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CHRISTOPHER
STREET WEST

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CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST PROUDLY ANNOUNCES HONOREES FOR THE 2007 LOS ANGELES LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION

LOS ANGELES (MAY 8, 2007) – Christopher Street West annually recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to community service, political involvement, sports and media publication, and the arts on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

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.

We are tremendously grateful to all Honorees, Grand Marshal's and numerous nominees for their significant achievements and tireless efforts from which so many benefit. Christopher Street West wishes to thank all of the efforts and achievements of those who work for the betterment of the humanity.

Woman of the Year – SUNNIE ROSE BERGER

The Woman of the Year is awarded to an individual who continually is involved in an important undertaking that makes a positive statement for the LGBT community at large.

Sunnie Rose Berger consistently donates her time, talents and personal resources, to support organizations which support individuals living with HIV and AIDS, inspires hope and encouragement to those seeking a happier, healthier and more productive life. Almost a year before the doors of Shanti L.A. were regrettably closed, Sunnie Rose Berger and Ric Parish co-founded The Life Group LA. Sunnie helped raise financial support for The Life Group LA by mortgaging her own home. Sunnie is currently serving as Executive Director of The Life Group L.A. Her involvement in the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Rodeo Association and led to the development of Saddle Up L.A., the first ever AIDS Benefit Horseback Trail Ride.

Special Community Award – MIKEL GERLE

The Special Community Award acknowledges an outstanding person, organization, or business that is identified as deserving special recognition for exceptional service.

With a strong political mind and outstanding personal dedication, Mikel is a highly active member of the community and has been involved in numerous protests such as the AB 101 Marches, the 1993 Million-Man March, and the 2005 Same-Sex Marriage Rally. Mikel continues to lead others to the call of action through example of his personal participation with multiple AIDS marathons, AID for AIDS, Hot and Dry, named title of "Mr. Oil Can Harry's Leather 2007", "Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2007" sponsored by the Los Angeles Leather Coalition and is current training for AIDS Lifecycle.

Special Community Award – THE TWEAKERS PROJECT

THE TWEAKERS PROJECT is a film depicting real stories from real lives in an effort to motivate real change by bringing this silent addiction out of the closet. The courageous and poignant detail to which this dedicated team captures the stories, testimonies and tragic loss of affected community and family members, is creating a dialogue for education and awareness. This subject is being brought to the screen with distribution of this film to be provided at no cost to those who desperately need to see it. Thank you Jimmy Palmieri, Sue Sexton, Yvette Sotelo and participating individuals for the sacrifice and courage it has taken to make this project a reality!

Special Community Award – AT THE BEACH

Since its inception in 1988, when Duane Bremond and a group of friends gathered to enjoy a day "at the beach" on the 4th of July, AT THE BEACH has become the nation's largest recognized Black LGBT Pride Celebration, drawing over 20,000 attendees. ATB is the only event in California to exclusively encourage unity through a pride celebration as a networking forum for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenderd individuals of African descent, to increase awareness in areas such as health, civic and community empowerment. Christopher Street West applauds the remarkable efforts and impressive growth of ATB and the support they bring to the community

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Special Community Award – AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

For almost 25 years, AIDS Project Los Angeles has been caring for people infected and families affected by this devastating disease. AIDS Project Los Angeles provides unique care and services such as founding the APLA Dental Clinic for people with AIDS who were denied services by other dentists, the Necessities of Life Program that distributes more than 12,000 bags of groceries to clients each month, and programs including counseling, drug treatment, medical transportation, home health care, legal, insurance and public benefits issues. Founding members Nancy Cole Sawaya, Matt Redman, Ervin Munro and Max Drew efforts for prevention education, influence on public policy and development of fundraising events has been legendary.

Harvey Milk Award – LOREN OSTROW

The Harvey Milk Award recognizes an individual who gives of himself or herself well beyond the call of duty. This award is dedicated to the memory of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk.

Constantly giving of himself, his time and his resources, Loren Ostrow utilizes his greatest gifts to contribute to the development of major community organizations. He is a giving contributor and works towards the entrusted success of diverse organizations like Kol Ami, the largest synagogue in Los Angeles, the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Beyond actions and services implemented, he is an example of courageous living. He developed a successful career in law at a prestigious downtown law firm, at a time when living as an openly gay man was groundbreaking. His noteworthy actions are an example from which others have been encouraged to embrace themselves and to be out in all aspects of their life.

George Moscone Award – NANCY PELOSI

The George Moscone Award recognizes a non-LGBT individual who furthers human rights and does not shy away from involvement or speaking out on LGBT issues. This award is named for the late mayor of San Francisco, George Moscone.

Nancy Pelosi has represented California's Eighth District in the House of Representatives since 1987 and on January 4, 2007 was elected Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Having long been an advocate for human rights, Pelosi has a proven track record for increasing educational opportunity, protecting workers, promoting health care and focusing on environmental related issues. One of Pelosi's first legislative victories was the creation of the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program. She is a strong advocate and leader for LGBT issues and has worked to accelerate development of an HIV vaccine, abolish the ban on gays and lesbians in the military, expand access to Medicaid for people living with HIV, and increase funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative and other programs vital to people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Sheldon Andelson Award – BOB THOMASINO

The Sheldon Andelson Award recognizes an individual or business that exemplifies non-discriminatory support (financial and otherwise) to the LGBT community. This award is named for Sheldon Anderson, Bank of Los Angeles founder and one of the founders of the Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center.

Any entrepreneur will tell you starting your own business is a feat itself, let alone managing a successful business for twenty-six years as Bob Thomascino has with his venue, Oil Can Harry's in Studio City. Bob has repeatedly opened the doors of his famous establishment to countless charities and deserving organizations including the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association and Contestants, The Los Angeles Leather Collation, Homestead Hospice House, and Tuesday Child. He has taken part in everything from walks, rides, and runs benefiting the fight against HIV and AIDS, breast cancer to disaster relief drives and Tuesday Child. Year after year his support for the largest gathering of the LGBT community in Southern California is greatly appreciated with a beautifully decorated Country Dance Pavilion at the Los Angeles Pride festival.



Berman/Schafer Award – SAMUEL BORELLI

The Berman/Schaffer Award recognizes an individual or organization with a notably positive impression whose vision for the LGBT community inspires self-esteem and builds strategic partnerships. Named for Steve Berman and Ralph Shaffer, who were both active in the Los Angeles Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Community Services Center in the 1970's.

With heartfelt support for issues surrounding the elderly, youth of all ages, transgendered individuals, public safety, community involvement and education, Samuel Borelli truly works to build communities. Currently serving as the Operations Manager for Caring Companions, his tireless efforts to volunteer include serving on the West Hollywood Public Safety Commission, Transgender Task Force, the Sheriff's Gay and Lesbian Conference Committee and over 15 years of developing youth empowerment programs such as GLSEN, Project 10, LifeWorks Mentoring and The Trevor Project where he was recently elected as Vice Chairman. Sam constantly lends a voice to disenfranchised generations and motivates the development of organizations to coexist with the greatest strategic impact on initiating real change for the community and cross partnering between organizations.

Connie Norman Award – MISTRESS CYAN

The Connie Norman Award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding achievement in fostering racial, ethnic, religious and gender unity within the LGBT community. This award is named for transsexual Connie Norman, who fought tirelessly for the rights of people with HIV/AIDS.

For the last seven years, Mistress Cyan's Annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Slave Auctions have raised thousands of dollars in food, supplies, toys, blankets and cash for the needy. In 2005, more than 32,000 people were fed as a result of her efforts. Other fundraising include raising money for AIDS research, Breast Cancer Research, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and children's cancer research. She is the founder and Organizer of DomCom LA and DomCon Atlanta and the owner/operator of Sanctuary in Los Angeles. Her inclusive charity work extends to individual needs, such as raising funds to purchase a prosthetic leg for a woman who lost her leg in an auto accident.

Morris Knight Lifetime Achievement Award – IVY BOTTINI

For over 40 years, Ivy Bottini has vastly contributed to the advancement of rights and equality for the LGBT community across the country. She was a founder of the first chapter of the National Organization for Women in 1966, led the take-over of the Statue of Liberty in 1970, founded AIDS Network (the first AIDS organization in Los Angeles) and founded the Los Angeles Lesbian/Gay Police Advisory Board. She currently serves as co-chair of the City of West Hollywood's Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spearheads work in Partner Abuse, supports the annual Dyke March, lobbies for affordable LGBT senior housing and continues fighting for help for Crystal Meth addicts. Her legacy speaks towards the strength, pride and empowerment for the LGBT community.

Community Grand Marshall – ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

Celebrating 20 years of service, APAIT is a recognized leader among HIV/AIDS service providers that courageously brings unique programming needs to Asians and Pacific Islander living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS. APAIT served approximately 10,000 individuals last year, providing a continuum of health and social services, community leadership and advocacy to the Southern California region. APAIT initiates leading examples for prevention and healing by bringing issues to the forefront and breaking down cultural barriers through public awareness and education. APAIT has also pioneered efforts to support women's programs such as the Coalition to Abolish Sexual Trafficking, Asian Pacific Women's Center and Women Alive!

Grand Marshall – JOHN AMAECHI

Following his professional basketball career, Amaechi expanded his service in the international community working with multiple organizations, including his own ABC Foundation, to nurture and grow youth programs. Devoted to personal excellence, his groundbreaking efforts to empower youth and change public perception of LGBT community, John Amaechi exemplifies the core mission of Christopher Street West to advocate, outreach and celebrate our diverse community. He is the first NBA sports figure to come-out in his recent *New York Times* Best Seller book entitled *Man in the Middle*. After publication, Amaechi's coming out stirred a myriad of reactions from athletes and the media and he emerged as an articulate advocator for human rights, demonstrated in his appointment to national spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign's Coming Out Project. Christopher Street West openly invites the community to extend welcoming support to Amaechi for his courageous coming out, generous outreach work and community service.

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