Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

Gary G. Chichester
Co-Chairperson

Lourdes Rodriguez
Co-Chairperson

Israel Wright
Executive Director

In Partnership with the
CITY OF CHICAGO
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor

Mona Noriega
Chairman and Commissioner
In Memoriam

Merry Mary

John Pennycuff

Marilyn Urso
November 12, 2012

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 2012 induction ceremony for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Today’s event serves as a wonderful opportunity to honor outstanding Chicagoans for their accomplishments. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities of Chicago have made wonderful contributions to the growth and wellbeing of the city and state, and they deserve our respect and commendation for the work they have done. All Illinoisans should be proud of the efforts of these individuals and organizations to promote fairness and equality.

I am honored to congratulate each individual and organization being inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame this year. I know that each of you has worked hard for the success that you enjoy today, and I applaud your constant diligence and dedication. I am pleased to join with your family and friends in honoring you on this special occasion.

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Governor
Dear Friends:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warmest greetings to the inductees, sponsors, and supporters of the 2012 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities have made many valuable contributions to Chicago, and they will continue to play an important role in our city’s bright future. The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame offers a means for Chicagoans to learn about the individuals and organizations within LGBT and LGBT-friendly communities who have been at the forefront of efforts to unify and enrich our city.

I commend the Hall of Fame for its enduring commitment to highlighting human rights issues and the many accomplishments of our LGBT residents. I look forward to continued work with the LGBT communities to ensure that all Chicagoans are treated equally and with dignity.

I hope you have an enjoyable event. Best wishes for much continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor
November 12, 2012

Dear Friends,

Please join me in congratulating the 2012 inductees in to the 21st annual Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. The Chicago Commission on Human Relations serves to protect the rights of all Chicagoans to live in a city free from discrimination and hate. Through the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame we celebrate the individuals and organizations that challenge harmful stereotypes and who envision a better Chicago for all.

On this 21st anniversary, I thank the Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for their continued commitment and delivery of yet another remarkable and historic event and I thank each inductee for their outstanding work in improving the quality of life for all who call Chicago home.

Inductees are selected for their outstanding contributions that have had a significant impact on the well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities and have had an affirmative impact on the City of Chicago. Similar to previous inductees, the twelve individuals and three organizations selected, continue to exemplify selflessness in working on behalf of the larger good—and it is for this reason that we recognize their work and celebrate their achievements.

Sincerely,

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

With the support of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, its Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (later the Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues) established the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in June 1991. The inaugural induction ceremony 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.

Today, after the advisory council’s abolition and in partnership with the City, the Hall of Fame is in the custody of Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation with a recognized charitable tax-deductible status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

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

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

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is privately funded through generous donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations. Staff support is provided by volunteers associated with Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

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

www.GLHallofFame.org
Paula Basta

Lora Branch
Selection Committee Facilitator

Gary G. Chichester
Co-Chairperson

Alexander deHilster

Philip A. Hannema

David Hackett

Chuck Hyde

William B. Kelley

Bryan Portman

Lourdes Rodriguez
Co-Chairperson

Kevin Stankewicz

Dick Uyvari

Israel Wright
Executive Director
2012 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

Minister Lois L. Bates
St. Sukie de la Croix
Sanford E. Gaylord
Keith R. Green
William W. Greaves, Ph.D.
Mark Ishaug
Bill Pry
Chuck Rodocker
Heather C. Sawyer
Honey West
Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus
Chi-Town Squares
Proud to Run
David Orr
Friend of the Community
Laura S. 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.
MINISTER LOIS BATES

Lois Bates was an advocate for LGBT teenagers and youth in Chicago, a transgender community activist, and a minister of the Gospel. During her years of service, Bates was known and respected for her compassion and expertise in HIV prevention and transgender education.

Committed to helping others, Bates worked for Howard Brown Health Center as transgender health manager and hosted an annual Thanksgiving dinner for transgender youth across the city. Bates was an active member of Lakeview Action Coalition, co-founder of the Chicago Transgender Coalition, and program director of the Minority Outreach Intervention Project. She also served on the HIV Prevention Planning Group as well as the Chicago Area Ryan White Services Planning Council.

In addition, Bates was dedicated to Chicago’s Windy City Black Pride and served as vice president of the organization. Providing support and counsel as well as bringing light to the challenges facing transgender youth, transgender people of color, and HIV-positive transgender people was extremely important for Bates. She mentored countless transgender youth, often making sure they had access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and gender-affirming health care.

Youth Pride Services called Bates “one of the greatest African American transgender advocates Chicago has ever known. Not only was Lois a donor to our organization, she taught Trans 101 at YPC University and was in the first Living Legends Black History class that honors those who have paved the way for LGBT youth of color.”

Her importance to Chicago’s transgender community cannot be overestimated, since Bates often bridged the divides of age and race within a community that was often divided along those lines. In her commitment to helping others in transition, Bates facilitated Howard Brown Health Center’s “T-Time” support group.

Bates also served others in a spiritual capacity as a licensed minister at Pillar of Love Fellowship United Church of Christ, and she was actively involved on a national level with the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries’ transgender ministry, the TranSaints.

Minister Lois Bates was a trailblazer who will long be remembered as a courageous and politically astute activist who loved her family and her mother as well as her work, her church, and her community. Bates's work ethic, follow-through, and compassion were unwavering despite the many health challenges that she faced. Her energy and commitment were consistently directed toward helping with betterment of the individual as well as betterment of the community.
ST. SUKIE DE LACROIX

St. Sukie de la Croix, the man the Chicago Sun-Times described as “the gay Studs Terkel,” came to Chicago from his native Bath, England, in 1987 and in the years since has painstakingly explored, documented, and revealed the queer lives and history of his adopted home.

His interviews, columns, and archival tidbits have given depth and colorful substance to the LGBT history of Chicago, often by chronicling and exploring the underground, bar-life, and nightlife aspects of the LGBT communities. He has had regular columns in local publications or online news and entertainment sources such as Chicago Free Press, Gay Chicago, Nightlines/Nightspots, Outlines, Blacklines, Windy City Times, and GoPride.com as well as numerous others outside the city. His popular blog Bitter Old Queen focused on history and humor and was published on the Chicago Tribune Media Group’s website Chicago Now. In addition he has contributed to publications such as PerVersions: The International Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies.

In 2008 he was a local historical consultant as well as an on-screen interviewee for the WTTW television documentary Out & Proud in Chicago. In 2005 and 2006 he had two of his plays, A White Light in God’s Choir and Two Weeks in a Bus Shelter With an Iguana, performed by Chicago’s Irreverence Dance & Theatre company. From 1998 to 2000 he scripted and conducted the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Tour for Chicago Neighborhood Tours, a division of Chicago’s municipal tourism authority. The tours were characterized by de la Croix’s historical expertise as well as his signature humor and wit.

In addition, de la Croix has served on the board of directors of Gerber/Hart Library and Archives and in 2009 was on the programming committee of Reeling 28: The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival. A popular and engaging lecturer, he has spoken at an array of venues from Chubb Insurance to Boeing and from Horizons Gay Youth Services to a Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce awards ceremony.

His crowning achievement came in 2012 when the University of Wisconsin published his in-depth, vibrant record of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Chicagoans, Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall. With a foreword by the noted historian John D’Emilio, the book received glowing reviews and cemented de la Croix’s deserved position as a top-ranking historian and leader in preserving the rich past of LGBT life in the Windy City.
SANFORD E. GAYLORD

Since 1995, the actor, activist, and writer Sanford E. Gaylord has used his creative skills to contribute to Chicago’s LGBT communities. In 1996 he co-founded A Real Read, an African American LGBT performance ensemble that was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2007. Gaylord contributed both onstage and behind the scenes for most of the ensemble’s local performances and national tours. Audiences have seen his work in many local theaters, including the Randolph Street Gallery, Black Ensemble Theatre, and Bailiwick Repertory. A Columbia College graduate, he is currently earning a master’s degree in public administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

His film and television credits include Leaving the Shadows Behind and Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100. Gaylord also co-starred in the award-winning three-part film series Kevin’s Room, which received accolades for its realistic, positive portrayal of LGBT people of color and their allies.

In 1998 Gaylord received the Chicago Association of Black Journalists’ Award of Excellence in Commentary while a contributing writer for Blacklines, Identity, and Windy City Times, where he wrote about being an HIV-positive African American gay man. In 1999 he received the Greater Chicago Committee’s Black Kettle Award for arts and journalism. His work has also appeared in Arise, Positively Aware, and other LGBT publications. Gaylord has also directed several HIV education performances in the area, including those at Chicago Public Schools events and the city Department of Public Health’s World AIDS Day ceremony. In 2002 he received the Derrick Henderson Award for Outstanding Community Service, presented by Windy City Black Pride. In 2011 he was honored by the Youth Pride Center and the Frankie Foundation as a Living Legend.

He is a member of the International AIDS Society, a Community Advisory Board member for the Chicago Developmental Center for AIDS Research, and a member of The Black Gay Research Group. He was a voting member of the Chicago Area HIV Services Planning Council and the city’s HIV Prevention Planning Group.

Gaylord currently serves as the project director for Project POWER, a CDC-funded, multi-site collaborative that aims to address the HIV prevention needs of black bisexually-active men by risk-reduction intervention delivered through the Internet in real time. In 2012, Project POWER presented “Development of Project POWER: An Internet-Based HIV Prevention Program for Black Bisexual Men” at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington.
Over the past decade, the contributions made by Keith Romell Green toward combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic among black gay and bisexual men in Chicago have been unsurpassed.

Green began his career in social services as associate editor of *Positively Aware* magazine, utilizing his platform at the highly respected national HIV treatment education journal to heighten awareness about the social detriments of HIV infection for black gay and bisexual men.

During his tenure at *Positively Aware*, Green joined forces with the Chicago Department of Public Health and several black gay community organizers to establish the Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus.

The mission of CBGMC has been to mobilize and empower black gay men and their allies to reduce new HIV infections among black men who have sex with men in Chicago. In addition to his most recent role as director of federal affairs at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Green also currently serves as chairman of CBGMC, and the organization’s budget has increased nearly 75 percent in the past year.

In 2008, Green received a fellowship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete a master’s degree in social work. He returned to Chicago to assume the role of project director for Project PrEPare. Project PrEPare is a research study being conducted through the Adolescent Trials Network (at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and at Howard Brown Health Center), designed to explore the acceptability and feasibility of using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among young black men who have sex with men in Chicago.

In his role, Green is said to have become the first black gay man in the world to become directly involved in the management and implementation of a study focused on this innovative new biomedical prevention strategy. The study has recruited more young black men who have sex with men than any other PrEP study to date and is now part of the global initiative (iPrEx), which is largely responsible for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of Truvada as PrEP.

Green has also served as an adjunct instructor at Northeastern Illinois University. This autumn, he was to begin doctoral studies at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, where he has been granted a fellowship that includes full tuition and an annual stipend.
WILLIAM W. GREAVES, PH.D.

William W. Greaves received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and English literature from Bucknell University in 1973 and his doctorate in inorganic chemistry and journalism from Iowa State University in 1978. He worked first as a chemist for Standard Oil of Indiana and then as the physical sciences editor at *Science* magazine in Washington, D.C., where his tenure coincided with the growing recognition of AIDS as a worldwide epidemic.

At that time, *Science* was the leading U.S. journal covering the disease. Greaves was given editorial responsibility for the epidemiology of AIDS and soon gained recognition as one of the world’s experts on the transmission of HIV.

Greaves’s desire to become an effective advocate for his community increased with every friend’s diagnosis. He joined DC Front Runners, a gay and lesbian running club that raised funds for community causes. Upon his return to Chicago in 1988, he continued those activities with the affiliate group Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago, eventually becoming its president.

In 1995, Greaves was invited to become a member of what became the city of Chicago’s Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, where he began pursuing policy development related to the integration of diverse groups and individuals into the fabric of city government and culture. In 2000, Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Greaves to be the council’s director. He served in that capacity until January 2012, acting as the council’s chief administrator and the mayor’s primary liaison to Chicago’s LGBT communities.

During his council tenure, Greaves helped to shepherd Chicago’s gender-identity ordinance to passage, which broadened the scope of the city’s human-rights and fair-housing laws by naming transgender individuals as members of a protected class. He also initiated an amendment of Chicago’s city personnel rules to correspond to its human-rights laws, and he co-wrote and edited the city’s LGBT nondiscrimination statement and policy model for homeless shelters as well as its policy statement on LGBT substance abuse.

In addition, Greaves administered the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame; co-founded and directed the nation’s only annual, government-sponsored salute to LGBT military veterans; and managed Mayor Daley’s annual Pride Month receptions and the city-sponsored ceremonies uniting 36 couples in Illinois’s first civil unions. Because of his background, experience, and accomplishments, Greaves has been recognized throughout the city and internationally as an effective instrument for the integration and coordination of diverse populations into the cohesive, mutually respectful whole that is Chicago.
Mark Ishaug

Lauded in a 2011 Windy City Times profile as a “humanitarian … working zealously for social justice,” Mark Ishaug is a longtime local and national LGBT leader for the rights of vulnerable populations. In a career that has spanned almost 30 years, Ishaug’s extensive political and nonprofit-management experience has advanced a diverse number of causes from international development, food security, and housing to HIV/AIDS advocacy and services for Illinoisans with severe mental illness.

Earlier this year, the board of directors of Thresholds, Illinois’s largest and oldest mental-health service provider, named Ishaug to his current post as president and chief executive officer. More than 6,000 Illinoisans with severe mental illness rely on the comprehensive services of Thresholds for their psychosocial treatment, housing, and vocational needs to remain healthy and independent. Prior to his appointment to Thresholds, Ishaug served as the first president and CEO of AIDS United, a national AIDS organization that formed from the merger of AIDS Action Council and the National AIDS Fund with the objective of uniting AIDS policy advocacy, fundraising, and community capacity-building.

From 1998 to 2011, Ishaug led the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, where he had worked since 1991. He is credited with efforts to diversify AFC’s funding base, to expand services to include post-incarceration, housing, and research advocacy in AFC’s portfolio, and to nurture AFC’s reputation as a leading state-based and national authority in political advocacy on HIV/AIDS issues. Before joining AFC, Ishaug worked for CARE International in Mozambique and taught at the University of Mozambique.

Ishaug and his soulmate, Micah Krohn, reside in La Grange, Illinois. As a couple, they actively support an array of organizations dedicated to improving the welfare of humans and animals, including World Bicycle Relief, the Old Town School of Folk Music, the Humane Society, and the Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago. They are also longtime political supporters of local and congressional champions of LGBT rights, including Alderman Tom Tunney; state Representatives Sara Feigenholtz, Greg Harris, and Kelly Cassidy; U.S. Senator Dick Durbin; and U.S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley. In 1996, Ishaug was among the openly gay delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Throughout his career, Ishaug has been recognized for his dedication and many contributions to building healthier communities. His awards include AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Advocate of the Year, Southside Help Center Champion, and the ACLU of Illinois John Hammell Award.
Bill Pry has made numerous long-term contributions to Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer population as a business owner, a philanthropist, and an advocate. Over the past quarter of a century his generosity, dedication, and hard work have had an impact on countless events and nearly every LGBTQ organization in the city.

Pry’s business acumen, combined with a design background and an eye for color and fabric, have helped navigate his company, BBJ Table Fashions, to great success. Along with business partners Bonnie Dannen, Doron Levy, and Judy Goldberg, Pry has built a successful civic-minded business that is inclusive of all people.

Under Pry’s leadership, BBJ has become more than a successful business. It has proven that commercial success and support for equality and fairness are not mutually exclusive or contradictory goals. Today Pry and his company remain one of LGBTQ Chicagoans’ most consistent and recognizable friends.

Over the years, BBJ has saved organizations tens of thousands of dollars by contributing in-kind donations to programs and events for the Center on Halsted, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Lambda Legal, Chicago House, Test Positive Aware Network, the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and many other causes. It would be difficult to attend a community gala or special occasion and not find the BBJ staff, doing what they can to ensure that the event is a success for the organization as well as for the community.

In addition to his generosity, Pry has also been a prominent voice in LGBTQ advocacy. He has frequently spoken out on our need to support one another and speaks most passionately about LGBTQ youth. Recently at the Center on Halsted, Pry accepted an award from BMO Harris Bank for his work in the LGBTQ communities. In his acceptance speech, Pry did not discuss his own success or his own contributions. Instead, he challenged all those present to focus on LGBTQ teenagers and youth.

He asked that others strive to provide support and the necessary access to education in order to help LGBTQ youth discover who they are and learn the skills they need to succeed. He added that by contributing to the well-being of LGBTQ youth, we are contributing to the future and betterment of our whole community.

If only a fraction of young people follow in Pry’s footsteps, LGBTQ persons and the world will be better for it.
For four decades, Chuck Rodocker has been a stalwart in Chicago’s gay communities. His activist involvement began in 1972, when he marched in protest against the bigotry of Anita Bryant as well as ongoing anti-LGBT harassment by members of the Chicago Police Department.

A former bartender at Sunday’s, in 1977 Rodocker assumed ownership of Touché on Lincoln Avenue in the Lakeview neighborhood. As a leather bar, Touché soon became a prime spot for hosting community benefits and meetings as well as for fulfilling the needs of an emerging community. Rodocker was a founding member of the Tavern Guild of Chicago and its Rodde Fund (forerunner of the Center on Halsted). In 1990, Touché won the Good Neighbor award from the Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland Chamber of Commerce. The following year, the bar was destroyed by fire and was relocated to Clark Street north of Devon Avenue.

Rodocker has been a supporter of numerous leather/Levi’s organizations for more than 30 years. He was an original and ongoing sponsor of the International Mr. Leather contest, and a sponsor of the Mr. Chicago Leather Contest and the Mr. Midwest Rubber Contest. He has hosted bus and El tours during major leather events in Chicago and is an active supporter of the Leather Archives and Museum.

Rodocker also sponsored one of the city’s first gay softball teams, which led to formation of the Gay Athletic Association (now known as the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association). The Windy City Athletic Association, the Lincoln Park Lagooners, and the Gay Games have also benefited from his support.

Envisioning more for his community, Rodocker sponsored such social and cultural organizations as the Gay Pride Band, the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, the Illinois Gay Rodeo Association, and several local theater companies. In the 1970s, Rodocker aided efforts to curb the spread of STDs by supporting Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, and, when AIDS struck, Rodocker was there, supporting organizations such as the Reimer Foundation, Stop AIDS Chicago, the Howard Brown Health Center, Test Positive Aware Network, BeHIV, Open Hand, and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

In addition to financial support, Rodocker has permitted groups to meet at his bar, solicit donations there, and post notices. He has provided volunteers and has regularly supported groups by buying ads in programs or sponsoring events through donations of beverages, services, or printing costs.

As a businessman, Rodocker has been at the forefront of LGBT community development and activism with his consistent service and behind-the-scenes support.
HEATHER C. SAWYER

Described by the *Windy City Times* as “one of the country’s leading civil rights attorneys,” Heather C. Sawyer has been recognized for her work on behalf of Chicago’s LGBT communities by the ACLU of Illinois, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, The NAMES Project Foundation, and the Howard Brown Health Center.

In the early 1990s, Sawyer defended a Chicago man’s right to work for the Boy Scouts of America and won a favorable ruling from the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. In 1996, Sawyer joined the Chicago office of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the nation’s largest and oldest legal organization dedicated to achieving full civil rights for the LGBT community. Sawyer eventually served as senior counsel for the organization.

During her decade at Lambda, Sawyer contributed in a wide range of cases crucial to LGBT persons. She spearheaded the organization’s HIV/AIDS work and the rights of HIV-positive individuals in the Midwest. Sawyer also helped direct Lambda’s groundbreaking work on behalf of LGBT students and youth and the right to be free of bullying in school, to form gay-affirming student organizations, and to have access to accurate information about sexual orientation.

In addition, Sawyer won protection for transgender Chicagoans under the city’s human rights laws and battled for legal recognition of gay and lesbian parent-child relationships in courts throughout the region. Sawyer also helped lay the groundwork for Lambda’s successful effort to achieve marriage equality in Iowa as well as the case that is currently pending in Illinois.

Since leaving Chicago and relocating to Washington, D.C., in 2005, Sawyer has continued to work tirelessly on behalf of LGBT Americans on the national stage. As minority counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, Sawyer is lead counsel on the Respect for Marriage Act, the bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and to ensure federal respect for the state marriages of gay and lesbian couples. Sawyer also wrote an amicus brief, submitted on behalf of 132 members of Congress in cases brought by married gay and lesbian couples who are challenging the constitutionality of DOMA in the courts. The brief explains why many members believe that DOMA should be struck down. Sawyer was also lead committee counsel on the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.
Transgender entertainer Honey West has been a hit on the cabaret circuit since her debut in the 1990 one-woman show, *A Taste of Honey*. She has won two After Dark Awards as Chicago’s Outstanding Cabaret Entertainer as well as several other honors and accolades.

Her charm and versatility as a singer and comedian have attracted a wide and loyal following in Chicago and beyond. She has performed on cruise ships, at awards shows, for dozens of AIDS and LGBT fundraisers, and in numerous concert and cabaret venues from the Park West to Cabaret Metro, and from Gentry to Hotel Allegro. In 1997 she released the CD *Take Honey West Home* and seven years later released a second collection, *My Big Fat Cheesy Lounge Act*.

Among her many gigs, West was seen on *Oprah* backing up Cyndi Lauper and was crowned Ms. Morton Downey Jr. by a panel of celebrity judges on Downey’s talk show. She even performed for Julie Andrews and the company of *Victor/Victoria* at their gala opening-night party. West starred opposite her dear friend Alexandra Billings in the comedy *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and has been featured in dozens of stage productions such as *Tony N’ Tina’s Wedding*, *Pussy on the House*, *Diva Diaries, The Musical*, *Music Kills a Memory*, *The Wizard of A.I.D.S.*, *Sexy Baby*, *Applause*, and *Jerry’s Girls*. West also performed as Don Auxier in *Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid*, one of the first musicals to address the AIDS epidemic.

She has appeared in the film *Velvets*, which was shown at the Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival, and recorded the love theme for the Judy Tenuta film *Butch Camp*. In addition, West hosted and was a part of special programming for Amberg Communications and LesBiGay Radio for six years. The popular entertainer has been profiled in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Poz*, the *Daily Herald*, the *Boston Herald*, the *New York Native*, Chicago’s *Reader*, and other periodicals worldwide.

Throughout her long career, West has worked tirelessly to break down walls and to dispel myths and misconceptions about trans performers. She has enriched the Chicago cabaret, stage, and entertainment worlds and has used her talents to give back to LGBT communities. As co-star Alexandra Billings said, “Honey’s never said no to an AIDS benefit and never said no to a charity. She's always been there, free of charge and giving in her spirit and her time.”
The Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus was established in late 2005 by the collective efforts of the Chicago Department of Public Health and several black gay community organizers. It was created to bridge the gaps between traditional health-care providers and nontraditional providers (such as club and party venues, faith-based organizations, and businesses) that serve black men who have sex with men (MSM).

Its primary goal is to decrease new infections among black MSM through creative and collaborative programming that promotes HIV testing and risk-reduction activities. A secondary but important focus is to recruit and cultivate new leaders in HIV prevention and care among black MSM in Chicago.

The volunteer organization operates through a 21-member Executive Planning Committee that has seven subcommittees: Communications, Health and Wellness, Youth, Development, Advocacy, Faith-Based, and Outreach. The subcommittees participate in a wide range of community programs, actively coordinating and supporting various prevention efforts. For example, the Faith-Based subcommittee represents the MSM perspective in traditional church-led discussions about HIV across the city.

The Caucus provides an array of HIV prevention services to black MSM of all ages and subgroups in Chicago and beyond, including youth, multiple-partner MSM, MSM who are not gay-identified, and MSM interested in such issues as mental health and sexual addiction. All participants receive HIV prevention materials, access to free condoms, and often on-site free testing, as well as referrals when appropriate.

It has quickly established itself as a resource hub for creative and inviting HIV-prevention programming among black gay and bisexual men, which is evidenced by increasingly well-attended meetings and special events as well as the numbers of website hits and requests for technical assistance. Because the Caucus collaborates with recognized leaders in Chicago’s black MSM health, social, and political communities, it is seen as a reliable resource for many persons, especially during a time of decreasing resources designed for black LGBT communities.

Through its Lovefest event and other testing events, the Caucus has facilitated many new identifications of HIV-positive black MSM. By linking HIV testing to popular community events and by utilizing community leaders as spokespersons, the approach has come to outpace more traditional agency methods in identifying new positives and ensuring on-the-spot referrals for HIV and STD care and treatment.

In addition, the organization has been instrumental in developing new community leaders trained and positioned to take on critical issues in black LGBT communities and in the community at large.
Chi-Town Squares, Chicago’s gay and lesbian square-dance club, was started in 1987 by Jerry Cohen, a well-known community activist who himself became a posthumous Hall of Fame inductee, and Ron Goldman, a DJ from Carol’s Speakeasy. David Boyer, the bar’s manager, had heard there was a desire to form a square-dance club in Chicago.

About 30 students signed up for lessons in response to ads placed in gay newspapers. Classes were held at the Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ. The first caller was the late Lin Jarvis, who, along with his wife, Barb, helped to gain attention and grow the club.

Chi-Town Squares now has more than 125 members and six club callers, two of whom are on staff in any given year. It is a member of several umbrella organizations, including the Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers, of which it is the only gay member club and the largest of any club in membership. Chi-Town Squares also belongs to the International Association of Square Dance Clubs.

Through its affiliation with the Chicago association, Chi-Town Squares has helped to erase barriers between LGBT and non-LGBT square-dance communities. Though some have been reluctant, most other clubs have opened their arms to Chi-Town Squares, attending classes and dances.

As a member of the international association, the club proudly hosted an international convention at the Chicago Hilton and Towers from July 1 through 4, 2010, attended by more than a thousand square dancers from all quarters of the world and of all persuasions. Many of the out-of-towners attending were also present to witness that year’s Pride Parade.

Chi-Town Squares is a teaching organization, offering instruction in all levels of square-dance steps. Because of its high-level instruction, members of other clubs often attend lessons. One of the six callers on staff travels the world calling square dances in such places as Japan, Germany, Sweden, and Denmark.

The club also has fostered associated groups, the best-known of which is the She Devils, a bearded drag troupe in typical square-dance attire. Chi-Town Squares has also helped to develop new clubs in such other cities as St. Louis (Gateway Squares) and Grand Rapids (Grand Squares). Many members also dance with the non-LGBT Recyclers square-dance club in Chicago’s northern suburbs and attend the Chicago association’s semiannual dances.

In its 25 years, Chi-Town Squares has provided alternative activities for LGBT persons in addition to bridging a cultural gap between square-dance communities that are often aged 55 and higher.
The first Proud to Run race took place on June 20, 1982. Peg Grey of the Gay Athletic Association, with Rob Williams and Jim White, organized the first 10K run and 1-mile walk. Though only 40 runners and walkers participated, they all wanted to celebrate Pride Week in a way that was meaningful to them and give back to the community financially. In 1991, Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago took over the event.

Now in its 31st year, Proud to Run has grown to more than 1,400 participants. The 10K race and the 5K race and walk that celebrate LGBT pride take place along Chicago’s lakefront and are a USA Track and Field certified event as well as a Chicago Area Runners Association registered race. Its success through the years has made Proud to Run a popular, highly visible event and has become recognized as one of the most productive and enjoyable traditions of the city’s annual Pride Month.

Proud to Run has a volunteer board that works throughout the year, planning the race course, securing sponsors and volunteers for race day, and managing other details to ensure a successful event. Pre-race events include fundraisers in various LGBT venues that have included Sidetrack, Crew, Big Chicks, Scot’s, The Sofo Tap, and Roscoe’s Tavern & Café.

The board secures venues, procures door prizes from area businesses, and coordinates all fundraising activities. It also maintains a website (www.proudtorun.org) that showcases upcoming Proud to Run events and past races. The group can also be found on Facebook and Twitter. After a race, a rally is held where awards are presented along with entertainment by LGBT groups. The annual grand marshal of the Pride Parade is invited to Proud to Run to cheer participants and present awards.

In the past 30 years, Proud to Run has raised more than $300,000 for local beneficiary organizations, which have included the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, the AIDS Alternative Health Project, Horizons Community Services, Open Hand Chicago, the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), Pride Youth, Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, and the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). All of the money donated goes directly to the beneficiaries and is vital to their support.

In part, the success of the first Proud to Run in 1982 led some participants that year to form the Chicago chapter of Frontrunners, which as Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995.
DAVID ORR

For nearly 40 years, David Orr’s support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities has been unwavering.

Serving on the City Council as alderman of the 49th Ward beginning in 1979 during the Washington administration, he was among the politicians who were willing to broaden access to City Hall beyond those affiliated with the dominant political faction. He was also among the first Chicago public officials to speak out in support of LGBT equal rights.

He had the first openly gay chief of staff among City Council members and later, as Cook County clerk, the first openly gay chief of staff among county officials. Even before his City Council service, while managing the 1974 aldermanic campaign of Mike Kreloff, he advocated passage of a municipal human rights ordinance prohibiting sexual-orientation discrimination. And, as county clerk, he urged passing the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance, the county domestic-partnership registry ordinance, and the Illinois civil-unions law.

In more recent years, his support of the Cook County domestic-partnership registry and then the new Illinois civil-unions law continued to go beyond what was required of him as Cook County clerk. He has actively supported the registry, civil unions, and the goal of marriage equality by compiling and publishing statistics indicating widespread support for equal marriage rights.

He has also testified at a congressional field forum in favor of repealing the anti-gay federal Defense of Marriage Act and of full marriage equality at state and federal levels. At that hearing, he said: “I have no doubt that these couples, eager for legal recognition, want full rights and the opportunity to marry. I feel very strongly that by denying them marriage licenses, my staff continues to be in the terrible position of enforcing government-sanctioned discrimination. We are being forced to shortchange our friends, neighbors, and family members. It is, quite simply, time for that to end.”

Most recently, working with Cook County State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez, he has declined to support discriminatory state marriage law in the context of a pending lawsuit challenging its constitutionality, advising the court that he agrees with the plaintiffs’ objectives. In a news release, he said: “Marriage equality is long overdue in Illinois. I support it in no uncertain terms.”

With his steadfast advocacy for equal LGBT rights, Cook County Clerk David Orr has earned his designation as Friend of the Community.
For almost three decades, Laura S. Washington has stood up publicly for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality both as an official in the administration of Mayor Harold Washington and through her own honored voice in Chicago’s mass communications media.

As Mayor Washington’s deputy press secretary, she offered vocal and uncompromising support for the mayor’s initiatives to institutionalize fairness and equality within city government for LGBT persons. Whenever some mayoral allies would react adversely to the broaching of such issues, she took them on, giving no quarter in her insistence that if the administration were committed to the principle of fairness, its application would need to be all-inclusive. By all reports, her arguments changed minds.

Before and after that time, whether as editor and publisher of an influential monthly periodical, The Chicago Reporter; as a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times; as a contributing editor of the newsmagazine In These Times; or as a WLS-TV political analyst, she has repeatedly exposed a broader public to news, information, and analysis concerning sexual-minority Chicagans.

Columns and articles that she wrote or published—many of them extensively detailed investigative pieces—have included such subjects as: • the Chicago History Museum’s groundbreaking “Out in Chicago” exhibition in 2011–12; • the maneuverings and influence of LGBT activists and organizations on electoral campaigns for city, state, and congressional offices; • the positions taken by activists on the potential mayoral appointment to a vacant aldermanic seat of an aspirant who was controversial because of his past public positions on sexual-minority issues; • the origins of the Center on Halsted community center as well as later debates about public safety on Halsted Street; • suggested parallels between gay and African American entrepreneurship and activism; • the intricacies of a 1990–91 controversy over rewriting the city’s human rights law and reorganizing the city’s organizational structure for officially addressing LGBT concerns; • divisions among ethnic-majority and ethnic-minority male and female state legislators over gay rights; • the record of ethnic-minority churches in addressing or not addressing AIDS; and • funding disparities for AIDS organizations primarily serving ethnic minorities.

Washington, who was born in Chicago, also served for six years as the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Professor at Chicago’s DePaul University—a chair fittingly named for an investigative reporter, who was also a famous and courageous Chicago suffragist, teacher, civil-rights activist, and urban reformer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Laura Washington’s many years of conscientiously illuminating LGBT lives are the reason for her induction as a Friend of the Community.
PREVIOUS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ANGEL ABCEDE (2003): To help prevent more AIDS deaths, he drew on experience as a dancer, choreographer, and writer to form the Sex Police in 1990. Its shows have brought anti-AIDS messages to high school students throughout the Chicago area. He is now president of Asians and Friends Chicago.

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

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

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

PAUL ADAMS (posthumous 2011): He co-founded Chicago for AIDS Rights (C-FAR, which evolved into ACT UP Chicago) and the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network; planned and participated in dramatic public demonstrations on AIDS issues; volunteered for Open Hand Chicago and numerous other groups; and wrote columns, designed logos, and researched Native American two-spirit people—besides being Mr. Windy City 1987. Born in Oak Park in 1954, he died in Chicago of AIDS in 2000.


JANE ADDAMS (posthumous 2008): During her lifetime (1860–1935) she fought for rights of the disenfranchised here and elsewhere. Best-known for founding one of the nation’s first settlement houses, she was also the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She had at least two long-term same-sex relationships, one of which lasted 40 years. She is a true Chicago icon, and her passionate work on behalf of peace, justice, and equality makes her an exemplary role model.

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

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO (2009): Since 1985, it has been an invaluable leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in improving the lives of those affected by the epidemic. It funds, coordinates, and collaborates with service programs, besides conducting public-policy advocacy. It has distributed more than $15 million for HIV prevention, care, and advocacy.

AIDS LEGAL COUNCIL OF CHICAGO (2003): Formed in 1988, the group has helped more than 15,000 persons with free legal assistance, conducted educational outreach efforts, and engaged in public advocacy on behalf of persons affected by HIV.
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 what was the city’s oldest lesbian bar, Lost & Found, she maintained it as a home away from home for generations of lesbians and, through it, helped to raise thousands of dollars to fight cancer and meet women’s health needs.

CLAUDIA ALLEN (2010): She is a nationally recognized playwright, has won two Joseph Jefferson Awards, and was selected by Chicago magazine in 1999 as Best Playwright. Almost half of her repertoire of produced plays, including Fossils, Hannah Free, and Xena Lives!, have focused on lesbian relationships or have incorporated lesbian or bisexual characters.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ILLINOIS (2010): It is a Friend of the Community for its decades of fighting for LGBT rights and the rights of persons with AIDS through litigation and legislation, as part of its historic larger mission of fostering civil liberties for all.

AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS–CHICAGO CHAPTER (2007): Throughout its 20-year history, the group has served as a voice for LGBT veterans; provided them with moral, financial, and social support; and served as an effective advocate for them in the Chicago area.

JACQUELINE ANDERSON (1996): As educator and writer, she has contributed to academic discussion of lesbianism and feminism. She 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. Born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1883, Heap died in London in 1964. Anderson, born in Indianapolis in 1886, died in Le Cannet, France, in 1973.

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

SUZANNE ARNOLD (2008): A mainstay of local and national LGBT sports communities for more than two decades, she has served as female vice president of the Federation of Gay Games and as a co-chair of Team Chicago and Chicago 2006, Inc. She was sports co-director for Chicago’s Gay Games VII and has consistently worked to create safe spaces for LGBT athletes on all levels to compete proudly and openly.

ARTEMIS SINGERS (2008): Founded in 1979 as the first lesbian chorus in the United States, it continues to perform at lesbian, LGBT, and women’s events to the present. Artemis has been an important part of Chicago’s lesbian feminist cultural life through the years. It is composed of women from diverse backgrounds but with a common commitment to exposing audiences to music written by women and to sharing a sense of community.
ASIANS AND FRIENDS CHICAGO (2010): Since 1984, it has provided an opportunity for gay men of Asian descent to engage in social interaction more confidently with the larger community. It sponsors numerous social, cultural, and fundraising activities, and it helped to found and regularly participates in annual international gatherings of similar organizations.

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

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

BAILIWICK REPERTORY’S PRIDE SERIES (1996): Starting in the late 1980s, the annual Pride Series presented well over 100 gay and lesbian plays, musicals, and performance pieces as part of the only regional theater in America with an ongoing programming arm serving the lesbian and gay communities. The series also financially empowered nonprofit lesbian and gay organizations through benefit performances.

TRACY BAIM (1994): She has labored untiringly as publisher, reporter, editor, columnist, photographer, and advocate for more than 25 years in offering a voice to all. In 2000, her company bought the Windy City Times, which she had helped to found in 1985. She co-founded the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce as well as Chicago 2006, Inc. In 2008, she set up the chicagogayhistory.com website and has produced a first-of-its-kind history book, Out and Proud in Chicago, plus three other books, on President Obama, leatherman Chuck Renslow, and entrepreneur and activist Jim Flint.

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

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

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

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

PAULA BASTA (2009): She has set new standards for supporting the needs of aging LGBT persons by both government and private sectors. Besides this, as a former Equality Illinois board president, she has helped to widen the base of LGBT activism through involving more women and encouraging attention to women’s rights. She is regional director in charge of Chicago’s Northeast (Levy) Senior Center.
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 more than two decades she has worked professionally and as a volunteer and political activist to improve Chicagoleans’ lives. Focusing on the health and civil rights of lesbians and gay men, she has also 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, fundraiser, and educator on sexual-minority issues and the importance of living with AIDS.

DAVID BLATT, M.D., and DAVID MOORE, D.O. (2007): For more than 25 years, Drs. Blatt and Moore have been outstanding advocates and champions of the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, putting a human face on AIDS and offering compassionate and personal attention to patients at a difficult time.

KEVIN G. BOYER (2008): He served as president of Chicago’s Gerber/Hart Library and as a member of the original coordinating committee for the national Gay and Lesbian History Month. He was a co-founder of the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and was a leader in preparing for Chicago’s Gay Games VII in 2006 and Cologne’s Gay Games VIII in 2010.

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

CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN (2007): As the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate, and throughout her entire political career, she has been a staunch and outspoken supporter of LGBT rights and marriage equality. She opposed the U.S. military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy at a time when many others were willing to accept it as a compromise. For this, she was selected as a Friend of the Community.

MICHAL BRODY (2008): A Chicago native, she was a founding member of Chicago Gay Liberation in 1969, helped to found Chicago Lesbian Liberation, and helped to produce the newspaper Lavender Woman. She also contributed to the early years of women’s music in Chicago at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse. In 1993 she co-founded the Institute of Lesbian Studies. She later taught Mayan linguistics in Yucatán, Mexico.

ROGER BROWN (posthumous 2004): Through his internationally known paintings as a leader of the movement called Chicago Imagism, he commented pointedly on social issues, urban infrastructure, nature, history, and events both personal and societal. He also was a noted collector. Born in Hamilton, Alabama, in 1941, he died in Atlanta of complications from AIDS in 1997. Two of his mural locations are the Howard Brown Health Center and the façade of 120 North LaSalle Street.

BUDDIES’ RESTAURANT AND BAR (2003): From 1988 to its closing in 2004, it was a neighborhood business with a true sense of community, financially supporting innumerable good causes and encouraging its clientele to be themselves in a safe, supportive atmosphere.
ROBBIN BURR (2007): As a result of her efforts, American Airlines became the first major U.S. air carrier to implement domestic partnership benefits. She served as the first executive director of Center on Halsted, where her nationally recognized credibility and leadership were integral to completing its construction and solidifying relationships with donors, community leaders, and community organizations.

GEORGE S. BUSE (1994, now deceased): As journalist, activist, actor, and minister, he made his mark on Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities. A subject of Studs Terkel’s The Good War and the video documentary Before Stonewall, he was a World War II Marine veteran (discharged from a later Navy chaplaincy for being gay) and a civil rights and anti–Vietnam War activist. Born in 1924, he died in 2000.

JAMES A. BUSSEN (1994): 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 fundraising, he is a longtime leader of Dignity/Chicago, the organization for lesbian and gay Roman Catholics, and was president of Dignity/USA from 1985 to 1989.

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

GREG CAMERON (2011): As a key player in Chicago’s cultural and arts communities, he has constantly brought attention to LGBT concerns. As a Museum of Contemporary Art official, he worked to include LGBT and AIDS topics in programming and helped to partner the museum with About Face Theatre. He has been a board member and fundraiser for numerous organizations, and now as chief operating officer for WTTW and WFMT he has maintained his commitment to LGBT inclusivity.

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

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

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

C. C. CARTER (2002): Since her 1996 Chicago arrival, she has been a writer, poet, and performer and has helped to develop audiences for poetry, music by women of color, writing by women in prison, African American literature and art, and women's health awareness. As a fundraiser and board member, she has helped to sustain numerous groups.
ALDO CASTILLO (2005): A tireless fundraiser, an ardent and expert advocate of Latin American art, and a committed human-rights activist, this openly gay, openly HIV-positive, and award-winning gallery owner and curator blazed trails of distinction since coming to Chicago from Nicaragua in 1985. In 2010, he moved to Florida and has since directed art fairs in Miami and Shanghai.

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

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

ROGER “RJ” CHAFFIN (1997, now deceased): One of Chicago’s most visible gay businesspersons for more than 25 years and a reliable volunteer for gay and lesbian and AIDS groups, he produced numerous large charitable and special events, raised thousands of dollars for local organizations, gave his own money as well, co-produced a hate crimes documentary film, and was an active member of business groups. Born in Ohio in 1952, he died in Chicago on June 17, 2011.

SAMSON CHAN (posthumous 1995): During a short, courageous life, he built a legacy of social change here and overseas. In 1984 at age 23 he co-founded and became first president of Asians and Friends—Chicago, a group for gay Asians and non-Asians that is now replicated in other cities internationally. After failing to gain permanent U.S. residence in the face of exclusionary policies, he returned to Hong Kong in 1991, became a pioneering, visible gay and AIDS organizer there, but died of AIDS complications in 1995.

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

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

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

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM (2010): It is a Friend of the Community for its commitment to preserving sexual-minority history as part of its larger Chicago history mission. Since 2004, its Out at CHM series has featured thought-provoking presentations and discussions of LGBT experiences. In 2011–12, it mounted its major “Out in Chicago” exhibition, drawing on its own and others’ resources to document some 150 years of Chicago sexual-minority crises, accomplishments, and contributions.
CHICAGO HOUSE AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY, INC. (1994): Opening its first facility in 1986, 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 HIV diagnosis to those with late-stage AIDS.

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

GARY G. CHICHESTER (1992): He has provided more than 40 years of commitment and work to the gay and lesbian communities. In 1971 he co-founded the Chicago Gay Alliance, which created Chicago’s first gay and lesbian community center. He served on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ former Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues from 1989 to 2011 and has been a part of Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame activities since their 1991 inception, chairing or co-chairing them since 1992.

E. KITCH CHILDS, Ph.D. (posthumous 1993): She was a prominent clinical psychologist and advocate of gay and lesbian human rights legislation since 1973 as a feminist, lesbian activist, and founding member of the Association for Women in Psychology. She worked to revise the American Psychological Association’s attitudes toward homosexuality. Born in 1937, she died in 1993.

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

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

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.

SAM COADY (2008): He has been a leader and supporter in Chicago’s LGBT athletic community since moving here in 1986, serving as a co-chair of Gay Games VII and on the boards of numerous organizations. He has also been a strong advocate for workplace equality. He is known for his passionate belief that the LGBT athletic community empowers and advances the whole range of LGBT communities here and nationally.
JERROLD E. COHEN (posthumous 1993): He helped to form more than a dozen groups, including Chicago Gay Liberation, Chicago Gay Alliance, Windy City Gay Chorus, and Chi-Town Squares. He played a key part in the NAMES Project’s Chicago chapter and was a charter member of Test Positive Aware Network. Born in 1943, he died of AIDS complications in 1991.

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

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

LOU CONTE (2009): A dancer, choreographer, and teacher, he founded Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in 1977 and led it to earn international acclaim. Its fusion of ballet and jazz styles has made it one of the most prominent U.S. dance companies and a worldwide cultural symbol of Chicago.

LORI A. COOPER (2009): As an out lesbian in the Chicago Police Department since 1992, she has been a pioneer in promoting liaison between police and LGBT Chicagoans, recruiting them for the force, fostering equal opportunity there, and heightening efforts against hate crimes and domestic violence.

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 precursors of the former city Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. He died in 1996.

SARAH CRAIG (posthumous 1995): She joined GayLife’s staff in the late 1970s and rose to be co-editor. Then she started a typesetting business that helped many gay and lesbian groups. She became heavily involved in gay and lesbian political efforts and, as journalist and colorful speaker, pushed for a city gay rights bill. In the late 1980s she was associate editor of Windy City Times for five years. She died in 1994.

JACQUES CRISTION (posthumous 2006): A lifelong Chicagoan, he performed in, choreographed, and designed costumes for South Side drag balls and dance concerts. For several decades he hosted his own annual Halloween drag balls. He died in Chicago in 2003.

RICHARD M. DALEY (2006): His years in office as mayor of Chicago marked the longest uninterrupted period of LGBT-inclusive policies in the city’s municipal history. From his election in 1989 to his retirement in 2011, Daley was consistently one of the LGBT communities’ most significant allies, for which he was inducted as a Friend of the Community.

JAMES C. DARBY (1997): After co-founding the Chicago chapter of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America (now American Veterans for Equal Rights), he tirelessly promoted it during a period of intense controversy over equal military service rights. He became recording secretary of the city’s former Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs and ultimately national president of 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 was its president and a member of DignityUSA’s board. He has chaired Chicago House’s board, served as Windy City Athletic Association commissioner, co-chaired the 48th Ward Gay and Lesbian Coalition, and sat on the boards of the Frank M. Rodde III Memorial Building Fund, the Illinois Federation for Human Rights PAC, and the Edgewater Community Council.

THE REV. GREGORY R. DELL (2008): Inducted as a Friend of the Community, he has served as an exemplary ally to LGBT communities in Chicago and beyond and as a model activist for social justice. He is a former pastor of Chicago’s Broadway United Methodist Church and is now retired. Involved for decades in issues of social change, he has been a pioneering and courageous supporter of same-sex unions in the face of opposition from his own church and elsewhere.

JOHN D’EMILIO (2005): His work in the field of LGBT history has had wide impact. He has published eight books and 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.

DAN DI LEO (posthumous 2010): A professional journalist, he was co-founder of Gay Chicago Magazine with Ralph Paul Gernhardt. He also helped to found Strike Against AIDS and the Mr. windy City contest and was one of the original contributors to Howard Brown Memorial Clinic. Born in Chicago in 1938, he died here from AIDS complications in 1989.

DIGNITY/CHICAGO (1997): Since 1972, the local Dignity chapter has served the needs of gay and lesbian Roman Catholics and advocated for the full participation of sexual minorities in church life. It has also been outspoken on issues of lesbian and gay rights in civil society.

TARRINA DIKES (2007): For many years, she has been a dynamic presence as one of the most dependable and committed lesbian members of Chicago’s LGBT communities. Her background in accounting and business operations was a significant asset to Gay Games VII, where she served as a member of the board’s executive committee and as board secretary.

LAURIE J. DITTMAN (1998): She has been active in local independent politics and in gay and lesbian organizing. She was a chief lobbyist during passage of city and county laws against sexual-orientation discrimination. A former official of IVI-IPO, IMPACT, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, she became a deputy city treasurer and the highest-ranking openly gay or lesbian Chicago city official at that time.
THOM DOMBKOWSKI (1992, now deceased): He was a leader in conceiving and organizing Chicago House and Social Service Agency, where he also was main fundraiser and then executive director. He also conceived the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and brought it to fruition while a member of what was then the city Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Born in 1950, he died in 2006 of complications from AIDS.

KATHERINE “KIT” DUFFY (2008): In 1984 she was appointed by then-Mayor Harold Washington as his liaison to Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities, the city’s first such position. Then she became the AIDS Foundation of Chicago’s first executive director. After Washington died in 1987, she took part in 1988’s successful effort to pass a historic city ordinance against sexual-orientation discrimination. Inducted as a Friend of the Community, she remains an ardent advocate.

EDDIE DUGAN (EDWARD L. DAVISON, JR.) (posthumous 2008): A brilliant showman and popularizer, he helped invent the 1970s disco phenomenon and helped break new ground by getting corporations to sponsor events at gay clubs. He was an early supporter of many organizations, including the start-up of Gay Chicago Magazine. His legendary club, Dugan’s Bistro, still lives in the memories of many Chicagoans and their friends nationwide. Born in 1944, he died in 1987.

RANDY DUNCAN (1999): An internationally known choreographer, he has used his dance talents to raise funds to fight AIDS and to include gay and lesbian themes in his body of work. He was artistic director of Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre for seven years, and his works have been performed by other companies including the Joffrey Ballet. He currently chairs the Chicago Academy for the Arts’ dance department.

MURRAY EDELMAN, Ph.D. (2008): Born in Chicago and a founder and central figure in Chicago Gay Liberation, he worked to develop public, visible, and militant LGBT activism during the movement’s early years. He was later responsible for path-breaking work to have gay, lesbian, and bisexual self-identification made part of electoral exit polling.

KEITH ELLIOTT (2001): A dancer, choreographer, and producer, since 1992 he has organized Dance for Life fundraisers and ancillary events to benefit dancers and others coping with HIV/AIDS. He has also contributed to other activities such as Howard Brown Health Center fundraisers and the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus.

EQUALITY ILLINOIS (2005): Formed in 1992 as the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, it joined in efforts to pass the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance in 1993 and then benefited all of Illinois in 2005 by leading to success a 31-year campaign for a statewide law against discrimination because of sexual orientation and, now, gender identity.

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

JAMES W. FLINT (1991): A well-known businessman, he is founder and owner of the Miss Continental Pageant, a national contest for female impersonators, and owns the long-established Baton Show Lounge and other businesses. He has also been active in Democratic Party politics.
ANTONIA “TATA” FLORES (2011): In 1987, she and two motorcyclist friends joined Chicago’s Pride Parade, and Dykes on Bikes was born. The group became a parade tradition, and Flores led in supporting it as well as other social venues for lesbians. Passionate about the diversity that is a part of community, she took part in countless events. Born in Chicago in 1958, she died here of breast cancer in 2008.

GRANT LYNN FORD (2011): In 1975, he co-founded Chicago’s GayLife newspaper and later joined or helped to organize several LGBT efforts, including the anti–Anita Bryant Orange Balls I and II. After a 1978 run for 44th Ward alderman, he served as pastor of Hinsdale’s Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church from 1979 to 1986, when he moved to Florida to lead what became the MCC denomination’s largest congregation, Fort Lauderdale’s Sunshine Cathedral.


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

ROBERT BONVULOIR 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.

SCOTT FREE (2010): He is one of the leading openly gay male musical artists in the nation. In addition, he founded the long-running queer performance series Homolatte, has produced the annual fundraising Alt Q music festival, is active in Chicago’s Gay Liberation Network, and has organized against homophobia in popular music.

FRONTRUNNERS/FRONTWALKERS CHICAGO (1995): Formed in 1982 as Frontrunners Chicago to promote running-related activities, the gay and lesbian club now has dozens of counterparts in this country and abroad. It is the largest walking and running club in Chicago and has raised thousands of dollars for lesbian and gay groups as well as AIDS, lesbian health, and community charities.

HENRY BLAKE FULLER (posthumous 2000): Born in 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. He has also been a Goodman Theatre associate director and a professor emeritus at Northwestern University.
BOB GAMMIE (2010): He has been an activity organizer and fundraiser in Chicago’s gay communities since he moved here in 1949. He organized some of the first large social events outside bar settings, including barbecues, softball and volleyball games, and the long-running Lincoln Park Lagooners club—as well as fundraising parties for AIDS charities and other groups that attracted thousands of people.

MARTIN GAPSHIS (2007, now deceased): He was a leader and role model for Chicago’s LGBT communities, noted not only for a wide range of philanthropic and fundraising efforts—benefiting Center on Halsted, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and a range of other organizations—but also for his ever-present humility and the depth of his kind and generous spirit. Born in Chicago in 1946, he died here of a heart attack in 2010.

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

ROBERT GAROFALO (2011): A physician who came to Chicago in 2001, he created a partnership between Children’s Memorial Hospital and Howard Brown Health Center to improve health care for LGBT youth. At Howard Brown, he led a program for HIV-positive and at-risk LGBT youth, and in 2004 he led in establishing the Broadway Youth Center. He has published studies on LGBT youth’s health issues and has served as president of the national Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

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

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

GAY CHICAGO MAGAZINE (1991): Founded in 1976 as Gay Chicago News, the magazine continued to provide up-to-date information on lifestyle, entertainment, bar, and organization events in Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities until it ceased publication in 2011.

CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (2000): Beginning in 1994, through organizing, advocacy, and in-school programming, the group benefited youth, staff members, and the community by fostering nondiscrimination in school settings. It has now merged into the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

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 fundraisers 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 (now deceased) (2001): They helped to pioneer openly gay businesses in Chicago beginning in 1972 with their Male Hide Leathers store. There, Goley created many designs that found favor with leather and motorcycle enthusiasts worldwide, gay and non-gay, for their originality and craftsmanship. Born in 1943 near Pineville, Kentucky, Goley died in Chicago in 1994. Maddox, who had been born in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1935, later sold the business but continued living in Chicago until his death in 2009. Both of them were buried in Pineville.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (2011): The congregation held its last service in 2007 after 37 years as the first church expressly for LGBT communities in the Midwest. During its existence, it assisted numerous institutions, including Open Hand, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Illinois Masonic Hospital’s “AIDS Ward.” It was one of the city’s first gay meeting places that was not a bar, and it performed “blessed” or “holy” unions long before marriage equality became a nationally debated issue.

ADRIENNE J. GOODMAN (1994): She was named a Friend of the Community for her commitment to lesbian and gay inclusion in politics. She chaired Grant L. Ford’s openly gay 1978 campaign for 44th Ward alderman. As City Council staffer and Democratic Party activist, she advocated for gay and lesbian rights.

TED GRADY (2011): As an owner of J&L Catering, he has underwritten event costs for a host of nonprofit organizations, saving them hundreds of thousands of dollars. He has also devoted personal time to fundraising and board service for nonprofits, in addition to partnering with Sweet Miss Giving’s bakery in its job training for the underprivileged.

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

JEFF GRAUBART-CERVONE (1993): He has been an activist and advocate for gay and lesbian human rights for 40 years in the Midwest and Chicago. He participated in the passage of human rights legislation, in the campaign to overcome the anti-gay and -lesbian efforts of Anita Bryant, and in 1970s demonstrations for same-sex marriage.

RICHARD LEE GRAY (1992): A professional social worker, he has committed himself since the 1970s to serving the needs of the African American gay and lesbian community. He has also developed and presented educational programs for gay and lesbian youth dealing with sexuality and health, as well as an African American LGBT photo exhibit, “We Are Here!”

VERNITA GRAY (1992): 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. She has done years of work in the Cook County state’s attorney’s office to aid crime victims and witnesses.
IDA GREATHOUSE (posthumous 1997): As mother and activist she drew national attention to the needs of herself and of others living with AIDS. She advocated visibly for increased AIDS funding and for special programs for women and children with AIDS. For this, she was selected as a Friend of the Community. Born in 1952, she died in 1995.

PEG GREY (1992, now deceased): She provided key leadership over two decades in building lesbian and gay athletic programs and organizations and in organizing lesbian and gay teachers, besides being a champion athlete herself. She helped in creating the annual Proud To Run race against AIDS, in forming Frontrunners Chicago, and in organizing Team Chicago. Born in 1945 in Chicago, she died in Hinsdale of complications from multiple myeloma in 2007.

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

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

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

PHILIP A. HANNEMA (2000): For many years, he has provided ongoing and reliable volunteer support to a variety of Chicago gay and lesbian community organizations as staff member and officer, treasurer and photographer, cheerleader and fundraiser, and constant donor. He celebrated his 85th birthday in 2011 and is still actively involved.

RENEE C. HANOVER (1991, now deceased): A well-known attorney who often provided her services pro bono, she was long a high-visibility advocate for lesbian and gay rights. She worked for civil rights legislation of all kinds and vigorously opposed all forms of discrimination in the law and in society. Born in 1926 in New York City, she died in 2011 in Los Angeles, where she had retired in 2000.

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

JEAN V. HARDISTY (1995): 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, editor, and educator on lesbian and gay issues and history. She is also an accomplished painter.

GREGORY “GREG” HARRIS (1996): As an openly gay man living with AIDS, he was chief of staff for 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith from 1992 to 2006 and helped to secure same-sex domestic partnership benefits for Chicago city government employees. He has given much volunteer time to AIDS-related causes and was co-founder and first president of AIDS Walk Chicago and of Open Hand Chicago. In 2007, he succeeded retired state Rep. Larry McKeon as the only openly gay Illinois state legislator then in office. He has been re-elected three times.

PEARL M. HART (posthumous 1992): She spent her entire legal career of 61 years defending the civil rights of all persons. Born in 1890 in Traverse City, Michigan, she died in 1975 in Chicago, where she had lived since 1892.

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

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

MARCIA HILL (2011): For almost 30 years, she has been a constant participant, coach, manager, and board member in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association and its precursors. She was its president from 2007 to 2010 and helped grow it to nearly 4,000 members as what is said to be the Midwest’s largest nonprofit, all-volunteer sports group.


SARAH LUCIA HOAGLAND (2000): She has been a collective member of the Institute of Lesbian Studies and an influential exponent of lesbian feminist values during some 20 years on the faculty of Northeastern Illinois University, where she was professor of philosophy and women’s studies until her retirement. Her work includes a 1988 book, *Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Value*.

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES (1992): Established in 1973 as Gay Horizons, the organization served as the Midwest’s largest and most comprehensive social service agency meeting the needs of Chicago’s diverse gay and lesbian community. The services it traditionally provided were later to form the core of programming at Center on Halsted.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER (1991): Founded in 1974 as Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, it has distinguished itself as the Midwest’s leading provider of support services to and for people living with AIDS and HIV disease, and as an internationally recognized center for hepatitis and AIDS/HIV research.
TONDA L. HUGHES, Ph.D., M.S.N. (2003): She has made outstanding contributions to lesbian health. Besides innovative research, she has advised government and private health and social service agencies, led conferences, and made public educational presentations. She is a professor in the College of Nursing of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she is interim head of the Department of Health Systems Science.

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

INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER (2010): Founded in 1979 by Chuck Renslow and Dom Orejudos, it is one of the oldest LGBT institutions in the United States and has made far-reaching contributions in Chicago’s gay business, entertainment, health, and tourism arenas. It brings thousands of gay men and an increasing number of others to Chicago each Memorial Day weekend for a leather pageant that also addresses community social issues, supports the Leather Archives & Museum, and encourages sexual health and camaraderie.

TONY JACKSON (posthumous 2011): He rose from poverty to fame as an innovative pianist, singer, and composer of ragtime and other popular music, including “Pretty Baby.” Known for a distinctive sartorial and entertainment style, he was openly gay at a time when that was not common. Born in New Orleans in 1876, he died in Chicago in 1921.

JENNER & BLOCK LLP (2011): The distinguished, Chicago-based law firm has led in advocating for LGBT communities in the courtroom and in society. In 2003 in the Supreme Court, a firm partner successfully argued Lawrence v. Texas, a Lambda Legal case that struck down sodomy laws nationwide and helped to pave the way for ending other discrimination. The firm’s list of other significant pro-LGBT cases is long, and it has aided a long list of LGBT community organizations.

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

JUDITH S. JOHNS (1991): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for her dedication to the gay and lesbian community in the development and promotion of programs and services in response to the AIDS pandemic. A former executive director of Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and assistant commissioner at the Chicago Department of Health for HIV/AIDS policies and programs, she is now a fitness instructor at the University of Notre Dame.

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

E. PATRICK JOHNSON (2010): An award-winning author, nationally touring performer of the spoken word, recognized scholar, and fundraiser, he has published several books centering on African American LGBT life. One, Sweet Tea, was the basis for his similarly titled one-man play. He is the Carlos Montezuma Professor of African American Studies and Performance Studies at Northwestern University.
ARTHUR L. JOHNSTON (1998): For more than 30 years, he has been a community activist. As partner in the innovative video bar Sidetrack, he aided gay and lesbian businesses’ growth and made many contributions to charitable and political efforts. He was an early leader of what is now the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association and was a lead organizer in passing Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois human rights legislation.

IRA H. JONES (posthumous 1998): 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 activist and business communities, involved in Episcopal religious circles as an openly gay advocate, committed to racial justice, and a worker in Regular Democratic organizations. Born in Chehalis, Washington, in 1925, he died in Chicago of a heart attack in 1986 and was buried in his earlier hometown of Portland, Oregon.

STEPHEN (WANDA LUST) JONES (posthumous 2008): An entertainer and health advocate, he was known widely in Chicago’s gay communities in his 1970s drag persona, Nurse Wanda Lust. He served as the poster person for VD testing and is remembered by many for his tireless promotion of sexual health awareness. Born in 1944, he was murdered in 1980 in Kansas City, where he had moved two years earlier. He was buried in Bloomfield, Indiana.

RICK KARLIN (1997): During three decades, he has been a visible public figure in print and onstage. He has lent his talents to countless charitable events, co-founded the city’s first gay parents group, volunteered extensively for Horizons Community Services, been a leading advocate for gay and lesbian teachers, and contributed his writings to all the local gay and lesbian media.

NANCY J. KATZ (2000): She became the first self-identified lesbian judge in Illinois when she was named in 1999 as an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court. Her community and professional work dates to the 1970s in lesbian feminist, domestic violence, political, legal assistance, and family welfare settings.

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

OWEN KEEHNEN (2011): A writer, interviewer, activist, and historian, he has recorded the views and remembrances of hundreds of famous and less-well-known persons during the past two decades. More than 100 of them were represented in his book, We’re Here, We’re Queer: The Gay ‘90s and Beyond. He has also co-written three Chicago LGBT history books, written novels and articles, helped to found The Legacy Project, and been a volunteer in several LGBT and AIDS organizations.

CLIFFORD P. KELLEY (1998): A former Chicago City Council member, now a WVON radio host and an American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois board member, he is a Friend of the Community for becoming in 1973, at political risk, the pioneering lead sponsor of Chicago’s first proposed ordinance to ban sexual-orientation discrimination. His perseverance helped to get it taken seriously. Though his Council tenure had already ended, a version of the proposal finally passed in 1988.
WILLIAM B. KELLEY (1991): Since 1965, he has led in many pioneering efforts, among them helping to organize the first national gay and lesbian conferences from 1966 to 1970; co-founding The Chicago Gay Crusader, Illinois Gays for Legislative Action, the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, and the Chicago Access Corporation; taking part in the first White House gay rights meeting; and serving on the Mattachine Midwest and National Gay Task Force boards. Now a lawyer, he chaired the Cook County Commission on Human Rights for its first 12 years until 2003 and is still a member.

NICK KELLY (1995): As an activist and a creative talent, he was a vibrant part of Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities for decades before moving to Wisconsin. He helped to organize Chicago Gay Liberation and the Chicago Gay Alliance as the 1970s dawned. As a graphic designer, he produced much material for Chicago gay and lesbian organizations. He was founding president of Toddlin’ Town Performing Arts, encompassing gay and lesbian band and choral groups, and later headed the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus.

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

DOROTHY KLEFSTAD (1998): She is a Friend of the Community for having begun a ceaseless career as a volunteer for lesbian, gay, and AIDS causes after learning that her daughter was a lesbian. This has been in addition to her ongoing volunteerism in non-gay church, cultural, health, and environmental activities.

FRANKIE KNUCKLES (1996): As producer, mixer, 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 1982. He is now a DJ and album producer of international stature.

BRUCE KOFF (1994): He has significantly aided Chicago’s and the nation’s gay and lesbian communities in social services and mental health, especially from 1984 to 1990 as executive director of Horizons Community Services after being on its staff since 1976. He is now chief operating officer and a partner in a clinical and teaching practice in psychotherapy.

DANNY KOPELSON (2000): Since 1981, he has been a tireless arts and AIDS fundraiser and a mainstay of the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, of which he is a founding member. He has produced special events, including the annual Dance for Life, that have raised millions of dollars to fight AIDS.

SUZANNE MARIE KRAUS (2004): She has 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 has also served on the Lesbian Leadership Council of the Chicago Foundation for Women.

MARIE J. KUDA (1991): For more than 40 years, she has worked as activist, historian, archivist, writer, lecturer, and publisher to promote and preserve positive images of lesbians and gay men. She organized five national lesbian writers conferences, published the first annotated lesbian bibliography, Women Loving Women, and is still contributing to literary reference materials and writing articles.
JOE LA PAT (posthumous 2008): Born in 1943 in Racine, Wisconsin, he built a successful career restoring buildings in Chicago and, with his partner Dick Uyvari, supported many LGBT community organizations, as well as providing early seed money for Gay Games VII. He died unexpectedly in Chicago in 2008 on the day of the annual Pride Parade, but his impact on countless individuals and organizations lives on.

LAKESIDE PRIDE MUSIC ENSEMBLES (2011): Under several names beginning with the Chicago Gay Pride Band in 1979, the organization has brought friends and members of LGBT communities together through music—at the same time fostering goodwill and promoting social acceptance. Its four instrumental ensembles appear in parades and concerts year-round and serve as cultural ambassadors by performing at events nationwide, including President Obama’s 2009 inaugural parade.

LOUIS I. LANG (2002): As the state representative of Cook County’s 16th District, he has distinguished himself by his attention and commitment to human rights and human welfare. For this and for his support of AIDS funding and of laws against hate crimes and sexual-orientation discrimination, he was chosen as a Friend of the Community.

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

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

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (1999): Beginning in 1990 as the first effort of its kind in the Midwest, it provided one-on-one support, direct services, and peer support groups for women with cancer and their families of choice. It also educated medical providers about lesbian health needs. In 2007, it merged with Howard Brown Health Center to become the center’s Lesbian Community Care Project.

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

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

LINCOLN PARK LAGOONERS (2004): This group, which developed from volleyball games regularly held in the park during the 1970s, is devoted to social interaction, organized activities, and charitable fundraising. It has contributed thousands of dollars over the years to groups fighting HIV/AIDS, cancer, and homophobia.

LIONHEART GAY THEATRE COMPANY (1994): It was the first Midwest performing arts organization to produce gay and lesbian works. This all-volunteer group under Rick Paul’s guidance mounted more than 40 original plays in more than 100 performances from the 1970s to 1994, often donating proceeds to lesbian and gay organizations.
MARCIA J. LIPETZ, Ph.D. (2009): Trained as a sociologist, for more than 30 years she has put her professional and leadership skills to work for Chicago nonprofit groups, among them the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Donors Forum of Chicago, WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation, and the Executive Service Corps of Chicago.

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

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

JEFFREY E. McCOURT (posthumous 2007): As founding publisher of Windy City Times newspaper, businessperson, theater producer, and activist, he made significant contributions to Chicago and its LGBT communities during the 1980s and 1990s. Born in Newburgh, New York, in 1955, he died in Chicago in 2007 of complications from HIV.

JOEY MCDONALD (2009): He has moved from being an openly gay and honorably discharged sailor in the 1970s to years of involvement with the International Mr. Leather organization, assistance to Equality Illinois, and a long list of volunteer achievements in helping leathermen and other gay men cope with hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse, all in the unselfish name of “giving back to your community.”

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

LARRY McKEON (1997, now deceased): He made a historic mark on Chicago politics in 1996 by winning an Illinois House of Representatives seat as the state’s first openly gay or lesbian state legislator. Later he became known as openly HIV-positive and then a cancer survivor. In earlier life, he directed Chicago’s Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, worked in social service administration, and was a police officer. Born in 1944 in Nampa, Idaho, he retired at the end of his term in January 2007 and died four months later in Springfield after a stroke.

HARLEY McMILLEN (1992): 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 in Columbus, Ohio, he died of AIDS complications in Chicago in 1992.
AMY MAGGIO (2009): She is widely known as a leader in many HIV/AIDS and LGBT organizations, for which she has increased donor and volunteer involvement and has helped to raise millions of dollars during more than two decades. Her marketing and development skills have been deployed in both for-profit and nonprofit health-care sectors, where she has focused on HIV/AIDS needs.

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

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

MERRY MARY (2005, now deceased): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for her countless volunteer contributions since 1979 to Howard Brown Health Center, local choruses and Roman Catholic groups, Chi-Town Squares, Vital Bridges, and other community efforts. Born in 1934 in Chicago as Mary Broderick, she died here on December 30, 2011, of cancer, under her marital surname of Featherston but was known to thousands as Merry Mary.

METROPOLITAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION (1992): Now known as the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association, this group is a recognized leader in the Midwest and the nation in providing organized athletic activities, including local, national, and international athletic events.

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

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

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

TONY MIDNITE (1996, now deceased): After coming to Chicago in 1951 as a female impersonator, he opened a costume design studio and eventually worked 16-hour days to meet worldwide demand. He defied police disapproval of such shows in the early 1950s by booking the Jewel Box Revue for a sold-out run, which set a precedent. Born in 1926 in Texas as Tony Murdock, he died in 2009 in Las Vegas, where he had moved in 2000.

CARLOS T. MOCK, M.D. (2007): He has provided years of dedicated service to Chicago’s LGBT communities as physician, activist, and author. He has been active in many organizations, including Orgullo en Acción, Equality Illinois, and Howard Brown Health Center.
The Rev. SID L. MOHN, D. Min. (1993): He was the first openly gay individual ordained in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. As president of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, he continues to be a prominent leader in Chicago’s nonprofit social service community, having major impact on policies and services to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, homeless, youth, and persons living with HIV and AIDS.


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

MULRYAN AND YORK, ATTORNEYS AT LAW (2004): Starting in 1989, this professional partnership formed by Mary M. York and Rosemary Mulryan has been a resource for specialized legal representation as well as a contributor of leadership and expertise to numerous nonprofit organizations. York, who was born in 1955, died of renal cancer in 2008; Mulryan continues in practice.

DAVID ERNESTO MUNAR (2010): A community organizer and AIDS activist, he headed the Association of Latin Men for Action (ALMA) and is now president and chief executive officer of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, where he has worked since 1991. He is a nationally known advocate on AIDS issues and has served on numerous local and national boards and scientific committees.

KATHRYN MUNZER (2001): As a social service professional and volunteer arts booker, she has spent more than 20 years in helping Chicago’s Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, in developing lesbian musicians and other artists, and in fostering lesbian culture.

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

IFTI NASIM (1996, now deceased): Born in 1946 in what is now Faisalabad, Pakistan, he wrote Narman, an award-winning book of Urdu poetry said to be the first direct statement of gay longings and desires ever to appear in that language. Its courageous publication met with revilement but critical acclaim and inspired other Pakistani poets. He came to this country in 1971, co-founded Sangat/Chicago, and was president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council of America. He died in Chicago in 2011.

EDWARD NEGRON (2006): He has provided years of dedicated service to Chicago’s LGBT, Latino/a, and recovering communities, promoting social welfare, justice, and LGBT health while speaking publicly about his life as a former addict, gang member, and drug dealer. He works as the housing assistance coordinator for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.
CHARLES EDWARD NELSON II (2002): Since 1989, when he helped to found the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, he has worked on HIV-prevention programs for same-gender–loving men of color. Always self-identifying as gay, he developed a “down low” social categorization that has helped in devising new prevention programs for such men.

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

CHARLOTTE NEWFELD (1996): A civic activist and tenacious advocate for gay and lesbian Chicagoans since the early 1970s, this Friend of the Community lobbied for human rights ordinances, for a mayoral liaison and committee on gay and lesbian issues, and for increased city AIDS budgets. She led the Lake View Citizens’ Council’s board in support of a domestic partnership ordinance in 1996. For some 40 years she has urged and actively backed gay and lesbian political participation.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY (2011): Since 1976, the group has built relationships with vulnerable youths and adults on the city’s nighttime streets. Its services value nonjudgmental listening and compassion while connecting people with needed resources. It is the city’s leading provider of emergency housing to runaway and homeless youths, an estimated 20 to 40 percent of whom are LGBT. It also conducts mobile HIV testing.

MONA NORIEGA (2002): As an activist since the 1970s, she has developed programs to serve lesbian mothers and their families, organized programs for Latina lesbians and other lesbians of color, helped to open Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Midwest office, served as a business consultant, and co-chaired the original effort to bring the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago. In 2011, Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed her to head the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

ACHY OBEJAS (2010): An author, journalist, and political activist, she began her journalism career at the Chicago Sun-Times in 1981. Mayor Harold Washington appointed her to the city’s first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Her books of fiction and nonfiction have received awards and presented her as an out lesbian. She has taught writing at several Chicago-area universities.

RENAE OGLETREE (1998, now deceased): She engaged in wide-ranging volunteer and professional activities that brought people together around issues of diversity, development, and health care within Chicago’s gay and lesbian communities. Besides activity in several LGBT groups, she was a health care activist, a professional youth services executive, and a public schools official. She co-founded and co-chaired Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays. Born in 1950 in Passaic, New Jersey, she died in Chicago in 2010 of complications from lung cancer.

DEAN ROBERT OGREN (1998): He is an exemplar volunteer who has tirelessly shared his talents with many organizations, including the NAMES Project, Open Hand Chicago, AIDS Walk Chicago, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, United Way, International Mr. Leather, and state Rep. Larry McKeon’s historic 1996 electoral campaign. He puts in more volunteer hours in a year than many do in a lifetime.

PAUL G. OOSTENBRUG (2010): He has been a quietly effective, exemplary volunteer organizer and fundraiser in Chicago for more than a decade. Beginning in 1998, he has helped to lead Team Chicago in local and international sports activities, including Gay Games in Sydney, Chicago, and Cologne. He also has been a board member and treasurer of Chicago House and Social Service Agency.
OPEN HAND CHICAGO (1994): Founded in 1988, it became Chicago’s only in-home meals program for persons living with AIDS and served more than 3 million meals. It expanded throughout the city, added other nutrition programs, and cooperated with other groups targeting specific ethnic populations. In 2002, it merged into the new Vital Bridges organization.

DOM OREJUDOS (posthumous 1992): He was a dancer and choreographer with the Illinois Ballet for 15 years, a respected businessman, a major figure in founding the International Mr. Leather pageants, and an internationally known artist, famous for his male physique studies drawn under the name Etienne. Born in Chicago in 1933, he died of AIDS complications in 1991 in Boulder, Colorado.

KATHY OSTERMAN (posthumous 1993): As 48th Ward alderman, city special events director, and longtime political activist, she helped to forge critical links between Chicago government and the lesbian and gay community. She played a crucial role in passage of the city’s 1988 human rights ordinance. For all of this, she was named a Friend of the Community. Born as Kathleen Lonergan in the Bronx in 1943, she died of ovarian cancer in 1992 in Chicago.

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

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

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

JOHN PENNYCUFF (2003, now deceased): On front lines, on sidelines, and behind the scenes, besides supporting reproductive choice and AIDS funding, he was an outspoken, proud, and ceaseless activist since 1991 for sexual-minority rights in civil society and the United Methodist Church. His commitment, courage, and energy made him a model for direct-action, educational, and political work toward equality. Born in Chicago in 1964, he died here on January 29, 2012.

CHILLI PEPPER (2007): For more than three decades, Chilli Pepper has entertained thousands of people as a female impersonator, serving as an ambassador for LGBT communities, building bridges with other communities, and gaining media exposure in the days when people barely acknowledged drag, drag queens, or HIV/AIDS.

ADRENE PEROM (1999, now deceased): She was a Friend of the Community whose North Side gay bar, Big Red’s, nurtured Chicago institutions in their growth during the 1970s and 1980s. She sponsored sports teams that were supportive social milieus for hundreds, held countless fundraisers, worked with other business owners, and helped to start and supported Chicago House. Born in 1935 in Chicago as Adrene Bodenstein, she died in 2000.
LAIRD PETERSEN (2006, now deceased): A Chicago native, he contributed more than 25 years of service to LGBT communities, helping to raise more than $12 million for community-based organizations, working with Center on Halsted, on HIV/AIDS issues, and with Equality Illinois, and volunteering for numerous other organizations. Born in Evanston in 1957, he had been diagnosed with HIV for more than 27 years and died in 2010 in Richmond, Virginia, where he had moved with his partner of 16 years and became director of social services for the Fan Free Clinic.

RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993): For some 40 years he has been an activist and an organizational volunteer. He headed the Chicago Gay Alliance (which ran the city’s first sexual-minority community center) and founded the Gay Activists Coalition (the first gay and lesbian organization at a City Colleges of Chicago campus). He is best known for leading 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 prominent community role for more than a decade. He has worked to empower those in the LGBT and the HIV/AIDS populations to take responsibility for their health. He is now director of advocacy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

MARY D. POWERS (1992): She was recognized as a Friend of the Community for what is now more than 40 years of commitment in addressing abusive police behavior and being a consistent advocate for gay and lesbian rights both in civil society and in her church as a Roman Catholic.

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

MIKE QUIGLEY (2009): During his decade on the Cook County Board, this Friend of the Community oversaw adding gender-identity protection to county law, providing health insurance for county government employees’ same-sex partners, and creating a same-sex domestic partnership registry for county residents. As a U.S. House member since 2009, he has been a prominent sponsor of LGBT legislative efforts.

A REAL READ (2007): From 1996 to 2001, people from all over the city flocked to the performances of this African American LGBT performance ensemble. Through original poetry, prose, and plays, it gave voice to a community and issues that had often been silenced. Even after the ensemble dissolved, its impact continued to have a ripple effect.

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

CHARLES “CHUCK” RENSLOW (1991): An internationally known gay businessman and photographer, he opened the Gold Coast in 1958. It was one of Chicago’s first openly gay enterprises and one of the first leather bars in the world. He also published GayLife, has financially aided many gay rights efforts since the 1960s, and has been active in local and national Democratic Party politics. He co-founded the annual International Mr. Leather contest and established the Leather Archives & Museum.

JOSE RIOS (2010): Since 2001, as an openly gay police officer and the 23rd Police District’s LGBT liaison, he has helped to break down barriers that historically have compromised access to police services for sexual-minority Chicagoans. He has also helped to train police officers and has served on the boards of the Association of Latin Men for Action and the Lesbian and Gay Police Association/Gay Officers Action League.
FRANK M. ROBINSON (2009): This journalist, activist, and award-winning novelist gave crucial help to early-1970s Chicago LGBT groups in publicizing and memorializing their work. Later, in San Francisco, he wrote speeches for Harvey Milk and has produced numerous individual works and anthologies of fiction, including science fiction.

LINDA S. RODGERS (1993): As a successful businesswoman, fundraiser, and activist, she combined her entrepreneurial skills and community consciousness to promote projects and political actions in support of lesbian and gay human rights and community needs. She now lives in Florida.

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

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

RON SABLE, M.D. (1993, now deceased): As an openly gay physician he co-founded the first comprehensive HIV/AIDS clinic at Cook County Hospital. He was active in local politics, running as an openly gay candidate for 44th Ward alderman and founding IMPACT, a gay and lesbian political action committee. Born in 1945 in Kansas City, Missouri, he died in Chicago in 1993 of AIDS complications.

TIFFANI ST. CLOUD (1996): By age 18 in 1996, she was a chief organizer of the Pride group at Chicago’s Whitney Young High School. It soon became the school’s second-largest organization, despite some initial student resistance. It aimed to support the self-esteem and rights of students, including gay, lesbian, and bisexual students. She now works for the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C.

JANE M. HUSSEIN SAKS (2009): She has consistently been a social change activist on a variety of fronts, has led numerous institutions in responding to LGBT issues in programming and grantmaking, and is the first director of the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts and Media at Chicago’s Columbia College.

JESUS SALGUEIRO and ART SMITH (2008): The openly gay celebrity chef Art Smith and his life partner, the artist Jesus Salgueiro, founded Common Threads, a charity that fosters familial environments where children learn to value each other and discover universal understanding and mutual acceptance. The two have contributed to charitable fundraisers within and outside LGBT communities, including the Center on Halsted, and their philanthropy extends worldwide.

ZAIDA SANABIA (2009): In her teens, she became an advocate for LGBT youth and made a prize-winning video on forming a high school Gay-Straight Alliance. The video resulted in her own suspension from school, but she graduated; formed Amiguitas, the first queer Latina youth group in Chicago; fostered high school organizing throughout Illinois; and has put her documentary skills to work for the LGBTQ safe-schools movement.

NORMAN L. SANDFIELD (1999): For more than 30 years, he has been an organizer of gay and lesbian Jewish activities and of Jewish AIDS programs, in Chicago and internationally, as part of his membership in Chicago’s Congregation Or Chadash. He co-founded the Jewish AIDS Network Chicago and has worked on interfaith relations.
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 in Fairfield, Illinois, and died in a 2004 rafting accident near Anchorage, Alaska.

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

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

KAREN C. SENDZIAK (2007): She has served the Gerber/Hart Library for more than 20 years with intense devotion. In a variety of positions, most recently as president and now as treasurer, she has been one of the key individuals responsible for nourishing and protecting that important resource for all Chicagoans.

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

PATRICK SHEAHAN (2007): He has compiled a record of civic, business, banking, educational, and LGBT community leadership in Chicago since 1995, most notably as a prime mover behind the 2007 opening of Center on Halsted, the most comprehensive LGBT community center in the world.

HELEN SHILLER (2000): She was inducted as a Friend of the Community for more than 30 years as a progressive activist and for service as 46th Ward alderman since 1987. During that time, she often advocated for sexual-minority communities and for persons living with HIV and AIDS. She retired from office in 2011.

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

BRETT SHINGLEDECKER (2011): In 1988, he and Carrie Barnett opened People Like Us, Chicago’s first free-standing, explicitly gay and lesbian bookstore, which operated until 1997. Serving also as something of a community center, it was often the first stop many people made when visiting Chicago. Through it, he and Barnett aided numerous organizations and helped to heighten community empowerment.

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; has documented Chicago LGBT life and activism through skilled photography, including permanently exhibited works depicting the transgender community; and has served in numerous organizational board seats and volunteer roles.

JON SIMMONS (posthumous 2011): Born in Pittsburgh in 1955, he graduated in 1983 from Chicago’s Columbia College and soon moved from being a dance company executive director and writing for Windy City Times to chairing the city’s first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues under Mayor Harold Washington, later serving Mayors Eugene Sawyer and Richard M. Daley as their chief official adviser on such issues. In 1991 he began studies at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, and less than four months after his 1994 graduation he was found murdered in Beverly Hills, California, while on a holiday.

DAVID B. SINDT (posthumous 1995): In the 1970s and 1980s, he fought homophobia in civil and religious spheres. As a social worker, he advocated for gay parents and gay children. As a clergymen, he formed what became Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns but later had to leave the ministry because of gayness. Born in Minneapolis in 1940, he died in Chicago in 1986 of AIDS complications. His house became the first residence owned by Chicago House.

PATRICK SINOZICH (2009): For more than 20 years, this pianist, choral director, arranger, composer, and accompanist has been a leader in Chicago LGBT musical organizations, including Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus and Windy City Chorus. He has also been music director of a vocal ensemble, Chicago a cappella, and a member of the music staffs of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Music Festival.

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

NORM SLOAN (1996): Since 1988, as a volunteer registrar, he has registered at least 38,000 voters. In some weeks, he registered as many as 1,000 or 2,000. He helped to form the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization and later has worked through Equality Illinois. He also gives volunteer aid to Chicago dance and theater efforts.

The Rev. STAN SLOAN (2010): He is the longest-serving CEO in the history of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, doubling its services and revenue and opening its Sweet Miss Giving’s bakery as a funding and job-training vehicle. An Episcopal priest, he has led in the homeless and AIDS service communities for more than 15 years and was founding president of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness.

ADRIENNE J. SMITH, Ph.D. (1991, now deceased): She was one of the first openly lesbian psychologists within the American Psychological Association. She wrote and edited several publications and appeared on local and national television and radio programs promoting gay and lesbian rights. Born in Chicago in 1934, she died here of cancer in 1992.

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

ART SMITH (2008): See JESUS SALGUEIRO and ART SMITH.
CHRISTINA SMITH (2002): Since at least 1994, when she joined efforts to set up a South Side community center for African American lesbian and bisexual women, she has worked to assist women of color. She helped to form Affinity Community Services and served it as board president.


MARY ANN SMITH (1997): As alderman of Chicago’s diverse 48th Ward, this Friend of the Community encouraged gay and lesbian ward leadership and advocated for gay and lesbian rights. Despite opposition, she also firmly backed location of Chicago House’s first facility and the San Miguel Apartments in the ward. She retired from office in 2011.

MAXSONN “MAX” C. SMITH (1991): This lifelong political and cultural activist has resided in Chicago since 1976. He was treasurer of the Illinois Gay Rights Task Force; founder of the Chicago chapter of the National Coalition of Black Gays; an organizer of United Faith Affinitas Church; a member of Adodi Chicago; a columnist for BLACKlines and Identity magazines; and editor of a book on black men’s same-gender—loving relationships, Staying Power!


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


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

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 in Aurora, Illinois, as Velma Nacella Young, she was an outspoken advocate of lesbian and gay concerns from the 1950s onward and wrote numerous lesbian-themed novels, articles, and poems. She edited the *Mattachine Midwest Newsletter* while in Chicago and was active in the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. Retired in Tucson, she was writing and active in social change until her 1997 death there.

STUDS TERKEL (2001, now deceased): The renowned author and oral historian, broadcast host, commentator, arts supporter, and activist was chosen as a Friend of the Community for more than half a century of social-justice championship, which was consistently marked by support for sexual-minority rights—from backing Pearl M. Hart for alderman in the 1940s to including gay interview subjects in his books. Born in 1912 in New York City, he died in Chicago in 2008.

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

ELIZABETH E. TOCCI (1994, now deceased): She opened her first gay bar in 1963 and, beginning in 1971, owned and ran The Patch in Calumet City, which became one of the oldest lesbian-owned establishments in the nation. She was active in local business circles and long provided financial aid and a supportive environment to lesbian and gay persons. Born in Chicago in 1935, she died in Calumet City in 2010.

JOANNE E. TRAPANI (1993): After a decade of New York City activism, she co-chaired the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force for several terms and has served as liaison to state and local governments and agencies. In 1997 she joined the Oak Park village board as the first open lesbian elected to office in Illinois, and in 2001 village voters elected her as board president. She retired from that board in 2005 and later chaired Elmwood Park’s Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

THOMAS M. TUNNEY (1995): In 1981, in his early 20s, he bought Lake View’s venerable Ann Sather Restaurant and built it into a virtual community center for lesbian and gay Chicagoans and for older adults. He has been active in business groups, IMPACT, Human Rights Campaign, and the Democratic Party. He backed Open Hand Chicago’s home-meals program, hosted countless gay and lesbian efforts and the White Crane Wellness Center, and in 2003 became Chicago’s first openly gay alderman, representing the 44th Ward. He has been re-elected twice.

RICHARD B. TURNER (1991): As a senior philanthropic administrator, he was co-founder and national president of Funders Concerned About AIDS. He later became manager of corporate contributions for Integrys Energy Group. He has led in numerous civic, cultural, and charitable groups, has served on Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s advisory board, and has chaired the Chicago Academy for the Arts board.

MARILYN URSO, R.N. (2009, now deceased): For 17 years she was Howard Brown Health Center’s research registered nurse and was named a Friend of the Community for her unprecedented dedication to her job and to clients. For them, frequently in times of crisis, she was a warm, welcoming, and supportive presence, nurturing both clinic and clients with professionalism and encouragement. Born Marilyn Czosek in Chicago in 1927, she died of lung cancer in Sandwich, Illinois, on January 10, 2012.
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 or other LGBT organizations and as a major philanthropist and fundraiser, much of that time with his late partner, the Hall of Fame inductee Joe La Pat.

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

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

RENE A. VAN HULLE, JR. (2000, now deceased): Since the 1970s, he was vigorously active in community organizations and instrumental in many of their fundraising projects. He co-founded the Tavern Guild of Chicago and for years helped to raise community center funds, sponsored sports teams, and supported Chicago House. Born in Chicago in 1953, he died here in 2007.

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

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


GUY WARNER (2008): His activism began in the 1970s with Mattachine Midwest, when he revived its telephone referral hotline. In 1975, he became its sixth president. Under his leadership, the newsletter was reinstated, debt reduced, and a gay AA group founded. He was a founder of an early group for parents and friends of gays, a volunteer in the AIDS ward of Illinois Masonic Hospital, and co-chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, among other activist engagements.

HAROLD WASHINGTON (posthumous 2007): As mayor of Chicago from 1983 to 1987, he promoted and facilitated LGBT political participation and empowerment, helping to pave the way for eventual passage of the city’s 1988 ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. He had also supported LGBT rights as a state legislator. Born in 1922 in Chicago, he died in office here in 1987. For this record, he was selected as a Friend of the Community.
VERA WASHINGTON (2007): For more than 25 years, she has served Chicago’s LGBT communities as an organizer, promoter, youth community activist, social service volunteer, STD and HIV/AIDS counselor, and youth services coordinator. She co-founded Executive Sweet, a social and networking club for women of color.

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 is also a senior lecturer in theater 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.

MARK E. WOJCIK (2010): He has inspired and mentored students since 1992 as a professor at John Marshall Law School, where he formed the Gay and Lesbian Law Association earlier while still a student. He founded and headed the Chicago Bar Association’s Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, has headed the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, was co-author of the first casebook on AIDS law, has written numerous articles on sexual-minority legal issues, is an international law expert, and has lobbied for pro-LGBT legislation.

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. He is corporate secretary of Team Chicago and has served as the Federation of Gay Games’ vice president for membership.

YVONNE ZIPTER (1995): As a syndicated columnist, she has often documented the lives of Chicago lesbians and gay men. An award-winning poet, humorist, and essayist, she wrote a book on lesbian softball, Diamonds Are a Dyke’s Best Friend, as well as The Patience of Metal and Ransacking the Closet. She is now an editor at the University of Chicago Press.
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After the new Friends corporation was formed, the Hall of Fame lost all of its remaining City of Chicago funding. This development makes the Friends’ existence even more critical to the Hall of Fame’s continuation as the only known municipally sponsored institution of its kind in the nation.

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For additional information, please contact:

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