



## Letters to the Editor

### RE: Recent Letter

I am responding to the letter written by Richard Rossi, dated March 5. As I read his letter, the doom and gloom of it made me think about just how bad is the situation in our country? Will the two sides of our government learn to compromise and work together or will the same old back and forth continue? I strongly believe we need term limits in all levels of government. That said, I don't feel that our future is so bleak!

Instead of lamenting what was in our forefather's time, I think we need to be more forward thinking about how we can change to keep pace with current times. History is important to learn from but that doesn't mean that our country can't evolve or change as time goes on. I believe Democracy should be able to evolve with the times.

Where does it say that this country was founded on Christian Judaic beliefs? To me it was founded on religious freedom – period. By labeling it, you are saying that those are the only religions that count.

Another point I strongly disagree with is that I don't believe Donald Trump was working for the people. I believe Donald Trump only works for himself. He could care less about "We the People". It surprises me that so many people haven't figured that out yet. It seems so many of the problems we have in our country now were caused by him. He has given a voice to many hate groups leading to January 6.

My hope is that we can take a breath, and learn to compromise and work together to figure out solutions to our problems as a nation. However, this probably won't happen until certain obstructive people are booted out of congress! In the meantime, I am going to think positively about our future.

Vicki Schoell

### Illegal Immigration - Your Tax Dollars

We keep hearing that illegal alien immigrants do jobs that American's don't want and they contribute to our economic society.

Unfortunately, the individuals who came into our country via unauthorized means are not helping America. They are willing to work for less and businesses take advantage of

this factor. They work 'off-the-books' and pay no taxes.

Their willingness to work for lower wages to stay 'hidden in the workforce' robs legal citizens from jobs. If this work force was NOT available, employers would need to pay more for legal workers/citizens to fill these positions. Without the illegal workforce, business WILL still need to have the jobs done; however, they would be forced to pay decent wages for those jobs. The economic law of supply and demand would come into play. This would in turn raise the economy and standard of living.

Well, I would like to share some facts and figures and some statistics involving our illegal residents in America.

These numbers may surprise you.

A recent study from Yale University estimates 22 million illegal aliens are in America NOW.

The Pew Hispanic Center says that at least 8 million illegal aliens hold jobs in the U.S.

Combined federal, state and local services for illegal immigrants cost taxpayers an estimated \$ 113 billion a year.

63 percent of immigrant households report using at least one 'welfare program'.

The cost of healthcare for uninsured illegal aliens is a staggering \$ 4.3 billion a year, driving up insurance rates and healthcare costs for ALL American Citizens.

Education costs alone for the children of illegal aliens is over \$ 52 billion each year.

Households headed by illegal aliens receive an estimated \$ 2.5 billion in Medicaid benefits each year, as well as \$ 1.9 billion in programs such as "food Stamps" and free school lunches.

Already 67 million people in the United States do not speak English at home. Where is the assimilation to our customs, norms, culture and way of life? They wanted to come here - no one forced them. English may not be our official language; however, my grandparents made an effort to learn to speak, read and write English.

Every year 350,000 "Anchor Babies" are born to illegal alien parents. Since they are born in the United States they automatically become citizens and become eligible to receive "welfare" benefits.

NOTE: The United

States declared birthright citizenship for USA-born individuals in 1868, at which point it became part of the Constitution. The 14th Amendment was adopted following the civil war to grant citizenship to all former slaves brought to the United States.

Many say this should be eliminated, as many illegals today come across the border pregnant (ready to give birth) just to have their off-spring become an American citizen and start collecting benefits and automatically allowed to stay in the country.

According to a recent study, an illegal alien household receives \$ 24,721 in government benefits and services (including education, police and fire protection, etc.), but pays only \$ 10,334 in taxes.

Even more disturbing is that these illegal individuals that enter the United States WITHOUT any vetting what so ever. Who are these individuals? What is their intent?

Are we allowing criminals, gang members, and terrorists into our country? And now will the COVID-19 problems, the health factor is even more important.

In summary, illegal immigration is not helping our country and is costing the America Citizen tax payer millions and billions of dollars. It is lowering our standard of living and not helping these individuals one bit.

Yes, we are a nation of immigrants. Yes, LEGAL immigration helps America. My Grandparents were immigrants; however, they came to America the right way. They 'paid their dues' and became American Citizens and were proud of it. They were NOT entitled to receive 'welfare' as their first act on entering the US.

Our government allowing this to continue is an insult to every immigrant who came to America the correct way. 'Sanctuary Cities' that protect illegals from deportation is just encouraging more illegal immigration and making a bigger burden on the America Taxpayers. Amnesty just an additional encouragement to invite more illegal immigration. Our Immigration laws need to be enforced and our borders secure. Without a secure border, we are not a nation.

Richard Rossi  
Denver, NY

## Pancakes Make People Happy

By Liz Page

NEW YORK, NY – While apple pie is American, the pancake is global. It is one of the oldest forms of comfort food in the world, dating back to the Stone Age and it exists in nearly every culture.

It isn't known exactly how many pancakes Sharon Collins has flipped, but it's a lot. She's been making people happy with her pancakes since she was a young girl on the family dairy farm, cooking up breakfast for the rest of the Bucks, helpers, those who were dropped off for babysitting or those who just happened to stop in. People now pack into the sap house at Buck Hill Farm in Jefferson every weekend, to enjoy, for the most part, Sharon's pancakes.

She is just one of the authors of a new cookbook, *Pancakes Make People Happy*. The other two authors are her daughter, Charlotte Collins, and already published cookbook author, Courtney Wade, a friend, cook and fellow Jefferson resident.

Collins became a pure maple syrup and specialty food manufacturer in 1990. She is fascinated by everything home grown and locally produced. Seasonal products have fueled her entire business and she began serving breakfast at the sap house in 1995.

Her daughter, Charlotte, is the third generation farmer. She has been on a plant-based diet for more than 12 years, inspiring her interest in creative cooking. She worked in fitness instructing, public relations and sales for six years in New York City before returning to the farm.

Courtney Wade's passion is farm fresh food. She has a degree in graphic design and agri business from SUNY Cobleskill. She authored a previous cookbook, *Catskills Farm to Table*, and understands the importance of and promotes supporting local producers by utilizing seasonally grown products.

*Pancakes Make People Happy* is a cookbook for everyone who loves pancakes. From savory, satisfying brunch time fare to light, sweet desserts, pancakes are the perfect food to nourish body and soul, according to the book release.

*Pancakes Make People Happy* features more than 75 unique pancake recipes that are as easy



to prepare as they are to love, including Old Fashioned Buttermilk Pancakes, Jalapeño Corn Fritter Pancakes, Crispy Risotto Pancake, Monte Cristo Pancakes, Citrus Mimosa Pancakes, Pancake Muffins, Eggnog Pancakes, Indian Chai Spice Pancakes, Christmas Tree Stack, Black Forest Pancakes and so much more.

My favorite pancakes are buttermilk pancakes, but I don't mind if you throw in some fresh fruit. Of course, I top them with pure maple syrup. The process of making syrup began last week in the region with the arrival of some warm weather.

The title for the book came from a mug at Buck Hill. "Most of our mugs have come from the thrift shop or they show up from various people," said Collins. Publisher Andrew Flach, who has breakfast at Buck Hill on a regular basis, always chooses the mug that says "Pancakes Make People Happy". "It was his idea to make a book about pancakes," said Collins.

The trio of women sat down and began brainstorming all the different pancakes. "They are really for any meal and can be made with any ingredients," said Collins.

They wanted to make the cookbook user friendly, from kids to adults and include special diets, such as gluten free, vegan and others. There is a chapter devoted to making substitutions. The recipes are rated from 1 to 4 in difficulty, because as Collins knows, kids can have fun making pancakes.

She said they used to have an event at the annual Schoharie County Maple Festival called Pancake Shape Day, designed for children to get involved in a creative way.

I am good at making rabbits and ducks.

"We really had fun writing the cookbook," said Collins.

Charlotte and Courtney kitchen tested all of the recipes to ensure they were accurate. Sharon said she enjoyed the tast-

ing part. She liked the Brown Butter Sugar Griddle Cakes and the Eggnog Pancakes.

Charlotte also did a blog about why pancakes make people happy and Collins believes the reason is that it reminds people of their childhood.

It took the trio nearly a year to develop the cookbook and test each of the recipes. It was a welcome distraction from the COVID-19 pandemic. "A lot of people were making breakfast at home," she said.

"The first copy was released in January when there wasn't much going on," she said. A number of copies were sold in the shop. She said it was a welcome distraction as their capacity was limited to 50 percent under the pandemic guidelines. The one year mark of the pandemic shutdown is just being reached (March 19). Fortunately, over the warm months they were able to seat customers outside at picnic tables, which helped the bottom line. All the food shows and bridal shows were canceled, said Collins.

They also make bridal and other favors at Buck Hill along with a myriad of condiments from the food grown on the farm.

Collins is currently taking orders for her Easter Lamb cakes, a rich pound cake covered cream cheese frosting.

"So, the cookbook has been a really positive thing this year," she said.

There are classic pancakes, brunch pancakes, dinner pancakes, seasonal pancakes, dessert pancakes and international pancakes.

I'm thinking the eggnog pancakes are probably something to try.

The book is published by Hatherleigh Press and distributed through Penguin Random House, available wherever books are sold. Visit [www.hatherleighpress.com](http://www.hatherleighpress.com). The paperback version is \$20 and the ebook version is \$12.99.

They are also available at Buck Hill Farm.

### Work Continues at SCS



Work continues on the facade of Stamford Central School over the last several weeks. Photo courtesy Ann DuBois

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