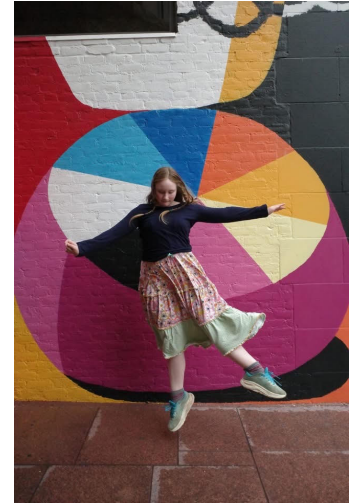


Violet Pearl Norrick

I thought it might be time to assure people that not everyone in Union is retired or has passed on. We do have young people among us. Let me introduce you to Violet Pearl Norrick, born here in 2014. Her parents, Kymberly and Fred Norrick moved to Union fifteen years ago and were married at Alderbrook. I attended the ceremony and remember when Violet was born.



She's a student at Olympia Waldorf School, a nonprofit preschool through 8th grade venue that talks about its approach as *Educating the Whole Child*, "head, heart and hands". When I ask what she most enjoys about school she tells me of Main Lesson, the first 2-hour class of the day. It is taught in thematic blocks and she gives me an example that starts with the history and art of Ancient Rome, then goes on to Pi, Botany and Zoology. Each student creates a book during the year, starting on day one, writing notes about what they learn and making drawings in watercolor, pencil or charcoal to illustrate it. There also are blocks that include art, music and handwork, like needlepoint, quilting and embroidery, all of which she likes. Violet is involved as well in the acting class and its annual performance. Last year the presentation was a puppet show. Violet was its narrator. In previous years, she has been the lead in every play.

This past year she also played several parts in a production of Cinderella, a community-sponsored play presented at Faith Lutheran Church in Shelton. Can you tell that Violet loves acting and music? When I ask about her favorite thing, they are the first words out of her mouth. She plays piano, taught by her grandmother in person and on Zoom, violin and the recorder, learned at school. She listens to music as well, loving everything from jazz to rock to folk to house and admits that although she likes listening to string music, she doesn't really care for playing it. Her favorite musicians are singer-songwriter Courtney Marie Andrews and Skyla Kate, a Union-based singer and guitar player.

To round out the activities that Violet pursues... there's dance, with her participation in classes at the Johansen Olympia Dance Center—ballet, contemporary, acting and coming next year, music theater. She also likes to read and listen to audiobooks. And by the way, she is the co-creator and keeper of the Free Little Library for young people, located across the street from the Union Post Office and Union Deli. Swimming in Hood Canal and at the Alderbrook pool also makes the list, wearing dresses and lots of costumes, and playing with her friend, EverFree Rainbow. Now is that the name of a person you'd like to know? I would!

What else? Violet and I had a brief conversation about something she does that I share in. She calls it imaginative play, pretending you're a fairy in the forest or that you live at the seashore and spend time collecting shells. She says the play gets very detailed, creating a story where she is the primary character. What do I share of this? I have written five novels. They all started with my imagining the plot and the characters as a way to put myself to sleep. It began when I was a teenager, although my writing did not start until I retired. Maybe many of us have this inventive inclination!

Violet just returned from a month-long visit to Iowa, seeing grandparents, aunts and uncles, and playing with her cousins. What's next? School begins again right before Labor Day, dance classes and circus classes will continue, and there will be opportunities for more acting. She's also taking part in the upcoming Washington County 4-H Fair in Elma, entering her Main Lesson Book and other artwork, and hoping to go on to the State Fair. So much to look forward to for this creative, imaginative, accomplished girl. I want to thank Violet for letting me learn more about her!

And... please get in touch with me if you know other young people in Union who might be interested in telling their story through the Sacred Waters newsletter.