



INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

December 14, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keuka Compass Game Day, Sunday, December 14, 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.

FLXJP Justice Study Hall, Friday, December 19, 6 p.m., downstairs at Penn Yan Public Library (214 Main St.). Bring any social justice-related task currently on your to-do list, whether it's in partnership with the FLXJP, a personal or work project, or anything else, and work on it alongside others with similar goals and values. Network with like-minded justice seekers while carving out time for what matters to you. Presented by Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.

Regional Justice Summit, Friday, December 19, 7 p.m., online via Zoom. Finger Lakes Justice Partnership hosts a bi-monthly, virtual gathering of leaders representing justice-seeking groups of all kinds from across the FLX region to share ideas, update on events, and seek connection. Let's bust out of our siloes, signal-boost each other's projects, and support each other in this difficult and important work! Do you represent a group that belongs in this conversation? Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/4n7z7mrc>. Please note this session's special date.

No Bunkers Required Community Resilience, Saturday, December 20, 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.

Community Skillshare: Crafting Festive Holiday Arrangements, Saturday, December 20, – p.m. at 1:30 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Pen Yan). Note this session's special time. 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, join us to make table decorations for the December holidays. Anne Meyer-Wilber will show us how to combine holiday greens with fun trimmings to create arrangements to use for gifts or for your own home. Please bring a mug, bowl, or other small waterproof container if you have them. We'll supply some greens, trimmings, and other necessary materials, but you're welcome to bring any other items you wish to incorporate into your creation, such as greens, candles, small ornaments, or ribbons. You'll take home a finished custom-designed arrangement. Anne has been creating her custom arrangements for sale each year at the Modeste Bedient Library in Branchport, where they are always well received. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/u8rn9fuv>. Have a skill to share? Let us know at <https://tinyurl.com/mr4965v9>! Presented by Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

"Racism Without Shame." Bill Ong Hing, ImmProf Blog. A chilling indictment of what our country has become. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3xcccxdx>

"Don't Get Doxxed!" Live Like the World is Dying podcast. This week's episode "about doxxing, what it is, and how to prevent bad actors of all kinds from using your identity, information, and digital presence against you and your loved ones." Very important to take a few simple steps to protect ourselves under the present regime. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4r5bn5hp>

"Men of the Manosphere review – a truly terrifying hour." Lucy Mangan, The Guardian. We have to understand the terrifying world too many of our young men are getting sucked into. Start with this review, then move on to the documentary on BBC. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/2pu48fub>

From Keuka Housing Council:

"Our Point in Time count is coming back up on January 28th. Normally we check all the usual spots however, I was wondering if anyone knew of any places they have seen or heard of homeless people hanging out or living. The grounds we usually cover are Yates, Dresden, Jerusalem, Dundee, and Starkey. I'm curious if anyone knows of any homeless people residing in Potter, Middlesex, Italy, Benton, Torrey, Barrington and the Tyrone areas? We're also looking for Volunteers again this year feel free to email me at asnyder@keukahousingcouncil.org if anyone is interested!"

GOOD NEWS

Trump thinks that "everybody's saying 'merry Christmas' again," thanks to him, but he has not eliminated "wokeness." Here are this week's wins:

- Judge Paula Xinis freed Kilmar Ábrege García from federal custody and barred ICE from redetaining him without authority.
- Eileen Higgins is the first Democrat—and woman—elected as Miami mayor—by almost 18 points— in almost 30 years.
- In Georgia, Democrat Eric Gisler turned a state House district blue.
- Indiana representatives beat back a redistricting plan favoring Republicans for a second time.
- Alina Habba resigned as acting US attorney for NJ after an appeals court ruled that she was unlawfully serving in the role.
- Italy recognized "femicide" as a crime, now punished with a life sentence.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation is suing Trump to block ballroom construction without review and approval.
- A grand jury rejected the regime's third attempt to indict Letitia James. Strike 3!
- DHS Secretary Kristi Noem faced heat for lying about citizen deportations at a House hearing.

TAKE ACTION

Advocates have been working hard to get several state bills over the line and passed into law across the past year, including crucial measures designed to protect bodily autonomy and the right to read. Under the Trump administration, both of these principles are under serious threat, and their erosion will without a doubt impact the most vulnerable among us: assaults on bodily autonomy have serious implications in terms of reproductive health and access to trans-affirming healthcare, while threats to intellectual freedom always impact marginalized communities, most especially their youngest members. State-level protections are one of our best tools to shore up our rights against these assaults.

With all of this in mind, please take a few moments to send Governor Kathy Hochul a message. We have learned that there is a serious chance that she will veto next week two bills protecting bodily autonomy and one protecting the freedom to read. Direct email outreach from constituents is said to be the most impactful tactic at this juncture to possibly convince Gov. Hochul to change course and sign these bills into law.

More information about this bills can be found at:
[NY State Senate Bill 2025-S3486](#) Hospital Transparency Act
[NY State Senate Bill 2025-S929](#) New York Health Information Privacy Act
[NY State Senate Bill 2025-S1099](#) Freedom to Read Act

If you would like to help, please copy and paste the below message into a new email with the subject line Gov. Hochul: Please honor New Yorkers' demands for bodily autonomy and intellectual freedom, and send it to the governor's senior staffers Brian Mahanna and Jessica Cherry at brian.mahanna@exec.ny.gov and jessica.cherry@exec.ny.gov.

I'm reaching out on behalf of Finger Lakes Justice Partnership, a grassroots group of community organizers in rural central New York. We've been hearing rumors that the Governor is considering vetoing Hospital Transparency (S.3486/A.3862) and the New York Health Information Privacy Act (S.929/A.2141). New York has sought to position ourselves as an access state for reproductive rights, health, and justice, and other states are looking to us as an example. Not only would any vetoes harm New Yorkers, but they would set the repro movement back nationwide -- a bad look heading into an election year. The Governor has already vetoed two reproductive health bills this year, and it is not sufficient for her to only sign Shield Law 2.0. She must also sign Hospital Transparency (S.3486/A.3862) and the New York Health Information Privacy Act (S.929/A.2141).

We have also heard that a veto is likely for the Freedom to Read Act (2025-S1099). In this time of unprecedented assaults on intellectual freedom and the right for all New Yorkers, especially young New Yorkers from marginalized communities, to see themselves represented in the media available to them, this bill would be a needed bulwark against such regressive threats. We ask that Gov. Hochul also sign this protective measure into law.

BOOK REVIEW

Little Bosses Everywhere: How the Pyramid Scheme Shaped America by Bridget Read

Review Written by Charlie Domahidi

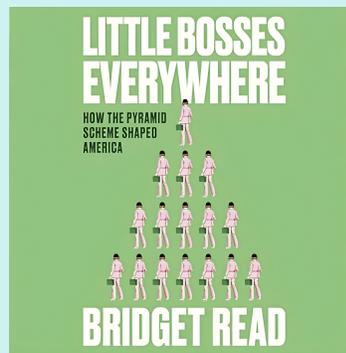
This is a bit of an unusual selection this month, as the subject of multi-level marketing and pyramid schemes is a niche interest. However, the recently published "Little Bosses Everywhere" is a must read for anyone who is interested in learning more about the intersection of capitalism, government, and far-right Christian ideology. At 368 pages, this work of non-fiction will take you a long time to wade through, but it is well-worth it.

What starts off as a historical overview of the multi-level marketing industry evolves into a comprehensive analysis of the mechanisms used by this predatory industry, how these business elites have built their empires, and how they have infiltrated American government in order to promote the philosophies of the prosperity gospel and of the fallacy of unlimited wealth possible within a pyramid-shaped business.

Author and journalist Bridget Read does an excellent job of chronicling the compelling origin of pyramid selling and goes into great detail about many of the well-known offenders including Amway, Mary Kay, and Herbalife.

While these histories are incredibly well done, and written in an accessible manner, it is the later chapters that really address the implications of this business model, the strength of the direct selling lobbying organizations, and how individuals within these companies have risen to positions of power within the US government. Pyramid schemes are incredibly destructive, predatory, and have cost the American public millions of dollars.

Despite all of these negatives, this business model has been enduring in the American economy, and its negative influence continues to run rampant. This is a must-read for anyone interested in developing a more nuanced understanding of these businesses and their role in our economy.



Since this book was published just this year, it can only be purchased in hardcover, but it is available in the library and on audiobook from Libby. Happy Reading!

UPCOMING EVENTS- LOCAL

Monthly Fightback: Defending Free Speech, Saturday, December 20, 3 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. This month, we end the year with a defense of an essential American right: the freedom of speech, which, through book bans, court challenges, and more, is increasingly under attack by the MAGA christo-fascist faction. Show up to demonstrate that we will not let them freeze out one of our true, cherished national values. Presented by Finger Lakes Justice Partnership.

Community Skillbuilding Salons, Sunday, December 21, 2 - 4 p.m. (fiber arts) and 3 - 5 p.m. (cooking) at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan). Finger Lakes Justice Partnership invites you to new, ongoing opportunities to practice skills, build connections, and increase community resilience! Practice fiber arts of all kinds - knitting, crochet, needlepoint, sewing, and more - starting at 2 p.m. upstairs in the Knapp Room, and at 3 p.m., try your hand at all things food-related, from growing to cooking to preserving, downstairs in the kitchen. Experienced coaches will be on hand at each to offer instruction and tips, but otherwise, these sessions are designed to be casual and fun. These are two overlapping events; all are welcome to attend either or both as you wish. No registration required.

People's Parliament & Community Potluck, Sunday, December 28, 4 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main St., Penn Yan). Following from our series of post-election mass meetings, Finger Lakes Justice Partnership is now offering a new opportunity to connect. Gather at 4 p.m. to share a meal together, with an open floor to discuss current events, raise concerns, and propose solutions. Each session will also feature a guest speaker and tangible progressive action opportunities. All are welcome to attend any portion they wish; there is no obligation to participate beyond your interest or comfort. If you'd like to bring a dish to share, please fill out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/ycc572uc>. Come break bread with us!



FREEDOM TO READ Activity Hour

4PM Fri Dec 19

Location: Community Room
Modeste Bedient Memorial Library
3699 NY-54A, Branchport, NY 14418

- ♥ **Children's Story Hour** with books featuring diverse characters and experiences
- ♥ **Creative Activities** for kids, teens, and tweens
- ♥ **Information Hub** for adults from justice and advocacy organizations



Yates For All Families

UPCOMING EVENTS- ROCHESTER

Action for a Better Community, Inc announces a free program by The ERG, (Exploring, Engaging, Ending Racism Group) that will explore issues of race and racism, and ways to have a positive impact together in our community. These identical half-day, in-person sessions (please register for one session) will share information on the ERG program, the history of racism, bias, prejudice and the various aspects of racism. This is a forum for leaders, influencers, board members, and others interested in bringing about change in the community. Sessions will be held at the Rochester Regional Transit Servicer (RTS) headquarters, 1372 East Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609. Free parking in lot on east side of building. Session 1: Friday, November 7, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. Session 2: Thursday, January 15, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. Please register for one session here: <https://tinyurl.com/hck298nj>

Yates for All Families Freedom to Read Library Creativity and Story Hour, Friday, December 19, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Modeste Bedient Memorial Library (3699 NY-54A, Branchport). Winter is a great time to cozy up with a good book that reflects your interests and experiences. It's a time to celebrate having a wide array of books in your local library. Kids, teens, tweens, and their grownups are invited to participate in a celebration of the Freedom to Read at a story and creativity hour. Activities will include a children's story hour with books featuring diverse characters and experiences, plus creative time for kids, tweens, and teens. Information about local and national justice and advocacy groups will be provided. Presented by Yates for All Families.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

JUSTICE TABLE

SHARING JOY & BUILDING COMMUNITY MONTHLY

ON THE 3RD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, WE WILL BUILD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS OVER SHARED MEALS, FEELINGS & IDEAS, PROJECTS & ART. THIS IS A SPACE FOR ALL - FAMILIES & CHILDREN ARE WELCOME. WHETHER YOU ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN ONGOING JUSTICE WORK OR WONDERING WHERE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP, WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 6-8 PM

PLEASE BRING: A DISH TO SHARE, NON-PERISHABLE FOOD TO DONATE, NON-STRETCH COTTON FABRIC TO CUT

**19
DEC**

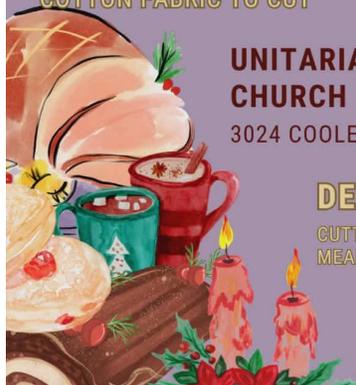
**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF CANANDAIGUA**

3024 COOLEY RD, CANANDAIGUA, NY 14424

DECEMBER TOPICS:

CUTTING SQUARES FOR THE QUILT PROJECT,
MEAL PACKING, NEW YEAR JUSTICE WORK

Scan this code or [click here](#) for more info on the meal bags we are collecting and sharing at free farms stands and blessing boxes across the region



FUNDRAISER

WE STAND WITH IMMIGRANT WORKERS!



<https://gofund.me/ccf415369>

URGENT NEED FOR CATO RAID AFTERMATH SUPPORT



The Finger Lakes Rapid Response Network has launched a GoFundMe fundraiser (<https://tinyurl.com/yexa2rwf>) 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.



Our Creative Team

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The Intersection

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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.