

the



List

BOOKS! AUTHORS! MOVIES!  
Hundreds of recommendations  
curated by Quatrefoil  
supporters

quatrefolio

Meet the Desk Volunteers • Scholarship Fund Momentum  
Your Old Books & Quatrefoil • New at Q: Merch Table  
Free Events at the Library • Dates to Remember

## 10 Best Lesbian Books/Series You May Not Have Read

**Micky Knight** series by J.M. Redmann  
**The Celaeno** or **the Lyremouth** series  
by Jane Fletcher

**Isis** series by Jean Stewart

**“Chronicles of Alsea”**  
by Fletcher DeLancey

**Cain Casey** series by Ali Vali

**“The Always Anonymous Beast”**  
by Lauren Wright Douglas

**Stoner McTavish** series  
by Sarah Dreher

**Lauren Laurano** series  
by Sandra Scoppettone

**“Thin Fire”** by Nanci Little

**Echo** Series by Linda Kay Silva

Lisa Vecoli  
Former director of Tretter Collection at U of M

## Favorite Books by Christopher Isherwood

**“A Single Man”** (1964) A stellar short novel about a day in the life of George, a grieving English professor in southern California. The 2009 movie (directed by Tom Ford) is a gorgeous tearjerker.

**“Christopher and His Kind”** (1976) Isherwood sheds the closet and recounts his early life, his fiction, famous friends and passionate loves.

**“Berlin Stories”** (1939) Set during Hitler’s rise to power, this book includes “The Last of Mr. Norris” and “Goodbye To Berlin,” in which Isherwood launched the “Cabaret” characters into the world.

**“My Guru and His Disciple”** (1980) A frank and fascinating memoir of the worldly writer’s 30-year relationship with the Hindu monk Swami Prabhavananda

Claude Peck, Q board member

## 5 Best Gay Best Friends (film)

**Stephen Caffrey** in  
**“Longtime Companion”** (1989)

The person everyone can depend upon, and he does the “Dreamgirls” dance flawlessly.

**Rupert Everett** in  
**“My Best Friend’s Wedding”** (1997)  
Everyone who has played this role since is doing a pale imitation of this witty performance.

**T. Wendy McMillan**  
in **“Go Fish”** (1994)  
A best friend who will not rest until her buddy finds love.

**Sarah Paulson** in **“Carol”** (2015)  
She does what her titular friend/ex-lover needs her to do, even if she thinks it’s the wrong thing.

**Stanley Tucci** in  
**“The Devil Wears Prada”** (2006)  
Not just loyal, he also has impeccable taste.

Chris Hewitt, Star Tribune staff writer



Sarah Paulson in ‘Carol’

## 5 Great Lesbian Romances

**“Annie on My Mind”** by Nancy Garden (1982) Girl meets girl in New York’s Metropolitan Museum. Still a heartwarming classic in 2018.

**“Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café”** by Fannie Flagg (1987) The word lesbian does not appear once in this book, but child, it is the sweetest Southern lesbian romance ever written.

**“After Mrs. Hamilton”** by Clare Ashton (2012) A lesbian escort finds love. Ashton gives us Yanks the UK’s best lady... in print.

**“Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel”** by Sara Farizan (2015) Iranian-American Leila falls in love with the new girl at her boarding school. One of the few LGBTQ young adult novels with a Muslim heroine. Sweet and nerdy.

**“The Air You Breathe”** by Frances de Pontes Peebles (2018) It isn’t every day that two girls from the Brazilian sugar plantation run to the big city to become samba musicians.

Rachel Wexelbaum, St. Cloud librarian

## Books with Funny Families

**“The Kid”** by Dan Savage

**“My Brother’s Husband” Vol. 1**  
by Gengoroh Tagame

**“Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic”**  
by Alison Bechdel

**“No One Can Pronounce My Name”**  
by Rakesh Satyal

**“A Queer and Present Danger”**  
by Kate Bornstein

Anitra Budd, Q board member

## Cooking/Entertaining Books

**“Cooking in Heels:  
A Memoir Cookbook”**  
by Ceyenne Doroshow

**“A Girl Called Jack”** by Jack Monroe

**“Big Gay Ice Cream: Saucy Stories and  
Frozen Treats”** by Brian Petroff and  
Doug Quint

**“Flavour: Eat What You Love”**  
by Ruby Tandoh

**“Feed the Resistance: Recipes + Ideas  
for Getting Involved”** by Julia Turshen  
Anitra Budd, Q board member

## 5 Desert Island Gay Novels

**“Death in Venice”** by Thomas Mann  
Death coupled with desire, what could be better? Maybe a bit sketchy nowadays, as it’s an old man doing the lusting after a boy, but it’s philosophical and there is never any contact between them.

**“Maurice”** by E.M. Forster  
Forster’s posthumous early novel of gay love; it’s groundbreaking; so very English, yet sexy!

**“The Counterfeiters”** by Andre Gide  
The greatest novel you may never have heard of. Nobel winner Gide being postmodern before modern was post; exciting Parisian intrigue full of desire and counterfeit money and desire.

**“Giovanni’s Room”** by James Baldwin  
You’ll never read finer prose or such a vivid portrayal of longing.

**“The Swimming-Pool Library”**  
by Alan Hollinghurst  
This book changed the landscape of gay fiction when it came out in 1988; if wit can be breathtaking, this is it.

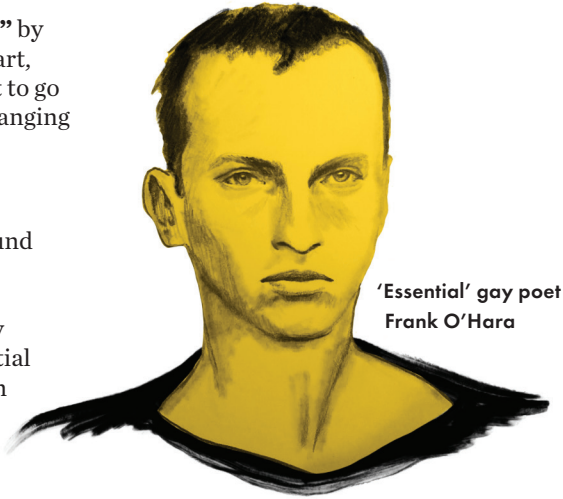
Greg Hewett, poet and Q board member

## 2 Good Books about Books

**“Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America”** by Christopher Bram (2012) This smart, passionate survey makes you want to go back and read influential writers ranging from James Baldwin and Truman Capote to Larry Kramer and Tony Kushner.

**“The Unpunished Vice”** by Edmund White (2018), Subtitled “A Life in Reading,” White’s chatty memoir careens widely among writers (gay and straight) he has found influential and unforgettable in his long life in literature..

Claude Peck, Q board member



‘Essential’ gay poet  
Frank O’Hara

## Strong (and Queer) Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy

- “**Solitaire**” by Kelley Eskridge
- “**Santa Olivia**” by Jacqueline Carey
- “**Daughter of Mystery**” by Heather Rose Jones
- “**Fire Logic**” by Laurie Marks
- “**The Northern Girl**” by Elizabeth Lynn
- “**Silver Moon**” by Catherine Lundoff
- “**Ash**” by Malinda Lo
- “**Ascension**” by Jacqueline Koyanagi
- “**Smoketown**” by Tenea D. Johnson
- “**Lady Knight**” by L-J Baker
- “**Gossamer Axe**” by Gael Baudino

Catherine Lundoff, writer

## 2 Terrific Recent Memoirs

- “**Logical Family**” by Armistead Maupin  
The famed “Tales of the City” writer takes his own life to center stage.
- “**When We Rise**” by Cleve Jones  
Merges politics, autobiography and sex in one highly readable volume.

Claude Peck, Q board member

## 12 Great Trans/Nonbinary Reads

- “**I Am J**” by Cris Beam
- “**Beauty Queens**” by Libba Bray
- “**Brooklyn, Burning**” by Steve Brezenoff
- “**Jess, Chunk, and the Road Trip to Infinity**” by Kristin Elizabeth Clark
- “**Beautiful Music for Ugly Children**” by Kristin Cronn-Mills
- “**Dreadnought**” by April Daniels
- “**Sovereign**” by April Daniels
- “**Being Emily**” by Rachel Gold
- “**Just Girls**” by Rachel Gold
- “**If I Was Your Girl**” by Meredith Russo
- “**Lizard Radio**” by Pat Schmatz
- “**The Art of Being Normal**” by Lisa Williamson

Rachel Gold, writer

## 3 Best AIDS Memoirs

- “**Borrowed Time**” by Paul Monette
- “**Eighty-Sixed**” by David Feinberg  
(although his “Queer and Loathing,” which he was writing right up to his death, is pretty compelling, too)
- “**Smash Cut**” by Brad Gooch

Rick Nelson, Star Tribune staff writer

## 10 Essential Gay Male Poets

### William Shakespeare

The Sonnets, of course! The fact that the Bard was “gay” still irks a lot of folk.

### Walt Whitman

All of “Leaves of Grass,” but especially the Calamus poems, are full of masculine love and are sensuous as anything.

### Arthur Rimbaud

The mad boy-genius will knock you out with the brilliance of his hallucinatory verse.

### C.P. Cavafy

His fin-de-siecle cafe scenes in cosmopolitan Alexandria are so sexy and sad; the scenes from ancient times are also powerful.

### Hart Crane

Tragic life, triumphant poetry; in a sense, his writing is a gay language.

### W. H. Auden

This Anglo-American poet is the touchstone for the modern gay sensibility as it was forming.

### Allen Ginsberg

All hairy and loud and amazing! In-your-face queer before anyone!

### Frank O’Hara

Urbane yet accessible; read his elegy to Billie Holiday, “The Day Lady Died,” and I dare you not to weep.

### Frank Bidart

Such a genius and so accessible, so dramatic; his collections “Golden State” and “The Book of the Body” should be required gay reading.

### Mark Doty

The chief American gay poet of the last few decades; he knows his gay stuff!

Greg Hewett, poet and Q board member

## Books For Someone

### Just Coming Out

“**It Gets Better**” edited by Dan Savage and Terry Miller (2011). Created in response to a series of tragic suicides by LGBT young people, It Gets Better features a collection of essays and stories by celebrities and political leaders, from Ellen DeGeneres to President Barack Obama, for teens struggling with bullying.

### “The Miseducation of Cameron Post”

by Emily M. Danforth (2012). Set in rural Montana in the 1990s, this novel follows a young girl who is discovering her sexuality and is subsequently sent to a gay conversion camp, where she is introduced to a welcoming community of queer teens.

“**Boy Meets Boy**” by David Levithan (2003). This classic queer romance novel follows Paul as he meets, loses, and attempts to win back Noah. It’s also notable for including the cross-dressing quarterback Infinite Darlene and a small town where LGBTQ teenagers are widely accepted.

“**Trans Teens Survival Guide**” by Fox Fisher and Owl Fisher (2018). Written by a trans non-binary couple, this guide for trans and gender non-conforming teens features hilarious true stories and advice on coming out, pronouns, hormone therapy, and more.

“**The Perks of Being a Wallflower**” by Stephen Chbosky (1999). A coming-of-age tale about an introverted high school freshman and his experiences with death, romance, abuse, LSD, and “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” The 2012 movie adaptation co-stars queer actor Ezra Miller.

Ryan Lulofs, school counselor

## Favorite Movies with Lesbian Themes or Characters

**“Imagine Me and You”** I watched this because I love Matthew Goode in anything.

**“When Night is Falling”** A dog in a refrigerator?

**“The Gymnast”**

**“Carol”** Great cast.

**“The Secrets”**

**“Blue is the Warmest Color”**

**“Fried Green Tomatoes”** (implied)

Any movie based on a **Sarah Waters** book (“**Fingersmith**,” “**Tripping the Velvet**,” “**Affinity**”)

Nanette Stearns, Q board president

## Favorite Edmund White Books

**“A Boy’s Own Story”** An essential for me in more ways than I can count. Just writing that makes me want to go back and re-read it (again).

**“The Farewell Symphony”** A really important book for me. Not always an easy read, but beautifully crafted.

**“Skinned Alive”** It’s easy to forget that White is a really fine short story writer and I don’t know how well known this collection is, but I really loved it.

Gary Eldon Peter, author of “Oranges”

## My 5 favorite Timothy Findley books

Findley (1930-2002) was a gay Canadian writer, and very beloved in Canada. He’s less recognized in the U.S.

**“Not Wanted on the Voyage”**

**“Famous Last Words”**

**“The Telling of Lies”**

**“Headhunter”**

**“Dust to Dust: Stories”**

William Reichard, poet

# At the Desk

Meet some of the volunteers who keep the library going.



## Charles Tamble

**Occupation:**

(not naked) civil servant

**Your regular shift at Q:**  
second Mondays

**Volunteer since:** 1991

**Why you volunteer:** There have been numerous times over the years when someone stepped into Quatrefoil for the very first time when I was the volunteer. Welcoming them with a warm smile, providing a non-threatening environment and encouraging them to explore more what it means to be a part of the GLBT community have been wonderful experiences. It’s a way to be involved and give back.

**Favorite LGBTQ book:**  
“The Celluloid Closet”  
by Vito Russo

**Favorite LGBTQ movie:**  
“Hedwig and the Angry Inch”



## Bruce Williams

**Occupation:**

Guthrie Theater staff usher

**Your regular shift at Q:**  
second Wednesdays, third Saturdays,  
fifth Thursdays

**Volunteer since:** Summer 2018

**Why you volunteer:** To contribute, to be a more involved part of the LGBTQ community, to hang out with all the books.

**Favorite LGBTQ book:** “Goodbye to Berlin” by Christopher Isherwood

**Favorite LGBTQ movie:**  
“Meet Me In St. Louis”



## Dana Edstrom

**Volunteer since:** 4 months ago

**What shift do you work?**  
Sunday afternoons

**Why I volunteer at Q:** It’s a valuable community resource and social hub.

**Favorite LGBTQ book/author:**  
Strictly for old times’ sake, I would say anything by Joseph Hansen.

**Favorite LGBTQ movie:**  
“Beautiful Thing”



## Travis Clemens

**Occupation:** Community Health Advocate at JustUs Health

**Your regular shift:** Second Mondays

**Volunteer since:** 2018

**Why you volunteer:** Because I love books and I love giving back to my community.

**Favorite LGBTQ book:**  
Anything by David Sedaris

**Favorite LGBTQ movie:**  
“To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar”



## Emma Dimassis

**Occupation:** Auditor at Deloitte & Touche

**Volunteer since:** 2 months ago.

**What shift do you work?**  
First Sundays, afternoon.

**Why I volunteer at Q:**  
Because all people deserve a welcoming community with friendly faces.

**Favorite LGBTQ book:**  
“Maurice” by E.M. Forster

**Favorite LGBTQ movie:**  
“The Way He Looks”

# Q Volunteer Awards



And the awards go to...

Volunteers keep Quatrefoil open day after day and keep the library going year after year. This year's Dale Johnson Award for longstanding service to the library goes to **Dave Violett** (above, left). After 22 years working at the desk on the first Sunday of each month, Dave is retiring from the library. He has served as both board president (2003-04) and vice president (2001-02). He has donated money as well as his time, and organized fundraisers, including securing a donation of \$11,000 from his employer, Wells Fargo, to offset the cost of moving the library to Minneapolis from St. Paul in 2013. He served so long "because Quatrefoil is such a great community resource," Violett said. Over the years, the library "has become a better representative of the diverse makeup of our community, although there's still a way to go," he said. "The move to Minneapolis has contributed greatly to this shift by providing a warm, welcoming, accessible space with room for community events and better

visibility from the street. We can still serve our traditional role as steward of the vast collection begun by Dick and David and greatly expanded over the years due to the generosity of our members while adapting to the style and usage methods of a new generation of members as well as the community as a whole."

The Volunteer of the Year Award goes to **Brian Dahlvig**, a current board member who has served Quatrefoil in various ways. As chair of the acquisitions committee, Brian researches and buys new books for the collection. Brian adds records for almost all new books to the online catalog, and by now the number he has added must total in the thousands. Recently, he has taken on the task of selling duplicate books and DVDs online, which brings a steady source of revenue to the library. Brian has served as a representative of the library to Community Shares of Minnesota, which provides funds to the library and other nonprofits.

**Thanks, Dave and Brian!**

# Old Books, New Money

By Brian Dahlvig, Q board member

Thanks to donations from library supporters, Quatrefoil is able to raise hundreds of dollars in books sales each month. When we receive books that we already have on our shelves, we sell them to help fund operations, rent and programming.

Along with our in-library and Pride book sales (the next one coming in March), we sell things on Amazon. You can find our listings at [www.amazon.com/shops/QuatrefoilLibrary](http://www.amazon.com/shops/QuatrefoilLibrary)

Donated art and photography books are especially welcome, as they sometimes bring in larger dollar amounts. But that is not necessarily always the case. Thanks to the sheer

number of items we have listed, the less expensive books add up over each month. When you don't buy books from us online or in person, we recommend you buy at Moon Palace Books in Minneapolis. Quatrefoil orders many of its new books there at a discount, so our acquisition budget goes further.

Please drop off your extra LGBTQ books and DVDs at the library during regular hours. We are at E. Lake St. and 13th Ave. South, and there is free parking behind the building. If you have a lot of books and need help, let us know and we can arrange to pick them up.

## Key Dates in 2019

### March 2

Spring Book Sale at the library

### April 1-June 10

Writing the AIDS Generation, free 10-week class (7-9 p.m. Mondays) for gay men who lived through the first decade of the pandemic and those interested in writing about the era. Led by novelist Brian Malloy. For registration: [malloywriter.com/contact.htm](http://malloywriter.com/contact.htm)

### June 22-23

Pride Book Sale at Loring Park

### October 5

Fall used-book sale at the library

# Scholarship fund update

In our Pride issue, we announced the creation of the Quatrefoil Library Scholarship Fund. Since then, we've raised more than \$6,000, about nearly 25 percent of our goal of making this a \$25,000 endowed fund. Thanks to all who've contributed.

The scholarships will be granted in the form of tuition assistance to LGBTQ high school seniors or undergraduate college students pursuing liberal arts degrees and enrolled at or planning to attend a Minnesota school. It is hoped that winners will use the library's resources as part of their research or study.

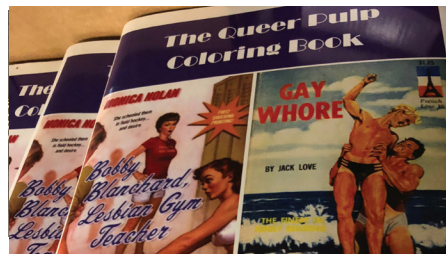
Quatrefoil recently applied for a grant to help reach its goal of awarding the inaugural scholarship in fall 2019. Let us know if your unique talents can help us support queer students pursue their college dreams. We need people to serve on the selection committee, do outreach to GSA groups in area schools and, of course, to help fund this exciting new program. To make an online donation to the scholarship endowment, go to [www.qlibrary.org](http://www.qlibrary.org).

Paul Kaefer

## Q: What do First Avenue and Quatrefoil have in common?

**A: They both have merch tables.**

If you love Q, you gotta have the T-shirt. Our growing merch table now has new shirts in two colors, plus magnetized buttons and coloring books drawn from the covers of gay and lesbian pulp novels. Check it out the next time you stop by the library. All proceeds support the library, natch.



# People of the (last) Year

The library wants to be a place where people and ideas come together, so it has increased the range and number of special events it hosts. Donations from members and donors enable Quatrefoil to offer all events at no charge. Thanks to all who spoke (and sang!) at the library in 2018, and to those who showed up to meet newsmakers, hear new fiction and poetry and explore LGBTQ history.



Lisa Vecoli spoke about the history of lesbian pulp novels



Writer and Minneapolis City Council member Andrea Jenkins



"Fellow Travelers" stars Andres Acosta and Hadleigh Adams



An Evening with Rick Nelson (left) and Chris Hewitt



An evening with Saloon owner John Moore (center)



Ellen Lansky, author of "Suburban Heathens"



Dianna Hunter, author of "Wild Mares"



Hunter with Q board president Nanette Stearns (far right)

### OTHER EVENTS

Women Who Write

Open House with Food Truck lunch

Karin Kallmaker reading

Gary Eldon Peter book launch of "Oranges"

YA panel with Rachel Gold and Christine Jenkins

William Reichard poetry reading

# Finding Himself

By Eric Marcus

When I interviewed lesbians who grew up in the 1940s and '50s, the one book that each of them said had helped them come to an understanding of themselves was a 1928 novel about a lesbian by British author Radclyffe Hall: **"The Well of Loneliness."**

The first book I read (in a "Reader's Digest" condensed version in my dentist's office!) as a teenager where I recognized myself was a 1975 novel about a mother coming to terms with her gay son called **"Consenting Adult."** The author was Laura Z. Hobson, who was most famous for writing "Gentleman's Agreement," a 1947 novel about anti-semitism that was made into a movie starring Gregory Peck that won an Oscar for Best Picture.

The second gay book in which I really recognized myself was John Reid's 1973 **"The Best Little Boy in the World."** Or The BLBITW, as it was commonly known among gay men who found the main character to be all too familiar. John Reid was the pen name of Andrew Tobias.

The first gay novel that broke my heart was **"The Front Runner,"** Patricia Nell

Warren's 1974 love story about a star athlete and his coach. It was the summer of 1976. I was 17. And I sobbed.

When I first began researching our history when I was a freshman in college, my eyes were opened wide by Kay Tobin Lahusen's 1972 **"The Gay Crusaders."** I later interviewed Kay and her longtime partner, Barbara Gittings, for my own book about the history of the LGBTQ movement, which was first published in 1992 under the title "Making History," and in a 2002 edition under the title "Making Gay History."

I recommend two other books about our history that are must-reads in advance of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. The first is David Carter's 2004 definitive account of the riots, which is called, appropriately, **"Stonewall."** The second is Lillian Faderman's recently published **"The Gay Revolution."** (And if you haven't read her 1992 **"Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers,"** I recommend that one as well.)

Eric Marcus is the author of a dozen books, including "Making Gay History," which is also the name of his award-winning podcast. [www.makinggayhistory.com](http://www.makinggayhistory.com)



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HOURS

Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Weekdays, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 1-5 p.m.