



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Library Opens Exhibit of Dr. Catherine Collins' Victorian Teapot Collection

"The Teapot Legacy Walk" marks 30 years of teas that funded women's health education in Western New York

BUFFALO, N.Y. – [August 20, 2026] – The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library will open the Dr. Catherine Collins Victorian Teapot Exhibit with a public celebration on Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Central Library's Collections Gallery. The event is free and open to all.

The exhibit traces the life and work of Dr. Catherine Collins, a nurse practitioner, author, educator, college dean, radio host, and member of the New York State Board of Regents. The collection specifically traces Dr. Collins' advocacy leadership through teapots, which started as a collection, but became so much more. Dr. Collins, inspired by her collection, founded an annual Victorian High Tea to support women and engage the broader community, with an emphasis on health education.

Susan Buttaccio, Manager of Special Collections at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library worked with Dr. Collins to plan the exhibit.

"People will walk in expecting a display of pretty china, but that is not the primary purpose of this exhibit and partnership," **Buttaccio** said. "Every one of these teapots inspired a public health campaign - Our job was to tell that story."

Dr. Collins will host the September 5 opening alongside exhibit co-chairs Susan Grelick and Laura Zaepfel. The first 100 registrants will receive a commemorative teacup and door prize entry. Guests are invited to wear a favorite hat or fascinator.

Registration is open through the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library [here](#).

The exhibit will remain on view in the Central Library's 2nd Floor Gallery through the end of the year. The Central Library is located at 1 Lafayette Square in downtown Buffalo.

About the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

Established in 1836, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is Buffalo's oldest cultural institution. *Profoundly Public* in all we do, the Library serves more than 2.35 million visitors annually through 37 branches and mobile services. The Library also houses over 3.2 million resources, extensive digital collections, and innovative programming. With a collection of

international and national note, the Library continues to significantly impact community education, equity, and cultural enrichment. In 2025, every dollar invested returned \$4.24 in community benefits, totaling over \$131 million in annual value. To explore resources and services, visit www.BuffaloLib.org.

Media Contact

Sean Piazza
Marketing Manager
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
PiazzaS@buffalolib.org

-###-