





### *The first meeting, September 9, 1907*

“Gradually I told my father that perhaps I would leave San Francisco. He was not disturbed by this, after all there was at that time a great deal of going and coming and there were many friends of mine going. Within a year I had also gone and come to Paris. There I went to see Mrs. Stein who had in the meantime returned to Paris and there at her house I met Gertrude Stein. I was impressed by the coral brooch that she wore and by her voice. I may say that only three times in my life have I met a genius and each time a bell within me rang and I was not mistaken, and in each case it was before there was any general recognition of the quality of genius in them. The three geniuses of whom I wish to speak are Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso and Alfred Whitehead.

I have met many important people,  
I have met several great people but I have only known three first class geniuses and in each case on sight within me something rang. In no one of the three cases have I been mistaken.  
In this way my new full life began.”

- from *THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALICE B. TOKLAS*  
by Gertrude Stein (1933)

“In the room were Mr. and Mrs. Stein and Gertrude Stein. It was Gertrude Stein who held my complete attention, as she did for all the many years I knew her until her death, and all these empty ones since then. She was a golden brown presence, burned by the Tuscan sun and with a golden glint in her warm brown hair. She was dressed in a warm brown corduroy suit. She wore a large round coral brooch and when she talked, very little, or laughed, a good deal, I thought her voice came from this brooch. It was unlike anyone else’s voice – deep, full, velvety like a great contralto’s, like two voices. She was large and heavy with delicate small hands and a beautifully modeled and unique head. it was often compared to a Roman emperor’s, but later Donald Sutherland said that her eyes made her a primitive Greek.

We were given tea and left shortly afterwards. Gertrude Stein asked me to come back to the rue de Fleurus the next afternoon, when she would take me for a walk.”

from *WHAT IS REMEMBERED* by Alice B. Toklas (1963)



## INTRODUCTION

### THE IDEA

On a September day in 1907, a 30 year old San Franciscan arrived at the Gare de Lyon in Paris. She was invited to afternoon tea the day of her arrival by hometown friends and there she met someone who would forever change her life. So began the almost 40 year relationship between Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein. Each would recount the meeting in a slightly different way, but that encounter almost 100 years ago would alter not only their lives, but also literary history.

2007 marks the 100th anniversary of this significant meeting which should be remembered and celebrated. This anniversary is extremely important, unique and timely. As far as I know, there has been no commemoration of this kind which celebrates a couple's first meeting – let alone a same-sex couple. However, had Gertrude and Alice not met, I believe, the course of Gertrude's personal life and her life as a writer would have been completely different – it would have been *The Autobiography of ...who?* And who knows what would have become of Alice's life – would she have returned to San Francisco and then...? (A fascinating topic of discussion in '07!)

This invitation outlines some ideas for honoring this anniversary internationally with a series of events. The title for this commemoration is *Gertrude and Alice: 100 Years, 100 Roses*. These ideas are designed to serve as a springboard for further brainstorming and development.

Individuals and organizations in both Europe and the U.S. have been contacted about this anniversary and there is considerable interest in making it happen.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Events may be organized independently as appropriate for an organization or city. Also, aspects of this project may be incorporated into existing programming within organizations or used to complement programming which may be in the planning stages. For continuity, however, a master calendar of activities will be coordinated in San Francisco.

### FUNDING

Some costs for carrying out this project will be covered by registration fees or ticket sales. I will be glad to work with any organizations on fundraising to enable this project to happen.

You are invited to join this celebration in ways most appropriate for your organization.

- Hans R. Gallas, Project Initiator and Coordinator



## PROJECT COORDINATORS

Joan Jasper & Jim Van Buskirk, San Francisco Public Library; Lenore Naxon & Barbara Lane, San Francisco Jewish Community Center; Laura Sheppard, Mechanics' Institute Library; Rose Katz, San Francisco Jewish Library; Victoria Steele, UCLA and Karl-Heinz Steinle, Schwules Museum Berlin

## THE INITIAL SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING COMMITTEE

Hans Gallas (background information page 6)

Jim Van Buskirk,  
Director, Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library

Paul Padgette,  
editor of *The Dance Photography of Carl Van Vechten* and retired book dealer

Dr. Lissa Tyler Renaud,  
actor, writer, scholar, currently teaching at the Taiwan National University of the Arts

Renate Stendhal,  
counselor, translator and author of *True Lesbian Desire* and  
*Gertrude Stein In Words and Pictures*

Trudy Zimmerman,  
fundraising consultant

## SAMPLING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AWARE OF THIS PROJECT

Karren Alenier,  
poet, writer, critic  
librettist for the new Stein opera "Gertrude Stein Invents A Jump Early On"

Edward Burns,  
professor, William Paterson College, editor of  
*Staying On Alone: Letters of Alice B. Toklas*, executor Toklas estate

Dr. Ulla Dydo,,  
Professor Emerita, City University of New York, author of  
*Gertrude Stein: The Language That Rises 1923-1934*

Bruce Kellner,  
Professor Emeritus Millersville University, author of *A Gertrude Stein Companion*  
and numerous books about Carl Van Vechten

Miriam Margolyes,  
actor and originator of the role of Gertrude Stein in the play  
*Gertrude Stein and A Companion*

Dr. Gerdi Sobek-Beutter,  
project consultant for project development and Stein scholar - Stuttgart, Germany

Monique Truong,  
author, *The Book of Salt*

Dr. Patricia Willis,  
curator, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
Yale University



## '07 ANNIVERSARY IDEAS FOR OTHER GROUPS' PARTICIPATION

Events would occur in various cities around the world and could in some cases utilize video conferencing. Timing is flexible but fall, 2007 would be most appropriate.

- **SYMPOSIA/LECTURE SERIES**

- Sampling of Possible Literary/Historical topics

- "The Biographical Trap: The Works or the Icons."
- "Do They Like Me? Do They Really Like Me? Being A Friend or Acquaintance of GertrudeandAlice."
- "GertrudeandAlice As Characters in Fictional Works: Is A Rose Really A Rose?"
- "Sisters, Aunts and Godmothers: GertrudeandAlice and Children."
- "Alice the Writer: Conflicts of a Collaborator."

- Sampling of Possible Social-Political topics

- "The Stein and Toklas Marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."
- "Sex and the Salon: Gay and/or Queer in GertrudeandAlice's Paris."
- "Collecting GertrudeandAlice: From the Attic and Auction Floor to eBay."

- **SALONS** in various settings.

- **EXHIBITIONS**

- From existing collections and/or items from collectors.
- Juried Invitational - works inspired by GertrudeandAlice.

- **PUBLISHING**

- Anniversary editions of Stein or Toklas works.
- Special editions of literary magazines or journals.

- **THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS** - Stein works or plays about GertrudeandAlice.

- **MUSICAL AND DANCE PERFORMANCES/COMMISSIONS.**

- **FOOD EVENTS** - restaurants and receptions featuring Alice-inspired menus.

- **1934-35 U.S. LECTURE TOUR** - programs with organizations they visited.

- **JUST FOR FUN** - GandA look-a-like contests, Pride Parade floats, marathon readings of their works, Alice cook-a-thon/recipe contests.



## Hans R. Gallas

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- Born in Berlin
- Grew up and educated in Springfield, Illinois
- BA, Illinois College, Jacksonville. German, English and Theatre
- MA Illinois State University, Normal. Theatre History – focused on European theatre and the arts 1919-1939
- Teacher - English, German, Theatre, Visual Arts
- Worked for 8 years for the Illinois Arts Council in Chicago
- Lived in Minneapolis/St. Paul for about 4 years, taught at Minnesota Museum of Art
- In San Francisco for about 15 years
- Creative Director for a San Francisco based brand consulting company, TATTOO
- Stein/Toklas collector for 18 years with projects including:
  - exhibitions and programs at the San Francisco Public Library -
    - 1998, “Gertrude and Alice, From There to There: Being Geniuses Together”
    - 2002, “We Love You, Alice B. Toklas! A 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration”  
[exhibit moved to the American Library in Paris - a description of exhibit included in John Baxter’s book WE’LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS: SEX AND LOVE IN THE CITY OF LIGHT (2005)]
    - 2004 “A Life in Food: A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of *The Alice B. Toklas Cook Book*” with Bruce Kellner
    - 2002, launched the Web site [gertrudeandalice.com](http://gertrudeandalice.com)

### Works-in-progress:

- To be published in 2007, a children’s picture book, *Gertrude and Alice and Fritz and Tom*, illustrated by Tom Hachtman
- Editing the first Toklas anthology, *The Alice B. Toklas Reader*
- 2007 symposia and events, *GertrudeandAlice: 100 Years, 100 Roses*, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GertrudeandAlice’s meeting
- A play about Alice B. Toklas, *Cooking With Alice B.* (Alice cooking on a 1950s TV show)
- Series of assemblages inspired by the works of Stein



Cover design, logo and 100 rose wreath by Hans R. Gallas  
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