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STREET WEST

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CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST PROUDLY ANNOUNCES HONOREES FOR THE 2008 LOS ANGELES LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION

LOS ANGELES (May 1, 2008) Every year Christopher Street West recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community by honoring them in a variety of categories that include the arts, community and political involvement, and sports and media publications.

Nominations come directly from the Greater Los Angeles LGBT community to Christopher Street West through advertised channels, outreach and open recommendations for candidates that uphold and demonstrate our commitment to advancing human rights, education, and outreach for LGBT community and celebrating our diversity.

This year's honorees are a distinguished collection of persevering talents whose personal integrity and commitment to truth have increased freedom and equality for everyone.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR - Rita C. Gonzales

Rita C. Gonzales started her activist career in radio, first as host of "Radio GLLU", to its current incarnation of "IMRU". President of GLLU, board member of Connexus and the One National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Women On A Roll, to current chair of Bienestar Health Services, Rita's dedication is endless.

MAN OF THE YEAR - Bill Rosendahl

Bill Rosendahl, from White House appointee to being the first openly gay man on the Los Angeles Council, award-winning broadcaster, war veteran and educator, his is a life dedicated to service. Bill Rosendahl's broad spectrum of community involvement has covered tax reform, newspapers, television, electioneering, gay marriage and equal rights. He leads by Proud example and determined action and is one of the most influential and important voices in the struggle of the LGBT community.

MORRIS KIGHT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Rabbi Denise L. Eger

A brilliant individual who continues to weave a cultural tapestry of spirituality, tradition and activism within our community, Rabbi Denise L. Eger was the first lesbian or gay Rabbi at Beth Chaymin Chadashim and has been the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Koi Ami, West Hollywood's Reform Synagogue, for the past 16 years. Her extensive work includes gay marriage rights, religion, medical research, AIDS services and running the only Jewish HIV support group in the country.

CSW SPECIAL COMMUNITY AWARDS

Alexi Romanoff

From Rebel To Ruler: Alexei Romanoff. His gait has regained its younger stride since the accident that almost cost Avatar President Alexei Romanoff his leg. His longevity is remarkable, a life in leather begun long before Stonewall. Born 1936 in the Ukraine, his family fled when the Nazis invaded. Making their way through Japanese-occupied Manchuria to America, he has joined the circus, the Marine Corps., been a "beat" generation artisan, and a gay bar co-owner whose accidental heroism contributed to today's Pride celebrations. LAPD raids on his bar, New Faces, led to the first ever protest of a bar raid in the country. Battler against the Briggs Initiative, BDSM and sexual educator, Alexei personifies the past as a living voice of history.

Reverend Troy Perry & Mr. Phillip Ray De Blicke

2003 Canadian Newlyweds Reverend Troy Perry and partner Phillip Ray De Blicke are

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awaiting the California Supreme Court decision regarding their right to have their marriage recognized here. Founder of the 43,000 member Metropolitan Community Church, Troy Perry has devoted his life to helping others. Besides serving on the LA County Commission on Human Relations, Rev. Perry was appointed by President Clinton as a delegate to official White House Conferences on Hate Crimes, and yet another on AIDS. Troy Perry and his partner, Phillip Ray De Blicke, share their lives with the world as an inspiration of what is possible when peace, love and acceptance energizes two activist hearts.

Robin Tyler & Diane Olson

Robin Tyler and her partner of 14 years, Diane Olson, became the first lesbian couple to sue for same gender marriage in The California Supreme Court. Before that momentous act, Robin's reach extended back to the '70's, where she became the first openly lesbian or gay comic in any entertainment venue. Producing the Main Stage events for the '79, '87, and '93 Marches on Washington, Robin has intertwined women's music, queer comedy, and internet activism along with her performance career. Robin Tyler and Diane Olson's inspirational talent lead the LGBT community by example.

Marc Chambers

One of the three founders of the Lambda Basketball League in 1990, Marc Chambers is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in sports. Marc has led Long Beach athletes in Gay Games competition around the world, and founded the National Gay Basketball Association in 2003. Building social networks to provide a safe and accepting environment for LGBT athletes, Marc's proven leadership has given rise to a global camaraderie that strengthens our community through sports.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH LEADER AWARD - Dinorah Garcia

Dinorah Garcia is the Director of Mentoring at LifeWorks Mentoring, an organization for youth between the ages of 14-24. Now serving over 500 LGBT youth, Dinorah's efforts, outreach and vision have been an incredible attribute to the success of this remarkable organization. Her unique personality augments the greater Pride movement in the way she is able to generate trust, develop confidence and motivate esteem in the youth of our community.

BERMAN/SCHAFFER AWARD - Masen Davis

Transgender activism is at the forefront of social and political struggles today. Masen Davis, Executive Director of The Transgender Law Center, co-founder of the FTM Alliance of Los Angeles, puts the "T" in LGBT advocacy for an historically marginalized segment of our community. Transgendered health care, immigration, employment, leadership development, local and national governance boards, nothing escapes the purview of this intelligent and talented activist.

GEORGE MOSCONE AWARD - Helen Goss

The actions of a single individual charged with regulating media can either liberate or suppress large segments of the population. Helen Goss is a liberator, a media gatekeeper in charge of the City of West Hollywood's Public Information/Cable Television systems. During her 20 years of service to the City, Helen has become a lawyer and a teacher as well. Her diverse talents serve the greater representation of our community and she exhibits strength through example and equality through action.

HARVEY MILK AWARD - Worthie Meacham aka "MOMMA"

Worthie Meacham as MOMMA is the eternal source of unconditional acceptance many LGBT folk never got at home. An established performer and host, MOMMA is a crowd-favorite emcee on the LA PRIDE WaMu Main Stage. MOMMA has helped almost every AIDS service and Gay Youth organization in Southern California. Worthie Meacham's gracious talent, stunning presence and touching humor makes a difference in countless lives... and he does it in heels.

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PAT PARKER ARTS AWARD - Serafemme (Marquita Thomas, Producer)

Serafemme Queer Women of Color Music Festival was created in 2005 by producer Marquita Thomas. Designed to increase visibility for lesbian and bisexual women of color, with past appearances by Grammy and Tony award winners, Serafemme is an eclectic mix of music, spoken word and comedy. The 2008 festival is slated for August 17 at the West Hollywood Park Baseball field.

MACHA (Odalys Nanin, Producing Artistic Director/President)

MACHA (Mujeres "Women" Advancing Culture, History & Art) Theatre Company is a non-profit organization formed in 2000 to build bridges between the straight and gay communities. Artistic Director Odalys Nanin is one of the most influential Latinas in our community and a motivating force in what one person can do to bring minds and hearts together across cultural divides.

TORIE OSBORN /DICK MICHAELS MEDIA AWARD - Adelante (Pepe Torres, Al Ballesteros & Enrique Romero, Founders)

Pepe Torres, Al Ballesteros and Enrique Romero founded Adelante Magazine in June of 1998 to provide bilingual information to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Latin community. It is a testament to their talent, character and vision in bringing this special publication to life in the extremely competitive and highly saturated market of Los Angeles. Adelante remains committed to mainstreaming the voice of the Latin Gay community.

GRAND MARSHALL - Stephanie Miller

Brains, beauty, and a razor sharp comedic wit make nationally syndicated radio host Stephanie Miller the dazzling Grand Marshall in the LA PRIDE Parade. A veteran radio and television presence, Stephanie Miller brings a lifetime of political awareness to the airwaves. Her father, Republican Congressman William Miller, was Vice Presidential running mate with Senator Barry Goldwater in 1964. A dedicated advocate of Equality and Pride, Stephanie Miller uses her powerful talents to raise national awareness of the LGBT community and their importance in the social fabric of America.

COMMUNITY GRAND MARSHALL - AIDS Life Cycle

Heart pumping, leg cramping, life saving, AIDS Life Cycle arrives victorious as this year's Community Grand Marshall for the 2008 Christopher Street West LA Pride Parade. Thousands of bicycle riders and support staff traverse the 545 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise money for both cities' essential AIDS service centers. The result is millions of dollars raised, hearts filled with joy, and life long memories of what strength in numbers can achieve. Christopher Street West and the LGBT community of California honor AIDS Life Cycle as this year's Community Grand Marshall.

We are tremendously grateful to all Honorees, Grand Marshall's and numerous nominees for their significant achievements and tireless efforts from which so many benefit.

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

The 2008 LA PRIDE Celebration will be June 6-8 in West Hollywood. Please visit the LAPRIDE.org website for more information. Our Agenda: Love. Equality. Pride.

A non-profit organization, Christopher Street West, is a leading partner in the advancement of rights and equality of the LGBT community. Led by professionally driven, volunteer based board members, Christopher Street West produces one of the largest Pride Celebrations in the United States with an expanding global presence reaching millions of people every year.

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