

CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME



City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations

Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Clarence N. Wood
Chair/Commissioner

Lawrence J. McKeon
Director/Community Liaison

Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues
500 North Peshtigo Court, Suite 6-A
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is both a historic event and an exhibit. Through the Hall of Fame, residents of Chicago and our country are made aware of the contributions of Chicago's lesbian and gay community and the community's efforts to eradicate homophobia, bias, and discrimination.

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

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

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

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

The selection of the inductees for the Hall of Fame is made by former recipients of the award. Planning is currently under way for a permanent location for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame display.

**Copies of this publication
are available upon request**

**Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues
500 North Peshtigo Court, Suite 6-A
Chicago, Illinois 60611**

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Cynthia A. Young

November 9, 1992

Dear Friends:

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

It is gratifying that the Commission and the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues are able to work together to end bias, discrimination and prejudice that adversely affects all citizens of Chicago. The lesbian and gay community has continuously advocated for human rights and the fair treatment of all segments of our diverse city. One of the strongest indications of this has been the lesbian and gay community's leadership in the passage of the City of Chicago's Human Rights Ordinance and its advocacy for similar legislation at the county, state, and federal levels of government.

The work of the Commission and its Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues deserves to be praised. By working together, and in collaboration with the leadership of the gay and lesbian community, we have had an impact on city governance, including the Chicago Department of Health and Chicago Police Department, and relationships with other elements of Chicago's diverse population.

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

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

Sincerely,

Clarence N. Wood
Chair/Commissioner



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

G R E E T I N G S

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am pleased to contribute to this book commemorating the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and recognizing the achievements of its 1991 and 1992 inductees.

Discrimination and bias have no place in Chicago and we must recognize Chicago's diversity as a strength--not a weakness. My administration is proud of its efforts to create greater harmony and unity between Chicago's many diverse communities.

Over the years, the gay and lesbian community has made many valuable contributions to our city and will continue to play an important role in Chicago's bright future. The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame offers a place where all Chicagoans can learn of the many ways that individuals within the gay and lesbian community have been at the forefront of efforts to unify our residents and rid our city of discrimination.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to join with the Commission on Human Relations and the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues in expressing thanks and congratulations to the 1991 and 1992 inductees to the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Mayor

1991

1991 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Gary G. Chichester

Thom Dombkowski
Committee Co-Chairperson

Ellen J. O'Donnell

Linda Rodgers
Committee Co-Chairperson

Jon Simmons
Staff

Stephanie Stephens

Except as noted, biographies of 1991 inductees reflect information that was current when their awards were presented



ORTEZ ALDERSON (posthumous)

Born in Buffalo, New York, and reared on Chicago's South Side, Ortiz Alderson became involved in gay causes in 1969 with the emergence of the Chicago Gay Liberation Front. He became a leader of the Third World Gay Revolutionaries and was involved with bringing gay issues into the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention (organized by the Black Panther Party) in 1971. He was also an anti-draft and anti-war activist; as a member of the Pontiac Four, he spent almost a year in prison for breaking into a draft board and destroying files.

During the '70s, Alderson studied acting; he appeared in numerous productions in Chicago throughout the remainder of the decade, specifically dedicating himself to the promotion of the gay, Black male.

Alderson moved to New York in 1981 and continued his work in the theater, adding directing to his acting talents. He joined ACT-UP/New York in 1987, and he helped to organize numerous sit-ins and demonstrations. He also took part in the 1987 National March on Washington, where he was arrested at the sit-in at the Supreme Court.

Alderson and his life partner, Arthur Gursch, returned to Chicago in March 1989. A month later, Alderson was hospitalized with PCP. After recovering, he became active in ACT-UP/Chicago. In April 1990, Alderson helped to organize the People of Color AIDS Conference in Chicago. He also participated in and demonstrated at the VIth International AIDS Conference in San Francisco in June 1990. Shortly after returning from California, however, Alderson's health began to decline rapidly.

Ortez Alderson died on December 21, 1990.



JON-HENRI DAMSKI

Jon-Henri Damski has been referred to as the "gay Studs Terkel."

A native of Seattle, Damski earned a Ph.D. at the University of Washington and later taught Latin and Roman history at Bryn Mawr College. Since 1977, he has been a contributor to *GayLife*, *Gay Chicago*, and the *Windy City Times*; Damski has penned over 700 articles chronicling gay and lesbian life in Chicago.

He also teaches adult education, with a focus on current events.

As a member of the "Gang of Four," Damski's lobbying efforts were critical to the passage of the Chicago human rights ordinance in 1989 and the city hate crimes bill in 1990.

Damski keeps his finger on the pulse of the community; he knows the powerful players, as well as the little people. From the playrooms of the Bijou to the antechambers of City Hall, his colorful neckties and his Cubs cap are familiar trademarks. Damski captures the sights, the sounds, the style, and the spirit of the gay and lesbian community.



JAMES W. FLINT

Jim Flint, affectionately known as Felicia, has contributed his time, resources, and considerable talents to Chicago's gay and lesbian community for the past 28 years. A veteran of the United States Navy, Flint's involvement with and in that community truly demonstrates its diversity.

He has been an established bar owner and businessman for 23 years: The Baton, Annex 2, Annex 3, Redoubt, Redoubt Atlanta, and River North Travel are all familiar names. Flint is the founder and owner of the Miss Gay Continental Pageant, a showcase for female impersonators on the national level.

Flint was a member and president of the Chicago Knight M.C., a leather-and-Levi's club that raised money for charity through "Toys for Tots" during the late 1970s and early '80s. He helped organize the community forums that led, eventually, to the founding of Chicago House, and he produced its first major fundraiser in 1985. Through his monetary and in-kind donations, he continues to support a variety of charitable endeavors.

He was one of the founding members of the Windy City Athletic Association and has served as its commissioner more than once. His involvement in softball, basketball, volleyball, darts, bowling, and hockey has given lesbians and gay men an opportunity to participate and compete in amateur athletics with their counterparts from other cities across the nation. He has sponsored over 70 teams.

In 1987, Flint ran for a seat on the Cook County Board of Commissioners. He has long been involved in Democratic Party politics, and he currently serves as the vice president of the 46th Ward Democratic Organization. He is also a member of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association, the IVI-IPO, Operation PUSH, the Rainbow Coalition, the Lake View Citizens Council, and the Asian Press Association.



RENEE C. HANOVER

A retired attorney, Renee Hanover's entire life has involved a blend of skills and causes. As an unflagging advocate for the rights and welfare of lesbians and gay males, she has used—and taught us—lessons derived from a history of labor organizing, leftist politics, feminism, cultural self-affirmation, motherhood, advocacy of racial justice, and being a lawyer. Her most important contributions have consisted of bringing an analytical approach, combined with passionate commitment, whenever issues affecting gay and lesbian persons were under discussion.

She has also been an invaluable organizer of efforts to address specific community problems. Without employing mere rhetoric, she has always pointed out connections between lesbian or gay issues and other social phenomena, and, by bridging a practice-and-theory gap between lesbian and gay activism and other social-change movements, she has been a living argument against ghettoization.

Hanover has embodied gay and lesbian

pride and visibility every time she appeared in court or negotiated on behalf of a gay or lesbian client, and every time she testified or lobbied knowledgeably in policymaking settings. All this advocacy was unpaid, and even her law practice was often pro bono.

Among her organizational affiliations have been: ACT-UP/Chicago, Alliance to End Repression, American Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee, Aspira, Beckman House, Chicago Area Draft Resisters, Chicago Area Military Project, Chicago Committee on Gay People and the Law, Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights, Chicago Gay Alliance, Chicago Gay Liberation Front, Chicago House, Chicago Lesbians Emerging Against Racism, Chicago Lawyers Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Chicago Legal Defense Committee, Chicago Lesbian Liberation, Chicago Lesbian/Women's Community Cancer Health Project, Chicago Women Against Rape, Chicago Women in Broadcasting, Chicago Women's Liberation Union, Citizens' Committee for Gay Rights, Daughters of Bilitis, Feminist Writers Guild, Frank M. Rodde Memorial Building Fund, Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, Gray Panthers, Havarat Achayot, Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Independent Voters of Illinois, Jane Addams Center Senior Caucus, Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization, Latino Institute, Legacy, Lesbians in the Law, Mattachine Midwest, Midwest Women's Legal Group, NAMES Project, National Coalition of Jewish Women, National Lawyers Guild, National Women's Political Caucus, Radical Lesbians, SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment), Southside Rape Action Project, Tavern Guild of Chicago, United Auto Workers, Voters for Peace, White Crane Senior Health Center, WICCA (Women in Crisis Can Act), Women Employed, Women for Women, The

Lesbian and Gay Awareness, Within Our Reach, Informed and Connected, United Way of Chicago's Committee on Discrimination, the National Lesbian Conference steering committee, The Literary Exchange, and the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Johnson is a captain in the United States Army Reserve; she served on active duty at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and as a reservist on active duty in Munich. She is also a certified hypnotherapist and a dance band soloist.

CAROL A. JOHNSON

For the past decade, Carol Johnson has been an outspoken advocate for the gay and lesbian community and a personal inspiration to many of its individual members. She has worked tirelessly in the struggle against homophobia, and to increase the visibility and options of lesbian women, particularly women of color, and gay men.

Johnson's personal commitment to eradicating AIDS has been demonstrated professionally through her position as the Service Employees International Union's Midwest AIDS Project coordinator. This has been further shown through workshops with lesbians on women and HIV and safer-sex methods, lobbying for legislative initiatives, and working to institute appropriate public policy.

She is active in many capacities, always around gay and lesbian issues. She works within established organizations, she has formed new ones when there is a need, and she challenges homophobia within non-gay organizations. These include the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, the Committee to Increase Black



WILLIAM B. KELLEY

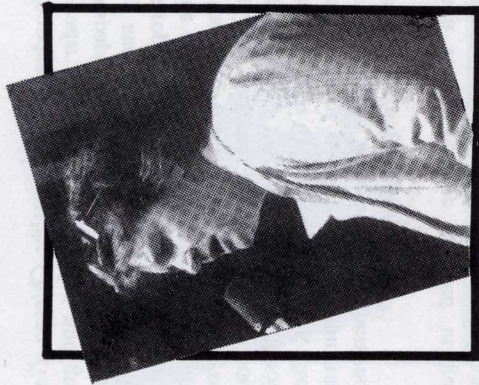
For 26 years, Bill Kelley's active participation in organizations, lobbying, polling, refining the language of proposed legislation, publishing positions, and holding legislators accountable for their actions and promises have been but the tip of the iceberg. His influence behind the scenes cannot be overestimated. His knowledge, intellect, and steady, reasoned approach have earned him the trust and respect of community activists on all sides of issues.

Kelley has been an initiator of a large number of community projects; his involvement has included Mattachine Midwest, the Chicago Gay Alliance, Homosexuals Organized for Political Education, the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Planning Committee, Illinois Gays for Legislative Action, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations, and the National Gay (now Gay and Lesbian) Task Force. In 1977, he took part in the first White House meeting with national lesbian and gay leaders. He was a

cofounder of the monthly *Chicago Gay Crusader* (Chicago's first lesbian and gay newspaper) and a founding member of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association. He has represented lesbian and gay concerns while actively participating in such groups as the 1980 White House Conference on Families and the implementation committee for the 1980 startup of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. In 1987, after many years of concern with lesbian and gay legal rights, he realized his personal dream of becoming a lawyer.

When Kelley became involved in gay activism in 1965, he was able to know everyone else involved in Chicago, and a large proportion of those involved nationwide. In those days, Mattachine groups were seen as dangerously radical by many of their hoped-for constituents. Without being mired in the past, Kelley brings a valuable perspective to present-day activism and, by the breadth of his past lesbian and gay rights activities, he has helped to pave the way for today's more specialized, resource-rich community institutions.

Kelley is currently a law clerk to Justice William S. White of the Appellate Court of Illinois. He serves on the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and is a former board member and officer of the Chicago Access Corporation. He is a founder and co-chairperson of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association and a member of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, Asians and Friends--Chicago, the CookCounty State's Attorney's Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Issues, the City of Chicago's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties.



MARIE J. KUDA

As historian, archivist, writer, lecturer, and publisher, Marie Kuda has sought to preserve and to promote the positive image of lesbians and gay men and their contributions to the wider culture. For over 25 years, she has been arbitrator, communicator and catalyst, promoting exchanges between gay men and lesbians, and between them and the heterosexual community, encouraging dialogue and understanding.

As an activist, in and out of organizations, Kuda has worked continuously to effect those changes which will ensure equality under the law for all, including lesbians and gay men.

Her love for and commitment to Chicago are evident in her efforts to archive local history for later study. Since 1978, she has presented hundreds of slide lectures to a variety of audiences. These illuminate the contributions of lesbians and gay men to the mainstream culture, calling to account those institutions which keep such information "hidden from history."

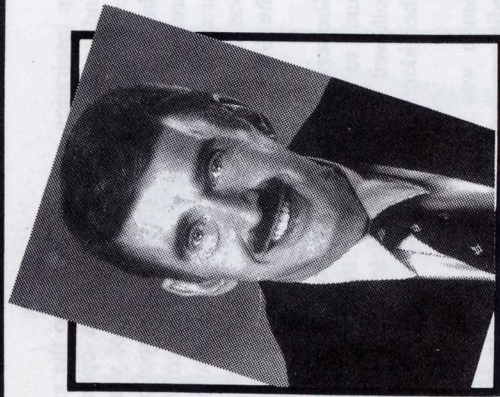
In addition to organizing five national

lesbian writers' conferences and publishing the first annotated bibliography on lesbian literature (*Women Loving Women*), Kuda has written for almost every gay and lesbian paper in Chicago and she has been reprinted nationally.

As a member of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association, and in related efforts, she has worked to educate and inform librarians to get "the lies out of libraries" and to make available bibliographies, reviews, and programs which enable the acquisition of books accurately reflecting the spectrum of the gay and lesbian lifestyle.

Kuda's life goals have been to research and share positive information on lesbians and gay men as historical and creative individuals, and to actively promote gay and lesbian rights by working for social and political equality. Her employment concerns have been secondary; she has worked for Commerce Clearing House and Harcourt Brace, in bookstores and as a bookkeeper, and as a short-order cook, a house painter, and a graphic artist. She has been employed by DePaul University Library and Northeastern Illinois University. Kuda currently works at Ravenswood Hospital's Mental Health Clinic.

Her organizational affiliations have included the City of Chicago's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues, Mattachine Midwest, Gerber-Hart Library, the Tavern Guild of Chicago, Chicago Gay Alliance, the Windy City Athletic Association, Chicago Lesbian Liberation, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the 47th Ward Gay and Lesbian Association, Chicago's Lesbian Agenda, and Moby Dykes.



CHARLES "CHUCK" RENSLow

A true pioneer in Chicago's gay and lesbian community, Chuck Renslow opened Kris Studio in 1954 and began publishing a variety of male physique magazines; he is considered one of the "old masters" of gay male photography in the United States.

In the early 1960s, Renslow opened the Gold Coast leather bar, one of the first openly gay establishments in Chicago and the nation. By the time it closed in 1987, the Gold Coast was internationally known as the oldest leather establishment in the world. Indeed, its international reputation prompted Renslow to establish another business enterprise, International Mr. Leather. Now in its 13th year, this annual celebration is recognized as the premier gathering of leatherpeople in the world; it has been estimated to now have an \$8.5 million impact on Chicago tourism.

Renslow's activism and commitment have not been limited to leather. From the early days of his visible presence as a gay businessman, he understood his responsibilities to the larger gay and lesbian population. Renslow has been in

the forefront of the political movement toward equal treatment and equal rights. In addition to actively organizing many of Chicago's most recognizable gay and lesbian institutions, he has served as a board member of numerous organizations on the local, national, and international levels. Renslow's involvement has helped to spotlight Chicago and to dispel the myth that all gay life takes place on either the East or West Coast.

As the publisher of *GayLife*, Renslow established a credible voice for Chicago's gay and lesbian community. Combining years of involvement in city and state politics with the then-emerging gay and lesbian political presence, he laid much of the groundwork for the community's later achievements in civil rights. Renslow was instrumental in the attainment of numerous milestones, including the introduction of a Chicago gay and lesbian civil rights ordinance and the first executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Chicago city government issued by Mayor Jane Byrne.

Renslow is the chief executive officer of Renslow Family Enterprises and an active member and contributor to numerous business, political and human rights organizations.

He has long been active in Chicago's Democratic Party, serving as a precinct captain for eight years in the 43rd Ward, as a candidate for delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention, and within the 46th and 48th Ward Democratic Organizations.



ADRIENNE J. SMITH, Ph.D.

A Chicago native, educated at the University of Illinois and with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Adrienne Smith came out publicly as a lesbian in 1973. Since then, she appeared on national and local television and radio programs, talking about gay and lesbian rights. Additionally, she was called on repeatedly to testify before committees of both the Chicago City Council and the Illinois House of Representatives during the early years of the struggle to pass human rights legislation protecting lesbians and gay males.

As one of the first openly lesbian psychologists within the American Psychological Association and within the city of Chicago, Smith was one of the people who maintained pressure on the American Psychological Association to change its homophobic policies. These efforts led to the formation of the APA's Division 44, the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues; Smith completed a term as the group's president.

For almost two decades, Smith provided

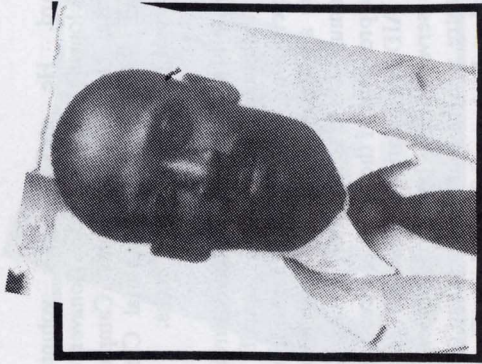
an inspiration and role model to the gay and lesbian community. As an openly lesbian therapist—for a number of years the only one in the Chicago metropolitan area—she provided an alternative to the usually homophobic psychotherapy which was all that was available during most of the 1970s.

She served as an example to her students, and to other lesbian therapists who followed her pioneering lead in sharing their identity with the community.

Smith was a well-published author and editor, with her most recent works being *Lesbians at Midlife: The Creative Transition* and *Reflections of a Jewish Lesbian-Feminist Activist-Therapist*.

Her organizational affiliations include Chicago Women Against Rape, The Women's Institute, Lesbian Counseling Collective, WICCA (Women in Crisis Can Act), Feminist Therapy Institute, Coalition Against Misdiagnosis, and Gray Pride Chicago.

[Smith died in August 1992, after a lengthy illness.]



MAXSONN "MAX" C. SMITH

Max Smith is, and has been, a visible, conscientious, and tireless role model in Chicago for the past 15 years. His tenacity and vision are admirable, especially in the face of the political and social hostility that exists within and toward the Black gay and lesbian community.

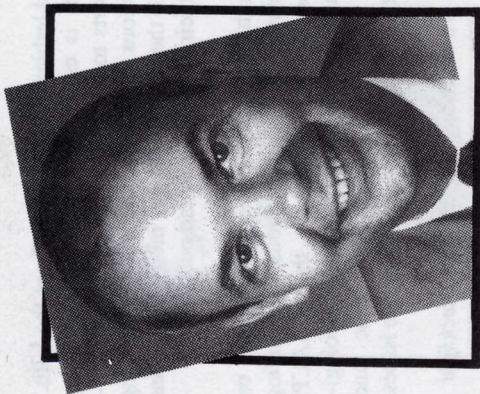
A sales and leasing consultant, Smith has been an active member of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church, the Black Bible Study Group, the Third World Gay and Lesbian Christian Conference, Affinitas, the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, the Committee to Increase Black Lesbian/Gay Awareness, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, BROTHERRS, and the Chicago Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Smith has taken issue with and devised a consistent battle plan which addresses and attempts to derail homophobia within the African American and the larger communities, while gently addressing the issue and impact of internalized homophobia. In concert with other concerned Black gay

and lesbian people, he has "kept the faith." This is especially true in his continuing efforts to engage the Black clergy in discussions about homophobia and in dealing with the presence of gay men and lesbians in their congregations and pulpits.

Smith has also focused his energies on mainstream organizations, including Operation PUSH and the NAACP, challenging them to match their ideological positions with programmatic and systemic changes on gay and lesbian issues.

He is a contributor to *BLK* and *Blacklight*.



RICHARD B. TURNER

For the past 25 years, Richard Turner has been an active participant in the life of Chicago--both within the gay and lesbian community and as a member of the larger public. He has served as a role model and a teacher, often behind the scenes and sometimes in the spotlight. His career began as an English and journalism teacher within the public school system. Turner later held positions with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and television station WTTW. Since 1985, Turner has been the director of communications and development for the Chicago Community Trust, one of our city's leading philanthropic institutions. His pioneer role in funding for AIDS and gay and lesbian issues has earned him a reputation for leadership, integrity, and honesty unmatched in Chicago.

Turner currently serves on the board of directors of the Donors Forum of Chicago, and he is on the executive and steering committees of Funders Concerned About AIDS. He is the national president of the Communications Network in Philanthropy. Turner is a member of the Hubbard Street Dance Company advisory

board. He also provides volunteer development assistance to Bonaventure House, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

Turner has served the community through his volunteer efforts on behalf of numerous organizations that are within or have an impact on the gay and lesbian community. He is a former member and past president of the board of directors of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Turner has served on the board of Steppenwolf Theatre, was the founding president of the Wisdom Bridge and Travel Light Theatre boards, and served on the Illinois Arts Council theater panel. He is a former member and past chairman of the Joseph Jefferson Drama Awards. Turner has been actively involved in Dignity/Chicago and also served on Chicago House's fundraising committee. He produced "Cabaret at The Second City" and other special events to benefit Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, Chicago House, and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.



JUDITH S. JOHNS

For the past 16 years, Judith Johns's professional life has addressed the needs of the terminally ill and those facing chronic illnesses; these range from AIDS and cancer to pulmonary, renal, and cardiac conditions.

She was the moving force behind the hospice program at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the first of its kind in the Midwest. Johns developed the program from proposal to active department. Through this experience, as well as from her hands-on work as an intensive-care unit nurse, Johns became a visible and vocal proponent for individuals confronting life-threatening illnesses, speaking out for the rights of people with AIDS, cancer, and other diseases to live out their lives with dignity and respect. Johns has enhanced her business, marketing, and management skills through positions in hospital administration, and she is now a recognized leader in AIDS research, prevention, and service delivery through Howard Brown Memorial Clinic.

Johns's most significant involvement in and with the gay and lesbian community centers on her leadership role as the ex-

ecutive director of Howard Brown, the Midwest's leading provider of support services to people living with AIDS and HIV disease. She has been able to bring corporate, government, and foundation funding and attention to a critical health issues facing the gay and lesbian community and the wider public.

Johns has been an active member of the Chicago Department of Health's AIDS Advisory Committee, the executive committee of the Service Providers Council of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and advisory committees for Northwestern Memorial and Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's hospitals. She served as an early advisor to the Lesbian Cancer Project, and she was a vital member of a support group composed of the executive directors of seven AIDS service providers.

As executive director of Howard Brown Memorial Clinic she has steered HBMC into a period of fiscal stability; and, working with HBMC's board of directors, she has planned for the clinic's future, addressing the needs of both gay men and lesbians.

She has participated in hundreds of community-based events from black-tie dinners to elegant theater nights; from International Mr. Leather and Mr. Windy City contests to the Proud to Run Race for Life and the Strike Against AIDS Celebrity Bowl; from bar anniversaries to the stage of The Baton; from parades to parties. Judith Johns has gone above and beyond the call of duty, lending her support to issues critical to the whole gay and lesbian community, and in turn being embraced by those she serves.



GAY CHICAGO MAGAZINE

Gay Chicago Magazine is published to provide the most up-to-date information on lifestyle, entertainment, bar, and organization events, as well as to serve as a general forum for Chicago's gay and lesbian community.

In 1976, Ralph Paul Gernhardt started a telephone information line which detailed news and events happening within Chicago's gay and lesbian community. That line grew into *Gay Chicago News*, a weekly tabloid reporting community happenings, gossip, sporting events, and more. Eventually, this evolved into *Gay Chicago Magazine*, a nationally recognized entertainment guide to gay and lesbian life in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Dan DiLeo joined the staff in 1977, bringing to the weekly paper his expertise in reporting. DiLeo was responsible for the editorial content of *Gay Chicago Magazine*, as well as the publication's business matters.

The magazine was first published in the same size as *TV Guide*; it featured a calendar of events, as well as listings of

bars, businesses, and organizations serving the myriad needs of Chicago's gay and lesbian community. In 1988, the magazine's size was increased to 8" x 11", and the publication expanded its format to include an "After Dark" section, featuring theater and restaurant reviews. Additionally, several columnists—each writing about the community from his or her unique perspective—joined the staff.

Under the joint leadership of Gernhardt and DiLeo, *Gay Chicago Magazine* was on the front lines in the battle against AIDS. It was an early corporate sponsor of the Strike Against AIDS, and both Gernhardt and DiLeo gave generously of their individual talents and resources, assisting many community-based agencies in acquiring critical public-relations skills.

DiLeo died on November 24, 1989, leaving Gernhardt again as the sole publisher. Dan DiLeo has been honored by the establishment of a memorial fund in his name at Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, providing emergency financial assistance to people living with AIDS.

Recently, *Gay Chicago Magazine* added two more feature writers: one columnist focuses on gay/lesbian businesses and the individuals involved; the second will write about community-based agencies, their structures, missions, governance, finances, and volunteer opportunities.

With the Memorial Day issue of May 23, 1991, *Gay Chicago Magazine* began publishing in a four-color glossy cover format, once again demonstrating the commitment of publisher Ralph Paul Gernhardt to produce for Chicago's gay and lesbian community the finest-quality magazine possible.



HOWARD BROWN MEMORIAL CLINIC

Howard Brown Memorial Clinic is the Midwest's leading provider of support services to and for people living with AIDS and HIV disease, and an internationally recognized center for hepatitis and AIDS/HIV research. HBMC is a shining example of the work that the gay and lesbian community can accomplish when it sets its mind to doing good.

Founded in 1974 by a handful of medical students and other concerned volunteers, HBMC's initial focus was the education about, testing for, and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men. It soon became an important local health facility, serving as many as 15,000 patients annually. HBMC's AIDS Action Project was started in 1982; over 1,400 men and women living with AIDS have received help.

Howard Brown Memorial Clinic promotes the well-being of gay and lesbian people and enhances their lives through the provision of health care and wellness programs, including clinical, educational, social service, and research activities.

These programs are specifically designed to serve gay and lesbian people in a confidential, supportive, and nurturing environment.

HBMC is committed to working cooperatively with other organizations serving and contributing to the gay and lesbian community.

Howard Brown has successfully made the transition from a grassroots clinic to a professionally staffed health, human services, and research center. Its programs are respected across the country, and certain among them (e.g., Nutrition Consultation, Volunteer Services) have served as models for other organizations.

The Howard Brown Memorial Clinic of 1991 is fiscally sound, and now focusing its attention and energies on programs beyond its work with AIDS and HIV. Wellness, aging, bereavement, and substance abuse are all of concern to the gay and lesbian population, and women-specific approaches must be taken in working with the lesbian community. HBMC is committed to helping all members of its constituency in finding a better tomorrow.

1992

1992 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Benjamin Bailey

Mark T. Cappello

Gary G. Chichester
Committee Co-Chairperson

Thom Dombkowski

Renee C. Hanover
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Ken Jacobsen, Jr.

Judith S. Johns

William B. Kelley

Marie J. Kuda

Lawrence J. McKeon
Staff

Ronald A. Nunziato, Jr.

Ellen J. O'Donnell
Committee Co-Chairperson

Charles "Chuck" Renslow
Selection Subcommittee Co-Chairperson

Maxsonn "Max" C. Smith

Richard B. Turner



GARY CHICHESTER

Besides having been a Chicago pioneer in the nascent gay and lesbian rights activism of the early 1970s, Gary Chichester has for more than 20 years been an indefatigable organizer of events and fundraising for gay and lesbian causes.

As a co-founder and president of the Chicago Gay Alliance between 1971 and 1973, Chichester helped to create Chicago's first lesbian and gay community center. Meanwhile, the organization that he helped to found focused new energy on activism here to an unprecedented degree.

His organizational involvements since 1970 have included the annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade (starting with the first one), the Metropolitan Business Association, the Chicago Gay Health Project, the Gay Rights National Lobby, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, coordination in 1987 of gay and lesbian participation in Hands Across America, membership on local and national committees for the 1979 and 1987 National Marches on

Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the NAMES Project, the Gay and Lesbian Press Association, the National Association of People with AIDS, Strike Against AIDS, the Chicago Gay Speakers Bureau, and the City of Chicago's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues.

He has earned a living in special event planning, entertainment services, and nightclub operations since 1972, and since 1985 he has served as co-founder and vice president of Back Door Promotions. But besides his professional work, he has contributed planning and fundraising talents to a variety of causes, including the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, the Chicago AIDS Benefit Committee (where he has coordinated Circus Vargas "Big Top" fundraisers), the Lakeview East Development Corporation, and 1977's Orange Balls I and II, as well as a number of the other organizations in which he has been involved.

Chichester's circle of friends and business acquaintances has always been wide, and he has drawn upon it and his own natural cheerfulness and gregariousness for innumerable acts of advocacy and organizing—both in his own name and in the in-souciant personae of Buttons T. Clown and Gretä. He has repeatedly bridged the occasional gap between activist and business communities, to the benefit of both.



ANN CHRISTOPHERSEN

For over 15 years, Ann Christophersen has distinguished herself as a business owner, political activist, and advocate for the needs of women, children, and the lesbian community of Chicago. As an adjunct to her business of providing high-quality reading material of interest to families, women, children, and lesbians, she regularly hosts events of interest to the women's community. She has continually met a need among women that has often been neglected within the gay and lesbian community and the community at large.

As co-owner of the Women & Children First bookstore, Christophersen has provided leadership by providing supportive reading materials and a congenial, friendly environment for people interested in women's, children's, and lesbian issues. People from throughout the Chicago metropolitan area have sought out the resources provided by the bookstore.

At a time when other resources in the community were lacking, Christophersen's leadership and commitment to women's issues have provided a public forum for writers to present their ideas and written

works to the community.

As an active member of Chicago's gay and lesbian community Christophersen has also been active in numerous organizations, including IMPACT, the Mayor's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues, and Gerber-Hart Library (for which she has served as a board member).

Christophersen and her business partner were the recipients of the Glynn Sudberry Award from the Gay and Lesbian Caucus of the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization in 1987 and the Illinois Women's Agenda Women of Illinois Repute award in 1990.

developed and wrote all Chicago House proposals for funding and amassed an individual donor list of over 7,000 individuals. Thom also continued to initiate and manage a series of highly successful special events. By 1988, Chicago House had a budget of over \$600,000.

In 1990, Thom joined the staff of the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, where he was responsible for researching and developing proposals for corporate, government, and foundation funding. During the summer of 1992, Thom left Howard Brown to work for the Assistant Commissioner for AIDS Policies and Programs, in the Chicago Department of Health.

Thom also has been an exemplary community educator. His frequent commentaries, interviews, and letters in publications have informed people from all walks of life about the realities of AIDS, and about finding a healthy, happy, and productive identity as a gay person in today's world.

Other activities include being a founding member of IMPACT, a sustainer of the Gerber-Hart Library, and a generous contributor to the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Thom also has been coordinator, tallymaster, judge, and interpretive writer for the annual International Mr. Leather contest.

Eventually, the first of what were to be several Chicago House residences was acquired, renovated, staffed, and occupied, with Thom successfully completed a number of highly fundraising activities. In its first three months Chicago House raised more than \$75,000.

Thom was appointed executive director of Chicago House in November 1986. He



THOM DOMBKOWSKI

Thom Dombkowski is a well-known and highly respected member of Chicago's gay and lesbian community. Born in Rochester, New York, into a working-class Polish American family, he received a degree in government and international relations from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from DePaul University.

Deeply affected by the deaths of many friends and a former lover from AIDS, Thom wrote an article on the idea of a hospice for people living with AIDS. With impressive speed Chicago House and Social Service Agency was formed. Thom volunteered to take on the task of fundraising.

Eventually, the first of what were to be several Chicago House residences was acquired, renovated, staffed, and occupied, with Thom successfully completed a number of highly fundraising activities. In its first three months Chicago House raised more than \$75,000.

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HENRY GERBER (posthumous)

Henry Gerber was born in Bavaria as Joseph Henry Dittmar on June 29, 1892, and arrived at Ellis Island in October 1913. With members of his family, he moved to Chicago because of its large German population. After working briefly at Montgomery Ward, he was interned as an alien during World War I. He wrote that although this was not right, he did receive three meals a day. From 1920 to 1923 he served with the U.S. Army of Occupation in Germany and, during this time, came into contact with the German homosexual emancipation movement. He subscribed to the German homophile magazines and was in contact with Magnus Hirschfeld's Scientific Humanitarian Committee in Berlin. In 1924, Gerber returned to Chicago and was hired by the post office. Gerber's return to Chicago was amidst a backdrop of urbanization and an emerging gay subculture.

Following what Gerber had seen in Germany, he felt the need to establish an organization to protect the rights of gay men and lesbians. With several friends, Gerber formed an organization which was later incorporated as the Society for

Human Rights, a nonprofit corporation in the State of Illinois. The organization published a newsletter, *Friendship and Freedom*, which was distributed to its small membership. This was the first formally established gay civil rights organization in the United States.

In July 1925, the society came to an abrupt end. The wife of one of the co-founders reported her husband, a reputed bisexual, to her social worker, who contacted the police. Following a police raid, Gerber and several others were arrested and prosecuted for their "deviancy." After three costly court appearances the case against Gerber was dismissed. Gerber lost his entire life savings defending himself and was fired from his job at the post office for conduct unbecoming to a postal worker.

After his ordeal, Gerber moved to New York City, where he reenlisted in the U.S. Army and served for 17 years. During the 1930s he managed a personal correspondence club and wrote articles in gay publications under a pseudonym. The correspondence club became a national communications network for gay men. In the 1940s, Gerber exchanged a number of letters with Manual Boyfrank of California. Boyfrank was enthusiastic about organizing to combat homosexual oppression. Gerber offered his assistance, but refused to risk his job again. He continued his assistance through personal correspondence and numerous articles.

On December 31, 1972, Gerber died at the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C., at the age of 80. He lived to see the Stonewall Rebellion and the start of a new era of activist gay and lesbian liberation organizations.

His leadership and dedication have included being a co-founder of Kupona Network, an agency providing HIV education and support services to the African American community.

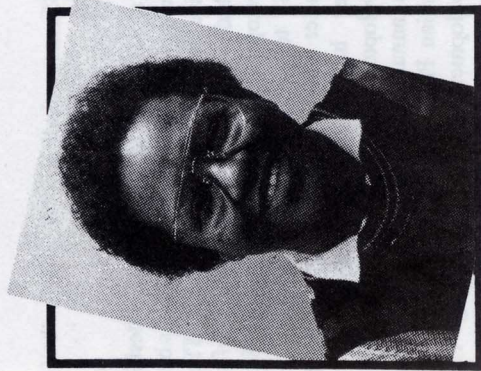
For the last four years Richard has presented a program called "AIDS and Other Matters" on the West Side of Chicago at John Marshall Metro High School. This innovative program is presented to freshman medical students and is designed to make HIV disease and AIDS relevant within an African American context as they relate to the issues of health care and sexuality.

RICHARD LEE GRAY

Richard Lee Gray was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. He graduated from John Marshall Harlan High School and the University of Illinois. He is currently studying for a graduate degree in social work with a concentration in counseling gay and lesbian minority youth.

Richard has been involved in AIDS education in the African American community of Chicago as an openly gay African American male for over 12 years. His activity and openness have been in the context of the emerging crisis of AIDS and health care in the black community.

A major early contribution was his participation in the development and implementation of a two-year citywide survey of the health needs of African American gay men and lesbians. This represented the first attempt in the city of Chicago to specifically address the health needs and concerns of a population that historically has been neglected. Although the results of this survey are over eight years old, the findings are just as relevant today as when the data were collected.



VERNITA GRAY

Vernita Gray has served Chicago's lesbian and gay community with distinction for over 20 years. She was an early activist serving lesbians and gay men in Chicago's African American community since the late 1960s.

After attending Woodstock and learning of the existence of the "gay liberation" movement she returned to Chicago and began organizing support groups at local colleges and, with friends, in her home organized and hosted support groups for lesbians. In 1969 she participated in the development of a telephone hotline at her home for members of Chicago's gay and lesbian community. With her well-known sense of humor, the hotline telephone number was FBI-LIST. Interest in the support groups and hotline was so intense that Gray eventually had to vacate her apartment to obtain a modicum of privacy and peace of mind.

Given hostility in the community toward lesbians and gay men her activities were undertaken at some personal risk.

Gray was instrumental in forming the first

Lesbian Caucus of the nascent Gay Liberation organization in the early 1970s and the first Chicago lesbian newspaper, *Lavender Woman*.

She has been a Chicago business owner for 11 years, until recently operating the "Sol Sands" restaurant and a company developing audiovisual materials for children.

A graduate of Columbia College with a degree in creative writing and communications Gray has published *Sweet Sixteen*, a volume of her own poetry, and is currently working on a novel.

Vernita Gray has had a consistent presence in Chicago's gay and lesbian community and continues to be a highly regarded role model and an articulate and effective spokesperson for lesbian and gay concerns.

Her organizational affiliations include IMPACT and Mountain Moving Coffee-house.

1985, racquetball in 1987, and football in 1988.

As a member of Chicago's gay and lesbian community for over a decade, she has been active in numerous organizations. These include serving as a board member of the Metropolitan Sports Association from 1981 to 1991, and as a co-founder and charter member of Frontrunners/Chicago. Grey has been a participant in the development of "The Race Against AIDS" (an annual event held during Gay and Lesbian Pride Week), has assisted in the development of the annual Chicago Pride Week Invitational Bowling Tournament, and in 1989 served as a member of the board of directors of the International Federation of Gay Games.



PEG GREY

Peg Grey has been instrumental in increasing the visibility of gay and lesbian athletic activities in the Chicago area, the inclusiveness of both men and women in competitive and recreational activities, and the promotion and visibility of Chicago-area gay and lesbian athletes in national and international sporting events.

Grey has been the creator, coach, motivator, and player in many areas of athletics, both on the field and in organizing committees. She is committed to providing opportunities through competitive athletic activities as a way for gay men and lesbians to foster positive self-esteem as athletes and members of Chicago's gay and lesbian community.

One of her major contributions has been the encouragement of greater participation of lesbians in athletics. She was instrumental in creating Chicago's first women's sports divisions within previously male-dominated sports organizations. In doing so, she and her colleagues created women's leagues for basketball, softball, tennis, and volleyball in 1983, bowling in



PEARL M. HART (posthumous)

Pearl M. Hart was born in Traverse City, Michigan, in April 1890, the fifth daughter and only American-born child of David and Rebecca Harchovsky. A few years later, the family moved to Chicago, where her father served as rabbi to a congregation on the Southwest Side. From her early environment, and the examples of both parents, she developed a lifelong passion for social justice.

She left school at 14 to become a wage earner, and a few years later began attending classes at the John Marshall Law School. She was admitted to the bar in 1914. Her lifelong relationship with John Marshall was one of respect and mutual admiration: she taught at John Marshall Law School until her late 70s, and shortly after her 80th birthday the school awarded her an honorary doctorate.

Pearl Hart was a founding member and board member of the National Lawyers Guild, the American Committee to Protect Foreign-Born, and the Portes Cancer Prevention Clinic. She served, with distinction, as a defender of the oppressed through the Red-baiting periods which

followed both world wars, and into the McCarthy era and the hearings of the U.S. House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee. She served without fee in many good causes.

She was the first woman lawyer to be appointed as public defender in the Morals Court. In addition, she served as president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and participated in several major cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

All her life, Pearl Hart defended gay rights, appearing on behalf of many victims of entrapment and harassment, often without fee or for minimal fee. She worked for anti-entrapment laws and the right to privacy. She was involved in the founding and work of Mattachine Midwest as well as its predecessor efforts.

Two of Pearl Hart's dreams never came true: to be elected to the City Council of Chicago and to be appointed as a judge. She was too liberal and too outspoken to win the backing of the political system. Her campaign for the 44th Ward City Council seat was aided by Studs Terkel, a long-time friend and fellow fighter for social justice.

Although in failing health, Pearl Hart worked until a few weeks before her death in March 1978. She left a minimal estate after sixty years of unremitting work. Her legacy is the love and respect of thousands of men and women whom she helped, and a society somewhat better for her efforts -- which is what she wanted.



HARLEY McMILLEN

Harley McMillen is highly regarded in Chicago's lesbian and gay community for his contribution in the development of the City of Chicago's initial response to AIDS, and for his significant contributions to the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic (now the Howard Brown Health Center) and many other organizations.

During the early years of the AIDS pandemic, Harley was instrumental in developing the AIDS Action Project at the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic. This program was the forerunner of the City of Chicago's AIDS Task Force. His early planning and implementation of public symposiums on AIDS provided critical community education regarding the social and medical aspects of a disease that would have drastic consequences for the gay and lesbian community and for Chicago. Although rudimentary in content and form, given a limited understanding of the medical aspects of this disease, it was the only program at the time to foresee the long-term implications of this devastating disease for the community and the city.

Under Harley's direction and leadership, the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic was transformed into a highly professional and respected organization both in Chicago and throughout major cities in the country. He was and continues to be highly regarded as an articulate advocate and spokesperson for Chicago's gay and lesbian community in addressing issues of health care and civil rights.

Harley's contribution to the gay and lesbian community and to Chicago spans two decades. He has been active in many organizations, devoting considerable dedication, time, and personal resources. Besides his long-term involvement with Howard Brown, he served as a board member and treasurer for the Rodde Fund, and was co-chair for the Toys for Tots annual Christmas fundraising efforts, president of the Chicago Knights M.C., and an active member of the Tavern Guild. In the community's early political activism he participated in the organization of the first gay and lesbian Cook County Democratic Party "Symposium" held at the Bismarck Hotel.



SCOTT MCPHERSON (posthumous)

Scott McPherson, renowned playwright and actor, author of the critically acclaimed, award-winning play *Marvin's Room*, is regarded as one of Chicago's most vital artistic and creative forces. Amidst the homophobia and AIDS hysteria presently gripping this nation, Scott was one of the first openly gay, HIV-positive American artists. He has spoken eloquently, both in his writing and in interviews, of the personal and familial ravages of chronic illness and the need for loving support and connection with lovers, family, and friends.

Scott was born in Columbus, Ohio, and raised, along with seven siblings, in a devout Roman Catholic home. He acquired his great love for literature in his youth. He began acting in high school and attended Ohio University where he majored in theater and dance. An early one-act version of his first play, *Til the Fat Lady Sings*, was first produced at Ohio University. *Fat Lady* was later produced in Chicago by Lifeline Theatre under the direction of Eric Simonson. Ohio University named a new theater space in Scott's honor.

Scott moved to Chicago in 1981 and was cast regularly in local theatrical productions, commercials, and industrial films. His work as an actor included performances in *The Shrew*, *Butler County, Genitification*, *Expectations*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Normal Heart*, and many others.

Three of Scott's plays have been produced in Chicago: *Til the Fat Lady Sings*, *Scraped*, and, most notably, *Marvin's Room*. *Marvin's Room*, first produced by the Goodman Theatre in 1990, has also been produced at the Hartford Stage in Hartford, Connecticut, Playwrights Horizon and Minetta Lane theaters in New York City, and at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The play has received the Drama Desk Award, the Oppenheimer Award, the Obie Drama Award, the John Whiting Foundation Award for Writing, and the Outer Critics Circle Award.

In spite of variable and increasingly failing health, and the illness and recent death of his lover, Daniel Sotomayor, Scott completed two commissioned screenplays and was working on a new play until shortly before his death. He died in Chicago on November 7, 1992.



DOM OREJUDOS (posthumous)

Dom Orejudos is widely recognized for his contribution to the arts and entertainment and for his early participation in the development of a highly visible gay and lesbian business community in Chicago. He was an accomplished ballet dancer, choreographer, musician and artist and a respected businessman.

While growing up in Chicago, Dom made his first appearance with the Illinois Ballet Company at the age of 16. From that age on, Dom devoted his talent and energies to the artistic expression of dancing. He danced roles, wrote and choreographed ballets, and won nationwide recognition and approval for his Emmy Award-winning performances on public television.

During his association with the Illinois Ballet Company, he danced and was the resident choreographer for 13 years. He choreographed over 26 ballets, including *The Tin Soldier*, *The Firebird*, and *Metamorphosis of the Owls*. His choreographic talents were sought by ballet companies around the country and earned him critical acclaim. He was the

recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts grants and received three Emmy Awards. Dom was personally chosen to inaugurate the first color broadcast of Chicago's public broadcasting station with the presentation of his ballet, *The Charioteer*, in 1968.

Along with his ballet career Dom established a new and unique style in artistic expression with his depiction of the male model. He opened Kris Studio and published male photographic studies which were featured in many of the early magazines available in the gay community. His artistic talents in drawing were recognized all over the modern world under the pseudonym "Etienne". Dom shared his talent through philanthropic activities and the donation of his work to charitable endeavors. His art was contributed to many AIDS service providers and other organizations for fundraising purposes.

Along with his business partner, Dom was an early pioneer in the development of a strong and viable gay businesses community in Chicago. Those businesses included the internationally known Gold Coast bar and the International Mr. Leather contests. Other businesses included Man's Country, Zolar, Pyramid, and Center Stage.



DANIEL SOTOMAYOR (posthumous)

Daniel Sotomayor was born on August 30, 1958. He grew up in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago, a troubled youth of Mexican and Puerto Rican descent. He attended Prosser High School, studied acting at the Center Theatre, attended the American Academy of Art, and graduated from Columbia College with a degree in graphic arts. He began to pursue a career in acting and graphic design.

Daniel's HIV seroconversion and sudden diagnosis with AIDS in 1988 shattered his personal and professional aspirations, awakening in him the activist who changed forever the standard by which our community leaders are judged.

After joining ACT-UP/Chicago, Daniel proceeded through sheer force of will to propel that organization to its highest effective visibility. Daniel became widely known for his public confrontations with Mayor Richard M. Daley to bring attention to the AIDS crisis, the Chicago Health Department's responsibility to implement the city's AIDS Strategic Plan, and inadequate education, prevention, and media programs.

Daniel also established himself as the first nationally syndicated, openly gay political cartoonist. During his brief but brilliant three-year career, he created over two hundred scathing, and often humorous, cartoons illustrating his anger with AIDS, with government inaction, with the insurance industry, the health care system, pharmaceutical companies, and, frequently, with AIDS activists themselves.

Daniel has left his indelible mark on the AIDS movement, on our community's awakening as a political force, on the minds of leaders who have had reason to fear his unblinking honesty, and on the hearts of those who came to know the human being behind the headlines. Daniel's relentless pursuit of the truth helped him to live his life with a consistency of ethic that most of us can only aspire toward. In doing so, he changed forever our definition of "leader."

Daniel died as he lived -- fighting -- on February 5, 1992.



Photo: Tee A. Corntine

VALERIE TAYLOR

Now retired in Tucson, Valerie Taylor is a nationally known author of lesbian-themed novels and poems and is one of Chicago gay and lesbian activism's authentic pioneers.

Besides the work that she has had published since the 1950s, Taylor made many public appearances to great effect in Chicago during the 1960s and early 1970s--sometimes identifying herself as founder of the "Lesbian Grandmothers of America" (she is one), and always advocating persuasively for lesbian and gay welfare before media, City Council, and rally audiences.

Not only was Taylor a founder and board member of Mattachine Midwest beginning in 1965, but she was involved with an early Daughters of Bilitis group here as well.

For years, she either edited or greatly assisted with publication of the *Mattachine Midwest Newsletter*, lending her apartment, typewriter, culinary skills, and literary knowledge to the task, and greatly inspiring the other volunteers who worked on it. Besides all this, she has been active in the

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom since 1943 and joined as an open lesbian in its peace efforts during the Vietnam War era. Taylor is a Quaker and, in her words, "an old-fashioned Gene Debs socialist." In 1975, she received the Paul R. Goldman Award from ONE of Chicago, an early group that was a branch of Los Angeles's historic ONE Inc.

Taylor eventually retired, first to upstate New York and then to Tucson, where she lives in penury at the age of 79. Her "legal" name is Velma Tate, but she has used "Valerie Taylor" for professional and activist purposes for decades.

As she once pointed out in a *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives* interview, Taylor comes from a tradition of women's activism; one of her great-grandmothers marched in the first suffrage parade in Elgin, Illinois, in 1889.

Taylor also has frequently and proudly referred to her Potawatomi ancestry and, having coped successfully for many years with a physical impairment, she has been an advocate for the disabled as well. Never a rich woman financially, her wealth of energies and skills has always gone primarily toward social change and the relief of oppression.



MARY D. POWERS "Friend of the Community"

Mary D. Powers has earned the respect of Chicago's lesbian, gay, and bisexual community for her tireless dedication in advocating for civil rights and an end to discrimination, bigotry, and police abuse and harassment.

Her initial experience with the lesbian and gay community evolved out of her employment at Western Electric from 1946 to 1950. As a counselor, she often encountered gay and lesbian employees who lived in constant fear of losing their jobs if their sexuality became known. With sensitivity and understanding, employees developed a trust in Mary Powers that allowed them to discuss candidly their fears and concerns in the workplace and the larger community.

In 1969, as vice president of the Alliance to End Repression, Mary Powers supported the formation of an organization to advocate for gay and lesbian rights. This initial organization eventually became the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

As a board member of Citizens Alert, a

group formed to combat police abuse and to advocate for reform of Chicago Police Department policies and procedures, she joined community leaders in advocating for formal training of Chicago police officers on gay and lesbian issues, the development of training materials, and, over time, increased sensitivity of command personnel. For the last 20 years, she has been a highly visible advocate for police reform and professionalism, advocating for the responsible treatment and needs of all communities in Chicago.

Mary Powers continues to be an active member and leader in numerous organizations that are active in supporting gay, lesbian, and bisexual civil rights.

In 1987 the State of Illinois accepted Horizons' proposal for the State-wide AIDS Hotline which has received more than 50,000 calls each year from all segments of the community. This is the primary source of information regarding HIV disease and AIDS available throughout the State of Illinois.

These programs provide low or no-cost support services for lesbians and gay men throughout the metropolitan area of Chicago. Together, Horizons' clients create a mosaic of ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic diversity. They come seeking assistance and counsel on issues ranging from sexual identification to learning about intimacy and relationships.

Horizons' programs have changed over the last two decades, but the ceaseless energy and tireless commitment of its volunteers has not. It is this group of over 350 people, along with the dedicated staff and board of directors, that develops and operates the program estimated to have served over 220,000 callers and clients.

Horizons Community Services is committed to providing the gay and lesbian community of Chicago with social services that support the development of healthy and integrated lives, and through education and outreach, confront homophobia and its effects.

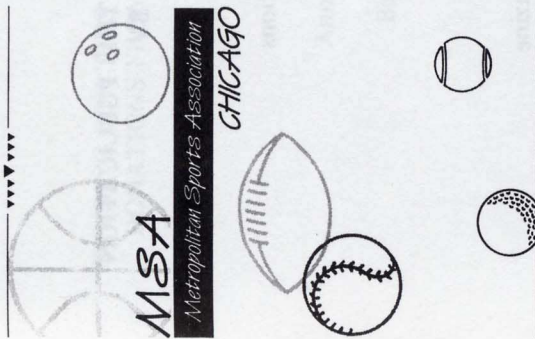
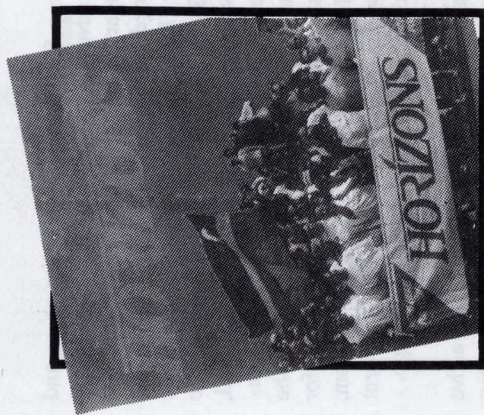
In 1985, with the support of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Horizons Anti-Violence Project was established. It was the first gay and lesbian anti-violence project in the country to be funded by the Federal government. In 1991, over 340 survivors of hate crimes, domestic violence, and anti-lesbian and gay violence were served.

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nearly 20 years ago a handful of concerned lesbians and gay men in Chicago organized a telephone hotline to provide information and support for those in need. This volunteer effort marked the beginning of Horizons, the only gay and lesbian social service agency in the midwest to receive full membership in the United Way of Chicago.

During the past two decades Horizons' mission of outreach to the gay and lesbian community has led to the creation of several programs all of which continue to grow. These programs include: Youth Services, Speakers Service, Legal Services, Group Services, Psychotherapy Services, and a series of Identity Conferences.

Photo: Lee A. Newell II - Design: McKnight Kurland Design



MSA actively sponsors and supports athletic competitions in support of agencies providing services to Chicago's lesbian and gay community. The Athletes Against AIDS program raises funds to assist its members and support community organizations providing services to persons living with HIV disease and AIDS.

Membership in MSA has increased each year of its existence. Current annual membership exceeds 1700 members of the gay and lesbian community equally divided between men and women. MSA is the largest regional lesbian and gay sports association in the country.

In both 1983 and 1984 MSA was named Organization of the Year by *Gay Chicago Magazine*.

METROPOLITAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Metropolitan Sports Association (MSA) was originally formed in 1978 as the Gay Athletic Association and incorporated in 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. Originally the only athletic program was a 16-inch softball league. Since then MSA has expanded its programs to include 11" and 12" softball, basketball, bowling, football, tennis, and volleyball. Each program contains multiple levels of play to accommodate both highly-skilled and competitive athletes as well as lesser-skilled and recreational athletes.

The organizational objectives of MSA, to provide competitive league and recreational activities for gay men and lesbians, is grounded in the recognition of the need to provide positive role models and opportunities to develop good will, understanding, and friendship within Chicago's lesbian and gay community.

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