

Director's Report submitted by Natalie Draper, Library Director
April Strategic Plan updates:

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

- Large print nonfiction books were shifted to the end of Large Print fiction to free up more space for graphic novels and provide a more logical arrangement to the collections.
- A Carleton student worker, Mia, is helping with weeding in mystery and fiction to freshen up these areas and make space for new titles.
- Due to popular demand, Coffee and Conversation is continuing with some minor tweaks to the format. A small but loyal group was very interested in continuing, and every month a few new people join the conversation.

*An **included community** is seen, heard, and engaged by their library.*

- Bilingual storytimes were offered four times in April.
- Hosted "Jesucristo Guerrillero- Theology of Liberation in Nicaraguan Popular Music", a bilingual music appreciation lecture on regional folklore, sentiments, voice and sociopolitical history of the Central American working class. (27 attendees)
- First El Día de los Niños / Día del Libro celebration of children and literacy event was successful—drew 145 people. Plans to hold it annually at the Oasis in the future.
- Pints for Pride Fundraiser on 4/12 brought in over \$10k to support community-wide Pride events. A scholarship has been announced.
- The library is partnering with Carleton to bring Minneapolis-based indigenous musician and performing artist, Joe Rainey, to the Weitz Center this fall.

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

- At Board member Laura Turek's invitation the library participated in a brainstorming session with Rice Co Corrections for a broad, 3-year grant opportunity (up to \$1 million dollars for three years) that is geared at preventing delinquency, detention and system involvement from a wide collaborative of youth serving agencies. We submitted a letter of support and look forward to hearing if the county receives funding.
- Purchasing for adult collections is now done with a streamlined budget process across different genres. We are choosing titles based on demand and closely monitoring request lists to make sure adequate numbers of copies are purchased when there is demand.
- Reference Manager Katlin Heidgerken-Greene is a member of the SELCO Overdrive Selectors Committee. This group purchases and coordinates the SELCO ebook collection. Extra RLTA money available for Overdrive purchases will be allocated by this group. A significant portion of the funds will go to reducing wait times on popular materials patrons have on hold. Remaining RLTA funds will go toward additional new materials.
- The Overdrive Selectors Committee has also added a "Lucky Day" feature in Libby to get additional copies of popular titles in the hands of patrons.
- Karin and Tyler took the Bookmobile to the Northfield Retirement Community.
- Through a reciprocal agreement, SELCO library patrons can also access Rochester and Traverse des Sioux Libraries' collections in Libby. The committee is creating staff training on customer support for ebook use across all three library systems' collections.

- Progress is slowly but surely being made on the Oasis space. We had some delays with the contractor in April but he should finish work soon on the walls. Work on the patio is beginning in the next two weeks.

*An **empowered community** is equipped for the changing world.*

- The popular Entrepreneur Workshop (in Spanish) was offered again. 12 people attended.
- Natalie and Tyler are on a Digital Connection Committee for Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) at the invitation of Meleah Follen. The focus is to reach populations whose feedback is harder to access: People aged 60 or older, those from low-income households, people learning to speak or read English, Black/Indigenous/People of Color, and people living in rural communities.
- Northfield Garden Club is creating a display on pollinators in the library display case in May. Library staff created a booklist to support the display and promote the collection.
- In April, Emily Dresbach (a GreenCorps member with Rice County environmental services) led a program on reducing food waste and educating about the problem of food waste going into the Rice County landfill. The library is helping promote Dresbach's Food: Too Good to Waste challenge and will share resources and information on library social media in support of this Rice County initiative.
- 15 summer pages were accepted of the 20 who applied.

*An **informed community** understands what their library offers and has opportunity to shape the library with feedback*

- Staff Training Day featured sessions on library equipment and resources. Staff members were encouraged to share their experiences and expertise.
- Steve and Francisco took the bookmobile to the Earth Day event to share library programs and resources.
- Karin and Sue took the bookmobile to the Northfield YMCA for the Healthy Kid's Day offering a craft activity and sharing information about summer programs and library resources. 230 people visited the bookmobile.
- Staff are holding an informational program on using E-Library Minnesota and Consumer Reports in May.

Additional staff updates:

- We have posted an opening for a shelver for about 8-12 hours/week. The position closes on May 9th.