



Joy Fitch Larson

October 26, 1923 - January 19, 2012

Joy Fitch Larson, 88, of Santa Barbara, died January 19, 2012 in Santa Barbara after a short illness.

Joy was born October 26, 1923 on her grandfather's farm near Atlanta, Nebraska, the daughter of Arthur and Myrtle Fitch. The family moved to Monrovia, CA when she was a year old. When she was nine, they moved to North Platte, Nebraska, and later to Goodman, Missouri where she attended High School and graduated at age 16. She then attended Chillicothe Business College in Chillicothe, Missouri where she broke the college's records for speed typing. On graduation she was hired by H.T. Poindexter & Sons in Kansas City, Missouri, and later became the Secretary to the President of the company.

On New Year's Day, 1944, Joy married Rev. E. Arthur Larson, Jr. a young minister of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Later that year the couple was appointed as Youth Directors for the Midwest District, headquartered in Denver, Co. In 1950 they were chosen as Youth and Education Directors for the Southern California District and lived in Echo Park and La Crescenta. In 1954 Rev. Larson became the pastor of the Santa Barbara Foursquare Church.

In 1959, her husband switched vocations, becoming a Building Contractor, and Joy started working for Luria Development Company of Santa Barbara.

She retired after working as Eli Luria's secretary for approximately 30 years.

Joy was an avid reader, a talented pianist and accompanist, artist and writer. She had the patience of a saint. She had several religious plays published, and a Daily Devotions book, "Soaring: Helps for Higher Living." She was the Governor of the Santa Barbara Colony of the Mayflower Society from 1979 – 1982. She and her husband loved to travel, taking many cross-country trips and several excursions to other countries.

Survivors include her husband of 68 years, Edwin Arthur Larson Jr. of Santa Barbara, daughter Arthea Joy Larson of Pasadena and sister, Olive Elaine Vinzant of Moline, Illinois, a niece, three nephews and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her son, John Thomas Larson, sister, Genevieve Fitch, and brother, John DeWitt Fitch.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 28th at the Welch-Ryce-Haider mortuary, 15 East Sola Street at 1 p.m. To send online condolences, visit wrhsb.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel or Christian School of Santa Barbara.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 28. 1:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown

15 E. Sola St.

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(805) 965-5145

info@wrhsb.com

<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Tribute Wall

AD

“ Your mom, my aunt Joy, was a special woman with an extraordinary heart and beautiful soul. A patient and loving woman who raised two beautiful and smart children, and was a wonderfully supportive wife to Uncle Art. (I think God brought them together so she could keep him under control!) I remember Aunt Joy's impeccable grammar and ability to write anything, and oddly, I remember how fast she typed on her Selectric!! When I was a junior in high-school, I was visiting my cousin Janice (on my dad's side) and I went to stay overnight with Aunt Joy and Uncle Art as well. Auntie had to work the next day and she took me with her until my cousin could pick me up. I was so impressed with her professionalism and ability to multi-task (something we take for granted now, but wasn't so common back then). She always shared family stories with me about Grandma Larson and your brother Tom, and many others as well. She was a talented woman who played the piano just beautifully and taught me new songs (on the harpsichord your dad made as well). She will be missed. I know she is with Jesus and her eternity has just begun. Her life has always been, and will continue to be, good. You're an extraordinary daughter and there's a special place in Heaven for wonderful people like you.

Alisa deVera - January 29, 2012 at 01:48 PM

CO

“ Joy was such a joy to have as a friend. She always greeted me with a huge smile and an encouraging remark as she did with everyone at Bethany Church. She once wrote a poem about and for me that I shall always cherish. We loved her and love Art too.

*With love and sympathy,
Chiyo Oshiro*

Chiyo Oshiro - January 25, 2012 at 12:11 PM

MM

“ *LOved how she supported Arthea by sending up newspaper and library research during college..I learned form the best and think of her every time I do the same for my college girl!! No one can forget her beautiful musical harpsichord talent!! :) Fondly, Mary Marshall*



Mary A. Marshall - January 23, 2012 at 04:33 PM

RP

Although I only spent time with your mother a few times, many years ago, I have wonderful memories of what a beautiful and gracious person she was. She is at peace now. May you too be at peace.

Randy

Randy Parent - January 23, 2012 at 06:49 PM