



Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

115 South Avenue ~ Rochester, NY 14604 ~ 585.428.8321 ~ ffrpl.org

November 2025

*“Those who came before
us make us who we are.”*

– Maya Angelou

Dear Library Supporter,

The nearness of Thanksgiving reminds us how grateful we are for donors, like you, who support the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library which provides supplemental funding for the RPL. Thank you for showing your belief in the value of the library.

As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, it’s a time to reflect on what truly matters in our lives—family, friends, and the stories that connect us. The Local History and Genealogy Division at the Central Library is committed to providing access to information that expands those stories to encompass neighborhoods and the community.

Patrons can find tangible and digital records at their fingertips to enhance the stories of their ancestors. They can leaf through books, city directories, maps, yearbooks and church records to learn about the past or specific family information. These same sources of information are being digitized to make them available to not only patrons but also to anyone with past ties to Rochester.

A library card provides a ticket to national databases accessing census, marriage and birth information, and newspaper content. Knowledgeable staff help patrons navigate the forms and sources of information to answer their questions and hold training sessions on how to get started with the search, how to capture and understand the information, and how to communicate it to others.

A library is where you go for information and knowledge. The Local History and Genealogy Division is as unique as all other divisions in how it collects this information and presents it. The library is a natural and constant collector of local information: documents, letters, maps and images. It then must preserve those items and convert them to accessible documents.

As technology changes and demands for information change form and substance, the staff must also find new ways to make this information available to everyone: from delicate aged documents to copied tangible formats, microfilm/microfiche, and digitized information on an internal server to national and international databases.

Rachael’s story is a firsthand experience of why this is important.

“I’m volunteering with a children’s afterschool program, and last month the kids were working on family history research projects. One of the kiddos, Rachael, ended up on the RPL Local history & genealogy webpage. It turned out to be a great find! She was able to get some excellent info and decided that we needed to reach out and say thanks!”

over, please

Join other supporters who have stepped up to help young people, like Rachael, gain access to essential family and historical information they could not get elsewhere. Your donation will help us preserve the past and make it accessible to our community. Every gift counts and together, we can create a lasting impact.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you to give the gift of heritage. Please consider making a donation today to support our mission at FFRPL.

Thank you for being an essential part of our library community. Your generosity fuels our work and enriches the lives of those we serve.

Warm regards,



Sally Millick, President of the Board
Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

P.S. Many of our supporters give stock, grants from Donor Advised Funds, or make a Qualified Charitable Distribution as an alternative to cash-based donations. If you find this more convenient, our EIN number is *16-1347453* and we are always ready to help you.

P.P.S. We value your feedback! Even if you decide not to give today, or if you prefer to give online, we would still be so grateful if you take a few moments to complete the enclosed survey and return it in the reply envelope. If you've already shared your feedback, thank you for your time in assisting us to become better stewards of your philanthropy.

