

THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

History Happenings

The History Center Newsletter

January 2020



Meet Zoë Van Nostrand our new Marketing & Visitor Experience Coordinator!

With a childhood spent reading fantasy novels in the forests of Ithaca, and listening to Haudenosaunee legends on the shores of Seneca Lake, Zoë's roots in this region grow deep. After completing an undergraduate degree in Social Justice at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and a Masters in Sociology at Trinity College Dublin, both with a focus on human rights and social movements, she returned home eager to tame her wanderlust of the wide world with her deep love of the Finger Lakes.

Past adventures have found her volunteering with rescued elephants in Thailand, baking bread in Peru, and harvesting honey in New Zealand.

Since returning home she's coordinated child sexual abuse prevention programs with the [Advocacy Center of Tompkins County](#), managed communications and outreach for [Ithaca Neighborhood Housing](#) and [Primitive Pursuits](#), built websites for [Cayuga Arts Collective](#), [Gratitude & Grace](#), and [Mecklenburg NY](#); as well as spent a few seasons assisting in local vineyards and festival coordination.

Zoë will be managing our social media, newsletter, community outreach, and docent programs moving forward, as well as undertaking a re-design of [TheHistoryCenter.Net](#) website, which we hope to reveal before next summer.

She started working weekends in November, and will be in the office full time the first week of January. You can find her in the History Center office on the second floor of the Tompkins Center for History & Culture Tuesday-Saturday. Please stop by to say hello and share any ideas you have!

Interested in becoming a docent?

With our expanded visiting hours and programming in the new space we have become ever more appreciative of our wonderful docents!

The opportunity is flexible; docents can specialize in one topic or a particular exhibit, sit at the desk, give weekly presentations, or volunteer only during the semester or summer if they live elsewhere for part of the year.

Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with interest or questions.

Serving as a docent is eligible for community service/service-learning hours, Federal Work-Study employment, and college internship credits. We have had docents ages 15 to 80+, with all levels of education and sorts of interests. No prior experience in museums or history is needed! We offer ongoing monthly trainings on topics and skills of interest to docents throughout the year.

Click here for the [Docent Application](#)

Learn about our other volunteer and internship opportunities [here](#).



Upcoming Events

January

HistoryForge Data Entry Bees

Saturdays, January 4th & 18th, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Tompkins Center for History and Culture, 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 -
Second Floor Conference Room**

Free

Come volunteer with [HistoryForge](#) at The History Center. We are currently entering information recorded in the 1930 Census to build out the power of HistoryForge. Come for light refreshments, but stay for wonderful camaraderie! A laptop is helpful, but not required.

HistoryForge is a digital history project from The History Center in Tompkins County which combines historic maps and photos with census records of the people who lived in Ithaca, creating a way to visualize the history of Ithaca in the early 1900s. Find out more at thehistorycenter.net/historyforge.

Volunteers are also needed to enter building information encoded in historic maps to learn more about the places people lived and worked. We also need help adding images of historic maps and photos to see what Ithaca looked like 1900 - 1930. Learn more about our HistoryForge Internship opportunities [here](#).

Not available on Saturdays, but interested in joining the team? Contact Eve at HistoryForge@thehistorycenter.net

Life in the Longhouse & Haudenosaunee Storytelling

Sunday, January 13th 12:30-2pm

Tompkins Center for History and Culture, 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

Ithaca College Gallery/CAP Artspace (First Floor)

Free for children (age 6-12) and their families

Life in the Longhouse & Haudenosaunee Storytelling - The History Center's monthly "From Seeds to Wisdom: Exploring Haudenosaunee Cycles" program will welcome Onondaga (Turtle Clan) Storyteller Perry Ground for a youth and family event about life in the Haudenosaunee longhouse.

This Storytelling presentation is filled with traditional Haudenosaunee stories that have been told for hundreds of years, teaching about the beliefs, customs, and history of the Haudenosaunee people. Elements of traditional Haudenosaunee lifestyle, pieces of historical information and LOTS of humor are woven into each interactive story.

Perry Ground is a Turtle Clan member of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Perry has been a storyteller and educator for over 25 years and enjoys working with people of all ages to teach about the history & culture of Native Peoples.

Genealogy Society Meeting

Wednesday, January 22nd, 6-7:30pm

Tompkins Center for History & Culture, 110 N Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

Second Floor Conference Room

Free

Interested in your family's history? Not quite sure where to start? Join the The Tompkins County Genealogy Society. The Genealogy Society was formed in 2018 to support genealogists researching their families in Tompkins County and elsewhere. The Society brings together a network of researchers, facilitates access to resources and best practices, and provides programming that draws upon research expertise and personal experiences. They meet monthly to share resources, ideas and create time and space to trace their own family histories.

Contact Steve Bissen at spbissen@gmail.com for more information.

Sisters of Change Exhibit Unveiling & Reception

Thursday, January 23rd, 5:30-7pm

Tompkins Center for History & Culture, 110 N. Tioga St, Ithaca NY 14850 -

Atrium & Exhibit Hall (First Floor)



"Dorothy Cotton and Unsung Heroes for Racial Justice, Human Rights and the Vote, whose names everyone ought to know" is a four-month long celebration of themes central to the work and legacy of civil rights leader Dorothy Foreman Cotton. Dorothy Cotton was Education Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) from 1961-1970. She was the only woman on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Executive Committee and was a close colleague and friend of his. A keystone of her work with SCLC was the Citizenship Education Program (CEP).

CEP trained thousands of people throughout the southern states to know their constitutional rights, and how to create effective community-based strategies for non-violent direct action. She served as the Director of Student Activities at Cornell University from 1982-1991 and lived in Ithaca until her death in 2018.

Dr. Cotton was always quick to point out that beside the highly visible and charismatic men who were seen as leaders of the Freedom Movement there were many extraordinary yet unrecognized women who not only began but also sustained the Civil Rights Movement through savvy, persistent community building and tremendous personal courage and sacrifice. From January-April 2020 the Atrium Tower in the lobby of the Tompkins Center for History & Culture will be a display honoring Dorothy's life and legacy, and that of other unrecognized civil rights heroes. *This exhibit and series of events is a collaborative effort between the Dorothy Cotton Institute, The History Center in Tompkins County, and other local partners.*

February

2nd - Descendants of Holocaust Survivors Monthly Meeting - 12:30-3pm

7th - First Friday Gallery Night - 5-8pm

9th - From Seeds to Wisdom Youth & Family Program - 12:30-2pm - details TBA

14th-23rd - Ithaca Loves Teachers Week - Special Events & Discounts at The History Center for local educators - Pre-register here: ithacaloveteachers.com

- Look for more details on special events for teachers on our [Events](#) page

16th - From Seeds to Wisdom Youth & Family Program - 12:30-2pm - details TBA

17th - History & Chocolate event with Historic Ithaca at Ports of New York - details TBA

19th - Ithaca Kitty Loves Teachers - Sew Your Own - 9:30-12:30pm - Registration mandatory



Daily Book Give-Away

Throughout the month of December one lucky visitor to the History Center exhibit hall received a FREE copy of a book about local history every day. Smiles abounded, and we're thrilled to have so many more homes with Tompkins County history books on the shelves!

If you'd like to peruse our book collection stop by the docent desk. They have reference copies of all books currently on display in the Gift Shop as well some others we have in stock. If you're interested in purchasing copies in bulk (for your school, organization etc.) please contact community@thehistorycenter.net

The History Center in Tompkins County

Now located within the Tompkins Center for History & Culture

110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

(607) 273-8284

Ben Sandberg | Executive Director | Director@thehistorycenter.net | Phone ext 222

Donna Eschenbrenner | Director of Archives & Research Services | Archives@thehistorycenter.net | Phone ext 224

Cindy Kjellander-Cantu | Curator and Design & Support Specialist | Design@thehistorycenter.net | Phone ext 223

Julia Taylor | Director of Youth Education | EightSquare@thehistorycenter.net | Phone ext 229

Dave Dier | Bookkeeper and Office Manager | Admin@thehistorycenter.net | Phone ext 225

Eve Snyder | HistoryForge Coordinator | HistoryForge@thehistorycenter.net

Zoë Van Nostrand | Marketing & Visitor Experience Coordinator | Community@thehistorycenter.net | Phone ext 227

Reach the docents anytime the exhibit hall is open at extension 228.

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