

Never underestimate the power of a library

Novelist Jonathan Odell tells crowd how he discovered Quatrefoil

by Claude Peck

In his keynote talk at Quatrefoil's 30th-anniversary celebration in October, writer Jonathan Odell argued, persuasively, that gay people seeking their way in in a changing, sometimes hostile world require guidance. And that help comes most powerfully in the form of an unruly chorus of voices and narratives. "Facts can sustain us," Odell said, "but only story can save us."



Odell, author of novels "The Healing" and "The View from Delphi," as well as "Miss Hazel and the Rosa Parks League," spoke to about 90 people who gathered October 13 at the Open Book center in Minneapolis to celebrate Quatrefoil's anniversary.

When Odell, who moved to Minneapolis from his native Mississippi, first read about Quatrefoil in a gay newspaper article, he thought, "This is exactly what I was looking for! I needed a story, a way to be in the world, and nobody ever told me that. We need to tell stories about ourselves. The suppression of story can scar the

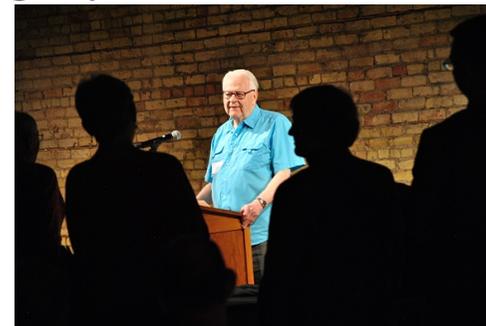
soul.”

Odell recalled in particular two books he checked out when he first visited the library: “The Front Runner” and “Memoirs of Hadrian,” both, it turns out, by women writers, (Patricia Nell Warren and Marguerite Yourcenar) and both “revelations.”

Odell read an account of his visits as a young man to the southern gay mecca of New Orleans, where he discovered gay bars and erotic escapades. Urban centers like New Orleans and Minneapolis can reveal “a thousand ways of being gay,” Odell said. “I believe the work of Quatrefoil is another beacon that can bring God’s children home.”

With his husband, award-winning artist Jim Kuether, Odell is completing an illustrated children’s book, “Just Call Me a Dinosaur.” Odell is presently putting the finishing touches on a volume of personal essays tentatively titled “Growing Up a Gay Fundamentalist Southern Baptist in Mississippi, or God What Were You thinking?”

Also there for the anniversary party, emceed by Mike Augustyniak of WCCO-TV, was Quatrefoil co-founder Dick Hewetson, who lives in San Francisco. He and his late partner David Irwin, began warehousing books, many by gay and lesbian authors, in their St. Paul home in the late 1970s. From that seed grew Quatrefoil, which first opened its doors in 1986.



The growth of the library, from 1,500 to about 30,000 items, is “amazing to me,”

Hewetson said. “What may have seemed a crazy idea has become a primary resource for the Twin Cities community.”

Other cities brag about their gay resources, but “we have a lot to be proud of,” Hewetson said.

“David and I realized it was not to be our library, it was to be a community library, and we do not pay an executive director to raise money,” he said. “We were very sure about that.”

Hewetson was one of four people honored by the library’s board at the anniversary event. The others were: Matt Stark of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, who offered space at the MCLU offices in north Minneapolis for the library’s first site; veteran activist and community leader Barbara Satin, who was instrumental in the lengthy process leading to construction of the Spirit of Lake apartment that houses the library on its ground floor; and Kathy Robbins, for many years the head librarian of Quatrefoil, as well as a longtime board member.

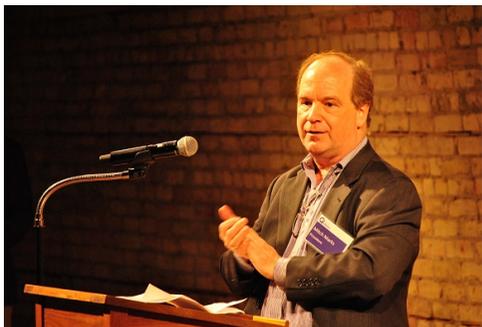


In her brief acceptance, Robbins said, “It takes a village to keep Quatrefoil going for 30 years!”

Current board president Mitch Marks singled out for praise two others -- Pete Wilson and Larry Watson. Watson is one of the library’s most dedicated and best-known desk volunteers. Besides volunteering at the desk, Wilson also devotes



countless hours each month raising money for the library by selling extra books and DVDs online.



“The Internet is a substitute for community these days,” Augustyniak pointed out in closing, “but nothing can supplant the value of coming together, in person, as happens at a place like Quatrefoil.”

Photos from top to bottom: Jonathan Odell, Dick Hewetson, Barbara Satin, Dick Hewetson & Kathy Robbins, and Mitch Marks. Photos of (Odel, Heweston, Satin, and Marks) are courtesy of John Haselmann.

2016 Year in Review

As the year draws to the close, we look back at some of the important events that helped make for another great year for the library.

January

- Mitch Marks is voted as the new President of the Board of Directors. Mitch replaced Scott Breyfogle who stepped down from board responsibilities after

being the longest serving board President.

- Local Gay artist Perry exhibits his paintings at the library from January 15-17th.

March

- The Library in partnership with The Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection hosts its annual Women's Author event, which featured notable authors: Jessie Chandler, Rachel Gold, Catherine Lundoff, Judith Katz, Ellen Lansky, Pat Schmatz, and MB Panichi

June

- Kevin McLaughlin, a local first-time novelist reads from and signs copies of his book "Almost Home".
- The library has a table at Golden Valley Pride. This is part of the library's new effort to promote the library at various Pride events across the state.
- 2016 Quatrefoil Library Pride GLBT Book Sale. The library has another outstanding year at Pride with its biggest book sale ever.

July

- In and Out: Thirty Years at Quatrefoil Library: Exhibit featuring the 30-year history of Quatrefoil Library opens at the Hennepin History Museum and runs for one month.
- As part of the In and Out exhibit, the Hennepin History Museum hosts, "Remembering Thirty Years at Quatrefoil Library: A Discussion", which featured long-time volunteers James Bacigalupo, Robert Frame, and Quatrefoil Library Head Librarian, Kathy Robbins.
- The library has a table at Rochester Pride

August

- Katrina Monroe reads from her latest book "A Tale Du Mort".

September

- The library has a table at, Duluth Superior Pride, Mankato Pride and St. Cloud Pride. Thanks to everyone who came and visited the library at these events.
- The library holds its fall Book Sale

October

- The library has a table Gaylaxicon 2016, which is a LGBTQ Science Fiction convention.
- The Quatrefoil Library officially celebrates its 30th Anniversary with a party. (see above article)

November

- The library welcomes Bi + Book Club as the newest book club. This group joins: North Country Gaylaxians GLBTQ Sci Fi Book Club , Lesbian Fiction Book Club, and Twin Cities Prime Timers Book Club.
- Prize-winning Greg Hewett poet Greg Hewett celebrates the publication of his newest book, "Blindsight" (Coffee House Press) at the library with a reading and book signing.
- Karen Hogan, former board President and long-time volunteer, hosts Research Skills Workshop, which showed patrons how to use the various databases offered the library.

December

- Girlpond Productions hosted A Sapphic Night of Healing, which featured a live podcast recording of Les Talk! Girlpond Episode 17: Slow Down to Show Up.
- The library holds its winter Book Sale
- Michael Kiesow Moore, LouAnn Shepard Muhm, and Wendy Brown-Báez host a workshop: “Writing Circles: Words to Light Our Way: a portable writing workshop with local poets”

Stay on top of the latest events the library by visiting

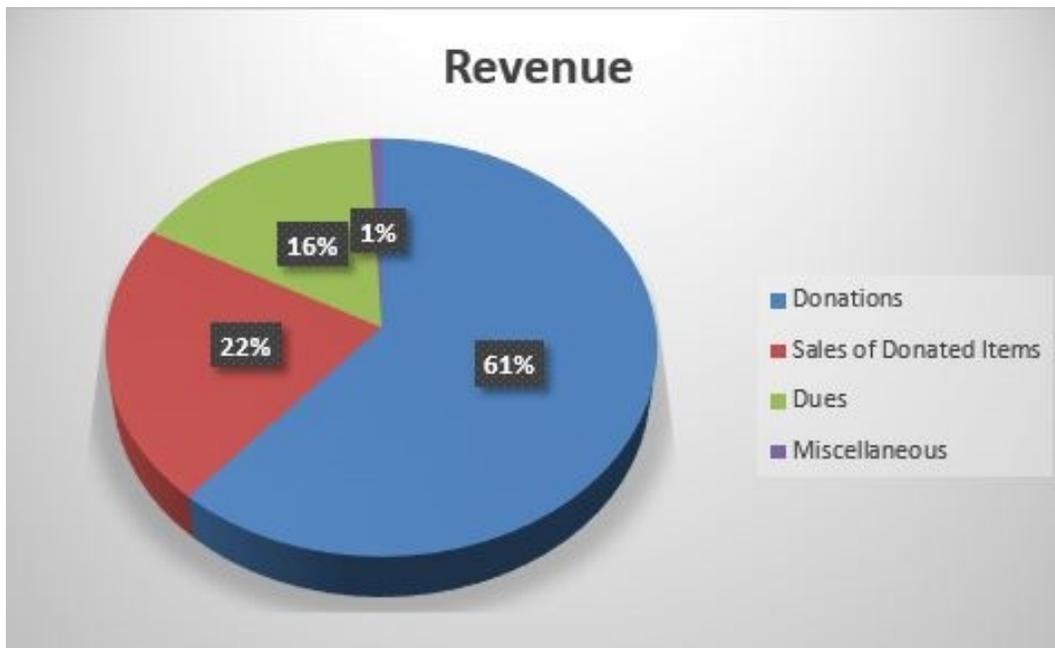
<https://www.qlibrary.org/events/>

Quatrefoil Financial Update

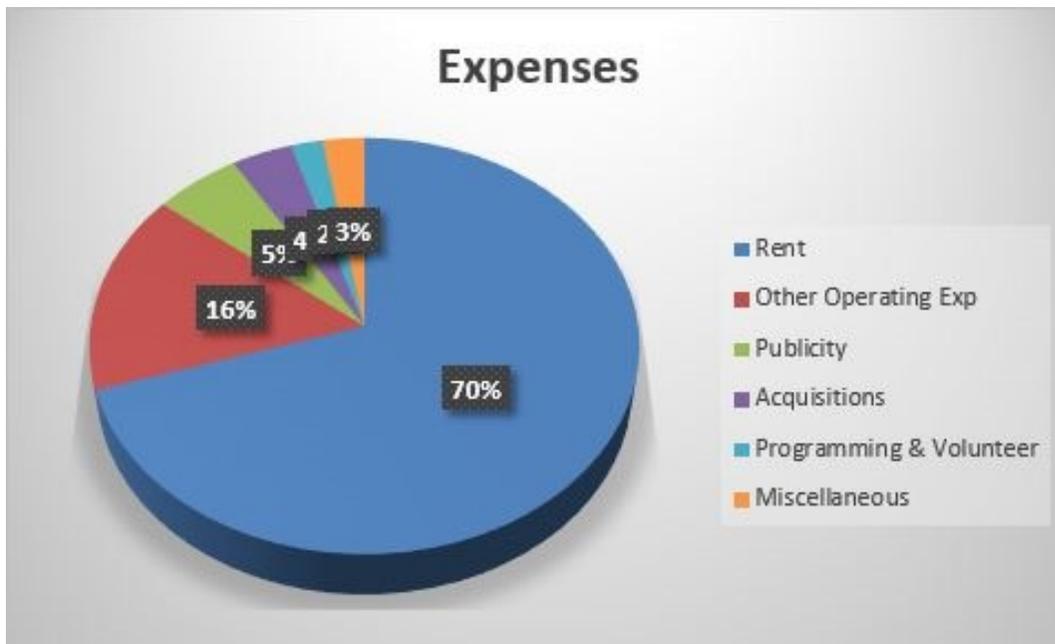
By Mitch Marks, Board President

I believe that Quatrefoil is the most productive non-profit that you can donate to. Where else can you find a charity that is open 7 days a week and operates on a budget of \$55,000 per year! In 2015, the Bureau of Labor statics calculated the average salary for a full time librarian at \$58,000. How do we do this; our volunteers. They are the life blood of this library. Everyone at Quatrefoil is a volunteer. Next time you are in, please thank them for giving you their time.

Quatrefoil relies on your donations to survive (61% of revenue). Sales of donated items is the second largest source of revenue (22%). Membership fees provide only 16% of revenue. Membership dues do not even cover 3 months of our rent each year.



Quatrefoil's rent 70% of our expenses. Other operating expenses comprise 16% of expenses. Publicity is 5% of the budget. Acquisitions of material is only 4% of the expenses. This is because donors provide us with the vast majority of our books and DVD's. Thanks everyone who donates to the library whether it be in cash, materials or dues. We could not do it without you!



PS Quatrefoil is in the middle of its annual campaign. At this point donations are behind where we were last year. Please consider giving this year-end so that we can make our budget. If you haven't had a chance to contribute to the Quatrefoil Library's 2016 Annual Campaign yet, there's still time to make a tax-deductible gift before the end of the year.

Book Review by Brian Dahlvig

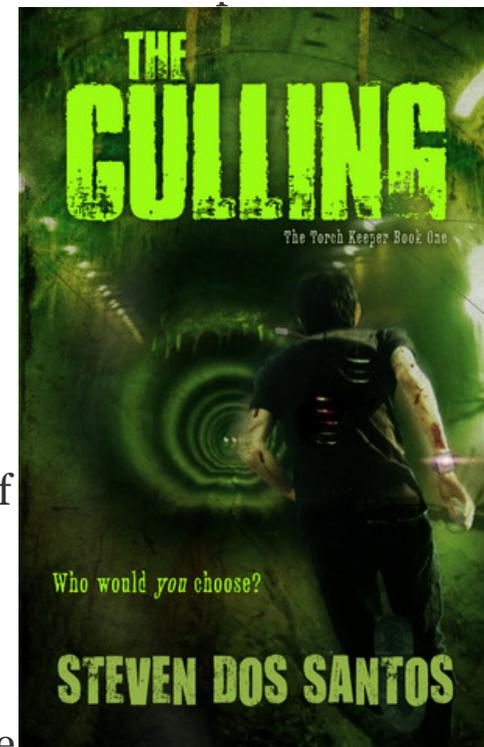
“The Torch Keeper Trilogy” by Steven dos Santos

The Culling, The Sowing, and The Raising tell the story of Lucian “Lucky” Spark in a dystopian society of the future. From the publisher: “For Lucian ‘Lucky’ Spark, Recruitment Day means the Establishment, a totalitarian government, will force him to become one of five Recruits competing to join the ruthless Imposer task

force. Each Recruit participates in increasingly difficult and violent military training for a chance to advance to the next level. Those who fail must choose an “Incentive”—a family member—to be brutally killed. If Lucky fails, he’ll have to choose death for his only living relative: Cole, his four-year-old brother.”

I started reading this because I was curious to read a gay-themed dystopian/”Hunger Games” (which I have not read) novel. I don’t know if this pushes the limits or if it’s just been that long since I’ve read the genre, but this is easily the most gruesome book I’ve ever read – dead and dying bodies everywhere; truly disgusting. Needless to say it sucked me in and wouldn’t let me go. Normally this is the kind of series I’d wait a year before reading the next one (way too many books to read), but found I couldn’t. Will the government be overthrown? Can Lucky get his young brother back? What’s going on with Prefect Cassius Thorn, who is madly in love with Lucky? But of course the most important question is: Will Lucky have a happy ending with Digory Tycho?

One reason I’m so intrigued by the book it is because gay YA has come so far in the last few years. For the longest time, the vast majority were concerned with coming out. In this series, being gay isn’t even questioned – it’s just the way some people are. Nevertheless, this is not a series for which I can make a blanket ‘You’ll love it!’ statement, but I liked it a lot (obviously) and would recommend it for people who like Young Adult dystopian literature.



How to Financially Support the Library

By Scott Breyfogle

For 30 years, donors and volunteers have made it possible for the Quatrefoil Library to be one of the preeminent LGBT libraries in the world. The Library runs on volunteers — from the Board members to the desk workers — and does not have a single paid staff position. Your financial gift helps sustain all that we do.

The 2016 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 **2016 Annual Campaign**. Click on the following 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:

- **Irwin Fund:** (named after one of the Library's founders), this fund facilitates housing the Library and may be used to meet expenses that cannot be funded by other sources.
- **Acquisition Fund:** the purpose of this fund is primarily to pay for procurement of Library materials.
- **Hengel Fund:** this fund supports and maintains purchases of the motion picture collections.

You can also give via your workplace.

Giving at work is easy! The Quatrefoil Library is a member of Community Shares of Minnesota. You can directly support the library through weekly payroll deductions at hundreds of workplaces all over the Twin Cities and Minnesota. Check with your workplace giving coordinator to see if you have access to Community Shares of Minnesota. Give via Community Shares Workplace Giving at <http://www.communitysharesmn.org/workplace-giving/>

If Community Shares of Minnesota isn't currently at your workplace, ask your workplace giving coordinator if it could be included along with the other workplace giving options you have. We would be glad to help you with this and any other opportunities to give to the Library at work.

Make the most of Your gift with matching contributions.

Many employers will match, double and, in some cases, triple an employee's contribution to nonprofit organizations in the community. In most cases, the Quatrefoil Library is eligible for these funds. Check with your human resources department to see if your employer has such a program. Click here for Employer Match, which is a partial list of employers who match employee contributions.

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

Programming

by Howard Maki

Programming at the library is something we are always looking to expand and improve. Some of the items that are available include book clubs, panel discussions, readings, lectures, movies and more. If you have an idea that you think will be a good fit for the library, please contact our Programming Chair, Howard Maki, at 612-275-1946, or send an email at hmaki23@gmail.com. Your ideas and comments are always welcome!

Extended Hours

by Howard Maki

Beginning March 1st, the Quatrefoil Library will be extending our ITS Sunday hours to 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, to mirror our Saturday hours. With these newly extended hours we are now open weekdays 7:00-9:00 pm and weekends 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Volunteering at the Quatrefoil Library

by Howard Maki

Do you have extra time on your hands? Interested in sharing your skills and ideas with others? Please consider volunteering at the Quatrefoil Library. There are many opportunities available, including commitments of as little as just a few hours per month. The library's biggest ongoing need is for volunteers to staff the Front Desk. These are the front line folks for the library, the first people you see when you come into the library. Volunteers are crucial, as they are what help us keep the library open! There are many other opportunities available too, such as serving on a

committee, helping with a book sale or special project or by becoming a member of the board of directors. We need lots of volunteers for our big Annual Book Sale at the Twin Cities Pride Festival in June.

Some of the reasons to volunteer include: Helping others, making a difference, finding purpose, developing added skills, connecting with your community, meeting new people, making new friends, as well as strengthening your resume, just to name a few.



Stop in to fill out an application or go to our website at www.qlibrary.org to fill out an application online and then someone will get back to you with opportunities available!

Leave your legacy to Quatrefoil Library

Quatrefoil will use your gifts to promote your lifelong interests beyond your lifetime!

Are you updating your will or estate plan in 2017? If so, please consider naming Quatrefoil Library as a beneficiary of your estate.

The Quatrefoil Library has provided assistance, information, and support to the GLBTQ community and our friends for 30 years. You can provide a lasting gift to continue these efforts by leaving a legacy to Quatrefoil.

Quatrefoil raises money each year to support programs, activities, materials, and just pay the rent. We understand that not everyone is able to support these efforts while living a full and happy life. That's why legacy giving is so important.

By making bequests and other "planned gifts," you can continue to help Quatrefoil with your legacy. There is no better way to insure the long-term stability and health of Quatrefoil than to make a contribution from your estate through a bequest.

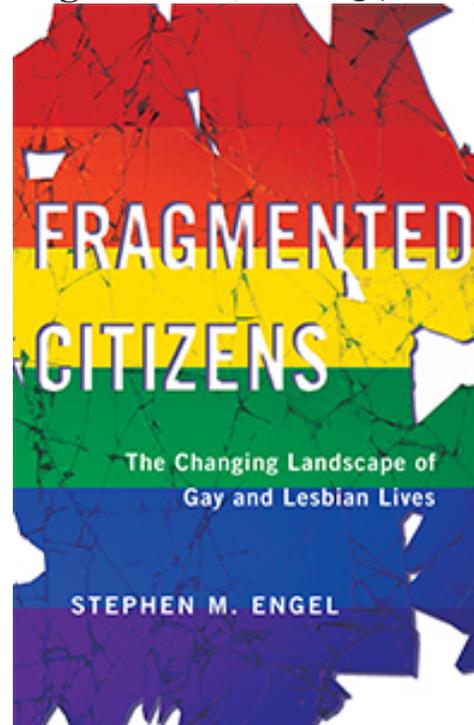
Gifts large and small are important. Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy! Whether you allocate a portion of an IRA, pension plan, insurance policy, or other property, all types of assets can be considered for a bequest.

Please consider leaving part of your legacy with Quatrefoil Library. We promise you that your gift will continue to make a difference for your community, your friends and your family. If you would like to discuss your options, please contact Mitch Marks, President Quatrefoil Library at Info@QLibrary.org or (612) 729-2543

New Reading List: Books on LGBTQ Rights
(available at Quatrefoil Library)

Following the Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage in 2015, there are other LGBTQ rights and legal issues that are still of concern.

- *Fragmented citizens: the changing landscape of gay and lesbian lives.* Stephen M Engel (2016). HQ 76.8 .U5 E54 2016
- *A legal guide for lesbian and gay couples (18th edition).* Frederick Hertz & Emily Doskow (2016) KF 539 .C58 2016
- *The gay revolution: the story of the struggle.* Lillian Faderman (2015) HQ 76.8 .U5 F33 2015
- *Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights: a public policy agenda for uniting a divided America.* Wallace Swan, editor (2015) HQ 76.8 .U5 G3776 2015
- *It's not over: getting beyond tolerance, defeating homophobia, and winning true equality.* Michelangelo Signorile (2015) HQ 76.3 .U5 S535 2015
- *The right side of history: 100 years of revolutionary LGBTQI activism and radical agitation for equal rights.* Adrian Brooks, editor (2015). HQ 76.8 .U5 R54 2015



- *Normal life: administrative violence, critical trans politics, and the limits of law.* Dean Spade (2011)
KF 4754.5 .S63 2011
- *Queer (in)justice: the criminalization of LGBT people in the United States.* Joey L. Mogul, Andrea J. Ritchie, and Kay Whitlock (2011) KF 4754.5 .M64 2011

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