



Joan Gillman

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Occupation: Emeritus Faculty, UW-Madison School of Business

Who is Joan Gillman. Great question! I am a mother of two adults, a mother-in-law to the best out-laws out there. I have two men in my life, (other than my son and son-in-law who are taken). Owen is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ and in second grade and Ryan is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ and in kindergarten. They are both avid readers/listeners and have been read to every night since the day they were born. I could spend the rest of this space talking about them. You can put me down as the proud grandmother of the group. I proudly accept the title. And will show you endless pictures at the drop of a hat.

On the professional side I have had an incredible career. I have a bachelors degree from Indiana University in Art Education and Radio and TV. I moved to Madison and had kids and worked part time. I took my GREs with a pencil that said life begins at 40. I got my MBA and went to work for the Small Business Development Center at the School of Business. Two years later I became director. One of my professors asked me

to become Executive Director of the US Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, a national organization of University professors who teach Entrepreneurship, the US affiliate of the International Council for Small Business. This started my love of travel. The ED position started out as a volunteer position but sent me to a national and international meeting each year. This led to my working locally, nationally and internationally. I have had tremendous opportunities, teaching in Hungary, Japan and Saudi Arabia (not bad for a nice Jewish girl) and working with the Open Society to start entrepreneurship centers in Croatia, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

I have been retired for 6 years, but seem to be busier than ever. I kept my favorite client so work about 2 weeks a year. I do a little work with family businesses for coffee and volunteer with the zoo and library. I love gardening and help my daughter with her garden and work with the landscape committee for my condo. I currently have a grant thru UW Extension, Wisconsin Leadership to take you to Croatia. Doesn't feel much like retirement, but definitely a fun life.