Open Mic – 6:30 PM, Wednesday, May 14 Northfield Public Library Atrium



#### **Poet Laureate Announcement**:

Greetings poets + writers, supporters of the arts both locally + regionally!

Next POME is Wednesday, June 11, and we can't wait to see everyone there. Thanks to all for supporting the arts at the Northfield Library and in our community.

A link to the Northfield Library calendar:

https://mynpl.libcal.com/calendar?cid=-1&t=m&d=2025-06&cal=-1&inc=0







**Glass Half Full Book Club** 

meets Wednesday, June 4 at Imminent Brewing, 519 Division St S, #2, in Northfield, at 6:30 PM.

For June, we will be reading <u>Roaming</u> by Jillian and Mariko Tamaki.

Order the book <u>here</u>.

For further information, contact Alexus Kreft at alexus.kreft@northfieldmn.gov.

This is an in-person event.



Author Event

#### Michael N. McGregor's THE LAST GRAND TOUR and AN ISLAND TO MYSELF

Thursday Jun 5, 7-8:30 PM at Content

Content welcomes Michael N. McGregor for an event around his two recent books: the novel THE GRAND TOUR and the memoir AN ISLAND TO MYSELF in conversation with fellow author and St. Olaf professor Kaethe Schwehn (THE RENDING AND THE NEST).

#### "A captivating exploration of the promise and burden of passionate love."- Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review)

Soaked in the Romantic atmosphere and dark deeds of old Europe-as well as the freedoms and hopes of a new era-The Last Grand Tour takes us on a perilous journey through Hitler's Berchtesgaden, Mozart's Salzburg, and Mad King Ludwig's Bavarian fantasyland before reaching its stunning climax in the murky waters of Venice. Along the way, it explores the often-shifting lines between fidelity and freedom, illusion and reality, regret and desire.

#### On AN ISLAND TO MYSELF:

In his twenties, writer and activist Michael McGregor traveled to the remote Greek island of Patmos to spend two months alone. It was 1985, before cellphones or the internet, when even a phone call home was costly. Those days transformed his understanding of himself, his God, and his purpose — and in this book he offers, for others, how finding a place of solitude can change a life.

McGregor immerses the reader in particulars of the simple life he lived for two winter months on an island where he knew no one. He reflects on authors and spiritual teachers before showing the ways in which his returns to solitude in subsequent decades reflected or altered his earlier experiences of being alone.

The *New York Times* has praised McGregor's writing as "vivid and engaging" and *Image* magazine has called it "emotionally honest, intellectually engaging, and profound in its search for spiritual truth." His work covers the range from short to long fiction, reported to personal nonfiction, secular to spiritual contemplation of both inner and outer life.

A former professor of creative writing, McGregor is an award-winning author, essayist, journalist, and biographer. He holds an MFA from Columbia University and has published over 300 shorter works in publications such as *Tin House, StoryQuarterly, Poetry,* and *Orion*. He lives in Seattle, where he hosts the Cascadia Writers-in-Conversation series.

#### ECHOES & SHADOWS: POETRY & ART COLLABORATION



# Artists, it's time!!!

Artists, it's time to submit your artwork for the Echoes & Shadows Art and Poetry Collaboration. Email a photo of your artwork to michelle.loken@fiftynorth.org on or before June 6th. Include an artist statement, your name,

phone number, email address, medium and sale price if you wish to sell the piece. You will be notified at a later date about the details of hanging the gallery show which will be in September & October.



Poets, get ready to choose the artwork that inspires you to create a poem. The artwork will be posted on our website on the gallery page beginning June 11th. Use the following link to view the artwork -

https://fiftynorth.org/activities/art-gallery/.

- Contact Michelle at 507-664-3707 or the email above with your selection choice.
- Once a piece has been selected it will be removed from the website.
- Poems should not be more than one page
- Poetry should be inspired by the artwork you selected
- Poems are due on or before August 13th

Poetry Readings & Artist Reception -September 18, 5-7pm



Author Event

#### CHASING WILDFLOWERS with Phyllis Root and Kelly Povo

#### Thursday, June 12, 7-8:30 PM at Content.

Content welcomes Phyllis Root and Kelly Povo back to Northfield to celebrate their new book, CHASING WILDFLOWERS: AN ADVENTUROUS GUIDE TO FINDING MINNESOTA'S NATIVE FLOWERS IN THEIR UNIQUE HABITATS. Join us for a literary exploration of Minnesota's wildflowers on that 7 pm.

#### An intrepid search for Minnesota's wildflower treasures in out-of-the-way places

Beyond Minnesota's sunlit prairies and lush north woods, wonders of wildflowers bloom, gracing fens and forested swamps, sand dunes and the rocky North Shore, even ditches and abandoned mine dumps. Venturing farther afield than their first book *Searching for Native Wildflowers*, Phyllis Root and Kelly Povo set out to explore smaller, less-traveled habitats throughout the state and find these hidden gems of nature. *Chasing Wildflowers* brings us along on their pursuit of Minnesota's native wildflowers.

Featuring Povo's gorgeous photographs and Root's finely detailed descriptions of nearly two hundred species, *Chasing Wildflowers* is both a handy guidebook and an entertaining chronicle of the thrills and occasional mishaps of the friends' searches,

from wading rivers and climbing rocky outcrops to getting their boots stuck in deep muck while on the run from an approaching storm. Here, readers will find twenty-eight of the orchids growing in Minnesota, forty-three of the state's rare species, and flowers with names like Allegheny monkey flower, hairy false goldenaster, naked miterwort, and spoon-leaf sundew — as well as plenty of inspiration to set off on their own adventures.

A uniquely useful and engrossing resource for gardeners, naturalists, artists, hikers, photographers, and beyond, *Chasing Wildflowers* is the ultimate guide for anyone curious to learn more about our beautiful and surprising natural world.

**Phyllis Root** is author of more than fifty books, including *Plant a Pocket of Prairie* and *One North Star*, both published by the University of Minnesota Press and recipients of the John Burroughs Riverby Award for nature writing for children.

**Kelly Povo**, a professional photographer for the past thirty years, has exhibited in galleries and art shows across the country. She and Phyllis collaborated on *Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers*, also published by the University of Minnesota Press.





#### Author Event

A Signing with Katherine Center Friday, June 13, 10-11:00 AM Content welcomes bestselling author Katherine Center for a book signing for her latest romance THE LOVE HATERS. And don't forget to pick up a signed copy of THE ROM-COMMERS, which is the New Romantics' book club pick for July. Tickets are NOT required for this event, but feel free to reserve your copy (or copies) of Katherine's books ahead of time.

*BookPage* calls **Katherine Center** "the reigning queen of comfort reads." She's the *New York Times* bestselling author of over half a dozen books, including HOW TO WALK AWAY, THINGS YOU SAVE IN A FIRE, and WHAT YOU WISH FOR. Katherine writes laugh-and-cry books about how life knocks us down – and how we get back up. She's been compared to both Jane Austen and Nora Ephron, and the Dallas Morning News calls her stories, "satisfying in the most soul-nourishing way." Her books have made countless Best-Of lists, including *RealSimple*'s Best Books of 2020, Amazon's Top 100 Books of 2019, Goodreads' Best Books of the Year, and many more. Bestselling author Emily Henry calls her summer 2022 book, THE BODYGUARD, "a shot of pure joy." The movie adaptation of Katherine's novel THE LOST HUSBAND (starring Josh Duhamel) hit #1 on Netflix, and her novel HAPPINESS FOR BEGINNERS is now a Netflix original starring Ellie Kemper.

# 24th Annual Poet-Artist Collaboration Exhibition Friday, April 18 - Sunday, June 8

# Red Wing Arts Depot Gallery, Red Wing, MN.

2025 Poet & Artist Jurors



Sherrie Fernandez-Williams (photo by Anna Min) Liz Miller (photo by David Hamlow)

<u>Sherrie Fernandez-Williams</u> is a Black, Queer writer who earned her MFA in Writing from Hamline University. She was a Jerome Hill Artist Fellow and received a Black Voices in Children's Literature award. <u>Liz Miller's</u> awards include a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Fiber Artists, a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant, and numerous grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board.







#### Northfield Library Contemporary Women Writers Book Group In-Person

Thursday, June 17, 7 PM

For June we will be reading <u>Small Things Like These</u> by Claire Keegan.

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

Order book here ---> Small Things Like These

The Northfield Library Contemporary Women Writers Book Group meets eleven times a year, January through November, at the Northfield Public Library in the Bunday Meeting Room.

For further information please contact Joan Ennis at jcennisbooks@gmail.com





The New Romantics Book Club

is Content's romance novel book club and meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 - 8:30 PM.

Join us on June 18 for our June pick MY BEST FRIEND'S HONEYMOON by Meryl Wilsner.

#### Northfield Poetry: June Newsletter *Poet Laureate* Northfield,MN



#### Author Event

#### Poetry with Jennifer Kwon Dobbs and Diane LeBlanc

Sunday Jun 22, 2-3:30 PM

Content welcomes poets Jennifer Kwon Dobbs and Diane LeBlanc for a reading from their collections INTERROGATION ROOM and THE FEAST DELAYED, respectively, and new work.

In INTERROGATION ROOM, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs's second collection, poems that restore redacted speech and traverse forbidden borders suture together divided bodies, geographies, and kinships to confront the unending Korean War's legacies of forced distances and militarized silences. Kwon Dobbs powerfully entwines uneasy, tentative

reconciliations among South Korea's relatives in the North, her birth family in the South, and the transnational diaspora to which she belongs to resist the war's deprivations of language and imagination.

"No one wants to be lost forever. Just long enough," Diane LeBlanc writes. The poems in THE FEAST DELAYED crave the fabric of home and ease. They seed within the natural world that lives beside us, and in the rich and mysterious "time when / we didn't belong to each other alone." LeBlanc pinwheels her attention to the landscape, waking us with her beautiful phrases. And she focuses, too, on the gravity of grief. These poems nest in it, but also emerge to travel through the repeating reminders of light and the aviary of seasons, history, and the horizon of love.

**Jennifer Kwon Dobbs** is the author of two poetry collections and two chapbooks, most recently Interrogation Room-mentioned in The New York Times and a recipient of the Asian American Studies Book Award in Creative Writing. She is senior poetry editor at AGNI and professor of English at St. Olaf College.

Jennifer Kwon Dobbs is a fiscal year 2024 recipient of a Creative Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

**Diane LeBlanc** is a writer, teacher, and book artist with roots in Vermont, Wyoming, and Minnesota. She is the author of The Feast Delayed (2021) and four poetry chapbooks. Poems and essays appear in Bellevue Literary Review, Cimarron Review, Mid-American Review, Ploughshares, and Southern Humanities Review, among others. Awards include the 2024 RockPaperPoem Poetry Contest, the 2023 River Heron Poetry Prize, Mid-American Review's 2019-20 Fineline Competition prize, and Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominations. Diane is a professor of English at St. Olaf College.

#### Northfield Poetry: June Newsletter Poet Laureate Northfield Newsletter Vorthfield,MIN Trave loss have been in your rate, in your rate on your fail to have been exist. WILLIAM KENT KRUDGER, New Yor Trave been exist. WILLIAM KENT KRUDGER, New Yor Trave been exist. WILLIAM KENT KRUDGER, New Yor Trave been exist. HOUVE I FOULD

Myself in the

Midwest

A Memoir of Reinvention

STEVE GROVE



#### Steve Grove's HOW I FOUND MYSELF IN THE MIDWEST

Wednesday Jun 25, 7-8:30 PM at The Grand Event Center, where Steve will be in conversation with Benya Kraus, president of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

# A passionate testimony to the power of moving forward by going back home, a Midwestern native shares hope in going local.

Just after turning forty, Steve Grove left Silicon Valley as a Google executive to move to his home state of Minnesota with his wife and fellow tech exec, Mary Grove, and their one-year-old twins. Gone from the Midwest for two decades, Grove returned home with fresh eyes. Yearning to put down new roots, he traded his career at Google for a position in state government with Governor Tim Walz. Far from working at a fastpaced tech company, Grove's shift to leading a large government bureaucracy brought a sequence of struggles and triumphs vividly portrayed with both humor and affection.

**Steve Grove** is CEO and publisher of the Minnesota Star Tribune. Previously, he was Minnesota's commissioner of employment and economic development. Before moving back to his home state, Grove built a career in Silicon Valley as an executive at Google

and YouTube, most recently as the founding director of the Google News Lab and previously as YouTube's first head of news and politics. A graduate of Claremont McKenna College with a master's degree from the Harvard Kennedy School, Grove also worked as a journalist for The Boston Globe, ABC News, and the Northfield News, his hometown newspaper, and has served as an advisor to the White House and State Department on counterterrorism strategy. Steve and his wife Mary are the cofounders of Silicon North Stars, a nonprofit that helps underserved youth find career pathways in technology. They are the proud parents of eight-year- old twins, a yellow lab, and two farm cats. For more information visit, stevegrove.com.



**Benya Kraus** calls home both Waseca, Minnesota - where her family has farmed for six generations - and Bangkok, Thailand. She serves as the new President and CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), a regional foundation focused on advancing entrepreneurship, early childhood education, and small town vitality across the twenty counties in south central and southeast Minnesota. Previously, Benya served as Network Advancement Director at Resource Rural, a national philanthropic fund with the mission of unlocking public and private capital for rural and tribal communities. Benya began her career as a social entrepreneur, where she co-founded Lead For America, a national nonprofit that supports emerging leaders in returning and reinvesting in their hometowns. She holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business with concentrations in finance and entrepreneurship, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Tufts University with a B.A. in international relations.

# Northfield Poetry: June Newsletter



Author Event

#### Rescheduled: Curtis Sittenfeld's SHOW DON'T TELL

Sunday Jun 29, 2-3:30 PM at Content Bookstore

Content welcomes bestselling author Curtis Sittenfeld, author of ROMANTIC COMEDY, for a reading from her new collection of short stories SHOW DON'T TELL.

A funny, fiercely intelligent, and moving collection exploring marriage, friendship, fame, and artistic ambition—including a story that revisits the main character from Curtis Sittenfeld's iconic novel PREP—from the *New York Times* bestselling author of ELIGABLE and ROMANTIC COMEDY

#### "[Sittenfeld's] perfectly contained stories are a joy." – Booklist, starred review

In her second story collection, Sittenfeld shows why she's as beloved for her short fiction as she is for her novels. In these dazzling stories, she conjures up characters so real that they seem like old friends, laying bare the moments when their long held beliefs are overturned.

In "The Patron Saints of Middle Age," a woman visits two friends she hasn't seen since her divorce. In "A for Alone," a married artist embarks on a creative project intended to disprove the so-called Mike Pence Rule, which suggests that women and men can't spend time alone together without lusting after each other. And in "Lost but Not Forgotten," Sittenfeld gives readers of her novel PREP a window into the world of her beloved character Lee Fiora, decades later, when Lee attends an alumni reunion at her boarding school.

Hilarious, thought-provoking, and full of tenderness for her characters, Sittenfeld's stories peel back layer after layer of our inner lives, keeping us riveted to the page with her utterly distinctive voice.

**Curtis Sittenfeld** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven novels including *Romantic Comedy, Rodham, Eligible, Prep, American Wife,* and *Sisterland,* as well as the collection *You Think It, I'll Say It.* Her novels have been translated into thirty languages. In addition, her short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker, The Washington Post Magazine, Esquire,* and *The Best American Short Stories,* for which she has also been the guest editor. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times, The Atlantic, Time,* and *Vanity Fair,* and on public radio's *This American Life.* Her second short story collection *Show Don't Tell* is forthcoming from Random House in February 2025.







Mystery Book Group

Monday, June 30 at Oddfellows Park, 1011 Forest Avenue

The Mystery Book Group meets the second Monday of the month at the Northfield Public Library. Titles are popular mystery fiction (often the first of a series), true crime nonfiction, or popular thrillers. Discussions are led by group members or library staff.

For June we will have a joint discussion with the Sci-fi Book Group of The Eyre Affair, by Jasper Fforde.

For further information contact: Karin Bartlett, Northfield Public Library (507-645-1807) or karin.bartlett@northfieldmn.gov. This is an in-person event.





#### **Open Writing Group**

Interested in joining a writer's group? All genres and all levels of experience are welcome!

We meet one Wednesday a month from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Northfield Public Library meeting room. Contact: Joan Ennis at <<u>jcennis@gmail.com</u>> or Torild Homstad at <<u>homstad@gmail.com</u>>

This is an in-person event.





#### Content Storytime! Friday mornings 11 - 11:30 AM at Content Bookstore.

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!

No Storytime June 27.





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!

#### 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.)

MINNESOTA POETS





