

# Quatrefoil

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## Gayborhoods, Survival, and a Really Big Quilt

(Note: When he was here in November, Cleve Jones signed a limited number of copies of his book “When We Rise: My Life in the Movement.” Stop by Quatrefoil and buy yours before they run out. Money raised will benefit the library, thanks to Jones and his publisher, Hachette Books.)

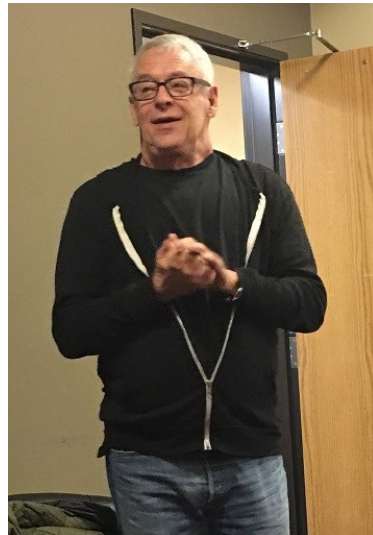
A standing-room-only crowd welcomed author and gay rights pioneer Cleve Jones to Quatrefoil on November 2. He recounted a story we were all anxious to hear in person – his experiences working with gay activist and San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk, which Jones told in his recent memoir *When We Rise*, and the ABC miniseries of the same name.

Cleve described the day in November 1978 when he arrived early to his job working for Milk at San Francisco City Hall, but was sent home by Milk to retrieve some files that he had forgotten. Cleve rushed back to the office when he heard the news that Milk and Mayor George Moscone had been shot. It at first seemed a tragedy that would devastate the movement – but an overwhelming feeling of hope arose when thousands gathered in vigil.

Cleve’s story darkened again as he recalled that “all of my friends died” during the peak

of the AIDS epidemic. Even now when he returns to the Castro Street neighborhood, he points out each house and recalls people he knew who died from the disease or were evicted because of it.

Here’s where the story took an upturn. Cleve remembered one fateful evening in November 1985 when he dreamed up the idea to spread hope through a quilt. While friends were skeptical at first, the AIDS quilt evolved into the world’s largest community arts project, with panels being sent from around the country and world to memorialize partners, friends, and family members who have been taken by the disease.



(Pictured: Cleve Jones)

Officially known as the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, it was first

unveiled on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1987, and its multiple national tours brought it to Minneapolis twice in ensuing years.

A questioner asked how Castro Street and other gay communities from the 1970s and ‘80s have changed. Cleve said he is concerned about vanishing “gayborhoods” – living in community with each other gives a sense of protection for those needing care and support, and allows us to gain political

clout to elect leaders and push our agenda – the agenda of liberation and freedom.

Cleve’s talk culminated in a powerful statement about how we should focus on our individual strengths and come together in community to continue the fight. “Every victory is temporary. It’s never over!”

By Paul Kaefer, Quatrefoil board member

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## Exit Interview: Mitch Marks leaves as board president

Mitch Marks, who has been a volunteer leader at Quatrefoil for nine years, is leaving the board at the end of 2017 after two terms as board president. We asked him a few questions.

Q: What achievement makes you the most satisfied?

A: I am most proud of the new library location. I like to call it “out of the closet and onto the street.” The library is a much more inviting open place that is much easier to find than the old location. We have more materials, are open longer and have substantially more programming than in the past. We are a community center for the Twin Cities LGBTQ community. The second area I am most proud is financial. We have implemented much better financial controls than we had previously and we are on a much stronger financial footing with the endowment funds that have been set up. I am proud that we now are a place where you can give of your assets (or bequest in a will/trust) that you can be assured that it will be here long after you are gone.

Q: What advice would you offer to the new board president?

A: Continue working hard to keep this the best LGBTQ community library lending library in the country. While materials (books, DVDs) will change over time, people's need for knowledge and



(Pictured: Mitch Marks)

entertainment will not. The second thing I would recommend is delegate, delegate, delegate. While this is a volunteer position, it could easily be an 80 hour a week job if you do not push for others to volunteer. Also, learn to wait for others to voice their opinion before expressing yours. If you express your opinion too soon, you will stop others from expressing theirs.

Q: What have you found most personally satisfying about your long involvement with the library?

A: The people. I am impressed by our volunteers. The desk volunteers are wonderful. But we have a number of others who provide their services to the library (cataloging, book sales, technology and financial are just a few). Without every one of them we would not be here. This group is very diverse (age, race, gender, sexual orientation). Many of these people would never know each other

without the library. My life has been enriched by getting to know them. I am going off the board but intend to stay involved with the library. While I have been on the board for 9 years this library has been around for more than 30. I believe that this library will be around for a very long time.

# Quatrefolio

## Calling all unwanted art, photography and coffee table books

In the past I've written how your donated books help Quatrefoil build a more robust collection while helping us raise money by selling the duplicates.

At this time we are sending out a special request for your used LGBTQ coffee-table books. (In this case we're talking oversized quarto books, not those written about coffee tables.) While we appreciate all the queer-oriented books you donate, buying expensive art, photography and other coffee-table books is prohibitive because of our lean

budget. Also, the duplicates we sell often bring in a decent amount of money which allows us to keep our doors and open and expand our programming. We realize you could sell your used books yourself, but donating is so much easier! All you need to do is bring them in during office hours, get a receipt, and this spring you have a tax write-off. (Or you can mail them to us. We'll be sure to send you a receipt.) We can't tell you where or how to find the correct amount for the write-off, but know what you are doing your library a huge

favor by donating items like this.

Thank you for all you do to help keep Quatrefoil Library vibrant and relevant.

--Brian Dahlvig, Quatrefoil board member and chair of acquisitions committee

## Comics and Zines on View Now

New at Quatrefoil this fall is a shelf full of LGBTQ comics and zines. The material includes local and national publications and is a dynamic and often daring addition to the library's collection. These materials, located on the Lake Street side of the library, do not circulate, but you are free to check them out when visiting the library. And please, if you know about comics or zines that should be on display, or if you have your own zine, let us know and we can include them.



# Quatrefolio

## Quatrefoil is Here for You, But We Need Your Support

Quatrefoil is the Twin Cities LGBTQ library. For more than 30 years we have been open to offer education and resources to our community. The library is a welcoming place for everyone, and we are proud to be one of the preeminent LGBTQ libraries in the world.

For the last few years we have worked hard to provide programming (book clubs, author readings, game nights and social events) in addition to the books and movies we are known for.

This year we launched a collection of comics and zines.

**Quatrefoil needs you!** Your support is more important than ever. Quatrefoil is here because of your donations. We do not receive any government funding. If we did we would not be able to have the wide variety of materials you want.

The Library runs on volunteers — from Board members to desk workers — and does not have a single paid staff position. Your financial gift helps sustain all that we do. Membership fees cover only about 15% of our expenses. Your support has a profound, transformative impact on people of all backgrounds and ages who

use the library and will patronize it in the future.

The 2017 Annual Campaign is by far the largest and most important one for the library. This end-of-year campaign supports the daily operations of the organization and is essential to the overall financial health of the library.

There is still time to support to the **2017 Annual Campaign**. Click this link to make a donation <https://www.qlibrary.org/support/donate/>

The Quatrefoil Library has three endowment funds. The endowments are to help secure, strengthen, and extend the long-term survival and mission of the Library. They provide additional monies for outreach programs not funded by other revenues, such as those provided annually by the Library's members and friends. The funds are:

•**David D. Irwin Fund** (named after one of the Library's founders) facilitates housing the library and may be used to meet expenses that cannot be funded by other sources.

•**Acquisition Fund** pays for procurement of Library materials.

•**Hengel Fund** supports and maintains purchases of the motion picture collections.

**Make the most of Your gift with matching contributions.** Many employers will match, double and, in some cases, triple an employee's contribution to non-profit organizations. In most cases, Quatrefoil Library is eligible for these funds. Check with your human resources department to see if your employer has such a program.

If you would like to make a financial gift to the Quatrefoil Library, contact the library at [info@qlibrary.org](mailto:info@qlibrary.org) and someone from the Major Gifts committee will follow-up with you.

By Mitch Marks, Quatrefoil board president

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## How Q Stays New

Quatrefoil's shelves are loaded with donated books, but those titles tend to be older ones. What about that new release you just saw reviewed, the hot-off-the-press novel, groundbreaking history, tell-all memoir or compelling just-released biography?

For those we go to board member Brian Dahlvig, chair for the past four years of Quatrefoil's acquisitions committee.

Dahlvig and his volunteer colleagues have a book-buying budget of about \$2,000 a year, a modest amount that he stretches by purchasing at a healthy discount through Minneapolis-based Boneshaker Books.

"I like to do business with a local store," he says, "and we can get any book we want."

Dahlvig uses a variety of inputs to decide what books to purchase.

"I really go by people's suggestions," he says. He regularly hears from patrons, who fill out book request forms available at the front desk of the library, or e-mail him at in-

fo@qlibrary.org. Other board members or volunteers may pass along a good review of a new book.

"I look at 'The Gay & Lesbian Review' to get ideas, and also at the Lambda Monthly newsletter, or look around on Amazon to see what's out there," says Dahlvig, who devotes about five hours per week to acquisitions, and orders 60 to 70 new books per year.



*(Pictured Brian Dahlvig)*

When the annual Lambda Literary Awards, also called the "Lammys," are announced, Dahlvig tries to buy most of those titles for the library.

Budget constraints don't allow Quatrefoil to order multiple copies of new books, even potentially popular ones, but it does occasionally end up with multiples through donated

copies of newer books. When the library obtains two or more copies of new releases, it keeps those on the shelf for about two years, Dahlvig says.

The acquisitions team must process the new books, get them bar-coded and entered into the catalog. They do this as swiftly as possible, so those new books can be put into circulation for library members. Dahlvig acknowledged the tireless help of volunteer Joan Samuelson and others on these duties.

Find out about new books on the Quatrefoil Facebook page, where they are listed in regular updates. At the library, check out the shelf near the Lake St. door and the table near the front desk for a display of newly acquired books.

--Claude Peck, Quatrefoil board member

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## Storyteller Armistead Maupin tells his own tale

(Review first appeared in Star Tribune)

We are past the halfway mark in Armistead Maupin's vivid and charming memoir before he explains how his "Tales of the City" came into being.

As "Tales" fans know, the stories about an ever-expanding odd lot of San Francisco residents began as a newspaper serial and became a nine-volume print bestseller and a TV miniseries. Long before that came a North Carolina childhood, a run as a young conservative, service in Vietnam — experiences seemingly at odds with the writer who became a literary celebrity and gay-rights spokesman.

Maupin's true-life tale bears stylistic trademarks that made his fiction popular: a knack for memorable characters, a humorous outlook even in the face of serious topics (wars, AIDS, life in the closet) and a heart-on-sleeve willingness to jerk a few tears and sprinkle plenty of fairy dust.

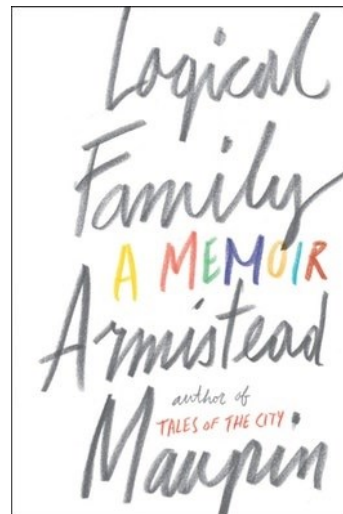
He peppers the long arc of his 72 years with the snappy skill of a seasoned, deadline-driven vignettist.

He grew up in Raleigh, N.C. His mother doted on him. His father, a snobby, bourbon-swilling lawyer who freely used the "n" word in his

profane, right-wing tirades, was classified euphemistically as "unreconstructed," as opposed to merely racist.

When he was young, Maupin loved antiques, reading and movies and was clumsy at sports. In short, a budding gay man, but one who remained on the down-low for years. "I knew I was mentally ill," Maupin recalls of the fact that "by the time I was 13 I had begun to have dreams about kissing grown-up gas-station attendants."

Maupin emerged in college as a "bold, conservative freedom fighter" partly to please (appease?) his father. In columns he wrote for the school paper, Maupin derided peaceniks and lefties. He



"Logical Family," by Armistead Maupin

defended segregation.

Maupin's boss at an early job as a TV reporter was none other

than Jesse Helms, the notorious right-winger who became a five-term U.S. senator from North Carolina.

The horrors of Vietnam are largely absent in Maupin's fond, even romantic account of his time there as a communications officer in the Navy. He "ships out" in a Braniff airliner staffed with Pucci-wearing stewardesses. He gets to wear a "snappy black beret" and parties all night with the son of Adm. Elmo Zumwalt. He visits a remote mountain radio post where two U.S. soldiers, each with a Vietnamese girlfriend, live almost off the grid, "quite happy in their sandbagged Shangri-La."

It wasn't Vietnam that liberalized Maupin, but San Francisco. He moved there for a job with the Associated Press in the early 1970s, just as the city was becoming a magnet for every kind of social change movement. Maupin hit some of the town's 50 gay bars and found himself fundamentally changed by his coming-out, which included meeting men at San Francisco's many gay bathhouses: "It must be said that if anything delivered me from the privileged white elitism of my youth it was the red-lit cubicles and darkened hallways and even darker mazes of Dave's Baths."

The city on the bay, with its mix of old guard and new arrivals,

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also provided Maupin with prototypes for Mary Ann Singleton, Michael Tolliver, Anna Madrigal and other characters he introduced in 1976 at the rate of 800 words a day in the San Francisco Chronicle.

(Check the book out from Quatrefoil's collection now.)

*Claude Peck is a Star Tribune metro editor. On Twitter: @ClaudePeck*

"Logical Family" falls off a bit at the end, as Maupin interrupts himself with name-dropping anecdotes and perhaps too much about seeking to make peace with his parents, but his memoir is never less than engaging.

## On the Road with Quatrefoil Library

For the second year in a row, we packed up our books, tent, brochures, and signs to take our message to several regional Pride celebrations in greater Minnesota and Wisconsin. This summer and fall, Quatrefoil Library had an information table at eight Pride celebrations (in addition to Twin Cities Pride in Minneapolis): Pine City, Eau Claire, St. Cloud, Rochester, Golden Valley, Duluth/Superior, St. Cloud, Mankato.

We sold (or gave away) books and DVDs, handed out brochures, talked to people of all ages and affiliations/identifications, spreading the news about what a great resource Quatrefoil Library is. Many people had heard of us, or visited the library, but many more had not and had no idea that one of the largest LGBTQ libraries in the country is headquartered in Minneapolis. Simply sharing the information that a welcoming library is available means a lot to people in outstate communities who

don't have the resources we enjoy here in the Twin Cities.

In addition, we were at the MayDay festival in Powderhorn Park and had a table at the Twin Cities Book Festival at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in mid-October. Reaching out to authors, publishers, book lovers, and others is a great way to share information and encourage people to stop by and visit. Plus, it's a fun way to see new publisher offerings and to listen to local literary celebrities.

If there is a festival, event, or activity that would help us reach out to other LGBTQ organizations, the broader literary and/or arts communities, please contact Nanette Stearns or email [info@qlibrary.org](mailto:info@qlibrary.org) to discuss events and outreach opportunities.

Sharing our story and opening our doors to others is one of the most important services we provide.

By Nanette Stearns, Quatrefoil board vice president

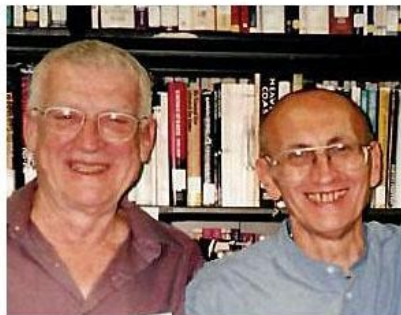


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## *In Memoriam*

### **Hank Herrmann**

Long-time Quatrefoil member and volunteer Hank Herrmann died November 18, at the age of 87, after being in declining health for several months. Hank worked in several areas at Quatrefoil with efficiency, accuracy, and good cheer. Most notably, he processed all the newly acquired DVDs for many years – and before that, the VHS videotapes. He was Quatrefoil's Volunteer of the Year in 2005. Hank and his partner, Jerry Kolbinger, lived on Marshall Avenue in St. Paul, across the street from the Richards Gordon Building that Quatrefoil called home for 25 years. Our condolences to Jerry, who also worked at Quatrefoil for many years as a desk volunteer, and generously donated several of his paintings to benefit the library.

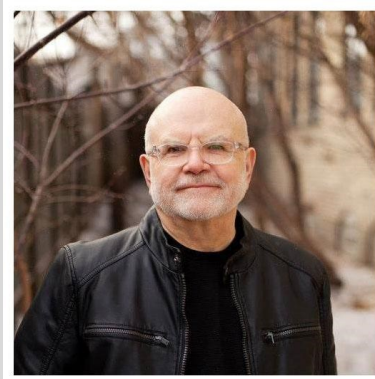


*(Pictured: Hank and his partner, Jerry)*

By Kathy Robbins

### **Greg Rogers**

Former Quatrefoil Library Treasurer, Greg Rogers died in early October after succumbing to cancer at the age of 69. Greg was a dedicated to ensuring the financial health of the library. Those who knew Greg can attest to what a kind and gentle man he was. He greeted everyone with a smile and never uttered a negative word. Even when Greg stepped down from the board, he made time to help out the library. This summer, when the cancer was taking a toll on him, Greg still put in a day of handling the cash for the library at the Pride Book Sale. In addition to volunteering for various causes, Greg was a dedicated bicyclist and yoga enthusiast. Our condolences to Greg's two sons and to his many friends whose lives were enriched by knowing him.



*(Pictured Greg Rogers )*

By Scott Breyfogle

**Quatrefoil Library**  
1220 East Lake Street  
Minneapolis MN, 55407  
(Located in Spirit On Lake)

Phone: 612-729-2543  
E-mail: [info@qlibrary.org](mailto:info@qlibrary.org)

For more information about the library visit: [www.qlibrary.org](http://www.qlibrary.org)

