

Northfield Public Library

Director's Report

November 2018

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director

Here's an idea....

"Here's an idea" or the equivalent thereof are some of my favorite words from staff at the library. Why, do you ask? Because this is how new services, initiatives, or just plain fun things to do begin. It may be a way to make the library look better, or function better, or makes life easier for staff or patrons. It might be a big idea, or just a small suggestion. I love the nimbleness of being able to try out a new idea quickly, or institute a change readily. To me, it shows great initiative on the part of the library staff, and also demonstrates the feeling of being invested in how we do what we do. We have the umbrella of our Strategic Plan to guide us, and within the parameters of our guiding goals and initiatives we have room to explore and test. It makes working for the library rewarding for staff and a better place to work. The website redesign, Hispanic Heritage Month, our public Tech Training one-on-one appointments, Teen Read/fine forgiveness, new ways to reach Seniors including volunteer visits, Bookmobile visits and senior programming, January musical programs, our creative graphics-- in-library and on our website—and many more initiatives happen because our creative and proactive library staff. November should be staff appreciation month!

Adult Services

Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Adult and Youth Services Manager

In October Angelica Linder and I continued our Hispanic Heritage Celebration with 11 exciting and diverse programs including speaker Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin and the Guatemalan Society of Minnesota; Mar Valdecantos & Al Montero who spoke about Spain and Cuba (their respective countries); Andrew Fisher who spoke about the Spanish "Conquest"; and a screening of the film Gabo with a discussion afterward with the Colombianos en Mpls. In addition there were classes on Yoga in Spanish, and 2 very popular



Zumba sessions offered Saturday mornings before we opened. One participant in the Zumba session was so excited that she donated funds to offer additional sessions. Several children's programs were also offered (which I'm sure Emily will elaborate on) and we hosted 2 family movies – Coco and Around the World in 80 Days starring popular Latin actor Cantinflas. The meeting room served as movie theater using the Nuk connected to a Buffalo disc player with the overhead projector. To end 8 weeks of Latin programming we celebrated Dia de los Muertos with a well attended program on this national holiday honoring family loved ones (deceased) presented by 2 members from the Mexican Consulate who explained the holiday, parts of the ofrenda (alter) and stressed the importance of parents carrying on the tradition with their own families. Dia de los Muertos is recognized by the UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and is the 3rd most important holiday in Mexico and Central America. We built a large ofrenda in the Atrium and encouraged the public to add their own items – see the attached photo. Angelica and I will be reviewing this year's first HCC, evaluating what worked and what to change or add for 2019.

I also worked on my job description for Teresa, staff job evaluations, collection management (purchasing and weeding adult NF and DVD's), monthly events poster and monthly calendar. By November I am carefully reviewing the collection budget to make certain funds are spent up and 2019 reference materials are ordered and database contracts renewed. I continue to work with staff who are training in online acquisitions and initial work for the annual Magic of Model Train show has begun.



Lastly, as liaison to the Friends of the Library I would like to remind everyone to attend the annual Friends of the Library Trivia Bee fundraiser and to donate to the Friends on Give to the Max day November 15th.

Submitted by Joan Ennis

- Layna and I visited the Northfield High School on October 1, and talked about some of our new databases, and Layne emphasized teen programs at the library.
- On October 15, author Romalyn Tilghman talked about her book *To the Stars Through Difficulties*.
- The novel describes the work that many women did in the early 20th century to fill the Carnegie Libraries with books, after they buildings were donated and built by Andrew Carnegie. The novel had a storyline that went from present day back and forth to the past. The talk was very good, and the best part of the evening was when the audience of about 17 people and the speaker all talked about their love of libraries, and some of their best experiences and memories!

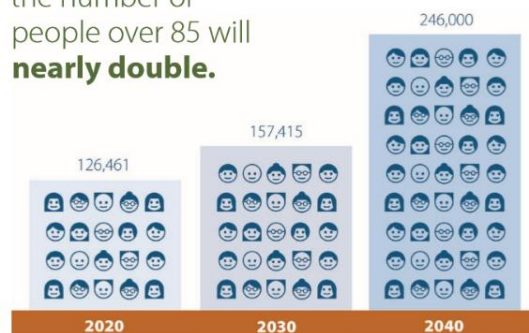
- On October 23, I gave a book talk on biographical fiction at Three Links Apartments. I will return on November 13 to do follow up activities at their Brain Fitness event.
- Northfield Reads has been busy planning events on racism for the academic year. On Sunday, October 28, we showed the film “Document of Discovery; unmasking the domination code” at the Weitz Center.
- The film describes the process and history of taking land away from indigenous people, beginning in the fifteenth century. About 75 people watched the film, and between 45 – 50 people stayed for a light meal and discussion.
- On October 30, we had a self publishing panel. I invited local authors to speak about their experiences self publishing. What self publishing method did they use? What were costs involved? Did they face any problems? How did they market their book? The speakers did a good job explaining their process, including using a PowerPoint visual.
- The Contemporary Women Writers book group discussed Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye* on October 16.
- Eighteen people attended, which is the largest group I have had.
- The Open Writing Group met on October 17, and new members continue to join us.

Jamie and I spoke to two first year students from a Carleton college. The students asked about how the library is involved in reading in Northfield, what people do when they come to the library, what people like to read, what we do to encourage reading, and other related questions. It was easy to answer their questions and help them with their assignment!

On Thursday, November 1, local nutritionist Noel Aldrich gave a talk, “Your Immune System.” He has given a series of talks in the past, and his talks are very well attended. There were 21 attendees, and Noel talked about different food, food groups, and vitamins that are needed to boost immunity.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

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



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.

The September Director’s Report I submitted provided a short discussion about the evolving demographic statistics in the United States as the “baby boom” generation ages and, the effect this will have on how the public library adjusts to and serves this swelling population. The submission below continues this subject.

A survey conducted by the AARP and the National Conference of State Legislatures in 2011 indicated that most seniors prefer to live at home and apply for

long-term care services rather than residing in a senior care facility. It is estimated that the number of people residing in seeking home care services, residing in nursing homes or alternative residential care facilities is expected to grow from 15 million in 2000 to 27 million in 2050.

Public libraries already have in place some programs to address this demographic shift. The Homebound Outreach Service for example is long established in many libraries, including the Northfield Library, that services at present about eighty-five people. This represents an average increase of about 10% per year since 2012. This service pairs people who are unable to travel to the library either temporarily or permanently, with library staff and volunteers who select and/or deliver materials to these individuals where they reside. There is potential for this service to expand by pairing with other organizations that provide outreach services including Meals on Wheels or people in long-term hospital care units.

The provision of Outreach Services beyond providing book selection and delivery is more nuanced however as each residence is unique and a “one size fits all” approach is ineffective.

In my third (and final) contribution to the Director’s Report on the subject of outreach services for seniors I will briefly discuss five components of successful programs. These include: Engagement, Social Interaction, Good Collaboration, Community Awareness and Community Partnerships.

Submitted by Tyler Gardner

In the time since my last report I have been going full steam on publicity for library programming. For the days I am present in the library I am posting at least one Instagram post a day and cross-posting that post to our Facebook page. Typically I will post about an event the on Instagram the day before the event is scheduled, but sometimes due to scheduling I will post it the day of. We have gained about 25 followers in the last month on Instagram and have over 440 likes on the 25 posts for the month of October. And that is just on Instagram! It’s proving to be a valuable tool for promotion and showing the community what we are up to. More so than Facebook if we go by the numbers. I am considering changing our Instagram account to a business account. We could get some interesting insights overtime with Instagram’s analytics module. However, we would appear as a business on the page so it might not look as “social”. But it is easy to change back.

On October 22nd I hosted my first program in the library. Moroccan born Quebec Artist 2Fik, the artist in residency at Carleton College, came to speak about Breaking Borders with Art. He told us about the misconceptions people can have about a person’s identity based on where they are from, how they look, and how they speak. He also talked about the difference between identity and character. 20 people attended.

2Fik came back through the library on November 2nd as part of a multi-location presentation called High He High Heels. 2Fik gathered male volunteers from around town and taught them how to perform a military style march while wearing high heels. He started at the NAG and made a short stop in the library atrium where the volunteers performed their choreographed march. The exited the library and marched to the Weitz center. There were people watching from the bottom floor, the stairs, and the second floor seating area. It was fun and a lot of laughs.

Oct. 11-12 I attended the Minnesota Association annual conference in sunny St. Cloud. I attended with Laurie Kodet and Layna Mestad. I attended a number of sessions about advocating for the library at the local, state, and national levels. I got to hear MN House Rep and library advocated Mary Murphy speak about the importance of libraries. She was so old, and it brought me to tears to hear the conviction with which she spoke, and then the laughter when she rambled on for 7 minutes about the changing of the seasons and no one had the brass to tell her to be quiet and that other people needed to speak. A testament to her wisdom.

Along with the sessions on advocacy I also attended a few sessions on a subject I have a lot of interest in, grant writing. They weren't quite what I expected. Very general and broad discussions about the process of getting a grant and what to expect if you win. Also a short description of the project they got funded.

In another session about analog to digital memories, a library in Rochester was talking about how it was creating a memory lab where patrons could digitize their analog materials. So photographs, old VHS home movies, etc. I think that would be something some people in town would like to the ability to do.

I put up a horror movie display in the Music/Movie room that has seen pretty heavy circulation. The titles were replaced frequently. People like scary movies in October.

Youth Services

Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

October in Children's saw a good number of well-attended programs, including an opportunity for kids to ask questions of, not just watch a performance by, Aztec dance troupe Kalpulli Ollin Ayacaxtli; a Hispanic Heritage-themed Family Dance Party; drop-in art with the Northfield Arts Guild; a Halloween Celebration, and more. Our first two Head Start storytimes of the season went wonderfully. It has already made a huge difference to have a second librarian (have I said this before? I may have) who can present storytime on Tuesdays. It enables me to be able to commit to outreach storytimes that I'd ordinarily have to hold at less-than-desirable hours (last year, Head Start kids were woken up a half-hour early from their naps so I could squeeze in a storytime between my own at the library and my desk responsibilities). On other Tuesday mornings, I've begun a series of in-depth one-on-one meetings with others in the community who work with youth and literacy. Previously, my interactions with some of these have been limited to large group meetings like the monthly Northfield Promise Reading Team meeting—and I think the same goes for many others in those groups. We're all working towards the same goal, but rarely get the time in group meetings to delve into how we can best support one other with informed intention. My objective in pursuing these meetings is not only to learn more about what's going on in the community and speak to how the library can support and complement it, but to make those large group meetings more productive and effective for all of us. We simply need to know more about each other's work. Finally, I've been digging into "Collaborative Classroom," the new reading curriculum used in all three of Northfield's public elementary schools. It's highly detailed and scripted, with social-emotional learning (SEL) skill-building integrated into every lesson. SEL skills include managing feelings, learning to get along and cooperate, etc (you can often hear them being built in the library's play area!) A growing body of research indicates that SEL skills play a large part in student success. I'm working on a SEL book list for younger children.

Submitted by Layna Mestad, Youth Services/Teen Librarian

Teen Read Month (TRM) is officially over, and the stats are in. We had 49 teen patrons get their fines waived for a total of \$430.68! In addition, there were 21 book recommendation cards filled out for the reading program. The library staff helped with waiving the fines, handing out prizes to the reading program winners, and spreading the word about TRM activities. This being the first year of the teen fine waiver and TRM Reading Program, I was happy with the statistics. We received positive feedback about the fine waiver from teens, teachers, and parents/guardians. This is something I would like to do again next year, but one thing at a time 😊

Joan and I visited the middle school, high school, and Arcadia to talk at their staff meetings about library resources and teen programming. I was also connected to the TORCH program via a councilmember, which turned into a high school TORCH field trip to the library during a Monday flex hour. The Friends covered pizzas for the 15 students, circulation staff helped waive fines and register new library cards, I gave them a short tour of the library and a tutorial of our online resources. This was a great opportunity to connect with students and (re)introduce them to their public library.

I created a #MeToo display and booklist in the YA section that includes titles from YA fiction, nonfiction, and sci-fi titles that deal with sexual violence. The booklist also includes sexual violence resources. My hope is that this will provide perspective and solidarity about sexual violence and consent which can be difficult to talk about whether we have our own me too story(s) or not.

TAB will be participating in the Trivia Bee this Friday, and will bring back their train table for the Train Show in December. They voted on a Winter in Paris as the table's theme for this year, which we will work on creating over the month of November. Now that we've found our groove, it's exciting to see TAB representation back in the community!

Outreach, Shelving and Volunteer Services

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

Volunteers

We welcomed four new volunteers to the library this month. Rachel and Gracie are both high school students. They will be helping to keep the toys and children's area clean. They will also work on shelf maintenance. Lydia comes to us from St. Olaf (staff not student), she is excited to be assisting with shelf maintenance and any other tasks we assign. Ruth moved to Northfield a short time ago and is ready to get involved in the community. She will be helping with events and programs, homebound delivery, as well as shelf maintenance. We are so lucky to have so many volunteers!

Volunteer of the Month



Eric Johnson

The Library's Book Bike was made possible because of Eric's research, design and determination. He continues to train staff and volunteers as well as tending to all the maintenance of the Book Bike.

Thank you Eric for all you do!!

Senior Outreach/Programming

This month the bookmobile went to out six times serving eight senior living locations. The purpose of these visits was to connect with seniors in our community, issue library cards, give tours of the bookmobile, and



promote our homebound service. The Northfield Homebound Program is available to library patrons who are unable to come to the library. The service is available for long-term or short-term durations (winter months, medical recovery). The library has many volunteers who retrieve and deliver materials for this service. This outreach was also an opportunity for me to connect with Activity Directors in the community. I plan to stay connected with these staff members with a monthly email highlighting library events and resources.

Bookmobile

- October 5th : Valley View Assisted Living Facility- 15 visitors, 5 library cards issued
- October 9th : Millstream Commons Assisted Living Facility- 25 visitors, 1 library card issued
- October 16th : Kidahl Pointe Park- 20 visitors, 2 library cards issued
- October 17th : Village on the Cannon- 11 visitors, 2 library cards issued
- October 26th : Northfield Retirement Community (Manor & Long-term Care)- 22 visitors, 3 library cards issued, 1 install of Libby
- October 30th : Three Links Campus (Apartments & Vital Link Adult Day Center)- 8 visitors



City ID

I have been working with Kathy and the IT staff to prepare to take the City ID program off site. Coordination with a student organization and *Erica Zweifel*, Program Coordinator, Community

and Civic Engagement at Carleton had let to our first remote offering of the City ID. Angelica and I will be at Carleton on Friday, November 9th from noon to 3:00 pm, taking City ID and library card applications.

MLA Conference



Tyler, Layna and I attend the Minnesota Library Association conference held in St. Cloud on October 11-12. I attended several sessions on leadership and teambuilding. One of my favorite sessions, *Leaders & Legends in Minnesota Libraries* presented by Sara Ring and Carol Nelson from Minitex, featured interesting people and facts that helped shape libraries. It left me wanted to learn more. I also attended the Minnesota Association of Library Friends

session, where longtime Northfield Library Friend, Margit Johnson was honored with the Stand Up for Standout Friends Award. It had been several years since I had attended. I had forgotten how energizing and idea provoking this conference is. I am so glad I was able to attend.

Submitted by Angelica Linder, Outreach Coordinator

Angelica Linder, Outreach Coordinator

Highlights of October 2018:

In October, the Hispanic Heritage Celebration continued with a series of events, in general a good response and favorable attendance.

October 2: Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin spoke about Main Street Project & his home country Guatemala. The Guatemalan Society of MN presented an Exhibit in the Atrium.

October 3: From Spain to Cuba: regions of Spain and traveling to Cuba with Mar Valdecantos and Al Montero Carleton Professor of Political Science.

October 6 & 13: Saturday morning Yoga in Spanish with Marisela Casper



October 9: Andrew Fisher Carleton Professor of History gave a talk about the Spanish Conquest through an Indigenous Lens.



October 24: Gabo—a film about author Gabriel García Márquez, open to discussion after the film with Integración Cultural de Colombia en Minnesota ICCMN

October 25: Mexican Consulate did a presentation about the “Day of the Dead” (Dia de Muertos). Helped make an alter for the library; with the opportunity to bring in your own alter to display 10/28-11/3.

October 27: Saturday morning Zumba with

Victoria Nolasco. Afternoon Movie showing “Around the World in 80 days” movie starring Mario Moreno Cantinflas.

SPANISH STORYTIME - HORA DEL CUENTO en español

We starting in September every Friday at 4:30 pm, the attendance have been consistent with the number of kids and parents. In addition, we had the opportunity to work with Linda Burdell, Spanish teacher at Carleton College, who was looking volunteer opportunities for her students. She was looking for ways they could be more involve in the community. Students, Luke and Kate have been assisting with Spanish Storytime after receiving storytime training from Emily. They are very committed to the program and seem to enjoy this volunteer opportunity.



OTHER OUTREACH

On October 23rd; I was invited to do a presentation to The PEO Chapter meeting about the library’s outreach services. My presentation was called, “Broadening My Horizons” Community Outreach. I had a total of 28 members and their future support for our Hispanic Heritage Celebration 2019.

November happenings:

- **ONSITE ESL CLASS:** Every Tuesdays, 12:30 to 2 pm - English and Technology in the Bunday room.
- **GREENVALE PARK COMUNNITY SCHOOL:** November 6th, @ 6pm - Spanish storytime
- **THURSDAY TABLE:** Nov 29th @ 6:30pm Bilingual Storytime with Emily, Bookmobile (If the weather allows it).

Northfield Poet Laureate

Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

Poetry Readings

- Monday, October 1. Bao Phi. Attendance: 25*
- Friday, October 5. First Friday Art Night Reading. Attendance: 3
- Thursday, October 11. Nicole Borg. Attendance: 8

*Many of those in the audience were students in the Northfield Community College Collaborative.

Workshop

Wednesday and Thursday, October 17-18 (1:30-3pm). *Words on Water*, at FiftyNorth (Northfield Senior Center). Attendance: 7

Other Activities

- I met with a student from the ALC (Area Learning Center) to talk about her poetry and about setting up poetry workshops at The Key. Two workshops at The Key are scheduled before the end of 2018:

- Thursday, November 15, 3:30-4:30pm. With Michael Kleber-Diggs.
- Thursday, December 13, 3:30-4:30pm. With Guante.

These workshops are free and open to anyone 13-19 years old.

- I wrote a blurb for Leslie Schultz's forthcoming book of poetry, *Concertina*.
- I created a survey about the Poet Laureate program which will go live in mid-November. The purpose of the survey is to gather information about what initiatives of the current Poet Laureate should be continued by the next Poet Laureate, who will be selected in 2019.

Budget (YTD)

	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
October	200	400	300	1,590

October programming expenses: Bao Phi (\$200) and Nicole Borg (\$100)

My goal is to end November with a programming budget balance of \$1,390 and to apply for a small grant from Northfield HCI to be able to host a round of the 2019 Be Heard Minnesota Youth Poetry Slam competition in January. For a fee of \$1,500, TruArtSpeaks, the organizer of the poet slam series, will provide ten hours of workshops and trainings and enable Northfield to be an official host/sponsor. Guante (former National Poetry Slam champion) will offer workshops in Northfield on December 13 (Northfield High School and The Key) and January 10 (Northfield High School). The poetry slam is scheduled for Friday, January 18, at the Northfield High School auditorium.

UPCOMING EVENT

Thursday, November 15. 7pm. Northfield Public Library. **Michael Kleber-Diggs.**

Michael Kleber-Diggs is a poet and essayist. His writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *McSweeney's*, *Poetry City*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Pollen Midwest*, *Paper Darts*, *Water~Stone Review* and a few anthologies. He enjoys collaboration with visual artists. Michael is a past Fellow with the Givens Foundation for African-American Literature, a past-winner of the Loft Mentor Series in Poetry, and the inaugural Poet Laureate of Anoka County Libraries. His work has been supported by the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Michael will also be offering a poetry workshop for youth at The Key starting at 3:30 pm on the day of the reading.