

History
of the
QUATREFOIL
LIBRARY

by
Adam G. Keim

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

CATALOG CARD NUMBER:

2008934613

ISBN: 978-0-9668828-2-7

Published by:

FRIENDS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Randall D.B.Tigue, Chair

205 Golden Valley Office Center

810 North Lilac Drive

Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422

July 2009

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Because of my age, I feel that I have missed out on a lot of GLBT history. I was not around for the Stonewall Riots, the Radical Faeries, the Feminist Movement, or any gay secret societies, and I am even too young to have any good friends who died during the AIDS crisis of the 80s. I live in a society that has become more and more comfortable with the hopefully soon-to-be non-issue of being openly gay. Because of my gay brothers, lesbian sisters, and straight allies before me, I was able to come out when I was 18 years old, when I was on active duty in the United States Marine Corps, and living in Albany, Georgia, a Southern town that was still very segregated and racist and in the heart of the Bible Belt. Believe it or not, I never had any problems being gay! I contribute my ease in coming out to those who struggled with coming out before me.

The Quatrefoil Library has opened my eyes to these things. Before now, I took all these events and people for granted. I gaze over the shelves of books in the Quatrefoil Library and I feel overwhelmed. There is so much history buried in there and it is all important, especially for the younger generations of gay people to realize why they have the freedoms they have. And what a monumental feat the Quatrefoil is doing by collecting and preserving all of it. They do it for people such as me, who didn't even know who the founders of the gay liberation movement were until now.

Although this task has been much bigger than I ever anticipated, I do not regret it one bit. Being involved in such a great organization with amazing people is reward enough. The past few years of doing research for this project has allowed me to meet people who truly had an impact on our GLBT community. It has been an honor to work with them.

Most of the information in this book came from talking to people who have been involved in the Library, as well as digging through the contents of the collection and old files and materials from the past 20+ years. If any information is incorrect, or if names have been accidentally omitted, I do apologize.

Adam G. Keim
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FOREWORDS

Having heard about the Quatrefoil Library from Dick Hewetson over the years, I was eager to see it on my first visit to Minneapolis in the Spring of 2006. I was delighted that there was to be a special field trip as part of the pioneering Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections Conference sponsored by the Jean Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota. Even without remembering all the specifics of how the Library had come to be, I was impressed by the facility, the collections, the dedication of the volunteer board and staff. This detailed history of the Quatrefoil Library is a fascinating document, recounting the achievements and challenges of its development and its ongoing efforts to serve its constituents. The Library (and now this book) is a testament to the two men, David Irwin and Dick Hewetson, who started acquiring for their personal pleasure, quickly realized a need in their community, and moved to fill it. Their vision, commitment and generosity is equaled only by that of all those who have worked so diligently for so many years to make their dream a reality and keep it alive. Their efforts are evidence that the personal is political, that we can all make a difference. As Program Manager of the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library from 1992 to 2007, I well know the hard work necessary to develop and maintain such a collection. From our vantage point on the East and West Coasts, we sometimes take for granted such collections. That a library like this exists in America's heartland is an inspiration to the power of the people. I am proud to help honor the Quatrefoil Library and all the people who have participated in its history. Long may it live.

Jim Van Buskirk, Program Manager (retired)
James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center
San Francisco Public Library

The history of Quatrefoil Library is a history of what love's labors can bring. As the second GLBT lending library in the nation (Chicago's Gerber/Hart has the distinction of being the first) Quatrefoil Library has a distinct history based in the founding of the collection by Dick Hewetson and David Irwin from their own GLBT book collection. Their love for collecting books, their love for the Twin Cities, and their love for their community has made what might have seemed like a distant dream at one point a reality.

The collection of Quatrefoil Library is in itself wide-ranging, from GLBT documentaries to gay porn, from pulp novels to serious fiction, from gay-themed posters to lesbian periodicals. But most important is the history of the people involved. Certainly most, if not all of the individuals involved in the founding and running of Quatrefoil Library over the past twenty plus years would say 'no, I'm not important at all—it's the books. That's why I did it. If I hadn't, someone else would have.' No false modesty here, but a genuine sense that you just do something because it is bigger and better and more important than you. Members, too, have played an important role, not only in supporting the Library through their association, but also in sustaining the Library through the years. I think most would view their support as a "public good"—providing a service that benefits the community as a whole, straight and GLBT alike (and perhaps those who are trying to find their way from one to the other).

This is not to say that it's all been smooth sailing. On the contrary, the history you have in your hands presents the unvarnished ups and downs of the individuals, their inter-Nicene battles about porn, acquisitions, fundraising, and so on. What amazes is that the Quatrefoil Library has survived and grown because of these disagreements, not in spite of them. So sit back and enjoy. Be surprised at the number of nationally and internationally known figures who have passed through Quatrefoil's doors and offered support. Learn something more about the history of the GLBTQ movement here in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Matthew (Matt) Stark, Executive Director Emeritus, Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, whose idea it was to have this History written and for giving me the opportunity to be the author, and for his patience and belief that I could accomplish such a daunting task, and for his editing and financing the publishing of this work in hard copy and electronically for free distribution, and not for sale.

Brian Mangin for being there to support me, and lovingly nagging me to get this book done.

Paul Dame and Tim Scheweyen for letting me escape from real-world distractions and write in the serenity of your peaceful cabin and home. This book would never have been finished if it weren't for your generosity.

To Dan Hanson and Kathy Robbins for helping me proofread, check facts, fill in missing information, find Library items, track down people, answer a ton of questions, and who basically would do anything I asked in order to help me make this project successful. You are both true gems and a joy to know.

To all the Library volunteers over the 20+ years for keeping this dream of Dick Hewetson and David Irwin's alive and functioning as an important aspect of our community.

Unless otherwise footnoted, much of the information in this publication came from interviews and Board meeting minutes. If you would like to do further research about the findings in this book, you may look in one of two places. First, all the material that was a product of my research, including tapes, notes and other material, may be found in the Jean Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies, Department of Special Collections and Rare Books, University of Minnesota Libraries, Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222-21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455. All other documents and material, such as bylaws, event fliers, photos, leases, financial reports, etc., are in the archive files at the Quatrefoil Library.

A.G.K.

DEDICATION

The History of the Quatrefoil Library is dedicated to the two people who believed that a resource such as this was a much needed part of the Twin Cities GLBT community: **Dick Hewetson** and **David Irwin**. They came up with the wonderful idea of having a safe space where GLBT people could go to learn more about their community and themselves, during a time when it was unsafe to be who you are. We will always be thankful for your successful vision, tireless efforts, and unwavering ambition.

This book is written in memory of **Dale Johnson** (1967-2004), Board member and personal friend, whose vision for the Quatrefoil Library was well beyond what any of us ever imagined or expected. His tireless dedication and desire will inspire us all for many years to come.

A.G.K.



INTRODUCTION

The Quatrefoil Library is one of the United States' oldest and biggest GLBT lending libraries. Incorporated in 1983, opened in 1986, and now located in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Library has over 14,000 books, 500 different periodicals, 3,000 videos, newsletters, posters, travel guides, and many other interesting collections, such as scripts, comics, children's books CDs, Braille books and historical erotica--all GLBT-related.

Dick Hewetson and David Irwin had been gathering GLBT related books during their 8-year relationship. On Sunday, September 11, 1983, they brought up the idea to four of their friends at brunch at their condo in St. Paul, about sharing them with the entire GLBT community, and the Quatrefoil Library became official within one week! In 1986, as a result of the urging of Matt Stark, then the executive director of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, the Quatrefoil rented space in the new MCLU Foundation office building on West Broadway in Minneapolis.

The Quatrefoil Library was named after the book, QUATREFOIL by James Barr, which David believed was one of the first books to portray homosexuals in a positive way. Written in 1950, it was a ground-breaking novel for its time. Likewise, the Quatrefoil Library was ground-breaking in its own way, being one of the first GLBT lending libraries in the world. Today, in 2009, it is still going strong due to the commitment of all the hard working volunteers and patrons who still believe so much in Dick and David's dream in providing a safe and welcoming library space for the GLBT community. A.G.K.

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David Irwin and Dick Hewetson



David Irwin (standing)
Dick Hewetson (seated)

Chapter 1 – The Beginnings

Dick Hewetson and David Irwin

Dick Hewetson was born in suburban Chicago on March 31, 1930. When he was seven years old his family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1954, he got a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota, and then in 1957, received a Masters of Divinity (M.Div) degree at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

In 1957, Reverend Richard Hewetson was Vicar of St. John's Church in Hallock, Minnesota, as well as Rector at Christ Church in St. Vincent, Minnesota. From then until 1971, he held positions as a rector or vicar in many Episcopal churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In the late 1960s, Dick got a job with the Minnesota State Employment Service, working at helping elderly citizens with job placement.

In 1971, Dick first became involved in the gay liberation movement. He sought out activist work through Gay House in Minneapolis. This was a drop-in center where gay and lesbian people could meet, find coming out resources, and experience a social scene other than the bars. A year earlier, Gay House had been the first place Dick went to see anybody about his gayness, so he was happy to go back to do volunteer work there. Gay author John Preston was a counselor there at the time. David Irwin, Dick's future partner, recalls one of Dick's counselors being shocked and making a comment about Dick being 40 years old and never having had a lover.

Books were becoming more available on homosexuality and coming out, although they were rare and could usually only be found in adult book stores. Dick started buying books about the gay community and reading them. He particularly remembers *The Front Runner* by Patricia Nell Warren, *Loving Someone Gay* by Don Clark, and a book called *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* by George Weinberg, all of which can be found in the Quatrefoil Library. This last book was the one that affected Dick's life the most. It helped him realize that being homosexual was a normal and okay thing and that a person was not considered sick or mentally unfit just because of his/her sexual attraction.

In 1972, Dick decided to leave the church life, not because of his sexuality, but because he had gradually stopped believing in Christianity. He had never dealt with his sexuality until after he left the church when he

was 42 years old. He became involved in the gay movement politically before he became involved sexually. Activism came comfortably for Dick. Jim Van Buskirk, a friend of Dick's from the San Francisco Public Library, states about Dick's activism, "We always look for Dick to say all those things that nobody else dares to say."¹ After a few years of being an activist, he met David Irwin, an avid book collector and reader. Dick will be the first to admit, "I was the activist. David was the book collector." The combination of Dick's activism and David's interest in books led to their later decision to make books available to the entire community.² David Irwin's mother had taught county school near Garrison, Iowa, and passed on her love of learning and reading to her eight children, including David who was born on January 1, 1920. Because David was a New Year's Day baby, the editor of the *Des Moines Capitol* newspaper, Lafayette Young, gave his mother a baby book with poems and pictures in it. It was one of David's most treasured books and was an indicator of his future love for books. David excelled in school and continued fulfilling his love of reading.

In junior high school, David spent a great amount of time at the South Side Public Library in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1933 or 34, he was hired as a 'page', shelving books and helping library visitors find material. He worked there and occasionally at other city libraries until he was let go due to cutbacks during the Great Depression years.

While David was living in Washington D.C. during the early 1940s, he met Beverly Couchman, a friend of David's sister. He and Beverly were married in March, 1943, and stayed married for 10 years. They were living in California where Beverly taught kindergarten while David attended the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA) from 1945-48 in Hermosa Beach, California. After receiving his B.A. from UCLA, David attended the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) Episcopal Seminary in Berkeley, California, for two years, dropping out before graduating.

From 1957 to 1967, David taught all subjects in the 4th – 8th grade in private schools in Kansas, Colorado, and Minnesota. He started libraries and library clubs at all of these schools. He received his Masters of Education in History degree from Macalester College in St. Paul in 1969. He got his Minnesota Teacher's license and became a high school special education teacher in the St. Paul schools from 1970 until he retired in 1985.

When David was 54, in 1974, all Minnesota teachers were required, as a result of the Civil Rights Movement, to attend a human relations

workshop. The sessions were devoted to learning about minority groups (Japanese, Chinese, Jews, Blacks, etc.). The presenters were Ron Mattson, a gay male Quaker minister, and Suzanne Born, a lesbian law student who later became a Board member of the Quatrefoil Library. The minority group which really piqued David's interest was a session on gay people. He previously had thoughts of being gay and came alive by coming out at 55 in 1975. Then, David learned about a gay group in Minneapolis which had a counseling program and he began seeing a therapist to find himself. He learned about a national group called Integrity, a gay support and social group in the Episcopal Church of which he was still a member. He saw a notice about a meeting of this group and went to see what he could find out. There were four people there: David, Frank (the person who put up the notice), Alan, a married man who left a few minutes after the meeting started, and Dick Hewetson, who was doing weekend clergy work as well as being employed by the State Employment Service.

After an awkward meeting, Dick asked David if he wanted to go to a nearby restaurant so David could smoke and get some refreshments and they could have a real conversation. Later, Dick told David about a gay social coffee group that met on Saturday nights at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. David started going there. Soon after, David also started attending the Saturday night social group at the Church and again met Dick there. That night they chatted together during the entire function. Dick was 45 at the time and David was ten years his senior. They started spending weekends together and eventually began looking for a home to share. They finally settled on a condominium apartment at 614 Grand Avenue at Dale, in St. Paul, which they shared from 1976 until 1984.

They both were very involved in the gay community during the time they lived together. Dick, being the natural activist, brought David into the activism community. Dick was active on the Board of the Out and About Theatre, a local gay theatre production company. He was also associated with the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights. They were both involved fighting to protect St. Paul's gay rights ordinance against the Anita Bryant Initiative.

The two were enjoying their lives together with their various social circles, civic activities, friends, and their participation in Minnesota Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) fundraisers and speaker programs where they met Dr. Matthew (Matt) Stark, then the Executive Director of the MCLU, and now the Executive Director Emeritus, who later played a role in the

initiation of the Quatrefoil Library. Additionally, Dick and David enjoyed hosting an open house each year to which they invited their friends, coworkers, and relatives. During this time their love of gay themed literature blossomed as well.

The Collection

As a gay activist, Dick would buy gay themed publications (*New York Native*, *Advocate*, *Blue Boy*, *GPU News*) wherever he could find them. In those days, you could only get them at adult book stores or rare/used book stores. Books on homosexuality were too taboo for mainstream bookstores, even though some of the books were not pornographic in nature. For years, Dick had read gay books but he always ended up discarding them out of fear that someone would discover them.

Their mutual love of books proved to have a significant outcome as the pair started accumulating a large collection of GLB books. It wasn't long before gathering books (both gay and non-gay themed) became David's main obsession. They filled bookshelf after bookshelf in their large apartment which had a long L-shaped hallway with bookshelves running down the sides of the hall. The books eventually took over the den as well. "I remember being astonished walking around. Everywhere you went there were bookshelves full of books. They were taking over the house," said Tim Bonham, an early Quatrefoil member and donor of books and money.³ If any of the books had words referring to the gay, lesbian, or homosexual lifestyle on the binding or cover, they would be stored in the linen closet. Among their close friends there was this legend of the linen closet as the place where the books with the L word (Lesbian), G word (Gay), or H word (Homosexual), as Dick called them, could be hidden from people such as David's family, who were not aware of his and Dick's sexuality. David had told his niece and nephew about his sexuality and they were okay with it. His ex-wife Beverly was fine with it too. But later, when the Library was functioning, he used the Quatrefoil Library as a way of coming out to his family by telling them about his successful organization. Some members of his family didn't take it very well, especially his children. But his sister Eunice's surprising reply was, "Tell us something we didn't know. I've been in your apartment and we saw those books and magazines."

The legendary linen closet didn't last long either, as their collection of gay and lesbian themed books outgrew it. Eventually three six-foot shelves were filled and placed in their bedroom. Many of their friends would come

to borrow books and Dick and David both got much joy out of sharing them. One of the first to borrow books from them was their friend Mary V. Borhek. She lived in the Twin Cities and Dick and David met her at an Integrity gathering at an Episcopal Church in south Minneapolis. She and David appeared on some panels together about gay parenting. They were both involved in PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). She wrote a book about having a gay son called *My Son Eric*. She later wrote another book for parents dealing with their children coming out titled *Coming Out to Parents: A Two-Way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents*. (The Quatrefoil Library has copies of both of these books.) The first book was about her own son, Steve Lenius, who is now a columnist for *Lavender Magazine* and a prominent activist in the Twin Cities leather community, a group committed to promoting the positive image of the leather lifestyle through various social events. At the time Mary was borrowing books from Dick and David, she was an activist for GLBT rights. But Steve wasn't.

Dick and David also started to look for books during their excursions around the world. They would go to book stores and rummage sales in hopes of finding that rare or unique gay publication. David traveled all over the world, including London and Edinburgh to search for books, while Dick usually accompanied him only on trips to places in the US and Canada. Since books were more David's passion than Dick's, David recalls Dick would often have to stand around waiting. "Dick was so bored and impatient. He wanted to be someplace else."⁴

David also started attending library conferences where he started to hear news about the existence of gay archives across the country. This made them think about an outlet for the rare books in their own collection. As their collection continued to grow, and more friends became interested in borrowing the books, the picture became much clearer to them. They felt somewhat socially responsible to make their own collection available to others. Because those types of books were not usually available in public libraries or book stores at that time, they thought it would be a great idea to set up a lending library, so they could share their treasures, not just with their friends, but with the entire community. Dick said, "We thought it would really be wonderful if these books were available to people other than just us and our friends."⁵ This idea in the early 80s was original and exciting, because even though there were some archive and research collections in places such as Los Angeles and San Francisco, nothing existed in the form of a GLBT lending library in the U.S.

FIRST TIME IN PAPERBACK

Quatrefoil

An adult novel of a love between two men
that defied society's strongest taboo.

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54-871

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a widely-
acclaimed
best-seller at
\$5.75
- now only
75c



The Quatrefoil

The book, *Quatrefoil* by James Barr, is about two young Navy officers in the 1950s who fell in love with each other when such an activity was highly frowned upon. The term 'gay' still meant 'happy' and the term homosexual was usually followed by a derogatory term. *Quatrefoil* was the first book to be written about homosexuality and love between two men which dealt with the issue in a realistic and intelligent way. In this book, there were no men dealing with their sexuality who ended up locked up in a mental institution or committing suicide as in most of the other writings up to that time. *Quatrefoil* portrayed homosexuals in a positive way. Both of them succeeded in coming to terms with everything, including their affection for each other.

David had been so impressed with James Barr's *Quatrefoil*, which he had read shortly after it was published in 1950, that he insisted on naming their collection the Quatrefoil Library.⁶

On Sunday, September 11, 1983, David and Dick had four people over for brunch. The topic of conversation turned to the possibilities of opening a new gay lending library. In attendance was gay couple Dan Hanson and Keith Grennier. They lived close to Dick and David and knew them through their mutual work with the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union (MCLU). Dan remembers, "They brought up this proposal of a gay library, and we all thought it was kind of silly, but it made sense, too."⁷

Also in attendance were Jane Lilja and Ann Richtman, a lesbian couple who were very active in the community. The nascent Quatrefoil Library was officially brought into existence at that time! Dick would be the first president, David would take on the role of secretary-treasurer, and Jane Lilja would be the vice president. The first Board of Directors for the Quatrefoil Library included Jane's partner, Ann Richtman who would use her legal skills to draw up the articles of incorporation in the week following the brunch. Not long after the meeting, Jane, who was in her early 30s, passed away from illness and her partner Ann moved to Wisconsin, to practice law there, so neither of them ever got to see the Library come to fruition. The next task was to look for a home to establish the library as a public entity.

Finding a Home

Dick and David, along with friend Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, who would be an early Library volunteer and later start a GLBT archive collection of his own, made some efforts to find a space for the collection. They talked to a realtor about the carriage house behind the Butler Mansion on Summit Avenue in St. Paul. They looked at the F. Scott Fitzgerald row house on Summit Avenue. Jean thought the house would be a good fit since F. Scott Fitzgerald had an obvious love for books and was rumored to be gay. He was known for his writing of *The Great Gatsby*. It was an historic house so there would be the potential of getting a grant to make improvements on the inside of it. Word had leaked out to the gay press, and *Equal Time*, a Twin Cities gay newspaper ran a picture and an article on March 21, 1984, about the possibility of this becoming the first home of the Library. This led to several complaints from neighbors because of potential parking and traffic problems. However, by the time the article was published the Board had collectively decided it was not the right home for them.

In early 1984, Dick and David decided to end their 9-year relationship. They sold the condo and moved into their own residences. They had a lawyer draw up an agreement about their relationship so the breakup was relatively smooth and they still remain best of friends and partners in the Library. Dick stated, "We had a really good relationship and didn't part on bad terms. We were this divorced couple, but we had this kid, this kid called Quatrefoil."⁸ David decided to take a room at the University Club in St. Paul where he previously lived so he would not have to clean or cook his own meals. Dick bought a condominium at Irvine Hill in St. Paul. David had talked about donating his collection of books to the Gerber/Hart Library, a GLBT Library in Chicago that started just three years earlier. But Dick convinced him to box them up and store them in a rather large storage space at Dick's condo. The rent for the storage space was inexpensive and David paid for it since most of the books at the time were his. The break-up did not stop the men from looking for a home to house the potential Library. David thought perhaps a duplex where he could live upstairs and house the Library downstairs would be a good idea. During the time they were searching for a home for the Library, the Board members were throwing open houses to garner funds and book donations as well as stimulate an interest in the Library among their friends, coworkers, and acquaintances from various political and gay rights groups. At the first open houses/house parties, the opinions of most people were extremely positive, although some people at those early fundraisers were not as optimistic as the founders were about establishing a GLBT Library.

According to an anonymous attendee at one of these early open houses, when Dick and David were still a couple, some of the guests huddled in small groups in side rooms and they gossiped and said they didn't believe there would be support for such an organization in the Gay/ Lesbian community. They didn't think there would be the demand and that it might not last a year. There was also fear about vandals and theft. But even those skeptical guests soon agreed with the same vision that Dick and David had and ended up becoming members, donors, and volunteers.

However, several other people within the GLBT community expressed opinions that GLBT literature was not even worth being in a collection or library, or worth saving at all. They assumed all GLBT literature was porn or porn related. Some others thought that a library such as this would alienate the GLBT community even further from the mainstream public in which they were trying so hard to find acceptance. The early to mid 1980s were a time when the GLBT community was just beginning to make inroads in the mainstream heterosexual society. It was a time when many people were becoming more comfortable with coming out as GLBT persons. It was also a time when the AIDS epidemic was just beginning to be known. Some of the protagonists within the local GLBT community believed there should be GLBT collections in each public library so that more people could be made aware of these resources and recent events in GLBT history. Their opinions, although seriously heard and considered, didn't stop the development of the Quatrefoil Library.

In the fall of 1985, Dr. Matthew (Matt) Stark, as Executive Director of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union (MCLU), called to ask Dick, among hundreds of other longtime contributors to the MCLU, for a personal donation to pay for the building which the MCLU had just bought for its offices on West Broadway in north Minneapolis. Matt had known and related well with both Dick and David who had become friends with him through their consistent involvement in MCLU activities over the years. After Dick agreed to make a financial donation, Matt asked about the state of the Quatrefoil Library. Dick told him that all the books were still in storage because they had not yet found a place for the Library. Matt told Dick that there would be some rental space in the new MCLU building and they were looking for good people to rent it out to. He knew that Dick and David were good people. The Library would be safe and secure with 24-hour access. David and Dick knew and respected Matt as a leading supporter of gay/lesbian rights, and as a founder and a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Gay and Lesbian Legal Assistance Center. They also knew that Matt would ensure that GLBT people could make use

of the Quatrefoil Library in the MCLU space without fear of harassment, and in fact, it would be a setting where they would be respected, supported, and liked. Dan Hanson says of Matt, “Matthew Stark really was instrumental in getting us space for the Library. MCLU bought this new building and it was Matthew’s idea to rent out small rooms to entrepreneurs.”⁹



They went to look at the space and Matt convinced them that the time was appropriate for them to actually get their Library into existence. And as of December 1, 1985, the Quatrefoil Library rented two adjoining offices in the MCLU building, which were a total of 288 square feet and had a monthly rent of \$100 per room. They were given keys to the building and had full access to use of the facilities including a conference room. A friendly MCLU secretary/receptionist was available to open the door for visitors and patrons. The Quatrefoil Library finally had a publicly available and recognized home. Dick and David rented a van and friends came to help move the massive amounts of books and used shelving they had purchased from Llewellyn Publications. One person who helped was Dick's friend Ed Sevals who worked with Dick at the State Employment Office. Friends Ken Elverhoy and Dwight Robinson also helped. Dan Hanson and Keith Grennier, who had been present at the initial Quatrefoil brunch fundraising meeting, were there to help as well. David's nephew, David Bergstrom also came to help move the boxes of books. At the time, David was not out to his nephew, and he didn't even know what kind of books were in those boxes that belonged to his uncle. They moved all the boxes of books into their new home at 1021 West Broadway in North Minneapolis.

One of the first people to volunteer her time at the Library was Gerry Gulbranson, a straight woman from Dick's office at the Minnesota State Employment Agency in downtown Minneapolis. When Dick told her that they were going to open the Quatrefoil Library she said (much to Dick's surprise), "I am going to come and help you." On that first day of her volunteering, she helped Dick and David paste pockets into books and then stamp them with the wonderful new rubber stamp that read 'Quatrefoil Library'. Dick believes that Gerry helped because she was a person who wanted to be a 'part' of the community. She volunteered at the desk with Dan Hanson one Saturday a month for many years. Dick always jokingly referred to her as their "token straight" librarian.

Amidst everything that was going on, in January of 1986, Dick's mother died. After arranging the cremation services, Dick's sister Anita Schieman and her daughter Kim came to support Dick by helping with his new Library. They knew how much it meant to him.

The "Quatrefoil Library" stamp that the Quatrefoil used to mark books was put on top of the text block, and a capital letter "Q" was stamped on the lower right corner of the inside cover. The "Q" signified that the book was

a part of the original collection. Early on, they started stamping the Library name and address on page 69 of each book. David thought page 69 would be funny because of the obvious sexual connotation to gay men and he often giggled about it to Dick.

Getting Started

With the help of press releases in local GLBT papers such as *Equal Time* and the *GLC Voice*, the doors of the Library officially opened to the public on February 4, 1986. They were open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. There were 16 Quatrefoil members before the doors ever opened (See Appendix) and the original collection had approximately 1,300 books and six periodical subscriptions. Members of the community had read the announcements about the Library opening in the local GLBT press and they arrived with bags and boxes full of books to donate. A core group of people had volunteered to help during the first few days the Library was open. Others were friends whom Dick and David pleaded with to get their help. Some of the people who spent hours processing books and setting up the shelves were Ken Elverhoy, Richard Groger, Gerry Gulbranson, Dennis Hayden, George Holdgrafer, Ray Karels, Julie Mason, Carl Sjobeck, Tammy Ward, Robert Winters, and Don Yager.

Needing insurance protection for the new Library, they checked with the MCLU to see whom their coverage was through, and in August of that year they ended up getting \$50,000 coverage from State Farm at a cost of \$288 per year.

The building itself worried the founders a little bit. It was in a somewhat safe area and had local businesses such as a bank and drug store on each side. Cops were regularly around the bank and drug store and were basically friendly to Matt Stark and the MCLU and then became supporters of this special Library for gays and lesbians. But the two barred street level office windows and the locked steel door with buzzer access to the MCLU building worried some people. (The previous owner had remodeled the building to serve as a counseling center, but it had never been used for that purpose). They believed that it might scare some Library visitors away with its not-so-welcoming outside look. But that didn't seem to deter people and they never experienced any problems with security or complaints. Dick recalls one funny time when three men apprehensively rang the bell to the Library, thinking it was a dirty book store. When realizing it was just a Library, they all had a good laugh about the occurrence. Past Library Board

member and Executive Director Edward Swanson mentioned, "We never had any problems. We just had a lot of books and not a lot of space."¹⁰

GAZE

TWIN CITIES

February, 1986

The News Monthly for the Gay and Lesbian Community of the Upper Midwest

\$1.00

Quatrefoil Library opens Feb. 4

The Quatrefoil Library, gay and lesbian resource center and archives for the Upper Midwest, will be open on a regular basis, beginning February 4. Hours of operation at 1021 W. Broadway, Minneapolis, will be 7-10 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays, or by appointment.

David Irwin, the library's founder, is now retired and spends many hours working on the collection. The library is in a secured building so it is necessary to call ahead if you are visiting the library other than at regularly scheduled times. Irwin is always happy to talk with people interested in books and gay history.

Dick Howetson, president of the board and volunteer coordinator, already has a number of people to staff the library and help with its plans. He says he can always use more help. If you are interested in helping, call the library at 522-7185 or one of the board members: Dick Howetson 227-3952, David Irwin 224-5431, or Jane Leija 292-9045.

The library is at Broadway and Emerson and can be reached by car taking I-94 or North Lyndale to Broadway, then west on Broadway. There is frequent bus service from downtown Minneapolis on routes 5, 7, and 8.

When Board members first contacted the local *Yellow Pages* to place an ad about the Library, they were told the *Yellow Pages* didn't have an appropriate category for a GLBT Library. So the *Yellow Pages* staff created a section especially for them entitled 'Libraries, Circulating and Rental', in which the Quatrefoil was the only listing.

The Library created press releases sent to gay organizations and publications in Minnesota and around the country. The press releases asked for donations of all types. Their first financial donation received as a result of these press releases was a check for \$10 from Minnesota House of Representative member Karen Clark, an out lesbian. It has been the only donation ever received from an elected official, even though the Twin Cities has had several openly gay and lesbian elected officials.

The Library was especially lacking in religious or women's themed books and therefore requested donations of these items in their press releases. People arrived at the Library with boxes and shopping bags filled with various donations and many people expressed their delight in finally finding a home for their books and magazines. One of the first large donations came from an unknown person in Los Angeles who sent 6 boxes. This person had read the article about the Library in the *Advocate*, the nation's most popular, widely circulated gay magazine. Another large donation came from San Francisco. It was a complete set of the *Gay and Lesbian Atheist League Magazine*, of which organization both Dick and David were members.

Shortly thereafter, David and Library volunteer Jean-Nickolaus Tretter went to visit Jim Kempner at the International Gay Archives in Los Angeles which had lots of duplicate copies of printed material they were looking to put to good use elsewhere. David and Jean searched through the collection, much of which was in storage garages, and secured a total of 16 boxes of books, newspapers, and magazines which were shipped to the Quatrefoil Library from the International Gay Archives.

On May 4, 1986, the Quatrefoil Library held its official Grand Opening Celebration. Famous gay author Quentin Crisp was in town and participated in the festivities.¹¹ Phil Willke, who was editor of the *James White Review* had arranged Crisp's visit to the Twin Cities for another event. Phil had met and befriended Dick and David through the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights (MCGR). Because of his publishing the *James White Review* and his love of books, he later became involved in the Library. He donated money, magazines, and his 'review' copies of books to

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO OUR GRAND OPENING



1021 West Broadway Minneapolis, MN 55411
612/522-7185

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1986
Noon-4:00 P>M>

Special Guest: Quentin Crisp

*A Gay/Lesbian Archives, Library and Resource Center
for the Upper Midwest*

the Library. Phil was also a friend of Matt Stark and was a financial supporter of the MCLU, too. Harvey Hertz, owner of A Brother's Touch Bookstore in Minneapolis, also helped coordinate getting Quentin Crisp into town. Harvey had some of Crisp's books for sale at the event.

Due to the influx of book and magazine donations, the leaders of the Library had to add the rental of a third 144 square foot room in May of 1986, and then a fourth and fifth room soon after! The Quatrefoil was quickly outgrowing the MCLU building and the Board of Directors of the Library was looking for a larger space. The rent for these rooms came from the personal funds of David and Dick. David also paid the phone bill and insurance costs until the Library could make enough income to cover the costs. Their current space then housed over 2,400 books. As volunteers were added, the hours the Library was open increased. Originally open on two evenings and Saturday afternoons, it was now open four evenings a week and Saturday afternoons. Dick and David were there every day the Library was open except for extremely rare occurrences when they couldn't make it and they would call Edward Swanson or another volunteer to be sure the Library was open. They even trudged through the sometimes harsh Minnesota snow to ensure the Library would be open and functioning. They were determined. They had many volunteers help them with the daily operations of the Library as well as getting it organized. Dick claims, "One thing that meant so much to me was the volunteers we had in the beginning, many of whom we had never met before."¹²

In a short time, Dick says, they, along with other members of the Library, met so many wonderful people and supporters. One of the major contributors to the early visibility of the Library was Tim Campbell, who published one of the local GLBT newspapers, the *GLC Voice*. Tim ran free ads for the Library for several years. David Irwin recalls, "I don't think Tim was very sold on the Library until we moved here (to St. Paul). He came over and I showed him the Library and took him to O'Gara's for lunch, and we had lots of good publicity after that."¹³ In these early days, the *Twin Cities Gaze* and *Equal Time* also gave free publicity to the Library.

With the help of Steve Broin at the Visual Image Studio, the first logo and brochure were made and distributed. Broin had been doing logo and design work for other start-up GLBT organizations such as the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and the Minnesota Freedom Band, and he wanted to help the Quatrefoil Library as well. He asked freelance artist Jeff Jacklin to help him design a logo, and they gave it to the Library as a gift.¹⁴ The

brochure included a write up on the name of the Library, as well as information on the founders, the collection, and donations.

Along with the first Library brochure came the first issue of the *Gay Bookworm*, the newsletter for the Library. The initial issue, May 1986, was a two sided piece of lavender paper with quotes from friends of Dick and David about the Library's opening. It also had updates on the Library's progress since moving into the MCLU building and other news.

Since the Quatrefoil Library was a legal, tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization, more than 50% of the funds in its first two years of operation would have to come from sources other than from Dick and David personally or it would be considered a private corporation. Although they had no grants or government money in the beginning, Dick and David had no problem raising funds from memberships and from friends and well-wishers. Dick and David had sent letters to all of their friends across the country whom they thought might send monetary donations to the Library for basic operation such as rent, phone, insurance, and supplies. These were all costs that David and Dick had covered personally until the Library raised enough funds from memberships and donations. They had also made an agreement with each other that they would cover the first two years of rent and phone expenses while the Library got on its feet. However, at the time, they didn't have sufficient funds to purchase new acquisitions such as books. The expenses for that first year totaled \$8,896, of which \$5,100 went to rent.

Other than selling duplicate books, the first major fundraiser for the Library was led by Ms Pat Bond who had carried out successful fundraisers for the *Out and About Theatre*. Dick had been a Board member of that theatre where he and Pat had become friends. Pat once told him, "When you open that Library of yours, I am going to come to do an event for you."¹⁵

In 1977, filmmaker Peter Adair had made an acclaimed groundbreaking documentary film titled *Word is Out*. One of the most memorable people in the film was Pat Bond. Pat kept her promise and came to do her wonderful one-woman show *Lorena Hickock and Eleanor Roosevelt; A Love Story* for half of her normal fee because she wanted to help the Library. The show was advertised in the press and on KFAI-FM radio. It was held at the *Actors Theatre* in St. Paul on May 8 and 9, 1987, at 8:00pm. This initial fundraiser made \$1,900 for the Library with over 400 people in attendance.

She subsequently performed her *Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is Back, Back, Back* the following year which proved to be a successful fundraiser as well. David Irwin attests, “Pat Bond was a real friend of ours.” The Library once had a copy of the video of *Word is Out*, but it sadly went missing. When researching for this *History of the Quatrefoil Library* book in 2005 and realizing that the video was missing, the Acquisitions Committee and Board member Kathy Robbins took the initiative to get this significant part of the Quatrefoil’s history replaced. So now both the book and video are again available in the Library.

As a lending library, the Quatrefoil was set up so that anyone could use the resources but only members could check out material. Original membership fees were \$10 per year and this was very successful for the Library. By the end of 1986, the Quatrefoil Library was rapidly growing and the MCLU building didn’t have enough space to accommodate it. The Library was becoming bigger than the MCLU offices in their own building! The collection of 2500 books and several periodicals had grown so large that the official decision to move was made. Dick sadly gave Matt Stark and the MCLU notice that they would be vacating their space there at the end of May, 1987. Dick emphasized to Matt that he and the Quatrefoil Library Board loved Matt and his staff for their support and always making sure that Library patrons were welcome. During the day, the MCLU’s secretaries and staff always greeted Library patrons and walked them to the Library rooms. The MCLU building had proven to be a public, safe, secure, and successful location for the Quatrefoil Library!

The Library found new space at a remodeled and privately owned former public school building at Dayton and Snelling Avenues in St. Paul. Carolyn Sparks, the Vice President of the Library at the time, saw the sign outside the building that said they were looking for tenants and asked David to look into it. The building was equidistant from both Minneapolis and St. Paul downtowns, near a major freeway, easily accessible to public transit from both cities, and it had a large parking lot. Edward Swanson recalls, “The space at the Richards Gordon School Building was more convenient than the West Broadway Minneapolis location. It was a big leap of faith on part of the Board. We didn’t know if we would have the money to pay rent. We had a number of discussions saying can we do it, can we do it? We finally decided; we had to do it.”¹⁶

The Richards Gordon Building was and still is home to several other charitable and non-profit groups and is located at 1616 Dayton Avenue.¹⁷ Peg LaBore had been a member of the Library and was the liaison between

the building owner and the Library for many years. Carolyn Sparks had asked Dick to contact the management company regarding the planned move into the building. She wanted to make sure that every tenant was comfortable with a GLBT organization moving into the space. The management company replied with a statement that most of the tenants were insulted that the Library thought they even had to be asked. This was a sign that the Library would be very welcomed and comfortable in their new building. Peg LaBore recalls, “We never had anyone say anything bad about the Library. It just wasn’t an issue.”¹⁸

Shortly before they moved, the Library had received a large donation of books, artwork, etc. from the estate of Richard W. Owen in March of 1987. Owen had been a friend of the founders and was the first person to remember the Quatrefoil Library in his will. His donation of books and other materials was valued at \$2,465. The people who were representing the estate were movers by profession and they volunteered to move the entire Library to its new location as a charitable donation. Dick, David, Jean, Edward, and other Library volunteers packed up all the contents of the Library. The Library officially moved into its new home on Saturday, June 6, 1987. Even though the new and bigger space was exciting, Executive Director David Irwin still had concerns, which he expressed in a letter to a friend. “I’m pleased with the new and bigger space, but I’m afraid we are going to grow out of it too soon.”¹⁹

In October of 1987, under the influence of Board member Darlene Gish, the Library adopted a mission statement to go along with its new home. It read: *Quatrefoil Library exists to collect, preserve, disseminate and document materials and information relevant to sexual minorities and to develop related educational and other appropriate community services. We believe we can best accomplish our mission by: Promoting the self-esteem, personal growth, pride, and dignity of sexual minorities; Maintaining and making available a specialized collection of materials, both circulating and non-circulating; Networking with other libraries and archives specializing in materials relevant to sexual minorities; Serving as a resource for public and private libraries and other community groups to combat prejudice, correct information, and lessen ignorance about sexual minorities; and, Responding to community needs.*

The original volunteers and founders of the Library continued to be busy with the operations of the Library. Support from volunteers and community members continued to grow. The community really enjoyed the idea of the Quatrefoil Library and several organizations asked to start

smaller branches of the Library at other locations. The Library was asked to start a branch at Plymouth House, which was a support group for gays and lesbians at the Plymouth Congregational Church in south Minneapolis. They were asked to start a branch at the Main Club, the only gay bar at the time in the Duluth/Superior area. They were even asked to start a branch at the Little General Store at 26th Street and Nicollet Avenue in south Minneapolis. These invitations to start other Library branches were never pursued by the Board of the Library.

The Pride Institute, an organization for gay and lesbian people who were facing addiction issues such as chemical or alcohol abuse, also asked to start a branch at their facility in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Elaine Nobel, who had been one of the first gay politicians in the country (Massachusetts), was the coordinator there and asked the Quatrefoil for materials. Because of the mission and nature of that organization, the Library Board of Directors thought this would be a good partnership. The book service started in May of 1986. The Pride Institute became a corporate member of the Quatrefoil Library at a cost of \$500 per year. The Quatrefoil Library established the Quatrefoil Pride Branch at the Pride Institute with books which they believed would be beneficial to the patrons. The Quatrefoil also started sending duplicate books to the Aliveness Project, a community center in south Minneapolis which provides services and programs to the HIV/AIDS community.

After being open for one full year, the Library had 200 members. A week long birthday celebration was held in February of 1987. The festivities began on Sunday, February 1, with a showing of the film *Word is Out* at the Landmark Theatre in downtown St. Paul. On Monday, there was a special display of historical items from the Library's archives. On Tuesday, there were discussions of GLBT characters in films, and on Wednesday, there was a pulp novel discussion. On Thursday, Library volunteer Jean Tretter gave a talk on the world history of gays and lesbians. Executive Director David Irwin gave a talk on Saturday about early gay novels. The birthday week concluded on Sunday with a James Dean themed open house.

A new insurance policy was taken out in 1987 for \$50,000 coverage of the Library contents and \$1 million liability coverage. The expenses for 1987 totaled \$14,573, half of which was rent. In May of 1987, the first acquisitions guidelines were created so the Library could begin looking at purchasing new books and periodical subscriptions for the collection. That month, David Irwin and Darlene Gish met with two women who had 60 file

drawers of materials which they wanted to donate to the Library. The Library took some of their periodicals, especially Lesbian related ones. But most of the materials the women had were not relevant to the collection that the Library currently had and were not accepted.

In June of 1987, a committee was formed to coordinate and pursue a cataloging system for the Library. Up until then, records consisted of lists by title and author and were kept on David's computer. Books were arranged alphabetically by author within general categories. Library volunteer Edward Swanson, who was a cataloguer at the Minnesota Historical Society, used his knowledge of the subject to head up this ambitious committee. The committee looked into different options of updating the catalog system in the Library. Edward believed that they should act like a library and follow general library practices using a classification and cataloging system. "The most frustrating part was trying to come up with money to do what I really thought we should be doing. I did some grant requests, but we never got funded," he said.²⁰ Because of the lack of finances for this project, the cataloging had to wait.

Also this year, the Library faced some struggles. Jean Tretter was involved in talks of moving the International Gay Archives (IGA) from Los Angeles to the Twin Cities. Jean had been on the Board of the IGA and knew that the Director Jim Kempner was having financial troubles. Jean helped search for a potential home for the IGA material. Other Quatrefoil Board members thought that the IGA moving to the Twin Cities was a bad idea and not financially feasible due to the size of the International Gay Archives. The Quatrefoil Library Board was also concerned because they did not want the direct competition of the IGA, nor did they wish to take a back seat to this group. Sadly, Jean quit his involvement with the Quatrefoil when the Board of the Library told him that they wouldn't consider the IGA moving here.

Also in 1987, the Quatrefoil Library was turned down by the Cooperating Fund Drive (CFD), an alternative, social change-based fundraising organization made up of 39 grass-roots community groups, at the time. The local charitable organization raised and provided funds to not-for-profit groups from employees at local corporations, much like the United Way. The reasoning of the CFD's decision was because the Quatrefoil Board of Directors was self appointed and not elected. The Quatrefoil soon changed its bylaws to restructure the Board election process.

Since December, 1985, when the Quatrefoil Library rented space from the MCLU, the Library greatly increased usage of its material and the membership doubled. In 1988, the Board decided to raise the membership dues from \$10 to \$15 for an individual, or from \$20 to \$25 for a household in response to the membership doubling. The membership was currently over 400 people. The total expenses for 1988 were \$13,387.12. The Library was now banking with Liberty State Bank on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul. It also received a \$300 grant from Philanthrofund.²¹

The Library served 2,592 patrons in 1988, and loaned out 3,257 items. 1,818 men and 774 women visited the Library, with 259 of them over 60. They received 726 phone calls throughout the year. Volunteers logged 4,243 hours of service, and Board members gave 2,569 hours of additional volunteer service of their own. Three art shows were held that year. Library member Dick Blumenfeld offered free sign language classes to patrons at the Library. A few dozen people attended over a several month period.

A Quatrefoil Library banner was made for the approximately 35 members and friends who marched as representatives of the Quatrefoil Library in the annual Pride Festival parade in Minneapolis in 1988. This was the Library's first time participating in the parade. The banner was donated by Library member Wally Strand and was made at Banner Systems in Minneapolis.

Library volunteer Art Stoeberl headed up a group of members to organize all the newspapers and magazines that had been accumulating. Articles of GLBT interest were taken from the mainstream press.

There were also several major fundraisers in 1988. The Library Board decided to have two book sales that year, since their sale the fall before had been so successful. They were held on Saturdays, May 21, and October 22. The book sales brought in an average of \$600-900 per sale, so they continued to do these twice a year, and still do today. Pat Bond came back to do two more shows. She performed the same show she did the year before, *Lorena Hickock and Eleanor Roosevelt; A Love Story*, on Friday, September 16, 1988. She also performed another show, *Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is Back, Back, Back* on Saturday, September 17. These shows were held at the Weyerhauser Theatre at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Tickets were \$10 each, or \$18 for both performances and were a very successful fundraiser for the Quatrefoil. Playwright Terry Baum, often referred to as a 'lesbian Woody Allen,' performed her one-woman shows as

a benefit for the Library. She performed *One Fool* on October 7, and *Immediate Family* on October 8, at the Pillsbury House in Minneapolis, but this event was not nearly as successful financially.

There were also events of an educational nature this year that were done for Library members. Linda Boyle, an historian and singer from Chicago, spoke at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis on June 23, during Pride Weekend. On July 20, 1988, Dick Hewetson coordinated an evening with Harry Hay and John Burnside, gay liberation pioneers, where they discussed the Mattachine Society and Radical Faeries and the gay and lesbian lifestyles of the past 40 years and took questions from an eager audience of members and potential members.

During 1988, tensions were high among Quatrefoil Board members and volunteers. Conflicts were becoming common among Board members. On September 20, 1988, in a letter to the Board members, Dick Hewetson officially resigned from the Board of Directors. He claimed that no one was putting forth the effort to keep the Library functioning, yet everyone was eager to criticize his action in fundraising and event planning. However, he remained involved as Volunteer Coordinator. Immediately following Dick's letter, Board President Darlene Gish, outraged at the disrespect Dick, the Library's founder, had been receiving from other Board members, wrote a resignation letter of her own on September 23, effective immediately. David continued to work as the Executive Director.

The only remaining Board officer was Edward Swanson, who held the Secretary/Treasurer position. One week after Darlene's resignation, Edward wrote a letter to all remaining non-officer Board members in regard to the upcoming October 5, Board meeting. The focus of the meeting was now to be centered on the continued existence of the Library. This was possibly the lowest point in the Library's history. Possible closure of the Library was looming. Much like the beginning days of the Quatrefoil Library, the Board rebuilt itself by recruiting current Library members and volunteers to be on the Board.

On February 5, 1989, the Library had an open house for current members and potential new members, complete with birthday cake. The Quatrefoil Library then had over 600 members, 60 volunteers, 5,000 books, and 37 different periodicals. Expenditures were \$18,500, compared to \$8,800 in the first year.

The Library also hosted seven art shows in 1989. Board member Cathy Hoffman headed up efforts to increase the female membership by holding two open houses exclusively for women. The first event, held on January 29, garnered 16 new members, 4 renewals, 4 new volunteers, and many donations of money and books from the 70 women in attendance. The Board decided that the money raised at these events would be spent on purchasing new lesbian material for the Library. A second women's open house was held on October 22, 45 women attended. Some high profile lesbians were in attendance, such as African American writer Barbara Smith, as well as nationally recognized lesbian library activist Barbara Gittings!

The Library's own David Irwin was one of the 1989 Pride Parade's Grand Marshals and rode in the back of a convertible at the front of the Parade with approximately 35 people from the Quatrefoil Library who marched. They could be seen with their new Quatrefoil Library t-shirts and the Quatrefoil banner on the Channel Five (ABC) News that night.

The Library rented out its conference room to groups such as the Mature Gays and Lesbians (GLEAM), the Gaylaxians (a GLBT Sci-Fi group), and Out to Brunch (a lesbian social group). They also continued to partner with community groups such as PFLAG (Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The Library donated resource books to PFLAG members who struggled with their children coming out as gay.

Sadly, in 1989, the Quatrefoil pulled their materials out of the Pride Institute because of the lack of care and responsibility on the part of the Institute. Library ally Elaine Nobel had left the coordinator position at the Pride Institute and her replacement did not keep track of the Quatrefoil's book contributions at the Institute. 200 items were missing and never recovered. During this time, David was corresponding with a young man from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, who was interested in starting a Library in Des Moines. The Quatrefoil gave them books from the old Pride Institute collection and David went down once to visit their Library which was part of a new Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in Des Moines. The Center is now called the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center of Central Iowa, but it no longer has a library collection.

The Quatrefoil Library was accepted for the first time as a member of the Cooperating Fund Drive (CFD) in 1989. This was the beginning of a long-term financially beneficial partnership, because Quatrefoil is still a member today and is one of the largest beneficiaries of CFD. This

partnership not only meant a large number of financial donations would be coming to the Library through employee payroll deduction programs, but it also meant increased visibility for the Library. The Library received \$11,500 from their first year in the program.

The Quatrefoil Library Board prepares an annual report of Library usage and financial statistics at the beginning of each year and submits these to the CFD (now called Community Solutions Fund - CSF) to renew annual membership with them. The annual reports contain statistics about the Library and the people who use and operate it. Most of the yearly statistics in this book are taken from those reports, copies of which are in the Library office. Statistics such as the number of people who use the Library, the number of items checked out, and the number of male users compared to the number of female users are fairly accurate. Ethnicities and ages are estimated guesses by the Board members who filled out the reports because no one formally kept track of these details.

On October 1, 1989, the first major volunteer recognition event was held in the form of an open house at the Library. Dolly Ruark, the new editor of the Library newsletter, *Gay Bookworm*, created a photo album and placed it in the Library to document the Library's events and history in photos. The photos can still be found in the Library's periodical room. Also, the staff position of Office Manager was created in April and Library member Thomas Goodwyn was appointed.

Sixty-one members volunteered 1,772 hours in 1989. The Board also contributed 200 hours and David Irwin, the Executive Director, had personally donated 1,463 hours. This averaged out to be approximately 30 hours per week for David Irwin. This was an astounding time commitment for a non-paid staff position at an all-volunteer organization. The decision was made to have two volunteers working at the Library desk for each shift. This would give David and other Board members more time to commit to other projects. There were seven art shows in 1989. The Library received 737 phone calls. 2,647 males and 1,441 females visited the Library. The expenses for the year totaled \$18,651.82.

In 1989, Dick resigned from his Volunteer Coordinator position becoming a regular dedicated Library member and volunteer. David remained Executive Director, but didn't want to be a Board member, so he resigned from the Board. In the March, 1989, issue of the *Gay Bookworm*, David said he believed that too many people thought of the Library as 'Dick and David's project'. Giving up their leadership positions and titles was

their way of emphasizing that the Library was a community project and could survive without their heavy presence.

1990 was a year for continued accomplishments. The Library received a \$600 grant from Resist, an organization in Massachusetts working for peace and social justice. It supported many GLBT community groups (as well as non-GLBT groups) around the country. Using the money from that grant, key volunteer Vicki Dunevitz hired a consultant, Library member Juan Jackson, who evaluated the Library's collection of books about people of color in the community. Ultimately, a bibliography was compiled listing all the resources. To celebrate its 4th Anniversary on Sunday, February 4, 1990, the Library held the first of many spaghetti dinners at the St. Paul Reformation Church. The evening allowed members to socialize with each other and meet other Board members and volunteers. The dinner was followed by readings from local GLBT authors as well as a speech by local dyke cartoonist Alison Bechdel. More than 100 people attended the event and a surprise cake was had for dessert in honor of David Irwin's 70th birthday. Alison also designed bookmarks that the Library could give out to patrons.

There were a total of six art shows in 1990. There were also several open houses, where dozens of potential new members visited the Library at the request of their member friends. One of these open houses was on September 30, where visitors could see the newly reorganized Library. Board member Greg Rosen had spearheaded the reorganization of the Library space to include new shelves, more storage, and a larger reading area. On April 22, the Library had a fundraiser showing of *Word is Out* at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Other important changes this year included the formation of the first book discussion group started by Board member Marti Lybeck. The age limit for membership in the Quatrefoil Library was dropped to eighteen. Many monetary and book donations from gay people across the country were made to the Library. The year also marked the first time the Library received coverage in the mainstream local press. An article ran in the Sunday, June 24, issue of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* about Gay Pride. Membership reached the 1,000 person milestone on June 11, 1990. In 1990, there were 3,898 users of the Library, 2,588 males and 1,310 females. Approximately 40% were over 60 and 5% under 19 years old. The Library had 233 new members this year. There were 4,750 items checked out. 80 volunteers logged 3,864 hours, and the Board contributed 500 hours of their own. The total expenses for the Library were \$25,635.33.

Talks had begun about changing the name of the newsletter, *The Gay Bookworm*, and a contest was held among the members to find a new name that was more suitable for a public newsletter. And in 1991, the first issue of the new *Quatrefoil* was published!

1991 had some positive beginnings, including the start of a lesbian poetry group that met at the Library, headed by local writer Morgan Grayce Willow. The book discussion group which had started at the end of 1990 continued to meet and grow in 1991. The group provided lists of their favorite GLBT books to other Library members.

The big event of 1991 was the decision to move from Suite 325 to Suite 105 on the ground floor of the Richards Gordon Building in St. Paul. This move was a 67% increase in space for the Library. The new suite had almost 1,500 square feet in space. Some people speculated that homophobes might throw rocks through the windows once the Library moved to the ground floor. No such rocks ever appeared. An open house was held on April 21, so patrons could tour the new facilities. Barbara Gittings was the featured guest at the reception. She was responsible for spearheading the fight to get GLBT books into mainstream public libraries. She also founded the New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis,²² which is considered to be the first lesbian rights organization. Library members talked with her at the reception and their conversations were recorded and some were published in the May, 1991, issue of *Quatrefoil*.

In early 1991, Library member Paul Fleege headed up a campaign to increase the Library's video collection. Paul coordinated an effort to get GLBT books and videos into the general collections at many public libraries throughout Minnesota, especially in smaller cities where GLBT themed books and videos were rare and unavailable to the GLBT citizens in those areas. The effort, titled the Public Library/Education Project was supported financially by the Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities.²³ The *Quatrefoil* was included in the Project because Paul felt that the Library lacked videos of an educational and informational nature, so he was able to get 46 videos to add to the Library's collection, including many rare GLBT themed documentaries. There was an Open House to celebrate the new space, as well as a 5th Anniversary Dinner/Annual Meeting on February 24. The event cost \$10 to attend and featured a dinner, a social hour, music provided by local musician Lyra Concert, and reflections on the past and future of the Library from Dick, David, and other members. 1991 also marked the year that the *Quatrefoil* heavily pursued its first radio and television exposure. After David's initial appearance on GAZE-TV in the

fall, the Library started to coordinate book reviews on GAZE-TV, as well as reviews on two shows on KFAI Radio. They recorded five-minute book review spots for the *Lesbian Half Hour* and *Fresh Fruit*, segments for the GLBT population. The radio segments were on twice a month on KFAI 90.3FM. The Library received a \$2,500 grant from Star of the North Publishing, which was a member of the Northland Business Association, so the Quatrefoil could pay to run ads in *Equal Time*. The total expenses for the year were \$36,945. 1991 ended not quite as positively as it had begun. Three Board members, David Handy, Taylor Wilcox, and Catherine Burnett resigned due to other obligations, leaving a huge void. Then the announcement came that the founding members, Dick and David were moving on.

Retirement

On Sunday evening, October 28, 1990, the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union held a retirement banquet for its distinguished Executive Director, Dr. Matthew (Matt) Stark. As part of that evening's program, a number of community organizations gave awards to Matt. The Quatrefoil Library, under the auspices of the Board of Directors, President Cathy Hoffman, and Executive Director, David Irwin, gave a special Lifetime Membership Award to Matt which read,

"The Board of Quatrefoil Library expresses its appreciation for your support and encouragement of the Library since its beginnings in 1985, and of the community it serves; gays, lesbians, and other sexual minorities.

"The Board appreciates your long-standing dedication to this community, and to the cause of human freedom. In token of this appreciation, the Board has voted to extend to you a Lifetime Membership in Quatrefoil Library.

"It is an honor to participate in honoring you. Best wishes for your health and happiness."

Speaking on behalf of the Library, Dick Hewetson praised Matt for his assistance in giving the Library its first home. The Library might have never come to fruition if it had not been for the generosity of Matt Stark, Hewetson said.

With retirement in the air, Dick decided it was time to halt his involvement with the Quatrefoil Library. Dick was retiring from his position at the State Employment Service Office and was going to pursue a move to San Francisco, which he had wanted to do for many years.

David had decided to retire as well from his unpaid volunteer Executive Director position where he had been working more than 30 hours per week. He was very knowledgeable in the position because of his teaching and organization skills as well as his love and knowledge of books. David shared his feelings about his contributions in a letter he sent to friend Ray Olson on May 26, 1987. "Sometimes I wonder why I ever started this project. I thought it would be a nice little hobby for me in my retirement, but it has snowballed and has become more than a full-time job."

When David announced his retirement, Board President Cathy Hoffman asked Board member and Past President Edward Swanson to step up and be the interim Executive Director. Swanson's plan was to come up with a job description and help David transition out of the role. These changing roles created long-lasting tension: Dick and David say that Edward pushed David too quickly out of David's office. Edward says that David had a hard time letting go of his responsibilities and remembering that his role had changed. Regardless of who said what, this time was pivotal time in the history of the Library since the founders were now moving on.

In the fall of 1991, Cathy Hoffman, the President of the Board called Dick to set a day for a Retirement Party/Founder's Dinner. The Retirement Party would honor both Dick and David. The date was set for November 15 at the Macalester-Plymouth United Church and tickets were \$11. According to Dick, he and David were not liked by some of the current Board members mainly because of difference of opinions and the old school versus new school mentality, so they were very thankful that Cathy had the consideration and thoughtfulness to recognize their contributions to the Quatrefoil Library. At the time of retirement, Dick was 62 years old and David was 72.

James Barr, the author of *Quatrefoil*, had vanished from the public eye in the 1950s because he had difficulties with the United States Postal Service over the publication and distribution of his book. Through an interview with the *Advocate*, he had publicly resurfaced in 1991, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Alyson Publications got him to write a new epilogue to the book since they wanted to republish it. Library volunteer Phil Willkie got

in touch with him and they paid for his airfare to attend Dick and David's retirement party, which was a thrill for all three of them. He also signed the Library's original copy of *Quatrefoil*.

The other people who attended the festivities were mainly from the Minnesota Atheists, co-workers, family, and many lesbians. There were very few gay men. For some reason still unknown, Dick and David were not particularly liked by the gay male community. Speculation from Dick is that it was because of their outspoken political involvement in the Minnesota Atheists or heavy participation in the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a group that educates and advocates for separation of church and state. Dick also believed that because they were older gay men in an age of youthful men who were coming out at younger and younger ages, many people could not relate to them anymore. Dick and David didn't know many out gay males in their own age group. Whether it was perceived or real, they believed they didn't fit in.

The December, 1991, *Quatrefoil* Library newsletter, now renamed *Quatrefolio*, had the following write-up about the retirement ceremony:

"More than 100 people gathered on November 15 to thank Dick and David for the time, energy and love they have given in creating *Quatrefoil* and helping it grow. In his remarks, Dick said that he feels like a parent, watching a sometimes obedient, sometimes rebellious child go out into the world on its own. Many of those who were to be responsible for the continued growth of the library were present, receiving a charge to carry on the mission of the library; to serve the community and to educate society at large.

Those present also had the good fortune to hear about 'the good/bad' old days' from *Quatrefoil* author James Barr, who came from Oklahoma particularly to celebrate the occasion. Special thanks to the organizing committee, who assisted the evening of the dinner, Lyle Taylor for the music and Mary Jean Mulherin, who was the second-best-dressed fairy in attendance. Gifts were presented to David and Dick on behalf of the members, and a portrait of the two – which will hang in the Library – was unveiled. Those who missed Dick in his new purple robe and David in his lavender cummerbund and new purple letter jacket, are invited to browse through the library photo album during their next visit."

In 1992, shortly after his retirement, Dick moved to San Francisco. He had been planning to move there for many years, largely in part to be with more older, gay men. He still resides there today. David currently lives actively in Roseville, Minnesota. As Dick and David faded away into the background of the Library's operations, the future of the Quatrefoil Library now lay in the hands of other people.

“The Quatrefoil Library is the legacy of which I am most proud.”²⁴

Dick Hewetson

The Later Years

The years following the departure of Dick Hewetson and David Irwin, the Library's two founders, were a little tumultuous at times, but mostly positive. The Library continued to grow and thrive even with the founders out of the daily Library operations. In 1992, after David Irwin's departure from the Executive Director position which he had held since the Library's doors opened, the Board authorized the writing of a full position outline. Executive Director reports were also created to go along with the Board meeting minutes. A Long Range Planning Committee was re-established to think about the future of the Library and how it would need to operate to ensure its future success. The Library moved into the new decade technologically by getting a new touch-tone phone, and received a \$500 grant from Philanthrofund to purchase a new typewriter. 1992 also marked the second time that the Library partnered with the public school system. A group of ten GLBT students from South High School in Minneapolis came to get a tour of the Library and learn about GLBT history. In 1992, South High School became the first high school in Minnesota to have a GLBT student group. The Quatrefoil gave the school a group membership for any curious students to use. The Library had given a similar membership to Central High School in St. Paul a few years earlier, even though it had no formal GLBT group. During Pride of 1992, the Quatrefoil decided to have its first book sale at their Pride booth. Previously, they just had information and displays about the Library. They sold almost all their books at the sale, so a tradition was born. They also sold new bookbags with the Library logo. The Quatrefoil Library and *James White Review* cosponsored two gay activist speakers during Pride week as well.

In 1992, the Library served 4,437 people and 5,008 items were checked out. An estimated 95% of the patrons were White, 3% Black, and 2% Hispanic or Native American. 65% were men, 35% were women. Of these patrons, 5% were under 19 and 25% over 60 years of age. 70 people logged

2,953 volunteer hours. Three art shows were hosted at the Library during the year. The Library's expenses for the year totaled \$31,407.58. \$18,912 went to rent. \$13,624 came from the CSF.

In 1993, the Library continued its community outreach by cosponsoring a book signing event and reception about gays in the military with A Brothers Touch Bookstore and local GLBT newspaper *Gaze*. Approximately 70 people were at the reception. The Quatrefoil started running ads this year in *Minnesota Women's Press*, in an effort to reach out and get more lesbian members. They still run ads in this publication today. The Quatrefoil gave a gift membership this year to the West Suburban Teen Clinic, an organization for gay/bi youth in Minneapolis.

In March of 1993, Edward Swanson submitted his resignation from being full-time Executive Director. He said he would stay involved to train new people and volunteers, as well as work on recataloging the collection. Later in the year, he came back as a ten-hour per week part-time Executive Director.

The Board of Directors took a huge loss late in the year when two significant members left. Long time Board member and friend to the Library, Phil Willke resigned from the Board. He stated that he disagreed with Edward's decision making and leadership. He also wanted to increase his own full-time involvement with the *James White Review*. Using his national connections and relationships with GLBT people around the country, Phil had been the key person behind several of the events planned for the Library. Past-President Carol Skay also left for other commitments.

In 1993, some Library members decided to attend the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Equal Rights. They sent postcards to the Library with their thoughts on what they witnessed, which can be found in the June issue of the *Quatrefoil*. Other Quatrefoil members were still marching in a parade of their own back home during Pride, as well as selling books at the Pride booth. Library members could currently get discounts for books at A Brother's Touch Bookstore and for subscriptions to the *James White Review*. The book discussion club started a few years prior was also still going strong. In 1993, the Library received \$17,000 from CSF. They paid \$17,336 in rent and had a total of \$26,229 in expenses for the year.

In 1994, the Library received a donation of shelving from the Bio-Medical Library at the University of Minnesota where Library member

Kathy Robbins worked. When they dismantled the shelves and announced they were going to throw them away, she stepped in and asked if they would be willing to donate them to a non-profit group called the Quatrefoil Library. Kathy and her friend Holly picked up the shelves with their truck and brought them back to the Library to set up and assemble with the help of volunteer Fred Bachman. During set-up, a shelf fell on Fred's head. He still has the scar today to show how dedicated he is to the Quatrefoil Library!

The Library started maintaining a binder on current policies and events at the Volunteer desk so volunteers would be updated on committee activity. Due to the large number of overdue and missing items, the Library made an attempt to get back unreturned items. They offered forgiveness whereby members could return overdue items and not get charged any late fees. The Library received 39 items back, but 148 items were never returned that year. The Library has tried this amnesty event several times throughout the years. There were not many events in 1994, at the Library, in part due to Executive Director Edward Swanson having surgery, and in part due to lack of knowledge about development and fundraising. On April 16, at the Minnesota History Center, the Board of Directors had a meeting to work on future development strategies with Sharon Tolbert-Glover, a former Vice President of Development at The College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

On March 13, at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, there was a Quatrefoil Library membership dinner, which 50 people attended. Local comic Pricilla Nelson spoke. A wine and cheese open house in celebration of Gay History Month took place on October 16. The Library had a large fundraiser which was held in conjunction with a production of Macbeth at the Guthrie Theatre. 25% of the ticket sales at that night's performance went to the Library, if the Library was mentioned when tickets were purchased. A reception with the members of the cast was held afterwards at the Library. In 1994, 2,537 patrons visited the Library, and 3,143 items were checked out. 72% of the patrons were men and 28% were women. There were 2 art shows hosted this year. 70 volunteers donated 2,233.5 hours of their time to the Library. The Library received \$18,500 from CSF donations this year. The total in Library expenses for the year was \$29,363.08.

In 1995, patronage of the Library was 65% men and 35% women. 2,463 items were checked out by these 2,353 people. There were four art shows and one book discussion group continued from previous years. The

Library received a \$400 grant from Philanthrofund for binding old periodicals. The total expenses for the year was \$28,082.79, compared to \$34,789 for the next year, 1996.

On Sunday, April 7, 1996, the Library had its 10th Anniversary Champagne and Cake Reception at the Library from 4:00-6:00pm. It was held in celebration of continuous service to the sexual minority community. Cofounders Dick Hewetson and David Irwin were in attendance and honored. About 100 people shared in the celebration.

The Library received a donation from David Irwin in 1996 of a Macintosh Power PC and new inkjet printer. The Library started selling its non-GLBT donated books to Half Price Books. Also in the spring, the Board had its initial discussions about having a home page on the Internet. Another matter which the Library faced in 1996 was the pornography collection. The Board asked the Gerber/Hart Library in Chicago about their policy, since the libraries were very similar in structure and size. Gerber/Hart did not collect porn of any kind because they believed it was not appropriate in a public library space. Any porn they received went into their archival collection. Quatrefoil decided to keep its porn collection in the Library, as it was, on display, because they believed it was an important part of GLBT history and culture. Also in 1996, discussion on the possibilities of a website continued. In cooperation with Metronet, the Quatrefoil was listed on Metronet's website under a section called 'special libraries' and had a very simple page.²⁵ The Library had been a member of Metronet since 1987, but never had a webpage devoted to itself. This was the first step in getting the Library online.

In 1997, there was a volunteer recognition event on April 27. Over 50 volunteers were given shirts and enjoyed dinner and wine. Also this year, a large number of house parties were held by Board members to try and raise additional funds for the Library. Dan Hanson and Keith Grennier, Steve Bubul and Lee Lewis, and Cathy Croghan and Kathy Robbins were some of the members who held parties for their friends to raise money for the Library. For the Twin Cities Pride in 1997, some members of the St. Paul gay and lesbian leadership decided to try and hold its own Pride celebration, instead of doing a joint celebration with Minneapolis. Capitol City Pride was held for the first time and the Quatrefoil had a booth at this inaugural festival. The Library also participated in the parade and festival at the traditional Pride Celebration in Minneapolis that year.

In August of 1997, long time dedicated member Edward Swanson decided to retire completely from Quatrefoil. On September 27, Board member Tim Perry and his partner Alan Williams held a champagne and cookies celebration in their St. Paul home to honor Edward's long and impressive service to the Quatrefoil Library. In 1997, 2,264 people visited the Library and 2,728 items were checked out. 63 volunteers logged 2,123 hours of service. The expenses for the year were \$32,832, \$24,381 of which was rent.

1998 saw the Library's first May Day Celebration/reception. There was champagne, appetizers, and desserts and it was hosted by then President Jason Prodoehl and it brought in \$1,700 for the Library. Dan Hanson and Keith Grennier also had another house party this year, as did key volunteer John Neess and his partner Mark Thomas. Some Library members decided to give to another organization this year by marching in the AIDS Walk on May 17. This was the Library's first time participating in the annual event held in the Twin Cities to raise money for local AIDS charities. This year David Irwin decided to issue the Library its first challenge grant. He said if the Library raised \$2,500 in donations, he would match it. The money was raised and matched. The Library used this money to purchase new equipment for book and video cataloging. Board member Kathy Marquis also donated several posters designed to stimulate reading and literacy which she had received from the American Library Association. These posters featured celebrities promoting reading. The posters were framed by fellow Board member Gary Brummond of Neilsen Gallery. (He did most of the framing of materials for the Library.) The posters, featuring such gay favorite celebrities as Margaret Cho, Xena Warrior Princess, and Antonio Banderas, can still be found today gracing the walls of the Library. In 1998, 60 volunteers worked for 2,396 hours. There were 2,375 visitors to the Library, approximately 60% men and 40 % women. There were 1,785 phone calls received and 2,731 items checked out. The total expenses for the year were \$38,748, \$26,624 of it rent.

1999 was much of the same as years prior. Annually the Library had a May Day celebration and also participated in the Pride festivities. They started a new fundraising event this year at the Heights Theatre in North Minneapolis by showing *The Gang's All Here* on Saturday, October 23, for \$10 per person. They offered free ice cream and Harvey Gustafson played a pre-show concert on the theatre's organ. 2,985 items were loaned out to 2,550 visitors to the Library in 1999. 15% of these patrons were over 60 years old. The Library also received 1,790 phone calls. Total expenses for the year were \$38,134. Much of the Library's income that year was related

to the renting of movies in the video collection which quadrupled in size during the year due to the growing popularity of DVDs.

The 2000s have proven to be successful years for the Library with very little turbulence. Things ran smoothly and continued to get better. In 2000, the Library hosted two art shows, held an annual May Day celebration, and hosted a Library tour for attendees of the Freedom From Religion Foundation's national meeting. A new event occurred on August 19, when the Library held a joint fundraiser with the Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Bowlers of America. The new annual movie night was held again in October, featuring the movie *Crossfire*, and had local gay mystery writers R.D. Zimmerman and Ellen Hart as guest speakers. There were 1,556 visitors to the Library in 2000 and 2,319 items were loaned to members. 59 volunteers worked 3,324 hours, and the total expenses for the year were \$39,878.26.

2001 had a larger than usual May Day party. Because it fell on May 5, the May Day party turned into a Cinco de Mayo Party. The grand opening of the Hengel Video Collection was celebrated and food and wine served. Art from local artist Jerry Kolbinger was also featured at the party. At this time, a \$1 charge was started for all video rentals so the large video collection would be properly maintained. Another bowling event was held this year, as well as a Volunteer Picnic on September 30, at Cathy Croghan and Kathy Robbin's home in Roseville, Minnesota. One art show was held this year, and the Movie Night featured *There's No Business Like Show Business* on July 15.

In 2001, there were 1,910 visitors to the Library who checked out 3,259 items (1,483 books and 1,776 videos). 65 volunteers worked 3,352 hours. The total expenses for 2001 were \$43,417. The Library also received a \$1,500 grant from Philanthrofund to expand the collection of books of interest to children and parents, and GLBT communities of color, and videos of interest to women.

In 2002, the May Day event was held on May 4 and raised \$1,166. The Movie Matinee on July 13 featured *Some Like it Hot*, and raised \$1,800. The third annual bowling event on October 18 raised \$1,022. The first Quatrefoil Cabaret was held on December 11, 2002. At this event, the Board of Directors of the Library honored Dick and David. Dick gave a brief talk at the event on behalf of himself and David. During his speech, he saw Matt Stark in the audience and had him stand up. He publicly thanked Matt for getting David and Dick to initially rent space in the

MCLU building, which began the history of the Quatrefoil Library in a public space. There were guest musicians, speakers, food and wine, and a silent auction. The first Volunteer of the Year Award was also given this year to Membership Coordinator Robert Frame. At this celebration, Matt Stark publicized his desire to edit and publish a history of the Quatrefoil Library. Several months later, Adam Keim was recruited to be the volunteer author of this history.

Some other significant events occurred in 2002. The Library established its own website in November. Sound Internet, a Twin Cities gay-friendly internet service provider, was also providing internet service to the Library so patrons and volunteers could use the internet while visiting the Library. Two grants were given to the Library this year from Philanthrofund, thanks to Board member Suzanne Born. She applied for and received a \$500 grant to purchase a new printer and a \$1,500 grant to enhance the collections of children's books, videos of interest to women, and to complete acquiring the Library's 100 greatest GLBT book list. Another big update in 2002 was the revision of the Library's mission statement. It was adopted by the Quatrefoil Board of Directors on June 10, 2002, and reads: *The mission of Quatrefoil Library is to collect, maintain, document and circulate gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer materials and information in a safe and accessible space, in order to promote understanding, and appreciation of diversity and history, and the value of communities.*

In 2002, there were 768 women and 1,964 men who visited the Library. They checked out 2,006 books and 2,631 videos. \$26,840 was paid in rent out of the total expenses for the year of \$53,185.

In 2003, Board member Dale Johnson was working to get the Library on a successful fundraising roll and to increase community visibility. The Library received a \$3,000 grant from Philanthrofund to develop a membership campaign and reach new diverse populations. The Library also started a Children's Corner with a small collection of 20 books for children. For fundraising, the Quatrefoil Board members started planning the publication of a cookbook featuring recipes from Library members. Library members also held an open house on October 23, at the home of local gay mystery writer R.D. Zimmerman. The second annual Quatrefoil Cabaret was held on November 13 at the Loft Literary Center in downtown Minneapolis. There were speeches and musical performances, a silent auction, and the Volunteer of the Year Award, which went deservedly to Dale Johnson. In 2003, 2,231 books were checked out, compared to 3,139

videos. The Library was visited by 816 women and 2,373 men. The total expenses for the year were \$45,665.

In 2004, fundraisers and volunteer recognition events continued to happen as in previous years. The bowling fundraiser was held on October 29, and the Quatrefoil Cabaret on November 4. The Movie event was on March 18 and the almost-full theatre was treated to the campy *Girls will be Girls*. 770 women and 2,268 men visited the Library. There were 2,358 books checked out compared to 2,880 videos. The expenses for 2004 were \$52,532.

In 2005, the Library held their last Cabaret event on September 24, so they could focus their efforts on two big events per year, instead of several small ones. They still participated in Pride and continued to have the Movie Matinee fundraiser. The Library made \$3,461 from the Movie Matinee this year, which went towards the total expenses of \$46,647. Also in 2005, longtime Library member Gary Brummond and three classmates, Melissa Graves, Jennifer Olson Thompson, and Melissa Richie raised \$1,515 for their Communications in Leadership class project in the Masters Program of Library Science and Information at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. Their Project Mission Statement was to create a source of knowledge, self-acceptance, role models, diversity, community and coping tools for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gender teens. Through raffle prizes and personal donations, the money raised was used to fund the Quatrefoil GLBT Teen Literature Project. The Project compiled a bibliography of books and videos which would be beneficial to GLBT teenagers. They compiled the list, indicated whether or not the Library already had the item in the collection, and included the price. It was at the Library's discretion to purchase the needed titles using the money they raised. 32 books and 47 DVDs were purchased to begin the collection.

In 2006, most of the energies and focus of the Board members went into planning the 20th Anniversary celebration, as well as the first ever International GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections Conference (ALMS). Both held in May. The Conference was cosponsored by the Quatrefoil Library, The Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GBT) Studies at the University of Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota Libraries, and hosted approximately 125 attendees from GLBT libraries and archives around the world.

2005 and 2006 saw drastic drops in the number of women visitors to the Library. In 2005, there were only 487 women and 2,322 men who

visited. In 2006, there were 440 women and 2,509 men. The Library also saw a huge jump from the previous year in the number of videos checked out. The number was 4,002 in 2005 and 4,516 in 2006, compared to 2,114 books in 2005 and 2,038 books in 2006. There were 4,296 volunteer hours contributed in 2006 by 80 volunteers. The total expenses for 2006 were \$45,475. The rent portion of those expenses was \$27,800. The biggest sources of income for the year came from the Annual Fund Campaign, \$11,081; CSF, \$7,351; Membership, \$11,555; and Video Rentals, \$4,752.

Chapter 2 – The People

Early Key People

The Quatrefoil Library has always been run solely by volunteers. The volunteers, patrons, and Board members have contributed significant time and resources in carrying out its mission to serve the GLBT community. The incredible volunteer efforts started with founders Dick Hewetson and David Irwin putting in their time, money, and skills to make sure the Library was successful. Although there have been hundreds of other people who have significantly contributed to the Library over the years, there are some key volunteers who have gone above and beyond what was expected of them.

Jean-Nickolaus Tretter was one of the people who was heavily involved in the early days of the Quatrefoil. He was a friend of Dick and David before they ever thought of opening the Library and had reviewed their collection in their condo several times. When the Library opened, Jean brought a much needed passion for GLBT history to the Library. Jean had also donated many old magazines and newspapers to the Library. Even though he never had formal archiving training, he ambitiously offered to keep up that ‘archival’ aspect of the collection.

Dick Hewetson had not gotten along with Jean when they worked together at the Library, claiming communication to be the focus of their troubles. Dick said, “Jean and I didn’t work well together but we did it and we got things done. I welcomed his knowledge and dedication, and I appreciate everything he ever did for the Library.”¹ Jean maintained the archival aspect at the Library until he left because Quatrefoil Board members did not want to be involved in moving the International Gay Archives from Los Angeles to the Twin Cities, which was something Jean wanted very much.

Shortly after the Library officially opened in 1986, a friend of Dick and David’s mentioned the name of Edward Swanson as a possible addition to the Quatrefoil Library Board. David met with and asked Edward Swanson to join the Board. Edward was then a cataloguer at the Minnesota Historical Society and thought that his expertise could come in handy at the Quatrefoil, so he joined the Board in the spring of 1986. This was Edward’s first involvement with a GLBT community organization, even

though he had been out of the closet for 15 years. He said, "I thought it would be a good resource for the community."²

Edward began as a general Board member but then quickly moved into the Secretary/Treasurer position. At the time, Board members were expected to keep the Library open and staffed while David did most of the grunt work such as marketing and cataloging donations. Edward did a lot for the Library, most significantly, he recataloged the entire collection. Additionally, he did tasks that no one else wanted to do, such as writing tedious grant proposals.

Board member Tim Perry worked with Edward for several years at the Library and commented on his contributions, "He did a tremendous amount of work. I thought he did three times as much work as he needed to do. No one else volunteered to do what he was doing. I don't know how he could do all that with the number of hours he was there. I know that various people had issues, but I never had problems with Edward."³

"Edward stepped in and took over. He'd been a librarian and archivist for years and knew everything about everything and how things were done. He's a very intimidating big guy, authoritarian, with a low voice. He set up all of these procedures. I think he would have been a better fit in a much bigger library," former volunteer John Livingston said of Edward's work style.⁴ Even though Edward left the Quatrefoil Library because of conflict of work styles with other Board members, his work, dedication, and contributions were greatly appreciated by many past and current members. Much of what he accomplished as President in 1989, and later as Executive Director from 1991-1997, had a positive impact on how the Library operates today. He was given Life Membership in 1998. Current Library Membership Coordinator Robert Frame says of Edward, "Before he got pissed off and left, he did absolutely everything for this Library."⁵

"Edward initiated the current arrangement of books in the Library: fiction shelved alphabetically by author, non-fiction shelved by Library of Congress subject classification. He also catalogued and processed thousands of books," said Kathy Robbins of Edward's significant contributions.⁶ Dan Hanson added, "Edward was for many years *the* center of Quatrefoil's operations."⁷

Edward has been involved in libraries and archives for most of his life. He worked in his local county library when he was between the 9th and 10th grades. In 1967, he got a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Minnesota. He began working at the Minnesota Historical

Society in 1968, and retired in 1999. In 2000, Edward started working at Minitex, a Library Information Network. He and his partner, Carsten Slostad are still financial donors to the Quatrefoil.

Board of Directors

Since the Sunday brunch meeting at Dick and David's home in 1983, there has always been a Board of Directors to oversee and maintain the Library as a fully functioning safe space for members of the GLBT community. The original Board consisted of three members: Dick Hewetson was the first President, David Irwin was the Secretary/Treasurer, and Jane Lilja was the Vice President. Jane Lilja resigned in April 1986, due to illness and her inability to participate. She passed away shortly thereafter. She was replaced by Carolyn Sparks. Darlene Gish was added to the Board in April of 1986 and Edward Swanson and Terry Persons were added a few months later, bringing the total number of Board members to six. In 1988, the Bylaws were amended to allow for between nine and fifteen Board members. At the end of 1989, there were twelve Board members. The number of potential and filled Board member positions fluctuated greatly over the years. Board members were elected via ballot by the membership of the Library at the end of each year. In those early years, Matt Stark, from the MCLU, had suggested having an Advisory Board: a group of people with no administrative authority or responsibilities who would lend their high profile names to support for the Library. This never materialized although there has been discussion over the years of forming a similar 'Friends of the Library' group.

Diversity of Board members was always something the Library desired to make sure it was representative of the community it serviced. But finding women and people of varying ethnicities has not always been easy. In 2003, Mark Ranum joined the Board. He was a straight man who provided leadership and support to this GLBT group. He sums up his Board experience, "Serving on the Board of Quatrefoil Library isn't about straight or gay in my mind. It's about sharing the experiences and information about people who are GLBTQ with everyone. Libraries are for information, and information creates knowledge, and greater knowledge eliminates the fears, suspicions, and negative emotions people feel when challenged with a belief or lifestyle which happens to be different from their own. Quatrefoil's mission is to collect, preserve, and share materials and information relevant to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and other sexual minority communities. We share materials and information with everyone

gay or straight, male or female, young and old, in order to create a healthier community for all people. Everyone, whether they are aware of it or not, has family and friends who are GLBTQ and we all benefit from the sharing of these experiences and the knowledge that comes from the Quatrefoil Library's resources.”⁸

There has never been paid staff at the Library, but there have been volunteer staff members due to a combination of necessity and availability. Shortly after the doors to the Library officially opened in 1986, the first staff member was David Irwin as Executive Director. He decided to become the Library's Executive Director so he could focus on the operations of the Library while still serving as a member of the Board. The second unpaid staff person was Dick Hewetson who took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator. His responsibility was to find, train, and retain volunteers. Later on, positions of Office Manager, Membership Coordinator, Donor Relations Coordinator, and others were also created with the Board of Directors spelling out the duties of the Executive Director, the Volunteer Coordinator, and the Office Manager. At the same time, efforts and planning had begun to come up with a committee structure which would lead to taking some responsibilities off the shoulders of Board members and staff. The positions of Executive Director and Office Manager are now extinct, the duties now dispersed to the many volunteers at the Library. Board members and key volunteers head up various committees which coordinate different functions and operations of the Library. Duties of a Volunteer Coordinator, an Operations Coordinator, and a Membership Coordinator are usually performed by a Board member and their respective committees are made up of other Board members and regular Library volunteers.

The first set of committees was formed at an April, 1989, Board meeting. The only committee that had been in place prior to that was the Art Committee, which worked on getting artists to display their works at the Library. The Board decided that there should be seven committees: Public Relations/Membership, Programs, Publications, Acquisitions, Special Events, Development, and Art. The committees have changed over the years. But there have always been some since 1989.

Initially, Board meetings were held monthly, but in 1988 a decision was made to move Board meetings to bi-monthly so that committee meetings could take place during the in-between months. Each committee was to have a Board member acting as a communication liaison between the Board and the committee. The committees would consist of Board

members and other volunteers from the Library. At the end of 1989, the existing committees consisted of Acquisitions, Art, Development, Executive, Personnel, Program, Public Relations/Membership, Publication, and Special Events. There were two special committees consisting of Board members which were to be used only at specific times: the Long-Range Planning Committee which is active only when needed and the Nominating Committee which is only active during the election process. As the years have progressed, so have the Board and Board meetings. They are now held every month. The committees have changed and now include Development, Operations, Acquisitions, Web, Publicity, Finance, Membership, and Volunteer.

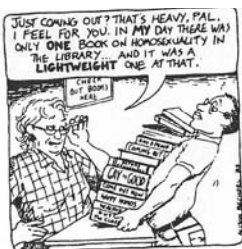
The Volunteers

The volunteers at the Quatrefoil are the glue that holds the organization together. Their roles vary, depending on the amount of time and effort each individual wants to contribute. Some volunteer only for their one desk shift each month. Others come in during hours the Library is closed to do cataloguing or other administrative tasks and contribute countless hours of service over the years. One of the earliest members of the Library, Mark Carlson says of his experience, "I volunteered for several years, as I felt that for everything that the Library gave to me, I should give something back."⁹ The desk volunteers are responsible for checking items in and out, maintaining the cash box for that shift, answering the phone, checking voicemail, gathering and sorting the mail, helping out patrons with questions and book searches, and processing new memberships. Many volunteers have a passion for books. Board member, Dave Violett praises volunteers, such as Mark Everett, "He is a great resource as a volunteer for the Library. As a writer, he has extensive knowledge of the books in our collection."¹⁰ There is a Library Updates Folder which is kept behind the front desk which keeps volunteers up to date on important procedures and updates. Many Board members believe that having a paid staff member would help with the day-to-day administration and operations of the Library, allow it to be open more hours, and possibly help in marketing and publicity. But with a paid staff person comes extra cost, which always outweighs the need.

People have chosen to volunteer for a number of reasons. Many of the early volunteers were personal friends of Dick and David. Quite a few of the volunteers come to the Library and become members first and then choose to volunteer later. Most people hear about the Library from the ads

and articles in the local GLBT publications, at the annual Pride Festival, or by word of mouth from friends or partners. Other volunteers are new to town and want to become involved in a GLBT organization, so they have turned to the Quatrefoil Library. Many volunteers had some sort of library experience, usually in college, and wanted to continue it.

John Livingston said he became involved because he saw an ad in *Gaze* and thought it would be a good organization in which to become involved because it did not revolve around bar centered activities. He was also active in the Minnesota Freedom Band (a GLBT community band). "I knew no one and knew nothing about the Quatrefoil when I first came to the Twin Cities. However, I knew that they needed volunteers, so I soon was volunteering four nights a month, and continued to volunteer until about 1994." He ended up working as a desk volunteer, as well as helping with the *Quatrefoil* newsletter and Library activities.



QUATREFOIL LIBRARY

1619 DAYTON AVE., ST. PAUL, MN 55104 (612) 641-0969
HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Saturday, 12 noon - 4 p.m.

Have one evening per month free? Well, Quatrefoil needs volunteers!
To find out more,
leave a message for our volunteer coordinator at 641-0969.

John also recollects of his experience, "It was a very, very good thing for me to be involved in. I was 25 years old when I started, and it was very good for me to be in a non-bar environment with much older gay men who could tell me and teach me things. Things about the way the gay world worked in a fascinating way, about history and struggles. "I once told Dick and David that I was not into picking up guys at bars, because it just wasn't what I wanted to do. So Dick said I should get involved in GAMMA, a gay men's social group which did activities such as skiing and bridge playing. Almost everyone in town at the time seemed to belong to it. The group had these guys who were older, and then guys who were just young 22 year old chickens. I'd go and have no sexual interest in anyone, but it was really cool to talk to them and see dynamics between the two groups. However, I never would have met older gay men and women who had so much to offer in history and learning if it wasn't for Quatrefoil."¹¹

Pete Wilson didn't have a long history in the GLBT movement before joining the Quatrefoil Library. He had broken up with a long-term boyfriend and ended up in a messy rebound relationship that was not healthy. He started volunteering at the Library to keep himself occupied and keep his mind off of his troubles. Current Volunteer Committee member Jeremy Wardein says that he has never directly heard of a person becoming a volunteer hoping to meet dating prospects, although he thinks it is at least in the back of some volunteers' minds. He has heard many comments from longtime lesbian volunteers who've been paired with a new gay male volunteer, where the new male volunteer was clearly hoping to be paired with a hot male librarian. He has heard the same from older male volunteers who have requested to be with a new desk partner, someone who is younger. He's even been asked a few times by veteran volunteers if their new desk partner is hot or not.

The reasons volunteers decide to stop volunteering is as varied as the reasons they begin. John Livingston ended up quitting because of his heavy involvement in another organization. He and his partner at the time, John Vasecka, started the North Country Bears, a social group for bigger gay men and their admirers. Starting a new gay organization took up so much time that the volunteer work at the Quatrefoil had to give way. Dick and David could truly relate to that overwhelming feeling in regard to the time commitments of starting a new organization. John remained a regular member for several years after that. Other people have quit because they had to commit time to school, they have gotten important positions at other organizations, or have moved away.

A THANK YOU PICNIC
FOR ALL OUR WONDERFUL
QUATREFOIL LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

TIME: 4:00 P.M.
Sunday, SEPTEMBER 17

WHERE: Art Strobel's home
2470 Lydia Avenue W
Roseville, MN
PHONE: 651-636-7356

Over the years, volunteers at the Library have put in tremendous hours of service. Founder Dick Hewetson said, "It's just amazing. I've been gone for twelve years and the thing that I stress whenever I tell people about it (the Library), is that there's no paid staff and it's made up of all dedicated volunteers."¹² Volunteers have been recognized by Board members at various events, picnics, and awards ceremonies over the years.

The Patrons

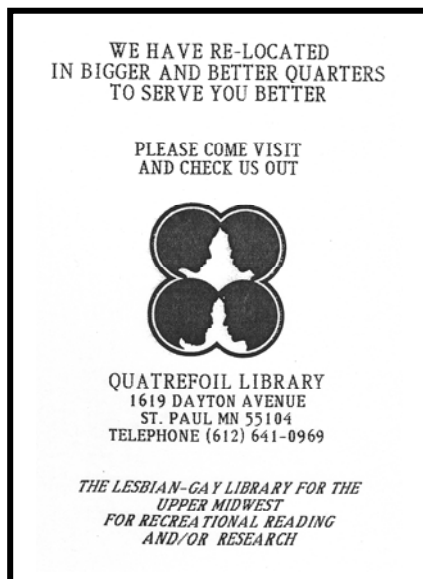
Obviously, any organization such as a Library would not be functioning if it didn't have an audience to utilize it. The patrons of the Quatrefoil come and use the resources for many reasons: for special author readings, or because they are just coming out as a gay person and are looking for resources and guidance, or for the social aspect that comes with being a part of a GLBT organization. Of course, many people come in to the Quatrefoil because they simply enjoy GLBT related books and videos!

Members have heard about the Library from various sources. GLBT periodicals such as *Equal Time* and *Lavender Magazine* have always been a good source, as has the Pride booth at the Pride Festival. Others have been told about the organization from friends or coworkers. When asked why they become members of the Library, they have given a variety of answers. Some wanted to be familiar with gay authors and are long time fans of authors from the gay community. There have been people who have moved here from Chicago where they heard about the Quatrefoil through the Gerber/Hart Library. Some people have become members simply to support a GLBT organization. And some join just because of the comfort and safeness a library can offer.

Library member Lawrence Martin recalled how he found out about the Quatrefoil. "When I was quite young and the Library was still in its first location in north Minneapolis, I happened by the Broadway Avenue location and a man saw me loitering there. He understood that I was curious and nervous. He smiled at me and offered to give me a tour of the place if I wanted to look...just look. I was quite young and basically ran away in fear. This memory has stayed with me ever since."¹³

Some patrons use the Library for research purposes. Researchers from as far away as Maine, New York, Florida, and California have contacted the Library looking for information. Because of the uniqueness of the collection, many are willing to come in and sift through the periodicals and

books to find what they need. Dawn Wicking, a television editor, used the Library for several weeks for research in 1990-1991. She produced a film on the March on Washington and noteworthy events in the GLBT community occurring after the March. Her film was shown at many GLBT film festivals. In 1999, Cathy Heying came to the Library for research, and got much more. "I first became a member because I was working on a thesis on Gays and Lesbians in the Catholic Church. In my research, I kept coming across references to articles in certain GLBT publications, but I could not find any of these publications in the public libraries, including Minneapolis or St. Paul. When I went to Quatrefoil, they had them all! I was thrilled and so grateful for these resources that no one else had. In that moment, I became convinced of the importance of providing resources – books, periodicals, films – that one can't find anywhere else. There are so many parts of GLBT history that would be lost if Quatrefoil wasn't around."¹⁴



In 1997, during Laura Warnest's senior year at the public Arts High School in Golden Valley, Minnesota, she used the Quatrefoil Library's resources to write a paper for a history class on the Stonewall Riots. Her teacher, Jenny Zanner recommended the Quatrefoil Library. "My mom went with me at the time," Laura recalls. "She was a little bit in shock, but it was fun. I was out to everyone at the time except my parents, and I

thought it would give her some hints, but it didn't.”¹⁵ During her second year attending college in Missouri, Laura came back during a break and visited the Library. She renewed her membership even while she was away in school. She used the Library again to write a paper on Female-to-Male Transgender issues, comparing the acceptance and treatment of transgender people to the same earlier treatment that bisexuals had gone through. “I stopped in to get as much stuff as I could and then I brought it back from school during Christmas break. It’s funny. I remember thinking - that after researching Stonewall in high school, I came out to my mom. Then I am doing a paper on transgender issues, and I hope my mom doesn’t think I have something else to tell her.”¹⁶ Laura later became a member of the Library’s Board of Directors.

An unidentified student from Macalester College used the Library to do a paper on the Anita Bryant Initiative. She interviewed BJ Metzger and DJ Munro, who were members of the Library and lesbian activists in St. Paul. Other people have used the Library for research for school papers and projects. Especially in the 1980s when the AIDS crisis was in such prominence, many people such as Gary Rankila, a local attorney and friend of the Library, would send in clippings from stories about AIDS and other gay subjects. David Irwin recalls several people coming in to use donated clippings and clippings that volunteer Art Stoeberl had assembled and compiled.¹⁷ In 1999, a group of four students from the College of St. Catherine’s Master’s in Library Science Program chose the Quatrefoil Library as the place to study for their research in the category of special libraries. For several weeks, the students spent many hours at the Library learning how an all volunteer special library worked and operated. They were impressed with the depth of the collection and dedication of the volunteers.

In 1998-1999, member John Yoakam used the Quatrefoil Library to research information for his Ph.D. dissertation: *A History of the Lesbian and Gay Counseling Program at Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis*. John used copies of *Equal Time*, *GLC Voice*, and a few other gay papers in order to create a context for what was happening in the gay and lesbian community at the time the program at Family and Children's Service was being established. John recalls of his experience, “It was an unsettling experience for me at times because I lived through this history and I knew what was coming. Probably the most poignant feelings I had was when I read about gay peers of mine whom I knew died from AIDS. Quatrefoil was a valuable source of information, which helped me ask

informed questions with the persons I later interviewed, the former staff members of Family and Children's Service.”¹⁸

In 2002, two members from the Center for Homicide Research came in quite often to use the Quatrefoil for research.¹⁹ Dallas Drake (Center Co-Founder and Principal Researcher) and Joe Shulka (Co-Founder and Center Board President) along with a team of seven trained researchers used the expansive periodical collection to find articles for their Minnesota Gay Homicide Study. Kathy Robbins and other Library volunteers were able to help them out quite a bit in their searching. They spent several weeks digging through the newspapers and periodicals finding articles on GLBT homicides and violence. They made so many copies, that Dallas Drake ended up buying the Library a new copier to thank the Library for its service. Dallas says about the Quatrefoil, “It is the only place in the Upper Midwest that has most of the data that they have. That is why the Quatrefoil is so important. A lot of material that the Quatrefoil has is irreplaceable.”²⁰

Many Library members who staff the desk can tell stories about patrons coming in, some young, some old, to ask for books or information about coming out. The Library has many books which deal with the struggles of people who are coming out and for parents who have children who have just come out. These references prove to be invaluable to these people at a time where they need support and information. The Quatrefoil Library is proud to be a place where these people can feel safe and find the information which they need. One anonymous library member provided his story of coming out, “I think it is important to have resources available for those who are in the process of coming to terms with their sexuality, especially for those who cannot afford to spend lots of money to acquire their own personal library. Reading has helped me immensely as I continue to grow in my own self-acceptance, and my acceptance of others.”²¹ Mark Carlson, one of the original Library members said, “I was in the process of coming out when I first learned about Quatrefoil. It was still on Broadway and not open to the public yet. You buzzed a buzzer and waited outside for Dick to come to the door and let you in. Books were piled everywhere and in every corner. There weren’t nearly enough bookshelves. It felt like a bit of an adventure. Dick was (and is) a charming older man and he explained their mission and I signed right up, turning out to be member 13. It was anything but an unlucky number. The Library was the perfect location to explore what was written on being gay. It was also fascinating to check out books on homosexuality in other times and cultures. Being a member helped me

emotionally on a personal level and also provided an intellectual context for developing pride for ‘my people’ and our heritage.”²²

Current or former library members and volunteers often donate money, books, or other materials. Sometimes people who just hear about the Library from the press or from a friend want to get rid of their old books and magazines, so they give them to the Quatrefoil. Some people contribute to the annual fundraising campaign via mail. Some choose the Quatrefoil as a beneficiary in their will or through their work related contribution campaigns. Others support the Library by just spreading the word about the collection to help the Library gain much needed visibility. An anonymous donor of \$1000 wrote a note with his check, saying, “Of all the causes to which one can contribute, I know of none as worthy as Quatrefoil Library.”²³

More Key People

It’s impossible to highlight every person who has contributed to the Library, and it’s even difficult to pick out the ones who have contributed the most, since there have been so many people who have done so much for the organization. Undoubtedly, the most inspiring current members of the Library are those who have been involved from the early years and are still immensely involved today as key volunteers and reelected Board members. By talking to any of them you can see their love for this organization is deep and true and their stories and recollections of good times should bring a smile to your face. They are the glue that keeps the Library together and their hearts keep it strong and thriving. Most of the people who are the most dedicated volunteers today have been involved in the Library for quite a long time. Dan Hanson was one of the six people who were at the original founding brunch of the Library which was held at Dick and David’s condo. He knew Dick and David through their mutual involvement in the MCLU and its fundraising efforts. For the first few years following that brunch-meeting, Dan and his partner Keith didn’t have any involvement with the starting of the Library other than helping move boxes of books into the Library’s first home on Broadway. One day when they were at the MCLU doing volunteer work for Matt Stark with the MCLU, Dan wanted to check out a book from the Library, so he and Keith became Quatrefoil Library member numbers 79 and 80. Shortly thereafter, Dan started volunteering by working at the desk. Today he still takes one or two desk shifts each month. Dan subsequently became a Board member and did a ten-year stint on the Board. Often times he would attend Board meetings even when he wasn’t an official Board member. He recently became a Board member again. He

has held every position and been on nearly every committee at one time or another. He stimulated Keith into serving on the Board although Keith prefers to stay in the background by doing committee work and helping with events and fundraisers. Dan and Keith have hosted dozens of house parties to raise money for the Library and look forward to more years of involvement with the Quatrefoil Library. Board member Dave Violett says of Dan, "Dan Hanson has been with the Library since the very beginning and serves as one of the unofficial historians of the twenty years of Quatrefoil's existence."²⁴ Dan stresses the importance of the Library in his and Keith's life, "The Library plays a major part in our social life and we have made many great friends. Out of all the Boards and organizations I have worked with, the Library has been the most fun, the most challenging, and is the most rewarding thing I have ever been involved in."²⁵

Much like Keith, another person who likes to stay quietly working in the background is Art Stoeberl who began his involvement with the Library in 1987 as member number 89. He heard about the Library shortly after it opened when it was still in two rooms at the MCLU building. He thought that it was a group to which he would like to contribute. Art started his volunteer work by digging through boxes and boxes of newspaper and magazine clippings which Dick and David had accumulated. He sorted and classified them. There was so much material that they filled four filing cabinet drawers. He remained a volunteer over the years, moving from clipping file guru, to desk volunteer, to meeting minutes recorder, to Board member. Board member, Dave Violett praises Art's service to the Library. "Art is a tireless Library volunteer and Board member. He dedicates over 200 hours of his valuable time every year, and runs several events that help keep the Library solvent."²⁶ Art has helped plan several events over the past 20 years. The biggest event for which he was responsible was the first annual Movie Matinee. He was responsible for finding the Heights Theatre and has helped in the planning of successful movie events every year since. One other major project that Art was involved in was helping Library member Barbara Stevens set up a GLBT library in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Art and the Quatrefoil gave them many extra books and resources to help kick-start their collection, which is housed at the Chippewa Valley LGBT Community Center in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and now has over 3,000 books. Dick says of Art, "Along came quiet, patient, and untiring Art Stoeberl, who began creating a clipping file. He created a valuable resource for research. Even Kay Miller of the *Star Tribune* was able to find things in our file that she could not find at her own paper."²⁷

Kathy Robbins and Cathy Croghan are another dynamic duo who have worked endlessly on Library tasks and projects for many years. They joined the Library and Kathy Robbins quickly started as a desk volunteer and was recruited to be on the Board. They have both spent many years working in libraries, surrounding themselves with books, so the Quatrefoil was a perfect fit. They have both been on the Board several times and held many different positions, including terms as President for both of them. Kathy Robbins has been the go-to person when it comes to operations of the Library and Cathy Croghan has been highly involved with development for the Library. They both spend countless hours at the Library planning events and fundraisers, cataloguing books, giving tours, and meeting with and helping Library patrons. Board member Chris Olson praises them, "The two Kathy's are pillars of support for the Library. Their willingness to help the organization through service in operations, development, and Board membership has helped keep the Library's doors open throughout the years." Fellow Board member Dave Violett adds, "Kathy Robbins keeps the Library running. Her training as a librarian and her dedication to detail makes her invaluable."²⁸

Tim Perry is a joiner. He and late partner Gary Barsness liked being involved in good community organizations and that is why they joined the Quatrefoil back in early 1987. Tim, member #88, says, "We thought it was a good thing to do. This Library was more out of the ordinary." Gary was a lover of books and had several thousand of them in his basement. They had seen Dick and David on public TV showcasing their books, and that stimulated Gary to get them involved at the Quatrefoil.²⁹ Gary died shortly after they joined the Library. There are two reminders of Gary still in the Library today. The first are the shelves that were purchased with a \$1,000 donation which Tim made after Gary's death with a plaque on top of the shelves that reads "These bookcases are a memorial to Gary Michael Barsness 1948-1987". Second, there is a plant of Gary's that they placed in the Library when they first got involved almost 20 years ago. It is a skinny palm-like tree about three feet tall that sits in the windowsill and it is the only plant still in the Library. Tim was asked to become involved on the Board in 1988, shortly after Gary died. He became Treasurer in 1989. He liked being Treasurer and claims, "I like to be Treasurer because I think it is easy while other people think it's hard."³⁰ He was Treasurer from 1989 to 1993 and again from 1998 to 2001. He recently came back again as a regular Board member in 2006. Long time Board member Cathy Croghan says, "Tim has given a tremendous amount of time and energy to the Library and he has served as Treasurer for more years than anyone can count. We cannot begin to adequately thank him for his past service."³¹

Another big contributor in the more recent history of the Library was Dale Johnson. Dale began his involvement with the Quatrefoil Library in 2000. He hosted several house parties and quickly became heavily involved. He was on the Board and his partner Jeremy Wardein was a key volunteer. Together they assumed many responsibilities and held committee positions. Dale focused mostly on development since that was his specialty and Jeremy worked largely with the volunteers. Dale's expertise in creative fundraising and strategic planning gave the Library a much needed resource to improve its visibility and membership. He came up with new innovative fundraising and better volunteer recognition events. He got the Library organized and running smoother than ever. Dale was awarded the second Volunteer of the Year Award in 2003. His unexpected death from heart failure in early 2004 left a void in the Library leadership. His dedication to the cause of the Library has spurred others to stay involved and make the Library the best of its kind. The Board voted to name an award the Dale Johnson Development Award because of his endless pursuits to make the Library more successful and visible. This book is also dedicated to his memory.

Chapter 3 – The Library

Layout of Library

The door of the Quatrefoil Library greets you with a small plaque with the Library hours on it. Beside the door, there is a wooden drop box which was made in 1987 by a local ‘shop’ teacher’s woodworking class, coordinated through Quatrefoil Library volunteer Art Stoeberl. Inside the door is a small entryway with posters, reading chairs, framed articles about the Library, and information about local GLBT groups and resources. On the far wall a small framed sign reads “Welcome to Quatrefoil Library.” Above the chairs is a large framed display case with hundreds of buttons in it from past significant GLBT events, such as Pride, gay politician campaigns, etc. Next to that is a large framed portrait of Dick Hewetson and David Irwin, taken when they retired from the Quatrefoil Library in 1991, and presented to them at their retirement party.

Built by Charlie French, a friend of Dick and David’s from the Minnesota Atheists, is a rack which holds current resource materials and local publications. Above it is a framed poem by local lesbian poet, former member, and Minneapolis Community and Technical College English teacher, Morgan Grayce Willow. The poem was printed by Liz Tufte, a book artist and designer at Folio Bookworks. It was printed on handmade paper using an antique letterpress printer. Morgan read the poem along with other writings of hers at the first Quatrefoil Cabaret event in 2002. She decided to donate it to the Library after the reading.

Letter From the Book

*I’ve been waiting
between deckle-edged pages,
here with dust and spiders,
for this opening,
this slow circling of fingers
over grain, for your pause
on letters that kiss paper
as glaciers have
the earth’s skin.*

*Before you read,
try this lake-sand smell,
beaches baked in sun,
the sharpness of ink
rising like reeds at the edge.
Now let eyes tumble
this moraine of words,
fall line to line, a caress
fierce and tender as light
seizing the flanks
of mountains.*

*After the last word, hold me
three heartbeats’ time.
Then return me to the shelf.
Remember please this note.
Tuck it between pages.
Any two. Your choice.*

- Morgan Grayce Willow

The poem is a nice welcoming treasure that leads visitors into the 1,243 square foot main room of the Library. The Library has items hanging and displayed such as a rainbow flag, posters promoting reading featuring

figures such as Xena, Warrior Princess, gay pride memorabilia, and plaques for the Dale Johnson Development Award and the Dick and David Volunteer of the Year Award. The Library has shelves going around most of the perimeter of the room and three rows of shelves down the center. The outer shelves house the video and audio collections. This is also where you can find the Library suggestion box. Formerly, a collection of rare and unclassified older books which had been a part of Dick and David's original collection rested on shelves purchased with a donation from member Tim Perry as a memorial to his late partner Gary Michael Barsness, who died of AIDS in 1987. There is a small plaque that sits on the shelves in his honor. In 2006, the old books were catalogued and most were moved to the rare books collection in the backroom of the Library.

Along the back wall of the Library is the periodical collection and GLBT magazines and newsletters written in Minnesota, and volumes of the publications *Lavender*, *Equal Time*, *Twin Cities Gaze*, *Siren*, *Advocate*, and *Denuve*. There is a reference binder listing all publications alphabetically. In front of the shelves are several square leather chairs for people to sit and read. This is also the area the Library uses when there are readings, movies, and other public events. Board member Laura Warnest says, "I really like the reading chairs and tables in back, I just love it back there."¹

In the far back corner is the Erotic Video Collection. This is the collection of X-rated videos and DVDs which for security reasons is in direct sight of the volunteer desk. This area has been cause for debate and concern over the years, since it is out in the open. (See the Youth header in Chapter 5 for more information.) The second room of the Library is where most of the behind the scenes Library work goes on. It consists of one large work room and two smaller rooms. The three rooms, a total of 685 square feet, are called the Library office. A major organization project was launched by Library volunteers Jeff Alger and Kathy Robbins in 2005 to get one small room organized and straightened up for use. It has two rows of shelves that house tens of thousands of issues of over 500 different publications. The second small room is mainly used as a storage or work room. In the main room there is a large conference table and chairs. The room was originally available free of charge to various GLBT community organizations such as Gay and Lesbian Elders Active in Minnesota (GLEAM), Black and White Men Together, and the Gaylaxians (a group of gay science fiction enthusiasts). Due to the amount of material the Library has now and the space material takes up while being processed, this room is no longer rented out and even the Quatrefoil Board meetings are held in another conference room within the building. The cabinets and shelves in

the room are filled with various items such as historical erotica, old oversized newspapers, tapes of old radio broadcasts from local KFAI radio, travel directories, and boxes of scripts – all part of the collection. Other items such as t-shirts, books waiting to be transferred elsewhere or repaired, and all the administrative material and equipment are kept in this room as well.

Operations

Shortly after the Library opened, policies were established for all operating aspects – financial, acquisitions, even affirmative action. These policies are now called the By-Laws and are updated every few years as needed. They have been updated five times since the original version, the latest revision on July 13, 2000. These By-Laws are often used for funding and grant applications.

For many years now, there has been an Operations Committee which oversees basic Library operations. The tasks include sorting donated materials and selecting those that are to be added to the collection, organizing and binding periodicals, processing new materials, sending overdue notices, and conducting inventories of what is currently in the collection. The committee members are also responsible for donating or exchanging duplicate materials with other GLBT libraries or organizations. Another task which the Operations Committee oversees is the lending of Library material. The current checkout policy for books is a limit of five books for four weeks at no charge. The limit on DVDs and videos is checking out five at a time for two weeks at a cost of one dollar each. The Library uses an old-fashioned card catalog check out system. Board member Dan Hanson praised Kathy Robbins, who has been involved in the operations of the Library for many years. “She is one of the masterminds behind the organization of the Library itself and is constantly thinking ahead in terms of what the Library looks like at the present and what direction it needs to go in the future.”²

Finances

In the first year of the Library, the rent was \$100 per room/per month and totaled \$5,100 for the year. In 2006, the rent, which is still the largest portion of the operating costs (68% of total expenses), was \$27,800. The

expenses for the Library have grown from \$8,896 in 1986 to \$45,475 in 2006. Expenses reached their highest in 2003 at \$53,185.

The Quatrefoil Library has been a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization since its first year. Each year it files an application to the Minnesota Secretary of State for Annual Registration as a Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation. Along with this form, the Library has to file a similar form with the IRS to maintain its tax exempt status. The Library has insurance in the form of Commercial General Liability Protection including property protection, protection for valuables (e.g., artwork and rare books), and general coverage for things such as personal injury and liability. The insurance cost \$2,017 by 2006.

Besides money raised from memberships, the largest contributor to the Library is the Community Solutions Fund (CSF), formerly the Community Fund Drive. Each year the Library is required to submit an annual report to CSF to be able to participate in their fund raising drives. The CSF works much like the United Way does. The CSF staff goes to workplaces and asks employees to make contributions to charitable organizations. Employees can make contributions specifically to the Quatrefoil Library, or if they don't specify an organization, the money is put into a pool that is distributed among all of CSF's charitable groups. The Library is required to commit a certain number of volunteer hours to working with CSF each year and one member must attend CSF meetings. Steve Bubul, a long-time Library volunteer, has been the Library's representative for most of their history of involvement with CSF.

Another recent source of income for the Library comes from the Hengel Fund. On February 14, 1999, Library member Peter Hengel passed away. His estate donated hundreds of magazines, over 750 videotapes and \$100,000 to maintain the collection. The \$100,000 is in permanently restricted funds, meaning the Library can spend the money earned from the investment of the original amount, but it can't spend the original amount itself. The funds were originally put into CDs, but later the Board decided to invest the money through Philanthrofund so they wouldn't have to manage the money themselves.

One method of fundraising that the Library has used since its inception is a direct mail Annual Campaign. A letter is mailed to all members telling them of the Library's accomplishments over the past year and then asking for a donation. In recent years, the goal of the Campaign has been to raise money for new books and videos to add to the collection since the Library

believes that people are more likely to give money if their donation is going towards something tangible (rather than just giving to support general operating costs). About 300-400 letters are usually sent and the mailing often raises thousands of dollars. This proves to be a good source of income for the Library because these are the people who believe in the Library and its purpose.

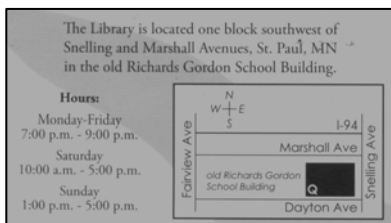
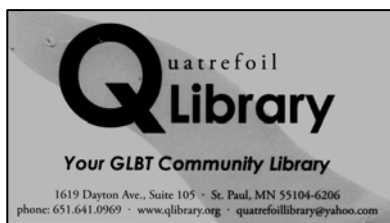
Membership

To check out material from the Quatrefoil Library you must be a member. But, you do not need to be a member to use the material in the Library. Original membership in 1986 was \$10 per year. By 2006, annual membership dues have been raised to \$35 for an individual, \$50 for a household (two adults at the same address), and \$20 for students and seniors. When a person wants to become a new member, the desk volunteer processes this by having her/him fill out a simple form. In the Library Procedures Folder at the volunteer desk there is a register of current members as well as instructions on how to process a new membership. When the Library started, the membership records were kept on paper by hand, mostly by David Irwin. They were kept solely like this until 1994, at which point records began to be kept on the computer. Nowadays, using the software Microsoft Access, the Membership Coordinator will process the rest of the membership application. Volunteer Robert Frame has been doing this for the past ten years for the Library. He puts all the information into the database. The database also allows the Membership Coordinator to change their status (active or inactive) and process renewal memberships. All members get a new yellow Library card.

Marketing and Publicity

Marketing for the Library has always been a struggle since advertisements are expensive. The Library often settles for simple ads that are minimal in size and possibly not effective in reaching a broad audience. The Library has often advertised in specific publications, beyond local GLBT publications, such as in programs for concerts of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus or One Voice Mixed Chorus. There have also been advertisements in papers such as the Women's Press to gain visibility to a female audience. Since 2001, the Library has found a good partnership with Start Spark, LLC, a local marketing and web design company owned and run by Library member Brian Mangin.³ With the help of Dale

Johnson's innovative strategic planning ideas, StartSpark has been able to provide new and clever marketing material (new brochure designs, Pride flyers, postcards, etc.), which have helped increase Library visibility and getting new people interested. All of the services are offered at a highly discounted rate and sometimes free.



Newsletter

A few weeks prior to the grand opening celebration of the Quatrefoil Library on May 4, 1986, the first newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1, of the *Gay Bookworm*, was mailed out to the members. In this premiere, two sided, purple sheet of paper issue presented by David Irwin was an announcement about the grand opening celebration featuring famous gay author Quentin Crisp, well wishes and comments about the new Library from high profile GLBT people and organizations around the country, thanks to donors, requests for more donations and help, and other general announcements. There were two special key points announced in this first issue. One was the partnership with the International Gay Archives in Los Angeles, coordinated by Jean-Nickolaus Tretter. The partnership allowed Quatrefoil members to have membership in both groups. When persons became members of the Quatrefoil Library, they also automatically became members of the International Gay Archives. The International Gay Archives donated several books to the Library's collection. The second big announcement in the newsletter was the establishment of a collection of about 100 books at the Pride Institute in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The books were provided to give GLBT resources to the Institute's clients and staff. This arrangement did not work out in the long run due to their mishandling of the donated books.

The second issue of *Gay Bookworm* didn't come out until a year later in

April, 1987. Volume 2, Issue 1, was printed on mustard colored paper and was a one page, two-sided document. In addition to the soon-to-be-typical thanks and pleas for help and donations, there were two major announcements. The first was about the upcoming fundraising performance of Pat Bond doing her one-woman show *Lorena Hickock and Eleanor Roosevelt; A Love Story*. The second announcement was of the Library's plan to move to the renovated Richards Gordon Building in St. Paul on Saturday, June 6, 1987.

The third issue of the *Gay Bookworm*, Volume 2, Number 2, September, 1987, was only on side of one sheet of paper, but it included the financial reports for 1986 and the first half of 1987, to stress the need for continued financial support. In the newsletter was an update on the successful Pat Bond fundraiser, a notice that members could now support Quatrefoil through a payroll deduction if their employers were members of the CSF, and an announcement of the first Library book sale, (Crane Winton, a famous, former Hennepin County District Court Judge, donated a few thousand books to the Library to sell at the fundraiser on Saturday, September 26. This book sale was the first of many).

Over the next few years, the *Gay Bookworm* continued to be published and mailed to members with information about upcoming events, art shows, monthly statistics, lists of new books received including special lists of books about AIDS, calls for donations, volunteers, and money, wish lists, book reviews and recommendations, and general announcements. In 1988, an attempt was made to produce the newsletter every other month, however, only five issues of the *Gay Bookworm* were published: January, March, May, August, and October. In 1989, Library volunteer Dolly Ruark took over as editor of the *Gay Bookworm* and served as the editor of the newsletter for many years. She was the Library's unofficial photographer as well. Prior to 1989, David Irwin had been handling all the editing and printing of the *Gay Bookworm* and Board members and volunteer staff members helped put the newsletter together. Dolly managed to produce six issues of the *Gay Bookworm* every year while she was editor. In March of 1990, it was suggested by a member and agreed upon that the name of the newsletter be changed to encompass the broader collection and audience that the Quatrefoil Library was getting. A name change contest was announced in the newsletter, but responses were few. A suggestion box was put in the Pride booth in June. In September, they announced that a new name had been chosen and would be revealed in the first issue of 1991. The winning name, *Quatrefolio*, was suggested by Alan Peabody, longtime member #54, now residing in West Hollywood, California, with his partner

Jon Back, formerly Jon Jackaway.

Quatrefolio continued to be published six times annually. In late 1992, Dolly tried to change the content a little. She did an informal survey of readers to find out what they liked and didn't like about the current newsletter. She discovered that the newsletter was timely and that readers liked the book reviews, but they thought the news was stale. She added some new features to try and make it more interesting. She started interviewing Library volunteers and Board members. She also started an advice column, featuring Biblina Butch, the Bibliosexual Therapist. These new features only lasted a few issues.

In August of 1993, the newsletter was printed on white paper, went from 8.5x11 pieces of paper stapled in the upper corner to 11x17 sheets folded over in half (more like a book). The newsletter had book reviews and announced new items added to the Library's collection. Library volunteer John Livingston provided much of the typing and layout work for Dolly. In 1994, Dolly resigned as the newsletter editor. The frequency of the issues decreased and the contents of the *Quatrefolio* diminished. That year, only five issues of the newsletter were published and they were short and lacking in information. In 1995, the decision was made to go quarterly with the newsletter. But only two issues were produced that year and only one in 1996. These issues basically contained new book lists and not much other news or Library information. Luckily, the status of the *Quatrefolio* was not reflective of the status of the Library itself. Things at the Library continued to run fairly well, even though you would have never known it from reading the newsletter. In 1996, the *Quatrefolio* stopped. However, at a March 1997, Board meeting, the Board decided it should be reinstituted as an important communication vehicle for members. Dolly agreed to come back and help in the production of the new *Quatrefolio*. Between 1997 and 2001, the goal of four quarterly issues was never achieved, but the content of the *Quatrefolio* slowly returned to what it had been. There were no editors of the newsletter, various Board members and volunteers tried to put each issue together. The newsletter had book reviews, wish lists, lists of new items in the collection, it announced special events and happenings at the Library. 2002 marked a turning point for the *Quatrefolio*. With the help of Board member Karol Jensen and Key Volunteer Jill Adler, the newsletter took on a new look. It was now printed on cream colored paper, folded, and had lavender colored print. It had columns, photos, and other things that made it look like a real newsletter or bulletin. Karol took over editing responsibilities and Jill handled the design and layout. The new *Quatrefolio* featuring the Library's new logo started doing more movie

reviews to meet the assumed needs of the Library patrons. There was also a theme with each issue and the contents correlated with that theme which included gender, volunteering, parenting, African American pride, and aging. In 2005, Mary Kay Watson took over as Editor of the *Quatrefoil*, and Kathy Robbins became co-Editor in 2006.

Website and Online Catalog

The website for the Quatrefoil Library began in March of 2002 with Dale Johnson, head of the Web Committee, which consisted of Library members Jill Adler, Paul Blowers, Kris Anderson, and Kathy Robbins. The Committee worked on the site for about a year to figure out what should be on it and how it should be presented. Paul did much of the layout and Jill did a lot of the graphic design work. The Committee dissolved after the site was up and running. Kris Anderson, who had built the structure of the site, is the current webmistress and oversees the changes and running of the site. Former Board member Mark Hahn, Quatrefoil's self-proclaimed movie maven, contributed lists of new videos and DVDs. Board member Hank Herrmann continues in this role, and created lists of newsletters, audio cassettes, and compact discs which can be found on Quatrefoil's website.

The domain names of www.quatrefoillibrary.org and www.qlibrary.org were purchased and registered so that members could easily locate the site. They also acquired www.quatrefoillibrary.org (with only one 'l') since they thought some people might misspell the name. The shorter version is used in print and publication materials since it is easier to remember and spell. The Library uses a Yahoo mailing list for announcements and has an email address at QuatrefoilLibrary@yahoo.com. The online catalog has been one of the biggest improvements to the website. Users can search the Library catalog from anywhere via the internet. Currently, only books and DVDs are in the searchable catalog. There are hopes to get all material in the catalog. "Having the catalog online is amazing. It is an important thing for the Library to have the collection available as widely as possible," said Board member Tim Perry.⁴ At the end of 2006, the reformed Web Committee planned the website to give it a more updated look and feel to match the Library's new logo and other marketing materials. The new site, launched in 2007, encourages the searching of the catalog for movies and books, an updated list of events, a place to make online donations and ticket purchases, and the ability to do membership renewals.

Logo

The Library has had four major logos over the past twenty years. The original logo was designed by Steve Broin of the Visual Image Studio in St. Paul, with help from his friend and freelance designer Jeff Jacklin. According to Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, a quatrefoil means "four leaves, and applies to general four-lobed shapes in various contexts." The second logo was designed by Library member Gary Brummond in 1997. Gary recalled, "Some people loved the old logo and didn't want to step on anyone's toes. But I, myself, am a frequent toe-stomper."⁵ Gary and his graphic designer friend, Greg Sargent designed the new logo and just started using it in the advertising for the Library, and soon, they were using it on all communications. The logo consisted of books laid out and open in a triangular pattern with a pink triangle making up the center. This logo lasted for about six years. In 2003, Brian Mangin of Start Spark, LLC, worked with Board member Dale Johnson to come up with a new logo. They wanted a logo that was bolder and more contemporary. They also wanted it to emphasize the 'QLibrary' aspect of the Library's name without getting rid of the 'Quatrefoil' portion of the name. The Board of Directors accepted the new logo. In 2006, Brian modified the 2003 logo especially for the 20th Anniversary of the Library and then the following year reverted back to the 2003 logo.

Challenges

Theft is a universal issue for libraries. The Quatrefoil Library has trouble with this problem because of the very large video and DVD collection it circulates. It faced more problems when it moved to the lower level of the building where it is currently located. It was decided to keep all DVDs at the volunteer desk instead of in the cases on the shelves. People also have to check their bags at the desk when they come in. GLBT Archivist Jean-Nickolaus Tretter notes, "In public libraries, records have shown that GLBT books are the ones most often damaged, destroyed, or stolen. Access to GLBT books by our community members is vital for so many reasons, and in a specific GLBT collection like Quatrefoil they are better protected and cared for."⁶ The Library also had theft problems with its wooden book drop box. The slot in the top was too large, so people were reaching in and taking out material which others had returned. Once the Board realized this was happening, they quickly had the slot size reduced. Another issue is unreturned materials. The Library charges overdue fees if items are returned late. (Books: \$5 for one month late, \$10 for two months

late. Videos: \$5 for two weeks late, \$10 for one month late). Volunteers will mail letters occasionally to patrons who have overdue material. But often, these materials never make it back to the Library. Because the Library still uses cards to track the books and movies on loan rather than a computer based program, it is difficult to keep up with overdue materials. Occasionally, the Library will announce an amnesty month, where patrons can return overdue materials and have their overdue fee dropped. This usually yields some returns, but not a significant amount.

In January, 1991, a piece of artwork that was currently on display was vandalized. The two desk volunteers captured the two people involved. The artist was not too upset since the damage was minimal and no charges were pressed. This has been the only case of vandalism in the Library's history.

On July 1, 1997, the Twin Cities received a beating from Mother Nature. Local newscasters called it "The Big Storm". That evening, two volunteers, Stacy Rosevear and Dawn Bartell were updating the membership database when they noticed water coming into the Library. They quickly moved books and other items onto chairs, desks, and other high stable areas. Because of their quick thinking, none of the books, artwork on display, or other items in the collection were destroyed, except for a stack of newspapers and some donated books waiting to be catalogued. President at the time, Jason Prodoehl, said of the two members, "Volunteers are the heart of the Library, and Dawn and Stacy certainly proved it that night!"⁷ Another thing that was ruined was the old parquet dance floor from the dance studio which formerly occupied the main room of the Library. Volunteer Steve Bubul said, "We were probably the only GLBT Library where you could borrow a book and do the two-step in the same visit."⁸ The Library was happy to have a chance to replace the buckled floor with new carpeting. The Library also used this opportunity to discuss changing the layout of the space. Later volunteers Steve Bubul, Jason Prodoehl, Kathy Marquis, and Kathy Robbins came to help and survey the damage. Other than the parquet floors and a few books and newspapers, the most damage was done to the materials in Edward's office. It was locked and no one had a key except Edward, so by the time the property manager was able to get the office unlocked, water had already made its way into the small room.

In 2006, the Library fell victim to a scam artist. A man came in frequently and was checking out large numbers of adult videos. He would give his membership number verbally to the desk volunteer. Some of the

Board members realized that this man had several overdue items. When they looked into it, he had over 60 videos checked out, and was apparently using three different member numbers. When confronted on one of his visits by two Board members he gave them the run around, claiming all sorts of different lies such as fake names, false addresses, and even stories about his roommate checking out and selling the videos under his name. It is now stressed that all desk volunteers physically see a member's Library card and ID when checking out items.

Chapter 4 – The Contents

The Collection

Most of the items in the Quatrefoil Library collection have been donated. In the early years, many were purchased by Dick and David. The Acquisitions Committee finds new and unique items to add to the collection. In 2005, with a Library budget more stable than ever, the Acquisitions Committee purchased \$5,700 in new material for the Library. People also brought to the Library boxes and paper grocery bags full of books, magazines, videos, and other various gay collectibles such as buttons, posters, and t-shirts. In 1990, long time Library member John Yoakam donated 183 books, and David and volunteer Dolly Ruark collected about 20 boxes of books from the Amazon Bookstore Collective. In 2003, *Lavender* sent over 13 boxes of review copies. All items within the library are GLBT related or themed in one way or another. This means being written by a gay person, or written about a gay person, or having a gay person in it. There are a few items that are not specifically in one of these categories, but are familiar to the GLBT community. For example, Virginia Woolf was never proclaimed a lesbian, but she has several hidden undertones in her writings. Barbra Streisand is not a lesbian either, but she is an icon of many gay men. So these types of items can be found in the collection as well. However, the Library has a policy that videos, etc. which have been illegally duplicated in violation of copyright laws and questionable pictures of models without a disclaimer saying that they were of legal age are disposed of and not included in the Library.

As of April, 2007, the breakdown of items in the Library was: **Books** – 14,149; **Newsletters** – 284 different titles; **DVDs** – 1,040 (615 Regular, 425 Erotic); **VHS Videotapes** – 2,123 (702 Regular, 1,421 Erotic); **Audio Cassettes** – 155; **Audio Books** – 35; **Compact Discs** – 179; **Historical Erotica** (Pulp Novels) – 1,550; **Periodicals/Serials** (which includes journals, newspapers, & magazines) – over 500 different titles. **Other collections** such as Comics, Posters, Reference Books, Rare Books, Calendars, Scripts, Record Albums, and Non-local Newspapers are currently not inventoried.



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could break—until
one explosive day in Nicaragua. . .



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Theodora Keogh

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LOVE IN THE NEVER-NEVER LAND OF
HOLLYWOOD MISFITS

The Other Girl



Books

The reason the Quatrefoil Library exists is because of the books and the reason for Dick and David starting the Library was books. With the onset of technology, however, books are checked out less as the popularity of DVDs (Digital Video Discs) increases. Still, book titles grace the shelves of the Library. Just by seeing the sheer volume of various queer titles, members get a sense of pride to be part of such an amazing library. One of the most historically significant collections of books in the GLBT movement is the erotic pulp novels which were published in the mid-1900s. Cheap paperback erotic novels started appearing on newsstands and book racks shortly after World War II. Many of these books dealt with homosexuality which at that time was a very taboo subject. Although they were written by both gay and straight writers and they often ended in tragedy, they served as a learning tool and coming out resource for many GLBT people. These exciting underground novels were often the only insight into the gay lifestyle for closeted homosexuals. The books were small and could fit in a pocket. These 'one-handed readers' usually cost around a dollar or two, with some costing as little as 25 cents. Their popularity waned once the gay liberation movement began to grow in the late 1960s and even more so once gay literature became more public in the 1980s, but some still continued to get printed and collected. The variety of pulp novel topics are as varied as any regular collection of books. There were some that were written by 'Doctors' and talked about Homosexuality in a more serious way, but still contained words of eroticism. It is debatable whether they were authored by real doctors or not, since no authentication can be found in the actual books. Some books carried a serious title such as *Male Homosexuality Case Studies* or *Abnormal Male Behavior* to try and cater to more serious readers, but once you opened the book, it is obvious that the stories inside were meant to titillate readers and not to actually give them scientific information. This was not the case for most of the pulp novels found in adult book stores or the occasional drug store, which carried explicit drawings on their covers of male and female figures, often in sexual situations. Many of them had full nudity as well. The titles of some of these more explicit novels didn't hide the topic of the book at all. It was very clear what you were about to read if you picked up a copy of *Leather Whipper*, *Phallic Worshipers*, or *Female Masturbation*. By 1990, the Quatrefoil had approximately 800 of these types of books. The books were not circulating, but were kept on the shelves for visitors to read in the main Library room. Since the books are small and can easily fit into a pocket, many of them sadly disappeared. When Kathy Robbins realized this was happening, she moved these books, along with other rare books, to the

locked backroom of the Library. At last count in 2006, the Library had approximately 1,550 of these Pulp Novels from the 1940s to the 1980s. David Irwin said, "The books we have in the historical erotica are just simply wonderful." ¹

In the late 1980s, David had been in contact with Bob Fink of the Ninth Street Center in New York, a peer counseling center based on the studies of Dr. Paul Rosenfels, a psychotherapist studying identity formation and interpersonal dynamics. The Center was started by a group of homosexuals, many of whom were Dr. Rosenfels' students. The Ninth Street Center donated numerous items to the Quatrefoil Library, including books, monographs, journals, and money.

In the secure backroom of the Library, there is a shelf of rare books. Most of these are pre-Stonewall. There are also a few autographed books. The Library possesses several original copies of *Quatrefoil* by James Barr, signed by the author when he visited the Quatrefoil Library in 1991, for Dick and David's retirement celebration. The Library has several reprinted copies as well. They also have originals of some of his other books, such as the valuable and rare *Derricks*, a 1951 book of short stories, which the Library received in 1990 from Robert Hoag, a former St. Paul librarian and volunteer at the Minnesota Historical Society. One of the rarest books that the Library possesses is an original copy of *Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall written in 1928. It is considered by many scholars to be the first lesbian novel. Another rare book that is treasured by the Library is the *Songs of Bilitis*, written by Pierre Louys, and first published in Paris in 1894. The sensual poems in the book very openly refer to love between women. One other rare object in the collection is an original 1939 version of *Diana: a Strong Autobiography* by Diana Fredericks. This book remains a mystery with gay historians. Diana Fredericks was a false name under which the book about female love was published, but the true author has never been discovered.

One of the most unique items in the Quatrefoil Library is the GLBT Braille book collection. Triangle Braille Services, an organization of visually impaired GLBT people which produce copies of gay and lesbian works, received a \$2,100 grant from Philanthrofund in 1999 to get these books translated into Braille and put into a public space. The books are kept in a shelf in the main Library. Triangle Braille Services gave the initial eight Braille books to the Quatrefoil in late 2001 so they would be in a safe public space. The Library hosted a reception to honor Triangle Braille Services and to celebrate this unique collection within the country. There

have been other books added to the collection with the same grant money, bringing the total number to 15. According to several Board members, they don't believe anyone has ever used the Braille books. However, they believe it is a unique and important collection to have. A Braille version of the Quatrefoil brochure was created by Triangle Braille Services staff and is available to patrons at the main desk in the library.

Another collection is travel books, directories, and reference books. Current books in this collection are in the Library, with older editions kept in the office. Many patrons have come in to use the travel books for their upcoming trips. These non-circulating books are on subjects such as movies. Almanacs are used for reference purposes.

The Library received a grant from Philanthrofund in 2002, to start a children's collection. The collection is still very small, approximately 50 books, but there are high hopes that it will continue to grow as more GLBT themed children's books, mainly about GLBT parents and diversity in schools, become available. It has been mentioned by some Board members that a special comfortable reading space just for children should be created in the Library. Some of the more popular children's books that the Library has are *Oliver Button is a Sissy* by Tomie de Paola, *Daddy's Roommate* by Michael Willhoite, and *Heather Has 2 Mommies* by Leslea Newman.

In the early days of the Library, books were catalogued and arranged alphabetically by author. When Edward Swanson was Executive Director, he, along with the help of Library members such as Scott Markham, converted the catalog system from simple alphabetical within broad categories, to using Library of Congress call numbers and subject headings. It is currently organized that way. Many Board members and key volunteers from that time claim that Swanson would spend every day after work on the demanding task of converting the catalog system. He had not finished when he left in 1997. Each book has a card with the book's Library of Congress call number, author's last name, and title put in a book pocket in the back of the book. When a book is checked out, the card is stamped with a due date and placed in a call number order card box on the volunteer desk in the Library.

Prior to the current system, the collection records were maintained in a Microsoft Word document. In 2002, the Quatrefoil Library had its collection converted by Sagebrush staff from the Word document to a searchable catalog using Athena software. The Athena catalog became available to look up books by using a personal computer in the Library. A

few years later, in early 2004, a web version of the catalog was created by staff at Sound Internet, the company that hosts Quatrefoil's website and internet service. People can now search for items when they are not in the Library by going to the catalog option on the Library's website. Books can be looked up using title, author, or keyword searches. Only books and DVDs are currently available in the online searchable catalog, but there are hopes to add all other items as time permits. In the meantime, there are simple alphabetical lists on the website of other items, such as periodicals, DVDs, and videocassettes that are not yet in the searchable catalog.

Periodicals

Most new periodicals/serials which are received as donations are placed in the separate periodical room in the Library office. Periodicals of current Library subscriptions and all copies of Minnesota based publications are kept in the Library itself. To make more room in the main Library for books and videos, as well as a new seating area, the majority of periodicals were moved in 2005 to the office. Some of the periodicals have been bound (often by year or month) with a hardback cover, to both reduce the risk of theft and to better preserve them. Unbound periodicals are kept in cardboard magazine display boxes, since the Library cannot afford to purchase so many acid-free boxes that would preserve them better. The periodicals collection consists of both popular and historical GLBT publications. As of January, 2006, the periodicals had not been fully inventoried. There is a general list available on the website of all the periodical titles alphabetically, but there is no account of which issues of each publication the Library has. Library volunteer Barbara Hutchins is currently spearheading an effort to take inventory of all periodicals so they can be added to the online catalog and searched for electronically, much like the periodical collections in most public and college libraries.

Some of the periodicals the Library has are popular gay porn magazines that are commonly found in gay stores and bookstores and sometimes even in mainstream newspapers shops. Some of these include more popular publications such as *Freshmen*, *Unzipped*, *American Bear Magazine*, *In Touch*, and *Advocate Men*. The Library also has rare and more obscure porn publications which cannot be found in any bookstores and are often short-lived underground publications. Some examples are *Manshots*, *Stallion*, *Bad Attitudes: A Lesbian Sex Magazine*, and *Transvestia Fiction Magazine*. Regular periodicals are kept in the Library's collection as well. The Library has copies of several publications which have been popular

over time within the broader gay community. Magazines such as *Genre*, *Out*, *The Advocate*, *Instinct*, and *Blue* are all available in the Library's Periodical room. The collection includes some of the rarer and older magazines, such as *Gayme*, *Our Stories*, *I Know You Know*, *Country Women*, and *Rogue*. One of the fascinating sights in this room is of older copies of publications which pioneers in the gay rights movement had published during times when it wasn't okay to be gay. These publications are important artifacts for preserving GLBT history. The American gay liberation movement quietly started after World War II and began to gain momentum by the mid 1950s. Along with the movement came several publications such as *The Ladder* or the *Mattachine Review*, which the Quatrefoil Library is proud to have as a part of its collection.

In 1950, The Mattachine Society, the first homophile organization in the United States, was created by Harry Hay. It was a secret social group to bring homosexuals together for the purpose of self-understanding, as well as to acknowledge their contribution to society. When the Society voted to become a public group in 1953, it started publishing the *Mattachine Review* for internal readership and not for wide distribution. *One Magazine*, was a periodical started in 1952, created by many of the founding members of the Mattachine Society. It was the first widely distributed gay publication in America. It faced a legal battle when the Post Office prohibited its shipment because the Post Office declared the magazine obscene because there was an article in it on gay marriage. In 1958, *One Magazine* succeeded, in Federal Court, to overturn the ruling of the Post Office and was able to continue publication and shipment until the magazine ceased publication in 1967.

In 1955, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin founded the Daughters of Bilitis, the first American lesbian rights organization, which published the first lesbian periodical in 1956, *The Ladder*. It was a monthly publication from 1956 until 1972, and featured articles of interest to lesbians. In 1989, Charles Botts from the Houston Metropolitan Community Church Library in Texas, donated eight volumes of *The Ladder* and an index volume to the Quatrefoil Library. These along with additional issues of *The Ladder* which the Library has acquired are in its periodical collection.

The Circle, or *Der Kreis*, is another historical gay periodical that is coveted by GLBT archives and historians. *The Circle* started as a German language magazine in 1932 and eventually added French and English sections. It stayed in circulation until 1967. An anonymous professor from

St. Olaf College, in Northfield, Minnesota, left many issues and bound editions of *The Circle* to the Quatrefoil when he died in 1990.

The Library strives to maintain a collection of journals which include GLBT related topics such as religion, politics, and sexual issues. One of the most famous journals on GLBT topics is the *Journal of Homosexuality*, an academic journal, started in 1974, that examines same-sex desires and sexual practices. Several years ago, an anonymous retired professor at the University of Minnesota donated his collection of *The Journal of Homosexuality* to the Library which currently has all volumes from 1974 to 2001. Another unique item, which the Quatrefoil Library received as a donation, was several hundred *Playgirl* magazines which were kept in a large file drawer for many years while the Board members debated whether to keep them or not. Because many young men who are just starting to explore their gay sexuality often have their first exposure to naked men through *Playgirl* magazine, the Board had a tough time deciding if it was an interesting and important part of GLBT history. They ultimately decided to sell the hundreds of *Playgirl* magazines in a book sale since the tie to GLBT community was not strong enough and they really did not have the space to house so many magazines of a heterosexual nature. They ended up keeping the few older issues which had already been in the periodical collection before the large donation was received.

The Library carries all Twin Cities GLBT publications from 1971 on. This includes *Focus Point*, *Twin Cities GAZE*, *GLC Voice*, *Equal Times*, and *Lavender*, and many others including short lived and rare publications such as *GLBT Press*, *Time Out*, *Rag*, and *Siren*. The Library will carry duplicate copies of any GLBT publications from the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota, but only single copies of other periodicals. It also has back issues, mostly from the 1980s, of periodicals from other cities such as Washington DC, San Francisco, Chicago, and Seattle. The Quatrefoil Library is also home to some periodicals which are concerned with relationships between men and young boys such as the *NAMBLA Bulletin* (North American Man/Boy Love Association). John Livingston, a former volunteer, actually recalls sitting at the volunteer desk on his assigned Tuesday nights, during wintertime, and having scruffy looking guys or guys wearing wedding rings come in to look at underage porn magazines. Jeremy Wardein a more recent volunteer and Library member also stated that he has had men come in while he was on desk duty to look at the material containing photographs of young boys. He said one of them even shyly thanked him and the Library for carrying such items as the *NAMBLA Bulletin*. These types of items are often considered inappropriate and

unacceptable by the general public since the subjects and models are underage. But the Library keeps them as a part of the collection for the same reason they keep the adult porn in the collection. Whether someone considers it acceptable or not, it is still a part of GLBT history. These items, however, are no longer located in public view in the main part of the Library but are now kept in the Library's office with other periodicals.

Videos

VHS Videos and DVDs are set aside for review by Board member Hank Herrmann, and preceding him Board member Mark Hahn, who would write short reviews of the movies which were placed in a binder in the Library and available to members. Hank, a long time member of the Library, didn't become a Board member until 2006. He is currently responsible for cataloging, reviewing, and handling all video and non-print donations. A controversial collection within the Library is the adult themed collection of movies: the porn. The Library has always collected adult themed books, movies, and periodicals. The adult video section is currently one of the most used and popular sections of the Library. The historical erotica section (pulp novels) represents a fascinating piece of GLBT history. Porn magazines and porn story publications are very common throughout the GLBT community, especially the gay male community, therefore it is reasonable that these items have always been a part of the collection.

"When we started the Quatrefoil Library, we made a conscious decision that there would be no censorship. We wanted it to be comprehensive no matter who might be offended. From the beginning we wanted S & M (Sadism & Masochism), transgender (which was frowned upon by many back then), leather, drag, etc," Dick Hewetson says about the collection.² But there have been some conflicting opinions over the years because the Library is open to the public, including youngsters. The pornographic periodicals are kept in the Library office, so the adult videos are the only porn related material easily available to visitors. They are in the back corner of the main Library and are in sight of the desk volunteer. The videos are stacked on shelves sideways, so only titles can be seen. The erotic Video and DVD collection consists mainly of male erotic videocassettes. The Library has been getting more DVDs added lately. There are currently 425 DVDs and 1,421 VHS videos available for checkout. There is only one half-shelf that contains lesbian erotica videos. It has been a struggle of the Library Acquisitions committee to obtain true lesbian porn of both video and periodical nature. It is not that common an

item and nearly all female porn involves straight women made to appeal to the tastes of straight men. Although according to one anonymous desk volunteer, “These female students from Macalester (a local college in St. Paul) are not afraid to come in and request the raunchy girl-on-girl porn made for straight men.” The easy availability of the porn movie collection has been a recurring topic at Board meetings over the years. Often, high school groups want to come in and visit the Library and there is sometimes concern from the adults in charge of the groups. Every few years, the Board has checked with Suzanne Born, a former Board member and an attorney. Her response has always been that the Library has the legal right to carry the items and that it does not need to censor or hide the collection if it does not wish to, even when high school groups are visiting the Library. The same reasons are given to the adults in charge of these groups as are given to anyone who asks why pornographic material is there – that it is a part of GLBT history and the GLBT community, so it stays in the Library.

The Library has an extensive collection of non-adult themed GLBT related videos as well and this proves to be a popular attraction to visitors. There are currently 615 DVDs and 702 VHS videos in the collection. The range of genres includes movies, TV series, documentaries, and special videos such as stand up comedians and foreign films. There are even some videos that are specific to Minnesota, such as *This Obedience* (about a local lesbian Lutheran minister), *Homo Heights* (Lea Delaria and Quentin Crisp romp through the Twin Cities), and *Venus of Mars* (about the famous local trans-band All the Pretty Horses). When the video collection started, there were some videos which were not GLBT in nature, but something that GLBT audiences might enjoy very much. As the video collection has grown and GLBT titles increased, limited space in the Library has forced all the non-GLBT movies to be weeded out. In 1990, a policy was created to get rid of all VHS tapes that had been illegally copied, so that the Quatrefoil would not be in violation of any copyright laws. At the 2001 Cinco de Mayo celebration, the Library established a \$1 per video check out fee to help maintain the video collection.

Miscellaneous Collections

The Library has 155 audio tape cassettes, 179 CDs, and 35 audio books. Some examples of CDs are *Old Friends* by local lesbian Lori Dokken, Mark Weigle’s *Barefoot & the Same*, *Ladies and Gentlemen the Best of George Michael*, *Lilith Fair – A Celebration of Women in Music*, and *Songs of the Soul* by One Voice Mixed Chorus. Some of the items in

the audio book collection are *Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin, *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris, *And the Band Played On* by Randy Shilts, and *Serving in Silence* by Margaret Cammermeyer. There is also a record collection from the 1970s which is kept in a file cabinet in the backroom of the Library. Some of the artists are Holly Near, The Village People, Cris Williamson, Johnny Mathis, and Meg Cristian. The Quatrefoil Library hopes to someday receive a grant to preserve these albums by copying them to CDs. One special record in the collection is the soundtrack to *Boy Meets Boy*, a show performed by the former Out and About Theatre. Whenever the Theatre needed money, it would put on this production to raise funds. David recalls it being performed at least three times. Dick and David individually invested money to record an album of the show. The record bombed and they lost money on it, but David recalls, "At least we did well on income tax that year!"³

Another unique collection that the Library has is the GLBT themed games which are kept in the main Library so that patrons may recognize their uniqueness and even play some at the Library, or check them out to take home.

The Library has a collection of about 150 posters which do not circulate. Some are displayed in the Library, some are used for Library events such as the Pride booth, and occasionally some have been loaned out to colleges and other groups for display. Some of the posters are currently kept in horizontal storage boxes, and some are kept in sealed plastic coating with a foam core or thick heavy cardboard backing. There have been several volunteers in the past who have worked at museums or framing places who take care of the posters of movies, books, political issues, gay businesses, musicians, and events such as gay rodeo or theatre shows.

Another collection the Library has in storage boxes in the backroom are donated calendars, including ones depicting leather-clad men, artistic nudes, drag queens or porn stars, AIDS awareness or political messages, and lesbian folk artists.

The Library formerly had a collection of gay t-shirts, but they took up a lot of space and the Library was not able to store them using appropriate archival methods. Consequently, the t-shirts were donated to the Minnesota Historical Society and the Tretter Collection. Tretter uses them for displays on GLBT history which he assembles and exhibits around the country. The only t-shirts which the Quatrefoil Library keeps are their own which they sell for \$10 at events such as the Twin Cities Pride Festival.

A very unique collection owned by the Quatrefoil Library is a large GLBT themed or related comic book collection. More than two boxes of comics were donated by Ellen Kuhfeld, a transgender female who was a former curator at the Bakken Library & Museum in Minneapolis. The collection remains in boxes because the Library currently does not have the space to properly display them. Most of the comics are in protective sleeves within their comic storage boxes. Since comics are an unusual and very specific genre, volunteers had a hard time determining what was GLBT related or not. With her immense comic book expertise from decades of collecting, Ellen has been coming in to annotate and take inventory of what the Library has in the collection.

Stacked in the Library's backroom are several boxes of scripts from the former Out and About Theatre. Dick had been on the Board of the Out and About Theatre and David was on its reading committee. When the Out and About Theatre closed in January, 1984, founder and Artistic Director, Dick Rehse, who was also a friend of Dick Hewetson, donated all the scripts to the Library. Some of the scripts have been loaned to local community theaters over the years.

Donations

A donation to the Library can come in many forms: money, time, work, materials, or books. Members and volunteers are happy to give their books, etc. to the Library so that they will be shared with the GLBT community. Ellen Kuhfeld recalls of her donations, "I like books and I like comics, but after a while you have so much, and where are you going to put them all? If there is something that should go to somebody else, then I think they should have it after I have read it enough. So I took most of the GLBT stuff that I had and trucked it over to Quatrefoil."⁴ When a donated item reaches the Library, it is taken into the Library office where it waits to be processed. All items are first checked to see if they are GLBT related or not. Fictional novels are cataloged using 'cutter numbers' for the author's last name and book title. The Library of Congress classification system is used for non-fiction books. After getting stamped 'Property of Quatrefoil Library,' labels are placed on the spines, a book card pocket is glued to the inside cover, the books are entered into the catalog system, and then placed on the Library shelves. If an item is a third copy, is not GLBT related, or is too obscure or large for the Quatrefoil to handle, it is set aside to be sold or donated. A thank you letter is given or sent to donors. (In the early days, a

thank you letter had an approximate value of their donation so the person who donated could use it for tax purposes.) The volunteer on duty fills out a donation form in duplicate so the donor can take a copy home for his/her records. David Irwin still searches for gay books to add to the Library. Over the last two decades he has purchased many from Edwin R. Hamilton Booksellers in Fall Village, Connecticut, which deals in overstocked books. With the Quatrefoil's catalog now entirely online, David can check there before making a purchase, to avoid buying a duplicate copy.

The Board voted to call the entire video collection of the Library the Peter Hengel Collection because of the magnitude and graciousness of Hengel's financial donation to the Library. Many financial donations from organizations or individuals are geared toward a specific activity or purchase. An example of this is a \$1,000 donation (donor unknown) which the Library received in 1992 to go towards the purchase of lesbian works of fiction. The first matching corporate donation came from the St. Paul Companies in 1999. This allowed an individual employee to make a donation to the Library and then his/her employer would make a matching donation. Sometimes groups will donate their entire collections to the Library, an example is the scripts the Library received from the Out and About Theatre and a large collection of hundreds of books, brochures, pamphlets, and periodicals from the City of Lakes Crossgender Community which had been housed at a second-hand clothing store in St. Paul which catered mainly to the Trans community. When the store closed in the spring of 2006, the Library was asked if they would house the collection. The items were a treasure to the Library, especially since many of them were small, self-published pamphlets on topics such as cross dressing and other transgender related issues. Acquisitions Committee Chair Karen Hogan said of the donation, "That was really a windfall, since I'd also wanted to get more "T" Transgender books. They had so many small press/little brochure type items that we never would have found otherwise."

⁵ Probably the most beneficial and needed donation comes in the form of money. The Library can put monetary donations where it has the greatest need. All donations are tax deductible. An anonymous member donor once sent a check with the note, "I'd like to make this contribution in support and appreciation for the considerable role Quatrefoil plays in the process of self awareness and self-esteem for gay men and lesbians in our community." But donations don't just come into the Library; the Library also donates quite a number of books and items to other organizations. Very often, the Library receives donations of books which are not GLBT themed, duplicate items, or large items that it cannot house because of space limitations. These are usually sent elsewhere. Many non-GLBT items are donated to

public libraries. Some of the duplicate GLBT books will be used for the book sales which the Library holds twice a year. Other books and items are donated to the Women's Prison Book Project, smaller GLBT organizations in Duluth and Rochester, Minnesota, and Des Moines, Iowa, and community groups such as the Minnesota Women's Press or Park House, an AIDS day health center. Some of the art work and larger items are given to colleges, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Tretter Collection. So many books and items have been given to the Minneapolis GLBT Youth Center, District 202, and to the University of Minnesota Queer Student Cultural Center, that they both now have their own small resource libraries. In recent years, extra copies of books and other items have been sold online to garner funds for the Library's Acquisitions Committee. Former Board member Jeff Alger would sell items such as art prints, erotic photo sets, and 16MM videos on ebay.com. These items were not in the Library's mission to collect or the Library had no way to preserve or store them. Collectors were willing to pay for them and Jeff knew the market and how to sell them. Board member Karen Hogan has had similar success selling copies of books on amazon.com. "If I can get more than the price we'd get for it at our book sale, then off it goes."⁶ The money made from these online sales goes to purchasing new books, videos, or magazine subscriptions for the Library.

Harvey Hertz, the owner of the GLBT bookstore, A Brother's Touch, a good friend to the Library, donated books, several bookshelves, and two magazine display units after his store closed in May, 2003, which he had opened twenty years earlier in Minneapolis. During the early years especially, the two groups would partner on events, author readings, and worked together to help visibility of both organizations. Harvey also sold duplicate copies of books for the Library and gave a percentage back to the Library. Shortly after the closing of A Brother's Touch, a new GLBT bookstore, Query Booksellers, owned by Lyle Starkoff, opened in 2004 alongside the gay owned and operated Wilde Roast Cafe on Hennepin Avenue in Northeast Minneapolis. Owners Tom DeGree and Dean Schlaak named the Cafe after gay literary great Oscar Wilde. These two, along with Lyle, knew that partnering an eclectic new book store alongside a sophisticated cafe would be a beneficial investment and welcome addition to the Twin Cities GLBT community. Shortly after the store opened, Lyle established a partnership with the Quatrefoil and created a book trading agreement with Art Stoeberl, one of the Library's longtime active volunteers. The Library has donated unwanted duplicate books to Lyle for him to sell with his used books and in return Query Booksellers gives the Library credit to purchase new books for its collection. The only other

GLBT related bookstore is the Amazon Bookstore Cooperative, a feminist bookstore in Minneapolis. For several years the Amazon Bookstore has offered a percentage discount coupon for all new and renewing members of the Quatrefoil Library. Both Amazon and Query have offered to help the Library obtain books for book reading events. Lyle says about the Library, "I certainly believe in the importance of the Library and refer customers to take advantage of its resources."⁷ Library member Kevin (last name withheld) comments about the use of the Library, "At a time when public libraries continue to cut their hours and more independent bookstores close their doors, Quatrefoil Library plays an even more significant role in the community. Quatrefoil Library reflects the broad interests of our community and provides a physical place for the community to come together."⁸

New Acquisitions

Karen Hogan has headed up the Acquisitions Committee for the past few years when funds have become available. The Library is always in search of new and interesting additions to its collection. In 2005, the Committee came up with some items which they wanted to get for the Library: Own every book on the Triangle Press "100 Best GLBT Fiction Books"; own every book of the Triangle Press "100 Best Non-Fiction GLBT Books"; own every Lambda Award winning book for the past 10 years; own any other gay publishing award books; subscribe to all local GLBT magazines; collect all local GLBT related newsletters; start a Teen/Young Adult collection; and start a Children's Book/Rainbow Families collection. The Committee has also started the Teen and Children's Collection and it continues to pursue the rest of its goals. It is only missing a few of the Best 100 GLBT Fiction and Non-Fiction Books. Some suggestions for acquisitions come in from Library members and Board members via email or in the suggestion box at the Library. Karen and her Committee read book reviews to keep up with new queer releases, reviews in magazines, and, sources such as the *Lesbian Review of Books*, *Feminist Bookstore News*, *Lambda Book Review*, and online resources such as out.com, amazon.com, and publishersweekly.com. Videos to acquire often come from suggestions of Library members. The Committee mainly buys movies from amazon.com. Erotic male videos are purchased from TLA Video, and lesbian and transsexual books and videos are purchased from the Smitten Kitten, a woman owned sex toy emporium in Minneapolis. Serving on the Committee has been a learning experience as well. "When it comes to gay male erotic videos, I am completely out of my league!" Karen

Hogan claims. “I had no idea there were specialty sub genres: leather, bear, twink. Gee whiz, this dyke is truly getting an education!”⁹

Chapter 5 – The Community

Media

Early on in the Library's history, the GLBT media, especially the *GLC Voice* was supportive and provided much needed publicity. Announcements of the opening of the Quatrefoil Library were published in gay and lesbian newspapers around the country. The *Seattle Gay News*, *The Philadelphia Gay News*, *The Advocate* magazine in Los Angeles, *The Gay Community News* in Boston, *The New York Native*, *The Body Politic* in Toronto, Canada, all had notices about the opening of this new gay lending library. Gay libraries were a new thing to the GLBT community in the early 80s. The GLBT press knew the importance of spreading the word of the good work these groups were doing. Minnesota's *Equal Time* and the *Twin Cities Gaze* also published articles and announcements. Some of the Twin Cities GLBT publications ran free ads for the Quatrefoil Library because they believed in what that Library wished to provide to the community. *Lavender Magazine*, the only current high volume GLBT publication in the area, supports the Library by providing a free ad in every biweekly issue. When *Lavender Lifestyles* began in 1996, former Library Board member George Holdgrafer ran Quatrefoil ads for free. They are still running these ads for free, ten years later. The ads are usually one-twelfth to one-sixth page in size and have a value of \$279-\$419. They also help some of the Library's fundraising and member recognition events by providing free advertising space and publicity for the events. Every few years they do a write up on the Library to increase its visibility. David Irwin says, "*Lavender* and *Gaze* and *Equal Time* really bent over backwards to publicize the Library, and George Holdgrafer has been wonderful."¹ The print advertising has reached beyond periodicals, too. John Preston, who had been a counselor at Gay House when Dick Hewetson was first coming out, included the Quatrefoil Library in his book titled *The Big Gay Book: A Man's Survival Guide for the 90s*, which he wrote in 1991. He included a nice two page write up on the Quatrefoil in the Gay Culture section of the book.

David had his initial appearance on GAZE-TV in the early 1990s, when they filmed a feature on the Library. After that, the Library has appeared several times to offer book reviews and give the Library publicity, which was limited, since it is only aired on the local public

access TV channel. Beyond television, there have been multiple appearances on KFAI Radio, a community-based radio station in the Twin Cities. Over the years, Library members have been on the KFAI shows discussing the Library and its mission and purpose. However, the audience range of this alternative radio station is limited.



Quatrefoil
Library

www.qlibrary.org

**Your GLBT
Community Library**

Advertisement in
LAVENDER, March 30-April 12, 2007

Visibility

The Library tries to hold events at various places around the Twin Cities, not just at the Library but also at coffee shops, literary centers, bars, and churches. Some businesses such as Cahoots Coffee Shop or Query Booksellers offer Library members a discount if they present their membership card. Each year on the last weekend in June, the Twin Cities Pride Festival takes place. According to the Twin Cities GLBT Pride Planning Team, it is the third largest Pride celebration in the United States and has an estimated audience of over 435,000 people from throughout the Midwest and beyond. (Dr. Matthew Stark was the Grand Marshall at the June 28-29, 2008 Twin Cities Pride Festival.) Since 1986, the Quatrefoil has always had a booth at this immense festival, which has hundreds of booths, stages, and vendors surrounding the lake in Loring Park, in downtown Minneapolis. The booth usually offers discount Library memberships and hands out several hundred flyers to increase awareness of the Quatrefoil Library. The big event at the Pride booth is the book sale where used books are sold for a dollar or two, much like the regular book sale fundraisers it does throughout the year. Quatrefoil Library volunteers marched in the parade in 1986 during the first year of the Library's operation. They participated in the parade until the late-90s, but ultimately decided to focus their energies on the book sale and booth. They usually get a dozen or so new members at each Pride Festival by offering a special discounted membership price and they raise several hundred dollars from the book sale. A Board member usually takes on the role of coordinating the book sale and volunteers who work shifts at the booth where they hand out flyers and talk to people about the Library.

Youth

At one point in 1990, the Quatrefoil Library gave a complimentary membership to students at Central High School in St. Paul. The school nurse, Kay Williams, had been dealing with students who were having issues with their sexuality. These students were often dropping out of school because of their frustrations and confusion. She, with permission of the students, gave the student's first names to the Library as part of the school's membership. Henceforth, the students would be able to use the membership number if they needed to check out any resources on coming out issues. Similar memberships have been given to other groups such as Lesbian and Gay Youth Together (the first

Twin Cities group for lesbian and gay teenagers) and The Queer Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota. Through the years, many other high school level groups have come in to tour the collection. Minneapolis has a district-wide GLBT group called Out 4 Good and St. Paul's schools have a similar group called Out for Equity. Both groups have toured the Library several times in the past. In 2004, the Out 4 Good group did a tour of the Library on their way to the State Capitol where they were going to watch the legislature. The 40 students and two advisors did the tour and the students had a field day with the adult erotic video collection. The advisors didn't say anything during their visit, but Quatrefoil Library President Dan Hanson received a thank you card later with a letter stating that they would not be bringing students back to the Quatrefoil until the porn collection could be cut off from students' view. In 2006, a group of 12 students from the Avalon Charter School in St. Paul came through and received a tour from Board member Dan Hanson. He talked to them about the collection ahead of time and told them that the back corner where the adult section was located was only for adults, and they were very respectful of that. One student chimed in and said, "I'm 18!" So he was allowed to look at the erotic collection while his peers browsed the rest of the books and videos.

In 1998, 30 students from Northwestern University and the University of Illinois, Champagne/Urbana came through while they were in town. In 1994, students from the Library School at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul came to the Library for a tour and sat in on a Board meeting. There have been other visits from campus groups at St. Cloud State University, Macalester College in St. Paul, and the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. A more recent trend has been students coming in to do research or to fulfill volunteer obligations. Since most colleges are offering classes now in GLBT studies, students have been using the Library as a resource for class projects and assignments. Board member Laura Warnest said, "Two weeks ago, a guy came in from the gay men's fraternity at the University of Minnesota, Delta Lambda Phi. He was taking a queer film class. He was gay and had never heard of the Library, so I talked him into getting a membership and he checked out several videos for class."² Key volunteer Jeremy Wardien commented, "The last few years have seen an increasing number of college students looking to fulfill volunteer commitments for classes. These mostly come from the nearby St. Paul colleges - Macalester, St. Catherine's, St. Thomas - and are usually students in GLBT or Human Sexuality classes. In most cases, these

students are looking to fulfill a certain number of volunteer hours, and then disappear as soon as they are done. In a few cases, we have gotten long-term volunteers out of the relationship. Although finding short-term projects for the volunteers can be complicated, it ends up being beneficial for the Library: it strengthens our relationships with local colleges and the community and it gets our name out there to people who might become future leaders, either in a larger civic sense or within the GLBT community. We in turn give the students the experience they are looking for, and give them (and their fellow students) awareness of a potentially helpful research and study tool that they might not have known about before.”³

Events

Events have always been a part of the operations of the Quatrefoil Library and many Board members have spent countless hours planning them. There have been events for fundraisers, for recognition, and for publicity. As previously mentioned, the first major event, other than the grand opening celebration, was lesbian activist and comic Pat Bond’s performance in the spring of 1987. Major fundraisers following that were a showing of *Word is Out* at St. Paul’s Landmark Theatre in February, 1987, an evening with Radical Faerie founders Harry Hay and John Burnside in the summer of 1988, and performances by Pat Bond and Terry Baum at the Landmark Theatre in St. Paul in the fall of 1988. To celebrate the Library’s second anniversary and help establish its visibility in the GLBT community, the Library held a Community Leaders Reception at the Library. All the leaders from local GLBT organizations, from family groups to sports organizations, from leather social groups to political and art associations were invited. The Library chose to do this event to not only make community groups aware of the Library and the resources it had to offer, but also to make the groups aware of other groups and their unique goals and contributions to the community as a whole. It was not held as a fundraiser and it only happened this one time.

There have been several types of events that have happened multiple times over the course of many years. Among the earliest of these events were the Art Shows held at the Library. Library members Cliff Mayhood, Tom Fletcher, and Bonnie Fournier started the first Art Committee in 1988. They brought in many art shows each year, ranging in medias and themes, most were local, unknown artists.

**Help
QUATREFOIL
LIBRARY**



*Celebrate
it's
1st Birthday*

BENEFIT MOVIE

The Word Is Out

(The stories of 26 GAY MEN & LESBIANS)

FEB. 1 — 7:30PM

**WEYERHOUSER THEATER
LANDMARK CENTER • ST. PAUL**

● Tickets available at the Library & Lambda Brothers Touch

Postcards or ads in the local GLBT press were used to promote the shows. The first artwork on display was that of Greg Storbakken, a local painter. The second art show was that of Carl Corley, who was one of David Irwin's favorite artists. He became famous for writing and providing cover artwork for several pulp novels in the 1950s and 60s. Through a series of letters between Carl and David, some of his artwork was put on display at the Library. Another big display that first year was the work of photojournalist, Monte Lee Kruse. He had been taking photos which encompassed the AIDS epidemic which was hitting the GLBT community. For his first exhibit, titled *Hospice of Hope*, he put the powerful photos on display in the Library during October and November. The Library has not had any art shows for several years now, due to lack of proper display space. Over the years, there have been many Annual Dinners, Wine and Cheese Receptions, and Volunteer Recognition Events. These events are strictly for the membership and not done as fundraisers. The events usually consisted of music, good food, socializing. Some Library members even put on a skit back in 1990 called the Quatrefoillies!

The May Day event didn't start out as a fundraiser, but it morphed into one over the years. Starting in 1999, it was an event held at the Library to celebrate different cultures and diversity among the members. There was an open house, refreshments, colorful decorations, and good socializing opportunities. After the first year, it was decided to ask for a donation at the door. It was suggested but not required. The last May Day event was on May 6, 2004. The Board decided to stop having the event because it wasn't bringing in much money and it didn't have a strong identity to the Library.

In the first year of operation, the Library began having book sales. Taking all the books that were donated that were not GLBT themed, or once the Library received a third copy of a book, they were set aside to sell to visitors at the book sale. There have usually been two per year. The first book sale was organized by member George Holdgrafer. Many of the books donated to the sale were from Library member Judge Crane Winton. These sales brought in several hundred dollars and also helped to remove excess books which the Library accumulated.

A brainchild of Board member Dale Johnson, the Quatrefoil Cabaret! event was held on December 11, 2002. The Library used the event as a celebration of the Library's history and successes. There

was also a silent auction for fundraising. Held at Intermedia Arts Center in Minneapolis, Board member Suzanne Born was the MC for the evening event. There were readings by Library supporters Brian Malloy and Morgan Grayce-Willow, as well as a performance by Stevie Ray's Improv Comedy Troupe. Also on this night was the first major volunteer recognition for the Library. Robert Frame, Membership Coordinator, was awarded the first Volunteer of the Year Award. Robert Winters and Evan Kelley, two longtime members and volunteers were given a special recognition award for their dedication. *Lavender Magazine* also received a special recognition award for its long-running support of the Library. Dick Hewetson and David Irwin were in attendance as well, to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for their commitment to the Quatrefoil Library.

The Quatrefoil Cabaret! was held two more years and kept the same format and purpose. It celebrated, with awards, members who had contributed significantly to the Quatrefoil Library. There were silent auctions and live entertainment. There were readings by celebrated local writers and performers such as Lori Lake, Terri Stark, and Joe Babcock. With development expert Dale Johnson's passing in 2004, there was no one who stepped up to continue the Cabaret event, so it fizzled out after its third year.

Another big event to premiere in 1999 was the Movie Matinee. Now an annual event, the Movie Matinee was simply the showing of a GLBT-themed film done as a fundraiser for the Library. Along with the movie there was always pre-show entertainment by Harvey Gustafson on an old WCCO Radio 1929 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. On October 23, 1999, the 1940 musical *The Gang's All Here* was shown, featuring Carmen Miranda. On October 14, 2000, the movie was *Crossfire*, with a pre-show discussion with local GLBT mystery writers Ellen Hart and R.D. Zimmerman.

Quatrefoil Movie Matinee Events

1999 – <i>The Gang's all Here</i>	2004 – <i>Girls will be Girls</i> , with a short documentary from 1964 about the drag phenomenon
2000 October 14 - <i>Crossfire</i> , with local GLBT mystery writers, R.D. Zimmerman and Ellen Hart for a pre-movie chat	2005 – <i>Straight Jacket</i> , with Tom, Dick, and Harriet, a short from the 1960s
2001 – <i>There's no Business like Show Business</i>	2006 – <i>But I'm a Cheerleader</i>
2002 – <i>Some Like it Hot</i>	2007 – Gay author and movie critic Alonso Duralde led a discussion about film based on his book <i>100 Must See Movies for Gay Men</i>
2003- <i>Pillow Talk</i>	

The Movie Matinee was always held at the Heights Theatre in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, not too far from downtown Minneapolis, and always brought in several thousand dollars for the Library through ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, and advertising in the event program. After the movie and a few raffle prize drawings, the movie patrons were always treated to free Dilly Bars from a local Dairy Queen.

One very successful fundraising event over the years has been the hosting of open houses or house parties. Often times a Board member or friend of the Library will have an open house at his/her home. There will be a suggested donation and guests (some Library members, some not) can spend the evening having drinks and food, while learning a little about the Library. Many times there will be a theme or reading at the event as well. The host commits to being responsible for covering the costs for food and drink, so any money made at the event goes to the Library. Dan Hanson and Keith Grennier have hosted several house parties over the years.

In addition to these regular annual events, there have been sporadic one or two-time events as well. There have been receptions to celebrate book launches, book clubs, movie watching and discussion nights, and even parties to celebrate the birthday of a long-time Library volunteer, such as the party held for Art Stoeberl on July 24, 2005. There have been small fundraisers: bowling events, garage sales, and open houses. There have been social events: receptions, trips to baseball games, and nights at the local coffee shop Cahoots. These events set the Library up for financial gain, visibility, and social networking among members.

Awards

The Quatrefoil Library has never received any awards itself from other community organizations. However it has received various grants. Key members and volunteers from the Library have received awards for their work within the community associated with the Library. Dick Hewetson received the Bruce Brockway Award given out for being elected as a delegate to the International AFSCME convention by a non-gay group on April 25, 1988.⁴ (Bruce Brockway was the first person in Minnesota to die of AIDS. The award that was given in his name is no longer given out.) David Irwin was named as one of the Grand Marshalls for the Twin Cities Pride parade in 1989. Long time volunteer and Board member Art Stoeberl was recognized in 2005 with a Pride Award, an annual award given during Gay Pride to people who contribute significant amounts of time and energy

to the GLBT community. From the 1996 Pride Parade, *Q Monthly* listed the Quatrefoil Library as having the best chant in the parade. “We’re here, we’re gay, we’re stacked, check us out!”

In 2002 at the first Cabaret event of the Library, Dick and David were given a “Lifetime Achievement” Award by the Quatrefoil Library. It was the first and only award of its kind given from the Library. The pair received beautiful clocks in recognition of their accomplishment. In Dick’s thank you speech, he publicly praised Dr. Matthew (Matt) Stark, then Executive Director Emeritus of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, who was in attendance, who helped find the Library its first home. “He’s done a lot for us. He’s always been a true friend of the Library.” (In 2008, Matt Stark was named the Grand Marshall for the Twin Cities Pride Parade.)

In 1998, CSF, the organization that the Quatrefoil participates in to get donations through corporate contributions, gave Library Board member Dan Hanson an award. The award for the ‘Volunteer Who Couldn’t Say No’ is a true reflection of Dan’s and other Library members’ commitment to the organization.

In 1997, *Lavender Magazine* recognized the Quatrefoil Library as the “Best Unknown Queer Place in Town” and in a later year as the “Best Kept Queer Secret.” *Lavender* continues to help promote the visibility of the Library.

In the fall of 2003, Dick received an email out of the blue. It was from Ms Kit Breim, former Executive Director of Philanthrofund Organization. It was addressed to both Dick and David, so he knew it was out of the ordinary since they had not been considered a couple in many years. Philanthrofund had started an award the year prior called the Power of One Award, an award which recognizes an individual who makes a significant contribution to improve the quality of life for GLBT communities. The award was \$1,000 that the recipient would give to an organization of his/her choice. Since the award was for Dick and David’s work with the Quatrefoil Library, they graciously decided that their award would go back to the Library. They received their award in a ceremony on February 9, 2004. This, 18 years after starting the Library, was, in their eyes, the first time they both received major recognition from a portion of the GLBT community for what they did with the Quatrefoil Library. The write up on the event can be found in the Spring 2004 issue of the *Quatrefolio*.

In addition to the Power of One Award which Dick and David received, Adam Keim and Brian Malloy, two student members of the Library, received academic scholarships from Philanthrofund in 2004 because of their work in the GLBT community while they were still attending college. Brian received \$2,500 for his work with fundraising efforts in the Twin Cities GLBT community. Adam Keim, the author of this book, received \$2,000 for his work with the Quatrefoil Library to go toward his tuition at the University of Minnesota. Recognizing the contribution which volunteers make to an organization is always something that should be a priority. Volunteer recognition at the Quatrefoil has fluctuated over the years. At times, the Board of the Quatrefoil Library has mailed a card out in December thanking volunteers for their contributions over the past year. For the last several years, the Library has also given out two awards, beginning with the Cabaret event in 2002. The Dick Hewetson and David Irwin Volunteer of the Year Award goes to a member(s) who contributes a significant amount of volunteer time and energy to the Library. Library members can nominate volunteers and the Volunteer Committee chooses the winner. The Dale Johnson Development Award goes to someone who strives to promote the visibility and community relations of the Library. The Library also handed out a special award to business groups for their support of the Library. Recipients of these awards are as follows: Dale Johnson Development Award Recipients: 2002 - Evan Kelley and Robert Winters; 2003 - Steve Bubul; 2004 - Dan Hanson and Keith Grennier; 2005 - Cathy Croghan. Dick Hewetson and David Irwin Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients: 2002 - Robert Frame; 2003 - David Johnson; 2004 - Kathy Robbins; 2005 - Hank Herrmann Special Business Award Recipients: 2002 - Lavender; 2003 - Heights Theatre; 2004 - Sound Internet. Another award which has been received by several people involved with the Library is the Life Membership Award (See Appendix page 111). Life Membership is an option which members can choose to purchase for \$1,000. But Life Membership is also given to people who make a substantial non-monetary contribution to the Library and is voted on by the Board of Directors. If approved, the recipient receives a special Life Membership card. Library volunteer Tim Perry received Life Membership in May of 1987, for his donation of \$1,000 for new shelves for the Library. In September of 1988, Life Memberships were given to Pat Bond and Edward Swanson. Pat received her Life Membership for her fundraising efforts in the groundbreaking first days of the Library which helped gain massive community visibility. Edward, along with partner Carsten Slostad, received recognition for Edward's long hours, significant contribution, and immense dedication in the first crucial years of the Library. Also in 1988, *Lavender Magazine* received a Life Membership for its long time support of

the Library by running free ads in each publication to help the Library with visibility.

As mentioned previously, Matt Stark received Life Membership in October, 1990, for his involvement in getting the Library its first home and in encouraging Dick and David to take that first big step of opening a library of their GLBT material. Around the same time, Barbara Gittings and partner Kay Lahusen were given membership for their early support and advocacy of the Quatrefoil Library, and for their pioneering work with getting gay material into public libraries. Quatrefoil Library founders Dick Hewetson and David Irwin were the first to get Lifetime Memberships. Since all of the money to start the Library came out of their pockets and totaled much more than \$1,000, they rightfully gave Lifetime Membership to themselves before the Library ever officially opened. Early Library members and volunteers Don Yager and Richard Groger (members #11 & 12) were awarded Lifetime Membership due to their early financial support of the Library. Don says of his contribution, "Early on we contributed \$100 a month, and so at a certain point, I mentioned to David that we'd given a lot more than \$1,000 and asked if we could get a Life Membership and David said 'sure'. \$100 a month back then was pretty important for them to keep the Library going."⁵ Robert Winters and Evan Kelley (members #33 & 56) were also early supporters of the Library, both financially and in other ways. They have been desk volunteers since the early days and they have offered their time and services countless times. They were awarded Life Membership as well from their contributions in the early years of the Quatrefoil. David Irwin recalls of them, "They were both very generous. They also thought we should use a regular classification system, so they gave us a book that showed us how to do it."⁶

Even though it is not an award, Dick and David received public attention which gave them the same feeling of importance and recognition. Dick was volunteering in San Francisco when he was approached by someone who wanted to write a book on gay proms. Since many youth do not get to attend their high school proms with their preferred date, a member of the same sex, it is becoming common for GLBT social organizations to hold gay proms. These are just like high school proms, but it is for GLBT adults who can attend with whomever they choose, unlike in high school. When Dick was still in Minnesota, he coordinated a gay prom style fundraiser for the Out and About Theatre. All of the materials, posters, and advertisements for the prom were given to the Quatrefoil Library. The Library later turned over this material to the Minnesota Historical Society for better preservation and visibility. The author, David

Boyer, interviewed Dick and he chose to put Dick and David in the book, *Kings and Queens: Queers at the Prom*. The poster for the gay prom, featuring Dick and David, was used in the book.

GLBT Archives

There has never been a formal GLBT Library or Archive Association, but there are some groups that have started catering to GLBT libraries and archives. The American Library Association (ALA) has a group for GLBT members, as does the Society of American Archivists. The Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable (LAGAR), part of the Society of American Archivists, has the most comprehensive list of GLBT collections, although it doesn't yet include any overseas collections. Several colleges and universities now have their own GLBT programs which house small reference libraries. Several other colleges and universities have smaller collections as a part of larger libraries or GLBT centers. Most of these collections are available for research, reference, and historical purposes only and people are not allowed to check out material to take home. The University of Minnesota – Twin Cities campus has the Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies. It is part of the Department of Special Collections and Rare Books at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The Collection was created by Jean-Nickolaus Tretter who was significantly involved in the early years of the Quatrefoil Library. It is a massive archive of all things GLBT and is functioning as a preservation system for anything associated with the GLBT community worldwide. The Tretter Collection started at the University of Minnesota in 2000 and had its grand opening in 2001. The Center is home to over 30,000 items of GLBT interest, including many international items in over 56 languages. The items range from books to periodicals to textiles to buttons to artwork. The collection is for preservation and research purposes only and is one of the top 10 largest of its kind in the world. The collection is stored underground in the tunnels under the Mississippi River on the West Bank of the U of M campus. They are in a disinfected room with acid free containers and in hermetically sealed hallways. Preservation is of the utmost importance to these types of archival collections at the University. Tretter often provides displays to colleges and other groups.

There are several other unique archival types of collections around the world which do not lend their materials. These collections are made available mostly to researchers and visitors. Often times these special collections are themed or serve a particular niche in the GLBT community. There are some that focus on lesbian issues such as the Lesbian Herstory

Archives in New York and the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles. There is also a Lesbian Pulp Novel Collection at Duke University, which only collects the underground erotic literary material of lesbians, mainly between 1950 and 1968. There are also archives which focus their collections on their region. The Gay and Lesbian Archive of the Pacific Northwest, based in Portland, Oregon, collects material mainly from the Pacific Northwest region. The Gerber-Hart Library in Chicago, which is a lending Library, also has a separate archived collection which focuses mainly on GLBT items from throughout the Midwest. There are many other archives that focus on GLBT subcultures, such as the Leather community (The Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago). While these archival collections can be either public or private, the majority of them are housed at universities and colleges.

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center is a newer GLBT archive. Dick recalled his first visits to this GLBT Center in San Francisco and being somewhat disappointed that material could not be checked out. It is a part of the Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch of the San Francisco Public Library off Castro Street in the heart of the gay community. The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center was designed as a research center and opened in 1996. The large amount of GLBT books and materials are non-circulating. Many other public libraries in San Francisco have extensive GLBT collections as a part of their main lending libraries, including the Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch where this special collection is housed.

GLBT Lending Libraries

The difference between lending libraries and archives is that archives just keep material for preservation and historical research. Material cannot be taken or borrowed from the archives. A lending library is just like a public library where visitors can check out material and return them. There are only a few GLBT lending libraries around the world which are similar to the Quatrefoil. Many lending libraries are small collections that are included as a part of a church or GLBT community center. The Quatrefoil has helped start a few of these in the past, such as the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Although no formal study has been done yet, archivist Jean-Nickolaus Tretter says that the Gerber-Hart Library in Chicago and the Quatrefoil Library are most likely the two largest GLBT lending libraries in existence, and the size of their collections and longevity set them apart from all the rest.

Dick and David knew of the Gerber/Hart Library in Chicago, founded in 1981, before the thoughts of forming the Quatrefoil Library had ever entered their minds. They visited the Gerber/Hart Library to see what it had to offer. Upon leaving, David commented to Dick, "We have more books in our home than the Gerber/Hart Library has!" The Gerber/Hart Library now has more books than the Quatrefoil Library does. Their collection has over 15,000 books, 800 periodical titles, and 100 archival collections of things such as audio and visual media, posters, buttons, t-shirts and papers of GLBT individuals, organizations, and businesses. They keep papers of individuals and organizations from throughout the Midwest in their archival collection. The Quatrefoil is only slightly smaller in terms of collection size, boasting over 14,000 books, 166 periodical titles, and only a handful of special archival collections. Many aspects of the Gerber/Hart Library are similar to the Quatrefoil Library. They have similar membership dues and operating hours. They hold book discussion groups, book sales, art exhibits, author visits, film groups, and have meeting space for local GLBT community groups. They both struggle with the same issues of visibility, funding, and operating successfully with no paid staff. There are several differences between the two Libraries. The Gerber/Hart Library has a 5,000 square foot double storefront space, compared to the cramped smaller two rooms totaling 1,928 square feet which the Quatrefoil Library has on the basement level of the Richards Gordon Building in St. Paul. With Gerber/Hart's larger space comes a larger rent and utility bill, so Gerber/Hart must do much more fundraising and grant work to pay for basic operating funds. Their space also has restrooms, a kitchen, and three large storage areas. Their library has only a small porn collection in the archives used for research. Their non-porn DVD collection is almost non-existent compared to the Quatrefoil Library's large collection of both porn and regular DVDs which are the most popular items to be checked out. Gerber/Hart's archives only focus on periodicals and writings of mainly Midwest publications, whereas the Quatrefoil will collect any periodicals that are GLBT related, regardless of where they were published. Technologically, Gerber/Hart is more advanced than the Quatrefoil. They use a scannable membership card and a computer program to check out books, compared to the non-computerized system which the Quatrefoil still uses. Another difference between Chicago's Gerber/Hart Library and the Quatrefoil Library is that Gerber/Hart is a participant in the Online Catalog Library Center (OCLC) Inter-Library Loan program. This program is used by most major libraries and is a way to check out books and materials from other libraries around the country which your own local library might not have. The Quatrefoil has not yet established itself in this program mainly

because of the great cost involved in getting set up to participate in the OCLC.

In 1991, an article was published in the *Advocate* announcing the opening of the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library in New York City. The article incorrectly announced that Library as the first GLBT lending Library in the country. In support of their friends at Gerber/Hart in Chicago, the Board of Directors of the Quatrefoil Library promptly wrote a letter to the editor of the *Advocate*, politely stating that there were currently five GLBT lending libraries already in existence and that the Gerber/Hart was indeed the first GLBT lending library in the country and not the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library in New York.

Chapter 6 – The Future

There are many emotions involved when discussing the future of the Quatrefoil Library. The one emotion which has remained constant, though, is happiness. People are happy that this resource has been around and has been successful for over twenty years. Tom DeGree, owner of the Wilde Roast Café in Minneapolis and a donor to the Quatrefoil Library said, “People are always trying to rewrite history leaving out the GLBT stories. The Quatrefoil Library is important because we need to keep these stories, and our history, in places that people rewriting history can’t destroy.”¹ But even though the Library has had a pretty non-turbulent history, there are always concerns that arise about the future of the Library.

A New Home?

The large concern of the Library’s leaders is the location. The Richards Gordon Building has been a good home for the Quatrefoil for most of its existence. Even though the home at the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union was physically and psychologically comfortable, it was simply too small for the expanding Quatrefoil library. One of the reasons the Library has remained in its current location for so long is that it is a safe, clean, and well-lit space. It is located on several bus lines that connect both Minneapolis and St. Paul. But there is no doubt that the space is also too small. The main room is packed full of books and videos and a small seating area which is not quite comfortable enough because of its small size. The Library office is also too small. It holds all the items waiting to be catalogued, sold in a book sale, or donated to other groups. Often these items lie in stacks upon stacks of boxes that cover the floor and the conference table. The Library has unique and rare collections, such as the periodicals, rare books, pulp novels, and other items. These items are stored in a locked office of the Library where no one but Library volunteers ever see them. If the Quatrefoil had space (such as display cases and special exhibits) available to display things such as gay comic books or scripts of GLBT plays, a whole new group of people might find interest in visiting the Quatrefoil Library. A topic at frequent Board meetings has been the possibility of moving into other larger locations within the same building. The building management company always lets the Quatrefoil know about spaces that are opening up which might be of interest to them. But having a larger space means having higher rent bills. Because the

Library has to work so hard to make sure their current rent is paid, they have not been able to justify paying more rent. There has also been talk in the past from many patrons and volunteers of joining forces and sharing a building with local GLBT groups such as OutFront Minnesota, Minnesota's main political and GLBT support organization. Many members of the Twin Cities' GLBT community have long desired a community center, which might contain OutFront Minnesota, the Quatrefoil Library, and possibly other groups such as District 202, the local GLBT youth organization. In 1994, 2001, and 2006, OutFront Minnesota headed up efforts to look into this possibility of a merged center. It is a topic at many Quatrefoil Library Board meetings but because of lack of resources, the issue usually gets backburnered or referred to another organization such as OutFront to head up the search.

In late 1999, in anticipation of the end of their lease in May of 2000, a Location Committee was formed by the Board members. They looked into options of moving to various places around the Twin Cities, but none of the results were successful. It kept coming back to cost and the Quatrefoil was getting a better deal in the Richards Gordon Building than they could anywhere else. Since October, 2002, Board member Jeff Alger suggested that a space fund be created for the Library to save money for a potential new home someday. The fund is still in its infancy stage, but the Board hopes they will be able to contribute more towards it as the prospect of finding a new home becomes more realistic. In mid-2006, the subject resurfaced, and discussions resumed among community groups, including Quatrefoil. A proposal was made to secure a space on Nicollet Avenue, just two blocks south of downtown Minneapolis. The building was set to be built and funded largely by Clare Housing, a local housing group that has several residences for people living with HIV/AIDS. The building was to include both community group space and resident housing space. The potential residents of the building would be the Quatrefoil Library, OutFront Minnesota, Clare Housing, and District 202. Unfortunately, plans fell through; however, there is still a committee in place looking for new space for the potential GLBT Community Center.

Other Issues

Another topic of occasional conversation is a potential new name for the Library. No one wants to get rid of the old name, but some Board members in the past have brought up the idea of shortening it to Q Library to make it easier to pronounce, read, and locate on the web. There have

been no serious talks about this, so the name Quatrefoil Library will not be disappearing anytime soon. But you might see it in casual print, or you might overhear a Board member or person familiar with the Library refer to it in conversation as 'Q Library', 'QFoil', 'Q Lib', 'QL', or simply 'Quatrefoil'.

In the past, the Library has partnered with several local GLBT organizations to provide support to each other, as well as increase visibility of both groups. Over the last several years this has been a continual topic of conversation at Board meetings, because the Board wishes to do more of this partnering. In 2004, the Quatrefoil Library joined forces with two other groups which were also looking to raise money and gain much needed visibility. Minnesota AIDS Trek, a local bike ride held annually to raise money for AIDS charities, and Soul Essence, the Twin Cities Black Pride organization, held an event to garner funds and publicity. Partnerships such as these are what many Board members wish to continue. But since the Board members are already overworked, and there is a lack of volunteers stepping up to take on new tasks, new events are kept to a minimum.

Arguably the major limit to the future success of the Library is its lack of funds. The Library has done very well at maintaining its financial status in the black and it even has a cushion of investments for back up. Topics such as purchasing a new building or renting larger rooms always come back to the issue of money. It is difficult to find people who are knowledgeable and committed to help the Library develop better fundraising tactics. One focus for the future is to get new, young membership and volunteers. Many of the members and key volunteers have been involved in the Library for quite a few years. There is a feeling of urgency to get new people involved who share the same hopes and will have the same level of involvement as some of the current members do. Part of the plan is to reach into colleges and universities to get more GLBT students aware of the organization and to take advantage of student memberships. The failure of Board members to reach a younger, energetic crowd is also evident in the marketing and publicity of the Library. For many years, the Library's advertisements and publicity materials have stayed the same. Due to budget concerns they are lacking in color and creativity. Board members want to make marketing material fresh and more youthful by recruiting younger members onto the Publicity Committee.

Chapter 7 – In Conclusion

20 Good Years

Twenty years ago, the doors of Quatrefoil Library opened to give the GLBT community of Minnesota a resource for research, coming out, social, and education needs. This feat was celebrated with two major events held in May, 2006, 20 years after the Grand Opening Celebration.

The first event was the Archives, Libraries, Museums & Special Collections (ALMS) Conference, held on May 18-21, 2006, at the University of Minnesota. The ALMS Conference was cosponsored by the University of Minnesota Libraries, The Tretter Collection, and the Quatrefoil Library. The ALMS Conference was the first of its kind. About 125 people attended from all over the world, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. The keynote speakers for the event included Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny, both pioneers in the 1950s and 60s for GLBT rights. The conference itself featured workshops and presentations on subjects relevant to GLBT collections, including Fundraising and Development, Bringing your Collections into the Classroom, and Media Outreach.

Second, in conjunction with the conference, the Library had its 20th Anniversary Reception on Saturday evening, May 20, 2006. The Reception was held at the Library and free shuttle bus service to and from the University of Minnesota was offered to conference attendees so they could attend the event. Library rooms were open for visitors to view the expansive collection. Many visitors who ran archives in other parts of the world were especially impressed with items which the Quatrefoil had in its periodical, historical erotica, and rare book collections. In the hallway immediately outside of the Library, desserts and flowers adorned tables and a major history display was set up with artifacts and items which have shaped the Library's last two decades. Music was provided by local gay musician Shannon Grady. Over 120 people were in attendance at the event, including founders Dick Hewetson and David Irwin, MCLU Executive Director Emeritus Matt Stark, and GLBT activist legends Barbara Gittings and Jim Van Buskirk.

Leading Board member Dan Hanson said about the event, "People raved about the Library collection and how it was set up. It was interesting

Join Us
Saturday, May 20th from 6-9pm
for the



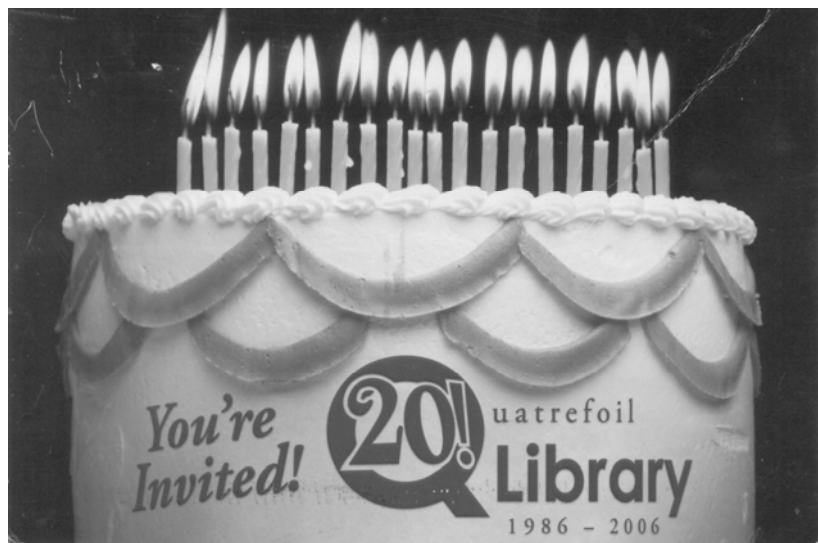
Quatrefoil Library 20th Anniversary Party!

Champagne & chocolate will be served.

**Meet the Library's "founding fathers"
Dick Hewetson & David Irwin,
and past presidents of the QLibrary.**

Held in conjunction with the GLBT ALMS
(Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special
Collections) Conference.

At the Quatrefoil Library
1619 Dayton Ave, Ste. 105, St. Paul, MN 55104
651.641.0969 • www.qlibrary.org



talking to these people because they had never thought of circulating their own materials. They were in awe that we lent things out. A number of their organizations carried GLBT materials, but not adult/pornographic materials, which, after seeing our collection, they realized was not being very accurate to GLBT history. The event created an interconnectedness for all these people who had not formerly met, and the Quatrefoil Library got high praise for being the library that instigated it.”¹

One final thing the Library did to celebrate its 20th year was to design a special 20th Anniversary logo to give it a new and updated look. Brian Mangin, at Start Spark, made the new logo by taking the one he created just three years earlier and adding the 20th Anniversary elements to it.

Founder Dick Hewetson is still living comfortably in snowless San Francisco. “I have had the best thirteen years of my life,” he claims. He has worked part time for the local Elderhostel programs as a resident coordinator. He has enjoyed being around many gay men in the community who are his own age. He has also volunteered in the public school system. During the past three years, he has spent most of his time with the Center for Learning in Retirement (CLIR), where he is editor of the *CLIR Voice* newsletter. He is teaching computer classes to retired people as one of many educational and social functions of CLIR. He has also written his memoirs which can be found in the Quatrefoil Library. “I never thought I’d be this busy at 75!”²

Founder David Irwin lives in his apartment in a complex for able-bodied seniors in suburban Roseville, Minnesota. With the help of his nephew, David Bergstrom, he is able to get around and do things. His nephew also helps David when he gets in a bind using his computer or checking e-mail. Similar to his childhood years, David spends many hours a day reading books or working crossword puzzles. With the help of friends such as long-time Library volunteer Kathy Robbins, he makes a monthly visit to the Library where he always takes advantage of his special privilege to check out more than the normal allotted five books or videos per visit by using his member #1 Quatrefoil Library card!

Publisher’s note: Unfortunately, David died prior to publication of this book. Please see his obituary on page 115.

ENDNOTES

Chapter 1

¹ From Jim Van Buskirk in a memo to Dick Hewetson, Summer 2006

² From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004.

³ From an interview with Tim Bonham, March 24, 2005

⁴ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

⁵ From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

⁶ James Barr is the author of *Quatrefoil*. Using Barr as a pen name, James Fugate is the author's real name. James Barr wrote a few other books, including *Derricks* and *The Occasional Man*. He died on March 28, 1995, shortly after attending Dick and David's retirement celebration.

⁷ From an interview with Dan Hanson, June 22, 2004

⁸ From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

⁹ From an interview with Dan Hanson, June 22, 2004

¹⁰ From an interview with Edward Swanson, January 31, 2006

¹¹ Quentin Crisp was an English writer, actor, and storyteller known for his humor and witticisms. After publication of his memoir, *The Naked Civil Servant*, he became a gay icon for his openness about his homosexuality.

¹² From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

¹³ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

¹⁴ Jeff Jacklin helped design the first logo. His current work can be found at www.jeffsmusclestudio.com.

¹⁵ From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

¹⁶ From an interview with Edward Swanson, January 31, 2006

¹⁷ The Richards Gordon School Building was formerly a St. Paul Public Elementary School. Now it is privately owned and refurbished.

¹⁸ From an interview with Peg LaBore, April 12, 2007

¹⁹ From a letter written by David Irwin to a friend giving thousands of dollars to various social change groups.

²⁰ From an interview with Edward Swanson, January 31, 2006

²¹ Philanthrofund has been the leader in recognizing the contributions of GLBT organizations, students, and individual community leaders from Minnesota. The Quatrefoil Library has received numerous grants over the years.

²² See pages 27 and 74 for more information on Daughters of Bilitis.

²³ The Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities (CPCSM) is an independent agency devoted to promoting ministry to, with, and on behalf of GLBT persons.

²⁴ From Hewetson's Memoirs located in the Quatrefoil Library

²⁵ Metronet is a multi-type library networking organization serving academic, public, and special libraries in the Twin Cities.

Chapter 2

¹ From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

² From an interview with Edward Swanson, January 31, 2006

³ From an interview with Tim Perry, August 2006

⁴ From an interview with John Livingston, June 2005

⁵ From an interview with Robert Frame, Summer 2005

⁶ From an interview with Kathy Robbins, May 2004

⁷ From Dan Hanson about Edward Swanson, taken from Kathy Robbins' Volunteer of the Year Award recommendation letter compiled by Robert Frame in 2004.

⁸ From an email from Mark Ranum, September 20, 2006

⁹ From an email interview with Mark Carlson, April 2007

¹⁰ From an email communication from Dave Violett, on September 13, 2006

¹¹ From an interview with John Livingston, June 2005

¹² From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

¹³ From Lawrence Martin, in the informal paper survey conducted from 2003-2004

¹⁴ From an email from Kathy Heying to Board member Art Stoeberl, Spring 2007

¹⁵ From an interview with Laura Warnest, June 21, 2006

¹⁶ From an interview with Laura Warnest, June 21, 2006

¹⁷ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

¹⁸ From an interview with John Yoakam, March 23, 2005

¹⁹ The Center for Homicide Research is an independent, volunteer driven non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the capacity of the GLBT community, criminal justice professionals, and law enforcement officials to become more effective in identifying, solving, and preventing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender homicides. It began in 1992 and was called the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study.

²⁰ From an interview with Dallas Drake, April 2007

²¹ From an email from Art Stoeberl on October 26, 2006. Art helped garner quotes from people about the Library and the person who provided this quote wished to remain anonymous.

²² From an email interview with Mark Carlson, April 2007

²³ From Board Meeting minutes which are on file at the Quatrefoil Library.

²⁴ From an email communication from Dave Violett on September 13, 2006

²⁵ From an interview with Dan Hanson & Keith Grennier, June 22, 2004

²⁶ From an interview with Dave Violett, June 15, 2004

²⁷ From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

²⁸ From interviews with Chris Olson & Dave Violett, Summer 2004

²⁹ From an interview with Tim Perry, August 2006

³⁰ From an interview with Tim Perry, August 2006

³¹ From an interview with Cathy Croghan, May 2004

Chapter 3

¹ From an interview with Laura Warnest, June 21, 2006

² By Dan Hanson, from Kathy Robbins' Volunteer of the Year Award recommendation letter, 2004

³ Start Spark, LLC, is a marketing and web design company founded in 2001 by owner Brian Mangin. Start Spark does work for many GLBT organizations, including the Quatrefoil Library and many other not-for-profit groups throughout Minnesota.

⁴ From an interview with Tim Perry, August 2006

⁵ From an interview with Gary Brummond, May 2004

⁶ From a memo by Jean-Nickolaus Tretter to Art Stoeberl, Fall 2006

⁷ From Jason Prodoehl from past Board Meeting minutes

⁸ From Steve Bubul from past Board Meeting minutes

Chapter 4

¹ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

² From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

³ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

⁴ From an interview with Ellen Kuhfeld, April 18, 2007

⁵ From an interview with Karen Hogan, Summer 2004

⁶ From an interview with Karen Hogan, Summer 2004

⁷ From an interview with Lyle Starkloff, July 2005

⁸ From an email received from Art Stoeberl on October 26, 2006.

(Art helped garner quotes from people about the Library and the person who provided this quote wished to only give his first name.)

⁹ From an interview with Karen Hogan

Chapter 5

¹ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

² From an interview with Laura Warnest, June 21, 2006

³ From an interview with Jeremy Wardein, May 8, 2004

⁴ Bruce Brockway was the first person in Minnesota to die of AIDS.

The award that was given in his name is no longer given out.

⁵ From an interview with Don Yager, April 5, 2007

⁶ From an interview with David Irwin, Summer 2004

Chapter 6

¹ From an email from Tom DeGree, Spring 2007

Chapter 7

¹ From an interview with Dan Hanson, April 2007

² From an interview with Dick Hewetson, February 2004

APPENDIX



Logo design by

Gary Brummond – Greg Sargent

Original 16 Members

- * David Irwin, Member #1, awarded Lifetime Membership, used the Library until his death in 2009.
- * Dick Hewetson, Member #2, awarded Lifetime Membership, now resides in San Francisco.
- * Jan Lori Goldman, Member #3, member for one year, now resides in New York City.
- * Crane Winton, Member #4, donated many books to the Library, a member for 3 years.
- * Karen Clark, Member #5, local lesbian member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, member for 8 years.
- * Harvey Hertz, Member # 6, early friend to the Library with his bookstore A BROTHER'S TOUCH, member until 1991.
- * Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, Member #7, early helper and volunteer, had membership until 2000.
- * Raymond Karels, Member #8, member for 7 years.
- * Gerald Lesmeister, Member #9, member for seven years, now lives in San Francisco.
- * Carl Sjobeck, Member #10, member for 10 years.
- * Don Yager, Member #11, Library desk volunteer since the start, awarded Life Membership.
- * Richard Groger, Member #12, Don's partner, awarded Life Membership.
- * Mark Carlson, Member #13, still a member of the Library.
- * Julie Matson, Member #14, member for two years.
- * Walter Apple, Member # 15, member until 1992.
- * Stuart Holland, Member #16, member for three years.

Life Memberships Awards

David Irwin, Member #1
Dick Hewetson, Member #2
Don Yager, Member #11
Richard Groger, Member # 12
Robert Winters, Member #33
Evan Kelley, Member #56
Timothy Perry, Member #88

Edward Swanson, Member #100
Pat Bond, Member #552
Matthew Stark, Member #1055
Barbara Gittings, Member #1206
Kay Lahusen, Member #1207
Carste Slostad, Member #1238
Lavender Magazine, Member #2072

Quatrefoil Library Presidents

1983 – 1987	Dick Hewestson
1988	Darlene Gish
1989	Edward Swanson
1990 – 1991	Cathy Hoffman
1992	Marti Lybec / Carol Skay
1993	David Handy
1994 – 1995	Steve Bubul
1996	Kathy Robbins
1997 – 1998	Jason Prodoehl
1999	Jason Prodoehl / Garry Brummond
2000	Dan Hanson
2001 – 2002	Cathy Croghan
2003 – 2004	David Violet
2005 – 2006	Mark Ranum
2007 – 2009	Karen Hogan.

Quatrefoil Library Vice-Presidents

1983 – 1986	Jane Lilja
1986 – 1987	Carolyn Sparks
1988	Dick Hewetson
1989	Cathy Hoffman
1990	Marti Lybeck
1991	undocumented
1992	Jim Schaub / Marti Lybeck
1993	Yvonne Berquist
1994 – 1995	David Handy
1996 - 1998	Dan Hanson
1999	Gary Brummond / Walter Flores
2000	Cathy Croghan
2001 – 2002	Dave Violet
2003	David Johnson
2004	Jeffrey Alger / Mark Ranum
2005 – 2006	Karen Hogan
2007 - 2008	Pete Wilson
2009	Scott Breyfogle

Quatrefoil Library Secretaries

1983 – 1986	David Irwin
1986	David Irwin/Edward Swanson
1987 - 1988	Edward Swanson
1989	Kevin Sitter
1990	Edward Swanson
1991	Catherine Burnett
1992	Edward Swanson
1993	Aleks Kinclara
1994	Jim Schaub / Dan Hanson
1995	Dan Hanson
1996 - 1997	Kathy Marquis
1998 – 1999	Julie Kelly
2000 - 2001	Keith Grennier
2002 – 2003	Art Stoeberl
2004	Art Stoeberl / Karen Hogan
2005 – 2007	Art Stoeberl
2008	Anne Johnson
2009	No Secretary in 2009

Quatrefoil Library Treasurers

1983 – 1986	David Irwin
1986	David Irwin / Edward Swanson
1987	David Irwin
1988	Edward Swanson
1989 - 1993	Tim Perry
1994 - 1995	Kathy Robbins
1996	Rick Arons / Edward Swanson
1997	Kevin Sitter
1998 - 2000	Tim Perry
2001	Tim Perry / Jeffrey Alger
2002 – 2003	Jeffrey Alger
2004– 2009	Paul Fleege

Quatrefoil Library Executive Directors

1986 – 1991	David Irwin
1991 – 1997	Edward Swanson

BIOGRAPHIES

Richard W. Hewetson

Richard Walton Hewetson was born in Harvey, Illinois, on March 31, 1930. He attended the Chicago and Minneapolis public school systems. In 1954 he received his B.A. from the University of Minnesota. He received his M.Div. from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, in 1957. He served Episcopal Churches in Hallock, St. Vincent, International Falls, and Bloomington, Minnesota, and in Medford and Owen, Wisconsin. He left the parish ministry in 1968 to take a position with the Minnesota State Employment Service. He ceased attending church in 1972. In 1992 he retired from the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training and moved to San Francisco, California. He is an honorary member of Minnesota Atheists and a Life Member and a National Board Member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Adam G. Keim

Adam G. Keim was born on May 22, 1974, in San Diego, California. After graduating from Poway High School in California in 1992, he served as a musician in the United States Marine Corps. After a tour in the Marines, he held a job as a corporate event planner in Dallas, Texas. Adam moved to Minnesota in 2001, decided to get a degree at the University of Minnesota and graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in Elementary Education. He has been published in various college newspapers and has written articles for *Billboard Magazine* and *Lavendar*. At the present time he is teaching in a public elementary school.

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Obituary - 1/18/2009

David D. Irwin

Irwin, David D. Age 89 Died on January 13, 2009. Born January 1, 1920 in Des Moines, IA and last surviving son of Valter Irwin and Mary Alice Correll. Preceded in death by his parents, and six brothers and sisters. Survived by sister Eunice, former spouse Beverly, son David and daughter Helen, granddaughter Leslie and two great grandchildren and many nephews and nieces. David's life included the U.S. Army Air Corp in WWII, divinity school, working for the Red Cross in Europe during the 1950's, and teaching in schools in Kansas, Colorado and the St. Paul schools as a special education teacher. David's dream and accomplishment was the establishment of the Quatrefoil Library as an ongoing lending library here in St. Paul. Please direct memorials to the Quatrefoil Library, 1619 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

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This detailed history of the Quatrefoil Library is a fascinating document, recounting the achievements and challenges of its development and its ongoing efforts to serve its constituents. The Library (and now this book) is a testament to the two men, David Irwin and Dick Hewetson, who started acquiring for their personal pleasure, quickly realized a need in their community, and moved to fill it. Their vision, commitment and generosity is equaled only by that of all those who have worked so diligently for so many years to make their dream a reality and keep it alive.

*Jim Van Buskirk, Program Manager (retired),
James C. Hormell Gay & Lesbian Center,
San Francisco Public Library*

The history of Quatrefoil Library is a history of what love's labors can bring. As the second GLBT lending library in the nation (Chicago's Gerber/Hart has the distinction of being the first) Quatrefoil Library has a distinct history based in the founding of the collection by Dick Hewetson and David Irwin from their own GLBT book collection. Their love for collecting books, their love for the Twin Cities, and their love for their community has made what might have seemed like a distant dream at one point a reality.

The collection of Quatrefoil Library is in itself wide-ranging, from GLBT documentaries to gay porn, from pulp novels to serious fiction, from gay-themed posters to lesbian periodicals.

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ISBN 978-0-9668828-2-7



ISBN: 978-0-9668828-2-7

9 780966 882827