CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME
2000

City of Chicago
Commission on Human Relations

Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Clarence N. Wood
Chair/Commissioner

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues

Laura A. Rissover
Chairperson
This evening is dedicated to the memory of

George S. Buse
1994 Inductee

and

Adrene "Big Red" Perom
1999 Friend of the Community
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 2000 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Ceremonies.

Historically, countless members of the gay and lesbian community 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 among 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 2000 Hall of Fame inductees. I join with the Commission on Human Relations and the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues in congratulating each of them. They are a part of a long tradition of those who seek to promote fairness and equality.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor
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.GLHallofFame.org) has been established and maintained by the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.
Lorrainne Sade Baskerville

Lorraine Sade Baskerville is an experienced HIV/AIDS case manager and a professional social worker. Baskerville founded transGenesis in 1995 as an agency aimed at addressing the special concerns of persons in the city's transgender community, such as gender identity, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, sex work, harm reduction, and self-empowerment.

TransGenesis aims to provide a safe environment for transgendered persons to pursue common social and personal goals. The organization supports awareness of and openness about gender identity and the way gender is expressed. It seeks to aid personal development and integrity in the transgender population. Its HIV/AIDS prevention program is called T-PASS (Trans-People Advocating Safer Sex) and includes street and community outreach, education, testing, and counseling. It also offers a weekly drop-in program for youth and young adults, called TransDiva, and a peer-led transgender support and discussion group.

Baskerville is a lifelong Chicagooan and was the oldest of seven children born into modest family circumstances. In the 1970s, she became familiar with sex workers' conditions and sometimes was forced to confront a city ordinance of the times that prohibited her appearing in public while wearing female clothing. When AIDS struck a member of her family in the mid-1980s, Baskerville took its health threat seriously and entered a new phase of her life, as a volunteer at organizations such as Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and Horizons Community Services. She eventually decided to resume her education and in 1994 earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Northeastern Illinois University.

In her community activism since 1986, Baskerville has served on the board of Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), in the Chicago HIV Prevention Planning Group (HPG), and in the Chicago Police Department's 23d District Gay and Lesbian Advisory Group.

In 1997, Baskerville received the Greater Chicago Committee's first Georgia Black Award for service to the transgender community. She chaired the Youth Events Committee for the Chicago Black Pride 2000 conference. She was selected by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the 13th International AIDS Conference to lead a panel on transgender issues at the conference in Durban, South Africa, last July. She is also an advocate for transgendered victims of hate crimes and violence.
HENRY BLAKE FULLER
[posthumous]

Henry Blake Fuller was an author, editor, poet, critic, and composer who has been praised by three generations of literary critics, is the subject of four biographies, and is referred to in every significant work on Chicago history. Yet, to the public, he is a virtual unknown.

His importance to Chicago is his contribution to its unique literary heritage through novels and short-story collections set in the city—The Cliff-Dwellers (1893), With the Procession (1895), Under the Skylights (1901), and On the Stairs (1918).

Especially germane to this induction, however, is the play At Saint Judas’s, in his collection The Puppet-Booth: Twelve Plays (1896). This was effectively the first play on a homosexual theme published in America.

In addition, at age 62, he courageously published a philosophic novel centered on homosexual characters, Bertram Cope’s Year (1919). While described by later critics as “Fuller’s best work” and as “filled with dynamite, scrupulously packed,” it was ill received or ignored in his lifetime. His disillusionment over its reception drove Fuller to destroy the manuscript and keep him from writing another novel for 10 years. In fact, though critically well regarded, his books never sold well.

Fuller, a third-generation Chicagoan born in a house on the present site of LaSalle Street Station, was descended from a Mayflower Pilgrim and was the last male in his direct line. His grandfather was a successful merchant, and his father organized the city’s first trolley car system.

He had a love-hate relationship with Chicago and its crass commercialism, stockyards, and dirt-spewing industries. He was prescient in his vision of a city with “rushing streams of commerce” channeled into man-made cliffs towering along the lakefront, leaving a ravaged prairie behind.

Fuller was also an outspoken critic of America’s imperialistic tendencies and racism. Unlike other writers of the Chicago Renaissance who left town after making a name for themselves, Fuller stayed and, in the words of one biographer, “tried to break the chains which enslaved Chicago to New York, America to Europe and the present to the past.”

In a burst of energy during the last eight months of his life, Fuller wrote two books that were published posthumously. He died in 1929. Afterward, the playwright and drama teacher Anna Morgan compiled a book of tributes to him from 75 persons, many of them now prominent in Chicago history or the arts, such as Thornton Wilder, Carl Van Vechten, Jane Addams, and Arthur Meeker.

PHILIP A. HANNEMA

Philip Hannema for many years has provided ongoing and reliable volunteer support to Chicago gay and lesbian community organizations.

He has done so as staff member and officer, as treasurer and photographer, as cheerleader and fund-raiser, and as constant donor.

Since the 1985 inception of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, Hannema has worked tirelessly in its behalf. He may be the longest-serving Chicago House volunteer.

In Chicago House’s earliest days, he helped its treasurer with invoices and payments. Beginning in 1991, he served as head gardener for one Chicago House location.

Hannema has also served as treasurer of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights PAC and is currently the assistant treasurer of Equality Illinois (the new name for the political action committee’s parent federation). From the time the federation’s office opened, he volunteered to staff its telephones, prepare its mailings, and do other office work.

Hannema’s backing of Chicago gay and lesbian sports activities has included service as treasurer of the Windy City Athletic Association—not to mention untold support from the sidelines.

Countless fund-raising activities for social service and political causes have benefited from Hannema’s financial support. His is a familiar and welcome face at such events.

As a mentor, he has befriended persons of all ages. He has served as an example of how valuable his type of quiet, faithful, ever-present nurturing can be for community institutions, and of how much such contributions can ease the burdens of other organizational leaders and permit them to accomplish what they do.

What makes Hannema’s life of service the more inspiring is that, at age 74, he is still going strong in behalf of community organizations in Chicago, the city of his birth.
SARAH LUCIA HOAGLAND

An author and a group organizer, facilitator, and leader, Sarah Lucia Hoagland has been an influential exponent of lesbian feminist values during some 20 years on the faculty of Northeastern Illinois University, where she is a professor of philosophy and women’s studies.

In her capacity as professor, Hoagland makes her lesbian and feminist identity clear to students from the beginning of each class. Such an introduction makes it plain that she will challenge institutional parameters of thought and personal conceptual boundaries.

As an instructor, Hoagland has demonstrated an ability to engage students’ minds and to test their preconceptions. Her rigorous standards are accompanied by thought-provoking and probing efforts at encouraging students to reach into unfamiliar, uncharted, and sometimes intimidating areas of conceptualization.

Six years ago, Hoagland and a few other Chicago lesbians organized a gathering that meets monthly to investigate issues of lesbian community and lesbian connection.

Through her extensive writing, Hoagland has frequently explored themes of lesbian focus, lesbian community, and lesbian connection. Her book, Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Value, was published in 1988. She wrote in its preface: “I will consider the book successful if it inspires lesbians to get together in something like consciousness-raising groups to discuss the suggestions here. I also wrote this book to express my perceptions about the importance of lesbian focus and lesbian community to our existence as lesbians.”

Hoagland has co-edited two other books—For Lesbians Only: A Separatist Anthology, with Julia Penelope, which was published in 1988, and Feminist Interpretations of Mary Daly, with Marilyn Frye, which was published this year. Her writing has appeared in such journals as Sinister Wisdom: A Journal for the Lesbian Imagination in the Arts and Politics; Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy; and Trivia: A Journal of Ideas.

During travels to cities around the world, Hoagland has reached out to lesbians in order to promote lesbian focus, discussion, and community. In the Chicago area, she has also been an active and frequent organizer and participant in workshops, panels, and community gatherings.

NANCY J. KATZ

In the most recent stage of her public-interest legal career, Chicago native Nancy J. Katz became the first self-identified lesbian judge in Illinois when she was appointed an associate judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in November 1999. She is currently assigned to the court’s Domestic Relations Division.

Katz’s work in Chicago’s lesbian and gay communities goes back to her student years in the mid-1970s. In those days, she was on the volunteer staff of the city’s Lesbian Feminist Center and helped to staff the crisis intervention hotline of Women in Crisis Can Act (WICCA). At Northeastern Illinois University, from which she was graduated with high honors in 1977, she was a member of the Women’s Studies Board, the Women Services Board, and the Feminist Club. She was president of the latter from 1975 to 1977.

From then until her 1983 graduation from the Illinois Institute of Technology’s Chicago-Kent College of Law, she was active in the Take Back the Night Coalition, the Greenhouse Shelter for Women, and the Uptown Center Hull House Domestic Violence Task Force, which she co-chaired in 1979.

After law school graduation as second in her class and a law review editor, Katz worked for three years as a staff attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. Later, she was an ethics lawyer for the American Bar Association’s Center for Professional Responsibility and then returned to the Legal Assistance Foundation, where she became director of the foundation’s social security advocacy project. In 1995, she began four years as assistant general counsel for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. She left that post when appointed an associate judge.

Meanwhile, Katz’s volunteerism continued. In 1986, she helped to produce the 17th annual Women and the Law Conference. In 1987, she coordinated lawyer volunteers for Dr. Ron Sable’s 44th Ward aldermanic campaign and became a member of the newly formed Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization. She served for two years as a board member of IMPACT, Chicago’s lesbian and gay political action committee, co-chairing the board from 1989 to 1990. Since 1987 she has belonged to the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC), serving for four years on its board. She was a member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI) from 1990 to 1992. In addition, she was a member of Cook County Hospital’s Women and Children with AIDS Project advisory board from 1989 to 1995, and she has served on Horizons Community Services’ Community Leadership Council since June.

Besides LAGBAC activity, Katz’s other professional involvements have included committee activities in Chicago and Illinois bar associations, the 1998-99 Juvenile Court centennial events committee, the Cook County Circuit Court’s Child Protection Division advisory committee, and the Illinois bar’s Character and Fitness Committee for Cook County. She has made numerous presentations to legal and lay audiences on child welfare law and social security law.
DANNY KOPELSON

Besides his devotion to Chicago gay choruses, Danny Kopelson has been an indefatigable fund-raiser in behalf of groups fighting AIDS.

After receiving his 1981 degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Kopelson moved from his hometown of Evanston to Chicago's Lake View neighborhood (where he still resides today) and immediately became involved in the sexual-minority community.

In his first foray into activism, he was a founding member of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, in which he continues to perform after 18 years. He was an early member of the chorus's board and took part in its fund-raising and public relations efforts. He was also a founding member of Encore!, a small CGMC ensemble that performed at fund-raisers, at other special events, and for HIV/AIDS groups.

Kopelson recently was responsible for raising $25,000 to support the historic "Gay Pride 2000 Concert, Pride at the Pier," which united Windy City Gay Chorus, Unison: Windy City Lesbian and Gay Singers, and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. For four years he was also a member of Windy City Gay Chorus and helped with its fund-raising. He has helped to represent Chicago at every conference of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses.

While working for Marshall Field & Company, he took part in its HIV/AIDS outreach efforts and helped raise $1.3 million in 1987 at a Field's-sponsored gala benefit evening. The event, which helped to establish the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and supported the American Foundation for AIDS Research, was the most successful HIV/AIDS fund-raiser in America as of then.

Later, Kopelson handled special events planning, fund-raising, and public relations at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, producing some of the city's most successful HIV/AIDS events. In only its third year, the AFC gala, "Not Just Song and Dance," raised more than $310,000 as the highest-earning HIV/AIDS fundraiser in Chicago at that time.

Still later, Kopelson joined the staff of STOP AIDS Chicago, where he established the Dining Out for Life benefit and Dance for Life. He is a founding member of Chicago Dancers United, which raises funds for HIV/AIDS work and promotes dance. He took its annual benefits from a net of $20,000 in the first year to $210,000 in the fourth. Still on the group's board and the Dance for Life benefit committee, he co-chaired Dance for Life 2000 and has helped to raise some $1.5 million at its events.

While with Viaticus, a viatical settlement company, Kopelson developed a $250,000 giving program. Today, he works as an account supervisor at a national advertising company, working on a new HIV/AIDS protease inhibitor campaign—but still sings in the chorus and helps Dance for Life.

PATRICIA S. MCCOMBS

Pat McCombs is a veteran Chicago lesbian organizer, antidiscrimination activist, social service volunteer, special-education teacher, and catalyst for the growth and maturity of Chicago's gay and lesbian community. She is best known for her joint venture with Vera Washington in forming Executive Sweet, a "traveling club" for women of color that sends its newsletter to a mailing list of 1,500.

In the early 1970s, McCombs and friends with the same zodiac sign started a home party group, the Aquarius Air Connection, as a social alternative to bars. Later, she joined with a gay man and another woman in "Quality Is . . . ," a South Side group that produced three large parties a year. Executive Sweet began as a lesbian-only club in 1982, originally staging weekly parties, now several major events a year—cruises, trips, hotel dances, or bar parties.

Executive Sweet was originally her "inward crusade" as a place where professional and working women of color could socialize and network in safety. "White bars didn't play the music we liked, and most professional women wouldn't go to the few South Side bars (mostly male) that admitted lesbians," says McCombs. "We used to put on our business clothes, drive around on Saturday or Sunday afternoons looking for a bar, maybe not doing too well, go in with our portfolio and references, and make a deal for holding a party. We looked for a place that was safe, accessible to transportation and parking, and most importantly—straight, white, or gay—that they were socially conscious about how to treat women of color as well as respect our lifestyle."

Executive Sweet has also provided opportunities at its events for cultural displays by artists, craftpersons, publishers, writers, and entertainers. For 23 years, McCombs has helped to stage the annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. In recent years, she has coordinated its workshops as well as various activities for participating women of color.

Earlier in her activist career, McCombs wrote under the name Titilayo (Yoruba for "everlasting joy") in the pioneer Chicago lesbian newspaper Lavender Woman, which was founded in 1972. On learning during the 1970s that, in contrast to identification demands made of white customers, her friends of color were double- or triple-carded or even denied access at some North Side bars, McCombs organized an ad hoc group that sent testers to the bars, then picketed those found to be discriminating and filed complaints against them with official agencies. It was an important phase in the history of struggles to combat racism within sexual-minority communities.

McCombs has been on the steering committee of Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays for three years, vice president and a board member of Chicago Black Pride for two years, and a volunteer at the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn and Children, Affinity, and Women of All Colors and Cultures Together. In the 1980s, she was a hotline volunteer for the Lesbian Community Center. In 1999, she and Executive Sweet were honored by the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce with a historical achievement award.
Whether assisting as auctioneer at Little Jim’s, playing “drag diva” in the “Dragocious” revue, running for Empress in 1980, mud-wrestling at His ‘n Hers, or having a pie tossed in his face at Big Red’s, Rene Van Hulle has displayed determination and dedication that have been an asset for the organizations he helped to found and administer.

A native Chicagoan, Van Hulle is best known as a bartender, manager, and owner of storied clubs, from Broadway Sam’s and the Trip to Little Jim’s, the Lucky Horseshoe, and Annex 3.

Since the 1970s, Van Hulle has also been active in community organizations and was instrumental in many of their fund-raising projects.

He remembers some of his first activism in Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities when he was asked to be a marshal for the 1977 Anita Bryant protest rally at Medinah Temple. That involvement eventually led the management of Broadway Limited, a popular dance bar, to appoint him as its delegate to the then-recently formed Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago.

Meanwhile, in discussions with fellow service industry employees, Van Hulle had been invited to a founding meeting of the Tavern Guild of Chicago. He was elected to its first board as secretary and served in numerous capacities for 11 years. In his first term as president, his bar crawl bus was dubbed “Air Force One,” and he was affectionately nicknamed “First Lady of Tavern Guild.”

After the murder of fellow bartender Frank Rodde in April 1977, Tavern Guild incorporated the Frank M. Rodde III Memorial Building Fund to establish a much-needed community center. Van Hulle once again served on its founding board and helped to organize fund-raisers that ended up collecting more than $120,000.

In the early years of Gay Chicago Magazine, Van Hulle wrote a gossip column under the pseudonym Heidi Snoop. He also enjoyed bowling and softball, at one time sponsoring the Belmont Bruisers, a team that probably still holds the poorest record in Gay Athletic Association history.

In the early 1990s, Van Hulle briefly served on the board of Chicago House and Social Service Agency. He resigned from that post to address new business demands and to care for his ailing partner in life.

Van Hulle now lives in the Buena Park neighborhood with his partner of two years. After a brief recuperation period, he has returned to work at the Annex 3 bar, once again ready to serve the community he loves.

Israel Wright

Israel Wright moved to Chicago from Ohio in 1975 and began a 20-year career in banking and finance.

His Chicago volunteerism began at Horizons Community Services. “I went to Horizons looking for a black boy friend and found the pool of potential black men pretty shallow,” he relates. Wright remonstrated and soon obtained a seat on the Horizons board.

Through a focus group developed by Horizons’ Diversity Committee, he was introduced to members of organizations for people of color. He met with organizations such as Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, the Minority Outreach Intervention Group, the Greater Chicago Committee, and Kupona Network. Eventually, Wright served as the second treasurer of Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, served on the Kupona Network board, became president of the Greater Chicago Committee, and received the 1997 “Male of the Year” award during the latter group’s annual Bayard Rustin Awards ceremony.

In a Nightlines interview after the award, he talked about his photography hobby. He soon was asked by Lambda Publications to start submitting pictures, as publisher Tracy Baim saw a need to offer a mode of expression targeted to African American readers by African American contributors. He was asked to be on the editorial board for the new BLACKlines and, when he discovered that the magazine needed a photographer to cover events, he volunteered. The photography assignment came as his banking career was ending. A year later, he formed Israel Wright Photographs, Inc., as a full-service photography company.

Wright’s photos have been internationally published and have been exhibited at museum and community venues in Chicago and Milwaukee. As a leatherman and photographer, he has covered Chicago’s International Mr. Leather contests, San Francisco’s Folsom Street Fair, the Mid-Atlantic Leather contest, and other similar events. Some of those photos are included in Chicago’s Leather Archives and Museum. He has contributed to a book project, The Faces of AIDS, and to a traveling exhibit of photographs from the book, and is involved with another book, The Journey, recording African American life on the eve of a new century. Wright often contributes photos and photographic services to nonprofit institutions, including the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, the Human Rights Campaign, and Horizons Community Services.

Besides the organizational positions already mentioned, Wright has held leadership posts since 1982 in the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce: ONYXmen, Inc.; Adobi Chicago; Chicago Black Pride 2000; Horizons Community Services; Minority Outreach Intervention Project; Gerber/Hart Library; Midwest Men’s Center of Chicago; and S.H.A.R.P. (Southside Heath and AIDS Resource Providers).
HELEN SHILLER

For more than 30 years, Helen Shiller has been a progressive activist, a fighter for the disenfranchised, and a courageous voice for the human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

Shiller was elected alderman of Chicago's 46th Ward in 1987. She has been re-elected three times. In the City Council, she has sponsored or lobbied for numerous measures to improve the quality of life for sexual-minority communities and for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

In 1988, Shiller was a cosponsor of the new Chicago human rights legislation that included sexual orientation as a prohibited basis for discrimination. Currently she supports amendment of the legislation to include a specific prohibition on gender-identity discrimination.

In 1992, Shiller attended community meetings that demanded an increase in Chicago funding to combat AIDS. She drafted a City Council measure to increase the city's AIDS budget, which at the time was about $1.07 million and had remained at that level for several years. The City Council's health committee eventually voted 9-0 for the measure after community members with HIV/AIDS testified. A month later, after sustained public outcry, the full council passed a $2.5 million funding package.

As alderman, Shiller has led in city efforts to combat hate crimes, and she has worked to focus attention on domestic violence, including same-sex domestic violence. In 1998, Shiller helped with establishment of the Howard Brown Health Center's new headquarters. Throughout her career, she has campaigned for affordable housing, and she worked successfully with political leaders to provide such housing for the elderly with development of the Ruth Shriman House.

Shiller has also supported domestic-partnership benefits, which so far the city government has extended to its employees with same-sex domestic partners. In the 46th Ward, which includes a notably large sexual-minority population as well as other minority groups, Shiller has continuously struggled to maintain both economic and cultural diversity. She also supported the appointment of openly gay Don Novotny as ward superintendent for the city Department of Streets and Sanitation.

A Brooklyn native, Shiller was graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1969 and is now pursuing a master's degree in public policy at DePaul University. Before becoming alderman, she headed Justice Graphics, Inc., worked as a free-lance photographer, taught GED courses, was chief organizer for the Employment Action Coalition, and served in Mayor Harold Washington's Political Education Project.

Shiller's record speaks for itself. She is a compassionate and caring individual and a friend of Chicago's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered population.

ACT UP/CHICAGO

ACT UP/Chicago 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.

The earliest responses to the epidemic were silence, fear, homophobia, neglect, and measures that penalized rather than assisted people with AIDS (PWAs). ACT UP advocated for PWAs through large demonstrations, creative zaps, agitprop campaigns, and meetings with medical professionals and government officials. ACT UP had a profound effect on the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons, challenging institutional responses to AIDS as well as homophobic discrimination.

The Chicago chapter's roots go back to 1987, when DAGMAR (Dykes and Gay Men Against Racism and Repression) protested then-Governor Thompson's perceived support for repressive AIDS laws. In 1988, DAGMAR and CFOR (Chicago for Our Rights) formed C-FAR (Chicago for AIDS Rights), which evolved into ACT UP/Chicago, a group comprising PWAs along with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and non-gay persons, of color and white, who united for the rights of PWAs.

ACT UP/Chicago demanded a multifaceted approach to fighting AIDS. Actions helped lead to Chicago's tripling and Illinois's doubling their AIDS budgets. ACT UP/Chicago challenged price-gouging by drug manufacturers, forcibly posted sex-positive propaganda to fight public transit officials' refusal to post Kuwona Network's safe-sex ads, and protested violence and police brutality against PWAs and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

ACT UP/Chicago's most renowned action was a demonstration by over 1,500 AIDS activists from across the nation that targeted public and private health-care systems. It also highlighted insurance discrimination and a call for national health care. A key demand was that Cook County Hospital open its AIDS ward to women. The ward began admitting women the very next day. All of ACT UP's direct actions were supplemented by highly visible agitprop that educated and entertained.

This induction is posthumous. ACT UP/Chicago died as an organization in 1995. By then, many participants and supporters had died; others had become service providers; still others were exhausted and disillusioned. In the mid-1990s, with the advent of "life-saving" protease inhibitors, media began to describe HIV infection as a "manageable" disease. Suddenly, the urgency of the crisis was eclipsed by images of beefy men climbing mountains and promoting the newest HIV medication. Many declared the "end of AIDS"; many in our own communities asserted.

But the crisis is far from over. Reports suggest infection rates climbing again, particularly among the young. Even for those with access, costly "drug cocktails" do not always work. Many people worldwide lack access to medications. In some of Africa, more than a quarter of the population is HIV-infected. A large, public, and determined opposition to AIDS is still needed.
ASSOCIATION OF LATIN MEN FOR ACTION (ALMA)

Begun in response to a lack of Chicago organizations for bisexual and gay Latinos, the Association of Latin Men for Action (Asociación de Hombres Latinos Motivando Acción) has for 10 years provided a safe place for such Latinos to be themselves and to discuss issues that affect them both as sexual-minority members of Latino communities and as ethnic-minority members of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities.

Highlights of ALMA’s first 10 years include helping to organize the first openly sexual-minority contingents of Latinos and Latinos to march in the city’s downtown Mexican Independence Day Parade, downtown Puerto Rican Day Parade, and Puerto Rican People’s Parade in the Humboldt Park neighborhood. ALMA was also part of a coalition of organizations of color that worked to host Rainbow Jam, a reception during the 1996 Democratic National Convention for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered delegates of color.

ALMA (the acronym matches the Spanish word for “soul”) has hosted an annual Noche de Gala fund-raiser at which the organization presents its Leadership Award to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Latino and Latina leaders and their allies. In so doing, it has recognized persons who might otherwise be overlooked.

Members of ALMA have also advocated for accurate media coverage of gay Latinos in Chicago’s Spanish-language print and broadcast media. In 1993, ALMA conducted a community visibility campaign that featured posters showing happy same-sex Latina and Latino couples.

In addition, ALMA has conducted forums and cultural events at venues throughout the city for sexual-minority Latinos and Latinas, including events at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center.


Over the past decade, ALMA has compiled a distinguished record of service to Chicago’s Latino and Latina sexual-minority communities.

CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE GAY, LESBIAN AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (GLSEN)

The Chicago Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has been a force for positive change in Chicago since the chapter’s beginning in 1994. Part of the nationwide organization started in 1992, GLSEN/Chicago has had an average of 200 full-fledged and active members for more than five years.

Often thought of as “the teachers’ group,” GLSEN membership is not just for teachers but is also for everyone interested in ending homophobia in the schools.

Along with “Ending Homophobia in the Schools” and “Educating Children—Educating Society,” GLSEN/Chicago’s primary motto has been “Teaching Respect for All in Our Schools.” The group’s work falls into three categories: community organizing, advocacy, and in-school programming.

In the community-organizing category, besides building the chapter itself, GLSEN/Chicago has developed relationships and cosponsored events with other groups in Chicago-area sexual-minority communities. In addition, it has worked to support teachers, on the ground that, if a teacher cannot be comfortably "out," neither can students be. The chapter has held more than 50 monthly community meetings on school-related topics, numerous social and fund-raising events, and coming-out support gatherings for teachers. It has helped get sexual orientation added to the fair practices section of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) contract. It has obtained Illinois State Board of Education approval for an anti-homophobia seminar for school administrators.

In the advocacy category, GLSEN/Chicago directly supports gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning youth in both school and society. Such efforts have included Youth Leadership Summits, presentation of scholarships to youth activists, letter-writing campaigns by alumni contacting their former schools, assistance in forming Chicago’s first “gay-straight alliance” student group at Whitney Young High School, forming the first nationwide network of such groups (now run by the GLSEN national office), and supporting Miguel Ayala’s bid to become the first “out” student member of the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees.

And in the programming category, GLSEN/Chicago has found, created, and distributed educational materials aimed at ending homophobia and supporting sexual-minority youth. Such resources have been provided to schools, individual teachers, and community members. They have included curricular workshop materials; pamphlets and papers on sexual-orientation and gender-identity issues; a school Pride Poster Contest; a lending library of videotapes; a 1999 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month poster inserted in the CTU newspaper; funds for providing the videotape It’s Elementary to Chicago schools; and training for social workers in using the tape.

GLSEN/Chicago’s work has immeasurably benefited Chicago-area youth of both past and future. Through them, our whole society will benefit.
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 IMPACT's first fulltime executive director. 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.

AYA ALLEN (1999): Longtime owner of the city's oldest lesbian bar, Lost & Found, she has 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.

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

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

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 form and led a national alliance of such groups; and was the first openly gay honorary student member of the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees.

BAILIWIICK REPERTORY'S PRIDE SERIES (1996): Since 1989, the annual Pride Series has 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 that serves the lesbian and gay community. The series has also financially empowered nonprofit lesbian and gay organizations through benefit performances.

TRACY BAUM (1994): In lesbian and gay journalism since 1984, she has labored unstirringly as publisher, reporter, editor, columnist, and photographer in offering a voice to all segments of the community. In 2000, her company bought the weekly Windy City Times and merged her weekly Outlines into it. She also produces the weekly Nightlines, plus BLACKlines, En La Vida, Clout!, Taste, and the OUT! Resource Guide. In addition, she helped to found and has cochaired the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

JOHN J. BALESTER (1999): He is a past leader of the former 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 cofounded 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, cochaired large fundraisers for community organizations, and served as a Horizons Youth Group adviser.

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 Dade County organizing during the Anita Bryant era. Now an 82-year-old San Franciscan, he remains active in numerous social change movements and is on the board of the San Francisco NAACP chapter.

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 them.

CARYN BERING (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.

GEORGE S. BUSE (1994, now deceased): As gay journalist, gay activist, actor, and minister, he 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 was 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 senses 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 (1994): She was named a "Friend of the Community" for her work with Chicago House and the NAMES Project and for later cofounding 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.

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

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

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 COTHIAN (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 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.

SARAH CRAIG (posthumous 1995): She joined GayLife’s staff in the late 1970s and rose to become 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, now deceased): He was a columnist for GayLife, Gay Chicago Magazine, Windy City Times, and ultimately 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.

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

SAMUEL F. DAVIS, JR. (posthumous 1994): From 1987, as entrepreneur and attorney, he developed a nurturing environment particularly for Chicago’s gay and lesbian African Americans. Bars he cofounded were D’Eeks, Pangea, and the Clubhouse. He also aided the Kupona Network, the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, and the Rainer Foundation.

JACK DELANEY (1996): A supporter of many community groups, he joined Dignity/Chicago in 1977 and later served as its president and a member of Dignity/USA’s board. He has chaired Chicago House’s board, served as Windy City Athletic Association commissioner, cochaired the 48th Ward Gay and Lesbian Coalition, and served on the boards of the Frank M. Rodde III Memorial Building Fund and the Illinois Federation for Human Rights Political Action Committee. In 1995 he was elected to the Edgewater Community Council.

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.

LAURIE J. DITTMAN (1998): She has been active in local independent politics and in gay and lesbian political organizing. She was a chief lobbyist during passage of Chicago and Cook County laws against sexual-orientation discrimination. A former official of IVI-IPD, IMPACT, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, she became deputy Chicago city treasurer and the highest-ranking openly gay or lesbian city official.

THOM DOMBROWSKI (1992): He was a leader in the development and formation of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, where he also served as principal fundraiser and eventually as executive director. He also proposed establishment of 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.

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 of Chicago.
JORJET HARPER (1998): She has been a journalist and columnist for 20 years, commenting on a panorama of gay- and lesbian-oriented topics in publications throughout the country. In addition, her "Lesbomania" columns and performances have tackled homophobia and built community through humor. More recently, she has been a speaker and educator on lesbian and gay issues and history.

GREGORY "GREG" HARRIS (1996): Since 1992, as an openly gay man living with AIDS, he has been chief of staff for 48th Ward Ald. Mary Ann Smith. He has devoted untold amounts of volunteer time to AIDS-related causes and was cofounder and first president both of AIDS Walk Chicago and of Open Hand Chicago. He was instrumental in securing domestic partnership benefits for Chicago city government employees and cofounded Lesbians and Gays in Government.

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

DELLRICK ALLEN HICKS (1999): He has been an organizer in the African American lesbian and gay communities of Chicago and Washington, D. C., for more than 20 years. He founded Diplomat magazine and has helped to lead numerous AIDS, political, and social service groups.

EARL 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 in 1973 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 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.

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.

ARTHUR L. JOHNSTON (1998): During two decades, 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 Metropolitan Sports Association, and he was an important organizer in passage of Chicago and Cook County human rights legislation.

IRA H. JONES (posthumous 1998): In Mattachine Midwest and other venues, for well over 20 years he was one of the city's most visible, energetic spokespersons for sexual-minority rights. He was a leader in the gay and lesbian business community, active in religious circles as an openly gay advocate, committed to racial justice, a worker in Regular Democratic organizations, and a leader in numerous gay and lesbian groups.

RICK KARLIN (1997): For more than 20 years, he has been a visible public figure in print and onstage. He has lent his talents to countless charitable events, cofounded 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.

CORINNE KAWECKI (1997): Beginning in 1985, she became a quiet but indefatigable volunteer and leader at Horizons Community Services. She has also been active in women's sports groups, the Chicago Abused Women's Coalition, and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, serving as president of the latter.

CLIFFORD P. KELLEY (1998): A former member of the Chicago City Council, he is a "Friend of the Community" for having become in 1973, at some political risk, the pioneering lead sponsor of Chicago's first proposed ordinance to ban sexual-orientation discrimination. His perseverance helped to get it taken seriously. Though his Council tenure had already ended, a version of the proposal finally passed in 1988.


NICK KELLY (1995): As an activist and a creative 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 founding president of Toddlin' Town Performing Arts, encompassing gay and lesbian band and choral groups, and later headed the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

BILLY J. 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 KLESTD (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 nongay church, cultural, health, and environmental activities.

FRANKIE KNUCKLES (1996): As producer, remixer, and DJ, he is the inventor and popularizer of "house" music, known worldwide as "Chicago house" and named after Chicago's Warehouse nightclub, where he drew huge crowds between 1977 and 1987. He is now a DJ and an album producer of international stature.

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 some 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, published the first annotated lesbian bibliography, Women Loving Women, and is still publishing literary reference materials and writing regular columns.

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

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (1999): Since 1990 as the first effort of its kind in the Midwest, it has provided one-on-one support, direct services, and peer support groups for women with cancer and their families of choice. It has also educated medical providers about lesbian health needs.

LesBiGay Radio (1998): Founded by Alan Amberg, for more than five years it has been unique as a Chicago-area radio broadcast serving a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered audience. It is the nation’s first such show in a daily drivetime slot. It has launched many service projects, helps to publicize the activities of all community sectors, and has already achieved wide local and national recognition.

ELLIS B. LEVIN (1994): An Illinois state representative from 1977 to 1995, he was named a “Friend of the Community” for his lifelong 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.

LARRY McKEON (1997): He made a historic, indelible 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. Before that, he served effectively as director of the city’s Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, held leading positions in social service administration, and was a police officer.

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, a renowned playwright, and accomplished actor. He was the author of the critically acclaimed play Marvin’s Room, later made into a film.

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.

TONY MIDNITE (1996): 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. In 2000, he moved to Las Vegas. His reminiscences span nearly 50 years of visible gay life.

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.

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

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.

IFTI NASIM (1996): Born in Pakistan, he wrote Harman, an award-winning book of gay-related poetry in Urdu—said to be the first direct statement of “gay” longings and desires ever published in that language. Its publication required courage amid controversy, met with revilement but critical acclaim, and has inspired other Pakistani poets. He was cofounder of Sangat/Chicago, a group for gay and lesbian South Asians, and has been president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council of America.

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

CHARLOTTE NEWFELD (1996): A well-known civic activist and a tenacious advocate for gay and lesbian Chicagoleans since the early 1970s, this “Friend of the Community” lobbied for city and county human rights ordinances, for a mayoral liaison and committee on gay and lesbian issues, and for an increased city AIDS budget. She led the Lake View Citizens’ Council’s support in securing a domestic partnership ordinance in 1996. For more than 20 years she has urged and actively backed gay and lesbian political participation.

RENAE OGLETREE (1998): She has engaged in wide-ranging volunteer and professional activities that have brought people together around issues of diversity, development, and health care within Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities. She is a health care activist, a professional youth services executive, and cofounded and has chaired Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays.

DEAN ROBERT OGREN (1998): He is an exemplary 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 campaign. He puts in more volunteer hours in a year than many do in a lifetime.

OPEN HAND CHICAGO (1994): Founded in 1988, it became Chicago’s only in-home meals program for persons living with AIDS and is estimated to have delivered more than 1.2 million meals. It has expanded throughout the city, added other nutrition programs, and cooperated with other organizations targeting specific ethnic populations.
DOM OREJUDOS (posthumous 1992): He was a dancer and choreographer with the Illinois Ballet Company 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.

KATHY OSTERMAN (posthumous 1993): As a "Friend of the Community," 48th Ward alderman, and lifelong 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.

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 two decades. He was a cofounder of Howard Brown Health Center, inspired and helped to lead major national HIV/AIDS studies, and is an award-winning writer and teacher in psychology, biochemistry, and epidemiology.

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, he has also made the bar into a source of political and financial support for AIDS work and lesbian and gay rights efforts.

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 development during the 1970s and 1980s. She sponsored sports teams that were supportive of social milieus for hundreds, held countless fund-raisers, collaborated with other business owners, and helped to start and supported Chicago House. She died in 2000.

RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993): For more than 25 years he has been an activist and organizational volunteer. He 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 leading 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): As a direct-action group supporting those who are bisexual, gay, lesbian, or transgendered (collectively, queer), it 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 businesses in Chicago. He also published GayLife, financially aided many gay rights efforts of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, and has been active in city, state, and national Democratic Party politics. He cofounded the International Mr. Leather contest and set up the Leather Museum and Archives.

LINDA S. RODEGERS (1993): As a successful businesswoman, fundraiser, and activist, she combined her business acumen 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.

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.

TIFFANI ST. CLOUD (1996): By age 18 in 1996, she had become a chief motivating force behind formation of the Pride group at Chicago's Whitney Young High School. It quickly became the school's second-largest organization, despite some initial student-body resistance. It was formed to bolster the self-esteem of students, including those who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and to advocate for their rights.


NORMAN L. SANDFIELD (1999): For more than 20 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 cofounded the Jewish AIDS Network–Chicago and has worked on interfaith relations.

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 Mattachine Midwest.

GREGG SHAPIRO (1999): He is a literary figure and a music and literary critic whose reporting has been widely published. Besides writing his own poetry and fiction, he has worked to increase awareness of Chicago's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender literary excellence. His expertise in popular music is widely recognized, and he has taught writing workshops and judged student work.

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.

NORM SLOAN (1996): Since 1988, as a volunteer registrar, he has registered at least 38,000 voters. In some weeks, he has registered as many as 1,000 or 2,000, all in pursuit of a vision in which lesbians and gay men would have their say in the democratic process. He helped form the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization and later has worked through the Illinois Federation for Human Rights. He also gives volunteer aid to Chicago dance and theater efforts.

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

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 ALC 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.

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

MAXSONN “MAX” C. SMITH (1991): 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.

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

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

ELIZABETH E. TOCCI (1994): She opened her first gay bar in 1963 and, beginning in 1971, owned and ran The Patch in Calumet City, which became one of the oldest lesbian-owned establishments in the nation. She 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 cofounded 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, and in 1997 she was elected to the Oak Park village board as the first open lesbian elected to office in Illinois.

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 gay and lesbian 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): He is director and senior program officer for the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and was co-founder and national president of Funders Concerned About AIDS. Previously he was director of development and communications for the Chicago Community Trust. He has been a leader of numerous civic, cultural, and charitable organizations and currently is on Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s advisory board.

MODESTO “TICO” VALLE (1998): He founded the Chicago NAMES Project in 1989. As a member of the NAMES Project Foundation national board, he helped to take the 1996 display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt to Washington, D.C., and to develop a national high school Quilt curriculum. He has been a volunteer and leader in other AIDS organizations and was Open Hand Chicago’s first Volunteer Services Director.

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 LGBT-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 directs community education for an HIV vaccine trial program.

AL WARDELL (1993, now 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.

JESSE WHITE (1999): A longtime Chicago political figure and African American community leader, he has consistently supported lesbian and gay rights as 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. For his commitment to equality, he was named a “Friend of the Community.”

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 cochair the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

YVONNE ZIPTER (1995): A syndicated columnist, 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 September 1997, Gerber/Hart Library chose her for its second annual Sprague-Tades Literary Award. In the 1980s, she was part of groundbreaking publication efforts involving the literature, music, and culture of lesbians and other women.
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