

SF WEEKLY

Thursday April 20, 2017

By: Peter Lawrence Kane

SF Pride Announces 2017 Grand Marshals

The theme, "A Celebration of Diversity," conceals the political orientation of the march and parade.



While Los Angeles decided to scrap its Pride parade in favor of a protest march, **SF Pride** will mark its 47th annual weekend as it usually does, with a celebration and rally (Saturday, June 24 from noon to 6 p.m.) followed by a parade (Sunday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) under the rather anodyne theme of "**A Celebration of Diversity.**"

But today, the organization announced its community grand marshals and Main Stage speakers, and the choices are more pointedly political than the theme suggests. For example, **Maysam Sodagari**, an Iranian-born immigrant who was detained under Trump's failed executive order banning all refugees and nationals born in seven predominantly Muslim countries, will speak on Saturday. And in solidarity with the Women's March, the widely-lauded activist **Cleve Jones** will lead the parade with one of the Community Grand Marshals, Alex U. Inn, and a "resistance contingent" meant to stick it to the Trump Administration and its panoply of anti-LGBT, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Latino, and anti-urban agenda.

Community Grand Marshals

Chris Carnes, Bay Area activist and philanthropist.

Alex U. Inn (Carmen Alex Morrison), an advocate for justice and equality

Amy Sueyoshi, activist, and scholar of queer Asian American history.

Danielle Castro, Project Director of UCSF's Community Based Research for the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Dr. Marcy Adelman, psychotherapist and pioneer in the field of lesbian and gay aging (Lifetime Achievement Grand Marshal)

Meanwhile, the **Heritage of Pride Awards** have been bestowed as well. **Brett Andrews**, the CEO of the HIV legal counseling and employment services nonprofit Positive Resource Center (PRC) has won the **10 Years of Service Award**. The **Pride Freedom Award** has gone to 10-year-old trans advocacy organization **El/La Para TransLatinas**, while SF Pride looked favorably on the 40-year-old **National Center for Lesbian Rights** for its **Pride Community Award**. **Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS)** won the **Gilbert Baker Pride Founder's Award**, named for the recently deceased creator of the rainbow flag.

Individually, human rights activist, refugee, and Board Chair of the Spectra Project **Subhi Nahas** won the **José Julio Sarria History Maker Award**; housing rights organizer and queer Mexican immigrant Maria Zamudio won the **Teddy Wetherington Award**; and "artist," songstylist, and advocate Blackberri won the **Audrey Joseph LGBTQ Entertainment Award**.

See the full list of honorees [here](#) and find out more information about Pride 2017 [here](#).
San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration and Parade: A Celebration of Diversity, Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25, sfpride.org.