



Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

115 South Avenue ~ Rochester, NY 14604 ~ 585.428.8325 ~ ffrpl.org

February 1, 2024

A VALENTINE TRIBUTE TO



Evelyn Bailey realized early on that Rochester was at the forefront of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement in New York State and the nation. She became a tireless powerhouse in her quest to research, document and preserve that history. Evelyn had a knack for enticing others to join her in making things happen. Whether you were in her sights from the beginning, a recent recruit as one of her many Documentation Liaisons, a close friend, or simply heard about her legendary ability to secure funds, you were immediately drawn to her vision and unstoppable aura of invincibility.

The Evelyn Bailey Shoulders to Stand On Endowed Fund at the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library was created at her request to ensure that Evelyn's vision continued after her death in 2022. As a result of Evelyn's efforts, the Rochester Public Library is home to 48 collections related to LGBTQIA+ history, 25 of which have been fully processed as of January 2024, but they require additional work. The numbers continue to grow, with seven collections arriving since her passing. Recent significant donations include the papers of Tim Mains and the records of the Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church.

Evelyn's vision is our vision as well and deserves to be fully realized. Ongoing contributions to her endowed fund are necessary to reach our ultimate goal of \$750,000. Interest earnings from these funds in perpetuity will allow Central Library's Local History & Genealogy Division to hire an LGBTQIA+ Outreach Archivist to care for the collections, expand the archive to include the people, organizations, and stories not yet chronicled, and share LGBTQIA+ history through public programs.

The dynamic, diverse, and ever-expanding LGBTQIA+ history continues to grow and evolve. That is why we are reaching out to ask for your financial support. What better time to acknowledge the accomplishments of those who've come before us and ensure a lasting treasure to be celebrated and utilized in times to come.

Due to a generous benefactor, we are happy to announce matching funds up to \$10,000 for donations received by March 31. It is our continuing way to say, "Thank you, Evelyn" and to ensure that LGBTQIA+ history is appropriately archived and shared for generations.

Steven Jarose
Co-Chair, Shoulders to Stand On

Donna Borgus
Executive Director, Friends & Foundation of RPL