

Quatrefolio

The Move: Observations from the President of the Board of Directors

By Scott Breyfogle

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A year ago it was announced that the Quatrefoil Library would be moving from its home of more than 25 years in the Richards Gordon Office Building in St. Paul to Spirit on Lake in Minneapolis. The move represented one of the biggest challenges the library ever undertook.

I along with many of the board members and others listened to volunteers and members who had questions, concerns and ideas about the new location. We also heard excitement for the new space. At the same time, we also understood why some of the same people would not be following the library to its new home.

The decision to move was not an easy one and like major life decisions, we knew there would be some risks.

In June, the person responsible for overseeing the logistics of the move left the library and the project. A committee had to be formed quickly. Don Yager invited Quatrefoil member Bob Rose, a former library director at University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, to join the committee and to lend his expertise to the library. Starting in June, Don, Kathy Robbins, Bob and I were meeting every Saturday morning to go over a weekly checklist of things that needed to be done. The list was long and a lot had to be accomplished from arranging a mover, to selecting paint and carpeting to working with the building contractor to oversee final issues regarding the new space.

The first time I had a chance to tour Spirit on Lake was a week before Pride. Something happened to me on that first visit, I felt rejuvenated. Even though the studs in the walls were exposed and the floor was covered in dust, I felt a sense of excitement for the library.

The first public event was held at the library during Pride. With the sheetrock up and some of the dust cleared, a Pre-Pride LGBT Senior Dance was held in the library. I loved seeing other people experience the space for the first time and I could see the anticipation in their eyes.

In September the space was completed and our new home was ready for us to move in.

Before the library could move, we to had say good-bye to our home of more than 25 years in the Richards Gordon Office building. Dick Hewetson, the remaining founder of the library came from California to help us say good-bye.

There was more than 25 years of history to make decisions about. We knew the majority of the main book and DVD collection was making the trip to Spirit but decisions had to be made about the archives and everything else. Some decisions were made and parts of the archives and collection were scaled back and sent to be part of the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota.

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Eventually things started to come together. Don Yager and his husband Rick Groger purchased new bookshelves for the collection. Our landlord, Everwood surprised the library by covering the costs of the movers. Others donated their time to help with whatever needed to be done.

Our goal was to open the first week of November, which we accomplished. The space was ready and the library survived the move without any major incident and without creating any financial challenges to the library because of the generosity of our wonderful donors.

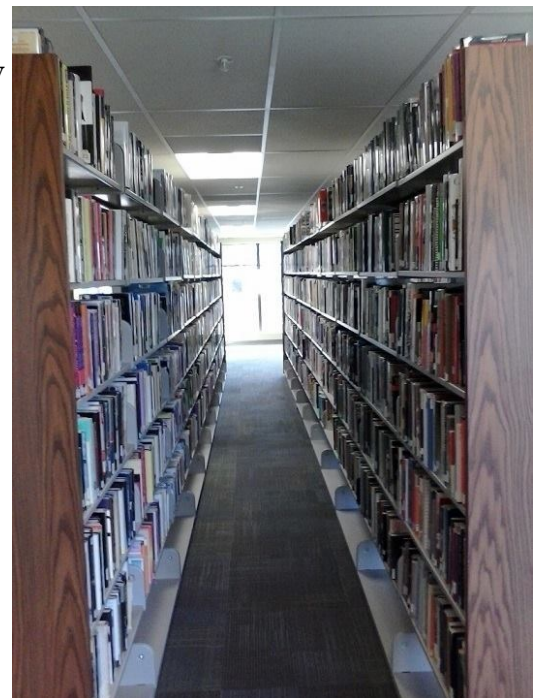
On November 9, the Quatrefoil Library Grand Opening was held and it was a huge success! The library sold a record number of memberships and the community seemed to embrace our new home.

The library is indebted to Don Yager, Rick Groger, Bob Rose and Kathy Robbins, Mitch Marks and Steve Bubul (the library's attorney) and James Bacigalupo and many others who spent countless hours making this move a reality.

A lot can happen in a year. I realized something about the Quatrefoil Library that I hadn't realized in my four years as President: the community is strong and it cares deeply for the library. The library is more than a collection of books and DVDs. It is the people and their collective sense of pride, which makes the library such a wonderful place to be no matter where it is located.

I hope you have felt the sense of rejuvenation when you come into the Quatrefoil Library at Spirit on Lake for the first time and I hope it does not leave you. I still get excited each time I walk through the doors.

If you haven't visited the library yet, I invite you to please come pay us a visit and to experience the new Quatrefoil Library and see what the future holds.



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New Programs at the Q

By Arvid Nelsen

This past spring the Quatrefoil Library started a new program planning committee to build on the success of existing programs, to explore new areas of interest, and to serve the diverse interests of our member communities. The new library space offers a lot of potential for speaker events and interactive groups. Quatrefoil has been proud to host two book groups over the years, the **Reading Rainbows** and the **North Country Gaylaxians GLBTQ Sci Fi Book Club**. Starting in December 2013 we are pleased to welcome a new reading group for “mature gay and bisexual men and their admirers”- the **Twin Cities Prime Timers Book Club**.

In the tradition of author events at the Quatrefoil , we are delighted to feature distinguished author **Toni A. H. McNaron reading from her new memoir, *Into the Paradox: Conservative Spirit, Feminist Politics***. As a practicing Catholic and lesbian-feminist scholar, Toni McNaron embraces the seemingly unresolvable and accepts the inherent paradox arising from her preference for conservative spiritual practices while remaining committed to radical politics. Residing patiently in this "uncomfortable mystery" has allowed her to explore the deeper spaces of her spirit--not insisting on consistency or certainty or even agreement as she strives to expand her connections with the God of her understanding in today's post-modern world where paradox is often valued. McNaron's compelling and inspirational faith journey reveals that we need not harden into inflexible creeds or harsh judgments of other people's way of finding meaning. Rather, living in paradox can enliven our lives and ultimately open us to the wonder and joy of God's amazing creation in all its diversity. Please join us on Saturday, February 8, 3- 5 pm.

Telling Queer History is an exciting new program taking place at the Quatrefoil. Telling Queer History is a series of gatherings based on sharing stories in an open, informal, and participatory format. It's about connecting queer communities, queer history and generations so that we can learn from our shared past, present, and future. Gatherings feature a speaker who shares a story from their life. We then break-up into small discussion groups. Recognizing that everyone has a personal history and contributes to the history of our community, individuals are encouraged to reflect on the topic of the day and share their own stories.

Ageing Out at the Library is an exciting new partnership between the Quatrefoil Library and the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA) to meet the interests of our senior community members. Read more about this important program elsewhere in this newsletter!

The Quatrefoil Program Planning Committee is just getting started! If you have suggestions for topics or events – or wish to lend your support – please contact committee chair Arvid Nelsen.

Upcoming programs and events can be found on the Quatrefoil Facebook page and on the Calendar of Events at <http://www.qlibrary.org/calendar/>

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A New Partnership with Pride Aging Out at the Library

By Cathy Croghan

The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA) serves older adults, persons with disabilities, and those who care for them through an integrated system of information, assistance, education, services and facility-to-home support. As a regional Area Agency on Aging, MAAA delivers Senior LinkAge Line® services in partnership with the Minnesota Board on Aging. www.tcaging.org

Quatrefoil Library fosters GLBT community, culture and camaraderie through literature and media in a welcoming place. By collecting and lending queer creative output we nurture and cultivate the value of the whole community. We continually strive to integrate our historical presence into new areas as communication and technologies evolve. www.qlibrary.org

Aging Out at the Library brings together two leading resources and advocates to serve a community that overlaps both, LGBT older adults. Located at the new Quatrefoil Library site in Minneapolis, this partnership will develop an information and resource hub to serve the community. Programming includes education on various topics that impact older adults, help navigating a statewide resource database of services, and health insurance counselors providing one-on-one assistance with navigating Medicare options.

Volunteer of the Year Award

By Kathy Robbins

In recognition of his service to Quatrefoil over many years, and in many roles, the Board of Directors has selected Peter Wilson as its 2013 Volunteer of the Year. He has served as a desk volunteer, board member, and Pride Festival coordinator for a number of years. Most recently, he took the initiative to begin selling duplicate copies of GLBT books online (<http://www.amazon.com/shops/metprobooks>). These sales have brought in much needed income for the Library. The Board appreciates the time and effort Pete has contributed on behalf of Quatrefoil.

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Thinking about your legacy?

Whether you are writing your first will or trust or updating an existing one, you can include a gift to Quatrefoil Library. Your gift to Quatrefoil Library is a way you can create a lasting legacy benefitting the Twin Cities GLBT community.

You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference in the world. Bequests (gifts through a will or trust) are for everyone and anyone. They are both sensible and simple. A bequest allows you to benefit the library after you are gone.

You can use your will or trust to give a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or a specific item, such as real estate, a boat, artwork, the family silver, GLBT books, copyrights or royalty income, savings bonds or other personal property. It's easy. Here is sample language: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Quatrefoil Library, Inc, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the sum of xx dollars (\$xx) (or xx%, or name specific asset) from my estate (or from the remainder and residue of my estate), including from all property both real and personal and wherever located, for _____ Fund (or its general purposes)."

If you have already named Quatrefoil in your will trust, please let us know. First, we want to say thank you. We also want to include you in the Library's Founders Society.

For more information about making a gift through your will or trust or to let us know that you have included Quatrefoil Library in your will or trust or remembered the Library in another way through your estate plan please contact the Library by phoning 612.729.2543 or send an email to info@qlibrary.org

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Dale Johnson Development Award

By Scott Breyfoge

This year the Quatrefoil Library Board of Directors presented the Dale Johnson Development Award to Mitch Marks at the November board meeting. Mitch, a long-time board member who has served as the Vice President of the Board for several years, was instrumental in the library moving to Spirit on Lake.

Two years ago, Mitch led the negotiations between the library and Everwood Development when the initial idea was presented to the library to move to Spirit on Lake. Over a year ago, when the decision was made to accept Everwood's proposal, Mitch worked with Steve Bubul, the library's attorney, and put in countless hours reviewing each stage of the lease's development. Throughout all of this, Mitch provided monthly updates to the board about how the project was coming along.

In addition, to spearheading the move and serving as the Vice President of the Board, Mitch is also the Chairman of the Major Gifts and Finance Committees.

Mitch's dedication to the library has even been recognized by his employer U.S. Bank. In 2013, U.S. Bank honored Mitch with its "Circle of Service Excellence" award. Each year US Bank gives one of these awards for each 1,000 employee's.

Mitch's work on behalf the Quatrefoil Library makes him a natural choice for the Dale Johnson Development Award. Mitch took the leadership in guiding the library through one of its biggest projects, a task not seen since the library moved into the Richards Gordon Office Building. The board is grateful to Mitch Marks and our new home at Spirit on Lake is a testament to his leadership.

Thank You From the Quatrefoil Library

The Quatrefoil Library would like to acknowledge Wells Fargo who donated \$11,000 for the new library.

Also, the library is grateful to Don Yager and Rick Groger who purchased the new library shelving for our new home at Spirit on Lake.

The Quatrefoil Library would like to thank everyone who made a financial gift to the library this past year. Hopefully, we did not miss anyone.

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