



Hey!

November 11, 2005

Oh my Gawd! I went by the gallery my friend told me he had spoken with, and I almost fell on the floor! The paintings on display were extraordinary and were selling for thousands of dollars! Huge, huge paintings! Beautiful, framed, matted, professional!... I never even spoke with the owner. I just looked around and then slithered out. Man, maybe someday - but I am such a novice that I would never feel comfortable taking her anything right now to view. I have loved getting my home settled enough to not feel guilty about starting to paint again, though. This sailboat is a watercolor I painted Sunday and the snow landscape is an oil I started Monday night. Long way to go on that one, but it is the largest painting I have attempted, by far. I like the fact that it is all black and white. Makes me concentrate on the brush strokes a bit more instead of relying on the color to "pull it off." Still not sure where I am going with it. I might paint a deer in the foreground and give him a red nose so it can be a Christmas painting.

I'm not kidding...



These next three are a study I did painting the same scene in acrylic, oil, and finally watercolor. I still do not know which I like working with the most. They are all so very different. I think it may depend on the subject and the effect you want. As I said, I am learning...



The rest throughout the Follies are just new and old ones that I have been playing with over the last two years. Some I like. Some I don't.



The next to the last page, though, has some of my favorites. I still have a loooooong way to go, but I think I am starting to understand it a bit. I really like it. It is so relaxing and so frustrating at exactly the same time. But man, when you finally get one where you like it....it feels awesome!



OK, there is actually a lot to tell this week, but I am pressed for time, so I will just rush through one story and move on to my briefcase full of work this evening.

The funniest thing to me this week was that yesterday was election day here in Virginia. Tim Kaine won. I remember going to lunch with him at Aldo's here in Virginia Beach two years ago and discussing his chances and his ambition for running. A really nice man. Interesting to see that all come about and unfold. Actually, Mark Warner and I used to do that when he was thinking about running. Now look at him! Hey, Mark - what's next? I know what I am hoping for!

Anyway, I have several good friends who were running for various offices as Republicans. I was invited to their victory party to celebrate with them. I have not been to many political functions for the past year on purpose - in fact

- only one that I can think of. So I went. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, people that I knew were genuinely happy to see me. It was very, very nice. And congratulations to my friends who won!

Then another friend was running and he invited me to his "gig" with the Democratic party. I have not been to any Democratic events probably since Mark was inaugurated almost four years ago. I was really a bit nervous. NOT TO WORRY! I walked through the door and immediately saw five very good friends who are also in my Rotary club, and while I was hugging them, several young people came over and tapped me on the shoulder and grabbed my neck. My attorney was one of them! Then it just went on from there. I was amazed. I was truly humbled. I wrote a friend in NH last night that it was the highest of highs I have had in a loooong time. You know, when you purposefully stay "under the radar" for a year and a half, then you go out to a very public event like that, well, it just makes you feel GREAT! Chased any blues I might have had right away, that is for sure.

I hope it doesn't sound like I am bragging, and yet, in a way, I guess I am. Bragging is not the right word...Proud? Humbled? Thankful? Lucky? Blessed? Even the photographer from the newspaper knew me. He used to sit beside me at the Tides games and let me critique his shots for the paper the next day! Ha!



I have lived here for so long and have been (in the past) involved with so many organizations, elections, and events, that it really does stun me sometimes how many folks I know. It simply made me feel like I had come back to life. Maybe there is hope for me after all...Ha!





OK, my briefcase awaits me! Ugh! Gotta get to it. I will simply place some of the paintings in here from the last couple of years that several of you have asked to see. No rhyme or reason.

Enjoy or delete.

I hope to get some better images of them soon and will maybe include a section on the new website for them...(Pat's idea!)

Oh, one more thing...the book I am writing is coming along nicely. I finally got back to that as well. It may be another project that I simply do for me and never follow through with publishing, but I am pleased with the transformation lately. You will probably not see any of it on the new Friday Follies' website. At least not for a while. Those of you who have read portions of it already have

been extremely encouraging and helpful. If you have not read portions yet, just know that the Follies play an integral part in it.

The title is "Lemonade."

I have completed thirteen chapters, but those last two are extremely painful to write. Someday... I am getting to it. I need to let a bit of time pass first and then it will be easier to complete...

Have a great week ya'll and please pray for our troops.



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, Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, New York, Oregon, Maine, Germany, Australia, Europe, 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. P.S.S. 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!