

Northfield Poet Laureate Report May 2018

May 2018 Events

Event	Date	Venue	Audience
Danez Smith	Monday, May 7	Northfield Public Library	120
Leslie Schultz	Monday, May 21	Northfield Public Library	30
Mary Moore Easter	Thursday, May 31	Content Bookstore	40
TOTAL AUDIENCE			190

May marks the end of the Poetry Night season for 2017-2018. In May, I finalized most of the Poetry Nights for 2018-2019:

September (Northfield Poetry Festival): Joyce Sutphen and others TBA

October: Bao Phi (Content) and Nicole Borg (Northfield Public Library)

November: Michael Kleber-Diggs (Northfield Public Library)

December: Faribault Poets: Larry Gavin, Audrey K. Helbling, John Reinhard, Peter Allen
(Northfield Public Library)

January: TBA

February: Christopher Bakken (venue TBA)

March: TBA

April: Justin Watkins (Northfield Public Library)

May: TBA

Poetry Night Attendance 2017-2018

Month and Poet	Audience
October: Leila Chatti*	25
October: Neil Hilborn	50
November: Anders Carlson-Wee	30
March: Andrea Een*‡	60
April: Rachel Moritz	15
April: Jennifer Kwon Dobbs	20
May: Danez Smith*	120
May: Leslie Schultz*‡	30
May: Mary Moore Easter	40
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	390

*Readings at Northfield Public Library

‡Local poet

Northfield Poetry Festival Planning

In May I met with Rachel Haider (NAG) and Jessica Peterson White (Content) to plan for a performance by Patrick Scully (formerly of Patrick's Cabaret) of *Leaves of Grass—Illuminated*, a one-man show about Walt Whitman. The performance will take place on Sunday, September 30, 2018, at 7:30pm, in the NAG Theater. Co-sponsored by the Northfield Poet Laureate, the Northfield Arts Guild, and Content Bookstore. The event will be part of the three-day long 2nd annual Northfield Poetry Festival:

Saturday, September 29: Readings at Content, the Northfield Public Library, and Imminent Brewing, featuring Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen.

Sunday, September 30: *Leaves of Grass—Illuminated*. Northfield Arts Guild Theater, 7:30pm.

Monday, October 1: Poet and Minnesota Book Award winning children's author Bao Phi (Content)

Doug Bratland has again agreed to design the poster for the poetry festival.

Other Planning

I put together the program for the First Friday Art Night reading at Imminent on June 1.

Commissioned Poems

I was asked to write a poem honoring Nalani McCutcheon, who is stepping down after nine years as the founding executive director of the Cannon River STEM School in Faribault.

Other

My poem "Phrasebook" was published online in *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters*:
<http://ergon.scienzine.com/article/poetry/phrasebook>

I was asked to contribute three poems ("Reading *Rebecca*, Far from Home," "Jane Austen's House at Chawton," and "Light") for a special "laureates" issue of the journal *Lost Lake Folk Opera* (Rushford, Minnesota), which will also include poems by current and former poets laureate Joyce Sutphen (Minnesota), Ken McCullough (Winona), Emilio DeGrazia (Winona), and Jim Johnson (Duluth).

Note: I will be in Greece from Sunday, June 10 through Sunday, July 8. I will be gone for the June ACC meeting, and will not submit a report for June.