

Stonewall Library and Archives Prepares for Grand Opening

Asks Local Artists to Volunteer Designs in Logo Competition

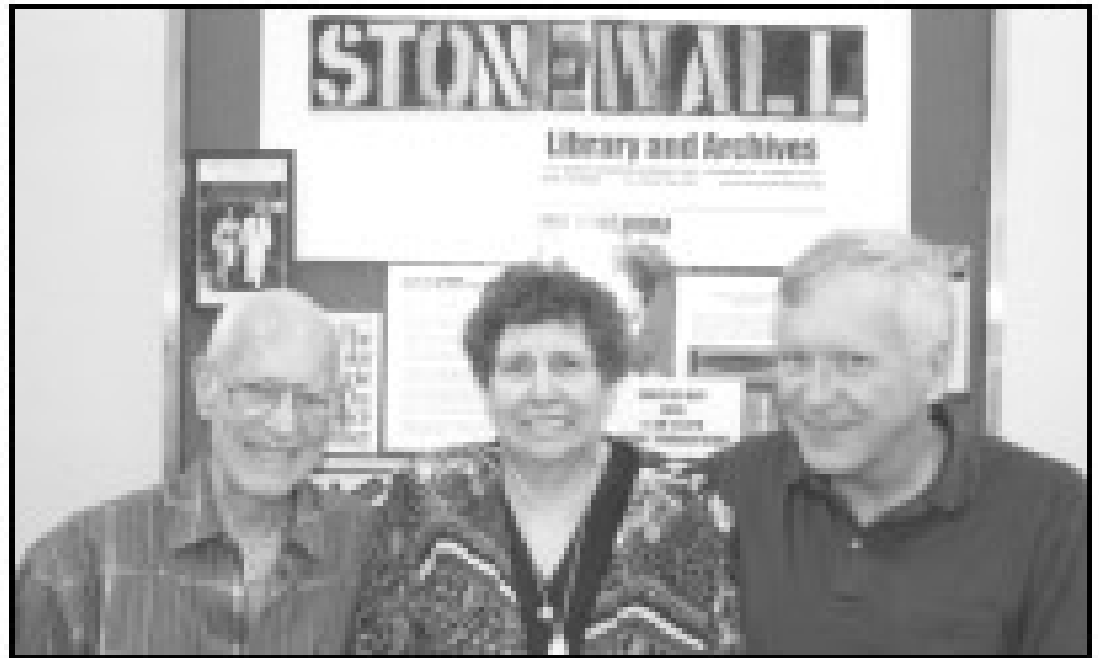
By Landerdale With the help of dozens of volunteers on Saturday, the Stonewall Library and Archives successfully moved its 10,000 titles into their permanent home at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of South Florida. Now, a special committee of the library's board of directors is planning a weekend of grand opening events to celebrate the tremendous progress the new space represents not only to an organization dedicated to preserving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender culture since 1973 but to the diverse communities it serves.

Stonewall Library and Archives' Grand Opening Weekend begins Friday May 11th, with an invited-only reception for donors, volunteers, and others who have contributed to the library's achievements. Committee chair Naomi Parker says the first order of business is to thank everyone who made it possible for the library to assume the vital role it now plays in our communities. "We really look forward to welcoming our stakeholders to our beautiful new facility, and expressing our gratitude for the support they've demonstrated so reliably over the

years. Without their help, there wouldn't be a new library. In fact, there wouldn't be a library at all." Organizers say they will treat their 150 special guests with food, drink, and music, much of which community businesses and organizations are generously donating.

On Saturday May 13th, the library welcomes the public to an open house from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM. "We intend to craft the open house into a living celebration of the culture the library works so hard to preserve," said the library's vice president, Marina DeLoys. "We hope we can offer visitors more than a tour of our new educational center. We want to give them a dynamic community experience that will inspire them to return to the library."

In an effort to create a fresh corporate image to accompany the library's freshly-painted facility, the board of directors is appealing to local artists and graphic designers to submit ideas for a new library logo. The library will display all submissions during the Grand Opening Weekend, and ask visitors to choose their favorite. The board



of directors will then choose the winning design from a number of entries including popularity. "In designing a new look for the library, I would encourage contributors to consider both the library's highly respected history as well as its contemporary relevance," said Margo Poston, president of the library's board of directors. "An image that conveys both the library's past and its promising future would be well-positioned

to win this competition." Finished artwork must be submitted by May 1st. For other submission requirements, participants should contact Greg Scott at 954-565-6873.

For more information about Stonewall Library and Archives' Grand Opening Weekend, to volunteer to help plan upcoming events, or to contribute in-kind support for these events, please contact Naomi Parker at 954-767-8563.

In the Pink Defies the Odds

New Bookstore Opens With GLBT Titles

By Norm Kent

Wilson, Mass. has a new gay and lesbian bookstore, and it is *In the Pink*, located in an intimate rectangular space located at 2285 Wilson Drive.

The storefront and renovations to the once-busy newspaper office are striking, and the environment is attractive and inviting. But it is a gutsy and risky investment, as more and more independent and gay and lesbian bookstores are facing a financial crisis due to the growing acceptance of gift titles in major bookstore chains.

In fact, New York City's popular *It Different Light* Bookstore, opened in 1993, closed just last week, a victim, it said "of growing tolerance." It had been considered one of the premiere outlets in the country.

According to book industry experts, gay people have not way back on our once inalienable habit of buying gay books in gay bookstores, and the easiest excuse seems to be the accessibility of online ordering.

In this month's *Advocate*, noted author and columnist Gabriel Rovello writes that the 1980's and 90's were "the golden age" for gay bookstores, places that became "gay community centers for the life of the mind." The two owners of *In the Pink* hope to

capture the magic again.

Partners Adam and Leland Segar both from Philadelphia, where the former practiced law, while the latter was a communications. They opened their shop on March 3, and it is slowly filling up with books, magazines, greeting cards, and a wide array of literature written.

They have already announced they are going to be bringing in authors to discuss their books at their shop, and Harold White and Miami author Gerald Libonati was one of their first, chatting about his November, 2009 publication of *The Asexual LYN*, an evocative read about a typical American high school boy struggling with geometry and his sexual identity.

In the Pink Books offers novels, non-fiction, biographies, and sophisticated literature by gift authors. As the shelves slowly get filled, a collage of gay life unfolds in rainbow surroundings. The owners have even compiled a recommended book list, in pink paper, of course, which this month includes Christopher Rice's popular new paperback, *A Diversity of Souls*. The talented son of award-winning writer Ann Rice, Chris crafts a story of two friends who travel divergent paths through their New Orleans high school.



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Also on their list for this month is the intriguing *Black Mass*, written by the author of... well, *Jesus Mass*, Eric Myers. If you are looking for something in particular, Adam indicates he will accommodate you by searching for out-of-print books, special ordering any books in print, and mailing any of your selections, carefully packaged, world wide.

Gabriel Rovello made his *Advocate* column by asking if there is anything we can do to turn around the despairing tendency

not to shop in gay and lesbian bookstores, in favor of the larger chains.

"Yes," he answers, "It used to go back to buying our gay and lesbian books exclusively at lesbian and gay bookstores... think of it as a little tax, an investment in our future."

Here at the *Express*, we couldn't agree more.

Look for *In the Pink Book Review* in at least every other issue of the *Express*, starting today.

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