



THE ITHACA YOUTH BUREAU

HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Upcoming Events

- Winter classes and recreation programs are open **NOW for registration**. Registration for spring recreation programs will open in late February or early March. Please follow us on **Facebook** for updates!
- Cass Park Rink is offering a second session of skating lessons and is also open daily for public skating. **Please visit our website for details and pre-registration link.**
- Tot spot - a play space for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers - is currently open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. **Check our web site for all of the details.**



From the director's desk

Dear friends and families,

This is our final Happenings of 2023 and my last director's note as I will be retiring at the end of the year. Retiring brings a mix of excitement and a bit of sadness.

I spent much of my career working and learning at the Youth Bureau. I am fortunate to have worked in a variety of programs, and with various people and committees throughout my career. I started at the Youth Bureau as a fieldwork student in 1983 to meet a class requirement. I began working in a part-time position shortly after that and spent the next 10 years working for the YB and some other community organizations, continuing my education and raising a family in Danby. In 1999, I landed solidly back at the Youth Bureau as a recreation supervisor; through the years, I was promoted to recreation coordinator, then deputy director, and then director. I am both proud and honored to have spent much of my career at the Youth Bureau.

[READ MORE](#)

Cass Park Improvements

NY grant funds Cass Park updates

The Youth Bureau is excited to announce it has received a \$500,000 grant from the New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation to build a new pavilion, bathroom, and handicapped parking at Cass Park.

The funds will pay for the replacement of the bathroom and pavilion near the Ithaca Children's Garden and Black Diamond trailhead and a one-way turnaround with ADA-accessible parking in that area.

The new bathroom will be ADA-accessible and gender-neutral. The pavilion will be replaced with a more open structure that has a hard-surface floor and may include solar-timed lighting.

An action-packed year for the College Discovery Program



Students in the College Discovery Program had a busy and productive year!

Middle schoolers had the opportunity to try pickleball and volleyball, and attend a Cornell University Women's Volleyball game – an experience that led three students to try out for the modified volleyball team at

school! During the summer, they traveled to Philadelphia, where they saw the Liberty Bell and Constitution Hall, ran the *Rocky* steps at the Museum of Art, and had fun at Hershey Park.

High school students created a career day at Ithaca High School with information about welding, steam fitting, health care careers, and more. During the summer, the high school seniors visited Toronto where they saw *Hamilton*, toured a castle, and attended a jousting performance.

Give an IYB experience this holiday

Winter recreation programs are open for registration, and make a great gift for any child in your life!

This year's offerings include chess club, pottery, ice skating, dance, Tae Kwon Do, and, rock climbing, outdoor adventure, and basketball.

You can find all of the details in our [Winter Program Booklet](#).



PSMP offers learning opportunities



The Paul Schreurs Memorial Program is supporting 30 Ithaca students this year with homework clubs at Ithaca High School and Boyton Middle School, cooking lessons, and educational trips.

This fall, the program took 12 high school students to Washington D.C. where they attended a Howard University football game, toured the African American History Museum, and took a guided tour of Howard University with a former Ithaca student.

IYB Rec celebrates success in 2023

IYB Recreation had an incredible year, bringing back a few more of the programs it offered before the 2020 global pandemic in addition to many that returned in 2021-2022.



The department offered a variety of opportunities including soccer, softball and baseball, Tae Kwon Do, flag football, lacrosse, basketball, chess, yoga, along with art, theatre, and pottery classes. Public roller- and ice-skating sessions surged in popularity. In addition, the department received a \$1900 grant from the U.S. Tennis Association, which funded new equipment and instructor salaries.

Thanks to all of our participants, families, and volunteer coaches! We look forward to building on our successes in 2024!

A year-end thank you from Outings and Ithaca Bike Rental!

As 2023 comes to a close, Outings and the Ithaca Bike Rental would like to thank all of our participants, families and customers, and our two amazing volunteers: David Swift and Ken Mudge. We appreciate you all!



We have had an amazing 2023! Outings has served close to 500 participants this year with rock climbing, tree climbing, learning outdoor survival skills, zip lining, camping, canoeing, and so much more.

Ithaca Bike Rental had over 1000 renters this season and received a grant from Tompkins County Tourism!



Hope to see you in 2024!

FIYB: Friends of the Ithaca Youth Bureau

Donation honors 75 years of IYB!



In honor of the Youth Bureau's 75th birthday, the Friends of the Ithaca Youth made its largest donation ever to the IYB – a check for \$75,000! FIYB President Jeff Love presented the check to IYB Director Liz Klohmann at the IYB's 75th birthday party on August 5.

FIYB Founding Member Allen Green attended the celebration, and remarked, "As founding members, we are looking forward to the IYB's next great 75 years of service to our community. We invite you to join us in supporting the IYB."

Green suggests a donation in an interval of 75 in honor of the 75th birthday - \$7.50, \$75.00, \$750, or \$7,500!

You can donate online at the [FIYB website](#).

Contribute in honor of retiring Director Liz Klohmann!

As IYB Director Liz Klohmann prepares to retire at the end of the year, FIYB is encouraging gifts in her honor. Klohmann has worked at the IYB for more than 25 years. She has worked closely with the FIYB since our founding, and we will miss her! [Click here to donate](#).

Make a year-end donation to support Ithaca youth

We hope you will join us having an impact on the Ithaca community, especially for our youth, by supporting the Friends of the Ithaca Youth Bureau (FIYB) with a financial contribution, with your active participation, or both. Together, they can have a strong effect!

During the nearly 15 years FIYB has been active, we can collect 2500 donations totaling \$1.2 million. Since the FIYB organization has very low overhead costs, most funds are allocated to the IYB to use "wherever the need is greatest" or as designated by donors who wish to target specific programs.

We appreciate the individuals, businesses and foundations that have been supportive of Recreation Support Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Camp Scholarships, College Discovery Program, Outings, Paul Schreurs Memorial Program, Recreation, Recreation Scholarships, Expressive Arts Programs, and Youth Development, including Youth Employment Service and Youth Council. Many supported the Cass Park enclosure capital project open in 2022.

Another example was in 2020 when the IYB had to cease operations as the pandemic started. To restart, community members were very generous, and some gifts came through the United Way which was pivotal for Ithaca's resiliency and support for those in most need.

We have a track record of connecting community members who want to help our community's future through the programs, services and facilities of the IYB. Please join them and us with your charitable gift.

Online giving is easy on our website: friendsiyb.org or you can send a check written to FIYB to PO Box 4198, Ithaca, NY 14852



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