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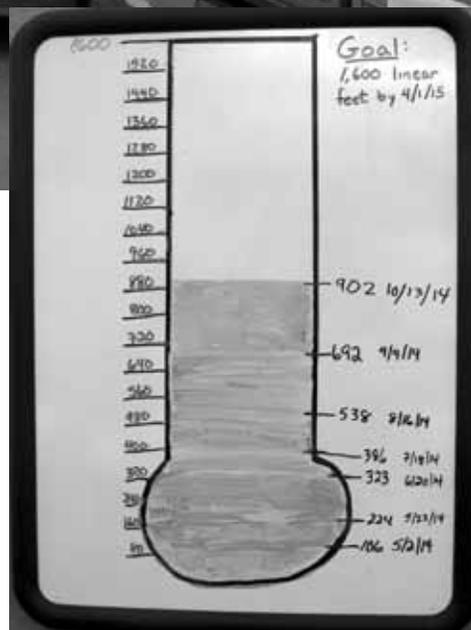
TRETTER LETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LIBRARIES
Archives and Special Collections

Legacy Grant Team Makes Great Progress!



Inside this issue.....

- Cover Story - (read about it on Page 6)
- In Memory of Harvey Hertz
- HIV/AIDS Healthcare Providers Oral Histories
- Ken Moses e-Clipping Collection Helps Researchers
- Transforming Ourselves: 2015 Upper Midwest Queer People of Color & Indigenous Conference
- Preserving & Protecting to Prevent Bi Erasure
- Major Grant Funds Transgender Oral History Project

FROM THE CHAIR

By Anne Hodson, Chair

Greetings everyone, and welcome to the latest edition of the Tretter Letter. It's a really exciting time for us here at the Tretter Collection. We had a great time at Pride in the History Pavilion again this past year, with many people coming through to visit and see the exhibit. We're already looking forward to next year.

The cataloging project is going well, with over half of the project goal complete (see center spread article).

We are proud to receive a grant to hire an Oral Historian who will conduct interviews and research for our Transgender Oral History Project. The project will include oral histories, an online exhibit, and building relationships

between the Trans* and Gender Queer communities of the Upper Midwest and the Tretter Collection. There has been little work done in the past to document the often hidden lives of Trans* and Gender Queer people and with this grant we can begin to explore in greater detail the lives of this rich and diverse community. This is a three year-long project and will be a collection of great significance with up to 400

hours of oral history that will be preserved.

Archiving LGBT history is a growing field, even the Smithsonian has begun to collect LGBT objects for display, yet the Tretter Collection continues to be one of the largest collections in the country.

Long time readers may have noticed that lately there is more Trans* content in the newsletter, which is intentional as we diversify the collection and become more inclusive of Trans* identities.

We are also expanding our Bi, Pan, Fluid, and Omni materials.

The Tretter Board welcomed three new members this year, Stef Wilenchek, Frankie Jader, and Martha Hardy. Be sure to read the article in this issue, "Preserving BTQLG History and Preventing

Bi Erasure" by Martha and her wife Sarah Weaver.

As I write this, we have learned of the passing of long time pioneer and activist Leslie Feinberg. Leslie was an author of several seminal books on gender and culture, "Stone Butch Blues," "Transgender Warriors," "Trans Liberation," and "Drag King Dreams." The Tretter Collection has a skateboard that signed by Leslie in the archive.



Anne Hodson, Chair

You Can Help!

The Tretter Collection relies on the support of organizations and individuals, like you! Please consider making a charitable donation to the Tretter Collection using the enclosed self-addressed envelope as part of your giving plan. Your support will help to preserve GLBT history now and for future generations.

Thank you.

TRETTER LETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF
THE TRETTER COLLECTION

<https://www.lib.umn.edu/scrbm/tretter>

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The University's mission, carried out on multiple campuses and throughout the state, is threefold: research and discovery, teaching and learning, and public service.

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Thanks to the generous support of our donors.....

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their support and give thanks to countless others whose generous spirits have made our work possible.

- Earl Austin - Duluth, MN
- Sanford Berman - Minneapolis, MN
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- Richard E Madigan - St Paul, MN (In memory of Paul Richard)
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- Jean Tretter - St Paul, MN (In memory of the parents of Michael Welch)
- Lisa Vecoli - Minneapolis, MN
- Robert Werner - Rochester, MN
- Beth Zemsky - Minneapolis, MN
- Li Zhu - Minneapolis, MN

From the field....

What's happening in national & international circles.....

The HIV/AIDS Healthcare Providers Oral History Project

By Barb Sommer, Emil Angelica and Peter Carr

On August 14, 2014, the HIV/AIDS Healthcare Providers Oral History Project team, Emil Angelica, Peter Carr, and Barb Sommer, delivered the first ten project interviews to the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. The purpose of this grant supported project¹ was to begin to document Minnesota's response to HIV/AIDS from first identification of the disease in the state through ongoing focus on prevention and care.

Through project interviews, the team began to document how Minnesota healthcare providers, broadly defined, responded to HIV/AIDS during the first decades of the epidemic. Project information includes: early identification of the disease; responses to HIV/AIDS by members of the Twin Cities medical community and leaders of community-based organizations; changes/transitions in responses; interactions – competing and complementing responses; disease trends and impact on responses; and lessons learned.

Voices of our interviewees illustrate these points:

[describing hearing about HIV/AIDS]

“...things hadn't even been described yet ... but you could hear a certain drumbeat that this [HIV/AIDS] was ready to explode and was going to be

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From the Field, Continued on Page 12

Transgender Oral History Project Grant!

(The following is a slightly edited version of our press release on the project.)

Tawani Foundation has generously awarded a major multi-year grant to the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies at the University of Minnesota Libraries for the purpose of documenting the historic and contemporary experience of transgender individuals in the Upper Midwest.

This will be done through the collection of up to 400 hours of oral histories involving 200 to 300 individuals over the next three years. A major effort will be the recruitment of individuals of all ages and experiences for the oral histories.

This project will support the Upper Midwest transgender community and empower individuals to tell their story, while providing students, historians, and the public with a more rich foundation of primary source material about the transgender community.

The Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries is collaborating on this project with the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Materials will be housed within the Tretter Collection at the University's Elmer L. Andersen Library.

"As a member of the Leadership Council for the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and as Founder and Chairwoman of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, I am very glad to be a partner and contributor to a prestigious institution like the University of Minnesota that has

done so much in so many diverse areas to spread enlightenment and education," said COL (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Ret.), Founder, Pritzker Military Museum & Library. "I particularly wish to use this as an opportunity to salute and honor fellow veteran Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, Founder of the Tretter Collection at the University, for his scholarship and most of all for his years of valuable and distinguished service in the United States Navy."

Other project goals include:

- Increasing awareness and use of the archives in the Tretter Collection
- Adding to the holdings of the Tretter Collection through the oral histories and the addition of other materials, such as journals and photographs
- Documenting the role of the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota Medical School
- Making information about the transgender community accessible online to researchers and the public

"This is an important project primarily because we want to make sure that transgender experiences are represented, recognized, and preserved for current and future generations," said Lisa Vecoli, curator of the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies. "These voices are missing and who better to share that experience and tell that story than the people who lived it."

Emily Atchison, a senior at the University of Minnesota who

volunteers with the Tretter Collection, said she's thrilled to be contributing her story.

"My story, and all of the others, will add to the diversity of voices and experiences for people in the future," Atchison said. "Volunteering in the archive gave me the opportunity to learn and take courage from those who came before and now I can pass that gift on."

The project is hiring now and expects to begin gathering oral histories in early 2015. Anyone interested in the Transgender Oral History Project or the Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies is encouraged to contact Lisa Vecoli at lvecoli@umn.edu. You may also follow the project on our Facebook page: Transgender Oral History Project – Tretter Collection UMN.

The Transgender Oral History Project is a collaboration of the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies at the University of Minnesota Libraries, University of Minnesota Foundation, and the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota Medical School. It is funded with a grant from Tawani Foundation established by Colonel (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired), founder of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library.

Preserving BTQLG History and Preventing Bi Erasure

By Martha Hardy and Sarah Weaver

Archives like the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection protect, preserve, and make accessible primary sources that document the lives of queer communities. We highlight the “B” in BTQLG because too often bisexuals and other non-monosexual communities are subject to a phenomenon called bisexual erasure. Bisexual erasure is the tendency for bisexuality to be denied an existence by refusing to believe it is a valid orientation, or by omitting it as an identity in history and media.¹ With the support of community members, the Tretter Collection can play an important role in correcting the problem of bisexual erasure simply by doing what the best archives do well, collecting a diverse array of primary source materials, describing them appropriately to make them findable, and making these materials accessible to users.

This may sound simple, but the mere fact of bisexual erasure in media and other sources can pose significant challenges. In one prominent example, Robyn Ochs, internationally prominent bisexual activist, author, and speaker, married her partner of seven years, Peg Preble, in Massachusetts in 2004 right after the state’s ban on same-sex marriage was overturned. They were one of the first same-sex couples to be married in the state. Their lovely wedding photos were printed in many national news outlets. Even though Robyn Ochs openly identifies as bisexual, the media frequently labeled them as a lesbian couple, beginning with the headline of an article about them in the Washington Post.² Why does it matter that they were labeled as

lesbians? Ochs’s own words explain quite well, “My identity is hard-won — I worked very hard and for a very long time to come to a place of comfort and pride about who I am, and it matters to me that people see me accurately.”³ This example of bi erasure matters to the bi community because many of us were deeply



involved with the fight for same-sex marriage rights. In fact we have been there all along in struggles for acceptance and equal rights for same-sex loving human beings, but because of bisexual erasure you might not have seen us.

Archive collections can grow in a willy-nilly fashion as individuals donate materials. With strategic forethought, deliberate acquisitions, and intentional donations, we can grow a collection that well represents bisexual communities. It would be easy when collecting articles and pictures about Robyn Ochs’ wedding to reify the original erasure, but in fact the paper trail in a wide range of public media collected together tells a more accurate and complex story.

The Tretter Collection wants to collect that more accurate story, whether someone is a famous bi person or not. In the case of a well-known person like Robyn Ochs this is more easily achieved. For the rest of the bi community it will take a more deliberate process of making sure the materials that document our lives and community are collected and documented properly. For this to happen, bisexual people need to donate our papers and photos and help identify them in order to provide crucial context. If you or someone you know has materials that will bring bisexual life forward please consider donating those materials. And if you see an adorable wedding photo of a same-sex couple, don’t automatically assume they are lesbian or gay. What is now known as the “Bisexual Manifesto”, originally published in the front matter of the magazine *Anything That Moves* in 1991 and widely redistributed since then, reminds us all to be wary of such assumptions for good reason: “Monosexuality is a heterosexist dictate used to oppress homosexuals and to negate the validity of bisexuals.”⁴ Let’s make sure that no one’s story in the BTQLG community gets erased by the dominant heteronormative culture.

1 Bowles, Emily. “Bisexuality.” *Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World*. Ed. Mary Zeiss Stange, Carol K. Oyster, and Jane E. Sloan. 1st ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2011. 157-63. SAGE knowledge. Web. 3 Nov. 2014.

2 Cruz, Eliel. “When Bisexual People Get Left Out of Marriage.” *Advocate.com*. 26 Aug. 2014. Web. 2 Nov. 2014.

3 Cruz.

4 “Bay Area Bisexual Network. “About Our Name.” *Anything That Moves* Summer. 1991: [front matter]. Print.

Legacy Grant Continues to Make

By Lisa Vecoli

We are well under way in our work to transform the Tretter Collection. We received a grant with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society to process materials in the archive. These are materials we had in the archive but were not processed. We are sorting, identifying and creating finding aids that make the collections usable by researchers.

We set an ambitious goal of processing 1,600 linear feet of material during the grant. The boxes lined up side by side would stretch over 1/3 of a mile. Some boxes may have 50 magazines, others may have 3-4,000 pages of paper. For an idea of the challenge, using a conservative estimate of 2,500 items in the average box, we are processing an estimated 4,000,000 items during this grant!

A few of the collections we have processed during the first half of the grant are:

• **Jim Chalgren Papers, 9 linear feet.** This collection includes surveys Jim Chalgren did at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in the early 1980s

on Gay Lifestyles and Attitudes Towards Homosexuality. This work was part of his job as the “Gay Coordinator” at the Alternative Lifestyle Office.

• **Sen. D. Scott Dibble Papers, 35 linear feet.** The collection includes personal items, his legislative



Legacy staff member Andrea Hoff processes a mixed box of material from archive founder, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter.

work and his work on numerous campaigns such as the 1980 election of Rep. Karen Clark.

• **Barbara Gittings Papers, 1 linear foot.** Barbara was one of the foremothers of the LGBT movement and we were fortunate to have her visit the Tretter Collection in 2006. Barbara gave us some materials then and her partner, Kay Tobin, sent us additional materials after Barbara died in 2007. This small collection has remarkable items and the

folder names read like a Who’s Who of the early movement for LGBT rights.

• **Twin Cities Goodtimes Softball League Records, 25 linear feet.**

Growing out of a softball contest between patrons of the Saloon Bar and the Minneapolis Police

Department, the TCGSL records contain scrapbooks dating back to 1979 (The Saloon won the first contest!)

• **Outfront Minnesota Records, 71 linear feet.** This collection dates back to 1970 and includes organizational records of the main GLBT organizing body in Minnesota spanning from Gay Community Services in the early 1970s, to Lesbian and Gay

Community Services, to Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council and finally to Outfront MN.

• **Minnesota Men of Color Records (MMC), 35 linear feet.** MMC operated from 1998 to 2003, focusing largely on HIV/AIDS education within communities of color.

• **Robert “Bob” Jansen Papers, 26 linear feet.** Bob Jansen is deeply involved in the GLBT

Great Progress Towards Its Goal!



Legacy Grant Team staff members Amanda Wick, Jennifer Shaw, Teresa Tjepkkes and Andrea Hoff are hard to see behind the 70 boxes of material from Outfront Minnesota.

community and owns the Main Club in Superior, Wisconsin.

• **Queer Student Cultural Center (QSCC) Records, 16 linear feet.** This collection documents the evolution of LGBT student organizations on campus, starting with F.R.E.E. (Fight Repression of Erotic Expression) which formed before the Stonewall riots in 1969, and continuing to the contemporary QSCC. Recent additions to the Michael McConnell Files also offer remarkable documentation of F.R.E.E. as well as community organizing from 1969 through the early 1970s.

• **We have also completed processing the following collections:** Two Spirit Papers; Jay Gordon Papers; Project 515 Records; CLCC Records; Bi Women

Records; Scott Fearing Papers; Anka Shamin Papers; David Leddick Papers; Robert Johnson Papers; Harold Wells Papers; Barrie Jean Borich Papers; Linnea Stenson Papers; District 202 Records; Lisa Albrecht Papers; Andrew Eddy Papers; Shamey Cramer Papers; Max Gries Papers; Elise Matthesen Papers; Wally Swan Papers; Calliope Women's Chorus Records; Douglas Dean Goodman Papers; Sanford Berman Papers; Craig Anderson Papers; Joseph Ward Papers; Toni McNaron Papers; Lesbian Feminist Organizing Committee Records; Patrick Scully Papers; Wilde Roast Café Records; and Twin Cities Pride Records.

All told, we have processed over 900 linear feet of materials. Full finding aids for these and our other

processed collections are online on the Tretter website: www.lib.umn.edu/scr/bm/tretter. We have also added over 12,000 periodical titles to the online catalog of the University of Minnesota. All of this makes the collection more accessible and more useable.



Teresa Tjepkkes raises the thermometer to 902 feet of linear material processed.

Harvey Hertz Remembered (1941 - 2014)

By Lisa Vecoli



Harvey Hertz with Rev. Troy Perry

The Tretter Collection was saddened by the passing of Harvey Hertz just days before Twin Cities Pride in June. Harvey was known to much of the gay community as the owner of A Brother's Touch Bookstore on Hennepin Avenue. He opened the store in 1983 and it served as a resource and gathering place for the community for the next 20 years.

Harvey was also a supporter of the Tretter Collection. He would regularly contact us to have us come over and pick up another batch of books, tee shirts, movies and posters. The archive also has the original iconic sign from the bookstore.

Some of the most notable items he donated were photographs of Harvey with visiting authors and dignitaries that could be a GLBT Hall of Fame, including Allison Bechdel, David Leavitt, Sasha Alyson, Paul Monette, Armistead Maupin, Rev. Troy Perry, Keri Pickett, Nancy Manahan and others.

We will miss Harvey and are comforted that his contributions and spirit live on at the archive.

Addition of Ken Moses Electronic Clipping Collection Leads to Faster and Easier Researching at the Tretter Archive

The Tretter Collection recently received a digital clipping file with over 50,000 entries, beginning in 1990 and continuing until July of 2014. The news reports were collected from local and national newspapers and cover both positive and negative GLBT related news events.

Having a clipping file in this form will allow researchers to quickly search, identify and review news accounts of interest. It will also allow us to ensure that the content remains available into the future. Because of copyright, researchers will need to visit the archive to use the files.

The digital clipping collection is the work of Ken Moses, of Stillwater, Minnesota. Ken has had a lifelong interest in the theatre and his accomplishments included: teaching drama at Syracuse University; a career in professional theatre including Broadway, Off-Broadway and London's West End; succeeding the late Larry Berthelson as director of the Pickwick Puppet Theatre; and an original adaptation of Cervantes' "Don Quixote" with a score by Manuel de Falla. Ken's collaboration with Berthelson on Stravinsky's "Pulcinella" was honored in 1975 with a UNIMA Citation of Excellence, and he produced and directed Mozart's "Magic Flute" at Lincoln Center.

After four years of around-the-world travel inspired by hosting 150 foreign visitors between 1984-88, he pursued a second career in Civil Rights advocacy and education, concentrating on disability and GLBT rights. He settled in Stillwater, MN, in 1995, and served on the Stillwater Human Rights Commission for two years; in 2006, the Stillwater Human Rights Commission presented him its first Human Rights Award.

He was one of the founding members of Out in the Valley, a GLBT social organization originally organized by OutFront Minnesota for people in the St. Croix River Valley, and edited and published its monthly newsletter for the first six years. A friendship with Charles Coventry, a Gaelic linguist in Scotland, resulted in a book collaboration written by Charles and designed and published by Ken, "The Tale of Divarov the Absent-Minded and his Castle." We appreciate Ken's dedicated work to assemble the clipping collection and appreciate his generosity in allowing us to make it available at the Tretter Collection.

New Acquisitions

We cannot highlight all that we have added to the collection in the past months, but a few highlights:

- **Toni McNaron Papers** – Toni McNaron Papers – Professor Toni McNaron added to the materials in her collection at the archive with her teaching texts and books she wrote and/or contributed to. She also donated the surveys that formed the basis of her book *Poisoned Ivy: Lesbian and Gay Academics Confronting Homophobia*. With over 300 surveys completed in 1994, the responses form a compelling glimpse into the challenges facing GLBT faculty two decades ago. The collection is fully processed and the finding aid is available on our website.



- **Calliope Women's Chorus Records** – Founded in 1976, Calliope Women's Chorus is one of the oldest feminist choruses in the United States. Their records include member documents, member documents, Calliope board meeting minutes, financial documents, grant information, contracts, diversity training information and collaborations with other organizations. The collection also has choral performance memorabilia (pamphlets, clippings, photo albums, journals, scrapbooks, newsletters) and audio visual materials including official release tapes, rehearsal tapes, VHS, and CDs. The collection is fully processed and the finding aid is available on our website.

- **Allan Ginsberg** – Sometimes amazing material comes from unexpected places. Li Zhu works for the University of Minnesota Libraries and was recently featured in a news story about her time teaching at Peking University during the Tiananmen Square massacre. The photo that accompanied the news story was of her, a colleague and Allan Ginsberg, who visited her class in 1984. While talking about the story with her she mentioned that in addition to the photo, she had an audio cassette of Allan's presentation to her class. The audio tape runs for 90 minutes and includes Allan Ginsberg discussing modern American poetry and singing "Father Death Blues," a song he wrote. Thanks to Li Zhu these unique artifacts are now in the Tretter Collection! (pictured is Li Zhu, left, with Allan Ginsberg, China - 1984.



- **Marlene Somers Collection** – We recently received a significant donation of print materials by, for and about transgender women from local collector, Marlene Somers. The materials, dating back to the 1950s, document her decades of seeking information and affirmation in the published record. Marlene was forced to keep the materials in a storage locker for family reasons. She was motivated to donate them to the Tretter Collection in the hope that they might offer guidance and support to those seeking to understand their gender identity. The publications fill 7 boxes and the full inventory of titles will soon be available on our website.

New Acquisition Photos courtesy of the Tretter Collection

Accessing Ourselves: The Inaugural 2015 Upper Midwest Queer People of Color and Indigenous Conference

By: Frankie Jader

On April 10-12, 2015, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (GLBTA) Programs Office will host the first-ever Upper Midwest Queer People of Color and Indigenous (QPOCI) Conference at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. The conference is community driven and spearheaded by co-chairs Jason Jackson (GLBTA PO) and Xay Yang (Wilder Foundation). This monumental event was born out of a need to create spaces for indigenous communities and people of color who also identify as queer. Jackson notes, “As LGBTQ people of color in the Midwest, we don’t often get the chance to connect with other queer people of color. When we do, often times it’s organized by our white allies, where whiteness becomes centralized and once again, queer people of color find themselves in the margins.” At the University of Minnesota, a predominantly white institution, this sentiment rings all too true. Many groups and organizations on campus cater to either people of color or queer identities, but only one group celebrates both of these identities together; Tongues Untied – a group by and for people of color who are LGBTQ and/or same-gender loving.

This year’s conference theme, Accessing Ourselves, is intended to strengthen the queer people of color movement (both on

and off campus) and bring a voice that challenges the compartmentalization of queer justice by centralizing issues of



race, class, gender, indigenous rights, and other inequalities that exist locally and globally. Yang states, “Too often our issues are overlooked or misinterpreted and even minimized.” Jackson adds, “The conference in many ways will act as a way for queer people of color to set their terms of what it means to be inclusive in the workplace, schools, and social justice orgs.” Over the course of three days, conference attendees will have the opportunity to network, collaborate, and organize by attending workshops ranging from community building and solidarity to artistic expression. Keynote speakers will share their expertise, and entertainment from local musicians and artists will also be available in the evenings.

A featured exhibit at the conference

will be Jackson’s oral history project; Unheard Voices. Largely created through materials retrieved from the Tretter Collection, the exhibit will showcase the lived experiences of queer blacks in the Twin Cities. In addition, this conference will present the Tretter Collection with an opportunity to increase its visibility with indigenous communities and communities of color. Board members of the Tretter Collection will be present and have a chance to begin conversations with presenters and attendees about adding new material to the archive.

This will be the first conference of its kind in the Upper Midwest and strong efforts are already being taken to ensure the conference’s sustainability. Yang and Jackson have mobilized steering & planning committee members throughout Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas to move this work forward. Yang states, “...There is a lot left to learn and a lot of work left to do in order to sustain a conference like this one. It’s hard work. We’re learning something new every day and we are lucky to have passionate and selfless individuals on both of our committees. Whatever happens, we believe that we are the right people, at the right place and at the right time to put this event together.”

For more information about the Upper Midwest Queer People of Color and Indigenous Conference, visit: <http://midwestqpoc.wordpress.com>

Bridegroom Donation

By James Garlough

A few months ago I watched the documentary *Bridegroom* on Netflix. The description of the film from the film's website states:

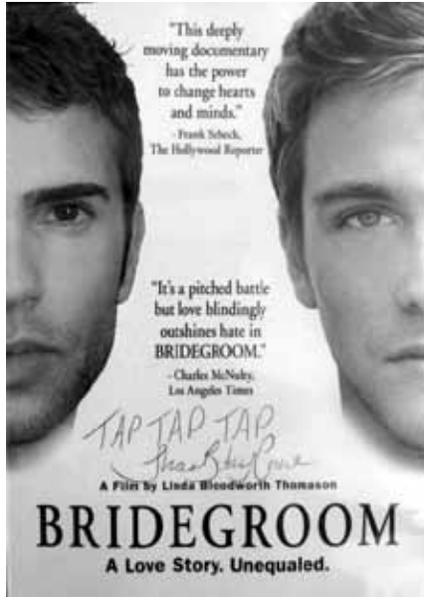
Bridegroom is a documentary directed by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason that (sic) tells the emotional journey of Shane and Tom, two young men in a loving and committed relationship – a relationship that was cut tragically short by a misstep off the side of a roof. The story of what happened after this accidental death– of how people without the legal protections of marriage can find themselves completely shut out and ostracized– is poignant, engaging and opens a window onto the issue of marriage equality like no speech or lecture ever will.

On May 7, 2012, the anniversary of Tom's death, after a year of documenting his own grief, Shane decided to make a video tribute to his partner entitled "It Could Happen To You." This film, posted on YouTube, received over 3.4 million views and has been translated into over 20 different languages. The impact of Shane's YouTube video and the raw nerve it touched, tells us this is an important story that needs to be told.

With the incredible support from influential people like Brad and George Takei and Neil Patrick Harris, *Bridegroom* was successfully funded on July 19, 2012 by over 6,500 people on Kickstarter.com becoming

the most funded documentary in the history of crowd funding, and was released in the fall of 2013.

I was moved by Shane's incredible journey toward healing in spite of the obstacles he has faced and even more by the courage he displayed growing up gay in Montana. Shane was born



in Kalispell, Montana where my grandparents had a farm. The extraordinary beauty of Montana is only rivaled by the bigotry that can sometimes be found there.

I have never seen a more poignant example of the kinds of challenges that face GLBT

people when they lose a partner and have no legal protections at all. So, I purchased a copy for the Tretter Collection. Shane was kind enough to autograph the DVD's cover for us, and wrote "Tap, Tap, Tap," a special code between him and Tom. I invite you to watch the film and tell your friends about it. In the meantime, the autographed copy of the film will be present in the Tretter Archive for future researchers to view and learn from.

This is one way the Tretter Archive gains important material worth preserving and future study – through individual donations like this one. I encourage anyone who sees something important to LGBT history to consider finding a way to obtain a copy for the Archive.

New Finding Aids

Archives have two main challenges. First, we have to acquire materials. But having them is not our main purpose. Our goal is to make material accessible to researchers. We use finding aids on our website to help connect researchers with material.

For example, there have been several major GLBT Marches on Washington (1979, 1987, 1993 and 2000). Using the search box on our website, you would find collections about the Marches. You would find the papers of Ann DeGroot who served on the Board for the Millennium March. You would also find materials in the collection of the Lesbian and Gay Band Association about their performances at the Marches. You would also find materials in the papers of several people who attended the Marches.

As part of the Legacy grant (page 6 & 7), we are processing collections, adding details to existing finding aids and posting new ones. Several collections are highlighted in our centerfold article, but among the other updated and new finding aids now online are:

- Twin Cities Pride
- Anka Shamin
- Joseph (Joe) Ward
- MNGALLA
- Gay House
- Wilde Roast Café
- Calliope
- Scott Fearing
- Robert Johnson
- Boulton and Park Society Publications
- Shamey (James Allen McCall) Cramer
- District 202
- Dallas Drake
- Andrew Eddy
- Douglas Dean Goodman
- Jay Gordon
- Loring Hayden
- David Leddick
- Lesbian Feminist Organizing Committee
- Lesbian Resource Center
- Elise Matthesen
- Sanford (Sandy) Berman
- Harold Wells
- Toni McNaron
- Paul Migliorino
- Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra
- Patrick Scully
- Wally Swan
- Project 515
- Sioux Empire Gay and Lesbian Coalition
- Sri Lanka GLBTIQ Movement
- Two-Spirit

Every finding aid connects material with researchers and makes the archive more functional and accessible!



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The Tretter Collection
Special Collections and Rare Books
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From the Field, Continued from Page 3

really terrible...” Keith Henry, MD

“I thought, ‘I’m a nurse. I need to do something with this.’ So I started ... trying to learn what I could about AIDS then. HIV. ... I remember doing CE courses. You would get this course, a correspondence course, and it was three pages long because that is all that was known then about HIV at the time.” Brian Goodroad

“I remember many times I’d be introduced as a physician in the hospital and someone would say, ‘This is Frank Rhame and he is from the HIV Clinic.’ People would make a little joke and step back.” Frank Rhame, MD

“What has always impressed me about the whole Minnesota response was the organic nature of it. Everything was so grassroots.” James Maurer

“We had to keep moving. This was a fast-moving thing and we had to be movers. It wasn’t a comfortable, sit-around-in-the-living room thing.” Linda Brandt

“I remember trying to get the [Minnesota AIDS Project - MAP] Board to have some discussions about how do we want to allocate our resources between prevention and services for people living with HIV. They are very different kinds of things at that time [late 1980s/early 1990s].” Lorraine Teel

“AIDS was a test. It was a test of, you know, how humans respond to humans. It was a test of how public health can or can’t be effective. It was a test about how government can do good things and government can do bad things.” Michael T. Osterholm

“...the spiritual message would be ‘How am I caring for my brother? How am I caring for my sister?’ ‘What kind of a God do I believe in, do I want to let other people know about?’ Not by speaking about it, but because we care, this is what our beliefs are about.” Joanne Lucid

“You try to lift up as many people [as you can] and take them with you. That’s what we try to figure out with the [Indigenous Peoples’] Task Force. Take as many people with us as we

can and move forward.” Sharon Day
“A man [employee] ... from years ago at MAP said, ‘I just want to turn out the lights. I want to be the last guy out the door and turn out the lights.’ Nobody thought it [HIV/AIDS] was going to go this long.” Rob Yaeger

Recently, the Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) was awarded a significant Minnesota Legacy grant to complete another twenty HIV/AIDS healthcare providers’ oral history interviews. Interviews will cover the time period up to the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The Tretter Collection also will be the repository for these interviews.

1 The project was supported by a grant to the Hennepin History Museum through Legacy funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund established by the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008, and administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.