

Northfield Poet Laureate's Report April 2017

April was National Poetry Month. The month was full of poetry in Northfield.

Events (and Attendance)

April 2. The Poet Laureate gave a reading from his new book at St. John's Lutheran Church (25 people in attendance)

April 3. The Poet Laureate participated in an interview for a student summer intern to update the Sidewalk Poetry map.

April 4, 11, 18, and 25. The Poet Laureate led a Poetry Club for grades 3-5 at Greenvale Park Community School (Escuela Comunitaria). Six students participated.

April 6. The Poet Laureate gave a reading from his new book at Content Bookstore. This was the official "book launch." (45 people in attendance)

April 7. The Poet Laureate was a guest in the AP Spanish Literature class at Northfield High School.

April 8. The Poet Laureate participated in a concert by the Northfield Handbell Ensemble at the Northfield Arts Guild, and read several poems (40 people in attendance)

April 12. The Poet Laureate met with the chair of the Arts and Culture Commission, the summer intern, and City engineering staff to discuss updating the Sidewalk Poetry map.

April 13. The Poet Laureate hosted Poetry Night at Content, featuring Riki Kölbl Nelson and Karen Herseth Wee (12 people in attendance).

April 14. The Poet Laureate served as a judge for the Northfield High School Poetry Slam. 20 students participated. He declined the stipend offered to judges.

April 25. The Poet Laureate was the keynote speaker for the annual staff luncheon at Carleton College.

April 26. The Poet Laureate wrote and read a poem for the first annual Northfield Boards and Commissions Recognition event. He also distributed 12 boxes of poetry to local businesses for Poem in Your Pocket Day.

April 27. The Poet Laureate hosted Writers Night at the Northfield Public Library (25 people in attendance).

In addition to these events, the Poet Laureate posted a poem on the Northfield Poet Laureate Facebook page for each day of National Poetry Month. Events were publicized on Facebook, the Northfield Public Library website, the *Northfield News*, KYMN, and with posters and email lists (including "email blasts" from the Northfield Arts Guild).

Planning for Future Events

The Poet Laureate will do a book signing for his adaptation of Aeschylus's *Oresteia* (published by Hero Now Theatre in Minneapolis) at Content on Monday, June 19 at 7pm.

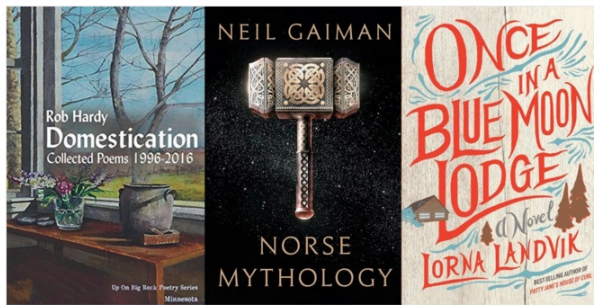
The Poet Laureate will give a poetry reading as part of the First Tuesday Laureate's Series in Winona on Tuesday, August 1.

Slam poet Neil Hilborn is booked to perform at Content on Thursday, October 26 at 7pm. Hilborn is the creator of the all-time most-viewed slam poetry video on YouTube. A workshop with high school students is TBA.

Miscellaneous

The Poet Laureate's collection of poetry, *Domestication: Collected Poems 1996-2016*, was the month's bestseller at Content Bookstore in Northfield, and was recommended by Content's booksellers in a Minnesota Public Radio story on Independent Bookstore Day (<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2017/04/27/books-indie-bookstore-day-tour-recommendations>).

Content | Northfield



Recommendations from Content Courtesy of publishers

Content is celebrating its recent move to a bigger spot: The shop will open in its new location, across the hall from its old one, on Saturday.

• "Norse Mythology" by Neil Gaiman | [More](#)

This has been a huge hit in nerdy-and-Nordic Northfield, and there's a new, special edition coming out just for Independent Bookstore Day that we can't wait to share.

• "Once in a Blue Moon Lodge" by Lorna Landvik

A long-awaited follow-up novel by a beloved (and hilarious!) Minnesota author. She'll be reading at Content on May 1.

• "Domestication: Collected Poems" by Rob Hardy

Rob Hardy is Northfield's first-ever poet laureate, and this new collection is our current best-seller. It's a great title for National Poetry Month: accessible yet profound, relatable and so skillful, with lots of beautiful reflections on family life, work and love.

photo from <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2017/04/27/books-indie-bookstore-day-tour-recommendations>

Two of the Poet Laureate's poems (including a poem written for the Northfield Human Rights Commission's 2017 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration) were chosen for inclusion in an anthology of poems about issues of social justice by Poet Laureates around the United States. The anthology will be published in 2018 by Michigan State University Press.