



INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

March 15, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Chair Yoga. Tuesdays, March 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>.

Keuka Compass Book Club, Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan) or online via Zoom. Join the Keuka Compass LGBTQ+ Book Club in person or virtually. This month's two shorter books are *The Deep* by Rivers Solomon and *Psalm for the Wild* by Becky Chambers. Copies are available for purchase at Long's Cards and Books in Penn Yan and for loan through the Southern Tier Library System. Want to attend the discussion by Zoom? Write to us at flxjustice21@gmail.com and we'll provide the access info.

Penn Yan Action Coalition Community Read, Session Three: Film Screening, Friday, March 20, 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 final session, we will host a screening of the acclaimed documentary *No Other Land*, with discussion and reflection to follow. 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.

Progressive Prepping in Practice, Saturday, March 21, 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/tmJcVxQ8MAy1we947>. Presented by the Yates Resilience Community.

Monthly Fightback, Saturday, March 21, 3:00 p.m. on the Yates County Courthouse lawn (Main & Court St., Penn Yan). All are welcome to join us in lifting their voices about the issues and causes that impact our world and the people in it. Bring signs and good will. These rallies are held to express our collective opposition to or grief about injustices on the local, state, national, or global stage, or to express our support for and solidarity with justice-promoting movements and events. Rallies may include chants, songs, speeches and marches, depending on conditions and recent current events. Presented by Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.

Community Skillshare: Breath Work and Meditation, Saturday, March 21, 4:00 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan). When neighbors choose to freely share their skills, and others choose to make time to learn them, our communities grow stronger, more resilient, and better prepared for potential disruption! This month, Molly Lawrence returns to share techniques for relaxation through breath work and meditation. Her techniques will include limited optional seated movements, all from the support of a chair. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/9cd765mt>. Have a skill to share? Let us know at <https://tinyurl.com/mr4965v9>! Presented by the Yates Resilience Community.

TAKE ACTION

Join Freedom Unshackled in a statewide Day of Action Monday, March 30, 10:00AM to 1:00 PM to build support for S8856 and A9617, legislation that would establish County Law Enforcement Civilian Complaint Review Boards across New York State. These oversight boards strengthen transparency, accountability, and safety in our county correctional facilities.

Participate by calling your State Senator (nysenate.gov/find-my-senator) and State Assembly Member (<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>) on 3/10 between 10:00AM and 1:00PM. Urge them to sign on to the bills as co-sponsors because independent oversight protects incarcerated people, correctional officers, and our communities.

Sustainable Finger Lakes invites nonprofit organizations, faith communities, political clubs, labor unions, student groups, businesses, and other civic organizations to sign on to a letter to Governor Hochul and state legislators in support of a moratorium on the construction of new AI data centers in New York. More than 100 groups have already signed.

From the letter, "The explosive growth of data centers is one of the biggest affordability and environmental threats of our generation. This expansion is rapidly increasing demand for energy, driving more fossil fuel pollution, straining water resources and raising electricity prices."

Organizations can sign on using this form: <https://tinyurl.com/2fk8jbjh>

To learn more about the impact of AI data centers on the region watch a Sustainable Finger Lakes' webinar, "Protecting Local Communities from AI Data Center Impacts: <https://tinyurl.com/wfpxsdst>



Time

Saturday, March 28
11am - 12:30pm EDT

Location

415 Liberty St
Penn Yan, NY 14527

GOOD NEWS

Trump's threats on the mid-term elections caused Dem Natl Comm to sue the regime to obtain records "concerning potential deployment of federal agents and troops to polling places, drop boxes, and election offices."

FBI closed its review of election records from NV for fraud investigation after finding only 38 possible non-citizen voters. Not enough to steal an election. Cases in AZ and FL are proceeding.

Twenty-eight state legislative seats have now flipped toward Democrats during Trump's second term.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the first universal no-cost child care law this week, making New Mexico the only state with free child care and tuition-free college. Gov. Lujan Grisham also signed a law making it a felony to deploy any troops or armed agents to polling places in New Mexico, the first state to do so.

In Georgia, Shawn Harris, a Democrat and retired Army Brig. Gen., got 37% of the vote and will meet Republican Clay Fuller in a runoff election to fill Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's seat in April.

Communities are fighting back against ICE detention facilities. A court paused construction on a proposed facility near Hagerstown, MD, pending the outcome of the state's case challenging conversion of an existing warehouse.

As we shared a few weeks ago, FLXJP prepared a questionnaire for the candidates in the Penn Yan elections coming up this week. Despite repeated efforts, as of publication time, we received only one response from any of the candidates. We thank village trustee candidate Teresa Hoban for her forthrightness and willingness to engage with us, and can share that we wholeheartedly endorse her, as her responses demonstrated strong support for our values in areas such as intellectual freedom, diversity, democracy, and more - values which Americans should be broadly willing to agree on, but which have come to be viewed as "controversial" in today's highly polarized environment.

We stand firmly behind the necessity of our questionnaire, which takes an unapologetically liberal, progressive perspective in its framing. Our thinking in framing it that way was that it is taken as a matter of course for reactionary right-wing groups like the NRA or the Moms for Liberty to rate and rank candidates on the basis of their destructive, exploitative, life-denying priorities; why should we ever shrink from seeking ways to rate candidates based on our values of inclusivity and shared prosperity?

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

"Will the Atlantic Alliance Survive? The so-called 'Donroe Doctrine' is playground-level fantasy." Katherine Stewart, Katherine Stewart's Newsletter. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/ywkpvuem>

"Why Iranian perspectives often get flattened and caricatured." Code Switch podcast. Don't trust right-wingers who try to convince you that every Iranian is dancing in the streets in favor of our war on their country. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3spkw873>

"Pete Hegseth's Moral Unseriousness." Peter Wehner, The Atlantic. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/ye236ppj>

"Red Flag Alert - Anti-Trans Genocide in the USA - #3." Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3xncp935>

"Two New Studies Undermine the Entire Basis for Trans Athlete Bans" and "New Nature Medicine Study Shows Hormone Therapy Rewrites the Body's Protein Profile in Six Months." Ari Drennen, Ari's Threads. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3zmbjwdv> and <https://tinyurl.com/tn2h8dr4>

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE UPDATE

And yet the public and our candidates too often shrink away from full-throated discussion of, much less belief in, such values, because they've been labeled "controversial," "dangerous," or - most ridiculously in this context - too "political." We're here to deliver the only possible response to such silliness: bosh and poppycock, we say.

Our goal is to help change the narrative around what's "safe" to talk about in running for office at any level by spreading our questionnaire and resources like it to candidates at every level. In light of that, we're pleased that a state-level candidate has reached out to us requesting to complete it, and, excitingly, the 24th New York Congressional District's two Democratic primary candidates, Alissa Ellman and Diana Kastenbaum, have agreed to complete it as well. We're currently working on a generalized version for these and other candidates, and encourage individuals and organizations to get in touch with us if they would like access to it to share with candidates in their own communities and districts. We can shift the narrative together!

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/>

Learn How to Respond to ICE Raids

The Finger Lakes Rapid Response Network (FLXRRN) and St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Bath are co-hosting a two-part training for those who want to respond to the immediate needs caused by ICE raids.

Part 1 will be held virtually on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This session is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the mission and work of FLXRRN. Click here to register. After you register, you will receive a Zoom meeting invitation by email.

Part 2 will be held physically on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 122 Liberty St, Bath, NY 14810. This session is designed for those who have completed Part 1 training and are committed to actively participating in local rapid response efforts.

Go to <https://forms.gle/sghrmcNk2ieZ6NDJ7> to register. The training will focus on practical skills and coordination. If you've been looking for a way to support our immigrant neighbors and mitigate illegal ICE activity, this is an opportunity to get involved.



A Chance for Us to Open our Hearts and Donate the Green

The **First Presbyterian Church of Pulteney** will match any donation up to \$100.00 to:

The Proaction Senior Nutrition Program

(an affiliate of Meals on Wheels)

feeds 300 People Per Day in Steuben and Yates Counties

All proceeds to aid Meals on Wheels in providing nutritious meals, wellness checks and friendship to folks over 60 in Steuben and Yates Counties.

Our campaign runs from **Valentine's Day (Feb 14)** to **St. Patrick's Day (March 17)**

Please make checks to:

First Presbyterian Church of Pulteney
with a memo to Meals on Wheels

P.O. Box 72
Pulteney, NY 14874



 collaborative
ART NIGHT
let's make something wonderful together
March 18th
6-8 PM
Canandaigua, NY
Register at TVPOC.org for more information!



The Intersection

Contact Us

Email:
flxjustice21@gmail.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/flxjp

Website:
www.FLXJP.org

Our Creative Team

Writing

Peter Salva
Alex Andrasik
Sally White
Anne Kiefer
Diana Martens

Graphics

Charlie Domahidi
Siri Wilder
Angela Proietti-
Nelson



INAUGURAL
TRANSGENDER WELLNESS & EQUITY FUND CONVENING

AFFIRMING
New  **York**

Care That Honors Every Body

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

LIMITED EARLY ACCESS

Complimentary gift will be provided to the first 50 registered guests.

Join advocates, providers, organizers, parents, and community leaders from across New York for the inaugural statewide gathering centered on transgender wellness, equity, and collective care.

This convening builds on the launch of Affirming ♥ New York and brings our community together to strengthen connections, elevate lived experience, and advance a shared vision for affirming, accessible care statewide.

DATE & LOCATION:
March 23-24, 2026
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York

   bit.ly/TWEFAffirmingNY 

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.