

February 2024 - OPENING OF 'A SPORTING CHANCE'

The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>
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Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 12:29 PM

February 2024



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****NEW EXHIBIT** A SPORTING CHANCE: ON AND OFF THE FIELD**

'A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field', opens Friday February 2nd 2024 at the [Tompkins Center for History and Culture](#).

The History Center's new exhibit [explores the stories of local athletes, teams, and the community that cheered them on](#). From league tournaments to pick-up games in the park, our community history of sports balls, paddles, and skates traverses water, ice, air, and land.

Sports and athleticism allow us to explore **narratives of achievement and empowerment, even as they are complicated by stories of erasure and exclusivity**. As we consider what it means to be an athlete in Tompkins County today, or two hundred years ago, we also get to celebrate the crowds that cheered, parents that drove our youngest athletes to early morning practices, and camaraderie and community both on the field and off. Join us for memories familiar and forgotten as we highlight the history of sports across Tompkins County.

GALLERY NIGHT - OPENING NIGHT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - 5-8PM

We encourage visitors on opening night to show up sporting their most beloved jerseys, best running shoes, and favorite local history swag to share your stories with everyone. Rutabaga curl inspired costumes also welcome!

- **5pm - Doors open for Gallery Night Ithaca** (Also be sure to check out the [ISCARIOT exhibit opening](#) in the CAP ArtSpace this evening!)
- **6pm** - Performance by the [Vociferous Cruciferous chorus](#)
- **6:15pm** - Inaugural rutabaga curl by Ithaca Mayor Rob Cantelmo*
- **5:30-8pm** - Miss Rutabaga 1973, the Rutabaga God & Goddess, and the Rutabaga Curl Girl Cheerleaders will be available for pictures
- **8pm - Doors close, but you can still make opening weekend by visiting on Saturday 10-6!**



Food provided by [Beauti](#)

[fully Charcuterie](#) with wine and cider available for purchase from [Ports of New York](#) and [Hollenbecks Cider Mill](#), poured by our multi-talented director **Ben Sandberg.**

**We are expecting [P.I.E.C.R.U.S.T.](#) and [P.E.T.A.](#) (People for the Ethical Treatment of

ruTabagas) in attendance as well; prepare to be recruited to support the ethical treatment of root vegetables.

UPCOMING EVENTS

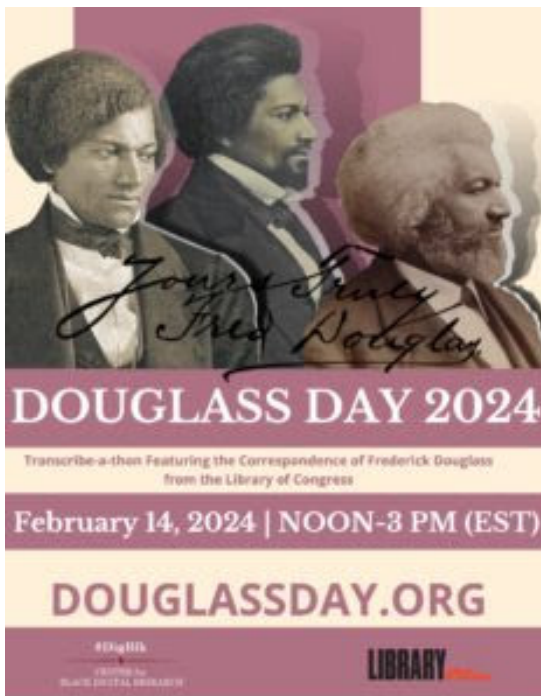


Wednesday-Saturday - [EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!](#) 10am-6pm **PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR DAILY HOURS UNTIL 6PM** - [Hours & Safety Guidelines](#)

ON DISPLAY - [A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field](#) - On display February -December 2024 in The History Center [Exhibit Hall](#); See How Far We've Swum! Women Swimmin' for Hospicare 20th Anniversary - On display in the Tompkins Center atrium through March 2024.

Fri - February 2nd - [Gallery Night](#) - Join us for **OPENING NIGHT of A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field**. Live performance by Vociferous Cruciferous Chorus; rutabaga curl by Ithaca Mayor Rob Cantelmo, Miss Rutabaga 1973, and the Rutabaga God & Goddess. **5-8pm -@ Tompkins Center**

Saturdays February 3rd & 17th [HistoryForge Volunteer Transcription Sessions](#) 11-1pm @ Tompkins Center



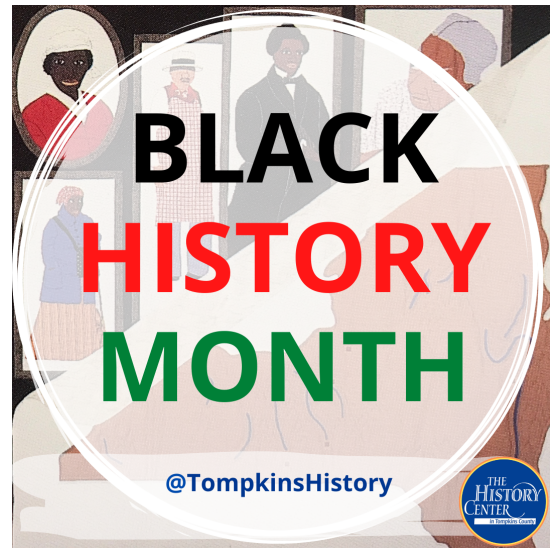
Every Valentine's Day, '[Douglass Day](#)' organizers invite you to a birthday party for Frederick Douglass. Although Douglass never knew his birthdate, he chose to celebrate every year on February 14th. We celebrate this date as a moment for creating Black history together. Bring a laptop and help us transcribe Douglass' general correspondence papers from the Library of Congress!

Weds - February 14th - 12-3pm - [Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon](#) 12-3pm @ Tompkins Center **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

February 16th - 24th - [Ithaca Loves Teachers](#) - Discounts and special events and deals for teachers across Tompkins County! Claim two free local history books from the museum!

Weds - February 21st - [CHAT: The Underground Railroad in Tompkins History](#) w/ Gerard Aching - 4:30-5:30pm @ Tompkins Center

FEBRUARY IS [BLACK HISTORY MONTH!](#)



We have been able to make more of our local resources on Tompkins County Black history available online! Explore the history of [Southside](#), the [Underground Railroad](#), listen to excerpts from our [Black Voices in Tompkins County](#) collection, and delve into memories from the Club Essence Photograph Collection.

Schedule a visit in our [Archives & Research Library](#) to explore the collections we have available on Black history year-round! Contact archives@thehistorycenter.net.

Community History Across Tompkins – Discussion & Conversation Series
THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Join us for a **CHAT!**

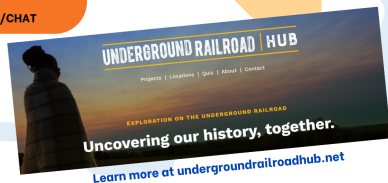
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Join Dr. Gerard Aching as he shares about the launch of the Underground Railroad Hub (undergroundrailroadhub.net) and local efforts to preserve and make known Tompkins County's history as part of the network to freedom in the 18th century.

**Wednesday February 21st
 4:30-5:30pm**

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



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




This event is offered as part of the Ithaca Loves Teachers programming at The History Center in Tompkins County

A SPORTING CHANCE EXHIBITS

There are more local sports stories to tell than there are baseballs, frisbees, and golf balls combined lost to local cornfields. We worked with community partners to highlight seven local sports histories; and plan to highlight more athletic histories throughout the year on our digital platforms and public events. We are grateful to our many community partners who have helped us showcase the vibrancy and diversity of

sports history in our community through these exhibits!

 **Local Baseball: America's Pastime** - A collaboration with local historian Charles DeMotte and former Colored Vets "ball boy" Adrian Cooper

Do you know when the Colored Vets baseball team became The Zebra's? Or that in 1987 Ithaca hosted the [Beep Baseball World Series](#) for blind baseball players?




 **International Rutabaga Curling Championship** - A collaboration with the [Ithaca Farmers Market](#) (Passage Through Time Tunnel exhibit).

A dark and dreary final day of the Ithaca Farmer's Market in 1996 has spurred a [28+ year legacy of Ithaca's most seriously taken community sport](#). Grab your root veggies and let 'em roll!

 **We Broke the Ice: Girls & Women's Ice Hockey** - A collaboration with Mary Grainger and the [Tompkins Girls Hockey Association](#)

With the passing of Title IX in 1972, the Tompkins Girls Hockey Association became the first all-girls hockey program in New York State, and the third in the country.



 **Dragon Boating in Ithaca** - A collaboration with Amy Somchanhmavong and the [Ithaca Asian American Association](#)

The Ithaca Dragon Boat Club (IDBC) began in 2004 with the arrival of two 40-foot long dragon boats from Dalian, China. Our local team spurred a regional love of the sport and supported the later creation of the Finger Lakes International Dragon Boat Festival.

 **Authentic Champions: Special Olympics New York** - A collaboration with [Special Olympics New York](#)



Did you know that Special Olympics coaches, volunteers, and athletes installed the bocce courts at Stewart Park in 1998? When Janet and Dick Krizek first started the Special Olympics program in Ithaca they wanted a sport that was accessible to all players and fostered teamwork. Ithaca is host to the Special Olympics Summer Games in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

 **Roller Derby: Ithaca League of Women Rollers** - A collaboration with [Ithaca Roller Derby](#)


The Ithaca League of Women Rollers began in 2008 with the launch of the SufferJets team; whose name pays homage to the regions history in the [women's suffrage movement](#). The Ithaca League of Junior Rollers' team, the Title IXs, is a reminder of the strides in women's rights, and a tribute to those who believe girls can be just as physical as boys.

 **Baseball's League of Nations: A Tribute to Native American Baseball Players** - Exhibit on loan from the [Iroquois Museum](#) in Howes Cave NY


This exhibit is an homage to Native American baseball players from across the United States; and seeks



to bring attention to the ways they have contributed to America's "favorite past time", even while experiencing overt and covert racism and misrepresentation historically and today. Text and images provided by the [Iroquois Museum](#).

 **Children at Play** - Oral history clips drawn from [The History Center in Tompkins County collections](#) ([Story Vault Exhibit](#)).

Listen to Tompkins County residents recall memories of childhood play, from snow forts, to community dances. Our words tell our stories. Full interviews available through the '[Oral Histories of Tompkins County](#)' audio archives.

 **Community Memorabilia Wall** - *Items on loan from community members across Tompkins County.*



OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING EXHIBIT COLLABORATORS

This exhibit is possible through the generosity of our collaborators who shared their personal sports histories, including: Adrian Cooper, Amy Somchanhmvong, Mary Grainger, Charles DeMotte, [Ithaca League of Women Rollers](#), [Iroquois Museum](#), the [Ithaca Farmers Market](#), and [Special Olympics New York](#).

Also our deep thanks to our many community members who lent their personal sports memorabilia for the artifact wall. Thank you for helping share the story of local sports!



Archival Spotlight - Sports Collection V-62-2-1



[Sports Collection - V-62-2-1](#) - This collection contains a wide range of information on sports, local teams and athletic events. The subjects range from fishing and fly fishing to organized sports like baseball, softball, basketball, football, swimming, ice hockey and tennis. The collection contains information about Beep Baseball (baseball for the blind) and the New York State Special Olympics held in Ithaca in 1991. Some material pertains to local community and school sponsored teams and events, while other material is merely published locally or written by a local author. The dates are also wide ranging – from ca. 1913 to the 1990s.

IMAGE: Ithaca's Colored Vets baseball team ca. 1940s.; photograph from The History Center's collections.

For more information, or to make an appointment to explore our collections email archives@thehistorycenter.net.

Our manuscript collections include [Finding Aids](#), which are detailed box lists describing each collection's contents. They are critical introductions to the collections, and some of the many Finding Aids in The History Center's archives can be reviewed at thehistorycenter.net/finding-aids.

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

Save the date! [Temple Beth-El's 100th Anniversary](#) - March 17th 2024 @ RaNic Golf Course

Newfield Historical Society unveils new exhibit 'In Newfield!?!? Can You Believe It?' On display at [192 Main St.](#) in Newfield alternating Saturdays.

Dryden Town Historical Society has started renovation on the Southworth Homestead barn.

LOCAL HISTORY READS

- [Celebrating 100 years of NY's unique state park system](#) - North Country Public Radio - 1/22/2024
- [Iconic Chanticleer building, and business, for sale in Downtown Ithaca](#) - 14850.com - 1/25/2024
- [Local plant science institute buries time capsule to celebrate 100th anniversary](#) - The Ithaca Voice - 1/24/2024

- [Remodeling History: West End Diorama Memorializes a Forgotten Neighborhood](#) - Ithaca Times - 1/17/2024
- [Old Caroline Town Hall receives rehabilitation grant](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 12/13/2023
- [A Short History of Finger Lakes Tourism](#) - New York Almanack - 12/15/2023
- [Campus Time Capsules Are Blasts from the Past](#) - Cornellians- 1/10/2024
- [Finger Lakes Technology: From Agriculture to Auto Racing](#) - New York Almanack - 12/27/2023
- [Orson Squire Fowlers & New York's Octagon Houses](#) - New York Almanack - 12/3/2023
- [Ithaca Falls Unveiled](#) - Finger Lakes - 12/28/2023

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
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Web: thehistorycenter.net

Phone: 607-273-8284

Email: Staff emails can be found here

Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6pm

Research Library & Archives:

By appointment Contact