



## JOHN BEALEY

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A few months prior to graduation I realized I wanted to get a college degree and quickly gained admission to Willamette working two jobs to pay tuition and barely squeaking thru my first year as a physics major. I transferred to OCE where tuition was affordable and enrolled in summer school to improve my grades along with, Design, Calligraphy, and Color Photography for Biologists; I met Chris. I married her a year later, a biology major, and had my first son, Sean.

Stayed a physics major through my third year until I relented and became an art ed. major, vowing never to teach. Probably would have become a physicist if it weren't for calculus. Well, prior to graduation we intern taught as a couple, in Barrow, Alaska and were then offered jobs, but didn't accept.

Coming back to Oregon I worked as a research instructor at Teaching Research for a couple of years until a 2-teacher school on Spruce Island, Alaska needed a replacement couple and we quested the adventure and teaching experience. We interviewed on the phone and were accepted and stayed for the next five years in Ouzinkie.

I learned the native ways of food gathering, hunting, and fishing, planning to return after a couple of years to the college and continue with program evaluation after teaching public school. The return didn't happen for 25 years. I became an art teacher and native studies advocate. We travelled to the South Pacific for a year on a leave-of-absence, following the Maori Culture and their carving styles with my second wife, second son and 1st daughter.

We returned to Alaska and I resumed teaching art and retired to Oregon in 1993, to Bandon by the Sea, to remarry a third time. Four children now and a mate that wants to stay with me and knows what she wants. We live on a tree farm/organic gardens and orchard three miles inland from the Pacific Ocean.

Retirement was boring so I started a health food store, Mothers' Natural Grocery, which is still very popular. Selling sunflower seeds got old and teaching called back to me and I went back to teaching high school art for the next 15 years, refocusing a year ago and admitting I was old enough to nearly retire. So, I am making art in my Riverside Studio; painting, sculpting, pottery, and conducting classes. I've been Very Happy with lots of variety and enjoyed the perspective gained from the 50 year reunion.

