

August 2020



History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events *(We have Upcoming Events!! Whoo hoo!)*

August 8th - Virtual Unveiling of Alex Haley Historic Marker - 11am

The Alex Haley Memorial Project, in collaboration with The History Center in Tompkins County, will live stream a ceremony to honor Ithaca-born Alex Haley. Alex Haley is a celebrated author, best known for his 1967 book *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. The ceremony will unveil a historic place sign on Cascadilla Street marking the house where he was born. The ceremony will include thoughts from members of the Alex Haley Memorial Project, the Legacy Foundation which provided funding for the sign, The History Center in Tompkins County, and local representatives. Due to an abundance of caution, interested audiences are encouraged to participate through a livestream on The History Center's [Facebook page](#). A sign language interpreter will be present to ensure equal access to the livestream.

August 8th & 22nd - Virtual History Forge Transcription Sessions 11am-1pm

Help build the HistoryForge database! We've transitioned our transcription bees to virtual group sessions online while our community is practicing physical distancing for public health and safety. Contact historyforge@thehistorycenter.net to learn more.

August 13th - EXHIBIT HALL IS RE-OPENING! - New Hours & Guidelines

August 23rd - Print-A-Kitty Youth Program 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm

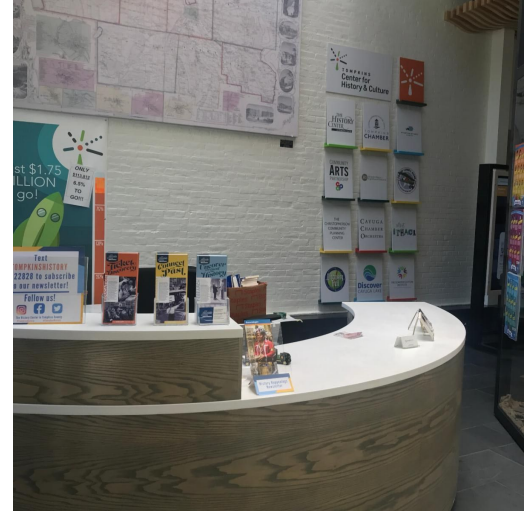
(Ages 3-12) - Create block print postcards and greeting cards using images from the Ithaca Kitty archives with Laura Rowley of Illuminated Press! Two sessions are offered with a maximum of 15 children per session. Pre-registration is mandatory. This program is free. *All participants (children included) must wear masks for the duration of the program. Snacks will not be provided. Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions.*

Exhibit Hall is Re-Opening to the Public on August 13th!

We are excited to announce that the **Exhibit Hall** is re-opening to the public on **Thursday August**

13th! We have been hard at work developing our re-opening and safety plans which can be read [here](#).

We will be accepting visitors on a [scheduled basis](#) (online scheduling will become available next week) - Visits may be scheduled on our [new website](#) and will last 45 minutes. This system was developed to ensure that all visitors can feel secure in the Exhibit Hall with just their planned group. Staff will sanitize all touched surfaces in the museum between visitor groups. Masks must be worn at all times while inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture, and we have sanitation stations located at the entrance and exits to the museum.



At this time the Exhibit Hall is the only location on the first floor that is re-opening. The **CAP ArtSpace** and the **Downtown Visitors Center** will remain closed to the public for the time being, and there is no public access to bathrooms or the upper floors. **Visits to the Research Library must be scheduled separately by contacting Donna at archives@thehistorycenter.net.**

We have modified our Exhibit Hall hours for the remainder of the year to accommodate these changes.

NEW EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Thursday-Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 10am-3pm

CLOSED Monday-Wednesday

Farewell from Director of Youth Education - Julia Taylor



As some of you know, I am saying goodbye to The History Center as the Director of Youth Education this summer. It has been a humbling and inspiring two years here. I have been honored to run the Youth Ambassador Program, the Eight Square Schoolhouse, oral history programs, field trips, and free programs for kids and their families. I am proud of the work we have done to amplify voices of those in our community who have not historically been represented in our programming, and to create space for youth leadership in the organization. Thank you for engaging with me on this journey!

I am stepping into the role of Executive Director at the local theatre company [Civic Ensemble](#), where I will help grow our theatre-in-education programming, work to create new community-based plays, and support our ReEntry Theatre Program. I look forward to finding new ways to connect with you in the community!

Thank you Julia for all you've contributed to The History Center in the last 2 years! We look forward to collaborating with you and Civic Ensemble in the future!

New Archival Collections Continue to Grow

2020 has been a tumultuous year.

In March we reached out to the Tompkins County community asking for donations telling us what life has been like under these strange and frightening new circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. People from all over have responded generously with pictures, essays, poems, videos and more.

It is critical for us to chronicle major historical turning points when we can, so documenting history in the making like the COVID pandemic is an ongoing thing. That's why we reached out a second time when Black Americans and their allies of all races reacted with frustration and fury after George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis in May. Protests have taken place worldwide, and here in Tompkins County activists have responded to our request, donating generously to help us document the lives and concerns of Black and Brown residents.

Archival collections often chronicle histories that are long past. Once in a rare while archivists can capture history in real time, and we are more grateful than we can say to the community members who have sent, and are continuing to send us things that catalog this transformative period. Please feel free to continue to send us your stories in these difficult times. They will become the first chapter in the history of this unbelievable year.

We are still accepting submissions for the COVID-19 in Tompkins County and Black Lives Matter Archival collections. Submissions in any format can be emailed to Donna Eschenbrenner at archives@thehistorycenter.net.



Stories from Inside

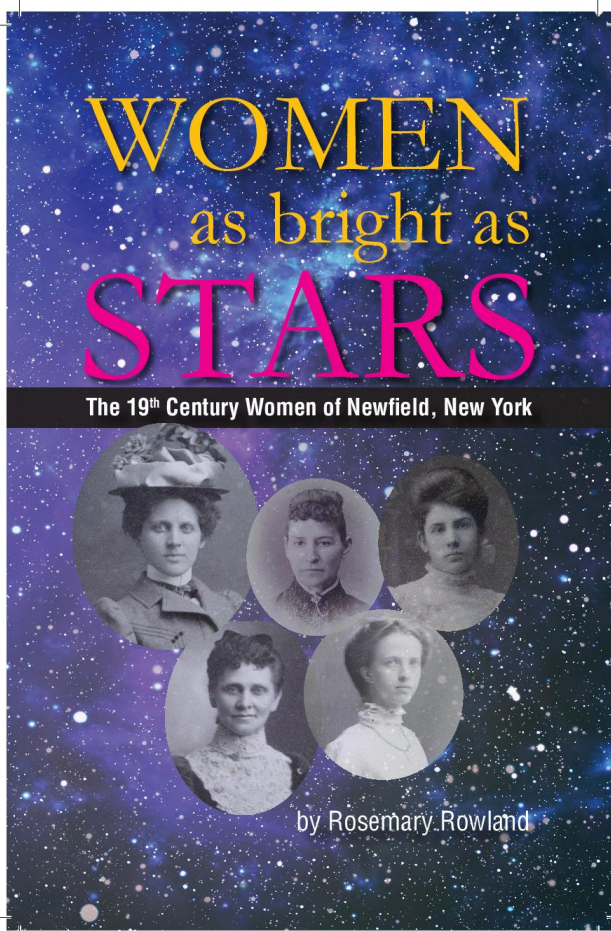
A collection of stories and images captured by the Tompkins County residents during the COVID-19 pandemic

"[Stories from Inside](#)" is a project and website created by the History Center Youth Ambassadors to present selected stories of Tompkins County residents during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring. The website includes diaries, press releases, photographs, poetry, and more from people across the community, including students, teachers, business owners, and local government officials. This project was created by the History Center Tompkins County's Youth Ambassador Program and the submissions used in the website are included in our COVID-19 in Tompkins County Archival Collection.

Website: storiesfrominside374300276.wordpress.com

History Center Youth Ambassadors: Sunny C., Raia G., Giancarlo R.V., Emily W., and Isaac W.

New Book Explores the Lives of Newfield Women



Rosemary Rowland, former Deputy Historian of Newfield has completed her first book 'Women as Bright as Stars' exploring the history of exceptional and interesting women from the 19th century in Newfield NY.

"Newfield has always been a town emboldened with a fierce independence.

Guardian of the only surviving covered bridge in daily use in the state of New York, it prides itself on its history stemming from a pioneer settlement to a vibrant community today. Yet the lives and accomplishments of women are missing in its record. This new book reveals the hidden history of women in Newfield. You will discover:

- Kate Dean - the soprano who sang for President Lincoln and the Union soldiers during the Civil War.
- Inez Mood, alias Agnes Dratt, arrested for violating the obscenity laws.
- Nellie E. Ryding one of a few women photographers in New York State
- Minnie Churchill murdered by a jealous husband.

Learn about their lives along with many other women and how they contributed to the history of Newfield. "

This book will be available for purchase (\$19.95) at our Exhibit Hall during our open hours beginning August 13th.

Walk This Play - Self-Guided Theatrical Experiences



Have you enjoyed 'The Missing Chapter' or 'Storm Country' walking plays yet? The two original Headphone Walking-Plays produced by the [Cherry Arts](#) and the [Wharton Studio Museum](#) offer the thrill of traversing Ithaca by foot while immersed in a theatrical experience like no other! Experience a play, discover our community's past and present, and enjoy the great outdoors all at once — on your timeline and at your own pace — all while remaining safely socially distanced.

The projects of WALK THIS PLAY are available for \$5 download at thecherry.org.

Tompkins Chamber Member of the Week

Thank you!

The History Center



TOMPKINS | Member
CHAMBER | of the Week

The Tompkins Chamber extends our gratitude to The History Center in Tompkins County for being a community resource, strong collaborative partner, and demonstrating resiliency during a time of crisis. The History Center's effort to document our community's experience with racism and intolerance by building a Black Lives Matter collection is to be commended.

Brought to you by: **VISIONS** **WENY**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION NEWS

PSSSSSST Our New Website is Live!

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[Our Story](#) | [Location](#) | [Blog](#) | [Contact](#) | [Donate](#)

The History Center in Tompkins County
**Requests Help in Building the
Black Lives Matter Archival Collection**

VISIT WWW.THEHISTORYCENTER.NET/ARCHIVES TO LEARN MORE

Have a look around and let us know what you think! We're still working out a few kinks, and appreciate any feedback (if you find a broken link or typo anywhere we'd love to hear about and fix it!). Please email community@thehistorycenter.net with any feedback. We're looking forward to the expanded opportunities our new web platform Wild Apricot will provide, and are hoping to transition event sign-ups emails, and donor registries to this platform in the coming months.

You can find us where we always were at www.thehistorycenter.net

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

Web: www.thehistorycenter.net

Phone: 607-273-8284

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

Hours: *Thursday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-3pm**

**Please note all our hours have changed due to COVID-19 and may be adjusted on a week to week basis depending on local health recommendations.*

Follow us on social media
@tompkinshistory



Contact Us!