



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

Programs:

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

- September 12th : 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 26th : 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 31st : 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 16th : Rethinking Thanksgiving: A Native American Perspective. Presentation by Perry Ground hosted by The Multicultural Resource Center at The History Center. **Attendance 150**
- December 2nd Tompkins County Environmental History with students from Professor Michael Smith's History of Environmental Thought class at Ithaca College. **Attendance 45**
- December 10th Annual Meeting with presentation by Carole West and Rhonda Gilmore on the Eight Square School House. **Attendance 60**
- December 12th Historian Presentation and book signing by Rosemarie Tucker, Groton Town and Holiday Book & Photograph Sale. **Attendance 10**

Book Clubs:

- April 16th, May 21st, June 18th : The History of Transportation in conjunction with the exhibits on transportation (road, rail, air). **Attendance 15 at each.**
- October 1st, 29th, November 19th : 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 - 30th : Ithaca Festival Participated in the Parade and had a booth. Featured colorful characters from Ithaca' past.
- July 31st : Annual Ithaca Artists' Market at Steamboat Landing featured photographs related to the lake. **Booth visitors estimated 200**
- September 19th : 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 4th 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 30th: 87 participants, June 6th: 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 2nd through August 27th 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