

I have known Judy Russell now for 20 years-a very exciting, productive, and fun 20 years I might add. Any time you work with Judy you know you're going to get something done and you're going to have a good time doing it!! I have many wonderful memories of this dynamic woman who has been a very special friend. No matter how important she has become or how high the post she holds she has always had time to talk to me and I have appreciated that--thanks Judy!!

The two of us met for the first time in 1987 when we both were appointed to the Depository Library Council. Since that time I have always thought of Judy as a computer wizard because she is the one who introduced "THE COMPUTER" to council sessions!! Before that time we typed out all resolutions and communications with an old-fashioned typewriter and then we cut and pasted it together-very primitive indeed!! Judy, a hotshot executive type, wasn't having any of that!! Since she worked for a big firm, Mead Data General I believe, she had access to big time technology-at least it seemed that way for a hick from North Carolina!! So Judy brought a portable computer and printer with her to the next council meeting. WOW what a difference that made in our deliberations. You noticed I said a portable computer not a laptop-that was before laptops. This computer was smaller than the regular computer but not by much and it weighed a ton!! She also had a portable printer which if anything was bigger than the computer and weighed even more!! I can see Judy now staggering down the hotel lobby with the printer in one hand and the computer in the other. They were so heavy that they almost dragged on the ground and it looked like her arms might be ripped out at any moment. All the while Judy was dressed to the "nines", her jet-black hair gleaming under the house lights, her eye make up perfect, and her mascara intact. Oh, did I forget to mention the heels? Yes she did this all while wearing what to me looked like 6 inch stiletto heels--a Judy trademark. In fact I can never remember a time when Judy wasn't wearing high heels. I don't believe she has any other kind of shoes! I would be willing to bet a goodly sum that if you surprised her at home at 3 o'clock in the morning she would have on those heels and probably that perfect eye make up!.

That's my Judy always full of surprises--except when it comes to an argument and then you go to that meeting with the same dread that the victim to be hanged has when he sets foot on the scaffold!! You know you're going to lose before you even get there. Judy is the queen of persuasion and the master of debate! She is always prepared and she is dreadfully quick on her feet! Plus she is an Olympic winning non-stop talker who can survive with very small breaths of air! All of this makes for a deadly combination that means you won't win many arguments with her!! It is not that Judy won't take no as an answer; it is because she will never even give you the chance to say no! That is Judy's secret executive ingredient--never ever give the other person a chance to talk-and that technique has carried her to the top of her profession and won her respect and admiration from all of us--including me!

Judy, I love you and I have loved every minute of our rollercoaster ride together!! God, I hope they aren't over yet!