

August 2021



# History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

[Events Calendar](#)

[Schedule A Visit](#)

[Virtual Exhibits](#)

[Donate](#)

## Last Month at The History Center...

### *Giving is Gorges - Over \$10,000 raised!*

WOW! What a year! The History Center raised a total of **\$10,271** in online and offline donations for Giving is Gorges between June 16th-30th. We secured the coveted spot of 5th most raised out of 91 participating organizations, and received the Rise & Shine Power Hour Prize, and the Most Unique Donors for a Large Organization Prize which put us over the \$10,000 mark.



Our curated private VIP tours: [Bountiful Botanicals](#), [Sign Up with the Famous](#), and [True Crime Double Feature](#) offered as a perk of donating on the day of Giving is Gorges were a big hit! Over 200 people tuned in for the winner raffle drawings on [@TompkinsHistory Facebook Live](#) and the lucky winners: Karen Kaufmann, Ann Caren, and Susan Holland have scheduled private up close and personal visits with their chosen collection.

## Upcoming Events - [thehistorycenter.net/events](http://thehistorycenter.net/events)

Wednesday-Saturday - **EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!** 10am-5pm

[Hours & Safety Guidelines](#) - Schedule a [private visit!](#)

August 7th & 21st - [HistoryForge Transcription Sessions](#) - 11am-1pm

Help be a part of building history! THC's digital history project, HistoryForge, relies on volunteers like you. At our bi-weekly transcription sessions we are currently entering records from the 1940 census for the City of Ithaca! **Learn more about the project [here](#).**

Contact Eve [historyforge@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:historyforge@thehistorycenter.net) to join. *If you'd like to work on one of the HF projects in our partner cities: Elmira, Oberlin, and Auburn please reach out to Eve. She can connect you with the coordinators for each site.*

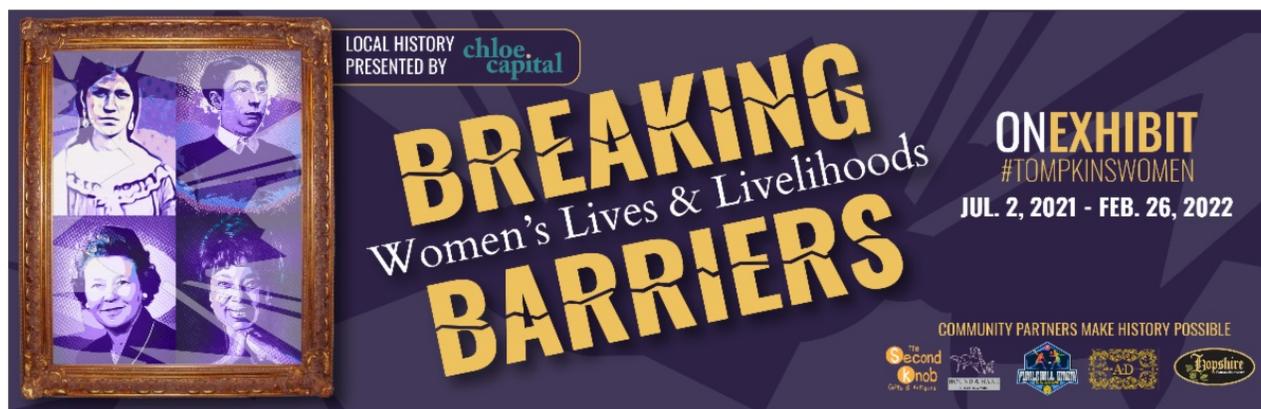
August 2nd-8th - #TompkinsWomenTeach - Follow [@museumoftheearth](#) on Instagram as we spend a week teaching their audience and followers about female educators from Tompkins County. Be sure to visit their museum in person for their current exhibit "[Daring to Dig: Women in American Paleontology](#)" on display through the end of 2021.

August 7th - [Printing Women on the Bill](#) - All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to learn about historic women from Tompkins County and make prints putting #TompkinsWomen on stylized dollar bills pages! Laura Rowley of Illuminated Press will assist with creating prints and postcards with laser cut blocks using images from the The History Center in Tompkins County archives. [Registration required.](#)

August 21st - [Sweetgrass & Splint Star Workshop](#) - All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to make their own Sweetgrass and Black Ash Splint Star with Seneca artist Penny Minner. Learn about these native plants and their significance in traditional Haudenosaunee crafts. Materials were sustainably harvested in the region. [Registration required.](#)

UPCOMING: [9/3 Stop & Listen to HERstory - Oral History Experience](#), [9/18 Corn Husk Dolls Workshop](#), [9/23-27 Traverse Tompkins Finding Fires Fundraiser](#), [10/27 There's Your Ready Girl Screening](#) (details TBA), and more...

## [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#) [Events & Programs](#)



Please help us spread the word about the upcoming events as part of the [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#) exhibit by sharing the materials below with your friends, professional circles, and community connections. Thank you for helping us get the word out! Learn more at [thehistorycenter.net/events](http://thehistorycenter.net/events).

## Printing Women on the Bill

Create block prints of historic #TompkinsWomen from our archives with Laura Rowley!

**SATURDAY AUGUST 7TH  
10-12PM OR 1-3PM - FREE**

All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to learn about historic women from Tompkins County and make prints putting #TompkinsWomen on on stylized dollar bills pages! Laura Rowley of Illuminated Press will assist with creating prints and postcards with laser cut blocks using images from the The History Center in Tompkins County archives.



Ithaca College Gallery/CAP Artspace inside  
Tompkins Center for History & Culture  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca  
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons

**Participants must pre-register.** Registration is limited to 15 participants per session and **all participants must wear masks** for the entire program to ensure the safety of children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.  
All materials will be sanitized between sessions.

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



## STOP and LISTEN to HERstory



An Oral History Experience of  
Women's Voices in Tompkins County

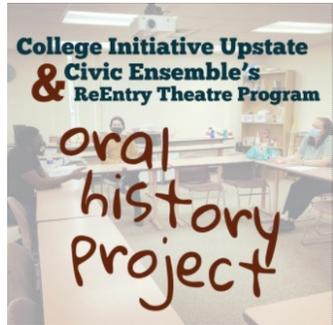
**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD 2021 - FIRST FRIDAY GALLERY NIGHT  
5PM-7PM  
THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY - EXHIBIT HALL  
ENTRANCE ON BANK ALLEY - ITHACA COMMONS**

LEARN MORE AT [THEHISTORYCENTER.NET/BREAKING-BARRIERS](http://THEHISTORYCENTER.NET/BREAKING-BARRIERS)  
JOIN THE CONVERSATION #TOMPKINSWOMEN #BECAUSEOFHERSTORY



In case you missed it, enjoy this [11 minute interview with WRFI radio](#) with History Center staff and interns about the [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#) exhibit.

## Re-Entry Theatre Program's "Radio Play" from the 'Voices That Must Be Heard: Oral History Project'



Based on the oral history interviews that members conducted in Fall 2020, Civic Ensemble's Re-Entry Theatre Program has produced a new play exploring themes of family, harm reduction, and hopes and dreams of those who have experienced incarceration. Aiming to disrupt harmful stereotypes present in our community, this play centers the voices of those most directly impacted by pressing community concerns and amplifies them on the radio. The production on WRFI will be available live on the radio, via a podcast online, and will be followed by a dialogue with the production ensemble.

The oral history interviews that were recorded as part of this project have become a part of the Oral Histories of Tompkins County audio archives.

[Learn more about this project and the ReEntry Theatre Program here.](#)

This program was funded in part by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thanks to Alternatives Federal Credit Union for support of this program.

[Listen to excerpts from the Oral History interviews HERE](#)

# Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors - Who Settled in Tompkins County

The History Center now is home to eight local Holocaust survivor oral histories, each accompanied by a set of [curricular resources](#) available to educators and residents of Tompkins county. The recordings were made between 2013 and 2018 in the Ithaca Jewish community and turned into classroom-length productions by students from the [Ithaca College Park Scholars](#) program. Park Scholars worked together with the History Center and the [Ithaca Area United Jewish Community](#) to research background material and create lesson plans which are part of the project. Suggested questions for discussion, essays and further investigation are included with the videos. Our hope is that, while becoming familiar with the survivors and their life stories, local students and teachers will be personally influenced to learn important lessons about the Holocaust.

These online recordings serve the needs of classroom teachers and distance learning for students who are studying online or independently, allowing them to hear directly from a few members of our community whose lives were changed forever by the Holocaust.

Explore the recorded histories and lesson plans on The History Center's website.

Holocaust Education

---

## SAVE THE DATE - Traverse Tompkins: Finding Fires 2021

Traverse Tompkins started in the fall of 2020 as a unique fundraiser to support The History Center in Tompkins County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Director Benjamin Sandberg [biked all around the county](#), live streaming videos exploring [historical points of interest](#) in each municipality. His challenge was to ride as many miles as possible in a single 24-hour period. Despite high winds and a flat tire, he was able to ride a total of 175.1 miles. Almost 100 individuals made pledges of 10¢, 25¢, and \$1.00, and raised over \$7,000 for The History Center in a time of incredible need and uncertainty.

This year we've decided to open it up to EVERYONE! Our team has been researching sites of historic fires across Tompkins County and we encourage you to join our "Finding Fires" adventure at the end of September. Whether you bike, run, walk, skate, or ski (possibly not this one) we encourage you to register on our [Pledgelt campaign](#) and explore local history with us, Finding Fires as we Traverse Tompkins together.

*More details on this event will be available on our website mid-August.*



---

## Ulysses Historical Society - Hands On History Event - August 14th



Enjoy demonstrations of everyday activities from the days of our grandparents and great-grandparents (and great-great-grandparents), including butter making, spinning, and grain threshing. You can even try your hand at some of these activities. There will also be a replica one-room school with crafts, games, and stories for kids, live music, an ice cream stand, and free popcorn and lemonade. Perfect for the whole family!

#### Full schedule of events:

10:00 & Noon -- Making Butter

10:20 & 12:20 -- Grain Threshing

10:40 & 1:00 -- Straw Baling

11:00 & 1:20 -- "In the Woodshed" Bucksaw & Crosscut Saw

11:00 & 1:00 -- Storytelling

#### All Day Spinning Demonstrations

A "One-Room Schoolhouse" with activities for children to enjoy.

Other exhibits include: Gregg Iron Works, Tompkins County Horseman's Association, Local Military Heroes, UHS Founders, The Rongo, and the Agricultural Museum.

#### Live music throughout the day!

10:00-11:15 -- Three Stone Fire

11:15-12:30 -- TOiVO Players

12:30-2:00 -- Uncle Joe & The Rosebud Ramblers

Bring your own chair or sit on the lawn to enjoy!

#### Questions?

607-387-6666 or [uhs@ottcmail.com](mailto:uhs@ottcmail.com). This event is hosted by the [Ulysses Historical Society](#).

## \*NEW BOOK\* Permanent Residents

#### About the Book

*Permanent Residents* is a booklet just published by the Tompkins County Historical Commission; Historic Ithaca is the editor. The eclectic collection features biographies about people buried in cemeteries throughout Tompkins County. These permanent residents are introduced to us by 22 authors, some of whom are appointed city, town or village historians,



while others are by those interested in contributing an interesting or quirky biography. The essays start from people buried in the early 19th century and end in modern times. Thirty-six essays in all; Bethany Parisi's black and white photos give us insight into the monuments of those buried throughout the county. The booklet is on sale at Significant Elements and in The History Center's [online bookstore](#), \$5.00 per booklet.

*Image of William Reuben George, Jr. and his wife's headstones located in Dryden.*

**For more about "Mrs. Daddy & Daddy" pick up your copy of *Permanent Residents Today!***

## The History Center Blog

### Who Can You Find on HistoryForge? - William Higinbotham

*Written by Rebecca Doyle*



"...William worked as a technician in the Cornell Physics Department but soon left for MIT, where he was invited to work at the Radiation Laboratory. While there, he designed radar display technology for military use during World War II. In 1943, he was recruited to work at Los Alamos National Laboratory. As leader of the Electronic Group in the Weapon Physics Division,

William developed timing circuits for the first atomic bomb. In 1945, he witnessed the Trinity Test—the first drop of an atomic bomb in history.

....He served as a consultant until his death in 1994, at age 84 in Gainesville, GA. Today he is remembered lovingly as the “grandfather” of modern video games and for his devotion to the cause of nuclear arms control."

[READ MORE](#)

#### 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](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)

Phone: 607-273-8284

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

Hours: *Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm\**

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

Follow us on social media  
[@TompkinsHistory](#)



[Contact Us!](#)

