

Remembrance – Caroline Feiss

By George Walter

In our fledgling years in the early 1990's, the Nisqually Land Trust faced a big problem. A property owner named John Meek owned land next to ours and had cut timber on our side of the boundary line. He was even developing a road on our property. Our land had valuable salmon habitat and we were struggling to protect it.

Then one day a note showed up from a supporter named Caroline Feiss. She told us to keep up the fight and sent a \$1000 check, and ultimately we won that battle. What a boost that provided for our little land trust!

A few years later Caroline learned that we did not have anyone to edit our newsletter. She contacted me, saying she had time on her hands and volunteering to step in. She went on to manage our newsletter during the critical years before we had professional staff. And she sent me the message that she was out there and cared.

In recent years Caroline provided, anonymously, very generous matching funds that pushed our fundraising to new heights – our annual dinner and auction now nets over \$100,000 each year because of her financial encouragement.

Caroline Feiss died in March. We will miss her greatly and send our sincere condolences to her life partner, Gordon Davidson. Caroline and Gordie support us in so many ways, from the beginning (they were both Charter Members) until now (we are receiving Memorial Donations in her name).

Caroline was a small person in physical stature who filled a very large place in our community. In remembering Caroline, we are not mourning her passing but rather appreciating that such a person walked this good Earth, and that our paths crossed so many times on this journey to create our Nisqually legacy.