

I am Joan. I am a wife—for almost 34 years—to Bob. A mother to Matthew and now mother-in-law to Anna. A sister to Sheila.

I am a reader. I remember the day—lying on the floor waiting for my older sister to read the comics to me—when I realized I could read. As I waited and studied the letters, they drew me in and spoke to me and I spoke them, aloud then silently then faster and faster. Since then I have never stopped reading—fiction, non-fiction, yesterday's classics and tomorrow's, newspapers (*The New York Times* every day, magazines (*The New Yorker* and *The Nation* every week). I am never without a book—I even admit to bringing books to church in case the sermon is boring or the service delayed or too long.

I am a runner. I run almost every morning with my husband. I ran the San Francisco marathon two summers ago and plan to run another next year—maybe in Chicago. I love the way I think when I run—it's the best time for me to plan lessons and to organize my ideas for writing.

I am a traveler: to Tibet and Peru and Thailand and Myanmar and India and Turkey and Guatemala. Next destinations: Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ecuador.

I am a Cal fan--of the campus, the school, the teams, especially this year's basketball team. I love the power of the home crowd in Harman Gym (Hass Pavilion) and I especially love it when, at the end of a hard-fought game, the crowd yells, "You tell the whole DAMN world this is BEAR territory."

I am a film buff. Since I was a little girl, I have loved going to movies and losing myself in the stories played out on the screen. I look forward to vacations when I can see movies in the afternoon in quiet, empty theaters. I love going to movies in foreign countries where the audience becomes like a second movie to me. I have favorite movies—*The Last Picture Show*, *Singing in the Rain*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Apocalypse Now*, *City of God*—and favorite theatres—the Rafael, the Century in Corte Madera, the Albany Twin and the Oaks on Solano.

I am a liberal Catholic and a vegetarian. I am a feminist. I am a doctor now (Ph.D. not MD) but will always be a Ms. I am a progressive Democrat who voted Green in the last state gubernatorial election. I believe almost everything we do is political—thus my sign, "Even your sandwich is political."

I am a teacher. I love the beginning of school—in September and January—when I get to make myself anew. I love the camaraderie I feel with good teachers, the excitement of their ideas and their work ethic. I am passionate about my students taking on identities as readers and writers and thinkers—identities as learners.