

BLOOMFILED

'One Island, One Pride,' fundraiser dinner set for Friday at the Hilton Garden Inn

The "One Island, One Pride" Gala, the annual fundraiser for the Pride Center of Staten Island, is set for Friday at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

For those who aren't aware, The Pride Center serves as Staten Island's LGBT community and services thousands of Staten Islanders each year.

Community leader Lori Weintrob, a professor of history at Wagner College who has devoted her life to fighting prejudices and creating a better community — and an Advance Woman of Achievement in the Class of 2019 — will be honored with the organization's Community Enrichment Award.

Also recognized that evening will be restaurateurs Peter Botros, Laura and Anthony Valois and Philip Farinacci Sr., who will receive the Barbara P. Sullivan LGBTQ Ally Award and Gonzalo Mercado who will be bestowed the "One Island, One Pride Award."

The evening is of special importance this year, inasmuch as 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots when a series of demonstrations by members of the gay (LGBT) community against a police raid took place on the morning of June 2, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan.

The event has been described as the most important breakthrough leading to the gay liberation movement and the continuing fight for LGBT rights in the United States.

For sponsorship opportunities, kindly contact Marcy Carr at mcarr@pridecenterssi.org.

On tap will be dinner, musical entertainment to dance the night way, and drag queens who will serve as emcees for the evening. Festive attire is being requested.

Tickets to the dinner are priced at \$150 per person and may be obtained by visiting pridecenterssi.org/oiop or by phoning 718-808-1360. —*Carol Ann Benanti, benanti@siadvance.com*