



Milwaukee LGBT History Project, Inc.

Dr. Terry Boughner

"Consider what it was for a Black in Mississippi or Georgia in the '60's. Like them, we, too, must have a dream but admit that no dream will come to reality without a difficult and sometimes desperate struggle. It is time to quit fooling ourselves. It is time to admit what we have to face and face it. It is time to say that to our own selves – we must be true! It can not be any other way or we will remain in the valley and never reach the mountain top with our dream." – Dr. Terry Boughner

Dr. Terry Boughner spent his life researching, teaching, recording and documenting Gay history. Co-founder and editor of The Wisconsin Light newspaper, Terry passed away January 31, 2007. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Terry received a Ph.D. in History focusing on Western Hemisphere Studies. He became a Professor at La Roche College in Pittsburgh, PA where he taught history from 1969 to 1983. During that time he chaired the Social Sciences Division and the History Department, often receiving the "Teacher of the Year" award. Several students kept in touch with Terry over the years and he was deeply beloved by his students.

In 1986, Terry moved to Milwaukee to live with Jerry Johnson after an 18 month long distance relationship. This relationship endured for 20+ years until Terry's death. In 1987, they founded The Wisconsin Light newspaper, a publication for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. The newspaper began in controversy when they could not find anyone who would print a "Gay" publication. Once one was found The Wisconsin Light continued to provide cutting edge news and commentary to the LGBT community for 11 years.

Terry was an accomplished writer and was considered an expert on the German Gay Holocaust of World War II. Making 8 trips to Germany, Terry interviewed over 20 Gay survivors of the German concentration camps. He wrote a 26 part series of articles on this subject that was published in The Gay Community News in Hawaii and in The Wisconsin Light. In 1988, the Alyson Press published OUT OF ALL TIME: a Gay and Lesbian History written by Terry. Covering 5,000 years of LGBT history, the Lambda Rising Book Report stated that the book was "a creditable, entertaining source of the sort of information which has been left out of most history books." Terry also wrote for Madison's OUT newspaper, WISCONSIN IN-STEP magazine and QUEST magazine. From 1987-1989 Dr. Boughner did a segment, GayStory, for Tri-Cable Tonight, a Milwaukee Gay cable show, highlighting Gays in history.

Five novels written by Terry have yet to be published. Terry said, "If I publish them they will no longer belong to me and I can't change them." He also wrote hundreds of unpublished short stories as well as Gay articles that were, primarily, historical in content. A play, All Loves Excelling was produced by Off the Wall Production in July of 2000 at the New Circlestage Theatre in Milwaukee.

Terry received numerous awards for his efforts at documenting Gay history including a Lifetime Achievement Award from PrideFest. His written work serves as a reminder that the history of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people is an important part of every community's history.

Sources: www.mkeiglbthist.org QLife vol.3 Issue 3