David Irwin, one of the co-founders of the Quatrefoil Library, passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at the age of 89.

Born on January 1, 1920, David Irwin led an accomplished life but it is his founding of the Quatrefoil Library with former partner Dick Heweston, which made an indubitable impact on the Twin Cities GLBT community.

The Quatrefoil Library was a dream-come-true for David Irwin, a gay bookworm. In the mid-1970s both he and Dick Heweston started collecting thematically gay books. In 1977, they moved into a large condominium, combining collections in a linen closet. But as David continued to buy ever more books, the collection soon outgrew the "closet." When the two parted in 1984, their more than 1500 volumes remained united.

David and Dick's long time dream of starting a lending library was realized late in 1985 when the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union invited the Quatrefoil Library to be a tenant. The library went public on February 4, 1986.

Quatrefoil Library exists to collect, preserve, and share materials and information relevant to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and other sexual minority communities.

In Memoriam David Irwin Co-Founder of the Quatrefoil Library

David Irwin 1920-2009

During the first year, the collection and use of the library grew so quickly that it happily was forced to move to a larger home at the renovated Richards Gordon School. The library re-opened on June 6, 1987 with more than 4,000 volumes and over 300 periodicals.

In 1992, David Irwin retired from the Executive Director position which he had held since the Library doors opened.

Today, the Quatrefoil Library remains one of the most unique lending libraries of its kind. With over 12,000 books and other media and with a membership of over 400 people, David Irwin and Dick Heweston's legacy is stronger than ever.

The Quatrefoil Library plans to honor David's memory and his legacy later this year. Details about this event will be updated in upcoming issues of the Quatrefoil and online at http://www.qlibrary.org

Source: History of the Quatrefoil Library by Adam G. Keim
Harvey Milk Lives!

The Oscars recently honored the movie Milk, which tells the story of Harvey Milk the first openly gay elected official in the United States. The film earned a total of seven nominations including Best Motion Picture of the Year, Best Performance by an Actor for Sean Penn, and Achievement in Directing for Gus Van Sant.

The Quatrefoil Library encourages you to check out all the resources about Harvey Milk and his legacy, which include:

A letter to Harvey Milk: short stories.  
Newman, Leslea  
FICTION N553 .L4 1988

Gayslayer! : the story of how Dan White killed Harvey Milk and George Moscone & got away with murder /  
Hinkle, Warren.  
HV 6248 W476 H56 1985

Stitching a Revolution : the making of an activist /  
Jones, Cleve.  
RC 607 .A26 J6573 2000

The Harvey Milk Institute guide to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer internet research /  
Ellis, Alan,  
HQ 76.25 .H375 2002

The mayor of Castro Street: the life & times of Harvey Milk.  
Shilts, Randy  
F 869 S333 M547 1988

The Times of Harvey Milk. – Which won an Oscar for Best Documentary in 1985  
Epstein, Rob - Director  
DVD T5831

Quatrefoil Library welcomes donations of materials and information relevant to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and other sexual minority communities.

Donating Made Easy!

Were you aware that you can support the Quatrefoil Library anytime you want, from the comfort of your own home using PayPal?  
As a non-profit organization, the Quatrefoil Library relies on financial contributions so they can continue to add resources, host events, and to keep the doors open so you can enjoy all the diversity the library has to offer.  
To donate, just follow these simple steps:  
1. Go to http://www.qlibrary.org  
2. Under Support the Library on the main page, click on Financial Contribution  
3. Click on the Make a Donation box and you will be directed to the Quatrefoil PayPal account.  
The Quatrefoil Library thanks you for your support.

Allan Spear’s Estate Donates to the Quatrefoil Library

Allan Spear, who died last fall on October 11, 2008 and was the former president of the Minnesota State Senate and a long-time civil rights champion, donated his GLBT book collection to the Quatrefoil Library.

Allan Spear was the country’s first openly gay male legislator who came out in 1974. Spear worked for years to amendment to the Minnesota Human Rights Act, which added civil rights protections for GLBT people. The amendment finally achieved passage in 1993. Spears spent 28 years in the senate and retired in 2000.

Spear’s is survived by his long-term partner Junjiro Tsuji, who he spent over twenty years with.

The Quatrefoil Library is grateful to the gift from Allan Spear's estate, which bequeathed "all books, pamphlets and printed material relating to gay/lesbian life and history to the Quatrefoil Library." The library received over 200 books, dating from the 1960s to the present. Several included handwritten inscriptions to Senator Spear from the book’s author.

Quatrefoil Online

The Quatrefoil is changing. The library recognizes that as the times change so must the library. The Quatrefoil Library will continue to provide printed editions of the Quatrefoil but the new online edition will allow an easier way to learn about what is happening at the library without killing more trees.

To sign-up for the email version of the Quatrefoil, email the library at info@qlibrary.org with your email address and the subject line “Quatrefoil Email Sign up”.

Finally, are you aware that The Quatrefoil is on Facebook and Myspace? Just enter search using the key word “Quatrefoil Library” on those websites and you can join the library’s groups.

Women’s History Month at the Quatrefoil Library in March

The Quatrefoil Library is planning to hold an event of spoken word performances on Sunday, March 29 from 3-5pm to celebrate Women’s History Month. We are looking for local authors, poets, historians, feminists, activists and other members of our community to share and celebrate the experiences of women in the Twin Cities. While we are interested in documenting queer experiences, we invite all women to participate in this event by attending and performing. We are planning to have an open mic, but would also like to have several scheduled performances for the event. If you have questions, or are interested in being scheduled to perform, please contact Anne Johnson at quatrefoilibrary@gmail.com. Please contact us by March 20 if you are interested in performing.

Keep up to date on what is going at the Quatrefoil Library by visiting http://www.qlibrary.org/