



Washington State Genealogical Society

1901 S 12th Ave, Union Gap, WA 98903-1256

President's Award for Outstanding Achievement

Created in 2015, the President's Award for Outstanding Achievement is designed to single out that rare individual, society or organization who has demonstrated exemplary service above and beyond expectations. Specific qualities include:

- Exhibited long-term, consistent service in the field of genealogy, family or local history, the genealogical community, records preservation or made an important single contribution in those areas that will endure into the future.
- Demonstrated a high degree of energy, commitment, flexibility, and professional conduct.
- Provided significant support and impact to the local genealogical community time and time again.
- Exhibited personal influence and example to society members and/or the general public with their unselfish service.
- Supported or advanced local or statewide genealogical research.

Year	Awardee and description of achievements	
2015	Fred Pflugrath Over the last dozen years, Fred has single-handedly identified, researched, and documented information on almost 2,500 Civil War veterans from all over Eastern Washington. Much of his research is available at the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society's Library. An index is available online here. Additionally, Fred has taken the extra step to submit the information to the National Grave Registration Project (www.suvcw.org/graves/graves.htm, part of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, SUVCW).	Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
2016	Margie Wilson Margie has been a SVGS board member since 2006. She has been their librarian since 2008 and is currently publicity chair. She has given many educational presentations and has written a successful grant to implement the "Making Connections Through ROOTS Project" from 2012 - 2014. Margie is a member of the City of Burlington Historical Preservation Board, Burlington Certified Local Government Board, Burlington Historical Society, as well as actively participated in a number of local events.	Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
2017	Joanne Egbert Calhoun Joanne, a founding member of the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society, has served on the Board of Directors since its inception in 1971, including	Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society

	two terms as President, and recently retired after 38 years as Treasurer. In addition to researching her own lineages, Joanne has inspired many people in their quest to learn genealogical research skills. She has walked, recorded and indexed several cemeteries in Chelan and Douglas County. Following relocation of the World War I Veterans Memorial Shrine to its current placement at the Wenatchee City Cemetery, Joanne researched and compiled histories for all WWI veterans serving from Chelan and Douglas county. Joanne also completed a subject index for the entire 38-year span of the <i>Appleland Bulletin</i>, the local society's quarterly publication.	
2018	Ann Olson Ann is a founding member of the Olympia Genealogical Society, starting the group 44 years ago. She has served in every board position in the Society; more than once in many cases. In addition, she organizes and teaches a beginning genealogy course at the local library. In addition to her genealogical contributions, she is a docent at the Governor's Mansion; member of the Daughters of the Pioneers, including being president of her local group; registrar of the local Daughters of the American Revolution, where she's been a member for more than 30 years; active in the PTA when her children were growing up, including being state president & national vice president	Olympia Genealogical Society
2019	No awardee	
2020	No awardee	
2021	Helen McGreer Lewis Helen Lewis's final years of service to genealogy and family history were not only unfailing but critical to the success of archives and genealogy groups in Washington state and beyond. She not only volunteered in her local societies including South King County Genealogical Society (SKCGS) and DAR, but also indexed public records for the Washington State Archives as a volunteer for over 25 years. Her work lives on through the Washington State Digital Archives. She authored a number of books for which she gained no income; she assigned the proceeds to the South King County Genealogical Society. In her DAR work, she helped countless others as they worked to solidify their connection to American Patriots. She also served as liaison between the SKCGS and the DAR.	South King County Genealogical Society
2022	Jill Morelli Jill is a self-described member of the "Roots" generation of genealogists. From that spark, Jill has grown into a veritable wildfire of action within the genealogical community at many levels. She is a writer, lecturer and researcher specializing in U.S. Midwestern, Scandinavian and northern German genealogy. She was president (2012 – 2015), then publications director (2017 – 2020) of the Seattle Genealogical Society (SGS). She continues to provide her insights and energy to SGS as past president and co-chair of the SGS 100th anniversary committee. Jill is also program director for the local chapter of the Association for Professional	Seattle Genealogical Society

	Genealogists. On the wider stage of national and international genealogy, Jill lectures nationally and has been successfully published in many journals, including the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and the Swedish American Genealogist. In 2017, Jill founded the highly successful online Certification Discussion Group (CDG) which draws students from all over the globe. She is also a founding partner of the Applied Genealogy Institute, providing online practicum-based education for advanced genealogists.	
2023	Karen Mitchell Karen is a founding and contributing member of CCGS for over 42 years. In that time, she has served as president twice and on the board of directors as Past President. She obtained certification as a school librarian, worked as a librarian for 30 years, and brought her experience and commitment to record preservation and skill to CCGS. The CCGS Research Center, under her leadership, has accumulated over 5,000 items consisting primarily of books. On her initiative, she obtained a rare bookcase that now houses books written before 1910 and have never been reprinted. She has created a lending room where members may check out items of interest.	Clallam County Genealogical Society
2024	Roxanne Ferbrache Lowe Roxanne has been a member of GHGS since 2006. At one of her first meetings, she volunteered to be the newsletter editor and now, more than 100 issues later, she's still the editor. She also served as president from 2019 – 2023, shepherding the society through the COVID-19 pandemic shut-down and transitioning to hybrid meetings. She similarly led the effort to recover from the 2018 devastating fire that destroyed the Aberdeen Museum of History where GHGS's research library was housed. She is currently volunteering at the Museum's warehouse where post-fire artifacts and new donations are being inventoried for a future museum which will also house the GHGS. Roxanne's commitment to the genealogy community doesn't just stay in Grays Harbor. She joined WSGS in 2008 and has served on the WSGS Board of Directors as Recognition and Special Awards Chair and now as Webmaster. She also became an early member of the newly formed Washington Presidents' Council. She has volunteered frequently to make presentations to community groups and help with one-on-one research.	Grays Harbor Genealogical Society
2025	Betty Wiese Betty's contributions to the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society (BIGS) started as soon as she joined BIGS. For the past 15 years, Betty has held various volunteer roles within BIGS, including president, vice-president, treasurer, SIG leader and Treebuilder coach. Betty has a strong passion for education that she brought to BIGS. A particular focus of hers has been to see that their skill building special	Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society

interest groups survive. She created a regular forum for members to discuss issues and learn new skills. She also created a mentors' program that puts a member in touch with another member with the skills or experience needed to help. She has an incredible skill of being able to find the right person for a given task and to get that person to agree to do that task!	
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Betty's work extends beyond BIGS and its members. Not only has she opened up their educational sessions to those outside the area via Zoom, but she has been an active participant in the Washington Presidents' Council since its creation. She was instrumental in arranging for a talk from national speaker Joshua Taylor for the state's genealogical groups about the ways to meet future needs and continue to be relevant.	
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For more information about the President's Award for Outstanding Achievement, click [here](#) or email Info@wasgs.org.