



# 2019-2020 HISTORY AWARDS

## PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AWARD

### JOANN OLIGARIO AND JEANINE GRECO



The **Peace and Friendship Awards** are presented for work in advancing public understanding of the cultural diversity of the peoples of Washington State.

# Peace and Friendship Awards



**The 2019-2020 Peace and Friendship Award is  
presented to  
Joann Oligario and Jeanine Greco**

There are two awards annually in this category. One is presented to a Native American and the other to a non-Native individual or collaborative for work in advancing public understanding of the cultural diversity of the peoples of Washington State.

**Joann Oligario and Jeanine Greco** jointly receive a Peace and Friendship Award for their collaborative work on the exhibition *Beyond Borders: The Indipino Community of Bainbridge Island* at the Kitsap County Historical Society and Museum in Bremerton, Washington. This exhibition examined the history of marriages between First Nations women and Filipino American men on Bainbridge Island during World War II.

**Randy Lewis** also received a Peace and Friendship Award for his dedication to fostering intercultural dialogue and understanding among communities in Washington.

# Peace and Friendship Award



**Joann Oligario** (Squamish, Sechelt) collaboratively receives this award for her work on the exhibition *Beyond Borders: The Indipino Community of Bainbridge Island*. This was the first museum exhibition in the country to focus on the history of this cultural group.

Joann is a tireless advocate for Indigenous, civil, labor and women's rights and has devoted her life to collecting and documenting the history of her family and others in her Indipino community.

Joann grew up on her family's Bainbridge Island farm and is an historian and elder of the Indipino community. Her willingness to share her lived experiences with others has facilitated cross-cultural fellowship and increased understanding of the historic events that brought the founders of her community together.

Joann joined the Navy and served as a nurse during the Vietnam War. Her story is included in the book *A Different Battle: Stories of Asian Pacific American Veterans*. Her career included work as a radiological technician in area hospitals, taking on additional hours at the VA hospital to serve her fellow veterans.

As an activist, Joann has worked closely with Vi Hilbert, Dorothy and Fred Cordova, and others involved in Seattle labor rights movements. She was instrumental in planning the first "Honor Thy Mother" pow wow, the largest Indigenous gathering on Bainbridge in over 100 years.

Her documentation of Indipino history has fostered further understanding of the convergence of First Nations, Filipino, Japanese, and European cultures in Kitsap County. Her dedication to preserving and sharing this diverse cultural heritage will enrich Kitsap County for countless generations.

# Peace and Friendship Award



**Jeanine Greco** is the curator at the Kitsap History Museum in Bremerton, Washington. She collaboratively receives this award for her work as staff lead and cultural liaison in the research, planning, and design of *Beyond Borders: The Indipino Community of Bainbridge Island*.

Jeanine began her work by meeting with Indipino elders, ensuring that the voices and experiences of the Indipino community were centered throughout the narrative. She acted as facilitator for the story and consulted with elders at every step, building meaningful relationships and trust between communities. Jeanine absorbed the stories and knowledge shared by the elders, organized it, and interpreted it for public education.

*Beyond Borders* was the first museum exhibition in the nation focused solely on the Indipino Community of Bainbridge Island. It drew a record number of visitors and scholars from around the world to learn about the richly diverse cultural groups in Washington State. Jeanine's work resulted in increased understanding of a history that has rarely been studied or publicized.

Jeanine is currently working with Gina Corpuz to create a *Beyond Borders* traveling exhibit. The Wing Luke Museum and the Filipino American National Historical Society have both expressed interest in hosting the exhibition.

Jeanine uses her platform to increase equity and representation in museum exhibitions and collections. She focuses on relationships and truth-telling to encourage healing and reconciliation between museums and historically underrepresented populations.