

Quatrefolio

Lend a Hand

Did you know that Quatrefoil Library doesn't receive any government or public funding? All our financial and programming support comes from you and other donors like you.

There are nearly as many ways to support Quatrefoil as there are books on our shelves. Here are three ideas to help you get started:

- **Make a donation.** We accept monetary contributions (one-time or ongoing) on our website. You can also make donations in person at the library.
- **Contribute materials.** We accept contributions of books and DVDs with LGBTQ content. We'll either add them to the collection or sell them to support our programming.
- **Volunteer your time.** We have more than 80 desk volunteers who keep the library open each weeknight and all day on weekends. In addition, we rely on dozens of volunteers for behind-the-scenes activities, including serving on our board and committees, cataloging materials, maintaining our website and social media profiles, planning special events, attending Pride celebrations around the state and handling book sales that help cover our expenses.

If you're already a volunteer, THANK YOU! If you aren't yet, consider becoming one. Complete a volunteer application on our website or at the front desk and you can join one of our committees: Technology, Acquisitions, Operations, Communications/Publicity, Programming/Special Events, Volunteers, Development or Finance/Investments.

Becoming a Quatrefoil member means you can check out books and other materials. Becoming a volunteer or donor means you'll help make the library a safe and welcoming presence in the LGBTQ community.

Quatrefoil Library

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www.qlibrary.org



Quatrefoil

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A Pulp Fiction Treasure Trove

More than 2,000 vintage gay novels are becoming searchable on Q's website

Even regular Quatrefoil visitors may not know that the library has a large collection of gay pulp novels. More than 2,000 of these paperbacks, mostly published in the 1960s and '70s, are housed at the library but tucked away in the office, not out on the open shelves.

The books don't circulate for a number of reasons. With their cheap bindings and inexpensive paper, the books are fragile. Some are also hard to find now, making them valuable and hard to replace.

In a time-consuming process, however, Quatrefoil volunteers are entering the pulp novels into the computer system, making them searchable online. More than 1,000 books have been processed so far.

"I'm very excited that we're now cataloguing them and people are going to know they're in our collection," said Kathy Robbins, head librarian at Quatrefoil. "Each book will have author, title, publisher, date of publication, number of pages and what series they're in, which for collectors is really

important. At one point, these were shelved by publisher, and the spines were all the same color, which meant something to collectors who may only prefer to read one publisher's output."



All of the gay male pulps in Quatrefoil's collection were donated, many of them by library co-founder David Irwin. Fewer than 5 percent of them are lesbian pulps, which actually outsold the gay male pulps in the golden age of these books, driven partly by sales to heterosexual men.

In Quatrefoil's old location in St. Paul, the pulps could

be checked out. Too many disappeared, Robbins said, prompting the move to house them off the open shelves at the Minneapolis location.

In the era between World War II and Stonewall, gay and lesbian pulp novels, despite their often unhappy endings and stereotypical characterizations, presented gay love — and sex — forthrightly for readers starved for such stories. "Hidden within their plots and their characters' lives were maps, hints, and clues that told gay men how they might live their lives," says social historian Michael Bronski in his 2003 book "Pulp Friction."

The books, which featured campy come-on lines, suggestive titles and sexy cover art, were "integral aspects of gay male culture and gay history" for several decades, Bronski says.

With half the collection searchable on Quatrefoil's web catalog at qlibrary.org (search for "historical erotica"), fans and researchers have already responded.

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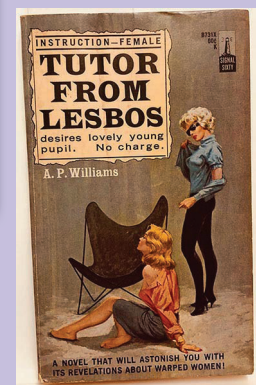
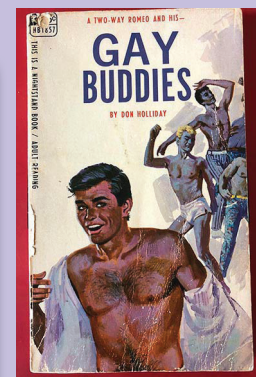
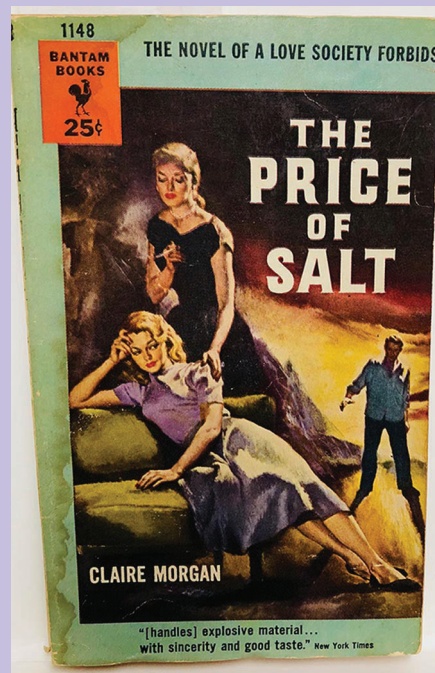
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A man interested in gay vampire novels sought help. “We found four or five books that he had heard of but never seen,” Robbins said. “So he was very excited, as only gay vampire fans might be.”

Retired Texas professor Drewey Gunn contacted the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota, seeking a pulp novel he wanted to include in his book “Gay Novels of the United States, 1870-1970.” Tretter referred Gunn to Quatrefoil, which owned the book in question, “Meet Me at the Baths,” a 1971 pulp by Bruce Benderson. Breaking with policy, the library loaned it to Gunn, who returned it later, along with a copy of his own book, which included the Benderson book. “It was Benderson’s first novel,” Robbins said, “and we have five others by him.”

Cataloguing these vintage books is a sort of coming out process for them, Robbins said. “This makes the world aware that we have them. Once they’re in the catalog people can view them, study them, peruse them in the library. Whether they’re simply curious, or collectors, or researchers, or interested in the cover art, they’ll know what we have.”

*By Claude Peck,
Quatrefoil board member*



One of the more literary lesbian pulp novels, “The Price of Salt,” was published under a pseudonym in 1952 but was written by Patricia Highsmith. It was made into the movie “Carol.”

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The 411 on EBSCO

Logging you into the powerful LGBT Life search engine

“Gay Science,” “Lesbian Tide,” and “The Body Politic” are just a few of the publications available electronically through the EBSCO LGBT Life database. Quatrefoil is the only organization in Minnesota that subscribes to this digital research archive.

LGBT Life is part of EBSCO’s information-services universe. It provides indexing and abstracts for hundreds of scholarly and popular LGBTQ publications, plus historically important primary sources, including monographs, magazines and newspapers.

Whether you’re a student researching a project, an academic seeking new references or just have an unstoppable need to uncover interesting facts, you can use this online database for free as a Quatrefoil patron. Just stop in and ask the desk volunteer for the login details. If you need help navigating the website, we can arrange a tutorial with a volunteer or one of the Quatrefoil librarians. Once you’ve been trained and logged in, you can search the site from your home computer.

This resource will be particularly appealing to library members who enjoy contributing to Wikipedia. As a repository of digitized versions of published materials, the LGBT Life database is rife with reliable sources appropriate to starting a new Wikipedia article or improving an existing one. Quatrefoil will co-host two Wikipedia edit-a-thons this summer, one on June 30 at the Minneapolis Central Library, and the other on July 28 in Quatrefoil’s community room.

EBSCO is a fun way to find news articles, theatre and book reviews, and a plethora of other LGBTQ resources from around the world. Stop by Quatrefoil and check it out!

*By Paul Kaefer
Quatrefoil board member*

Stepping up for students

Q establishes scholarship fund

Quatrefoil Library’s board has approved the creation of an endowment fund for LGBTQ scholarships. The brainchild of board member Paul Kaefer, the scholarships will be awarded to LGBTQ high school seniors or undergraduate college students pursuing liberal arts degrees and enrolled at or planning to attend a Minnesota school.

The guidelines call for submissions from students hoping to use the library’s resources as part of their research or study. A committee (to be established by the library board) will review the applications and award annual scholarships to one or more students. The money will be made available to their school to offset tuition expenses.

“The role of libraries in our society is evolving, and awarding scholarships is a great way to adapt and reach out to LGBTQ students who need our support,” said Kaefer, who added that he was inspired by the recent announcement of a scholarship fund in the name of Philando Castile.

The fund has been set up as a stand-alone endowment, similar to several others that fund the library’s operation. The scholarship fund can now accept contributions from those interested in assisting this specific project. When we reach our initial goal, we’ll be able to begin drawing a percentage to pay for the annual scholarships. To make an online donation to the Scholarship Endowment, go to www.qlibrary.org. The library also welcomes suggestions for fundraising and volunteers for the future application-review committee.

*By Claude Peck,
Quatrefoil board member*

Quatrefolio

Andrea Jenkins and the authentic life

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At a reception, Jenkins signed copies of “The T is Not Silent,” her book of poems. While she still keeps a daily journal, her City Hall work has diminished the time she can devote to writing. Jenkins continues to teach poetry at MCAD and always tries to include poetry in speeches and talks.



*Andrea Jenkins with
Quatrefoil board member Anitra Budd*

In March, Quatrefoil presented “An Evening with **Lisa Vecoli.**” It was a fascinating look at the history and cultural significance of the lesbian pulp novel. Vecoli, the longtime (and recently retired) curator of the Tretter Collection, began to buy and collect these sex-forward, cheaply produced paperback books after discovering a cache of them at a used bookstore in Plymouth, Minn., in 1992.

As an example of the genre’s popularity (stemming partly from sales to straight men), Vecoli pointed out that one title, “Women’s Barracks,” sold 4 million copies in the United States. By the mid-1960s, there were thousands of lesbian pulp novels in print. They were marked by tantalizing cover art and titles that often used code words for lesbianism, including “strange,” “twilight” and “different.” Story lines were predictable, often tracing a Midwestern girl’s arrival in Greenwich Village, a lunch date with an older woman in her office or school, a wild affair and a sad ending.

Still, Vecoli said, books, including pulp and non-pulp titles, “put me on a road to acceptance and pride.”

Quatrefoil’s next “An Evening With” event (7 p.m. Monday, July 9) features **John Moore**, longtime owner of downtown Minneapolis’ famed gay bar, the Saloon. He’ll talk about the bar’s enduring popularity through decades that have seen dramatic changes in the Twin Cities gay community.

*By Claude Peck
Quatrefoil board member*

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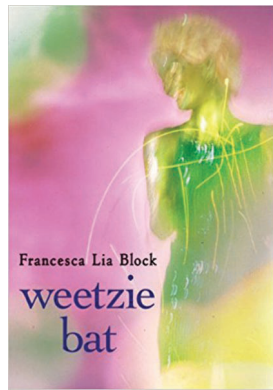
Teens Do Read

Books for young adults are a growing part of Q's collection

Quatrefoil recently consolidated young adult (YA) fiction and nonfiction in two shelving units. This update reflects the remarkable growth in the numbers and popularity of YA books and the increasing presence of LGBTQ characters and themes in these works.

Teens today rarely read anything beyond their iPhones, right? Wrong. Teens read books for both pleasure and information. The category of “YA lit” emerged in 1951 when teens embraced the adult novel *Catcher in the Rye*, despite—or perhaps because of—adults’ objections to the narrator’s profane language and reckless behavior. However, it wasn’t until the late 1960s that publishers began to treat teens as an audience with their own distinct reading preferences.

Among the early YA books was one—I’ll Get There. *It Better Be Worth the Trip* (1969)—that featured a young protagonist dealing with same-sex attractions. A few more YA novels with LGBTQ content were published in the

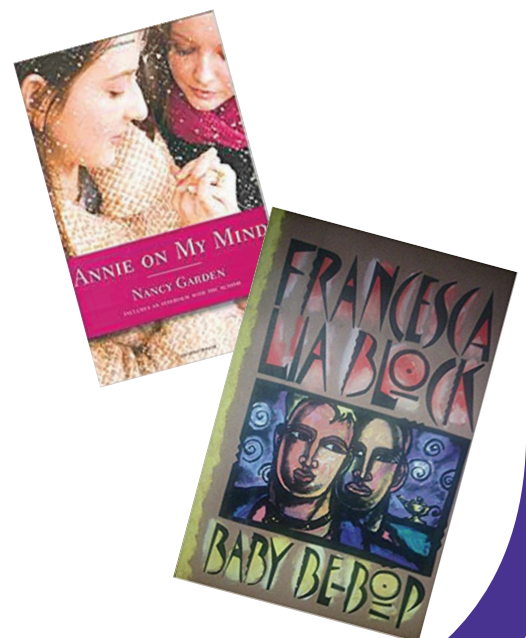


1970s, but their plots featured sad-eyed loners who faced parental rejection and fatal car crashes. Happy endings were rare. More YA fiction with LGBTQ content appeared in the 1980s. Although the LGBTQ characters were overwhelmingly male and entirely white, such affirming literary gems as *Annie on My Mind* (1982) and *Weetzie Bat* (1989) stood out. The number of titles nearly doubled in the 1990s and exploded after 2000.

There are now over 100 YA books with LGBTQ content published each year, and the library buys new titles as its acquisitions budget allows. At first only novels were designated as “YA,” but the

genre now includes short story collections, nonfiction reference works, histories, memoirs, poetry, graphic novels and more. Today even small publishers have found success with “cross-over” titles that appeal to both teen and adult readers. Quatrefoil Library’s new YA section contains newer titles from both mainstream and alternative presses as well as older works. Readers young and old are invited to explore this popular genre.

*By Christine Jenkins,
Quatrefoil volunteer*



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Meet Nanette Stearns

New board president seeks diversity

Nanette Stearns recently took the helm of the Quatrefoil board. Born and raised in St. Paul, Nanette is the editorial director of Llewellyn Publishing, where she's worked for 20 years. Here she shares some of her favorite Quatrefoil moments and her vision for the organization's future.



How did you first hear of Quatrefoil?

I first became aware of Q at Pride in 2009. I stopped by the booth because there were lots of books and ended up joining on the spot. I wanted to become more active in the LGBTQ community, and I love reading--I basically grew up in a library!

What projects are you most excited to tackle as the new board president?

Working with the board to develop better policies and procedures, as well as a strong strategic plan and a clearer mission and vision. I want to build a foundation that will ensure we'll be around another 30-plus years.

What is your vision for Quatrefoil in the next five years?

I'd love to see a more diverse clientele using the library--younger people, more trans individuals, more culturally and ethnically diverse people. Quatrefoil has a loyal membership among older gay white males. I want us to diversify without losing that core membership. As a child, I always felt

welcome at my local library. I want Quatrefoil to provide that atmosphere to our members and the larger community.

Do you have a favorite Quatrefoil event?

I've loved organizing the annual Women Who Write event. I really enjoy bringing female and female-identified writers and their readers together. It's fun to see the audience respond to the readings and to see the joy the authors have in coming together.

What's your life outside of Quatrefoil like?

Busy! I'm the oldest of four sisters. The others have all left Minnesota, so I have lots of places (and nieces and nephews) to visit. My partner, Marie, and I have been together nearly eight years. We live in a condo in St. Paul with our dog and two cats. I also read a lot--I usually have two or three books going at all times. Right now it's *The Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz and *Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions* by Mario Giordano.

By Anitra Budd
Quatrefoil board member

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Andrea Jenkins and the authentic life

Trans woman speaks about race, trauma, gender and politics

In talks that ranged from the history of lesbian pulp fiction to race, gender and politics, Quatrefoil's "An Evening With" series recently featured two fascinating Twin Cities leaders. And there's more to come.

In May, the series presented newly elected Minneapolis City Council member **Andrea Jenkins**. Jenkins became the first black trans woman to win elective office when she won her race to represent Ward 8 in south Minneapolis. She currently serves as council vice president.

Jenkins spoke about her recent three-year stint leading the Transgender Oral History Project at the U of M's Tretter Collection, where she oversaw interviews with nearly 200 trans people. The interviews are available online in video and audio versions as well as in written transcripts. Together, Jenkins said, they "represent the largest, most ambitious project of its kind in the world."

Born in 1961, Jenkins grew up in West Lawndale, a formerly Jewish neighborhood on Chicago's West Side that began attracting middle-class blacks in

the 1930s. Intended to be a pilot community for racial integration, West Lawndale instead struggled with crime, poverty, neglect and unemployment. Its current population is 92 percent black.

After a year and a half at the University of Minnesota, Jenkins dropped out, moved back to Chicago, got married, had a daughter and later divorced.

"Once, I was a picture-perfect model of an African-American man," Jenkins said, reading from her autobiographical essay in the anthology "A Good Time for the Truth." Jenkins came to realize that she had a "male body, but a female psyche." Only "after several failed relationships did I begin to live authentically" and start the process of transitioning, Jenkins said. Even as she underwent this dramatic change, Jenkins said, her own family, class and race "is the historical trauma that I carry with me every day."

Jenkins' essay combined poetry, quotations from influential black and trans writers and statistics about the effects of racism and transphobia in America.

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