

## Seasons of Louisiana with Dianne Cage

How exciting! Beautiful spring weather, gardens planted, the love of Christ there is peace! baby birds flying around, the Oriole's are here...wheee!

Ecclesiastes: For everything there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven, A time to be born, and a time to die... A time to plant and a time to uproot... To everything there is a season ... A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to cast stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing ... a time to get and a time to lose; and a time to keep silent and a time to speak... A time of love and a time of hate, a time of war and a time of peace...

Our good friend ANN WEST LeDOUX passed away this last week, and will she be missed. The beautiful West girls, Ann, Jan & Diane go back a long way, say maybe 1952.Her little sister, Jan was one of my best friends growing up. We lived across the Forsythe Golf Course from each other, I spent many happy fun times in the West home. Ann, being a little bit older, was so popular and pretty, she just knew how to do. We all looked up to her. Over all these many years...I remember when she and handsome high school boyfriend JOE LeDOUX got married... when their first child Kathy was born, then Karen... My first child, George, was born and the LeDoux's last child, Joby, was born the same year... Over all these many years, lots of happy memories. Ann and I shared many of the same hobbies — gardening, birds, cooking and family. She was the oldest of two little sisters, I am the oldest of two little sisters. We shared many plants and special tips of mother nature. If Ann LeDoux said it you could bet on it. My little sister. Rebo Bradford, several months ago, decided to start feeding the many birds that she was seeing in her neighborhood on Bayou DeSiard. She was especially interested in the Orioles. I told her to talk to Ann and she was the expert. The day Ann died — later that afternoon, Rebo called and said Ann LeDoux just came to see me. The first, most beautiful Oriole, was on Rebo's new feeder. God is good, God is great. Another, I call them angel winks, happened. Ann was in the hospital, not doing well, and family was coming in to say goodbye. Dizie, Ann's little sister, drove over from Jackson. They would not let her in the hospital with all the new Covid rules and such. Now Dizie has not lived in Monroe for many many year. She was in her car leaving the hospital, very sad and disappointed. As she turned the corner, Mike Cage and his two nurses were leaving the hospital heading back across the street to their clinic. Mike heard someone shouting, "Mike Cage, Mike Cage!" It was Dizie. After getting her parked in the doctor's parking lot, secret badges, back stair wells, up, up and away to the bedside of her beloved sister. A time to say goodbye... Mike said if it had been 10 seconds here or there, she would have missed him... I call that an Angel wink.

One more Ann LeDoux short story... years ago there was a German Girl, that had moved to Monroe with a very heavy accent. I think her name was Elsa, and she gave the best facials. I was there for my appointment and afterwards she asked if I was related to Ann LeDoux, a client of her. I said "no, but we are good friends, why do you ask?" She said, "You could be sisters as you have very similar bone structure." I was so flattered!

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This past Saturday, Mike and I drove out to Calhoun to visit with old friend Dr. Jose' Bermudez. Talk about interesting — I could listen to him all day. We really enjoyed the morning. Moving on to the 1 p.m. we attended the memorial serevice celebrating the life of DAREN HINES REEVES at Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church. What an amazing outpour of love and support; the big magnificent church was, almost, standing room only... Rev. Michael Thang'wa and Rev. John Mabray were the principal celebrants. Wonderful music by Josh Madden. Readings by LYNNA CAPLES, BROOKS WATSON, DR. TIMOTHY MICKEL — all perfect and wonderful. Homily by the Rev. Thang'wa, it was wonderful but he talked and sang for over 45 minutes. Rev. John Mabray's Homily, very comforting words and just perfect. Prayers of the Faithful, DEBBIE HERRINGTON. Personal Comments: Daran's three boys, THOMAS, TAYLOR & MATT REEVES, told wonderful happy stories and memories of their father. BLAKE HER-RINGTON, ROBERT BREWER and DR. RICKY CA-PLES, DR. KELLY WHITE told happy, fun memories of life with Daran. All talked 5 or 6 minutes each, perfect time and perfect stories. Time wise it was almost 3 p.m. and getting close to two hours for the service.... SENATOR JAY MORRIS was the last speaker. Rev Thanh'wa announced to Senator Morris as he was beginning that he had only one minute to talk. Without missing a beat Jay turns abound faces the Rev Thanh'wa and said "Father, you think you can give a politician only one minute!" Jay gave the perfect length and closing to the celebration of Daran's life! It truly was a beautiful service, just what the family wanted. They told and told Father Thanh'wa please keep his short. I think he got excited with such a big audience and want to share his singing and talking talents. It was all good but way too long...for what was planned! All our love and prayers to YVETTE REEVES, Daran's beloved wife, his boys and their families, his parents, LINDA & TERRY REEVES, his grandmother, SALLY HINES. With happy memories and

The Monroe Garden Club gathered to celebrate the Spring Plant Auction. All were so excited to see each other after this long long period of not gathering. The excitement in the crowd was exhilarating! Seen having a grand time: DEBBIE LUFFEY, the perfect Auction Chairman, PAT-SY DEAL, CHARLOTTE GOODWIN, CINDY ROGERS, SYLVIA WHITEHEAD, NANCY INABNETT, ALISE OL-IVER. We raised lots of money for our beloved community. I just hope the old girls in charge remember "The Three Talents"..."Parable of the Talents"...Matthew.....

Happy Birthday to you MARY C. BERNARD. What a beautiful party this past Saturday afternoon at the home of CAROLYN PERRY, hosted along with ANNETTE CAR-ROLL, RISSA DAVIDSON, MANDY GREEN, KATHY HART, LAURA HUNT, MELANIE KING, LISA MILLER, GWEN RANKIN, SHARON SCOTT & ASHLEY WEST. Beautiful flowers, beautiful food and a beautiful time was had by all.

We have an amazing new neighbor... CHRIS COOPER and wife DR. EFFIE COOPER. Mike and I walked down to welcome them to the Garden District. Visiting, we learned Chris is a man of many talents — construction, but his specialty is refinishing tubs and such. A very big home I have been working on for old friends that do not live here... At the start of this project our friend gave me an open checkbook and parting words said: "please do not break me!" I told him I would not do anything to him that I would not do to Mike Cage... this house was probably built in the 1960's and never updated since. It has three big bathrooms with three big tubs that desperately needed replacing, a very expensive process. An Angel wink... at a fourth of the price.. Chris Cooper restored all! AMAZING! I love the LORD!

Be kind to all and never ever be afraid to say you are sorry! I look forward to the next time!

## Dianne

**RIGHT:** The talented Chris Cooper







ABOVE: Mary Ann Dunn and Brenda Adams.

**LEFT:** Leslie Murphy and Michelle Turn-

**BELOW:** Rose Mary Harrison and Lala Funderburg.





## RILEYGR

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