



## Judith Marie "Judy" Hopen

November 17, 2012

Judith Marie (Judy) Hopen, 51, of St. Louis, Missouri, died Saturday, November 17, 2012, at the Lutheran Home in Cape Girardeau, MO, due to the ravages of breast cancer. She was born on November 3, 1961, in Cape Girardeau, daughter of James J. and Betty S. Johnson Hopen. She graduated from Central High School in 1980. Surviving are her mother, of Cape Girardeau; three sisters: Mary (Dennis) Drum of Herndon, VA., Linda (Don) Shelton of Kelso, and Carolyn (Randy) Davis of Jackson; and three brothers: Thomas (Joy) Hopen of Lawrenceville, GA., and Michael (Elaine) Hopen and Stephen Hopen of Cape Girardeau; several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, brother, Robert Hopen, and sister, Susan Hopen Carlson. Judy was a free-spirited, artistic person who relished her life in St. Louis, where she lived all of her adult years. She made innumerable friends and loved going with them to whatever concert or music festival was currently available, and to the endless series of parties she and her friends organized. She loved a parade, taking part in many, from riding her unicycle in the 76 Bicentennial Parade and dressing as Olive Oil in the Popeye Parade, to dressing as a leprechaun in the St. Paddy's Parade in the Irish community of St. Louis. For the last thirteen years of her work life- until her illness disabled her- she proudly created and installed labyrinths throughout the United States and the world. Visitation will be at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, November 19, 2012. Celebration of life service will be Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will follow at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, MO. All are welcome to wear a dress hat in honor of Judy. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Siteman Cancer Center or the American Cancer Society.

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ For Judy: As the late Ronnie VanZant so aptly said it, you have been and will remain a Free Bird. Rejoice with the Lord and paint your labyrinths in Heaven:)

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**Brenda Brown** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I had met Judy through The Labyrinth Society and when I would visit St Louis, Judy was always ready to show me some obscure restaurant that was ALWAYS a winner for excellent food and eclectic atmosphere. The labyrinths she crafted were works of art; infused with her joy and zest for life and filled with the energy she radiated. I will miss her hats and contact lenses, and hearing about her latest costume parade adventures. Godspeed my friend.

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**Randy Fillmore** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Such a devastating loss of a beautiful, creative soul. I met Judy one year at the Venice Cafe dressed as Olive Oyle and then another time as herself. It was like meeting an old friend. Her loving art will live on for her.

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**Colleen Lavin** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Judy enriched so many lives with her talent, teaching, warmth, compassion, and uniquely special humor. Those of us who knew her, however briefly, were blessed as though touched by the hand of God. Our collective memories of her will be long-cherished throughout the world.

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**David Gallagher** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Dear Betty: We are so sorry for your loss. Please know that our prayers are with you. With deepest sympathy. Love Ron & Priscilla

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**Ron & Priscilla Kirby** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ I only learned today of Judy's passing, and wanted to pass along my condolences to her family and friends. I only knew Judy when she was very young, but the light that she shined later on in life (obvious by the other postings) was already shining bright even then. If you are one of the people who were lucky enough to have her in your life beyond her youth, you should consider yourselves lucky indeed.

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**Evelyn LeGrand** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ judy was a true light in this world of whom i loved a lot and will miss her.you her family are in my prayer so stay strong and keep your faith,god love,s you..

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**DENNIS BYRD** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ God you could be a pain. And now your a pain that will never go away

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**Paul Acsay** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FW

“ I only met Judy a few years ago but she welcomed me whenever I happened to see her at Soulard Coffee Garden or Billies and made me feel as if we had known each other much longer. God gave her to us as a gift and we should be thankful for the time we had her here. May God bless you and keep you with Him.

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**Fred Wolfmeyer** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ I met Judy at an art event. Although complete strangers, we talked for about an hour and I felt that I had met a kindred spirit. She was fascinating and freely self-expressed. I am blessed to have experienced her radiant joy. Although I will carry her heart imprint forever, her physical form will be deeply missed.

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**Kimberly Gunn-Stone** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Judy graced us with her light and kindness for too short a time. I first met her in 2001 at The Labyrinth Society gathering in Atlanta, GA, and looked forward to spending time with her every year at gathering. She enthralled all with her beauty and special sense of style, surprising us with those cat eyes that she would pop in for a special evening. I visited her once in St Louis and she was so gracious and generous showing us around making sure that we had a good time in her beloved city. I walked many labyrinths that she painted and was a bit jealous of her that she had such a great job. She will be greatly missed as she was greatly loved. Namaste.

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**Carol House** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ Tom and family please accept my deepest sympathy in this time of loss. My thoughts and prayers will be with you.

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**Pamela Johnson** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Judy came into my life over a year ago as we held hands while dealing with a cancer diagnosis. Always a radiant and vibrant woman, who never met a stranger. I will never forget my dear friend Judy as she taught me how to live life on my own terms, and be unique, as God made us. Deepest condolences to her mother and other family members. I pray Judy's vision of hope and life continues in each of you.

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**Jan Stephenws** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ To you the Hopen family and friends my condolences. I am so sorry for your loss. Come to think of it, it was Judy who taught me proper funeral/life celebration etiquette. What a grand lady. Post my divorce Judy was a breath or even a blast of fresh air. My life remains so much fuller having known her. I have daily reminders of her presence that I cherish. You are in my thoughts and prayers on this solemn and bitter sweet day. God bless us all in our loss. Grace and peace.

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**Eric Sutphen** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I've only known Judy the last couple of years and yet I felt like I've lost a life-long friend. She was a special person.

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**Jack Lippold** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Carolyn, I am so sorry for your loss Carla

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**Carla Meyer Southard** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ To all the family, I am saddened to learn of Judy's death. What a beautiful spirit. May you feel the comfort of Christ as you mourn her loss. Peace be with you.

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**Christy Naeter-Onnybecker** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ We both went to grade school with Judy and she was present at our 30th high school reunion. Her can top dress was an example of her creativeness and artistic expression. It was great to see her. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hopen family. May Judy now rest in peace with our Lord.

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**Chris and Jill Janet** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Judy was a bright spot for many people and in many ways! I got to know Judy through the Banana Bike Brigade. Her creativity was inspiring! Judy also shared helpful resources/books "Waking the Warrior Goddess" which assists to this day my family in supporting my sister who had breast cancer. Judy will be remembered!  
Sincerely, Karen Finklang

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**Karen Finklang** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Betty, I'm so sorry for your loss. Rob took me to her house one time because I missed my flight, anyway she took me in with open arms. It seems like she touched everyone in such a sweet way. My thoughts & prayers, love, Christy Lewis

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**Christy Lewis** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Betty my sincerest sympathy to you and family,my heart goes out to you and all your family. I'll see you when I come home,all my Love,  
Jean Wibbenmeyer

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**Jean Wibbenmeyer** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Our dear Judy: gone to memory, yet her spark remains lit. Did she ever meet a soul who wasn't somehow kindred? Cancer bit both of us, as well as a grand circle of women whom we came to know because of that cruel bite. Among us are the unlucky with lives cut short, and the lucky ones like me, old but over two years cancer-free. All of us, lucky or unlucky, have the determination to wear a smiling face. Judy was one of the very best at doing that. Sure, we remember the sadness shared within our group, the tears shed. What we remember most are the hugs and smiles♦Judy♦s among the warmest and most radiant. On this Thanksgiving I am grateful her path intersected mine. I am sorrowful that it was for so short a time. I hope wonderful memories will sustain her family, and her long-time friends. Namaste.

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**gaye gambell-peterson** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Judy made the canvas labyrinth I've been working with for the last two years in Sydney. It has brought comfort and nourishment and peaceful release to many many people over that time. Her work was so beautiful and careful and will live on as a testament to her passion. Sending love and courage to Judy's family and friends at this very sad time.

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**Emily Simpson** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I met Judy a short while ago, and I immediately connected with her. She was wearing a leopard print dress and cat eye contacts. I was impressed. My friend Eva told me that Judy knew everybody and was an inveterate music seeker. The three of us met up a few times over the last year and a half, so I was lucky to spend some fun, quality time with her and Eva.

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**Clare Merlo** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Judy joined us a couple times in Houston, & once to Xilitla, Mexico, for The Orange Show Art Car Parade & EyeOpener tour. Very energetic in her passion for art & fun, a person to be missed!

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**Tom and Moira LaFaver** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Ditto what my brother said. I would add that when Judy told me that she built labyrinths, I thought she was nutty. But when I saw how much she loved her job and how much it meant to her, I realized I was the one who was nutty. She always dressed with flair, did what she wanted to do, and paved her own road. I admired her for that. I will miss her and her constant smile.

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**Jim Flynn** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Judy has always represented to me everything that is true, beautiful and spiritual in this world. While I am very sad that I will not see her smile or hear her laugh again, she will continue to represent everything that is good about life I'm my mind and in my heart.

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**Dan Flynn** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Judy's parents and my parents were close when my family lived in Cape Girardeau, MO. Growing up all the kids spent time together. There was a Hopen for just about every Flynn in the clan. Judy and I were always teased about the revealing photos of the two of us in the bathtub together when we were infants. Judy was two months older than me. Over the years we kept in touch. She moved to St. Louis while I was in college and when I'd go home to see the family I'd see her from time to time, but honestly it was not often enough. Judy was an amazing spirit with a heart of gold. She did everything for everyone. She would not bend to convention. She was who she was and all loved her for it. Her happiest professional years was creating and installing labyrinths for a company in St. Louis. She lit up with enthusiasm when she talked about their installations around the country and the joy they brought to people's lives. I knew Judy was sick and I would send her my love and well-wishes from time to time via FB, but I was too caught up in my day-to-day life to go to St. Louis to see her. Last week she was moved to a home in Cape Girardeau. I was going to visit her with my dad this Friday. I will have to live with the regret of not seeing her to hug her and tell her how much her friendship and love meant to me. Do not take your friends for granted. There is nothing more precious than those that you love. I love you Judy and I will miss you. While I can't be there to send you off with your family and other friends, I will be wearing a hat in your honor tomorrow.

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**Bob Flynn** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Judy made an entrance even when she wasn't even trying... but boy, when she was trying, she knocked it out of the park. All of the Banana Bike Brigade are honored to have shared the parade route with her and are lucky to have had her creativity in our lives. Rest in Peace Judy and may God comfort your family and friends.

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**Nancy Higgins** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Betty, please know that my thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Thinking of you and wishing you comfort.

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**Betty Seesing Roth** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that you are in my prayers.

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**Melody Loveless** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ She was a performing and visual artist who we all loved to be with. Jeff has invited those who knew Judy to the Venice Cafe in Souldard, St Louis, for a gathering from 4-8pm this Saturday. Bring pictures, stories and friends.

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**Jay Kelleher** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Into paradise may the angels lead you !

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**Joan & frank Belanger** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Judy. Judy was family to our group. She showed us support, determination and how to live life to the fullest. She taught me a lot and I will forever keep her in my heart.

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**Jackie Puzniak** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Jim, I'm so sorry to hear of your daughter's passing. I'll bet God needed another Angel to serve him in heaven. Ron Gray

Ron Gray - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ She left a spiritual legacy for us all. Incomparable..

Laura McNamee - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ For many years, Judy and I celebrated our birthdays together along with The Labyrinth Society at the annual November Gatherings. We dressed up, sang, danced, and laughed. Her smile was as big as her hair was long. Judy's creative contributions and free-spirited joy live on and are a gift to all!

Annette Reynolds - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ WE will miss you.

Gail & Joseph Gitto - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Judy listened to me when I needed someone to listen. And she made a fabulous 24' labyrinth for me and dedicated it in a special way. I will remember her when I am listening to others and when I am walking my Chartres Essence Labyrinth. I miss her.

Janice Lewis - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Judy was such a vibrant, creative, joyous, & caring friend, whom I had the pleasure to know through our adventures in the Labyrinth Society. My sincere condolences to all family and friends. I will miss her and never forget her. I will wear a hat on Tuesday, even though I can't attend the service in person.

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**Carol Posch Comstock** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ The pain of losing someone you love is something that we will never get use to because God's Word refers to death as 'the last enemy.' May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will have our enemy brought 'to nothing.' (1Corinthians 15:26) What a wonderful day that will be!

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**K. Jackson** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I am so sorry for your loss, too soon, of your daughter and sister Judy. I met Judy through her friendship with my brother Paul and enjoyed several stimulating conversations with her. Judy was a singlar spirit with a special energy.

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**Denise Acsay** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Judy will be missed by everyone! Your spirit and love of life kept all of us alive and much happier having had you in our lives. So sorry for the world to have lost you.

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**Sue Cork** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ *Rest In Peace, Judy.*

Gene Kroenung - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *No one will ever be like my friend Judy....where there was no light she brought it...when it rained she splish splashed away....she was a great lady...now she can stir the pot up stairs and make the angels smile....*

Rich Brooks - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *I met Judy a few years ago through some artist friends. It was great fun to have her attend our art shows. She always wore something fun and flashy. A beautiful lady and a sweet soul. I even had the pleasure to design her business cards a couple of years ago. She will be missed by all.*

Dallas Moses - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Mrs. Hopen & Carolyn, You are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you! Chris, Andrea, Maggie & Owen*

The Carter Family - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ *Jack and I met Judy on our trip to Brazil in Nov. 2005. We became friends and kept up contact. Judy was such a good person--to people and animals. We will miss her and will say a prayer for her family.*

Nancy & Jack Wojtasek - February 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM