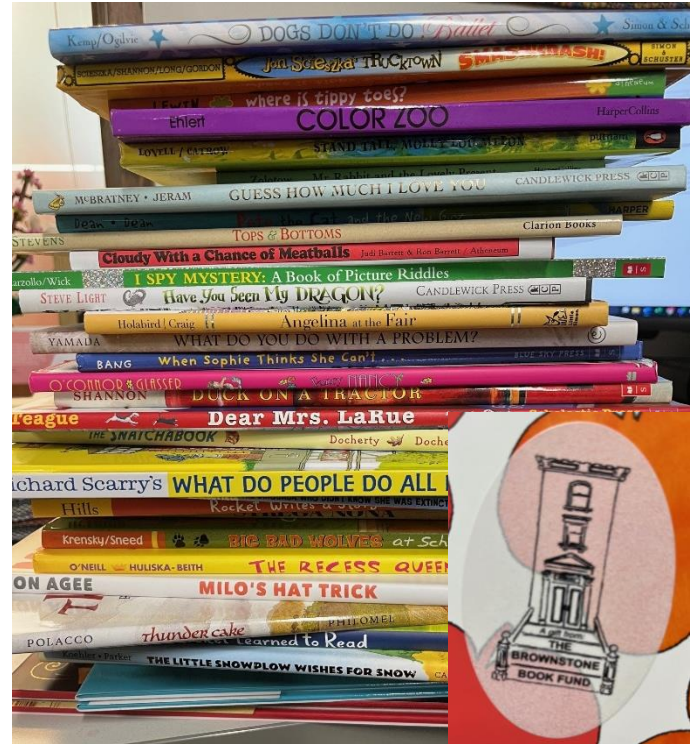


## Combined September Reports

*Amy Nelson, Youth Services Manager*

A **connected community** has access to the resources they need.

Back in May, SELCO reached out to all member libraries to let us know that 11 SELCO libraries would be receiving 100 donated books from the Brownstone Book Fund, a private foundation that fosters early reading, a love of books, and parent-child reading. We were selected as one of the 11 recipients! Books have arrived and will be enhancing our collections at the Oasis, on the Bookmobile, and at 210 Washington. We received mostly picture books, with a few early readers and board books mixed in.



*Emily Lloyd, Youth Services Librarian*

A **connected community** has access to the resources they need.

I presented on the Traveling Early Literacy Library (TELL) at the ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) Conference in Albuquerque in mid-September. TELL connects in-home daycare providers (who are also small business owners) with library services by eliminating barriers like transportation and time. In rural and small towns, in-home daycares often serve as de facto preschools—and the more books children experience before

kindergarten, the better equipped they'll be to learn. The presentation was so well-received that afterwards one attendee who manages library grants for the state of Utah shared it with all public libraries in Utah with a recommendation that they consider applying for a grant to offer it at their libraries.

In Northfield, we have two new providers and 19 new children (so far) starting to receive TELL service the first week of October. I'll be speaking at a United Providers Association training on October 20 to further spread the word to local providers.

*An **invited community** feels at home in their library.*

Weekly Oasis Storytimes are in full swing and growing—the first one had 9 attendees and the most recent had 23.

Weekly Tween Thursdays—Thursday afternoon activities for 6 to 11 yr olds—begin the first week of October, following the model Cat has used for Teen Tuesdays.

*Laurie Kodet, Library Services Manager*

### **Connected Community**

Minnesota State Park Library Program

- 18 passes issued in July
- 14 passes issued in August
- 4 passes issued in September

Passport Acceptance Services

- In the event of a government shutdown, there is no change to passport acceptance services. However, processing time could be extended.
- Year to Date: Accepted 1161 passports and have taken 1331 photos

Oasis

- We have been reviewing circulation processes at the Oasis and made some updates. When the Oasis is not staffed, folks who don't have a library card can still check out materials.

### **Empowered Community**

Evergreen

- Laurie is currently working with a few other Selco library staff on the Patron Record Actions Task Force. This team has been reviewing all the current permissions in Evergreen. A set of recommendations based on feedback from a survey issued to library staff has been created and will be presented on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Included Community**

#### Student Workers

- Emily and Thomas returned for their second year to the Circulation Department.
- Sophia will also be returning in January (she was studying abroad this fall).
- Our students spend their time with library materials. They can be searching, shelving, or straightening materials.

### **Informed Community**

#### Magazines

- It is that time of year again to review current magazine usage and make decisions about the collection.

### **Outreach Services**

*Submitted by Angelica Linder, Outreach Manager & Alexis Kreft  
Adult Programming & Outreach Librarian*

October was full of cultural celebration and community connection. From our Hispanic Heritage Celebration to student-led music performances and outreach with older adults, families, and young learners, the library continued to be a welcoming space. We also visited St. Olaf and Carleton, helping students get library cards and learn about library resources, bringing our programs directly to the community.

*An **Included Community** is seen, heard, and engaged by their library*

Our outreach efforts this month centered on representation, cultural celebration, and collaboration—ensuring that every community member feels reflected in the life of the library.

Our **Hispanic Heritage Celebration** was a wonderful success, drawing an estimated 2,000 attendees throughout the day. With a lean but dedicated team—Karin, Steve, Alexis, Francisco, and

myself-supported by enthusiastic volunteers, the event was filled with music, food, art, and connection. Expanded children's activities kept families engaged, and our new hours (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) worked beautifully for visitors. The Bookmobile was also a highlight, welcoming 135 visitors during the day. The celebration was featured in a **Minitex** article, "**Community, Culture, and Connection: Hispanic Heritage Month at Northfield Public Library**" (September 19, 2025), by Jesús Maldonado Sánchez.

The piece captured the spirit of the day:

"When the community comes together, culture shines. From cultural performances to local vendors to unique art, Northfield Public Library came alive with Hispanic Heritage Month festivities."

[Community, culture, and connection: Hispanic Heritage Month at Northfield Public Library | Minitex](#)

Community members expressed their appreciation, including one who shared:

*"Hubo mucha gente que vino y participó a pesar de cómo se siente la comunidad con miedo. Eso demuestra la fuerte comunidad que han cultivado y la confianza que tienen con la librería." Silvia Echeverría, owner of Pupusas Food Truck.*

As part of our ongoing collaboration with the St. Olaf Music Department, we also supported **Raíces: A Latin-American Music**

**Celebration**, a concert held on Friday, October 10, at Urness Recital Hall. Led by Moisés Duarte, the student-organized performance brought together over 200 attendees for an evening celebrating the richness and diversity of Latin American music.



Looking ahead, we're preparing for **Bridging Communities: A Celebration of Somali Culture**, scheduled for Saturday, November 8, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the library. Organized with Professor **Rehanna Kheshgi** from St. Olaf, the event will unite Northfield and Faribault communities through Somali storytelling, music, and dance. Highlights will include workshops with the Somali Museum of Minnesota Dance Troupe, a Faribault Middle School Choir performance, henna art, face painting, bilingual storytelling, and a scavenger hunt for all ages.

Professor *Kheshgi's* Musiking class also participated in our Hispanic Heritage Celebration, volunteering and observing as part of their study on ethnic festivals as acts of belonging. These ongoing collaborations with faculty and students strengthen the bridge between local culture and academic engagement.

*An **Invited Community** feels at home in their library*

We continue to focus on creating spaces and experiences where people feel welcome, supported, and represented.

At the Oasis, we launched new fall and winter staffed hours to ensure greater consistency for patrons: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 1-5 p.m. While staff often arrive earlier to prepare materials, these set hours provide clear expectations and reliable service for all visitors. Cat and Emily are offering kids and teens programming at the satellite location. We are planning a special aloha Storytime in October thanks to Selco Legacy Vetted program.

This month, I also had the opportunity to present with Naidine Villa at the REFORMA Conference, sharing our library's internship program and how it helps nurture emerging library professionals while strengthening community representation in library work.

*A **Connected Community** has access to the resources they need*



Defeat of Jesse James Days Parade: Our colorful "alebrijes" float was a crowd favorite! Families who joined our pre-parade alebrije-making workshop marched alongside the library, proudly sharing their creations.

Carleton New Student Week Resource Fair (Sept. 9): Alexis and I connected with new students and shared information on library involvement.

Head Start Bilingual Storytime: Francisco hosted bilingual storytimes on Wednesdays once a month, nurturing early literacy and bilingual development.



Trucks & Tractors Event (Sept. 12): Francisco and Steve represented the library, connecting with families in a fun, hands-on community event.

Dundas Oktoberfest (Sept. 20): The Bookmobile saw 109 visitors during this lively family celebration.

St. Olaf Library Back-to-School Fair (Sept. 24): Francisco and Alexis met 51 students, promoting library resources and card sign-ups.

Carleton Resource Fair (Sept. 26): Steve, Alexis, and Gerardo helped 116 students register for new library cards.

St. Olaf Library Card Sign-Up (Sept. 11): Another 26 new students received library cards during their orientation tour.

#### Older Adult Outreach:

Karin visited three senior living facilities during her third-Thursday route, reaching 68 older adults and completing 12 checkouts. Francisco also continued outreach at Valley View, maintaining connections with residents there.

#### Home Delivery Service:

We welcomed several new volunteer drivers this month. Karin has been training them and notes that, although consistency can sometimes be a challenge, their help is invaluable in ensuring materials reach patrons who cannot visit the library in person.

#### Student Workers:

We're delighted to have Rafael and Gerardo back this semester.

Rafael leads the Computer Class and Spanish Conversation Table.

Gerardo facilitates the English Conversation Table, assists with outreach, and supports library events and special projects.

Their bilingual skills and enthusiasm continue to strengthen our community connections and enhance the welcoming atmosphere of our programs.

### **Alexus**

On September 13th, we hosted *Queer Northfield, Then and Now*. It's a program I've been working on alongside folks from the Minnesota Historical Society since early June. MNHS staff members presented on their work creating a Greater Minnesota Two-Spirit & LGBTQIA+ Story Map, Professors Averill Earls and Jaden Janak from St. Olaf shared their work on queer Ole oral histories, and we had a panel of community members share their experiences. We had over 60 people attend, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. You can read the Northfield News article covering the program here:

[https://www.southernminn.com/northfield\\_news/news/minnesota-](https://www.southernminn.com/northfield_news/news/minnesota-)

[historical-society-st-olaf-professors-present-queer-history/article/16f51836-e4df-4c3e-b8bd-6b579f2c8191.html](https://historical-society-st-olaf-professors-present-queer-history/article/16f51836-e4df-4c3e-b8bd-6b579f2c8191.html)

and here's an excerpt from the feedback MNHS gathered. Participants were asked "What did you like best about your experience?":

6	The panelists
7	good history lesson & opportunity to learn more about the community here.
8	How glad the speakers are to be here and sharing their work.
9	diversity of topics/structure
10	The laughter and the sense of community
11	I was not sure what I expected. I liked hearing from many different perspectives
12	hearing all of the stories
13	Seeing our diverse and benevolent comm.
14	history of the queer community. Love the digging into history at 80. Appreciate the candid sharing of the panelists.
15	Hearing the stories and experience of members of the community that I don't interact with often.
16	I was drawn to this event because of the three different sections of the program w/ diverse voices.
17	hearing from the professors about queer oles!
18	community voices sharing their experiences
19	local stories
20	personal stories, diversity
21	I enjoyed hearing personal stories
22	great stories
25	Seeing everyone come together, learning history & ppl's stories
26	Seeing so many people and getting a sense of how big the community is.

"We hosted two craft programs for adults in September. One, our Adult LEGO Craft Night, is a perennial favorite. However, we



always see new faces and a wide range of ages.

The other was a Legacy Vetted program, provided to us free of charge by SELCO. We hosted Heather from Doubletree Leatherworks for a leather earring creation workshop. Participants appreciated getting to take something home at the end of the night, and even though some of them were working artists, none of them had ever worked with leather before.



"Steve, Bill North, and I had a wonderful time at Carleton's annual Involvement Fair. We tabled alongside Carleton extracurricular groups and other community partners and signed up 116 Carleton students for library cards! Our new Outreach and Spanish Programming Assistant, Gerardo, joined us. It was his first outreach event, and he did an amazing job."



"I wanted to share an impactful experience I had with a patron this month. I know some American Sign Language, having taken a few classes in college, and always enjoy helping our Deaf patrons. A Deaf woman, Lauren, came in one Thursday night asking for a notary, and I was so happy to be able to help her with the service in her native language. We chatted, and I found out that she lives in Lakeville but stopped by because she happened to be in Northfield. I mentioned that I was so glad she stopped by, and she shared that she felt like it was meant to be. The next week, Cat took a call from a relay line for a Deaf patron named Lauren who wanted to know if I would be in the building. I saw her later that night, and she shared that she had driven to the library from Lakeville just to have another document notarized by someone who knew ASL. It filled me with such happiness that I was able to help make an experience that can be a frustrating one for hearing folks (and can be made infinitely more so by the barriers Deaf people face) a smooth one. I know our Spanish-speaking coworkers feel the same way—it is truly such a joy to see someone's face light up when they realize you know their language and are there to help."

