



THE INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

September 21, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED! Community Skillbuilding Salons, Sunday, September 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 these 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.

Community Cafe, Tuesday, September 23rd, 5 p.m., Penn Yan United Methodist Church (166 Main St, Penn Yan).

Keuka Compass Social Gathering, Saturday, September 27, 12:30 p.m. at Milly's Pantry (19 Main St., Penn Yan). These informal coffee hours are intended for LGBTQ+ folks and their allies to come together in community and friendship. Very casual; no agenda - just coffee, food, chat and company. Please note our new location! Hosted by Keuka Compass.

Keuka Compass Pathways, Saturday, September 27, 4:00 p.m. at the Stanley Trailhead of the Ontario Pathways Rail Trail. This event for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies, friends, and family is a chance to enjoy our local trails and nature as well as each other's company. This month's destination in Stanley is about a twenty minute drive away from Penn Yan, so please get in touch with us if you'd like to carpool. Please plan to dress appropriately for whatever weather is forecast. For questions, contact us at flxjustice21@gmail.com.

Penn Yan Action Coalition Classic Movie Night, Tuesday, September 30, 6:00 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (179 Main Street, Penn Yan). Penn Yan Action Coalition continues its series offering viewings of classic films with a lot to say about current injustices. This month: Storm Center, the story of a dedicated librarian who is demonized for resisting a book ban. Released in 1956; 1 hour and 25 minutes; starring the incomparable Bette Davis.

TAKE ACTION

Take action this week to stop the Trump administration's assault on free speech.

Trump has historically abused the Office of the President to silence and punish his opponents. Trump, allies and MAGA are now exploiting the murder of Charlie Kirk to censor performers, professors, journalists, and any entities that speak truth to power.

Our elected officials should push back forcefully against this abuse of our First Amendment right.

5 Calls provides background information and a phone script for you to call your elected officials and insist that they speak out in support of constitutionally protected freedom of speech and oppose any action by Trump, the DOJ, Congress or the FCC that threatens it.

Visit 5 Calls here: <https://tinyurl.com/4ut6dt45>

Find your elected officials here:

schumer.senate.gov/contact

gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/

house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative



This month's Justice Rally focused on solidarity with educators in the face of constant attacks. Photo Source: S. White

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There is nothing more anti-democratic than political violence. Democracy is about creating space for competing voices and countervailing visions about who we are as one people. And that debate in the public square is what has made us better over time. And so while pushing back, sometimes hard, against those with whom we vigorously disagree, we must with the same voice and vigor defend their right to be—the right to be heard, to be free."

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpofGhs50MU> Senator Reverend Warnock Addresses Political Violence

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

Earlier this year, progressive grassroots journalism outlet *YES! Magazine* ceased publication. Now, though, *Truthout* is hosting a monthly newsletter with relevant content from the YES! digital archives and new solutions journalism from a variety of publications. Subscribe here: <https://tinyurl.com/3n8k6jnc>

"'Debate Me' Bro culture has ruined civil discourse: How entertainment culture has replaced genuine political dialogue." Katherine Kelaidis, *Salon*. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/y3rnf3fp>

"What's different about the Charlie Kirk firings." Eleanor Hawkins and Emily Peck, *Axios*. This is all well and good, but it's funny how it never matters when it's people spewing vitriol about the LGBTQ+ community. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4nmv24af>

"So... What Was This Guy Anyway? What Charlie Kirk's assassin means to the future." Cassidy Steele Dale, *Think Future*. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4m7aut5a>

"Trump vs. Higher Education." *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/3h924snz>

GOOD NEWS

In the wake of the horrific shooting of Charlie Kirk and the horrifying attacks on free speech this week, there was some good news. We saw strong condemnation of political violence from several leaders on both sides. OK Gov Kevin Stitt (R) and MD Gov Wes Moore released a joint statement; PA Senators Fetterman (D) and McCormick (R) appeared together on Fox News to urge more respectful political discourse.

Thousands demonstrated in London while Trump dined at Windsor Castle. He was not as welcome in England as he may have hoped.

Protesters responded to Jimmy Kimmel's cancellation, and boycotts arose against Disney and ABC in support of free speech. House Dems called for FCC chair Brendan Carr to resign.

The Treasury Dept provided Epstein-related financial records to the House Oversight Committee, which pledges to generate its own list of clients and others involved in trafficking young girls.

Apparently, the Trump regime's approval rating is at its lowest level of his second term. Can't imagine why.



chasestrangio 

A Message From from Chase Strangio

The following message has been transcribed from a series of posts on Instagram made on 9/19/2025.

It has been a terrifying few weeks for trans people as we witness the escalation of calls to deem us as inherently threatening. The idea is that transness is an ideology—a threatening one— and evidence of the existence of the ideology is the defense of trans people. They want our silence. And more critically, they want yours.

But remember that attacks on trans people are an instrument not an end. We all need to show up for each other.

So here is my offering for what trans and cis people can do in this moment.

To-Do List for Trans People:

Do whatever you need to take care of yourself. And also, ground yourself in accurate information, the people you trust, and the knowledge that our communities have always taken care of each other. Find your people. We are here.

To-Do List for Cis People:

1. Be loud in defense of trans people.
2. Every day disrupt someone else's assumption that trans people are a threat.
3. Challenge your friends when they say things like "but isn't it unfair for a trans girl to participate in sports." Remind them that they are doing the authoritarian's work to divide us.
4. Recognize that your well-being is at stake when the government comes for trans people. That this is about sex as a structure and about power.
5. When someone says "well didn't we go too far in defense of trans rights", ask them: who is "we", what is "too far" and when did ceding a community's rights to power ever stop the powerful?
6. Show up at the Supreme Court in January when trans people's rights will again be up for debate.
7. Show up at your school board where trans people's lives and dignity are being debated. From NYC to Southern California, there is no jurisdiction immune from their attacks.
8. Donate to trans-led organizations and trans people's fundraisers. People are losing their health care, their jobs, their support. Show up where you can whenever you can.
9. Love your trans people. Fiercely. Publicly.

LOCAL ACTIONS

SURVEY OPPORTUNITY

NYSLGBTQ.org invites you to take the 2025 New York State LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services Needs Assessment provided by the New York State Department of Health to inform policy and to sustain and enhance services available to LGBTQ+ community members. This survey will take about 20 to 30 minutes to answer. You must be at least 13 years of age to participate. The survey is anonymous and will not record any personal information that can identify you. It will include questions about your experiences of health and service needs. Some questions may ask about difficult experiences, or they may spark your interest in seeking services.

As a resource, the bottom of every screen of this survey will provide a link to the New York State Department of Health Crisis contact website. You may use this link to contact counselors or receive immediate assistance. At the conclusion of the survey, we will provide you with a link to the New York State Network for LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services. "The Network" includes over 60 agencies around the state that serve and support LGBTQ+ community members.

Take the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/38wrm6sz>

LOCAL GRANT AVAILABLE

Sustainable Finger Lakes is offering Neighborhood Mini-Grants to stimulate resident-based, grassroots initiatives that improve quality of life and long-term health in local communities, promote environmental stewardship and green practices, generate collaboration between differing groups, and create opportunities for leadership and civic engagement. Applications must be received on or before October 1, 2025 for Tompkins County grants, and October 17, 2025 for Seneca, Schuyler, and Yates County grants. To apply, contact Sasha at sasha@sustainablefingerlakes.org or 607-272-1720. To learn more about the mini-grants visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8duejrd>

**DON'T OPEN FOR
ICE!**

Community Alert

DHS recently canceled the parole status of people who came to the U.S. through a CBP One appointment or under the Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, & Venezuela (CHNV) parole program. If you came under either of those two, your parole status and work permit are no longer valid. The New York Immigration Coalition recommends those impacted talk to an immigration attorney as soon as possible to explore options.

UPCOMING EVENTS-OTHER

Thomas Indian School: Trauma and Resilience, Saturday, September 27, 2:00 PM, Seneca Art & Culture Center (7000 County Rd 41, Victor).

Free and open to the public (does not include admission to the Seneca Art & Culture Center and Seneca Bark Longhouse). Lori Quigley (Seneca, Wolf Clan) explores the impact of the Thomas Indian School on her own family and on other Indigenous people. This school emerged from Quaker and Presbyterian schools on the Cattaraugus homelands to become a major New York State institution, open until 1957. This program is being brought to Ganondagan by 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse Museum, co-Sponsored with Indigenous Concerns Committee, New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, and Ganondagan.

Honk & Wave - Trumansburg, Every Friday, 4:30 PM-5:30PM (69 Main St, Trumansburg).

Organized by volunteers in Trumansburg. Please register here so Indivisible can report turnout to the press: <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/804174/>

UPCOMING EVENTS- ROCHESTER

2025 State of the Latino Community, Wednesday, Oct 15, 12PM - 1:30PM, virtual. Join Ibero-American Action League, Inc. as we unveil a powerful, data-driven look at how Hispanic and Latino communities are doing across Upstate New York: 2025 State of the Latino Community.

Be part of the conversation on this webinar available to anyone on or off Facebook as we present a broad overview and deep-dive on insights into key socioeconomic indicators like education, employment, health, and housing throughout our service areas. <https://tinyurl.com/4nbebvfr>

It's Time to Take Action!

BYO RIGHTS NOW!

Sign the petition ↓ to expand
New Yorkers' right to
Bring Your Own containers

**NEW YORKERS DESERVE
THE RIGHT TO REUSE.
SIGN TODAY.**

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/byo-rights-ny/>

The poster features a green header with the text 'It's Time to Take Action!' and 'BYO RIGHTS NOW!'. Below this, it says 'Sign the petition ↓ to expand New Yorkers' right to Bring Your Own containers'. There are images of a metal water bottle, a wooden spoon, a wooden fork, and a wooden butter dish. A QR code is present for signing the petition. At the bottom, it says 'NEW YORKERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO REUSE. SIGN TODAY.' and provides the URL 'https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/byo-rights-ny/'. There are also logos for 'BYO' and 'ZERO WASTE'.



The Intersection

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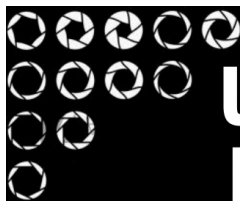
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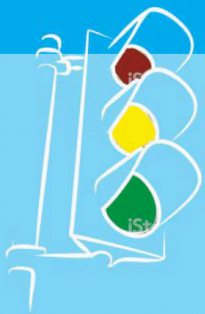


USING YOUR **#RightToRecord** IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT



DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILM?

You have the right to film immigration enforcements in public, no matter what your citizenship status is, as long as you don't interfere. Comply with orders like "back up."



HOW DO I STAY SAFE?

Remain calm and quiet! Be transparent that you are filming and don't make sudden movements.

Lock your phone with at least a 6 digit passcode instead of face or touch ID, and consider automatically backing up footage with cloud services.

WHAT SHOULD I FILM?

Stay focused on agents instead of civilians.

Film details like badges/uniforms, license plates, weapons, warrants, property damage, what agents say, and context (street signs, landmarks, buildings).



If it's not safe to film, then take detailed notes.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER I FILM?

Don't share right away!

Never edit original footage.

Make copies.

Share with a trusted journalist, lawyer or advocacy organization to make a plan.



FOR MORE GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES ON FILMING FOR IMMIGRANT DEFENSE VISIT bit.ly/EYESonICE

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.