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Volume 11 Number 2

# TRETTER LETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**  
Archives and Special Collections

## ***Tretter Collection Accepts 2016 Newlen-Symons Award***



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## FROM THE CHAIR

By Anne Hodson, Chair

I have been on the Tretter Collection Advisory Board for several years and I am proud of the archive and the work we are doing. But this spring I am especially proud as we have been recognized by the American Library Association for excellence in serving the GLBT community. Out of the many archives across America and beyond, the ALA assessed the work of the Tretter Collection as standing out and deserving of the inaugural Newlen-Symons Award.

The criteria for the Newlen-Symons award are innovation, impact, sustainability, and advocacy. In announcing the selection of the Tretter Collection, ALA President Sari Feldman said, "Through preservation, collection development and advocacy, the Tretter Collection embodies how libraries can transform lives and communities."

Those of us who are in the trenches know the importance of the Tretter Collection. We have over 3,000 linear feet of material giving voice to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience and the Collection is available to all users free of charge.

Over the past several years, we have focused on adding materials from under-represented communities, including bisexuals, people of color, and the transgender community. We are not only doing important work, we are doing it the right way. Winning a national award reinforces

what supporters and donors know – we have a treasure in our midst.

But we are not resting on our laurels! This June during Twin Cities Pride, we will debut a new exhibit at the History Pavilion. We invite you to stop in, see the panels on America's First Gay Marriage, and enjoy the only air conditioning in the park. As you will see in the following pages, we are participating in international conventions, adding remarkable new material and engaging with the community at the archive and beyond. And the Tretter Transgender Oral History Project, the most ambitious project of its kind in the world, has completed the first year with outstanding results.

We have so much to be proud of – and so much more to do. After you enjoy the updates in the following pages, I hope you will consider the many ways to support the work of the archive. You might be the volunteering type.

Or you may prefer to write a check. Perhaps you have materials to

donate, or know someone who might have letters, photo albums, journals, meeting minutes, records of community organizations, and more.

Please call our curator, Lisa Vecoli (612-624-7526) to explore what we have, what we need, or the ways you can help.



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

<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/tretter.phtml>

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Tretter Letter June, 2016

## 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. If we neglected to include your name in the list in this issue, please send us a quick note and we will gladly make sure to include your name in our next issue.

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## From the field....



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

### **Women's Author Event –**

In cooperation with Quatrefoil Library, the Tretter Collection hosted a Women's Author Event on March 26. The authors reading included: Rachel Gold; Catherine Lundoff; Pat Schmatz; Judith Katz; Jessie Chandler; MB Panichi; and Ellen Lansky. Attendees had the opportunity to hear authors read, ask questions, and discuss writing and publishing. A big thank you to the authors sharing their work with us and to Quatrefoil Library for co-hosting.

### **Group Visits to Tretter –**

In the past several months we hosted a number of groups at the Tretter Collection including: J-Pride; the board of Telling Queer History; Carleton College student library workers; donors to the Human Rights Campaign Fund; and the University of Minnesota Pride at Work group. Tours are a wonderful way to introduce people to the amazing material we have at the Tretter Collection. The possibilities depend on timing and the size of the group. If you would like to discuss a possible event, please contact Lisa Vecoli at lvecoli@umn.edu or 612-624-7526.

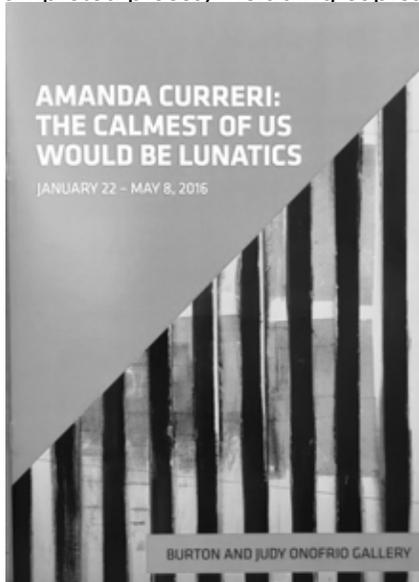
### **Rochester Art Center –**

Artist Amanda Curreri visited the Tretter Collection last winter to find inspiration and material for her show

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From the Field, continued from page 3

“Amanda Curreri: The Calmest of Us Would Be Lunatics” at the Rochester Art Center. The Collection loaned several pieces from the archive to display in the galleries with her completed pieces, including copies



of The Ladder, a Gay Membership Card from the Barbara Gittings Collection and a photograph from the Michael McConnell Files. In collaboration with the exhibit, curator Lisa Vecoli did a presentation on “Minnesota NICE: GLBT History in the Heartland” in the gallery on February 27.

### **Tretter History Exhibit –**

The Tretter Collection GLBT history panels have been on the road. Several were on display at the Funding Forward Conference in April, at the American Association for the History of Medicine Conference in April and at Synchrony Financial in May. If you would like to ask about hosting part or all of the GLBT History exhibit or the new exhibit, America’s First Gay Marriage, please contact Lisa Vecoli at lvecoli@umn.edu or 612-624-7526.

### **Program in Human Sexuality –**

The University of Minnesota Libraries

were proud to host a table at the 45th Anniversary Gala for the Program in Human Sexuality. The Tretter Collection also had a table at the Discovery Showcase during the pre-event reception, where we were able to connect with a number of community members about the archive.

### **Class Projects at the Archive –**

We have had several class projects over the past months. “Theatre: Theory and Practice” gave students from U of M the opportunity to review material from Patrick’s Cabaret to inspire them on their final project. The material arrived at the archive 45 minutes before the class! So the first order of business was an inventory. We put the students to work creating a spreadsheet of collection contents. This gave them an idea of what was in the collection and will help us process the collection in the near future.

A second class in the graduate program for Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development worked with curator Lisa Vecoli on a project to identify and inventory all



*Photo: Sample tray before sorting wasted both width and height.*

of the archives’ holdings on F.R.E.E. the gay student group formed on the University of Minnesota campus in May of 1969. Students also identified potential materials to use in an exhibit on F.R.E.E. at Andersen Library. As we approach the 50th Anniversary of F.R.E.E. (and

the Stonewall Riots in June of 1969), this information will be a great use to researchers who want to learn more about early GLBT organizing in Minnesota.



*Photo: Student worker Joshlynn Borreson with one of the +600 size sorted trays she created.*

### **Books by Size Project –**

Libraries usually sort books by Library of Congress numbers, which groups similar topics together and helps users who are browsing locate related information. But it also results in tall books and short books sharing a shelf, and wide books and narrow books sharing trays, leaving gaps or wasted space. With tens of thousands of items and limited shelves, this can become a significant challenge.

Over the past 6 months the Tretter Collection’s intrepid student worker, Joshlynn Borreson, has re-shelved thousands of books, sorting them purely by size. The archive is only able to do this because we are not a browsing collection and materials are always retrieved by staff.

Joshlynn used four tray sizes to save on width and many shelf adjustments to save on height which allowed us to minimize the wasted space. The benefits have

From the Field, continued on back page

# New Acquisitions

1



**Shirley Duke Photographs** – Sometimes, out of the blue, appears the image you had given up all hope of finding. That happened a few months ago when Shirley Duke sent us the image of Amazon Bookstore in its original location in a house on Cedar Avenue. Amazon was the first lesbian feminist bookstore in the United States, and was an important community asset until its closure in 2012. A later photo of the house hung in a triptic on the walls of the bookstore, along with the façade of the 26th and Hennepin location and the exterior of the Loring Park storefront. Despite the historic nature of the store, we had no evidence of the original incarnation – until now. Shirley told the story of her home and almost all of her photos being lost in a fire. This image only survived because it happened to be in a box in the barn. We are grateful to her for sharing it with us.

2

**Northland Gay Men's Center** – The Northland Gay Men's Center donated three boxes of materials to the Tretter Collection. The records happened to be out of the building when a fire damaged the Center, so they were not damaged. The materials document the organizing work of the Center, established in 1992 for gay and bisexual men in the Duluth/Superior area.

3

**Patrick's Cabaret** – The Cabaret just celebrated its 30th anniversary and announced that it is in a time of transition. The sale of the firehouse that has been its home for 16 years means that the Cabaret has lost its physical space, but not its desire to engage and partner with communities. This change created a good time to bring materials to the archive and the Tretter Collection is honored to house the collection. The material is already being used - this spring we worked with a class of theater students who did an inventory of the material and drew inspiration to create works presented at the final Cabaret performance.

4

**Northland LGBT Elders Life Narratives** – During the fall of 2015, students in the Gender and Sexuality in Writing class at UW Superior completed a service learning project that involved interviewing an LGBT elder in the Duluth/Superior area. Students wrote up 17 narratives, often including photos provided by the interviewees. Our thanks to the students, interviewees and Prof. Julie Gard who took the time to make sure the end result found an archival home!

5



**John Hustad Collection** – We received additional materials from John Hustad, including photographs from the 1970s. Among the photographs are images from Gay House meetings and rap sessions, photos of early Twin Cities GLBT organizers, and photos taken of Andy Warhol during his visit to Minneapolis in 1975.

*We have recently received donations of photos from the early 1970s that have added enormously to our records of the time. If you, or someone you know, has photos or documents from the 60s and 70s, PLEASE have a conversation about how/where to archive and preserve these rare and important items!!!*

6

**Minnesota AIDS Project** – Another move, another perfect time to archive! MAP recently moved offices and took advantage of the process to bring more than 30 additional boxes of records to the Tretter Collection. When processed, these materials will join the existing 52 linear feet of material about MAP, local organizing, and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

# Moving Trans History Forward - 2016

By Carter Lynn Thurmond

This past March the University of Victoria hosted Moving Trans History Forward 2016, the largest transgender conference in Canadian history, with over 150 trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people convening for the weekend.<sup>1</sup> People from all walks of life attended, from community activists, academics, artists, archivists, and allies from around the globe. I was lucky enough to be one of those people in attendance. It was an amazing experience to be around so many gender non-conforming and trans people talking about our history from our own perspective, a perspective that is often neglected or overlooked by a dominant system of cis-heteronormative thought that distorts our lived experiences.

The three day long conference included sessions on a variety of topics ranging from female cross-dressing in Early Modern England and Victorian Britain, Shakespeare's *Tempest*, trans organizing and archiving, sex work, the history of sexology, and Japanese transgender identities, just to name a few. Mary Ann Saunders, for example, spoke to us about Ariel, an androgynous figure from Shakespeare's *Tempest*, who has traditionally been played by both men and women. Aleta Gruenewald, an MA philosophy candidate, addressed sexology's evolving classification system during the 19th century. Sexologists initially referred to those they saw as representing deviant forms of gender and sexuality as inverts. They then moved on to the terms transsexual and transvestite, until the trans community reclaimed a language for themselves and coined the word transgender. Ai Miller, an undergraduate student at Knox College who is working on a thesis tracing the history of transition in the United States, taught me that bias, often a term used against others to dismiss them or their views, is actually important to who we are. Without bias, Ai said, we would be pretty boring creatures, almost machine like. Sonja Dale, who is currently in the process of translating Transgender Feminism from Japanese to English, talked about how we could view transgender as a process or practice, not strictly as an identity – a point that was reiterated several times over the weekend. Rainer

Herm, Annette F. Timm, and Michael Taylor talked about the use of photography by trans people at the Magnus Hirschfeld Institute for Sexual Science, which was created during the Weimar Republic in Germany before the Nazi takeover, in an attempt to represent their identities and as an act of going public.



*Photo Above: Carter Thurmond, second from left, with other conference attendees. Photo by Lara Wilson, University of Victoria Archives, used with permission.*

The last day of the conference ended with the Founders Panel where many veteran trans activists spoke to us about their experiences growing up trans in the last half century. Speakers included Rupert Raj, who spoke about burnout compassion fatigue in the trans community, gender phobia, and the need for trans people

to integrate, not assimilate, with society. Jamie Lee Hamilton talked about her experiences as a trans activist and sex worker in poverty-stricken Downtown Eastside, Vancouver. Lastly, Jason Cromwell spoke very solemnly and powerfully about our right to express ourselves in the face of society's coercive expectation to conform to gender norms: "[T]here were all of these things that we were supposed to be because we were now men. I don't see that so much anymore... I can look around in this room and tell you that it ain't happenin' like it used to. But sometimes it still happens... We all have a right to express ourselves in any language that we choose, dress any way that we choose, behave in any way we choose." The conference concluded shortly after, and I made my way back to Minneapolis inspired and reinvigorated by everyone I met and everything I experienced and learned. I wholeheartedly look forward to attending the next Moving Trans History Forward conference in two years. To find out more about the conference visit [www.uvic.ca/mthf2016/](http://www.uvic.ca/mthf2016/).

<sup>1</sup> Smith, Cort. (2016, March 20). UVic hosts largest transgender conference in Canadian history. Retrieved from Cheknews: <http://www.cheknews.ca/uvic-hosts-largest-transgender-conference-in-canadian-history-154549/>

## Who is Carter Lynn Thurmond?

*Carter Lynn Thurmond is an intern at the Tretter Collection currently processing GLBT archival material. They moved to Minneapolis from Louisiana with their partner, Ali Ross. Carter identifies as an assigned female at birth non-binary trans/dyke and has been a vocal GLBT and political activist since 2010. They plan to donate their papers to the Tretter Collection within the next year.*

# Collaboration with Gerber Hart Library and Archives and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago

In March, collection founder Jean-Nickolaus Tretter and curator Lisa Vecoli traveled to Chicago to collaborate with two other collections.

The first partnership involved donating items to the Pritzker Military Museum and Library (PMML). These items included several military uniforms, some from Tretter's service in the Navy. In consultation with the Tretter Advisory Board it was determined that these items were out of scope for the Tretter Collection and would be a better fit with the PMML. The visit also included a tour of the PMML with founder Jennifer Pritzker and Executive Director Kenneth Clarke.

Jean-Nickolaus Tretter also spent two days at the PMML recording oral histories about his service in the military. These accounts document both his work as a translator during the war in Vietnam and his experience as a gay man. They will be added to the Holt Oral History Program being conducted at PMML to document the stories of the citizen soldier.



*Jean-Nickolaus Tretter (and photographer/curator Lisa Vecoli) meeting with Gerber Hart Board members Don Friedman and Carrie Barnett.*

An April visit back to Chicago allowed Vecoli to deliver almost 30 boxes of materials to Gerber Hart and to pick up +130 boxes to bring back to Minneapolis! These boxes include long runs of Windy City Times, Gay Chicago and other titles that have not been well represented in the Tretter Collection. It will take some time to add the new material to the catalog, but we are delighted to expand our content from the Upper Midwest.

Estimated weight - +4,000 pounds!!

Partnering with other institutions to find good homes for materials helps everyone. Finding a home for duplicate or out of scope materials means we don't have to use limited space to store them. It is even better when we replace them with content that is new in scope to us!



*Photo with Jennifer Pritzker caption: Jean-Nickolaus Tretter describes donated materials to Jennifer Pritzker, founder of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library.*

During the March trip to Chicago, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter and Lisa Vecoli also had the opportunity to tour Gerber Hart Library and Archives with board members Don Friedman and Carrie Barnett. This allowed us to arrange a swap of duplicate materials with them. We have complete runs of local GLBT publications but often receive additional copies that we do not need. We feel a responsibility to preserve them and we wanted to find good homes where they will be accessible to researchers and community members. Gerber Hart has long runs of Chicago GLBT publications that we wanted to add to the collection, so the swap was a perfect win/win collaboration.



*Curator, Lisa Vecoli and the Gerber Hart crew load up +130 boxes to bring back to the Tretter Collection.*

# Tretter Collection Wins Inaugural Newlen-Symons Award from ALA

The Tretter Collection has been awarded the inaugural Newlen-Symons award by the GLBT Round Table of the American Library Association for excellence in service to the GLBT community. Nominations for the award were open to libraries, librarians, staff members, boards or friends groups who serve the GLBT community and were judged on innovation, impact, sustainability, and advocacy.

In the press release announcing the award, the ALA wrote:

“The Newlen-Symons Award recognizes the tremendous impact of the Tretter Collection and its leadership in collecting and preserving the record of the GLBT community, from the University of Minnesota campus and beyond,” said ALA President Sari Feldman. “Through preservation, collection development and advocacy, the Tretter Collection embodies how libraries can transform lives and communities.”

The GLBTRT Executive Board selected the Tretter Collection in part for its role in organizing the international GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections (ALMS) conference, collecting materials from a wide variety of GLBT community groups and organizations (including the Log Cabin Republicans and international GLBT organizations, many in countries where homosexuality remains illegal), and the visionary development of the trans\* community oral history project.

“The Tretter Collection has been exceptional at capturing and preserving the record of the GLBT community and in collaborating with that community to develop innovative programs and resources,” said University Librarian and McKnight Presidential Professor Wendy Pradt Lougee, “Now with an international audience, the Tretter is a leader in the advancement of GLBT archives and libraries.”

We are proud of the award and the recognition by our peers. We are even more honored to have received remarkable letters of support for our nomination. Just a few of the wonderful things our nominators said about us were:

*“One of the finest and largest collections in GLBT Studies in the world, the Tretter Collection is a tremendous resource for scholars, students, and community members. I offer the Libraries’ nomination my strongest endorsement.”*

– Professor Regina Kunzel, Princeton University

*“The Tretter Collection was established in 2000 and has grown to be a 3,000 linear feet archive housing a rich and vibrant collection of GLBT history locally, nationally, and internationally. Located at the University of Minnesota’s Andersen Library, the Tretter Collection is a prominent resource that has many students, faculty, staff, and community members visiting for research, education, curiosity and advocacy.”*

– Katrice Albert, Vice President for Equity and Diversity, U of MN

*“Tretter staff work very hard to assure that the Collection’s resources are not just “archived” in dark, climate controlled caverns for recall by a select few. Staff are proactive leaders who engage the community and involve them publicly in awareness and use of the archive’s materials. This is done through staging events specific to the Tretter Collection and partnering with others for exhibits, displays, performances, symposia and classes.”*

– Michael McConnell, donor and author

*“When searching for a location for our GLBT political papers which spanned over 30 years, we looked at 10 locations around the country that could house, organize and present publicly all the history of the GLBT Community. Once seeing and experiencing the physical location of the Tretter Collection, meeting its founder, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter and seeing what this incredible collection had to offer the present and future generations of the GLBT community, we knew we had found the perfect spot.”*

– Len Olds & Hugh Rouse, donors and board members of Log Cabin Republicans

*“The Tretter Collection is expanding its role as a leader in efforts to collect, preserve and make accessible the history of the entire GLBT community. By taking advantage of new and creative opportunities, partnering with local/national/international colleagues, and speaking and publishing about this*

*Newlen-Symons, continued on back page*

# Tretter Transgender Oral History Project Update

by Andrea Jenkins

It has been an amazing year since the project began one year ago in April 2015. After spending the first three months setting up the project, attending workshops to learn the intricacies and ethics of developing an Oral History Project, recruiting and organizing a great advisory committee, and researching and purchasing the appropriate equipment, and hiring a transcriptionist: I began to interview members of the trans and gender non-conforming community in Minnesota and around the country.

## “Big Mama”

To date we have completed 68 interviews, with a wide variety of identities, ages, and ethnicities. Our oldest interviewee so far is an 83 year trans woman, named Donna “Big Mama” Ewing. Her story is fascinating, born on a farm in southern Minnesota, she recounted that she felt like and was treated as a little girl from age 18 months old. She began working in the kitchen of the farm as early as 5 or 6 years old, serving food to the farm hands and other workers and they all treated her like the little girl that she believed she was.

At 19, she moved to the Twin Cities and eventually began

to truly express herself as the woman she was, and later became one of the first people to access gender confirmation surgery through the Transsexual Research Project at the University of Minnesota. (The Project, started by Dr. Donald Hastings, was the second place in the United States to perform sex reassignment surgeries.) Big Mama worked for 21 years after her surgery as, in her words, the coat check “girl,” at the Gay 90’s in downtown Minneapolis. She was the first transgender person many community members met, and served as an ambassador, modeling someone who was able to successfully transition and create a new life for herself.

Hers is reflective of the type of stories I have been so honored and humbled to collect. Some of the luminaries thus far include, Kate Bornstein, Chrishaun “CeCe” McDonald, Roxanne Anderson and Ignacio Rivera. And while these may not be household names in the broader community, these are folks who, through advocacy, writing, and the arts, have shaped the modern movement for transgender equality here in Minnesota and throughout the country. Also crucial are the dozens of stories of everyday transgender people who are quietly changing the ways the world experiences gender,

gender variance and the need to respect human dignity.

## Why is this important?

The Project is critical to countering the negative narratives that are being espoused by mean-spirited politicians and others who would ban transgender folks from using the bathroom of their choice, as we have witnessed in North Carolina. It is important because, to date, there have been 9 trans people of color murdered in the United States in 2016 and 24 murders in 2015. This project is important because the rates of suicide calls have doubled in the past year and the rates of unemployment and homelessness continue to grow and plague members of the trans community throughout the country.

Beyond the amazing oral histories that I have been able to collect, the project has provided me a platform to travel throughout Minnesota and the country to discuss the issues facing the community. I have been a panelist, a keynote speaker, and contributor to multiple publications and events in places like: Augsburg College; Macalester College; Hamline University; State University of New York at

TOHP, continued on page 10

Geneseo; The University of Massachusetts at Amherst; and the Organization of American Historians in Providence, R.I. I even attended and presented at the “Moving Trans History Forward” Conference at the University of Victoria, which houses the largest archives of transgender history in the world, with local actress and participant in the Tretter Transgender Oral History Project, Erica Fields.

These stories that I have been privileged to witness are fascinating in their everydayness, but also inspiring in their messages of triumph over adversity. One participant stated, “The Tretter Transgender Oral History Project humanizes and connects the gender narrative through space and time in an unprecedented compilation of personal and collective stories. Growing up, I felt isolated because I did not see my trans identity reflected in the broader cultural discourse around gender. I wish I would have had a resource like this when I was younger. I am honored to contribute my story to the collection so that future generations of trans folks know that we have always been here, and we aren’t going away.”

### Funding Update

Earlier this year the project was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Headwaters Foundation, in



“Big Mama” Donna Ewing and Andrea Jenkins record an oral history.

addition to multi-year support from the Tawani Foundation. This support will allow the project to travel to places like Duluth, Fargo, Milwaukee, Lacrosse, Chicago, and other locations throughout the Upper Midwest to more fully include the transgender experience.

The project also benefitted from generous individual donors (listed in the donor section of the newsletter). We are grateful for this tremendous support and look forward to expanding the representation

in the project and capturing more of the diverse and vibrant transgender voices in the Upper Midwest.

To learn more about the project (donate, provide an oral history, or volunteer)

please contact Andrea Jenkins at [jenki120@umn.edu](mailto:jenki120@umn.edu) or 612-628-4379.

# The Fight for Marriage Equality Has Roots in Minnesota

Archives are dedicated to collecting and preserving history but every now and then, if we are lucky, we also get to be a part of making history. Last winter the Tretter Collection was proud to host the book launch for “The Wedding Heard ‘Round the World: America’s First Gay Marriage” by Michael McConnell with Jack Baker, as told to Gail Langer Karwoski. Published by the University of Minnesota Press, the book tells the story of Michael and Jack’s application for a marriage license in 1970, their marriage in 1971, the court fights over marriage and discrimination, their roles in gay organizing, and their life together.

We also debuted a new exhibit “America’s First Gay Marriage” at Andersen Library which was timed to coincide with the publication. The exhibit uses materials from the Michael McConnell Files to document the roots of the fight for marriage equality and demonstrates how the movement began in Minnesota in 1970. The exhibit uses photographs, letters, clippings, and correspondence from the McConnell Files. Michael and Jack were highly visible and active and their collection includes correspondence from some of the giants of early GLBT organizing like Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny. It also includes letters from thousands people around the United States and beyond – many GLBT, some allies, and a few filled with hate. The full collection fills 34 boxes with 70,000+ pages of material, so the exhibit is designed to offer a condensed and engaging overview.

The new exhibit on “America’s First Gay Marriage” will be on display at the History Pavilion during Twin Cities Pride this June. We invite you to stop in, enjoy the air conditioning and marvel at our history!

Loring Park, June 25 & 26

To promote the book, Michael and Jack have been touring the country, doing events, and talking to the press. The Tretter Collection and Andersen Library were pleased to host the interview the couple did with Esme Murphy of WCCO, as well as several events that have given the public an opportunity to hear from and talk with Michael and Jack.

The exhibit is available to travel. If you know of an organization, event, or location that might be interested in hosting all or part of the exhibit, please contact Lisa Vecoli at [lvecoli@umn.edu](mailto:lvecoli@umn.edu) or 612-624-7526.

Tretter Letter June, 2016



WCCO reporter Esme Murphy interviews Michael McConnell and Jack Baker at the Tretter Collection.



The full exhibit is 25 panels which draw from the materials in the Michael McConnell Files at the Tretter Collection.



The items on display at Andersen Library include the cake topper from the 1971 wedding.



# TRETTER LETTER



NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE  
TRETTER COLLECTION

The Tretter Collection  
Special Collections and Rare Books  
University of Minnesota Libraries  
111 Elmer L. Andersen Library  
222 21st Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/tretter.phtml>

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been immediate – sorting the books by size has saved us almost 40% on our shelf space! It has identified books that were shelved out of place and made it easier to find material in densely populated Library of Congress zones. (Library geeks will understand that we have a LOT of HQ75, HQ76 and PS355\* volumes!) And best of all, it means that when we run short on space in the middle of the collection we won't need to shift thousands of books to open up room at a specific location.

A big thank you to Joshlynn and the cataloging staff that are helping us on this project. The end result is making life better in so many ways!

Newlen-Symons, continued from page 8

*work the collection and its staff are making a difference in the field of GLBT history."*

*-- Kris Kiesling, Director of Archives and Special Collections, U of MN*

*"The importance of the materials, the commitment to diversifying the voices in the archive, the leadership in establishing the GLBT ALMS Conference in 2006, the creative partnerships with community organizations, and the institutionalized accountability to the community are all reasons I choose to dedicate my volunteer time to the Tretter Collection."*

*-- Anne Hodson, Chair, Tretter Collection Advisory Board*

We thank the GLBT Roundtable, the American Library Association, and those who wrote in support of our nomination. We look forward to the award presentation during the Stonewall Book Awards program at the ALA Annual Conference in June. (Ironically, curator Lisa Vecoli will not be able attend and accept the award as she will be at this years' ALMS Conference in London – the founding of which was cited as a reason we were selected.)