

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2007 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

cour•age (kur'ij), *n.*

the quality of mind

or spirit that enables

A CELEBRATION OF

C O U R A G E

a person to face difficulty,

danger or pain,

with firmness

and without fear.

NEW YORK CITY • May 1, 2007

SAN FRANCISCO • May 3, 2007

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WELCOME REMARKS

Good evening dear friends,

On behalf of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), we are pleased to welcome you to *A Celebration of Courage*! As an organization dedicated to improving the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people everywhere, IGLHRC takes this annual opportunity to honor the work of an individual or group striving to achieve the same goals in the face of extraordinary challenges. This year, IGLHRC celebrates the work of the Blue Diamond Society (BDS); Sunil Babu Pant, Founder and Director of BDS, is with us to accept the award.

BDS, Nepal's only organization for sexual minorities, has addressed the needs of sexual minorities in the country since 2001 by providing information, advocacy, and resources to men who have sex with men, people living with HIV, and sex workers. Since the king relinquished power to the Nepalese people in April of 2006, BDS has worked with the new government to include basic human rights and protections for sexual minorities in the constitution.

We are happy to have two wonderful women join us as MCs: Tony-nominated performer; Lisa Kron; in New York and acclaimed author Jewelle Gomez in San Francisco. And, a very special thanks to the 2007 *A Celebration of Courage* co-chairs, Jenesha de Rivera, Tim Lane, Todd Larson and Runa Saeki, as well as our hosts for working so hard to gather you here this evening.

As your Honorary Chairs, we look forward to introducing Sunil and presenting him with the Felipa de Souza award. Thank you to all who have contributed to furthering IGLHRC's mission and to making *A Celebration of Courage* a true success. Your ongoing support is invaluable.

We hope that you enjoy tonight's event!

Thank you,



Kavita N. Ramdas
Honorary Chair, San Francisco



Suvir Saran
Honorary Chair, New York

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A CELEBRATION OF **C O U R A G E**

TUESDAY, MAY 1ST PROGRAM (NEW YORK CITY)

6:30 Cocktail Reception

7:15 Award Ceremony

Lisa Kron

MC

Welcome

Todd Larson and Runa Saeki

Event Co-Chairs

Introduction to

A Celebration of Courage 2007

Paula Ettelbrick

Executive Director of IGLHRC

Introduction of Honorary Chair

Suvir Saran

Honorary Chair

Introduction of

2007 Felipa de Souza Award Recipient

FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD

Presented to

Sunil Babu Pant

Blue Diamond Society

by Suvir Saran

Lisa Kron

Closing Remarks

THURSDAY, MAY 3RD PROGRAM (SAN FRANCISCO)

6:30 Cocktail Reception

7:15 Award Ceremony

Jewelle Gomez

MC

Welcome

Jenesha de Rivera and Tim Lane

Event Co-Chairs

Introduction to

A Celebration of Courage 2007

Paula Ettelbrick

Executive Director of IGLHRC

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Introduction of

2007 Felipa de Souza Award Recipient

FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD

Presented to

Sunil Babu Pant

Blue Diamond Society

by Dechen Tsering

Jewelle Gomez

Closing Remarks

ABOUT THE AWARD

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

THE FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD

The Felipa de Souza Award recognizes the courage and activism of grassroots groups and individuals working for the fundamental human rights of all people. The Felipa de Souza Award embodies the spirit and story of Felipa de Souza, who endured persecution and brutality after proudly declaring her intimacy with a woman during a 16th-century inquisition trial in Brazil. Since 1994, IGLHRC has presented the award to inspiring and courageous advocates in the movement to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people everywhere.

Previous Felipa de Souza Awardees:

2006

Rauda Morcos, ASWAT, **Palestinian Activist from Haifa, Israel**

2005

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), **Zimbabwe**

2004

The Gender/Sexuality Rights Association of Taiwan (G/SRAT), **Taiwan**

2003

Lohana Berkins, **Argentina**

2002

Elizabeth Calvet, **Brazil** (Honorary Posthumous Award); Marta Lucia Tamayo Rincon, Marta Lucia Alvarez Giraldo, and Alba Nelly Montoya, **Colombia**; Cui Zi En, **China**; Maher Sabry, **Egypt**

2001

Companions on a Journey and Women's Support Group, **Sri Lanka**; Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays, **Jamaica**; Luis Gauthier (1950-2000), **Chile** (Honorary Posthumous Award)

2000

Dejan Nebrigic (1970-1999), **Serbia** (Honorary Posthumous Award); Ditshwanelo - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, **Botswana**; Intersex Society of North America (ISNA), **USA**; William Hernandez, **El Salvador**

1999

Aung Myo Min, **Burma**; Prudence Mabele, **South Africa**; Kiri Kiri and Chingu Sai, **Korea**; Simon Nkoli (1957-1998) **South Africa** (Honorary Posthumous Award)

1998

Círculo Cultural Gay (CCG), **Mexico**; Dr. Tal Jarus-Hakak, **Israel**; Dédé Oetomo, **Indonesia**; Nancy Cárdenas (1934-1994), **Mexico** (Honorary Posthumous Award); Carlos Jáuregui (1958-1996), **Argentina** (Honorary Posthumous Award)

1997

Demet Demir, **Turkey**; Genc Xhelaj, **Albania**; The Sister Namibia Collective, **Namibia**; Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, **El Salvador** (Honorable Mention)

1996

No Presentation

1995

The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Group (TGLRG), **Australia**; Anjaree, **Thailand**; Luiz Mott, **Brazil**

1994

Juan Pablo Ordoñez, **Colombia**; ABIGALE, **South Africa**; Lepa Mladjenovic, **Belgrade**

2007 FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD RECIPIENT

BLUE DIAMOND SOCIETY SUNIL PANT, PRESIDENT



Blue Diamond Society (BDS) is one of the world's most respected advocacy organizations fighting for the human rights of sexual minorities. Founded in 2001 by Sunil Babu Pant, BDS members have courageously withstood constant hostility and violence from the police and government in order to promote its mission of providing sexual health and HIV/AIDS/STI services and community support for Meta, Kothi, Hijra, gay men, lesbians, bisexual and all sexual minorities in Nepal.

When 39 HIV outreach workers were arrested, BDS successfully campaigned for their release and organized to bring food and medicines to the jails. When a peaceful demonstration against police violence in Kathmandu turned violent, BDS rallied the global community to condemn the police attack. When Metis or other cross-dressing members of the community are targeted, beaten or murdered, BDS forcefully responds. When two lesbians sought BDS' help in developing economic and support programs for lesbians and women who love women, BDS fervently supported them and helped raise funds for their work. By expanding its support network to seven locations outside of Kathmandu, BDS has built a network of more than 300 individuals mobilized to promote sexual rights and HIV awareness throughout Nepal.

Under Sunil's visionary leadership as a human rights defender, BDS has been a prominent voice in the pro-democracy movement challenging the regime of King Gyanendra, under which sexual minorities long suffered persecution. As BDS works with a newly forming civil government and for a constitution fully inclusive of human rights, sexual minorities now face a new challenge from the politically powerful Maoists whose agenda seems to have turned to ridding the country of "social pollutants" including sexual minorities. BDS' constitutional reform work was recently applauded in a speech by Lena Sundth, a Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Felipa nomination letter of Phillippa Jungova Lawson, one of the many that IGLHRC received in support of BDS' nomination for this year's Felipa Award, best puts into context the personal compassion that Sunil and BDS bring to their work:

Besides serving the MSM community, Sunil is a strong supporter for the rights of women, which are often not respected in Nepal. Sunil supports a facility for poor women living with HIV and has worked extensively providing technical assistance, writing proposals, mentoring individuals with groups of women and people living with HIV and drug users in Nepal....I have watched Sunil and BDS help MSM who try to commit suicide in Nepal. BDS has counseled, bathed, treated their wounds and fed them in their facility, educating and encouraging them with hope and laughter. Many times, I have witnessed Sunil and BDS bring the brutality and persecution in Nepal to international attention....BDS not only notified all of us on August 7, 2004 on an attempted murder of a Meti in Kathmandu but also collected money and found a doctor in India and took her to receive treatment so she could continue living."

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission is so very proud to honor and support the incredible leadership of the Blue Diamond Society and Sunil Babu Pant.

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS



KAVITA N. RAMDAS, PRESIDENT AND CEO, GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

Kavita N. Ramdas provides leadership and direction for the largest grantmaking foundation in the world focused exclusively on supporting international women's human rights. During Ramdas' tenure, Global Fund assets have increased from \$6 million to \$21 million. Grantmaking has risen to more than \$7 million per year, and the number of countries in which the Global Fund has made grants has nearly tripled. Ramdas has also overseen the Global Fund's first ever endowment campaign and the creation of the groundbreaking Now or Never Fund to ensure women's participation on critical international issues. She has received the Women of Substance Award from African Women's Development Fund, 2005; Juliette Gordon Low Award, Girl Scouts of America, 2005; Woman of the Year for the Public Sector, Financial Women's Association, 2004; among many others. Kavita is currently on the Boards of Women's Funding Network; Mt. Holyoke Board of Trustees; Ethical Globalization Initiative Human Rights Policy Group; Council of Advisors on Gender Equity to the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University; and Women's Rights Prize Advisory Council of the Gruber Foundation. Kavita is the author of many articles, including, "Nothing Short of a Revolution," *Conscience*, *The Newjournal of Catholic Opinion*, "Feminists and Fundamentalists," *Current History*, "Philanthropy that Funds Transformation," and *Leadership Strategies for Charitable Organizations and Foundations, Inside the Minds*. Ms. Ramdas received her Master of Public Affairs, International Development Studies, at Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.



SUVIR SARAN, CHEF, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TEACHER

Suvir Saran, New Delhi-born chef, teacher and cookbook author, has already become a respected food authority at age 34, and is poised to make a lasting impact in the food industry. Saran established new standards for Indian food in the United States when he teamed up with co-chef Hemant Mathur in 2004 to create the authentic flavors of Indian home cooking at Dévi in Manhattan, which received a one-star rating in the Michelin Guide New York City 2007, three stars from New York Magazine and two stars from The New York Times.

In 2006, he began a partnership with Sodexho, a leading global foodservice company, as its first-ever "International Concept and Brand Development Partner" to work side by side with Sodexho's chefs and operators for culinary training and business development; and bring international foods, flavors and innovative culinary techniques to the workplace.

Author of the widely acclaimed *Indian Home Cooking: A Fresh Introduction to Indian Food, with More Than 150 Recipes* (Clarkson Potter/Publishers), Saran teaches for such culinary centers as Sur La Table, Cooks of Crocus Hill, Apron's at Publix and Institute for Culinary Education; and has been invited to speak at prestigious institutions such as the Culinary Institute of America, NYU Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, and the Smithsonian Institution. He is also a contributing author to Food Arts Magazine. His upcoming cookbook, *American Masala*, will be published by Clarkson Potter in October 2007.

He resides in New York City and in upstate New York, where he has a farm.

MISTRESSES OF CEREMONIES



New York

LISA KRON

Lisa Kron has been writing and performing theater since coming to New York from Michigan in 1984. Her play *Well* opened to critical acclaim on Broadway at the Longacre Theater in March of 2006 and received two Tony nominations. It previously premiered at the Public Theater in Spring 2004 and was listed among the year's best plays by the New York Times, the Associated Press, the Newark Star Ledger, Backstage and the Advocate, followed by an acclaimed run at A.C.T. in San Francisco. Her play *2.5 Minute Ride* premiered at La Jolla Playhouse in 1996 and then in New York at the Public Theater in 1999 and has toured extensively to theaters around the world. It received an OBIE Award, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations, LA Drama-League and GLAAD Media Awards, and was named the best autobiographical show of 1999 by *New York Press*. Kron's other plays include *101 Humiliating Stories* (Drama Desk nomination), and *Martha*, which she co-wrote with and for choreographer/performer Richard Move. Kron is also a founding member of the OBIE-and Bessie Award-winning theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers. Kron is the recipient of the Cal Arts/Alpert Award, grants from the Creative Capital Foundation and New York Foundation for the Arts, and playwriting fellowships from NEA/TCG, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Lucille Lortel Foundation. She teaches playwriting at the Yale Drama School.



San Francisco

JEWELLE GOMEZ

Jewelle Gomez is a writer and activist and the author of the double Lambda Award-winning novel, *The Gilda Stories* as well as *Don't Explain*, *Oral Tradition*, and *Forty Three Septembers*. Her fiction, essays, criticism and poetry have appeared in numerous periodicals, including *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *The Advocate*, *Ms Magazine*, *ESSENCE Magazine* and *Black Scholar*. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts literature fellowship and two California Arts Council fellowships. She is currently on the national advisory boards of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, *Poets & Writers, Inc.*, and the Human Sexuality Archives of Cornell University. She is the former director of the Literature Program and the New York State Council on the Arts and most recently served for three years as executive director of the Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives at San Francisco State University. An early member of the board of the Astraea Foundation, she is currently on the funding board of the Open Meadows Foundation. Her new projects include a comic novel about black activists of the 1960s as they face middle age. She is also working with actor Harry Waters, Jr. and director Arturo Catricala on a collaborative performance piece based on the life of author James Baldwin.

GREETINGS FOR 2007 FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD RECIPIENT

Namaste, Sunil-ji!

Love from Gori Maya Gurung and the BDS Family who named her!

Congratulations, Sunil and each member of the BDS Family! You inspire us!

With love and appreciation,

Gus and Family, David, Kate and Family, Anne and Joby,

Vermont CARES and a host of other Vermont fans!

Congratulations

to Sunil and the
courageous pioneers
of
Blue Diamond Society

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THEN THEY FIGHT YOU,
THEN YOU WIN."**

Mahatma Gandhi

Congratulations to the
Blue Diamond Society for its courage
in working towards human rights
and equality for all.

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in their mission of securing human rights
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for his courage and vision for LGBT people in Nepal.**

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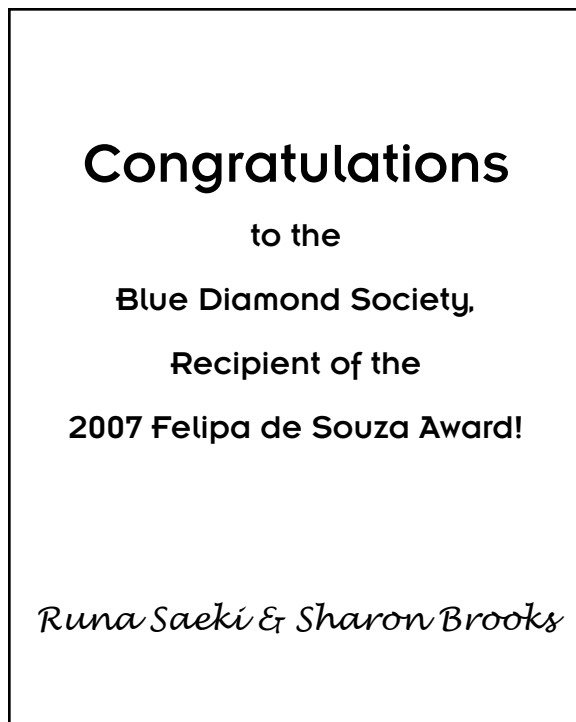
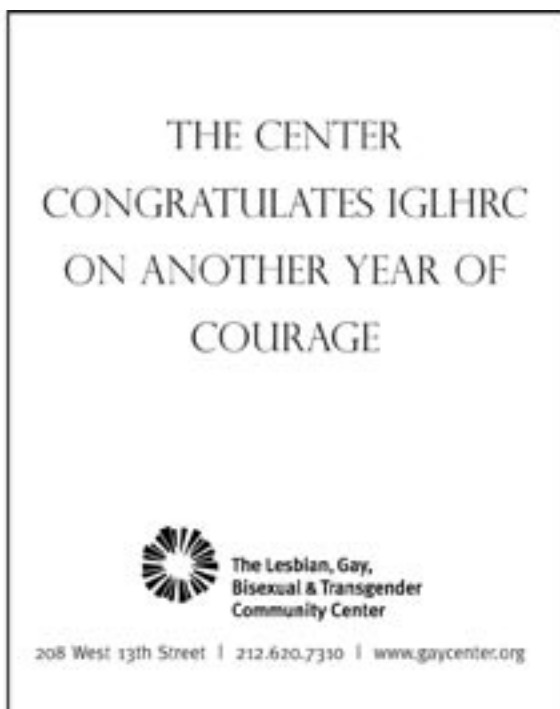
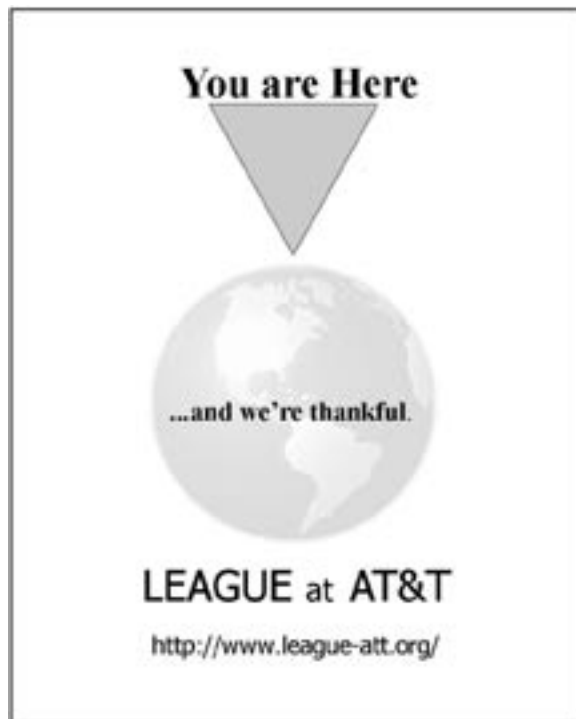
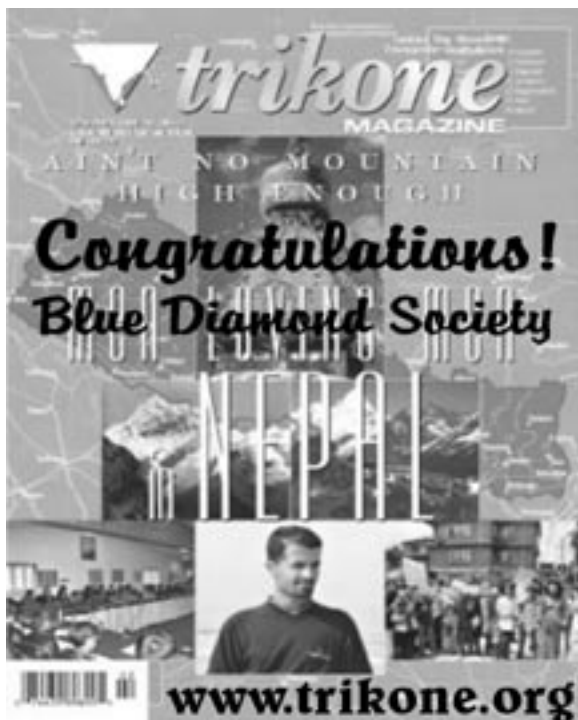
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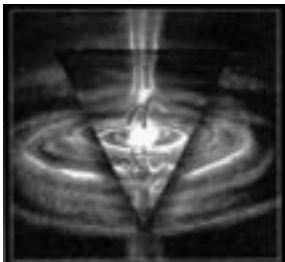


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Lavender Light Gospel Choir
salutes IGLHRC on
17 Years of advocating
for the human rights of
LGBTI people everywhere.

UN-GLOBE, which defends the rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual staff at the United Nations, congratulates Sunil Pant and the Blue Diamond Society, and applauds the courage of those who campaign for the right to be different in all parts of the world.

UN-GLOBE, qui défend les droits des membres gais, lesbiennes et bisexuel(le)s du personnel de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, félicite Sunil Pant et la société Blue Diamond. Nous saluons aussi le courage de ceux qui militent pour le droit à la différence dans toutes les régions du monde.

UN-GLOBE, que defiende los derechos del colectivo de gays, lesbianas y bisexuales que prestan servicios como funcionarios de las Naciones Unidas, felicita a Sunil Pant y la Blue Diamond Society y aplaude el valor demostrado por quienes se batan en pro del derecho a la diferencia en todas las regiones del mundo.



ABOUT IGLHRC



I G L H R C

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is the leading international organization advancing the human rights of all people regardless of their sexual orientation, gender expression and/or HIV Status:

IGLHRC RESPONDS TO HUMAN RIGHTS CRISES

IGLHRC believes in breaking the silence. Through its 8,000 person global Emergency Response Network, IGLHRC exposes and mobilizes responses to egregious human rights violations anywhere in the world – be they police round-ups of gay men, harassment and murders of transgender people, violence against lesbians in their homes and communities, or discrimination against people with HIV.

IGLHRC SUPPORTS LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

IGLHRC believes that local human rights advocacy and change are key to global change for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people everywhere. IGLHRC conducts human rights training sessions around the world to strengthen the capacity of LGBT groups, allies, and individuals to fight for human rights and to document violations. By providing technical assistance, emergency funds, and resources to groups from Argentina to Zimbabwe, IGLHRC contributes significantly to changing laws, practices, and cultural beliefs that promote discrimination and human rights violations against LGBT people.

IGLHRC ADVOCATES FOR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

IGLHRC believes that all human rights entities – from the United Nations to domestic human rights commissions – have an obligation to hold governments accountable for human rights. By providing documentation and reports, coordinating delegations of LGBT activists to speak out in international forums, and building connections between LGBT activists and human rights monitors, IGLHRC contributes to creating greater responsiveness to human rights issues affecting our communities.

IGLHRC PROMOTES SEXUAL RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

IGLHRC believes that sexuality is part of our inherent humanity, and that the right to define one's own sexuality and gender identity is an intrinsic right of each human being. IGLHRC works with women's groups, HIV/AIDS advocates and other allies to promote policies and change practices that infringe on the right of sexuality.



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