



## Fresh Ten Lesbians We Are Thankful For

December 5, 2008

*Across the country this Thursday, many Thanksgiving dinner table conversations will address the traditional holiday topic of things that each family member is grateful for. In looking back over the past year of their lives, many will think about people, accomplishments, pets, events, victories, and even Presidential elections (thank you Obama!) and reflect on how thankful they are for the positive effects these things have had on them. At Cherry Grrl, we would like to take this Thanksgiving to point out The Fresh Ten Lesbians We Are Thankful For. Thanks for all you do ladies!*

**10. Leisha Hailey.** One of the hardest parts about saying goodbye to *The L Word* will undoubtedly be the idea of saying goodbye to Alice Pieszecki – the lovable series regular played by the adorable out lesbian actress, Leisha Hailey. Luckily – and thankfully! – Hailey has signed on to star in the spinoff of the Showtime drama, saving us all from what was sure to be a serious void in lesbian television programming. We are also very thankful to her for returning to music and releasing the creative and original album, *Common Reaction*, with her band, Uh Huh Her.

**9. Jamie Babbit.** Even if she hadn't written and directed the hugely popular lesbian movie of the year, *Itty Bitty Titty Committee*, we would be thanking Babbit for her many other contributions to lesbian film and television. Hardly a day goes by that we aren't thankful for the fact that *But I'm a Cheerleader* was created.

**8. Rea Carey.** As the Executive Director of The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund, Rea Carey works to build the grassroots political power of the LGBT community to win complete equality. We thank her for her leadership and advocacy in working to defeat anti-LGBT ballot initiatives and legislation and pass pro-LGBT legislation and other measures.

**7. Wanda Sykes.** Thank you for coming out recently, Wanda. At a time when our community needed a boost you made an appearance at a Proposition 8 protest, proudly announced that you married your wife, and spoke passionately about our fight for equality.

**6. Ilene Chaiken.** Since 2004, pretty much every lesbian has been thanking the creator, writer, and executive producer of *The L Word*. Thanks for five amazing seasons of the groundbreaking show that we will miss terribly – but remember forever - after Season 6 ends in 2009.

**5. Kate Kendell, Esq.** Executive Director Kate Kendell leads the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education. We thank Kate for her years of work in fighting for our equality and for the key role that she has played in rallying our community during the recent bans enacted on November 4th.

**4. Margaret Cho.** The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund thanked bisexual actress and comedian Margaret Cho for her passionate and vocal LGBT advocacy by giving her a Gay & Lesbian Leadership Award at their ceremony in Washington D.C. in September. We are thanking her by including her in this list.

**3. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin.** Representing lesbians in Congress since 1998, congresswoman Tammy Baldwin is the first, and so far only, openly lesbian woman to win

election to Congress. We thank her for her service, which includes this recent statement made by her in a letter to President-Elect Barak Obama: “In the eyes of the law, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans are not yet equal to their fellow citizens, and simply put, this cannot stand. I ask that you use the power of your office and your confidence in our Constitution to lead us toward full equality.”

**2. Rachel Maddow.** We don’t know how we would have gotten through this election year without the intelligent, witty, and lesbian MSNBC host. Thank you, Rachel, for being such a solid source of information and political commentary on *The Rachel Maddow* show each night.

**1. Suze Orman.** Throughout the economic crisis there has remained one person who can put everything in perspective and help us understand what’s going on with our money and that person is the vibrant and brilliant financial expert Suze Orman. Thank you, Suze, for telling us what we can and can’t afford – and for helping in the attempt to stop Amendment 2 in Florida.