



THE INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

October 5, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keuka Compass Movie Night. Friday, October 10, 6 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan). Featuring LGBTQ+-themed movies for queer folks and allies. This month: Rocky Horror Picture Show! Need we say more? Bring snacks and drinks to share. To learn about upcoming selections, write to flxjustice21@gmail.com and request to join our email update list. Presented by Keuka Compass.

Keuka Compass Game Day. Sunday, October 12, 1 p.m., Lyonsmith Brewing Company (2597 Assembly Avenue, Keuka Park). If you wish to learn some new games, or play an old favorite with a new group of people; if you are looking for other queer folk and/or allies to hang out with; if you just want some free chili and an interesting conversation on a Sunday afternoon, this event is for you. Feel free to bring a game, bring a friend, or bring snacks if you wish; we will have a wonderful selection of each present. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be available, as well as a voluntary potluck.

Community Cafe, Tuesday, October 14, 5 p.m., Penn Yan United Methodist Church (166 Main St, Penn Yan).

Acceptance, Belonging and Community LGBTQ+ Issues: Archiving Queer History. Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan) or online via Zoom. Acceptance, Belonging & Community (ABC) sessions afford LGBTQ+ people and allies alike an opportunity to learn more about aspects of our community they may have questions about. Join us as we discuss the many ways that queer history has been preserved and collected by archives. We will discuss how communities can create archives which reflect their experiences, the importance of oral histories, and explore some of the ways that archivists are expanding the ways we think about what is important to preserve and how we interact with archives and history. Attend in person at St. Mark's Church, 179 Main St., Penn Yan, or virtually by registering here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5zr73zh>. Organized by Keuka Compass, Finger Lakes Justice Partnership, and Saint Mark's Church.

PUBLIC APPEAL: A Penn Yan family recently suffered an unimaginable loss in a house fire that claimed the lives of a grandmother and her young grandson who tried heroically to save her. A GoFundMe has been established to help see the young man's mother through some of the difficult days ahead.

If you are able to contribute, please do so here: <https://gofund.me/26a46c767>

MORE LOCAL EVENTS ON PAGE 3

TAKE ACTION

Because Trump and Republicans won't budge from their plan to fund the government—a plan that kicks millions of Americans off their health insurance—and they don't have the support to pass it, they've shut the government down. They refuse to extend the ACA health insurance premium subsidies set to expire at the end of this year. If those subsidies expire, health insurance costs for ACA plan participants will skyrocket in 2026 and millions will lose their insurance.

The Trump shutdown forces thousands of federal workers and our service members to remain unpaid until the government reopens. (Members of Congress, however, will still get paid.)

Most Americans, including most Trump supporters, want the ACA plan subsidies extended, as reported by the [health policy think tank, KFF](#). The [majority of Americans polled](#) are blaming Trump and Republicans for the government shutdown. The GOP funding plan and their government shutdown is so unpopular that Republicans lie about it. They claim that they're preventing undocumented immigrants from getting free, government-funded health insurance. Immigrants in the US illegally have never been able to access federally-funded health programs and there are no plans being offered that would make that possible. By deceiving the public in this way, Republicans are not only misleading their constituents but are also stigmatizing a vulnerable community. Sabrina Corlette, co-director of Georgetown University's Center on Health Insurance Reforms, called Republicans' claims "a flat-out lie."

What can you do to help end the shutdown and preserve access to healthcare for millions of Americans? You can call your members of Congress and tell them to support only funding bills that include a permanent extension of the ACA premium subsidies and that guarantee all provisions of the ACA will be fully funded. You can urge them to stand firm against any funding bills that threaten Americans' access to healthcare.

Find your elected officials here:

schumer.senate.gov/contact

gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/

house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

SHOP FOR JUSTICE: Frog's Point Honey

A teacher in our region recently lost his job over comments about Charlie Kirk posted on social media. Even if some of his speech goes beyond what some of us would consider to be in "good taste," whatever that means, no one holding the line against fascist racism and transphobia like he was deserves to have their lives turned upside down through a rabid doxing campaign. And make no mistake, the effort to get him and people like him fired is toxic: despite this seeming "win," the Kirk partisans continue to attack and defame this teacher in the most shameless and disgusting terms.

You can help the local teacher navigate this difficult and frightening time by patronizing his other line of work: he is a purveyor of artisanal honeys and hot sauces. Take a look at his site, and purchase liberally; his products make great gifts, and you'll make the Turning Point nuts sad!: <https://tinyurl.com/yc9h9ecv>



MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

"Anti-Queer Fascism is Coming Around Again." Robert W. Fieseler, *Salon*. Do you consider yourself an ally to the LGBTQ+ community? **This is an essential read.** Access: <https://tinyurl.com/438a4s65>

"Alliance, Defiance, Non-Compliance: What To Do When Civility Isn't Working." Nan Levinson, *Salon*. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/36xebahu>

"Logan on Mushroom Growing and Foraging." *Live Like the World is Dying* podcast. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/yh5xfdvw>

"The Unraveling of Debra Messing." *Matt Bernstein*. This video essay features an incredible and thorough analysis of the hypocrisy of liberal Zionism, using Debra Messing as a case study. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/563ykzsf>

GOOD NEWS

Trump's embarrassing performance at the UN last week is old news, having been superseded by the show he and Pete Hegseth displayed for America's top military officers. Hundreds of them sat unresponsive as the speakers attacked their integrity and professionalism and urged them to invade U.S. cities because "America is under invasion from within." No applause for Trump there.

Citizens and politicians statewide united to rebuff and ridicule any need for military occupation in Portland, OR. Protect Oregon, a community group, announced: "Any takeover of any community in Oregon is an abuse of power, a gross federal overreach, and a misuse of the military." State and local officials filed a lawsuit claiming that the deployment is illegal and unconstitutional.

Judge William Young in Boston blasted Sec'y Noem and Rubio for misusing the powers of their offices to attack non-citizens for pro-Palestinian speech protected by the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court ruled to retain Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, at least until January, when oral arguments will be heard in the case.

The freedom to read, the flipside of our First Amendment freedom to speak, is good for democracy, good for learning, and popular as well.

Polls indicate a majority of Americans, progressive and conservative, believe schools and libraries should have diverse collections, including books with LGBTQ+ and race-inclusive themes. They trust teachers and librarians to select books and curricula. They oppose book bans because bans infringe on parents' rights to decide for their own children.

A majority of teachers surveyed say that students read more when they can read widely, and reading translates to learning. Students want to choose books themselves and they resent gatekeeping of their reading materials.

Studies report better educational outcomes when students can select from a wide array of books. When children see themselves reflected in their reading, they're more engaged learners; that's significant for kids from underrepresented communities. Students challenged with alternative viewpoints develop critical thinking skills and a better understanding of our complex world.

Even with all the positives, the freedom to read is under threat. Book bans, which override the expertise of teachers and librarians and throttle the flow of information into classrooms, have skyrocketed in recent years. The American Library Association's Banned Books Week, Oct. 5-11, reminds us that the freedom to read is a right we must take care to defend.

Most book bans today are instigated by right-wing, anti-LGBTQ+, anti-race inclusive, anti-government pressure groups, often working in concert with elected officials. They campaign on "parental rights," despite their determination to curtail the rights of other parents. Moms for Liberty is the largest and loudest of the pressure groups, with close ties to the Republican party, and hundreds of local chapters including one in Yates County. Moms for Liberty of nearby Wayne County recently dragged the Clyde-Savannah school district through a protracted legal battle over five books. The case was decided early this year in the district's favor—the books were retained.

FREEDOM TO READ

Written by Anne Kiefer



Pressure groups target primarily titles authored by people of color and from the LGBTQ+ community, and featuring their experiences. The intent is two-fold: pull the country's education system to the right, and scrub representation of the LGBTQ+ community and communities of color from schools and libraries, effectively cutting them out of the fabric of society.

The news media reports extensively on the aggressive tactics pressure groups deploy: disrupting school board meetings, targeting teachers, using derogatory stereotypes, legal challenges, and content misrepresentation. Misrepresenting a book's content because it includes LGBTQ+ experiences and characters is particularly contemptible because it stigmatizes vulnerable children and adults.

Communities across the country are pushing back against censorship by a partisan minority. Here are steps we all (not just parents!) can take proactively to defend the freedom to read: Visit the Penn Yan Public Library, learn about Banned Book Week, and borrow a banned book. Check out a banned children's book to read and discuss with the kids in your life. Support national organizations like Unite Against Book Bans and local groups like Yates for All Families (find them both on Facebook) that champion diversity and oppose censorship. Volunteer in school. Attend school board meetings and advocate for the positive learning environment that comes from access to a wide variety of books. Vote for school board candidates who support inclusive learning. Vote for elected officials who will uphold the rights of underrepresented, marginalized communities.

Support the freedom to read. It's our children's future. Let's do everything we can to protect it.

A version of this was presented to the Penn Yan Central School District Board of Education Meeting on October 1st, 2025.

UPCOMING EVENT-LOCAL

Transgender Visibility Project of Ontario County will host a Corn Maze and Campfire Night on Friday, October 17th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The location will be provided to registered attendees the day before to ensure security. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/mu5svrht>

Liberation Forum: Imperialism and Us - The Working Class Against Imperialism and War. Friday, October 17, 7 p.m., Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan). People are invited to come discuss why imperialism is a left and working class issue. Speakers will talk about the basic idea of imperialism, the history of US imperialism, the intertwining of economics and militarism, and the ecological costs of imperialism. Presented by the Party for Socialism & Liberation of the Finger Lakes and hosted by the Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.

No Bunkers Required Community Resilience, Saturday, October 18, 12:00 p.m. Since the start of the pandemic, the number of self-described "progressive preppers" has soared: people who see value in community building, skill sharing, and mutual aid to counterbalance economic uncertainty, climate change, and social upheaval. If that sounds like your kind of prepping, please join us to learn, discuss, and organize together at these ongoing meetings. To receive invites, updates, and location details, please sign up at <https://forms.gle/tmJcVxQ8MAyIwe947>. Presented by Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.

No Kings Day Protest. Saturday October 18, 3 p.m. in front of the Yates County Courthouse (415 Liberty Street, Penn Yan).

Join the peaceful nationwide movement standing up for democracy. If you oppose ICE terrorizing our neighbors, if you support trans peoples' right to exist, if you don't want junk science dictating medical decisions for you and your family, raise a sign and use your voice. We will be offering several optional community-building activities during this event to strengthen our base for future efforts. And if you can, plan to join protest organizers for a post-rally debrief at a location to be announced on-site. Gather on Liberty Street on the street side of the sidewalk; there is parking at the Courthouse/County Building. Organized by the Yates County Committee for Peace and Justice and the Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.



Community Alert

DHS recently canceled the parole status of people who came to the U.S. through a CBP One appointment or under the Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, & Venezuela (CHNV) parole program. If you came under either of those two, your parole status and work permit are no longer valid. [The New York Immigration Coalition](#) recommends those impacted talk to an immigration attorney as soon as possible to explore options.

UPCOMING EVENTS-OTHER

Honk & Wave - Trumansburg, Every Friday, 4:30 PM-5:30PM (69 Main St, Trumansburg). Organized by volunteers in Trumansburg. Please register here so Indivisible can report turnout to the press: <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/804174/>

Tompkins County Film Screening-The Big Payback, Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m (Cinemapolis, 120 East Green St, Ithaca). Showing Up for Racial Justice is screening The Big Payback, a film about a successful reparations campaign in Evanston Illinois. Admission is free and will be followed by a panel of Redistributing White Wealth Campaign partners discussing the current state of local reparations work. <https://tinyurl.com/3x289hzm>

USING YOUR #RightToRecord IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILM?
You have the right to film immigration enforcements in public, no matter what your citizenship status is, as long as you don't interfere. Comply with orders like "back up."

HOW DO I STAY SAFE?
Remain calm and quiet! Be transparent that you are filming and don't make sudden movements.
Lock your phone with at least a 6 digit passcode instead of face or touch ID, and consider automatically backing up footage with cloud services.

WHAT SHOULD I FILM?
Stay focused on agents instead of civilians.
Film details like badges/uniforms, license plates, weapons, warrants, property damage, what agents say, and context (street signs, landmarks, buildings).
If it's not safe to film, then take detailed notes.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER I FILM?
Don't share right away!
Never edit original footage.
Make copies.
Share with a trusted journalist, lawyer or advocacy organization to make a plan.

FOR MORE GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES ON FILMING FOR IMMIGRANT DEFENSE VISIT bit.ly/EYESonICE

UPCOMING EVENTS- ROCHESTER

2025 State of the Latino Community, Wednesday, Oct 15, 12PM - 1:30PM, virtual. Join [Ibero-American Action League, Inc.](#) as we unveil a powerful, data-driven look at how Hispanic and Latino communities are doing across Upstate New York: [2025 State of the Latino Community](#). Be part of the conversation on this webinar available to anyone on or off Facebook as we present a broad overview and deep-dive on insights into key socioeconomic indicators like education, employment, health, and housing throughout our service areas. <https://tinyurl.com/4nbebvfr>



The Intersection

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FUNDRAISER

WE STAND WITH IMMIGRANT WORKERS!

gofundme

<https://gofund.me/ccf415369>

URGENT NEED FOR CATO RAID AFTERMATH SUPPORT

RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRIES

FLX RRN

SIRDN

NYIC

WORKERS' CENTER

DON'T PANIC! ORGANIZE OSWEGO

The Finger Lakes Rapid Response Network has launched a GoFundMe fundraiser (<https://tinyurl.com/yexa2r wf>) to support the 60 individuals detained during the Cato Raid at the Nutrition Bar factory several weeks ago.

The impact of this raid on families in Fulton and Auburn is devastating. Individuals were rapidly moved to detention centers in Texas, Louisiana, and California, constitutional rights were ignored, and people were scared and continue to live in fear as they grieve their loved ones being snatched away from their own children, from our beloved communities.

We ask you please to donate what you can and share with your networks. Please feel free to donate as you are able and spread far and wide! If you'd like a tax letter for a larger donation, please send checks directly to Trinity Place, 78 East Castle Street, Geneva, NY, and we will send you a letter for tax record purposes; kindly make a note in the notes section to specify that the donation is for Cato aftermath support.

CLAUDIA IS COMPLICIT

& NY-24 WILL VOTE HER OUT!

Geneva NY 5PM

Corner of Castle and Exchange

TUESDAYS FOR PALESTINE

HANDS OFF RAFAH! STOP THE GENOCIDE!

END THE OCCUPATION NOW! FREE PALESTINE

genevawomensassembly.org

OUR MISSION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership will help weave together the efforts of the region's diverse justice-seeking individuals, organizations, and institutions. Rooted in the humble knowledge that we are continually learning, we will seek to coordinate resources and knowledge, respond to acts of injustice, and raise awareness around local threats and opportunities. Through advocacy for members of historically marginalized groups of all kinds, we will help move the Finger Lakes away from passive acquiescence to injustice, and toward an active embrace of anti-racism, community-building, mutual aid, and understanding.