



Northfield Public Library Director's Report March 2017

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and IT Services

These past few months the City has been undergoing a comparable worth study for all employees, which involves close scrutiny of all job descriptions, pay grades, and a position description questionnaire for each job description and, very often, each employee. Often, because the employee has been in a position for several years, their actual job description changes, either due to increased responsibilities, changes in technology, and supervisory responsibilities. Normally job descriptions change when a vacancy is filled, and the opportunity arises to revamp the description before the job is posted. Not so, with this process, and City staff, supervisors and City HR have a herculean task to make sure that every job is reviewed and evaluated fairly. We are now at the stage of the comp review where job titles and pay grades and steps have been communicated to City employees. A job appeal process is next, with job description changes to be expected by this spring. Northfield City Council will be voting on the adoption of the comp study in the near future. This has been a long process that started last summer. We look forward to its conclusion and for staff to be happy and comfortable with changes brought about by the comp study.

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

I have been busy getting PR out for 4 adult programs in March. On March 6 we have Steve Kelly, Professor Emeritus of Music, Carleton College, will give a talk on jazz age culture as told by New Yorker columnist Lois Long. On March 13, Barb Evans will give a talk on historic downtown Northfield architecture, with a special emphasis on J.C. Nutting buildings. On March 14, Kate Buckmeier will be presenting the program "Kate: Declutter and Redesign: a talk on decluttering our homes and work spaces". On March 30 Andres Aragonese, Professor of Physics at Carleton, will give a talk on the Physics of Star Wars. We'll continue our coloring for adults on Sundays in March too. We've gotten a few takers for this program on Sundays in February. More programs are on tap for April so look for those too. If you have suggestions for any adult programming be sure to let me know!

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

February 8-March 8, 2017

On Wednesday, March 15 at 3:00 pm the **Millstream Short Story Readers Program** will be introduced at Millstream Commons. The public reading which will last between 20-30 minutes will be followed by a facilitated discussion of another 20-30 minutes. At this point it is anticipated that public readings will transpire every four to six weeks, with practice readings in between

Since Thursday, February 9th, I have been meeting weekly with Monica Lynch, Activities Director, Joan Stoez, volunteer at Millstream and Barbara (Bobbi) Helling who is a resident at Millstream to work through the details related to this program from short story selection, program introduction and other aspects. The goal is to offer a collaborative venture between the library and Millstream.

The Millstream Short Story Readers Program will be open to everyone who lives at Millstream and will involve reading aloud the parts of characters in short stories. No theatrical experience is required and readers can participate as frequently as they wish. The emphasis is on fun and with that in mind our first demonstration story narrated by Bobbi, Joan and myself will be The Secret Life of Walter Mitty by James Thurber.

Submitted by Joan Ennis

Hot Reads for Cold Nights concludes this weekend. The winter adult reading program has been very successful. Thirty two people are participating and contributing many slips summarizing the books they have read. Three readers win \$5.00 gift certificates each week. It is fun to call the winners, some of whom say "I've never won anything before!"

Jamie and I gave our monthly book talk at Three Links on February 28. We talked about humans and animals. I talked about fiction books focusing on people and pets or animals in their lives, and Jamie focused on nonfiction books about human and animals. I brought a number of classic children's books involving animals, and the participants really enjoyed seeing the books they had read growing up. The topic opened up discussion about pets the residents had had.

Northfield Reads has four events scheduled for this month. The topic is mental illness, and the books is *Unholy Ghosts; writers on depression*, edited by Nell Casey. This week there is a speaker from the National Alliance for Mental Illness, talking about destigmatization. Next week the film *Lars and the Real Girl* will be shown at the Weitz Center. On March 23, I will be facilitating a book discussion at Content Books. The final event is March 30, and will include presentations by local mental health professionals, a short play, poetry, music and discussion. The goals of the presentation are to provide information about mental illness, the destigmatization of mental illness, and provide resources. I have been busy with a lot of planning, sending out PR, creating a Libguide, and interviews on KYMN.

The book group I lead, The Contemporary Women Writers Book group, has been meeting for twelve years. Lately we have had a number of new people joining the group. In February, we read *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and their race to save the world's most precious manuscripts*.

When I'm not working on the above activities, I have been busy with reference questions and acquisitions for the fiction and romance collection.

February 8-March 8, 2017

Children's Services

Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Children's Librarian and Reference Manager

February 4, 2017: National Take Your Kid to the Library Day:



One of the last things Kathy Ness did before retiring was to write a successful SELCO vetted performer grant to bring Greg the Great to our library to celebrate Take Your Kid to the Library Day. We had a full house of between 90-100 children and adults for this fun event. Greg is from Blooming Prairie and performs his magic show all over the state customizing it to the venue. In our case he interspersed his tricks with various nods to reading and the library. SELCO grants require an extensive program review and one of the questions asks "What did you like best about this program? Here are a few of the comments we received:



"Good idea! Would love more kids events"; "Kid safe, audience participation"; "Yes, fun magician"; "Connection to the library"; "He really engaged the kids"; "His interaction with the kids"; "Excellent audience participation! Excellent ventriloquist! Nice that he incorporated reading. The children love him". The only somewhat negative comment was that the meeting room "could have been bigger to accommodate the crowd". All in all, a great program – thanks again, Kathy Ness!

The most important accomplishment of February was reviewing the 65 applicants we received for the position of Children's Librarian and then interviewing the 11 successful candidates over the course of 2 days. While many of the applicants were excellent, 2 rose to the top as energetic librarians with a LOT of innovative children's programming experience. These 2 candidates were invited back for a 2nd interview and both had excellent credentials. By the time you read this report you will have learned the name of our new Children's Programming Librarian. Emily Lloyd will start on March 20 and we will jump right in to re-vamping and publicizing weekly story times, followed by collaborating and planning the Books & Stars and Summer Reading Program. Exciting times are ahead in the Children's Department!

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Teen & Web Services

Submitted by Ian Holms, Teen and Web Services

The advertising and hounding we've done to drum up business for our technology program appears to be paying off. We're running tech sessions with two to three patrons a week mostly showing them how to use Overdrive and our e-books/e-audiobooks. One of the more interesting sessions we have had has been trying to help a patron combat a slew of junk mail messages that keep finding their way into his inbox. It's a losing battle so far.

The website has been running smoothly with the exception of an outage on February 28th. Amazon Web Services, the company that our website management system uses, experienced an error that took out numerous sites across the web. Netflix was one that went down in the fray, so we can report that we were in good company. The site received 9500 page views for the month of February, which is consistent with what we've been seeing since launch. We receive most of our views from the United States, but the site is also popular in Australia, the UK, and Russia. Three page views came from each of those countries last month which means we can probably start calling ourselves an international library.

We received a great compliment from a regular library user who had not seen our new website, who wrote " Congratulations! Incredibly neat.. .clean, handsome, meaningful, not full of clutter ... and no ads. No BS! And, cool graphics. When was it first up? Some months now? I don't visit often, so I may not have seen it. Who designed it? My sincere appreciation. It's good to see this in the otherwise sea of poor communications. Although I am not in need of accessing it often, if I do need it, it will be a pleasure tour! And a simple process."

Lastly, the teen advisory board had an incredibly productive meeting last month. Lasting nearly an hour, the teens hammered out a plan to start a young adult book group. We are excited to get the word out about the group and engage with young adults across Northfield. The new children's librarian will be taking over as the new teen advisor starting in March and will be helping guide them as they run the program.

Shelving and Volunteer Services

Laurie Kodet, Technology/Circulation Supervisor

I am the Homebound Services Coordinator. The library's homebound service provides library materials to residents who are unable to come into our building. There are approximately 65 patrons registered in the program currently and I am actively looking for ways to expand this service.

There has been an increase in the number of items checked-out through the homebound services over the past four years, as shown in the table below.

February 8-March 8, 2017

Homebound Services Check-out Statistics	
Year	Number items checked out
2013	3,250
2014	2,699
2015	3,770
2016	4,135

As Northfield's aging population grows it is important to grow our programs to keep up with the needs of the community. The homebound service gives patrons access to resources and information. The expanded version of the program may include onsite presentations of library's resources, technology tutorials, and expanded reader's advisory. The program will assist patrons with requesting materials and will deliver and retrieve materials.

I am scheduled to do a presentation at Northfield Retirement Center on March 24th promoting the homebound program. I have also been in contact with someone in charge of the "Meals on Wheels" program regarding the possibility of including a Homebound Program brochure with the meals. I am excited about expanding this program and possibility of bringing the library to those who are unable to physically come to the library.

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Coordinator



Newly retired Kathy Ness has proposed a new project for the library and I have agreed to work with her on this. This is a community project that will make use of recycled materials. We will sew reusable cloth bags that patrons can pick up at the library and return. This will provide our patrons with a sustainable alternative to plastic Library Bags. SELCO used to provide our purple bags for free but about 9 months ago started charging us \$1.00 per bag. We have scheduled 4 sewing bee's in March where community members can come with their sewing machines, scissors, tread and fabric and we will make book bags. We are also looking for people to donate fabric that they are not using. We are hoping that the community will want to participate in this grassroots initiative that celebrates community building and sustainability.

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