



Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

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

February 2026

Dear Library Supporter,

Our community has a rich and meaningful history—stories of resilience, creativity, and everyday people whose lives shaped this city we call home. Yet for many residents, this history feels distant or inaccessible, tucked away in archives or textbooks. Undocumented memories risk being lost as residents age. As a donor to the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, you understand the important role the library serves in maintaining this history.

But the Library isn't content to let the stories only live on pages sitting on shelves. Using photographs and documents from library archives, local history staff are sharing history on the city streets or the shore of the Genesee River to tell the story of the growth and change of Rochester neighborhoods, and cultural shifts due to immigration flow.

The mission is to bring historical stories directly to the residents in a variety of ways—through public programs, community exhibits, talks, walking tours, and educational resources designed for all ages. By making history visible, engaging and free, the library helps strengthen community identity, spark intergenerational conversations, and ensure that our shared stories are preserved for the future.

At the urging of library patrons in 2019, the library began to create more historical walking tours scheduled between May and September of each year. They cover the history of Rochester's neighborhoods, businesses and diverse populations, allowing participants to see, feel and imagine life when their ancestors were alive. Last summer they averaged 32 participants per tour.

“We want to meet people where they want to be,” says Emily Morry, creator and guide of many of the neighborhood walking tours.

To continue and expand this work, we need your support.

Your contribution will help us:

- Create more free history programs about local neighborhoods.
- Preserve photographs, documents, and oral histories from all neighborhoods, including yours.
- Partner with schools, libraries, and community centers to bring students out of a brick and mortar classroom to an environment of active learning.
- Share underrepresented and overlooked stories from our community.

over, please

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Please donate today. When you give, you are not just supporting a project, you are investing in a sense of belonging and pride that connects neighbors to one another and to the past.

We invite you to join us in keeping our local history alive, accessible, and meaningful. **Together, we can ensure these stories are not forgotten in the pages of long ago read books, but shared—right here at home.**

Thank you for believing in the power of community and history.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Millick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

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

PS: Take advantage of the current historical events and tours by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/mclscal>

PPS: 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.