



Northfield Public Library Director's Report October 2018

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director

Fall chores, library-style

Every fall I let myself be lulled into a maybe-it-won't-happen frame of mind regarding the looming winter season. This could be the year winter will be snowless, below-zero-degree-less, and sunny, thanks to climate change, El Niño, or our fictional small-town heat island. I won't have to put away my summer clothes, or bring out coats, hats and sweaters!

But there are plenty of reminders at home and at work that winter is coming, and a lot has to do with ritual fall preparations. Library-wise, here are a few:

- Budgets; unless we are asking for additional staff hours, our personnel budget remains steady, with increases due to cost-of-living and annual step raises. We look more closely at our collection budgets and how they will parse out, our programming budgets, staff professional development and training, any upcoming building expenses, and any technology improvements.
- Grant applications and grant reports; SEMAC (Southeast MN Arts Council) especially has an October deadline, and so whether we are the applying agency, as in the Poet Laureate program, or a partner agency, as in Sidewalk Poetry and Books and Stars, grants are written, scrutinized, and submitted on deadline. Any grant for 2018 that is winding up also needs a written report and an official "Capstone" event before the end of the grant.
- Maintenance for the building and for vehicles; cleaning, storing, repairing, servicing all number of things, from umbrellas to windows to the Book Bike to the Bookmobile to irrigation systems to landscape lighting; final garden clean-up, holiday lights bought and strung
- School visits throughout Northfield; Children's staff schedule visits to Northfield schools and for tours from Northfield schools to the library
- Board and Commission work; new student representatives welcomed and oriented, new Board 3-ring binders created and given out, policy review and updates planned, new work plan for 2019 discussed and implemented.

- Fall, winter and spring programs planned, publicized, funded and staffed; most on our mind right now is the Winterwalk in early December. Library Board help is most welcome!

Like the coming winter, our tasks at the library are incontrovertible, inexorable and infinite.

Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Reference Manager

The bulk of September I spent working with Angelica on the September 15 kick-off for “Hispanic Heritage Month” and subsequent events including speakers, movie showings and dancers. We will also be holding several Latin themed events for children over MEA. While Angelica made contacts and negotiated prices, I worked on PR, budgets and supplies.

Two of our databases needed renewal in September: RB Digital Zinio platform and ProQuest’s Ancestry and Heritage Quest. We share the expense for the ProQuest databases with the Faribault Library so I have been communicating with director Delane James about this.

I have also been training various staff on Collection Management. Tyler Gardner is managing the adult music collection and will be trained on DVD’s next, Laurie is working with Books on CD, and Layna will be learning to work on the Young Adult and juvenile media and Emily is finishing training on the NF juvenile books. Collection management involves learning online acquisitions, watching the collection budget, cataloging, purchasing, invoicing and de-selection so there is a lot to cover.

Meanwhile I have been working with library volunteer Susan Dean on weeding the adult NF collection. Together we have gone through the cookery and handicraft collections and are starting work on the biographies. The flip side of this is continuing to select, purchase and catalog the new NF collection while still purchasing DVDs and juvenile media for a few more weeks.

Adult Services

Submitted by Joan Ennis

I have spoken at four school faculty meetings so far this year. – Bridgewater Elementary on August 27, Sibley Elementary on September 6, Greenvale Park Elementary on September 12, and the Middle School on September 18. I will be speaking at the High School on October 1. Emily has accompanied me to the elementary schools, and spoke about children’s programs, and Layna has accompanied me to the Middle School, and will come to the High School. She has presented information on the Teen Board and activities.

On September 11, I presented the Brain Fitness activities at Three Links. I had talked about books about vacations in August, and in September we talked about best and worse vacations. I had also prepared sheets of photos of famous landmarks around the world. The residents enjoyed identifying the places.

On Monday, September 18, a local class of Riverland Community College students came for a tour of the library, and instructions on using the catalog and databases. The group looked for both fiction and nonfiction books to read during the semester, and will be returning for more assignments.

The Contemporary Women Writers Book Group met on September 18, and read and discussed *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. We also voted on our books for next year.

The Open Writing Group met on September 19, and have new members joining.

The Northfield Reads group is meeting often to plan for events for this year. Our first event was on Thursday, September 27, and had a panel discussion by eight people of color who had moved to Northfield. What was difficult? What went well? What would they suggest to the community to help future people of color moving to Northfield? We had a large turnout at the UCC church, and heard some positive experiences and some stories of stereotyping and discrimination.

On Monday, September 24, members from artist Paul Houston’s family came to research their family history. Houston made the bronze plaques that are on the wall near the Pye Room. They were pleased to find many articles in the Northfield News, and family information in the Dalby Database.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

From **2020 to 2040**,
the number of
people over 85 will
nearly double.

(Table numbers reflect millions)



The sharply increasing population of aging adults will have a substantial effect on our community. Rising costs of care and lack of space available are just a couple of the concerns that are motivating families to explore creative and alternative care solutions. Trends such as multigenerational living and aging in place are becoming more popular as vacancies in traditional senior living communities become more limited. Rapid advances in home care technology are helping to provide peace of mind for seniors who wish to remain living independently.

It is common knowledge that the population in the United States is aging. Public libraries have always felt mandated to serve all segments of the general population, but with this rapid rise in the number of “seniors” libraries are now asking themselves how this demographic shift will affect the library, and how to serve this growing population.

Over the past few years, I have been involved with book-focused programming for older adults in Northfield living in retirement communities. My interest in this topic is deepening and I am always eager to find out how other libraries are addressing the needs of older people.

An article in the March/April 2017 issue of Public Libraries titled “*The Power of Community Outreach: Meeting the Demands of a Growing Senior Population*” by David Kelsey summarizes the programs put in place by The St. Charles Public Library in Illinois. The St. Charles Library serves a population of 55,000 residents in the far western suburbs of Chicago and parts of Kane and DuPage Counties. This article provides an overview of the steps the St. Charles Library has taken to engage with seniors in their service area. It is written in the vein of “how we done it good” and while this library is much larger than the Northfield Library with four full-time staff in Outreach Services there is some good takeaway information in the article that could be useful to the Northfield Library. In the future, I will provide submissions about related topics as well as program and service suggestions for the Northfield Library.

*Source: NRC Insights, August 2018 <https://northfieldretirement.org/assets/files/NRC-Insights-August-2018.pdf>

Youth Services

Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children’s Programming Librarian

In September, Joan and I visited Bridgewater, Sibley, and Greenvale Park elementary faculty meetings to invite teachers to utilize us (in their classrooms or otherwise), apprise them of some new library resources, and share that the library’s ebook app is now on their upper-level students iPads. I also mentioned that building our Spanish language collection is a new focus point for me when ordering books. Storytime returned. Kids had fun posing with a cardboard stand-up of Jesse James at “Wild West” storytimes for DJJD weekend, and I had fun posing Jesse in amusing situations for photos for the library’s Facebook and Instagram accounts. Library Pages marched with the bookmobile in the DJJD parade, handing out bookmarks and library card holders. Thursday afternoon LEGO Club started up and has been hopping, with anywhere from 15 to 18 kids attending each week. Many thanks to Laurie Kodet for securing wonderfully friendly volunteers to staff this popular weekly program! I did my first evening storytime of the year at Greenvale Park Community School. Turnout was low, so I’m thinking of ways to rebrand the program (Stories, Music, and Movement is a possibility) in the hopes of attracting more people, an ongoing struggle with evening storytimes whether held at the Community School or

the library. Offering a non-daytime storytime is important to me so that families who can't make mornings have an option, so I want to keep trying and seeing if we can crack this nut. The month ended delightfully with an All-Ages *Hamilton* Sing-Along attended by 42 people. The appeal of this event across generations was amazing: many adults and older adults came on their own, books of lyrics in hand; while many families with younger children attended as well (including one who came from Owatonna). One of the older adults talked to me about the joy she felt getting to see the younger kids up singing and dancing. I want to find other topics with as broad appeal as *Hamilton* on which to offer such programs—ideas eagerly sought! A sweet September story to end with: last week, a library patron shared that during the tornado--when the family went to shelter in the basement--their 6-yr-old insisted that his mom go upstairs and get his library card. It was his first library card, and he didn't want to be without it.

Submitted by Layna Mestad, Youth Services/Teen Librarian

This past month was all prep for the Teen Fine Waiver and Teen Read Month activities. Teen Read Month is a literacy initiative created by the Young Adult Services Association (YALSA) and is celebrated by libraries across the country each October. It is a time to celebrate and encourage teens to read for fun, visit their local libraries, and for Northfield Public Library teens, an opportunity to get their late fees waived & participate in a Teen Read Month Reading Program. In recognition of Teen Read Month in October, we are offering a one-time fine waiver to teens (middle-high school) from October 1-31. After month long prep by Teresa, Emily, and myself, the fine waiver proposal was passed by City Council! Woo hoo! Throughout October teens with a Northfield Public Library card can go to the Northfield Public Library's front desk with their library card or photo ID and get their late fees waived (does not include lost materials fees). I think this is a great opportunity to bring teens into the building that may not have been here for years, and once here, they will not only check out library materials, but see the teen programming initiatives we have going on (Teen Advisory Board, Dungeons & Dragons, Hogwarts Halloween, Anime & Manga Club, and the Teen Read Month Reading Program).

The Teen Read Month Reading Program is similar to the adult winter reading program, Hot Reads for Cold Nights. Teens can recommend books they've read over the month of October to win gift cards to local businesses. TAB voted on having weekly prize drawings, so there will be two winners drawn each week. This is a great opportunity for reader's advisory for teens by teens.



Lastly, we had 11 TAB members help out at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration kickoff earlier in September. They were a tremendous help in setting up for the event and making sure it was a party. They helped out with games, the craft booths making maracas and sugar skull candy masks, and facepainting. As we all know, the kickoff event went fabulously, and TAB was a big part of making it a success.

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush Vizina, Technology Circulation Services Manager



I am pleased to introduce you to Melanny Castillo who has been hired as a Temporary Circulation Clerk 1. She will be with us until the end of the year. Melanny graduated from Northfield High school in 2017 and spent one year at St. Cloud State. She transferred this year to Dakota County Technical College and is planning to become a nurse. At the Library she works the front desk helping our patrons and has helped on the Bookmobile with Tuesday's in the Park with Angelica. Her family just got two new puppies that she is enjoying. Please welcome Melanny!

Outreach, Shelving and Volunteer Services

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



Two programs began in September made possible in part by the assistance of library volunteers. Lego Club began on Thursday the 13th and will run weekly through December 13th. The program is open for children of all ages and each week there is building challenge and free building. There are three volunteers assisting with this program. Volunteers supervise the room, assist with set-up, and

clean up. They also help the children display their work on top of the children's fiction book stacks. Stop by and see the awesome creations.

The second program began on September 18th is an English and Technology class. The class will meet weekly through mid-May. This is a collaboration with Dakota Prairie Adult Education and I worked closely with their volunteer coordinator to select and offer volunteers training. There are three volunteers assisting with the class. I have had so much interest that I have referred three additional library volunteers to Dakota Prairie where they can assist in classes held in other locations.

Senior Outreach/Programming

My fall focus is on outreach for seniors. I have been reaching out to local senior living facilities and scheduling bookmobile visits. During these visits, we will offer a tour of the bookmobile, issue library cards, and promote the library's homebound services. We are currently scheduled to visit 6 locations and I have calls into several more.



Book Bike

We had a very successful Book Bike season. Library staff took the Book Bike to Riverwalk Market Fair ten times and interacted with just under 700 people. Library staff and volunteers lead storytime on nine occasions and 150 children and adults attended. The library collaborates with Northfield Promise (HCI), who take the book bike to several locations and give out free books. This year they took the bike out 13 times and give out approximately 1800 book. What a great way to books into the hands of children!

Bookmobile

The Bookmobile had a busy summer; it was present at 38 events around town, including Books & Stars, Night to Unite, Tuesdays in the Park, and many more. The bookmobile and book bike were in the Defeat of Jessie James Days Parade. Several staff members, volunteers, and members of the Friends of the Library walked this year.



Wellness Committee

I have been on the City of Northfield's Wellness Committee for many years and this year we coordinated a Wellness Fair for city employees. The event was held on September 12th, it featured local wellness related vendors. Some of the vendors present were Just Food Coop, Anytime Fitness, Harvest Seed Acupuncture, Northfield Hospital, and more. The event was well-received and 64 employees attended.

Professional Development

This month I spent time learning more about collection development and cataloging. I read the book, *Crash Course in Collection Development*. I also completed the online cataloging training through SELCO. I continue to work with Leesa and Kathy on collection and cataloging.

Submitted by Angelica Linder, Outreach Coordinator

On September 15th we officially kicked off the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. It was a perfect weather day, for some a little too hot but it was easier to deal with than rain. We had around 400 people, maybe more, kids and adults both partook and enjoyed the diversity in our event. We had groups coming to perform from Northfield and the Twin Cities. They represented countries with dances from Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and two music groups Mestifonía a Minnesota-based group that blends Colombian, Bolivian, and American talent and our headlining group, K-Libre24 representing some of the finest musicians in the Twin Cities Latin music scene playing popular styles of music such as Merengue, Cumbia and Salsa. Members of the group are from Cuba, Colombia and Puerto Rico.



We added to our venue with food trucks, Noiris Cuisine from Venezuela and El Jefe Mexican, a last minute addition since Marias food truck had technical difficulties and could not come. Thanks to Fatima who recommended them.

The community had the opportunity to buy crafts and art from our vendors representing Colombia, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico.



Kids had the opportunity to make crafts, do face painting and eat free cotton candy. Our collaborators from the Arts Guild offered a craft table, thanks to Bridget Novak, and a dance performance from their Folkloric Mexican Dance group.

We had good feedback from the community and support from the Friends of the Library, the TAB, Rotary Club, Hideaway coffee house and Imminent Brewery.

We will continue with a series of events through November with our closing event being a celebration for el Dia de los Muertos “Day of the Dead” October 25th –November 3rd.



Northfield Poet Laureate

Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

Poetry Events

Kai Carlson-Wee Poetry Reading. Thursday, September 13. Content. Attendance: 40.

Northfield Poetry Festival: Group Reading. Saturday, September 29. Content. Readings by Susan Jaret McKinstry, Steve McCown, Becky Boling, Joyce Sutphen (Minnesota Poet Laureate), D.E. Green, Diane LeBlanc, and Leslie Schultz. Attendance: 40.

Northfield Poetry Festival: Palabristas. Saturday, September 29. Northfield Public Library. Readings by Minneapolis-based Latina poets Marion Gomez and Lupe Castillo. Attendance: 10.

Northfield Poetry Festival: “Leaves of Grass—Illuminated.” Sunday, September 30. Northfield Arts Guild Theater. Attendance: 25

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 115

Budget (Year-to-Date)

	Stipend		Programming	
	Paid	Balance	Paid	Balance
Month		2,000		2,800
January	200	1,800	0	2,800
February	200	1,600	0	2,800
March	200	1,400	0	2,800
April	200	1,200	650	2,150
May	200	1,000	0	2,150
June	0	1,000	0	2,150
July	0	1,000	0	2,150

August	200	800	0	2,150
September	200	600	260	1,890

September programming expenses:

Lodging for Patrick Scully (“Leaves of Grass—Illuminated”) at Alumni Guest House: \$60

Honoraria for Marion Gomez and Lupe Castillo: \$200

Anticipated October expenses:

Honorarium for Bao Phi: \$200

Honorarium for Nicole Borg: \$100

Anticipated November expenses:

Honorarium for Michael Kleber-Diggs: \$200 (reading and poetry workshop at The Key)