



THE INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

March 01, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Chair Yoga. Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1 - 1:30 p.m., Penn Yan Public Library (214 Main St.). Free, low-impact beginners' yoga practice. Registration is requested but we can welcome a few walk-ins too. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/4az68me7>.

Plant Based People Group, Wednesday, March 4, 6 p.m. at Modeste Bedient Library Branchport, unless there is a field trip. Contact the Library for details. The Plant Based People Group strives to promote education, fellowship and food creativity to those community members interested in exploring vegetarian and vegan lifestyles.

PYPL Friends Annual Meeting - "Immigrants Who Got the Job Done: Foreign Fighters in the American Revolution", Thursday, March 5, 5 p.m., Penn Yan Public Library (214 Main St.). The Friends of Penn Yan Public Library invite the community to learn about their work and advocacy for PYPL over the past year! After a brief business meeting, all are welcome to enjoy this year's program. To help celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, join us for a fascinating lecture as we explore a unique chapter of American history. Yates County History Center Executive Director/Curator Tricia Noel will discuss the impact of immigrants who fought in the American Revolution. And if you're not a Friend yet, won't you consider supporting the library's programs and services by becoming one?

Penn Yan Action Coalition Community Read, Session One: Book Discussion, Friday, March 6, 6 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan). The Penn Yan Action Coalition (PYAC) is proud to announce our selection for our seventh annual community read: The Lemon Tree (young readers' edition), by Sandy Tolan. A deeply moving and meaningful book, it offers critical history and context about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while remaining at its heart a story about friendship and human connection. During this session bring your thoughts on the book for a book club-style facilitated discussion of its events and themes. Didn't read the book? No problem! We'd still love to welcome you and your thoughtful comments. Copies are available at Long's Cards and Books for purchase and at Penn Yan Public Library for borrowing. Presented by Penn Yan Action Coalition.

LGBTQ+ Game Day, Sunday, March 8, 1 p.m. at 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. Presented by Keuka Compass.

TAKE ACTION

Take action to protest the transfer of Omar Ramos Jimenez (Papa Omar) to an out of state ICE detention facility.

Papa Omar is a Rochester community leader, father, neighbor, and entrepreneur who was detained by ICE in early December. He has a history of complying with ICE requests and check-ins. When agents told him he needed to come to the Buffalo ICE office to get a new phone reporting app, he went willingly. When he arrived he was arrested on the grounds that 'presidential priorities and policies' had changed.

From Rochester Rapid Response Network: ICE now wants to transfer Papa Omar to a remote detention facility. ICE transfers detainees to make it harder for them to get support from family and friends, to terrorize family members and members of the immigrant community, and to encourage self-deportation.

Call the Buffalo Field Office (716 464-5800) and Assistant Field Office Director, George Harvey (716 262-6918) and demand that Omar Ramos Jimenez (A#095-965-572) remain at the Buffalo Federal Detention Center in Batavia and not be transferred any farther away from his family and legal team. Tell them that all transfers should stop and detainees should be freed.

CANDIDATE MEET & GREET

MEET DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR THE NY-24 CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY



Alissa Ellman



Diana Kastenbaum

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1-5PM
HUNT COUNTRY VINEYARDS
TASTING ROOM
4021 ITALY HILL RD, BRANCHPORT

PRESENTED BY THE
YATES COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

FREE and open to the public.
RSVPs appreciated to
yatesdems@gmail.com

www.yatesnydemocrats.com

GOOD NEWS

Terrific rebuttal [speech from Dem VA Gov Abigail Spanberger](#) after the State of the Union made more sense than the rambles of Tyrant Trump. "Is the president working for you?" she asked.

After winning gold at the Olympics, the U.S. [women's ice hockey team politely declined Trump's back-handed invitation to his speech](#) and will likely not visit the White House either.

Judge Brian Murphy ruled that the regime's [policy of deportation to "third countries" is illegal](#), and that people must be afforded due process.

At least [2,000 No Kings rallies on March 28 are scheduled nationwide](#), according to We the People Dissent. They report 13,000 rallies so far in 2026 as February ends.

Winning streak continues! [Democrats won or overperformed](#) in 220 of 248 special elections in 2025. Special elections for state houses in PA and ME this week also went to Democrats.

Senate Dems are [pushing for \\$175 billion in refunds](#) with interest, for Trump's illegally collected tariffs. The Tariff Refund Act prioritizes small businesses.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

"The Cool Zone Response to Trump's State of the Union." It Could Happen Here podcast. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4d3d6dbt>

"Why Attack Iran?" Timothy Snyder, Thinking About. "These facts suggest two interpretive frameworks: a foreign war as a mechanism to destroy democracy at home; and a foreign war as an element of personal corruption by the president of the United States." Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4jrcw2as>

"Kansas Sends Letters To Trans People Demanding The Immediate Surrender Of Drivers Licenses." Erin Reed, Erin in the Morning. Cis people, if you haven't yet, now is the time to demand safety for our trans and nonbinary siblings. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3empbpft>

"Worst of the worst? Most US immigrants targeted for deportation in 2025 had no criminal charges, documents reveal." Will Craft, The Guardian. Surprise, the Trump regime lies for its own benefit - and useful idiots and bots alike amplify the lie. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4usx6bwd>

Absolute inhumanity: "Police investigate the death of nearly blind refugee in New York state." Michael Hill and Jake Offenhartz, Associated Press. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/mwnwndnz>

"What's Behind the Push to Erase Black History." Ashton Lattimore, The Preamble. "The power to manipulate public memory shapes who gets to claim America's past, present, and future." Access: <https://tinyurl.com/ywcv56rk>

FEATURE : LOCAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Finger Lakes Justice Partnership is committed to supporting transparency in the democratic process at every level. In that spirit, we've drafted a questionnaire that we're submitting to every candidate currently standing for Penn Yan's 2026 village elections, and intend to submit it to candidates in future local elections as well. We're respectfully requesting that candidates answer the questions we developed carefully, thoughtfully, and authentically to help give the community a clear sense of where they each stand on the important issues they represent.

Those issues go beyond the usual bounds of local concerns and touch on topics being vigorously debated at every level of the government and throughout our country's fractured public square. The questions we've developed touch on matters of gender and identity, on classism and racism, on climate change and genocide, and more. While some of these issues may seem remote, each has consequences that impact us locally, making the positions held by prospective public servants of great importance to the public. What's more, many of the kinds of people affected by the issues reflected in these questions live, work, and recreate in our community, whether visibly or not.

Some candidates might hesitate to respond to such a questionnaire for various reasons, whether out of concern about how their answers will make them appear in the eyes of voters, or because of their sense that the vast majority of the voters they're seeking already share their views. In any case, we plan to encourage the public to take into account each candidate's response or non-response to this questionnaire when choosing how to cast their ballots.

Avoiding questions like these in order to keep certain constituencies happy while ignoring the concerns of others, and expecting those others to still make a choice between candidates who fail to acknowledge what matters to them, is no longer tolerable. Avoiding them because one considers broad support a foregone conclusion is equally unacceptable. We no longer accept the polite fiction that a stingy definition of "civility" requires that we pretend that these kinds of questions are not relevant to local interests, or that asking them is somehow more divisive than the very issues that underlie them. People of all ideologies and philosophies live in this community, and all of their issues, values, and priorities matter just as much as anyone else's. We all deserve answers to these questions in order to make informed decisions based on our values and priorities.

Candidates may even find that they gain support because of their responses to this questionnaire. After all, the American people are hungering for leaders and representatives who lean into authenticity and directness. Either way, we should reject the conventional wisdom that local elected officials must carefully steer clear of "controversial" topics, whatever their authentic opinions. A great deal of our current political discord can be traced back to the idea that it is "improper" to discuss opinions on certain issues openly. On the contrary, our democracy will be stronger if we all lead with the confidence to stand behind our values. To that end, we're encouraging candidates to submit the questionnaire by March 9, after which we will be releasing the results to the community; candidates may also release their responses directly if they wish.

Wednesday March 18th

PENN YAN VILLEGE ELECTIONS

★ VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY ROOM FROM 12PM-8PM ★

MAYOR'S RACE

Patricia Christensen
Dan Condella (incumbent)
Dan Irwin
Leigh MacKerchar

VILLAGE TRUSTEE RACE

Robert Craig
Ronnie Dailey
Teresa Hoban (incumbent)
Billy Wigsten



VOTE

More Information:
<https://www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/local/yates-schuyler-steuben-tompkins/penn-yan-village-elections-set-for-march/>

Geneva NY

5PM

Corner of Castle and Exchange

TUESDAYS FOR PALESTINE



genevawomensassembly.org

Steward Volunteer Information Session

Cornell Climate Stewards

FREE Event!

March 5th at 6 pm
Yates County Office Building
and on Zoom

Presentation with Q&A to follow
Pizza for those attending in person

Interested in helping your community be more resilient but don't know where to start? The Cornell Climate Stewards are looking for volunteers 18+ in Yates, Ontario and Steuben Counties. Join our information session to learn more and get your questions answered by the Yates/Steuben/Ontario CCS Coordinator!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



BUILD OUR SKILLS OUR POWER



MARCH 8

- ★ 12:30 **TABLING WITH LOCAL ORGS & LUNCH**
- ★ 1-4 **ACTIVIST SKILL-BUILDING WORKSHOPS**
- ★ 4:00 **RALLY AND MARCH AT CITY HALL**

22 CASTLE STREET GENEVA NY

Organized by GWA and SHJ

FLX RAPID RESPONSE TRAINING



HOW DOES RAPID RESPONSE WORK?

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00-8:30 | VIRTUAL SESSION

- ✓ Learn how to document ICE arrests
- ✓ Learn more about FLX Rapid Response and how it works
- ✓ Join our network to help keep Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties safe from ICE terror

REGISTER TO JOIN AT
bit.ly/flxrrn-training





The Intersection Contact Us

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flxjustice21@gmail.com

Facebook:

[facebook.com/flxjp](https://www.facebook.com/flxjp)

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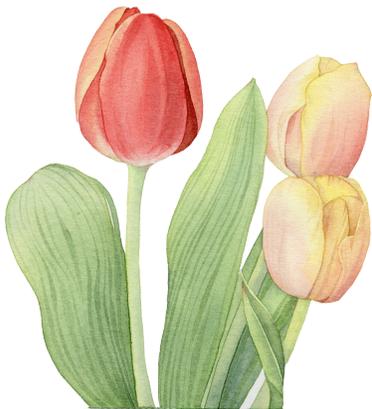
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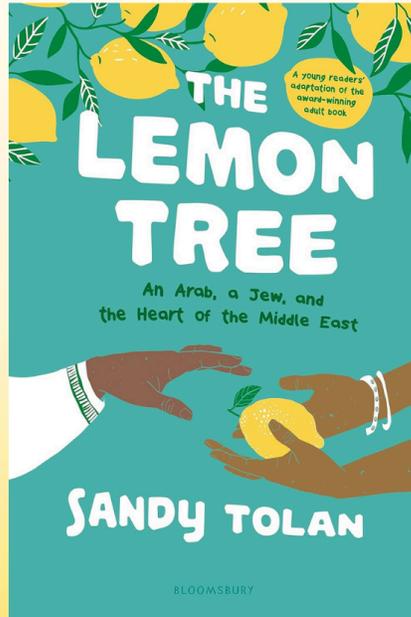


Penn Yan *Action* Coalition

Supporting immigrants in the local and wider community



SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY READ



COPIES AVAILABLE AT LONG'S
CARDS & BOOKS AND AT THE PENN
YAN PUBLIC LIBRARY. AUDIO BOOK
VERSIONS CAN BE FOUND ON
LIBBY.

JOIN US FOR THREE IN- PERSON COMMUNITY EVENTS BASED ON THE AMAZING TRUE STORY!

“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 nineteen years earlier. 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...”

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH BOOK DISCUSSION

A book-club style conversation about the book. The conversation will be guided by reflection questions and facilitated by one of our members.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH AUTHOR SESSION

We will be watching a YouTube interview with author Sandy Tolan and a Ted Talk with Dalia Landau, one of the characters in the book.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH FILM VIEWING

During our last session, we will be screening the acclaimed documentary, *No Other Land*. A reflection & discussion will follow.

All Sessions start at 6:00 PM, EST and will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St, Penn Yan, NY).

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.