

Author Talks

RPL Online Author Talks

Presented by the Rochester Public Library, FFRPL and the Library Speakers Consortium.

Free online talks from bestselling authors and thought leaders.

Learn more and register:

library.org/roccitylibrary



Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

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Please contact Executive Director **Donna Borgus** for more information: donna.borgus@libraryweb.org

STORIED SALOONS:

LOCAL HISTORY HAPPY HOURS

Storied Saloons: Local History Happy Hours

Have you ever wondered about Rochester's contemporary bars housed in historic buildings?

Storied Saloons explores the history of some of Rochester's most interesting and iconic bar-boasting buildings. If you enjoy learning and libations, pull up a stool at the bar and hear about the past of a different tavern during each session of this off-site series.

Check the events calendar at roccitylibrary.org for the location and other details.

Next session: **Wednesday, April 22**
5:30pm-7pm

Presented by

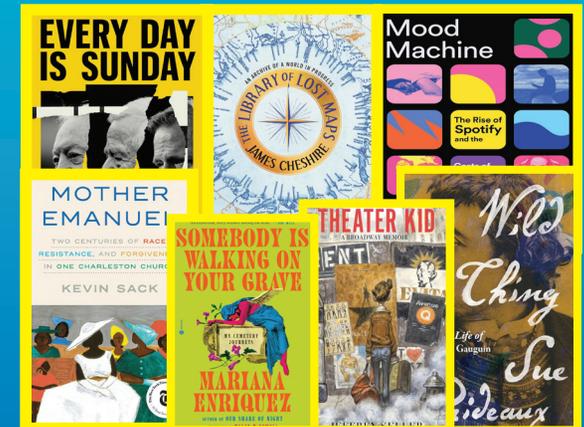


Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Spring 2026

Livestream/archived reviews available on the Library's YouTube channel: 'Rochester Public Library NY'



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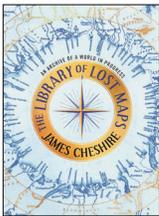


March 10

Every Day is Sunday: *How Jerry Jones, Robert Kraft, and Roger Goodell Turned the NFL Into a Cultural and Economic Juggernaut* by Ken Belson

Ken Belson traces the evolution of the league from “one of the four US professional sports,” to the superpower it is today, beginning with the arrival of owners Jerry Jones and Robert Kraft in the early 1990’s. Belson provides an inside look into the secretive owner’s meeting; why Jones and Kraft chose Roger Goodell as Commissioner, and how the three men then built their collective power.

Presenter: **Emily Dane-Staples**, Professor of Sport Management, St. John Fisher University.



March 17

The Library of Lost Maps: *An Archive of a World in Progress* by James Cheshire

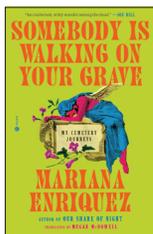
World-leading map maker James Cheshire’s discovery of a forgotten collection of maps at the University

College London transports readers to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. “They hold thousands of maps and atlases of everything from cave networks to mountain ranges to capital flows to the surface of the moon. ... The room is like a portal to the past ...”

— *The Wall Street Journal*

Presenter: **Eric Ensley, PhD, MLS**, director of special collections at the University of Rochester; formerly Curator of Rare Books & Maps at the University of Iowa.

The Central Library is accessible to people with disabilities. To request specific accommodations, call 585-428-8304 ten days prior to the program.

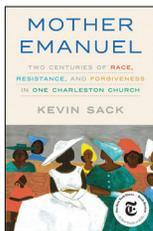


March 24

Somebody is Walking on Your Grave by Mariana Enriquez

Enriquez’s book of essays is an investigation into the history and architecture, saints and ghosts, caretakers and visitors, and stories of the dead found in cemeteries across North and South America, Europe and Australia – including Paris’s catacombs, Prague’s Old Jewish Cemetery, New Orleans’s aboveground mausoleums, and Buenos Aires’s opulent Recoleta. Her memoir of “excursions through death” weaves together personal stories with reportage, interviews, myths, and hauntology.

Presenter: **Sally J. Millick** is a tour author/guide in Rochester’s Mt. Hope Cemetery; Board Member of the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery and FFRPL Board President.



March 31

Mother Emanuel: *Two Centuries of Race, Resistance, and Forgiveness in One Charleston Church* by Kevin Sack

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kevin Sack’s profound story of courage, grace, and forgiveness amid the fight for racial justice also offers a sweeping history of one of the nation’s most important African American churches. Mother Emanuel was the first African Methodist Episcopal church in the South, and the site of a horrific hate crime in 2015, when a white supremacist slaughtered the church’s pastor and eight worshippers.

Presenter: **Reverend Myra Brown**, Pastor of Spiritus Christi.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Spring 2026

Please register: ffrpl.org



April 7

Theater Kid: A Broadway Memoir by Jeffrey Seller

A coming-of-age tale from Pulitzer Prize-winning producer Jeffrey Seller (creator of *Hamilton* and *Rent*). Told with Seller’s candid and captivating voice, *Theater Kid* is a gripping memoir about enduring a hardscrabble childhood to make art on his own terms, chasing a dream against many challenges and finding acceptance and community.

Presenter: **Hunter E. Vaughn**, Director of Theatrical Experiences for OFC Creations Theatre Center in Brighton.



April 14

Mood Machine: *The Rise of Spotify and the Costs of the Perfect Playlist* by Liz Pelly

A study of Spotify’s impact on the music industry: consumer data collection; the inequities of streaming; the illegal, undisclosed “payola” practice of incentivizing commercial radio stations to play songs; and artist-led campaigns to revalue music.

Presenter: **Mona Seghatoleslami**, Music Director, Producer and Host, WXXI Classical 91.5; Music Coordinator, The Little Theatre.



April 21

Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin by Sue Prideaux

The first full biography of French Post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin in thirty years, *Wild Thing* was named one of the “Best Books of 2025” by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the New York Public Library and the Chicago Public Library. “Newly definitive, impeccably researched, and lavishly illustrated,” Sue Prideaux’s portrait suggests “Seeing a pioneering artist in a new light.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

Presenter: **Roslyn Bakst Goldman** is a certified member of the Appraisers Association of America, specializing in Fine Art appraisals.