



FRIDAY FOLLIES

May 15 & 22, 2009

Hey!

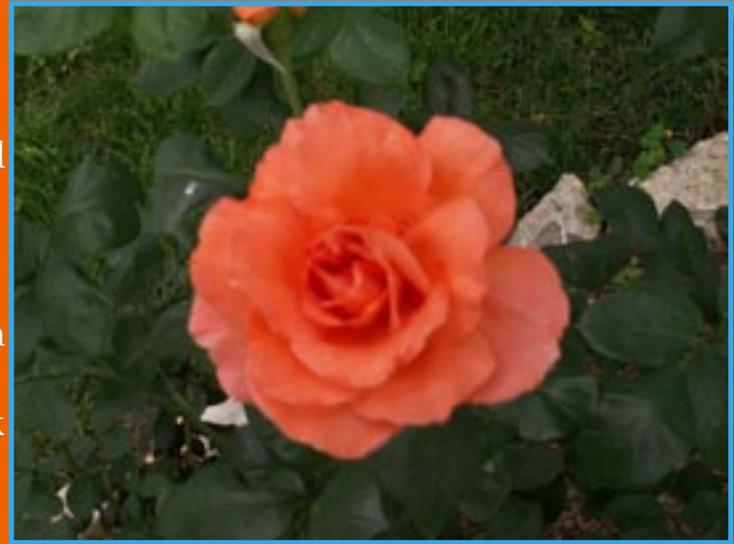
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Missed you! Feels like it has been WEEKS! I guess it has been two... Just have been slammed with work and have had absolutely no time to even jot down a quick Friday Follies. Many of you, especially those of you on Facebook, were very sweet and said you missed them. The truth is, I missed them, too! As I have often said, the Friday Follies make me stop, take a breath, look around at the good and truly important things that happen every day/week, and help me put the unpleasant things in perspective, ya know?

Otherwise, the unpleasant things tend to take over your thinking and then your life. As we all know, the day-to-day can be rather ominous and overwhelming! I try - even when I am very busy, to carve out an hour or two during the week to do the Friday Follies - to make myself think of the positive. This past two weeks, though, finding even an hour has been tough. **THUS**, I felt overwhelmed!

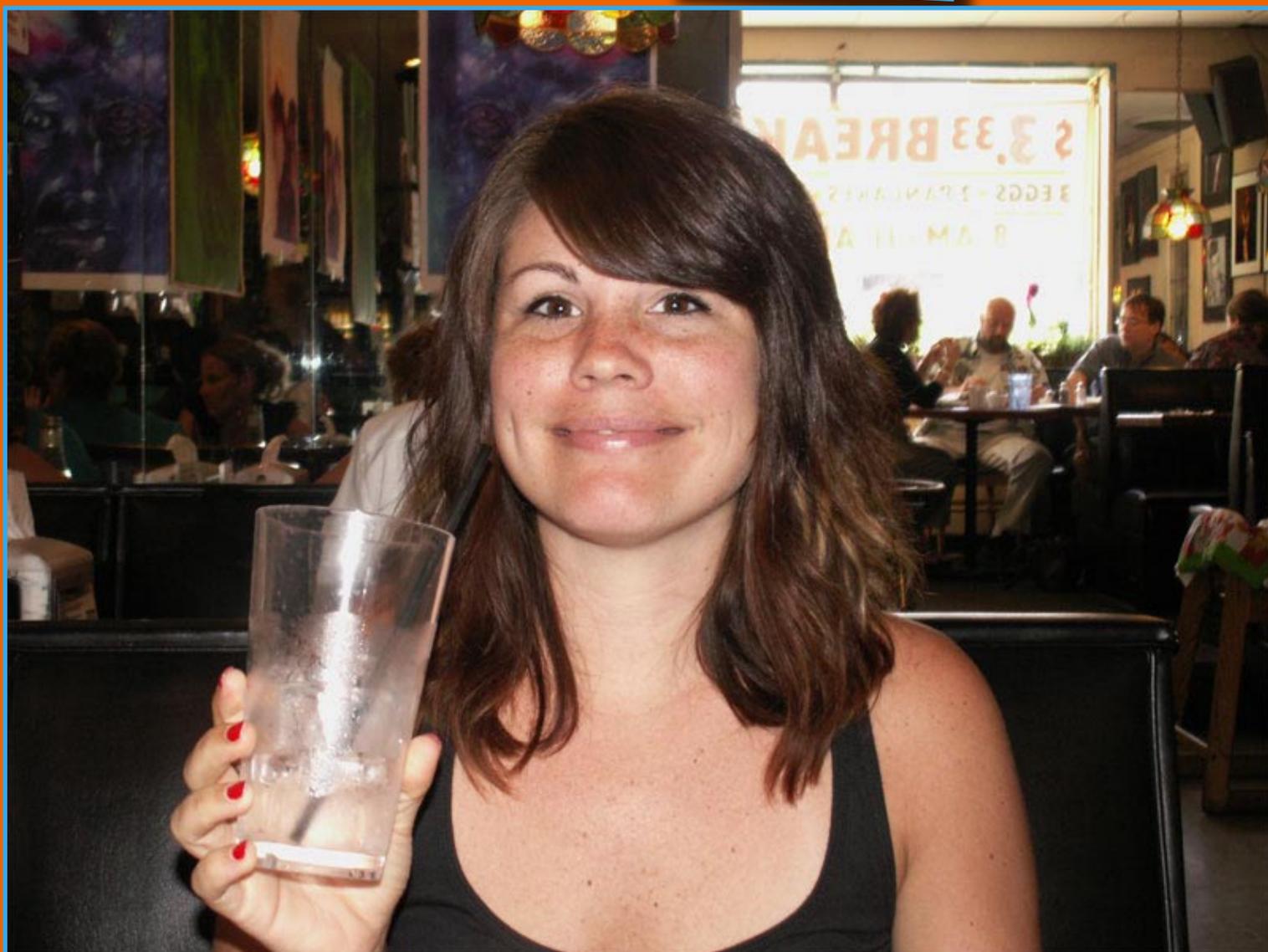
Thanks for your support and kind words - sincerely! Even though the Friday Follies are often about mundane things, they still are a way to reach out and say, "Hello! I am still here, and I love you!" So, *"Hello! I am still here, and I love you!" :-)*

This week I featured my roses which are in FULL bloom - all over the yard and throughout my house! The nice things about roses is



that once they are established, they need very little care... and they just get more bountiful and beautiful with age. (I like that!)

Speaking of age and beauty... I have not talked with you since Mother's Day. I hope you had a nice one. Mine was one of the sweetest I can remember. My beautiful Jessica came over early for a visit and then we went out for brunch. No sooner had she left to go run some errands, than my sweet Jeremy came by for a visit. He had no sooner stepped foot out the door after a nice visit, than Jessica called and wanted to stop back over. We cooked dinner, walked the dog, and just hung out. Great, easy, loving day!



There was another *Jessika* in my life this week...

At work, we had our annual tennis tournament, and it is always fun to see so many friends, but I do not play. I take my camera and take photos for the website where I work. Another *Jessika* who graduated years ago and I reconnected recently on Facebook and had been trying to get together. She even came by the school one day to see me, and I was out of the office on an appointment. Anyway, I looked up at the tennis club and in walks *Jessika*! It was great to see her and talk a bit before things got rolling. I don't think I ever even taught *Jessika*! We just always kinda hit it off. I have a feeling we will continue to be friends for many years. Isn't she pretty!

The photo below I laughed about because I am always the one taking photos. I have worked at my place of employment for 25 years, and when I die or am gone, no one will ever know I was there! Ha! There are very few photos of me! My boss, however, took this one and said it was of the "Judicam!" I thought it was funny... I am NOT a professional photographer by any stretch of the imagination and the cameras I use are old and often break half the time, but I do enjoy it.



I also have had a senior doing an internship with me this past week. Our seniors have to do a senior project for two weeks at the end of their senior year. It is a graduation requirement and they must do a presentation at its conclusion. (CiCi is on the right)





She wanted to learn more about marketing, PR, and development, so she has been on assignment in my office all week. I cannot tell you how much help she has been, and I really think she enjoyed it, too! She will be doing a Power Point presentation about it. Truthfully, I think she has been kind of stunned at how much goes on and also at how interconnected everything we do is. One thing promotes another, promotes another, and on and on. She is thinking of majoring in marketing in college, so it will be fun to

watch her progress and to cheer her on.

Also this week, I wanted to tell you about this amazing project my friend, Nora, completed. She had this marvelous idea to start a social website called "Thanking of You!" She has worked on it diligently and just launched it a few weeks ago. I have been remiss in not getting the word out to you or getting it on my links page until now. But when you get a chance, you need to check out www.thankingofyou.com. It is a social website where you go to thank someone who has meant a great deal to your life. Anyone. It is just fabulous. What a great idea! Congratulations, Nora.

I am sure it is going to be a big success.



Ken made it into town for a few days and now will be gone until Wednesday and then again until about the middle of June. It was actually kind of good he was out of town because I would have had no time to date, anyway! Ha! We have had fun the past few days. He got out of one meeting early this week, so he finally had a chance to come to my work place and take a tour. It was absolutely pouring cats and dogs the whole time. In fact, it has been pouring cats and dogs for weeks, it seems like. Just a few breaks here and there -- and you see all of these *terribly pale people* dart out to do yard work or run errands. Has just been miserable!





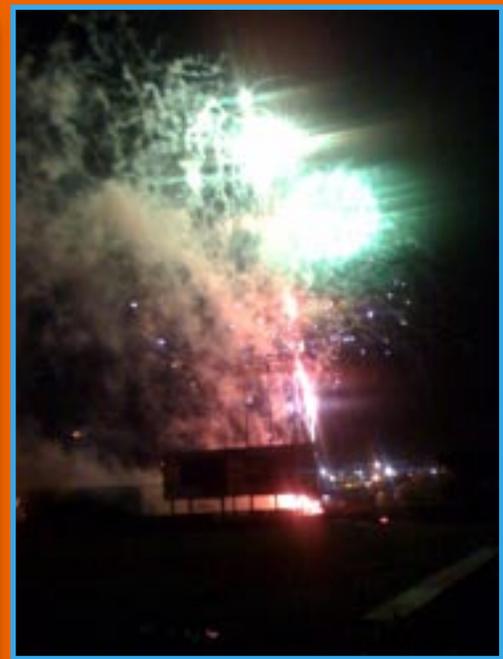
But, I digress...

We finally made it to a Tides game. I have tried several times before this season, but they have been - you guessed it - rained out!

It was a beautiful, cool night, and just before the National Anthem was sung, the clouds parted and this beautiful rainbow appeared above the scoreboard. Actually, it was a double rainbow, but my cell phone here did not pick it up. It stayed out for the longest time! The game was great and we won, and after the game we love to wait and watch all of the children "run the bases." This particular night was Armed Services Night, too, so there was an awesome fireworks display after the game.

Even with the dinners out, the hectic schedule, the Mother's day brunch, and the ball park franks, I have managed somehow to drop another five pounds!!!! That brings my grand total to 30 pounds in - what - 9 weeks or so? Just amazing. I never in a million years thought I could do that. Now I am learning to relax and splurge a bit when I want. The funny thing is - and I was talking to a friend recently who has lost a good bit, too - I need new everything! I "shop in my closet" as they say, and do find things to wear, but even my underwear does not fit anymore!!!! I actually had a pair of shoes fall off my feet this week! HAHAHA!





Trust me, though, I am not complaining! I just wonder where the heck I was carrying an extra 30 pounds. I also wonder how much happier my heart must be!!! I even enjoy running with the dog, *occasionally*. It is so much easier without hauling 30 extra pounds of lard on the run with me! Weight Watchers has changed my life! I am so much healthier and happier now! Yea! Thanks to so many of you who sent me encouraging notes! Now if I could just take off about 20 years - I would be all set! You know what, though? I think I just gave myself a few more years....

OMG! Sad news this week. My FIG TREE! Half of it has suddenly died! I have no idea why. It shaded the whole side of my house and produced more figs than I could cook in the two months it produced each year. Maybe it was just trimming excess fat, too, but it literally made me cry! I got the saw out and cut down all of the smaller limbs, but now I think I will need help to get the section of truck down that died. So sad! I think I will take a piece of it to a garden center and see if they can tell me what happened to it. I will still have enough figs for preserves and conserve, and Ollie will still have plenty of shade, but man, SAD!

The garden is growing well. I lost one pepper plant from too much water, but the rest seems to be growing at a record pace. The funny thing is, in August, I will probably be writing you about how bad the drought is and how high my water bill is to keep the



garden alive. Ha! Not really funny... Several of you have written to tell me about the gardens you have put in for the first time this year. A few even asked advice on a couple of things. Hey, I am no expert. I learned by doing, but I will help in any way that I can. I am just thrilled that so many folks have started to "get into it," too! What a great, wholesome hobby!

Have a new baby bird. So young I don't even know what color it will be and also have two other canary hens roosting on their clutches. Another cool hobby!

I have not had two seconds to even think about the next Just Judi's Volume Six • Entrees! That will be a summer project, but I have had record numbers checking out the first five volumes. Hope you do, too, if you have not already.

The painting Wendy gave me some instructions on how to finish is still in the same exact state. Still sitting on my dining room table in the exact same spot! That will now be a summer project, too. LOL! Too much I want to do and not enough time!

Well, there is still more I would like to share with you, but that is enough for now. It felt good to reconnect! I hope you have a splendid Memorial Day Weekend, graduation, etc. and I will catch you next week. Love to all.



**OLIVER -
HARD AT WORK
WITH ME IN THE GARDEN.
HAHAHA!**



To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, New Hampshire, Tampa, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

God bless.
Remember, life is short!
We need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,



Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION. . . 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!