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### Vivian Rojas - Fully Engaged in Seldovia

by Tamara Blodgett



Born and raised in Whidbey Island, Washington, where her parents still reside, Vivian didn't have any trouble transitioning thirty-three years ago to coastal Seldovia. Bustling, vital and vibrant, the Seldovia of the seventies greeted Vivian and three girlfriends for their summer cannery adventure in rural Alaska. The girls' had choices between canneries in Dutch Harbor, Ketchikan or Seldovia. The choice was obvious and the rest is history. The girlfriends later returned "outside," but Vivian remained. An outdoorsy young woman who loved to mountain hike, snowshoe and cross-country ski, winter was embraced (she says sometimes she wishes it was more "wintry"). When the rare opportunity of time off was afforded her, she would kayak in summer. With mountains as her backdrop, Vivian was very pleased with her new home.

*Non-traditional work is just right for Rojas...*

After her run with working in the canneries, Vivian continued

Salmon below, feeding line at the crucial moment as the "fish lottery" ensues and a "beauty" strikes the line. With a practiced jerk, she expertly reels in her salmon to the beach, hauling line over the tops of companion fishermen to traverse the dusty side of the bank on her way down to net her catch. This wonderful summertime ritual is but one of the glories of living in an organic place like Seldovia, one that Vivian continues to appreciate.

*Kids fly the coop but Vivian is busier than ever...*

Things haven't slowed down one bit for Vivian since her family is grown and gone. Raising her family as a stay-at-home mom whom was heavily involved in volunteer activities ranging from EMT to lifeguard and also as parent helper at Susan B. English. These and other life skills were crucial in securing her present job at SBE, which she has maintained since 1996. She began her work as a tutor for SBE with the Indian Education Program that had a mix of academic and non-academic studies. She has

her interest in exploring new avenues and worked three years during the late seventies on the pipeline. A hiatus to Hawaii in 1977 allowed needed rest and opportunity to buy land. Unfortunately, that was unsuccessful, as much of the land for sale during that time was embroiled in family liens (not fee simple). When that didn't pan out, Vivian, whose "home base" was still Seldovia, decided to buy some land "out-the-road." This parcel eventually yielded a cabin that she and husband John erected in the early eighties. They shared this rural existence with their three children Daewon, Emily and Evan born in 1982, '86 and '88 respectively. Vivian says she has great memories of raising her kids here and feels Seldovia "... embellished her life." Before their family began to blossom however, she and John traveled to Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and even a stint to New Zealand for six months shearing sheep!

The busyness of life carried the couple to town where they lived in a cheerful yellow house nestled in close proximity to the Seldovia Slough. With "fish lust" a huge "problem" here (guilty, as charged) her wonderful location is enviable. Vivian can be seen gracefully standing on the lowest rung of the bridge itself, bent over tautly, line in hand, watching the King

assisted with children that had learning disabilities and continues her tutoring work, serving in a broad capacity at SBE. With a passion for history and desire to fundraise, she is a natural to have facilitated and traveled with the high school students on their annual sojourn to Washington D.C. If this were not enough she is SBE Pool Manager. Her duties are many, which include being in charge of lifeguard, CPR, Water Safety and First Aid Instruction. She also coordinates the pool schedule and special events. Summer heralds the beginning of swim lessons that Vivian is responsible for along with maintaining the pool's delicate balance of chemicals. She has also worked for the Seldovia Village Tribe in a multitude of different capacities and activities that SVT's heavily involved in for the community.

A true spirited Seldovian, Vivian can be seen "huffing it" in zero degree weather in her trusty insulated Extra Tufts around town. Neither sleet, snow nor rain keeps Vivian from enjoying small town life here in Seldovia.