



Seasons of Louisiana with Dianne Cage

Roses are red, violets are blue, Kiss Me, Smile, Be Mine, Best Day, UR Cute, Marry Me... The celebration of Valentine's Day has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. According to Britannica.com, the festival, which celebrated the coming of Spring, included fertility rites and the paring off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius 1 replaced Lupercalia with Valentine's Day.

There are other stories but this one sounds good to me... Now that Mardi Gras has made its way up to North Louisiana, wonder what took them so long? Rex, The King of Carnival, has ruled over Mardi Gras in New Orleans since 1872. Whatever the reason, glad they are here! I am torn on how to decorate our house. After Christmas, January is a clean, clear month of no decorations. We enjoy the anticipation of flowering Quince, Forsythia, Paper Whites, Daffodils, Jasmine, The Star Magnolia, Tulip Trees, all on the verge of popping out. They are all a true gift of Mother Nature that we love! So what is an old girl to do? The front of our house is decked out in Purple, Green and Gold, lots of beads, balloons, the Boeuf Gras, Jesters, The Sceptred Isle (title float), King Cakes, and such. The back and side gardens are adorned with every size and shape of Red Hearts, Victorian Valentine Cupid... Be My Valentine.

Wordsworth's Daffodils, born in 1770, William Wordsworth was one of England's greatest poets. In his poem, "I wandered Lonely as a Cloud" ... he describes his encounter with "...a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils." Later when he remembers the sight ... "my heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils."

You are not going to believe this! Last week, Monroe Garden Club — it was dark, rainy and cold, the kind of day I enjoy staying home with a big fire, a good book and as someone else said long time ago, "A big pot of beans cooking on the stove and a half gallon of Jack Daniels on the table! A broke back woman!" I talked myself into going to Bayou DeSiard Country Club.

KRISTOPHER KELLY gave an outstanding talk on "Growing Your Garden From The Soil Up." I just wish Mike Cage had been there; he would have really enjoyed. I did not understand one thing he said, but I enjoyed being there! After a fun lunch with good friends, I head to my car and it is pouring down rain. I borrowed an umbrella in the foyer of the club to make it to my car. I have one of those cars that does not require a key, you just have to have it in your possession. I opened the locked car and the horn started blowing with the lights flashing on and off. I took my key from my purse and pushed every button. No luck! I was very nervous. My wet umbrella was on the front seat, and water was everywhere.. I look and oh my goodness I am in the wrong car! Looks just like mine. I look and my car is next to the one I am in. I gather my purse and umbrella and run to the locked car. I opened the door and all hell breaks loose... lights, horn honking, I grab my key from my purse and tried to put it in the ignition. It says this key is not detected for this car. Two big white Mercedes Benz going crazy with alarms and lights! I am soaking wet and very upset. "I WANT MY DADDY!" I took a deep breath, looked across the parking lot row in front and there is another big white car that looks like mine. It is locked as the other two were. I peered inside the car before I touched the door handle. I saw my sunglasses so I jumped in. The other two cars were still going crazy with lights and alarms. I drove around to return the borrowed umbrella and report what had happened. There were two more big white S 550 cars in the Country Club

parking lot. I bet I could have opened them both. We called the Mercedes people and tell them what happened "Dr. Cage, we think your wife is a witch!" The thing that hurt my feelings most — someone had the nerve to ask me if I had had a glass of wine. First thing I said, "You are not my Daddy and I do not have to tell you anything! But for your information, NO! Not that it was any of your business, if I had wanted one I certainly would have had one. In the middle of my harrowing episode, I did try to call Mike... "Is this an emergency? Dr. Cage is in surgery."

Exciting happenings in the Twin Cities.. RONNIE MYRICK retired from my favorite Bank ORIGIN. JUDY & BILLY HADDAD, just the nicest people around, opened their beautiful home on Lake DeSiard to a fun group of well wishers ... fabulous flowers, wonderful food and just a very good time. All the best to the Myricks!

The Ouachita Medical Society hosted the annual Oyster Bust at Catfish Charlies, way down on DeSiard Avenue. Everything, everything — Oysters on the Half Shell, Fried Catfish, Shrimp, Fried Oysters. I twas so much fun seeing so many old doctors and friends....

"Everything there is a season, and a time to purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die." Last week my friend Sally Sumlin Marchman Calvert died... I drove over to Delhi for the visitation and a quick lunch with my friend Shirley Brown, from Tallulah, at Thompson's Drug Store. It kind of reminds one of Aron's Pharmacy. A delightful surprise: we run into JOHNNY MAXWELL from Ruston. He had driven over for Sally's visitation. Catching up, Johnny said he is mostly going to doctor's appointments and funerals. I call this an Angel Wink. Johnny Maxwell picked up our lunch ticket. I made it home, in time for ARMANDE McHENRY KENNEDY'S funeral. In loving memory. What a sweet lady ... it was an honor to have known her. I jumped back over the river to NANCY LEDBETTER WILSON'S funeral at St. Paul's. Sweetest music ever with darling family stories were told by her precious family. Lon, talented son, from Nashville, head drummer for George Strait, played old memories and special songs. Lon was in Los Vegas on tour when his mother passed away... The George Strait Jet had him home within the hour.

One of my most favorite boy friends ever... JOHN FRANKLIN EMORY from Choudrant died this February 10. We drove over early for a lunch at beautiful Squire Creek. It was so much fun seeing DIANNE & JAMES DAVISON... What a wonderful life story and what a sweet man! He started Community Trust Bank, now Origin Bank. DRAKE MILLS delivered the most perfect eulogy. I will miss all my friends who have gone to a better place. We are studying the Psalms in Sunday School and I believe every word!

P.S. One more thing about my episode on that dark, cold, rain soaked day.... I managed to lose my American Express Card, driver's license and all my cash. Next morning I went to West Monroe to the Louisiana Department office of Motor Vehicles. After several trips (you must have two proofs of residence, an original or certified copy of your birth certificate and your social security card). I should have stayed home that cold dark Tuesday Morning! I think the next car I get will be a Lime Green KIA

I look forward to the next time. Be kind to all and never ever lose your since of humor! God is good God is Great....

Dianne



ABOVE: Dr. Tommy Lolley and Jimmy Woods.



ABOVE: Beverly and Dr. David Bryan with their beautiful smart, daughter.



ABOVE: Bob Brown and Joe King Montgomery.



ABOVE: Enjoying the Myrick retirement party are Taylor and Monica Cagle visiting with Joey McGinn.



ABOVE: Nicole and Dr. Scott Barron, enjoying the Medical Society Oyster Bust.



ABOVE: Drake Mills, friends and Stacey Goff, Origin Bank celebrations.



LEFT: The Caples visiting with Cathy and Ronnie Myrick.

Applications
being sought

Military Officers Association of America, Louisiana Council of Chapters are accepting applications for the Lt. Col. Marvin T. Stewart Memorial Scholarship Award.

The scholarship is \$1,500. Recipient must be a graduating senior who will enroll as a full-time college student in the upcoming fall semester. Selection criteria is based on academic achievement, demonstrated leadership qualities, school and community service and personal initiative. Applicants who enroll in a Senior ROTC program (any service) will receive preference in consideration during the selection process.

Deadline is April 15th.

For more information, email griffithgrp@hotmail.com, or call (337) 208-8742.

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