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

Jean V. Hardisty

William B. Kelley

Andrew Patner

Dick Uyvari
November 10, 2015

Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame
3712 North Broadway Street, Suite 637
Chicago, Illinois 60613-4235

Greetings 2015 Inductees and Guests!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 2015 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

This year’s ceremony will mark the 25th year of this occasion. The Hall of Fame strives to recognize the contributions of Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and their important efforts towards eliminating bias and discrimination. Moreover, The Hall of Fame recognizes the outstanding volunteer and professional achievements of LGBT people and organizations, as well as highlighting their service to the LGBT community and the City of Chicago.

Hall of Fame inductees are dedicated individuals and organizations whose services have improved the quality of life for not only the LGBT community of Chicago, but also for Illinoisans everywhere. The LGBT community has long promoted fairness and equality, and their dedication to these efforts is commendable.

Congratulations to the 2015 class of inductees. On behalf of the people of the Land of Lincoln, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion. I wish you much continued success.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
Ms. Mary Morten  
Mr. Gary Chichester  
Co-Chairpersons  
Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame  
3712 North Broadway  
Suite 637  
Chicago, Illinois  60613  

Dear Ms. Morten and Mr. Chichester:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to all inductees, sponsors, and supporters gathered for the 2015 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Founded in 1991 with a multifaceted mission centered on uplift and inclusion, the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame has been committed to preserving the distinguished legacies of gay and lesbian activists and leaders since its inception. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities have made a great many valuable contributions to the City of Chicago. The LGBT community’s enduring involvement in the city’s cultural, economic, and political spheres highlights the variety of roles it continues to play in our city’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 often 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 addressing human rights issues and serving the greater community. I congratulate the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame on this, its 24th anniversary, and commend the organization for creating a lasting institution that underscores human rights issues and the accomplishments of our LGBT residents. I look forward to continued work with the LGBT communities to ensure that all Chicagoans are treated equally and with dignity.

Again, congratulations on this important ceremony. I hope you have an enjoyable evening and submit my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

Mayor
November 10, 2015

Dear Friends,

It is a great honor to join with you in celebrating the 24th Annual Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, and to congratulate this year’s inductees. The Chicago Commission on Human Relations delivers on the City of Chicago’s mandate that all Chicagoans have the opportunity to live in 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 who envision a better Chicago for all.

On this 24th 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 eleven individuals and one organization 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. Congratulations to all!

With Warm Wishes,

Mona Noriega
Chairman and Commissioner

740 NORTH SEDGWICK STREET, SUITE 400, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654
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, the first event of its kind in the country, took place during Pride Week at City Hall, hosted by Richard M. Daley.

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
2015 PLANNING COMMITTEE
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

Gary G. Chichester
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Administration

Jim Pickett
Selection Committee Facilitator

Bryan Portman

Dick Uyvari

Israel Wright
Executive Director
2015 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

Jean Albright

Fred Eychaner

Emmanuel Garcia

Stanley Jenczyk

Phoenix Matthews, Ph.D.

Gail H. Morse

Michael O’Connor

Barbara “Robbie” Smith

Lauren S. Verdich

Lesbian and Gay Police Association
Gay Officers Action League - Chicago

Jan Schakowsky
Friends of the Community

Camilla B. Taylor
Friends of the Community
Jean Albright retired from the United States Air Force in 1992, having served twenty years. Her last assignment was at the Great Lakes Naval base on Chicago's North Shore. Since retiring from active duty, she has worked to increase awareness of LGBT veterans and military members, worked in Chicago and nationally to overturn the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” (DADT) policy, and contributed to building Chicago's LGBT communities through her work with Windy City Times, which she joined in 1994.

Albright served as a member of the board of directors of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) from 2003 to 2009. She held educational seminars and fundraisers for SLDN throughout her board tenure. In Chicago, she has served in a number of leadership positions with the local chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights during the fight to repeal DADT. She has also spoken before dozens of Chicago groups—those small in numbers to over 500—telling the stories of how she and others like her served their country’s military under the constant threat of being discharged because of sexual orientation. On radio station WBEZ, she debated Elaine Donnelly, a vocal opponent of allowing lesbians and gays to serve openly.

Albright has participated in and helped to organize the annual city of Chicago Salute to LGBT veterans. In 2007, she was instrumental in bringing Rear Admiral Alan M. Steinman, one of the highest ranking military officers to come out publicly as gay, to be the keynote speaker at that event in support of the repeal of DADT. She also met publicly with elected officials in Washington DC and in their home districts in Chicago and environs to discuss the impact of DADT on servicepeople and on the armed forces, asking the officials to vote for repeal of DADT. In 2005, she successfully worked with a coalition that encouraged the Chicago City Council to support a resolution calling on Congress to pass the Military Readiness Enhancement Act. She continues to speak on the topic of LGBT servicemembers, most recently at a 2014 panel connected with Rivendell Theater's production of Women at War.


During her more than 22 years in Chicago, Albright has worked, mostly behind the scenes, on projects and events that strengthen Chicago's LGBT communities. She has managed newspaper circulation and posted daily on the Windy City Times (then Outlines) website since 1994. As a reporter and photographer, she has also covered hundreds of community events.
Fred Eychaner is chairman of Newsweb Corporation and President of Alphawood Foundation. In 2014, he was included in Chicago Magazine’s list of the 100 most influential Chicagoans; he is known for his philanthropy in the city, especially his support of LGBT organizations, HIV support organizations, arts institutions, public spaces, and historic preservation.

Eychaner was born in DeKalb, Illinois, in 1944. He attended the Medill School of Journalism and founded Newsweb Corporation, which prints a variety of newspapers, in 1971. A series of negotiations subsequently led to his acquisition of WPWR–Channel 50, which he sold in 2002. In 2005, he launched WCPT-AM, Chicago’s progressive talk radio station.

Throughout several political cycles, Eychaner has been a top Democratic donor; in the 2012 election cycle he was the top contributor to Democratic Super PACs. Many of his political donations have been made in support of LGBT rights, in particular the drive for marriage equality in Illinois. A great deal of the LGBT infrastructure in Chicago bears his stamp; he is the largest donor to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and has been instrumental in the creation and ongoing viability of a number of the most influential LGBT rights organizations in the state.

In 2014, Eychaner received the Lambda Legal National Liberty Award, which represented the first time that this prestigious honor has recognized an individual outside of New York or Los Angeles. In his acceptance speech, he looked back on more than forty years of LGBT progress, from those who resisted the police at Stonewall, to members of ACT UP fighting for their lives against HIV and AIDS, to the lesbians who gave blood when gay men could not, to the hatred spawned by Reagan-era Republicans, to Irwin Keller and Jonathan Katz of Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting fighting for rights in Chicago in the 1980s, up to the recent struggle to win marriage equality. “Always remember, never forget,” he chanted at several points. For Eychaner, the evening offered a chance not only to celebrate successes but also to reflect upon how many gains have been won in a spirit of unity and togetherness. “The grassroots process,” he recalled. “Fighting in the trenches, one phone call at a time. There was a time when most Americans did not know that they knew an LGBT person. The process of coming out; coming out to friends, our family, our coworkers has led us to where we are today.”

In September 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Eychaner a General Trustee to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He also serves on the boards of the Joffrey Ballet and of the Art Institute of Chicago and as a trustee of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, California.
Emmanuel Garcia is a Latino LGBTQ journalist, youth mentor, and respected community leader in Chicago. He was born in Cicero in January 1982, and has spent his entire life—and the past fifteen years as an activist—in the city.

In 2003, Garcia co-founded the Alvarado/Garcia scholarship for the Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA), which for 10 years awarded two college scholarships to Latino gay, bi, queer youth. Also in that year, he began writing a column for En La Vida, a sister publication for Windy City Times. As a contributing writer for Windy City Times, Garcia focused on Latino community events and news. He has interviewed such celebrities as Paulina Rubio, Maria Conchita Alonso, La India, and Wilson Cruz, as well as three-time U.S. national figure skating champion Johnny Weir.

Garcia became the producer and voice behind Homofrecuencia, Chicago’s first Spanish language LGBTQ public radio program at Radio Arte WRTE 90.5 FM in 2009. He used advocacy journalism to highlight inequalities in immigration, healthcare, and employment through a Latino queer lens. While at Radio Arte he became the lead organizer of Chicago’s largest queer youth prom at the National Museum of Mexican Art, an event that he has led for the past five years of its ten-year history.

In 2010, he began to shift the focus of his activism, using his experience in print, radio, and social media to mobilize the LGBTQ Latino community. He co-organized two buses with over 100 LGBTQ Latinos to travel to Washington, DC to demand immigration reform under the name “Rainbow Riders.” Two years later, he developed and led an innovative model campaign designed to address homophobia, transphobia, and HIV/AIDS stigma within the Latino communities of Little Village and Cicero, Illinois. The project conducted focus groups among, for example, Latino parents of LGBTQ youth and transgender Latina women. As a result, a report on the needs of Trans Latina women in Chicago was published and various public forums were organized to create new community efforts aimed at better serving this vulnerable population.

Also in 2012, Garcia served as a co-chair of the March on Springfield, where he brought his leadership role to the fore in organizing a bus of more than seventy-five LGBTQ youth who traveled from Chicago to Springfield to lobby for marriage equality.

In 2013 Garcia created “Vives Q,” an innovative series of LGBTQ events aimed at encouraging intergenerational dialogue between LGBTQ youth and adults. This public programming highlights the contributions of LGBTQ trailblazers of color and showcases the artistic resilience of youth.

Garcia has also served on the boards of the ElevArte Community Studio in Pilsen and the Crossroads Fund.
Stan Jenczyk was born in a German Workers’ Camp in Waltrop, Germany, in 1944. His parents were murdered by the Nazis and he was adopted by a Polish couple. Eventually, he emigrated to the United States and lived on the Chicago’s South Side. At the age of 19, he joined the United States Navy, where he served honorably from 1964 to 1968. During his service, he became a U.S. citizen. He considers his life with his partner of 36 years, the late Matthew Thomas Lind, his greatest achievement.

Since 2010, Jenczyk has been a member of the Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), where he currently serves as a Junior Board member. In 2011, members of AVER began a conversation about building a monument in a national veterans’ cemetery to honor LGBT veterans and servicemembers. Jenczyk volunteered to chair what became the AVER Chicago Chapter’s Monument Committee, where for several years he intrepidly fought through the tangled federal bureaucracy, eventually carrying a suitcase full of government paperwork that weighed nearly as much as a fully loaded combat rucksack. After four years of negotiations, the final design was approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thanks largely to Jenczyk’s efforts, and to his dedication and persistence, the first—and to date, only—monument dedicated solely to LGBT veterans and servicemembers, by LGBT veterans, in a national Veterans Administration cemetery was dedicated on Memorial Day 2015 at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois, the largest of all the many such cemeteries in the U.S. It was funded solely through individual and group donations. The text on the monument reads: “Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people have served honorably and admirably in America’s armed forces. In their memory and in appreciation of their selfless service and sacrifice, this monument was dedicated by the Chicago Chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER); ‘… with liberty and justice for all.’”

Jenczyk has also volunteered with a number of activities in his church and community, including Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago, where, in addition to serving as a member of the Board, for the past three years he has provided very professional forklift driving services for the club’s award-winning aid station in Boystown during Chicago Marathons. In addition, he volunteers at the Brown Elephant and at the Center of Concern, a non-profit agency offering Senior Support services to individuals living in the Maine Township area, where he visits individuals and provides transportation to their doctors’ appointments.
Dr. Phoenix Matthews is widely recognized, nationally and internationally, for groundbreaking research on health disparities in underserved populations. Born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1966 and residing in Chicago since 1995, Matthews is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois–Chicago and clinical psychologist with more than twenty years of experience in examining determinants of cancer health disparities, focusing on African-American and LGBT populations. Matthews's recent research focuses on the development and evaluation of community-based and culturally targeted smoking cessation interventions, most notably in conjunction with the acclaimed “Bitch to Quit” program at Howard Brown Health Center, which is the only LGBTQ smoking cessation program in Chicago.

Throughout an impressive career and LGBTQ community leadership, Dr. Matthews has contributed to the advancement of research associated with cancer prevention and control among vulnerable populations by developing culturally competent outreach, treatment, and retention methods that have substantially improved the successful recruitment of members of minority groups into research trials. These approaches have contributed to the enrollment of the highest percentage of African-American and LGBTQ smokers in any smoking cessation study, a commitment evidenced by Matthews's long-standing leadership experience within Chicago's LGBTQ communities. These include: membership on the Psychosocial Advisory Committee of the Y-Me Breast Cancer Foundation; membership on the Women's Research Committee of Howard Brown Health Center; membership on the Board of Affinity Community Services, where they were instrumental in receiving funding to pilot a groundbreaking Take Charge Health Promotion Study; membership on the Advisory Committee for Gay and Lesbian Concerns for the Chicago Board of Health; as well as, at present, membership on the Health Advisory Council for the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Dr. Matthews is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, ranging, most recently, from the Gay and Lesbian Health Professional Association's “Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality Achievement Award” in 2014 to induction into the Zanesville, Ohio, City High School Hall of Fame and the “Healthy Chicago Award” from the city's Department of Public Health in that same year. For three years (2013–2016) Matthews was recognized as a Helen K. Grace Diversity Scholar by the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois–Chicago and in 2012 received the Research Mentor of the Year Award from the Hispanic Center for Excellence in Medicine at the University of Illinois–Chicago.

Widely recognized as a champion of community-based research informing the health prevention, intervention, and promotion campaigns within Chicago's LGBTQ communities in general and, specifically, members of the African-American and Latino communities, Dr. Matthews has made a notable mark on LGBTQ health in the city; members of these populations are all the better for it.
GAIL H. MORSE

Gail H. Morse is a fierce advocate for securing civil rights for Chicago’s LGBT communities through professional, community, and political leadership. Nobody could sum up her passion for justice better than one of her colleagues, who remarked that “When it comes to marshalling support and resources for the LGBT communities, Gail is a force to be reckoned with: no one can say “no” to Gail. (I know, I’ve tried, she won).” A California native, she graduated from the University of San Diego in 1979 and earned her law degree from that university’s School of Law in 1982; she subsequently earned a Master’s of Law (Taxation) from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1986. She has resided in Chicago since 1995.

Morse is a tax partner at Jenner & Block, LLP, a proud 2011 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. In part, Jenner’s widely recognized leadership on LGBT issues is the result of her leadership. In the late 1990’s she organized an internal group of LGBT attorneys to serve as a resource for one another, as well as for the firm, in business development and LGBT-supportive initiatives. Today that group has grown from an e-mail list to become the firm’s “LGBT Forum,” which Morse continues to co-chair, and which has become a leader in identifying how firms like Jenner & Block could work to advance LGBT equality not just internally, but also nationally.

In 2002, Morse initiated the development of Jenner’s diversity newsletter, Equal Time, the first edition of which was devoted to Jenner’s publicly out attorneys, their practices, and their work on LGBT issues and community service. This was the first law firm publication focused entirely on LGBT attorneys. At Morse’s urging, the firm voluntarily ranked itself in the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index and, in 2005, Jenner became the first Chicago law firm to receive the 100% ranking, which it maintains today.

Morse has worked with the Illinois Department of Revenue to implement tax filings for partners in Illinois Civil Unions and is frequently called upon as a resource regarding the tax effects of marriage equality. She has provided pro bono counsel to almost every LGBT non-profit in Chicago—including the Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—and tirelessly serves as an informal resource for many who seek LGBT-friendly legal counsel.

Morse was the first out lesbian appointed to the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues, and to first participate in and subsequently be appointed to the Board of the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership. A consistent voice for LGBT inclusion in local and national politics, Morse was elected as an out lesbian delegate to the 2004 and 2012 Democratic National Conventions. With her spouse, Lauren Verdich, (also a 2015 Hall of Fame inductee), Morse is proud to have worked with Senator and President Obama to facilitate his “evolution” on the issue of marriage equality. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Lambda Legal. In 2008, she was a recipient of the “Bella Abzug Woman of Honor Award” from the National Organization for Women for her work raising the visibility of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender community and diversity issues in the workplace.
As an openly gay African-American, Michael O’Connor has contributed a great deal to the lives of LGBTQ Chicagoans and the citizens of Illinois. Three decades ago, on black talk radio, he began a conversation about LGBT issues that continues to the present. In 1986, he appeared on radio station WVON’s premier political broadcast, countering the anti-LGBT rhetoric of some of the city’s most powerful black luminaries. In 1993, he was instrumental in securing a place for openly LGBT Chicagoans to march in the city’s annual Bud Billiken Day Parade. Just one year later, he played a crucial role in negotiations between activists and the National Black United Front that ultimately won a place for LGBT marchers to participate in the annual African Liberation Day Parade on the city’s West Side.

In 1998, O’Connor co-founded the Rocks Coordinating Committee (RCC), which was the first 501(c)3 nonprofit of its kind to sponsor a culturally specific Pride event in Chicago. This all-volunteer organization sponsors the largest and oldest one-day HIV/AIDS outreach event in the U.S. O’Connor introduced the tradition of being “more than a party” to the thousands of LGBT persons from historically underserved communities who annually attend “Rocks PRIDE” and enjoy free access to social service and health care providers who offer health education and testing.

While serving as public policy chairman for the Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus in 2006, O’Connor organized a town hall forum on the impact of HIV/AIDS on gay men of color. “Black, Gay, & Dying” was part of the annual State of Illinois Town Hall for the Seventh Congressional District; the event gained national media attention, including coverage by National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered.”

As a legislative staffer in 2007, O’Connor co-authored the first bill in the U.S. to provide an independent revenue stream for HIV/AIDS service providers, resulting in the “Red Ribbon Cash” lottery ticket. This lottery fund continues to raise millions of dollars each year, providing critical funding for numerous HIV/AIDS prevention, research, and outreach services for Illinois residents who are affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition, while serving as former State Representative Constance “Connie” Howard’s aide, O’Connor organized and led a small group of volunteers in a grassroots statewide effort that resulted in landmark changes in the state’s criminal code. The General Assembly’s passage of “Second Chance” legislation has been of enormous significance to citizens of the city and state, especially those in economically disadvantaged areas. As a result, each year, LGBT Chicagoans and others participate in the Center on Halsted’s organizational and educational outreach event, where expungement, sealing of criminal records, and executive clemency information is provided to hundreds of mostly LGBT youth and adults.

Michael O’Connor has a long track record of organizing at the grassroots level around a variety of progressive legislative issues in Springfield; his effectiveness in advancing legislative initiatives that continue to improve the quality of LGBT lives in Chicago and beyond has made an incalculable difference.
Barbara “Robbie” Smith was known for her perseverance, strength, compassion, and integrity. Her passion for engagement with the world lasted throughout her life, and her activism within Chicago’s LGBT communities dated from the 1960s.

Born on May 25, 1946, Smith was a graduate of Chicago State University. She worked in real estate and as an accountant for over forty years. A founding board member at Affinity Community Services, she established sound financial management practices at the organization from the very beginning. Thanks in large part to her efforts, after twenty years, Affinity has a reputation for exemplary stewardship of donor investments and financial management. Smith also shared her accounting skills with other small nonprofits in Chicago.

Smith was also a founding member of the Forty Plus and Affinity Trailblazers groups, which are peer-led groups serving older Black queer women. In addition to providing support to their members, these groups also host programming for broader audiences highlighting health and economic disparities for queer women of color and providing advocacy opportunities for that population. Her contributions to the founding and shaping of these groups have helped to make Affinity a national model for service to Black LGBTQ communities.

Smith served as the newsletter editor and as an organizer in Women of All Cultures Together (WACT), which was created as a social networking space for women who did not want to participate in the bar scene. The WACT monthly brunch is today a twenty-one-year old institution that continues to contribute to the rich fabric of Chicago’s LGBTQ life. In addition, she supported the Lesbian Community Care Project, Crossroads Fund, and the Chicago Foundation for Women. She attended the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington in August 2013, and the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality in October 2013, where she lobbied state officials. She also participated in countless parades for LGBTQ equality, including the Bud Billiken and Chicago Pride Parades.

Before her passing in February 2015, Smith was increasingly interested in state and national politics. In 2012, she traveled to Wisconsin to campaign for President Barack Obama and Senator Tammy Baldwin.

In a 2007 interview with the Chicago Gay History Project, when asked about the defining moments in her life, Smith replied, “There have been several in my life at this point, the first being the realization that my daughter was a born leader. Another would be that my involvement with Affinity has been a gift that I have been given. … I think my personal legacy to the community would be a testament about the rewards that come from being a service to others.”
LAUREN S. VERDICH

For 30 years, Lauren Verdich has played a critical role in Chicago’s LGBT communities. She is one of those people who are seemingly everywhere, supporting high-stakes political candidates, and donating her time and money to organizations small and large. During the mid-1980s, as the AIDS crisis was taking hold in the city, and as the gay-rights movement was becoming stronger, both she and her company, Lauren's Catering, were critical contributors to many of the community’s struggles.

Her LGBT activism began in 1985, when she came out and became part of a group of volunteers at the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display at Navy Pier who came together to provide hot meals to homebound Chicagoans with HIV/AIDS. Verdich helped to found Open Hand, an organization which served meals to people impacted by HIV/AIDS, and which still lives on today as part of Heartland Health Alliance. If all she had done was co-founded that agency, her activist career would have been noteworthy, since Open Hand has been one of the city’s most important responses to the ongoing AIDS crisis. However, she did much more; Lauren’s Catering donated tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of goods and services to nonprofits raising money for their work. She has contributed to, and participated in, a variety of LGBT organizations, including LCCP, AFC, Impact, and Horizons, donating or providing at-cost food, service staff, and event planning expertise to these and other community groups. As an openly lesbian business owner, she was also an early, visible face of the community, when many other business owners remained in the closet. She was a founding member of the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1995, and which remains vital after twenty years.

Verdich’s has long been active in political work; she and her spouse, Gail Morse, have been major activists locally and nationally on LGBT and feminist issues. She was a host of Representative Jan Schakowsky’s inaugural Ultimate Women’s Power Lunch in 2001 and has served as a host for all subsequent events since then. In 2005, she was the first Lesbian Co-Chair for Schakowsky’s annual event. Verdich also served on the LGBT Advisory Council for Barack Obama’s Senate campaign in 2004 and as an out delegate for Obama at the 2008 and 2012 Democratic National Conventions. In 2011 she was appointed to Lambda Legal’s National Leadership Council. She currently serves on Representative Mike Quigley’s LGBT Advisory Committee.

After 15 years in business, Verdich retired in 2001. She remains active in LGBT, women’s, and civil rights organizations. In 2003, she held her birthday party at Sidetrack as a fundraiser for Horizon’s LGBT Homeless Youth Program led by Vernita Gray. She was interviewed for and cited in two recent books, Obama and the Gays by Tracy Baim, and Winning Marriage by Marc Solomon. In both cases, the topic was her contributions toward encouraging President Obama’s evolution on marriage equality.
The Lesbian and Gay Police Association–Gay Officers Action League (LGPA–GOAL) was founded in 1991 by four Chicago Police Officers: Mary Boyle, Dorothy Knudson, Sue Sasso, and Karen Conway, who felt that it was time that lesbian and gay police personnel had an organization of their own. Known in those days as the “Lesbian and Gay Police Association” (LGPA), the group's original purpose was to provide support for gay and lesbian police officers, who were mostly closeted at the time. The LGPA was dedicated to promoting solidarity and upholding Human Rights, providing support and social interaction for its members, and promoting understanding between the police and Chicago's LGBT communities through education, communication, and charitable acts. Among its many achievements, the LGPA—as it was known between its founding and 2005—sought and won the right to wear the Chicago Police Department (CPD) uniform in annual Pride Parades; earned the right to post LGBT related notices in the police bulletin; fought against inter-departmental discrimination toward LGBT officers; earned the support of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge for their sponsorship of the Pride Parade float; worked with the FOP and City attorneys to include sexual orientation in a CPD contract non-discrimination clause; participated in hearings on domestic partner benefits before the Chicago City Council; and supported the effort to bring the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago.

The Gay Officers Action League (GOAL) was brought to Illinois from New York in 1995. The first actual float in the Pride Parade was the GOAL-Illinois entry in 1995; before that the LGPA marched behind the Superintendent's car. In 2005, the original LGPA merged with GOAL; since then the combined organization has been known as the Lesbian and Gay Police Association–Gay Officers Action League. The move opened up membership to firefighters, public safety officers, and associate members, benefiting the organization by improving infrastructure, expanding support, and affording cooperation with outside agencies. Since the merger, in addition to assisting in the coordination and design of LGBT Training Videos in order to educate and ensure that CPD members are sensitive to the city's LGBT communities and LGBT officers' concerns, the group has, among other things: supported and promoted the 2008 Oscar-winning short documentary film “Freeheld;” worked with the 2006 Gay Games and provided volunteer security officers for the event; provided meetings, social events, and fundraisers for its members, including the annual Halsted Market Days booth and Pride Parade float, where members participate wearing department uniforms; worked on acquiring pension plans for same-sex partners and spouses; promoted and sponsored numerous charity events supporting fellow officers; and supported LGPA–GOAL members against unjust or discriminatory actions encountered within the workplace or elsewhere.

LGPA–GOAL is thus extremely well-established and highly regarded as an important community organization and resource, and is thus more than worthy of induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.
Janice “Jan” Schakowsky was born in Chicago on May 26, 1944, and grew up in Rogers Park. She graduated from the University of Illinois in 1965 with a Bachelor’s degree in elementary education and then taught for two years in the Head Start program. In 1969 she founded National Consumers Unite, a consumer-advocacy group that led a campaign to imprint freshness dates on food packaging in stores. From 1976 to 1985 she was a director of the Illinois Public Action Council, another consumer-advocacy organization; from 1985 to 1990 she served as executive director of the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens.

From 1990 to 1998, Schakowsky served in the Illinois State House of Representatives. When Representative Sidney Yates announced his retirement in 1998, she won both the primary and general elections, and since then has served in the House as the Representative from Illinois’s 9th Congressional District. Currently in her ninth term, she is a member of the House Democratic leadership, serving as a Chief Deputy Whip and a member of the Steering and Policy Committee. She is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, where she is the Ranking Democrat on the Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade Subcommittee. For decades, Schakowsky identified her top priority as winning affordable, quality health care for all Americans. In 2009 and 2010, she played a leadership role in writing and passing the historic Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that finally established health care as a right and not a privilege in the United States. She is proudly pro-choice, favors marriage equality, and supports comprehensive immigration reform.

Jan Schakowsky has never had to “evolve” on LGBT issues, for she has always stood on the right side of history. She has been a leading advocate on issues of importance to Chicago’s LGBT communities throughout her entire career. From her early years as a community activist to her tenure as a state representative and her nine terms in the House of Representatives, Schakowsky has been focused on creating the changes that bring about justice and equality. What makes her such an effective legislator is that she understands the intersections by which every issue on the national agenda—from marriage equality to employment non-discrimination and from immigration reform to homelessness—uniquely impacts LGBT individuals and their communities. It would be difficult to find a closer friend and ally to Chicago’s LGBT communities than Representative Jan Schakowsky.
Camilla B. Taylor was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1970, but has been active in Chicago since 2002. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School and her B.A. from Yale College; she is currently an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law, and also serves on the American Constitution Society Chicago Chapter Board of Advisors. She is inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for a unique achievement of far-reaching and historical importance having an impact on Chicago's LGBT communities: her successful prosecution of Lambda Legal's marriage equality lawsuit in Iowa, which was a pivotal moment in gaining marriage equality nationwide, and her further legal work on behalf of the LGBT communities.

Taylor is the Marriage Project Director (national position) in the Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal. She served as lead counsel in Lambda's marriage equality lawsuit in Iowa, Varnum v. Brien, where, by unanimous decision, the Iowa Supreme Court struck down that state's marriage ban in April 2009, making Iowa the third state in the country to permit gay and lesbian couples to marry. Along with Paul D. Castillo and the law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP, she served as co-counsel on Bogan v. Baskin, a federal suit that challenged the constitutionality of Indiana's marriage ban. Taylor argued that case before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which issued a sweeping decision that not only struck down Indiana's ban but also held that all laws targeting people based on their sexual orientation now warrant elevated scrutiny. Taylor is also part of the team of co-counsel on appeal in Robicheaux v. Caldwell, a challenge to Louisiana's marriage ban, and argued that case before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Taylor's other past or present marriage cases include Darby v. Orr, a state court case representing 16 couples seeking to marry in Illinois, and Garden State Equality v. Dow, a state court case that won the freedom to marry in New Jersey, in addition to a federal suit that obtained an emergency order allowing an Illinois woman with terminal cancer to marry her longtime partner, a federal class action lawsuit that struck down Illinois's marriage ban as unconstitutional, a federal challenge to West Virginia's marriage ban, and a federal challenge to North Dakota's marriage ban. In addition, Taylor has contributed friend-of-the-court briefs in numerous federal and state cases challenging marriage discrimination. In states where same sex couples have won the freedom to marry, she has challenged refusals to provide equal marital benefits and protections to same-sex spouses and their children.

In addition to her work as a litigator, Taylor was the primary drafter of Illinois marriage legislation, has contributed to legislative efforts concerning marriage and parenting around the country, and has testified multiple times before state legislatures in support of marriage bills and in opposition to measures that would permit discrimination against LGBT people. For all of her tireless advocacy on the part of Chicago's—and the nation's—LGBT communities, Camilla Taylor has proven herself as a worthy friend and ally.
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 Hull House, 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 building 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.

GAYLON ALCARAZ (2013): She is an activist, organizer, and human-rights advocate who has worked for low-income women's reproductive rights, against violence, and for gender equity, health-care access, and recognition of diversity. She was a founding board member of Affinity Community Services.

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.

JAMES L. ALEXANDER (2013): A philanthropic trustee, board member, and public-spirited lawyer, he has helped to develop Chicago’s cultural sphere, bolstered its nonprofit organizations’ effectiveness, and heightened diversity in their programming and in civic life. He is the co-trustee of the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, and he has helped to develop the LGBT Community Fund housed at the Chicago Community Trust.

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 more-than-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 has 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 supported the Institute of Lesbian Studies, the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, and Gerber/Hart Library.

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.

GERALD ARPINO (posthumous 2014): co-founder of the Joffrey Ballet, which is celebrating its 20th year in Chicago, for his more than 50 Joffrey years as dancer, choreographer, and company director.

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. Artemis has been an important part of Chicago’s lesbian feminist cultural life. 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 numerous books, including a first-of-its-kind history book, Out and Proud in Chicago.

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. Born in 1970, she died in Chicago in 2011.

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.

JAMES L. BENNETT (2013): He has been a powerful and humorous voice for LGBT concerns in the United Methodist Church, in Chicago sexual-minority communities, in theater and broadcast media, and in legal activism. He has written and performed in gay sketch-comedy revues, been an on-air commentator, directed Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office, and chaired the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition.
CARYN BERMAN (1995, now deceased): A psychotherapist and social worker, for more than two decades she worked professionally and as a volunteer and political activist to improve Chicagoland’s lives. Focusing on the health and civil rights of lesbians and gay men, she also skillfully built coalitions and was an influential HIV/AIDS educator and policymaker. Born in New York City, she died of cancer in Chicago on September 1, 2014, at age 62.

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, now deceased): Beginning in 1973, his engaging personality and senses of humor and fairness aided many Chicago gay and lesbian efforts. Besides much activity in gay rights lobbying and fundraising, he was a longtime leader of Dignity/Chicago, the organization for lesbian and gay Roman Catholics, and was president of Dignity/USA from 1985 to 1989. Born in 1949, he died on July 6, 2013.

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.

KELLY CASSIDY (2014): Now an Illinois state representative, for her 21 years of Chicago political activism on women’s and LGBT rights, criminal justice, health care, and social justice.

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.

JORGE CESTOU (2013): He has worked to improve the lives of immigrant communities since 1997 through such organizations as ALMA, Unid@s LGBT, and the annual NGLTF Creating Change conferences. He has advocated for culturally sensitive HIV services for Latinos, has been active in Chicago leather community events and organizations, and has been director of programs and services for Vida/SIDA.

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 in 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, it was Chicago’s first grassroots agency to respond to immediate housing needs of persons with HIV disease and AIDS. It established the Midwest’s first “continuum of care” within supportive housing for such persons, accommodating residents ranging from those with an initial HIV diagnosis to those with late-stage AIDS.

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

GARY G. CHICHESTER (1992): He has provided more than 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.

ROCCO J. CLAPS (2013): He is Illinois’ first openly gay cabinet member as director of the state Department of Human Rights since 2003, where he helped to secure inclusion of sexual orientation in the Illinois Human Rights Act in 2005. As a public servant since 1987, he has held several significant county, state, and federal positions as well as positions with the Democratic National Committee.

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.

LUCRETIA CLAY-WARD (2014): An HIV/AIDS survivor, counselor, and advocate, for 13 years of HIV-prevention outreach and education, especially among youth, sex workers, and substance abusers. For this history she was inducted as a Friend of the Community.

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.

TERRY COSGROVE (2014): President and CEO of Personal PAC and a 1970s LGBT activist, for his 25 years of advocacy and political consultancy in behalf of women's reproductive choice rights.

T. CHRIS COTHRA (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.
JON-HENRI DAMSKI (1991, now deceased): He was an essayist and a columnist for *GayLife*, *Gay Chicago Magazine*, *Windy City Times*, and ultimately *Nightlines* and *Outlines*. His lobbying was important to the passage of a 1988 Chicago human-rights law and a 1990 Chicago hate crimes law. Born in 1937, he died of melanoma complications in 1997.

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 GLBV A. 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 was on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago from 1999 to 2014, where he was 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, he organized Dance for Life fundraisers and ancillary events beginning in 1992 to benefit dancers and others coping with HIV/AIDS. He 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, now deceased): He was 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. Born in 1925, he died in Chicago on January 30, 2014.

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 has later been 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, now deceased): She organized a gay and lesbian hotline in 1969 and hosted support groups in her home. She 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. Born in Chicago in 1948, she died here on March 19, 2014, of complications from metastasized breast cancer.

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 became president of Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago after moving here in 1988. In 1995, he was named a member of what was later 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, now deceased): 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 Somerville, Massachusetts, 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., R.N. (2003): She has made outstanding contributions to lesbian health. Besides innovative research, she has advised government and private health and social service agencies, led conferences, and made public educational presentations. She is a professor and associate dean for global health in the College of Nursing of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she is also director of research for UIC's National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health.

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 CEO of Holy Cross Services Corporation in Notre Dame, Indiana.

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 Performance Studies and African American Studies as well as director of graduate studies at Northwestern University’s School of Communication.

RUDOLPH JOHNSON, JR. (posthumous 2013): A native of the Lakeview neighborhood, he led several local business groups with distinction, ran the North End bar that has sponsored numerous gay sports teams and events, and aided many local social-service and political organizations. He was the longest-serving president of what is now the NortHalsted Business Alliance. Born in 1947, he died suddenly in Chicago in 2006.

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 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 Chehalis, 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.

CHRISTINA KAHRL (2014): The nation’s first openly transgender sports writer and a co-founder of the Baseball Prospectus think tank, for that and her seven years of pro-transgender Chicago activism.

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 lesser-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, now deceased): 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, now deceased): As producer, remixer, and DJ, he was 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 was later a DJ and album producer of international stature. Born in 1955 in the Bronx, New York City, as Francis Warren Nicholls, Jr., he died in Chicago of Type 2 diabetes–related complications on March 31, 2014.

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 until recently was still contributing to literary reference materials and writing articles. She was lately a nursing-home patient pending other housing assistance.

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.

LAMBDA LEGAL—MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE (2013): Established in 1983, the office in Chicago has participated in some of the national organization’s most important LGBT rights cases, including the Iowa and Illinois marriage-equality cases, a Minnesota case protecting gay and lesbian students from harassment, and cases involving the rights of lesbian and gay parents and children, AIDS- and transgender-related discrimination, and student clubs.

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 leathermen and other gay men cope with hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse, all in the unselfish name of “giving back to your community.”
MIKE McHALE (2005): During law school and as an assistant Cook County state's attorney since 1991, as a leader of Equality Illinois, and as a neighborhood activist, he distinguished himself by professional excellence, personal openness, and mentorship. In 2006, he was elected a judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

LARRY McKEON (1997, now deceased): He made a historic mark on Chicago politics in 1996 by winning an Illinois House of Representatives seat as the state's first openly gay or lesbian state legislator. Later he became known as openly HIV-positive and then a cancer survivor. In earlier life, he directed Chicago's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, worked in social service administration, and was a police officer. Born in 1944 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 in 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.

ROBERT MADDOX (2001, now deceased): See FRANK GOLEY and ROBERT MADDOX.

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

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

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

MERRY MARY (2005, 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.

EDWARD MOGUL. (2014): Lawyer, teacher, and president of the Illinois Academy of Criminology, for LGBT advocacy and for legal and financial help to LGBT groups over more than 40 years.

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. He will retire in 2015.


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 to appear in that language. Its courageous publication met with revilement but critical acclaim and inspired other 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 in 2013 of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

LEE A. NEWELL II (2013): He played critical roles in maintaining Chicago’s LGBT social-service infrastructure from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, was also active in broader community groups, and became a photodocumentarian of Chicago LGBT life for almost 10 years. He helped to rescue Gay Horizons from debt. He was the last president of OPEN, the city’s first LGBT political action committee, and some 5,000 of his photos are in the Chicago History Museum. He now lives in Florida.

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.
PATÉ (2013): The bar personality known as Paté, a Chicago native, has been active in the city’s LGBT communities 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 groups have brought her acclaim, but she has regarded nothing as more meaningful than her years of animal-rescue commitment in such groups as Found Chicago.

ANDREW PATNER (2013, now deceased): A lifelong observer of the arts and a third-generation native Chicagoan, he is one of the city’s most influential social and cultural critics, particularly at WFMT and the Chicago Sun-Times, as well as in publications worldwide. He was a pioneer in writing and speaking in the first person about being gay for Chicago media and was an early Chicago House volunteer.

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 Pride Chicago, which facilitates the annual Pride Parade.

LISA MARIE PICKENS (2014): A co-founder and board president emeritus of Affinity Community Services, for more than 25 years of activism as an open African American lesbian.

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.

POW-WOW (2013): Known in full as Performers or Writers for Women on Women's Issues, the group was formed in 2003 to provide performance space, to mentor young women and teen girls aspiring to be full-time artists, to provide arts-based educational and literacy programs, to foster poetry, and to offer other services, especially to South Side women of color, youth, and those with low incomes or who are disabled or LGBTQ.

MARY D. POWERS (1992): She was recognized as a Friend of the Community for what is now, at age 92, 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.

LAURA RICKETTS (2013): She is a Chicago philanthropist in LGBT and broader communities and, as part owner of the Chicago Cubs, is the first openly gay woman to own a Major League Baseball franchise. After practicing law, she co-founded an ecotourism enterprise. She has served on boards or councils of several groups, including Lambda Legal; Housing Opportunities for Women; Opportunity Education, which helps educate children in developing nations; LPAC, the first lesbian political action committee; and the Democratic National Committee.

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, now deceased): 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 produced numerous individual works and anthologies of fiction, including science fiction. Born in Chicago in 1926, he had a history of heart problems and died in San Francisco under hospice care on June 30, 2014.

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 husband, 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. He is currently a Gerber/Hart Library and Archives board member.

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 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.

DEBRA SHORE (2014): An openly lesbian Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago commissioner since 2006, for her 32 years as a conservationist and political organizer.

SIDETRACK (2006): Since opening as a bar 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.

SILK ROAD RISING (2014): The Chicago theater project, for 12 years of showcasing works that address themes relevant to Silk Road peoples and their diaspora, including polycultural LGBT stories.

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 he 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.

ROSS A. SLOTTEN, M.D. (2014): A physician, medical faculty member, and biographer, for 30 years of providing supportive care, innovative treatments, and expert advice in the fight against AIDS.

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!


LAURENCE E. SPANG, D.D.S. (2003): After losing his job as a federal prison dentist in 1991 because of his HIV status, he led in organizing a Chicago dental clinic for low-income HIV-positive persons, persons with tuberculosis, and those of advanced age. He has also been active in a range of community service activities and now resides in California.


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.

HEATHER STEANS (2014): An Illinois state senator, for six years of legislative representation, including service as chief Senate sponsor of the marriage-equality bill that passed in 2013. For this history of service she was inducted as a Friend of the Community.

NEIL STEINBERG (2013): He was selected as a Friend of the Community for more than 25 years of bringing to a wide newspaper audience at the Chicago Sun-Times and nationally an awareness of LGBT people’s struggles and basic humanity. He was an early backer of marriage equality and was one of the first daily journalists to cover the AIDS pandemic.

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 books. Born in 1912 in New York City, he died in Chicago in 2008.

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.

BURR TILLSTROM (posthumous 2013): This renowned puppeteer and TV host, of *Kukla, Fran and Ollie* fame, was born in 1917 in Chicago. He helped to popularize television through shows for RCA in the 1930s. He created the concept of Kukla et al. at the 1939 New York World's Fair, and the troupe performed on TV and onstage during five decades. He died in 1985 in Palm Springs, California, and is buried in Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery.

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, now deceased): 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 sport-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 La Pat.

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

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

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

BRENDA WEBB (2013): She is a Friend of the Community because of her role at Chicago Filmmakers in creating and leading Reeling: The Chicago LGBT International Film Festival, which in 1981 became the second such festival in the world. The festival has fostered celebration of LGBT identities and enlightenment of the general public.

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.

BENNET WILLIAMS (posthumous 2014): A community organizer, for almost 20 years as an HIV-positive man advocating and educating about HIV and human rights, especially with African Americans.

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 the 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.

CLARENCE N. WOOD (2014): A veteran human-rights advocate and former Chicago Commission on Human Relations chairman, for his decades of unwaveringly advocating for LGBT equality he was inducted as a Friend of the Community.

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' officer of technology.
DAVID ZAK (2013): He has been nurturing LGBT theater for more than three decades—from 1982 to 2009 as artistic director at Chicago’s Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, which premièred many gay and lesbian plays during its annual Pride Series. He has won multiple Joseph Jefferson Awards for directing and writing and has directed on three continents. Today, he is executive director of Pride Films and Plays and annually spearheads the Great Gay Play Contest.

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.

For additional information regarding these inductees, please visit: www.glhalloffame.org
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Added thanks to the many individuals who attended the Pride and Joy Reception and supported the Celebrity Bowl and our other community fundraisers.
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Please visit the exhibit on display through July 3, 2016 in the Congress Corridor of the Harold Washington Library
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Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation formed in late 2009 to raise and provide financial assistance to the Hall of Fame in a time of diminished funding by the City of Chicago. Pro bono assistance in creating the corporation was provided by the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block.

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Thank you to the Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Strategic Planning Committee

Gaylon Alcaraz · Megan Carney
Gary G. Chichester · Sam Coady · Danny Kopelson
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