

Northfield Poet Laureate Report

April 2023

The agendas for the ACC and Library Board include a recommendation to approve the appointment of Becky Boling and D.E. Green as the next Northfield Poets Laureate, to hold the position jointly until a more formal search can be conducted for a new Poet Laureate in 2024.

April Events

Penchant Day. The highlight of National Poetry Month in Northfield was a one-of-a-kind event: the celebration of Penchant Day, officially proclaimed by the Northfield City Council to honor Penchant, founded roughly 50 years ago as Northfield Women Poets. The day itself was celebrated on Thursday, April 20 with a gala reading at Content Bookstore featuring 10 current members of Penchant, including co-founders Riki Kölbl Nelson and Karen Herseth Wee. A large audience was in attendance.

Poetry Open Mic Evening (POME). 16 people attended the open mic reading on the second Wednesday in April. Participants included 2 St. Olaf students and 3 Carleton students. Attendance at the monthly event has tripled since the first open mic night in November 2022.

May Events

Monday, May 1. **Chris Martin** (author of *May Tomorrow Be Awake: Poetry, Autism, and Our Neurodiverse Future*). Content Bookstore. 7pm

Friday, May 5. **Bao Phi**, award-winning poet and children's book author. Northfield Public Library. 5pm

Wednesday, May 10. **Poetry Open Mic Evening (POME).** Northfield Public Library. 6:30pm

Saturday, May 13. **Northfield Poetry Tour: Poems of Place.** Various locations. 10am-3pm.

More than 30 Northfielders responded to the call for poems about specific places in Northfield ("topographical poems"). The poets will read their poems at (or near) the places they celebrate in a day-long event. Join us for the entire tour—starting at Way Park at 10am and ending at Oaklawn Cemetery at 3pm—or drop in at any of the individual sites.

10am	Way Park (amphitheater)
10:30am	Northfield Depot (includes a tour of the Depot)
11:30am	Bridge Square
12-1pm	Lunch break
1pm	Northfield Public Library
1:30pm	Central Park (followed by extended time to walk to the Arboretum)
2:30pm	Cowling Arboretum (Wall St. Rd. entrance)
3pm	Oaklawn Cemetery (Robert Watson bench)

In the event of rain, the readings will be divided between the Depot (10-11:30am) and the Northfield Public Library (1-2pm).

Submitted by:

Rob Hardy

Northfield Poet Laureate