

History Happenings | May 2023

The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>
Reply-To: The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>
To: education@thehistorycenter.net

Sun, Apr 30, 2023 at 9:00 AM

May 2023



[Events Calendar](#)

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Last Month at the History Center...

History Center staff Ben Sandberg, Cindy Kjellander-Cantu, and Zoë Van Nostrand attended the [Museum Association of New York's Annual Conference](#) in Syracuse NY (Onondagehó:nq? Territory (Onondaga)). This year's theme was '[Finding Center: Access, Inclusion, Participation, and Engagement](#)'. It included a range of panels and speakers that mirrored and inspired reflection on the work we've been doing at The History Center to prioritize highlighting and including previously under-represented histories and communities.

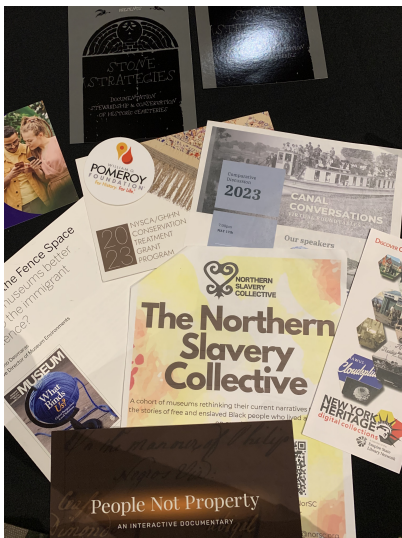


We were excited to make connections with more than 500 museum professionals from across New York State, and discover many of them have visited in recent years and have been following the growth of the [HistoryForge](#) project!

Our staff also loved discovering Tompkins County history connections as they explored Syracuse. From the '[Jerry Rescue](#)' monument in Clinton Square featuring [Jermain Loguen](#), who was one of the first pastors at the Ithaca St. James AME Zion Church, to noticing that the [Everson Museum of Art](#) building shared a striking resemblance to our own [Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art](#), because they were both designed by architect I.M. Pei in the late 1960's!

Our thanks to MANY for curating such a powerful and inspiring conference!

Some of our favorite panels and experiences included:



- Reimagining Public History with the Reframing History Toolkit @ [Erie Canal Museum](#) (Our staff HIGHLY recommend their [new guided tours!](#) Especially Pathway of Resistance)

- [The Northern Slavery Collective; How Museums and Historic Sites are Joining Forces to Collaborate on Interpreting the History of Enslavement](#) (Video of panel)

- [Towards Inclusive Metadata](#) (Publicly Accessible Toolkit)

- Breaking Museum Rules to Create and Experience Participatory Democracy @ [The Matilda Joslyn Gage](#)

[Center](#) (MJG loaned us their 'Haudenosaunee Influence on Women's Rights' exhibit in 2021 for [Breaking Barriers](#); well worth a drive to Fayetteville to visit their museum!)



UPCOMING EVENTS



FREE virtual presentation by Eve Snyder, in collaboration with the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library.

Wednesday-Saturday -

[EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!](#)

10am-5pm - [Hours & Safety](#)

[Guidelines](#)

We will be [CLOSED](#)

[Saturday May 6th](#)

[ON DISPLAY - \[Knot Sew\]\(#\)](#)

[Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins](#)

[County](#) at The History Center

Exhibit Hall. Exhibit will be on

display February-December

2023.

CELEBRATE [Jewish](#)

[American Heritage Month](#)

and [Asian American & Pacific](#)

[Islander Heritage Month](#) **IN**

TOMPKINS COUNTY!

Tues - May 2nd -

Join us for a **CHAT!**

HIST/ENVS 270 HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

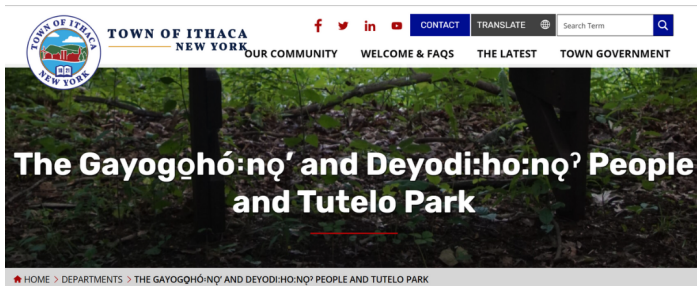
Student presentation's from Professor Michael Smith's 'History of American Environmental Thought' class. Each year students work with our archivist to do an intensive research project using our archival collections and **focusing on local environmental issues including energy use, urban development, public health, water management, and many other timely and important topics.**

**Tuesday May 2nd
6:30-9:00pm**

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



Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at
community@thehistorycenter.net
with any questions.



The Gayogohó:nq' and Deyodi:ho:nq' People and Tutelo Park - Town of Ithaca

WHEN: Saturday May 6th, 11am-3pm

WHERE: Tutelo Park, Bostwick Rd, Ithaca

PROGRAM: Full schedule at thehistorycenter.net/events

The History Center **Exhibit Hall on the Ithaca Commons will be CLOSED Saturday May 6th** in recognition of the '[The Gayogohó:nq' and Deyodi:ho:nq' People and Tutelo Park](#)' event at Tutelo Park. We encourage our visitors to join us

[HistoryForge: Mapping Your Family History \(Virtual\)](#) - 2:30-3:30pm - [Please Register!](#)

Tues - May 2nd - [CHAT - History of Environmental Thought Student Presentations](#) - 7-9pm
@Tompkins Center

Fri - May 5th - 5-8pm - [Gallery Night](#) - Join us for Gallery Night to explore [Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County!](#)

Sat - May 6th & 20th - [HistoryForge Volunteer Transcription Sessions](#) - 11am-1pm @Tompkins Center.

Sat - May 6th - EXHIBIT HALL IS CLOSED '[The Gayogohó:nq' and Deyodi:ho:nq' People and Tutelo Park](#)' - 11am-3pm @Tutelo Park (Bostwick Rd/Floral Ave)

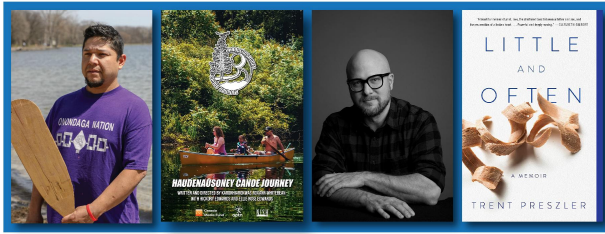
Sat - May 6th - [Legacies of Canoes - Book Talk & Screening](#) - 6:45-8:45 @Cinemapolis

Thurs - May 11th - [Community Quiltmaking for Good w. Brooktondale](#)

at Tutelo Park on Saturday May 6th from 11am-3pm.

LEGACIES OF CANOES FILM SCREENING & BOOK TALK

Saturday, May 6th
Doors open @ 6:45 PM
Cinapolis



A JOINT BOOK TALK AND FILM SCREENING FEATURING TRENT PRESZLER, AUTHOR OF *LITTLE AND OFTEN*, AND HICKORY EDWARDS (ONONDAGA) OF THE DOCUMENTARY *HAUDENOSAUNEE CANOE JOURNEY*.



The project was made possible in part by a grant from the Tompkins County Tourism Program



Come to one of our [bi-monthly transcription sessions](#) and help preserve history! Explore the work completed so far at tompkins.historyforge.net.

[Community Center Quilters](#),
[Dryden Thimble Therapy](#), and
[Ellis Hollow Quilters](#) - 4-

5:30pm @ Tompkins Center

SAVE THE DATE:

- Celebrate [PRIDE MONTH](#) in Tompkins County in June!
- **6/3 & 6/20**
- [HistoryForge Volunteer Transcription Sessions](#) - 11am-1pm @Tompkins Center.
- **6/2 -6/5** - Come visit The History Center during Ithaca Festival!
- **6/5** - [Gallery Night OPENING of Present Conversations with Artists of Color @ Tompkins Center](#) 5-8pm
- **6/7** - [P.L.A.C.E. Textile & Garment Workers through HistoryForge w/ Eve Snyder @ Tompkins Center](#)
- TBA - LGBTQIA Downtown Walking Tour - [Downtown Ithaca PRIDE Week](#)
- **6/17** - P.L.A.C.E. Walking Tour of the Ithaca Commons w/ Alan Cohen - 11am - \$15 Registration



requested (will go live
on May 10th)

SEPTEMBER

- [Association of Public Historians of New York State Annual Conference is being held in Ithaca! 9/18-9/20](#)
- Session proposals are being accepted now.

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Community Quiltmaking for Good
with the Brooktondale Community Center
Quiltmakers and Ellis Hollow Quilt Guild.

For over 50 years, auctions of local quilts have been a staple of Tompkins County fundraising.

**THURSDAY MAY 11TH
4PM-5:30PM**

It's hard to imagine the Ellis Hollow Fair without its coveted quilt raffle, or the Brooktondale Apple Festival without its annual quilt auction. As these beloved items become family heirlooms, what is sometimes not recognized is the uncounted hours of volunteer labor that goes into creating these local treasures every year.

Join members of the Ellis Hollow Quilt Guild (Now in its 56th year), and the Brooktondale Community Center as they share and remember the decades of quilt work that have supported our community programs and initiatives. An overdue recognition and appreciation for these sewists and the tens of thousands they have raised for local programs and organizations.



 **TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture**
CAP ArtSpace Gallery - 1st Floor
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons



This event is FREE and open to the public. Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions.

@TompkinsHistory   **@TompkinsCountyQuiltersGuild**
www.thehistorycenter.net www.tcqg.org



Grab Your Paddles for Ithaca Canoe Fest!

The inaugural [Ithaca Canoe Fest](#) is coming on **May 6th & 7th!** This two-part event will be a celebration of indigenous culture and an effort to introduce paddling sports to marginalized communities that have primarily been excluded from the outdoor

recreation economy. [Dyson School](#) students, working in collaboration with the [Haudenosaunee Canoe Journey](#), the [Ithaca Dragon Boat Club](#), the [Finger Lakes Boating Museum](#), and [The History Center in Tompkins County](#) are excited to celebrate the many traditional ways that human beings have enjoyed water recreation for time immemorial.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AVAILABLE AT thehistorycenter.net/canoe-fest

 **Saturday May 6th - [Legacies of Canoes - Book Talk & Screening](#) @ Cinemapolis - 6:45-8:45pm**

 **Sunday May 7th - [Ithaca Canoe Fest](#) @ Cass Park - 10am-3pm**

LEGACIES OF CANOES

FILM SCREENING & BOOK TALK

Saturday, May 6th
Doors open @ 6:45 PM

 **Cinemapolis**



A JOINT BOOK TALK AND FILM SCREENING FEATURING TRENT PRESZLER, AUTHOR OF *LITTLE AND OFTEN*, AND HICKORY EDWARDS (ONONDAGA) OF THE DOCUMENTARY *HAUDENOSAUNEE CANOE JOURNEY*.



TOMPOKINS COUNTY
Tourism
Program

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Tompkins County Tourism Program

[AHA-NEH SHARP Grant Completes - Funding Supported Massive Improvements in our Oral Histories of Tompkins County Collection](#)

In April of 2022 The History Center was [awarded \\$29,582 from the Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan grant program](#) to significantly address the backlog in the archival processing of our oral history collections. Through significant work and time on the project from our transcription assistants paid through the grant, federal work study, volunteers, and The History Center staff we are thrilled to share the huge improvement in accessibility for this collection.

Transcripts were completed for 132 interviews in our collections. Including language

translation for Gayogohó:nq? (Cayuga) language-keeper Stephen Henhawks 2018 interview, a 2006 interview with Nina Ebbs, a 2016 interview with Bob Nobles, completion of transcription for two large-scale projects recorded in collaboration with [Cornell's Public History Initiative](#), in addition to dozens of others.

We also completed listing notes and Finding Aids for 12 oral history projects, and 7 thematic collections including: [Searching for LGBTQ Community](#), Warmest Years on Record, [Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Who Settled in Tompkins County](#), Stories of Immigration and many others. These will be available for preview at thehistorycenter.net/oral-history and as a reference catalogue in the [Research Library](#). Community members interested in these collections and recordings may make an appointment in our archives to listen to any interview in our collection of over 200 narratives of local life, experience, and memory.

This was a huge undertaking and we are grateful and proud of Lauren Kessler, Julia Calagiavanni, Andrew Harding, Melanie Jalbert, Dan Motta, Blythe Van Ness, and Kethry Larsen for all their work on this project since last July!

[Carol Kammen Retires: The End of an Era](#)

Article shared from the Ithaca Times - April 26th 2023, written by Charley Githler

"She was particularly struck by the lack of women's stories. "The only time women were mentioned was if they were massacred," she said. It didn't take long for her to get involved, and it's been a hallmark of all her work ever since to include the perspectives of women, the poor, the disadvantaged, Black people, outsiders – voices that had been largely under-represented until then.



Her interest and commitment to expanding the scope of local history involved her in a wide variety of roles, especially teaching (at Ithaca High School, Tompkins Cortland Community College, and Cornell for 25 years), and writing. Indeed, her writing career has been nothing short of prolific, including [25 years of editorials in the](#)

[American Association for State and Local History's History News magazine](#), 40 years of her regular column ("Pieces of the Past") in the Ithaca Journal, and numerous books on Tompkins County and Cornell history. Her book [On Doing Local History](#) has been used in classrooms across the country. Her titles often reflect that commitment to including and examining previously excluded perspectives: [Black Voices in Tompkins County](#), [Send These to Me: Immigration and Ethnicity in Tompkins County](#), [Part and Apart: the Black Experience at Cornell 1865-1945](#), [Achieving Beulah Land: the Long Fight for Suffrage in Tompkins County](#).

"When I became county historian, the position had no money associated with it, there was no office, no furniture. It had a very low profile," she said, "and they kind of let me do what I wanted to. They've actually been wonderful to me." Kammen brought her own approach to the role, and has steadily raised the status and the expectations associated with the job. She created the Municipal Historians of Tompkins County, a group that includes all the appointed historians in the county that started meeting monthly in 2000 and continues to do so. She helped to create the Tompkins County Historical Commission, to encourage research and education pertaining to local history. There have been two decades of projects that she has supported and engineered dedicated to the proposition that a historian is a spokesperson for the historical past, and that the historical past includes everybody.

"

Ithaca Times - Full Article

Please note the Tompkins County Historian is employed by the Tompkins County Legislature, and is not a staff position within The History Center organization. We are extraordinarily grateful to Carol for her decades of work in local history and in prioritizing stories previously untold. A well deserved congratulations on her retirement!

[New & Noteworthy Collections](#)

There are several different kinds of [archival collections](#) at The History Center. Most consist of materials that document a particular history, such as [letters of a local family](#), or [business records of a local industry](#). Sometimes we receive something we call a research collection. These are compilations put together by a researcher who has studied a specific local topic and preserved the materials this work has generated. They often include copies of articles and notes, photographs and other reference materials that researchers rely on in their work. These donations are very

useful, because it helps us avoid the need to go over research ground that has already been well-trodden. And when the researcher is a noteworthy historian, then we are especially grateful.



We just received a collection of such material from [recently retired Tompkins County Historian Carol Kammen](#). She did extensive research over many years on women from Tompkins County and the surrounding area who served as nurses during the Civil War. Women such as [Sophronia Bucklin](#) from Ithaca, or Julia Cook from Dryden were pioneers in serving where women were often not wanted at a time when they were not allowed to work in the dangerous environment of a theater of war. Kammen's research materials include her notes on each of these women, highlighting the sources she used in her work. The collection also contains several

books and articles that she relied upon as well.

Carol Kammen was appointed as Tompkins County Historian in June 2000 and fostered local history through numerous projects and initiatives. She wrote several books on various aspects of the history of the county, including [suffrage](#) and the [history of local African Americans](#). She founded and chaired the [Municipal Historians of Tompkins County](#), an active and productive group who collaborated on many local history initiatives. She also served as co-chair of the Civil War Commemoration Commission, of the [Tompkins County Bicentennial Commission](#), and in 2018 chair of the [Tompkins County Historical Commission](#). She retired in 2022.

For further questions or to make an appointment to visit the research library email archives@thehistorycenter.net

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS to [Laura Johnson-Kelly on being named the new Tompkins County Historian!](#) "She served as the Town of Ithaca's historian from 2004-2015 and is currently a [trustee at the History Center in Tompkins County](#). She received the Meritorious Service Award from the New York State Archaeological Association in

2019 for her leadership of the Finger Lakes Chapter and organization of annual state conferences — Johnson-Kelly is a past president of the [Association's Finger Lakes Chapter](#)."

Please note the Tompkins County Historian is employed by the Tompkins County Legislature, and is not a staff position within The History Center organization. We are excited to continue our collaborations on local history projects with Johnson-Kelly in her new role!



Cornell's [Johnson art museum celebrates it's 50th year!](#)

Ithaca Murals is currently fundraising to support two murals highlighting Black local history! The [Dorothy Cotton Mural is planned for 415 N Tioga St](#), and an expansion for [reAWAKENING the Underground Railroad Mural](#) on Green St.



Due to huge popularity and request the recently completed documentary of long-time Ithacan '[Move When the Spirit Says Move: The Life & Legacy of Dorothy F. Cotton](#)' is returning to Cinemapolis for additional screenings May 12th-19th! Purchase tickets at [cinemapolis.org](#).

LOCAL HISTORY READS

- [Carol Kammen Retires: The End of an Era](#) - Ithaca Times 4/26/2023
- [Legacy of Dorothy Cotton](#) - Ithaca Times 4/26/2023
- [Legends of the Wall: Cornell Men's Lacrosse Marches Forward, Remembers Past](#) - Ithaca Times - 4/24/2023
- [Kay Bishop 100 Years of a Life Well Lived](#) - Tompkins Weekly 4/19/2023
- [Works of Art Inside and Out: The Johnson Museum at 50](#) - Cornellians - 4/17/2023
- [Hospicare Celebrates 40th Anniversary](#) - Ithaca Times - 4/17/2023
- [The Sullivan-Clinton Campaign and the Gayogohó:nə' Diaspora](#) - Ithaca Times - 4/12/2023
- [Teacher shares family's Holocaust experience](#) - Tompkins Weekly 4/12/2023
- [Laura Johnson-Kelly named Tompkins County Historian](#) - The Ithaca Voice 4/6/2023

- [Prankster's Legendary Exploits Enthralled Cornellians for Decades](#) - Cornellians 4/1/2023
- [After More Than a Century, Cornell's Hydroelectric Plant is Still Humming](#) - Cornellians 3/24/2023
- [On Carol Kammen](#) - AASLH Blog - 3/24/2023

The History Center in Tompkins County
Exhibit Hall, Research Library & Archives
110 North Tioga St. (Inside Tompkins Center for History & Culture)
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
Gayogohó:nq? Territory

Follow @TompkinsHistory on any platform

Update your email preferences or **unsubscribe** from this list.

Web: 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