



FRIDAY FOLLIES

July 24, 2009

Hey!

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Great and very busy summer week, Y'all!
Hope yours was full and fun, too!

I spent a great deal of time, cooking, canning, working at the shop, taking care of errands that are hard to run when you work full-time, re-arranging my house and life, and painting. But I also managed to have many wonderful lunches and dinners with close friends. There was plenty of pool and beach time, as well. That is what it is all about.

I am so spoiled now, that if I go back to a 12 month work load this next year (which I hope I can) it will be very hard to give up this incredible month off! I have suddenly remembered what it is like to have all the time in the world to do exactly as you want to do!

It has been a true blessing in disguise!

I have read in many magazine and newspaper articles, that folks who suddenly find themselves laid-off, also rediscover what they love to do and who they love to be with. It has really been very cool, and it is funny, but my troubles seem to have lessen rather than increase... Hmm... :-)





All the things I have to rush around and get done on my lunch break, or before or after work, or on weekends - I can do at my leisure. If the sun is shining, I just ditch whatever I had planned to do for the day and head to the pool or the nearest beach. The errands then wait for a rainy day! (Smile) When will I ever have this opportunity again? Much to my surprise, after three days of fretting about this situation, I relaxed and soaked in all it had to give me.

Trust me, I love my job and when it is time to go back, I will gladly do so. All I am saying is that this break has helped me tremendously to put things in the proper perspective.

As you can see, I had lots of plums, peppers, tomatoes (those from the store), squash, and eggplant. I canned many great recipes and tried several new ones. I "put up" regular and hot Banana Pepper Mustard, Mediterranean Roasted Eggplant and Red Peppers, more Squash and Corn Succotash, tons of Vegetable Pasta Medley (yummy), Plum Preserves, Plum Rum Conserve, and I am getting ready to try my hand at Hot Jalapeno Pepper Jelly.

It has been a blast. It is selling well, too! If you need some, let me know. I shipped some to Nashville the other day...



I very much enjoyed reconnecting with one of my best friends, Mary Anne, this week, lunch and the pool at Vicki's, time with my sweet Wendy, visiting with Jessica, Ricky, and Jeremy, and a couple of nights out, dinners, and games with others.

Oh, I also wanted to show you these adorable portraits of Jessica and Ricky's two dogs, Mortimer and Greg!

Jessica had them commissioned for Ricky's birthday and they are now hanging over their fireplace. Hilarious! It is also hilarious that I am sure those new paintings will be replaced by portraits of a new baby in the coming year! Hahaha!



I also wanted to show you this adorable kitten that Ollie and I see every day on our walk. She always sees us coming and jumps up in this planter and acts invisible. I guess she thinks Ollie cannot see her there. Isn't she precious? Our SPCA has over 400 cats they are trying to place right now. I am trying VERY HARD not to think about that. I adore cats, but hate litter boxes... not to mention I have birds! I just need to stay away from their exhibits right now - which are at every shopping center in town!



I found some time for a little painting, and I have been thrilled at how my "shop" at the Antique Mall is doing. I started out thinking I would only do it for a month, but now that it has paid for itself, I know I will continue for at least one more month. I certainly have enough stuff to stay there until Christmas! Actually, I have been told that the best months are October, November, and December. I took over a booth during what is known as their "slow" season. I am tempted to keep it open until Christmas, but can only do so if it continues to pay for itself.





I set aside a set amount of money to try it, and once that money was gone, I was going to close up shop. Well, I have that money and more, so I will keep her open for a while longer and see how it goes.

I have met tourists from all over the country there this summer... really cool! I also think it would be fun to start attending flea markets, estate sales, and even yard sales and picking up a few interesting pieces here and there, cleaning and refurbishing them, and then adding them to the inventory. That is what most of the dealers do. I will have to see how much time I have once I start back to work full-time, though... It would be an AWESOME hobby, though, don't you think? Especially if it continued to be a way to make some extra money!

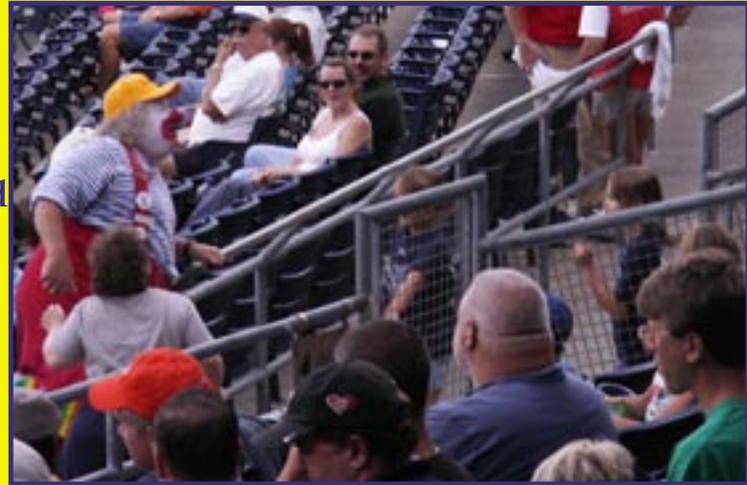
One of the games this past week featured a concert before the game by a band that impersonates the Beatles. I am sure you have heard or seen one of these bands. There are many. When the concert first started (and it was an hour and a half!) I thought, "Hmmm, this is pretty cool." Then, as they progressed to the Beatles' later music, I was HUGELY impressed.





They were actually VERY good and put on a great show. As the stands filled up, families were everywhere singing and dancing!

My favorite was my buddy "Bobby the Clown." He had kids getting up all over the stadium dancing with him. There were two little girls in particular who were amazing! It was obvious they took dance classes because every step was coordinated. It was almost like they had a little routine.



I ate too much and after the game, we even went to Ghent and ordered a pizza! Oh well, it is summer!



There is also a HUGE concert at Harbor Park this Saturday night... Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, and John Mellancamp! I don't think I will be going, though. Tickets are \$70 a pop! Ha! I think I will simply read about it in the paper the next day. If I could hear like normal people, I might spring for it, but what is the use of spending \$70 and straining to hear, huh? Ha!



OK. I gotta get going. I hope you have a wonderful week and I will be talking with you soon.



Come buy antiques, order canned goods, and order some of my cookbooks online! -- Gotta put a plug in! :-)

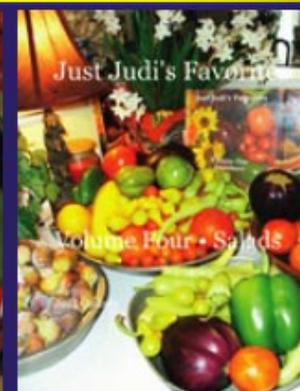
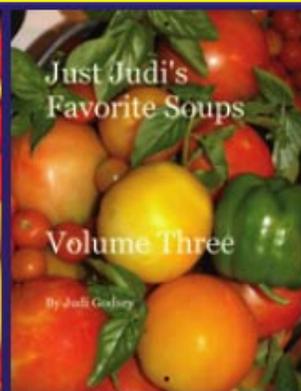




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"HELP! I need someone!"
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 (Smile!)

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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

P.S. 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!