

April 2022



# History Happenings

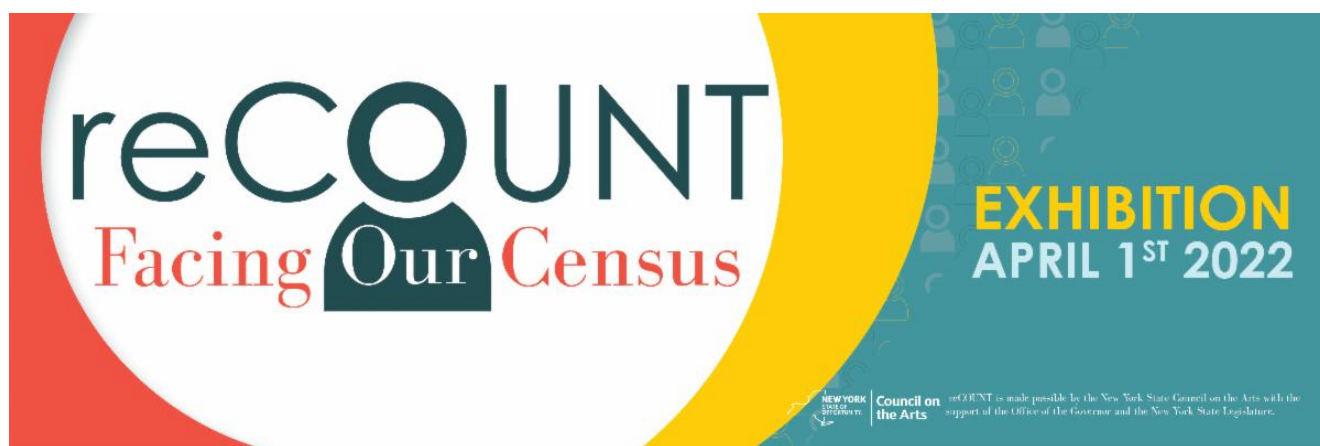
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## reCOUNT: Facing Our Census

*Opens April 1st 2022 - on display through March 2023*

*Join us for OPENING NIGHT 4/1 from 5-8pm in tandem with Gallery Night in Downtown Ithaca!*

[reCOUNT: Facing our Census](#) draws on the extensive work done by The History Center's [HistoryForge \(historyforge.net\)](#) project and its many volunteers. Over the last six years, The History Center has developed an open-source digital web environment, [HistoryForge](#), that integrates historic maps, building records, and local census data. [HistoryForge](#) allows users to connect more deeply to their neighborhoods, and understand the historical legacies present in our everyday lives.

Using themes such as education, family origins, employment, race, and census taking, [reCOUNT](#) expands Tompkins County history through **six interactive exhibits**. Beginning with the first U.S. Census in 1790, the exhibits will trace the development of the county and the census across 23 decades. [reCOUNT](#) will inform our understanding of Tompkins County, and position audiences to think critically about local history's impact on our lives.

Visit us from April 2022-March 2023 to explore the following exhibits in person:

- ***Cultural Fabric of Tompkins County: Where did our families come from?***
- ***Around the Block: Who would you meet taking the census?***
- ***Counting Educational Opportunities: What can we learn from the census?***
- ***A Gainful Occupation: How did employment change?***
- ***Color or Race? How was race defined?***
- ***Through the Lens of the Census Taker: Who's counting and how?***

## reCOUNT Digital Collections

In addition to the displays at our museum on the Ithaca Commons, we're excited to share the following collections from our [Archives](#) which are publicly accessible on [New York Heritage Digital Collections](#).

## CENSUS TRANSCRIPTION DATA SETS - 1900-1940 for the City of Ithaca

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## Use HistoryForge.net to Explore Ithaca's Neighborhoods

**HistoryForge** is an innovative digital history project combining maps, archival records, and census data that allows any community to explore its local history through the individuals who lived there and the buildings and neighborhoods they lived in.

Our pilot project began in 2016 and focuses on exploring the history of Ithaca, New York in the late 19th and early 20th century [using interactive search functions](#) which allow users to find information on historic maps about people and places.

[Ithaca HistoryForge](#) includes over 70,000 digitized census records of Ithaca's from 1910-1940, and is in the process of adding tens of thousands of building records to the database.

By searching the database using the "Race" filter on different census years you can see where Black neighborhoods existed in the City of Ithaca.



*Each red dot references a self-identified Black individual or family living in the building in the 1930 census. The area shown is the [Southside Neighborhood](#). You can see the names, ages, professions and more of each individual by [exploring their census records](#).*



*We have just begun work on transcribing the records for the Town of Caroline (explore the 1937 Tompkins County Development Map recently added) and look forward to continuing to expand Tompkins County records on [HistoryForge](#)!*

*[Volunteer with us](#) and help preserve and improve the accessibility of these vital records in our local history!*

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## CHAT - New Research on Local Deaf History w/ Leanza Kopa - 4/7

*Thursday April 7th - 5:30-6:30pm*

*CAP ArtSpace/Gallery at the  
Tompkins Center for History &*

# Join us for a CHAT on

## DEAF HISTORY IN TOMPKINS

Join us for a round-table presentation and discussion about Masters student Leanza Kopa's research project on Deaf history in Tompkins County.

Thursday April 7th  
5:30 - 6:30pm

Tompkins Center for History & Culture  
CAP ArtSpace/Gallery - First Floor  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca  
Entrance on "Bank Alley" on the  
Ithaca Commons

Details at [thehistorycenter.net/CHAT](http://thehistorycenter.net/CHAT)



Interpreter will be present at this event

This program is organized in recognition of National Deaf History Month

Join us for our first [CHAT \(Community History Across Tompkins\)](#) round-table presentation and discussion with Masters student and History Center intern Leanza Kopa about her 2021 research project on Deaf and hearing impaired history in Tompkins County. Join us as she shares the stories discovered so far and offers suggestions and ideas for future research and collections on this topic moving forward.

Leanza's research was used to create our [National Deaf History Month](#) web page ([thehistorycenter.net/Deaf-History](http://thehistorycenter.net/Deaf-History)) and is being made into a formal archival collection in The History Center Archives ([thehistorycenter.net/Archives](http://thehistorycenter.net/Archives)).

Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) with any questions.



An ASL interpreter will be present at this program. Please reach out to [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) if other accessibility options are needed. Learn more at [thehistorycenter.net/Accessibility](http://thehistorycenter.net/Accessibility).

This event is part of 'reCOUNT: Facing our Census' program series by The History Center in Tompkins County, and National Deaf History Month programming in Tompkins County. The program is offered through the [CHAT \(Community History Across Tompkins\)](#) program series.

## WRFI Human Rights Radio Show Interview w/ History Center Staff - Zoë Van Nostrand



Our thanks to Ute Ritz-Deutch for interviewing History Center Community Engagement Coordinator Zoë Van Nostrand for Women's History Month. The interview aired on the [WRFI Human Rights Radio Show for Ithaca and Watkins Glen](#) on Friday March 4th.

The interview explores some of the history, exhibits, and digital projects included in the '[Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#)' exhibit which closed on March 12th 2022.

Virtual content on this exhibit will remain available at [thehistorycenter.net/Breaking-Barriers](http://thehistorycenter.net/Breaking-Barriers) and research content and collections are always available in our [Archives & Research Library](#) by scheduled appointment (contact [archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)).

Full Radio Interview

## Ithaca's Lost Connection to It's Ukrainian Sister City of Komsomolsk

*Article by Matt Butler, Ithaca Voice - published March 25th*



Flags at the pro-Ukrainian rally on the Commons on March 24. (Photo by Casey Martin)

"Ithaca's support for the Ukrainian plight seems clear now, but little has been told about Ithaca's deeper connection with Ukraine, in the days when the country was emerging after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

That relationship appears to have peaked in the 1990s under then-Mayor Alan Cohen, who started and maintained a relationship with Komsomolsk, Ukraine, that extended over several years during his administration from 1996–2002 and included seven in-person trips. Cohen's trips to the city, a lakeside municipality which had a population of

about 55,000 at the time and is now known as Horishni Plavni, would last about two weeks at a time and were packed with activity.

[Read Full Article](#)

## Virtual Event 4/10 - Witness to Injustice: Native American & U.S. History from Colonization to Present



Virtual Event - Sunday April 10th - 3pm-5pm - on Zoom

Witness to Injustice is a unique interactive presentation and teaching tool. It uses participatory education to foster truth, understanding, and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the part of the world now known as the United States; especially in the territory stewarded by the people of the Onondaga Nation and other Haudenosaunee peoples.

Join Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) and Haudenosaunee facilitators as we participate in learning and dialogue through this presentation.

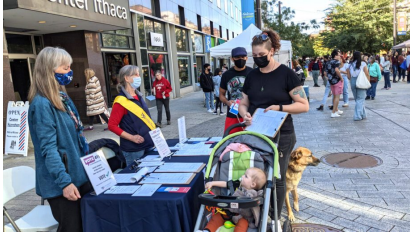
This program is organized by THRIVE - Ithaca EcoVillage Education Center. [Registration Required](#)

## County League of Women Voters Turns 102

*Article by Jessica Wickham, Tompkins Weekly - published March 16th*

Last month, the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County hit its 102nd anniversary. The local league was formed Feb. 14, 1920, shortly after the national League of Women Voters was created and women won the constitutional right to vote. The nonprofit has continued to grow in the century since, and current members are

just as passionate as the founders.



[Read Full Article](#)

### **The History Center in Tompkins County**

**Exhibit Hall, Research Library, Archives, and staff offices are located at 110 North Tioga St. (Inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture) Ithaca, N.Y. 14850**  
**Gayogohó:nø' Territory**

**Web:** [www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)

**Phone:** 607-273-8284

**Email:** Staff emails can be found [here](#)

**Museum Hours:** *Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm*

**Research Library & Archives:** By appointment. [Contact](#)

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