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# NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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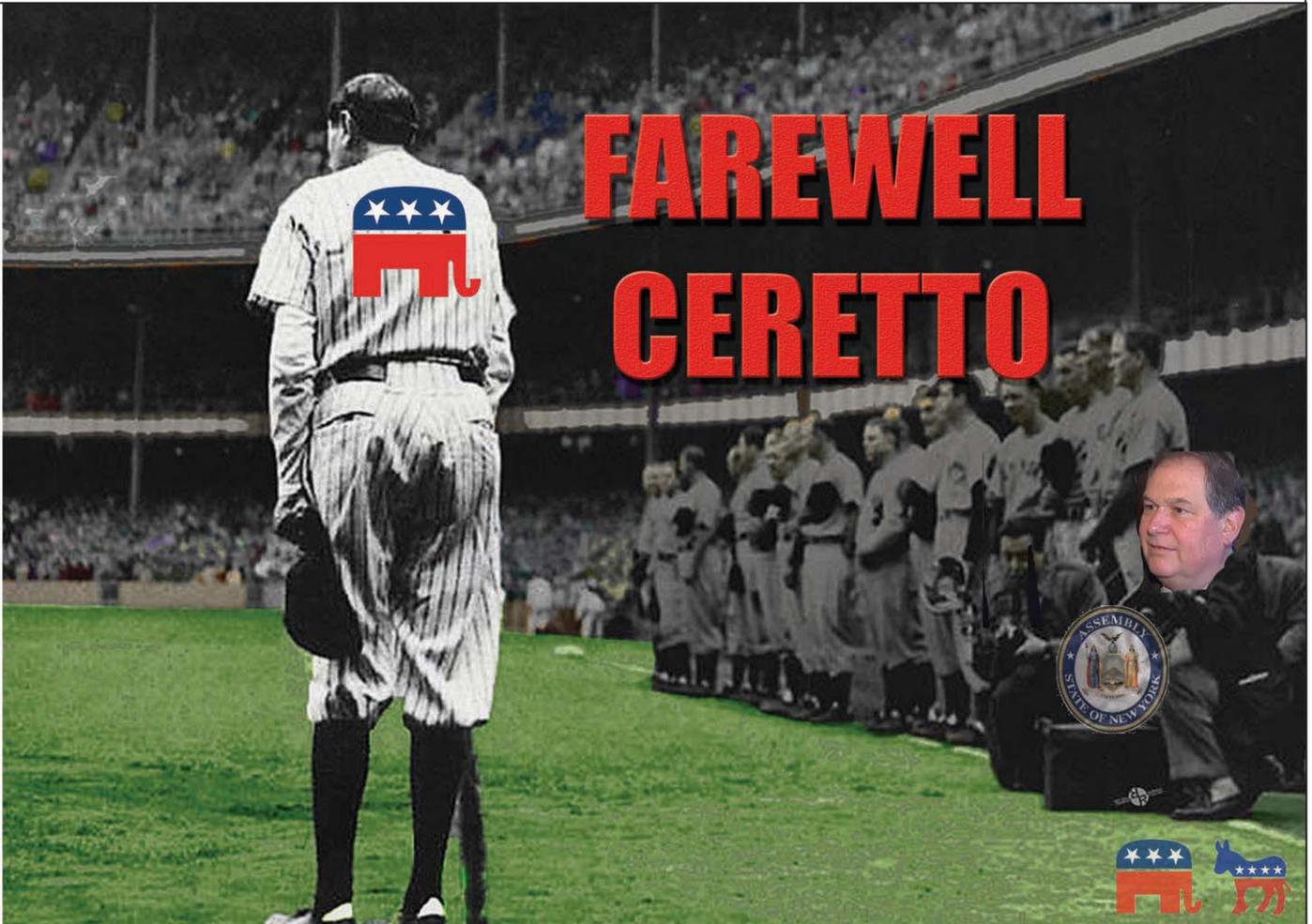
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NOV 10 - NOV 16, 2016

VOL. 17, NO. 45

FREE

**Morinello offers new hope for  
He came, he saw, he blew it....**



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|---|--|---|---|---|

# Goodbye John Ceretto

Lame Duck NYS Assemblyman John D. Ceretto made an unfortunate mistake last year.

He listened to Gov. Andrew Cuomo who persuaded him to switch from the Republican party to the Democrats and now he's out of a job.

The Democrat Ceretto was defeated this week by a Republican who almost certainly would not have run against him had Ceretto remained Republican.

But former City Court Judge Angelo Morinello handily beat Ceretto in one of the most expensive Assembly races upstate New York ever saw.

And Ceretto's job, which he just lost, was being in the New York State Assembly as the representative for the City of Niagara Falls and towns of Lewiston, Wheatfield, Niagara and Cambria in Niagara County, plus Grand Island in Erie County.

Sure you could argue, why waste the space or my time?

A nearly useless job, for an almost useless kind of man. Ceretto represented the people of these municipalities for six years serving with a remarkable lack of distinction.

It would be hard to say precisely anything Ceretto ever did except drive back and forth to Albany and vote "me too" for everything Republicans wanted when he was a Republican and when he turned Democrat he was just as accommodating. They called him on both sides of the aisle, "the 'me too' guy."

Morinello is a former Niagara Falls city judge who retired last year after 15 years on the bench because he reached mandatory retirement age for a judge - 70.

So he surprised everyone when he announced he was going to take on Ceretto. For after all there are few contested races in the Assembly, where Democrats control 105-42 over Republicans. Incumbent Assembly members rarely lose elections.

So sure, probably Ceretto would not have

lost if he remained a Republican. But maybe in the end he can't be blamed.

Ceretto first came to the Assembly when he won a three-way race against two Democrats, John Accardo and the incumbent Francine Del Monte in 2010.

Had Del Monte, who lost the Democratic primary to Accardo, not stayed in the race on a minor party line, siphoning just enough votes away from the otherwise sure thing Accardo, Republican Ceretto would never have squeaked in. But he did. And after two uneventful years it was time to run again.

In 2012, Republican Ceretto had to run again against popular local Democrat and lawyer, Robert Restaino.

Ceretto and Restaino both made a pledge that they would not go negative and dirty. One man kept his word till the end of the campaign. One man kept his word until the crucial week before the election.

That's when John Ceretto went dirty and mean.

And Ceretto squeaked by Restaino who was somewhat chagrined at the rascal's bad faith. Ceretto probably would not have squeaked in had he not gone dirt bag negative during the last days of the campaign when it was too late for his opponent to respond.

But he did. And after two uneventful years it was time to run again. And now it is 2014, and John wants to run again. But after two close shaves - in a district of about 80,000 registered voters, where 35,520 are Democrats and 23,764 Republicans and the rest have either no party or a minor party, the edge clearly goes to the Democrat. Unless they blow it.

So Ceretto made a deal. He had started off his political career as a Democrat back when he was in Lewiston town politics. Then when it was advantageous to switch to Republican he did so promptly. What's a party to him?

And in 2014, Ceretto made a nice clean



Ceretto explained his decision to switch political affiliation I first got involved in public service to help our neighbors and have always put people ahead of politics, and that won't change," he said in the statement. "



Angello Morinello

have an edge?

Of course the Democrats lied. That's what they do. They said Gov. Cuomo has taken a shining to the little guy and he told us don't run a candidate against John. But they didn't tell the rest of the story. That old John was going over to them.

So in 2014 Ceretto had no competition. His scheme and the schemers who cut the deal with him deprived the people of his district a chance to choose a person to represent them. Ceretto was the only name on the ballot for the 145 Assembly District.

And John the opportunist, won reelection. He didn't break a sweat.

And John the opportunist, he was told he would get a big boost from turning to Democrat in the Assembly.

That most corrupt stench hole of filth - the New York State Assembly - had a deal for John Ceretto.

The Democrats controlled the Assembly and since they are in control they would give John a hell of a lot more (taxpayer) money-pork barrel money - then he would get as a Republican.

As a Republican maybe he got \$100,000 to spread around in his district per year.

And yes, you can buy some votes, earn some gratitude, with \$100,000. But since Democrats own the Assembly they would see to it he got not \$100,000 but \$1.65 million.

You know how many votes you can buy with that?

With that kind of advantage plus being the incumbent- and all the money to spread there was no chance that anybody would every challenge old Johnny boy ever again.

And why, you might ask, would the Democrats even care to have such a man as that anyway? It's simple.

In Niagara County the Democrats have very few elected offices. But with elected office comes jobs - patronage - jobs you give out to people who will help you get elected. And with him being a Democrat now - John would have that \$1.6 million to dole out - to Democrats and friends of Democrats. This was a plum.

sweet secret deal -- with the Democrats. Which was in effect: You don't need to run anyone against me - because I'm your boy.

Now Ceretto is a nice guy. He likes to be friendly with all. He didn't want to run too hard and maybe lose to a Democrat - who knows maybe even Francine DelMonte or Bobby Restaino - or someone. Anyone. He might not squeak by. So he made a deal.

He told the Democrats he would run as a Republican and after he won - if the Democrats would not field a candidate against him - he would switch over to the Democrats.

Now of course we won't tell the Republicans our little plan, Ceretto told his new Democrat best friends. And in this he was shrewd. If the Republicans knew he was going to switch parties, they would have run someone against him and fast too.

Then-State Senator George Maziarz - who had mentored Ceretto and aided him in his campaigns in the beginning - would have found someone to whoop John's backside hard and fast.

So they had to keep it secret and John Ceretto - acting friendly to all the Republicans - ran again as a Republican - bald faced telling his constituents that he was their Republican man and so the Republicans stayed out of the race since they thought he was with them.

And the Democrats stayed out of the race for they knew he would be their man - just after they tricked the Republicans and the voters. And so in 2014 the Republican Ceretto (who would soon be the Democrat Ceretto) did not have to squeak by since he had no opponent in a district with more Democrats than Republicans.

The Niagara Falls Reporter kept asking - how can this be that the Democrats are not fielding a candidate in a district where they

## NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

"The Truth is Always Fair"

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# Ceretto, we hardly knew ye.

And true to his word, John Ceretto, the Democrat-turned- Republican, became John Ceretto, the Democrat-turned-Republican-turned-Democrat.

And Ceretto became a tool of the Democrat controlled Assembly.

And true to their word, those Democrats took him as bosom friend and gave Ceretto \$1.6 million in "member item funds" to spend in his district on those he wanted to help. It was all up to him – and his Democratic friends in the party.

What a job. Little or nothing to do – but go to Albany now and then – expenses paid of course – and vote as the party bosses tell you – and then come back to your district with nothing to do but give out money. It's like your Santa Claus.

And all was good and John he should have lived happily ever after switching from Republican to Democratic.

And after two more years, it was time to run again. But this time Ceretto did distinguish himself- not in the assembly but in salting the mines -- handing out his \$1.6 million and living the high life in Albany and back home.

And confidently expecting the Republicans wouldn't bother – he being so popular in his district and his Democratic party edge.

Then Morinello had to go and spoil it for him.

Life is not fair. Morinello was a judge. He had reputation, name recognition. He had money. Energy. Intelligence.

And after John Ceretto worked so hard and set this all up, he hardly got a chance to enjoy when this cat comes out and says he's running against him.

I suppose Ceretto would have had a better chance had he not hired Rob Nichols and if one his staffers didn't get mad and give a bunch of emails to The Buffalo News.

You've probably read the stories. In short Robert E. Nichols, Ceretto's political aide, worked hard with John to make sure none of the \$1.6 million in tax dollars Ceretto got each year was wasted on agencies or not for profits or any kind of project that wasn't going to either get John votes, get John's name in the paper, do a favor which would one day be returned or by George get something for John.

Now of course this was not new behavior for John or any other Assembly member of state senator. They operate more or less in the Ceretto way. The only thing is – normally they don't put their schemes in emails.

But the emails were released.

People laughed when they thought Ceretto and Nichols didn't want to give money to Wheatfield because Town Supervisor Robert B. Cliffe allegedly gave Nichols and Ceretto the cold shoulder at some public picnic.

That wasn't it at all.

Ceretto didn't care about a cold shoulder. The fact is that Cliffe and the whole town board are Republicans. And there was no way John Ceretto was going to get any votes there. In fact, making them look good might hurt

him. You don't give money to the enemy.

And Nichols didn't want Ceretto should overdo it with grants to projects in the City of Niagara Falls, because town voters might object. Suburban voters in the towns might really object.

With \$1.6 million per year there was plenty to go around to buy all the votes and gratitude needed for a district this size – which is the sole purpose for the member item money anyway.

But now Ceretto had a real challenge in Morinello.

And when the emails got out, he sure did look stupid.

When Ceretto said he allocated his member item dollars to worthy projects where it does the most good, the voters laughed.

The understood. A rascal is given \$1.6 million. He has to run every two years. He gives it out where it does the most good- for him.

But Ceretto kept on explaining. "I put a lot of thought into where the funding I secure does the most good," he said again and again without realizing how true that statement was and how refreshingly transparent.

He went on. "A big part of my criteria is which non-profits or community organizations, like local VFWs, [veterans votes] healthcare centers [nurse and doctors vote], or SPCAs [animal lovers, I can take pictures with rescue dogs and put it on Facebook], ...the penguin exhibit at the aquarium [The aquarium people that's a very wired group. I mean who cares about stupid penguins] ...the Sanborn Area Historical Society [that should lock up Sanborn and all those history nuts who always vote] ... These are all worthy projects that make our community stronger. [and my candidacy even stronger]"

The raft of emails back and forth kept voters amused. They were seeing the real John Ceretto.

One of Ceretto's staff suggested sending letters asking everyone equally to suggest projects to be funded with the \$1.6 million. Nichols wrote back "I don't think the process needs to be 100 percent fair to every municipality," meaning Republican municipalities.

Another staffer chimed in and said "We can do 'good' and still help ourselves."

Nichols wasn't sure about a \$125,000 request for a Niagara Falls skateboard park. Skateboard park = ghetto kids.

Nichols wrote, "We will be attacked in the towns that we only care about the city. We need town democrats and republican voters to be successful. Francine DelMonte ignored the towns with the casino funds and they destroyed her." And the skateboard park wasn't funded.

Another project Nichols shot dead on arrival was a proposal to build a Tesla museum.

"James Hufnagel is working on [it]. He constantly criticizes John and the mayor," Nichols wrote.

After all, this is Ceretto's (i.e. taxpayers' money). How the hell would you waste a penny of that on Hufnagel who writes for the

Niagara Falls Reporter.

And Ceretto did not disagree with a word.

But if you really want to understand the real John Ceretto as opposed to the nice guy dummy image he likes to project, consider this email:

One of his staffers asked him if he would like to attend a meeting held by Canadian and U.S. customs officials Nov. 4, 2015) at Kleinhans Music Hall to discuss how to reduce long wait times for drivers crossing the border, a topic Ceretto claimed to have a deep interest since Ceretto's district includes three international bridges.

His staffer naively asked him if it would be worthwhile to attend.

Ceretto emailed her back and in four short crisp sentences he crystalized the whole rule of being a Public servant:

Ceretto wrote, "Rule of thumb on calendar events: Ask yourself. Does this help John Ceretto get re-elected if I was to attend?? If the answer is NO then you probablay (sic) don't attend."

Of course in rebuttal to these wonderful emails are Ceretto's wonderful \$300,000 plus in television ads where he proclaimed, "I will continue to have zero tolerance for elected officials who abuse their office, no matter what the party."

So came the election. Morinello won by 4,000 votes.

When he lost, Ceretto released a written statement:

"I congratulate my opponent, Angelo Morinello, for winning a hard-fought race. Western New York families deserve a state Assembly representative who will clean up the corruption in Albany, lower taxes, bring funding to our area for better roads and bridges and create more good-paying job opportunities. I am proud of the campaign that I ran and I give a heartfelt thanks to all of those who supported me along the way. I wish Mr. Morinello well in Albany."

I wonder if Ceretto realized, when he gave his email concession that while he said the people of Western New York deserve a Representative who will lower taxes, build roads and new opportunities, that he had done none of that?

But he did hit the mark when he said, "Western New York families deserve a state Assembly representative who will clean up the corruption in Albany "and he wished Morinello well.

Based on the standards Ceretto showed us, Albany is minus one corrupt politician – which Morinello, by his victory, dispatched.

Now how in the hell will Morinello clean up the other 158?

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# TRUMP WINS 'BIGLY' IN NIAGARA May Have Helped Other Republican Candidates Locally



Boy did he pick one right. GOP Chairman Scott Kiedrowski led his team to go Trump early in the game.

Donald J. Trump's victory was historic on a number of levels, not the least of which was that Trump won Niagara County, New York in a landslide.

"Mr. Trump won here, and he won 'bigly,'" Niagara County GOP Chairman Scott Kiedrowski said after unofficial results from the Niagara County Board of Elections put Trump's margin of victory over Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton at 57% to 38%, storming past Clinton by 16,335 votes in Tuesday's unofficial tally.

The last time a Republican won the county was when Ronald Reagan beat former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic nominee, in 1984.

Kiedrowski can bask somewhat in the glow of Trump's historic upset victory since he led his executive committee to make Niagara County one of the first counties in the nation to endorse Trump during the GOP primaries last March.

"When we endorsed Mr. Trump on March 22, the outcome of the GOP primaries was far from clear, but our rank-and-

file were showing me a clear preference for Trump and his message," Kiedrowski said. "I believed that Trump's message of renewal for our Rust Belt industries, his local ties to New York State, his vocal support for Second Amendment rights, and his acumen as a businessman who had actually built things—all of that combined to make him not only a candidate who could win our party's nomination, but win the national election. Our decision to endorse was the right one."

The Trump campaign took note of Niagara County's gesture of faith in him, and Trump highlighted the endorsement on social media.

Trump went on to win the New York State Republican primary decisively one month later.

Kiedrowski said, "Of course, the lion's share of the credit for this massive, historic win goes to the candidate himself, and to the brilliance of campaign manager Kellyanne Conway. But I'm really pleased with the way our organization stepped up—right down to the party's leadership in our towns and cities."

"In Niagara County, the Republicans won everywhere—towns and cities—on Tuesday, and we won big," Kiedrowski said. "Right candidate, right message, right teamwork."

Republicans did carry the day in several of the very few contested elections in Niagara County.

Republican Katherine Alexander walloped Democrat Jeremy Schnurr to fill a vacancy for North Tonawanda City Attorney, a one year term. And Republican John J Mattio edged out a spirited challenger, Josh Ramos, who had the Democratic party line for Wheatfield Town Justice.

Mattio who has been ailing for some time, could barely campaign and has had to adjust his court schedule because of his serious health issues, leading to speculation that

he may vacate the bench before his new term is up making way for Town Supervisor Robert Cliffe to return to the bench he occupied prior to Mattio who succeeded him.

Ramos, a rising star in the Western New York legal community, with an impressive string of jury trial successes especially for downtrodden and impoverished defendants, couldn't get enough voters to plunk down votes on the Democrat line as the county came out in force for Trump.

Of course, perhaps the biggest win for Republicans was the race for the 145 New York State Assembly District which covers most of western Niagara County plus Grand Island.

Two term incumbent John D. Ceretto –

who was a Republican, but switched last year to become a Democrat - was soundly defeated by a Republican, retired Niagara Falls City Court Judge Angelo J. Morinello.

How much Morinello was helped by Trump, how much by an email scandal surrounding Ceretto in the weeks leading up to the election and how much was attributable to the plain old, down-home style popularity of "the Judge", Morinello, is hard to calculate.

Like as in now with the National Scene, Republicans firmly control Niagara County in most elected offices with a supermajority in the County Legislature despite a near even enrollment of Democrats and Republicans in Niagara County.



Donald J. Trump

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Donald Trump tweeted his gratitude to Niagara County GOP and promised to "see us soon."

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**LUNCH SPECIALS**

## City Finally Lands Amtrak for Train Station

### Tony Farina

The city of Niagara Falls held an open house for its new two-story, \$43 million train station on Depot Ave. last July, but it did so without a signed lease in hand with Amtrak, the expected major tenant, and the administration of Mayor Paul Dyster has been saying for the last several months that an agreement was coming, much like it said about the Hamister Hotel project for four years before ground was finally broken only recently.

Well, there appears to be good news today on the Amtrak front, finally, and it didn't take nearly as long as getting Mark Hamister to put a shovel in the ground on Rainbow Blvd. for the much-hyped hotel although it certainly was becoming an issue as a possible drain on the 2017 budget.

On Wednesday, Dyster and Amtrak announced that an agreement had been reached and according to Council President Andy Touma, Amtrak will pay 63 percent of the station's maintenance costs per year, or \$172,800. Dyster's budget line for the train station for 2017 is \$380,486, with an anticipated payment of \$173,000 from Amtrak. The agreement would seem to hit the mark.

The operating costs have also been reduced by the City Council, which has eliminated one of three positions in the Dyster budget proposal, a maintenance worker line, that will save about \$50,000 when benefits are included in the calculation. The mayor's train station was built mainly with state and federal funds along with close to \$5 million in casino funds.

This newspaper has repeatedly ques-

tioned the size of the train station and the expense, given the average of 30 passengers who leave the city every day. Only time will tell if having a new train station will encourage more people to take a train ride—coming or going—and justify the enormous cost of the state-of-the-art facility although local, state, and federal politicians quickly jumped aboard the train on Wednesday, saying it will greatly benefit the region, kind of another savior like the Hamister hotel.

As far as the 20-year lease with Amtrak goes, which hopefully will be aided by other paying tenants still to be recruited, Touma said Wednesday "it seems like a fair lease for residents and I expect it to be approved unanimously at next Monday's council meeting." Touma said trains could be running in a few weeks.

Politicians, as expected, praised the deal across the board on Wednesday with newly re-elected Sen. Chuck Schumer saying "the Amtrak station will bring transportation activity and commerce to the region and lay the groundwork for economic and job growth in the short and long term." Brian Higgins and Louise Slaughter sounded similar notes.

Not to be outdone, Dyster said the state-of-the-art train station "provides the residents of the City of Niagara Falls and Western New York transit-oriented development they deserve and an international gateway to our city that they can be proud of."

Amtrak will be joined at the station by offices for U. S. Customs and Border Protection, the Underground Railroad Heritage Center and Museum, and eventually, at least hopefully, a commercial tenant.

## Ceretto Loss is LGBT Victory

### James Hufnagel

For the most part, Niagara Falls' LGBT community isn't shedding any tears over John Ceretto's impending departure from public service.

Ceretto's defeat at the hands of retired City Court Judge Angelo Morinello in the hotly contested 145th District New York State Assembly seat became practically a fait accompli after numerous alleged violations of election law were uncovered, including fundraising activities out of his office by phone and mail and campaign planning meetings taking place there.

In addition, leaked emails, authored mainly by senior staffer Rob Nichols, revealed a seamier side of Ceretto's political dealings. In revelations reminiscent of Richard Nixon's infamous Enemies List, certain individuals and groups were blacklisted by the scheming Nichols when it came to receiving state aid from the assemblyman's office, including this writer.

"Jim, I wound (sic) like to set down with you and have a conversation - I feel that it would be the right thing for me to do. If you are interested give me a call at 213-3295," messaged Rob Nichols in the run-up to election day.

As his six-year tenure in the state legislature wraps up, the plain truth that Ceretto mostly acted in his, not his constituents', best interests, didn't come as much of a surprise to Niagara Falls' prosperous and influential LGBT community and its straight supporters, since as one of his first official acts, John Ceretto voted against the 2011 New York State Marriage Equality Act.

"As you may or may not know, I am a proud member of the Catholic Community. It is just as important to

me as it is to you to keep the sanctity of marriage between man and a woman," pronounced Assemblyman John Ceretto in another embarrassing email, dated April 12, 2011. "My family is extremely important to me and I agree that it is authentic marriage and a nuclear family that really is (sic) the fundamental blocks of our civilization. Because of these reasons, if and when a bill comes before me on the Assembly floor regarding legalizing same-sex marriage, or redefining marriage I will vote against it."

It may come as a shock to many people who voted for John Ceretto over the years that he wasn't representing them in the state legislature, he was in fact representing the Catholic Community. And while politicians going as far back as President John Kennedy and farther took pains to separate their private religious beliefs from the formation of public policy, it appears the assemblyman had no problems whatsoever blurring the constitutional line.

Of course, by stating "My family is extremely important to me," Ceretto seems to be implying that non-traditional families are something of a threat to his marriage, "authentic marriage" is desirable to "inauthentic marriage", and the Marriage Equality Act doesn't do much for "civilization".

More at home in the 21st century than his predecessor, Assemblyman-elect Morinello, a Republican, has stated that he is supportive of the Marriage Equality Act. In all likelihood he will have an opportunity to consider GENDA (the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act) which prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression and will most likely come up for a vote this year.



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## Clever Jamestown Exploits Lucy Legacy; Clueless Niagara Falls Ignores Tesla

### James Hufnagel

Niagara Falls could learn a lesson or two from the city of Jamestown, NY, located a little more than an hour's drive south of here, when it comes to not only honoring but capitalizing economically on the memory of its most famous residents.

In 1996, Jamestown officially opened the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Museum & Center for Comedy at, ironically, its 3rd Street tourism district.

Lucille Ball was born in Jamestown in 1911 and lived there until the age of three. Later, her family moved to the small town of Celoron, on the outskirts of Jamestown, where she spent most of her childhood.

The mission of the "Lucy Desi Museum" is "to preserve the legacy of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz and enrich the world through the healing powers of laughter through its commitment to the development of the comedic arts."

In addition to the museum, which features an extensive exhibit of Lucy memorabilia including original costumes, portraits, never-before-seen footage of the popular TV show, Lucy's car and more, the facility includes a Desilu Studios wing (Lucille Ball was the founder and CEO of the very successful Desilu, which originated and produced such iconic TV shows as "Mission Impossible", "The Andy Griffith Show", "That Girl", "My Favorite Martian" and "Star Trek") where various Emmy Awards and re-created sets are on display.

A popular amenity of the Lucy Desi Museum is the astounding Tropicana Room, a full-scale mock-up of Ricky Ricardo's Manhattan night club where he led a Latin Rhumba band, the Desi Arnaz Orchestra, in both real-life and on the show, "I Love Lucy".

According to the website, the Tropicana Room at the Lucy Desi Museum in downtown Jamestown hosts dinners,



The opulent Tropicana Room at the Lucy Desi Museum

conferences, meetings, holiday parties, baby and bridal showers, wedding receptions and weddings, with seating accommodations up to 160. Entertainment runs the gamut from local and visiting bands to comedians, which in the past have included Jerry Seinfeld, Jay Leno, Joan Rivers, Ray Romano, Bob Newhart, Paula Poundstone and others over the past two decades as part of Jamestown's annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival.

Remember the infamous "Scary Lucy" statue, installed at a small Celoron park, that attracted international

attention a couple of years ago for its ugliness? That rendition of Ball drew widespread criticism and calls to remove it. To make it right, Celoron put together some grants and commissioned a new statue, which was unveiled last year, to replace Scary Lucy.

Then the Celoron Town Board voted to gift Scary Lucy to the Lucy Desi Museum.

"We are extremely pleased with the decision made by the Celoron Board today. We are excited to embrace the statue in a different light; not as likeness of Lucille Ball, but as a tribute to what she



"Scary Lucy", a gift from the Town of Celoron to the Lucy Desi Museum, where she keeps them laughing.

was all about – making people laugh," said National Comedy Center (a \$50 million expansion to the museum now nearing completion) chairman Tom Benson in a press release. "This piece of comedy history has made millions of people laugh since going viral, and we look forward to working with the board of Celoron to find creative ways to showcase it in Comedy Center Park and the upcoming National Comedy Center."

Remind you of anything?

A couple of years ago, New York State Parks announced that it was removing the Tesla Sculpture from Cave of the Winds plaza, where it took up valuable food pavilion space, to a more out-of-the-way location nearer the brink of the falls. The Niagara Falls City Council, the Niagara County Legislature and the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area board all passed unanimous resolutions asking State Parks to gift the magnificent sculpture to the city of Niagara Falls, and we all know how that turned out.

Nikola Tesla, the namesake of the cutting-edge car company that's affiliated with the economic revival of Buffalo, goes down in history as the Father of AC Electricity. His inventions based on AC changed mankind in profound ways. The first commercially-viable hydroelectric generating plant in history was designed and built under his supervision on Buffalo Avenue in Niagara Falls, and one of the buildings, listed as a National Historic Landmark, remains standing there to this day.

After obtaining the resolutions asking for the Tesla sculpture, the non-profit Tesla Museum group first approached the NACC (Niagara Arts and Cultural Center) with the idea of hosting the Tesla sculpture in its huge front yard, a busy, exposed, lighted location at least as secure as the sculpture's present home at Stedman's Bluff in the state park. At first the NACC board responded with enthusiasm to the idea, but then suddenly stopped returning phone calls. An inside source revealed that Mayor Paul Dyster put the kibosh on the proposal. Of course, Dyster had opposed the city's resolution to obtain the statue of Tesla in the first place - he had other ideas for "public art" for his city.

Then the group approached Niagara University's Castellani Art Museum to find out if they were interested in hosting the renowned sculpture of Tesla on their secure grounds. Castellani's staff expressed warm enthusiasm, even suggesting that they could build an interpretive program around the exhibit. Then, they too stopped returning phone calls. This time Dyster made clear, through intermediaries, that he was angry at the group for approaching Castellani - accusing them of "going behind his back."



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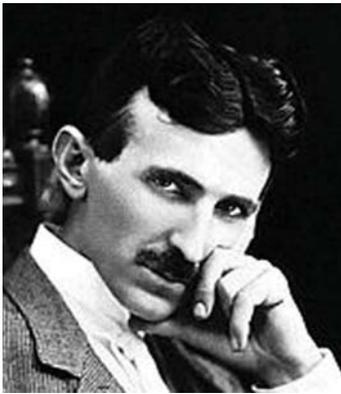
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Inventor of AC generators and motors, discoverer of X-rays and holder of numerous patents on radio transmission, Nikola Tesla is ignored by Niagara Falls.

The bottom line? Jamestown's thriving Lucy museum, that draws tens of thousands of tourists downtown every year, obtained a famous Lucy statue through political cooperation and for the good of the community. Niagara Falls has an empty Tesla building, and the Tesla statue continues to function as playground equipment in Albany's Niagara Falls State Park.

Jamestown even has a Lucy 5K race every October, with over 700 runners participating. After getting caught fudging its distance in 2015, resulting in the invalidation of runners' times, the Downtown Niagara Falls Business Association (DNFBA) discontinued its 5K



An accomplished actress, comedian and highly successful businesswoman who owned her own TV production company, Lucille Ball is honored by Jamestown.

race through downtown this year.

On April 7 of this year, as part of his "Downtown Revitalization Initiative" statewide program, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced an award of \$10 million to continue the revitalization and expansion of the Jamestown tourist district surrounding the Lucy Desi Museum.

Two years ago, on Oct. 3, 2013, Gov. Cuomo announced the \$40 million "Downtown Niagara Falls Development Challenge" to revitalize downtown Niagara Falls. So far, the city hasn't seen a dime of it.

Is anyone surprised by that?

## ORTT SAYS HIS CONSTITUENTS WANTED TRUMP Voters Also Demand A Change From Ethically Challenged Governor



News from:

### Senator Robert G. Ortt

(R) 62nd Senate District



Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I – North Tonawanda) issued the following statement regarding our President-elect Donald Trump.

"The election results may have been surprising to the mainstream media, but this has been absolutely consistent with what I've heard from my constituents. Voters want demonstrable change and they're sick and tired of the failed status quo. Whether it's flawed trade policies at the national level, or an ethically-challenged Governor at the state level, voters are demanding - and deserve - real change at all levels of government. It's time for legislators to get to work, unite our country, and create jobs across these amazing United States of America."



The remedy for weakness is not brooding over weakness, but thinking of strength...

~ Swami Vivekananda



Mayor Paul Dyster worked hard behind the scenes to make sure Tesla remained in Niagara Falls State Park.

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# Interpreter Wanted to Understand Government Health Industry Language

Maybe we're just a little bit dense, but we're having a little trouble understanding some of the language of the Government Directed Health Care Industry.

Help us out. For example, among Niagara Falls Community events scheduled for this week is a public forum titled "A Community Conversation on Mental Health Disorders and Substance Abuse in Young Women", to be held at Abate School this evening (Thursday) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

According to a press release "the gathering will focus on such issues as mental and behavioral health, including prenatal care... Speakers from supporting organizations will address such topics as strategies to help people avoid addiction, connecting individuals with prenatal and preventative care services, and identifying supportive resources for people and loved ones dealing with addiction and mental health disorders."

So far so good. But in order to decide if this forum warrants our time and attention we want to know a bit about the organizers.

The event is being put on by some-

thing called Millennium Collaborative Care, PPS of Buffalo ("Igniting Healthcare Change in WNY).

"Igniting" sounds like fun - especially if it's in a park when the cops aren't around - but what do they do to ignite healthcare change in WNY?

Millennium Collaborative Care, PPS describes its mission as "a diverse, innovative, community-based collaboration to enable healthier people, better care, and smarter spending for all in Western New York."

So far, so good. Who could be opposed to healthier people, better care and smarter spending? But how do they perform this noble mission?

"Millennium Collaborative Care, a Performing Provider System (PPS), is igniting healthcare change by partnering with physicians, healthcare providers and community-based organizations to improve the delivery of healthcare for Medicaid patients across the eight counties of Western New York. We are teaming up in five areas to create a better healthcare system for all: Acute Care, Ambulatory Services, Behavioral Health, Community Engagement and Post-Acute Care. We

are supported by a dedicated, inclusive governance and advisory organization. Working together, our focus is on connecting each patient to the quality healthcare that is needed at the right time."

If we read this right, the Group holding the forum, as a PPS, is in effect sort of a matchmaking organization that connects patients with quality healthcare.

But how does a PPS do that? Evidently through New York's "MRT Waiver Amendment Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program"

According to the New York State Dept. of Health document titled "DSRIP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - New York's MRT Waiver Amendment Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program", "The entities that are responsible for creating and implementing a DSRIP project are called 'Performing Provider Systems', abbreviated 'PPS'. Performing Provider Systems are providers that form partnerships and collaborate in a DSRIP Project Plan."

Let's try to get this straight. Millennium Collaborative Care, a PPS putting on the program at Abate later today, is charged with implementing a Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program.

The six-year DSRIP program, a New York State initiative being implemented by the Cuomo administration under the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") from 2014 to 2019, is costing New York State taxpayers \$6.42 billion, for DSRIP Planning Grants, DSRIP Provider Incentive Payments and DSRIP Administrative costs, according to the state Dept. of Health.

We repeat, \$6.42 billion. For DSRIP. But what do they do?

The Dept. of Health guide reveals: Q: How does the Statewide Health Innovation Plan (SHIP) relate to DSRIP?

A: SHIP and DSRIP can be considered synergistic. SHIP focuses on leveraging the work done with the state on the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) by all payers, as well as the HIT connectivity being built through the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY). In this context, SHIP will focus, in part, on building the Advanced Primary Care Model from the work done on the PCMH, building the All Payer Database (APD) to further build the analytics on health care in New York State, and enhancing the reach and utilization of the SHIN-NY to enhance the coordination and transparency of health care. With these three key pieces in place, quality of care can be monitored more efficiently and effectively, allowing payment reform to focus on payment for outcomes/payment for performance, one other key goal of SHIP."

**Your Health Matters!**



Join us for a  
**Community Conversation on  
 Mental Health Disorders and  
 Substance Abuse in Young Women**  
 Thursday, November 10  
 5:30—7:30 p.m.  
 Abate Elementary School  
 1625 Lockport St. Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
**Light refreshments will be provided!**



Thank you to the Niagara Falls City School District for their partnership and participation in this event!

What does that mean?

The unintelligible, almost gibberish explanations for the program make it hard at first to understand.

We know this: Obamacare. \$6.2 billion. The constant quest for more Government money by non-profits. High discretionary authority for bureaucrats. Goals based on government payouts, or vice versa, but with marginal monitoring in any traditional sense.

Does it work?

A forum will be held at Abate School by a PPS. It has lofty-sounding goals - of helping young women with mental disorders and drug addictions.

Who will attend? What does it cost? Are the government payments made simply for holding the gathering even if not one actual drug addicted young woman attends?

Will the net result of the spending of \$6.2 billion be better health and more efficient delivery of services, which in the long run is an investment that could pay dividends?

You can't prove it by the language these PPS's speak.



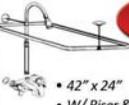
The world is ready to give up its secrets if we only know how to knock, how to give it the necessary blow. The strength and force of the blow come through concentration.

--  
Swami Vivekananda

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# CCS Oncology to Challenge Independent Health Over Decision to Drop WNY Provider From Network

## Tony Farina

CCS Oncology, the region's second largest oncology group with offices throughout Western New York, including Niagara Falls, will be going to State Supreme Court in a matter of days in an attempt to stop Independent Health from dropping insurance coverage for more than 500 of its cancer patients, effective Jan. 1, an action that CCS Oncology says threatens the very existence of the cancer treatment provider.

"It is based on flawed cost analysis," says Dr. Won Sam Yi, the CEO and chief medical director of CCS Oncology, of the decision by Independent Health to drop CCS oncologists from its provider network. "They are trying to put us out of business."

In a statement, Independent Health said on Tuesday that it notified 22 oncologists at CCS Healthcare (CCS) "that it will not renew its contract with them, effective Jan. 1, 2017. This non-renewal does not apply to the 51 other non-oncology providers at CCS, including primary care physicians and other specialists."

But Dr. Yi says 30 to 40 percent of CCS's cancer patients will be dropped from coverage by Independent Health's decision effective Jan. 1, and will be forced to find new doctors and go somewhere else for treatment at a critical time in their lives.

And Dr. Yi disputes the cost-analysis cited by Independent Health in making its decision, saying that data showing that CCS's costs were as much as 50 percent higher for treatment of lung and breast cancer has to be flawed because CCS follows all

the same guidelines as other local cancer treatment groups.

"We've asked them [IH] from the beginning, when the first analysis was done in the first quarter of 2015, to provide us with the data," said Dr. Yi. "We said, give us the data and let us see...maybe we can learn from our peers. But they denied giving us the data."

CCS Oncology, facing the looming Jan. 1 deadline, has decided to pursue legal action in the nearly two-year long dispute and has hired Buffalo attorney Paul Joyce (Colucci & Gallaher PC) to take the fight to court.

"We will be filing in short order," said Joyce this week, saying the CCS oncologists "want to continue to care for their patients."

Independent Health says its action was the result of a strategic decision "to move away from the inefficient and costly fee-for-service payment system toward a network of select oncology specialists who have agreed to a value-based reimbursement model."

Independent Health says the move is in line with national and local trends in the health care industry, driven in large part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to move away from a fee-for-service model for reimbursing providers.

In its statement to this newspaper, Independent Health said "we have been able to partner with other oncology providers in this community in this regard but, unfortunately, we have not been able to agree on such an arrangement with CCS, which negotiates on behalf of its affiliated physicians."

The insurance company said it is aware the

action may be unsettling to some of CCS's patients, and that's why they provided members with a six-month warning instead of the usual 90 days.

For the record, Independent Health, based in Amherst, ended 2015 with a \$44 million loss on premium revenue of \$2 billion, including operating losses of \$49.4 million, according to published reports. It was the second consecutive year of operating losses. The company ended 2014 with a \$60 million deficit on premium revenue of \$1.8 billion.

In its first analysis of CCS costs covering the first quarter of 2015, Independent Health said CCS's costs were 109 percent more expensive than other local groups in its network.

"We said that's impossible, we follow all the same guidelines as our peers," said Dr. Yi.

A second cost analysis found CCS within 10 percent of the other groups, and a third found the 50 percent increase in treatment for breast and lung cancer, numbers that were also disputed by CCS.

In a final proposal, Independent Health wanted to withhold 20 percent of the reimbursement for CCS for the year (2016) which would then be paid if CCS's numbers were within 10 percent of its peers. CCS Oncology rejected that proposal and then Independent Health advised in May that it would be dropping CCS from its network come Jan. 1.

CCS continued to ask for an opportunity to validate the Independent Health numbers, but again the request was denied.

Dr. Yi said Independent Health's decision has resulted in doctors not referring patients to the health care provider, saying "we've already seen a 20 to 30 percent drop in patient referrals. It is threatening our very survival."

Dr. Yi added that for a "not-for-profit [Independent Health] to threaten the validity of a private practice in a free-market society is wrong."

For its part, Independent Health says "the health care industry and CMS are rapidly moving to value-based payment models which are designed to improve the quality and lower the cost of care by reimbursing physicians for the efficient use of services, reducing errors, attaining clinical excellence, and improving care outcomes."

Independent Health said it began assisting members affected by its decision to drop CCS last June, helping to ensure "access and a smooth transition to another oncologist in our network of oncology group partners that include Buffalo Medical Group, Cancer Care of WNY, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and other community oncologists."

The question, however, is what happens to the patients and doctors at CCS Oncology who are dealing with the fast-approaching deadline that will change their care and possibly the future of the second largest cancer treatment group in the area. We'll keep you posted on the court case once it begins, a high-profile legal battle in the ever-changing world of the delivery of health care services.



Dr. Won Sam Yi with Heather Slocum  
CCS Oncology CEO says cancer care provider being  
dropped by Independent Health



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# THANK YOU JESUS!... FOR TRUMP



**J. Gary DiLaura**  
**The Right Side**

Thank you Jesus for giving us the chance to regain our Christian, Constitutional Republic, founded on the rule of law, established by our Founding Fathers, treating all people equal and no one more equal than others and immune from the laws THEY established. Allow me to say a brief prayer in that regard.

"Sweet Jesus, thank you for gracing us with a President Elect, Donald Trump, who will make our America the Grand Lady she once was, re-establishing a Military with the strength to once again defend her from those who would do her harm. Allow him, through our laws, to ban

those from entering our Nation with intent to do us harm. Give us strength to recreate a manufacturing nation through American-made materials, US citizens and our own natural resources that you bestowed upon this Grand Nation. Keep our President Elect and his family safe from those who would do them harm. Amen."

I was going to ask our Lord to look over Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton while they serve their life sentences in Leavenworth Prison for Treason, Hobbs Act, Rico (in Hillary's case), Perjury, Theft of Govt. Property, Destruction of Govt. Property, Espionage and more, but I thought I should keep my thoughts to myself!

So I will, Amen!

If you think Obama is finished, you are sadly mistaken!! Obama intentionally weakened this country for a reason, and that reason is NOT so a President Trump could rebuild it. He built hundreds of "FEMA" prisons (passed off as shelters, with armed guards and barbed wire), for a reason. He stored millions of



JUSTIN BRUNNENKEL/GETTY IMAGES

rounds of ammunition and hundreds of thousands of body bags in FEMA Warehouses, for a reason! He passed thousands of Executive Orders, in case of Martial Law, allowing him to disarm citizens, take over Banks, the stock market, police stations, hospitals, private property and on and on. READ THEM! They are ALL for a reason. Why do you think he did that? I believe I figured it out and it's VERY disturbing, to say the least. I don't know if I should reveal what I believe Obama is going to do and need to think about releasing my thoughts on that.

READ THEM!

They are ALL for a reason.

Why do you think he did that?

One more thought...did anyone beside me hear Hillary state that we live in a "Constitutional Democracy" during her concession speech? I thought we live in a Constitutional Republic and pledge our allegiance to the Flag of the United States of American and to the "Republic" for which it stands".

She got it wrong. Hillary Clinton in her concession speech incorrectly called America a "Constitutional Democracy". America is a constitutional Republic.

A Constitutional Democracy is a contradiction of terms.

By its very definition a Democracy is not governed by a constitution. A Democracy gives absolute authority to the Majority to rule over the Minority and the Individual.

It is a Republic, by definition, which restricts the Majority through a Constitution which is written to safeguard the rights of the Minority and the Individual.

A Republic limits the power of Government.

A Democracy gives the Majority in control of the Government unlimited power.

While a Democracy is 'two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for supper,' a Republic gives the lamb, through the constitution, the right to reject the majority's decision of the choice of dinner if it involves being dinner.

A Democracy can require anything of the people that the majority desires. A Republic does not allow the minority to rule over the majority, it only limits the majority to the strict written constitution.

In short, A Democracy is the unlimited power of the majority to rule the minority. A Republic is the unlimited power of the Constitution, which the majority must abide and obey, before they are permitted to exercise or impose any rule or law desired by the majority.

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If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?

## A Bullet Fired at the Power Elite by the American People

On April 19, 2016, I wrote my first column for Artvoice and the Niagara Falls Reporter which was published two days later. It was about Donald Trump's speech in Buffalo. At that time, Trump's polling number against Hillary was 39.5%. In that column, I made my prediction for November: "Leaving aside the minor parties as the system is rigged against them too, Trump 52; Hillary 48. Call it the defeat of the elite."

Yesterday, Trump pulled off the biggest upset in American political history. The media class, which, based on their coverage of Trump, I began to call "Pravda," missed it. The political class missed it. I have watched these folks for decades. They are out of touch with reality, shielded from some of the harsher aspects of life by their incomes and their connections. They always land on their feet. These folks live in an echo chamber. They only talk to each other. They continually hear their own stilted view of the world repeated back at them 24/7/365.

Even sharp election analysts like Nate Silver got it wrong. I posted my Electoral College map on Facebook on Monday, giving Trump the win. One fellow responded, "Nate Silver has the best track record in the business." It took me about five seconds to respond: "My record is better on Trump." He had dismissed Trump early and often. I listed Trump as a possible nominee in early July of 2015.

I am certain my prediction in April was laughed at by the local political and media class. Unlike them, I am not out of touch with reality on the ground. I am a working class lawyer living in a working class neighborhood doing legal work for working class people. Life has become a struggle for the bottom 80%. These are the folks who

live paycheck to paycheck and have no savings to fall back on to pay for unexpected expenses like a transmission job. You see them during rush hour racing grimly to get home and check on the kids who they haven't seen all day. No one is home anymore taking care of the kids, the future, in most families. I described this in my book on Progressivism:

"In olden days, older parents would live with their children and help raise the grandchildren. Now, adult children think nothing of moving thousands of miles away from their parents and then easing them into government-funded nursing homes where they are drugged into oblivion with Medicaid-funded drugs providing huge profits to Big Pharma. FDR and LBJ in three generations were able to undo the family structure built up over the cons. The kids are in daycare, the grandparents

are in nursing homes and the adults are tax slaves for the progressive state. What a country!"

People are angry out there. They don't agree with everything Trump said and did, but they viewed him as a way to send a message to the power elite. They want something different and fast. Trump is not a policy wonk. He is not an ideologue. He has no clear policy views other than those derived from his America First nationalism. On issues aside from trade and immigration, he is a blank slate. My hope is that his pragmatism will, ironically lead him to embrace libertarian policy ideas. I predict that once he spends a few months studying the federal government, he will find levels of incompetence, corruption and chaos that would not be tolerated in the private sector for ten minutes. At that point, a great choice will have to be made. Will he have the insight to see that these

myriad programs cannot be made to work and need to be extirpated? Or, will he, as Chris Collins unfortunately suggested on TV the morning after the election, bring in the best and brightest people to make progressive big government work better. Yikes! For 50 years, the pathetic role of the GOP in the Progressive State of America is to make failed progressive programs work better.

If Trump continues that pattern, he will fail and fail fast and hard. There is little time and no margin for error. America dodged a bullet last night. One more Democratic victory and we will have a permanent structural progressive Electoral College majority, basically, a one-party state. The left controls virtually all of the idea-disseminating organs of society and it is a simple fact that rising immigration manufactures Democrats who favor big government. California, where Hillary got 61% of the vote yesterday, is the future if present trends continue.

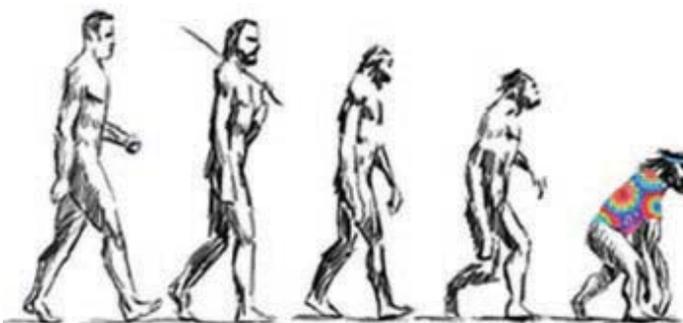
Let me end by quoting my favorite play, about politics of course:

Brutus:

There is a tide in the affairs of men;  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.  
On such a full sea are we now afloat,  
And we must take the current when it serves,  
Or lose our ventures.

Jim Ostrowski is a trial and appellate lawyer in Buffalo, NY. He is CEO of [Libertymovement.org](http://Libertymovement.org) and author of several books including *Progressivism: A Primer on the Idea Destroying America*.

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## Niagara Falls Tops National Security Company List for Most Burglaries Per Capita in New York State

### Frank Parlato

The Niagara Falls Reporter received a recent message from Zane Schwarzlose, community liaison for Protect America, a national home security company.

Protect America sells home security systems.

Their business is dependent on the existence of burglars. The more the supply of burglars, the greater the demand for security systems.

In his message to the Reporter, Schwarzlose told us that the supply of burglars is high in Niagara Falls, a fact we actually already knew.

But Schwarzlose had way too much class to come out and say he is happy at his prospects here in Niagara Falls.

But let's face it, in his business, he ought to be happy. Our bad news is good news for him.

Schwarzlose can back up what he says.

"We have an annual program that recognizes the most burglarized cities in each state called the 'Top 10 Burglary Hot Spots'. Niagara Falls has been named #1 on our Top 10 List for towns in New York," he wrote.

What does this mean?

Schwarzlose explained, "Each year, the FBI releases a Uniform Crime Report detailing the number of crimes in each municipality in the US. This year's UCR was released September 28th. At Protect America, we've di-



Cheeky Burglar caught on camera robbing home in his underwear.

gested this data and turned it into lists of burglary safe zones and hot spots for each state."

We appreciated the fact that Schwarzlose was forthright about his reasons for creating the list and bringing it to our attention.

"Our hope in creating these Top 10 lists is to raise burglary awareness and offer home security tips to communities that need them," he said.

This is business.

The list doesn't cost taxpayers' money.

And maybe some lucky person will buy a home security system because of the list and one day a burglar will not burglarize her home because she bought a system.

It could put burglars out of business if enough people had security systems.

Since Schwarzlose was kind enough to share Protect America's list of the 10 cities in New York with the highest burglary rates – the "Burglary Hot Spots", the Reporter will do its part to raise burglary awareness.

The 2016 top #10 New York Burglary Hot Spots.

Niagara Falls

Population 48,989, Burglaries 615

Ocean Beach Village

Population 80, Burglaries 1

Buffalo

Population 258,096, Burglaries 2,777

Johnson City Village

Population 14,752, Burglaries 151

Jamestown

Population 30,263, Burglaries 297

Sidney Village

Population 3,801, Burglaries 37

Endicott Village

Population 13,011, Burglaries 116

Troy

Population 49,872, Burglaries 433

Monticello Village

Population 6,602, Burglaries 56

Rochester

Population 209,922, Burglaries 1,753

Protect America concludes with a soft close:

"Thinking about home security?"

"With a property crime occurring every 3.7 seconds, it's important to know that you are 33% less likely to be broken into with a home security system.

"We provide monitored security at low-price in the industry, \$19.99/mo, and up to \$1,400 in free equipment.

"Are you ready to protect your home and family? Our home security experts are ready to help. You can reach us by: 1-877-694-9072"



These burglars didn't do so well and were taken off the streets for safe keeping at Niagara County Jail. But there are plenty more where they came from, according to a list compiled by Protect America, a home security company.

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# Explore Buffalo and Palace Theatre to offer Lockport Tour of Homes

The Historic Palace Theatre in Lockport and Explore Buffalo are teaming up again to offer a great tour of homes to kick off the holiday season! Participants will enjoy touring 10 historic locations in the City of Lockport from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19.

Starting at the Kenan Center Arena, guests will pick up their tour book containing histories of the buildings and a map with the locations of the homes. Carolers from the Palace Theatre's production of Scrooge will be at the homes, adding to the holiday atmosphere.

This tour is self-guided from home to home, with docents in each home. You can visit the homes at your own pace and in whatever order you choose. A map of home locations will be provided at the tour's starting location inside the Kenan Center Arena (behind the Kenan Arts Center), 433 Locust St.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. No interior photography is permitted. The cost is \$30, or \$25 for Explorer Pass holders. (Explorer Pass holders: A discount code has been emailed to you; call (716) 245-3032 if you did not receive it.)

Online reservations can be made through the Palace Theatre's website at [www.lockportpalacetheatre.org](http://www.lockportpalacetheatre.org). Reservations can also be made in person at the Palace Theatre box office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, or at Mills Jewelers at 53 Main St. in Lockport.



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Limit 2 per Adult meal purchase at regular price.

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**\$9.99** Dinner Buffet

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Dinner valid Mon-Sat after 4 pm; all day Sun.

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**\$6.99** Breakfast Buffet

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"Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

St Francis of Assisi

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## HAPPY VETERANS' DAY TO ALL OF OUR AMERICAN HEROES

Many Americans enjoy this holiday off from work or school. It is sad how many Americans do not know the reason behind this often overlooked holiday. Veterans' Day is an official United States holiday honoring armed service veterans. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, with the German signing of the Armistice. Veterans' Day, unlike Memorial Day, celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, living and deceased. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. A Congressional Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1945, WWII veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. On June 1, 1954, Congress replaced "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans' Day since. So please take some time this week to thank an American Veteran – or better yet, several American Veterans - for their unselfish dedication to this country. We should not need a holiday to extend an enormous thank you to any one of the thousands of veterans living in Western New York. Any day is the right day to thank a U.S. Veteran for all they have done, all they continue to do and for everything they have preserved and protected for every American. So to every United States Veteran, a very heartfelt THANK YOU.

## ANNUAL LORD'S DAY DINNER/ MISSIONARY YVONNE AND MATT DAVIS/ FOUNDER A Public Service Announcement



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## National Donor Sabbath could Save a Life



Unyts is asking local religious communities and people of faith to join us in marking National Donor Sabbath the weekend of November 11-13. This observance is an interfaith celebration of life and thanksgiving for the gifts of organ, eye, tissue and blood donation.

Most faith communities are supportive of donation and the individual choices of their members. Many view donation as an act of compassion and generosity. Since people often turn to their faith leaders for help when

dealing with life and death issues, National Donor Sabbath provides an opportunity for faith communities to share their views and join in the conversation.

Visit the Unyts website for information and resources helpful in marking National Donor Sabbath. Registering today can provide hope to those waiting to receive the Gift of Life.

If you haven't already, visit [Unyts.org/](http://Unyts.org/) CheckYes to register as a donor.

## Why Was Black African American Section removed from Niagara Falls Library?



Charles from Niagara Falls

I was in the doctor's office and just happened to pick up the paper, and it seems like you were sticking up for black people in Buffalo. Police are killing their dogs for petty weed that they find in their house.

I'm contacting you because they took the African American section out of the Niagara Falls Public Library.

Could you write a story on that and go ask the public library in Niagara Falls why they removed the African American section?

I asked one of the librarians there; she said because it makes it easier for them.

This is called the Niagara Falls public library.

So she should have been making things easier for the public.

Now black people don't know where to find the African American authors. It was easier for us when they could be found in one section.

So can you do a story on that? And can you call and ask them why?

Thank you. I know you're not a racist newspaper.

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Or call at 716-284-5595

All submissions are reviewed carefully and whenever possible published in our pages.

## Niagara Falls Jokes

Hillary: "Jay Z, can I count on your vote?"

Jay Z: "Fo Shizzle My Hizzle"

\*\*\*

Health care costs are rising uncontrollably. In America, taxes have been on the rise just to pay for Obamacare. Thankfully, Republicans have the answer. They want to repeal and replace Obamacare, and have waiting lists for certain health care treatments to reduce costs even further. For example, one of the first things they want to put in place is a nine month waiting list for abortions.

\*\*\*

work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

\*\*\*



No wonder he won.

During the campaign of successful New York State Assembly candidate, Angelo Morinello, a voter approached him who didn't seem quite fond of the retired judge, telling him, "I'll vote for the Devil rather than you."



Two men were working for the city Public Works department. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, up and down the streets of Niagara Falls, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

Morinello, never at a loss for a comeback, replied, "I understand you perfectly, sir, but would you consider voting for me in the event that your friend chooses not to run?"

\*\*\*

"Being in politics is like being a football coach; you have to be smart enough to understand the game, and be dumb enough to think it's important."

- Eugene McCarthy, politician & poet

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting into your



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