



# THE INTERSECTION

The Finger Lakes Justice Partnership Weekly Newsletter

February 22, 2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gentle Chair Yoga. Tuesdays, February 10, 17 & 24, 1 - 1:30 p.m., at 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>.

**PYPL Civics Hub: Handwriting the Constitution. Wednesday, February 25, 5:30 - 7 p.m.** Join us for an exploration of the values that unite us and the systems and strategies we can all use to promote a fairer, more informed society. This month, we revive an old program as we spend some time writing out sections of the U.S. Constitution by hand, a practice pioneered by artist Morgan O'Hara "so that people will know their rights, deepen their understanding of laws created to protect these rights, and to help resist negative thinking," according to her website. Drop in any time during this program to deepen your familiarity with our most significant founding document; towards the end, we'll spend some time reflecting together on the experience. Copies of the Constitution, writing materials, and cozy refreshments will be provided. Presented by Penn Yan Public Library (214 Main St.).

**Regional Justice Summit, Friday, February 27, 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>

**Keuka Compass Social Gathering. Saturday, February 28, 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. Presented by Keuka Compass.

**Resilient Living Meeting. Saturday, February 28, 2 - 3:30 p.m. at Penn Yan Public Library (214 Main St.).** Resilience is the ability to withstand or bounce back effectively from difficulties. In this monthly meeting, learn about the basics of resilience - what it's for (both "normal" times and less "normal" times, like periods of disruption caused by natural disasters and other factors), and how to start being more resilient in your own life and as part of the community. Sessions will include media we'll go over together as well as occasional guest speakers and hands-on activities. Participants will have the opportunity to get involved in several ongoing projects that will collectively help increase community resilience. This month, we will go over the "elements of resilience" and discuss which of them participants are most interested in. Plus, make soda bottle planters! You can take some home and/or leave some for the library's herb garden. To join the email list for this group, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/3cdawwhv>. Presented by the Keuka Resilience Group and hosted by Penn Yan Public Library (214 Main St.).

## TAKE ACTION

Learn about the right wing's insidious campaign to cut the LGBTQ+ community and communities of color from the fabric of American life by banning their representation in school and public libraries. Watch "The Librarians," presented for free on the PBS Independent Lens website. This film documents the courage of Texas librarians who stood up for the First Amendment freedom to read, and for the rights of all students and the reading public to have access to a diverse array of books. <https://tinyurl.com/bdeufrsx>

Take action to stop Trump's possible unauthorized strikes against Iran to effect a regime change in that country. The Defense Dept. is signaling that military force against Iran is imminent by ordering warships, submarines and weaponry into the Mediterranean. Reps. Khanna and Massie plan to force a bipartisan war powers resolution vote in the House this week to require that Trump get Congressional approval before he can use military force against Iran. Use 5 Calls to contact your elected officials and tell them to support H. Con. Res. 38, the resolution that would prevent a military confrontation in Iran without the approval of Congress. <https://tinyurl.com/2s4fu4f2>

Voice your opinion to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) about the proposed East Wing Modernization Project Trump plans for the White House campus. The plans include a 90,000 sq. ft. ballroom to be paid for by wealthy donors who hope to receive preferential treatment by the President for their business dealings. Trump ignored the mandated regulatory approval process for this project and lied to the American public about preserving the East Wing before bulldozing it to rubble. Visit the Public Comment page of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) for background on the East Wing Modernization Project, providing written and oral input, submission deadlines, and links to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). To submit your written comments (deadline noon, Wed, March 4) or to register to speak online at the March 5 NCPC meeting (deadline noon Wed, Feb 25) visit the NCPC at [nccpc.gov/participate/guidelines/](https://nccpc.gov/participate/guidelines/)



## GOOD NEWS

Sad news that Jesse Jackson died at 84. But how great to have the spotlight on his life and legacy all week! It's critical to focus on the racism that still plagues American society. [See our tribute on FLXJP.org.](#)

[In rejecting Trump's tariffs](#), our (yes, our!) Supreme Court upheld Congress's authority and reaffirmed its own ability to provide judicial oversight. It may be their most important ruling yet.

Something to be proud about! Men's and Women's hockey teams both took GOLD! US claims [12 gold medals \(33 total\)](#)! Uniting and uplifting us, Team USA came in second place in this year's Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy.

Democrats' longshot move to enable [Congress to revoke presidential pardons](#) has gotten the support of Rep. Don Bacon (R-KS).

Judge Cynthia Rufe [chided the Trump regime for removing slavery exhibits](#) at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, where George Washington once lived. She directed that the interpretive panels be reinstalled, denying the government the power to rewrite history.

## STIRRING THE POT

"THE LONGER I LIVE THE MORE DEEPLY I LEARN THAT LOVE—WHETHER WE CALL IT FRIENDSHIP OR FAMILY OR ROMANCE—IS THE WORK OF MIRRORING AND MAGNIFYING EACH OTHER'S LIGHT. GENTLE WORK. STEADFAST WORK. LIFE-SAVING WORK IN THOSE MOMENTS WHEN LIFE AND SHAME AND SORROW OCCLUDE OUR OWN LIGHT FROM OUR VIEW, BUT THERE IS STILL A CLEAR-EYED LOVING PERSON TO BEAM IT BACK. IN OUR BEST MOMENTS, WE ARE THAT PERSON FOR ANOTHER."

FROM *NOTHING PERSONAL* BY JAMES BALDWIN

## MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

The time for serious regional organizing is now. These two recent podcast episodes crystallize some of the issues and imperatives around this thinking:

- "The History of the General Strike: Shanghai 1925, A Chinese Minneapolis." It Could Happen Here podcast. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/4hefrctm>
- "Thoughts on the Commune Form with Ash." Live Like the World is Dying podcast. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/53jbaxsa>

"Why the risks of requiring proof of citizenship to vote could outweigh the benefits." Aaron Blake, CNN. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/2sk5345b>

"Agreements that allow local police to work with ICE skyrocket." Julia Ainsley, NBC. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/22ctv29p>

"CBS is unraveling — and it goes beyond Bari Weiss." Sophia Tesfaye, Salon. Access: <https://tinyurl.com/39k4j8t5>

# 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](mailto:yatesdems@gmail.com)

[www.yatesnydemocrats.com](http://www.yatesnydemocrats.com)

Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>

# 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/>

# Free 1115 WAIVER SCREENING



The 1115 Waiver is a Medicaid initiative designed to help individuals and families address non-medical needs. These are the types of needs that affect your everyday life, but may not be covered by regular medical services.

### Some examples include:

- Housing Assistance
- Housing Repairs
- Food Supply Assistance
- Transportation Services



### Contact Us Today!

Please contact us to learn more and schedule your appointment.

- ☎ (585) 325-5116, Ext. 3400
- 🌐 [www.abcinformo.org](http://www.abcinformo.org)

### You may qualify if:

- You or your children receive Medicaid
- You have a non-medical need (housing, childcare, transportation, etc.)
- Are interested in connecting to support programs and community

## birth action collaborative



### COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

*Have you given birth in the last 5 years?*

*Your experiences can help improve birth care for families in our community.*

**Who are we?** The Birth Action Collaborative (BAC) brings together families, community organizations, birth workers, and health partners to listen to families and take action to improve birth care based on what our community needs most.

**We want to partner with** Black mothers and birthing people to share their experiences, help set priorities, and explore ways to stay involved as community partners.

### Who Can Participate?

**Mothers / Birthing People**

Identify as Black  
Gave birth within the last 5 years, in Monroe County

### Session Details

#### Session 1:

Saturday, February 21 - 12:30 - 4:00 pm

#### Session 2:

Saturday, February 28 - 12:30 - 4:00 pm

#### Session Location:

21 Gorham Street, Rochester, NY 14608



**\$100 stipend**  
**Transportation, Meals and Childcare Provided**

To register please use the QR Code to go to the form.  
Questions? (773) 850-2413

## Steward Volunteer Information Session

**FREE Event!** March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm  
Yates County Office Building and on Zoom

**Cornell Climate Stewards**  
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!

## WHY THE SAVE ACT IS CONTROVERSIAL (Plain English)

<p><b>What it's sold as:</b></p> <p>"Common-sense voter ID"</p>	<p><b>What it actually does:</b></p> <p>Requires <b>DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP</b> to register (Passport, Birth Certificate, Naturalization Papers) — Often more than a photo ID —</p>
<p><b>Where the barrier is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration becomes the choke point</li> <li>- In-person paperwork may be required</li> <li>- Database checks trigger removals</li> <li>- Miss a deadline = Not registered</li> </ul> <p>You lose your vote <b>BEFORE ELECTION DAY</b></p>	<p><b>Who is hit first?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seniors</li> <li>- Students</li> <li>- Disabled voters</li> <li>- Rural &amp; Low-Income</li> <li>- Married / Divorced Women</li> <li>- Naturalized Citizens</li> <li>- Military Families</li> <li>- People Who Don't Drive</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why it matters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-citizen voting is already illegal</li> <li>- Voter fraud is rare</li> <li>- <b>36% DON'T VOTE</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>What's missing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ FREE Universal Voter ID</li> <li>✓ FREE Access to Citizenship Docs</li> <li>✓ Simple Appeals for Errors</li> </ul> <p><b>SECURITY + ACCESS</b> Not paperwork endurance</p>



**The Intersection  
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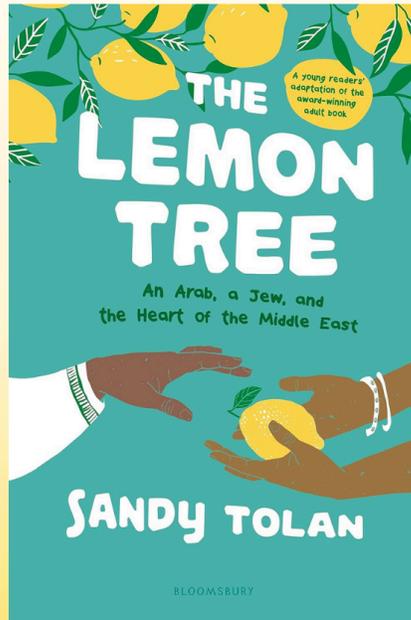


**Penn Yan Action Coalition**

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 6<sup>TH</sup> 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 13<sup>TH</sup> 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 20<sup>TH</sup> 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.