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For Immediate Release: July 5, 2005

Press Contact: Jody Miller/Gina M. Schulman, JLM PR, New York

Tel: 212-431-5227 ~ Fax: 212-431-6818 ~ Email: jody@jlmpr.com

Headquarters Contact: Amy Lotz, AWRT, McLean, VA

Tel: 703-506-3290 ~ Fax: 703-506-3266 ~ Email: alotz@awrt.org

American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) Celebrates 30th Annual Gracie Allen Awards® with Star Studded New York Gala



Host and Honorary Chair
Paula Zahn with Gloria
Steinem



2005 AWRT National
President Chickie Bucco
with Gracie honoree
Susan Lucci



Hip-hop violinist Miri
Ben-Ari



Award recipients: Roz
Abrams and Gayle King

(McLean, VA – July 5, 2005) – The Foundation of American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) hosted its 30th Annual Gracie Allen Awards® with a spectacular evening of celebration at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 and the stars of the industry came out in droves. The Gracie Allen Awards (also known as the Gracies®) recognizes exemplary programming created for women, by women and about women in all facets of electronic media including radio, television, cable and web-based media.

Each year, the Gracies Gala attracts the best and brightest in radio, television, and cable including: Host and Honorary Chair and CNN Anchor **Paula Zahn**, Court TV's **Dominick Dunne**, broadcast journalist **Linda Ellerbee**, *O Magazine's* **Gayle King**, Oxygen Network's **Geraldine Laybourne**, ABC's *All My Children* **Susan Lucci**, who was presented with the Individual Achievement Award for Outstanding Female Lead in A Daytime Drama, CNBC Host and personal finance guru, **Suze Orman** who was presented with the Individual Achievement Award for Outstanding Program Host for *The Suze Orman Show*, Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* culture guru **Jai Rodriguez** and **Gloria Steinem**.

The audience was brought to its feet by two Grammy Award-winning entertainers, Disco Queen, **Gloria Gaynor**, and Hip-Hop Violinist, **Miri Ben-Ari**. Gaynor performed her 1979 classic, "I Will Survive," which was awarded the first Grammy Award for Best Disco Recording in 1980. It remains popular in dance clubs and has appeared on countless movie soundtracks and dance/disco compilations. Grammy Award winner **Miri Ben-Ari**, known as the Hip-Hop Violinist was discovered by Wyclef Jean of The Fugees and has collaborated with Jay-Z and Kanye West, among others.

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Also performing were United States Professional Latin-American Dance Champions, **Tony Meredith** and **Melanie LaPatin**, the choreographers of the dance troupe, "Dance Times Square," who have traveled the world representing the United States in the Professional World Latin American Dance Championships and whose film performances include: *Dance With Me*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Let It Be Me*, and *The Last Days Of Disco*.

This event was made possible through the generous support of our members, title sponsor Dove and the Campaign for Real Beauty and the following additional sponsors: American Legacy Foundation; ABC Radio Networks; Arbitron; CBS News; Clear Channel Radio; CNN; Court TV; Disney-ABC Television Group; Interep; Jones Radio Networks; Katz Media Group; Lifetime Television; NBC News; Oxygen Media; Suze Orman Show; Wal-Mart; WCBS-TV/CBS2; Wyndham Hotels & Resorts; ABC News; Bloomberg; NBC's *The Today Show*, Susquehanna Radio Corp, and WE: Women's Entertainment.

For more information about the Gracie Allen Awards, please visit www.awrt.org.

About AWRT: The year 2001 marked the 50th Anniversary and a golden highlight for American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) Inc., the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing the impact of women in the electronic media and allied fields. Headquartered in the Washington, DC-metropolitan area, AWRT carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource to its members and the industry at large. Founded in 1951, AWRT works to improve the quality of electronic media; promote the entry, development and advancement of women in the media; serve as a medium for communication and idea exchange; and become active in community concerns.

About The Foundation of AWRT: The Foundation of AWRT is the philanthropic arm of American Women in Radio and Television, supporting educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Foundation of AWRT has created partnerships and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, the Emma Bowen Foundation, the American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation of AWRT. The Foundation supports several public service campaigns including most recently *AWRT Empowering America* which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation of AWRT has adopted needy urban middle schools around the country and provided educational donations derived from collateral based on the *Empowering America* program. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs including the Gracie Allen Awards[®], a live, New York-based gala that awards exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.

For more information about AWRT and the Foundation of AWRT, including membership, call its headquarters at (703) 506-3290, or visit its web site at www.awrt.org.

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