Who is making history in the Evergreen State?

Washington State Historical Society announces History Awards recipients

Tacoma, WA — Each year, the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) recognizes excellence in advancing the field of history in the Evergreen State with seven special awards focused on writing, teaching, research projects, and understanding cultural diversity. The History Awards will be presented at the Historical Society’s Annual Meeting luncheon in September, held at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. Guests will have the opportunity to meet and hear from some of the distinguished award recipients.

As keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting, Geoff Nunn sports a fascinating job title: NASA Solar System Ambassador and Museum of Flight Adjunct Curator for Space History. Nunn will talk about Washington’s significant role in the Apollo space program. Following the event, guests can further explore their interest in space through A New Moon Rises, a Smithsonian traveling exhibit on view at the museum.

The History Awards and Annual Meeting is a ticketed event, open to the public, and will take place on Saturday, September 21, from 11:30 AM-2:00 PM. To reserve your seats, visit WashingtonHistory.org/events and click Annual Meeting.

The annual History Awards celebrate the women and men whose accomplishments have promoted state history. If you wish to submit a nomination for 2019, contact Allison Campbell, Allison.Campbell@wshs.wa.gov.

2018 History Awards Honorees

Robert Gray Medal:

The Robert Gray Medal is the highest award bestowed by the Washington State Historical Society. It recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions to Pacific Northwest history.

The 2018 award goes to Tom Ikeda, Founding Executive Director of Densho, in recognition of his tireless efforts to preserve and share the history of Japanese American WWII incarceration in Washington State and beyond. As Founding Executive Director of Densho, a Seattle-based nonprofit dedicated to sharing personal stories of Japanese American incarceration, Ikeda has exponentially broadened public awareness of this dark chapter of our history. He has worked to capture first-person perspectives of that history through oral history interviews, photos, letters, and other materials. Tom Ikeda’s extraordinary commitment to activating Japanese American
history through education, arts, storytelling, the Densho Digital Archives, and advocacy, ensures that this knowledge will be kept alive for generations to come.

Charles Gates Memorial Award:

This longstanding award recognizes the most significant achievement among all articles published in Pacific Northwest Quarterly during the previous year.

For 2018, the award goes to two recipients: Andrea Geiger for her article *Haida Gwaii as North Pacific Borderland, Ikeda Mine as Alternative West: 1906-1910* (Fall 2017, Vol. 108 No. 4), and Christopher Foss for *Bringing Home the (Irradiated) Bacon: The Politics of Senator Henry M. Jackson’s support for Nuclear Weapons and Energy during the Cold War* (Winter 2017/18, Vol. 109, No. 1). Andrea Geiger is an associate professor of history at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and the author of the award-winning *Subverting Exclusion: Transpacific encounters with Race, Caste, and Borders, 1885-1928* (2011). Christopher Foss is adjunct professor of history at the University of Portland and Tokyo International University of America. He has published essays in Oregon Historical Quarterly, the History Teacher, and Passport.

John McClelland, Jr. Award:

The John McClelland, Jr. Award is presented for an article or book excerpt that most exhibits the readability and interest sought after by COLUMBIA magazine.


Peace and Friendship Award:

There are two awards annually in this category, presented for work in advancing public understanding of the cultural diversity of the peoples of Washington State.

Phillip H. Red Eagle receives this award for his roles with Carvers Camp and Tribal Canoe Journeys. In his quiet, reserved way, Philip Red Eagle, Dakota and Puget Sound Salish, has become a cross-cultural unifying force, generating broader understanding between Native American, European American and other ethnic groups in Washington State and the North Pacific region. A graduate of the University of Washington with two degrees, and a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, Phillip is a published author, photojournalist, artist, poet, storyteller, teacher and mentor. Philip has worked diligently in the area of cultural resurgence. He worked with Native leader Tom Heidlabough, esteemed elder Emmett Oliver, and many others to grow the impactful and widely-known Tribal Canoe Journeys. He has been part of the Canoe Nations Program, focused on bringing back the traditional carved canoe to the Northwest and for use in the Canoe Journeys. During the past three decades, Canoe Journey has grown from fewer than ten canoes to more than 120 canoes and 10,000 paddlers. As a cultural, heritage and educational program for youth and adults, it has become a model for similar efforts throughout the Pacific Basin.

Also winning the award for their efforts on the history project *Interwoven* are Tessa Campbell and Fred Poyner IV. *Interwoven* is an initiative of the National Nordic Museum focusing on oral
histories of people with blended Indigenous and Scandinavian identity. This ambitious program has collected over 500 stories, run two symposia, and produced two publications and two short films.

Tessa Campbell is presently the Senior Curator at the Hibulb Cultural Center and Natural History Preserve at Tulalip Tribes. Tessa has played a critical role as a partner, panelist, and host in *Interwoven*. Her work on the program began with consulting about developing the initiative, identifying tribes and points of contact, and soliciting participation. As stories were being collected for the project, she worked with Fred Poyner IV and others to develop a symposium schedule. She participated as a panelist for the first symposium in 2018, and as the host for the second installment in 2019. Campbell's contributions to *Interwoven* have been exceptional, defining this important oral history program.

Fred Poyner IV is Collections Manager at the National Nordic Museum. Poyner has provided diligent and progressive leadership to the organization’s collection of over 70,000 objects, including oversight of *Interwoven*. Poyner’s work on *Interwoven* began with the development of an outreach program to identify, establish contact, and orchestrate interviews; these recordings were then preserved for the oral history archive and uploaded to a publicly accessible database on the National Nordic Museum’s website. Poyner also served as staff lead on the two successful *Interwoven* symposiums. He is currently moving the *Interwoven* initiative forward, working with tribes throughout Washington State to record more stories, exploring the potential of a national reach, and bringing further attention to these important and diverse cultures.

**Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching History:**

**Dwight Morgan** of The Heritage Network in Colville, Washington, is the worthy recipient of this award. During his long teaching career at Kettle Falls Elementary School, Dwight was completely dedicated to his students. He provided hands-on experiences for his 4th graders to help them understand the historical significance of the local falls on the Columbia River as a vital salmon fishing site for Native peoples. He taught about the legacy of the trade route centered at Kettle Falls. Now retired from teaching, Dwight Morgan continues to educate visitors at the Kettle Falls Historical Center about the rich history of the area.

**David Douglas Award:**

The David Douglas Award recognizes the significant contribution of an individual or an organization that informs or expands appreciation of Washington State history.

The [Washington State Archives](https://www.archives.wa.gov) and [Washington State Library](https://wsl.wa.gov), housed within the Secretary of State’s office, are presented with this award for 2018. The archivists and librarians worked relentlessly to rescue and preserve artifacts, ephemera, historical documents and more, on behalf of the Aberdeen History Museum, when the museum’s building was destroyed by fire in June, 2018. Secretary of State Kim Wyman swiftly sent the Washington State Archives team to assist in the retrieval and recovery of water soaked photos, negatives, slides, film and tapes. Like the firefighters, the archivists and librarians were working against time—if not properly cleaned and dried, mold growth would cause permanent damage. The entire State Archives team was focused solely on the recovery until every viable item was stabilized. Many of the State Library staff worked side by side with archivists. Still others volunteered to assist when they could get time away from scheduled work. Their reward was solely preserving history for generations to come. As the nominations stated, “these are unsung heroes” of Washington’s history.
R. Lorraine Wojahn Award for outstanding volunteer service advancing the work of the Washington State Historical Society:

Michael Martin is the recipient of this award for his diligent and valuable volunteer work in the marketing department as well as during programs both at the museum and in the community. Martin volunteers weekly and posts the Society’s busy calendar of events on the many publications and organizational calendars around region; as a result of his work, people find out about the Society’s offerings and are able to participate. He has sought additional opportunities, such as tabling at outreach events and public festivals. His natural curiosity and friendly demeanor represent the Society well as he interacts with local businesses while personally distributing posters and rack cards for display. Martin’s professional career is teaching English to non-native speakers, and he has brought several of his classes to the History Museum to share his enthusiasm for learning about Washington. Michael Martin plays a vital role in carrying out the museum’s mission of partnering with our communities to explore how history connects us all.

Please join your Washington State Historical Society in congratulating these individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the field of history in our state. (Link for reservations: https://webformsrig02bo3.blackbaudhosting.com/49882/WSHS-Annual-Meeting)

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About The Washington State Historical Society

The Washington State Historical Society partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all. Washington State Historical Society’s most visible activity, the Washington State History Museum (WSHM) is located in Tacoma’s downtown core along Pacific Avenue among a thriving cultural scene. The museum features permanent exhibitions, unique rotating exhibitions highlighting the Society’s collections, and dynamic traveling exhibitions.

Address: 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402
Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. On the Third Thursday of each month, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM.
Admission: Free for members; Adults $14; seniors (age 65+), students (age 6-17), retired and active duty and military (with ID) $11; free for children 5 and under; family rate $40 (up to two adults and four children under age 18). Patrons with a Washington Quest card or Washington Foster Care license can attend for $1 per person or $2 per family. Admission is free for everyone from 3:00 – 8:00 PM on the Third Thursday of each month.