



Northfield Public Library

Director's Report

April 2019

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Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director

National Library Week is upon us, and the Northfield Public Library is celebrating by conducting a late fee forgiveness program during this week for our library patrons. This allows people to be able to wipe the slate clean on their overdue fines on materials they have borrowed and returned past their due dates. Our goal is to take down barriers that prevent people from accessing library resources. Spread the word!

Adult Services

Submitted by Katlin Heidgerken-Greene, Reference Services Manager

The last two weeks of March (my first two weeks as Reference Services Manager) flew by for me as I began work in this new position. It has been a time of intense learning as I get to know my new Northfield Public Library colleagues, the patron community, the collections I will be managing, and the ins and outs of my new role. My thanks to everyone at the Library and City who have been so welcoming to me during this transition!

My first day of employment with the library was also the day of Mayor Pownell's State of the City Address, which was an informative and enjoyable introduction to my new surroundings. During the past two weeks, I have had meetings with most of my library colleagues and have heard from them about many aspects of library service: from Outreach to library events and programming, from the reference and genealogy collections to budgets and from working the public service desks to strategic planning. I have met with our Carleton College student worker for adult reference, toured and helped organize the Library Bookmobile, and completed Basic Circulation and Cataloging Trainings online through SELCO. I have spent time researching the Northfield community's demographics through Census data and spent time getting to know the current shape of the collections I will be maintaining. I also worked the reference desk solo for a couple of shifts and placed my first orders for books for the collection. I am excited to see the orders come in, to keep learning this month about how I can be of service to Northfield Public Library staff and patrons, and to growing into my new position. Now that my family and I have relocated from Minneapolis, I am also looking forward to exploring more of what Northfield has to offer and to getting out into my new community. Thank you for this opportunity!

Submitted by Joan Ennis

- Northfield Reads has had several programs in March. On March 12, Professor Joan Hepburn talked at the “Intersectionality of Race, Class and Gender” at the NCRC. On March 28, Professor Steve Kelly talked about “Music and Race: Reflections and Resonances” at the library. We had 41 attendees.
- We have a program scheduled for Thursday, April 4 at the UCC. Professor Adriana Estill and Sarah Carlson will talk about “Whiteness and Privilege in Minnesota.” We are planning a final event, a panel discussion of how to make Northfield a more welcoming place, on May 16. I have been going to planning meetings and was interviewed on KYMN, in addition to attending the events.
- The Contemporary Women Writer’s Book group met on March 19 and discussed *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. We read this novel after reading the Northfield Reads book, *A Good Time for the Truth; race in Minnesota*, the month before, and it was a good follow up to last month’s discussion.
- The Open Writing Group met on March 20. We have a core group of people who come regularly and look forward to sharing their work and receiving feedback.
- On March 5, I presented Brain Fitness activities at Three Links. The previous month I had given a book talk on fiction about Disasters in America, specifically WWI, WWII, the Great Depression, and 9/11. I had a list of names and events, and asked the participants to identify the time period. It was a fun activity for the residents.
- On March 28, LuAnn Raadt presented a program on herbal medicine, and 21 people attended.
- Upcoming programs in April include bestselling authors Beverly Lewis and William Kent Krueger. Beverly Lewis will be speaking on April 11, at 2:00 pm. I have sent publicity to local churches. I have reserved the Middle School Auditorium for William Kent Krueger’s program on April 18, at 7:00.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

How to Write Press Releases “Lunch and Learn”

On Wednesday, March 27th I attended a free one hour “Lunch and Learn” seminar hosted by the Northfield Enterprise Center about how to write a press release (PR). Five other people attended this event. Local resident Nancy Ashmore who has broad experience in writing, research, copyediting, proofreading, layout and other aspects in the communications field led the session while attendees enjoyed delicious sandwiches that were included gratis.

In addition to addressing the 5 W’s that are standard in all press releases, the person writing the PR needs to consider the H, which stands for how you get the release in front of the intended audience. Nancy provided some great handouts at the seminar including: a checklist of PR writing guidelines, a paragraph by paragraph template for consideration when writing a PR, examples that illustrate the importance of timing the distribution of your PR; other methods of

publicizing an event, and a sheet titled “Rules of Engagement for Local Media Coverage”. Examples of good and bad press releases from local organizations in Northfield were also included in the handout packet.

Attendance at this “Lunch and Learn” was a good investment of time and I will write future PR’s and consider other adjunct publicity using the information provided at this session. I picked up an extra copy of the handouts provided and have shared them with library staff who have expressed interest.

Submitted by Tyler Gardner

In the month of March, there was a very well used and circulated display of films titles “Strong Female Leads” on the display table in the movie room. This was in celebration of National Women’s Month.

After a couple hiccups getting the ball rolling on a grant application for the SEMAC Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund grant, we were able to get the application filled out and looking beautiful in time for submission. We are excited at the possibility of having the 2019 Hispanic Heritage Celebration funded in part by the SEMAC grant.

Steve and I have been working on a few events and programs revolving around national library month coming up in the beginning of April. We are looking forward to a week of celebrating the library and our patrons through stories, music, social media, and tours of the bookmobile.

It has been fun helping Katlin acclimate to NPL and to show her the ropes on some of the things that we do here. I look forward to working with her and seeing what her perspective brings to the library.

My wife Sarah and I are officially Northfield residents!

Youth Services

Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children’s Programming Librarian Preparations for the Summer Reading Program are gearing up. Applications for summer Library Pages have gone out, and we're interviewing for our summer City Intern in the first two weeks of April. I’ve picked up several more opportunities to book talk in the schools, including two Compañeros classes who’d like me to talk about our growing Spanish collection. A visit from the Minnesota Zoomobile over

school Spring Break had a whopper of a crowd, and a Make & Take Art program had very good turnout, too. I also held two “Catch a Chapter” events—one for the homeschool crowd, and one for kids on Spring Break. 7 kids came to each, but I think the program is so worthwhile and will be offering it again in May. ALL of the books I brought to the program got checked out, despite the small audiences, and the age group targeted is one at



which many kids start to “leave” pleasure reading. My first program on early literacy for adults, "How to Read to Your Grandkids: Early Literacy 101," had a disappointing turnout: the program was offered twice, and six attendees were the total audience. Evaluations were positive from those who came, and I'll be thinking of alternate places to offer the program and ways to tailor it for different audiences. Some of the content will be used in a "train the trainer" session I'm giving Northfield's Early Childhood Navigators, who go into Spanish-speaking homes where children are cared for (unofficial daycares) and offer training to adult caregivers. On the immediate horizon: April is National Poetry Month, and I'm experimenting this year with holding weekly drawings for personalized silly poems for the preschool through 5th grade set. Entry forms will first be available at the Silly Poetry for Kids (of All Ages) program on Saturday, April 6, and at the children's reference desk through the month. Two winners will be drawn per week, and I'm setting myself the task of writing the poems. On Thursday, April 18, Bridget from the Northfield Arts Guild will be joining me for "50 Years of The Very Hungry Caterpillar," a special storytime, art, and activity program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Eric Carle's famous picture book.

Submitted by Layna Mestad, Youth Services/Teen Librarian

During the month of March, teen services focused more on the planning side of programming rather than implementation due to many scheduling conflicts that included the high school's Rock and Roll Revival and spring break. We had the regular teen programming of Anime & Manga Club, and Dungeons and Dragons. In addition, we are now accepting submissions for the anonymous teen poetry display now thru April 23 in honor of National Poetry Month. We rescheduled our Teen Game Night for Saturday, April 13, and keeping our fingers crossed that there will be no April blizzard this year.

A series of programming on Mental Health Awareness is in the works for the month of May. It is not news that people of all ages struggle with mental illness. I'm hoping that by focusing our teen programming in May on mental health, we will continue to fight the mental health stigma. We'd like to have a movie screening of the film adaption of either *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* or *It's Kind of a Funny Story*—both YA titles that touch on mental health. We would also like to incorporate art therapy as part of the movie night that people can do before, during or after the movie plays. TAB members will contribute recommendations for a Mental Health Awareness booklist full of titles from different genres that we'll have in the YA stacks. We're also hoping to partner with the Mental Health Board in Northfield for an event, which is currently TBD. Lots of teen programming to look forward to!

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Manager

My role as one of the city liaisons for the Arts and Culture Commission has given me the opportunity to do some very different tasks than what I do for the Library. For example, this month I am a part of a committee that will look at and select the art that will be going in the next Art in City Hall Exhibit. I copied all the poetry that was entered for Sidewalk Poetry for the judges. I put together a Survey Monkey survey for Rob Hardy for the Poet Laureate program. I have helped secure grants for Sidewalk poetry and the poet Laureate. I helped Teresa send out over 3000 emails to artists across the state as a call to artists for the information Kiosk. I enjoy going to the monthly meetings and seeing the excitement this commission has for all the different activities there are in our community. This commission has worked very hard and with the writing and passage of their new Cultural Plan they will be busier than ever.

Outreach, Shelving and Volunteer Services

Submitted by Laurie Kodet, Shelving/Outreach Services Supervisor/Volunteer Manager

Volunteers-

Two National Honor Society students volunteered this month- Thank you, Jack and Clara for cleaning the meeting room chairs and so many picture books!

City ID-

On March 4th, Angelica and I were on Carleton's campus for the second time this school year, promoting library services and processing City ID applications. On March 7th, Angelica and I were on St. Olaf's campus for library promotion and processing City ID applications. We issued 40 City IDs and 18 library cards.

Angelica and I are developing a process may enable us to take City ID applications on the bookmobile- taking City ID on the road.

Outreach

The bookmobile and book bike schedule is filling up. The Bookmobile is scheduled to attend Healthy Kids Day and Earth Day events on April 27th. Tuesdays in the Park and Books and Stars events are scheduled for June, July and August. New this year, expanded Growing Up Healthy Program – Wednesdays at Jefferson Square.

On March 4th & 11th, Angelica attending Greenvale School and on March 14th and 18th, she attending Bridgewater School conference, where she promoted library services and issued 15 library cards.

On March 10th, Angelica and I were present at St. Dominic's Church between services to promote library services and process City ID applications. We visited with 59 people, issued 10 City IDs, and one library card.

Link Center

The Link Center resources will transition to the library on May 1st, beginning a part of library services. The library will expand its website to incorporate more community resources and take over the production of the monthly bilingual newsletter. Angelica and I met with the current Link Center Coordinator on March 14th to learn more about the Link newsletter. The library will be producing the June issue of the newsletter. We have scheduled a follow up meeting for April 3rd to work through the transition.

Submitted by Angelica Linder, Outreach Coordinator



During March, we continued visiting the elementary school for conference. A positive response was received from parents. Library cards were issued and library services promoted.

On March 18th we set up an information table for the State of City Address. We were able to answer questions about City ID and promote our programs.

On March 23, I was able to help the Friends and Foundations of the Library with their first Puzzle Competition, a family event which was a success, the FFOL believes this will be something they host yearly.

Our Computer class in Spanish will start on April 9th through May. Some of the students have made great comments about their instructor

April happenings:

- Spanish Book Club – Second Monday of the month at 7pm.
- Computer Class – Every Tuesday at 6:15pm and Sunday at 3pm
- St. Dominic Church – visit promoting library services and City ID on April 18th @ 6:30pm
- Spanish kids program - Kids will create fun crafts all instruction will be in Spanish! Kids aged 2-10

Northfield Poet Laureate

Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

Events

- March 1. Writers Night: Resilience and Sustainability (attendance: 35)
- March 14. Poetry Night: Emily Oliver (attendance: 15)
- March 18. I wrote and read a poem for the State of the City Address.
- March 21. Acoustic Café (Paradise Center for the Arts, Faribault). I participated in a poetry reading with four poets from Faribault.
- March 26. Danny Caine Poetry Reading (attendance: 10)

Workshops

- March 5. I visited the Northfield High School AP Spanish class to talk about literary translation.
- March 12-14. I led a three-day (two hours each day) poetry workshop at FiftyNorth. The enrollment was capped at 10, and 10 people registered. Participants wrote poems in response to art created during visual arts workshops at FiftyNorth over the winter. (The works of art were inspired by poems written during a workshop I led in October.) The poetry and related works of art will be featured in an upcoming exhibit at FiftyNorth. In the words of one workshop participant: "Your workshop opened worlds."
- March 21. I read and wrote poetry with residents of a Laura Baker Services independent living residence.