



THE INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

December 21, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

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!

Community Cafe, Tuesday, December 30, 5 p.m., Penn Yan United Methodist Church (166 Main St, Penn Yan).

TAKE ACTION

Last weekend, Rob Reiner and his wife, Michelle Singer Reiner were murdered in their home. The tragedy evoked shock and sadness because the Reiners' success was not limited to their important contributions to the American film canon, but extended to their activism and generosity toward the causes about which they cared deeply.

The director of the beloved films, *The Princess Bride*, *Stand by Me*, and *When Harry Met Sally*, was passionate about several social justice issues including early childhood development, LGBTQ+ rights, environmentalism, and democracy. His efforts on behalf of early childhood development and land preservation were focused primarily in California where the Reiners lived. But Reiner's actions in support of same-sex marriage—co-creating the American Foundation for Equal Rights and bringing together colleagues and strategists—went beyond California's borders and eventually led to the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* guaranteeing nationwide marriage equality.

Reiner's activism on behalf of democracy was also felt nationally. He was an outspoken critic of the Trumpist movement toward tyranny, and of Christian nationalism. He said, "Silence in the face of authoritarianism is complicity. Speaking out is a patriotic act." He produced the 2024 documentary, *God and Country*, which analyzes the recent rise in Christian nationalism and its threat to democracy.

This week, take action by doing something positive to elevate the causes that are important to you. If you want to do something in the spirit of Rob Reiner's activism you could:

- Volunteer in a local school or for a children's program at your local library.
- Find out about and join efforts locally to preserve land for public use or as a wildlife refuge.
- Support trans children and their families by submitting a public comment on a proposed new federal rule that would ban any hospital that participates in Medicaid from providing gender-affirming care to minors. You can learn more about the proposed rule and its devastating implications from Erin Reed: <https://tinyurl.com/yc33f8r8>. You can make your comment here: <https://tinyurl.com/5k5r5w6v>.
- Stream *God and Country*. You can buy or rent it on several major platforms and stream it for free on Pluto TV, Tubi and Plex. Then read a book on Christian nationalism by one of the authors featured in the film. Noteworthy titles include *Jesus and John Wayne*, *The Power Worshipers*, and *The Color of Compromise*.



Thank you to Anne Meyer-Wilber for sharing her knowledge with us. The Holiday Arrangements Skillshare was a hit! *Photo Credit: S. White*

"Extrajudicial Killings"

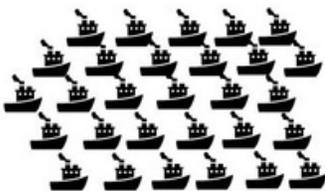
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"Illegal Executions"

=

MURDER

Boats Blasted
29



Lives Lost

104



GOOD NEWS

As 2025 winds down, take heart in the fact that many of Trump's atrocities are superficial and reversible: renaming the Kennedy Center, adding cheap glitz to the oval office, paving the Rose Garden. Unfortunately, others will take years to undo. Effects on many lives will be permanent.

GOP Rep. Elise Stefanik ended her campaign for governor of New York and will not seek re-election to Congress.

National Guard leaves LA after six months of occupation and continued citizens' resistance.

WH Chief of Staff Susie Wiles frankly discussed Trump in a series of interviews with Vanity Fair. She said he has "an alcoholic's personality," and called Vance "a conspiracy theorist." The story features controversial photos of cabinet members.

Release of Epstein files began Friday, and DOJ faces criticism for partial rather than full release. Some files were removed from the website after the release.

Dems have gained access to ICE facilities, after a ruling by Judge Jia Cobb on Friday. As of late November, U.S. detention centers held more than 65,000 migrants, most of whom are not criminals.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

As we approach the end of the year, we'll be running a few recommendations about stories or issues we missed when they happened. Let's start with a fallen veep's legacy:

- "Without Dick Cheney, Donald Trump Would Be Nowhere." Heather Digby Parton, Salon. Cheney was a key figure in the development of the "unitary executive theory" that now sees the conservative Republican regime running roughshod over the people. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/2jx75sra>

In other (belated) news, the Republican regime and their Christo-Fascist allies keep going on about the "sin of empathy." Here are some pieces on smug Joni Ernst misreading the room badly:

- "Joni Ernst's 'We're All Going to Die' Pushes MAGA's Toxic Christian Compassion on Us All." Amanda Marcotte, Salon. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3m6d4uz2>
- "Joni Ernst's Health Care Policy Sounds Familiar." Holly Berkley Fletcher, A Zebra Without Stripes. "Whether in the voting booth or on the mission field, given a choice, white evangelicals generally prioritize saving souls for eternity over helping bodies in the here and now," Fletcher writes. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/ym5fvu5z>

Now to close off with some seasonal cheer. Enjoy!:

- "A Grand Yuletide Theory: The Muppet Christmas Carol is the Best Adaptation of A Christmas Carol." Ethan Warren, Bright Wall/Dark Room. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3yy7kz3h>

LOCAL ORG SPOTLIGHT: YATES FOR ALL FAMILIES (Y4AF)

Yates For All Families (Y4AF) is a Yates County initiative dedicated to the principles that diversity makes us stronger, that banning books is unacceptable, that kids know themselves best and deserve our support, that communities and schools should be allies, and that trans people of all ages must have the same rights as everyone else.



On Friday, December 19, Yates For All Families held a celebration of the Freedom to Read at the Modeste Bedient Memorial Library in Branchport. The event featured a display of beloved, award-winning children's books that have faced censorship by pressure groups like Moms for Liberty because their contents reflect the diversity of human life and promote welcoming and inclusion. In addition to the book display, there were a number of creative activities offered for young children, tweens, teens, and grownups. The participants, kids and adults alike, engaged happily in crafting, reading, and sharing conversation together. Yates For All Families plans to offer more events celebrating diversity, inclusion, and families of all kinds. For more information about Y4AF, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3vxbe6xz>

5TH ANNUAL ANTIRACIST EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Save the Date: Saturday, Feb. 28th, 2026

Our Local History is excited to host the fifth annual 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.

Follow us at [instagram.com/our_local_history/](https://www.instagram.com/our_local_history/) for updates



2026 MLK Living the Dream Series

14^{7PM}
Jan

Mobile Museum of Tolerance
Short Films & Discussion

21^{7PM}
Jan

Spoken Word Performance & Open Mic/Poetry Slam

25^{3PM}
Jan

Interfaith Family Service

Presented by Pittsford Community

All events held at:
123 S Main. Pittsford NY

For More Info:
Email: pittsfordcommunity.org



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>

! CONGRESS MUST ! STOP TRUMP'S HUD MONROE COUNTY AT-RISK OF LOSING 15 MILLION IN HOUSING FUNDING

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) from HUD prioritizes communities that:

- Strip gender-inclusive language from housing policy
- Require sex-segregated or gender-assigned shelter placements
- Prioritize "faith-based" or "service-requirement" models over Housing First models
- Criminalize homelessness
- Ban public camping
- Mandate treatment as a precondition for housing
- Eliminate DEI, disability rights, and gender-inclusive policies

**THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
WILL BE KICKED OUT OF
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING AND PUT BACK
ON THE STREETS!**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
EMAIL YOUR REPS.

ACT NOW!

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!"

FUNDRAISER

WE STAND WITH IMMIGRANT WORKERS!

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.



The Intersection

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Our Creative Team

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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.