

THE DAILY RECORD

WESTERN NEW YORK'S SOURCE FOR LAW, REAL ESTATE, FINANCE AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1908

I can't write this column

By **ROBERT L. BRENN JR.**
Daily Record Columnist

Unfortunately, I will be unable to adequately contemplate, integrate or process any cohesive pattern of thoughts into a viable column this week.

I was thinking of writing one with the Headline "that was the year that was." Didn't happen.

I will soon be writing a column entitled "My phone calls more people than I do." The sum and substance of it is that nothing is ready for me to transmit to the editor. So, in essence, this column does not exist.

That leads me to the next point, which I suppose might be better segued into an existential concept for those who argue that if you are reading this column, it must in fact exist. I write; you read, therefore I am.

Truthfully, I don't know where the year went. I've lost a few friends this year, but I won't and can't dwell on that. I've made some new friends this year, and I will forever cherish that.

While I have one arm in a sling, I should tell you that the paralegal who is typing this column for me is in a rush, just as I am. But she is talented and there is smoke coming from the keyboard. For some reason, she tolerates me. She deserves better, but settles for me nonetheless. In essence, I have finally taken a deep breath and realized, as I look over the titles of all of the columns I have written this year, that I have managed to self-impose more deadlines in my life, just when I thought I couldn't handle any more. Nonetheless, I've somehow become a columnist, and I've also survived another year.



I've truly enjoyed the opportunity to "speak" to you, as it were, during the unilateral Thursday chats we've been having.

Since I learned from the publisher recently that other communities have picked up my column and published in places I wasn't even aware of, I want to extend today's message to everyone — not just to those of you in our community.

I know I could say, "Although it's been said many times, many ways" ... but I really can't handle that. I have found that, in between the moments of intensity, I have a growing appreciation for the holidays, which I haven't felt since my children were young. Maybe it's an appreciation of the fact that the number of holidays we are granted are not infinite. They are limited, and finite, and we live with constant uncertainty as to just how many we have left.

Holidays are days to reunite with loved ones who used to live down the hall, but now must travel over long distances to bring season's greetings. Would that it were merely over the river and through the woods.

Thank you for your patience and for taking the time out to read my rambling prose. I want to assure you that if I come up with an idea for a column this week, I'll let you know as soon as possible.

Robert L. Brenna Jr. is a partner in the Rochester law firm of Brenna, Brenna & Boyce PLLC, which his father founded. He is president of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers and concentrates his practice in the areas of catastrophic personal injury and trusts and estates. Brenna also hosts a Sunday morning radio program entitled "The Brenna & Brenna Law Forum," on WHAM 1180 AM at 8 a.m., online at www.wham1180.com.