

Reports to the Arts and Culture Commission

Living Treasure Award

Despite threatening weather, there was a packed house at FiftyNorth as Donna Paulsen was presented with the 2019 Living Treasure Award by Mayor Pownell. Donna planned an engaging program that included solo piano performance, piano accompaniment of an instrumental solo, accompaniment of a number from *Jesse* (the Arts Guild musical for which Donna wrote the score), and a culminating sing along.

Feedback from attendees regarding the change of venue was very positive. It was described by many as a warm and intimate setting. FiftyNorth provided both the venue and a wonderful array of beverages and treats.

I wish to recognize the partnership with FiftyNorth, the award sponsorship by the Northfield News, and the generosity of Rob Schanilec of By All Means Graphics in donating the printed program as key elements in another successful and celebratory Living Treasure event.

ACC Chair Herzog Melby and I are meeting with members of the FiftyNorth staff this week to reflect on the newly established partnership with them. I have maintained a detailed list of tasks surrounding the Living Treasure Award to aid in planning for next year.

Sidewalk Poetry

This is an exciting time in the history of Northfield's Sidewalk Poetry project as we accept, for the first time, submissions in English and Spanish. I have been in conversations with members of this year's blind judging panel as we strive to establish the best possible way to process the Spanish submissions. There are two Spanish speakers on the judging panel and another panel member with great familiarity with reading Spanish. We are so fortunate to have arranged for such a skilled panel to serve in this important role.

My meeting with Bill North of the Friends and Foundation of the Library, during which we check each entry for adherence to the poem size and residency rules, has been set for early March. Given the new and welcome challenge of judging poems in Spanish, we are allowing plenty of time for the judges to do their work before meeting the third week in March. This will allow us plenty of time to issue the press release and announce the winners in time for National Poetry Month in early April.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Jean Flom

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