



Zoë Van Nostrand <community@thehistorycenter.net>

History Happenings | February 2023 - OPENING OF KNOT SEW FAST

The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>
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Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 9:00 AM

February 2023

[Events Calendar](#)

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What can a quilt tell us about the history of enslavement, and slave owners in Tompkins County? Or which locally grown herbs were used in medicinal home remedies? What can quilts tell us about families and community?

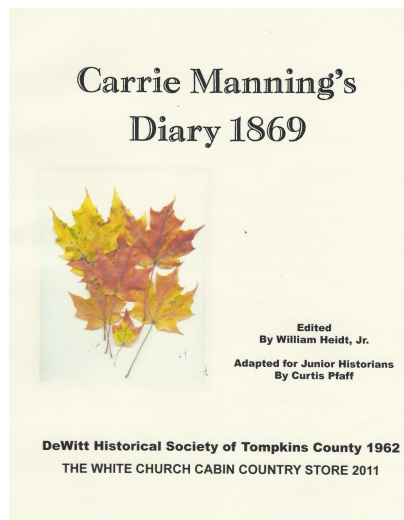
[Knot Sew Fast](#) pulls from the extensive textile and fabric arts collections held by The History Center to lay out the stories these functional artworks tell about Tompkins County history.



From quilts made from clothing scraps to quilts entirely of imported silks - the story of fabric, industry, and transportation is tied up in our understanding of how the materials for each quilt made their way to centrally isolated Tompkins County in the 19th and 20th

centuries. [Knot Sew Fast](#) showcases nearly half of The History Center's quilt collection, but looks at each hand sewn work through the lens of the women, families, and communities who made them. Drawing a connection between the sewing circles of rural Danby in the 1800's to the modern quilt guilds that meet in Tompkins County today.

Quilts are a unique measure to explore history **as the practice of quilting was a skill developed and practiced equally by historic Ithacan city-dwellers, as well as our rural township communities** of Trumansburg, Groton, Dryden, Lansing, Caroline, Newfield, and Danby. Historically, quilt-makers (mostly women) performed important but undervalued labor, with their lives less likely to be formally documented. Each quilt is a record of hundreds to thousands of hours of hand labor by both our rural and urban Tompkins County ancestors. These makers lives are informally documented in their choice of pattern, fabric, and the stitches that comprise each quilt.



1869: A Year in Quilting on display in the 'Passage Through Time' tunnel draws from our reference and [Research Library](#) collections. [Carrie Mannings Diary 1869](#) documents a year in the life of a local teenager circa the mid 19th century. Carrie's diary was first printed for the public by the [DeWitt Historical Society](#) (now The History Center in Tompkins County) in 1956, and has been re-printed locally a number of times. Her diary from the year includes her reflections as she worked

on her own patchwork quilt, slowly piecing together scraps of her own story. Carrie died in the Town of Ithaca at 18 years old, and her diary is a rare record of a child's memories of life, work, and play in Tompkins County.

[Women of Influence: Each Block A Story](#) quilt is on loan from the [Seneca Iroquois National Museum](#). Quilts have long been used in Native communities to honor individuals of distinction. [Women of Influence: Each Block A Story](#) builds on that tradition, bringing together 41 Haudenosaunee women who stitched thousands of beads in honor of the Native women who provided support, inspiration, and love for each of them. Beaded samples from the 1940, created by Dorothy Blacksnake Jimerson (Seneca), a grandmother of two of the participants, inspired the use of the flat beadwork style used throughout the quilt.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Education Programming from
THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Private Quilt Appraisal with Cathy Klimaszewski

Book a private appointment to discover the value of your family quilts!

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25TH
 10AM-5:30PM
 30 MINUTE APPTS**

Appraisals are completed in private with the owner. The quilt is examined, measured, and photographed. Cathy then conducts research to determine the current fair market value for the quilt. Completed written appraisal is sent to the owner within two weeks.

Cathy Rosa Klimaszewski is a professional quilt appraiser, educator, and consultant. She has curated numerous quilt exhibitions shown at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, including shows that traveled to the Brandywine River Museum, New York State Museum, and Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University. Klimaszewski also presents quilt lectures and has taught classes related to quilt history, design, and care.



TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture
 Joe Mareane Conference Rm- 2nd Floor
 110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850
 In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons



This event is by pre-appointment only. Please contact community@thehistorycenter.net with accessibility requests or questions.

www.thehistorycenter.net  [@TompkinsHistory](https://twitter.com/TompkinsHistory)

Wednesday-Saturday -

EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!

10am-5pm - [Hours & Safety Guidelines](#)

ON DISPLAY - [Knot Sew](#)

[Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins](#)

[County](#) at The History Center Exhibit Hall. Exhibit will be on display February-August 2023.

CELEBRATE [BLACK](#)

[HISTORY MONTH](#) IN

TOMPKINS COUNTY!

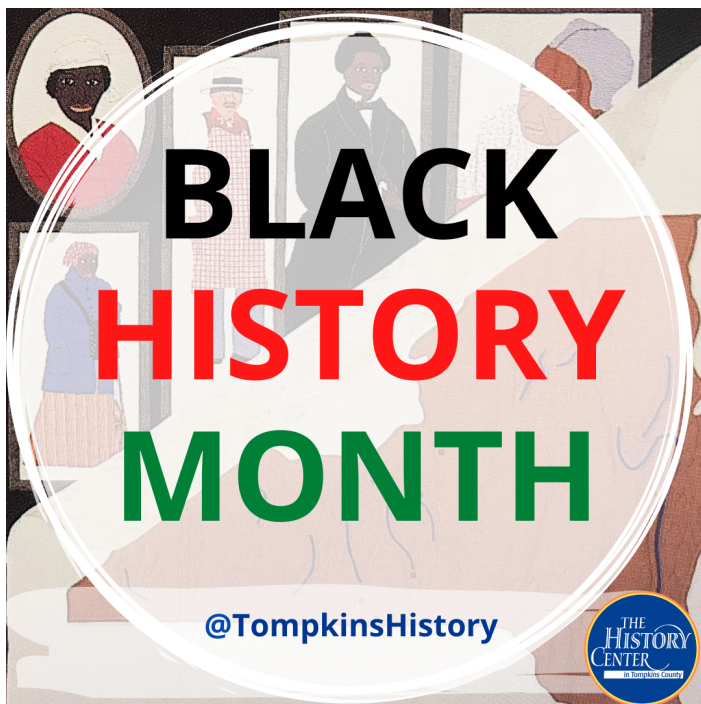
Thu - February 2nd -

PRIVATE OPENING - 'First

Glimpse' of Knot Sew Fast' with panel of Haudenosaunee quilters who created the 'Women of Influence: Each Block a Story' quilt on display as part of '[Knot Sew Fast](#)'. By private invitation to 2022 donors and museum collaborators.



Fri - February 3rd - 5-8pm - [Gallery Night](#) - Join us for OPENING NIGHT of [Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County!](#) With a LIVE fiber spinning demo from [Carol LaBorie!](#)



Sat - February 4th & 18th - [HistoryForge Volunteer Transcription Sessions](#) - 11am-1pm @Tompkins Center.

Thu - February 23rd - [Open Spaces Cider Pop-up for Teachers](#) - 3-6pm @Tompkins Center

Sat - February 25th - [Private Quilt Appraisal w/ Cathy Klimaszewski](#) - 10am-5:30pm @Tompkins Center - BY ADVANCE APPOINTMENT

[Ithaca Loves Teachers - February 16th-28th](#) - The History Center will be offering its **annual local history book give-a-way**, and **one-on-one consults** (by request) for how local educators can integrate our **history resources and exhibits in their classrooms**

SAVE THE DATE:

Community Education Programming from

THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Make a Fairy Quilt!

Discover the magic of thread crafts, and create a quilt to keep your home fairies cozy!

**SATURDAY MARCH 18TH
12-3PM - FREE**

All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to create their own 12"x12" fleece fairy or doll quilt at The History Center! As you build your fairy homes, make sure you fairies have a cozy spot to sleep! Quilts made in Tompkins County date back over 200 years! Make your own small quilt, and then explore the historic quilts on display in the Exhibit Hall!

Craft supplies for various ages/levels of crafting skills will be provided. Children of all ages are encouraged to attend with adult support.



TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture
CAP ArtSpace Gallery - 1st Floor
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons

This is a drop-in event as part of Spring Fairy Festival in Downtown Ithaca, we cannot accommodate more than 15 people to participate at a time. Crafting can take 20 minutes-1 hour depending on design preferences.

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



This event is offered in conjunction with the **Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County** quilt exhibit. Learn more at thehistorycenter.net/knot-sew-fast

- **3/3 - [Gallery Night - Textile demo TBA](#)** @ Tompkins Center
- **3/16 - [Meet the Sewing Machine - An Introduction](#)** with Cady Fontana at the TCPL MakerSpace (Registration required)
- **3/18 - [Make a Fairy Quilt for Spring Fairy Festival](#)** @ Tompkins Center (FREE - ALL AGES)
- **3/25 - [CHAT - Women of Newfield](#)** with Rosemary Rowland
- **4/1 - [CHAT - Is the Ithaca Kitty the first Calico Cat?](#)** @Tompkins Center
- **4/6 - [Introduction to Quilting: Mini Quilt Tops](#)** w/ Cady Fontana at the TCPL MakerSpace (Registration required)

Community History Across Tompkins - NEW Program Series

THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Join us for a **CHAT!****IS THE ITHACA KITTY
THE FIRST CALICO
CAT?***How did the term for a woven fabric
become shorthand for a multi-colored
cat during the 20th century?**Presentation & round-table discussion
on new research by Zoë Van Nostrand
on how the 1892 Tabby Cat may have
been the inspiration for the now
commonly called "calico cat."***Wednesday April 26th
5:15-6:15pm**Tompkins Center for History & Culture
CAP ArtSpace Gallery - First Floor
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca
Entrance on "Bank Alley" on the
Ithaca CommonsDetails at thehistorycenter.net/CHATContact Zoë Van Nostrand at
community@thehistorycenter.net
with any questions.This event is offered in conjunction with the
**Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins
County** quilt exhibit. Learn more at
thehistorycenter.net/knot-sew-fast

*More quilting and textile program dates will be
announced soon!*

- 1976 Bicentennial Quilt Show Revisited with a panel of the Tompkins County Quilters Guild
- 1996 Quilted with Care Retrospective with Brigid Hubberman
- 49 Years of the Tompkins County Quilters Guild

Archival Textile Collection Spotlight **Tompkins County Quilters Guild Collection V-64-1-2**

The [Tompkins County Quilters Guild](#) was established [in 1974](#), at a time when there were no local, state, or national organizations to support quilting. That year [Jeanne Greene](#), a board member of Ithaca's City Federation of Women's Organizations, suggested holding a weekend quilt show to measure local interest, and 500 people came to see quilts on display at the Women's Community Building. Shortly [afterwards the Quilters Guild formed](#) and began

planning a major show for August 21-27 in 1976. Their [Bicentennial Finger Lakes Quilt Exhibit](#) displayed 600 quilts from 14 area counties, staged many lectures, workshops and demonstrations,



attracted 8,200 visitors from 31 states and 10 foreign countries, and was hailed as the largest such show to date in the nation.

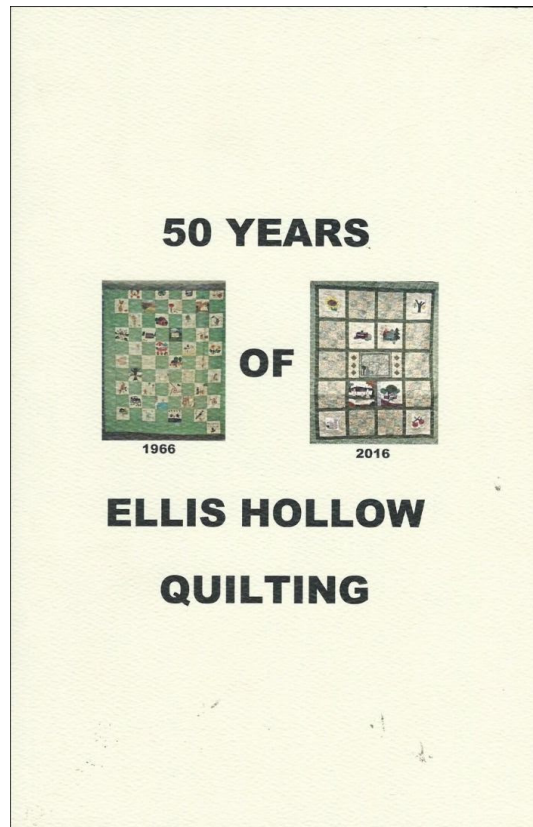
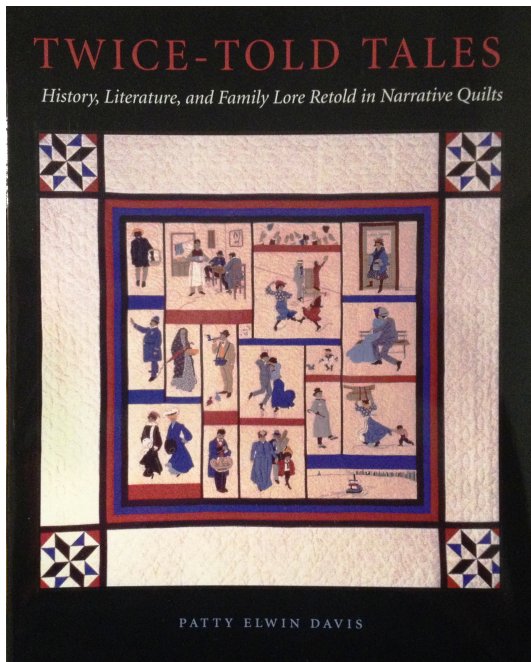
Since that ambitious effort the Guild has focused on smaller scale programming, including [educating the public](#) about this traditional and ever-changing art form. Some of their efforts have been [on behalf of The History Center in exquisite displays](#) over the years.

Members of the Quilters Guild began donating their records to [The History Center's archives](#) in 2011 and we are delighted to keep adding to this rich collection. It contains business records, grant and workshop information, newsletters, correspondence, programs and publicity for quilt shows, and much more.

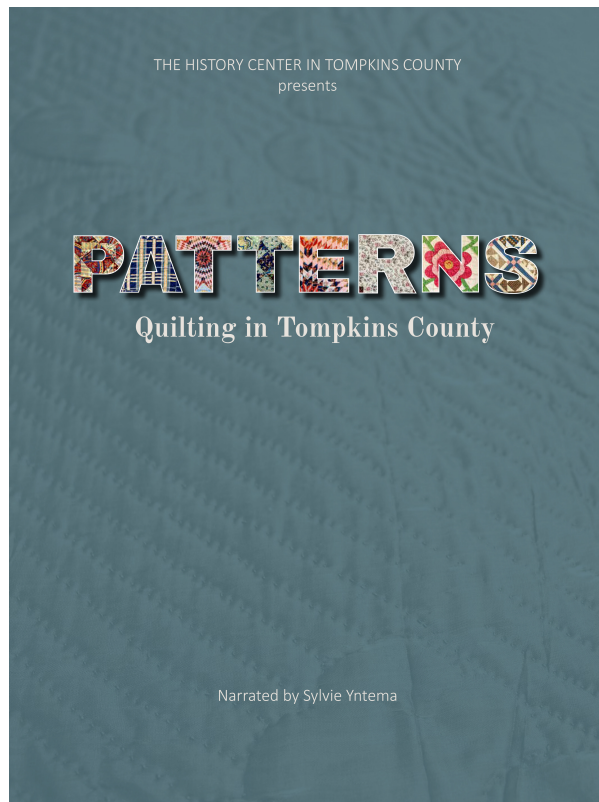
For more information or to make an appointment to do research in our collections email archives@thehistorycenter.net

[Tompkins County Quilting Books](#)

Did you know that **we stock over 80 titles exploring different aspects of Tompkins County history**? Purchase online, and we offer free in-museum pick-up during our open hours! We're also happy to ship to anywhere in the United States! **Explore online at thehistorycenter.net/store** - call 607-273-8284 ext 229 with any questions, or email community@thehistorycenter.net.

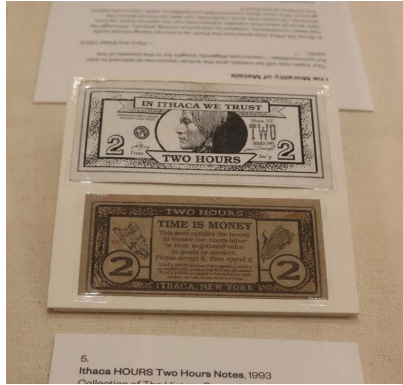


PATTERNS: QUILTING in TOMPKINS COUNTY - A Digital Exhibit accompaniment



OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

[Ithaca HOURS](#) included in new Herbert F. Johnson Museum exhibit '[Wonder & Wakefulness: The Nature of Pliny the Elder](#)'.



Ithaca HOURS section of exhibit on loan from The History Center archival collections; [research and curation by Cornell PhD candidate Olivia Graves](#). On display January 21st-June 2023.

[The Gallery donates \\$100 from Lunar New Year specialty donut fundraiser](#) to further expansion of the '[Asian Diaspora in Tompkins County Oral](#)

[History Collection](#)' per request of Ithaca Asian American Association.

Former History Center intern Claire Deng (Cornell '22) research on [Kimi Gengo: Author, Advocate, Asian-American](#), early Japanese-American resident in Tompkins County highlighted in new digital exhibit '[Any Person Many Stories: Histories of Exclusion and Inclusion at Cornell](#)'.

If you own a barn, carriage house, or other agricultural building in New York State that was constructed prior to 1946, you could be eligible for the [New York State Historic Barn Rehabilitation Tax Credit](#)! On February 8, 2023, join PBN and Olivia Brazee from the NYS Historic Preservation Office for an introduction to this program. Learn about eligibility, requirements, and how to apply, and get your questions answered. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Local documentary [Move When the Spirit Says Move - The Life & Legacy of Dorothy F. Cotton](#) has been completed and will [PREMIERE at the Pan African Film & Arts Festival](#) in Los Angeles in February 2023. Stay tuned for local showings!

LOCAL HISTORY READS

- [Concerns rise as county weighs teardown of historic house for parking](#) - Ithaca Voice - 1/27/2023
- [Settling Ithaca and the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign](#) - Ithaca Times - 1/25/2023
- [Trumansburg] [Trustees Consider Renaming Bridge to Honor Village Female Figures](#) - Ithaca Times - 1/26/23
- [After a century in Ithaca, Bishop's Carpet One will close its doors](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 1/25/2023

- [Cayuga Heights] [Sunset Park Calls for Historical Materials](#) - Ithaca Times 1/25/2023
- [Tunes, eat and cool sh*t: 14850 Magazine celebrates 30 years](#) - Ithaca Voice - 1/13/2023
- [2022: A Year in Review](#) - Ithaca Times - 1/4/2023
- [2022 In Review: A month-by-month recap of the biggest stories from the past year](#) - Ithaca Voice - 12/30/2022

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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Follow @TompkinsHistory on any platform
Update your email preferences or **unsubscribe** from this list.

Web: thehistorycenter.net
Phone: 607-273-8284
Email: Staff emails can be found here
Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Research Library & Archives: By appointment Contact