

## NYC LGBT Pride March announces 2017 Grand Marshals

*ACLU, Brooke Guinan, Krishna Stone, and Geng Le to helm iconic June 25th March*

New York, NY (April 5, 2017) – NYC Pride announced today its four Grand Marshals scheduled to lead the 48th NYC Pride March on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The **American Civil Liberties Union, Brooke Guinan, Krishna Stone, and Geng Le** will lead this year's critical demonstration of LGBT Pride and protest.

- The **American Civil Liberties Union** has been the United States' uncompromising defender of individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution for nearly 100 years. The ACLU brought its first LGBT rights case in 1936, brought the first case seeking the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in 1970, litigated the Supreme Court cases that took down the Defense of Marriage Act that won marriage equality nationwide, and represented transgender student Gavin Grimm before the Supreme Court.
- **Brooke Guinan** is a 29-year-old trans woman; an advocate, civil servant, firefighter, and native New Yorker. Guinan has been honored by the New York City Comptroller's office, the Public Advocate's office, the Metropolitan Community Church of New York, and the FDNY for her service to the LGBTQ community.
- **Krishna Stone** is the Director of Community Relations at Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC). She originally connected with GMHC in 1986 as a walker in the first annual AIDS Walk New York and became a staff member in 1993. In 2014, Stone received an award from the NYC Health Department for outstanding dedication to combating the spread of HIV.
- **Geng Le** is a leader in the burgeoning movement for LGBT equality in the People's Republic of China. Geng set up one of the earliest gay social websites in China—Danlan.org in 2002. In 2012, he created Blued—a gay men social networking app after quitting his job working as a policeman for 16 years. On World AIDS Day 2016, Geng donated 1 million RMB to China AIDS Fund to support Chinese non-governmental organizations for HIV prevention.

"In the social and political turmoil brought by the current Administration, the ACLU, Brooke, Krishna, and Geng represent the components of what will ultimately be a successful resistance movement," said Julian Sanjivan, NYC Pride March Director. "Our 2017 Grand Marshals are a snapshot of the numerous organizations, individuals, and philanthropists that will lead us through this unprecedented time in our nation."

The 48th NYC Pride March will kick off at noon on June 25, at 5th Avenue and 36th Street in Manhattan. The route proceeds through Midtown on 5th Avenue and ends at Christopher and Greenwich Streets.

NYC Pride's 2017 theme, "We Are Proud," speaks to the LGBT community's unwavering ability to rise and be proud, even while under attack by a hostile political environment.

Registration for the 2017 NYC Pride March is open until May 16, 2017 at [www.nycpride.org](http://www.nycpride.org).

For complete biographies and photos of this year's Grand Marshals, visit: <http://bit.ly/2o3tb8l>.

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# **NYC PRIDE 2017 / JUNE 16-25**

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Heritage of Pride, Inc. is the volunteer-directed organization behind the official NYC Pride roster of events. The 2017 roster will include more than 13 different Pride events for LGBT and allied people of all ages, taking place during the last two weeks of June. Heritage of Pride's mission is to work toward a future without discrimination where all people have equal rights under the law. We do this by producing LGBT Pride events that inspire, educate, commemorate and celebrate our diverse community.

For more information about Heritage of Pride and NYC Pride, including opportunities to volunteer, sponsor, or purchase tickets, visit <http://www.nycpride.org>.