City of Chicago
Commission on Human Relations
Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues
500 North Pershing Court, Room 608
Chicago, Illinois 60611
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

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 our country are made aware of the contributions of Chicago’s lesbian and gay community and the community’s efforts to eradicate homophobic bias and discrimination.

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

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

Induction into the Hall of Fame symbolizes that the recipient either has made a contribution with far-reaching effects on the quality of life for Chicago’s lesbian and gay community or the city of Chicago, or has made a significant long-term contribution to the well-being of Chicago’s lesbian and gay community.

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

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

312.744.7911 (VOICE) 312.744.1088 (CTT/TDD)
November 12, 1996

Dear Friends:

No other city in the country has an established, city-sponsored Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. I am proud that the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations has taken the lead through its Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues to recognize the achievements of gay men and lesbians and their contribution to the City of Chicago.

It is gratifying that the Commission and the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues are able to work together to end bias, discrimination, and prejudice that adversely affect all citizens of Chicago. The gay and lesbian community has continuously advocated human rights and the fair treatment of all segments of our diverse city. The work of the Commission and its Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues deserves to be praised. By working together, and in collaboration with the leadership of the gay and lesbian community, we have had an impact not only on city governance but also on city-wide organizations and their policies.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is important to the City of Chicago because it is an opportunity to honor Chicago's gay and lesbian community through individuals and organizations who are committed to making Chicago everyone's city, including all segments of our city's diverse population, and ultimately a "bias free" city.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to the 1996 inductees of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for their dedication, personal sacrifice, and commitment to making Chicago a city that works for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Clarence N. Wood
Chair/Commissioner

Office of the Mayor
City of Chicago
November 12, 1996

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all attendees, participants, and supporters of the 1996 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremonies and to recognize the achievements of this year's inductees.

Chicago, in its diversity, represents a profile of America and a cross-section of the world. In recognizing and appreciating the differences between us, we also find the common bonds that unite us as a people and a community. Historically, countless members of the Gay and Lesbian communities have made substantial contributions to Chicago and the nation. My administration has striven to create a greater harmony between all of our city's diverse communities, and I am proud of our citizens for their willingness to join together in fellowship.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame chronicles the achievement of individuals who worked to promote fairness and equality and provides a forum for learning and discussion about our city's progress in the field of human rights. I look forward to continuing to work with the Gay and Lesbian community in our efforts to ensure that all of our citizens are treated with dignity and equality.

It is with pleasure that I join with the Commission on Human Relations and the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues in expressing congratulations to the 1996 inductees.

My best wishes to each of you for an exciting and memorable event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor
1996 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Gary G. Chichester
Co-Chairperson

Thom Dombkowski
Selection Committee Co-Chairperson

Vernita Gray
Selection Committee Co-Chairperson

William B. Kelley

Ellen J. O’Donnell

Laura A. Rissover
Co-Chairperson

James Monroe Smith

Shelton R. Watson

1996 INDUCTEES

CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

Jacqueline Anderson

Jack Delaney

Arlene Halko

Gregory “Greg” Harris

Frankie Knuckles

Tony Midnite

Mary F. Morten

Ifit Nasime

Norm Sloan

Tiffani St. Cloud

Charlotte A. Newfeld
Friend of the Community

Bailiwick Repertory’s Pride Series

Gerber/Hart Library
Jackie Anderson

A doer who does not boast about the good work she has done for lesbian and gay Chicagoans, Jacqueline Anderson has told others that she loves what she does—perhaps the secret of her lasting contributions.

Anderson is an educator and, since February 1975, has been an assistant professor of humanities and philosophy at Olive-Harvey College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, where she has twice served as department chairperson. Through her publications, she has contributed to academic discussion about lesbianism and feminism, publishing in such journals as Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society. She has jointly coordinated the Olive-Harvey College Women's Center since 1990 and has been highly involved in the college's Faculty Council.

Anderson has also been a steadfast volunteer in the gay and lesbian community. She helped to establish a Lesbian Community Cancer Project clinic on Chicago's South Side. Her leadership of the Yahimba organization has resulted in at least two citywide conferences specifically addressing needs of African American lesbians. She has been a supporter of the Institute of Lesbian Studies, the Mountain Moving Coffee House, and Gerber/Hart Library.

Anderson is described by other activists as one of their role models and is credited with helping to pave the way for many gay and lesbian individuals to heighten self-esteem and community empowerment.

Jack Delaney

The gay men and lesbians affiliated with the organizations where he has volunteered hold Jack Delaney in high regard. Delaney's prodigious volunteerism has united the community personally, socially, and politically, as he has used his talents for the good of the groups.

Delaney's activism started in 1977 when he joined Dignity/Chicago, the organization for lesbian and gay Roman Catholics. He subsequently served Dignity as a board member and president. Delaney was also elected to two terms on Dignity/USA's national board. He is now serving on the committee planning the group's 25th anniversary celebrations in 1997.

From 1977 through 1981, Delaney belonged to the Tavern Guild of Chicago and was elected to the Frank M. Rodde III Memorial Building Fund board, remaining with it through the purchase of a gay and lesbian community center in 1984.

He was active in the Windy City Athletic Association bowling league from 1980 through 1989 and was elected WCAA commissioner in 1984 and 1985. During the formative years of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, Delaney was also substantially involved. From the ranks of volunteers on the board's human resources and nominations committees, he rose to chair the board of directors from 1990 to 1992.

He has also lent his time and talent to make Chicago a better community. In 1989, Alderman Mary Ann Smith recognized his leadership ability and asked Delaney to start and cochair the 48th Ward Gay and Lesbian Coalition, now the North Lakeshore Gay and Lesbian Coalition. He also sat on the alderman's Steering Committee, which advised her on local issues.

This outstanding volunteer and citizen has also been a board member of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights Political Action Committee and in 1995 was elected to the Edgewater Community Council.

For his long service, leadership, and ability to unite people, many organizations are indebted to Jack Delaney as they grow and flourish.
Arlene Halko

It is not surprising that Arlene Halko was selected as Gay Chicago Magazine's "Woman of the Year" in 1988 and was honored at the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual dinner in 1990 for her significant volunteer contributions to many of Chicago's AIDS and gay and lesbian organizations. Halko was born in Chicago and has lived here for 60 of her 63 years. For 32 years, she worked as a medical physicist in area hospitals, retiring in 1993. While at Cook County Hospital, she was a familiar face on the AIDS ward.

In 1975, she joined Dignity/Chicago, the organization for gay and lesbian Roman Catholics. For five years, Halko served on its board of directors, and she served as its first lesbian president for two terms. During her tenure, the group's first female chaplain was hired, and chapter members went to Wichita, Kansas, to protest the attempted repeal of that city's gay and lesbian rights ordinance.

In addition, Halko's contributions to serve people with HIV/AIDS have been substantial. She was one of the nine cofounders of Chicago House and Social Service Agency in 1985. During the early years of her association with Chicago House, she helped with fundraising by promoting bar nights, tag days, Christmas bazaars, and rummage sales. When Chicago House purchased its West Town facility in 1986, Halko oversaw the building's renovation, including everything from plumbing to painting. She also took part in site selection for the agency's Edgewater facility, and for two years she headed the Chicago House board's nominating committee, recruiting much talent for the organization.

Halko has been described as a tireless advocate for people with HIV/AIDS, one who immerses herself in the project at hand and presents herself in a professional manner. She was instrumental in lobbying politicians, from aldermen to United States Senators, to secure government funding for direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

From 1982 to 1989, Halko owned Piggens Pub, a popular gay and lesbian bar on Diversey Parkway. She used the bar as a vehicle to support the community, sponsoring lesbian and gay sports teams and special events.

Because of her commitment to our community and because of the passion and professionalism with which she undertakes volunteer activities, Halko's contributions to gay and lesbian Chicagoans will not be forgotten.

Greg Harris

To many Chicago government officials, Greg Harris is well known.

Since 1992, as an openly gay man living with AIDS, he has worked as chief of staff for 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith. In that capacity, he has been instrumental in changing many attitudes about gayness and AIDS.

Harris was recently featured in a training videotape used by the City of Chicago to sensitize city workers to HIV/AIDS-related issues in the workplace. Since appearing in the videotape, he has sometimes been stopped on the street and congratulated because of being recognized.

Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, Harris has devoted untold amounts of volunteer time to AIDS-related causes. He cofounded and was the first president both of AIDS Walk Chicago and of Open Hand Chicago. To date, the AIDS Walk has raised more than $12 million, and Open Hand has served more than 1.2 million meals. He innovated regular meetings among board presidents of local AIDS organizations in order to promote intergroup cooperation. He has also served on boards of other AIDS organizations, such as the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Service Providers Council and its Advocacy and Public Policy Committee, as well as the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago's board of directors.

Harris has been active in numerous electoral campaigns. He cofounded an organization called Lesbians and Gays in Government as a support and networking group for Chicago's many lesbian and gay employees at all levels of government. He has also shepherded projects of significance to the AIDS community, such as Uptown's San Miguel Apartments, through the governmental process. And he has been active in working for domestic partnership benefits for local government employees and for a domestic partnership registry.

Among his other awards, Harris has received the Award for Outstanding Service to the Immigrant and Refugee Community of Chicago, jointly presented by the Ethiopian Community Association, Chinese Mutual Aid, Asian Human Services, Korean American Community Services, and the Korean American Association.

In light of his unceasing dedication over the years to persons with HIV/AIDS both as a volunteer and as a city worker, Greg Harris is now recognized for his enduring spirit.
Frankie Knuckles

An out gay producer, remixer, and DJ, Frankie Knuckles is the inventor and popularizer of “house” music. This music is known throughout the world as “Chicago house.”

The term “house” is derived from the Warehouse, Chicago’s famed underground club where Knuckles drew huge crowds of devotees.

Knuckles grew up in the Bronx in the 1960s and was influenced by many of the jazz artists in his sister’s record collection, such as Stan Getz, Sarah Vaughan, and Herb Alpert.

He studied commercial art and costume design as a teenager but eventually found his true calling: staffing the DJ booth. He worked in Manhattan’s Better Days and later the Continental Baths. He moved to Chicago in 1977 and remained here for 10 years before returning to New York to DJ at The World. However, Chicago is still occasionally favored with guest appearances.

According to Genre magazine, Knuckles has been a DJ of international superstar stature for nine years. He remains devoted to spinning and filling a dance floor, but after the release of two albums by Virgin Records—Beyond the Mix and Welcome to the Real World—Knuckles spends more time remixing and producing. Despite his fame in the music world, Knuckles himself does not sing or play any musical instruments.

In Frankie Knuckles, Chicago’s gay and lesbian audiences have helped to nurture a talent with seemingly boundless potential. He has repaid by providing countless hours of self-affirming musical involvement.

Tony Midnite

Tony Midnite first came to Chicago as a female impersonator in 1951. Two years later he opened his studio as a costume designer and eventually was working 16-hour days meeting demand from around the world.

He quietly defied the Chicago Police Department when it tried to stop him from working as an impersonator in the early 1950s.

Feeling that he had a right to pursue his chosen calling, he booked the Jewel Box Revue into the Roberts Show Lounge on the South Side. The revue, billed as “25 Men and a Girl,” included 25 impersonators and a lesbian. It was booked in for two weeks with options, but stayed eight months and packed the house. Impersonators have been able to perform here since with comparatively little hindrance.

Midnite has reflected on some of the discrimination experienced by gay performers in the 1950s and 1960s, including being refused service in restaurants and being forced by club owners to use the back entrance.

For a while, Midnite was a book reviewer for GayLife and other publications. In 1978, he was the subject of a three-part GayLife series that contained much history of gay life in Chicago from the 1950s onward. At age 70, he is currently finishing a book he started years ago about the Jewel Box Revue.

Even in his later years, Midnite remained militant. He took part in the 1977 Medinah Temple demonstration against Anita Bryant and in the Daley Center protest against police harassment at Carol’s Speakeasy during Mayor Byrne’s administration.

Because of his talent in costume design and his penchant for defying police harassment, Tony Midnight should be remembered by gay and lesbian Chicagoans.
Mary Morten

Mary Morten has lent her energy, enthusiasm, and talents to many gay and lesbian community organizations and businesses. She is also known to many for her work as an associate host on Chicago's Lesbigay Radio.

Morten, a former president of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women, was the first African American to hold that position. During her tenure, she established the chapter's Women of Color Committee and Lesbian Rights Committee.

Morten is also a video producer and has revealed the experiences of African American lesbians by creating a documentary, The Nia Project. (Nia is Swahili for "purpose," the fifth of seven principles of "African Nation Building.") She has also discussed those experiences in books such as The Color Complex and Divided Sisters. She is currently working on a project to chronicle the involvement of lesbian and gay African Americans in sociopolitical causes.

Through her documentary, Morten sought to reach not only African American lesbians but also their immediate and extended families as well as a wider audience so they could understand the lesbians' experiences.

Currently the executive vice president of a not-for-profit business development organization, the Women's Self-Employment Project, Mary Morten helps women with low to moderate incomes to become economically self-sufficient. She is a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Home Occupation and was a chief leader of the Home-Based Business Coalition, which advocated for passage of a revised ordinance governing home businesses in 1995.

Morten currently chairs the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Women and in that capacity sits on the full commission. She is also the immediate past chairperson of the Chicago Abortion Fund, which provides financial aid and referrals to women seeking reproductive health services.

Morten's contributions to Chicagoans have not gone unnoticed. In 1993, she was the youngest woman, and one of three open lesbians, honored by Sculpture Chicago's public art display. A limestone boulder and plaque on Wacker Drive's Riverfront Walk commemorate her work as a community activist and advocate.

Morten's specific work on behalf of Chicago's gay and lesbian community must not go unnoticed either. Finally, she is recognized for her substantial contributions.

Ifti Nasim

This Chicagoan, born in Pakistan, has written gay-related poetry in Urdu said to be the first direct statement of "gay" longings and desires ever published in that language. The publication of Nasim's book of poetry, Narman (a Persian word for "hermaphrodite," or half-man, half-woman), has initiated both wild praise and hateful criticism. Narman has also been distributed in Urdu in India and in the West (in England, Norway, Sweden, and Germany).

The manner in which Nasim's verse was published in Pakistan underscores its controversial nature:

Because Nasim's publisher knew that there might be "trouble" having the manuscript typeset, the publisher stood over the printer's shoulder as the text was entered into the computer. The real nature of the manuscript was not evident to the printer until the books were printed. When the printer realized that the books dealt with gay-related themes, he screamed: "Take these unholy and dirty books away from me, or I'll set them on fire!" Because of the controversy, the work is being sold underground. It has generated a surreptitious market.

Publication of Narman has produced some positive change in Pakistan. Because of the poetry's honesty, Nasim has said that a group of young truth-loving poets has begun to refer to other "honest" poetry as "narmani poetry." Obviously, Narman is educating Pakistanis. A prominent Pakistani in his 60s with many children told Nasim that he broke down and cried when he read Narman, apparently because he did not know about homosexuality. This man has become an ardent sympathizer with gay rights.

Ifti Nasim's Narman raises issues related to Islam's tolerance for homosexuals. Nasim, who believes he has a close and personal relationship to his God, believes God "wouldn't have created me if he didn't want me to lead a happy and fulfilled life. God doesn't create trash." In 1993, he became the first Third World poet to read at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago. For his poetic work, he received the Rabindranath Tagore Award from Chicago's South Asian Family Services in 1994.

Nasim's contribution to Chicago's gay and lesbian community is not only confined to his courage as an international ambassador of tolerance. As cofounder of Sangat/Chicago, he has also displayed a leadership role in the city by launching an organization to provide education and support for gay and lesbian South Asians.

Nasim has served as president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council of America and is also a top salesman at Loebel Motors, his employer for 12 of the 22 years he has lived in Chicago. Ifti Nasim's model of courage has enriched our entire community.
Norm Sloan

For years, Norm Sloan has tenaciously registered gay and lesbian voters. Since 1988, he has signed up 38,000. During some heavy weeks, he has registered between 1,000 and 2,000 people.

Such efforts could only be carried out with firm grasp on a vision—a vision in which lesbians and gay men would have their say in the democratic process.

Sloan became active in politics about 1986 when he was involved in Chicago’s Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting. During Ron Sable’s historic first campaign for 44th Ward alderman in 1987, Sloan realized how crucial it was to register lesbian and gay voters.

In order to encourage the effort, he helped to establish the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization as an umbrella group for voter registration. When he would set up his registration table on a sidewalk or other public place in all parts of Chicago, the LGPDO sign was in full view. Recognizing the ongoing importance of lesbian and gay voter registration, he persisted with his mission long after the Sable campaign was over and LGPDO was defunct. He currently works through the Illinois Federation for Human Rights.

Sloan doggedly devotes much of his volunteer time to voter registration. However, he is also an arts and music lover and has given time to Ballet Chicago, Chicago’s International Theatre Festival, and the Saints, a volunteer organization that assists small theater companies.

Because of the efforts of people like Norm Sloan, elected officials have increasingly paid attention to the impact of gay and lesbian voters.

Sloan’s determination to help secure gay and lesbian rights has earned him recognition. His unassuming demeanor conceals a fierce drive to make a difference. Many owe Sloan a debt for the difference he has made.

Tiffani St. Cloud

At age 18, Tiffani St. Cloud’s youth seems not to match her significant passion for people and her leadership ability. Yet St. Cloud was the motivating force behind organization of a student group, called Pride, at Chicago’s Whitney Young Magnet High School.

The group, formed in 1996, exists to provide support for all students at Whitney Young, including gay, lesbian, and bisexual students; to help people of all orientations to overcome prejudice by promoting tolerance; and to educate students about issues affecting those perceived to be different.

Though many lesbian and gay youth have begun to come out in the 1990s, those who come out still do so with trepidation. They particularly fear rejection by their peers and families. For the Whitney Young student group, most resistance to its formation came from the student body, even though within a few months it became the school’s second-largest organization.

The Pride group has created an atmosphere in which students can learn to be comfortable with themselves and can develop confidence. With confidence, they can develop their own value systems and elevate their self-esteem. This is critical, since low self-esteem is correlated with the high incidence of gay and lesbian suicide among youth.

Students also see an advocacy aspect to the group. Some say they want to teach by example and show that gay and lesbian students can make a difference. Others speak of a need to confront injustice and to learn facts so they can better support lesbian and gay rights. The group tries to have verbally homophobic students disciplined.

Tiffani St. Cloud is “out” to her family and friends. She believes that silence aids those who would oppress others.

St. Cloud currently pursues her education as a first-year student at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she is interested in sociology, ethics, and religion. This teen’s quiet nature belies her courage and leadership, both of which she has used to serve others.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE
Charlotte Newfeld

Since the early 1970s, Charlotte Newfeld has been a vocal friend to gay and lesbian Chicagoans. Newfeld's significant contributions to our community have included her advocating for appointment of a mayoral liaison and her active lobbying to secure passage of Chicago's human rights ordinance, which prohibits discrimination because of sexual orientation.

She helped establish the Lesbian and Gay Town Meeting in the mid-1980s to press for human rights ordinance passage, and later she lobbied for Chicago's hate crimes ordinance and the Cook County human rights ordinance, all of which include sexual orientation as a protected class.

During the early 1970s, through articles she published in GayLife, Newfeld had encouraged gay and lesbian Chicagoans to participate in the political process. This, of course, was before 1977, when gay and lesbian political activism developed a new head of steam in reaction to Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign.

In the late 1970s, Newfeld supported Chicago's first openly gay male candidates for public office (Grant L. Ford and the late Gary Nepon). When running for a City Council seat in 1982, she was one of the first candidates to hire openly gay campaign staff and seek gay and lesbian volunteers. In fact, she held her primary victory party in a lesbian and gay bar (His 'n Hers) and publicly thanked lesbian and gay voters, which was uncommon in those days.

As vice-chair of the City's Commission on Women, Newfeld lobbied for open lesbian representation. That resulted in the appointment of Sarah Craig to the commission. During the same period, Newfeld also urged Mayor Harold Washington to establish a Mayor's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. That body was the forerunner to the present Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues.

Newfeld has also lobbied for increased funding of the city's AIDS services and education budget. She organized community support and hearings regarding sting operations against gay and lesbian bars, and she worked for Larry McKeon in his historic, successful run for 34th District Illinois state representative in the 1996 Democratic primary election.

Newfeld's contributions to gay/lesbian Chicagoans have not been short-lived. She has been a tenacious advocate for all of our rights for more than 30 years. Today, her contributions are given the community recognition that they deserve.

Bailiwick Repertory's Pride Series

In 1989, Bailiwick Repertory launched its annual Pride Series with a production of Robert Chesley's Jerker.

Bailiwick is the only regional theater in America with an ongoing programming arm that serves the gay and lesbian community.

During the past nine years, the Pride Series has presented more than 120 gay and lesbian plays, musicals, and performance pieces. Many shows that premiered at Bailiwick have gone on to long lives in other cities, including Edwin Sanchez's drama Trafficking in Broken Hearts, John McGivern's Midwest Side Story, Claudia Allen's Hannah Free, and David Dillon's Party.

Even though the first Pride Series featured only three late-night or off-night shows, there was some anxiety at the Bailiwick board level that producing a gay and lesbian play series might jeopardize Bailiwick's funding sources or incur government funders' wrath. But the fears proved unfounded, as the series met overwhelming audience response and led to extended runs.

This year, Pride 1996 was a three-month festival that played in all three of Bailiwick's theater spaces in prime-time, late-night, and off-night slots. More than 25,000 persons attended. Gay and lesbian theater is thriving in Chicago, and much of its success comes from the marketing, critical reception, and exciting artistic history of Bailiwick's ongoing development of authors and directors.

Under the guidance of board president Dee Dee Holt, executive director David Zak, artistic director Cecilie D. Keenan, and business manager Bruce Ives, the Pride Series continues to take chances and grow. Now new pieces are showcased throughout the year.

In sponsoring benefits for some of Chicago's lesbian and gay nonprofit organizations, the Pride Series has also financially empowered these organizations. This has reflected an important philosophy to generously contribute to the community.

Visibility and diversity are principles that the Bailiwick Repertory uses to showcase many facets of gay and lesbian life.
Gerber/Hart Library

In its 15th anniversary year, Gerber/Hart has maintained a growing presence in Chicago's gay and lesbian community. With the proceeds of a substantial grant, Gerber/Hart has been able to hire its first full-time library director. Also more recently, computerization of the collection records has been partly completed, and the Gerber/Hart World Wide Web site (http://www.gerberhart.org) is visited by more than 1,000 persons a month. Some 30 e-mail reference inquiries are fielded monthly.

By the end of 1996, the library plans to circulate its collection on its new electronic catalog, and its nonfiction, fiction, and periodical collections will interface with those of other libraries. Gerber/Hart has special reference collections of materials on lesbians, on AIDS, and for teenagers.

Gerber/Hart has come a long way from the days when it was housed in a basement on Sheffield Avenue. It currently holds more than 10,000 titles and has an extensive and growing archival collection. Its archival materials are said by some consultants to be unparalleled in the Midwest; they are noted for their quality and diversity.

Gerber/Hart also serves as a cultural center, often cosponsoring readings and exhibitions with other organizations as well as mounting its own. These have included sponsorship of a “Keepin’ On” exhibit about African American lesbians; “Queer Noir,” a look at homosexuality in 1940s and 1950s films by film historian Richard Dyer; literary performances and readings; a screening of the past 15 years of gay and lesbian film- and videomaking in Chicago; an exhibition on Audre Lorde’s writings and contributions; and many exhibits of emerging gay and lesbian artists. In 1995, Gerber/Hart sponsored the Advocate’s traveling exhibit, “The Long Road to Freedom,” at the Chicago Historical Society, including an add-on Chicago history exhibit from Gerber/Hart’s archives.

Gerber/Hart continues to look to the future. A new-space search committee aims to locate a new facility in two to three years that will house Gerber/Hart’s expanding collection, which is already crowding its large Paulina Street storefront. A plan has also been adopted to accelerate expansion and improvement of the archives. A grant currently supports an consulting archivist, and an archives volunteer corps is being recruited and trained.

As Gerber/Hart looks ahead, it should be commended for its past accomplishments. With the vision of its board of directors, who now staff 18 active committees, a bright future should be in store for this invaluable repository of gay and lesbian history and culture.

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF PROUD BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (1993): The committee was formed to create positive gay and lesbian visibility in Chicago’s African American community and to march as open lesbians and gay men in the 64th annual Bud Billiken Parade. After filing and mediating a human rights charge, the group marched and was warmly received by the community.

ROBERT J. ADAMS (1994, now deceased): Originally a practicing lawyer, he led Chicago’s NAMES Project chapter and from 1989 to 1991 was the first fulltime executive director of IMPACT, the political action committee. He then joined the staff of openly gay U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds; returned to Chicago in late 1992 as development director for the Chicago Department of Health’s AIDS programs; and resigned for health reasons in 1993.

ORTEZ ALDERSON (posthumous 1991): He was an actor and activist who, among other achievements, helped to organize the People of Color AIDS Conference.

TRACY BAIM (1994): In lesbian and gay journalism since 1984, she has labored untiringly as publisher, reporter, editor, columnist, and photographer in offering a voice to all segments of our community. She now produces the weekly Nightlines and the monthly Outlines, plus BLACKlines, En La Vida, Clout!, and the OUT! Resource Guide.

ROBERT SLOANE BASKER (1993): He founded and headed Mattachine Midwest in 1965, began Chicago’s first gay and lesbian telephone hotline, and initiated discussions with police during a period of arbitrary raids and arrests. He also took part in pre-Stonewall national gay rights organizing and in the Black Panther organizing during the Anita Bryant era. Now a San Franciscan, he has remained active in numerous social change movements well into his 70s.

CARYN BERMAN (1995): A psychotherapist and social worker, for nearly 20 years she has worked professionally and as a volunteer and political activist to improve Chicagoans’ lives. She has focused on the health and civil rights of lesbians and gay men but has skillfully built coalitions and has been an influential HIV/AIDS educator and policymaker. She delivered AIDS training to more than 35,000 health care professionals and is now a corporate consultant on communication and management topics.

GEORGE S. BUSE (1994): As gay journalist, gay activist, actor, and minister, he has made his mark on Chicago’s gay and lesbian community. A subject of Studs Terkel’s The Good War and of the video documentary Before Stonewall, he is a World War II Marine veteran (discharged from a later Navy chaplaincy for being gay). In the 1960s he was a civil rights and anti-Vietnam War activist.

JAMES A. BUSSEN (1994): Since 1973, his engaging personality and sense of humor and fairness have aided many Chicago gay and lesbian efforts. Besides much activity in local and state gay rights lobbying and fundraising, he is a longtime leader of Dignity/Chicago, the organization for lesbian and gay Roman Catholics, and was president of Dignity/USA from 1985 to 1989.
Lori Cannon (1944): She was named a “Friend of the Community” for her work with Chicago House and the NAMES Project and for founding ACT-UP Chicago and Open Hand Chicago. For Open Hand, she has drawn on her early organizing skills as a show-business bus driver and has raised funds, handled public relations, and overseen a food pantry’s development.

Samson Chan (posthumous 1995): During a short and courageous life, he built a legacy of social change here and overseas. In 1984 at age 23 he cofounded and became first president of Asians and Friends—Chicago, a group for gay Asians and non-Asians that has been replicated in other cities internationally. After failing to gain permanent U.S. residence, he returned to Hong Kong in 1991, became a pioneering and attention-getting gay and AIDS organizer there, but died of AIDS complications in 1995.

John Chester (1994): Since 1971, he has been a leader in lesbian and gay rights efforts, philanthropic organizing, Chicago House development, and both gay and non-gay religious activism. 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.

Chicago House and Social Service Agency, Inc. (1994): Opening its first facility in 1986, this was Chicago’s first grassroots agency to respond to immediate housing needs of persons with HIV disease and AIDS. It established the Midwest’s first “continuum of care” within supportive housing for such persons, accommodating residents ranging from those with an initial diagnosis of HIV to those with terminal AIDS.

Gary G. Chichester (1992): He has provided more than 25 years of commitment and work to the gay and lesbian communities. In 1971 he cofounded the Chicago Gay Alliance, which created Chicago’s first gay and lesbian community center. He has served on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues from 1989 and has sat on the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Committee from its inception in 1991 (cochairing it since 1992).

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

Jerrold E. Cohen (posthumous 1993): He was involved in forming more than a dozen community groups including University of Chicago Gay Liberation, Chicago Gay Alliance, Windy City Gay Chorus, and Chi-Town Squares. He was a key participant in the NAMES Project’s Chicago chapter and a charter member of Test Positive Aware Network.

T. Chris Cothran (1995, now deceased): He was well known both in broader gay and lesbian groups and in those specific to lesbian and gay African Americans. He was a veteran member of PrideChicago, which plans the annual pride parade. He helped to lead local and national gay and lesbian business organizations; the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; Kupona Network; and the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues and its precursor committee.

Ann Christopher (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.

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

Jon-Henri Damski (1991): He has been a columnist for GayLife, Gay Chicago Magazine, Windy City Times, and now Nightlines and Outlines. His lobbying efforts were critical to the passage of the Chicago human rights ordinance in 1989 and the hate crimes ordinance in 1990.

Samuel F. Davis, Jr. (posthumous 1994): From 1987, as an entrepreneur and attorney, he developed a nurturing environment particularly for Chicago’s gay and lesbian African Americans. Bars he cofounded were Drees, Pongee, and the Clubhouse. He also aided the Kupona Network, the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, and the Reimer Foundation.

Thom Domkowski (1992): He was a leader in the development and formation of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, where he also served as executive director. He also represented himself as the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and brought this idea to fruition during his tenure on the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues.

James W. Flint (1991): A well-known businessman, he is founder and owner of the Miss Gay Continental Pageant, a national contest for female impersonators. He is also active in Democratic Party politics.

Robert T. Ford (1993, now deceased): He pioneered outreach of the gay cultural experience into the African American community through his publication of the ‘zine Thing and as a writer for numerous publications.

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 running club in Chicago and has raised thousands of dollars for lesbian and gay groups as well as AIDS, lesbian health, and general community charities.

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.

Gay Chicago Magazine (1991): Originally founded in 1976 as Gay Chicago News, the magazine has continued to publish up-to-date information on lifestyle, entertainment, bar, and organization events in Chicago’s gay and lesbian community.

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.

Adrienne J. Goodman (1994): She was named a “Friend of the Community” for her commitment to lesbian and gay inclusion in politics. She chaired Grant L. Ford’s openly gay 1975 campaign for 44th Ward alderman. As a City Council staffer, she helped efforts to pass the human rights ordinance, and as a Democratic Party activist she has long advocated for gay and lesbian rights.
JEFF GRAUBART-CERVONE (1993): He has been an activist and advocate for gay and lesbian human rights for more than two decades in the Midwest and Chicago. He participated in the passage of human rights legislation, the effort to overcome the anti-gay and -lesbian efforts of Anita Bryant, and demonstrations for same-sex marriage.

RICHARD LEE GRAY (1992): He has committed himself for more than a decade to serve the needs of the African American gay and lesbian community. He also developed and presented educational programs for gay and lesbian youth dealing with sexuality and health.

VERNITA GRAY (1992): She organized a gay and lesbian hotline in 1969 and hosted support groups in her home. She has published extensively in literary and poetry magazines and was an early leader in the Chicago gay liberation movement.

FEG GREY (1992): She has provided key leadership for more than a decade in building lesbian and gay athletic programs and organizations and in organizing lesbian and gay teachers.

JOEL HALL (1993): As an impresario, choreographer, 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.

RENEE C. HANOVER (1991): A prominent, now retired civil rights attorney who often provided her services pro bono, she has long been a high-visibility advocate for lesbian and gay rights. She has worked for civil rights legislation of all kinds and has vigorously opposed all forms of discrimination in the law and in the community.

JEAN V. HARDISTY (1995): She helped to open Chicago’s first shelter for battered women; has written and organized for women’s social and health needs; and, besides private philanthropy, cofounded the Crossroads Fund, a nontraditional funder of many gay, lesbian, and AIDS groups. In 1981, she formed what is now Political Research Associates, of Cambridge, Mass., which educates the public on right-wing tactics.

PEARL M. HART (posthumous 1992): She spent her entire legal career of 61 years defending the civil rights of all persons.

EARNEST E. HITE, JR. (1994): In 1987, he cofounded Image Plus, a grassroots organization providing social support for young gay and bisexual males of African descent. As an HIV/AIDS health educator and youth worker who is openly HIV-positive and gay, he has assisted a variety of community-based groups, especially those serving African Americans.

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES (1992): Established more than 20 years ago as Gay Horizons, the organization continues to serve as the Midwest’s largest and most comprehensive social service agency meeting the needs of Chicago’s diverse gay and lesbian community.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER (1991): Established more than 20 years ago 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.

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.

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


NICK KELLY (1995): As an activist and a creative gay man, he was a vibrant part of Chicago’s gay and lesbian community for decades before moving to Wisconsin. He helped to organize 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 founder of the Toddlin’ Town Performing Arts, encompassing gay and lesbian band and choral groups, and later headed the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus.

BRUCE KOFF (1994): He has significantly aided Chicago’s and the nation’s gay and lesbian community 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 now has a clinical and teaching practice in psychotherapy.

MARIE J. KUDA (1991): For nearly 30 years, she has worked as historian, archivist, writer, lecturer, and publisher to promote and preserve positive images of lesbians and gay men. She organized five national lesbian writers conferences and published the first annotated lesbian bibliography, Women Loving Women.

NANCY LANOUE (1993): She is a leader in the anti-violence and self-defense-for-women movement. Herself a survivor, she has been a major leader in education, outreach, and service delivery for survivors of breast cancer.

ELLIS B. LEVIN (1994): An Illinois state representative 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.

LIONHEART GAY THEATRE COMPANY (1994): 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.

HARLEY McMILLEN (1992): He played an important role in the 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.
SCOTT McPHERSON (1992, now deceased): He was one of the first openly gay, HIV-positive American artists, renowned playwright and accomplished actor. He was the author of the critically acclaimed play *Marvin's Room*.

METROPOLITAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION (1992): This group is a recognized leader in the Midwest and the nation in providing organized athletic activities, including local, national, and international athletic events.

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. He continues to be a prominent leader in Chicago's not-for-profit social service community, having major impact on policies and services to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, homeless, youth, and persons living with HIV and AIDS.

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE FOR WOMYN AND CHILDREN (1993): It is the oldest continuously-running, women-only space in the country. For some 20 years, it has presented lesbian-feminist-oriented culture and music. The collective is operated totally by volunteers and is open to any woman who wishes to participate.

DAWN CLARK NETSCH (1995): She was selected as a "Friend of the Community" for her long career of public service as constitution writer, legislator, and state comptroller, especially her support of lesbian and gay rights and of efforts against HIV/AIDS.

OPEN HAND CHICAGO (1994): Founded in 1988, it became Chicago's only in-home meals program for persons living with AIDS and is estimated to have delivered 1.2 million meals. It has expanded throughout the city, added other nutrition programs, and cooperated with other groups targeting specific ethnic populations.

DOM OREJUDOS (posthumous 1992): He was a major figure and choreographer with the Illinois Ballet Company for 15 years, a respected businessman, and an internationally known artist.

KATHY OSTERTAN (posthumous 1993): As a "Friend of the Community," 48th Ward alderman, 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 the passage of the city's human rights ordinance.

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

RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993): For more than 25 years he has been an activist and volunteer in numerous organizations, having headed the Chicago Gay Alliance (which ran the city's first 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 his leadership of PrideChicago, which facilitates the annual gay and lesbian Pride parade.

MARY D. POWERS (1992): She was recognized as a "Friend of the Community" for her 30 years of commitment in addressing abusive police behavior and being a consistent advocate for gay and lesbian civil rights.

QUEER NATION CHICAGO (1995): It supports those who are bisexual, gay, lesbian, or transgendered (collectively, queer). As a direct-action group, it has developed test cases under nondiscrimination ordinances, mounted public protests and commemorations, and sponsored an annual antiviolence march.

CHARLES "CHUCK" RENSLOW (1991): In the early 1960s he opened the Gold Coast leather bar, one of the first openly gay establishments in Chicago. He also published *GayLife*, financially aided many gay rights efforts of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, and has been active in city and state Democratic Party politics.

LINDA S. RODGERS (1993): As a successful businesswoman, fundraiser, and activist, she combines her business acumen and community consciousness to promote projects and political actions in support of lesbian and gay human rights and community needs.

RON SABLE, M.D. (1993, now deceased): As an openly gay physician he cofounded 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.

BRUCE C. SCOTT (1993): He has been a Chicago resident for more than 50 years and 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. He was also an early officer of the Mattachine Midwest.

DAVID B. SINDT (posthumous 1995): In the 1970s and 1980s, he vigorously fought homophobia not only in civil society but also in his own Presbyterian faith. As a gifted social worker, he advocated for gay parents and gay children. As an ordained minister, he organized what is now Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, but in 1977 he had to leave the ministry. He died of AIDS complications in 1986, and his West Lake View house became the first Chicago House-owned residence.

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.

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 since the 1980s, has headed the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Service Providers Council, and has served on numerous boards including that of Kupona Network.

JAMES MONROE SMITH (1995): As a quietly persistent young lawyer, in 1988 he founded the AIDS Legal Council, an unprecedented vehicle for involving Chicago's general legal community in helping persons with HIV/AIDS. When he left ALCA in 1993, its staff had grown to eight persons, and he received the Chicago Bar Association's Maurice Weigle Award for his work. His textbook, *AIDS and Society*, was published in 1996, and he has taught AIDS-related college and law school courses.
MAXSONN "MAX" C. SMITH (1991): He has been active in addressing political and social hostility toward the African American gay and lesbian community. He has been a contributor to numerous publications, including BLK and Blacklight.

DANIEL SOTOMAYOR (posthumous 1992): He was an openly gay, nationally syndicated political cartoonist and prominent Chicago AIDS activist.

GREGORY A. SPRAGUE (posthumous 1994): Nationally known for research in Chicago lesbian and gay history, he cofounded the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History of the American Historical Association and was active in the Gay Academic Union. In 1978 he founded the Chicago Gay History Project, a precursor of the Gerber-Hart Library and Archives.

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

VALERIE TAYLOR (1992): She has been an outspoken advocate of lesbian and gay concerns since the 1950s and is the author of several lesbian-themed novels and poems. Now retired in Tucson (though still writing in her 80s), she edited the Mattachine Midwest Newsletter while in Chicago and was active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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

JOANNE E. TRAPANI (1993): After a decade of New York City political activism, she cochaired the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force for several terms, leading efforts to pass human rights legislation at state, county, and local levels. She has served as liaison to state and local governments and agencies.

THOMAS M. TUNNEY (1995): In his early 20s, he bought Lake View's venerable Ann Sather Restaurant in 1981, greatly expanded it, and has made it into a virtual community center for lesbian and gay Chicagoans and for older adults. He has been active in neighborhood business groups, IMPACT, Human Rights Campaign, and the Democratic Party. Besides backing Open Hand Chicago's home-meals program and running a soup kitchen, he has hosted countless gay and lesbian efforts and the White Crane Wellness Center.

RICHARD B. TURNER (1991): Until 1994, he was Director of Communications and Development for the Chicago Community Trust. He later moved to Florida, has raised funds for fighting AIDS and for gay and lesbian human rights, and has actively addressed gay and lesbian human rights issues.

STEVEN F. WAKEFIELD (1994): He has held gay and lesbian executive positions since 1976, including Howard Brown Memorial Clinic until 1988. He later directed Test Positive Aware Network and the Night Ministry; has been an elder in many social service and religious organizations, including several African American ones; and now sits on the Chicago Board of Health.

AL WARDELL (1993, row deceased): From 1978, he was a prominent Chicago gay and lesbian community leader and a mainstay of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He helped to initiate the first sensitivity training on gay and lesbian concerns for the Chicago Police Department and developed gay and lesbian counseling materials for Illinois public schools.

YVONNE ZIPFER (1995): A syndicated columnist in the gay and lesbian press for more than 10 years, she has often documented the lives of Chicago lesbians and gay men. An award-winning poet and essayist, she also wrote a book on lesbian softball, Diamonds Are a Dyke's Best Friend. In the 1980s, she was part of groundbreaking publication efforts involving the literature, music, and culture of lesbians and other women.