the American Cancer Society, and organizations promoting children’s welfare, leukemia research, and breast-cancer awareness.

Her largely unheralded work with animals has included countless hours of animal rescues both locally and throughout the nation. After Hurricane Katrina, she helped to organize transportation for relocating and providing safe shelter for misplaced pets.

She worked with Chicago Canine Rescue as a volunteer and manager of adoption events from 2003 to 2008, and since 2011 she has been a volunteer and development board member for Found Chicago. The latter group aids the city’s most medically and behaviorally challenged dogs; they would be euthanized if not for the group’s mission to “rescue, rehabilitate, re-home.” Between 2008 and 2011, while mourning the deaths of her entire family and fighting her own battle with cancer, she managed to volunteer for New Leash on Life and for One Tail at a Time.

Paté regards her primary activism as involving her dedication to helping neglected, abused, and unwanted dogs find loving new homes.
ANDREW PATNER

As a lifelong observer of the arts and a third-generation native Chicagoan, Andrew Patner has become one of the city’s most influential social and cultural critics, earning international attention.

A former editor and staff writer at *Chicago* magazine (when it was published by the old WFMT, Inc.) and staff reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, he was an arts critic, program host, and producer for Chicago’s WBEZ for eight years before returning to WFMT Fine Arts Radio and wfmt.com as critic-at-large and interviewer in 1998. He has remained there for more than 15 years. He has regularly contributed some 2,000 pieces of arts criticism (classical music, opera, theater, dance, cabaret, jazz, visual art, books, architecture, and film) to the *Chicago Sun-Times* since 1991 and has been its classical-music and opera critic since 2006. The *New Yorker* music critic Alex Ross recently called Patner “one of America’s most authoritative and knowledgeable critics in any field.”

He started covering LGBT subjects and giving an open forum to activists in 1979 as the 19-year-old editor-in-chief of *The Chicago Maroon* at the University of Chicago, when he offered unlimited space to write about the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. He was the first regular writer for a mainstream Chicago paper to write openly about being gay (1993, *Chicago Sun-Times*) and was the first regular Chicago radio host, producer, and contributor to do the same (by 1992, on WBEZ). He was also an early Chicago House volunteer.

Patner was educated in Chicago public schools, at the University of Chicago, and at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, from which he received a B.A. degree in history for a thesis of distinction. His work has appeared in *Art & Antiques, The Art Newspaper* (London), *The New Yorker*, the German *GEO*, the Jewish *Forward, The Nation*, the *New Art Examiner*, *Opernwelt*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *High Performance*, the *Chicago Reader*, and other publications. He has been a commentator for national broadcasters in the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Austria, and Norway. He wrote *I.F. Stone: A Portrait* (1988) on the longtime independent Washington journalist; frequently lectures and teaches in Chicago and Europe, with an emphasis on minority and disadvantaged students; and is an active member of The Cliff Dwellers and The Arts Club of Chicago.
Laura Ricketts is a Chicago philanthropist in both LGBT and broader communities and, as part owner of the Chicago Cubs Major League Baseball Club, is the first openly gay woman to own an MLB franchise. She has created opportunities and a model for other business leaders to follow.

Ricketts practiced law at the Chicago firm of Schiff, Hardin & Waite (now Schiff Hardin LLP). She was an associate in the Corporate and Securities Practice Group and worked on mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, and general corporate and securities law matters.

She left the practice to co-found Ecotravel, LLC. Dedicated to fostering ecotourism worldwide, the new firm operated Ecotravel.com, an online magazine of news and information and a directory of service providers. Selected as one of the top ecotourism websites by The Wall Street Journal in 2002, Ecotravel.com helped to educate travelers and facilitate travel planning while helping ecotourism providers to promote their services.

She is actively involved with several charitable organizations. She serves on the National Leadership Council of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which works for LGBT civil rights nationally, and was a Lambda board member from 2005 to 2011. She is on the Leadership Council for Housing Opportunities for Women, Inc., which helps to provide supportive housing to homeless women and children in the Chicago area. Before joining HOW’s Leadership Council, she was a HOW board member for eight years, serving as treasurer and chairing the Development Committee.

Ricketts is on the board of directors of Opportunity Education, an international charity that promotes educational opportunities for children in developing nations. It currently provides educational programming and technological tools for training teachers in more than 900 schools across Africa and Asia.

She also co-chairs the Democratic National Committee’s LGBT Leadership Council and is a member of U.S. Representative Mike Quigley’s LGBT Advisory Council. She is a co-founder and director of LPAC, the first lesbian political action committee; served on the board of GayCo Productions from 2007 to 2010; and has chaired numerous Chicago fundraisers for groups such as Howard Brown Health Center, Equality Illinois, Center on Halsted, and Lambda Legal.

She earned an A.B. degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago and a J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She lives in Chicago with her daughter.
Burr Tillstrom

The puppeteer Burr Tillstrom is best-remembered for creating *Kukla, Fran and Ollie* and for his numerous contributions to the television industry from the days of its Chicago infancy. In honor of his Kuklapolitans, he won a 1980 Citation of Excellence from the American chapter of the Union Internationale de la Marionnette. Among many other honors, he won five Emmys and a Peabody Award. He also influenced other famous puppeteers, such as Jim Henson.

Franklin Burr Tillstrom was born in 1917 in Chicago. He created Kukla in 1936, but the character’s name came later when the ballerina Tamara Toumanova bestowed the Russian word for “doll” on him. After a period of puppet performances in Chicago and in a play by Gertrude Stein at a Detroit festival, Tillstrom began work for the Radio Corporation of America, touring the Midwest to demonstrate the new medium of television through puppetry. He performed more than 2,000 shows for RCA at the 1939 New York World’s Fair. In 1940, RCA sent him to Bermuda, where he took part in the first ship-to-shore telecast.

At the 1939 fair, Tillstrom developed the concept of Kukla, Fran, and Ollie. During World War II, while performing at benefits in the Chicago area, he met the radio singer Fran Allison at a war-bonds rally. She joined his troupe for a 13-week trial run that lasted more than 10 years. His television show, *Kukla, Fran and Ollie*, ran nationally from 1949 to 1957 and in other versions intermittently thereafter. It has been seen in countless reruns over the years. After the initial series’ 1957 conclusion, Tillstrom continued working with the Kuklapolitans on other television and stage shows through the 1960s and as late as the 1980s. For two seasons beginning in 1970, Kukla, Fran, and Ollie appeared on National Educational Television, taped at Chicago’s WTTW.

Tillstrom brought his characters to a 1984 book, *The Dragon Who Lived Downstairs*. At the time of his 1985 death in Palm Springs, California, he was at work on a musical adaptation of his story for television. In 1986, he was posthumously inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame. His archives are at the Chicago History Museum, and he was buried beside the graves of his parents in Chicago’s Rosehill Cemetery.
DAVID ZAK

From 1982 to 2009, David Zak was artistic director at Chicago’s Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, which premièred many gay and lesbian plays during its annual Pride Series, itself a 1996 Hall of Fame organizational inductee. He is still at work and has been nurturing LGBT theater for more than three decades.

Zak’s Bailiwick presented a seemingly unending stream of LGBT works, including world premières of David Dillon’s *Party*, Claudia Allen’s *Hannah Free*, and Edwin Sanchez’s *Trafficking in Broken Hearts*, all of which saw later productions around the globe. Zak directed or produced the Chicago premières of such hits as Robert Chesley’s *Jerker*, Paul Rudnick’s *Jeffrey*, Terrence McNally’s *Corpus Christi* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and Del Shores’s *Southern Baptist Sissies*. He also directed the American premières of Richard Thomas’s *Jerry Springer—The Opera* and the Peter Hall adaptation of George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*.

Zak’s work has won multiple Joseph Jefferson Awards for directing and writing. He has directed in Boston, Seoul, Los Angeles, New York, London, and Dublin.

Today, Zak is developing new LGBT stage and screen plays as executive director of Chicago’s Pride Films and Plays. He is also artistic director of the Summer Pride Fest at Chandler, Vermont. Annually, he spearheads the Great Gay Play Contest, from which several new LGBT works have emerged for full productions.

He directed the 2012 Great Gay Play winner, *At The Flash*, which covered five decades in a fictional gay bar called The Flash as a reflection of LGBT history and successes. His most recent Chicago première involved *Under a Rainbow Flag*, a musical based on the true life story of a still-living Chicagoan, Jon Phillips, as a gay soldier during and after World War II. It won as both Best New Work and Best Musical at the 2013 Jeff Awards.

Zak has also been an educator, photographer, and journalist. He is now recognized by the Hall of Fame for his tireless efforts to find and develop LGBT theater, his assistance to emerging LGBT actors and writers, and his unwavering dedication to bringing cultural experiences that enrich the lives of LGBT citizens while advancing their pursuit of equality.
Lambda Legal’s Midwest Regional Office was established in Chicago 20 years ago, in 1983, which was 10 years after the national organization was formed in New York. The Midwest office has participated in some of the national organization’s most important LGBT rights cases.

The Midwest office filed the Iowa case of Varnum v. Brien, which brought marriage equality to Illinois’s neighbor in 2009. The office is also engaged in litigating the current case of Darby v. Orr, which seeks same-sex marriage equality in Illinois.

In Minnesota, the Midwest office represented a high-school student in Nabozny v. Podlesny, which established in 1996 that schools have a legal obligation to protect gay and lesbian students from harassment. In several Midwestern cases, including at least one in Chicago, the office established the rights of lesbian and gay parents and their children to enjoy recognized family relationships through such means as second-parent adoptions, co-guardianships, and equitable-parenthood theories.

One of the office’s first Chicago cases involved a discrimination claim by the Ad Hoc Committee of Proud Black Lesbians and Gays (a 1993 Hall of Fame organizational inductee). The victory there enabled the committee to participate in the city’s annual Bud Billiken Parade.

In the 1998 case of Doe v. Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, the office and the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago represented two gay Chicagoans whose lifetime HIV-related coverage was limited to $25,000 or $100,000, in contrast to the $1 million cap for other conditions. The case was won in the trial court, but the appellate court reversed on the ground that insurance policies are not subject to Americans with Disabilities Act protections, a continuing problem. The office also represented Chicago’s Howard Brown Health Center when it faced discrimination while trying to rent health-care space in South Side neighborhoods.

Lambda Legal’s Midwest Regional Office has also represented a transgender group seeking to rent space for a fundraiser; obtained equal fertility-treatment insurance coverage for lesbian couples; and helped students to establish clubs supporting LGBT equality throughout the Chicago area.

Besides these and many other court cases, the office has provided legal advice to thousands. Through public-education and policy work, it has also helped to ensure that LGBT community concerns are respected and addressed.
POW-WOW

POW-WOW, known in full as Performers or Writers for Women on Women’s Issues, was established in 2003 as an all-volunteer organization that provides a weekly performance space for women artists to create, develop, and present artistic performances and writing. It also provides mentorship to young women and teen girls who seek to become full-time artists.

The organization develops training programs for women and teen girls to help create economically sustainable careers in the arts, and it develops alliances with men who support women’s social-justice issues and women artists. It also supports women and teen girls who are re-entering society from traumatic domestic environments or penal systems, by providing them with arts-based educational programs that empower them to pursue arts careers. In addition, it provides arts-based literacy programs in schools, which address the social, gender, and economic issues of women and girls.

The POW-WOW poetry venue that started with fewer than 12 people in the audience grew to attracting 75 to 100 audience members weekly. POW-WOW and its founder, C.C. Carter, have received more than a dozen awards, and the organization has enjoyed public recognition that includes being the subject of women-and-gender-studies classes across the country.

POW-WOW programs, each with a dedicated volunteer coordinator, have included a weekly Tuesday open-mic forum; a 24-hour crisis-care referral hotline; a poetry performance ensemble conducting outreach on LGBTQ issues; an educational component developing curricula for detention facilities, family shelters, and youth; a program for gender-variant women and youth, focusing on the spectrum of butchness and female masculinity; a group for male allies to reach out to other males on women’s issues; and an internship program that helps jobless women develop artistic businesses.

The programs have aimed especially to meet the needs on Chicago’s South Side of women of color, those who are young, those with low incomes or from underserved communities, and those who are disabled, homeless, affected by trauma, or are LBTQ.

Through media-watch campaigns and advisories, POW-WOW has provided forums, newsletters, and performances in response to current events as they pertain to or are seen through the eyes of a diverse culture of women and men. It has sought to create opportunities for displaced and marginalized women and young women to have a platform from which to be heard.
NEIL STEINBERG

With a frequency, clarity, and consistency unsurpassed in the Chicago daily press, the distinctive writings of Neil Steinberg have brought to a wide audience an awareness of the struggles and basic humanity of LGBT people.

For more than a quarter-century, Steinberg has raised a passionate and even provocative voice in support of LGBT welfare and against hatred and intolerance. His pen has steadily opened eyes, minds, and hearts, making a powerful impact.

Since 1987, he has been on the staff of the Chicago Sun-Times—the ninth-most-circulated newspaper in the United States—and has been a nationally syndicated columnist since 1995. When his columns are read online, their influence is magnified, and friend and foe alike share them through social media, substantially contributing to the national dialogue.

By chronicling the LGBT communities’ lives and hopes, he has helped to recast their cause not as a fight for “special privileges” but as a fundamental struggle for human rights, freedom, fairness, and basic dignity. One of the first daily journalists to cover the AIDS pandemic, Steinberg often noted how other groups could take lessons from the ways in which LGBT communities galvanized to support their own. By generating early visibility, Steinberg helped vital fundraising and volunteer recruitment efforts for the city’s AIDS social-service agencies.

His columns also recognized LGBT Chicagoans as a growing political force, through coverage of campaigns to win civil-rights protections and abolish discrimination. More recently, as the cause of marriage equality has advanced in Springfield and at the U.S. Supreme Court, Steinberg’s columns vigorously laid out the case for acceptance in inclusive and lucid terms, taking the fight to forces of bigotry and bolstering LGBT communities and their allies—but Steinberg was writing about marriage equality 17 years ago, in 1996, when he compared the by-now-uncontroversial business-world equality of a newly formed lesbian and gay chamber or commerce to what ought also to be the uncontroversial societal equality of same-sex marriages.

For this history of supporting the core principles of LGBT equality, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has selected him as a “Friend of the Community.”
BRENDA WEBB

In 1981, Brenda Webb, program director for Chicago Filmmakers, decided to start a festival showcasing LGBTQ film and video work. It was the second such festival in the world and has become a major cultural event for Chicago’s sexual-minority communities ever since.

Under Webb’s leadership for 32 years, the festival—known as Reeling: The Chicago LGBT International Film Festival—has provided a unique opportunity for the celebration of their identities to communities that too often are ignored or misrepresented in mainstream film and television. The works shown also help to enlighten the general public about the realities of their neighbors’ lives, as many of the cultural and social-justice issues of the day are revealed through film. The climate for successful crossover films such as Philadelphia, Brokeback Mountain, Milk, and Behind the Candelabra has resulted partly from the work of pioneers such as Webb who have helped to create a market for films with LGBTQ content.

Every year, Webb works tirelessly to produce the festival, sourcing independent and necessary voices to showcase their films and videos, hosting VIPs and special guests, and networking with local business owners and community groups to provide venues, catering, and mutual support. She has been known to stay up all night baking food for volunteers and festivalgoers, and she has countless stories to share about encouraging relationships between media makers. She has inspired hundreds of young sexual-minority filmmakers in Chicago and beyond to tell their stories through film.

There would have been no Chicago LGBTQ film festival without Webb’s dedication, hard work, and perseverance. In 2012, she risked being terminated as she resisted her own board of directors’ proposal to put the festival on hiatus, which for a year was done. She spent the year fundraising, restructuring, and reinvigorating the festival and community involvement. She has launched a Reeling Advisory Committee, brought four LGBT representatives onto the Chicago Filmmakers board, and created networking events specifically for sexual-minority filmmakers.

As Reeling relaunches this year, Webb continues to uphold its mission and see it through as a nurturing and inspiring space for the LGBTQ artistic community. For her three decades of ceaseless commitment, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has selected her as a “Friend of the Community.”
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.

PAUL ADAMS (posthumous 2011): He co-founded Chicago for AIDS Rights (C-FAR, which evolved into ACT UP Chicago) and the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network; planned and participated in dramatic public demonstrations on AIDS issues; volunteered for Open Hand Chicago and numerous other groups; and wrote columns, designed logos, and researched Native American two-spirit people—besides being Mr. Windy City 1987. Born in Oak Park in 1954, he died in Chicago of AIDS in 2000.


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.

CLAUDIA ALLEN (2010): She is a nationally recognized playwright, has won two Joseph Jefferson Awards, and was selected by Chicago magazine in 1999 as Best Playwright. Almost half of her repertoire of produced plays, including Fossils, Hannah Free, and Xena Lives!, have focused on lesbian relationships or have incorporated lesbian or bisexual characters.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ILLINOIS (2010): It is a Friend of the Community for its decades of fighting for LGBT rights and the rights of persons with AIDS through litigation and legislation, as part of its historic larger mission of defending civil liberties for all.

AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS—CHICAGO CHAPTER (2007): Throughout its 20-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.
ASIANS AND FRIENDS CHICAGO (2010): Since 1984, it has provided an opportunity for gay men of Asian descent to engage in social interaction more confidently with the larger community. It sponsors numerous social, cultural, and fundraising activities, and it helped to found and regularly participates in annual international gatherings of similar organizations.

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.

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 has produced a first-of-its-kind history book, Out and Proud in Chicago, plus three other books, on President Obama, leatherman Chuck Renslow, and entrepreneur and activist Jim Flint.

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. She is regional director in charge of Chicago’s Northeast (Levy) Senior Center.

MINISTER LOIS BATES (posthumous 2012): She was an advocate for LGBT teenagers and youth, a transgender community activist, and a United Church of Christ clergywoman who worked for HIV prevention and education. She also served as vice president of Windy City Black Pride. Her activism bridged divides of age, ethnicity, and gender identity. She died in 2011 at age 41 in Chicago.

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 was a leader in preparing for Chicago’s Gay Games VII in 2006 and Cologne’s Gay Games VIII in 2010.

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 later taught Mayan linguistics in 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.

GREG CAMERON (2011): As a key player in Chicago’s cultural and arts communities, he has constantly brought attention to LGBT concerns. As a Museum of Contemporary Art official, he worked to include LGBT and AIDS topics in programming and helped to partner the museum with About Face Theatre. He has been a board member and fundraiser for numerous organizations, and now as chief operating officer for WTTW and WFMT he has maintained his commitment to LGBT inclusivity.

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 blazed trails of distinction since coming to Chicago from Nicaragua in 1985. In 2010, he moved to Florida and has since directed art fairs in Miami and Shanghai.

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, now deceased): 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 produced numerous large charitable and special events, raised thousands of dollars for local organizations, gave his own money as well, co-produced a hate crimes documentary film, and was an active member of business groups. Born in Ohio in 1952, he died in Chicago on June 17, 2011.

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.

CHI-TOWN SQUARES (2012): Since 1987, it has grown from about 30 to more than 125 members as the largest and the only gay square-dancing club in the metropolitan area. It has provided alternative recreational opportunities for LGBT persons in addition to bridging a cultural gap between LGBT and non-LGBT square-dance communities.
CHICAGO BLACK GAY MEN’S CAUCUS (2012): Established in 2005 by the city Department of Public Health and black gay community organizers, it was created to bridge gaps between traditional and nontraditional health-care providers that serve black men who have sex with men. It aims to decrease new HIV infections among such men through innovative programming.

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 HISTORY MUSEUM (2010): It is a Friend of the Community for its commitment to preserving sexual-minority history as part of its larger Chicago history mission. Since 2004, its Out at CHM series has featured thought-provoking presentations and discussions of LGBT experiences. In 2011–12, it mounted its major “Out in Chicago” exhibition, drawing on its own and others’ resources to document some 150 years of Chicago sexual-minority crises, accomplishments, and contributions.

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 Chicagans 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 40 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 served on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ former Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues from 1989 to 2011 and has been a part of Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame activities since their 1991 inception, chairing or co-chairing them 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. Since retiring from the bench, he has been a Chicago theater performer and producer.
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 COTHAN (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 precursors of the former city Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. 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 marked the longest uninterrupted period of LGBT-inclusive policies in the city’s municipal history. From his election in 1989 to his retirement in 2011, Daley was consistently 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. He became recording secretary of the city’s former 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.

ST. SUKIE DE LA CROIX (2012): This English native has collected LGBT Chicago history since 1987. His findings have appeared in columns or blog entries in print and online. He was a historical consultant for a 2008 WTTW documentary, *Out & Proud in Chicago*; has led LGBT-focused city tours; and served on the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives board. In 2012, his book, *Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall*, was published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

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.

DAN DI LEO (posthumous 2010): A professional journalist, he was co-founder of Gay Chicago Magazine with Ralph Paul Gernhardt. He also helped to found Strike Against AIDS and the Mr. Windy City contest and was one of the original contributors to Howard Brown Memorial Clinic. Born in Chicago in 1938, he died here from AIDS complications in 1989.

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 what was then 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.

ANTONIA “TATA” FLORES (posthumous 2011): In 1987, she and two motorcyclist friends joined Chicago’s Pride Parade, and Dykes on Bikes was born. The group became a parade tradition, and Flores led in supporting it as well as other social venues for lesbians. Passionate about the diversity that is a part of community, she took part in countless events. Born in Chicago in 1958, she died here of breast cancer in 2008.

GRANT LYNN FORD (2011): In 1975, he co-founded Chicago’s GayLife newspaper and later assisted with several LGBT efforts, including the anti—Anita Bryant Orange Balls I and II. After a 1978 run for 44th Ward alderman, he served as pastor of Hinsdale’s Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church from 1979 to 1986, when he moved to Florida and led what became the MCC denomination’s largest congregation, Fort Lauderdale’s Sunshine Cathedral. He now lives in San Antonio.


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. Born in 1955, he died of AIDS complications in 1991. His bequest helped to open Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Chicago office.

SCOTT FREE (2010): He is one of the leading openly gay male musical artists in the nation. In addition, he founded the long-running queer performance series Homolatte, has produced the annual fundraising Alt Q music festival, is active in Chicago’s Gay Liberation Network, and has organized against homophobia in popular music.

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 community charities.

HENRY BLAKE FULLER (posthumous 2000): Born in Chicago in 1857, he was an author, poet, critic, and composer. He wrote novels and short stories 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 here 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. He has also been a Goodman Theatre associate director and a professor emeritus at Northwestern University.

BOB GAMMIE (2010): He has been an activity organizer and fundraiser in Chicago’s gay communities since he moved here in 1949. He organized some of the first large social events outside bar settings, including barbecues, softball and volleyball games, and the long-running Lincoln Park Lagooners club—as well as fundraising parties for AIDS charities and other groups that attracted thousands of people.

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 in 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 and is now policy director of The Civil Rights Agenda. In Roman Catholic circles, he also has worked extensively in behalf of the church’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adherents.

ROBERT GAROFALO (2011): A physician who came to Chicago in 2001, he created a partnership between Children’s Memorial Hospital and Howard Brown Health Center to improve health care for LGBT youth. At Howard Brown, he led a program for HIV-positive and at-risk LGBT youth, and in 2004 he led in establishing the Broadway Youth Center. He has published studies on LGBT youth’s health issues and has served as president of the national Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.
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 continued to provide up-to-date information on lifestyle, entertainment, bar, and organization events in Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities until it ceased publication in 2011.

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 supporting nondiscrimination in school settings. It has now merged into the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

SANFORD E. GAYLORD (2012): As actor, activist, and writer, he has used his creative skills for community good. He co-founded A Real Read, the African American performance ensemble, and has appeared in LGBT-focused documentaries. He wrote columns about being an HIV-positive African American gay man, directed HIV education performances, served on AIDS-related research and planning boards, and led an Internet-based risk-reduction project for black bisexual men.

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 in Passau, Bavaria, then part of the German Empire, he died in Washington, D.C., in 1972.


RALPH PAUL GERNHARDT (2004, now deceased): Beginning in 1975, he brought news to Chicago through Gay Chicago Magazine and other media. He 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 in what is now Park Ridge, he died in Chicago 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 near Pineville, Kentucky, Goley died in Chicago in 1994. Maddox, who had been born in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1935, later sold the business but continued living in Chicago until his death in 2009. Both of them were buried in Pineville.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (2011): The congregation held its last service in 2007 after 37 years as the first church expressly for LGBT communities in the Midwest. During its existence, it assisted numerous institutions, including Open Hand, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Illinois Masonic Hospital’s “AIDS Ward.” It was one of the city’s first gay meeting places that was not a bar, and it performed “blessed” or “holy” unions long before marriage equality became a nationally debated issue.
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 1978 campaign for 44th Ward alderman. As City Council staffer and Democratic Party activist, she advocated for gay and lesbian rights.

TED GRADY (2011): As an owner of J&L Catering, he has underwritten event costs for a host of nonprofit organizations, saving them hundreds of thousands of dollars. He has also devoted personal time to fundraising and board service for nonprofits, in addition to partnering with Sweet Miss Giving’s bakery in its job training for the underprivileged.

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 40 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 serving 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 worked for years 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.

WILLIAM W. GREAVES, Ph.D. (2012): He began his career as a chemist and a Science magazine editor, where he was an early authority on the HIV epidemic. He served as president of Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago after moving here in 1988. In 1995, he was named a member of what became the city’s Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. From 2000 to its 2012 dissolution he was its director and one of the city’s most visible and productive LGBT advocates, also providing staff support to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

KEITH GREEN (2012): A social worker, he has actively sought to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Chicago and nationwide as a Positively Aware associate editor, as a co-founder and chairman of the Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus, as an AIDS Foundation of Chicago staff member, and as leader of Project PrEPare, a study of using pre-exposure prophylaxis among young black men who have sex with men.
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 Chicago in 1933, she died here 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 85th birthday in 2011 and is still actively involved.

RENEE C. HANOVER (1991, now deceased): A well-known attorney who often provided her services pro bono, she was long a high-visibility advocate for lesbian and gay rights. She worked for civil rights legislation of all kinds and vigorously opposed all forms of discrimination in the law and in society. Born in 1926 in New York City, she died in 2011 in Los Angeles, where she had retired in 2000.

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 New York City 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 on 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 of Open Hand Chicago. In 2007, he succeeded retired state Rep. Larry McKeon as the only openly gay Illinois state legislator then in office. He has been re-elected three times.

PEARL M. HART (posthumous 1992): She spent her entire legal career of 61 years defending the civil rights of all persons. Born in 1890 in Traverse City, Michigan, she died in 1975 in Chicago, where she had lived since 1892.

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

DERRICK ALLEN HICKS (1999, now deceased): He organized in 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 Chicago in 1955, he died in 2002 in Oak Park of HIV complications.

MARCIA HILL (2011): For three decades, she has been a constant participant, coach, manager, and board member in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association and its precursors. She was its president from 2007 to 2010 and helped grow it to nearly 4,000 members as what is said to be the Midwest’s largest nonprofit, all-volunteer sports group.


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 was professor of philosophy and women’s studies until her retirement. 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 it traditionally provided were later to 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., M.S.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 is interim executive director of the Office of Global Health Leadership.
CHUCK HYDE (2001): While working out of 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.

INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER (2010): Founded in 1979 by Chuck Renslow and Dom Orejudos, it is one of the oldest LGBT institutions in the United States and has made far-reaching contributions in Chicago’s gay business, entertainment, health, and tourism arenas. It brings thousands of gay men and an increasing number of others to Chicago each Memorial Day weekend for a leather pageant that also addresses community social issues, supports the Leather Archives & Museum, and encourages sexual health and camaraderie.

MARK ISHAUG (2012): For nearly 30 years, he has been a local and national LGBT leader for the rights of vulnerable populations and for building healthier communities. After a period of service in Mozambique, he began working at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago in 1991. From 1998 to 2011, he led it to greater levels of funding diversity, service provision, and national respect. In 2012, he became president and chief executive officer of Thresholds, Illinois’s major mental-health service provider.

TONY JACKSON (posthumous 2011): He rose from poverty to fame as an innovative pianist, singer, and composer of ragtime and other popular music, including “Pretty Baby.” Known for a distinctive sartorial and entertainment style, he was openly gay at a time when that was not common. Born in New Orleans in 1876, he died in Chicago in 1921.

JENNER & BLOCK LLP (2011): The distinguished, Chicago-based law firm has led in advocating for LGBT communities in the courtroom and in society. In 2003 in the Supreme Court, a firm partner successfully argued Lawrence v. Texas, a Lambda Legal case that struck down sodomy laws nationwide and helped to pave the way for ending other discrimination. The firm’s list of other significant pro-LGBT cases is long, and it has aided a long list of LGBT community organizations.

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 now a fitness instructor at the University of Notre Dame.

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.

E. PATRICK JOHNSON (2010): An award-winning author, nationally touring performer of the spoken word, recognized scholar, and fundraiser, he has published several books centering on African American LGBT life. One, Sweet Tea, was the basis for his similarly titled one-man play. He is the Carlos Montezuma Professor of African American Studies and Performance Studies at Northwestern University.
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): For well more than 20 years, in Mattachine Midwest and other early venues, he was one of Chicago’s most visible, energetic advocates 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 member, committed to racial justice, and a worker in Regular Democratic organizations. Born in Chehallis, Washington, in 1925, he died in Chicago of a heart attack in 1986 and was buried in his earlier hometown of Portland, Oregon.

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. Born in 1944, he was murdered in 1980 in Kansas City, where he had moved two years earlier. He was buried in Bloomfield, Indiana.

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.

OWEN KEEHNEN (2011): A writer, interviewer, activist, and historian, he has recorded the views and remembrances of hundreds of famous and less-well-known persons during the past two decades. More than 100 of them were represented in his book, We’re Here, We’re Queer: The Gay ’90s and Beyond. He has also co-written three Chicago LGBT history books, written novels and articles, helped to found The Legacy Project, and been a volunteer in several LGBT and AIDS organizations.

CLIFFORD P. KELLEY (1998): A former Chicago City Council member, now a WVON radio host and an American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois board member, 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.
WILLIAM B. KELLEY (1991): Since 1965, he has led in many pioneering efforts, among them helping to organize the first national gay and lesbian conferences from 1966 to 1970; co-founding The Chicago Gay Crusader, Illinois Gays for Legislative Action, the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, and the Chicago Access Corporation; taking part in the first White House gay rights meeting; and serving on the Mattachine Midwest and National Gay Task Force boards. Now a lawyer, he chaired the Cook County Commission on Human Rights for its first 12 years until 2003 and is still a member.

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, remixer, 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 pursued 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 has also served on 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 in Racine, Wisconsin, 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 Chicago in 2008 on the day of the annual Pride Parade, but his impact on countless individuals and organizations lives on.

LAKESIDE PRIDE MUSIC ENSEMBLES (2011): Under several names beginning with the Chicago Gay Pride Band in 1979, the organization has brought friends and members of LGBT communities together through music—at the same time building goodwill and promoting social acceptance. Its four instrumental ensembles appear in parades and concerts year-round and serve as cultural ambassadors by performing at events nationwide, including President Obama’s 2009 inaugural parade.

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 LANOUE (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, WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation, and 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 leathersmen 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 in Nampa, Idaho, he retired at the end of his term in January 2007 and died four months later in Springfield after a stroke.

HARLEY McMILLEN (1992, now deceased): 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. Born in 1942, he died of a stroke on March 23, 2013, in Viroqua, Wisconsin, where he was retired.

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 in Columbus, Ohio, he died of AIDS complications in Chicago in 1992.
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, now deceased): 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. Born in 1934 in Chicago as Mary Broderick, she died here in 2011 of cancer, under her marital surname of Featherston, but was known to thousands as Merry Mary.

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 has served as 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 in Texas as Tony Murdock, 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.


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 LAW (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.

DAVID ERNESTO MUNAR (2010): A community organizer and AIDS activist, he headed the Association of Latin Men for Action (ALMA) and is now president and chief executive officer of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, where he has worked since 1991. He is a nationally known advocate on AIDS issues and has served on numerous local and national boards and scientific committees.

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, now deceased): Born in 1946 in what is now Faisalabad, 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 came to this country in 1971, co-founded Sangat/Chicago, and was president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council of America. He died in 2011 of a heart attack in Chicago.

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, now deceased): 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. Born in Cincinnati in 1926, she died in Chicago on March 5, 2013, of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

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 some 40 years she has urged and actively backed gay and lesbian political participation.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY (2011): Since 1976, the group has built relationships with vulnerable youths and adults on the city’s nighttime streets. Its services value nonjudgmental listening and compassion while connecting people with needed resources. It is the city’s leading provider of emergency housing to runaway and homeless youths, an estimated 20 to 40 percent of whom are LGBT. It also conducts mobile HIV testing.

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. In 2011, Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed her to head the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

ACHY OBEJAS (2010): An author, journalist, and political activist, she began her journalism career at the Chicago Sun-Times in 1981. Mayor Harold Washington appointed her to the city’s first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Her books of fiction and nonfiction have received awards and presented her as an out lesbian. She has taught writing at several Chicago-area universities.

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 in 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.

PAUL G. OOSTENBRUG (2010): He has been a quietly effective, exemplary volunteer organizer and fundraiser in Chicago for more than a decade. Beginning in 1998, he has helped to lead Team Chicago in local and international sports activities, including Gay Games in Sydney, Chicago, and Cologne. He also has been a board member and treasurer of Chicago House and Social Service Agency.
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 Chicago in 1933, he died of AIDS complications in 1991 in Boulder, Colorado.

DAVID ORR (2012): He was named a Friend of the Community for nearly 40 years of supporting LGBT goals during his political career as a campaign manager, Chicago alderman, and Cook County clerk. As clerk, he has vocally backed not only the county domestic-partnership registry but also marriage-rights litigation and legislation.

KATHY OSTERMAN (posthumous 1993): As 48th Ward alderman, city special events director, and longtime political activist, she helped to forge critical links between Chicago government and the lesbian and gay community. She played a crucial role in passage of the city’s 1988 human rights ordinance. For all of this, she was named a Friend of the Community. Born as Kathleen Lonergan in the Bronx in 1943, she died of ovarian cancer in 1992 in Chicago.

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 PennyCuff (2003, now deceased): On front lines, on sidelines, and behind the scenes, besides supporting reproductive choice and AIDS funding, he was 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 made him a model for direct-action, educational, and political work toward equality. Born in Chicago in 1964, he died here in 2012.

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 in Chicago as Adrene Bodenstein, 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. Born in Evanston in 1957, he had been diagnosed with HIV for more than 27 years and died in 2010 in Richmond, Virginia, where he had moved with his partner of 16 years and became director of social services for the Fan Free Clinic.

RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993): For some 40 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 40 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.

PROUD TO RUN (2012): Since the first annual race by 40 participants in 1982, Proud to Run has grown to more than 1,400 who want to celebrate Pride Week in a way meaningful for themselves while strengthening LGBT organizations financially. It has raised more than $300,000 for beneficiary groups during its existence.

BILL PRY (2012): As business owner, philanthropist, and advocate, he has made numerous long-term community contributions. Through BBJ Table Fashions, he has provided tens of thousands of dollars of in-kind donations to programs and events. He has also been a vocal advocate for LGBTQ youth concerns, emphasizing the importance of their well-being to the future of the whole society.

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.

JOSE RIOS (2010): Since 2001, as an openly gay police officer and the 23rd Police District’s LGBT liaison, he has helped to break down barriers that historically have compromised access to police services for sexual-minority Chicagoans. He has also helped to train police officers and has served on the boards of the Association of Latin Men for Action and the Lesbian and Gay Police Association/Gay Officers Action League.

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.

CHUCK RODOCKER (2012): For more than 40 years, he has been a stalwart of community-building and activism in Chicago. He was a founding member of the Tavern Guild of Chicago and its Rodde Fund (the early precursor of Center on Halsted). Through his long-running Touché bar he has hosted meetings and benefits, supported the leather community, and provided sponsorship and financial aid to sports, social, cultural, and AIDS groups.

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 in Kansas City, Missouri, he died in Chicago 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 executive director of the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & 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 supports 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 and The Legacy Project.

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; stimulated 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 needy 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 in Fairfield, Illinois, and died in a 2004 rafting accident near Anchorage, Alaska.

HEATHER C. SAWYER (2012): As a Lambda Legal lawyer for a decade beginning in 1996 when she joined the group’s Chicago office, she contributed in a wide range of cases crucial to LGBT persons. She later became minority counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, where she led work for federal recognition of marriage rights.

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 in Portland, Oregon, he died in 2001 in Chicago.

KAREN C. SENDZIAK (2007): She has served the Gerber/Hart Library for more than 20 years with intense devotion. In a variety of positions, including recent terms as president and as treasurer, she was 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 often advocated for sexual-minority communities and for persons living with HIV and AIDS. She retired from office in 2011.

BRETT SHINGLEDECKER (2011): In 1988, he and Carrie Barnett opened People Like Us, Chicago’s first free-standing, explicitly gay and lesbian bookstore, which operated until 1997. Serving also as something of a community center, it was often the first stop many people made when visiting Chicago. Through it, he and Barnett aided numerous organizations and helped to heighten community empowerment.

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.

JON SIMMONS (posthumous 2011): Born in Pittsburgh in 1955, he graduated in 1983 from Chicago’s Columbia College and soon moved from being a dance company executive director and writing for Windy City Times to chairing the city’s first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues under Mayor Harold Washington, later serving Mayors Eugene Sawyer and Richard M. Daley as their chief official adviser on such issues. In 1991 he began studies at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, and less than four months after his 1994 graduation he was found murdered in Beverly Hills, California, while on holiday.

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 Minneapolis in 1940, he died in Chicago in 1986 of AIDS complications. 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 a member of 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 in Chicago 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 much volunteer aid to Chicago dance and theater efforts.

The Rev. STAN SLOAN (2010): He is the longest-serving CEO in the history of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, doubling its services and revenue and opening its Sweet Miss Giving’s bakery as a funding and job-training vehicle. An Episcopal priest, he has led in the homeless and AIDS service communities for more than 15 years and was founding president of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness.

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 Chicago in 1934, she died here 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.


MARY ANN SMITH (1997): As alderman of Chicago’s diverse 48th Ward, this Friend of the Community 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. She retired from office in 2011.
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. Born in Chicago in 1958, he died here of AIDS complications in

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

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 and owner of the now-closed His ’n Hers bar, she
has contributed time and resources to numerous community organizations as well as fostering local
singers and musicians. 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 in Aurora, Illinois, as Velma Nacella Young, she
was an outspoken advocate of lesbian and gay concerns from the 1950s onward and wrote numerous
lesbian-themed novels, articles, 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 there.

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
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 well-regarded national magazine, Positively Aware, and has touched and saved many lives.

ELIZABETH E. TOCCI (1994, now deceased): 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 was active in local business circles and long provided financial aid and a supportive environment to lesbian and gay persons. Born in Chicago in 1935, she died in Calumet City in 2010.

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 later chaired 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 became Chicago’s first openly gay alderman, representing the 44th Ward. He has been re-elected twice.

RICHARD B. TURNER (1991): As a senior philanthropic administrator, he was co-founder and national president of Funders Concerned About AIDS. He later became manager of corporate contributions for Integrys Energy Group. He has led in numerous civic, cultural, and charitable groups, has served on Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s advisory board, and has chaired the Chicago Academy for the Arts board.

MARILYN URSO, R.N. (2009, now deceased): For 17 years she was Howard Brown Health Center’s research registered nurse and was named 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. Born Marilyn Czosek in Chicago in 1927, she died of lung cancer in Sandwich, Illinois, in 2012.

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 or other LGBT organizations and as a major philanthropist and fundraiser, much of that time with his late partner, the Hall of Fame inductee Joe LaPat.

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. Born in Chicago in 1953, he died here in 2007.

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 in Chicago, he died in office here in 1987. For this record, he was selected as a Friend of the Community.

LAURA S. WASHINGTON (2012): For almost 30 years as a respected, influential journalist and editor, besides having been Mayor Harold Washington’s deputy press secretary, this Friend of the Community has stood up publicly for sexual-minority equality before wider audiences. She has often provided detailed looks at less-publicized LGBT-related social issues, including those involving ethnic minorities.

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 spinning records to paving the way for African American lesbians to gather freely and safely. She has also organized large commercial social events.

HONEY WEST (2012): Her charm and versatility as a transgender singer and comedian have won a wide following. Her extensive onstage work has included performing for dozens of AIDS and LGBT fundraisers, and she has worked tirelessly to break down walls and to dispel myths about trans performers.

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 president and chief executive officer of the Black AIDS Institute.

MARK E. WOJCIK (2010): He has inspired and mentored students since 1992 as a professor at John Marshall Law School, where he formed the Gay and Lesbian Law Association earlier while still a student. He founded and headed the Chicago Bar Association’s Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, has headed the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, was co-author of the first casebook on AIDS law, has written numerous articles on sexual-minority legal issues, is an international-law expert, and has lobbied for pro-LGBT legislation.

TERRI WORMAN (2004): An openly lesbian community organizer for AARP, she has produced 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 Issues. She is AARP’s Illinois associate state director for community organizing.

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 is corporate secretary of Team Chicago and has served as 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 an editor at the University of Chicago Press.
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