

OPINION

GUEST VIEW | MICHELLE C. DECHANT, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF STEUBEN

Simple STEPS you can take to give hope

If we measure poverty only by economic criteria, we miss a key point in our understanding why we give. Although money is the currency of our economy, it is not the currency of hope for those less fortunate. Generosity is. Giving from our hearts, from our own resources answers the question of why we participate in events and activities that will help others. When we give our time and money to those who are hoping for help and looking for a change in their lives – we are confirming they matter to us, that we will walk with them through this unknown and difficult time in their lives.

Today, 36,000 or one-third of our neighbors in Steuben County live in poverty or are at risk of falling into poverty, even though the majority are employed. Of those living in poverty in Steuben County, 23% are children under 18, and 28% are children under 5. We believe every neighborhood matters, every family matters, every adult matters, every child matters. That is why, in May, people throughout Steuben County will take STEPS (Steps To End Poverty in Steuben) to raise awareness of the need to alleviate poverty and funds to support local Turning Point poverty services, which serves all communities in Steuben County through locations in Bath, Canisteo, Corning, and Hornell.

The 10th annual STEPS Walks will be held the first three Saturdays in May:

- May 5th at Steuben Square in Hornell in conjunction with the Wildflower Festival
- May 12th at Pulteney Square in Bath
- May 19th at Centerway Square in Corning

Registration for each walk begins at 9:00 a.m., with the walk itself starting at 10:00 a.m. Walkers may raise awareness

100% of proceeds from the STEPS Walk will benefit Turning Point poverty services. Turning Point provides short-term solutions such as food pantries; housing, utility, and prescription assistance; and bus tokens to connect people to needed services; as well as long-term stability such as Community Navigation to connect people with health care; educational classes; Nutrition Outreach and Education; and financial and employment counseling.

and funds both online and in person. To get started online, please visit CatholicCharitiesSteuben.org/STEPS and click on the STEPS Walk sneaker icon supporting the Turning Point location of your choice. Follow the steps to register for your Walk and create a fundraising page. STEPS Walk fundraising pages allow participants to raise both awareness and funds online – use social media and email to share your cause and ask for others' support, accept online donations, track progress and connect with teammates and other walkers.

100% of proceeds from the STEPS Walk will benefit Turning Point poverty services. Turning Point provides short-term solutions such as food pantries; housing, utility, and prescription assistance; and bus tokens to connect people to needed services; as well as long-term stability such as Community Navigation to connect people with health care; educational classes; Nutrition Outreach and Education; and financial and employment counseling. Whether you participate on the day of the event or join us as a Virtual Walker, your generosity will make a difference in the lives of families and children throughout our county.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

The Leader: @thenewsleader1
Stephen Borgna: @theleaderborgna
Jeff Smith: @theleadersmith
Shawn Vargo: @theleadervargo
Eric Wensel: @theleaderwensel

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly printed. They must be signed and include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space considerations. The publication of any letter is at the discretion of the editor. All letters become the property of The Leader and cannot be returned to sender.

Mail: Letters To The Editor, The Leader, Po Box 1017, Corning, NY 14830
Fax: 607-936-9939 **Email:** svargo@the-leader.com

50# Black Oil Sunflower Seed Only \$19.99 + tax PER BAG

Wade's Farm & Home Inc. 94 Front St., Addison • 607-359-2424

JUMBLE
 Answer: INFLOW SHADOW SUMMER DISMAY ACTIVE MUSCLE
 In the late '70s, Paul David Hewson started going by Bono and —
MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF

COMMENTARY | STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA, R-BIG FLATS

We've got to live in the real world

In a recent commentary for the Times Union, the state capital's hometown newspaper, I welcomed the opportunity to comment on one of today's most pressing energy challenges.

In part, I wrote:

There was a time not long ago when environmentalists hailed natural gas as a cleaner energy solution. During his first Earth Day speech as President, Barack Obama lauded domestic natural gas as a critical bridge fuel to a renewable energy future. Near the conclusion of his presidency, he credited the use of natural gas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reminding us "we've got to live in the real world."

That message got lost somewhere along the line. If we do not start remembering that we live in the real world, the cost of heat and electricity will be unaffordable for most New Yorkers. In the real world, demand for natural gas is at an all-time high. That fact has been good for the environment and the American economy, including in our neighboring state of Pennsylvania.

Since 1990, U.S. natural gas production is up 37 percent and greenhouse gas emissions are down 17 percent. From 2005-2015, natural gas consumption increased 24 percent – contributing to dramatic drops in a number of air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide (down 66 percent), fine particulate matter (down 34 percent), and nitrogen oxide (down 20 percent). One of the important benefits of natural gas is the way it works in concert with renewable forms of energy. The main challenge with relying on renewable sources of energy, such as wind or solar, is their inherent unreliability. Storage capacity simply is not yet ready for prime time and cannot meet our energy demands. Continued innovation and investment in this area is critical to the future viability of renewables.

Electric power needs to be used when it's generated. If the sun's not out or the wind isn't blowing, a wind turbine or solar panel isn't much use to the electric grid. Natural gas is a strong complement to renewables because it can be brought online

quickly, ensuring reliability in systems when renewables are not producing. The Business Council for Sustainable Energy highlights this important link between domestic natural gas and renewables in a recent report. According to the report, natural gas and renewables together generated 50 percent of U.S. electricity in 2017, up from 31 percent in 2008. At the same time, greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. power sector fell to their lowest levels since 1990. Furthermore, while we have made some gains in renewable electricity supply, our heating fuel remains at about 95 percent fossil fuel-based and natural gas is by far the cleanest of that heat source.

Unfortunately, a group of vocal activists refuses to accept the very real limits to renewable energy. They aggressively work to strangle the development of much-needed energy infrastructure. New York State policymakers block projects that are essential to supply energy to the entire New York and New England region – with very real world consequences for consumers cut off

from access to affordable energy. The zealots may be successful in assuring that we don't freeze to death in the dark, but ignoring natural gas may mean that we freeze to death with the lights on.

This past winter, New England was faced with constraints to its energy supply caused in part by the blockade of domestic pipeline construction, which Gov. Cuomo has singlehandedly blocked. Faced with a harsh winter and limited access to domestic natural gas, New England imported liquefied natural gas from Russia just to meet basic heating and electricity needs.

In New York, the Governor has laid out a set of very ambitious renewable energy goals. I agree that we should be leading the way in renewable energy development. But we also have to make sure that residents and businesses have the energy they need right now to live and thrive in New York.

We can keep the lights and heat on, and emissions down, but only if we stop this senseless opposition to natural gas and critical energy infrastructure.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enough with 'Extreme Liberal' label

To the Editor,
 If you're on social media and even slightly into politics in New York's 23rd Congressional District, you are no doubt being hounded by "Extreme Ithaca Liberal" posts by the Tom Reed Campaign.

Reed used this to good effect back in 2014 when he ran against Martha Robertson. It did not matter to him, his campaign, or his Republican voters that Robertson was not from Ithaca but rather from sprawling, rural Dryden. Same county, very different vibe.

Reed is currently using the same phrase to label candidates from Penn Yan, Jamestown, and Owego as well as the two candidates vying for the Democratic nomination who actually live in Ithaca.

The Peter Max lettering on his web page is meant to remind us of the "evil" '60s and makes Reed appear to be channeling Nixon's fearmongering campaign of 50 years ago. Focusing on fear is a



successful way to swing a progressive era backward. You don't even have to posit a real threat. Just mention "hippies" and let the voters' imaginations run wild.

Reed pretends that all Democrats have extreme views, and that no matter where they live, they come from Ithaca. The only danger of such oversimplification is that it starts

from the assumption that your electorate is stupid.

It is possible to disagree with Tom Reed on the Second Amendment and not be extreme. It is possible to be a Democrat and be a former military officer.

It is possible to be from Western New York and espouse progressive views.

We are able to hold all these things in our

heads at once.

If Congressman Reed respected the people of his district, he'd credit them with the brains to see through his Extreme Ithaca Liberal hogwash.

Unfortunately for us all, and for any hope of thoughtful debate, he doesn't.

Kathy Zahler, Dryden

The Leader

GateHouse Media
Partnered with
ThriveHive

INFORMATION STAFF BOX

The Leader (ISSN #10501983) The Leader is published daily at 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830 by GateHouse Media, LLC. Periodical postage paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817. USPS code | 0586-160. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Leader, 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830.

<p>The Leader Staff:</p> <p>Publisher Rick Emanuel Group Publisher 936-4651, Ext. 303</p> <p>Editorial Shawn Vargo Executive Editor 936-4651, Ext. 361 svargo@the-leader.com</p> <p>Circulation Nichole Harrison Circulation Manager 936-4651, Ext. 314</p> <p>Advertising Heather Falkey Ad Director 936-4651, Ext. 347 hfalkey@the-leader.com</p> <p>Business Office Becky Post Administration 936-4651, Ext. 306 bpost@the-leader.com</p> <p>Classifieds 936-4651, Ext. 651 Retail 936-4651, Ext. 653</p>	<p>Postal Rates:</p> <p>Steuben County</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>One month</td><td>\$39.12</td></tr> <tr><td>Three months</td><td>\$117.36</td></tr> <tr><td>Six months</td><td>\$234.72</td></tr> <tr><td>One year</td><td>\$469.44</td></tr> </table> <p>ELSEWHERE IN USA</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>One month</td><td>\$49.47</td></tr> <tr><td>Three months</td><td>\$148.41</td></tr> <tr><td>Six months</td><td>\$296.82</td></tr> <tr><td>One year</td><td>\$593.64</td></tr> </table> <p>Home delivery subscriptions reflect basic subscription rates before additional charges. Due to the added value of special editions there will be an additional charge for each special edition which will accelerate the expiration of your subscription. There will be no more than 12 special editions per year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.the-leader.com </p>	One month	\$39.12	Three months	\$117.36	Six months	\$234.72	One year	\$469.44	One month	\$49.47	Three months	\$148.41	Six months	\$296.82	One year	\$593.64
One month	\$39.12																
Three months	\$117.36																
Six months	\$234.72																
One year	\$469.44																
One month	\$49.47																
Three months	\$148.41																
Six months	\$296.82																
One year	\$593.64																

SCHEDULE YOUR HEAT CHECK OR TUNE UP

Comfort Is Our Business
 Corning Appliance Corp.
 Service, Heating, Cooling, Fire Place, Water

Call 936-4328
 Ext. 299 EPA CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS SERVING THE TWIN TIERS

\$89.95
 plus tax

1/2 PRICE WITH ANY OTHER CHECK SERVICE (ie FIREPLACES). OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/18.

CALL TODAY!

Your Pre-Season Tune Up Includes:

- Check Pilot & Ignition System
- Check Thermostat or Primary Controller
- Check Secondary Controller • Check Motors & Bearings
- Check Belts, Couplers, Filters
- Check Condition of Wiring
- Check Condition of Vent Pipe & Gas Pipe
- Check Flu Gas Analysis
- Check Reading of Chimney Draft
- Check Amp Draw of Motor • Check Manifold Pressure Reading
- Check Input Rating Plate Timed CF/HR