

Pride-SWFL, Inc.

PO Box 151966
Cape Coral, FL 33915
PrideSWFL.com



Goldberg Award

At the 2016 Pride event, Pride-SWFL excitedly unveiled its newest endeavor, the Goldberg award. The award was inspired by its namesake, Arlene Goldberg. She was the first recipient of the award and is one of SWFL's most influentially compassionate members of the LGBTQ community.

Arlene Goldberg is a woman of commendable character. Her strength, knowledge and courage are not only an inspiration, but they demonstrate the unwavering ability to stand, in the face of adversity, and fight for equality in some of the most basic of human rights. After walking side by side through all the ups and downs of life, Arlene's wife, companion and partner of 47 years, Carol Goldwasser, passed away. They had commemorated the strength of their love with marriage vows in New York in 2011. However, when Arlene tried to obtain survivor benefits she was denied. As a result, she sued the state of Florida to recognize her New York marriage and won. It is an outcome of her efforts that LGBTQ couples can obtain survivorship benefits in the state of Florida. Arlene continues to work tirelessly for the betterment of the LGBTQ community. She sits on various boards in the local community, including both Visuality and Pride-SWFL. She is frequently a voice for those who have found themselves unheard. She stands beside those who might otherwise be alone. She is an advocate for those in need and a backbone for those who are standing next to her in the fight for justice and equality. Her most recent accomplishment has been to establish an LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, once again using her voice to establish equality in the community.

Arlene emulates love and exemplifies a presence in the community that is worthy of not only commemorating with an award but is a model for others to follow in her footsteps and subsequently receive the award at future Pride events. The Goldberg Award seeks to recognize outstanding individuals that have contributed to the cultural, social and economic fabric of the LGBTQ Community in SW Florida. It shall be awarded to the person who, in the preceding year, has displayed exemplary activity within the LGBTQ community.

The criteria to be considered may include but is not limited to the following:

- The individual's demonstration of overall excellence in solving problems, promoting a nature of understanding and by being a service to others.

- The individual who promotes positive morale through a congenial and supportive attitude.
- The individual's fostering of strong leadership as well as their ability to be a role model for people of all ages inside the LGBTQ community and out.
- The individual who exhibits initiative and creativity as well as enhances the image of the LGBTQ community as a whole.
- The individual's commitment to expanding the diversity and reach of the LGBTQ community; and mentorship of others within the LGBTQ community.
- The individual who values integrity, wisdom and citizenship.
- The individual's presence in the foundation of equality for LGBTQs in the community.

In addition, the following are required qualifications:

- The individual must be 18 years or older.
- The individual must have lived in the greater SWFL area for a minimum of 6 months.
- The individual must be willing to become a member of Pride-SWFL.
- The individual must be willing to attend SWFL Pride held on October 7th to receive their award.
- The individual will be asked to write a short description of contributions and list contacts for two others who can provide character references.
- The individual must have completed and returned the attached form.

Screening and timeline information:

- The board of directors may request an interview with the applicant.
- All applicants will be considered with the utmost of fairness and equality. Final decisions will be made by a unanimous vote from the Pride-SWFL Board of Directors.
- The winning recipient will be announced after all interviews and applications have been reviewed.
- Application forms should be returned in person to a board member or mailed to Pride-SWFL, Inc., PO Box 151966 Cape Coral, FL 33915 postmarked on or before September 1st.

The Goldberg Award thereby seeks to honor the absolute highest levels of achievements of a notable member of the SWFL community. Pride-SWFL is proud to recognize those who give back to the LGBTQ community on a regular basis and is excited to continue the presentation of this award. It is the hope of Pride-SWFL that the Goldberg Award works just as Arlene herself has, bringing attention to the many positive advances and triumphs that can be seen in the SWFL community.

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Goldberg Award Application

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Nominee Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____

If different, preferred nickname or chosen name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____

For what length of time has the nominee been a SWFL resident? _____

Please check yes or no to the following questions:

___ yes ___ no Is the applicant willing to participate in an interview with the Board of Directors?

___ yes ___ no Is the applicant willing to become a member of SWFL-Pride?

___ yes ___ no Is the applicant able to attend SWFL Pride on October 7th?

