

# 5th LGBTQ Historic Walking Tour

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Gay Liberation Front Resistance in the '70's: Have We Come Full Circle



## LGBTQ LANDMARKS INITIATIVE

*Sharing our Pride of Place*

The Landmark Society launched this groundbreaking new initiative in 2016 to educate the Rochester community about the history of the local LGBTQ movement and to enhance the sense of pride about the place that our city occupies in the fight for civil rights & human dignity throughout our nation's history. Just as Rochester is celebrated for the the instrumental role that it has played in the abolitionist and women's rights movements, so should it be recognized for its contributions to LGBTQ equality. The Landmark Society, with its preservation-based mission, is uniquely positioned to honor this history. We'd like to thank our partners that worked together to plan this walking tour, the City of Rochester, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Out Alliance, as well as our additional partners on the initiative: ImageOut, LGBT Giving Circle, Q Center at RIT, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Susan B Anthony Center at U of R, Trillium Health, U.S. Assemblyman Harry Bronson, U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand, and WXXI & The Little.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Contact: Larry Francer - [lfrancer@landmarksociety.org](mailto:lfrancer@landmarksociety.org) or 585.537.5954 to get involved in the LGBTQ Landmarks project.

## TOUR PATH

### University of Rochester River Campus

The **University of Rochester** was founded in 1850 as a Baptist-sponsored institution. In 1955, the separate colleges for men and women were merged into The College on the River Campus. This map is excerpted from a 1967 – 1968 map of the University of Rochester River Campus. As you can see between 1955 and 1967 the U of R expanded its academic offerings and the buildings that would house them on the River Campus. Numbers 16 Morey Hall, 17 Lattimore, and 19 Todd Union are around the Eastman Quad. Hoey Hall – 33 – is in the cluster of dorms between Palestra Road and Fraternity Rd. This was the River Campus where the Rochester Gay Liberation Front would begin.





## “TAKE HEART BROTHERS, Gay Lib Is Coming” Todd Union #19

**“The City of Rochester is proud to continue the legacy of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass and to welcome all voices in charting our future.”**

- Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY

On Oct. 3, 1970 the Rochester Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was birthed at Todd Union on the University of Rochester River campus with the help of the Cornell GLF and the

Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier. Over a hundred people gathered for that first meeting. Bob Osborne and Larry Fine, the original organizers, were joined by Patti Evans, RJ Alcalá, Karen Hagberg, Whitey LeBlance, and Walt Delaney, who also became leaders. As a group under Student Government the GLF received funds and an office – originally 202D and within 6 months 201D a bigger space from which they would publish the organization’s newsletter, the Empty Closet (EC), named by RJ Alcalá. The Empty Closet, first published in January 1971, communicated movement news to the U of R student body and the Rochester LGBT community.



## SAY IT LOUD, GAY AND PROUD Morey Hall #16

**“You need to know your history to be adequately prepared for the future!”**

- Carol Ebersole-Weiss,

HRC National Board of Governors & Western NY Coordinator

Karen Hagberg, a member of the Rochester Gay Liberation Front, began the Speakers Bureau.

“Some of us thought that if everybody would just come out, we wouldn’t have a problem,” says Hagberg. “And that was the impetus for forming the Speaker’s Bureau.” The speakers would share their stories and answer questions about being gay from individuals, other student groups, community organizations, churches, and for U of R classes. On December 7, 1970, GLF members RJ Alcalá, Larry Fine, and Karen Hagberg led a discussion on homosexuality in Dr. Vincent Nowlis’ Social Psychology Seminar: Sex and Gender Role. They initiated the talk with statements which stressed the need for change in existing social attitudes toward homosexuality. It was mentioned that homosexuality is seldom presented as a viable mode of self-expression. The presentation took place off campus in Dr. Nowlis’ own home.



## Harassment In Hoeing Hall Hoeing Hall #33

**“The Out Alliance is proud to partner with the City of Rochester, The Landmark Society and HRC on the Historic LGBTQ Walking Tour to recognize Rochester’s LGBTQ early history of resistance and advocacy.”**

- Out Alliance, Rochester, NY



Marshall Goldman, a member of the U of R GLF, lived in Hoeing Hall in March of 1971. Marshall reported the following incident of harassment in the Feb – March 1971 issue of the EC.

“I have made my activities in GLF and the fact that I am gay known to the denizens of my dorm and got generally good to indifferent reactions.... Last week a friend dropped in to see me in my dorm. He was spotted by a couple of the uptight types who infest Hoeing, and they quickly alerted a few friends, moved in on us and began their evening’s entertainment. We were locked in my room by having pennies jammed in the door, firecrackers were set off on the windowsills, and pounding was done on my door. These activities, as well as squirt gun and shaving cream fights, are common in dorms. I finally had to call the Head Resident to have the pennies removed so that my friend, who, needless to say, was frightened by the presence of these apes outside the door, could leave.”

