

Alice - "My Best Friend"
by Suzette Galloway
January 30, 2010

Alice was a teacher, mentor, 2nd mother to many of you out there and my best friend.

I have heard from so many of you who said "I would not be where I am today without the encouragement of Alice. Alice was there for me when I needed her the most. I will never forget her." In some instances she provided an ear—after a broken relationship, during heartbreak when parents were going through a divorce, health problems, dreams for the future..... a place to stay if you needed one, fed you on many occasions, drove you to events if needed, bought clothing for you, let you clean her studio in exchange for dance lessons, watched you compete, gave you opportunities to meet people who could help you with your careers, attended some of your weddings.....She set standards for you to be your best, look your best, do your best whether it be in performing, on the sports field, in school or at your work. You could see dancers doing home work in the office when they had a break during the evening classes. It was hard work but you lived up to those standards. She was your "fashion police" or the voice in the back of your head that told you to smile, point your toes, and "don't just mark it"...She gave you a place to grow up in a studio among friends who were like family.

Alice introduced all of us to Mr. Smethers and his inspiring programs at the fairgrounds. The two of them worked together for many years where they gave you the chance to develop your performing crafts, meet and greet dignitaries, as well as learn to go through interviews ... personality interviews, something that would also be of tremendous value as you got older entering college and looking for jobs.

Many of you are now helping with those youth programs as Mr. Smethers continues in his commitment and effort in youth programming.

As my friend ...she was the best. I first met Alice when our two children attended kindergarten at Noddin Elementary School. I was delivering cookies to the classroom for a party and asked the teacher "Who is that holding my daughters hand?" She said "Why that is Troy Myers." The first class field trip that we did together as room mothers was a trip to a planned Science event. Alice and I each took a car load of kids. Ty was being pushed in a stroller as Alice walked in. I had already arrived and was standing toward the back..... as the Science docent was beginning the lecture and inviting students to come up to touch the animals. Something was brought out and Alice immediately walked swiftly toward the door. It was then and there that I found out about the only thing I ever knew that she was afraid of....."Snakes".

When Alice was young she was a member of 4 H and raised animals in that program. She had a way with animals. She loved her dogs and I loved to watch them as they sat by her and snuggled up to her gentle touch. One year Ty wanted a French lopped ear bunny from the fairso Alice said "yes" and the bunny was added to the mix.

Alice had many talents.....she was a great cook and did not need recipes. At Thanksgiving time she was known to have baked lots of delicious pumpkin pies. The men in her family alone.....would go through a pie in the morning for breakfast. She could not bake them fast enough. Her meals were

scrumptious and she loved unique looking dishes and silverware to set on her table. She was always bringing Tom some new spicy soup she had just made.

She could pick out clothing for anyone - and they would look fabulous...
..she could pick out clothes for any of her dancers and they would fit perfectly. She could create gorgeous costumes, create headpieces, make earrings, and was a glue gun guru.

She was very proud of her students that had become teachers and attended their recitals when in town. At one recital she was called up to the stage and was introduced as Alice Faye Myers..... their former teacher and a "legend". Upon returning to her seatI poked her and whispered to her "Hey, Alice....you are a legend." She whispered back "That just means I am old". I said "No, it doesn't that is a very high honor."

She had a green thumb and one day when I came home she was in our front yard planting flowers because I did not have any planted and she thought I needed some.

She has been known to paint rooms at night when the house was quiet. To do choreography at night. To go swimming in her pool at night.

She had the 6th sense of an Interior Decorator and loved to create "a look" in a home. Before they moved from San Jose, Alice had so much fun helping our daughter, Wendy, decorate her first home in Almaden Valley. In fact, Wendy received her keys to her new home and immediately had to go out of town for a week. By the time she came home, as a surprise, Alice had repainted her bedrooms so when she got home she could move her furniture in. And, she didn't just grab the paint can and start painting, she had to take the vent grate off and take it down to Home Depot so they could make the paint match. That is the kind of friend Alice was. Always going out of her way to do things that would make others happy.

She was an expert shopper and could tell you..... where to find anything..... you were looking for..... and could take you..... right to that very store.

For many, many years.....she and Gary traveled to Las Vegas to a dance convention with many of you. I am sure you have lots of stories from those trips. All of you would get dressed up and Gary and Alice would take you to a restaurant and when the Matre De asked she would say with a smile "Oh, they're are all mine".

The Myers family and Galloway family celebrated birthdays and all the holidays together. In fact when gifts needed to be hidden ...our house would be the place. One Christmas time....a couple of days before Christmas..... Alice brought something to hide from Ty until Christmas morning. It was a darling puppy that she had named "Noel". At Easter time....Alice was just as comfortable flying kites and having a picnic as she was dining on delicious brunches at the Red Lion.....It is hard to remember a Mother's Day we didn't share together when she lived in San Jose....We didn't live near our extended families so we became each others family. As they say, "friends are the family you choose for yourself."

Some of her favorite things were ...her family, the San Jose Sharks, shopping atand having lunch at Whole Foods, cinnamon rolls and strawberry shortcake at the fair, a good movie, holding and playing with babies, shopping in Willow Glen and Los Gatos, the colors black and red, lemons,

tubular roses, a Pay Day candy bar, her dogs, getting her hair and nails done, Artists Erte and Richard McDonald, duck tape that she used on everything when necessary, all music..... but loved to dance with Gary to the music of Yanni.

Alice, Gary, Tom and I liked to have fun and when Francene, Wendy, Troy, Tiffney and Ty and their dance friends were growing up..... It always included them. On occasion, Gary and Tom used to play touch football with the boys on the Leigh High School lawn. Alice and I became the get-away drivers for “toilet papering friends houses”, and hosted many fun get togethers Halloween Parties, Super Bowl Parties, Birthday Parties, Parties after Competitions, and “*just for fun*” parties..... at the Galloway home.

I once said to Alice “The kids want to see you dance again.” She smiled and said “they are seeing me.....every time they dance and perform”.

If any of you have ever received a card from Alice you know that she always underlined words to accentuate them..... Alice, this is underlined a thousand times.....“we love you and will miss you more than words can express...”