



# Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

115 South Avenue ~ Rochester, NY 14604 ~ 585.428.8325 ~ [ffrpl.org](http://ffrpl.org)

## Message from FFRPL's Executive Director April 2020



Hello, Library friends and supporters ~ I hope you are all safe and well in these trying times. As we continue to flatten the curve and work remotely from home to keep up the work of the Friends & Foundation, our thoughts are with the first responders and essential workers, and with our Library colleagues and all of you.

I'm sure we are all eager to get back into our favorite Library buildings in the City and across Monroe County, **but only when it is safe and healthy for staff and public alike.**

As you know, FFRPL raises funds, presents programs, supports special projects, helps to create specialized spaces, and purchases supplemental materials & equipment for the Rochester Public Library.

During this pandemic we continue our unwavering support of the Library, and **we have confirmed that FFRPL will honor all our commitments made for the 2019-20 fiscal year.** We can keep those promises – despite reductions in our endowment & investment funds, annual campaign and book sales – because we run an efficient, dedicated organization governed by sound fiscal policies set in place by our board of directors.

**We are maintaining our connection with Library patrons online**, and helping to promote the stellar efforts of Library staff who continue delivering vital programs and services to our community, including: online access to e-books, audio books, magazines and critical databases; live-streamed versions of children's story times; continued remote relationships with *Safe to be Smart* youth and connections to trusted sources of information, all while our buildings remain closed.

**We are maintaining our legacy programs** – such as *Books Sandwiched In* and the Sokol High School Literary Awards – with online versions of these longstanding popular offerings. And during this challenging time I am proud to say that FFRPL's entire office staff has continued to be paid for their work on behalf of the Library.

Now and for the foreseeable future the Rochester Public Library will serve an ever-greater need in this community, as a 'second responder' critical to the next-phase revitalization and eventual return to semi-normalcy. **And because of our loyal donors who continue to invest in the Library, FFRPL is ready to move forward as a core partner**, just as we have for decades.

I know this is a frightening moment in our shared history, and we can't predict how long this will last. But if you **are** interested in helping, please note the CARES Act makes a new deduction available in 2020 for up to \$300 per taxpayer/\$600 per married couple in annual charitable contributions (particularly beneficial if you take the standard deduction and don't itemize when filing your taxes).

Once again, I thank you for your continued interest and support of our beloved Library. And I would love to hear **your** stories about why libraries are essential to you at [ffrpl-stories@libraryweb.org](mailto:ffrpl-stories@libraryweb.org). Stay safe, and **we look forward to seeing you again!**

Ned Davis