

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS



Welcome to “Lexington Happenings,” a collection of things to do and see and experience at Lexington!

DECEMBER 2025

#RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



- *Pathfinders spent a week shopping, sourcing, preparing and packaging meals for local veterans! Through their hard work and generosity, they were able to deliver 30 full Thanksgiving meals to Vet 2 Vet in Johnstown and donate two bags of non-perishable items to a food drive.*
- *This year's Community Supports' Thanksgiving Dinner was the largest turnout ever! They served more than 170 meals to people we support and their families in Fulton and Schoharie Counties and delivered more to families who couldn't make it. Thanks to Kingsboro Catering for the food, the afterschool program for the holiday favors and centerpieces, and Community Supports for planning, setting up, delivering and serving!*
- *Schoharie's annual Cooking with Love event took place in November! The sold-out crowd enjoyed a large variety of dishes prepared by talented local chefs, including many of the Lexington family. People we support and staff alike from all over Lexington joined in to prepare dishes, serve guests and help make this event a success. Thanks to all the chefs and volunteers who made this day possible!*
- *The Lexington family showed up strong for the New York Disability Advocates rally in Albany! More than 30 advocates, staff and people we support joined others from around the state to urge Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature to fund the CareForce Affordability Agenda. Thank you to the advocates for supporting this agenda, which would provide essential resources to people with disabilities and direct support staff!*
- *The annual Community Supports Trunk or Treat was their biggest yet despite bad weather! The team quickly moved the event indoors and hosted more than 200 trick or treaters with the help of many Lexington programs and the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. They offered 14 spooky displays, two game areas and a quiet space for kids to enjoy. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible!*
- *The afterschool group always finds creative ways to get active in the afternoons. One recent activity was cardio drumming—a great way to burn energy and build coordination while enjoying music, movement and fun!*
- *Transitions student Jordan Sprague was named president of SUNY FMCC's Student Senate Association this fall! He recently represented FMCC at the statewide SUNY Student Assembly Conference in Syracuse, where he lent his voice to discussions on advocacy, leadership and opportunities to strengthen the student experience.*

SANTA'S WORKSHOP WELCOMED 400+ GUESTS FOR FESTIVE FUN!

Lexington's annual Christmas-themed Employee Appreciation Event was a huge success! This weekend, the TPI Event Space and the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts were transformed into a winter wonderland for mornings of fun with Santa and his elves, breakfast, crafts, cookie decorating, music and lots of holiday fun. Thank you to all the volunteers who made these events possible and to all of you who brought your kids, grandkids and other loved ones to join in the fun. Happy Holidays!



LEXINGTON ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTER

HOLIDAY PARTIES FOR THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT

It's the holiday season and we are excited to invite all the people we support to winter parties in Schoharie, Johnstown and Albany! Please encourage everyone you support to put on their best festive cocktail party attire and come out for light refreshments, mocktails, dancing, photo ops, music and much more. Sensory areas will be available in Schoharie and Johnstown.

Party	Date	Time	Location	RSVP
Schoharie Winter Wonderland	Tuesday, December 16	1:00-4:00 p.m.	TPI Event Space 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie	Call (518) 661- 9932
Fulton Home for the Holidays	Wednesday, December 17 Thursday, December 18	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Training Center 465 N. Perry Street, Johnstown	Call (518) 661- 9932
Albany Winter Wonderland	Friday, December 19	1:30-3:30 p.m.	Albany Marriott 189 Wolf Road, Albany	Call (518) 613- 4582

The parties in Schoharie and Fulton Counties are open to all people we support. The Albany event is open to people we support, employees and their families. All events are free, but RSVPs are required. To let us know you and the people you support are coming to the Schoharie or Fulton parties, please call (518) 661-9932. To RSVP for the Albany event, please call (518) 613-4582.

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The online digital archive of Lexington Happenings, which includes active links to all the resources and documents highlighted, can be found at thearclexington.org/lexington-happenings. If you have questions or would like to submit information for a future newsletter, please contact Megan Balser at balserm@thearclexington.org or (518) 661-9932.

TRANSITIONS HOSTS SENSORY SANTA'S WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS!

Thank you to all the volunteers from Transitions who offered Sensory Santa workshops in Mayfield and Albany last week! They welcomed dozens of kids with special needs and their families for holiday-themed crafts, cookie decorating and, most importantly, private meetings and photos with Santa Claus. These are such meaningful events for families who need an alternative to the bright lights, loud noises and busy crowds of typical holiday events!



ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED ZOOM ACTIVITY CALENDAR

The Engaged and Empowered day hab program offers daily social groups, activities, wellness exercises, games, crafts and more to the people we support. All are welcome! Find the December calendar and participation information at <https://bit.ly/3Knew5i>.

**A MOMENT OF PRIDE FOR ALL OF US:
MINA PORTER RECEIVES JUSTICE CENTER CODE OF CONDUCT AWARD**



This was a very meaningful week for the Lexington family. We had the honor of welcoming the New York State Justice Center’s Acting Executive Director Maria Lisi-Murray and members of her team to our most recent Nurturing Environment Meeting, where they presented a statewide Code of Conduct Award to Mina Porter. Their visit gave us the chance not only to celebrate this recognition, but also to share a glimpse into the culture we are so proud of at Lexington.

The Justice Center joined us as we talked, reflected and supported one another in the ways that are unique to our Nurturing Environment approach. They heard stories, witnessed the encouragement we offer each other and saw firsthand the warmth and connection that shape our work. It was clear they felt that energy and it made the moment even more special.

During the presentation, Mina Porter, who works in our residential program in Schoharie, was honored with the statewide Code of Conduct Award. Mina represents so many of the amazing qualities that define Lexington. She is steady, compassionate and attentive, always focused on the wellbeing of the people she supports. Her recognition is not only a celebration of her work, but a reflection of the commitment that so many of you bring to your roles every day. When one of us is recognized, it shines a light on the excellence of our entire organization.

We are truly grateful to the Justice Center and to Acting Executive Director Maria Lisi-Murray for making the effort to join us in person and for taking the time to experience our culture. Their visit affirmed the strength of our mission and the pride we all share in the work happening across Lexington.

This award is something we can all feel proud of. It reflects the relationships we build, the culture we nurture together and the difference we make in the lives of people and families.

Congratulations to Mina and thank you to each of you who bring heart, integrity and purpose to your work! Because of you, moments like this happen.

LEXINGTON’S MISSION

We empower people with autism and developmental disabilities to live their best lives, every day, by partnering with their families, our employees and our community.

HOLIDAY MOVIE SCREENINGS WITH CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Every Friday in December | 4:00 p.m. | Gym, 127 E. State Street, Gloversville

December 19: Elf | December 26: Christmas Vacation

Creative Expressions is hosting screenings of classic Christmas movies every Friday in December at the Burke gym! All are welcome to come get into the holiday spirit with friends by enjoying a festive film. A cash-only movie theater snack bar will be available. We hope to see you there!

BEYOND THE SCRIPT IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS!

Every Tuesday | 3:00-5:00 p.m. | The Lexington Stage, 127 E. State Street, Gloversville

Are you passionate about theater or acting? If so, then Beyond the Script (formerly the Lexington Players) invites you to join a vibrant community where imagination takes center stage! This is more than just a club—it's a space to explore, create and connect. At weekly meetings, members will take part in interactive workshops, work on collaborative projects, build their skills in various dramatic areas and enjoy the community and fun of the world of the theater. Step beyond the script and discover the magic of theater with us!

This group is sponsored by Creative Expressions. All people we support are welcome to join. For more information, please call (518) 775-5496.

DECEMBER SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND WELLNESS MEETINGS

Thursday, December 18 | 10 a.m.—12 p.m. | TPI Event Space, 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie

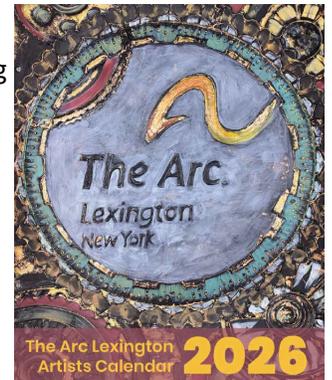
The final Safe Environment and Wellness Meetings for 2025 have been scheduled for this month! At these gatherings, we share important safety information to help keep employees and people we support safe. Be sure to send a representative from your location to bring information back to share with everyone!

The first 30 minutes of each meeting are for Safety Ambassadors only. Meetings are open to everyone from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. This month, we will share information related to safety best practices, take part in an activity related to injury prevention and end with safety recognitions. Hope to see you there!

ORDER YOUR 2026 LEXINGTON ART CALENDAR NOW!

Lexington is excited to offer an “at a glance” 2026 wall calendar that highlights the amazing talents of the many artists we support! Each month features vibrant paintings and multimedia pieces created by artists from Creative Expressions, Schoharie art programs and Transitions. This is a great way to show your support for the arts at Lexington while celebrating the talents of the people we support year-round!

These 11.5x8” top binding calendars are priced at \$16.50, with proceeds benefiting the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts. Only a very limited number of calendars are still available, so don't wait to order yours! To order a calendar, please call (518) 661-9932 or email Lauren Repholz at nishl@thearclexington.org. Thank you for your support!



THE PAUL NIGRA CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Lexington employees get a 10% discount at the Nigra Arts Center! Just enter the code **LEXEMPLOYEE** at checkout to redeem. If your house, program or someone you know wants to take a class, please call (518) 661-9932 or contact Megan Balser at balserm@thearclexington.org to sign them up. The arts center is located at 2736 State Highway 30 in Gloversville. For full listings of the classes and events offered, visit www.pncreativeartscenter.org.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2026 WINTER ART SHOW

Show Dates: January 16-March 12, 2026

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 22 | 4:00-7:00 p.m.

The Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts is looking forward to unveiling its 2026 Winter Art Show, the first exhibition of the new year! Please plan to stop by between January 16 and March 12 to see a diverse show of works in all media by artists from across the country. All are invited to the Opening Reception on January 12!

HOLIDAY KIDS' ART PROGRAM

Monday, December 29 to Wednesday, December 31 | 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Ages 5-12

[\\$180 for full session](#) | [\\$60 per day](#) | [Discounts for Lexington employees and kids from the same family](#)

Looking for fun, educational and creative things for your kids to do over the winter break? Then send them to the Nigra Arts Center for three days of STEAM-inspired fun, complete with art projects, games, activities, cooking lessons and more! Space is very limited—for details and to sign up, please call (518) 661-9932 or visit <https://bit.ly/4nHWatf>.

CLASSES AT THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER

See our monthly class calendars at pncreativeartscenter.org/adaptivearts! If you or the people you support would like to take a class, you can register online at <https://bit.ly/PNCCAEvents>, call (518) 661-9932 or email balserm@thearclexington.org.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville | 4:00-5:00 p.m. | Free!

All people we support are invited to attend free social events at the Nigra Arts Center! We host a few a month that appeal to a variety of interests. Please RSVP by contacting Megan Balser at (518) 661-9932 or balserm@thearclexington.org.

HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE JUBILEE: Wednesday, December 17 – Bring a fun gift worth \$10 or less to trade!

BINGO: Monday, January 26 – Meet new friends and win great prizes!

NEW YEAR PLANT POTTING: Wednesday, January 7 – Decorate a pot and plant a succulent in it to care for this year!

CRAFT CORNER: Wednesday, January 14 – Work on a new project with your crafty friends!

SPORTS NIGHT: Wednesday, January 21 – Watch sporting events, play games and talk sports with friends!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Megan Balser | balserm@thearclexington.org
(518) 661-9932, ext. 34564 | 2736 NY-30, Gloversville
Tammy Ruise | ruiset@thearclexington.org
(518) 295-8130, ext. 256 | 121 Opportunity Dr., Schoharie



“Like” us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/LexingtonARC
www.facebook.com/FlametheBand
www.facebook.com/TransitionsUSA
www.facebook.com/PaulNigraCenter