



Northfield Public Library Director's Report April 2017

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and IT Services

National Library Week is this week, April 9-15, 2017. The theme is "Libraries Transform". First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

For us here in Northfield, it is also a time to say thank you. We have had a momentous year, beginning with our grand re-opening in May of 2016. Our patrons' feedback from the renovation has been overwhelmingly positive, and last fall we were honored to receive the WCCO Viewer's Best Library in MN award. The library remains a busy, vital City service, and we have close to 600 people a day come through our doors. We've got a new bookmobile being built, and a BookBike that you will see on the road promoting library services come this spring and summer, designed and built by Eric Johnson and his team of experts—thank you Eric! We thank the City of Northfield and the City Council for their support, from operating dollars to funding our capital renovation to the bookmobile. We also thank the Friends of the Library for their volunteer work on behalf of the library, for their financial support of the renovation, for their additional fundraising for the new bookmobile, and for their support for ongoing library programming such as Summer Reading and Books and Stars. We thank too the Library Board for their advocacy and for the hours they contribute to Board business and library planning. We thank the Ames Fund of the Mpls Foundation for their partial funding of the bookmobile, and to Northfield Rotary, United Way and Taylor Trucking for their bookmobile contributions as well. Thank you to the library staff for their great customer service, their obvious above and beyond work on behalf of the library, and for loving their jobs as much as they do. And most of all, thank you to the citizens of Northfield for their continued patronage through the years.

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

March was a busy month of adult programs. We hosted Steve Kelly, Professor Emeritus of Music from Carleton to give a talk on the Jazz Age; Barb Evans from the HPC talked on Northfield Architecture; Kate Buckmeier gave a talk on Decluttering; and Andres Aragoneses, Professor of

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Physics at Carleton gave a talk on the Physics of Star Wars. A total of 171 people attended these 4 programs. We have a good lineup in April as well. On Sunday April 9 four St. Olaf student violinists will give a concert in the atrium at 2 pm. For National Library week (April 9-15) the Northfield Human Rights Commission will present a program on Monday April 10 on "Human Rights in Northfield". Thursday April 13 local resident and photographer Zach Stadler will show his underwater photography from around the world. There will be a Seed-Saving talk on Sat. April 22 in conjunction with Earth Day activities. And last but not least, we will be showing TED talks from this years TED conference ("The Future You") all day on Friday April 28. Details are still being worked out on that so stay tuned. I am working on a list of ideas for fall 2017. I'm also looking at new books to purchase to get ready for summer – travel, gardening and grilling!!

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

I find few things more rewarding than reading or rereading about subjects I am not familiar with, and then sharing what I have learned through the books I have read with other people who express willingness, sometimes even an eagerness to learn about these subjects too. When Joan Ennis and I gave a talk at The Three Links Apartments March 28th, about "The Sixties" I prepared by requesting and skimming a lot of nonfiction books about 1968, one of the most eventful years in 20th century American history.

Joan and I encourage the people who regularly attend these round table sessions to share their perspectives on the topic we are discussing and conversations often segue to ancillary subjects. This was the case last month when I inadvertently remembered historic events from the 1960s while growing up in Alberta and shared these memories with the group. To my surprise people were interested in my recollections and when we agreed to talk about the 1970s in April, I was asked to include in my talk what was going on in Canada during that decade. This led me to a further discovery. There are not many books in Minnesota that will provide me with the type of overview material I need to talk about this subject. I am now considering a framing device that will allow me to compare and contrast the U.S. and Canada in a way that will be of interest to this group of seniors. These people continue to teach me so much in so many ways.

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.

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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.

Children's Services

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

The big news in Children's Services for March was the announcement of our new hire, Emily Lloyd, as the new Children's Programming Librarian. Emily's first day was Monday, March 20, and she hit the ground running. To illustrate my point, on her second day we met with Kathy Ness and Melissa Barnhard to write the grant that typically supports most of our ever-popular summer Books & Stars program. To finalize the grant, *which was due the following week*, Emily began researching performers and making arrangements to hire them for Wednesday evenings in June and July. All this while trying to learn staff names and faces, planning weekly story times, and the Summer Reading Program! She has accomplished much in the short time she's been with us. I hope you make a point of seeking her out and meeting her on your next trip into the library.



The rest of March, my time was spent covering the Children's and Reference Desks, hosting the well-attended De-Cluttering Program, creating the monthly calendar and the rotating monitor power points, and planning the events celebrating National Library Week in April. I also spent one morning at the Northfield High School promoting the Summer City Internship position that we

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will be hiring and I will oversee. This is one of 2 City internship positions available to persons ages 16-22 who would like experience with either the City's Street and Parks Department or the Public Library.

PHOTO: Kate Buckmeier – DeClutter: From Start to Finish Program March 14

Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

I started as the new Children's Programming Librarian on March 20, and much of my time the first week was in selecting and tentatively booking performers for Books & Stars, booking the parks and Showmobile, and finishing the grant for SEMAC. I streamlined the children's area by removing some items on the floor for storage, so that we can rotate items in and out---which will keep the items in good condition longer, declutter the space, and add excitement when "new" items children haven't seen for a while are reintroduced. I worked with Leesa and a local business, Ziggy's, to plan several days of events leading up to June's "Take a Child Fishing" day; submitted a small grant in the hopes of receiving 200 pairs of eclipse-viewing glasses for August's eclipse; planned programs that will be held in May (a Saturday storytime and a Hamilton Sing-Along); evaluated and began work on revamping the subject guides related to children's and teen services; and began planning in earnest for the summer reading program, themed "Build a Better World." Most importantly, I've worked to make connections with local families in the library.

Teen & Web Services

Submitted by Ian Holms, Teen and Web Services

Teens

I have handed the Teen Advisory Board reins off to our new librarian Emily. We will be having a meeting on April 14th, during which I'll introduce Emily and catch her up to speed on everything the board is doing. As of right now, the teen book club is still in the works and they've come up with a list of titles to choose from. Things should be getting pretty exciting from here!

Web

The website continues to run smoothly. Nick Novotney from IT and I changed the layout a bit by removing the Directors Report section and replacing it with three boxes for promotional material. These seem to be good, but if you haven't noticed them, we might need to make them more prominent. I'm also going to take this paragraph of Directors Report space to promote the library

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blog. Our reference staff has been hard at work writing blog posts and you can even subscribe to it to get new posts sent to your inbox. Go to mynpl.org/blog and look at the right side of the page. Under the “recent posts” section is a bar where you can enter your email address.

The site continues to have a strong presence online, getting nearly 10,000 page views in March. Our most popular page last month was the new Poet Laureate page put together by Rob Hardy. I strongly encourage you to check it out. He’s done a fantastic job. The next most popular were the events page, kids, and databases. One fun fact about last month is that we had a user access the site from their Playstation 3 on the Safari browser. It’s good to see that our attempts at targeting the 13-25 gamer demographic are starting to pay off!

Tech

Lastly, the tech program continues on steadily. We’re getting approximately four or five applications a week and doing roughly that many sessions. David, Steve, and I are handling the bulk of them. Last month we worked with kindles, iPads, iPhones, an unruly laptop or two, and video editing software. I encourage you to let anyone you know who needs a little tech help to check us out!

Shelving and Volunteer Services

Laurie Kodet, Technology/Circulation Supervisor

On March 24th, I presented a program at Northfield Retirement Program about our Homebound Delivery Program. Seventeen residents attended the program. They asked questions and were excited to learn more about our service. I issued 6 new library cards and enrolled 4 of this people in our Homebound Delivery Program. I requested material for three people to be delivered. Since the presentation, I have had two more residents contact me to be enrolled.

After my presentation, I was asked questions about downloadable E-books and audiobooks. I have offered to schedule one-on-one appointments to give hands-on instruction on these resources. I have done one such tutorial, teaching a resident how to request materials from her Ipad. That session and the questions brought up at my presentation, have prompted me to begin to develop more presentations to promote access to library materials and resources to area seniors.

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Manager I want to let you know about a new project that we are doing at the library. Kathy Ness came to us with an idea that she had seen online called “Boomerang Bags”. We have volunteers make book bags using recycled fabric. Patrons can grab a bag when they check out, and bring it back when they return their materials. This will reduce our use of the SELCO plastic bags that are costing us \$1.00 a bag. We

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organized four sewing bee's where we had fabric cut out and ready to go – however we didn't have many people show up. So we put together kits of material for 4-6 bags with everything you need including instructions. Our handy Patrons are taking them home, completing them and bringing them back. We have about 150 bags out being made and we have received about 50 back to the library. We just started putting them out for the public. We plan to have another round of bag making later in the summer.



Poet Laureate

Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

Northfield Poet Laureate's Report March 2017

Events

Youth Poetry Night at Content (March 2), featuring Arcadia Charter School Poetry Out Loud winners Anna Kochevar and Bella Callery, TORCH Poetry Slam winner Alondra Pérez, and high school student Hannah Pahs. Attendance: 15. The following week, Anna and Bella advanced to the state Poetry Out Loud Finals, and Anna was chosen as Minnesota's State Poetry Out Loud Champion.

Poetry Workshops with Guante (March 28). The Poet Laureate provided funding from the SEMAC grant to host a series of poetry workshops at Northfield High School with two-time National Poetry Slam champion Guante. The workshops were organized by Jennifer Lompart, ELL teacher at Northfield High School. Attendance: 60 high school students.

Publicity

Poet Laureate LibGuide. The Poet Laureate created a LibGuide (website) as part of the Northfield Public Library site (URL: guides.mynpl.org/PoetLaureate). The site includes information about the Poet Laureate position, a calendar of poetry events, monthly reports, a list of local poets, a blog, and copies of poems written by the Poet Laureate for public occasions. The Poet Laureate published two blog posts and updated the events calendar.

ARTZANY! On March 31, the Poet Laureate was a guest on Paula Granquist's radio program on KYMN, *ArtZany! Radio for the Imagination*, along with Anna Kochevar, Bella Callery, and Scott Grave (Arcadia Charter School). The Poet Laureate presented a list of upcoming poetry events, talked about Poetry Out Loud, and read a poem from his new book.

Other

Sidewalk Poetry Judging. On March 28, the Poet Laureate served as a judge for the 2017 Northfield Sidewalk Poetry Competition. Other judges were Diane LeBlanc (St. Olaf College Department of English), Ben Martig (Northfield City Administrator), Dr. Matt Hillmann (Superintendent of the Northfield Public Schools) and Anne Running Sovik

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(local poet).

Writers Night. The Poet Laureate received submissions for the second Writers Night (scheduled for April 27) throughout the month of March, and prepared them to be sent to the jury for anonymous judging.

Upcoming Events (April 2017)

April 2: Poet Laureate (PL) poetry reading at St. John's Lutheran Church

April 3: PL participating in interview for summer intern to update sidewalk poetry map

April 4: PL leading Poetry Club at Greenvale Park Community School

April 6: PL reading and signing his new poetry book at Content

April 7: PL discussing poetry with students in AP Spanish Lit. at Northfield High School

April 8: PL reading poetry and participating in concert at Northfield Arts Guild

April 11: PL leading Poetry Club at Greenvale Park Community School

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