

LIVHOF Cultural Arts Inductee 2010



VALIA SEISKAYA

Ballet Education &
Scholarship Fund

Founded in 1981

Artistic Director Valia Seiskaya established the BESFI to achieve her vision of a world class dance program with professionally staged performances and financial support for the training of talented young dancers. Retired from her professional ballet career at the National Opera of Greece, Ms. Seiskaya opened her own ballet academy in St. James in 1974.

Since its founding in 1981, over sixty-five young people supported by the Fund's activities have found careers with prominent ballet companies. Hundreds more have benefited through their participation in workshops and with the enhanced training and performance opportunities available through BESFI.

By 2010, the organization had awarded over \$225,000 in scholarships and stipends. Students have regularly won medals and awards at international ballet competitions.

2010 Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame