

# FINGER LAKES TIMES

PAUL M. BARRETT / Publisher

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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

### Tulis' column sensationalist; fuels negative environment

To the Editor:  
I feel the need to respond to Tuesday's article written by photographer Spencer Tulis. We as police officers took our jobs to help others and make a difference in the community we protect and serve. We took our jobs, not to reap awards, not to be constantly praised and thanked and definitely not to receive accolades, but instead to be a voice for the less fortunate and abused. Spencer's first sentence, in his sensationalistic article, is a cold-hearted slap in the face to a man who has spent 48 years of his life serving the citizens of Geneva.

Just because Spencer listens to a vocal few in our city who think and believe they know it all is unfortunate. His comment has a negative impact to the men who are willing to accept the challenge of becoming Geneva's next police chief and to the family of Chief Pane. Everybody in the city cries for change and action, but when City Manager Matt Horn stepped outside of the box and established this process, now everybody cries foul.

Why doesn't Spencer come and ask the men and women of the police department how we feel about our next possible chief? I guarantee that it will be unanimous that we want the next chief to come from inside our ranks. Politics shouldn't play a role in police hiring or police tactics to any extent, and Matt Horn has displayed honor and integrity throughout this process.

Every article Spencer writes about the police department has negative underlying messages, and it is evident that he does not think highly about our force. Why would he mention that "Most of the members of the Geneva Police Department are decent, hardworking, honest ..."? The only reason that sentence was written was to plant a seed in some negative thinkers' heads, that the men and women of the Geneva Police Department aren't always honest and dedicated. I take pride in my job, and I am very proud to be a member of the Geneva Police Department. I am a second-generation officer in the department, and if Spencer wants to call that nepotism, well, let him. Again, that will only further my point that Spencer has absolutely no idea what he is talking about.

I am outraged, as are all of my fellow officers. If he thinks before he writes, he would see his opinion is hurtful to Chief Pane, and he clearly makes it a point that the four in-house candidates aren't qualified to be chief. Some people in society believe that everything written in the paper is correct, and it is unfair

for our next chief to have the burden of this negative opinion "dogging" him before he even takes office.

Yes, I am pissed off at Spencer Tulis, and so are a lot of people I have talked to, but believe me, if he called 911 for a real emergency and I was working, I would rush to his aid, as would everyone else I work with. My professional life and work ethic will never be clouded or tarnished by biased feelings or beliefs. I wish I could say the same for Spencer Tulis.

DET. BRIAN CHOFFIN  
Geneva Police Department

### Tulis doesn't shy from controversial topics

To the Editor:  
Spencer Tulis had been getting a lot of sand kicked in his face recently, mostly in this section of the *Finger Lakes Times*. And why not? After all, he's pretty opinionated. And opinions make enemies.

I don't always agree with Spencer Tulis. But I always enjoy reading him. The charm of his column is that it is so unlike everything else in this newspaper. He's a free spirit roaming through our city, getting anyone and everyone to tell him their life story. He treats all people the same, whether they are rich, poor, sane or not. He has a talent for pulling interesting life stories out of pizza deliverers, bottle collectors, the sick, the poor, vagabonds, ex-cons and people on hard times. Most journalists would ignore this facet of Geneva. But it's part of who we are, and it's worth reading about.

By contrast, your feature "A Conversation with ... " is rather dull. All those "important" people are not nearly as fascinating as the personalities Spencer Tulis introduces us to.

Yes, Mr. Tulis has his flaws. Don't we all. But he is always fun to read. And let's not forget his wondrous photos.

One more thing: Spencer Tulis stirs up controversy, and that's good. He gets us talking about important things, for example, how the city should go about hiring a new chief of police. And here I agree with him — limiting key leadership openings to inside candidates is just about always a bad idea. Whether the search is for a city manager, a chief of police, or a school superintendent, to get the best bang for the taxpayers' buck, the search field should be expansive, not self-limited. It speaks badly for the City of Geneva that it has chosen to search for such an important hire with one hand tied behind its back. It makes us seem provincial.

MICHAEL BERSANI  
Geneva



### Super citizen

Congratulations to Tom Kime, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Lyons National Bank, for being named the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.



**Sick of the snow and cold**  
Curse you, Mother Nature! And to think we almost believed you when you said it was spring ...



## 1,000 cranes of hope

Thanks to Jason Braverman's dexterity and generosity — and the fact that his girlfriend has a small apartment in Boston — Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic is going to be the recipient of a very special gift.

Make that 1,000 special gifts all rolled into one colorful 8-foot tall exhibit that soon will be on display in the hospital's main lobby.

One thousand origami cranes. All made by hand, that is, by Jason Braverman's hands.

As any cancer patient can tell you, 1,000 cranes have come to symbolize hope for those with the disease — a takeoff of an ancient Japanese legend.

Braverman, who will graduate from Hobart College in 2012, knows all about the legend. Unfortunately, he knows too much about cancer, too, having survived a bout with brain cancer that was diagnosed during his freshman year at Hobart.

In remission since 2008 and a fan of origami, he made the 1,000 cranes, one by one, for his girlfriend, Betsy Dingman, a William Smith graduate whom he met while both were members of the Colleges' Chorale.

"I gave them to her on Valentine's Day to celebrate our three-year anniversary," he said. Betsy's first reaction, jokingly: "I'm not sick, you know?"

She actually loved the cranes, but Jason said the couple realized right away that the gift might be a bit too much for Betsy's apartment.

"Her bedroom is just too small to accommodate them," Jason said. "So we decided that it would be nice to donate them to an oncology office."

They decided on Clifton Springs and sent an e-mail to Patty Constantino, the practice administrator at Finger Lakes Hematology & Oncology with Drs. Stephen Ignaczak and Bruce Yirinec.

"We are planning to use it as a way to highlight Cancer Survivor Day on June 3," Constantino said. "It means so much to us

### MIKE CUTILLO

#### Connections



because the cost of cancer is so devastating to families and we here at the hospital have a patient assistance fund that always needs donations. Our hope is to use this as a visible tool that will encourage donations."

Japanese legend has it that anyone who folds 1,000 paper cranes so pleases the gods that a wish will be granted.

In modern day lore, Sadako Sasaki was just a baby when the atom bomb was dropped on her city of Hiroshima in 1945. Nine years later, she contracted leukemia, then called the "atom bomb disease."

She attempted to fold 1,000 cranes in the hopes that the gods would make her disease go away, but died peacefully in her sleep after making only 644.

Jason's story began with a multitude of symptoms — double vision, nausea, numb hands — that initially were misdiagnosed as a sinus infection or the flu. When he and his family learned it was brain cancer, he took it well.

"To be honest, I don't think I took it as hard as most people," he said. "I just followed directions, did what the doctors told me and put my trust in them."

There were, he confessed, moments when he cried, especially when he heard his favorite songs, but when he awoke from his first surgery, he reverted to his light-hearted self.

His mom, his dad and his doctor hovered over him as he came to, and focusing in on each of them, he said: "Hi mom. Hi doctor. Who the hell are you?"

Also, with playing a musical instrument being a key recovery sign for those who can, Jason's family asked for a keyboard for him. The first tune he hammered out: Billy Joel's "Only the Good Die Young."

As for the cranes, Jason — majoring in architecture and music with plans to be a teacher — made them in a couple of weeks. Each takes about a dozen folds and can be made in a couple of minutes.

"I'm a big fan of origami. I like to do a lot of things with my hands," he said. "I can make much more complex things than cranes."

Most of the cranes are made out of white paper, but there is a rainbow swirl of colored ones spiraling through the center of the tower. They are held together by paperclips, and Jason said it takes about half an hour to assemble or disassemble the display.

He said he's happy with the plans being made at Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic for his cranes.

"I'm just glad that they have a good home," he said. "I would feel sad if they had to recycle them."

There's no place in Japanese folklore for that.

*News Editor Mike Cutillo writes a weekly column about the special people, places and issues of the Finger Lakes. Contact him at mcutillo@flltimes.com or 789-3333 ext. 250.*

### What's on your mind?

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Finger Lakes Times, P.O. Box 393, Geneva 14456  
**E-mail to:** editor@flltimes.com or go to the letters link at www.flltimes.com  
**Fax:** 789-4077

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



Submitted photo

It takes about 30 minutes to assemble the 1,000 paper cranes into a tower.

### 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  
100 State St., Room 3040  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: (585) 263-5866  
Fax: (585) 263-3173  
Website: http://schumer.senate.gov

##### Kirsten Gillibrand

Democrat  
100 State St., Room 4195  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: (585) 263-6250  
Fax: (585) 263-6247  
Website: www.gillibrand.senate.gov

#### House of Representatives

##### Tom Reed

29th Congressional District  
Republican  
1 Grove St., Suite 101  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
Phone: (585) 218-0040  
Website: http://reed.house.gov  
Includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates counties; most of Ontario County (excluding Geneva), and southeastern portion of Monroe County.

Website: http://buerkle.house.gov  
Includes all of Onondaga and Wayne counties, the northernmost portion of Cayuga County, and part of Monroe County.

##### Richard Hanna

24th Congressional District  
Republican  
110 Genesee St., Suite 110  
Auburn NY 13021  
Phone: 252-6700  
Website: http://hanna.house.gov  
Includes all of Seneca County and the town and city of Geneva in Ontario County, as well as all or parts of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins counties.

##### Ann Marie Buerkle

25th Congressional District  
Republican  
1280 Titus Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14617  
Phone: (585) 336-7291

#### State Senate

##### Tom O'Mara

53rd 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 all of Yates, Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties and a portion of Tompkins.

www.senatornozzolio.com  
Includes northern and eastern portions of Ontario County, plus Seneca County, Wayne County, most of Cayuga County, Lansing in Tompkins County and Webster in Monroe County.

##### Pat M. Gallivan

59th State Senate District  
Republican  
4729 Transit Road, Suite No. 5  
Depew, NY 14043  
Phone: (716) 656-8544  
Website: www.nysenate.gov/senator/pat-gallivan  
Includes the southwestern portion of Ontario County.

##### Michael F. Nozzolio

54th State Senate District  
Republican  
119 Fall St.  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
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Website:

#### State Assembly

##### Robert C. Oaks

128th Assembly District  
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E-mail: oakrs@assem.bly.state.ny.us  
Website: www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=128  
Includes Wayne County and parts of Oswego and Cayuga counties.

##### Philip Palmesano

136th Assembly District  
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Includes Yates and Steuben counties.

##### Brian M. Kolb

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E-mail: kolbb@assembly.state.ny.us  
Website: www.assem.bly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=129  
Includes Seneca County and parts of Ontario (Canandaigua, Manchester, Hopewell, Gorham, Geneva and Phelps), Cayuga, Onondaga and Cortland counties.