

# UNDERSTANDING BLACK EXPERIENCES

<https://roccitylibrary.org/understanding-black-experiences/>

- Historical Connections
- Books, E-Books and More
- Film and the Arts
- Community Resources



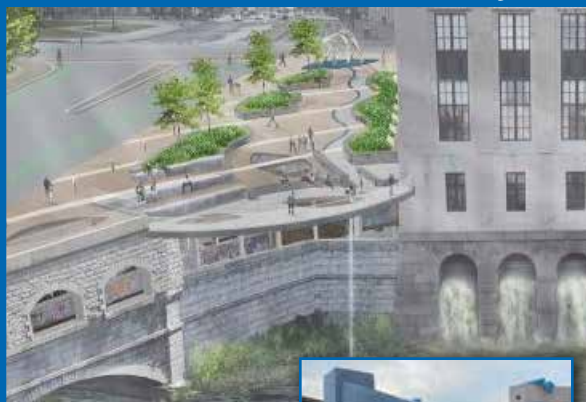
Friends & Foundation of the  
Rochester Public Library

## Would you like to help the Library thrive in the future?

Please consider a **planned gift** through FFRPL. Planned giving is any deferred gift intended to benefit the future of the Rochester Public Library. Bequests, life insurance, IRAs, trusts and annuities all make a lasting difference, and giving through FFRPL is the best way to ensure that your gift will **support the Library now and into the future.**

Please email Rebecca Fuss for more information:  
[rebecca.fuss@libraryweb.org](mailto:rebecca.fuss@libraryweb.org)  
or call 585.428.8323

## Look what we've been up to! Rundel Terrace Revitalization Project



Above: Artist's rendering of completed terrace project



Above: Stone 'canal boat' seating  
Left: Limestone column carving detail



### About the Project

This exciting project will transform a long-closed area next to the Central Library into a new park-like public riverfront terrace, designed with spaces, pathways and seating for engagement, education and reflection.

As one of the first sites developed for ROC the Riverway, the city and state committed nearly \$7-million for repairs and maintenance underneath the terrace, and to commission a large scale site-specific public artwork for the corner of Broad Street and South Avenue.

### 'The River Revealed' Art Installation

FFRPL raised \$125,000 for a complementary art installation, 'The River Revealed', with additional design and sculptural elements serving as an outdoor educational area. In addition to grants secured for the project, your donations helped us raise \$8,200 through an online fundraising campaign.

Construction began Spring 2020 and is slated for completion in 2021.

Learn more: [ffrpl.org](http://ffrpl.org)

Presented by



Friends & Foundation of the  
Rochester Public Library

## ONLINE Books Sandwiched In Spring 2021

All reviews will be posted  
to YouTube at  
'Rochester Public Library NY'



CENTRAL LIBRARY OF ROCHESTER  
& MONROE COUNTY

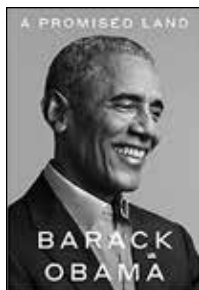
115 SOUTH AVENUE • ROCHESTER, NY

585.428.8350

[www.ffrpl.org](http://www.ffrpl.org)

## ONLINE Books Sandwiched In

All reviews will be posted to YouTube at 'Rochester Public Library NY'



**Review will be posted on March 23**

**A Promised Land**  
by Barack Obama

With *A Promised Land*, Barack Obama tells the story of his improbable journey from humble beginnings to being elected 44th president of the United States, becoming the first African American to hold the nation's highest office. He outlines his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency, as well as the reach and limits of presidential power.

Reviewer:  
**Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres**,  
Commissioner of the  
Department of Recreation  
and Human Services for  
the City of Rochester

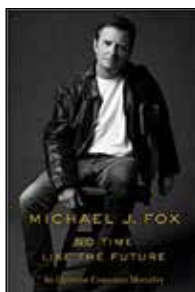


**Review will be posted on March 30**

**The Doctor Who Fooled the World: Science, Deception and the War on Vaccines**  
by Brian Deer

Andrew Wakefield—the subject of Deer's book—is a disgraced former doctor who *Time* magazine listed among history's "great science frauds." "This riveting history of Andrew Wakefield's career as an advocate for the discredited link between the measles vaccine and autism serves as a stirring demonstration of the process and power of investigative journalism." —*Publishers Weekly*

Reviewer:  
**Dr. Stephen Dewhurst**,  
Vice Dean for Research  
at the UofR School of  
Medicine and Dentistry  
and Associate Vice  
President for Health  
Sciences Research



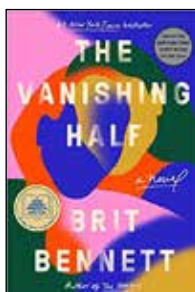
**Review will be posted on April 6**

**No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality**  
by Michael J. Fox

Michael J. Fox's memoir details his experiences living with Parkinson's Disease. With his signature droll humor and wit, he addresses his many significant health setbacks, while still balancing those challenges with his continued will to persevere. Fox offers a "moving account of resilience and hope, as well as his hard-earned wisdom about health, illness, aging and mortality." —*USA Today*

Reviewer:  
**Chuck Vandenberg**  
holds a Master's degree  
in English and teaches  
English at Fairport  
High School

**Special Note:**  
World Parkinson's  
Day is April 11

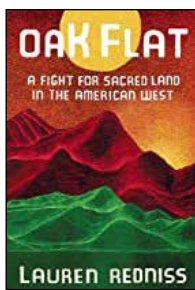


**Review will be posted on April 13**

**The Vanishing Half**  
by Brit Bennett

*The Vanishing Half* is a stunning novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. After growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, the Vignes girls lead very different lives as adults, from their families to their communities and their racial identities.

Reviewer:  
**TBD**

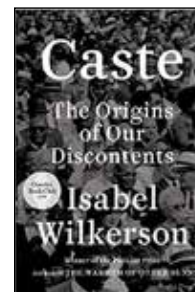


**Review will be posted on April 20**

**Oak Flat: A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West**  
by Lauren Redniss

*Oak Flat* is a powerful work of visual nonfiction about three generations of an Apache family struggling to protect sacred land from a multinational mining corporation. "In conveying the story of the ongoing clash over a patch of southeastern Arizona ... Redniss weaves together physics, history, geology, legislative chicanery, intimate portraiture, and tribal custom and culture into a vivid, searing, indelible act of witness." —Patrick Radden Keefe

Reviewer:  
**Joel Helfrich, PhD**,  
is a public historian and  
an Adjunct Professor of  
Anthropology, History,  
Political Science, and  
Sociology at Monroe  
Community College

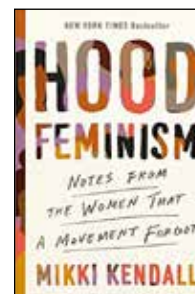


**Review will be posted on April 27**

**Caste: The Origins of our Discontents**  
by Isabel Wilkerson

In this brilliant, deeply researched narrative, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wilkerson outlines eight components that underlie caste systems across civilizations, and examines how the unspoken caste system has shaped America, demonstrating how even today our lives are still defined by a hierarchy of human rankings. "The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power—which groups have it and which do not."

Reviewer:  
**Patricia Larke**,  
Board Member at  
Rochester Area Interfaith  
Hospitality Network and  
Host Home Program  
Manager for The Center  
for Youth Services, Inc.



**Review will be posted on May 4**

**Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That A Movement Forgot**  
by Mikki Kendall

In this searing debut collection of essays, Kendall attacks the legitimacy of the modern feminist movement, arguing that it has chronically failed to address the needs of all but a few women. Drawing on her own experiences with hunger, violence, and hypersexualization, along with incisive commentary on politics, pop culture, the stigma of mental health, and more, *Hood Feminism* delivers an irrefutable indictment of a movement in flux.

Reviewer:  
**Mercedes Phelan**,  
lead organizer, Rochester  
chapter of Citizen  
Action of New York &  
the Alliance for Quality  
Education (AQE)



**Review will be posted on May 11**

**Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy**  
by Margaret Sullivan

"To write a book like *Ghosting the News* is to take on the challenge of proving a negative—to make a case for the urgency of the known unknown. Sullivan succeeds. Her book is an ink-bound alarm bell. The threat Americans face, she argues, is not just the news that lies. It is also the news that will never exist in the first place." —Megan Garber, *The Atlantic*

Reviewer:  
**Michael Kilian**,  
Executive Editor,  
*Rochester Democrat &  
Chronicle*

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