



FRIDAY FOLLIES

June 20, 2008

Hey!

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Don't be shocked! I am simply trying something new! I LOVE her. Actually, I have done a man's torso, too, but he is still just sketched out. I have not even blocked in the color on him yet. Cannot decide if I want to treat him the same way or make him "flesh colored." I think I will try this again with him.

She is not finished, but she is getting there. I still want to brighten the background and make her blouse bigger with more yellow and a much lighter blue. You can see here on the right how she started out, and then I just kept trying to reverse the colors until I had the lights and darks. I truly am pretty pleased with her! Her colors are much richer than shown here because of the flash on the wet oil paint.

I just REALLY wanted - actually NEEDED - to get back to painting again. I told you I had been reading books about Picasso, art history, and such.

Then Ken and I went to the Boardwalk Art Show last Saturday and walked up and down the Boardwalk looking at art all day. It just really inspired me to get back to it and to try something a bit different.

She is different! Ha!

I'll show you the man when I get started on him.

Have had the most GLORIOUS summer week!





Had several really nice dinners with Jeremy and with Ken.



Then, my best friend, Wendy, had to go out of town for the weekend, so I took care of her plants and animals while she was gone. I thought I had died and gone to Heaven!



I actually took off work Friday afternoon and, after tending to the fish and birds, lounged by the pool on the bay and pretended like I lived there! It was simply *awesome!*

She has an aviary, a fish tank that is the size of her entire living room wall, and then a fish pond with Koi in the front yard that is bigger than my house!

And her garden - Oh, My! It is HUGE and looks like an English country garden. Just breathtaking!

Thanks, Wendy! I loved my mini vacation!





I had another mini vacation, too. I took two days off from work and went to Nag's Head with Jessica and Ricky and Ricky's family. More on that in just a second.



My garden is starting to produce! Look at my squash and banana peppers! I am so happy! That means I can start cooking and canning soon! I know that sounds silly to you probably, but it give me so much pleasure! Plus - even after selling a "boat load" of it this year, I still have jars of "goodies" to take to friends when they have me over for dinner or a cook out. I usually make up a nice basket, or another fun thing is to arrange them in a wine bag and take them that way.



On Father's Day, I opened the paper to see an incredible article on Ricky giving his father the gift of life for Father's Day this year! I was jumping up and down! It was just lovely! I had no idea it was going to be in the paper. In fact, I had thought about sending in the story idea myself, but was not sure how they would feel about it. Sure didn't want to offend after all they had been through. Anyway, the reporter was a friend of mine and did not know that Jessica was my baby girl. Scotty opened up the cabinet to get something out and she saw one of my jars of pasta sauce. She said, "I know her! That is Judi" That is when Jessica told her that she was my daughter.



What a small, small world...





To Dad: From your loving son

Ricky Miller gave his father, Scotty, a kidney; today the family celebrates.

PAGE 6



Later, on Father's day, the reporter wrote me the sweetest, most complimentary note about Jessica. It really made me proud... even though I was proud enough to pop, as it was!

Above is the front page photo and tag line, and then the black and white photo at the top is one of the ones that ran with the story. I will fix the article and post it to my website on the "Library" section of "Come On To My House" so you can read it.

Just an awesome, heart-warming Father's Day tale.

And obviously from these two photos, you can see that Ricky is feeling like his old self more every day! Hahaha! He is so much fun! We are all so fortunate to have him in my Jessica's life.

Now, for the second mini vacation -





Every year, Ricky's family rents a few houses down in Nag's Head and the whole crew (about 50 of them) heads down for a week.

They invited me to join them this year, but the best I could do was to get two days off earlier this week. It was still a God send, though. It is simply amazing how a couple of days on the beach with family can recharge your batteries.

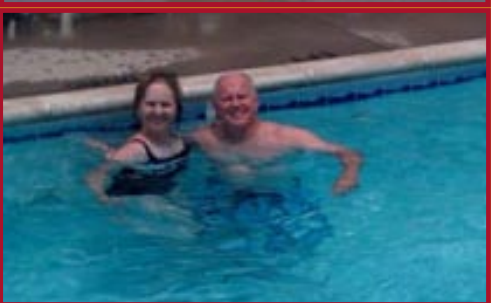
At one point, we were sitting by the pool and Jessica said, "If I were at home, I would be thinking non stop about all of the things I needed to be doing." A truer statement was never made! Just driving an hour and a half south clears out all of the worries! Jeremy was here to take care of my animals and plants and I had absolutely nothing to worry about. RARE, indeed!

I took the two photos at the top from the car to show you. The smoke rolling in and covering the highway looked just like a scene from San Francisco! Just like fog rolling in - - only it smelled awful! Wild fire smoke! The air quality here has been the pits lately due to all of the fires in North Carolina. On the drive down, it would get so bad I would have to stop and put the top up on the car. Then a few miles later, it would clear up as the wind would shift.

The others are photos of the houses where we stayed and the beautiful deserted beach! Nag's Head is simply a dose of relaxation!

I head back down there this weekend for a "get-away" with Ken. Looking forward to that.





This last page is just some fun shots of family chillin' and lovin' life. Hope your week is great, too.

If you get a chance, check out the two cook books. I don't mean to "push" them on you, but I am proud of them. With the garden producing, I will be photographing more and completing Volume Three • Soups!

Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch and Late Nite can be previewed at: <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/241008>

Volume One • Appetizers can be previewed at: <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/24098>

Pray for our men and women overseas. They still need our prayers to return home soon and safe and successful.

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,*

Don't Forget! Just Judi's Favorites Volume One • Appetizers and Just Judi's Favorites Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch, and Late Nite are now available!

You can get to both from the links page on my website! Thanks to those of you who have already ordered your copies! Just Judi's Favorites • Volumes Three through Ten are on their way!

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!