In Memoriam

Troy Ford

Peg Grey

Arlene Halko

Rene A. Van Hulle, Jr.
GREETINGS

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 2007 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Ceremony.

Today’s event serves as a wonderful opportunity to honor several outstanding Chicagoans for their terrific accomplishments. The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of Chicago have made wonderful contributions to the growth and wellbeing of the city and state, and they deserve our utmost respect and commendation for the great work they have done.

I am honored to congratulate each individual and organization being inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for 2007. In your own unique endeavors, you have achieved terrific success while serving as an inspiration to the entire LGBT community. You have been outspoken advocates for equal rights and have worked hard time and again to serve the interests of all LGBT citizens. I thank you for your ongoing dedication - you are all very deserving of induction into this prestigious Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, I offer my best wishes to all for an enjoyable and memorable event, and continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor
GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings to the participants, sponsors, and supporters of the 2007 induction ceremony for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Tonight, I am delighted to join the Commission on Human Relations and the Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in congratulating the 2007 Hall of Fame inductees on their achievements. A forum to discuss human rights and celebrate the accomplishments of talented individuals, the Hall of Fame highlights the contributions of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) residents and their efforts to keep Chicago strong, vibrant and diverse. In recognizing and appreciating the differences between us, we also find the common bonds that unite us.

I look forward to working with the LGBT communities to ensure that all Chicagoans are treated equally and with dignity. Best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mayor
October 18, 2007

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 honored that our Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues is in the vanguard of recognizing the contributions that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and organizations have made to Chicago.

Our Council and the Hall of Fame belong to a larger family, the friends of human rights. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities have a well-deserved and long-standing tradition of advocacy for fair treatment for all segments of our diverse city. We urge those communities to persevere in the fight 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 that are committed to making Chicago everyone’s city and ultimately a “bias-free city.”

The 2007 inductees of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame have my admiration and support. I congratulate them for their achievements, and I think them for their dedication, personal sacrifice, and commitment to making Chicago a city that works for all of its residents.

Sincerely,

Clarence N. Wood
Chair
The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is both a historic event and an exhibit. Through the Hall of Fame, residents of Chicago and the world are made aware of the contributions of Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and the communities’ efforts to eradicate bias and discrimination.

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

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

A nominee must have made either (1) a single, far-reaching contribution or (2) significant long-term contributions to the quality of life of Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender communities or the city of Chicago.

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

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

www.GLHallofFame.org
2007 PLANNING COMMITTEE
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

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2007 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

David Blatt, M.D., and David Moore, D.O.

Robbin Burr
Tarrina Dikes
Martin Gapshis
Jeffrey E. McCourt
Carlos T. Mock, M.D.

Chilli Pepper
Karen C. Sendziak
Patrick Sheahan
Vera Washington

American Veterans for Equal Rights
(AVER) - Chicago Chapter

Chicago 2006, Inc. - Gay Games VII

A Real Read

Carol Moseley Braun
Friend of the Community

Harold Washington
Friend of the Community

In the text of the following brief biographies of inductees, the abbreviation LGBT repeatedly appears. It is currently a widely accepted term and stands for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.” Its use is intended as a reminder of Chicago’s diversity.
In 1982, when the AIDS epidemic had only begun to have its impact in the United States, many in Chicago’s LGBT communities were in denial. Amid suffering and indifference, two visionary physicians, life and professional partners David Blatt and David Moore, emerged as models of selfless commitment in the face of death and dying. They created the exemplary Unit 371 at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, treating AIDS patients and serving their partners or other family members by creating a safe haven where people could spend unlimited time with beloved friends and relatives. They were known as “the gay presence” at Illinois Masonic, putting a human face on AIDS, offering comforting reassurance to frightened patients at a difficult time, and even making house calls.

Unit 371 became a model for AIDS units at medical centers across the United States. Today, Drs. Blatt and Moore still get up and go to work at 3000 North Halsted Street to care for their HIV/AIDS patients, offering the same compassionate professional and personal attention as they did a quarter of a century ago.

David Blatt grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, in the 1950s and 1960s, where he attended public schools. He began his medical career by working in the emergency room of the local public hospital, Marion County General, as an orderly. He graduated from Harvard College and The George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and subsequently moved to Chicago for a residency at Cook County Hospital, where he met and fell in love with David Moore.

David Moore is a 1971 honors graduate of Southern Illinois University and earned his doctorate at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1975. After his Cook County Hospital internship and residency, he earned his board certification in internal medicine, worked as a teaching attending internist at Mount Sinai Hospital, and in 1981 joined with Blatt to form their celebrated partnership practice. Moore has also taught at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and at Rush Medical College.

The Blatt–Moore internal medicine practice focused on gay health issues from the very beginning. The two doctors treated, comforted, and nourished—often to life’s end—patients who in many cases were also their close friends. Blatt and Moore reassured frightened patients by putting a human face on AIDS care.

Today, Moore is a practicing internist and a teaching clinic attending physician at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Blatt also continues to be engaged actively in the clinical care of persons with HIV and AIDS and is an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Drs. Blatt and Moore have, for more than 25 years, been outstanding advocates and champions of the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, but as important as their professional commitment has been their abiding love for each other across several decades.
ROBBIN BURR

As a founding member of the American Airlines Rainbow TeAAm, Robbin Burr helped generate a historic shift in the marketing campaigns of mainstream corporate America. Ahead of its time at its inception in 1996, the Rainbow TeAAm was the first marketing team from a Fortune 100 company dedicated to gaining the loyalty of LGBT consumers. As part of her 23-year career with American Airlines, Burr was the first woman to serve on Rainbow TeAAm. She co-chaired the airline’s employee affinity group and subsequently was elected to co-chair the corporation’s Diversity Advisory Council. Under her leadership, American became the first major airline to implement domestic partnership benefits.

As a result of Burr’s work and influence, many of Chicago’s LGBT nonprofit organizations have received unprecedented support from American Airlines, through savings on travel costs and through raising money from donated travel vouchers at auctions. Following American’s lead, other mainstream corporations have recognized the value of openly supporting LGBT causes. From 1996 to 2004, Burr was a familiar face at numerous LGBT fundraisers, actively raising money for a variety of organizations.

From June 2004 through June 2007, Burr served as Center on Halsted’s first executive director, leading the organization through the critical final years of its capital campaign. A decades-old institution was not only changing its name (from Horizons Community Services); it was also changing its entire mission and becoming one of the most comprehensive community centers in the United States. As Center on Halsted (COH) Board Chair Robert Kohl put it, “Robbin’s leadership was key to making Center on Halsted a reality. She led COH’s successful efforts to triple its donor base and to solidify important relationships with numerous donors, community leaders, and community organizations.”

Robbin Burr’s nationally recognized credibility and leadership were central to the successful establishment of Center on Halsted. During her tenure as executive director, the Center’s donor base tripled and the final $8 million of the $20 million needed was raised, enabling completion of the Center. At the same time, the organization nearly doubled its operating budget. Burr’s efforts facilitated realization of the long-awaited dream of bricks and mortar that now stands on the corner of North Halsted Street and West Waveland Avenue.

Nationally, Burr continues to have an impact upon the success of LGBT community centers, having been elected to co-chair The National Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Centers based in Washington, D.C. Because of her work with Center on Halsted, the name, reputation, and achievements of Robbin Burr will always be connected to Chicago, where she still resides.
For many years, Tarrina Dikes has been a dynamic presence as one of the most dependable and committed lesbian members of Chicago’s LGBT communities. She has served with a constellation of activist organizations and is known as a talented, hardworking individual. She is always ready to do whatever it takes to see a project through to completion.

In the African American lesbian community, Dikes is recognized as a resource person who can be called upon to serve at any time. She is known for being honest in her relations with others and is respected for her willingness to give from the heart.

From November 1998 through May 2003, she served as a volunteer fundraiser for Howard Brown Health Center. She became the volunteer executive director of Performers or Writers for Women on Women’s Issues (POW-WOW), a youth and adult nonprofit cultural organization based on Chicago’s South Side. She served in this capacity until March 2007, when the organization restructured and dissolved the board.

While working full-time as an employee stock plan administrator for Walgreen Co., one of the Chicago area’s most prominent corporations, Dikes served Chicago 2006, Inc., which produced Gay Games VII, as a member of its board’s executive committee and as board secretary. She very quickly facilitated a fundraising relationship with Walgreens that brought $100,000 to the Gay Games. Her background in accounting and business operations was a significant asset to the Gay Games organization.

In February 2005, Dikes joined the Lesbian Leadership Council that is part of the Chicago Foundation for Women, and in January 2007 she was recruited to join the board of Affinity, which provides a safe, nurturing space for lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women of African descent on Chicago’s South Side.

Tarrina Dikes’s contributions to her community have been profound. As Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame member Jacqueline Anderson puts it, “There is no event that she is a part of that her presence is not felt. She will set up chairs, clean up after the event, and offer whatever resources she has at her disposal. She seems never to tire and I have never seen her without a smile. She supports the efforts of others completely, whether it is selling tickets, recruiting entertainment or cooking for a group. She is one of the most dependable and committed lesbians in our community.”
Martin Gapshis, a Chicago native, has served both the city and its LGBT communities throughout most of his adult life, demonstrating a quiet commitment to improving the lives of others.

As the president of Progress Printing Corporation for many years, he has shown extraordinary generosity with his time and his company’s resources, making in-kind donations to virtually every not-for-profit organization in the city, particularly benefiting those in the LGBT communities. He cares deeply about fair and honest governance of organizations, the enrichment of programming, attention to board representation, and many other issues, which has made him an effective leader in numerous organizations.

For the past five years, Gapshis has served as a Capital Campaign Leadership Campaign Co-Chairman for Center on Halsted, Chicago’s new LGBT community center, helping to raise $20 million for construction of the largest center of its kind in the United States today. He has served on the board of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; currently serves on the emeritus board of Cinema/Chicago, parent organization of the annual Chicago International Film Festival; and is on the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum.

He has also provided important help to Chicago garden show activities and to the city’s landscape and rooftop gardens initiatives, aiding Chicago to become a “green city.” For eight years, Gapshis co-chaired an annual Celebration of Home and Garden tour in Michiana (the Michigan-Indiana border region), benefiting Chicago’s Lakefront Supportive Housing organization (now known as Mercy Housing Lakefront), and in 2003 he was given a community leadership award by the organization.

On February 10, 1995, Mayor Richard M. Daley declared “Martin Gapshis Day” in Chicago, in honor of Gapshis’s having received the “Biggest Heart in Chicago” Award from the Hearts Foundation, an AIDS fundraising organization. In 2004, Gapshis received the NAMES Project’s Hopeful Spirit Award, which acknowledged his steadfast dedication to the AIDS Memorial Quilt and to the eradication of HIV/AIDS.

In his very understated way, Martin Gapshis has always worked hard to make a difference, demonstrating his belief in the basic human rights that must be secured for all—housing, health care, personal safety, and the opportunity to succeed. He is a leader and role model for LGBT communities, not only for all his contributions and accomplishments, but for his ever-present humility and the depth of his kind and generous spirit.
Publisher, businessperson, theater producer, and activist Jeffrey E. McCourt made significant contributions to Chicago and its LGBT communities during the 1980s and 1990s. As founding publisher of *Windy City Times* newspaper, he helped to build a high-quality independent press. Under his leadership, the paper, which McCourt co-founded in 1985 and ran until 1999, nurtured emerging journalistic talent, winning numerous awards for its news coverage and features.

McCourt’s standards raised the bar for LGBT newspaper publishing nationwide and led to national advertising contracts with mainstream corporations. He believed that journalists working for the LGBT press should be paid full-time wages in line with daily newspaper salaries. While maintaining *Windy City Times* as an independent voice, he embraced advocacy journalism and supported activism aimed at winning mainstream respect and political victories for Chicago’s LGBT communities. During the 1986–88 stages of a long campaign to pass a Chicago human rights ordinance that would prohibit sexual-orientation discrimination, the newspaper’s offices were known as “Ordinance Central” because of McCourt’s generosity in allowing activists to use space and equipment. The paper’s editorials galvanized community and political support for the ordinance after initial defeats.

Journalist Albert Williams recalled how, in the wake of the ordinance’s earlier failure to pass, McCourt’s newspaper called Chicago politicians to account. “We were very influenced by the idea that the community needed to take control of our own issues rather than just depending on our friends,” he remembered. “Jeff gave the gay and lesbian community a newspaper that was willing to fight.” McCourt also supervised *Windy City Times*’ investigative reporting into the City of Chicago’s funding for AIDS prevention and treatment. After a reporter on the paper revealed that Chicago ranked near the bottom of the top 10 cities in the United States on HIV/AIDS funding, McCourt worked with 46th Ward Alderman Helen Shiller to craft and push through the City Council an ordinance doubling the city’s AIDS budget. He was also instrumental in founding the National Gay Newspaper Guild and worked hard to overcome prejudice against the regional gay press within the marketing industry.

Besides journalism, McCourt’s major passion was for the theater. Prior to *Windy City Times*, he contributed entertainment coverage to Chicago’s *GayLife* newspaper. He co-produced the 1994 local premiere of Tony Kushner’s *Angels in America* at the Royal George Theatre. He later served as president of the board of American Blues Theatre (now the American Theater Company), where he co-produced a 1997 revival of Lillian Hellman’s *Toys in the Attic*. His philanthropic activities included substantial gifts to Children’s Place, a pediatric AIDS treatment center, where he also volunteered.

McCourt was born on December 21, 1955, in Newburgh, New York. Prior to his involvement in the newspaper business, he worked in the financial world as an options trader. He died in Chicago of complications from AIDS on March 26, 2007, having distanced himself from LGBT community involvement after selling *Windy City Times* to Tracy Baim, one of the paper’s original co-founders, in 2000. Most of his final years were spent at an extended care facility on Chicago’s Near North Side.
CARLOS T. MOCK, M.D.

A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dr. Carlos T. Mock has lived in Chicago since 1981. He grew up in the San Francisco–Santa María district of San Juan and attended The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He earned his M.D. degree at the University of Puerto Rico in 1980. He joins the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in recognition of years of dedicated service to LGBT communities as a physician, activist, and author.

Mock did his medical internship in New Orleans and a four-year obstetrics and gynecology residency at Cook County Hospital. From 1985 through 1996, he worked in private practices in the Chicago suburbs, serving as department chair and board member at the Glen Ellyn Clinic from 1991 to 1996. He also served on the medical board of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area for three years beginning in 1992. In 1995 he participated in the capital campaign for the new Howard Brown Health Clinic.


Together with his partner Bill Rattan, in 2001 Mock created the GLBTEvents Web site, an online community calendar of cultural, social, and political events. Two years later, the site evolved into its current incarnation as PinkAgenda.com, geared primarily to travel and a lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender (LBGT) calendar of events. In 2005, he began a blog covering current LBGT news, politics, and events at local, national, and international levels.

Since 2003, Mock has been particularly active in the field of arts and literature. His work has appeared in a variety of publications and Web sites, including Chicago’s Windy City Times, En La Vida, and Identity (in Spanish in the latter two), in addition to the Chicago Sun-Times. He has also been published in Kansas City’s Camp and Midwest Times, and in Miami’s Spanish-language Ambiente, as well as The Kansas City Star and Mexico City’s Enkidu. He is the author of a 2003 memoir, Borrowing Time: A Latino Sexual Odyssey (Floricanto Press), and a 2007 novel, The Mosaic Virus (Floricanto Press).

In 2005, Mock became a founding board member of Orgullo en Acción, a Chicago organization with goals “to promote education, provide leadership development, and promote awareness within the Latino/Latina LGBTQQ community” in order to unite for social and political change. He continues to serve on the board of Equality Illinois.
CHILLI PEPPER

For more than three decades, Chilli Pepper has entertained thousands of people as a female impersonator, serving as an ambassador for LGBT communities, building bridges between LGBT and non-LGBT communities, and heightening attention to the issues involved. She is an icon of the LGBT rights movement, having proved herself early as a visible and controversial symbol, gaining significant media exposure in the days when many people hardly spoke of, much less acknowledged, drag, drag queens, or AIDS.

Chilli was one of the first local media personalities to take up the issue of AIDS awareness, helping to bring HIV/AIDS into the homes of Middle America at a time when the president of the United States was not publicly acknowledging the epidemic. Mentions in the Chicago Sun-Times (Irv Kupcinet’s “Kup’s column”), the Chicago Tribune (the “Tower Ticker” and “Inc.” columns), Chicago’s neighborhood Skyline newspaper, and People magazine, plus television appearances on Phil Donahue’s, Oprah Winfrey’s, and Jerry Springer’s shows as well as Chicago’s WGN-TV (Channel 9)—all at a time before Rock Hudson’s death and its revelations rocked the non-LGBT world—brought Chilli into the forefront of the fight to confront AIDS.

When Donna Karan wanted to make a statement at the opening of Barneys New York’s Chicago store, she called on Chilli to model as a mannequin in the main display window at the store’s launch party, which also benefited the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA). In 1979, when Michael Butler premiered the movie Hair in Chicago, Chilli was the “Premiere Entertainment” and introduced drag to an audience who may have thought “drag” applied only to car racing or having a bad day.

To LGBT communities in Chicago and beyond, Chilli’s career of 30-plus years is an exemplar of dedication, professionalism, and success. She has taken the art of female impersonation to new heights; her career at The Baton Show Lounge has helped to put Chicago at the forefront of that field. Since being crowned as the first Miss Continental in 1980, she has become well known across the United States and around the world.

Chilli Pepper has used her dynamic and formidable presence to advance awareness and understanding of the notion that diversity is both healthy and American. She explains who she is without apology, doesn’t care if you accept or like her, and—best of all—challenges us to stand up for ourselves in the same way. She has become a Chicago institution, much like the Water Tower, only with better jewelry.
Karen C. Sendziak began as a volunteer at the Gerber/Hart Library in November 1987 and since then has served in numerous capacities. Since May 1994 she has been the Gerber/Hart historian, and she served on the board of directors while chairing the library’s Archives Committee in 1995–96. She has been archives curator from 1999 to the present. Her volunteer work at Gerber/Hart is a testament to her dedication to preserving LGBT history and fostering LGBT culture. There are very few jobs at the library to which she has not lent her time, skill, and efforts over the past two decades. Whether it be fundraising efforts, publicity tasks, the coordination of volunteers, programming—whatever needs doing, she does.

Sendziak has served as president of the library’s board of directors since January 2004, presiding over an era of increased financial stability and a renewed commitment to Gerber/Hart’s educational mission through the staging of historical exhibitions and programs. Recently, the library has presented exhibitions on the 25th anniversary of the recognition of AIDS, the Gay Games, the LGBT and non-LGBT presses, and the editorial cartoons of the late Daniel Sotomayor.

Over the years, Sendziak has devoted an enormous amount of time to assisting researchers at all levels—high school students to tenured professors, journalists and videographers. In 2001, she assisted John Poling, a master’s degree student, with his thesis on Mattachine Midwest. He later developed the thesis into an article, “Standing Up For Gay Rights,” which in 2005 became the first LGBT-themed article ever published in Chicago History, the quarterly journal of the Chicago History Museum (CHM). A decade earlier, Sendziak curated an exhibition of Gerber/Hart materials at the CHM in conjunction with the “Long Road to Freedom” traveling exhibit mounted by The Advocate.

Chicago’s LGBT history has been Sendziak’s passion. She has researched the lives of Henry Gerber and Pearl Hart and published articles about both individuals. She assisted the City of Chicago’s Department of Planning and Development in its bid to designate as a Chicago landmark the building at 1710 North Crilly Court, which was where Henry Gerber resided when he founded the Society for Human Rights in 1924. The City Council approved the landmark designation in 2001, and a plaque at that address was dedicated in June 2002. Sendziak was also instrumental in having a Chicago Tribune Marker of Distinction installed in 2002 in front of Pearl Hart’s longtime home at 2821 North Pine Grove Avenue, noting Hart’s many contributions to life in Chicago.

Thanks to Sendziak’s efforts, in 1996 the Gerber/Hart Library began funding the biennial Gregory Sprague Prize for the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History of the American Historical Association. The prize is named in honor of Gerber/Hart founder Gregory Sprague.

Sendziak was one of the first two recipients of Gerber/Hart’s John H. Mueller Volunteer Service Award in 1994. In 2003, she received a Larry Osburn Trailblazer Award from the Bailiwick Repertory Theatre. She has served the Gerber/Hart Library, one of Chicago’s most vital institutions, with intense devotion for 20 years and is thus one of the key individuals responsible for having nourished and protected this important resource for the benefit of all Chicagoans.
PATRICK SHEAHAN

Patrick Sheahan has compiled an outstanding record of civic, business, banking, educational, and LGBT community leadership in Chicago since relocating to the city in 1995. He was a prime mover behind the 2007 opening of the Center on Halsted (COH), the most comprehensive LGBT community center in the world, and the first fully to integrate recreational, cultural, and social service programming.

Much of the requisite inspirational leadership, driving force, and guiding intelligence behind COH came from Patrick Sheahan. His political acuity and persuasiveness were behind the process of getting the former Chicago Park District garage at 3640 North Halsted Street first turned over to the City of Chicago and then all but gifted to the LGBT communities.

He was also responsible for a programming partnership between COH and the Chicago History Museum, which has brought more LGBT culture and history into mainstream Chicago institutions. His business savvy and skillful negotiating resulted in the Whole Foods grocery’s becoming the economic anchor of the COH’s mixed-use facility.

For the past five years, Sheahan has served as executive director of public affairs for UBS Investment Bank, where he is responsible for community, civic, and government relations as well as internal and external communications. He has also served as director of public affairs and Senior Manager, Community Relations, for the Sara Lee Corporation and Foundation, and as a Research/Administrative Associate for the Spencer Foundation in Chicago.

Since 2000, Sheahan has brought all his financial and business abilities to bear upon his service as the Center on Halsted chairperson and as Horizons Community Services chairperson between 2001 and 2003.

In addition to his work with the Center on Halsted, Sheahan has served as a member of the Goodman Theatre board of directors, on the Public Policy Committee of the Donors Forum of Chicago, and with several other business organizations. He has volunteered with Chicago Special Olympics and Working in the Schools, and he has served on benefit committees for a city flower and garden show and a low-income housing organization. He earned a Ph.D. in public policy analysis from the University of Illinois in 1997.

Patrick Sheahan’s exemplary service to the Center on Halsted and other local institutions will enrich Chicago’s LGBT communities, and the city itself, for decades to come.
VERA WASHINGTON

For more than 25 years, Vera Washington has served Chicago’s LGBT communities as an organizer, promoter, youth community activist, social service volunteer, STD and HIV/AIDS counselor, and youth services coordinator.

She is the co-founder (with 2000 Hall of Fame inductee Patricia S. McCombs) of a “traveling club” for women of color, called Executive Sweet. This joint venture continues to provide Chicago women of color with a variety of venues for socializing and networking. Executive Sweet was conceived on the premise of providing quality gathering spaces where professional lesbians of color could come together socially, network in a safe space, and not be discriminated against because of sexual orientation or color. In addition, over the years, Executive Sweet has provided opportunities for cultural displays of art, arts and crafts vendors, publishers, writers, health care educators, entertainers, and politicians in conjunction with its events.

Washington has dedicated herself to using Executive Sweet as a vehicle for networking and reaching out to those in the LGBT communities who are in need and who lack the ability or knowledge to obtain resources or assistance for themselves. She has worked with ex-prostitutes and ex-offenders, helping them to obtain employment; she has shared resources in the areas of health care, mental health care, and legal assistance with community members; she has found housing and clothing for those in need. She has counseled the parents of LGBT youth and assisted with referrals for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing. Executive Sweet has supported LGBT communities through a variety of philanthropic efforts and continues to work tirelessly in support of breast cancer activities and AIDS awareness.

During the early 1990s a family experience with AIDS had a significant impact on Vera Washington’s response to the epidemic; she developed a passionate desire to become more educated about HIV/AIDS for herself and in order to educate others. She attended numerous training programs to understand the epidemic better and help spread the word about dangers and necessary preventive measures. Washington initiated efforts to help others with HIV/AIDS, through becoming a case manager, counseling ex-offenders and LGBT youth, and helping to develop school and street outreach programs.

Currently, Washington is a program coordinator who provides HIV education and prevention to students and women who are HIV-positive. She continues to work with families who need assistance in housing, education (through GED programs), and substance abuse prevention. Her job has allowed her to provide a variety of services to LGBT communities; she takes it upon herself to ensure that community members receive all possible services available to them. Washington’s other service involvements—with the Safer Foundation and the Prologue Alternative High School—have afforded her an even greater opportunity to fulfill her passion to help others.

Washington volunteers with and supports a broad range of organizations, including Windy City Black Pride, Youth Pride Center, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Affinity Community Services, the women’s writing group Literary Exchange, and United Way in Chicago. She also serves as an HIV/AIDS instructor with the American Red Cross.
The Chicago Chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), formerly called Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA), has served as a voice for LGBT veterans and has provided moral, financial, and social support to such veterans throughout its 15-year history. It was founded by James Darby and Bill McGarry in June 1992. From its early years of advocating for an end to the ban on gays in the military and holding a memorial service for murdered Navy Midshipman Allen Schindler, AVER’s Chicago chapter has become an effective advocate for LGBT veterans in the Chicago area.

Whether lobbying for an end to “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” providing speakers for events on local college campuses, offering support and assistance to veterans in difficulty, or simply offering a safe space in which LGBT veterans can be themselves, the organization has created positive change through its ongoing advocacy on behalf of present and former LGBT military personnel. For those who ask, “Why have a separate organization for LGBT veterans?” AVER proudly responds, “Most of our members belong to at least one other veterans’ organization, such as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or AMVETS. But we know that we are not really welcomed in those groups. We provide services to veterans that they would not even consider.”

Not long after the group was founded, around 20 members of the GLBVA chapter traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in what would become the largest LGBT demonstration ever held in the United States—the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. The presence of lesbian and gay veterans at that march, at a historic moment, helped raise the issue within the LGBT community, furthering what remains today one of AVER’s primary missions.

Among its many activities, AVER has helped to initiate and plan the City of Chicago’s Annual Salutes to LGBT Veterans, the first of which was held in 2003, and the group has co-sponsored the event every year since then. Members of AVER have marched together in the City of Chicago’s annual Memorial Day Parade, the largest in the United States, as an openly LGBT contingent every year since 1997, and in the city’s Pride Parade every year since 1992, carrying their huge American flag, which has been fondly nicknamed “Gus.”

The organization has donated copies of its monthly newsletter, VetPride, to the Gerber/Hart Library, the Pritzker Military Library, and the Chicago History Museum in order to ensure that LGBT veterans will be and remain part of the city’s historical record. AVER holds an annual wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Allen Schindler and participates in numerous other wreath-laying ceremonies representing LGBT veterans. Two AVER members currently serve on the City of Chicago’s Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs, continuing an established tradition of civic participation.

AVER has been and continues to be a valuable asset to Chicago, richly deserving of induction into the Hall of Fame.
With only two years for the planning and implementation of a huge sporting event that encompassed both Chicago and several suburban venues, the board and staff of Chicago 2006, Inc., brought a great gift of pride, athletic competition, and celebrations to LGBT Chicagoans. With 12,000 athletes in attendance and an estimated 50,000 supporters watching, Gay Games VII stands, in the words of Mayor Richard M. Daley, as “a unique achievement of far-reaching and historical importance having an impact on Chicago’s LGBT community and the City of Chicago.”

The opening of the Games in Soldier Field was a momentous and historic occasion for all who were present or watching on television. As the athletes took the field and the lights dimmed to the glow of the rainbow flag, cheers of joy and pride rang out, filling the entire stadium, and making the many hours spent in planning and staging the numerous sports and social events worth the effort.

The board and staff of Chicago 2006, Inc., did a mammoth job in mounting events all over the city and suburbs—even in the small town of Crystal Lake, where board members took the time to fight homophobic attempts on the part of some residents to exclude the Games’ rowing teams and their supporters from the town.

Mayor Daley’s speeches at the opening and closing ceremonies were indeed historic events, bringing people to their feet for standing ovations both times. Media coverage by such outlets as WMAQ-TV (Channel 5), the Chicago Tribune, Red Eye, and the Chicago Sun-Times was consistent, daily, and informative—followed by all Chicagoans in their audiences. Musical entertainment by Grammy Award–winning DJ and remix artist Frankie Knuckles and singers Holly Near, Sharon McNight, and the group BETTY, comedy by Ant and Margaret Cho, along with appearances by basketball player Sheryl Swoopes and drummer Ubaka Hill, to name just a few, truly demonstrated the diversity of LGBT communities, not just in Chicago and its environs, but worldwide.

Athletes who came to Chicago from around the globe found the city to be warm, welcoming, and embracing. Many said that they would return, again and again, to vacation here and take advantage of both the warm welcome they received and Chicago’s many cultural, athletic, and tourist attractions.

As the person who nominated Chicago 2006, Inc., to the Hall of Fame put it, “Those of us who came out in the 1960s were teary-eyed at the ceremonies, as we could not have imagined an event of this magnitude in that decade of Stonewall. When Cyndi Lauper sang ‘True Colors,’ we were brought to our feet to rejoice as the rainbow flags fluttered in the breezes across Wrigley Field, and Gay Games VII came to an end. The memories and pride that this historic event has brought to our city and community will keep us all smiling for many years to come.”
At a time when there were numerous LGBT theatrical performances in Chicago, few were able to have such a community impact as A Real Read, the African American LGBT performance ensemble. From 1996 to 2001, to the surprise of many critics, people from all over the city—and not just people of color—flocked to their performances.

The idea for A Real Read originated with founding member Byron Stewart, who attended a workshop conducted by the Pomo Afro Homos, an African American gay performance troupe. Stewart’s poems, written in the workshop, were published in Chicago’s Blacklines, and he worked with the publication to organize a series of open-mike poetry readings that became a monthly event at a local lesbian bar called Paris Dance. Out of those poetry readings and aided by two co-founders—Byron Mason, a writer, and Sanford Gaylord, an actor and writer—A Real Read was born, and the talents of many local artists were enlisted.

The ensemble helped to bring new audiences to theater houses that traditionally had never experienced so many women or people of color in the audience as those who attended A Real Read’s performances. Producers and reviewers acknowledged that the group filled a real need for varied programming, audience development, and culturally appropriate theater in Chicago. The group tackled issues that crossed cultural boundaries—such as coming out, LGBT isolation, homophobia, religion, sexism, the situation of LGBT African Americans, and HIV/AIDS—by deploying poetry, dance, and choral call and response, all embedded in an intent to speak from an African American perspective. Through original poetry, prose, and plays, the group worked to give voice to a community and issues that have often been silenced, yet their performances struck a universal chord. Venues were consistently sold out.

A Real Read was invited to perform for a variety of conferences and organizations, not only in Chicago but across the nation. These ranged from the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays’ Unity Conference, Ladyfest Midwest, and Equality Illinois to the American Psychological Association and the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and Black Pride events. The company staged productions for the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois State University, and New York University.

A Real Read was a company in residence at the Bailiwick Repertory Theatre on Chicago’s North Side. The company produced the works of other LGBT artists, including plays by Larry Duckett, Steve Langley, and Dr. Shirlene Holmes. It collaborated in productions outside the Midwest with OutCharlotte in North Carolina, the Out on the Edge Festival of Queer Theater in Boston, and the Lambda Literary Foundation’s annual writers’ conference in Washington, D.C.

Even after the ensemble dissolved in 2001, its impact continued to have a ripple effect. Members of the company moved from stage to screen in several documentaries. Out of the initial group of performers, new directors emerged and created new performance troupes. Some members have become curators and producers of cultural events; some are accomplished actors; others form a new generation of playwrights. There have been African American performance ensembles before and since, but none quite like Chicago’s A Real Read.
CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN

Carol Moseley Braun has been a prominent supporter of LGBT rights and marriage equality throughout her political career. In 1992, as the first African American woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate, she became the first senator ever to appoint an LGBT liaison. While in the Senate, she staunchly opposed the U.S. military “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy when many others were willing to accept the policy as a compromise.

Braun has enjoyed a long and active career in and out of political office, locally and nationally. She served as assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois from 1973 to 1977 and spent the next 10 years as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives. From 1988 to 1992 she served as the Cook County recorder of deeds.

In the wake of the 1991 controversy over the appointment of Clarence Thomas as a U.S. Supreme Court justice, she decided to make her ground-breaking run for the U.S. Senate. She bested both a popular incumbent and a second male opponent to become the Democratic Party’s nominee and then went on to win the 1992 general election. This catapulted her to national and worldwide recognition.

After her defeat in the November 1998 Senate race, she served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education and then as ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa from 1999 through 2001. Since leaving public service, Braun has taught business law and political science at Morris Brown College in Atlanta and DePaul University’s Kellstadt Graduate School of Business in Chicago, pursued business interests and her law practice, served on corporate boards, and received numerous honors and awards.

In 1993, as the Senate debated President Bill Clinton’s abortive effort to end the long-standing ban on gay and lesbian military personnel, Braun cast one of only 12 votes against the law that put “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” into effect. She supported hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, both of which have yet to become law, and was a consistent and vocal supporter of marriage rights, believing that LGBT Americans have a fundamental right to marry the persons they love. When the so-called Defense of Marriage Act was approved by the Senate, she and her Illinois colleague, the late Sen. Paul Simon, cast two of the only 14 votes against it.

For her ongoing committed efforts in behalf of the inclusion of LGBT rights in a broader vision of human rights and democratic participation in American politics, for her consistent support of issues central to LGBT communities in Chicago and beyond, Carol Moseley Braun has been selected as a historic “Friend of the Community.”
HAROLD WASHINGTON
(deceased)

As mayor of Chicago from 1983 to 1987, Harold Washington promoted and facilitated LGBT political participation and empowerment. He thus helped to pave the way for eventual passage of the city’s 1988 ordinance that prohibited discrimination because of sexual orientation.

Washington was born in Chicago on April 15, 1922. After four years of military service, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Roosevelt University in 1949 and a law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 1952. After a period of private practice and service in city and state legal jobs, he served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1965 to 1976 and in the Illinois Senate from 1977 to 1980. He then served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 to 1983.

Prior to his election as the city’s first African American mayor, Washington made significant contributions to the cause of LGBT equality in the political arena. He advocated the inclusion of equal rights for gay and lesbian persons in the Illinois Democratic Party’s platform. While serving in the Illinois General Assembly and in the U.S. House of Representatives, he co-sponsored gay and lesbian rights legislation—which has yet to be enacted at the federal level. He also was a principal sponsor of the Illinois Human Rights Act, which passed in 1980 though backers were unsuccessful in including protection for sexual orientation. On equal rights issues, he was truly a man ahead of his time.

After taking office as mayor, Washington headlined a Lincoln Park rally in July 1984 that called for reintroduction of a sexual-orientation nondiscrimination ordinance that activists and supportive City Council members had been trying since 1973 to enact. This rally jump-started a renewed campaign by LGBT activists to get the ordinance passed. To highlight this effort, Washington spoke at the annual rally following the Pride Parade in every subsequent year that he served in office. The ordinance, unofficially but widely known as the Human Rights Ordinance, was finally enacted in 1988 and stands as a testament to Washington’s vision of equal rights for all Chicagoans.

Also in 1984, Washington issued a directive for all city department heads to take part in a community meeting with a broad-based representation of Chicago’s gay and lesbian organizations and businesses from all parts of the city. The following year, Washington established the city’s first official Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. This body would become today’s Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, which oversees the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. As mayor, Washington also appointed the first openly gay or lesbian full-time coordinator of LGBT issues in Chicago’s history.

Harold Washington died of a heart attack in his office on November 25, 1987. In this, the 20th-anniversary year of Washington’s death, it is particularly appropriate to remember and celebrate the former mayor’s mission for Chicago’s LGBT communities. As he did for other segments of the city, he forwarded ideas of community empowerment, direct participation, fairness in service distribution, and civil rights legislation to guarantee equality for all. For the ground-breaking precedents he set, his unstinting commitment to human rights and dignity, and his unswerving support of the city’s LGBT communities, the Hall of Fame has formally elected him a “Friend of the Community.”
ANGEL ABCEDE (2003): To help prevent more AIDS deaths, he drew on experience as a dancer, choreographer, and columnist to form the Sex Police in 1990. Its shows have brought anti-AIDS messages to high school students throughout the Chicago area. He is now president of Asians and Friends Chicago.

ABOUT FACE THEATRE (2003): It is a leading force in Chicago theater, an emerging national center for LGBT theater, and an important resource for education about sexual-minority issues in Chicago schools. Its Youth Theatre component is nationally recognized.

ACT UP/CHICAGO (2000): The group, which lasted until 1995, was the local chapter of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, a national organization committed to using direct action and civil disobedience to fight AIDS. It challenged both institutional responses to AIDS and homophobic discrimination.

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF PROUD BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (1993): The committee was formed in 1993 to create positive gay and lesbian visibility in Chicago’s African American community and to march openly in the 65th annual Bud Billiken Parade. After filing and mediating a human rights charge, the group marched and was warmly received.


AFFINITY COMMUNITY SERVICES (2002): Since 1994, the group has become a leading organization serving black lesbian and bisexual women by fostering visibility, empowerment, and leadership with programming that addresses health, networking and socialization, and social justice issues.

AIDS LEGAL COUNCIL OF CHICAGO (2003): Formed in 1988, the group has helped more than 15,000 persons with free legal assistance, conducted educational outreach efforts, and engaged in public advocacy on behalf of persons affected by HIV.

ORTEZ ALDERSON (posthumous 1991): Born in 1952, he was an actor and activist who, among other achievements, helped to organize the People of Color AIDS Conference. He died of complications from AIDS in 1991.

AVA ALLEN (1999): Longtime owner of 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 of lesbianism and feminism. She helped to launch a Lesbian Community Cancer Project clinic on Chicago’s South Side; led Yahimba, which held citywide conferences on African American lesbians’ needs; and has supported the Institute of Lesbian Studies, the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, and Gerber/Hart Library.

MARGARET ANDERSON and JANE HEAP (posthumous 2006): This couple were key figures in Chicago’s literary renaissance of the early 20th century. Through their avant-garde journal The Little Review, they provided an early forum for some of the era’s greatest thinkers and writers. Heap died in London in 1964; Anderson, in France in 1973.
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.

ASSOCIATION OF LATIN MEN FOR ACTION (2000): Known as ALMA (Spanish for “soul”), it has offered a place for bisexual and gay Latinos to address their issues, both as sexual-minority members of Latino communities and as ethnic-minority members of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities.

MIGUEL AYALA (1997): He helped to start the first school-approved organization for lesbian, bisexual, and gay students in any Chicago public high school; helped to form and then led a national alliance of such groups; and was the first openly gay honorary student member of the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees.

BAILIWICK 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 BAIM (1994): She has labored untiringly as publisher, reporter, editor, columnist, photographer, and advocate in offering a voice to all. In 2000, her company bought the Windy City Times and merged her weekly Outlines into it, joined now by Nightspots, Identity, OUT! Resource Guide, and online Windy City Queercast. She helped to found and led the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce as well as Chicago 2006, Inc., which brought the 2006 Gay Games here.

JOHN J. BALESTER (1999): He was a leader of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force and in 1990 was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to chair the city’s Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. He worked to improve liaison between city government and activist organizations of all stripes.

CARRIE BARNETT (1998): She co-founded People Like Us Books, which at the time was Chicago’s only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore and which helped to nurture the local literary community. She also headed the Gerber/Hart Library board and co-chaired large fund-raisers for community organizations.

ROBERT SLOANE BASKER (1993, now deceased): He founded Mattachine Midwest in 1965, began Chicago’s first gay and lesbian telephone hotline, and started discussions with police amid arbitrary raids and arrests. He also took part in pre-Stonewall national organizing and in Dade County organizing during the Anita Bryant era. Born in 1918, he remained a social-change activist in a variety of causes until his death in 2001.

LORRAINNE SADE BASKERVILLE (2000): She founded transGenesis in 1995 as an agency to advocate for and address concerns of persons in the city’s transgender community, such as gender identity, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, sex work, harm reduction, and self-empowerment.

DAVID BRIAN BELL (posthumous 1999): After being diagnosed with AIDS, he became a visible public advocate for persons with HIV/AIDS and helped to build support, information, and protest networks for use in their struggle.

CARYN BERMAN (1995): A psychotherapist and social worker, for some 20 years she has worked professionally and as a volunteer and political activist to improve Chicagans’ 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.
ALEXANDRA BILLINGS (2005): As a transgender actor, she has gained prominence both onstage and as a mentor, fund-raiser, and educator on sexual-minority issues and the importance of living with AIDS.

LORA BRANCH (2001): A public health professional, video producer, and lesbian and gay community activist, she has directed Chicago’s Office of Lesbian and Gay Health and the city’s STD/HIV Prevention and Care Programs; produced an acclaimed HIV/AIDS video, Kevin’s Room; and co-chaired Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays.

ROGER BROWN (posthumous 2004): Through his internationally known works as a leader of the art movement called Chicago Imagism, he commented pointedly on social issues, urban infrastructure, nature, history, and events both personal and societal. Born in 1941, he died in 1997.

BUDDIES’ RESTAURANT AND BAR (2003): From 1988 to its closing in 2004, it was a neighborhood business with a true sense of community, financially supporting innumerable good causes and encouraging its clientele to be themselves in a safe, supportive atmosphere.

GEORGE S. BUSE (1994, now deceased): As journalist, 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). He was a civil rights and anti–Vietnam War activist in the 1960s. Born in 1924, he died in 2000.

JAMES A. BUSSEN (1994): Since 1973, his engaging personality and senses of humor and fairness have aided many Chicago gay and lesbian efforts. Besides much activity in gay rights lobbying and fund raising, he is a longtime leader of Dignity/Chicago, the organization for lesbian and gay Roman Catholics, and was president of Dignity/USA from 1985 to 1989.

CHEF TANIA CALLAWAY (posthumous 2003): As an out lesbian and organizer of community events, she ran house parties that were legendary in Chicago’s African American lesbian community and beyond. She often donated services and was chef at the Heartland Cafe for some 10 years. Born in 1952, she died in 2000.

LORI CANNON (1994): She was named a “Friend of the Community” for her work with Chicago House and the NAMES Project and for co-founding ACT UP/Chicago and Open Hand Chicago. For Open Hand, she raised funds, handled public relations, and oversaw a food pantry’s development.

EVETTE CARDONA (2002): As an organizer, she has helped to lead or found organizations such as Women of All Cultures Together, Amigas Latinas, the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, and the Center on Halsted Steering Committee. As a philanthropic administrator, she has helped to fund groups serving historically underrepresented community sectors.

MEGAN CARNEY (2005): In About Face Youth Theatre and other theatrical work, she has changed the landscape of Chicago’s sexual-minority communities through her commitment to the healthy development of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, allied) youth. Her work has also addressed other social justice issues such as racism and homelessness.

C. C. CARTER (2002): Since her 1996 Chicago arrival, she has been a writer, poet, and performer and has helped to develop audiences for poetry, music by women of color, writing by women in prison, African American literature and art, and women’s health awareness. As a fund-raiser and board member, she has helped to sustain numerous groups.
ALDO CASTILLO (2005): A tireless fund-raiser, an ardent advocate of Latin American art, and a committed human-rights activist, this openly gay, openly HIV-positive, and award-winning gallery owner and curator has blazed trails of distinction since arriving in Chicago from Nicaragua in 1985.

ROBERT CASTILLO (2001): An almost indefatigable organizer, when inducted into the Hall of Fame at age 33 he already had a decade’s history of committed work in launching or supporting grassroots sexual-minority campaigns involving Latinas and Latinos, gender-identity bias, homophobic violence, neighborhood activism, history, human rights laws, and HIV/AIDS.

ARMAND R. CERBONE, Ph.D. (2003): He has applied psychological research to LGBT concerns and has worked to guide psychology toward an enlightened understanding of the lives of sexual minorities. He cowrote official guidelines on psychotherapy with lesbian, gay, and bisexual clients and has held leadership posts in state and national professional groups.

ROGER “RJ” CHAFFIN (1997): One of Chicago’s most visible gay businesspersons for more than 25 years and a reliable volunteer for gay and lesbian and AIDS groups, he 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, courageous life, he built a legacy of social change here and overseas. In 1984 at age 23 he co-founded and became first president of Asians and Friends Chicago, a group for gay Asians and non-Asians that has been replicated in other cities internationally. After failing to gain permanent U.S. residence in the face of exclusionary policies, he returned to Hong Kong in 1991, became a pioneering, visible gay and AIDS organizer there, but died of AIDS complications in 1995.

JOHN CHESTER (1994): He has been a leader in lesbian and gay rights efforts, philanthropic organizing, Chicago House development, and both gay and non-gay religious activism since 1971. At the same time, he has been much involved in political organizations and election campaigns. Since the late 1960s he has also aided programs for affordable housing and community development. He retired to New Mexico in 2004.

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (2003): Since 1993, it has represented a citywide coalition of individuals and groups dedicated to social change and development through activism and visibility both in communities of color and in LGBT communities.

CHICAGO GAY MEN’S CHORUS (2001): Since 1983, it has offered audiences a mixture of choral ensemble and musical theater presented by more than 1,000 past and present members, who have also appeared at benefits and represented Chicago nationwide.

CHICAGO 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 30 years of commitment and work to the gay and lesbian communities. In 1971 he co-founded the Chicago Gay Alliance, which created Chicago’s first gay and lesbian community center. He has served on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues since 1989 and has sat on the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Committee from its inception in 1991 (chairing or co-chairing 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. She worked to revise the American Psychological Association’s attitudes toward homosexuality.

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

ANN CHRISTOPHERSEN (1992): As a successful businesswoman (of Women & Children First bookstore), she has provided a positive role model and developed activities and programs to meet the needs of Chicago’s gay and lesbian community.

CHRISTOPHER CLASON (posthumous 2004): After launching a career as a locally popular singer-comic and actor, he was diagnosed with HIV and soon led in creating Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) in 1987, serving as its first executive director. Born in 1953, he died in 1991.

CHARLES E. CLIFTON (posthumous 2004): For nearly 15 years before his 2004 death at age 45, the last nine of those years in Chicago, he advocated for the health of persons living with HIV/AIDS. He was Test Positive Aware Network’s executive director and Positively Aware editor, directed the Men of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition, and assisted numerous other efforts to fight AIDS.

JERROLD E. COHEN (posthumous 1993): He helped to form more than a dozen groups, including University of Chicago Gay Liberation, Chicago Gay Alliance, Windy City Gay Chorus, and Chi-Town Squares. He played a key part in the NAMES Project’s Chicago chapter and was a charter member of Test Positive Aware Network. Born in 1943, he died of AIDS complications in 1991.

CONGREGATION OR CHADASH (2006): Founded in 1975, in response to the prejudice and invisibility that LGBT Jews faced in mainstream synagogues, the congregation has provided a home where Chicago’s LGBT Jews can pursue religious, social, cultural, and educational interests.

R. SUE CONNOLLY (2003): As a bank officer, she has brought expertise, her employer’s resources, and her own to help charities, especially those serving sexual-minority communities. She has been a leader in the Chicago House social service agency, the Gay Games efforts of Chicago 2006, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Center on Halsted.

T. CHRIS COTHRAN (1995, now deceased): He was a veteran member of PrideChicago, which plans the annual pride parade. He helped to lead local and national gay and lesbian business organizations; the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; Kupona Network; and the current Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues’ precursors. He died in 1996.

SARAH CRAIG (posthumous 1995): She joined GayLife’s staff in the late 1970s and rose to become coeditor. Then she started a typesetting business that helped many gay and lesbian groups. She became heavily involved in gay and lesbian political efforts and, as journalist and colorful speaker, pushed for a city gay rights bill. In the late 1980s she was associate editor of Windy City Times for five years. She died in 1994.
JACQUES CRISTION (posthumous 2006): A lifelong Chicagoan, he performed in, choreographed, and designed costumes for South Side drag balls and dance concerts. For several decades he hosted his own annual Halloween drag balls. He died in Chicago in 2003.

RICHARD M. DALEY (2006): His years in office as mayor of Chicago have marked the longest uninterrupted period of LGBT-inclusive policies in the city’s municipal history. Since his election in 1989, Daley has consistently been one of the LBGT communities’ most significant friends.


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

SAMUEL F. DAVIS, JR. (posthumous 1994): From 1987, as entrepreneur and attorney, he developed a nurturing environment particularly for Chicago’s gay and lesbian African Americans. Bars he co-founded were Dëeks, Pangea, and the Clubhouse. He also aided the Kupona Network, the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, and the Reimer Foundation. Born in 1958, he died in 1993.

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

JOHN D’EMILIO (2005): His work in the field of LGBT history has had wide impact. He has published eight books and has been on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1999, where he is professor of history and of women’s and gender studies. His research was cited in the Supreme Court’s Lawrence v. Texas decision invalidating sodomy laws. He has lectured widely and served on numerous boards, including that of the Gerber/Hart Library for several years.

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 organizing. She was a chief lobbyist during passage of city and county laws against sexual-orientation discrimination. A former official of IVI-IPO, IMPACT, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, she became a deputy city treasurer and the highest-ranking openly gay or lesbian Chicago city official at that time.
THOM Dombkowski (1992, now deceased): He was a leader in conceiving and organizing Chicago House and Social Service Agency, where he also was principal fund-raiser and eventually executive director. He also conceived the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and brought it to fruition while a member of the city Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Born in 1950, he died in 2006 of complications from AIDS.

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.

Keith Elliott (2001): A dancer, choreographer, and producer, he has spent more than 14 years in organizing annual “Dance for Life” fund-raisers and ancillary events benefiting dancers and others fighting HIV/AIDS. He has also contributed to other activities such as Howard Brown Health Center “Who’s That Girl?” fund-raisers and the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus.

Equality Illinois (2005): Formed in 1992 as the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, this group joined in efforts to pass the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance in 1993 and then benefited all of Illinois in 2005 by shepherding to its successful conclusion a 31-year campaign for a statewide law against discrimination because of sexual orientation and, now, gender identity.

Sara Feigenholtz (2001): She was selected as a “Friend of the Community” for her service since 1995 as a state representative from the North Side’s 12th District in supporting human rights protection and in helping to win funds to fight HIV/AIDS and assist other community projects.

James W. Flint (1991): A well-known businessman, he is founder and owner of the Miss Continental Pageant, a national contest for female impersonators, and owns the long-established Baton Show Lounge and other businesses. He has also been active in Democratic Party politics.


Jeannette Howard Foster, Ph.D. (posthumous 1998): Born in 1895, she was an educator, librarian, translator, poet, scholar, and author of the first critical study of lesbian literature, Sex Variant Women in Literature (1956). She was also the first librarian of Dr. Alfred Kinsey’s Institute for Sex Research, and she influenced generations of librarians and gay and lesbian literary figures. She died in 1981.

Robert Bonvouloir Foster (posthumous 2003): As an openly gay, high-achieving student and lawyer, he was chief founder of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and a volunteer attorney at Howard Brown Memorial Clinic. He died of AIDS complications in 1991. His bequest helped to open Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Chicago office.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago (1995): Formed in 1982 as Frontrunners Chicago to promote running-related activities, the gay and lesbian club now has dozens of counterparts in this country and abroad. It is the largest walking and running club in Chicago and has raised thousands of dollars for lesbian and gay groups as well as AIDS, lesbian health, and general community charities.
HENRY BLAKE FULLER (posthumous 2000): Born in 1857, he was an author, poet, critic, and composer. He wrote novels and short-story collections that were set in Chicago. His 1896 play *At Saint Judas’s* was effectively the first play on a homosexual theme published in America. In 1919, he courageously published a philosophic novel centered on homosexual characters, *Bertram Cope’s Year*. He died in 1929.

FRANK GALATI (2004): An internationally known actor, director, screenwriter, and playwright, he has shed new light on the works of Gertrude Stein. He has been an ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company since 1985 and Goodman Theatre associate director since 1986. He is also a professor emeritus at Northwestern University.

RICK GARCIA (1999): After moving to Chicago in 1986, he continued as a high-profile activist and helped to lead the final stage of a 15-year struggle to pass a 1988 ordinance against sexual-orientation discrimination. He was the founding executive director of Equality Illinois. In Roman Catholic circles, he also has worked extensively in behalf of the church’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adherents.

RICHARD GARRIN (1993): He was founding director of Windy City Gay Chorus and for more than 15 years brought musical excellence to local and national audiences, serving as an ambassador of goodwill for the gay and lesbian community.

JIM GATES (2002): Soon after his 1967 Chicago arrival, he was a leader in the early homophile organization known as ONE of Chicago. By 1975 he had opened Little Jim’s, North Halsted Street’s first gay bar, which helped to pave the way for the commercial district’s revitalization. This pioneer has consistently supported community charities and encouraged his customers to do so.

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

CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (2000): Beginning in 1994, through organizing, advocacy, and in-school programming, the group benefited youth, staff members, and the community by fostering nondiscrimination in school settings. In 2006, it became known as Creating Safe Schools for Illinois.

HENRY GERBER (posthumous 1992): He was the founder of Chicago’s Society for Human Rights in 1924, the first gay rights organization in the United States. Born in 1892, he died in 1972.


RALPH PAUL GERNHARDT (2004, now deceased): Beginning in 1975, he brought news to Chicago through *Gay Chicago Magazine* and other media. He also launched and sponsored sports groups, organized fund-raisers for a variety of causes, promoted safer sex, and raised thousands of dollars to fight HIV/AIDS. Born in 1934, he died of cancer in 2006.

FRANK GOLEY (posthumous) and ROBERT MADDOX (2001): They helped to pioneer openly gay businesses in Chicago beginning in 1972 with their Male Hide Leathers store. There, Goley created many designs that found favor with leather and motorcycle enthusiasts worldwide, gay and nongay, for their originality and craftsmanship. Goley died in 1994. Maddox later sold the business and still lives in Chicago.
ADRIENNE J. GOODMAN (1994): She was named a “Friend of the Community” for her commitment to lesbian and gay inclusion in politics. She chaired Grant L. Ford’s openly gay 1975 campaign for 44th Ward alderman. As City Council staffer and Democratic Party activist, she advocated for gay and lesbian rights.

THE GRAHAM FAMILY (2003): William, Nannette, Will, and Amelia Graham received a “Friend of the Community” award for efforts against racism and homophobia within their United Methodist denomination, including their pursuit of a sexual-orientation discrimination claim against a campground in Des Plaines.

JEFF GRAUBART-CERVONE (1993): He has been an activist and advocate for gay and lesbian human rights for more than 35 years in the Midwest and Chicago. He participated in the passage of human rights legislation, the effort to overcome the anti-gay and -lesbian efforts of Anita Bryant, and 1970s demonstrations for same-sex marriage.

RICHARD LEE GRAY (1992): He has committed himself since the 1970s to serve the needs of the African American gay and lesbian community. He also developed and presented educational programs for gay and lesbian youth dealing with sexuality and health.

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

IDA GREATHOUSE (posthumous 1997): Born in 1952, as mother and activist she drew national attention to the needs of herself and of others living with AIDS. She advocated visibly for increased AIDS funding and for special programs for women and children with AIDS. For this, she was selected as a “Friend of the Community.” She died in 1995.

PEG GREY (1992, now deceased): She provided key leadership over two decades in building lesbian and gay athletic programs and organizations and in organizing lesbian and gay teachers, besides being a champion athlete herself. She died of multiple myeloma in 2007.

ARLENE HALKO (1996, now deceased): After joining Dignity/Chicago in 1975, she became its first lesbian president and was on its board for five years. She was a co-founder of Chicago House in 1985 and tirelessly assisted it. As a medical physicist, she was a familiar face on Cook County Hospital’s AIDS ward until 1993, and as owner of Piggens Pub from 1982 to 1989 she used the bar as a community support vehicle. Born in 1933, she died in 2007.

JOEL HALL (1993): As impresario, choreographer, company founder, and dance instructor, he is one of Chicago’s cultural treasures. With international credentials and recognition, he is committed to the art of dance and the training and presentation of Chicago’s youth through the dance medium.

JOHN R. HAMMELL (posthumous 1997): As an American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois lawyer, he fought for gay and lesbian rights and for the rights of persons living with HIV and AIDS. He also helped to lead in other groups, including Howard Brown Health Center and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Born in 1957, he died of AIDS complications in 1995.

PHILIP A. HANNEMA (2000): For many years, he has provided ongoing and reliable volunteer support to a variety of Chicago gay and lesbian community organizations as staff member and officer, treasurer and photographer, cheerleader and fund-raiser, and constant donor. He celebrated his 80th birthday in 2006.
RENEE C. HANOVER (1991): A well-known attorney who often provided her services pro bono, she was long a high-visibility advocate for lesbian and gay rights. She has worked for civil rights legislation of all kinds and has vigorously opposed all forms of discrimination in the law and in society. In 2000, she retired to Los Angeles, where she now lives at age 81.

LORRAINE HANSBERRY (posthumous 1999): Born in Chicago in 1930 and best known for *A Raisin in the Sun*, which in 1959 became the first play by an African American woman to open on Broadway, she was an early supporter of equal rights regardless of sexual orientation. Same-sex attraction figured in some of her work, and she is credited with writing two pro-lesbian 1957 letters in *The Ladder*, an early lesbian periodical. She died in 1965.

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

JORJET HARPER (1998): For more than 25 years, she has commented on gay- and lesbian-related topics in publications throughout the country. Her “Lesbomania” columns and performances have tackled homophobia and built community through humor. Books include *Lesbomania* and *Tales from the Dyke Side*. More recently, she has been a speaker and educator on lesbian and gay issues and history.

GREGORY “GREG” HARRIS (1996): As an openly gay man living with AIDS, he was chief of staff for 48th Ward Ald. Mary Ann Smith from 1992 to 2006. He has given much volunteer time to AIDS-related causes and was co-founder and first president of AIDS Walk Chicago and of Open Hand Chicago. He was instrumental in securing same-sex domestic partnership benefits for Chicago city government employees. In 2006, he became state representative of the North Side’s 34th District, succeeding retired state Rep. Larry McKeon as the only openly gay Illinois state legislator currently in office.

PEARL M. HART (posthumous 1992): She spent her entire legal career of 61 years defending the civil rights of all persons. Born in 1890, she died in 1975.

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

DERRICK ALLEN HICKS (1999, now deceased): He organized in the African American lesbian and gay communities of Chicago and Washington, D.C., for more than 20 years. He founded *Diplomat* magazine and helped to lead AIDS, political, and social service groups. Born in 1955, he died in 2002.

EARNEST E. HITE, JR. (1994): In 1987, he co-founded Image Plus to provide 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 community-based groups, especially those serving African Americans.

SARAH LUCIA HOAGLAND (2000): She has been an influential exponent of lesbian feminist values during some 20 years on the faculty of Northeastern Illinois University, where she is professor of philosophy and women’s studies. Her work includes a 1988 book, *Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Value*. She is a collective member of the Institute of Lesbian Studies.
HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES (1992): Established in 1973 as Gay Horizons, the organization served as the Midwest’s largest and most comprehensive social service agency meeting the needs of Chicago’s diverse gay and lesbian community. The services traditionally provided by it now form the core of programming at Center on Halsted.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER (1991): Founded in 1974 as Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, it has distinguished itself as the Midwest’s leading provider of support services to and for people living with AIDS and HIV disease, and as an internationally recognized center for hepatitis and AIDS/HIV research.

TONDA L. HUGHES, Ph.D., R.N. (2003): As researcher, advocate, and educator, she has made outstanding contributions in the area of lesbian health. Besides innovative research, she has advised government and private health and social service agencies, organized conferences, and made many public educational presentations. She is a professor in the College of Nursing of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

CHUCK HYDE (2001): While working out of the limelight as businessman and fund-raising advisor, he has helped sexual-minority community organizations since 1982 to produce successful benefits and has assiduously fostered relationships between them and underwriters in the business community.

ANTONIO DAVID JIMENEZ (2001): A social service administrator and HIV/AIDS educator, he conducted more than a decade of innovative risk-reduction activism among African American and Latino men who have sex with men, chiefly as leader of the Minority Outreach Intervention Project.

JUDITH S. JOHNS (1991): She was inducted as a “Friend of the Community” for her dedication to the gay and lesbian community in the development and promotion of programs and services in response to the AIDS pandemic.

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): For three 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, Cook County, and Illinois human rights legislation.

IRA H. JONES (posthumous 1998): In Mattachine Midwest and other venues, for well over 20 years he was one of Chicago’s most visible, energetic spokespersons for sexual-minority rights. He was a leader in the gay and lesbian business community, active in Episcopal religious circles as an openly gay advocate, committed to racial justice, a worker in Regular Democratic organizations, and a leader in many gay and lesbian groups. He died in 1986 of a heart attack.

RICK KARLIN (1997): For almost 30 years, he has been a visible public figure in print and onstage. He has lent his talents to countless charitable events, co-founded the city’s first gay parents group, volunteered extensively for Horizons Community Services, been a leading advocate for gay and lesbian teachers, and contributed his writings to all the local gay and lesbian media.
NANCY J. KATZ (2000): She became the first self-identified lesbian judge in Illinois when she was appointed in 1999 as an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court. She was later elected to a full judgeship. Her community and professional work dates to the 1970s in lesbian feminist, domestic violence, political, legal assistance, and family welfare settings.

CORINNE KAWECKI (1997): Beginning in 1985, she became a quiet but indefatigable volunteer and 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.

WILLIAM B. KELLEY (1991): Since 1965, he has led in many pioneering efforts—among them helping to organize the first national gay and lesbian conferences (1966), co-founding the *Chicago Gay Crusader* and Illinois Gays for Legislative Action (early 1970s), taking part in the first White House gay rights meeting (1977), co-chairing the Illinois Gay Rights Task Force (late 1970s), and co-founding the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (1988). Now a lawyer, he chaired the Cook County Commission on Human Rights for its first 12 years until 2003 and is still a member.

NICK KELLY (1995): As an activist and a creative talent, he was a vibrant part of Chicago’s gay and lesbian 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.

BILLIE JEAN KING (1999): Building on her tennis stardom to create social change, she has elevated the self-esteem of girls and women through her lifelong struggle for equality in the sports world. She has also raised large sums to fight AIDS, has contributed funds to combat homophobia in schools, and has supported efforts to stem gay and lesbian teenage suicide rates.

DOROTHY KLEFSTAD (1998): She is a “Friend of the Community” for having begun a ceaseless career as a volunteer for lesbian, gay, and AIDS causes after learning that her daughter was a lesbian. This has been in addition to her ongoing volunteerism in 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 is now a partner in a clinical and teaching practice in psychotherapy.
DANNY KOPELSON (2000): Since 1981, he has been an indefatigable arts and AIDS fund-raiser and a mainstay of the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, of which he is a founding member. He has produced special events, including “Dance for Life,” that have raised millions of dollars to fight AIDS.

SUZANNE MARIE KRAUS (2004): She has fostered social change through activism since 1977. She was a founder of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, helped to promote the 1993 March on Washington, developed sexual-minority outreach by the Cook County state’s attorney’s office, and was a leader of the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials. She currently works for Windy City Media Group.

MARIE J. KUDA (1991): For 40 years, she has worked as activist, historian, archivist, writer, lecturer, and publisher to promote and preserve positive images of lesbians and gay men. She organized five national lesbian writers conferences, published the first annotated lesbian bibliography, *Women Loving Women*, and is still contributing to literary reference materials and writing articles.

LOUIS I. LANG (2002): As a state representative, he has distinguished himself by his attention and commitment to human rights and human welfare. For this and for his support of AIDS funding and of laws against hate crimes and sexual-orientation discrimination, he was chosen as a “Friend of the Community.”

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

MICHAEL A. LEPPEN (2001): As philanthropist, fund-raiser, and board member, he has provided leadership and financial support for a large variety of nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area and elsewhere, many of them serving sexual-minority communities and addressing concerns such as HIV/AIDS, lesbian health, youth work, and mass media.

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (1999): 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 was unique for presenting a Chicago-area radio broadcast serving a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender audience. It was the nation’s first such show in a daily drivetime slot. It launched many service projects, helped to publicize the activities of all community sectors, and achieved wide local and national recognition.

ELLIS B. LEVIN (1994): An Illinois state representative from 1977 to 1995, he was named a “Friend of the Community” for his longtime sponsorship of lesbian and gay rights bills, women’s rights measures, and other legislation addressing gay and lesbian, AIDS, and women’s health concerns.

LINCOLN PARK LAGOONERS (2004): This group, which developed from volleyball games regularly held in the park during the 1970s, is devoted to social interaction, organized activities, and charitable fund-raising. It has contributed thousands of dollars over the years to groups fighting HIV/AIDS, cancer, and homophobia.
LIONHEART GAY THEATRE COMPANY (1994): It was the first Midwest performing arts organization to produce gay and lesbian works. This all-volunteer group under Rick Paul’s guidance mounted more than 40 original plays in more than 100 performances from the 1970s to 1994, often donating proceeds to lesbian and gay organizations.

PATRICIA M. LOGUE (2003): For more than 13 years since opening Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Chicago office, she worked tirelessly to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay males, bisexuals, transgender persons, and persons living with HIV disease, both here and nationally. Cases in which she has led, including Lawrence v. Texas, have established important national precedents. In 2007, she became an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

PATRICIA S. McCOMBS (2000): She is a veteran organizer and social service volunteer. Besides co-founding Executive Sweet, a “traveling club” for women of color, she has assisted the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival for decades and has helped to lead several lesbian and African American organizations.

MIKE McHALE (2005): During law school and as an assistant Cook County state’s attorney since 1991, as a leader of Equality Illinois, and as a neighborhood activist, he distinguished himself by professional excellence, personal openness, and mentorship. In 2006, he was elected a judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

LARRY McKEON (1997): 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. In his fifth term, he chaired the Labor Committee and vice-chaired the Housing and Urban Development Committee. Earlier, he served effectively as director of Chicago’s Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, held leading positions in social service administration, and was a police officer. He retired from the Legislature at the end of his term in 2007.

HARLEY McMILLEN (1992): He played an important role in formation of the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, now known as the Howard Brown Health Center. He was instrumental in organizing the AIDS Action Project, which contributed in large part to development of the City of Chicago’s comprehensive AIDS Strategic Plan. He is now retired in Wisconsin.

SCOTT McPHERSON (1992, now deceased): He was one of the first openly gay, HIV-positive American artists, a renowned playwright and accomplished actor. He was the author of the critically acclaimed play Marvin’s Room, later made into a film. Born in 1959, he died of AIDS complications in 1992.

ROBERT MADDOX (2001): See FRANK GOLEY and ROBERT MADDOX.

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

MATTACHINE MIDWEST (2002): From 1965 to 1986, the group carved a permanent place for itself in Chicago history as the city’s first enduring gay rights organization. Formed in a period of repression, it pursued a course of political activity, education, and social service that blazed paths for successor organizations. Many of its members have already died, but their contributions remain.
MERRY MARY (2005): She was inducted as a “Friend of the Community” for her countless volunteer contributions since 1979 to Howard Brown Health Center, local choruses and Roman Catholic groups, Chicago Squares, Vital Bridges, and other community efforts.

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.

JILL M. METZ (2006): Since the 1970s she has served Chicago’s LGBT communities through her law practice, civic activities, and personal commitment. She helped to found Tortoiseshell Productions and Footsteps Theater Company and has been involved with numerous legal and activist groups.

ELLEN A. MEYERS (2001): As a lesbian and gay political organizer and now deputy director of intergovernmental affairs for Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, she has spent more than 15 years in supporting human rights laws, persons affected by HIV/AIDS or aging, and electoral involvement.

CHARLES R. MIDDLETON, Ph.D. (2006): As president of Chicago’s Roosevelt University since 2002, he is the first openly gay man to serve as a major U.S. university president. He has been active in national education and civic boards and serves on the boards of several Chicago nonprofit and activist organizations.

TONY MIDNITE (1996): 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 more than 50 years of visible gay life.

The Rev. SID L. MOHN, D. Min. (1993): He was the first openly gay individual ordained in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. He continues to be a prominent leader in Chicago’s not-for-profit social service community, having major impact on policies and services to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, homeless, youth, and persons living with HIV and AIDS.


MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE FOR WOMYN AND CHILDREN (1993): It was the longest-lived, continuously-running, women-only space in the nation. For more than 30 years, it presented lesbian-feminist–oriented culture and music. The collective was operated totally by volunteers and was open to “all womyn-born womyn” who wished to participate. It presented the final performances of its final season in 2005.

MULRYAN AND YORK, ATTORNEYS AT LAW (2004): Since 1989, this professional partnership of Mary M. York and Rosemary Mulryan has been a resource for specialized legal representation as well as a contributor of leadership and expertise to numerous nonprofit organizations.
KATHRYN MUNZER (2001): As a social service professional and volunteer arts booker, she has spent more than 20 years in helping Chicago’s Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, in developing lesbian musicians and other artists, and in fostering lesbian culture.

NAMES PROJECT CHICAGO CHAPTER (2002): Since being formed in the wake of Washington’s 1987 AIDS Memorial Quilt display, Chicago’s NAMES Project chapter has been a Quilt custodian and has brought its message to schools, churches, and other venues during the continuing battle to bring an end to AIDS.

IFTI NASIM (1996): Born in Pakistan, he wrote *Narman*, an award-winning book of Urdu poetry—said to be the first direct statement of “gay” longings and desires ever to appear in that language. Its courageous publication met with revilement but critical acclaim and inspired other Pakistani poets. He co-founded Sangat/Chicago and has been president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council of America.

EDWARD NEGRON (2006): He has provided years of dedicated service to Chicago’s LGBT, Latino/a, and recovering communities, promoting social welfare, justice, and LBGT health while speaking publicly about his life as a former addict, gang member, and drug dealer.

CHARLES EDWARD NELSON II (2002): Since 1989, when he helped to found the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, he has worked on HIV-prevention programs for same-gender-loving men of color. Always self-identifying as gay, he developed a “down low” social categorization that has helped in devising new prevention programs for such men.

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

CHARLOTTE NEWFELD (1996): A civic activist and tenacious advocate for gay and lesbian Chicagoans since the early 1970s, this “Friend of the Community” lobbied for human rights ordinances, for a mayoral liaison and committee on gay and lesbian issues, and for an increased city AIDS budget. She led the Lake View Citizens’ Council’s board in support of a domestic partnership ordinance in 1996. For more than 30 years she has urged and actively backed gay and lesbian political participation.

MONA NORIEGA (2002): As an activist since the 1970s, she has developed programs to serve lesbian mothers and their families, organized programs for Latina lesbians and other lesbians of color, helped to open Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Midwest office, served as a business consultant, and co-chaired the original effort to bring the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago.

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 co-founded and has co-chaired Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays.

DEAN ROBERT OGREN (1998): He is an exemplar volunteer who has tirelessly shared his talents with many organizations, including the NAMES Project, Open Hand Chicago, AIDS Walk Chicago, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, United Way, International Mr. Leather, and state Rep. Larry McKeon’s historic 1996 electoral campaign. He puts in more volunteer hours in a year than many do in a lifetime.
OPEN HAND CHICAGO (1994): Founded in 1988, it became Chicago’s only in-home meals program for persons living with AIDS and served more than 3 million meals. It expanded throughout the city, added other nutrition programs, and cooperated with other groups targeting specific ethnic populations. In 2002, it merged into the new Vital Bridges organization.

DOM OREJUDOS (posthumous 1992): He was a dancer and choreographer with the Illinois Ballet 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. Born in 1933, he died of AIDS complications in 1991.

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

DAVID G. OSTROW, M.D., Ph.D. (1997): He has been a bold, innovative leader in addressing critical issues of gay men’s health for more than three decades. He was a co-founder of Howard Brown Health Center, inspired and helped to lead major national HIV/AIDS studies, and is an award-winning writer and teacher in psychiatry, biochemistry, and epidemiology.

PFLAG/CHICAGO (2004): This chapter of the national Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays traces its local origins to a group organized by Guy Warner in 1977 called Parents of Gays. For serving both parents and their children so devotedly over the years, this group consistently receives acclaim whenever it makes a public appearance.

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

JOHN PENNYCUFF (2003): On front lines, on sidelines, and behind the scenes, besides supporting reproductive choice and AIDS funding, he has been an outspoken, proud, and ceaseless activist since 1991 for sexual-minority rights in civil society and his United Methodist denomination. His commitment, courage, and energy have made him a model for direct-action, educational, and political work toward equality.

ADRENE PEROM (1999, now deceased): She was a “Friend of the Community” whose North Side gay bar, Big Red’s, nurtured Chicago institutions in their growth during the 1970s and 1980s. She sponsored sports teams that were supportive social milieus for hundreds, held countless fund-raisers, worked with other business owners, and helped to start and supported Chicago House. Born in 1935, she died in 2000.

LAIRD PETERSEN (2006): A Chicago native, he has contributed over 25 years of service to LGBT communities, helping to raise more than $12 million for community-based organizations, working with Center on Halsted, on HIV/AIDS issues, and with Equality Illinois, and volunteering for numerous community organizations.
RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993): For more than 30 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 pride parade.

JIM PICKETT (2005): As writer, activist, openly HIV-positive gay man, and policy leader, he has played a community role for more than a decade. He has worked to empower those in the LGBT and the HIV/AIDS populations to take responsibility for their health. He is now director of public policy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

MARY D. POWERS (1992): She was recognized as a “Friend of the Community” for what is now more than 30 years of commitment in addressing abusive police behavior and being a consistent advocate for gay and lesbian rights both in civil society and in her church as a Roman Catholic.

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

The Rev. JUAN REED (2005): Since his 1991 arrival at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church as an out and affirming vicar, this ex–social worker has made a once-declining parish into a place where progressive LGBT persons can share worship openly with their fellow heterosexual Christians.

CHARLES “CHUCK” RENSLOW (1991): An internationally known gay businessman and photographer, he opened the Gold Coast in the early 1960s. It was one of Chicago’s first openly gay enterprises and one of the first leather bars in the world. He also published GayLife, has financially aided many gay rights efforts since the 1960s, and has been active in local and national Democratic Party politics. He co-founded the International Mr. Leather contest and set up the Leather Museum and Archives.

LINDA S. RODGERS (1993): As a successful businesswoman, fund-raiser, 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.

JULIO RODRIGUEZ (2004): For nearly 20 years, he has been a tireless advocate for Latinos and Latinas among LGBT persons and for LGBT persons among Latinos and Latinas. In 1989, he co-founded ALMA, the city’s first group for gay and bisexual Latinos. He has aided Center on Halsted, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and philanthropic and youth substance abuse programs.

CAROL RONEN (2005): She was inducted as a “Friend of the Community” for more than 10 years as a state legislator who has worked tirelessly for a law against sexual-orientation and gender-identity discrimination and for greater HIV/AIDS funding, as well as a variety of other progressive goals including children’s development, health care, violence prevention, women’s rights, education, nurse utilization, and economic justice.

RON SABLE, M.D. (1993, now deceased): As an openly gay physician he co-founded the first comprehensive HIV/AIDS clinic at Cook County Hospital. He was active in local politics, running as an openly gay candidate for 44th Ward alderman and founding IMPACT, a gay and lesbian political action committee. Born in 1945, he died in 1993 of AIDS complications.
TIFFANI ST. CLOUD (1996): By age 18 in 1996, she had become a chief organizer of the Pride group at Chicago’s Whitney Young High School. It quickly became the school’s second-largest organization, despite some initial student resistance. Its goal was to support the self-esteem and rights of students, including those who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

VICTOR A. SALVO, JR. (1998): After chairing Chicago’s 1987 National March on Washington Committee, he helped to found the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization and IMPACT, joined the NAMES Project’s local host committee, helped to start Open Hand Chicago’s meals-on-wheels and grocery programs, promoted the 1993 March, and co-founded Gay and Lesbian Building and Trade Professionals.

NORMAN L. SANDFIELD (1999): For more than 30 years, he has been an organizer of gay and lesbian Jewish activities and of Jewish AIDS programs in Chicago and internationally as part of his membership in Chicago’s Congregation Or Chadash. He co-founded the Jewish AIDS Network—Chicago and has worked on interfaith relations.

MIKE SAVAGE (posthumous 2005): A social-service activist, he led in building a 41-clinic network for medically underserved persons. He also worked to help persons with addictions and AIDS, the homeless and poor, immigrants, and women with cervical cancer, and he was active in GLBT civil rights and Roman Catholic groups. He was born in 1952 and died in a 2004 rafting accident.

NAN SCHAFFER, D.V.M. (2004): Having achieved distinction by both charitable and scientific contributions, she has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and much time and wisdom to a wide range of Chicago organizations during the past three decades. As a veterinary doctor, she is also an internationally known expert on rhinoceroses and their reproduction.

BRUCE C. SCOTT (1993, now deceased): A Chicago resident for more than 50 years, he successfully fought federal anti-gay employment policies in groundbreaking lawsuits. In a 1965 decision with far-reaching implications, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., ruled that a vague charge of “homosexuality” could not disqualify one from federal government jobs. Scott was also a founding officer of Mattachine Midwest. Born in 1912, he died in 2001.

GREGG SHAPIRO (1999): He is both a literary figure and a music and literary critic. Besides writing his own poetry and fiction, he has fostered awareness of Chicago’s gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender literary excellence. His expertise in popular music is widely recognized.

HELEN SHILLER (2000): She was inducted as a “Friend of the Community” for more than 30 years as a progressive activist and for service as 46th Ward alderman since 1987, during which periods she has often advocated for sexual-minority communities and for persons living with HIV and AIDS.

SIDETRACK (2006): Since opening in April 1982, Sidetrack, its owners, and its staff have been indispensable elements of LGBT campaigns, hosting countless activist events and making untold donations of goods, services, and money to a broad range of organizations, groups, and political figures.

CATHERINE SIKORA (2005): She has successfully campaigned for sexual-orientation and gender-identity legal protection at city, county, and state levels; documented Chicago LGBT life and activism through skilled photography, including permanently exhibited works depicting the transgender community; and served in numerous organizational board seats and volunteer roles.
DAVID B. SINDT (posthumous 1995): In the 1970s and 1980s, he fought homophobia in civil and religious spheres. As a social worker, he advocated for gay parents and gay children. As a clergyman, he formed what became Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns but later had to leave the ministry because of gayness. Born in 1940, he died of AIDS complications in 1986. His house became the first Chicago House–owned residence.

LAWRENCE E. SLOAN (posthumous 2005): He was an innovative Chicago director, producer, and playwright who attracted new, broader audiences to Remains Theatre. He was also the first executive director of Season of Concern, an AIDS fund-raising organization in the theater community. Born in 1959, he died of AIDS complications in 1995.

NORM SLOAN (1996): Since 1988, as a volunteer registrar, he has registered at least 38,000 voters. In some weeks, he registered as many as 1,000 or 2,000. He helped to form the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization and later has worked through Equality Illinois. He also gives 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. Born in 1934, she died of cancer in 1992.

ARMANDO L. SMITH (1995): A licensed clinical social worker, he has worked in community-based organizations for more than 20 years and is a mainstay of Chicago lesbian, gay, and AIDS groups. He has led Horizons Community Services’ telephone helpline, has headed the AIDS Foundation of Chicago’s Service Providers Council, and has served on numerous boards including that of Kupona Network.

CHRISTINA SMITH (2002): Since at least 1994, when she joined efforts to set up a South Side community center for African American lesbian and bisexual women, she has worked to assist women of color. She helped to form Affinity Community Services and served it as board president.

JAMES MONROE SMITH (1995, now deceased): As a quietly persistent young lawyer, in 1988 he founded the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, an unprecedented vehicle for involving the city’s general legal community in helping persons with HIV/AIDS. Before leaving ALCC in 1993, he received the Chicago Bar Association’s Maurice Weigle Award for his work. He published two textbooks on AIDS and health care and taught AIDS-related college and law school courses. Born in 1957, he died in 2003.

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): This lifelong political and cultural activist has resided in Chicago since his 1976 graduation from Michigan State University. He has been treasurer of the Illinois Gay Rights Task Force; the founder of the Chicago chapter of the National Coalition of Black Gays; an organizer of United Faith Affinitas Church; a member of Adodi Chicago; a columnist for BLACKlines and Identity magazines; and editor of a book on black men’s same-gender-loving relationships, Staying Power!

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

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

STAR GAZE (2006): The bar has been a contributing and supportive member of Chicago’s LGBT communities since opening in 1998. Owners Mamie Lake and Dustin Fermin have earned a well-deserved reputation as selfless public citizens who embody outstanding community spirit.

LAUREN SUGERMAN (2002): For more than 20 years, she has led as an out lesbian in improving economic status and working conditions for women in construction and manufacturing trades. In 1981, she co-founded Chicago Women in Trades, of which she has been director and president. She has served on state and federal boards and chaired the national group Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow.

MARGE SUMMIT (1993): As a successful businesswoman, 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): Born in 1913, she was an outspoken advocate of lesbian and gay concerns from the 1950s onward and wrote 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. Retired in Tucson, she was writing and active in social change until her 1997 death.

STUDS TERKEL (2001): The renowned author and oral historian, broadcast host, commentator, arts supporter, and activist is a “Friend of the Community” because of more than half a century during which his championship of social justice has consistently been marked by support for sexual-minority rights, from backing Pearl M. Hart for alderman in the 1940s to including gay interview subjects in his books.

TEST POSITIVE AWARE NETWORK (2005): Founded in 1987 by Hall of Fame inductee Christopher Clason and 16 others, TPAN has enabled HIV-positive persons to share experiences and information in order to combat isolation and fear. It publishes a renowned national magazine, Positively Aware, and has touched and saved many lives.

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 co-chaired the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force for several terms and has served as liaison to state and local governments and agencies. In 1997 she joined the Oak Park village board as the first open lesbian elected to office in Illinois, and in 2001 Oak Park voters elected her as village board president. She retired from the board in 2005. She is also a member of the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues.

THOMAS M. TUNNEY (1995): In his early 20s he bought Lake View’s venerable Ann Sather Restaurant in 1981 and built it into a virtual community center for lesbian and gay Chicagoans and for older adults. He has been active in neighborhood business groups, IMPACT, Human Rights Campaign, and the Democratic Party. He backed Open Hand Chicago’s home-meals program, hosted countless gay and lesbian efforts and the White Crane Wellness Center, and in 2003 was elected Chicago’s first openly gay alderman.

RICHARD B. TURNER (1991): As a senior philanthropic administrator, he was co-founder and national president of Funders Concerned About AIDS. He is now manager of corporate contributions for Peoples Energy Corporation. He has led in numerous civic, cultural, and charitable groups and is on Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s advisory board.

DICK UYVARI (2006): Since 1979, he has been a major force in Chicago’s organized LGBT sports world, serving as an officer or on the board of numerous sports-based organizations and as a major philanthropist and fundraiser.

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

RENE A. VAN HULLE, JR. (2000, now deceased): Since the 1970s, he was vigorously active in community organizations and instrumental in many of their fund-raising projects. He co-founded the Tavern Guild of Chicago and for years helped to raise community center funds, sponsored sports teams, and supported Chicago House. He died in 2007 at age 53.

LUULE VESS (1998): By founding Project VIDA in 1992, she took the battle against HIV and AIDS far from the lakefront to the streets of Chicago’s low-income South Lawndale neighborhood. Project VIDA has won awards and has quickly grown into a major lesbigay-friendly AIDS service provider. Earlier, she helped to develop a Cook County Hospital substance abuse program for homeless, HIV-positive injection drug users.

STEVEN F. WAKEFIELD (1994): He has held gay and lesbian executive positions since 1976, including leadership of Howard Brown Memorial Clinic until 1988. He later directed Test Positive Aware Network and the Night Ministry; was a leader in many social service and religious organizations, including several African American ones; and served on the Chicago Board of Health. In 2000, he moved to Seattle, where he directs community education worldwide for a major HIV vaccine trial program.

DJ SHERON DENISE WEBB (2003): She has been “playing music to suit any occasion” for more than 30 years. During that time, her contributions expanded from simply playing music to paving the way for African American lesbians to gather freely and safely. She has also organized large commercial social events.

JESSE WHITE (1999): This “Friend of the Community” is a longtime Chicago political figure and African American community leader whose support for lesbian and gay rights is part of supporting equal rights for all. In 1974, he became a state legislator and backed bills against sexual-orientation discrimination and hate crimes. He continued to uphold sexual-minority rights as Cook County recorder of deeds and now does so as Illinois secretary of state.

ALBERT N. WILLIAMS (2003): Since 1970, as journalist, theater artist, teacher, and activist, he has made important contributions to Chicago cultural life. His Chicago Reader theater reviews won a George Jean Nathan Award, and in the 1980s he was an award-winning editor of GayLife and Windy City Times newspapers. He has performed and written for musical theater and participated in activist groups. He also teaches at Columbia College.

PHILL WILSON (1999): A Chicago native, he has achieved national prominence as an advocate for persons with AIDS, particularly those of color. He has served as an innovative executive in Los Angeles AIDS agencies and has made many national media appearances. He also helped to found and co-chaired the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. He is now chief executive officer of the Black AIDS Institute.

TERRI WORMAN (2004): An openly lesbian community organizer for AARP, she has organized film festivals and senior health and benefits fairs, developed presentations on aging and job issues, and co-chaired the Chicago Task Force on LGBT Aging.

ISRAEL WRIGHT (2000): For more than 20 years, he has held volunteer leadership posts in business, social service, cultural, AIDS, and African American organizations. His photographs of community life, including the lives of leathermen, African Americans, and persons with AIDS, have been widely published.

YVONNE ZIPTER (1995): A syndicated columnist, she has often documented the lives of Chicago lesbians and gay men. An award-winning poet, humorist, and essayist, she wrote a book on lesbian softball, Diamonds Are a Dyke’s Best Friend, as well as The Patience of Metal and Ransacking the Closet.
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