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Finger Lakes Times

Event's speakers to highlight woes of predatory gambling

Posted: Friday, September 25, 2015 5:00 pm

GENEVA — Saturday is the first-ever National Day of Action Against Predatory Gambling. The day will be observed locally with a “Stop Predatory Gambling” program from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ramada Inn, Lakefront Drive.

Speakers will include:

- Robert H. Steele, former Congressman from the 2nd District of **Connecticut** and author of “The Curse: Big Time Gambling’s Seduction of A Small New England Town.”
- Stephen Shafer, a physician and chairperson of the Coalition Against Gambling in **New York**.
- Nelson Acquilano, a prevention specialist and family advocate who is retired as executive director of the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes.
- Julie Dostal, a physician and president of the Council on Addictions of **New York State**.
- Joyce, whose last name is being withheld, a recovering addicted gambler.

Organizers said the program will highlight how they feel predatory gambling is dishonest, financially damaging to its citizens and contributes to rising unfairness and inequality in American life.

Their message is that “predatory gambling cheats and damages all of us. You pay even if you don’t play.”

They will highlight the voices and stories of some of the millions of Americans who have been damaged by this public policy of encouraging gaming operations.

The event will conclude with discussion on how to help stop the Lago Resort & Casino from locating in the town of **Tyre, Seneca County**.

Co-sponsors of the event are the CAGNY, Women’s Interfaith Institute, Geneva Assembly of God Church, Phelps Baptist Church and Concerned Citizens of **Seneca County**.