

## **1963 Graduate: Joy Broom Leisure**

Joy Broom is a 1963 graduate of Waitsburg High School. Although she spent all of her school years in the Waitsburg School system, she was born in Spokane, Washington, shortly before World War II ended. She, her father (Larry), mother (Roberta Stonecipher Broom) and brother Jeff moved to Waitsburg in the late 1940's. Roberta was a daughter of pioneer settlers of Waitsburg. When Joy attended the Waitsburg School we did not have a middle school. The school system consisted of only grade and high schools and she attended grades 1 through 12 through those years. Joy also had a year of kindergarten from Mrs. Moore. She had an artistic talent that her class and the whole school recognized, one, which was used extensively during her school days in Waitsburg. She was a strong student, one who expressed an early interest in art and drawing in elementary school. Gloria Lawrence, the mother of her girlfriend Suzy Lawrence (class of 1962), was an excellent painter of landscapes and took Joy under her wing. Gloria introduced Joy to the painting of these landscapes in the upper grades of elementary school. However, all through grade school and high school, whenever her class needed some artistic work to be done, Joy was there to assist her class and school. Indeed, in high school, when our class's turn came to stage the Junior Prom, Joy did all of the drawings used for decoration in Preston Hall. These drawings were patterned after the work of the New Yorker artist, John Held Jr. The theme of the prom was the Roaring Twenties and she drew all the figures used for that decoration, at least 20 human sized figures. Joy would do all the outlines of what needed to be painted and her classmates helped in painting the figures.

Upon graduation from Waitsburg High School in 1963 she attended Washington State University, where she majored in Art. During the summer of her sophomore year at WSU, she rented a home in Waitsburg and proceeded to paint full time. People would drop in and see how she was doing, and buy one or more of her works. Upon graduation from WSU, Joy moved to Seattle where she worked in commercial art, moving later to San Francisco to work in the same field. After 5 years in the commercial art field, she wanted to spend more time painting, so she took a summer trip to Europe and came back to WSU to finish her Masters in Fine Arts. While at WSU she further honed her artistic skills and met her future husband, Jerry Leisure, an artist and sculptor. Upon completion of her degree, she and Jerry moved to San Francisco, where she taught art at Diablo Valley College for 30 years. She has educated students there in the enjoyment of art ever since her arrival. During all her time at the college, she has continued to present her work at various Western sites, including back home in Waitsburg. By anyone's assessment, Joy Broom has had a wonderful career, doing what she loved, art.

Joy credits growing up in Waitsburg as one of her strengths as an artist, and her schooling in Waitsburg as a major part of her success. Joy feels lucky to

be a successful artist, one who can be productive into her 90's, if she is still able to hold a pen and a brush. Art for Joy is very compelling and endlessly engaging. Her classmates, friends and people of Waitsburg were and are very proud of her success.

So you can see, no matter what your goal in life may be, Waitsburg and its school system can lead you to that goal. Joy is wonderful example of that statement, so all of you current and future artists in Waitsburg, take notice of Joy's life as a successful artist.

<http://www.joybroom.com>



a



Credit: Roberta Stonecipher Broom, Joy's Mother's writing