

# Judith Finkel Todd Abrams

Nancy Spencer McConnell wrote on August 27, 2010:

*My dear friend of 46 years and our fellow classmate, Judy Finkel Todd, died on July 14th after a courageous 15-year fight with breast cancer. While she didn't graduate with us (she transferred to U. of Michigan), she continued to hold Vassar in her heart and many of our classmates got to visit with her when she attended the 25th reunion.*

*I can't remember whether Judy came to Vassar determined to go to law school or whether that became her goal after taking C. Gordon Post's Poly Sci class, but after that class (pretty sure she took it freshman year) her goals were set. She was ladylike and gentle, but so tough underneath.*

*After the death of her husband, Charles Todd, in the mid-90s, she poured herself into her career and even took up tap dancing. She married Ted Abrams in 2006 and continued to enjoy life -- her work, her travels, her family (especially her son, Sam).*

*After the second diagnosis (of the metastases) about 5 years ago, she came back from a trip where she decided she had a choice -- either begin dying, or live until her time ran out. She chose to live the rest of her life. I've never been prouder of her.*

Obituary in the Birmingham News (*published in Birmingham News on July 16, 2010*):

ABRAMS, JUDITH TODD, beloved wife of J. Theodore Abrams, mother of Charles Samuel (Sam) Todd, daughter of Grace K. Finkel, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 14th.

An attorney for more than 25 years with Sirote & Permutt, P.C., she specialized in estate planning, charitable planning, and trust law, heading its estate-planning department. She found ways through her work to help clients donate to charities while still maintaining estates for their children.

Judy was born in Chicago and grew up in the suburbs before moving to Florida and then to Alabama. As a devoted philanthropist, Judy had a lifelong commitment to charitable causes. She gave generously of both her time and resources to local and national organizations. She was especially passionate about helping organizations that benefit women and children, serving on the board of directors and executive committee of the YWCA, and the first board of the Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham. Judy was president of the Women's Network, a member of Leadership Birmingham and was chairman of the professional advisors division of The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, which she helped

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create. She served on the board of directors and was president of Oasis - A Women's Mental Health Center, as well as the Advisory Board of the Alys Stephens Center and the Professional Advisors Board of University of Alabama.

She was a member of the Alabama, Illinois and Florida Bar Associations, a Regent in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and was president of the Alabama Planned Giving Council.

Judy was recognized with many awards, including Birmingham Outstanding Professional Advisor by The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the Life Inspiration Award from the American Cancer Society, a Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts, a Top Birmingham Woman by the Birmingham Business Journal and was listed in The Best Lawyers in America.

Judy attended Vassar College and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan where she later enrolled in law school and was ranked at the top of her class. Transferring to the University of Miami School of Law, she served as an Associate Editor of the University of Miami Law Review.

Judy is also survived by her brother, Charles Finkel (Francine) and sister, Gwen Chanzit (Richard), her stepchildren Margaret Todd Webster (Michael), Susan Todd Mullen (Stan), Jon Abrams (Brantley) and Amy Nathan (Todd), numerous nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles B. Todd, and her father, Sidney W. Finkel.

Judy was valued by a wide and loving group of friends, some from her earliest years, and others from her rich life in Birmingham. Family and friends knew her as someone they could always turn to for comfort and wisdom. Judy was active at Temple Emanu-El, and enjoyed dance, photography, and worldwide travel. She was especially devoted to her son, Sam. The funeral will be held on Friday, June 16th at 11:00 A.M. at Temple Emanu-El. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, the YWCA, Temple Emanu-El, or a charity of your choice.