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BULLET magazine



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the state's official NRA affiliate

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December 2020

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah



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December 2020 — Vol. 59 No. 6



President's Message

by Tom King

Keep the faith

Keep the faith and your trust in the Second Amendment and the United States of America. I have many people contacting me and moaning that it is all over, and that the Second Amendment will be modified or eliminated. This is possible, except there are 72 million people who voted for President Trump—72 million people who believe in God, the Second Amendment, the U.S. Constitution, and the righteous principles upon which this country was founded.

So, what do we do? I am glad you asked! It is time to draw that proverbial line in the sand. No more egregious unconstitutional laws, no more attacks on our religious beliefs, no more attacks limiting our freedom of speech and most importantly no more violations of our Second Amendment rights. It's time to tell people to stop trying to steal our country.

How do we find our way through this morass of fraud and corruption? The answer to that question is easy, but implementation is difficult ... very difficult. We must join together to get out on the streets to recruit followers, and turn those recruits into patriots to fight for our rights. We must become constitutional warriors rather than keyboard warriors. We must look for, and fight for, the truth—not the internet bull that all the social-media trolls are posting. We must know who our friends are, and support them—even if we may not always agree with them. We must put differences and false rhetoric behind, and unite as a cohesive and formidable force for freedom.

We have three great allies in this battle: the Republican Party, the Conservative Party, and the NRA, but more importantly the leaders of these formidable groups are committed to fighting the battles and winning this most important war. Nick Langworthy, the chairman of the Republican Party, and Gerry Kassar, chairman of the Conservative Party, have committed themselves to protecting our values, and most importantly, the Second Amendment. This past election season—while not overly successful in New York state—proved that a united front can be successful and win seats. Look at the Democrats! They fight, curse, and swear at each other prior to election, but they present a united front on Election Day, and win any way they can.

The NRA is committed to protecting our rights, and it has helped in recent lawsuits that have almost made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. Wayne LaPierre has committed the NRA to protecting the Second Amendment rights of New York, and the other 49 states of the union. Keep your eyes peeled for additional information concerning your rights and future developments.

Langworthy, Kassar, Wayne, and I have committed ourselves to protecting the freedoms of all New Yorkers, but we cannot do it without your help. We all need volunteers to walk the streets, search out new members, register voters and raise money. These coming battles all cost money ... lots of money. A case that goes to SCOTUS will cost at least a million dollars, running election campaigns within the state



We must join together to get out on the streets to recruit followers, and turn those recruits into patriots to fight for our rights.

can cost from \$125,000 to \$750,000 and a governor's race can cost \$30 million. Large amounts, but what are your rights worth?

Turn off your computer, and join us for the battle for the United States.

Be a warrior join the fight! ■

Introduced Bill Would Infringe on Gun Owners' Rights

by Jim Collins

A plain reading of the democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's firearm bill—now in both houses of Congress—will require present, and future, firearm owners to pass psychology and character tests to continue owning firearms they legally possess already. When asked, legal experts have been unable to describe how this would be legal. Biden has not commented. By most estimates, America has 100 million firearm owners. Recently, that number has grown as people who are concerned about urban rioting have made gun purchases. They realize that if trouble comes, they may not be able to get police protection.

The first line of the identical bills, H.R.5717 and S-3254, would require any American who wants to legally “purchase, acquire or possess a firearm or ammunition,” to obtain a federal license. This is de facto infringement on our civil rights freedom!

To obtain this license you would need to prove to unelected officials that you are of “sound mind and character,” and you meet “any other requirements the State determines relevant.” No standards or guidelines are provided. Assuming anyone could qualify, authorities, “make a determination of suitability,” for your possession and ownership of firearms, including any you own presently. A certified firearm trainer suggested that this outrageous power grab and affront to the Bill of Rights could never pass muster at the U.S. Supreme Court. I fully agree!

Let me briefly recap: Joe Biden would ignore the Bill of Rights ban on infringement. Unelected bureaucrats will be able to choose who can bear arms. The sale of semi-automatic rifles deemed unacceptable along with magazines of a certain capacity will be illegal. And finally, all existing arms in private hands will be subject to confiscation. Sound familiar?

Reminds me of the firearm laws in 1938 Germany or Lenin's comments in the Russian Communist Revolution of 1917 when he said, “we don't let them have ideas, why would we let them have firearms?”

If you value your freedom you must fight back. Contact your member of the House of Representatives and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and tell them that you reject Joe Biden's outrageous assault upon our constitutional liberty!

Please do it today!

As always, may God watch over and protect the brave men and women serving us, at war in our patriot Armed Forces and may God bless America!

Some portions of the foregoing are from Jews for the Preservation of Firearms. ■

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Give A Gift That Truly Sparks Memories

by Charlie Beers

We have much to be thankful for this holiday season. I encourage each of you to reflect on holidays passed, and remember outdoor/adventurous gifts that changed the spirit of the season for you. In a world consumed by plastic toys and video games, please consider more traditional purchases in these final weeks of celebratory cheer. Recently, I took a walk through my own childhood with a photo album. Yes, a real album, with thick pages, plastic covers and the little adhesive dots to hold the photos in place.

My first brace was a pair of matched side-loading roll-cap pistols adorned with fake bone stocks. For years, they hung above my nonexistent hips in pressed split-leather holsters with a silver buckle. The pistols accompanied me on trips to the grocery store, Frontier Town and any walks in the woods. My parents' four lessons of firearms safety had begun already with a six-shot snub-nosed ring-cap pistol. With my new acquisitions, the likelihood of violating Rule No. 3—pointing the pistol in the wrong direction—had doubled. In fact one Adirondack afternoon, the Frontier Town stage coach hold-up routine—with robbers leaping from horseback to the coach—was interrupted abruptly as my pistols cleared leather. This was the 1980s after all, and the world had not fully engaged in the guns-are-evil movement yet.

Recently, I sat at a PTA meeting as the attending moms spoke of their

children's infatuation with Nerf guns. When they questioned me, there was an awkward silence when I answered that we don't have Nerf toys or encourage pointing firearms at each other. To each their own, but at least consider the behaviors reinforced by our choices of toys. Caps guns aren't the only gift of my childhood memories. I remember my first bike, compound bow, external frame backpack, canoe paddle, pocket knife, hammock, mummy bag and centerfire rifle. Each gift was used to near exhaustion, and those memories tie to old scouting friends and mentors long expired, and family camping and hunting trips.

The centerfire rifle was found one fall at B&T Guns on Central Ave., where the wooden Indian stood watch over the parking lot. Picked from a rack of used Marlins, the 336RC became my greatest desire. After much research and reading, I made the case to my father, with well-contrived points and counterpoints. The 30-30 would do anything I could ever imagine. Thankfully, my taste and knowledge has improved.

Weeks after I had made my argument, when we were getting ready for a hunting trip in Speculator—we fit foam material into the bed of dad's pickup truck, and cut a crank-up RV vent into the truck cap to allow for air exchange as we heated the interior with a Coleman lantern—we took

a trip to the gun store for supplies. Looking back—three decades later—I am certain that a deposit for the rifle was slipped under my nose before we left the store. The last item gifted that year was to me, and it was the 336RC and three boxes of Remington 170 gr Power Points.

Maybe 30 years from now, your children or grandchildren will remember a video game, Nerf toy or plastic doll ... *maybe*. I think the odds stand on the side of remembering a gifted tent that is used on a camping trip or a refurbished single-stage reloading press currently living under your bench, add some new dies and teach a skill. Find a gift to spark exploration, family gathering and excitement.

With my grandparents long deceased, I remain grateful for fishing trips with new rods and reels and inherited 1950s Snap On ratchets that still spin most sockets in my garage and barns. Behind each gift are the memories and tutorials that make the gifts useful. Close your eyes, can you smell burned roll caps, feel the pinch of your young hands on your first lever gun, or maybe hear the rhythmic percussive clicking of a powder measure? As we celebrate Christmas around our tree, I wish you all a blessed and memory-generating holiday season. ■

Outdoor Precision Pistol Championship Results

by Steve Kranak

Needless to say, the pandemic has made this a difficult year for everyone. Numerous social events and attendance at all events, including our shooting activities and matches, have been affected.

The results of the 2020 New York State Outdoor Precision Pistol Championship are now complete. This year the match was held in only two locations DCPA and Niagara County Sportsman's Association. Here are this year's winners:

The "Open Winner" was Shane Murphy from New Hartford, Conn., who fired a 2582-112x to take top honors.

Thomas S. White from New Rochelle, N.Y., won his first title and the "Wukovits award" while firing a 2543 6x.

"1st Master" honors went to Joseph D'Aleo, West Hartford, Conn., firing a score of 2574-99x.

Top "Expert" honors were earned by Michael Spingeld of River Vale, N.J., posting a 2486-63x.

The "1st Sharpshooter" was Michael Maronich, from Monroe, Conn., who posted 2296-35x.

Bruce Caron from Newfane, N.Y., won his first "Marksman" title putting a 2234-19x on the scoreboard.

The "High Grand Senior" honors went to Gary P. Peterson, from Levittown, N.Y., who fired 2516-65x.

The "High Senior" was Richard Powers, West Falls, N.Y., posting 2514-66x.

The "High Junior" title went to Giancarlo Scolaro, Fishkill, N.Y., firing 1925-12x.

The "High Service/Police winner was Reginald Thomas of Brooklyn, N.Y., firing a 2185-44x.

The "High Woman" winner was Debra Sodaro, from Newfane, N.Y., who fired 1382-13x.

Winning the "Martinez Award" (High NYS Hard Ball shooter) for the first time was Chris Thiel, from North Tonawanda N.Y., posting a 269-6x.

Congratulations to all these winners!

As always thanks go out to the match directors along with their kitchen and range personnel who worked so hard to make this match a success.

The composite Match results were sent out electronically (via email) to each of match directors or their (designated staff member) at each of the locations that held the Championship match. They were directed to forward those results to each of the competitors who attended the match at their locations. All competitors were asked to submit their email addresses when they signed up for the match on their competitor fact sheets.

As always, I encourage everyone to get others involved in the shooting sports, which hopefully will translate to greater match participation.

Good shootin' ■

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Troubleshooting Your Target: When Your Grouping Is Scattered Here's What To Do if Your Groups Look Like a Connect-The-Dots Game.

As I walked toward the handgun range, I saw my student waiting for me. She looked very young and seemed a bit tentative. When I meet a student for the first time, I always ask why they hired me—for target practicing or for self-defense. She told me that she recently accepted a position as a bartender in a rough section of a nearby city, and would often leave work about 2 a.m.

Just a few weeks prior, after her shift, a drunk guy followed her to her car. Her co-workers suggested she purchase a small firearm to carry on her “just in case.”

She purchased a 9 mm Taurus, but had never shot it. After giving her a basic lesson, she lifted the gun and fired at the “bad guy” target. Startled, she stopped after the first shot. I told her to keep shooting until her magazine was empty. When we walked down to retrieve the target, we saw that she came close to the bullseye twice, but the rest of her grouping was scattered all over the target. A widely scattered grouping is typical of the beginner shooter, or someone breaking in a new gun. I told her to just practice, practice, practice!

Read on to find out how you can diagnose and correct the following

grouping issues: no group, vertical center and horizontal center placements. Please note that the following information assumes a right-handed, right-eye-dominant shooter. For left-handed shooters, reverse the groups.

Scattered or no group.

If you're new to shooting or shooting a new gun, your shots could be splattered all over the target. No group means all problems are evident, and that no one specific issue stands out from the rest. The goal of target shooting is to have a grouping no larger than your closed fist. Check the basic fundamentals of pistol shooting: grip, sight alignment, breath control, trigger control, stance and follow-through to tighten your groupings.

Vertical center placement.

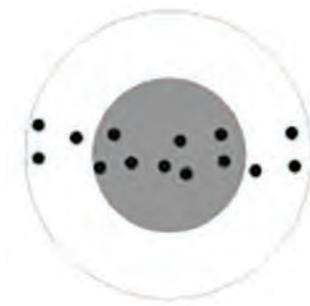
In this pattern, your shots are running down the center of the target, from twelve o'clock all the way down to six o'clock. Very few are landing at the three o'clock or the nine o'clock positions. This is usually caused by an incorrect stance, especially swaying forward and backward. To correct this, have someone go with you to the range to check your stance



Scattered or no group.



Vertical center placement.



Horizontal center placement.



while shooting. Be sure to relax your shoulders, as this can also cause vertical placement. Finally, hold your breath while shooting, as breathing while aiming and firing can cause you to move the gun up and down.

Horizontal center placement.

This shot pattern is the exact opposite of vertical center—your shots are

landing left to right across the target. But here's the funny part—the advice is the same! Poor stance often results in a bad point of aim. To make this pattern, you may be swaying to the left and right. Finally, check your grip. Poor grip can cause your grouping to the far left or the far right of the target.

About the Author: Maureen Sangiorgio is an NRA Certified Firearm Instructor/Range Safety Officer. She can be reached directly at maureenwriter.com.

This article was first published by Maureen Sangiorgio on November 4, 2020. ■

Why You Should Do Dry-Fire Drills.

What's Dry Fire? Why, Only The Cheapest and Easiest Way To Train ...

There are times that making it to the range to train with a firearm doesn't fit into life's hectic schedule, or we can't track down the ammo we need. Although dry firing may sound silly, it can help you build certain skills without a trip to the range.

What is Dry Fire?

Dry firing is the act of manipulating the firearm and pulling the trigger without ammunition. It gives you an opportunity to practice the skills needed to use your gun without using live ammo or making a trip to the range. You can do it just about anywhere. A session a week will help you stay proficient in skills like your draw and acquiring proper sight picture. Several sessions of intense focus on a single skill will help you develop the muscle memory required to learn and improve.

Competition guns can be dry fired as well as concealed carry guns. A timer and a phone or camera to video yourself will help you see your progress and understand where you need to focus your efforts.

The history of dry fire as an efficacious means of practice with a firearm is well-established. Olympic medalists used dry fire practice when their range access was limited during quarantine. But you don't have to be an Olympian to take advantage of this free tool. You just need to know how to do it properly and be willing to work.

Before You Start

The first thing you need to know is that dry fire involves a firearm, so you still need to follow the rules of firearms safety. If you are going to dry fire your concealed-carry firearm, unload it at your safe or in a separate place from where you dry fire. Visually and physically check that the firearm's chamber is clear. Remove all live ammunition from the room in which you will do your practice (yes, that is standard operating procedure for all shooters). Then take your empty gun, empty magazines, holster and whatever gear you plan to use to your designated dry fire location.

Be sure to know your target and beyond, and treat your gun like it's loaded. This means choosing a safe direction to dry fire. For example, avoid any inner walls where a person could be sitting on the other side. I often use the foot of my bed so magazines can drop quietly, or the arm of the couch, facing an outer wall.

Special Attention if You Own a Rimfire Firearm

If you have ever heard, "Don't shoot an empty gun. You'll damage it," you heard that correctly, but only for a specific type of gun. The guns that you don't want to dry fire are rimfire guns, like rimfire .22s. A rimfire firearm is designed so that the firing pin hits the rim of the shell casing.

Some people put a "snap cap" or dummy round in the chamber, but the long-term effects of dry firing a rimfire can cause damage. If the caliber is larger than .22, dry-fire practice is safe for the gun.

The Draw

Your draw is arguably the most critical in a defensive situation, and your speed in competitions will suffer if it is not done correctly. I recommend setting up a camera or phone to record your practice, as well as a timer to keep you on track.

The first step in dry fire and working on your draw is moving your hand to the gun.

The next step is building your grip after your hands meet in front of the gun and pressing the gun out from your body as you acquire the sites.

When you practice your draw for competition, you generally measure it based on your first shot on target. How fast that is will depend on target size and distance. You can set a par time on a timer to measure how long it takes to break your first shot with dry fire. Set it at something reasonable like 2.5 seconds to draw, bring up the gun, align your sights onto the target, squeeze the trigger, and break the shot. Lower the time as you improve your muscle memory. It takes about a thousand repetitions of a movement to build that muscle memory, because you are literally forging a physical

connection from your brain to your muscles.

However, practicing a bad draw over and over again is going to do you more harm than good. I would advise first learning from an instructor or at least researching the proper form through videos. As you're building muscle memory, you want to build it perfectly. Perfect practice makes perfect performance. So to get to the point where you can execute a fast and technically correct draw, start slow, repeat it properly and the muscle memory will come with time.

A draw from concealed carry is going to differ from a competition draw. You will need to account for a multitude of other variables. Are clothes concealing your gun? Will you need to remove it from a purse or bag? This will add time to your draw. Are you often seated at a desk or in a car? You may want to practice a draw from that position as well. Practice your draw under the same conditions you would actually have to draw your firearm.

Dry firing is a great way to practice your draw because it gives you the opportunity to fix issues before practicing an incorrect draw 100 times. Remember that camera I recommended? Use it, and be sure to critique yourself after each attempt. Did you sweep yourself? Does the concealment garment or bag work? Would you "flag" others if you were to draw in public? These are real



The first step in dry fire and working on your draw is moving your hand to the gun.



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considerations that you can work out with dry fire.

Other Dry-Fire Skills to Practice

After the draw, work on watching what happens in your sights as you break the trigger. Dry fire can tell you what happens after you pull the trigger in a way that live fire doesn't because of the recoil. Without distracting recoil, you might see the sights move or muzzle dip. This is information about how you just pulled that trigger.

You want to break the shot without moving the sights.

Once you've established a good draw and first shot, work on other skills, like a magazine change or moving the gun from one target to another (transitioning). The more skills you can automatically execute because you've practiced until they are muscle memory, the more your brain will be free to take in what's going on around you while you are shooting. In competition, that might mean finding your next position or calling

your shots. In a self-defense scenario, that might mean being able to see and identify what's in someone's hand while you are readying your firearm.

Dry firing from a vehicle or other position that you might need to draw your concealed carry gun from is a good way to understand if your holster and clothing are suitable.

Make Dry Fire Fun

Involve a friend or family member to give you feedback or train with you. In our house, our dry fire is mainly work on competition skills, so we heckle each other and race each other, which adds a layer of pressure and makes us laugh.

Whatever way you decide to dry fire, be safe and enjoy learning so that you can be better prepared both physically and mentally to use your firearms.

About the Author: Becky Yackley competes in the shooting sports across the country and around the world with her husband and three sons. She has spent much of the last 20 years holding down the fort while her husband proudly serves our country in both the Marine Corps and state law



Dry firing from a vehicle or other position that you might need to draw your concealed carry gun from is a good way to understand if your holster and clothing are suitable.



enforcement. Her writing, blogging, and photography are ways that she shares her unique perspective on firearms, competition, hunting, and the Second Amendment, especially as it applies to mothers on their own. She grew up the daughter of a gunsmith, and with her siblings competed in NRA Highpower and Smallbore, and she has since competed in more disciplines than almost any woman involved in the shooting sports. From IPSC, USPSA, Bianchi Cup, 3

Gun and more, she enjoys sharing that to be proficient and knowledgeable with a firearm is within the reach of anyone! She's the founder a 501c.3, 2A Heritage Ltd., and works with industry partners and other volunteers who share the ethos of bringing new youth into the shooting sports with personal commitment to safely sharing an historically American pastime. This article was first published by Becky Yackley on October 26, 2020

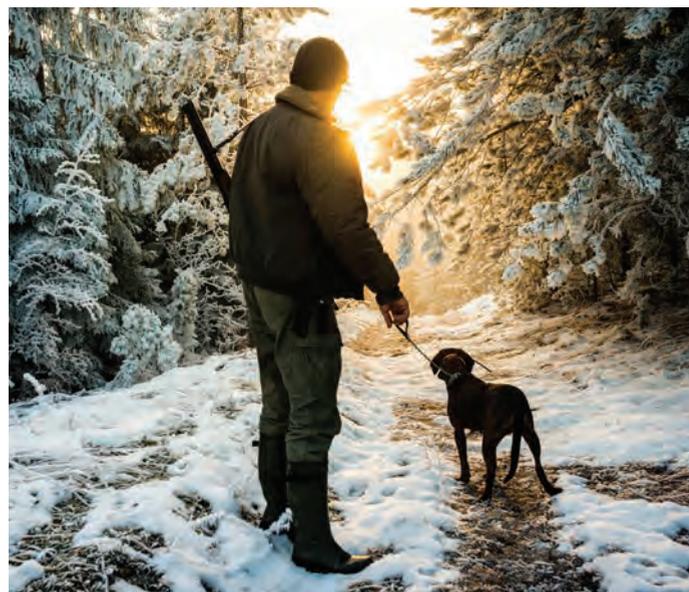


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Members matter at NYSRPA

Every single member matters!

We Love Our Members!

Here at the NYSRPA we are always buzzing with discussion about how we can better serve, motivate, engage, inform and connect with our valuable members.

We realize that of the 4-6 million or so gun owners in New York only a small percentage take the time to support Second Amendment associations, or even get out and vote. To those who are active in your commitment to protecting and preserving our gun rights in New York your work is outstanding.

During my 20 years, here, I've had the privilege of getting to know lots of you and have been impressed by your passion for protecting our freedoms for younger generations.

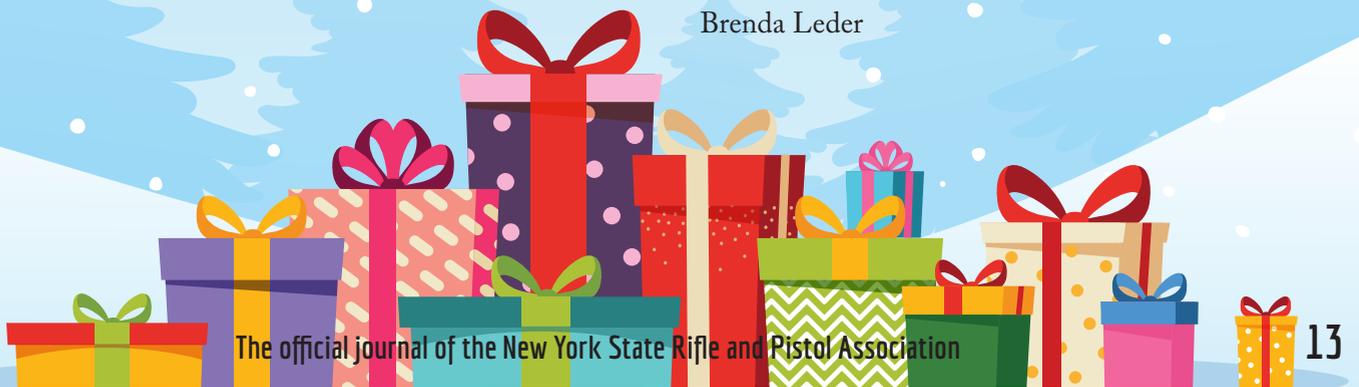
Some of our older members have brought me to tears with stories of how they or their parents have fought for the freedoms that so many younger people seem to take for granted or do not understand. Members have shared their stories of New York's rich history of hunting and shooting sports, from a time when gun laws were simple and common sense.

For good reason, many of you have expressed discouragement, especially after the flood of new firearm restrictions that have been passed. Yet many of you keep renewing, donating, voting and even volunteering when you are able. Be encouraged—your commitment to NYSRPA's mission is not in vain! We cannot give up!

I invite you to contact me for NYSRPA member brochures to leave at gun stores, ranges or to distribute wherever you would like. Please also consider giving the gift of a NYSRPA membership this holiday season. For more information, contact me at (518) 272-2654.

Happy Holidays!

Brenda Leder



Armed Home Defense in a Condo or Apartment

What constitutes a safe direction when there are people living a wall away?

There's little doubt that armed home defense beats hoping an intruder treats you nicely or waiting for the cops to show up. After all, intruders, by nature, aren't known for their manners, and the police take minutes to arrive when seconds count.

However, armed home defense isn't as simple as realizing your life is in danger and firing your firearm in defense of it. You see, after you fire a gun, you are responsible for that bullet, and bullets do not necessarily stop when they hit walls, ceilings, bad guys or your old couch. While the bullet must pass through a wall between studs, traverse another wall and still strike someone with enough energy to

kill, the reality is that it can and does happen. You must think in three-dimensional terms before shooting, and even then, you cannot know where neighbors might be at any given moment or how a bullet might behave when it strikes an object such as a nail head or an I-beam and ricochets.

This is not to intimidate home defenders, but rather to inject a dose of reality so you can make plans to reduce the risk as much as possible in a multi-family dwelling, such as an apartment, condo or townhouse. Thankfully, there are several ways to mitigate these risks.

Learn what your home's walls are made of. If internal walls are basic

stud/sheetrock/fiber-glass insulation construction, then you should know that any full-power, non-fragmenting bullet fired into them will likely pass through them. The more powerful the caliber means the more penetration and damage it can do.

Learn what is below your floor, above your ceiling and beyond all of your walls. Do neighbors live above you, or, for example, are you on the top floor with little above but roof? You should determine what is considered a safe direction for loading and unloading your home-defense firearm and as part of that, think about what might



be risky if you had to shoot in self-defense.

Explore and consider guns and bullets that do not overly penetrate walls. For example, if your home-defense gun of choice is a 12-gauge shotgun and you live in an apartment, you probably shouldn't load slugs into it, but rather, bird shot. While slugs have massive energy and penetration qualities due to the projectile's mass and energy, birdshot typically has enough close-range energy to disable an attacker without maintaining enough residual energy to penetrate multiple walls. That said, it's important to note that birdshot can go through a single interior wall under some conditions. For handguns and carbines, consider using reduced-power loads or frangible

ammo. Varmint bullets that break apart into small fragments when they strike something solid, such as Hornady's .223 V-Max bullet, are a good choice. Never use full metal jacket (FMJ) or military "ball" ammo because it's non-expanding; armored projectiles penetrate to the max. Reduced-power (also called reduced-recoil) loads may not penetrate as far as full-power or "plus P" loads, but beware: Some reduced-power loads can also induce malfunctions in some semi-automatic firearms, so always test them at the range before using in the home.

Develop a home-defense plan. While you can't know what an attacker will do or how a real defensive scenario

might unfold, you can visualize the best place to fire your gun and zones or directions in your house where you shouldn't if you can avoid it. Furthermore, you should instruct your kids or loved ones to move to a designated safe space in the event of an emergency. Sure, planning for the unknown is very difficult to predict, but it's better to think about it in advance than trying to do so while under the immeasurable pressure and stress of an actual invasion. Take measures now to increase your odds of survival later. ■

This article was first published by Jeff Johnston published on November 16, 2020



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A portrait of Carl Gottstein, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a checkered shirt. He is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the title. Behind him is a circular emblem with a white star and yellow and blue elements.

New York's New Hope

by Carl Gottstein

They say it is always darkest before the dawn, well it is about to get dark in New York, patriots ... very dark indeed.

As I write this article, in some states the civil rights of Donald Trump and his voters appear to have been violated, and there also are many instances of fraud and accusations of a scheme to defraud the American people. The results of the presidential election have yet to be decided, and there are many other races yet to be determined, which may be contested.

The New York Democrats are on their way to a super majority in the state Senate—they already enjoy complete dominance in the state Assembly—and with it the power to override the governor. Ironical that a state Legislature that has given Gov. Andrew Cuomo the power to dictate, and has no interest in taking responsibility, may soon be given total authority, so it may be difficult for Cuomo to pass the buck, create partisan friction and evade responsibility in 2022.

They say it is always darkest before the dawn, well it is about to get dark in New York, patriots ... very dark indeed. But, then the dawn comes. Timing is not the only reason why this may not be a complete list of pro-Second Amendment winners. I wanted to bring special attention to the standout patriots who stood up in 2020, and proudly represented American values and fought for our freedoms! Sadly, others shirked their responsibilities and threw in the towel. Let us appreciate the good people as an organization, as a state and as a country. Let's get these names into your hands, and get us started on working with our newly minted representatives as soon as possible. Hopefully by the time this article is published, America's courts will have come to a resolution that lays bare all the suspected and reported election fraud that has been an X factor in determining our nation's future!

America's patriots demand a fair and equitable outcome.



Some things have been determined, and in New York our political landscape has changed significantly with the brutal elimination, shakeup and reshuffling of third-party politics. Some third parties are now simply gone! The Independence Party and the Greens lost ballot access; they are out. Flummoxed Democrats are adjusting to the reality of additional political clout won by the Working Families party—it was the party targeted for a purge, and it is now line C—that is called winning.

The Conservative party of New York remains a player, too. It is the only third party in New York that survived the Democrats intended third-party purge—much to the chagrin of the state’s top Democrat. New York’s political sands have most definitely

shifted considerably and there are some big winners and losers. Let’s leave the losers for another day, let us start with two big winners in alphabetical order: New York state’s two freshman state-party chairmen.

So, conservative state chairman Mr. Gerrard Kassar whose relentless work on behalf of his candidates throughout 2020 likely made the difference in some key races that included members-elect of Congress Nicole Maliotakis and Andrew Garbarino. Kassar’s persistent advocacy for Maliotakis was a game changer, and with it many Second Amendment friends who might have sat this one out in the Second Amendment community supported her ascendancy to Congress. The truth here is clear, if we work among ourselves to mend fences, we

can beat them, even in New York City. Maliotakis did not win an “A” rating from NYSRPA, but Chairman Kassar’s persistence and advocacy on her behalf convinced NYSRPA leadership to publish her “C” rating in *Bullet Magazine*, and to post it on our webpage—clearly it was seen by her campaign as a potential advantage over her opponent who earned an “F” rating. I would say they were right. As of today, Maliotakis is part of the newly formed “freedom caucus” joined by several GOP freshman, a wonderful and encouraging alternative and counterpoint for “the squad.” We offer our hearty congratulations to the conservative party state chairman for a remarkable and successful first year, he held onto his party’s ballot access when others did not. (See cpnys.org) ■



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Notes from Brenda

by Brenda Leder

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and that 2021 turns out to be a good year for us all.

We have made a few changes to our computer system. So now, we will no longer ask you for your membership number when you call the office.

Instead, we will just ask you for your name—please give us your name as it is printed on your membership card.

I want to send a big **THANK YOU** to all the members who donated to the mailing-label fundraiser. Your help is truly appreciated. If you have not yet donated, please send your donation before the end of the year.

I have a question for everyone. How come we only have 40,000 members, and New York state has an estimated 4-6 million gun owners? If you have friends or family members who are gun owners or believe in our Second Amendment, ask them why they are not helping in the fight to keep our firearms. We are in for a battle like you never before, and we need help from all gun owners. If you need membership applications, call the office and we will mail them to you. You also can sign up for membership via our website, and there is an application for membership printed in every issue of this magazine, which can be photocopied.

I would like to share some facts about Ellis Island with you. Ellis Island is in Upper New York Bay, and it was formerly the United States' principal immigration reception center. It has often been referred to as the Gateway to the New World.

The island was originally only 3 acres, but it has grown to 27 acres through land reclamation projects. Much of the island consists of landfill and ships dumped ballast there for a time. I would like to share eleven things you may not know about Ellis Island, according to a book written by Evan Andrews.

1. It was used for pirate hanging in the early 1800s. Long before it became a way station for people looking for a new beginning, Ellis Island—named for its last private owner, Samuel Ellis—was known as a place where condemned prisoners met their end. For most of the early 19th century, the island was used to hang convicted pirates, criminals and mutinous sailors, and New Yorkers eventually took to calling it “Gibbet Island” after the wooden post, or gibbet, upon which the bodies of the deceased were displayed. It reverted to the name “Ellis Island” in the years after the last hanging in 1839, and later served as a Navy munitions depot before being repurposed as a federal immigration station.
2. The first immigrants to arrive at Ellis Island were three unaccompanied minors. Ellis Island accepted its first new arrivals on New Year’s Day 1892, when the steamship Nevada arrived with 124 passengers from Europe. The first would-be immigrant to set foot on the island was Annie Moore, a teenager from County Cork, Ireland who had crossed the Atlantic with her 11- and 7-year-old brothers en route to reuniting with family



in New York. A U.S. Treasury Department official and a Catholic chaplain were on hand to welcome Moore, and Ellis Island’s commissioner awarded her a \$10 gold piece to mark the occasion. Today, a statue of Moore and her brothers is kept on display at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

3. The island wasn’t the first place immigrants landed when they arrived in New York. While Ellis Island was the official entry point for immigrants to the U.S., it wasn’t the first piece of American soil they encountered. The waters surrounding the island were too shallow for transatlantic ships to navigate, so most docked and unloaded their passengers in Manhattan. During the detour, American citizens and first- and second-class passengers were allowed to enter the country after only a brief inspection, but steerage passengers were herded onto ferries and shuttled to Ellis Island for further processing. Occasionally, the stopover was



Aerial Ellis Island New York, Getty photos

clouded by corruption. Around the turn of the century, crooked immigration officials were known to take \$1 or \$2 bribes in exchange for letting immigrants get off in Manhattan without first going through inspection.

4. Immigrants were subject to physical and mental exams to

ensure they were fit for admittance to the U.S. Upon arrival at Ellis Island, immigrants were ushered into a room called the Great Hall, and paraded before a series of medical officers for physical inspection. Most were allowed to pass by in a matter of seconds, but those whom the doctors deemed

physically or mentally deficient were marked with chalk and taken away for additional screening.

5. Questionable candidates were forced to submit to more detailed questioning and medical exams, and any signs of contagious disease, poor physique, feeble-mindedness or insanity

could see an immigrant denied admittance on the grounds that they were likely to become a ward of the state. In later years, doctors at Ellis Island even devised puzzles and memory test to ensure that certain immigrants were intelligent enough to find work. New arrivals also could face rejection if they were anarchists, had a criminal record, or showed signs of low moral character. Despite the litany of guidelines for new immigrants, the number of people denied entry at Ellis Island was quite low. Of the 12 million people who passed through its doors between 1892 and 1954, only around 2% of them were deemed unfit to become citizens of the United States.

6. Immigrants didn't have their names changed at the island. American cultural lore is rich with tales of immigrants' ethnic sounding names being Anglicized or shortened during their passage through Ellis Island, yet there is no evidence that such a practice ever took place. Immigration officials merely checked the person's identity against the manifests of the ships that brought them to America, and there was no policy advising them to forcibly alter names. Some immigrants voluntarily chose to change their names to help assimilate into American culture, but they did so before they left their home country or after they had gained admission to the U.S.

7. A notable exception to the name changing policy came in 1908, when a traveler named Frank Woodhull admitted that he had been born a woman named Mary Johnson, and had spent the previous 15 years living as a man. After briefly detaining Woodhull, officials allowed him to enter the country—but not before changing his name back to Mary Johnson.
8. Famed New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia worked at Ellis Island. Before he became the first man to win three consecutive terms as mayor of New York, the fiery and reform-minded politician Fiorello LaGuardia spent three years on staff at Ellis Island between 1907 and 1910. The son of Italian immigrants, LaGuardia was fluent in Italian, Croatian and Yiddish, and he served as one of the island's many translators while attending NYU law school at night. LaGuardia would go on to represent many Ellis Island immigrants in deportation cases during his early years as an attorney.
9. It was used as a detention facility during WWI and WWII. Shortly after the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, the government turned a suspicious eye toward all German-born, non-naturalized citizens residing within its borders. Potential "alien Enemies" were placed under harsh restrictions, and those suspected of harboring pro-German sentiment

were rounded up and detained. Since immigration had tapered off World War I, officials designated Ellis Island as one of the main holding centers for would-be enemies of the state, and some 1,500 people were eventually detained there. The island's double life as a prison later continued during World War II, when it was used to house suspected Nazi sympathizers.

10. It eventually became more famous for deportations than immigration. Ellis Island's role as a gateway for immigrants began to change in the early 1920s, when a series of federal laws ended the open-door immigration policy, and established quotas for the number of new arrivals to the U.S. By 1925, the government also had shifted the inspection process from American ports to the U.S. consulates abroad, leaving Ellis Island to operate primarily as a detention center and deportation point for undesirable immigrants. The island was used to imprison and evict suspected communists and political radicals during the Red Scare (anarchist Emma Goldman was a notable deportee), and later served as a detention center for communists during the Cold War. Eventually, the government's legally ambiguous detainment policies spawned a series of high-profile lawsuits that stained Ellis Island's reputation with the American public. In



In the registration room on Ellis Island, illustration from 19th century

November 1954, the port was closed for good as part of a federal cost-saving measure.

11. It wasn't opened to the public until the 1970s. When the U.S. government tried to sell Ellis Island in the 1950s, would-be developers proposed everything from a drug rehab facility to a resort marina and even an experimental "city of the future"

designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. However, none of the schemes for private development got off the ground, and the "gateway to America" spent the next 20 years in political limbo. Finally, the island was opened for tours in 1976, but plans for a historical museum or renovation didn't come together until the 1980s, when automotive pioneer

Lee Iacocca helped spearhead a fundraising project for Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. The restored island was opened to the public in September 1990, and it now receives around 3 million visitors each year.

Today, it is estimated that 40% of Americans can trace some of their family ancestors as coming through Ellis Island—including me. ■

Are Women Naturally Better Shooters Than Men? Is “the female of the species” truly more deadly than the male?

Rudyard Kipling’s legendary poem, “The Female of the Species,” has as its recurring refrain the following: “The female of the species is more deadly than the male.” But what if the species in question is *Homo sapiens sapiens*? Most shooting instructors will happily tell you that yes, women are better shooters than men. That leads us to the real question: Why this is the case, and if so, is this shooting success something that men could emulate? In the interests of objectivity, we asked three male gun trainers for their thoughts ... and the answers may surprise you. (Or not.)

We’ll start with a core truth: Firearms are truly the great equalizer. As women, our lack of upper-body strength relative to men’s stops mattering the second we step up to the firing line. All you really need, physically, to be a good shooter is decent hand-eye coordination. That’s something that should be more or less consistent across both sexes. And yet...

A while back, our sister publication NRA Family asked a 27-year Army marksmanship instructor for his thoughts. His reply was:

“As a military logistician, my units had around 20 percent female personnel in both officer and enlisted ranks. All the women fired Expert their first day, but less than a third of the men did so. Several men had to re-train and repeat the course to qualify. This pattern continued when the 9mm replaced the .45 in 1985, until I retired in 1997. It also appeared that differences in

musculature and hand size had no effect on the scores.”

So what did make the difference? Says Col. Haynes, “Told how to hold the gun, that’s the way they held it. Told to look at the front sight, that’s what they looked at. Told what I thought they were doing wrong, their first instinct was to believe me.”

So, our first male gun instructor says that yes, women are better shooters, and his theory is that it’s because we listen.

We also checked with firearms instructor and legendary gun writer Sheriff Jim Wilson. Here are his thoughts:

“Men and women are equal in terms of the ability and physical skills needed to learn to shoot. However, I think more women approach the task in an open-minded manner. They seem to have fewer pre-conceived notions and ego doesn’t seem to get in their way quite as much. We’ve all been in the class where one student tries to act like he is a junior instructor—and in my experience that has always been a man. My Hispanic friends call that ‘Macho’—a fine, descriptive word—and something that every student needs to park at the front gate before class starts.”

So, our second male gun instructor says that yes, women are better shooters, and his theory is that it’s because women listen to their instructors instead of trying to one-up them.

Frank and Barb Melloni, owner/operators of Renaissance Firearms Instruction, have trained thousands of women and men to shoot safely. We already know what Barb would say (given that she’s an NRA Women contributor), so we checked in with Frank.

“It’s because they take better instruction than men. Usually women come into a course without a preconceived idea of shooting stands, trigger press or any of the other things that ‘the guys at the range’ taught them.”

Seems that Frank’s take is that women are better shooters than men because women are more likely to listen to a professional gun instructor and follow his or her advice than men.

Readers, I think we have officially established a pattern here. Women are better shooters than men because we listen to our firearms instructors, believe them when they tell us what will and will not work, and weigh the advice of professionals more than that of our buddies.

So the answer seems to be that no, women aren’t naturally better shooters than men ... we’re just better listeners. (Cue the expressions of non-shock and total lack of surprise on the face of every woman reading this article.) That would seem to indicate that this highly successful trait is something anyone, male or female, could emulate for shooting success. And yet ...

I once had the opportunity to speak to a male Olympic shooter—I won't name him, since he didn't agree to be quoted—and I asked him a question that had been bothering me for some time. We must assume that at the Olympic level, any differences between male and female learning patterns has long since been erased. It doesn't stand

to reason that "listening to instruction" would matter at the ultra-elite competitive level.

"I understand why Olympic sports are segregated by sex for strength- and speed-based competitions," I asked him, "but why the shooting sports? Shooting is even more gender-neutral than bowling."

"They don't segregate the women shooters from the men shooters to keep things fair for the women," he whispered in reply. "They do it to keep it fair for us."

Originally published by Wendy Lafever, Executive Editor published on September 24, 2020, News, Lifestyle, Firearms



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 NRA Basic Shotgun 6/9 Registration
 (518) 883-8605
 Skeet Tue./Thur./Sat.
 Trap Sat, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
 (518) 883-8605

Plattsburgh Rod & Gun Club

Indoor Range
 NRA Rifle Matches League
 Competitions Junior Programs
 Equip & Instruction Provided
 P. Visconti (518) 534-1730
roughridersrifleteam@yahoo.com

Pleasantville Rifle Club

Westchester County NY
 All Shooting Disciplines
 NRA Firearms Instruction
 M Berman (914) 245-8618

Ramapough Sportsmens Assoc.

PO Box 366
 Nanuet, NY
 Smallbore, Pistol, Women's & Junior
 Activities

Ridge Runners Shooting Club Inc.

Champlain, NY
www.ridgerunners.us
www.facebook.com/rudgerunnersrange
 G. Graham
back2biloxi@yahoo.com

Rockland Rifle & Revolver

Camp Smith
 G. Kline (917) 709-3691
gkline711@gmail.com

Rockland Rifle Club

West Point
 E. Mahecha emahecha@verizon.net

Roosevelt Rod & Gun Club Inc.

Box 2458
 Seaford, NY 11783
 Hunting big & small game

Roslyn Rifle & Revolver Club

1130 Broadway, Westbury 11590
 Indoor Pistol
 NRA Conv. Pistol Intnl. Pistol
 Sectional
 M. Gorman (917) 929-8717

Saranac Lake Fish & Game Club

PO Box 588
 Saranac Lake, NY 12983
 (518) 891-2560

Saugerties Fish & Game Club

168 Fish Creek Road, Saugerties, NY
 Trap Thurs. & Sun. (open to public)
 D. Zeeh (845) 481-4465

Shortsville Rod & Gun Club

Shortsville, NY 14548

Southampton Pistol & Rifle Club

919 Majors Path
 Southampton, NY 11968

Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park

CMP Matches
 J. King (518) 896-6596
sportsmensclubofcliftonpark.org

Stephentown Valley

Rod & Gun Club
 PO Box 545
 Averill Park, NY
 (518) 766-5350

Sunrise Fish & Game Assoc. Inc.

93 Bayview Ave.
 Massapequa, NY 11758
 (516) 658-4057

Taconic Valley Rod & Gun Club

420 Dater Hill Road Troy, NY
www.tvrgc.com

Ten X Shooting Club Inc.

Lancaster, NY
 Smallbore, highpower, sporterifle,
 Pistol, air rifle, women & Jr. activities
Tenxshootingclub.com

Tioga Co. Sportsmen

Owego, NY
 NRA/CMP
 J. LaClair (607) 748-2369
 Sporterifle
 R. Colling (607) 699-9061
 Ruger Rimfire
 B. Waite (215) 688-0614
 CMP Rimfire sporter
 Conventional Pistol
 B. Aube (607) 754-6182
 IDPA
 B. Vernola (607) 754-0740
 Trap ranges
 L. Howe (607) 659-5069
 Skeet
 D. Mider (607) 642-8419
 5 Stand
 K. Gee (607) 237-6786
 Cowboy Action
 B. Compton (607) 659-4770
 Silhouette
 M. Porter (607) 687-2472

Trenton Fish & Game

CMP Matches Bullseye Rimfire/
 Center fire
 B. Kapfer (315) 896-6596
 Action Pistol
 B. Judycki (315) 732-0873
 Trap L. Pawlings (315) 723-5657

Tri-State R&G Club

Port Jervis, NY Highpower
 Pistol Shotgun Smallbore
 (845) 551-9265
 Ladies' Events
 M. Mann (845) 551-9265

Troy Pistol League

Troy, NY
 (518) 235-7800

Trumansburg Rifle & Pistol Club

PO Box 10
 Trumansburg, NY 14886

Twin City Shooting Club

North Tonawanda, NY
 Pistol, Light Rifle, Indoor Range
www.twincityshootingclub.com

Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club

52 Foundry Road, Voorheesville
 (518) 765-9395
www.vrgclub.com Open daily @ noon
 Trap Sun. & Tues. at 1 p.m. Pistol
 Classes 1st Sat. & 3rd Sun. Wolfgang
 or Tony (518) 441-2160 Berne Range
 9 a.m.-1/2 hr. before sunset
 rangeinfo@vrgclub.com Archery:
 clubhouse grounds Target points only,
 brdheads prohibited.
 Crosbws bring own bolt backstops
 Call club to book parties or events

Wallkill Rod & Gun Club

Clays & 5 Stand
 Sun., 10 a.m., year-round
 Wed. evenings in summer
 Harry (845) 219-9327
 Bucky (845) 542-8571
www.walkillrodandgun.com

Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club

Waterloo, NY
 Smallbore Highpower Sporterifle
 Pistol
 Women's & Juniors waterloorpc.com

Whortlekill R & G Club

Hopewell Junction, NY
 Indoor Pistol & Handgun Instruction
 G. Robinson (845) 298-3263
 Shotgun J. Stern (203) 232-7896
 Hunter Education
 P. Scarano (845) 401-6636

Wolcottville Sportsmen's Club

1525 Phelps Road
 Cofu, NY 14036

If your club is a member and would like to be listed,
 please email club info to:
info@nysrpa.org



Bullet Advertisement Rates

Commercial/business advertisements are subject to space availability in any given issue of the *Bullet*.

Advertisements should be submitted in electronic format suitable for print reproduction (i.e., PDF, TIFF, etc.), and at 300 dpi. Our graphic artist can create your ad for an additional fee.

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Note: Rates are per ad. For example, a black and white quarter page ad in six issues would be six times \$160 for a total of \$960.

For pricing on premium placement, page bleed, inserts, two-page spreads, or other special considerations, contact the editor at info@nysrpa.org or (518) 272-2654.

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	Ad Size	1x	3x	6x
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Please check one New member
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Phone (home) _____

Email _____

Date of birth (required) (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____

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There is no doubt that Cuomo, Bloomberg, DeBlasio and liberal Anti-Second Amendment people are trying to destroy the NRA and NYSRPA. We are certain that you're aware of what legal costs are in today's economy. We are fighting hard against their cause.

Here is the bottom line: DIG DEEP.

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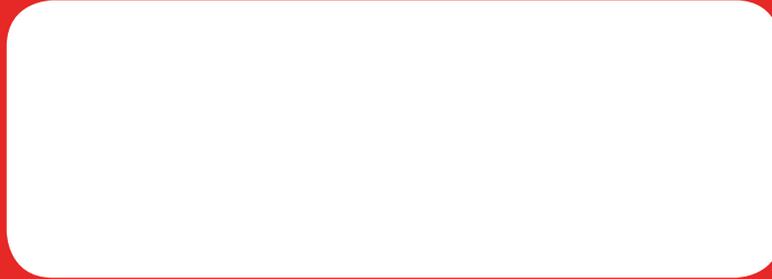
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and Happy Hanukkah!

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(Monday-Friday 9 A.M.-4 P.M.)

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