

FRIDAY FOLLIES

December 5, 2008



Hey!

December 5, 2008

First and foremost - let us give thanks for Thanksgiving! What a wonderful holiday it always is. Mine was lovely this year. I certainly hope yours was, as well.

I had several friends stop by at different times on Wednesday, and then that evening, Wendy came by and we walked over to my friend Sylvia's house for a bit. I have to tell you, since I was not driving, I had "several" and was "feeling no pain" by the time Wendy left.

Well, Thanksgiving morning I awoke with a throbbing headache, backache, soar throat, stiff joints... just felt awful! Felt a bit better as the day wore on. I cooked all day long and entertained all evening, but honestly, I was not myself! I laughed at myself and told everyone I had been silly the night before and was just plain hung over. I thought I was! But Friday morning when I opened my eyes, I realized it had not been a hang over. I was very ill... my traditional sinus problems this time of year... Antibiotics and three days inside with lots of rest, and, of course, I was ready to head back to work on Monday.

Man! Five days off and three of them flat out lost. I know myself well enough to know that I had completely run myself down and that the illness was my body's way of forcing me to slow down and take it easy for a few days. I built a little bed in front of the fireplace in the living room and watched movies non-stop for three days and nights! I would get up every once in awhile and try to take down some of the Thanksgiving decorations and box them up. That would last for about thirty minutes, and then it was back in front of the fire for me!

Believe it or not, before the three days were over, I had removed all the Thanksgiving stuff and had decorated - for the most part - for Christmas. All in thirty minute spurts! LOL!

OK, on these first two pages are the "BEFORE" and "AFTER" Thanksgiving shots. I love them!



BEFORE



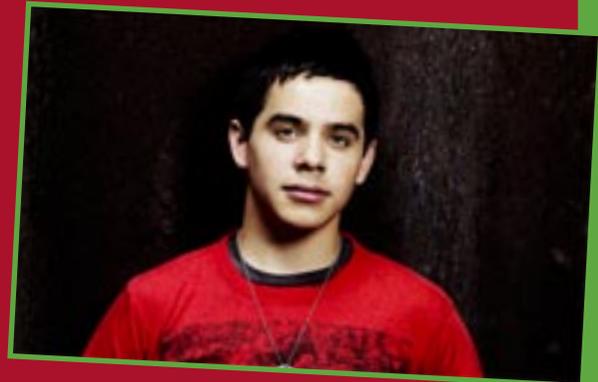
The saddest thing to me about being sick was that Sylvia had invited me to a party at her home during Thanksgiving. She is Native American and was having her whole Native American Organization over for Thanksgiving! I completely missed it. Now don't you think that would have been fun? I am 1/4 Native American, myself (Chickasaw), but I have never celebrated my heritage that much. Perhaps next year I can make the party! Neat tradition, though, huh? A Native American party on Thanksgiving?



More good news! While sitting at the dinner table, it was announced rather nonchalantly that, "Oh, By the way! David Archuleta is going to appear LIVE at The Jewish Mother in February!"



There was dead silence for a second as it sank in -- and then squeals of delight from the females at the table. DAVID! (Actually, the guys like him, too, but they wouldn't squeal! HA!) If you do not know who David "A"



is, he is the young man who was runner up to American Idol this past season. He is without a doubt, in my opinion, one of the most talented singers around today. He also has a new CD out and his single is doing really well! Anyway, there are no details of exactly when yet, but as soon as I hear, if you are interested, I can let you know.



Many of you asked what Jeremy's "dream job" is. Well, I can tell you now. He has gotten a position as an IT with an international hard and software company based in Yorktown, Virginia. He is like a new man! He smiles all the time and talks each day about how it just gets better and better with each passing day of work. I swear, he is even walking taller. He has to wear a tie, the whole nine yards. So very proud of him for identifying what he wanted and not giving up until he got it! We should all be doing more of that!



Ken has been busy with his kids from all over the country at home in Tampa for the holidays and with travel for work. He is in Boston this week. Miss having him around! Soon...



I also wanted to mention that for some reason, I have many close friends who are going through particularly rough times right now. Some of it is financial, some health, some marital or emotional

AFTER

problems. I wish there was more I could do to help. Lord knows, I have had all of the above! I am sure that won't be the end of it either. It just makes me feel good, though, when people feel like they can confide in me and it will go no farther. I know there have been a few times in my life that, if I had not had good friends I could talk with about "things," I would have died. Literally and figuratively! For some reason, things always seem a bit harder during the holidays, anyway, don't they. Like I keep saying, though, "We will make it through all of this, together..."

You know, I really want to tell you something this week... from my heart...

There have been so many times when I have been discouraged and even despondent over the years. Take a look at my New Year's Follies on the website from two years ago! Man, I even had folks writing me saying they had never read anything so depressing! LOL! I try to always be positive in these things, but there have been times when I even thought about discontinuing the Follies.

This has happened to me more than once, now, so I thought it worth mentioning. Not everything is always rosy, but the fact is, you just can not dwell on those things! There is so much good, but honestly, if you do not pay attention ~ if you are not grateful ~ the good things will pass you by! This (among other things) is why I keep doing the Follies...





I am grateful... Daily...

About two years ago when I was having one of those “moments,” I received an email from someone I did not know and it was totally “out of the blue.” It was from a young woman in her twenties. I will call her “Olivia.” Olivia explained to me that we had never met, but that I had a profound impact on her life.

I continued to read with great interest...



Apparently, way back when I used to run my ex-husband’s website and I posted the Follies there, she somehow found them and would read them every week. (She got the address off of a bottle of my pasta sauce she had bought, but had never met me.) Then she said, after a couple of years of reading the weekly Follies, all of a sudden, they were gone! All of my images and any references to me were gone from that website, too. She thought I must have died or something..



She explained she had been going through a terrible, clinical depression for several years and had truly looked forward to the Follies each week as one of the things she could count on and enjoy. She actually said there was a time or two when they were what she felt like kept her “going...” knowing they would be there each week.

When the Follies suddenly were disappeared, she could not believe it.

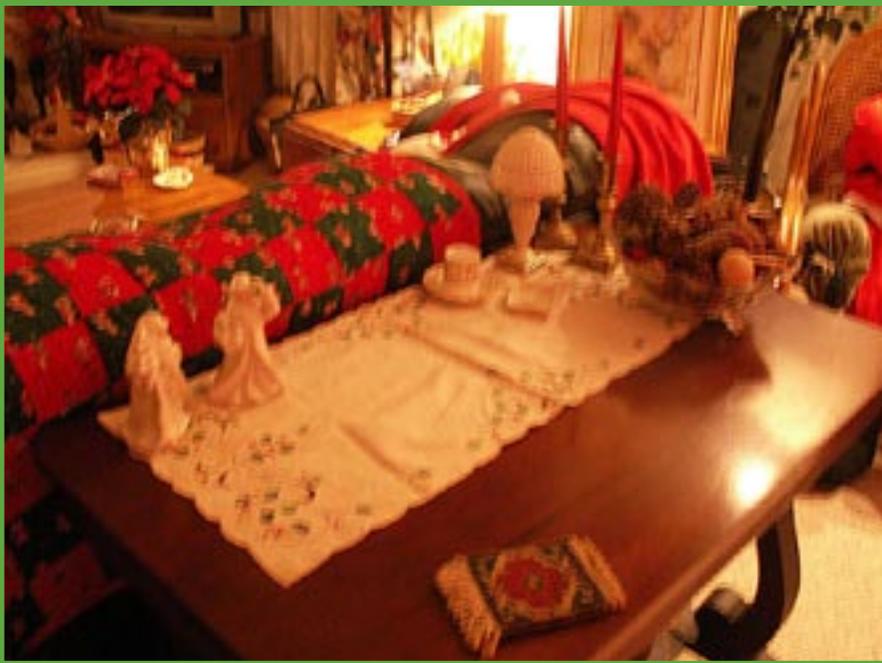


Not knowing what else to do and not knowing that I had removed myself and all of my images from the other site, she “Googled” me and found my new website. She found the Follies again and wrote!

She was simply writing to introduce herself and to tell me how much I had meant to her young life, even though we had never met. (We still have never met to this day.) Through this all, she became healthier, better, and eventually graduated from college, got a great job, found the love of her life, and was married. He was relocated and they moved to another area. But we still try to stay in touch. She has sent me lovely photos of her graduation and marriage. Just very, very special. I think it is actually made even more special by the fact that we have never met...

There have been other such letters, but hers was the most poignant. At first, when you get emails like that, you hold your breath and hope they are going to be safe and sane letters. They always have been. I cannot even express here what they have meant to me. They make me very humble and proud. At the same time, they make me a bit hesitant... knowing some people are really reading what you say.

I save them. I do! When I get “down in the dumps” ~ as my daddy used to call the blues ~ I reread them. They make me feel so much better. To think that my silly drivel each week could have that kind of an impact on someone I do not even know... It still amazes and scares, but pleases me.



I have some friends who say they never read them, and then I will start to tell them about something and they will finish my sentences for me. That makes me laugh!

I have others who tell me they read them religiously each week. One friend who is the head of a company says she "giggles, closes her office door, and reads them the minute she gets them! Blows me away!

WHY? My life is so absolutely normal! But maybe the fact that I love my normal life so much, every day of it, and love all of you so much, and am not afraid to share the good and even the boring times with you makes the Follies unique. I do not know... All I can say is that they have blessed me ten-fold.

And then sometimes, really odd things happen - like - remember a few weeks ago in October when I sent all of the fall photos with the animals from the local petting zoo farm? There were pumpkins, goats, turkeys, and even two beautiful horses.

Well Lo and Behold, a dear friend of mine - an attorney here in town - wrote me after she read them and said the Follies that week brought tears to her eyes. It seems that years before, she had shown BOTH of those horses in numerous shows in the area. She had not seen the horses in years, but immediately recognized Paint and Togggy and cried! Then she sent these two photos of





her riding them when she was younger. Isn't life sometimes strange...

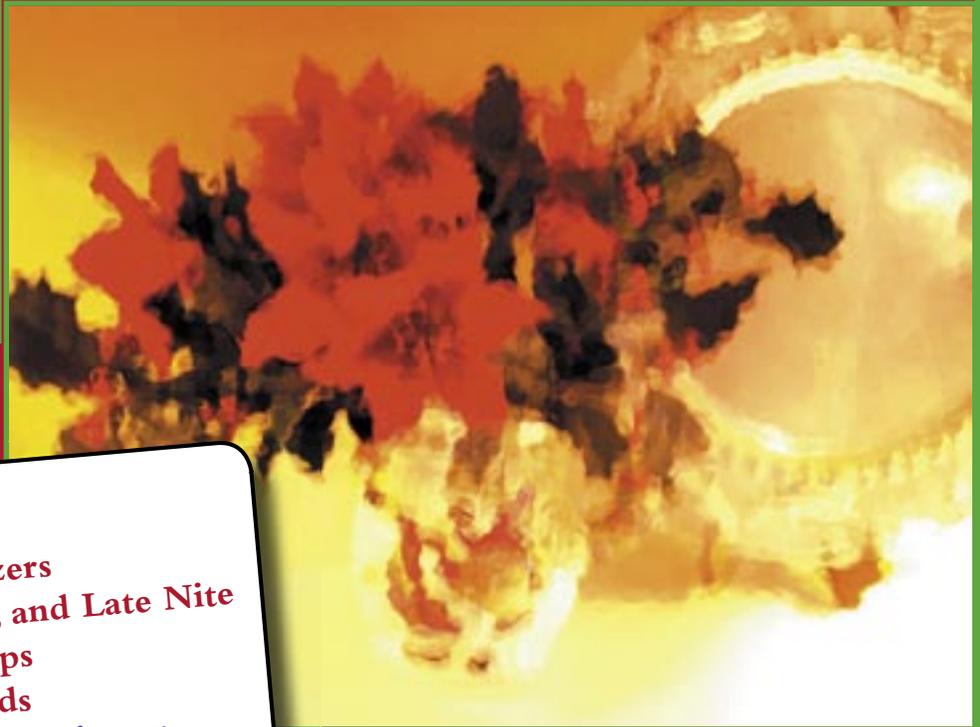


OK. Went to a very nice event this evening, have another one on Friday and then some Christmas parties start this weekend. There are several I am really looking forward to! I will be sure to take some photos! Who knows what tales will come from them! Ha!

OK, again for some of you... the cut off dates for ordering the cookbooks! To receive your cookbooks by December 24.

- * December 9 is the last day for Ground shipping
- * December 12 is the last day for 2nd Day Air
- * December 15 is the last day for Next Day Air – and your last chance to ensure your book makes it in time for the holiday festivities. So order while you can! ~ But truthfully, they make great New years' and Valentines day gifts, too. (Smile)

If you're outside the Continental U.S., go to www.Blurb.com for details!



Just Judi's Favorites
Volume One • Appetizers
Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch, and Late Nite
Volume Three • Soups
Volume Four • Salads
 All available on www.judiwithani.com
 Go to Judi's Friends' Links at:
www.judiwithani.com/links

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!