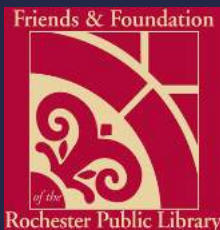


## Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)

The Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) is the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that raises funds, presents programs, supports special projects, helps create specialized spaces, and purchases supplemental materials and equipment for the Rochester Public Library.



FFRPL and the Rochester Public Library are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

FFRPL has supported the library's work to highlight

Rochester's LGBTQ+ history, including the 2018 Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibition, the annual Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues program, and maintenance of LGBTQ+ archives housed in the Local History & Genealogy Division.

FFRPL is also the proud steward of specially designated funds in support of LGBTQ+ programming and education:

### The Anthony Mascioli Revocable Trust

*Established April 2015*

To be used for a series of arts and cultural programs, with a focus on LGBTQ+ issues.

### Equality Fund for Humanity & Enlightenment

*Established November 2017*

To be used for library resources, programs, and material, in pursuit of a world free of discrimination, to promote education and equity of opportunity for LGBTQIA people.

**Learn more and contribute to this important legacy project:**

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Shoulders to Stand On Founder

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## A Legacy of Pride



**The Evelyn Bailey  
Shoulders to Stand On  
Endowed Fund at the  
Friends & Foundation of the  
Rochester Public Library**

To provide staff and resources to preserve and promote the history of Rochester's LGBTQ+ community

# Rochester's LGBTQ+ Legacy

Rochester has been at the forefront of the LGBTQ+ rights movement in New York State and the nation, championing equality in employment, housing, and medical care, and freedom for all to marry and establish families. LGBTQ+ community members have contributed to every facet of life and continue to be an economic, educational, political, social, and cultural force in the Greater Rochester region.

Much of this history has been chronicled by Evelyn Bailey, who has collected personal and institutional records and stories and placed them in archives to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community's history will be preserved and publicly accessible as an inspiration now



and in the future. Bailey also has produced a documentary film, *Shoulders to Stand On*, and numerous educational programs. **But there is still work to do to ensure that this valued legacy continues to be recognized and celebrated.**

### Brief Highlights

- The Empty Closet, established in 1970, is one of the oldest LGBTQ+ papers in the U.S.
- The Out Alliance (formerly the Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley), established in 1973, is one of the oldest LGBTQ+ centers in the U.S.
- Tim Mains became the first openly gay elected official in the state when he was elected to Rochester City Council in 1986.
- The Rochester City Clerk began issuing same-sex marriage licenses on the first day the New York Marriage Equality Act took effect in 2011, opening on a Sunday to do so.
- In 2014, Rochester was only the third municipality in the U.S. to offer transition-related healthcare benefits to trans employees.



Dear friends,  
**With your help, my legacy will continue the documentation and preservation of the ever-evolving and diverse history of Rochester's LGBTQ+ community.**

I often say, "A community without a history is a community that does not exist." Individual and collective histories give the Rochester LGBTQ+ community credibility and a foundation the next generation can build on. History is powerful. It instills pride. That's why my life's work has focused on researching and documenting Rochester's LGBTQ+ community.

Together, we must ensure that this work continues. That's why I am establishing an endowed fund at the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The fund will allow the Local History & Genealogy Division to hire an LGBTQ+ Outreach Archivist to care for the collections I placed there, expand the archive to include the people, organizations, and stories that I have not been able to chronicle, and share LGBTQ+ history through public programs.

The history of Rochester's LGBTQ+ community is full of unique, amazing, and iconic stories that must continue to be captured and shared.

Time is critical. Please join me now.

With gratitude and pride,

**Evelyn Bailey**

# The Rochester Public Library

Believing in the fundamental value and equity of all humans, the Local History & Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library preserves and ensures widespread access to inclusive resources and information about the diverse history of Greater Rochester and all of its residents.

### Collections

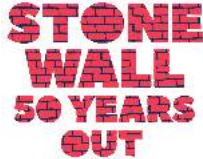
The division holds one of the largest archives of LGBTQ+ history in New York State, comprised of more than 21 individual collections. Most of the material was acquired through the efforts of Evelyn Bailey and the Shoulders to Stand On documentation project. The library is committed to preserving and providing public access to the collections in perpetuity.

### Programs/Exhibits

For the past five years, the library has partnered with the Out Alliance to present the Anthony Mascioli



Rainbow Dialogues, sponsored by FFRPL. The program contextualizes LGBTQ+ life in Rochester against the backdrop of social justice issues.



In 2019, the library partnered with diverse stakeholders in the LGBTQ+ community to create a major exhibition on the history of LGBTQ+ life and activism.

The exhibition explored the ways the Stonewall uprising activated local LGBTQ+ communities to advance human rights and expand Rochester's social reform legacy. It was part of a yearlong community-wide commemoration of the 1969 uprising that launched the modern gay rights movement.