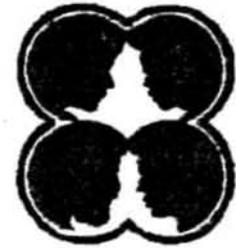


GAY BOOKWORM
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Quatrefoil Library -- 1619 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104 -- Volume 5, No. 2 -- March 1990

ANNUAL DINNER

More than 100 people celebrated Quatrefoil's fourth birthday with a spaghetti dinner on February 4. The celebration, also billed as "Quatrefoil's First Annual Meeting," featured Alison Bechdel, local artist and creator of the cartoon strips "Dykes to Watch Out For" and "Servants to the Cause." Alison's observations about her characters' - and her own - moments of angst, evoked laughter and tears from those in attendance.

The low point of the evening was when we discovered that we had no half-and-half for the coffee. Fortunately, our problem was solved when the coffee itself ran out shortly before dessert. "Dessert" was a birthday cake for Executive Director David Irwin, who turned 70 on New Year's Day.

Thanks to all those who made the evening a success: Alison, the planning committee, and the three women and ten men who made up the kitchen crew.

BOARD NEWS

Officers for 1990 were elected by the board at the January board meeting. They are: Cathy Hoffman, President; Marti Lybeck, Vice President, and Edward Swanson, Secretary. Tim Perry will continue as Treasurer.

The board also named liaisons to each committee and decided to place special emphasis on the Acquisitions, Development, and Public Relations/Membership committees during 1990. In other business, the board began planning for a film screening to be a fundraiser during National Library Week, April 22-28. Ad hoc committees of the board are also investigating space allocation in the library and studying a change in service to youth. Final approval of a five-year Long Range Plan, developed during 1989, is expected soon.

Board News continued . . .

Effective this month, board meetings will be the third Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in the board room of the Richards Gordon building. All library members are welcome to attend.

WANTED

Artists, photographers, computer graphics whizzes, advertising experts, and public speakers! The Public Relations/Membership Committee, which has been meeting since October, has a number of good ideas to advertise the library and increase membership. But help is needed from people with expertise in these fields to put together fliers, photographs, slides, graphics, and advertising. Volunteers are also needed for a Speakers' Bureau, to speak to a variety of organizations about the library. If you have time or ideas or both, you are encouraged to attend the next meeting at the library, March 18 at 2:30. If you are interested, but cannot attend that day, contact Vicki at the library.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN...

-or anyone else willing to be part of the dynamic Art Committee. This committee selects artists and coordinates the monthly art showings and opening receptions. Women in particular are encouraged to join. For further information, contact Tom F., 690-2707.

WRITERS' GROUP REGROUPS

Last fall a notice was included in the *Bookworm* concerning the formation of a writers' group. Unfortunately, the person who originated the idea has been unable to devote the time planned to get the group started. Those who responded to the article are in need of someone to get them organized. If you are interested, please contact Vicki at the library.

SCI-FI FANS

Do you enjoy reading science fiction or fantasy? Then join the North Country Gaylaxians the second Monday of every month for reading, discussion, and fun. Write: North Country Gaylaxians, PO Box 25026, Mpls., 55458, or call the library for the phone number of a contact person.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We need people who will:

- complete the statistics each month.
- keep on top of the overdue books.
- file newspapers and magazines each month,
- help the office manager organize files in the Library office,
- send membership renewals the last week of each month,
- run address labels for mailings.
- enter new members, renewals, and address changes,
- help weed the clipping file,
- and help the reference librarian file things away.

If you can help with any of these jobs, fill out a volunteer form and the volunteer coordinator will set up a schedule for you.

SPECIAL THANKS:

-To Alison Bechdel for the cartoon on our new bookmark, and to Pat R. for the layout and design. We appreciate the time and skill donated.

-To the out-of-state member who sent an extra donation of \$125 for the purchase of the *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, by Wayne R. Dynes. It has already proven to be a valuable resource. Recent calls to the library have requested information about naturalization and Gay/Lesbian marriage. Although the specific works cited in the encyclopedia were not available at the library, the encyclopedia was a useful introduction for both callers.

-To donors of the past few months, when cash flow has been lean. One gift of \$1000 paid February's rent. Also important was the note that accompanied that gift: "Of all the worthy causes to which one can contribute, know of none as worthy as Quatrefoil Library." Other contributions, large and small, helped pay for daily operational costs, Cooperating Fund Drive Dues, and mailing costs for the Gay Bookworm.

-To Dan H. for the color television. Does anyone have a spare VCR to go with it?

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you to all who attended the birthday dinner and helped me celebrate my 70th birthday. It was a wonderful surprise and a great delight to me. I'd like to thank especially Cathy Hoffman, our new board president, who masterminded the annual dinner; Mary Jean Mulherin, who coordinated the affair; Art Stoeberl and Tom Fletcher, who slaved away in the kitchen; Dick Hewetson, who provided the birthday cakes and who was, I suspect, behind the 70th birthday surprise, and to all the others who gave so much time and work to make the first dinner a success. It thoroughly overwhelms me that our Board, volunteers, and members are so giving of time, talent, and funds to carry out the mission of the Library. When things go badly, I ask myself why I opened up this "can of worms," but when things go well, I must say it's a pretty good "can of worms"!

I have been reading a delightful book, *Walking After Midnight*. It is a collection of fourteen life stories of Gay men compiled by the Oral History Group of the Hall-Carpenter Archives in London, England. None of them are famous; they are just ordinary men who tell what it is like to be a Gay man. Wouldn't it be a good project for Quatrefoil Library to undertake something similar? If any of our constituency would be interested working in oral history, let the Director know.

FROM THE EDITOR

The suggestion has been made that a name change might be appropriate for this newsletter. Do you have a suggestion? Send it to the library, c/o the editor. This isn't a contest, so there will be no prizes, just the satisfaction of seeing your idea on the masthead. Maybe you prefer to keep the name as it is. Let us know that, too.

We are losing a faithful volunteer, Michelle J., who is moving to Rochester. You will be missed, Michelle. Come and visit often.

The Gay Bookworm is published bi-monthly at 1619 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul MN 55104 for the members and friends of Quatrefoil Library: David D. Irwin, Executive Director, Dolly Ruark, Editor.
