

# A "C.U.T." ABOVE

## Cathy's Column

### President

Cathy Lanza  
7450 Evesborough Lane  
New Port Richey, FL 34655  
727-375-7129  
[lanzac@verizon.net](mailto:lanzac@verizon.net)

### Vice Presidents

Marilyn Satinoff  
727-784-8338  
[esatinof@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:esatinof@tampabay.rr.com)

Pat O'Beirne  
863-221-3575  
[obeirnep@yahoo.com](mailto:obeirnep@yahoo.com)

### 2nd Vice President

Rhoda Langstein  
727-422-3833  
[rlangste@aol.com](mailto:rlangste@aol.com)

### Treasurer

Joe Lanza  
727-375-7129

Egan Cottage Liaison/Secretary  
Eva Joline  
727-642-3949

### President Emeritus and Advisor

Phil Meissner  
727-669-7656  
[philm2384@gmail.com](mailto:philm2384@gmail.com)

### Sunshine Committee

Marilyn Satinoff-727-784-8338  
[esatinof@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:esatinof@tampabay.rr.com)

Betty Egge 727-787-8580  
[bettyegre@gmail.com](mailto:bettyegre@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Ellen Artale  
727-772-5656  
[eartale@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:eartale@tampabay.rr.com)

I don't know about you, but I am becoming increasingly "immune", or as we used to say, "jaded", to the daily reports about what is happening in Washington. Our administration is ALWAYS in the headlines and they usually don't signal anything good occurring. When is Washington going to do what we elected them to do?

There is a problem of poverty in our country, one of the richest, if not the richest in the world. Children are not getting the proper nutrition that they need to grow and succeed in school. Recently, on one of our trips to New York, I was talking with one of my son's neighbors who happens to teach in a poor section of the Bronx. She had tears in her eyes when she related that the Christmas vacation time is a real hardship for families because the children would not be eating subsidized or free breakfasts and lunches provided in school during that period. Hence, most of the teachers contribute to a "vacation food pantry" for the families in need. Of course this is a wonderful gesture, but it shouldn't be necessary in a wealthy country like ours.

Money seems to rule the politics of our nation and lobbyists push for the agendas of those who back them. I'm pretty sure that this version of government is not what our forefathers had in mind when they were writing the Constitution.

Clean water and the environment should be a priority for the future of our nation and sadly, it is not. The future of our country lies not only in preserving our natural resources but in educating our children to be citizens in a very different world than that in which we grew up. There are jobs today that didn't exist just a few years ago. Also many jobs have completely disappeared with advanced technology.

There have been many changes in schools and the education of our youngsters -many just in the last few years since I retired. Smartboards have replaced chalkboards, laptops have replaced paper, Goggle Classroom and emails have replaced assignment pads, digitals reports are sent to parents electronically and the list goes on and on. There are emerging courses such as Makerspace, which my eighth grade grandson currently takes, which helps kids to think divergently to make the school community a better place. We as a nation, depend and rely on public education funded by our tax dollars to educate our youngsters. Funds should not be diverted for private or charter schools. Private investors have no business in the public education system.

This current administration has appointed Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of Education who, even in her Wikipedia bio, "is known for her support for school choice, school voucher programs, and charter schools." Her familiarity with public school education is nil and her support for the public school system is non existent.

We can only hope, with the recent election and changes in the House, that our country will move forward and realize its true goals that are necessary for the future of our country and the prosperity of ALL its citizens.



OUR MARCH MEETING WILL BE AN EARLY BIRD DINNER AT ASIAN PEARL CHINESE RESTAURANT IN CLEARWATER. WE WILL BE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M. FOR A CHINESE BANQUET (FAMILY STYLE). OUR MENU WILL INCLUDE SOUP, APPETIZER, 6 ENTREES AND A BEVERAGE (NON-ALCOHOL).

THE COST, INCLUDING TAX AND GRATUITIES IS **\$20 PER PERSON.**

**PLEASE BRING CHECKS MADE OUT TO NYSUT OR EXACT CHANGE.**

Call or email Pat O'BEIRNE or  
MARILYN SATINOFF ( info on page 1)

Rhoda and Joe have arranged for a very special Chinese "early bird" dinner for us for our next event.

They have selected tested and "tasted" entrees that they think will appeal to the majority of Chinese food lovers.

As in China, each table will have the food on a "Lazy Susan" style and each diner will select from each serving dish allowing everyone to share and enjoy. It is price fixe and includes a non-alcoholic beverage, tax and gratuity.

March 14th is after the clocks have "sprung forward", so we will have ample time to return home before dark.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and enjoy a delicious meal with us!

# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The fact that Jellyfish  
have survived for  
650 million years  
despite not  
having  
brains  
gives hope  
to many people.



Men are always whining  
about how we are  
suffocating them.

Personally,  
I think if you  
can hear them  
whining you're  
not pressing hard  
enough on the pillow!



Sometimes,  
I forget how  
to spell a  
word so  
I change  
the whole  
sentence to  
avoid using it.



## *Note to Self:*

just because it  
pops into my  
head does not  
mean it should  
come out of my  
mouth.



Facebook.com/StillUpImStillTalking

Why yes,  
I do smile a little when  
karma pays  
a visit to  
someone  
who so  
desperately  
deserves it.



Please **SAVE THE DATE** for Thursday, April 11, since that is our last event for "the school year". Our **END OF THE YEAR PICNIC** will be held on that date at **THE SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCH**, in Safety Harbor. We won't have to worry about the weather or ants and it is always a delicious and worthwhile event. Our bi-annual check for Egan Cottage will be presented to Bruce and Cheryl, our Cottage Parents at that time.

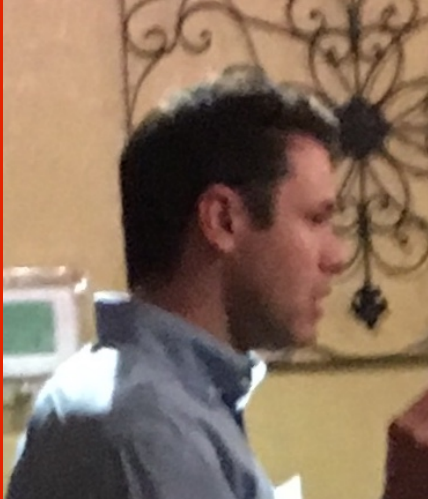
Our Board members work together to make the picnic a special culminating event for you to enjoy. Please think about inviting other education retirees that you may know to join us April 11th to spark an interest in our organization. The cost is \$10. which hasn't changed in all the years that I have been going.

The menu hasn't changed either!  
It consists of :

**ROASTED CHICKEN, POTATO SALAD, COLE SLAW,  
BAKED BEANS, ROLLS, COOKIES, COFFEE,  
SODA, WATER**

# Happy New Year!

Our first meeting of 2019 was held Thursday, January 10th at Positano's in Palm Harbor. We had 40 attendees. There were several guests with some of our members. Also in attendance was Mr. Dustin Chase, Director of Communications of the Pinellas County Board of Elections. With him was Mr. Tim Klosterman, former director.



Cathy Lanza, president of our chapter, introduced and welcomed everyone. Rhoda Langstein, our events planner, spoke about upcoming events.

Our March meeting will be March 14, probably at the Asian Pearl in Dunedin. More details will be forthcoming.

Our April date is the 11th when we have our picnic at the Sheriff Youth Ranch.

Mr. Dustin Chase spoke to us concerning many aspects of the elections process, particularly in Pinellas County. There were many questions raised of which Mr. Chase addressed them all. There were many points answered for us. We were enlightened about many aspects.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Joline  
Recording Secretary



Our NYS retired teachers group held our annual Day at The Races get together Friday, February 22nd at Tampa Bay Downs Racetrack. After a delicious buffet, we enjoyed select seating in the clubhouse to enjoy the races.

A great time was enjoyed by all!  
Submitted by Eva Joline







