

MVF

The “Most Valuable Finn Award”

Presented by Vice President Ray Wikman
for the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter’s 2021 Annual Meeting

Judy Gervais Perkiömäki, AKA - also known as and for these aliases: “Troll Mama”, “The Instigator” and “Just Blame Judy”. Her patient spouse: Jukka J. Perkiömäki, DMD. Her understanding adult children: Adam J. and Kaija C. Perkiömäki.

The Scandinavian Heritage Foundation originated in 1989. Together with Ross Fogelquist and Eric Thorin, Judy was soon knee deep in fund raising for a Cultural Center. The organization would later become “Nordic Northwest” and the Cultural Center, “Nordia House”.

Judy was a founding member of FFCPC in 2001. She became its President in 2006 and organized the chapter as an Oregon nonprofit corporation complete with bylaws, a tax identification number, a logo and a banner.

Judy “pitched in” on “the Revitalization of the Finnish Classroom Project” at Portland State University. She learned how to paint its acoustical ceiling. She helped find a way to make donations “Tax Exempt” and raised funds to completely furnish the classroom and make it “spick and span”. The classroom was rededicated in 2009, fifty years after it opened its door. The State of Oregon selected it as “an Oregon Sesquicentennial Project”. The Finlandia Foundation National Board of Directors visited the revitalized classroom, a project FFCPC helped to originate and dedicate in 1959.

Judy helped to reorganize the Pacific Coast Viking Ship Committee in 2011. Then, she located a Viking Ship Parade Float at the Norse Hall in Olympia, Washington and negotiated its sale to the group. The purchase was enabled by selling a trailer originally used when the founders of the Viking Ship group unsuccessfully attempted to build a Viking Ship replica. She helped gift the Viking Ship float and the organization’s assets to Nordic Northwest so the ship can serve the interests of all local Nordic organizations. Consequently, the ship appears at Norse Hall, the Naselle Finnish Festival, the Portland Midsummer, the Portland Starlight Parade, the Astoria Grand Land Parade and at ScanFair representing the Portland’s Nordic community.

Judy has also been an active facilitator of the Lindgren Cabin Project.

Judy was a founding member of the “Troll Society” at Fogelbo, originated as the result of her instigating the removal of the storage shed behind the SHF House when it was about to be torn down to facilitate the building of Nordia House. The Trolls, including “Troll Mama” have improved the Nordia House campus considerably.

Undoubtedly, Judy has been the most active Norwegian in FFCPC. Ironically, it was only a few years ago she joined Norse Hall! Judy was a Most Valuable Finn long before the award originated and her fingerprints can be found on all things Scandinavian.