



Quatrefoil Library  
1619 Dayton Ave., Suite 105  
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# Quatrefolio

QUATREFOIL LIBRARY – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS [www.qlibrary.org](http://www.qlibrary.org)

Vol. 16 No. 3 – Summer 2006

## The Lambda Literary Foundation: Visibility through Literature

By Mary Kay Watson

**T**he LGBT community knows a thing or two about gala affairs, and the literati among us are no exception. I experienced the quintessential literary party several years ago when, in my role as a bookstore owner, I attended the Lambda Literary Awards dinner in Chicago during the annual BookExpo.

The “Lammy” awards are sponsored by the Lambda Literary Foundation (LLF), which also publishes an excellent quarterly review of GLBT books—the *Lambda Book Report*. The 2005 awards ceremony was the eighteenth. The 100 finalists in 20 categories exemplify the diversity of our community.

I recently spoke with Katherine V. Forrest, president of the board of trustees of the foundation and a well-known author of lesbian fiction. “I feel passionate about the Lambda Awards,” she said. “They have everything to do with the visibility of our literature. They show its range and dimension.

“GLBT literature is a major part of the literature of this country,” Forrest said. The Lambda Awards represent a repository of GLBT history from 1989 to the present, she noted, and have acquired a “weight and prestige in the literary world.”

The Lambda Literary Foundation has been in existence since 1994. It had its origins in Washington, DC, at the Lambda Rising Bookstore, where in 1989 bookstore founder Deacon Mccubbin started the awards program. He also published a paper called the *Lambda Rising Book Report*. Success with both led to forming a nonprofit in 1996, which thereafter published the *Book Report* and the *James White Review* and coordinated the Lambda Awards program.

Last year the foundation’s first executive director, Jim

Marks, resigned and LLF was reorganized and relocated to New York City. Publication of the *Book Report* and the *James White Review* were both suspended. The focus of the foundation in 2006 is stabilization, according to Charles Flowers, the foundation’s new executive director.

The *Lambda Book Report* is already back in publication. The first edition, Spring 2005, has an interview with Sarah Waters and reviews of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. One feature I particularly like is “On My Nightstand,” which asks favorite GLBT authors about books they are reading. In this issue Sarah Schulman talks about her “pile of books” and how they relate to her current writing projects.

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**“I have lived to see  
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—Katherine V. Forrest, Lambda Literary Foundation

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The foundation’s plans for the future include making its website a resource center for GLBT literature, compiling a directory of GLBT book groups across the country, developing readers’ guides for GLBT literature, and offering GLBT writers’ conferences and retreats.

“Our goal is to strengthen our core programs and partner with other organizations for new programs,” said Flowers.  
*continued on page 3...*

## Quatrefoil Library Marks 20 Wonderful Years

**M**ix together founders David and Dick, together with 120 folks from around the world attending the GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections Conference, dozens of loyal Quatrefoil members, a musician, photographers, a fine historical display, and food and drink. There is no doubt that the flavor of the 20th anniversary celebration was delicious!

Numerous conference attendees said the Quatrefoil Library far surpassed their expectations, and several true GLBT library junkies proudly noted that they could put a checkmark next to the Quatrefoil—they had made it their personal goal to finally visit us.

Thanks to all our members who attended and helped, the Quatrefoil Library was a showcase on the evening of Saturday, May 20, 2006. Our guest book has never had so many new names and compliments about our library and the collection. Everyone who has supported the library by way of time, money, and talent should take a deep breath and say, "I am a part of this most special place."

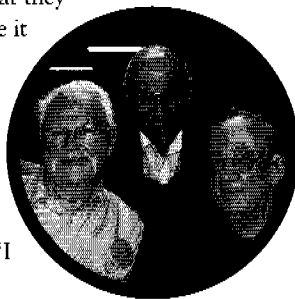


Photo: Dick Hewetson, Matthew Stark, David Irwin (courtesy of StartSpark.com)

### I Wonder if Quatrefoil Has It

Thanks to the persistent efforts of several volunteers, recent improvements to the process of adding new materials to the web version of the catalog will now allow us to make monthly updates. Check it out. Go to Quatrefoil's website—[www.qlibrary.org](http://www.qlibrary.org)—and click on "catalog." You will also find a link to a "kewl" alternative version of the catalog via the "LibraryThing" website.

### Color Coding for Quick ID

Many of our books and movies are coded on the spine with color tape to indicate a specific interest area. Look for the chart of color codes located at the top of some of the shelves for the key. For example, yellow tape is for items of particular interest to lesbians, red tape for trans, and blue tape for young adult books and movies.

To help identify recently acquired materials, new additions to the videotape and DVD collections now have a green dot on the spine. In the main collection, the new movies are integrated with the older media. However, the new GME (Gay Male Erotica) movies are grouped together on a single shelf near the end of that collection.

### Donations Welcomed and Needed

While monetary donations are essential to the survival of the library, gifts of GLBT books, periodicals, and movies (DVDs and tapes) are also crucial to keep the collection growing, diverse, and up to date.

Please consider donating GLBT-related materials next time you move, downsize, or finish reading a book you would like to share with others. All donations to Quatrefoil are tax deductible, and volunteers will gladly furnish you with a receipt at the time of your donation.

### Thank you Pride Volunteers

To our intrepid Q Pride volunteers: thank you for another successful Quatrefoil event. We gained fifteen new memberships, sold boxes and boxes of used books, and received a boost of more than \$700 for our library's operating budget.

Thank you to: Barb Hudson, Mark and Dana,

Tom Miller, Karen Hogan, Paul Fleege, Cathy and Kathy, John Raabe, Dean Alexon, Gary Brummond, Pete Wilson, Evan Kelly, Ed Mikkola, Michael Brady, Robert Frame, Tim Perry, Perry Leuders, Clark Kinser, Jeremy Wardein, Bob Garrett, and Ken Malvey.

### Soul Essence To Celebrate Pride

Soul Essence will celebrate Pride Weekend Aug. 11–14, 2006, with the theme "Many Shades, Different Colors, One Identity."

The Quatrefoil Library will sponsor a table at the family gathering and picnic at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis on Sunday, Aug. 13, from 1 to 6 p.m. Stop by and celebrate with Soul Essence.

For more information, log on to [www.soulessenceminnesota.org/prideweekend](http://www.soulessenceminnesota.org/prideweekend).

### Monthly Volunteer Work Party

Beginning in September, there will be a "work party" at the library on the afternoon of the **third Saturday of each month**, open to Quatrefoil members and their friends. This will be a time for all those tasks that need the help of many hands: newsletter mailings, processing new books,

## Support Quatrefoil Through Your Workplace

If you work at a business or agency that enables you to donate to charitable organizations through your employer, please check if Community Solutions Fund (CSF) is one your options. CSF represents member organizations, including Quatrefoil, that provide essential services to Minnesotans at the grassroots level. Giving to CSF through automatic deductions is a cost-effective and painless way to support Quatrefoil. For more about Community Solutions Fund, please see [www.solutionsfund.org](http://www.solutionsfund.org).



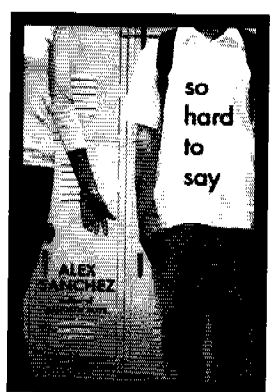
Community Solutions Fund Member



sorting recent donations, etc.—as well as meeting other volunteers. The first party will be Saturday, September 16, from 2 to 5 p.m. Thanks!

**Acquisitions & Archives**

We've unearthed many treasures this summer in the "book donations awaiting processing pile."



Dozens of photography books: portraits, physiques, and nudes in color and black and white. Most of these are oversized, so look in the Quarto section for them.

Among the titles: *Out of the Studio* by Tom Bianchi; *The Pin-Up: A modest history* by Mark Gabor; and *Poseuses: Vrouwenportretten (Portraits of Women)* from the Netherlands.

Currently, we are cataloging some of our collection's oldest books—our founders' pre-Stonewall era collection. Most are in the archive room, but if there are duplicates we will loan those copies. Among the treasures: *Gay power: The homosexual revolt* by Barry Cunningham; *What Lesbians Do; Seeds of Liberation* by Paul Goodman; and *Loving Man: A photographic guide to gay male lovemaking* by Mark Freedman.

We have nearly completed our collection of past Lambda Award winners. New arrivals include: *So Hard To Say* by Alex Sanchez; *A Seahorse Year* by Stacey D'Erasmus; *Fingersmith* by Sarah Waters; and *Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits* from Cleis Press.

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He said the emphasis is on connecting writers, readers, and bookstores. In addition, they hope to extend book groups to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teens. "We want to educate them in the GLBT literary tradition," he said.

When I talked with Katherine Forrest, I mentioned that her novel *Curious Wine* was the first lesbian book I read. She said the first she read was *Well of Loneliness*. Because of her and others like her I found hope through our literature rather than

hopelessness. And because of repositories of GLBT literature like the Quatrefoil Library and advocates like the Lambda Literary Foundation, we all have the opportunity to learn about our history and culture through literature.

"I have lived to see our literature go from an arid desert to a cornucopia of books," Forrest said.

You can find current and past award winners at [www.lambdaliterary.org](http://www.lambdaliterary.org). Most books are available at Quatrefoil, which also has back issues of the *Book Report*.

**Lambda Literary Award Winners**

The following GLBT books were chosen from among 100 finalists in 20 categories for books published in 2005.

**Anthology**

*Freedom in This Village: 25 Years of Black, Gay Men's Writing*, ed. E. Lynn Harris (Carroll & Graf)

**Belles Lettres**

*The Tricky Part* by Martin Moran (Beacon Press)

**Biography**

*February House* by Sherill Tippins (Houghton Mifflin)

**Children's/Young Adult**

*Swimming in the Monsoon Sea* by Shyam Selvadurai (Tundra Books)

**Erotica**

*Stolen Moments: Erotic Interludes 2*, edited by Stacia Seaman and Radclyffe (Bold Strokes)

**Gay Men's Debut Fiction**

*You Are Not the One* by Vestal McIntyre (Carroll & Graf)

**Gay Men's Fiction**

*The Sluts* by Dennis Cooper (Carroll & Graf)

**Gay Men's Mystery**

*One of These Things is Not Like the Other* by D. Travers Scott (Suspect Thoughts)

**Gay Men's Poetry**

*Crush* by Richard Siken (Yale)

**Humor**

*Don't Get too Comfortable* by David Rakoff (Doubleday)

**Lesbian Debut Fiction**

*The Beautifully Worthless* by Ali Liebegott (Suspect Thoughts)

**Lesbian Fiction**

*Babyji* by Abha Dawesar (Anchor Books)

*Wild Dogs* by Helen Humphreys (W. W. Norton)

**Lesbian Mystery**

*Desert Blood: The Suarez Murders* by Alicia Gaspar de Alba (Arte Publico)

**Lesbian Poetry**

*Directed by Desire: Collected Poems* by June Jordan (Copper Canyon)

**LGBT Studies**

*When Heroes Love: The Ambiguity of Eros in the Stories of Gilgamesh and David* by Susan Ackerman, Columbia Univ Press

**Nonfiction**

*Words to Our Now* by Thomas Glave (Minnesota)

**Romance**

*Distant Shores, Silent Thunder* by Radclyffe (Bold Strokes)

**Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror**

*Daughters of an Emerald Dusk* by Katherine V. Forrest (Alyson Books)

**Spirituality**

*Qu(e)rying Evangelism* by Cheri DiNovo (The Pilgrim Press)

**Transgender/GenderQueer**

*Choir Boy* by Charlie Anders (Soft Skull Press)

## Board of Directors

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## Hours

**Mon-Fri** 7pm-9pm  
**Sat** 10am-5pm **Sun** 1pm-5pm  
Closed holidays

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Kathy Robbins



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## JOIN OR SUPPORT THE QUATREFOIL LIBRARY

The library receives no public/government dollars and it relies on the support of individuals through membership and donations, special events and Community Solutions Fund to raise its operating budget each year. Please give generously!

I want to become a Quatrefoil Library member at the following level:  
 Student (\$20)  Individual (\$35)  Household (Two individuals-\$50)

I want to support the library's great work with the following gift:  
 \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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