

# Tacoma Accordion Gathering

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023  
1 - 4 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
12115 PARK AVE. SOUTH  
TACOMA, WA 98444

*Celebration of Life for* 

**TOM "MR. FLASH" DEMSKI**  
November 2, 1955 - March 14, 2023



Born to Polish and Croatian parents in Mountlake Terrace Washington, he attended Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle. Following high school he did a number of jobs, including auto repair and furnace installation before repairing accordions at Spano Accordion Center for Rick Spano. He was a brilliant accordion virtuoso, spending as much as 8 hours a day practicing in his youth. That dedication to music prepared him for his career as an accordionist, able to play everything from brilliant technical solos of Dick Contino and Myron Floren to the most heartfelt and emotional pieces. He worked as a soloist at top venues such as Trattoria Mitchelli and the Schnitzelbank and played for 17 years with Ruze Dalmatinke. Tom loved pets, cooking, and cars being a lifelong gearhead known for his Mopar muscle cars and his 1990 Chevy Caprice. His most important person, love and life companion for the last 30 years is Julie Benkovich. Tom's health struggles ended peacefully on March 14, 2023 as he slipped away into the next world.

HELD ON SECOND SUNDAY OF EVEN MONTHS.  
DEC. 10, FEB. 11, 2024 AND APR. 9, 2024

TAG SUPPORTS THE DICK MYKING  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**FIRST HALF:** OPEN MIC.  
12:45 SIGN IN  
ANY EQUIPMENT SET UP BEFORE  
START  
10 MIN. SLOTS  
ALL AGES INVITED TO PLAY  
LATE ARRIVALS AS TIME PERMITS  
M.C. INTRODUCES PERFORMERS

**GUESTS INVITED  
\$5 ADMISSION  
DONATION**

**CONTACT:** LYLE SCHAEFER 253-848-0778  
TOBY HANSON 206-245-8207  
CHARLIE BROWN 253-376-5487

**SECOND HALF:** FEATURED PERFORMER