

# A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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## Cathy's Column

As the New Year 2020 approaches, we all tend to think about what the future holds for us and our loved ones. Our country is divided and there are issues which seem to be overwhelming. Common sense and clear thinking don't always surface when politics are involved.

Our legislators have been entrusted to do their duty upholding the Constitution of the United States and to vote on our behalf. **THEY NEED TO KNOW HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ISSUES NOW FACING OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PLANET!**

The all important November 2020 elections are approaching very quickly and we are obligated as citizens to vote for the people who will represent the majority of us—but only if we communicate with them on the issues that are important to us.

Climate change affects us all and our future generations: How do we feel about limiting fossil fuel consumption? The increased use of solar energy? Restrictions on the sale of firearms? The treatment of immigrants? Tax cuts for the wealthy? The high cost of pharmaceuticals? Social Security and Medicare benefits? Affordable healthcare? The future of public education? The preservation of our National Parks? The impeachment trial of Donald Trump? The list goes on and on.

There are so many pressing challenges that will be facing our country as we begin the new decade. We need to let our federal, state and local representatives know where we stand—whether we support their views or if we don't.

If you want to use your freedom to express yourself, the address to mail your senators and representatives is:

FLORIDA HOUSE ON CAPITOL HILL  
ONE SECOND STREET N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

Call, email, or write to your legislators and let them know how you feel. No matter the political party, they should be upholding the values that our forefathers envisioned for our nation in the eighteenth century: Three equal branches of government, working together "to form a more perfect union". We need to give our voice in order to make a difference.

Last month I mentioned the rally to support the Florida Education Association (to be held in Tallahassee on Monday, January 13th,) They are battling for higher wages and an increase in retirement benefits. Please call me for more information if you are interested in going.

Our vote counts—but only if we bother to go out and vote!

# Out and About

On Thursday, December 12th our teachers group met at Alfano's restaurant in Clearwater for our annual Holiday luncheon. Cathy Lanza, our president, welcomed 32 attendees including the Egan Cottage's houseparents, David and Sara Malott, and one of the Cottage children, Lexi. Our entire group loves the holiday festivities at Alfano's and we have already rebooked for next year's Holiday Event.

Cathy presented a check to the houseparents for Egan Cottage. This has been our charitable project for over 12 years. David Malott said it is again going to be used for annual passes to Splash Harbor. The children love this water park. He thanked us for enriching the lives of the children. He told us they speak with the children about our contributions for them. They all appreciate the love and kindness that accompanies the check. He stressed that he and Sara try to lead the children by example. Lexi spoke about her life at Egan. Several group members asked her questions.

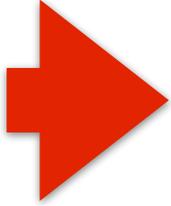
On Wednesday, December 18, Egan Cottage Parents and six resident children welcomed several TRIF members and guests to the annual gift opening and pizza party. The kids were so excited by the anticipation of having special presents chosen specifically for them by Sara and Dave Malott with generous donations provided by our members.

It was truly gratifying to see the gratitude and enthusiasm of kids who are happy to be part of the Ranch family at this special season.

Thank you for making this such a beautiful and memorable event in the lives of these young people!



**January 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon 11:30 a.m.**



**Paradise Diner**

**443 Main St.**

**Safety Harbor**

**Program: Roger Wheeler of the Pinellas County Geological Society:  
Learn all about Lapidery**

**RSVP to Rhoda 727-422-3833 by Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

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## ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

WHERE: TAMPA BAY DOWNS  
WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020  
TIME: 11:00 a.m. Doors Open with Luncheon at 11:30 a.m.  
COST: \$25.00

As most of our members know, our ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES is the highlight of our February calendar! Tickets include entrance, Racing booklet, hot buffet luncheon, including carving stations! Rhoda has only 40 tickets available and they MUST be purchased before January 31st! If you want a ticket:

SEND OR GIVE YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO:

RHODA LANGSTEIN 39650 US HWY 19 N

UNIT 324

TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689



**You must also enclose a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE!** Rhoda will accept requests (with checks and SASE) at the January meeting. If you have any questions, please call Rhoda.



Save the Dates

March 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Pearl Restaurant in Clearwater



April 16<sup>th</sup> End of Year Picnic at Sheriffs Youth Ranch



"Sun gives us rays  
Moon gives us bright  
New Year gives us  
opportunity"  
Happy New Year 2020