

## Northfield Poetry: December Newsletter

*Poet Laureate*  


**Open Mic – 6:30 PM, Wednesday, December 11**  
**Northfield Public Library Atrium**



## Open Mic Poetry

Join local poets and poetry lovers for an open mic event.

**Second  
Wednesday of  
the Month**  
**6:30–7:30**

*Future Dates*      *January 08*  
*November 13*      *February 12*  
*December 11*      *March 12*

210 Washington St • 507-645-6606 • [mynpl.org](http://mynpl.org)  



### **Poet Laureate Announcement:**

Happy change of seasons to all! Looking forward to snow and colder temperatures soon, as well as to seeing everyone again on Wednesday, December 11 in the Northfield Library Atrium. We have been SO pleased with the turnout at the recent POME events--thank you all so much.

Here is a link to the NPL calendar:

<https://mynpl.libcal.com/calendar?cid=-1&t=m&d=2024-12&cal=-1&inc=0>

Happening this month:

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## Cyber Monday Flash Fiction Contest

**December 2nd, 2024 at 10:00AM - Monday December 23rd, 2024 at 4:00PM**

This year, Content Bookstore invites you to celebrate with the power of words in our third annual flash fiction contest. Tell us a terrifying tale of "Minnesota Nice" gone awry -- basically, the scariest midwestern story you can dream up (as close to or far from reality as you want), **all in 1,000 words or less.**

The Content Booksellers will deliberate and choose their winner once submissions close, and you, dear readers, will also have your chance to read the submissions and vote on your own favorite. Don't miss your chance to gather with your fellow writers in person -- further defying Cyber Monday conventions!

**--and share your story on Thursday, January 2nd at 6 p.m. at an Open Mic Night of thrilling tales!**

**Contest submissions will open on Cyber Monday, December 2nd.** Write the spookiest story you can and submit it to us by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 23rd, and you'll be eligible for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to your friendly neighborhood Content Bookstore (which we guarantee to be your safe space this holiday season).

**Northfield Poetry: December Newsletter***Poet Laureate*  
Northfield, MN**Becky Boling****Here Beyond Small Wonders***Becky Boling*

League of Minnesota Poets poetry prize winner Becky Boling offers her first collection of 37 poems in **HERE BEYOND SMALL WONDERS**.

Filled with vivid description of locales from the ice-covered pond in her backyard to the vast expanse of Lake Michigan, Becky works with contrasts of scale: in **ADIRONDACK CHAIR IN SNOW** she shows ironies of context; in **MUSCA DOMESTICA** she describes subjects as small as the magnified fly on her windowsill. Her tiny hummingbirds fly the Hudson River.

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The poems on these pages make the most of a variety of forms, including some intriguing shape poems befitting the Co-Poet Laureate of Northfield. Enjoy this volume for its close observation of a broad landscape.

-Mary Moore Easter, *THE WAY SHE WANTS TO GET THERE* (Nodin Press)

The world in this book is a place of danger and wonder. Dead flies on a windowsill, a dead ant in the shower, and a dog's discovery of a dead mouse reveal "the terrors of creation." To counter loss, Becky Boling translates otherwise mundane experiences into moments of wonder. Autumn leaves are "love letters pinned/to tree limbs," pumpkins sprout into carriages, and a community garden thriving in a city reminds us it's never too late to salvage grace. Eden exists, but it's temporary. While the humans in *HERE BEYOND SMALL WONDERS* are "shipwrecked islanders" washed up on earth's shore, hope lies in the capacity to imagine, as Boling does, the reciprocity possible in a world tended with care.

-Diane LeBlanc, *THE FEAST DELAYED*

It comes as no surprise that Becky Boling is a regular contributor to a poetry journal called *VISUAL VERSE*. She writes with a painterly eye, employing a rich palate of colors and deft brushstrokes to create art out of the ordinary and the ephemeral. One of the beauties of *HERE BEYOND SMALL WONDERS* is how the poems play off one another, how the poet moves from the colors of the sunset to the colors of her laundry on the line, how her sunlit attention ranges through the world to illuminate its small wonders. Through the precision of her language and the acuity of her eye, Becky Boling makes everything in these poems both instantly familiar and refreshingly new.

-Rob Hardy, *SHELTER IN PLACE* (Finishing Line Press)

*BEYOND SMALL WONDERS* is the best book of poems I've read in a decade. Becky Boling has created a collection of work that balances challenging circumstance with safety. Great poetry should push boundaries and make you feel good. This book does both. I had a hard time deciphering if these poems were inspired by Mary Oliver or Sylvia Plath. In a nutshell...this book is genius.

-Danny Klecko, 2020 Midwest Book Award Winner, *HITMAN BAKER CASKET MAKER*

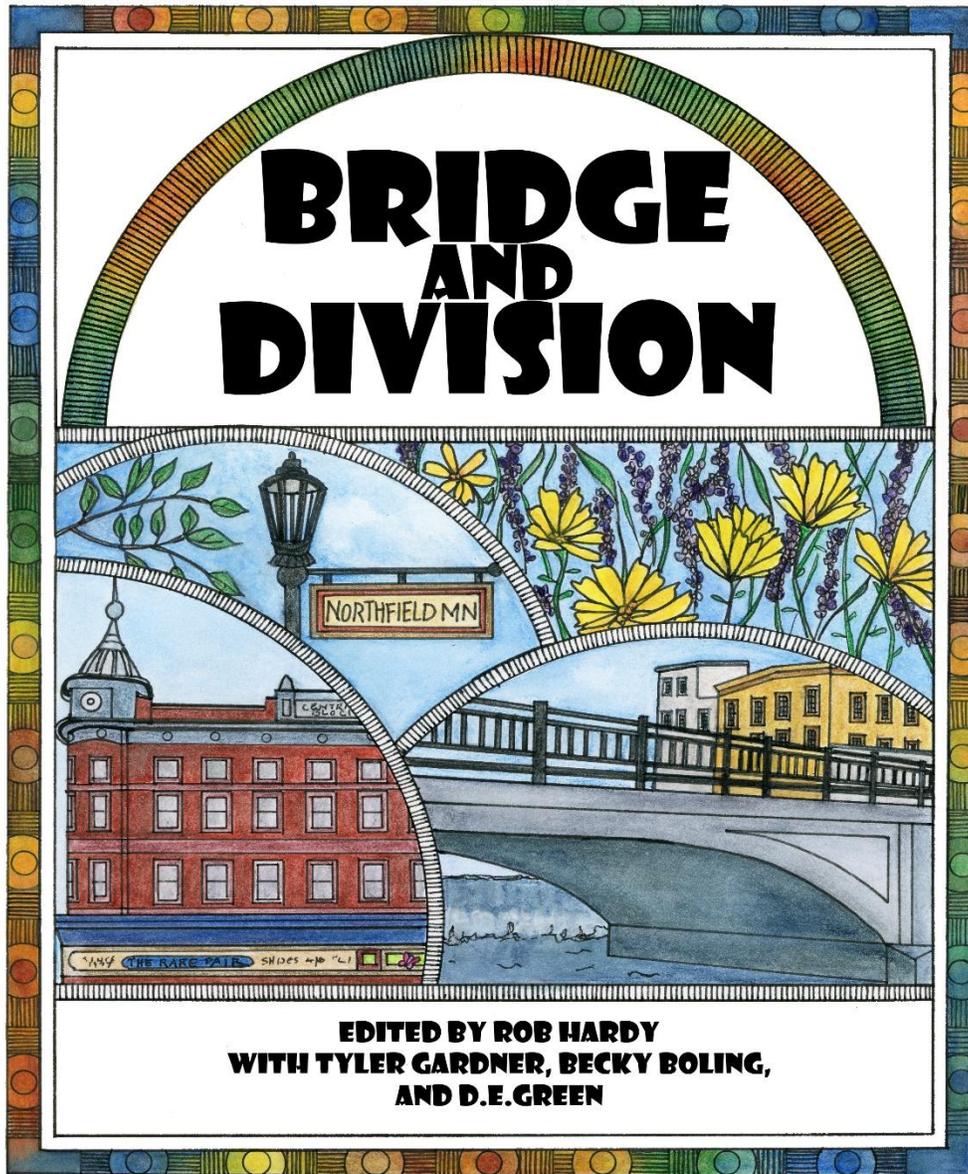
~~\$22.99~~ Pre-order Price Guarantee NOW until January 24, 2025: \$20.99

[Finishing Line Press. https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/here-beyond-small-wonders-by-becky-boling/](https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/here-beyond-small-wonders-by-becky-boling/)

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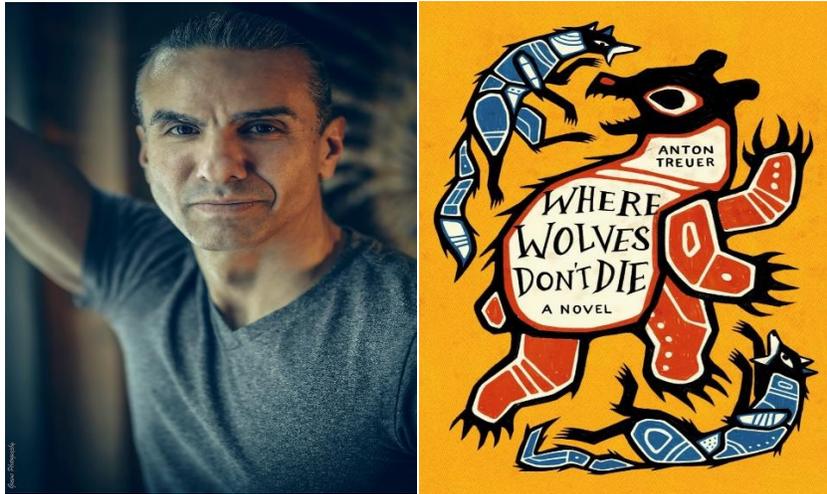
### Bridge & Division Release Party

Join us in the Northfield Library Atrium on Thursday, December 5, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM to celebrate the release of BRIDGE & DIVISION, a collection of poems written by Northfield poets.

The publication of this book of poetry was made possible by the people of Minnesota through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy fund, in cooperation with our regional library system, SELCO.

This is an in-person event. Light refreshments will be available.

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Content welcomes Dr. Anton Treuer for a reading from his new novel *WHERE WOLVES DON'T DIE*. Join us on Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 PM with the author of *EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INDIANS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK*.

From acclaimed author Anton Treuer comes a novel that's both taut thriller and a raw, tender coming-of-age story, about one Ojibwe boy learning to love himself through the love of his family around him.

"Where Wolves Don't Die will lift you up and not let you down. Anton Treuer knows how to tell a gripping story and the suspense doesn't let up for a single page. Along the way you'll learn about Ojibwe lifeways, languages, sharp jokes, gentle humor, and how to keep romantic love alive from youth to old age. I couldn't put this book down until I'd finished it, and then, I could not forget it."

— Louise Erdrich, Pulitzer Prize Winner and owner of Birchbark Books

Dr. Anton Treuer (pronounced troy-er) is Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University and author of many books. In 2018 he was named Guardian of Culture and Lifeways and recipient of the Pathfinder Award by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums. Anton's first book for young adults, *EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INDIANS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK* (Young Readers Edition), won the SCBWI Golden Kite. This is his first novel.

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### Before Oppenheimer, there was Wilhelm

Teresa Wilhelm Waldof, Minnesota Book Award winner and author of *WILHELM'S WAY*, will be at the Winona Public Library on Thursday, December 5, at 5:00 PM to share the captivating story of Dr. Harley Wilhelm, the Iowa chemist who saved the Manhattan Project.

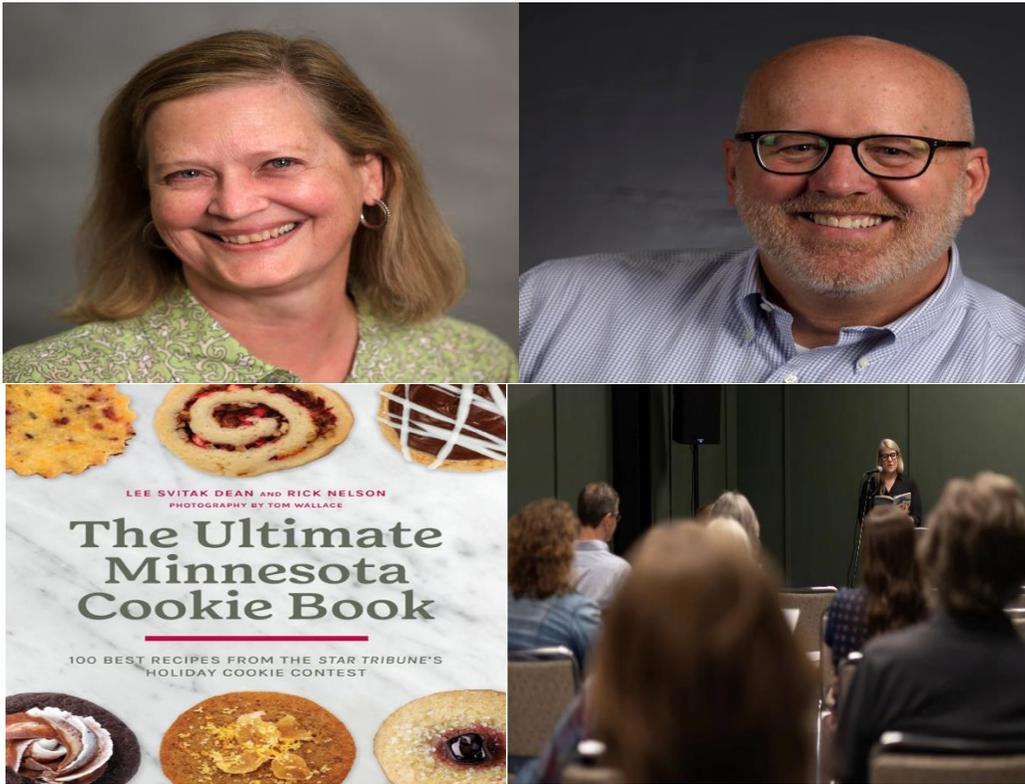
Teresa Wilhelm Waldof is the world's leading expert on the Ames Project section of the Manhattan Project and a recipient of the 2023 Minnesota Book Award and the Excellence in Iowa History Award. Her recent publication, *WILHELM'S WAY*, is the first-ever published account of the scientific breakthrough needed to prove a controlled self-sustained nuclear chain reaction was possible.

This event is a part of the 2024 Minnesota Author Tour. Organized by SELCO (Southeastern Library Cooperating) and funded through Minnesota's Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, this tour brings Minnesota authors to Southeast Minnesota to inspire readers and writers of all ages. For more information on Legacy funding in SELCO libraries, as well as a complete schedule of Legacy-funded events in the region, visit [legacy.selco.info](https://legacy.selco.info).

The event is free and open to the public.

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Join us on Thursday, December 12 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM for a Winter Walk book signing with Lee Svitak Dean and Rick Nelson, co-authors of the new and improved THE ULTIMATE MINNESOTA COOKIE BOOK. This sweet-tooth treasure trove features thirty-five new cookie recipes.

The best of the best, these contest-winning cookies are accompanied by beautiful photographs and baking tips, insights, and essays. Indulge in these delightful, mouth-watering recipes while Minnesota's best bakers share stories of cherished holiday traditions, and recall memorable cookie moments.

**Lee Svitak Dean** was the longtime food editor at the Star Tribune, where she guided the Taste section to multiple James Beard Awards, an Emmy, and national recognition as "Best Food Section." She is author of COME ONE, COME ALL: EASY ENTERTAINING WITH SEASONAL MENUS.

**Rick Nelson** was the Star Tribune's restaurant critic and food writer for 24 years. He is a James Beard Award winner. His writing has been included in four editions of the annual BEST FOOD WRITING anthology, highlighting the finest American food journalism.

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## PUBLIC TALK

"A Zulu in New York"

Stephanie Cox (with Chérif Kéita)

Learn how the small, historic town of Northfield, MN played a part in the life of Nokutela Mdimba Dube, the South African woman who worked to liberate her people.

Come join the conversation on Monday, December 30, 5:00 PM at the Northfield Public Library. Free copies of the comic book will be given away.

The dialogue in this comic book (story by [Chérif Kéita](#), art by Stephanie Cox) is based on interviews Nokutela gave in New York from 1898 to 1900 about the school she and her husband founded in South Africa.

'The pioneering woman the world forgot.' --The BBC.

All are welcome!

This activity was made possible by the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council. SEMAC activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from Minnesota Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.

A link to the Stephanie Cox website:  
<https://www.stephmcox.com/portfolio/>

**Northfield Poetry: December Newsletter***Poet Laureate*A logo for Northfield, MN, featuring a fountain pen nib pointing left, with the text "Northfield, MN" in a red box to its right.**Oasis Storytime: Winter Wonderland!**

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 11:00am - 11:45am

Let's read, sing, and play a parachute game together as we build in early literacy skills! Geared to children aged 2-5 and their caregivers. Siblings always welcome.

Come just for storytime, or come for something fun to do with your kids while you wait to shop for food for a CAC appointment.

NOTE: This storytime will be held In-Person at the Library Oasis, NOT the library on Washington St. The Library Oasis is located at the Community Action Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway.

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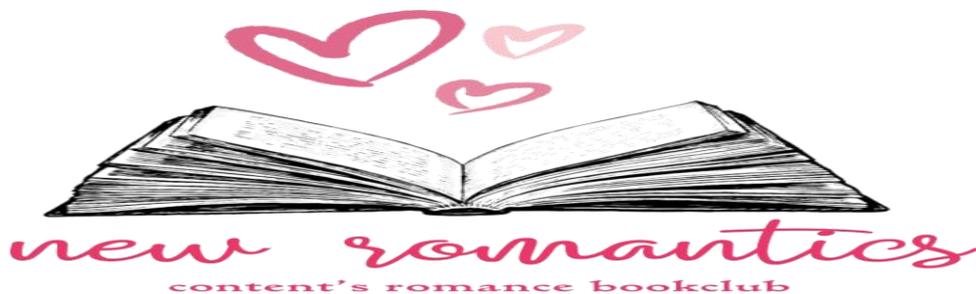
Poet Laureate

Northfield, MN



### Content Storytime! Friday mornings 11 AM - 11:30 AM

On Friday mornings, bring your little ones to Kids'Content for a delightful half hour of reading and singing, brought to you by our very own bookseller Rachel. We can't wait to see you there!



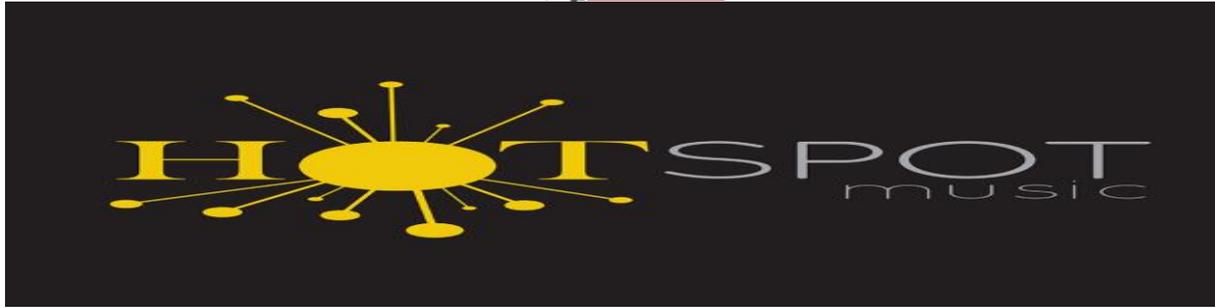
Content's romance book club-- **The New Romantics**-- meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 - 8:30 pm.

Our November pick is **THE TRUTH ACCORDING TO EMBER** by Danica Nava.

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Jazz Jam on Sundays 4:00 PM 5:30 PM/Second Saturdays Open Mic 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Ukulele Jam Session Tuesdays 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM



Folk Jam Session third Tuesday of every month! 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Open to all instruments and abilities. Stop on by!

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### LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS

The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) was established in 1934 “to make Minnesota poetry conscious, and conscious to its own poets” through four objectives: 1.) to encourage the study of Minnesota poetry in the state’s schools; 2.) to create newspaper and magazine outlets for the best work of Minnesota poets; 3.) to publish periodic collections of verse by members, to publish a League magazine called *The Moccasin*, and to assist in providing a permanent record of accomplishments; and 4.) to accumulate historical material for a scrapbook, thereby preserving pertinent information about the organization.

LOMP achieves these goals through sponsorship of various poetry contests and sponsorship and participation in readings, collaborations, retreats, and other events throughout the state. Through publication of *The Moccasin* and other works, both digital and print, LOMP is committed to the highlighting our members’ work. LOMP diligently documents our events, creating a lasting body of historical data. We hold biannual state meetings for our members in the spring and fall and annually send delegates to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies’ June convention. (For more information see *League of Minnesota Poets’ History*.)



#### About Us

The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) was established in 1934 “to make Minnesota poetry conscious, and conscious to its own poets”.