Lorry Moody

Lorry Moody and her husband, Howard, have been connected with Judson since 1956.

This old house has been home to us, both literally and figuratively, for over forty years. When Grace House was in the process of conversion from a one-family brownstone to a luxury duplex (1975–1976), our family was housed in what is now the Center for Medical Consumers. Every time I walk into the library I can picture our living room and bedroom in that space. The French doors opened to the small roof area (over Roland’s bathroom), which was just big enough for two to enjoy alfresco dining in the summer. What is now Arthur Levin’s office was our dining room and Dan’s bedroom combined. (Deborah was away at college.) What is now the front office was our kitchen.

We loved having Arlene Carmen as our upstairs neighbor. At the least provocation we would join forces for a late evening ice cream “smorgasbord” and hash over the events of the day. It was also very reassuring to have John Tungate and Roland Wiggins living there and taking care of the building inside and out. And with Paul Rounsaville and Al Carmines across the hall, we could not have asked for a more congenial and stimulating place to live.

C&C AT C

It would be impossible to highlight the hundreds of events that were held at Judson House, but among the more memorable were Al’s cast parties and Champagne and Carmines at Christmas (C&C at C), when Al would give his unforgettable performances in his apartment. At C&C at C in 1976, our son Dan, who was sixteen at the time, and a friend were recruited as waiters to mingle among the guests with champagne refills. The guests were shoulder to shoulder, with holiday cheer flowing freely. The boys must have decided that when a bottle got too low to pass again they would “clean it up.” By the end of the affair they were hors de combat—a true learning ex-
perience. Dan has never touched champagne since. The aptly named punch Al served at his other parties became almost as famous as Al himself. Many guests also found this brew instructive, including our daughter, Deborah, who became an unwitting student on one occasion. Being the designated caregiver, I of course did not benefit from this educational experience.

When Howard retired in 1992 we helped with plans to get the apartment ready for Bill and Laurie Malcomson’s stay. When Peter Laarman arrived and the Malcomsons went back to Seattle, we were privileged to be under the Judson House roof again. It has been the ideal living situation, especially for Howard’s activities. Once more we enjoyed the most delightful housemates. First, Arlene, of course, then Andy Frantz and Garp, Louise Green, Maureen Wallin, and Hannah upstairs, Roland Wiggins on the corner, and weekday greetings and celebrations with Maryann Napoli and Arthur Levin at the Center for Medical Consumers across the hall.

THE PEACE OF THE GARDEN

I cannot separate memories of the house from reminiscenses of the garden, our private refuge from the busy street. Sunday morning worship, weddings, plantings, parties, greetings, and farewells all start to blend a bit, with one exception. In my mind’s eye I can still see Reathel Bean at the BBQ, bless his heart. (Shouldn’t he have a plaque or something?) Our pets have loved having a safe place to run and play, watching the birds and chasing the squirrels. The garden is a mini almanac, telling us the weather and the seasons out our window.

I will be forever grateful for all the ways in which Judson House has supported and enriched my life and for all the dear friends who shared with me in its history.

LORRY AND HOWARD MOODY

divide their time between New York City and Santa Barbara, California.