

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has the great privilege to present awards recognizing the hard work and dedication of colleagues in the LGBT movement. These awards are generously funded by the Paul Anderson Prize Foundation, administered by Allen Schuh; and the International Court System. We thank these funders for lifting up activists who express their passionate commitments to social justice in a variety of important ways.

## **The Susan J. Hyde Activism Award for longevity in the movement.**



**Robyn Ochs** came out to herself as bisexual in 1976 at the age of 18 and she took several years to find her voice. But, since 1982, she has refused to shut up. Robyn is a co-founder of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network (1982) and the Bisexual Resource Center (1985) and the editor of the international anthology *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World*. She has taught gender and sexuality studies as exploited adjunct faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University and Johnson State College. Robyn is a full-time speaker and workshop leader, having spoken thousands of times at hundreds of schools. While not busy reminding folks repeatedly that people occupy ALL points of the sexuality spectrum and that people who identify as bisexual are no less – and no more – trustworthy than people who identify as anything else, she also advocates for transgender rights and marriage equality. Robyn lives in Massachusetts and on May 17th, 2004—the very first day it was legal to do so—she married Peg Preble, her long-time partner. She serves on the Board of Directors of MassEquality and is a dues-paying member of more than a dozen statewide equality groups, as well as a host of other hard-working social justice organizations. Robyn has been attending Creating Change since, well, since it was born.

## **The Leather Leadership Award**



**Graylin K. Thornton** is known as sigma to his leather family and currently resides in San Francisco, CA. A Film/TV graduate of San Jose State University, he served as advisor to the local chapter of Delta Lambda Phi and presented workshops in fundraising at their national caucus. He is one of the original members of the South Bay Leather and Uniform Group (SLUG) and produced their first title contest. In 1991, Graylin produced the first Ebony Leather Contest in San Francisco, which brought the leather lifestyle to more people of color. In 1993, Graylin won the title of Northern California Mr. Drummer and later won the title of International Mr. Drummer, the only person of color to ever hold that title. Mr. Thornton is also the co-chair of San Diego Leather Pride as well as the producer of the Mr. San Diego Leather Contest. Graylin is co-owner of Grey Rose Video Productions and has received several AVN awards for his work in the adult entertainment industry. He has been actively involved with Project Open Hand and is a former board member of New Leaf Services for the Community in San Francisco. A Pantheon of Leather Award recipient, Graylin was a member of the Leather Leadership Committee of San Francisco and went on to serve on the LLC National Board of Directors and more recently the LLC Emeritus Board. Graylin is extremely honored to be recognized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and believes strongly in their mission "to build the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community."

## **The Paul A. Anderson Award for Youth Leadership**



**Lynnette Schweimler** is a peer staff member at Rainbow Alley, The GLBT Center of Colorado youth program. Lynnette has not only been involved with Rainbow Alley on a local level as a youth leader, outreach team member, member of the speakers bureau and paid staff person, but she is also engaged in the LGBT movement on a national level. Lynnette is a member of GLSEN's national youth leadership team, a member of the Creating Change Youth Hospitality subcommittee, a member of Denver's Mosaic Youth Chorus, a planner of the statewide Colorado Queer Youth Summit, presenter at the Cherry Creek Diversity Conference in Denver, and co-presented at the National LGBT Tobacco Control Conference in St. Louis, MO in September, 2008. She has appeared on CNN with Hillary Duff, as well as in the *New York Times* for her work with GLSEN. A senior in high school, Lynnette is already positioned as an effective change agent in the LGBT movement.

## **Empress I Jose Sarria Award for Uncommon Leadership**



**Patty Berne** is a co-founder and director of *Sins Invalid: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility*, a performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and queer and gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized. Berne's background includes advocacy for immigrants who seek asylum due to war and torture; community organizing within the Haitian diaspora; international support work for the Guatemalan democratic movement; work with incarcerated youth toward alternatives to the criminal legal system; advocating for LGBT community and disability rights perspectives within the field of reproductive and genetic technologies; offering mental health support to survivors of violence; and cultural activism to centralize marginalized voices, particularly those of people with disabilities. She is pursuing a Psy.D., focusing on trauma and healing for survivors of interpersonal and state-sponsored violence. She currently chairs the Board of Directors at San Francisco Women Against Rape and is honored to be recognized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.