

FINGER LAKES TIMES

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"The First Amendment ensures that all points of view may be heard; it does not ensure that all points of view are equally likely to prevail."

— **Michael McConnell, U.S. appellate judge, 2006**
Community Media Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rotary Adopt-A-Highway is a community journey

To the Editor:
For those interested in learning about community service projects, twice every year since becoming an active participant with NYS-DOT's Adopt-A-Highway program in 1994, a volunteer group of Canandaigua Rotary Club members helps clean up roadside trash left by those who seem to think it's the popular thing to do. Common sense dictates otherwise, a few would say.

For those new to our community either by residency or visitation, we collect what others have discarded over some four miles of highway frontage along Routes 5&20, beginning at Smith Road just east of the FLCC campus and extending to Yautzy Road near the Steam Pageant grounds.

For those stimulated by such trivia, our 20-year journey has collected some 3,000 gallons of trash, weighing who knows how much, with "Adoptee-Debris" and which has traditionally varied in content from infested clothing to spoiled food to auto parts to building materials to medical supplies to health related unmentionables.

For those understanding and practicing the real-world benefits of helping to create a more maintainable, cleaner, disease-free environment while effectively reducing both local and state government expense. Rotary thanks you for supporting this worthwhile adventure!

For those who cannot understand the issue, Rotary encourages them to begin thinking seriously about how they can make our highway networks a positive and pleasant experience for everyone. For starters, why not think about not disposing of your trash along any/all roadsides? Then we can reward your efforts with the great majority of those who already understand the issue.

**RAY MINCER &
GEORGE HERREN**
Adopt-A-Highway Project Team
Canandaigua Rotary Club

The goal is to prevent and treat Alzheimer's by 2015

To the Editor:
Currently, more than 5 million Americans (including almost 400,000 in New York state) are living with Alzheimer's, the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., but those numbers are set to skyrocket as the baby boomers age.

Currently, we don't have a way to prevent, stop or even slow its progression. In addition to devastating entire families, Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the nation, requiring care for an aver-

age of 4-8 years but up to 20. Nearly 20 percent of Medicare dollars is spent on a person living with Alzheimer's. Yet, only 1.7 percent of the NIH's budget goes toward research on this devastating disease.

The U.S. has a National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease with a goal of preventing and effectively treating it by 2025, but adequate funding is required to meet that goal. As an Ambassador, I would like to thank Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) for co-sponsoring the Alzheimer's Accountability Act (S. 2192). The act authorizes the National Institutes of Health to submit a Professional Judgment Budget to Congress justifying funding for critical Alzheimer's research. Congress needs to hear about the most promising opportunities and funding needs directly from scientists.

It is only through adequate funding and a strong implementation of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease that we will meet its goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025.

BRUCE A. HOLROYD
Alzheimer's Association
Ambassador to Sen. Schumer
Rochester

These two are supporters of egg cooperative

To the Editor:
A letter to Jeff Henderson: We are Cal and Joanna Adams at Edenfarm, Geneva, and we want to offer our heartfelt support for your peeps project, buy into it and weigh in on the topic as well.

You seem to have gotten, from our perspective, a raw deal, and your column in the Sunday Oct. 12 edition of the *Finger Lakes Times* was a rational and thoroughly convincing appeal for the project's continuation. You've done all your homework.

The city has benefited from your race organization expertise and knows you're invested in Geneva and can be trusted. It seems ludicrous to have to play this "game" with you, which amounts, to our way of thinking, to harassment, scrambled logic, and hard-boiled, political power playing.

Please add us to your list of supporters and egg co-op members, advise us as to the next step needed to get this project rolling and what else we might do to help you. We have 30 good acres here on Edenfarm to offer to explore for co-op purposes. No hoop-jumping necessary!

Eggspectantly yours,

CAL and JOANNA ADAMS
Geneva



San Fran, the good

Behind untouchable pitcher Madison Baumgarner, who was named MVP, the San Francisco Giants won their third World Series title in five years last night, which ranks as close to a dynasty as can be in this day and age of free agency and players changing teams ...



San Fran, the bad

... but as happens so often in our country after sports championships, violence marred the celebrations in the City by the Bay. Bottles were thrown at police, furniture was set on fire, at least two people were shot and one was stabbed. The damage, however, was not as bad as in 2012.

Election Day is no treat

Tomorrow is Halloween. Next week is Election Day. Each year, the two seem increasingly similar.

Both thrive on artificially induced fear. The only apparent difference is that Halloween is all in fun, while a lot of us think Election Day is dead serious.

I am not sure any more. I am not sure I can keep from smirking at the onslaught of television and Internet ads brought by so-called "independent" Super PACs and featuring the disparaged candidate with a forlorn or nefarious expression, his or her deathly image usually blurred and/or grayish.

What's even sillier are the accusations generally taken out of context, based on ridiculous assumptions, or even conjured up out of whole cloth, telling us to "be afraid, be very afraid."

Take the accusation that Democratic Congressman Dan Maffei, in a close race with former federal prosecutor John Katko, "voted to reduce Medicare benefits." This canard is based on Maffei's vote for Obamacare and has been plastered all over the airwaves in recent weeks, but it is only a rehash of the disproved and discredited Mitt Romney accusations of 2012, claiming that Obama had cut \$700 million from Medicare, when the "cuts" were shown to be only intended cost savings. This did not deter the fear-mongers, however, who dredged up this zombie from the crypt to scare the voters yet again.

Both sides are to blame for this annual bloodbath, but it's time to make two important points here:

First, this "orange journalism," to coin a phrase based on its proximity to Halloween, is meant only to scare voters away from a candidate and toward his or her opponent, and the billions spent each year on its promulgation is basically a waste of money. People don't believe in ghosts, at least as they are popularly portrayed, nor do they believe in those bleached-out doppelgangers in PAC ads. Moreover, after awhile they don't even pay attention, waiting for the next kickoff or cooking segment. Ask a typical viewer what ads he saw yesterday, and you'll likely get a blank stare. Pavlov called it operant conditioning; you only perk up when that 10-second network blurb airs just before the actual show you are trying to watch. The only beneficiaries of this advertising onslaught are the

RICH REIBEN

Slightly Irregular



media; it may be that negative election ads are the transfusion keeping some local television stations alive right now.

Second, to be even more cynical, this particular election cycle has very few meaningful races. Much has been made by the (severed?) talking heads — OK, another cheap Halloween reference — about the Republican chances of taking the Senate. If they do, as seems increasingly likely, their majority will be slim enough so that the threat of a filibuster — some of their own medicine, as I recall — would make it next to impossible not to deal with the Democrats, something at which they have proven totally inept of late. Moreover, for the next two years they would need a veto-proof majority to get past President Obama's disapproval, which my crystal ball says is not in the tarot cards.

Meantime, jack-o-lantern-shaped Congressional gerrymandering leaves the Democrats not a ghost of a chance to make any material gains in the House, thanks to the Republican control of most state legislatures. Last time around, the Dems outpolled the GOP by over a million votes in House races, but failed to make up much ground. And the same states' efforts to drive a stake through the heart of traditionally Democratic minority and student voting, using a witches' brew of voter suppression legislation, is a potent deterrent.

Don't get me wrong. Get out there and vote; it's the only way your voice will be heard. But it's too bad our system these days seems less like "Trick or Treat" than "Trick or Trick."

Reiben has been a practicing attorney in New York state since 1975 with emphasis on corporate, tax, real estate and mergers and acquisitions. He has been involved in non-profit work since 1998. He lives in the town of Geneva. He can be reached at rreibenFLT@gmail.com.



What's on your mind?

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Guidelines: Include your full name, address and daytime telephone number. Submissions should not exceed 400 words. We edit for length and clarity.

Make yourself heard

Here are the local addresses, phone numbers and websites of federal and state representatives who serve the Times' readership area. The best way to contact representatives is by going to their individual websites and clicking on Contact for further directions.

President

Barack Obama

Democrat
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461
Website: www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Governor

Andrew Cuomo

Democrat
State Capitol
Albany NY 12224
Phone: (518) 474-8390
Website: www.state.ny.us/governor

U.S. Senate

Charles E. Schumer

Democrat
Website: <http://schumer.senate.gov>

100 State St., Room 3040
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: (585) 263-5866
Fax: (585) 263-3173

322 Hart Senate Office
Building
Washington D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-6542
Fax: 202-228-3027

Kirsten Gillibrand

Democrat
Website: www.gillibrand.senate.gov

100 State St., Room 4195
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: (585) 263-6250
Fax: (585) 263-6247

478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510
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House of Representatives

Tom Reed

23rd Congressional District
Republican
433 Exchange St. Geneva, NY 14456
Phone: 759-5229
Fax: 325-4045
1504 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3161
Fax: (202) 226-6599
Website: reed.house.gov
Includes Yates County, Seneca County, eastern Ontario County (including

Geneva) and much of the Southern Tier.

Dan Maffei

24th Congressional District
Democrat
30 Dill St., Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 253-4176
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3701
Website: maffi.house.gov
Includes all of Wayne County and the Syracuse area.

State Senate

Tom O'Mara

58th State Senate District
Republican
105 E. Steuben St.
Bath, NY 14810
Phone: (607) 776-3201
Fax: (607) 776-5185
Website: www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
Includes Yates, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties, plus part of Tompkins County.

Michael F. Nozzolio

54th State Senate District
Republican
119 Fall St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Phone: (888) 568-9816
Fax: 568-2090
Website: www.senatornozzolio.com
Includes all of Seneca and Wayne counties, part of Ontario County (including Geneva and Canandaigua) and part of Cayuga County.

State Assembly

Robert C. Oaks

130th Assembly District
Republican
10 Leach Road
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone: 946-5166
E-mail: oaksr@assem.bly.state.ny.us
Includes all of Wayne County and part of Cayuga County.

assembly.state.ny.us
Includes Ontario County and Varick and north in Seneca County

Philip Palmesano

132nd Assembly District
Republican
105 E. Steuben St.
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Phone: (607) 776-9691
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Includes Yates and Schuyler counties, Romulus and south in Seneca County and parts of Steuben and Chemung counties.

Brian M. Kolb

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