



# Seasons of Louisiana with Dianne Cage

When President Trump was first elected, someone real smart said, “If all he does is appoint a conservative Supreme Court (the highest federal court in the U.S., consisting of nine justices and taking judicial precedence over all other courts in the nation) he will have done a good job! Also ... Israel and the UAE and other Arab countries have recognized the existence of Israel and are in an economic partnership. This is a first giant step for hope in the middle East for peace. Trump got the economy going again.... Trump beat himself with the mishandling of the Covid pandemic and his big mouth. Just wish he had one person that he would have listened to, someone that could have put a shock collar on him when he mouthed off in a very unpresidential style or way. Regardless, Trump did amazing things for the trade, the economy and the Middle East. This was certainly not a blue win the Democrats were expecting. They lost seats in the House and did not hold the Senate. Let’s hope Biden can heal the wounds and reunite the country. God Bless America!

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Sunday morning we were watching CBS News with Jane Pauley... “Sunday Morning” looks back at the life of MARGUERITE LITTMAN, a philanthropist and friend of writers and artists who advocated for AIDS patients and who was an inspiration for Holly Golightly in Truman Capote’s “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.” She was a socialite and charity fundraiser who inspired Capote and taught her friend Elizabeth Taylor how to do a Southern drawl, and she was my friend too. She always told me ... the director of “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” said many times that she would have been a much better Maggie than Elizabeth Taylor. Another fun story ... Marguerite was beside the pool at the Hotel Cipriani in Venice with Tennessee Williams when a cadaverous girl came shambling past wearing a bikini. “Look anorexia nervosa,” Littman said to her companion. “Oh my goodness Marguerite, you know everyone,” came Williams’ reply. It was all true: David Hockney, Bianca Jagger, Dennis Hopper, Bill Blass, Princess Diana were all her friends. Years and years ago, I was in Los Angeles staying at the Beverly Hills Hotel when I ran into Marguerite and husband Mark ... we joined them in the Polo Lounge for a drink. While visiting she said she and her husband, Mark (a Barrister on the Queen’s council), were in Los Angeles for a month, for a big Amerada Hess Petroleum board meeting and had rented friend James Mason’s home, above the Beverly Hills Hotel. They invited us up for a Sunday Brunch, friend Parker Bowes-Lyon, (nephew of the Queen Mother) from London was going to join us. Winding up the hill above the beautiful old hotel, I felt like I was in a movie! Upon arrival, we saw very large gates that opened like magic to a very large home wrapped around half a mountain. We were greeted by a very large blond, good looking Swedish butler... It truly felt like being in a very rich movie. It was an experience I shall never forget! So much fun! Over all these many 50 or so years Marguerite and I were friends. We always got together when in London and always when she visited here in Monroe. As someone said “She was a rarefied creature — generous and restless!”

“She was like a character in fiction.” Marguerite’s fabulous home in the middle of London in Belgravia on Chester Square... was next door to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on one side and Mick Jagger on the other. A true Fairy Tale! One more quick story. On one of our many trips to London with our friends CAROL & BOB CUDD whom have a wonderful flat in London (that we have enjoyed with our and friends and family over all these 30-plus years). Now when you travel with the Cudds ... let the games begin! A whirlwind of perfect planning for everything exciting to do in London and the countryside. I called Marguerite and invited her to join us for lunch at Harry’s bar on a Wednesday.

She was tied up that day, but said she was having lunch Tuesday with Princess Diana at Harry’s and if we would change our reservations to Tuesday, she would introduce us to the Princess. I was so excited! As it turned out we had plans for Tuesday that could not be changed... Six months later, Princess Diana died.

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Extra Extra, read all about it!!!! SURGE, the new entertainment center by Drew Brees, is opening for family fun in West Monroe! It includes bowling, golf, simulators, karaoke rooms, arcade games, a full kid-friendly restaurant and so much more... How much fun is this and how wonderful for our Twin Cities and North Louisiana!! R.J. LUX — our friend whom we have met at the MAC during our weekly workouts — is the contractor for all of the Drew Brees sports centers in Louisiana. He invited us and all our grandchildren to a soft opening. Next time a full write-up with lots of pictures! Hope we get to meet Drew!

The Potpourri Book Club met this late October at Bayou DeSiard Country Club (socially distancing) for a wonderful review of “The Fall of Freddie the Leaf.” The story by Leo Buscaglia is a warm, wonderfully wise and strikingly simple story about a leaf named Freddie. KATHY HART reviewed this book to perfection. You did not want it to be over. Kathy is one of the very best and she is my longtime friend. NANCY INABNETT along with hostesses LYNN HODGE, KATHY PATRICK and REGINA WOOD transformed the Fireside Room into spacious fall setting, befitting the Fall of Freddie the Leaf...

What a treat old friends from Lafayette MARSHA & LANA SMITH stopped by a quick lunch and visit. Mike said he had never heard so much laughing and carrying on! I love seeing old friends!

DIXON ABELL ... You are one of our favorite friends and we can hardly wait to read “The American Spirit. Who we are and What we Stand for,” by David McCullough..

SCOTT HART, I did not know you knew me so well! “The Cartiers” —the revealing tale of a jewelry dynasty over four generations. I am loving it! Thanks for thinking of me and sharing!

If you are looking for a good read, fiction mixed with history, Wilber Smith is your man! I just finished “Rage” and I did not want it to be over. I am starting “The Leopard Hunts in Darkness.” I love what Kathy Hard said: “when you finish a good book, it is almost like losing a good friend!”

If anyone sees TOM JANWAY or knows him, tell him to call me. I have missed seeing him! I have several projects I want to talk about, like when are we going to do something about Young’s Bayou, a major drainage system in Monroe. Tom Janway is a man who can get things done. Mayor Friday Ellis and the city of Monroe are lucky to have him on our team!

Oh dear, Dr. Terry Tugwell called to talk about the tragedy and sadness of the old Oleanders of Riverside. Whatever and whomever have tried, they are whistling in the wind or another way to say “if they are sprinkling in the wind, they are getting wet!” There is a way and the money is there to save them. Don’t think it will ever happen! The old saying... they are too many cooks in the kitchen!

Speaking of the kitchen... It is never too late to teach an old dog new tricks: the Emeril Lagasse Power AirFryer. It is wonderful! Thank you our sweet old friends. We have a new friend in the kitchen!!!

“...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings of eagles; They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah... Be kind to all and I look forward to the next time.

Dianne



LEFT: Kim Read, Satchie Godfrey and Dr. Amber Shemwell celebrating fall.



LEFT: Mike Bailey and best friend getting ready for those ducks.



LEFT: Lana and Marsha Smith.



LEFT: Kathy Hart and Laverne Bodron.



ABOVE: Janelle Snellings enjoying dinner with Wendy & Stuart Gentry, and a special guest!

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