



September 26, 2022

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Ethnic Heritage Council announces 2022 Recipients of Pulakis and Tracie Memorial Awards and Spirit of Liberty Award

The Ethnic Heritage Council of the Pacific Northwest (EHC) is proud to announce this year's award recipients to be honored at the Annual Awards Ceremony & Reception on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 2-5 pm at the MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center, 3201 E. Republication Street, Seattle, 98112. Tickets are \$35.00, available now at www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org

The award recipients represent extraordinary achievements and leadership in the diverse communities of our Puget Sound region. We invite you to read their biographies.

The 2022 EHC Award Recipients





Valeriy Goloborodko

2022 Spirit of Liberty Award

Established in 1986 and given to a naturalized citizen who has made a significant contribution to his or her ethnic community and ethnic heritage, as well as to the community at large.

“For whom shall we be free unless the spirit of liberation eventuates in a spirit of service?”

This is the question asked by Professor Eugene Lemcio of Seattle Pacific University in nominating Valeriy Goloborodko for this award. Lemcio believes the spirit of liberty must be renewed constantly, and this is what naturalized citizens do for us in abundance--especially who come from parts of the world where freedom has been limited, suppressed, or denied. The Constitution of the United States itself commands us to “provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare.” For Lemcio, this is what Valeriy Goloborodko has embodied as an entrepreneur and in his many philanthropic initiatives.

Valeriy Goloborko is Honorary Consul of a country where today liberty is under threat every minute of the day in ways unknown in Europe for almost a century. In this position he straddles both worlds on behalf of grieving Ukrainian Americans and those in desperate need in the homeland. Before coming to the United States he earned academic degrees that prepared him for extraordinary community service. He holds a Master's degree in Law from Shevchenko University and a Management Information Systems and Bachelor's degree from International Christian University. He married in 2006 and at age 24 moved to the United States to start his family. From the first day he stepped onto American soil, he was determined to serve both the people of his ethnic community and the community at large.

In 2009 Valeriy founded Goel Payment Solutions, a company that provides a full spectrum of electronic payment transferring services, serving as president and CEO. He also started the Ukrainian Business Association, which later merged with the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and where Valeriy has served as a board member.

In 2014 Valeriy was appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine as Honorary Consul of Ukraine for Washington and Oregon. Since 2016 he has served on the Advisory Board of the University of Washington Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Also in 2016 Valeriy co-founded the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival in Bellevue, Washington, the biggest Ukrainian cultural event on the west coast of the U.S and Canada. The event is hosted by the Pacific Ukrainian Society, co-founded by Valeriy with other leaders in Washington State's Ukrainian communities. Valeriy is a board member of the newly formed “Friends of Bellevue Cross Cultural Center,” a support group advocating for the future center on the Eastside.

The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine has called for extraordinary service from Valeriy and his fellow Ukrainian Americans in Oregon and Washington. On August 23, 2022 Valeriy was among those honored by President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine in an Order of Merit decree. “This is for our community and leaders I have a privilege to work with,” says Valeriy. “God blessed me with incredible team of coworkers without whom I wouldn’t be able to succeed in the work we are doing.”

See Decree at (<https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/5952022-43765>)

Hon. Consul Valeriy Goloborodko can be reached at valg@uaconsulate.org



Marta Boros Horvath

2022 Spirit of Liberty Award

Established in 1986 and given to a naturalized citizen who has made a significant contribution to his or her ethnic community and ethnic heritage, as well as to the community at large.

Marta Boros Horvath was born in Sopron, Hungary and arrived in Seattle on the Fourth of July in 1966. Her immigration to the United States was a latter result of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. She brought tremendous creativity and energy to Seattle, determined to preserve the Hungarian culture for fellow émigrés and those with Hungarian ancestry, as well as to invite the community at large to experience the rich Hungarian culture.

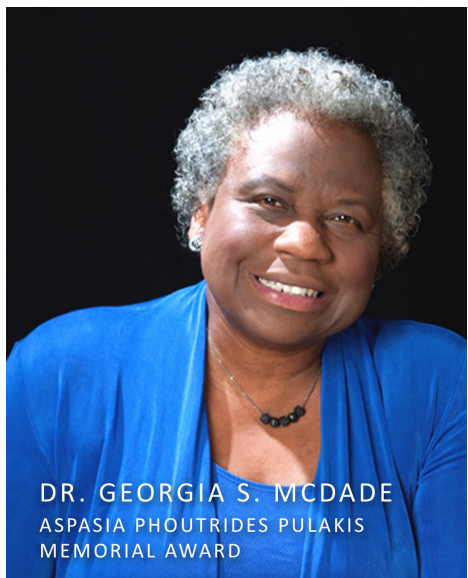
In 1983, she met Sue Isely, an American folk dancer focused on Hungarian traditions. They began publishing *Hirek*, a bilingual newsletter to connect people of Hungarian heritage and those interested in Hungarian culture. By the next year, support had grown enough for the founding of the Hungarian American Association of Washington State. Marta and her committee consulted with Bud Bard, founding president of the Ethnic Heritage Council (EHC), who sent Fred Takeyesu of the Okinawa Club of Washington and Inge Waltz of the Austrian Club of Washington to advise on creating by-laws. This outreach to non-Hungarian communities and the fact that Marta is considered HAAW's "Photographer in Chief" exemplify two goals of the Ethnic Heritage Council mission: to be inclusive and help ethnic communities document their local histories for a more complete record of the people of Washington State. Marta was elected founding president in 1985, keen on forming and strengthening a cohesive community without conflicts and divisions.

She was instrumental in establishing the Hungarian Language School and the dance groups *Betyarok* and *Kisbetyarok*, now *Forgatos* that flourish to this day. Her three children were members of these groups, with one of her sons becoming a professional folk dancer in Hungary and now serving as director of the HAAW dance group. Marta also has taught Hungarian language classes to adults for several years.

In the 1980s HAAW participated in EHC's "EthnicFest" at Northgate, winning best booth prize several years in a row. They also participated in the very popular annual international Christmas programs at the Museum of History & Industry. Marta organized two West Coast teaching tours for Sándor and Böske Timár of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble. These were sessions in various cities teaching dance and choreography to Hungarian and non-Hungarian groups.

Marta has supported local Hungarian religious communities, both Catholic and Reformed, organizing gatherings for them to worship in their own language. She worked until recently as a Hungarian medical and court interpreter for immigrants and has hosted young Hungarians for the Hungarian government's Kőrösi Csoma Program that sends young adults to diaspora communities to help preserve Hungarian culture. Marta became the Northwest representative of the World Club of Hungarians, which annually organized a meeting in Budapest of Hungarians from all over the world. She has served on the board of Seattle-Pécs Sister City Association (SPSCA). Among its activities SPSC brings two students from Hungary annually so they can experience daily life, our form of government and meet with specialists in their fields of interest.

Marta emphasizes that her work and dream couldn't have materialized without the support of many who shared her belief and goal of making Hungarian culture familiar and available to her countrymen and to the larger community of our city and state. Marta can be reached at m.boros.h@gmail.com



Dr. Georgia S. McDade

2022 Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award

Established in 1983 for significant contributions to an ethnic community and to the community at large. The award is named for a revered founding member of EHC who exemplified the organization's mission.

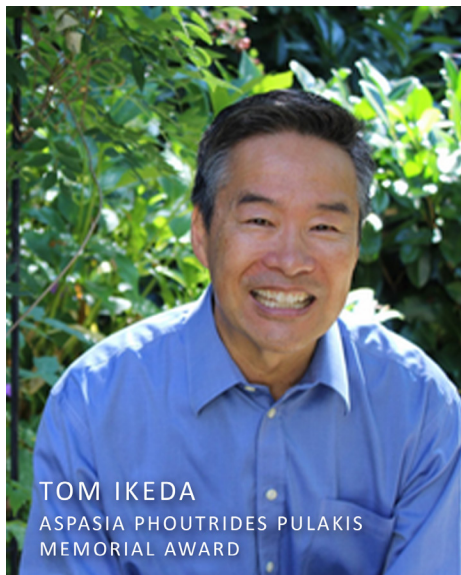
Dr. Georgia McDade's longtime friend Minnie Collins describes Georgia as "still flying", citing the children's book *The People Could FLY: American Black Folktales*. "She is everywhere in the community," says Collins, "asking questions, attending events, and recording diverse perspectives. She is both the warehouse and distribution center across cultures."

This stirring tribute is echoed by Yvonne Carr, Communications Director for Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Seattle, where Dr. McDade has been a member over 40 years. Carr describes Georgia, as educator, poet/author and public speaker, who believes the world can be a better place if we simply treat others the way we want to be treated. Her numerous roles at Mt. Zion, such as Sunday School Superintendent, have all been characterized by Dr. McDade helping her students of all ages dig into the world around them and find out how others live and think. "Come out of your cave," is her clarion call. Participants in her classes and gatherings have gone berry picking, made jam, started Mt. Zion's first garden, visited historic sites and museums, fairs, festivals and restaurants. She wants adults to share similarly with their children. Then keeping with her dedication to the written word, Dr. McDade asks them to write about their experiences.

Georgia Stewart McDade, was born in Louisiana but has lived in Seattle more than half her life. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Southern University, Master of Arts from Atlanta University, and PhD in English from the University of Washington. For thirty years she taught at Tacoma Community College in addition to appointments at Seattle University, the University of Washington, Lakeside School, Renton Technical College, and Zion Preparatory Academy.

Frank Garrett, Academic Vice President (Ret) of Tacoma Community College, English Department says, "The breadth of Dr. McDade's egalitarianism and world view made her an ideal instructor . . . Students didn't just enjoy classroom lectures and discussions. They witnessed live theater and attended symphonies, also visiting historic sites, art galleries, and museums. Every year Dr. McDade organized summer trips to Ashland's Oregon Shakespeare Festival for students, college staff and faculty." Since retirement ten years ago she has stayed in touch with retired faculty and staff, organizing monthly lunches. In gratitude for her service the college named Dr. McDade Commencement Speaker for 2022

As a charter member of the African-American Writers' Alliance (AAWA), McDade began reading her stories in public in 1991. Today AAWA's "Writers Read" program holds monthly readings at the Columbia City Library branch. Dr. McDade is a regular contributor to the *Leschinews* and *South Seattle Emerald*. She can be heard with co-host Jim Cantú twice weekly on their radio show "Hearts and Soul" on KVRU, 105.7 FM. Her published works, include *Travel Tips for Dream Trips*, based on her six-month, solo trip around the world; *Observations and Revelations*, a collection of essays, stories, and sketches; and *Outside the Cave*, four volumes of poetry. Her play *Changing Oil* was produced as part of the Mahogany Project at the We Out Here Festival in 2020. Dr. McDade's wish list includes peace in the world and long, healthy lives for all of us. Dr. McDade can be reached at GSMCDADE@msn.com



Tom Ikeda

2022 Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award

Established in 1983 for significant contributions to an ethnic community and to the community at large. The award is named for a revered founding member of EHC who exemplified the organization's mission.

Tom Ikeda, is the dynamic founder and Executive Director for 27 years of Densho, the Seattle non-profit organization dedicated to documenting the history of injustices to Japanese Americans during WWII, "Densho" is a Japanese word meaning "to pass stories to the next generation."

The driving motivation for Ikeda has been to make this history as accessible as possible to the general public and that it be based on thorough research and extensive interviews. Densho was founded in 1996 to "educate, preserve, collaborate, and inspire action for equity."

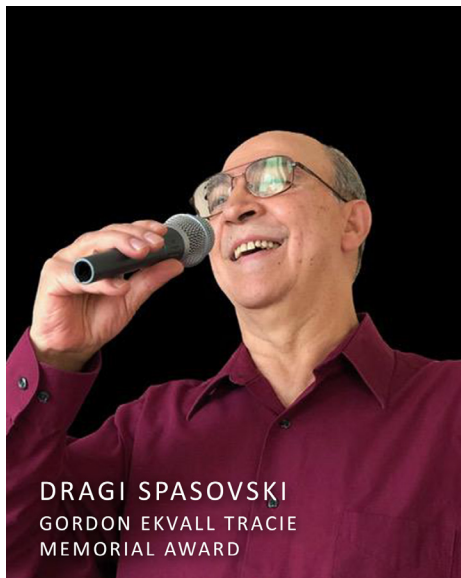
Tom Ikeda grew up in the Rainier Valley and graduated from Franklin High School. He heard stories from his own parents, who were incarcerated for years in the Minidoka Incarceration Camp in Idaho. He has degrees from the University of Washington in chemistry, chemical engineering and business, which led him to employment at IBM and later Microsoft. If chance favors the prepared person, to quote Thomas Edison, then each of these disciplines gave him the tools to create and lead Densho. Chemistry taught him to start with a hypothesis and test it; chemical engineering helped him understand large-scale infrastructure; and his MBA gave him the financial skills for managing a nonprofit organization.

It was while he was at Microsoft that a fellow worker, Scott Oki, who grew up with Tom in Rainier Valley, told Tom he needed to get going on Densho and became a financial partner to make it happen. Time was of the essence to begin oral histories on the elders who had been prisoners in the camps. Schools didn't include this history in the core curriculum. For Tom the priority was to make this information as accessible as possible to young people.

At first it was challenging to convince elders to be interviewed because of fear of exposure and lack of experience with computer technology, but Tom gradually won them over, convincing old and young that one of the greatest things about technology is that it puts history at your fingertips.

Since 1996, the Densho organization has assembled resource materials on Japanese American incarceration into the most extensive collection in the United States and the world. Resources include digital archives and oral histories, an extensive encyclopedia, resources for educators and learners of all ages, interactive maps, and a podcast series. Tom and Densho have received numerous awards for their research and the generous sharing of their knowledge in presentations locally and nationally.

If history is a teacher and a healer, Ikeda and the staff of Densho have not only fulfilled their focus on Japanese American incarceration; they have become key advocates wherever they see similar injustices. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States Tom Ikeda and Densho staff have spoken out publicly and provided extensive related resources and educational materials to promote equity and justice over racism and bigotry. Tom Ikeda can be reached at tom.ikeda@densho.org. The Densho website is www.densho.org.



Dragi Spasovski

2022 Gordon Ekvall Tracie Memorial Award

Established in 1990 for excellence in ethnic performance and leadership in the community in the traditional cultural arts. It is named for a musician and documentarian, who devoted four decades to the study, performance and promotion of Nordic traditional music and dance. The Gordon Ekvall Tracie Music Library is located in the National Nordic Museum of Seattle.

Dragi Spasovski is the foremost performer and master of traditional Macedonian vocal folk music in North America. For those who know his work, he is more than a singer. He is a tradition bearer who learned his singer-mother's entire repertoire and gives deep historical context to all his songs and cultural presentations.

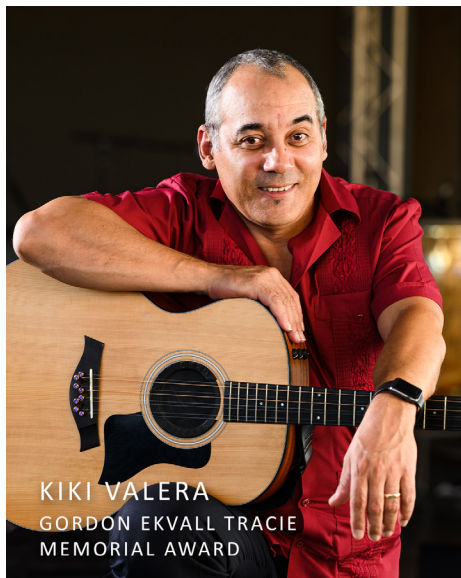
Dragi was born in Skopje, in the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, now known as North Macedonia. His mother, Rajna Spasovska, was a well-known recording artist of traditional folk songs for Radio Skopje and encouraged Dragi to also sing. In 1966, at the age of 18 he made a trial recording with Radio Skopje's Izvoren Orkestar, after which Pece Atanasovski, well known Macedonian musician and dancer, took him to a rehearsal with the folk ensemble Orce Nikolov. It was the beginning of Dragi's remarkable life's journey. He joined the ensemble, performed with them for many years, both singing and dancing.

Dragi spent several years in Seattle in the early 1970s as a student and member of Koleda Balkan Dance and Music Ensemble, the forerunner to the current Radost Folk Ensemble. He returned to Macedonia, married, and completed extensive recordings for the National Radio of Macedonia. Beginning in 1969 he has recorded approximately 150 traditional, city, and *čalgija* songs with Radio Skopje and local bands.

Since returning to Seattle permanently in 2002, Dragi has performed and taught traditional Macedonian music locally and across North America. He performs with many local Balkan music performers and with visiting Macedonian artists. In collaboration with David Bilides, well-known performer and teacher of traditional Balkan folk music, Dragi recorded a set of three CDs of Macedonian music, with an accompanying book that contains the lyrics and notation for all 54 songs. The CDs and book are available at www.izvormusic.com. This project is also being documented in a series of podcasts on the same site. In November, 2014, Dragi presented a jubilee concert in Seattle, "45 Years of Macedonian Folk Song Artistry." Portions of this concert are available on YouTube at youtube.com/izvormusic.

Dragi has been a featured performer at local and national events, such as "Balkan Night NW" in Seattle, "Balkan Music Night" of the Folk Arts Center of New England, and programs of the Croatian American Center in Vancouver, Canada. He has taught singing at events of the Kolo Festival in the San Francisco area; at the camps presented annually by the East European Folk Center on both the east and west coasts; and the Balkanalia camp in the Portland, Oregon area. A virtual collaborative performance during COVID, facilitated by Izvor Music, included musicians and singers from the US, Australia, Italy, Japan and Macedonia. Dragi performs "Sokol mi lelta visoko" from the "World to Macedonia with Love" available for viewing at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWu8iu3woAA&feature=youtu.be

Dragi's vast research and knowledge and respectful manner have made him a musical diplomat in the eyes of his colleagues. In gatherings, such as the international music camps where Dragi has led sessions, he provides safe ground for political issues to be brought up, urging all involved to base their opinions on historical research and respectful listening. Dragi can be reached at spasovskid@yahoo.com



Kiki Valera

2022 Gordon Ekvall Tracie Memorial Award

Established in 1990 for excellence in ethnic performance and leadership in the community in the traditional cultural arts. It is named for a musician and documentarian, who devoted four decades to the study, performance and promotion of Nordic traditional music and dance. The Gordon Ekvall Tracie Music Library is located in the National Nordic Museum of Seattle.

Kiki Valera was born into a family of musicians going back to his great-great grandparents, who meticulously passed on through the generations the “Son” tradition of Cuban music. “Son” is the acoustic roots music that developed in eastern Cuba, where Kiki was born and raised and is the root of modern salsa music.

Kiki studied at the Conservatorio Esteban Salas in Santiago, toured with his famous family, La Familia Valera Miranda, and operated one of the most sought after studios in Santiago. He moved to Seattle in 2013, the year his family were artists-in-residence for the renowned Earshot Jazz Festival. In less than a decade Valera has assured the Northwest that some of the most tantalizing music of the world is here to stay in Seattle, through his performances in concerts, nightclubs, schools, benefit events and every kind of celebration. He is popular on radio shows and on music albums and as a podcast guest.

Kiki received a 4Culture grant in 2018 in which he placed his own compositions into the legacy of “Son” music, releasing “Viviencias en Clave Cubana” (Origin Records) at the 2019 Earshot Jazz Festival in Town Hall. In February 2022 he performed at Town Hall Seattle as part of Earshot’s Global Rhythms series. He was one of three artists chosen to create the live production *Movement* with Meklit Hadero, internationally acclaimed and Seattle-born Ethiopian American singer-composer. The production, in which the four performers told their migration stories, had its world premier at Meany Hall in May 2022. In July 2022, he was awarded his second 4Culture grant to complete his new album *cuaTROmpeta*.

As one of the world’s leading Cuban cuatro players, Kiki has conducted master classes at Cornish College of the Arts, University of Washington, and University of Puget Sound. He directs his local group Kiki Valera y su Son Cubano and has also played with Sonriente, Trovadoro, Mambo Cadillac, Trio Cubay, Clave Gringa and the Savani Latin Jazz Quartet. He was musical director for the large-scale Cuban music retrospective “Soy Cuba” which debuted at the Triple Door in Seattle.

John Gilbreath, Executive Director of Earshot Jazz says, “Kiki Valera brings a purity of cultural expression that is as close to the source as one could find.” Ruth Hunter and Christos Govetas of Dromeno, performers of Balkan music, nominated Kiki for this award and themselves won it in 2017. They love the ambience at Kiki’s performances in smaller venues, where guests mingle and make new friends. “Kiki Valera is more than a musician, he is also the heart of a community. It feels like a family picnic and everyone is invited.” Kiki can be reached at Valera.kiki@gmail.com.

Website: <https://www.kikivalera.com/about>

SAMPLE OF MUSIC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICMQ8HAXC-M>