



## The History Center Activities 2009

### ***Exhibits:***

January – May:	Transportation Exhibit featuring roads, rail and air.
February:	James L. Gibbs Exhibit at the Tompkins Trust Co.
June – October:	Out Upon Cayuga's Water: 100 Years of Living on the Lake
November – :	Historic Paintings Unwrapped

### ***History Cafés:***

March 25th:	Wild Women of Ithaca's Past with Peggy Haine. <b>Attendance 75</b>
May 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Remembering the Willard Straight Takeover, film and panel of speakers. <b>Attendance 125</b>
August 27 <sup>th</sup> :	Ups and Downs of Cayuga Lake with Bill Kappel in collaboration with Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. <b>Attendance 83</b>
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	The Water Quality of Cayuga Lake with Steve Penningroth. <b>Attendance 15</b>
November 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Ithaca's Modern Dispossessed: film and panel discussion. Film <i>The Jungle's Edge</i> by Gossa Tsegaye, and panelists. <b>Attendance 130</b>

### ***Programs:***

March 21 <sup>st</sup> :	Spring in to Chocolate Day. A Family Day with Olympia McFall, Darlyne Overbaugh talking about candy and chocolate. <b>Attendance 150</b>
April 11 <sup>th</sup> :	A Day of Family Fun related to aviation with Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation and the East Hill Flying Club in conjunction with the exhibit on aviation. <b>Attendance 125</b>
April 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Tompkins County Environmental History with students from Professor Michael Smith's History of Environmental Thought class at Ithaca College. <b>Attendance 55</b>
April 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Sojourner Truth: Writing the Life of a Legend with Margaret Washington, author of <i>Sojourner Truth's America</i> . <b>Attendance 70</b>
August 29 <sup>th</sup> :	A Day of Family Fun with ice cream sundaes, interactive activities related to water and Cayuga Lake, and historic figures from Ithaca's past. <b>Attendance 130</b>

- September 12<sup>th</sup> : Origins of the Dust Bowl with Clete Daniels and the film *The Plow that Broke the Plains* in conjunction with the community read of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. **Attendance 30**
- September 26<sup>th</sup> : If This Old House Could Talk. Presentation and tour of 515 W. Clinton St., in collaboration with INHS, Southside Community Center, and Historic Ithaca. **Attendance 40**
- October 31<sup>st</sup> : Meet the Municipal Historians of Tompkins County discussion and signing of their book *Tompkins County, New York: Images of Work and Play*. Book published with major input from The History Center. **Attendance 50**
- November 16<sup>th</sup> : Rethinking Thanksgiving: A Native American Perspective. Presentation by Perry Ground hosted by The Multicultural Resource Center at The History Center. **Attendance 150**
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> : Tompkins County Environmental History with students from Professor Michael Smith's History of Environmental Thought class at Ithaca College. **Attendance 45**
- December 10<sup>th</sup> : Annual Meeting with presentation by Carole West and Rhonda Gilmore on the Eight Square School House. **Attendance 60**
- December 12<sup>th</sup> : Presentation and book signing by Rosemarie Tucker, Groton Town Historian and Holiday Book & Photograph Sale. **Attendance 10**

### ***Book Clubs:***

- April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup> : The History of Transportation in conjunction with the exhibits on transportation (road, rail, air). **Attendance 15 at each.**
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup> : America During the 1930s in conjunction with the Community Read. **Attendance 11 at each**

### ***Visitors to The History Center***

January – December **Attendance 1,917**

### ***Educational Activities at The History Center (workshops for adults and children)***

January – December **Attendance 702**

### ***Researchers at The History Center***

January – December **Attendance 784**

### ***Community Events:***

- May 29 - 30<sup>th</sup> : Ithaca Festival Participated in the Parade and had a booth. Featured colorful characters from Ithaca' past.
- July 31<sup>st</sup> : Annual Ithaca Artists' Market at Steamboat Landing featured photographs related to the lake. **Booth visitors estimated 200**
- September 19<sup>th</sup> : First Annual Rhiner Festival in collaboration with the West End Waterfront Merchants featured a mystery involving the colorful characters of the Rhine area's past. **Attendance estimated 1400**
- November 5, December 4:  
Gallery Nights (first Friday of the month). Rotating exhibits of Unwrapped Historical Paintings. **Attendance 60, 35**

### ***Living History:***

- **Eight Square School House**

Kids Discover the Trail: ICSD 4<sup>th</sup> grade students Fall, 2008, Spring and Fall 2009, **940 students**. Other classes and adult visits, **176 visitors**

- **The Haunted History Tour**

Fall 2008: 5 nights/ 15 tours / **412 participants**

Fall 2009: 7 nights/ 36 tours to date/ **363 participants**

- **The Colorful Characters Of Ithaca's Past**

Inaugural 3-week launching of the tour:

May 23: 18 participants, May 30<sup>th</sup>: 87 participants, June 6<sup>th</sup>: 63 participants

**Total: 168 participants**

- **After the tour's 3-week debut, at the request of the Downtown Partnership, the tour was offered every Thursday evening from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup> 2009. In addition, several private group tours were given during this time.**

Total attendance for 7 'Thursday night Living History Tours' = **72 participants**

3 private tours: **43 participants**

- **Ithaca's West End Waterfront 'Rhiner' Festival**

Saturday, September 19th, 2009, noon to 6pm, West End Waterfront District's Inlet Island

**Approximately 1400 people attended the event from noon – 6pm.**

**Total Attendance for 2009: 8,281**

Wednesday, February 17, 2010