

City of Chicago
Commission on Human Relations
Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues
740 North Sedgwick Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60610

**CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN
HALL OF FAME
1999**



City of Chicago
Commission on Human Relations

Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Clarence N. Wood
Chair/Commissioner

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues

Mary F. Morten
Director/Community Liaison

Laura A. Rissover
Chairperson

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*Preserving
Our
Heritage*

Scanning Note: When scanning the 1999 Program book, a clear version of Governor George H. Ryan's Greeting Letter was not available. A copy his 2002 letter has been substituted. The letters were identical in wording, with the exception of date references.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

GEORGE H. RYAN
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2002

Greetings,

As Governor and on behalf of the State of Illinois, Lura Lynn and I would like to extend our best wishes to all attendees, participants, and supporters of the 2002 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies.

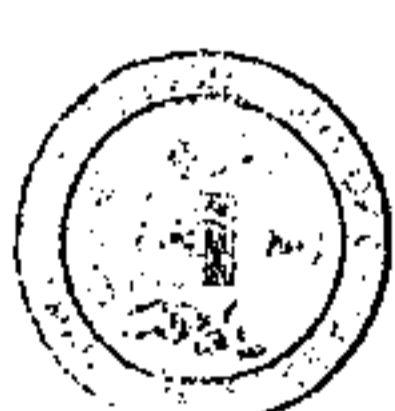
Human rights are basic rights - not special rights. All Illinoisans should be proud of the efforts of these individuals to promote fairness and equality.

It has been my goal as Governor to create greater harmony among our state's diverse communities. That is why I appointed the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes. I urge each and every one of you to assist this valuable group in accomplishing its goals.

My best wishes to each of you as well as to your families.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO
October 26, 1999
RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings to the sponsors, supporters, inductees and all those attending the 1999 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame ceremonies.

Chicago's strength arises from its diversity. In recognizing and appreciating the differences between us, we also find the common bonds that unite us as a people.

Historically, countless members of the gay and lesbian communities have made important contributions to our city, nation and world. I am proud that my administration has played a positive and active role in helping to create greater harmony between all of our city's diverse communities.

I commend the Hall of Fame for offering an opportunity for learning and a forum for discussion in the field of human rights. I look forward to continued work with the gay and lesbian community to ensure that all of our citizens are treated with dignity and equality.

In addition, I am delighted to recognize the achievements of the 1999 Hall of Fame inductees. I join with the Commission on Human Relations and Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues in congratulating each of them. They are part of a long tradition of those who seek to promote fairness and equality.

Best wishes for an exciting and memorable event.

Sincerely,

MAYOR



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Commission on Human Relations

Clarence N. Wood
Chairman/Commissioner

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October 26, 1999

Dear Friends:

No other city in the country has an established, city-sponsored Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. On behalf of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, I am proud that our Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues has taken a leading role in recognizing the contributions which gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons have made to Chicago.

Our Council and the Hall of Fame belong to a larger family, the friends of human rights. The gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community has a well-deserved and long-standing tradition of advocacy for fair treatment for all segments of our diverse city. We urge the community to remain steadfast in the struggle against bias, discrimination, and prejudice.

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

I congratulate the 1999 inductees to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for their outstanding personal dedication and commitment to making Chicago a city that works for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Clarence N. Wood
Chairman



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, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) communities and the communities' 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 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 people of the LGBT communities, their organizations, and their friends, as well as their contributions to their communities 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 LGBT communities or the city of Chicago, or has made a significant long-term contribution to the well-being of Chicago's LGBT communities. The selection of inductees for the Hall of Fame is made by former recipients of the award based on nominations from the general public.

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.

A site on the World Wide Web (www.GLHalleofFame.org) has been established and maintained by the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

1999 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Co-Chairperson

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Selection Committee Co-Chairperson

Mary F. Morten

Alicia Obando

Co-Chairperson

Dean Ogren

**1999 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME**

Ava Allen

John J. Balester

David Brian Bell

Randy Duncan

Rick Garcia

Lorraine Hansberry

Derrick Allen Hicks

Billie Jean King

Norman L. Sandfield

Gregg Shapiro

Phill Wilson

Adrene Perom

Friend of the Community

Jesse White

Friend of the Community

Lesbian Community Cancer Project

AVA ALLEN



PHOTO: ISRAEL WRIGHT

Ava Allen and her Lost & Found bar have been vital parts of Chicago's lesbian community since the club opened in 1965.

The business was founded by the late Shirley Christensen, herself a pioneer supporter of gay and lesbian activism in Chicago. Allen joined it in 1973 as Christensen's lover and business partner.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Allen and her partner resisted police harassment as well as enforcement of an ordinance that prohibited women and men from dressing in clothes that supposedly belonged to the opposite sex. Allen's bar has served as a starting point for generations of Chicago lesbians and is the oldest lesbian bar in the city.

In the years following Christensen's 1986 death from cancer, Allen has helped to raise thousands of dollars for individuals and groups fighting the disease. Each year, her customers donate funds to the Lesbian Community Cancer Project through the Lost & Found's Adopt-an-Angel program.

At the bar, Allen sponsors several women's sports teams, and the Lost & Found serves as a "home" for many women of all ages.

Allen oversees a polite, congenial operation that fosters a relaxed social atmosphere for customers, some of whom drive in from distant suburbs to join their friends. It was once reported that Navy women posted to North Chicago's Great Lakes base had heard about the bar while stationed in the Philippines. Conversations abound among diverse acquaintances new and old, ranging in age from their 20s to their senior years, all against a background of pool playing, not-too-loud jukebox music, and meticulous barkeeping.

Every December, Allen cuts angel figures from construction paper, the bar's customers make donations, and each donor has her name inscribed on one of the angels. The hundreds of angel figures are then hung on display as holiday decorations. Beneficiaries of Lost & Found-generated funds have included not only the Lesbian Community Cancer Project but also individual women with health needs.

Allen is honored for more than 25 years of exemplifying community spirit and service.

JOHN J. BALESTER



John Balester has been a leader in shaping the direction of the movement for sexual-minority rights in Chicago and Illinois for more than 20 years. Much of his advocacy has been in the political arena, primarily through the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF) and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI).

As a new Illinois Gay Rights Task Force member in the late 1970s, Balester took over leadership of the group's efforts in behalf of a Chicago ordinance to prohibit sexual-orientation discrimination. Later, he was elected to two terms as the group's co-chairperson.

During his tenure, IGLTF assumed its present name and moved its office from the Loop to the North Side's Lake View neighborhood in order to be closer to a large section of Chicago's organized gay and lesbian communities.

As IGLTF co-chairperson, Balester and his brother worked to create the group's logo, showing a map of Illinois breaking out of a pink triangle. A key success was creation of a working relationship with the office of then-Cook County State's Attorney Richard M. Daley, through which IGLTF was able to offer sensitivity training to prosecutors. Later, in collaboration with Horizons Community Services, such work was expanded to include the Chicago Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Chicago office. Balester also took part in Springfield lobbying for a state law against sexual-orientation discrimination.

In 1990, Balester was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to chair ACCGLI, which had been created by Chicago's revised ordinance against sexual-orientation discrimination. Balester's initial goal was to heal any community rifts that resulted from ACCGLI's supplanting the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues (COGLI), which had been established by Daley's predecessor, Mayor Harold Washington.

Balester also worked to improve liaison between city government and such organizations as Queer Nation and ACT-UP. While Balester chaired ACCGLI, a gay and lesbian advisory committee in the Chicago Police Department was formed, and the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame was created.

In addition, Balester has been involved as an openly gay man in electoral campaigns including those of Daley and of President Bill Clinton. Professionally, Balester is a psychologist and educational administrator.

DAVID BRIAN BELL *(posthumously)*



Through incessantly visible public advocacy from 1985 to his death in 1989, David Bell helped to put a human face on AIDS at a time when many Chicagoans were unfamiliar with it and when the current spectrum of AIDS organizations was much more limited.

Bell lent his energies as an organizer, volunteer, and activist in the building of support, information, and protest networks. In the process, he attracted media coverage that further spread news about what AIDS really was and what could be done about it.

Because of his activism and the connections he established, persons with AIDS were kept up to date on treatment and political issues. At the same time, Bell raised their morale by his visibility. In a May 1987 *Chicago Sun-Times* interview with Tom Brune after being diagnosed a few months earlier with AIDS, Bell said: "People aren't just dying with AIDS. People are living with AIDS. These people are not victims, and they shouldn't allow themselves to be victimized by this illness." Bell called attention to the need for support networks to help AIDS patients in coping with both illness and bureaucracy.

Born in 1956, Bell had been in the music business since managing a Skokie high school rock band at age 13. He worked as a backstage manager, toured with well-known performers, and started his own Persona Records label. After his diagnosis, he abandoned the business, "switched gears," and began AIDS lobbying.

Bell urged AIDS patients to become more active in making decisions about their own care and services, and he demanded that government and social service agencies permit them such a role. He engaged in numerous public protests against the high cost or unavailability of anti-AIDS drugs.

In August 1987, he was among those who chained themselves to the fence of Governor James R. Thompson's Chicago residence to protest a legislative bill that would institute mandatory AIDS contact tracing. He was a cofounder of the Chicago chapter of the National Association of Persons With AIDS. He served on the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic speakers bureau, volunteered at a drop-in center for persons with AIDS and their families and friends, and led Chicago-area PWAs in the 1987 national gay and lesbian rights march on Washington, where he helped to organize a civil disobedience event at the Supreme Court.

Bell was also a march coordinator for the NAMES Project in Chicago and made numerous panels for the project's AIDS Memorial Quilt in honor of his friends. In addition, he helped to organize a succession of Chicago groups involved in direct-action AIDS protests, known by acronyms such as DAGMAR, C-FOR, C-FAR, ACT NOW, and ACTUP/Chicago. After his death, the nonprofit Harbor Home Support Services created and named the David Bell Memorial Pentamidine Clinic in his honor.

RANDY DUNCAN



PHOTO: JENNIFER GIRARD

An internationally known, three-time winner of Chicago's Ruth Page Award as Outstanding Choreographer of the Year (1988, 1990, 1992), Randy Duncan has often used his dance talents to raise funds for the fight against AIDS and to include gay and lesbian themes in his body of work.

A Chicago native and Austin High School alumnus who began his professional career at 15 as a dancer with the Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre, Duncan rose to become artistic director (1986 to 1993) after the death of founder Holmes.

Drawing on ballet, jazz dance, and modern dance for choreography, Duncan has created works that have also been performed by other companies including the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, River North Dance Company, and Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago as well as companies in Seattle and Tel Aviv. He has also choreographed and performed in musical theater. In 1987, he choreographed for the first all-African American cast of *A Chorus Line*, and he contributed work to the 20th-anniversary production of Michael Butler's *Hair*.

Since 1994, in addition to other AIDS-related contributions, Duncan has donated much time and choreography to the annual Dance for Life fundraiser, which involves dancers from every company in the city and is Chicago's largest dance benefit to fight HIV disease and AIDS. Through such works as *Urban Transfer* and the Dance for Life finale, *Lean on Me*, Duncan has included same-sex attraction in the mix of social phenomena his choreography addresses.

Besides studying under Joseph Holmes and Harriet Ross, Duncan trained with Geraldine Johnson and at the Sammy Dyer School of Theater, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and Illinois State University, where he majored in music.

Duncan has taught and judged dance throughout North America and overseas. His classes in jazz with an African influence have taken him to Europe, annually to Israel, and semiannually to Mexico. In 1994 he won the Jazz Dance World Congress Award, and he is a master teacher at each year's congress. He regularly serves on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council, Arts Midwest, and the Illinois Arts Alliance.

Joffrey cofounder Gerald Arpino has called Duncan "an innovative artist with an original style" and "one of the most exciting young American choreographers of today." In more than 25 years of performing and creating dance, Duncan has enhanced the cultural life and civic welfare of Chicago and beyond.

