

# 2017 Ethnic Heritage Council Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 29th, 2017 | 6 pm – 9 pm  
Centilia Cultural Center at Plaza Maestas, El Centro de la Raza  
1660 S. Roberto Maestas Festival St. Seattle, WA 98144

Cuban music on the plaza by Trovadoro beginning at 5:15pm ♦ Delicious buffet dinner with flavors from south-of-the-border ♦ We'll introduce EHConnect: a new online network of ethnic organizations

Complete the registration form at [www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org](http://www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org)

## Honoring the 2017 Ethnic Heritage Council Awards Recipients



Iraj Khademi



Estela Ortega



Christos Govetas & Ruth Hunter

### Iraj Khademi Co-Recipient, Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award

"Iraj Khademi is the centrifugal force that for 17 years has brought together Persian community members and Persophiles from far beyond Seattle in monthly gatherings of as many as 150 people to preserve Persian poetry, music and dance. He is an important bridge between the University of Washington and the Iranian community, building a legacy of Iranian and Persian speaking cultures in the Pacific Northwest." —Professor Selim Kuru, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington

### Estela Ortega Co-Recipient, Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award

"Estela Ortega's work goes beyond the traditional arts and cultural preservation, documentation and presentation. Her work exemplifies a more complex form of cultural and language preservation through active engagement with immigrants, refugees and bi-cultural Americans. In spearheading development of El Centro's Plaza Roberto Maestas, the Centilia Cultural Center, and two buildings for affordable housing, retail stores, and El Centro's child development program she has met community and city needs." —Dr. Dorothy Cordova, Executive Director, Filipino American National Historical Society, and Maria Batayola Community Health Advocates Collaboration Co-Chair

### Christos Govetas & Ruth Hunter Gordon Ekvall Tracie Memorial Award

"Christos with wife Ruth perform and promote not just Greek music, dance and song but are instrumental in organizing events that highlight all Balkan folk cultures, such as Balkan Night Northwest. They conduct workshops all along the West Coast and work extensively with youth, including the youth of Seattle's Greek Orthodox churches with whom they have toured in Greece. Versatile on a wide variety of traditional instruments they have dedicated themselves to preserving and performing traditional Greek music and have a large collection of instruments and recordings going back to the 1920s. They have toured extensively in the U.S., Canada and Greece. Their two children Eleni and Bobby are now members of the band." —Cheryl Spasojevic, Northwest performer and teacher of Balkan music and dance

