



THE INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

February 1, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keuka Compass LGBTQ+ Game Day: February 8th, 1:00 p.m. - 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.

Acceptance, Belonging and Community LGBTQ+ Issues: Queer Poetry Exchange Tuesday, February 10, 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 for a night of queer poetry. This is a low-stakes no pressure poetry event. Bring a poem written by a queer author to share out to the group or enjoy the selections of others. We'll take turns reading aloud, enjoying the sounds of language, discussing, and casually reflecting. Please send poems in advance to flxjustice21@gmail.com so that we can share them with the group ahead of time. Attend in person at St. Mark's Church, 179 Main St., Penn Yan, or virtually by registering here: <https://tinyurl.com/yfpdb7e4>. Organized by Keuka Compass, Finger Lakes Justice Partnership, and Saint Mark's Church.

Second Annual Open Mic, Friday, February 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua (3024 Cooley Rd Canandaigua). Join friends at UCC for a cozy Open Mic Night. All are invited to participate! Free to perform and attend, donations welcome. Mocktails and lite bites will be available for purchase.
Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/QGKuyQsqWBq6oeHD8>

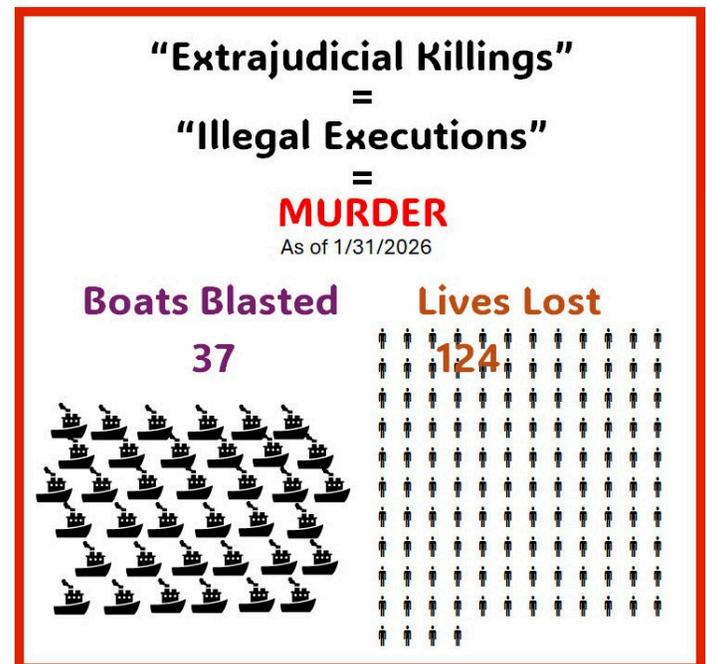
TAKE ACTION

Minnesota Indivisible Alliance encourages Americans to focus on three ways to help during this time of brutal immigration enforcement actions run by ICE.

Constituent Pressure - Horrific ICE abuses, including the killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, have put DHS funding in the congressional spotlight. Call your House member ASAP and tell them to vote to defund ICE. Visit [5 Calls](#) and get a script and your House member's phone numbers. Urge your House member to vote against any appropriations bill that maintains ICE funding. 5calls.org/issue/dhs-budget-ice-defund/

Economic Pressure - spend your dollars with intention and avoid companies that support ICE operations. They include Amazon, AT&T, Home Depot, Microsoft, and Palantir. Public pressure caused Spotify to stop running ICE recruitment ads and Avelo Airlines to end its government contract for deportation flights.

Take Care of People - Support people in besieged Minnesota living under ICE-induced stress by visiting [Stand With Minnesota Donation Directory](#), and giving to one of the many organizations listed that provide rapid response to enforcement actions, as well as mutual aid for individuals and families. Make sure people in our Finger Lakes communities who are living under stress have basic resources, and that ICE actions are tracked, observed and documented. Become familiar with groups that do that work and consider volunteering. Locally, [FLX Rapid Response Network](#) sends teams to enforcement actions, maintains contact with impacted families, and helps with accessing healthcare, food and legal services. Find them on Facebook at facebook.com/FLXRRN. Contact them at flxrapidresponse@gmail.com and on Facebook Messenger at FLX Rapid Response Network.



GOOD NEWS

The horrific murder of Alex Pretti may have rattled a few things loose; there's hope on the horizon, it seems.

- Public pressure increased substantially, with [student walkouts and protests in 42 states](#) and more than 100,000 people in the streets on Friday. [More than 6,500 protests took place in January alone.](#) "Abolish ICE" is becoming a mainstream position.
- [Greg Bovino was removed from his post in MN](#) with Border Patrol and has returned to CA.
- More calls for impeachment of DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, with a [resolution backed by 150 co-sponsors in the House.](#)
- Seven Senate Republicans joined Democrats in [voting to block the DHS spending bill](#), separating it from other agency funding.
- Judge Fred Biery ordered the [release of 5-yr-old Liam Conejo Ramos and his father](#) from detention, citing ICE's disregard of the rule of law.
- Three million more documents were [released from the Epstein files](#), including thousands of images and videos.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

Bruce Springsteen's new anthem, Streets of Minneapolis. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/mpj842ec>

"Everyone vs. ICE: On the Ground in Minnesota," parts 1 and 2. It could Happen Here podcast. An essential dispatch from the front lines of the resistance. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/32sush4x> and <https://tinyurl.com/32nnc9xh>

"Gaza and the Board of Peace with Dana El Kurd." It Could Happen Here podcast. "Authoritarian conflict resolution" is becoming the norm on the global stage: ethnic cleansing followed by chopping up the territory for development. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/49spuzce>

"Lessons in Resistance: Learning from the Response to the LA Raids." Center for Immigration Law and Policy, UCLA. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4uj8968h>

"Sorry, GOP, There's No Christian Revival." Amanda Marcotte, Salon. Christian Nationalism is selling GOP wins as a sure thing – a falsehood that will nevertheless fuel future election denialism. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4hdfxpsh>

"Vice signaling explains Trump's enduring appeal." Chauncey Devega, Salon. We've long held that virtue signaling is preferable to vice signaling. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4anp3vtu>

FEATURE: The Drum Major Instinct

(<https://tinyurl.com/43u39p2b>)

Martin Luther King, Jr, preached "[The Drum Major Instinct](#)" in Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, in February, 1968, two months before he was assassinated. Excerpts from this powerful, prescient sermon were played at his funeral. In that sermon, King denounced the malignant ideologies he saw destroying America—white supremacy, white Christian nationalism, and the "America First" ideology. As we have all experienced, the Trump regime and Republicans have reanimated and imposed those ideologies upon America today. Here are some relevant passages from The Drum Major Instinct:

"Do you know that a lot of the race problem grows out of the drum major instinct? A need that some people have to feel superior. A need that some people have to feel that they are first, and to feel that their white skin ordained them to be first. And they have said over and over again in ways that we see with our own eyes. In fact, not too long ago, a man down in Mississippi said that God was a charter member of the White Citizens Council. And so God being the charter member means that everybody who's in that has a kind of divinity, a kind of superiority. And think of what has happened in history as a result of this perverted use of the drum major instinct. It has led to the most tragic prejudice, the most tragic expressions of man's inhumanity to man.

"And not only does this thing go into the racial struggle, it goes into the struggle between nations. And I would submit to you this morning that what is wrong in the world today is that the nations of the world are engaged in a bitter, colossal contest for supremacy. [. . .]

"Nations are caught up with the drum major instinct. 'I must be first.' 'I must be supreme.' 'Our nation must rule the world.' And I am sad to say that the nation in which we live is the supreme culprit. And I'm going to continue to say it to America, because I love this country too much to see the drift that it has taken.

"God didn't call America to do what she's doing in the world now. God didn't call America to engage in a senseless, unjust war as the war in Vietnam. And we are criminals in that war. We've committed more war crimes almost than any nation in the world, and I'm going to continue to say it. And we won't stop it because of our pride and our arrogance as a nation."

OUR LOCAL HISTORY

INQUIRY, EQUITY, ACTION



REGISTER TODAY!

5th Annual Antiracist Education Conference
 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28

Our Local History is excited to host the fifth annual virtual Antiracist Education Conference in collaboration with our local schools of education. This year's theme, "Action for Equality," will inspire meaningful conversations and actionable insights for educators and community members alike.

Join us for a powerful day of learning, reflection, and commitment to equity in education. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from keynote speaker Dr. Ghody Muhammad and choose between over 18 breakout sessions.

FREE REGISTRATION AT: [TINYURL.COM/2026AEC](https://tinyurl.com/2026AEC)



TRAILBLAZERS

coming soon!

A program designed for our trans and non-binary community that includes a focus on:

- Leadership development
- Mentorship opportunities
- Job readiness and professional development workshops
- Connection to affirming resources, including employers



Folks can reach out to lgbthealth@trilliumhealth.org with any questions.

EVENTS-OTHER

The Global Trans Equity Project - GTEP is proud to offer a dedicated "Meet Up" safe space for trans masculine individuals. This is a space to connect, be seen, be supported, and build community together. It's open to trans masculine and non-binary Folx and is co-Facilitated by Graison Goldon and Jacobi Gray. Register here: <https://bit.ly/GTEPMeetUpJan2026>

Not sure what LGBTQIA2S+ events are happening around Rochester and Monroe County? Check out the LGBTQ+ Events Community Calendar, presented by Rochester LGBTQ+ Together in partnership with the ROC Pride Collective. <https://tinyurl.com/yzjsjrcu>

Writing for Refuge: An Online Poetry Retreat with James Crews, March 10, 17, 24, 31, 12-2:00PM

Join poets James Crews & Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer for a heart-centered, 4-week poetry retreat via Zoom. In a time of deep loss, uncertainty, and bewilderment, how do we take refuge in writing and the potent act of creativity? How do we make writing our refuge on a daily basis, allowing the wisdom of poetry to guide us through difficult times? This four-week poetry retreat, held via Zoom webinar, meets every Tuesday starting March 10th, from 12-2:00pm Eastern Time (EACH SESSION WILL ALSO BE RECORDED AND SHARED). Each week, James Crews and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer will engage in sacred conversation, sharing poetry and insights, and then inviting participants each session to engage in writing as well as ask questions of their own.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writing-for-refuge-an-online-poetry-retreat-tickets-1980633751869?aff=oddtcreator>

Turning Toward Grief Book Launch with James Crews, February 11, 2026, 5-6:30 p.m. mountain time.

More and more people are turning to poetry as a source of comfort in times of grief, loss, and uncertainty. Join poets James Crews and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer as they help launch James' latest book, *Turning Toward Grief*, offering outlets for wisdom, ritual, and creativity to help us all express our collective grief, both global and personal. Rosemerry and James will share poems of both sorrow and joy, rooted in the everyday material of our lives, helping us to stay embodied and in touch with ourselves and the world.

Register: <https://secure.everyaction.com/uFSOSpPzT0aYkk4H-R5NAg2>





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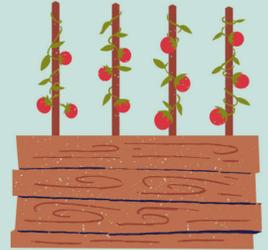
Seed to Supper 2026



Come join Cornell Cooperative Extension to learn about practical, low-cost techniques for building, planning, planting, maintaining, and celebrating the harvest of a successful vegetable garden. This FREE beginner's gardening course will give you the tools you need to successfully grow a portion of your own food on any budget, as well as preserve it for future enjoyment!

Program Participants will:

- Learn about building healthy soils, planning, planting, caring for, harvesting, and preserving your garden harvest. (All sessions and supplies are free!)
- Receive FREE (Thanks to a grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation!) printed copies of the NYS Seed to Supper curriculum, gardening tools, garden seeds and transplants!
- Have access to continued support by Master Gardeners throughout the garden season however works best for you (text, email or phone) with in-person visits available upon request.



Class Details:

- Dates: Saturdays, February 28th - March 28th
- Time: 10am-12pm
- Location: Our Town Rocks (12 Main Street, Dundee, NY, 14837)
- Cost: Free! But registration is required.
- For more information and to register please call (315) 536-5123 or scan the QR code.



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Yates County

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.



**NO KINGS
MASS CALL**

**EYES ON ICE:
DOCUMENT AND RECORD**

**GET THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO
EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS AS FEDERAL
AGENTS TERRORIZE OUR COMMUNITIES.**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
8PM EST / 5PM PST**

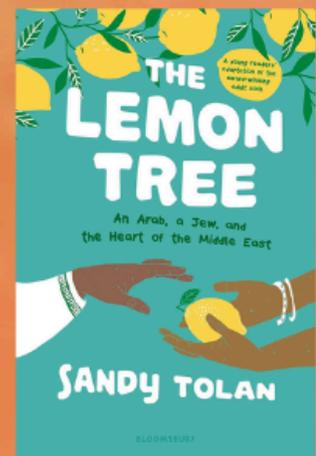
PYAC COMMUNITY READ

THE LEMON TREE (Young Readers' ed.)

by Sandy Tolan

"In 1967, a twenty-five-year-old refugee named Bashir Khairi traveled from the Palestinian hill town of Ramallah to Ramla, Israel, with a goal: to see the beloved stone house with the lemon tree in its backyard that he and his family had been forced to leave ... When he arrived, he was greeted by one of its new residents: Dalia Eshkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student whose family had fled Europe following the Holocaust. She had lived in that house since she was eleven months old.

"On the stoop of this shared house, Dalia and Bashir began a surprising friendship..."



Copies available
at Long's Cards &
Books

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, March 6 - Book Discussion

Friday, March 13 - All about author Sandy Tolan

Friday, March 20 - Viewing of "No Other Land"

All sessions held at 6 pm at St. Mark's
Church in Penn Yan