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Trinket Gallien - Citizen of the Year

by *Charity Winters*



Trinket Gallien's name is now among names such as Frank Raby and Susan B. English. How so, you might wonder? Well, along with these and many other outstanding community members, Trinket has also been recognized for her efforts by receiving Seldovia's 2005 Citizen of the Year Award. It's funny to think that the very first of these awards was given the year Trinket was born to Susan B. English herself!

Trinket is a true Seldovian, having spent her entire life growing and changing with this special little town. Her enthusiasm for Seldovia bubbles from her as she talks about what it was like to grow up here as well as raise her three daughters here. She can remember what it was like before "the flats" became Main Street (before all of Main Street's buildings were up, there was nothing on the waterfront – this area was called "the flats"). She remembers when Main Street was first paved when she was 7 years and was able to enjoy one of her first bike rides on the smooth, new pavement. "I loved it!" she exclaims. "Seldovia was a free playground." Trinket graduated with a class of 12 in 1987 from Susan B. English when the school was at its peak with 175 students. She played basketball and volleyball, was on the cheerleading squad, and participated in Project Adventure.

Trinket has been working for the Seldovia Village Tribe for the past 11 years. Now she functions as the Assistant Director, her duties consisting of contract health, enrollment entail, and TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office). She frequently volunteers her time at the school, filling in for absent coaches and other such activities. But Trinket sees these things as nothing special – "That's just a "Mom Thing," she says. She has been the Booster Club President since 2003 and was re-elected to PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) this year for the 10th year in a row. She feels it is important to have a PAC member in Seldovia year-round because she is passionate about being part of the school in ways that help keep Seldovia connected to the outside world

Trinket liked it so much here that she never left. Not even to raise her three daughters, Laurie (18), Naomi (16) and Kristy (14). They have discussed moving several times for various reasons, but they all decided that they liked Seldovia too much to leave. One of her favorite aspects of Seldovia is that, "Everyone takes care of one another! If there were ever an emergency, I know I could ask anyone to watch my kids – and I feel that I would do the same for others." Although, sometimes it "feels like a fight to raise kids here" as Trinket puts it, referring to the battle to keep the school going each year. But it's worth it. And she has never felt that her

kids have ever missed out on any opportunities. In fact, she feels quite the opposite. “They have so much here!” she exclaims. Pottery, swimming lessons, skating, skiing, are just a few of the things she mentioned, along with the many tribal sponsored activities. There have been opportunities to take dance and music lessons and being part of such a small school has pushed the kids to take higher level classes because there is nothing else to choose from!

All in all, Trinket finds that Seldovia is too special of a place to do anything but good things for the community and its people. This alone makes her quite deserving of the Citizen of the Year award. How wonderful it is to see someone who so deeply cares about her community earn such an honor.

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