



# Northfield Public Library Director's Report September 2017

## Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and IT Services

As a part of the Northfield Poet Laureate program we will be installing a poem by Rob Hardy in the interior glass window-wall of the atrium. The poem reads

### **NORTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

This is where we come for windows on another world,  
And where we find mirrors to look at ourselves.  
This is the house we have built to house our histories.  
Esta es la puerta que se abre a nuestra vida común.

Here is the end of our search, and the start of our journey.  
Here is the map and the transport and the destination,  
Here the main-traveled roads and the road not taken.  
Aquí está el camino que hacemos caminando juntos.

Here the stars are named, and still retain their mystery.  
Here there are dragons curled over their hoard of words.  
Here is what we know, and what can only be imagined.  
Este es el lugar donde se reúnen todas nuestras historias.

This is where we compose the poetry of a more perfect union  
and learn to harmonize with the better angels of our nature.  
Here is our faith in each other and our common purpose.  
Este es un lugar de bienvenida a todas y todos.

This is the door that opens on our common life.  
Here is the road that we make by traveling together.  
This is the gathering of all our stories.  
This is a place where all are welcome.

- On September 17-18 I will be one of six Northfielders participating in the first of four cultural planning retreats led by ArtsLab MN. Northfield representatives draw from elected officials, artists and business community members.

July 13-September 13, 2017

- City's Strategic Planning is progressing to the Action Steps on six key strategic goals and has been approved by the Northfield City Council. The one-page plan is in tonight's packet.
- We will be hosting a talk by Stephan Koplowitz Sept 25 describing The Northfield Experience, happening in May 2018. Veteran Director/Choreographer/Media Artist Stephan Koplowitz will create a site-specific, immersive performance event using the town of Northfield, Minnesota, as its canvas and subject matter. Comprised of a series of inter-laced performances of theater, dance, visual installations, and digital media, this performance event will be inspired by the history, architecture, and unique community of Northfield. Koplowitz is excited to work and collaborate with St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges and the greater Northfield community, and where the spirit of history, industry, and scholarship still thrive.

*The Northfield Experience* will engage students, alumni, professors and Curriculum from both colleges, in addition to members of specific Northfield institutions and businesses. It aims not only to create a unique artistic experience, but to bring together several academic and public communities united towards the development and creation of this work. An intended outcome is that all involved parties will be more closely aligned and acquainted following this shared collaboration.

- The City Council is in the process of approving the 2018 city budget; the proposed library budget is included in tonight's packet.

## Adult Services

### ***Submitted by Debby Nitz***

In addition to helping patrons at the reference and children's desks, I have spent a good part of August setting up, confirming and publicizing adult programs for the fall. We have a good line up starting in September. Mary Upham, a life coach and mentor for Moms, will present a program on Sept. 14 entitled "3 Keys to Increase Calm, Connection and Contentment". Saturday September 16 Avery Hildebrand from Conservation MN will present a program, "Healthy Homes, Healthy Families" on the harmful effects of chemicals in our everyday household products. This is a cosponsored program with Just Foods Coop. On September 20 and 27 there will be a memoir writing class. Northfield Poet Laureate Rob Hardy will be doing the first of three poetry readings (using the poetry collection from the library!) this fall on Sept. 21. There will be a talk presented by choreographer Stephan Koplowitz on Monday, September 25 on *The Northfield Experience*, a three-day event staged in Northfield in May 2018. On September 24, Master Gardener Judy Code will present a program on September 28. There's also the Poetry Festival which will have a spot at the library on Saturday, September 30. So, a lot coming up and more to come in October and November. Stay tuned!

### ***Submitted by Jamie Stanley***

#### **Millstream Commons reading groups**

After the last reading by the Millstream Commons Short Story Readers on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a decision was made by the group to discontinue further efforts. This decision was predicated on three things. The small number of residents who showed an interest in actively participating as readers, the low attendance

July 13-September 13, 2017

numbers of Millstream residents who attended readings; and difficulties instigating conversation among attendees about the short story after the reading ended.

From the inception of the Millstream Short Story Reading project I felt that the Short Story Readers Group should be resident driven, that is, by residents and for residents. When the faithful few participants decided that their efforts did not merit continuing I felt it necessary to honor their wishes. I had that a bond was being forged between the library and the short story readers and wanted to continue some sort of program at Millstream to sustain the relationship but thought it was essential that any future program(s) be resident driven as well.

Fortunately, Carol Cover a new resident at Millstream with a strong teaching background agreed to lead a book group for residents the same day the decision was made to discontinue the Short Story Readers project. I immediately agreed to serve as a liaison with the group. On July 21<sup>st</sup>, I attended an all residents meeting at Millstream with Carol Cover and enough residents expressed an interest in joining a book group to proceed. The group will meet on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. It was a title that Carol selected at the end of July and multiple copies are in circulation at Millstream. My involvement with the book group will include providing logistical support by verifying that enough copies of the books are available, requesting them, and ensuring that they delivered and retrieved from Millstream in a timely fashion. I will also conduct background research on authors, book titles or other subjects as requested by Carol who will be the book group facilitator. I will also attend meetings the frequency of which is to be determined. I am looking forward to working on this project.

#### ***Submitted by Joan Ennis***

July and August were busy months with our regular patrons, children, and visitors. We have more visitors in the library during the summer who want to see where their ancestors lived, or want to find obituaries. We had several families here this summer who found which house their grandparent or great grandparents had lived in. We use our index file on houses and old phone directories to help patrons.

I had some memorable questions from children this summer. One night a 7-year-old girl, who had just finished first grade, asked for a history book from upstairs. I asked if she was sure she wanted something from the adult collection and not the children's, and she said yes. She wanted any kind of history. I didn't want to hand her a 500 page tome, so I gave her *The Rice County Pictorial History* and *Nostalgic Northfield; Faces and Places*. She was delighted with all the photos of the book, and I thought she would enjoy learning the history of Northfield and Rice County. A few weeks later, a girl going into 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade came in with the YMCA program. She said she wanted a book on physics. I asked her if she had seen the books downstairs. She said, "Yes. I've seen those. I want one from upstairs." I took her to the physics section and she took a large physics book off the shelf! One of the Y staff said that the previous week she had been describing how cells divide. So we have a budding scientist using our library.

Jamie and I have continued with our programs at Three Links. In July, we presented a program on Classic Children's books. The residents enjoyed remembering the titles they had read as a child. In August, I presented a program on World War I fiction. The residents checked out many of the books I brought.

I am planning several writing events in the fall. I have scheduled an informational meeting for an Open Writing Group on Tuesday, September 5. We will decide on an evening to meet, and set up guidelines.

**July 13-September 13, 2017**

We will meet once a month for two hours. I have also organized two writing workshops through a SELCO grant that another library received. Kevin Strauss, a writer from Rochester, will present a workshop on Memoir Writing on September 20 and 27, meeting 2 hours each time. On October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> he will present a workshop on writing for children. We are currently taking signups.

## Children's Services

*Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Children's Librarian and Reference Manager*

In August we wrapped up the Summer Reading Program and Books & Stars. I'm certain Emily will write more about this, but I want to recognize the outstanding job she did this year. As a new hire in April she had more on her plate than any one person should have to manage in their first weeks. She created a vibrant summer reading program with record high participation. She co-wrote a grant for Books & Stars, then researched and hired 8 performers. She managed the library Page program – with the help of our summer intern Brynn Artley – of almost 30 teenaged summer volunteers. She worked with the Summer Plus program to bring one classroom to the library each Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursday for the whole summer AND hosted the YMCA kids on Monday afternoons! Not one to rest on her laurels, Emily then created a teen karaoke program based on the very popular musical “Hamilton” which had a room for of teens singing / rapping to the music. She followed that with a filled-to-capacity Saturday story time on space to celebrate the Aug.21 eclipse. HOORAY EMILY!!! All the while, she was improving the children's area with readers advisory posters, book lists, and purchase programming.

**Reminder: the Summer Reading Program ends on Thursday, July 27.**

*A limited selection of prizes will be available at the Children's Desk through Thursday, August 10.*

We're so proud of you, summer readers!

**547** youth registered for the Summer Reading Program in 2017.



FOR TEENS ENTERING MIDDLE SCHOOL  
THROUGH TEENS ENTERING THEIR SENIOR YEAR

**HAMILTON**  
★ THE MUSICAL ★  
SING-ALONG  
& KARAOKE

MONDAY, JULY 31  
6-7:30PM  
NORTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
210 WASHINGTON ST.

HAMILTON-THEMED SNACKS!  
HAMILTON COLORING SHEETS! DOOR PRIZES!  
"WIN OUR CHAIRS! TELL OUR STORY, THEY'LL  
TELL THE STORY OF THIS NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY!"

Don't miss

**Super Saturday Storytime August 19!**



In anticipation of the solar eclipse on August 21, we'll share stories and songs about SPACE. All attendees will get a free pair of eclipse glasses!

July 13-September 13, 2017



As I write this we are thinking ahead to Defeat of Jesse James Days. The library will be open again on Sundays beginning September 10 which is parade day. Booker, the bookmobile, will make its final public appearance in the parade after which we will begin to decommission the aging bus. Plans are being made to have a “Bye Bye Booker” photo and book sale event on Saturday, September 30. The public will be invited to take their photo with their handprint and to purchase books from the bookmobile.

### ***Emily Lloyd, Children’s Programming Librarian***

In July, work began on a new partnership with the Northfield Arts Guild to bring early literacy education, stories, and art activities to in-home daycare providers. We have a two-fold goal to build early literacy skills in the children at the sites and build capacity in the daycare providers to give their own storytimes and creative times a well-informed “early literacy boost”. “Read Together, Create Together: Art and Stories” is funded by a grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. We are providing a two-hour professional development workshop on early literacy and three storytimes to 17 in-home daycare sites (the NAG co-presents the workshop and is providing six art activity sessions to each location, two based on each story I share at the locations). Another July highlight for me was holding my first teen program since joining the NPL staff, a “Hamilton” Karaoke Sing-Along. 32 teens came out to sing and rap along to instrumental versions of songs from the hit musical, to eat “Hamilton”-themed snacks, and to color “Hamilton” coloring pages. As in June, summer visits from the Y and Summer PLUS, Books & Stars, storytimes, and afternoon activities at the library continued throughout July. The final number of readers who signed up for the Summer Reading Program was 549.

In August, two wildly popular eclipse-related programs were held, during each of which we handed out free eclipse glasses I’d obtained through a grant written late last March. Almost all of the 1000 pairs of glasses were distributed during the events (one for adults, one for families with younger children)—with a few left over to hand out to other visitors to the library.



Eclipse storytime crowd photo

July 13-September 13, 2017

As of August, the pilot run of the “Read Together, Create Together” series has finished, and will be evaluated in the first full week or September. I also put together a “passive program” to boost early literacy skills—a Division Street ABC in which families can hunt for letters captured on a takeaway sheet (then return the completed sheet to the library for a small reward). I’m hoping this will really take off as a fun activity for families with young children in Northfield.



## Web Services

### ***Submitted by Ian Holms, Reference and Web Services***

I’ve started showing Layna (Mestad, Circulation Clerk 1 and current Library School student) how to run and manage the website, create the graphics for it, and generally do what I do. I’ll be graduating in December and applying for full-time positions shortly thereafter and hopefully Layna will be able to take over some of my web responsibilities. As for the website itself, everything is running smoothly. We’ve got some shiny new graphics up there for the September programming and we will be continuing to promote our BookMatch service that allows community members to get personalized reading suggestions from our reference staff.

With the eclipse came the calls, and the site views. We had 11,000 pageviews from August 1 to August 29, and a whopping 630 on 8/14 and 636 on 8/21. This is roughly 1500 more than normal, but I suppose it’s not every month you get an eclipse. Two folks visited our site from Netscape, a browser that ceased to exist in 2009!

Nick Novotny and I are working on a page for displaying staff recommendations on our website. It is a work in progress, but we’re hoping to have it launched sometime in September, so keep an eye out. I’m also working on a project that would randomly generate a book from our collection at the press of a button. This is more of a personal project and so I’m only working on it sporadically.

Finally, we unfortunately had to close down chess club due to lack of attendance. There just wasn’t enough interest to justify keeping it going. If at some point there is enough enthusiasm to get it going again, we’ll have everything we need.

July 13-September 13, 2017

# Shelving and Volunteer Services

***Laurie Kodet, Technology/Circulation Supervisor***

## **Book Bike Volunteer Recap**

Library volunteers rode the book bike to Books & Stars locations (when it wasn't raining). Eric Johnson's attention to detail and continually tweaking helped the book bike get successfully to its destinations. Eric often accompanied the book bike rider as they made their way to the event. Sedge Freeman (rider for Northfield Promise) mapped out riding routes for the Books & Stars locations, which were very helpful. This was our first year for book bike to be present at Books & Stars and staff is already generating ideas as to how to have a more impactful presence.

## **New Volunteers**

Ruth Hoekstra, long-time library user became a volunteer this summer. Ruth is a Minnesota Reading Corps Tutor who work in a local school last year and wanted to give the students she worked with an opportunity to meet with her over the summer. She thought what better place than the library. She would email her students when she would be volunteering and if students arrived, she would take time to work with them. If no students arrived, she assisted with condition weeding and shelf reading the children's DVDs and non-fiction collection.

Dustin Beltramo began volunteering this summer. On Wednesday nights, David Greenfield would park the bookmobile in front of the library and on Thursday mornings Dustin came by and cleaned, straightened and shelf-read the collection. Dustin continues to volunteer; he is currently working his way through adult fiction, shelf reading, dusting, and looking at the condition of the materials.

# Circulation Services

***Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Manager***

As a member of SELCO, NPL receives a lot of benefits and I thought it might be interesting for you to see all the many things that SELCO provides its member libraries. Of course, the on-line Enterprise catalog is the greatest benefit. Other basic services included with your basic technology fees are:

- BookMyne Mobile Ap
- Cataloging Maintenance
- Cooperative Purchases
- Delivery
- Enterprise Catalog
- Help desk support
- Horizon Reports
- ILS – Horizon
- MnLink Access
- OCLC Membership
- Research Databases

**July 13-September 13, 2017**

- Email and text notices
- Internet Access (paid with funds from eRate and RLTA)

Another huge benefit is resource sharing, interlibrary loan between the many member libraries, and the state through MnLink. Minitex also provides delivery of electronic documents of journal articles via e-mail.

SELCO members can attend training classes, seminars, workshops and other continuing education opportunities. They can request advice on collection development, grant writing, technology and other issues in library information services. SELCO will provide in-service training on technology, ELM, MnLink and other regional library services. They will send you free promotional materials for Minitex electronic resources like AskMn, Ebooks Minnesota, ELM, MNKnows and MnLink.

Programs they help our library with include summer reading program, our adult reading program – Hot reads for cold nights and community reads. They provide help with Legacy programs, advocacy, Vetted programs and Mn Book Awards. They house special collections; Book Club in a bag, Teens and Tweens Kits, Early Literacy Kits, Storytime Kits in English and Spanish, MNBA Finalist Collections and SELCO professional collection.

## Poet Laureate

### ***Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate***

In August, I wrote a short poem for the 2017 Northfield Sidewalk Poetry Capstone Celebration, a poem for display in the Northfield Public Library, and a poem that I read at the 3rd annual Art & Ale fundraiser at the Northfield Arts Guild. I commissioned Doug Bratland to design and produce a poster for the Northfield Poet Laureate capstone event in September, and continued to make plans for that day-long event. I also continued to make arrangements for the visit to Northfield by poet Leila Chatti, who is the 2017-2018 Ron Wallace Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Leila will be in town on October 4 and 5, giving an “open class” at St. Olaf, a poetry workshop for high school students, and a reading at the Northfield Public Library.

On the first day of August, I drove to Winona, Minnesota, to give a poetry reading at the Blue Heron Coffeeshop as part of the Winona Poet Laureate’s First Tuesday Laureate Reading Series. My next reading will be a joint reading in Middlebury,



Sponsored by the Northfield Public Library and the Northfield Arts and Culture Commission, with funding from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund made possible by the voters of Minnesota.



July 13-September 13, 2017

Vermont, on October 16 as part of the *NER Vermont* series sponsored by the *New England Review*. I'll be sharing the stage with essayist Jericho Parns, the assistant director of the MFA writing program at the Vermont College of Fine Art.

July 13-September 13, 2017