

# A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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## Cathy's Column



I've been waiting to write this column in the hope that THE BLUE WAVE results across our country might have also extended to our adopted state of Florida. Alas, it did not. The campaigns are over and the vote counting, not perfect again, have produced the continued regime of Rick Scott as our senator and Ron DeSantis as our governor. I'm hopeful, but not optimistic, that these officials will do well for our state.

They continue to resist the fact that the earth is warming due to our widespread and abusive use of fossil fuels. As governor, Scott rejected the use of federal funds for a high speed rail link to our Clearwater area from Orlando years ago. He still rejects even the term, "global warming".

The fact is that we are in Florida and living on a peninsula, a body of land surrounded by water. The ice cap is definitely melting. Where will the water go? We are most vulnerable to extreme weather changes, sea surges, and varying temperatures. Even the National Weather Service couldn't predict the November snow storm that Joe and I got caught in during our recent drive to New York for Thanksgiving!

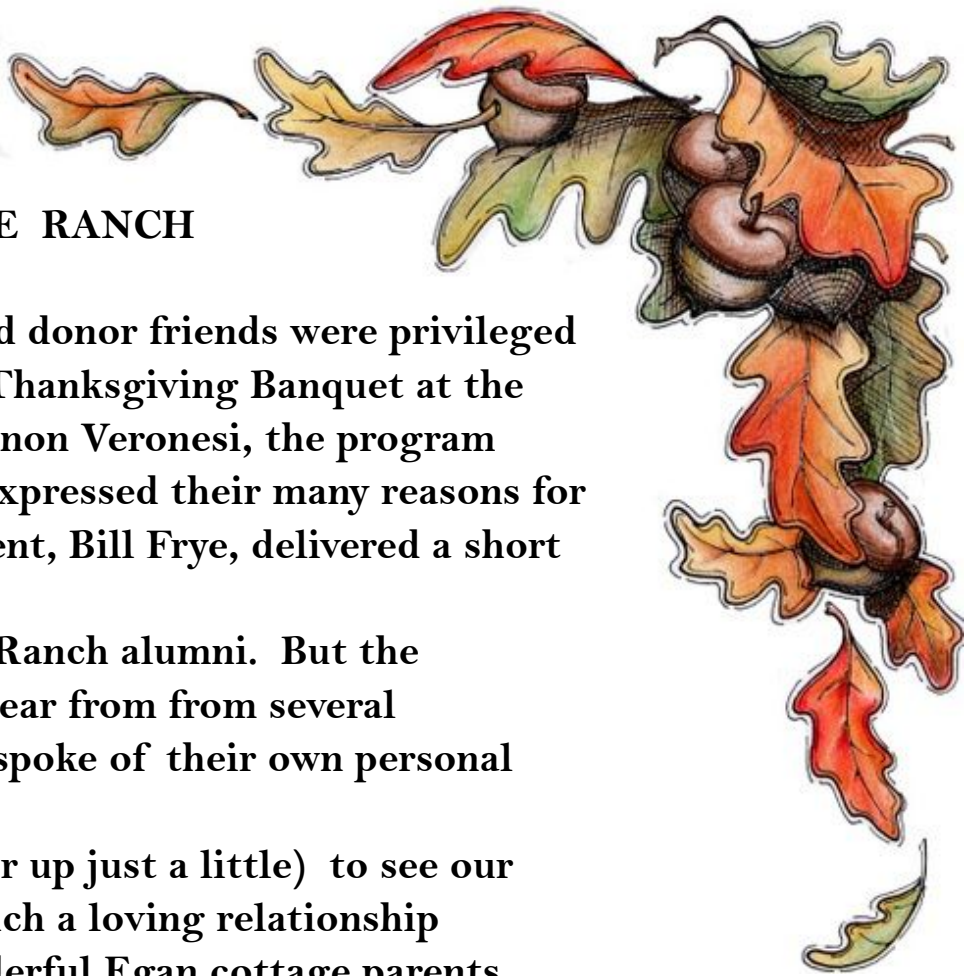
We are failing ourselves and the future of our existence if we continue like this—electing officials who are in the government business for their own aggrandizement without a sense of the future generations, not to mention helping those in need with healthcare, exploding the deficit to the highest levels through their tax cuts to the wealthy and looking to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits to the seniors and those in need. (Continued on page 4)

## THANKSGIVING AT THE RANCH

A few TRIF members and donor friends were privileged to be invited to the annual Thanksgiving Banquet at the Sheriffs Youth Ranch. Shannon Veronesi, the program director, welcomed us and expressed their many reasons for being thankful. The president, Bill Frye, delivered a short but poignant message of life long impact from some Ranch alumni. But the highlight, as usual, was to hear from from several youngsters who got up and spoke of their own personal gratitude.

We always smile (and tear up just a little) to see our kids so dressed up; to see such a loving relationship between them and our wonderful Egan cottage parents, Cheryl and Bruce and to experience their thanks during a very touching evening.

by Betty Egge



## Please, please don't forget your contribution for their Christmas gifts.

(You could send a check right away to Joe Lanza, our treasurer, at

7450 Evesborough Lane, New Port Richey, FL 34655)

The Cottage parents will purchase the wish-list presents. We're invited to be there at the opening on Friday, December 14th. It's a real thrill! Get in touch with Eva Joline, our Ranch liaison, if you would like to come!





**NOVEMBER LOOK BACK:** Our group met November 8th at Paradise Diner in Safety Harbor for our monthly meeting and get together. There were 25 attendees. The food and conversation were both excellent!

Our speaker was Seth Milbrand, a representative from The Florida Suncoast YMCA. Some of the points of interest he spoke about concerned lifelong membership advantages, the Silver Sneakers program, the free luncheons on Wednesdays, the exercise classes, the various programs available and the overall

physical and mental health benefits that accompany all the "Y" aspects. It was a most informative discussion. This is a non profit organization that is such a valuable addition to our Tampa Bay community. Information concerning your particular needs is readily available at any

"Y" facility in the area by either a visit or a phone call. Submitted by Eva Joline



Cathy Lanza, our president, discussed our upcoming events:

December 13th-our holiday meeting at Alfano's Restaurant, Clearwater. 1702 Clearwater-Largo Road, Clearwater FL 33756  
Reservations **MUST** be in to Rhoda Langstein by December 6<sup>th</sup> (one week before the luncheon) in order to guarantee your seating!!

Luncheon begins at 11:30 am. Joining us will be the Cottage parents accompanied by a child resident. They will talk about our impact on the Cottage. We will present them with a check for our semi-annual donation at this time.

December 14      **OUR ANNUAL PIZZA AND HOLIDAY GIFT OPENING** with the children at Egan Cottage! The maximum number of us that can go is 10. We have 6 signed up now. If you want to be added please let Eva Joline , our liaison, know! This is such a festive night!





February is our annual "Day at the Races" event. The date is February 22 (Friday) this year. Rhoda has a reservation for 40 tickets. This includes Clubhouse entrance, program, wonderful buffet and a designated group clubhouse seating for us. It is always a great event! Tickets are \$24 each. \$\$\$ must be given/sent to Rhoda by January 31st with a stamped self addressed envelope. If paying by check, it must be made out to Rhoda as she must make one payment.

## **Cathy's Column** Continued from Front Page

It seems as if one of the big topics in the news has become the Presidential Race in 2020. Can we last that long? We need to make our interests known and work to make a better world NOW. Let your legislators know your feelings. Public education needs to be supported and tax dollars are needed in order to achieve those goals. There needs to be gun control and our schools needs to be safe havens in which children have an opportunity to grow and thrive.

Let's look to the future and work together to build a better, cleaner, more peaceful country. We, as educators, have always looked to instill the principles of citizenship and character in our students. With our generous support of the children at Egan Cottage, we are helping to foster the same goals as we did during our teaching careers. I am hopeful that we will be able to overcome those who seek their own selfish goals if we are active and work toward a cleaner, less greedy society.

Both Joe and I wish everyone a Happy Season of Health and Joy and we look forward to seeing you at our ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at Alfano's on Thursday, December 13th!