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CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST ANNOUNCES 2006 LA PRIDE HONOREES

LOS ANGELES (May 12, 2006) – Christopher Street West has announced the community honorees for 2006 LA Pride.

“The 2006 Christopher Street West honorees represent a group of dedicated individuals and organizations responsible for having a positive impact on not only the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community, but also the larger global community” stated CSW president Rodney Scott. “We are pleased to be able to recognize these phenomenal individuals and organizations” continued Mr. Scott.

Lorri Jean, who is the CEO of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian center, has been selected as the Woman of the Year. Ms. Jean’s tireless efforts in the LGBT community constantly guide and inspire others to strive for equality. An integral part of her success is working to support those who support equality.

This year’s Man of the Year, Phill Wilson, is the founder and executive director of the Black AIDS Institute. Mr. Wilson’s inspiring leadership as he fights to stop the AIDS pandemic in black communities represent his significant contributions to the LGBT community.

Christopher Street West has selected two individuals, Daphne Dennis and Jasmyne Cannick, and one organization, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, to receive 2006 CSW Special Community Awards. As the Social Services Manager for the City of West Hollywood, Daphne Dennis is a driving factor around imperative health care issues. Her remarkable passion and enthusiasm to help and support people is clearly demonstrated in her efforts to nurture non-profit organizations and engage them as collaborators in quality service provision. Jasmyne Cannick, one of the founding members of the National Black Justice Coalition, inspires others through her social and political commentary addressing topics as varied as race, religion, politics and sex. Through her love of media communication, Jasmyne faces issues head-on such as HIV/AIDS and the “down low.” The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence make a noticeable difference in a fun and innovative way through their involvement with events relating to human rights, political activism and religious intolerance.

Geoffrey Kors, the Executive Director of Equality California, has been selected as the 2006 Harvey Milk Award recipient. Mr. Kors' direct legislative efforts, and smart, strategic and constructive empowerment, have resulted in California having the most comprehensive LGBT civil rights laws in the Nation.

The George Moscone Award is being presented to two individuals, Alice A. Huffman and Dolores Huerta. Alice A. Huffman was the first woman elected president of the California State Conference of the NAACP. Ms. Huffman is a fierce activist who embodies the principal that one cannot be a part of the civil rights movement if we let discriminating behavior exist. Dolores Huerta is the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation for Community Organizing, whose mission is to build active communities working for fair and equal access to healthcare, housing, education, jobs, civic participation and economic resources for disadvantaged communities with an emphasis on women and youth.

Gary Oliphant is being honored with the Sheldon Andelson award for exemplifying unusual strength and outstanding direction as a leader in constant support of the LGBT community. Mr. Oliphant has been directly supportive of the LGBT community and also has worked with Wells Fargo Bank's corporate giving to support deserving LGBT organizations.

The 2006 Torie Osborn/Dick Michaels Media Award is being presented to two outstanding individuals who have made significant impacts with print media - Ella Matthes and Dave Rhodes. Ms. Matthes, the publisher of the Lesbian News, which she purchased in 1995, uses her vast knowledge, expertise and commitment to serve the LGBT community. This commitment extends beyond professional ventures with her work for numerous community organizations. Dave Rhodes is the publisher, editor and owner of The Leather Journal. Mr. Rhodes, who is committed to remembering the past and sharing it with others to further social acceptance, helps build bridges between the LGBT community and their allies.

The Berman/Schaffer Award is being presented to Kathy Watt, Executive Director of the Van Ness Recovery House for her commitment to helping others who face the challenges of addiction. Ms. Watt reminds everyone that we cannot give up on each other no matter what challenges stand in the way

The Connie Norman Award honoree, Karina Samala, is currently President of the Imperial Court of Los Angeles & Hollywood in which she participates, with flair and style, in a wide variety of causes to raise funds. Ms. Samala's involvement with the L.A. Sheriff's Department GLBT Advisory Council and the National Center for Transgender Equality helps her to deliver an insightful message of empowerment.

Bienestar, Hollywood has been selected as a Community Grand Marshall for the organization's efforts to enhance the lives of members of the Latino community living with HIV/AIDS. Bienestar operates ten centers throughout Southern California, addressing issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, women's health and homelessness.

The 2006 Grand Marshall will be announced in May. For more information on the awards, please visit our website, www.lapride.org.

About LA Pride

2006 LA Pride will be the weekend of June 9-11 in West Hollywood. This year's theme is "Our Agenda: Love. Equality. Pride." The festival will take place Saturday, June 10 (noon - 11 p.m.) and Sunday, June 11 (11 a.m. - 10 p.m.). Pre-sale tickets will be available for \$15 and tickets at the gate will be \$20. For information on pre-sale tickets, please visit the LA Pride website (www.lapride.org). The Parade is free to attend and will travel along Santa Monica Blvd. between Crescent Heights Blvd. and Robertson Blvd. on Sunday, June 11 starting at 11 a.m.

About CSW

Christopher Street West Association, Inc. (www.lapride.org) is a non-profit organization within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Greater Los Angeles, committed to supporting human rights, education, outreach and better understanding within the LGBT community and the heterosexual community. CSW produces the annual LA Pride celebration, which draws several hundred thousand attendees to West Hollywood, CA.

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