



## Judy McKenna

November 7, 1941 - January 3, 2014

November 7, 1941-January 3, 2014

Judy McKenna passed away peacefully in her home, being cared for by her family, just as she wished it to be. She had been diagnosed just eleven months previously with a malignant brain tumor.

She was born in Lawrence, Kansas to John and Mary Ellen Sheaks, attended East High for one year and then moved to Southeast High when it opened. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 1963. She met and married Thomas McKenna in Germany in 1965, they moved to Colorado in 1975 with their son KC, and were later divorced. Judy went on to earn two more degrees from Colorado State University, and a PhD from the Oklahoma State University. She married William D. Kruse in Ft. Collins, on November 9, 1985, blending their two families into a unit of seven.

Judy's career included many different roles: a long-time involvement at Colorado State University as a Professor and Extension Specialist in the area of Family Resource Management; member of numerous committees at department, college, university, state and national levels. She was successful in acquiring many grant dollars for funding numerous practical programs for the community members she served, which included many high school financial education activities and retirement planning programs for seniors. For her CSU Extension work she developed many software programs that were used throughout the state.

Judy has been recognized over the years for her many contributions by receiving a number of awards, such as: Impact Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Anderson Distinguished Service Award for CSU Extension Personnel; Outstanding Financial Education Program Award from the Association of Financial Planning and Education.

If you think this list of accomplishments is long, you should see what we left out.

Another noteworthy accomplishment of hers, in which she took enormous satisfaction, was helping to launch a significant community-based mentoring program for women, called Women of the Year. Many people know her for the column she wrote for The Coloradoan newspaper on financial planning.

Depending on which family member, friend or colleague you would ask about Judy, you would hear different descriptors of her roles: beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister; loyal friend; caregiver; active member of the Unitarian Church; vocal advocate for causes she believed in; avid reader and bridge player; community and political activist; hard worker; idea generator and implementer; worldwide traveler (Bill says they didn't miss a country); supporter of the arts; proud member of Pi Beta Phi and alum of the University of Kansas.

No matter whom you speak to about Judy, you will hear the same descriptors of her character and personality: energetic, cheerful, determined, tireless, positive, enthusiastic, loyal, loving, encouraging, compassionate, organized, respectful, creative, practical, inventive, fun loving.

She is survived by her husband, William D. Kruse of Ft. Collins; her children KC McKenna (Alexandria, Izzabelle, Chance) of Ft. Collins; Jean Kruse of Miami, Fl; Julia Doria (Luis) of Denver; John W. and Tracie Kruse (Paulina, Delancey) of Denver; Joseph and Sarah Kruse (Jackson, Sawyer, Wylie) of Ft. Collins; her father, John Sheaks, of Wichita, Ks; her sister Susy Sheaks Hammons (Josh, Carey Hammons Parks and Rusty) of Pittsburg, KS and Carey's children Avery and Nate; her brother, Mickey Sheaks and wife, Mary Nelson of Wichita. She was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Ellen Sheaks.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Lincoln Center on Friday, January 17, 2014 at 1:00 pm in the Canyon West Ballroom. To please Judy, all are invited to wear at least a little something red. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to your favorite local charity.

# Events

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**JAN**   **Celebration of Life**   01:00PM - 04:00PM

**17**

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Lincoln Center- Canyon West Ballroom

417 W Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

# Comments

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“ I will miss Judy being in the back row of our Strong Women Strong Bones class. She always had a smile, upbeat attitude, and a hearty laugh. Often she would share something new and interesting that she had learned. She has inspired me, as she has so many others. Wishing the family peace as they go through the grieving process.

Jean Christen

**Jean Christen** - January 17, 2014 at 12:24 PM

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“ Our friendship made me a better person. I will miss her.

Dan Hopper

**Dan hopper** - January 16, 2014 at 05:45 PM

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“ I first met Judy as an undergrad at KU, we each majored in Personnel Admin and so took many classes together, I graduated in 1962 and she in 1963. I went afterward to the Peace Corps and lost track of her. In 1977 I moved to Fort Collins as city manager and the first week there, reading the Coloradoan there was a story about and picture of Judy McKenna. I looked at it and wondered if this was the married name of Judy Sheaks. She looked like it but it was 15 years ago that I'd seen her. But on a whim I looked up the phone number and called her. She remembered me (or said she did, being a diplomat). My wife and I had dinner with Judy and Tom and then Tom became active in the community. KC and Kaye and I and our two sons took a Mime Class from C.W. Metcalf and that was good for sharing a laugh. Later Judy and Bill would invite Kaye and I to the CU-KU basketball games in Boulder, always a lot of fun, for KU alums.

About a year ago I was at a party in Lawrence with a bunch of KU Pi Phis and many were talking about Judy having an operation for cancer. A few days later I called her and she sounded perfectly normal--up-beat and chatty.

So I was surprised when I saw the obit this week. Reading through all the memories from her many friends in Fort Collins shows how great an impact she had on the people there. She will be truly missed.

John Arnold  
Topeka, KS

**John E. Arnold** - January 16, 2014 at 02:45 PM

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“ Although I've never met Judy, but I've heard amazing things about her from our faculty members in the Health and Exercise Science Department and our Adult Fitness members. Her husband, Bill, is one of our members and definitely an incredible person. Our condolences and prayers go out to Bill and his family at this time, from his Adult Fitness family.

**Brittni Jensen** - January 16, 2014 at 11:52 AM

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“ Gosh, if we only knew when our journey was over.....I met Judy when she was a young Girl attending, Southeast HS. We had so much fun there with our friends, especially the. Conrods, those guys who hung out with their cars. they were always working on them. And she was always asking questions. We became friends in our debate class, with us being the only girls. I knew them that you would make a difference.in everyone's life that you touched. May God keep YOU in his loving arms forever,now you are with him forever.  
Janna Wassweiler Hobbs

Wichita SOUTHEAST HS  
Go BUFFALOES, 1959

**janna hobbs** - January 14, 2014 at 01:39 PM

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“ Judy shall be missed in this community. How well she was described in the obituary. Very down to earth and such a positive person. So very sorry for all of our loss.  
Nancy York

**Nancy York** - January 13, 2014 at 11:25 AM

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“ Memories of Judy McKenna from her Strong Women, Strong Bones group

Judy's Strong Women, Strong Bones sisters will remember Judy's:

Love of the color red  
Multi-color tennis shoes with peace symbols & psychedelic soles  
Excitement about books, travel, new ideas  
Analytical mind, thoughtful research which she shared with class, and her columns  
Enthusiasm for projects from remodeling her house to volunteering for the Kite Festival  
Enthusiastic support & encouragement of local artists  
Pushing people to think bigger in whatever they tackled

Support for others when they needed help  
Always being present in the moment in conversations  
Her loving care and attention of Bill  
Effervescent, upbeat personality  
Her bright red car leaving the parking lot and traveling down Lemay - going the same direction as Shirley, side by side after our class..  
Close relationships with her family.

Marjorie Tello summed it up in a poem:

"Judy, I admire your courage, your wit , and your grace.  
You are surely one of those who make the world a better place."

From Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul:

"We will miss you but will never forget who you were, and we'll always talk about you.  
Now go and be with God and be in peace. We love you."



Holly - January 13, 2014 at 10:29 AM



“ They say there is no such thing as a "coincidence," that instead it is something good meant to happen. That is certainly how I felt the day in 1968 when I bumped into Judy at the Naval commissary in Philadelphia. After graduating from Kansas University in '63, I had lost track of Judy, a pledge sister. How exciting it was to connect after five years. My husband Dick was in the Navy; her husband Tom was in the army, just returning from a tour of duty in Germany. We enjoyed frequent dinners together for two months, before we left Philadelphia, but thank goodness stayed in touch. Our next meeting two years later was in Colorado with mutual friends, some of whom climbed Long's Peak while the rest of us enjoyed hiking and poking around "ghost" mining towns. Twenty years later Colorado became home to both of us, so we were able to see each other frequently. Judy and her new wonderful husband Bill would come stay with us in Castle Rock and we would drive up to Ft. Collins for week-ends of gourmet food and sparkling conversation, joined by Wayne and Gloria, Antigone and Jerry. It was Judy who suggested we celebrate our 60th birthdays in Washington D.C., highlighted by dinner at the famous Inn At Little Washington. We treasure our times together for both the laughter and the serious talks. Judy brought humor, wisdom, imagination, and passion to our gatherings. We love her dearly--and I am using the present tense because she is in our thoughts frequently--and will remain a loyal, inspiring, and very special friend for ever.

Sue and Dick Worley



**Sue and Dick Worley** - January 13, 2014 at 10:21 AM

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“ Gaye DiGregorio lit a candle in memory of Judy McKenna



**Gaye DiGregorio** - January 12, 2014 at 02:50 PM



“ I don't remember how I first met Judy but I always knew when I saw her she would embrace me with positive energy. What an outstanding role model.

CSU colleague

**Gaye DiGregorio** - January 12, 2014 at 02:52 PM

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“ We send our condolences to Judy's family and friends and thank those who wrote a moving tribute to Judy which was published in the Coloradoan 1/12. Judy had a glimmering aura around her body, a reflection of her loving radiance.

Randy and Kathy Fischer

**Kathy and Randy Fischer** - January 12, 2014 at 01:20 PM

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“ Judy was a mentor to me during my time working for Extension. I will miss our birthday lunches and our book exchange program. Much sympathy to her wonderful family.

**Kathy Williams** - January 10, 2014 at 10:09 PM

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“ Judy was an amazing mentor to me in Extension. I will miss our annual birthday lunches and our book sharing program. Much heartfelt sympathy to her wonderful family.

**Kathy** - January 10, 2014 at 09:57 PM

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“ Judy was such a gracious friend and wonderful teacher -- and just look at that smile! I feel lucky to have known and worked with her.

Cara Neth, CSU

**Cara Neth** - January 10, 2014 at 12:17 PM

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“ One of my most touching memories is the Christmas bridge party that dear Judy selected movies for each of us based on either a movie theme or the actors & she wrote a note as to how she had made her choice. This was par for the course for Judy to take the time & consideration as opposed to just buying a gift. Difficult for me to believe that she is gone but she remains in our hearts.

Marg Assel



**Marg** - January 10, 2014 at 10:50 AM

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“ Chrissy McCollom lit a candle in memory of Judy McKenna



**Chrissy McCollom** - January 10, 2014 at 10:42 AM

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“ Judy was such a strong, positive woman, and a bright, shining spirit. I cannot believe she is gone so soon. I see her sparkling eyes and bright smile.... I hear her signature laugh ... I feel the strength of her enthusiasm and encouragement.... I feel the certainty of her convictions and the acute focus of her inquiries.... I feel the warmth of her love and affirmation and friendship .... and I miss her!

Celeste Holder Kling (friend, colleague, Mildred Arnold Foundation Board)

Celeste - January 10, 2014 at 10:03 AM

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“ I learned from Judy to pack lightly. Wherever she went in the world, I think she only took one small suitcase. So whenever I pack to go on a trip I always think of Judy. May she continue to travel lightly.

Kathy Cosgrove Greene  
Financial Planner



Kathy - January 09, 2014 at 10:47 AM

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“ I am a friend from women of the year, mentoring circle and the threesome Judy, Deanna and Kirsten.  
(We had dinner together every 4-6 weeks for many years.)

I want to say that Judy saw more in me than I did in myself. She helped me see my strengths and encouraged me to excel. That is one of many things I am grateful for in our friendship.

Kirsten



Kirsten - January 09, 2014 at 10:47 AM



“ Judy, the consummate organizer, innovator, encourager, debator, enthusiast, promoter, loving friend, loyal servant to what she believed in, willing to support anyone or anything that she thought just, was truly an intellect. And she picked me as one of her friends!!!! Wow! I feel so blessed. God blessYOU Judy. There are many stars in your crown. Your light will shine on. Bob Hoffert summed it by saying that Judy encouraged us to be larger than we otherwise thought we could be. Your light will shine in my heart for the rest of my days.

Doris Miller



Doris - January 09, 2014 at 10:46 AM

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“ I will miss her infectious laugh and her happy voice telling her stories. Her socks made me smile.

Nancy Hansford



Nancy - January 09, 2014 at 10:45 AM

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“ Judy had already taught me a great deal in the 30 years I had known her as a colleague as CSU and as a friend. She taught me much more in the ten months since her diagnosis. I will remember her willingness to help anyone who needed her assistance, positive spirit, straight-forwardness, practical problem solving, sense of humor, ... and so much more!

As my husband Ken and I drove back from the mountains Friday evening , I noticed the most beautiful sunset. It was unusual that the color was in the East, rather than in

the West. I regarded it as an earthly tribute to Judy's transition!

Kevin Oltjenbruns (CSU Colleague, friend, member of salon discussion group)



Kevin - January 09, 2014 at 10:45 AM

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“ One of Judy's wonderful gifts to the world was her "Judy Magic". She had a combination of deep caring and love for people and projects that would come through the magical twinkle in her eyes and her infectious laugh. She could not only envision something that wasn't there before like the "Footprints Series" at the Lincoln Center but could sprinkle it with "Judy Magic" and it would turn out both successful and fun. If you were near her pretty soon you'd find yourself joining her to make that dream become a reality. "Judy's Magic" made this world a much better place and those of us who worked and played with her will carry it in our hearts.

Trudy Reeder  
Mildred Arnold Foundation Board  
and Mentoring Group



Trudy - January 09, 2014 at 10:44 AM

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“ The strength that Judy has shown while facing both she and Bill's illnesses has been inspirational. Judy's concerns for Bill and her granddaughter both before and throughout her illness were heartwarming. Her care and concern for the quality of their lives surpassed her concern for her own. I am happy that she was able to live her convictions to the end thanks to her own determination and the love and care of those around her. She will be missed by so many.

Jane Koeckeritz, Nurse Case Manager



Jane - January 09, 2014 at 10:43 AM

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“ Once you got in the door at Judy’s, you didn’t have to ask what her favorite color was. Red rugs, red flowers, red fabric hangings, red folk art, red picture frames, red chairs, red roosters. Of course she wore bright colors—handmade figured vests, unique jewelry, primary colors everywhere, but mainly red. Red lipstick. Red for liveliness, red for vibrant attention, red for vivid conversation, red for swift and considered action, red for heart.

Judy wanted one of my paintings for her do-it-up-beautifully-and-do-it-right makeover of her kitchen and den. She settled for yellow—a spreading yellow-orange sunrise over a dark landscape. She told me she saw it as a sign of hope, that sunrise: since things would soon be even brighter, even better.

I wanted to do a painting with a lot of red in it, just for her. I have decided I still will. Something lush and complicated, the way Gauguin would—bold, primitive and red, red, red. Red for hope, red for joy, red for the way we will remember our remarkable friend.

Rebecca Hill



Rebecca - January 09, 2014 at 10:43 AM

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“ Judy and I were co-workers in Cooperative Extension at Colorado State University for 27 years. We planned, laughed, traveled, and presented (particularly the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) programs to many groups on campus and elsewhere. She was the one I turned to when depressed and troubled--she was always there for me. Thus the pillow I gave her on her last birthday in November, "You'll always be my best friend--you know too much". :-) I loved her as my best female friend.

I'm certain God has welcomed you with open arms, Judy.

Dorothy H. Martin



**Dorothy** - January 09, 2014 at 10:42 AM

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“ Judy and I were faculty members at the same time at CSU. She and I overlapped at OSU during our PhD period, but were in different fields, so didn't see much of one another. I was her department head for 10 years in Design, Merchandising and Consumer Sciences and then went to the Dean's Office. I was also on the Mildred Arnold Board with Judy for several years.

Judy was one of the most creative and enthusiastic thinkers and problem solvers I encountered at CSU...and I was there for 30 years! She was honest, straight forward, and cheerful. Judy was not afraid to take on an issue or challenge a position, but always did so in a professional and respectful manner.

I am struck by how many people have been positively impacted by Judy's life. The diversity of individuals she embraced is impressive....and we all believed she was one of our most valued friends. The bible teaches us to 1) love God and 2) love others. Judy did both and leaves a wonderful legacy.

Antigone Kotsiopulos



**Antigone** - January 09, 2014 at 10:41 AM

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“ I learned so much from her about politics, bridge, laughter and enjoying life every minute of every day. She will be missed by all of us. I use my cookbook every week and feel if she had not encouraged us all it would not have seen fruition as a published book. I will treasure it and my memories of her.  
Linda Meininger

Bridge Club



**Bridge Club** - January 09, 2014 at 10:41 AM

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“ I was Judy's doctoral advisor at Oklahoma State University. It was a joy to be her advisor. Judy had experience as an Extension educator and I was early in my academic career but experienced in working with low income groups. She knew she wanted to do her dissertation on women and their financial decisions. We designed a good study and she did the survey and collected her data. Shortly before it was time to defend the dissertation, Judy told me she was making a trip to Greece with Bill! I was dumb-founded. How could she take time away from finishing the dissertation?! She very calmly explained to me that she had her priorities straight, there was no doubt she would finish her degree, and she valued having balance and someone she loved in her life.

Dr. Sharon Nichols



Sharon - January 09, 2014 at 10:40 AM

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“ Judy was the ‘impetus’ behind organizing our Salon and she will be deeply missed. She was the heart and soul of our political action. From the members of the Salon: Audrey, Bev, Donna, Doris, Jan, Joan, Kevin, Mary, Mims, Nona, Peggy & Sallie.



Salon Family - January 09, 2014 at 10:39 AM

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“ Dr. McKenna played an import role in the Department of Design and Merchandising in 1978-2006 as a Family Resource Management Specialist with Cooperative Extension. Her work had great impact across the state of Colorado in Financial Planning and education for all ages and workforce preparation. Judy was instrumental in writing the curriculum for "Be Money Wi\$e", a personal finance program geared towards teens, as well as a key piece for "Money and Personal Power" written for a drug and alcohol treatment program that sold across 40 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Dr. McKenna served Colorado State University in many ways including Interim Assistant Dean to the College of Applied Human Sciences and Coordinator for the Consumer Sciences program. Judy was vital to the department, Extension, and irreplaceable as a colleague.

Dr. Nancy Miller, Department Head

and the Department of Design and Merchandising



Nancy - January 09, 2014 at 10:38 AM

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“ For a few years after the merger of consumer Sciences and Housing, Textiles and Clothing, and Interior Design, I was Judy's department head in what is now the CSU Department of Design and Merchandising. I remember Judy fondly as an excellent Cooperative Extension Specialist and a wonderful faculty colleague. I haven't seen Judy much in the last 20 years, but I know that she will be sorely missed by family and her many friends.

George A. Morgan

Professor emeritus, education and human development

Colorado State University



George - January 09, 2014 at 10:37 AM

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“ Judy was a treasured part of my life in Fort Collins. When we first moved here in late 2011 and met her, she urged us to join the church's Dinners in the Home and insured that we were included in her group. At the first gathering - held at Bill & Judy's home - she set the tone for deeper, more meaningful conversations that REALLY helped the group to know each other and to bond. She asked each of us to self-introduce by telling how we had gotten to Fort Collins and to the church. These are the usual questions, but she followed that by asking us to tell about our passion. That night was very special, but just the beginning of many special times with Judy.

Judy asked me to weave a commissioned piece for her "art collection room" last Dec (2012). The conversations we had as we explored her tastes and what she wanted were very special and of course went far beyond weaving and what she wanted to throw over her sofa. I looked forward to more times talking with her and will miss her soo.

Peg MacMorris



Peg - January 09, 2014 at 10:37 AM

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“ Judy had an amazing energy and was always looking for a new project. She liked to get people together for conversation and the sharing of ideas. She loved to share authors and/or books. She relished the role of Grandmother. She will be missed by me and many more.

Chris Vallee



Chris - January 09, 2014 at 10:36 AM

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“ Judy was our Family Economics Extension State Specialist when I met her. She was the driving force behind a national award winning money management curriculum that she, Jane Frobose and I developed in 1998. The curriculum “Money and Personal Power” was specifically created to address the needs of recovering drug and alcohol addicts that were getting ready to transition back out into society. At the request of a Colorado rehabilitation program director we were asked to help clients learn to recognize and manage the stress of financial conditions and decisions they would face when released from the resident program. Judy worked tirelessly in the development of simulations, games and workshop activities to engage clients. Judy’s passion for helping the clients be prepared to make good decisions and feel in control of future financial situations was evident in her curriculum and the outcome for clients. At the conclusion of the “Money and Personal Power” money management series and again at the rehabilitation program graduation ceremony graduates personally acknowledged the skills they learned from Judy, calling it “life-saving” and “empowering”. Judy submitted the program for recognition, and was awarded the Association for Financial Counseling and Adult Education Award for Outstanding Educational Program in 1999.

Sheila Gains



“ Shiela lit a candle in memory of Judy McKenna



Shiela - January 09, 2014 at 10:35 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Judy’s passing....she was an extremely talented and creative professional who explored new ways for Extension to reach clientele. I did not know that she had become ill – her loss will be widely felt. One thing, however... she made a wise decision to retire when she did so that she could pursue her many interests. I always enjoyed visiting with Judy and learned a lot from her over the years.

Nancy Granovsky

Regents Fellow

Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

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Nancy - January 09, 2014 at 10:35 AM

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“ I've known Judy since she first joined Extension as an intern in the Moffat County Extension Office. I was in the adjacent Rio Blanco County Office. We worked on ever so many financial education programs and projects together over the years. We took the training on the AARP Women's Financial Information Program together, then she brought it back to Colorado where she worked with agents statewide to implement this outstanding program that reached hundreds, if not thousands, of women during the years it was available. She also worked with several of us to develop curricula including the "Be Money Wise" and "Money and Personal Power" programs. She and I conducted a Be Money Wise camp for teens here in Larimer County. What an experience that was! We didn't get very much sleep during that outing!

As you probably know, Judy wrote a column on finances for the Fort Colorado Coloradoan. These were used by Extension Agents throughout the state as a means of keeping informed, and to pass the information on to their county residents.

Judy, Bill, my husband and I have maintained a long-lasting friendship that took us on annual camping trips in July, celebrating our anniversaries and birthdays in November, enjoying many meals and bottles of wine together, playing board games, engaging in stimulating conversations, and just having a lot of fun together over the years. We will miss Judy incredibly.

As I teach money management here in Larimer County, I'm often reminded of the many things I've learned from Judy. Yes, some of those things are about personal finance, but more than that, I've appreciated her curiosity, her infectious laugh, desire to connect people and experiences, explore the world, share, and be positive no matter the situation. She connected me to professional organizations and personal friends that are of great value to me. I appreciated her referring me to Women of The Year. There are just too many memories to capture all of them here.

I miss her.

Laurel Kubin, Larimer County Extension Director





“ JUDY AND I RECONNECTED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1959 AT OUR 50TH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION IN WICHITA. WHEN WE TOLD HER WE WERE MOVING TO FORT COLLINS, SHE IMMEDIATELY WELCOMED US AND OFFERED TO INTRODUCE US TO OUR NEW HOME COMMUNITY. THOUGH A HALF CENTURY HAD PASSED, OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH JUDY AND BILL BECAME SO VERY BEAUTIFUL AND FULFILLING, AS IF WE HAD BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT THROUGHOUT. TOGETHER WE VOLUNTEERED AT THE EVERGREEN JAZZ FESTIVAL IN 2010, SHARING THREE BEAUTIFUL DAYS IN A TIME SHARE IN THE ROCKIES. WE CO-HOSTED A UNITARIAN CONGREGATION FUNDRAISING DINNER, ENJOYED MOVIES AND MEALS TOGETHER AND CELEBRATED LIFE. WHAT A BLESSING JUDY AND BILL HAVE BEEN TO OUR LIVES.

Martin and Mary Catherine Limbird



Mary Catherine - January 09, 2014 at 10:33 AM

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“ One of my most touching memories is the Christmas bridge party that dear Judy selected movies for each of us based on either a movie theme or the actors & she wrote a note as to how she had made her choice. This was par for the course for Judy to take the time & consideration as opposed to just buying a gift. Difficult for me to believe that she is gone but she remains in our hearts.

Marg Assel



Marg - January 09, 2014 at 10:32 AM

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“ Judy was a mentor to me. I was blessed to have spent time with her.  
Joann Ginal



Gina - January 09, 2014 at 10:31 AM

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Martin and Mary Catherine Limbird





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