

## Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance

### Board of Directors Candidate Biographies

January 2023

**Amanda Judd:** Amanda has been a Kirkland resident since 2010 and has lived on Finn Hill since 2019. Professionally, Amanda has spent over 20 years in the behavioral health and human services field working to connect marginalized youth and adults to resources and recovery services. Amanda loves being engaged and involved in her community, particularly in anything that contributes to community-building and helping resident neighbors have a sense of belonging and connection. She has been involved in multiple boards and committees including the Kirkland Park Board, Eastside Pride PNW, Kirkland Downtown Association, Celebrate Kirkland 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Cherokee Community of Puget Sound.

**Bill Blanchard:** Bill moved to Finn Hill from Seattle in 1989 and joined the FHNA Board in the 2013. He and his wife Joanie raised their three children on the hill, where they attended the local schools. He spent 25 years in the advertising industry, creating marketing messages for consumer brands and corporations. In 2007 he joined Windermere in Kirkland as a real estate agent. Bill served on the Kirkland Strategic Housing Committee; he is Chair of the Kirkland Association of Neighborhoods (KAN), which meets monthly with city staff and Council leadership to help shape the future of Kirkland. For 10 years, Bill has represented the neighborhood on the Big Finn Hill Parks Committee. As a FHNA board member, Bill is active on the Green Loop project; he helped secure millions of dollars for land acquisition resulting in over 10 acres of land being set aside for open space and future park land. Bill continues to find and mentor future leaders for Kirkland and Finn Hill as well as continuing to locate and acquire land for future generations.

**Connie Winter:** A resident of Finn Hill since 1980, Connie joined the Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance (DCNA) in 2010 to have a voice in the evolution of DCNA to FHNA. Connie has served as the treasurer of FHNA since 2012 with a brief absence between 2016 and 2018. She is the past treasurer for Inglemoor Co-op Preschool, Finn Hill PTSA, and Juanita Rebels Booster Club. Her FHNA interests include developing a comprehensive communication tool for our neighborhood, developing a cohesive Finn Hill neighborhood, continuing the social and stewardship programs that DCNA ably established, working with City of Kirkland as partners on city-wide and Finn Hill issues, and ensuring standard accounting practices and recordkeeping in regard to the financial aspects of FHNA.

**Ed Hunt:** Ed has lived on top of Finn Hill since 1996 and came to the neighborhood because of the beauty and charm of the local area and the friendliness of the community here. He is married with two children who went to LWSD schools on the hill. Working from home for a small tech company, he is often around the neighborhood. As an engineer, he brings a practical skill set to the FHNA board, including work on DennyFest, which he emcee's. He's interested in promoting alternative technologies for our area (such as solar power and electric vehicles). He's also a keen astronomer under frustratingly cloudy northwest skies.

**Fred Schaffalitzky:** Fred moved to Washington from Switzerland in 2010 and to Holmes Point on Finn Hill in 2013, where he now lives on a steep slope with his four cats. After leaving academia in 2005, Fred worked as an engineer at four large, west coast information-technology companies on projects related to imaging and robotics. His only consistent leisure interests are yard work and hiking, and his focus on the FHNA board is conserving and restoring the urban forests in Finn Hill. Fred has been actively engaged in FHNA's park stewardship projects and in identifying and researching potential parcels and easements for the Finn Hill Green Loop.

**Jaime Lusardo:** A Finn Hill resident since 2009, Jaime lives with her husband, three elementary-aged boys, and English shepherd puppy. Her family chose the Finn Hill neighborhood for its walking routes to schools, numerous beautiful parks, and strong community identity. Jaime has been an active in the community for many years. She's volunteered extensively with FHNA - managing the community booths at both the Kirkland and Juanita Farmers Markets and, pre-pandemic, co-chairing the FHNA Spring Egg Hunt. Professionally, Jaime works as a legal operations consultant. In addition to FHNA, she also volunteers with Kirkland National Little League and Thoreau Elementary PTA. Jaime is passionate about fostering community well-being within the neighborhood - including

improving walkability, growing a sense of community, and caring for shared green spaces. Outside of volunteering Jaime enjoys watching her boys' sporting events, hiking, and listening to a great audible book.

**James Kumin:** James has lived on Finn Hill since fall of 2012 when he arrived to serve as pastor of Inglewood Presbyterian. He grew up in Portland, but then lived in LA County, central New Jersey, and SE Michigan before making it back to the PNW. After college he first worked as a city planner while also launching a non-profit learning center in his Latino immigrant neighborhood; he then became a pastor in a desire to integrate his love for neighborhoods and skills in networking resources across lines that typically divide us from each other. He enjoys walks with his wife, playing with his two kids (ages 13 and 10), laughing at his dog, and ingesting a wide variety of *good* food. He sometimes thinks about kayaking again. His urban planning background and deep connections with Finn Hill community are assets on both policy matters and outreach efforts.

**Jeanette Leach:** When she returned to the Northwest in 2008, Jeanette purchased a home on Finn Hill because she was attracted to its green spaces and extensive footpaths. She can often be found wandering trails in parks with her dog, or leading and participating in work parties to restore the native vegetation. Jeanette has been an FHNA board member since 2013, focusing her energy on trail and park maintenance activities. Jeanette is a King County Parks and Trails Ambassador for Big Finn Hill Park and Juanita Woodlands Park and is also a member of the Friends of Big Finn Hill Park Trails committee. In 2018, she led the implementation of the King County Water Quality Grant that funded the construction of two bridges in Big Finn Hill Park daylighting Denny Creek.

**John Ghilarducci:** John is the President of FCS Group, which provides financial and economic consulting services to city governments in the Northwest (including Kirkland). John and his wife, Denise, have lived on Goat Hill since 2002. They have three children who are or have been students in the Lake Washington School District. For the past 9 years, John has been working with FHNA to expand Juanita Heights Park and to connect the park via a trail to the bottom of Goat Hill. In particular, he has been engaged in fostering support for this project in the Goat Hill community and is focused on completing the trail and developing the Finn Hill Green Loop.

**Scott Morris:** Scott moved to the Homes Point area of Finn Hill in 1997 and became involved in the community's campaign to save the Juanita Woodlands from development in 2000. Shortly thereafter, he joined the board of FHNA's predecessor organization, the Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance, and has served as the President of both DCNA and FHNA for the last 12 years. Scott is the general counsel for a Bellevue-based firm that owns and operates cellular telephone companies located outside the United States.

**Susan Carlson:** Susan and her husband Eric moved to the Seattle area in 2013 after thirty years in Washington, DC, where Susan worked for several national environmental nonprofits and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She and her husband chose to put down roots in Finn Hill because of its beauty, intact natural areas, and trails. Since moving to the Northwest, Susan has been active in several conservation and environmental education initiatives which include playing a central role in the creation of the new Environmental Education and Research Center (EERC) at St. Edward State Park, a partnership between Washington State Parks and the University of Washington Bothell; serving on the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's National Heritage Area's Planning Committee; and leveraging state's first major appropriation for Climate Science Education. She also serves on the boards of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and is looking forward to supporting FHNA in realizing the vision of the Green Loop Campaign.

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### FHNA Project Manager

**Emily Mrowicki:** Emily Mrowicki moved from Florida in 2007, where she fell in love with the Pacific Northwest ecology and history. She then pursued a degree in Environmental Science, focusing on Restoration Ecology from the University of Washington. She worked with a few local non-profits focusing on PNW flora and fauna, helping them with various research projects such as local amphibian populations, plant mapping, and surface water mapping. Now a mother to a 4 year old, she has spent most of her time hiking local areas with her son, and encouraging a similar passion in him to learn PNW plant and fungi identification, stewardship, and respect for the history of this land.