



# Northfield Public Library Director's Report May 2017

## Director's Report

*Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and IT Services*

### **City Strategic Planning process**

We are in the early-to mid-stages of the City of Northfield's Strategic Planning process. For the first time, Board and Commission members, including members of the Library Board, were invited to attend a planning session moderated by Craig Rapp, strategic planning consultant hired by the city, to provide valuable insight as stakeholders to the city's strengths, weaknesses and needs. Results for each question were instantly available to attendees via overhead screen display, with interestingly, a need for affordable housing rising to the top of the needs category.

A city-wide survey has been available for citizens to fill out, both on-line and on paper (at the library, for instance) which is a shortened version of the questions asked at the stakeholder meeting. These will be tabulated with summary info and will be available at the Leadership Team/City Council Strategic Planning sessions on May 9 and 10. At these meetings the initial strategic priorities will be determined through a facilitated small-group process, and next steps outlined, detailing initiatives and action plans needed to implement the strategic plan.

### **Staff retirements**

This month we have two library staff who will be retiring; Library Clerk 2 Pat Stenglein and Library Clerk 1 Brenda Hellen. Pat, as many of you know, served as the staff taker-of-minutes at our Library Board meetings up until this last January, when she was succeeded by Becky Novotny. Pat has worked for the library for the last nine years. Her humor, intelligence, institutional knowledge and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated by staff. Pat will now have the chance to be grandparent-in-charge, but we expect to see her as a regular patron regularly.

Brenda Hellen joined as Library Clerk 1 in 2012; she took on a library position at Carleton in 2015, but has continued to work on a part-time, occasional basis, especially during the summer, when her position at Carleton was not active. She will now be working 12 months of the year at the

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college, as so has tendered her resignation at the library. We feel lucky to have kept her as long as we have been able—Brenda was a breath of fresh air—practical, fun, strong in body and spirit, and of course a good connection with the Carleton campus.

***Submitted by Debby Nitz***

We celebrated National Library Week April 9-15 with a variety of programs and coffee and cookies in the mornings. A group of St. Olaf student violinists performed in the atrium on Sunday April 9. On Wed. April 12 I joined Teresa and Leesa at a Public Library Day conference of the Minnesota Library Association at the Grand, after which we gave a tour of our new space to participants. Underwater photographer Zach Stadler gave a program on Thursday April 13.

On Friday April 28 we hosted a TED day at the library where we showed streamed TED 2017 talks all day in the meeting room. The turnout wasn't that great but the few who came really appreciated it. The talks were amazing so we may rethink this for next year with a shortened session in an evening program.

I am making lists and making some initial contacts to line up adult programs for the fall. Jamie and I are also tweaking some meeting/conference room policies as well as coming up with some plans for marketing our collections. I continue to evaluate the nonfiction collection which includes weeding and collection development. I have also created a Libguide (subject guide) on "Things to do with your family in Northfield".

***Submitted by Jamie Stanley***



Local resident Zach Stadler graduated from Arcadia School in 2013. Since that time Zach has travelled around the world free diving and taking remarkable photos of the denizens of the ocean as well as professional surfers in search of the big waves. A self-taught photographer Zach eschews diving apparatus, has embraced a light and nimble travel mantra and as a result is able to explore less travelled destinations around the globe.

On Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Zach gave a slide show presentation in the Bunday Room. Forty-eight people attended this event, many of whom were first time visitors to the Northfield Library. In addition to the extraordinary slides shown, Zach brought his minimalist camping and photography gear with him. Self-effacing and quiet by

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nature, Zach shared stories of some of his most memorable marine adventures and talked about the technical aspects involved in his photographic work. It was a memorable evening.

***Submitted by Joan Ennis***

The library celebrated National Library Week with a number of activities – programs, music, coffee and treats, etc. I had contacted elementary school teachers in March and asked if they would like to have their students write and/or draw what they liked to do at the library. Six classes participated, from Bridgewater, Sibley, St. Dominic and Prairie Creek. The writings and drawings were on display for the week on the tables in the atrium. Many of the children said they enjoyed reading and playing here. One student said that the library allowed her to have an imagination! Several students liked the “peas” and quiet. The student drawings and writings were a validation of how important libraries are for children, and how the children feel ownership in our public library.

Jamie and I presented a book talk at Three Links on the 1970’s. I presented and discussed fiction books set in the 1970’s and Jamie discussed events in Canada in the 1970’s. (The residents were interested to hear that Jamie grew up in Canada). The residents were engaged in a discussion of events during the decade.

Last week a man living in Illinois called asking about a house his grandmother lived in during the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His father had gone to St. Olaf and so had he, so he knew Northfield. He said his grandmother was born in Norway in 1868, and he had heard that she ran a boarding house in Northfield. By looking at census records and looking at our house file, I found the house. The address was 710 St. Olaf Ave. Since I live very close to the house, I took a photo of the house and emailed it to the patron. He was very pleased to see the house and find out more about his relatives. He will be going to Norway this summer to explore more family history.

The Northfield Reads committee is meeting now to plan our topic and book for next year. I have been searching for fiction books on possible topics, and the committee will meet next week to narrow down our choices.

## Children’s Services

***Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Children’s Librarian and Reference Manager***

In April we hosted several programs ranging from St. Olaf student violinists to ocean diving photography and celebrated National Library Week with treats in the Atrium. After a couple of years in discussion with other libraries and 2 visits to Duluth, we launched the NPL Seed Library on Earth Day, April 22, with a program on seed saving presented by Pat Bensen, founder of the Eden Valley Seed Library. Pat lived in Northfield for a number of years, moved to Eden Valley, and started her own CSA on her brother’s farm. She was also instrumental in starting the all-volunteer (un-official) Eden Valley Public Library.

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9 people attended the session and learned the best ways to harvest and save seed. After the program I loaded up all of the seeds I inherited from Northfield Earth Day coordinator, Mary Jo Cristafaro, and headed over to the Weitz Center where I spent the evening handing out free seed, and dispensing information about the Seed Library. Attendance was very good this year as the March for Science ended at the Weitz, so most of the folks who marched came inside to see the vendors, listen to the speakers, and share the pot luck dinner. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> year at the Weitz and by far the best attendance.

The NPL seed exchange is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor near the Reference Desk. The program runs this way: people take free seed, grow it this season, then save some of that seed and return it to share with others next year. The seed is disappearing fast – especially the flowers – and I have had to augment the original base by purchasing, dividing, and re-packaging seed from local stores. Seed that is returned to the library can be left at any desk throughout the year, and I will re-package and label the seed for distribution.



We also hired our new City Intern, Brynn Artley in April. Brynn is a senior at Northfield High, graduating in June, and will be working with library staff for 7 weeks this summer. She will help with the Summer Reading Program, create PR – videography is her specialty – and work on a number of other reference related projects. Our objective is to give her a wide range of library related experiences and help her build her resume while utilizing her people, research and video skills. You will hear directly from Brynn later this summer as one of her assignments will be to present a synopsis of her library experiences to the Board.

### ***Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian***

I kicked off April with an outreach opportunity as a volunteer reader at “Camp Caldecott,” an incredibly cool piece of Sibley Elementary’s annual “Beyond Words” event. I was delighted to find myself in a pitch-black gym, where the kids were given flashlights as they entered and walked along a dark path to a tent where I was waiting. They used their flashlights to view the book illustrations! Storytimes started up again on April 18. Two Baby Storytimes and four Family Storytimes were offered in April, with a combined attendance of 184. The word is getting out there! In addition, I visited seven classes at Northfield Montessori and provided storytime at each. I scheduled library tours for Northfield’s first graders and three tours and storytimes for Northfield Nursery School, all to take place in the next few weeks. I joined and attended a meeting of the Northfield Promise Reading Team, where it was good to connect with others in the community who are passionate about children and literacy. Leesa and I met with the new Resident Teaching Artist and Education Coordinator of the Northfield Arts Guild and discussed opportunities to work together in the summer and fall. I’ve been working hard to get prizes together for the summer reading program. This year’s theme is Build a Better World, and children will have the option, instead of choosing a prize for themselves, to choose to have Cub (I’ve yet to ask other grocery stores or

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Post yet; I plan to) donate a can of food to the food shelf. Page applications opened and closed in April, and our first day of page training is May 2. We have 29 pages this year! Leesa and I also interviewed candidates for the library's summer internship in April, and mutually agreed on someone we think will be a great asset. My month ended with a table at Heathy Kids Day, a massive annual event held at Bridgewater Elementary. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet hundreds of kids and parents/caregivers and promote both the summer reading program and a series of events the library will be offering around Take a Kid Fishing weekend, including Worm Races at Bridge Square.

## Web Services

### ***Submitted by Ian Holms, Reference and Web Services***

Over the past month we have continued our tech time program, but the number of applicants has slowed down. I'd like to think this is because I've taught everyone in Northfield all they need to know, but more likely I'll need to run another promotional push. The statistics since we've started have been promising. We've had nearly thirty-five sessions including a few repeat visitors.

The website is running smoothly. We're keeping up our average of around 10,000 page views per month with approximately 6500 unique visitors. These are certainly nothing to scoff at and mean that our lifetime pageviews are nearing 80,000. I continue to add new graphics and feature new things on the front page scroll bar. I'd also like to remind you of our staff blog ([mynpl.org/blog](http://mynpl.org/blog)) which you can subscribe to by entering your email address in the box on the right side of the page. We're hoping to get a post up every week.

Lastly, Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> marked the first session for Chess Club, which will be held in the meeting room on the first and third Mondays of every month. We currently have six chess sets and are looking for more people to come and join us.

## Shelving and Volunteer Services

### ***Laurie Kodet, Technology/Circulation Supervisor***

#### **Downloadable Audiobook Training**

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, I meet with a Homebound patron to teach her how to download audiobooks. The training went really well and we found that Overdrive ability to play audiobooks from her computer was the most straightforward method. After the training, I was able to write up simple step by step instructions and email her so she has a ready reference. I am enjoying being able to share library resources with our homebound patrons. It is so incredible to be able to give them the tools to access our resources on their own. I received an email from her and have shared it here.

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*Dear Laurie:*

*What a treat! Your directions are very good. I listened to the book about the little dog and decided it was better for someone much younger. So I will return it. (Is return the right word?)*

*I am very pleased with the availability of such wonderful things here in Northfield. I have never known of a library to do so much to keep people reading books, Even, if it's read by the ears rather than the eyes.*

*I'll let you know how I do with my next book.*

*Thank you, so much. Northfield people are so creative.*

## **Library Volunteers**

One of college student volunteers finished up her time with us in April. Curran will be graduating from St. Olaf this Spring. When she came to us had been thinking about possibly going to Library School. We were able to offer her shadowing opportunities with many different staff members. Curran also did some care taking of the children's non-fiction collection, helped with weeding lists and dusting. I received this email from her and wanted to share it with you.

*Hello Laurie,*

*I'm sorry I did not get to say goodbye to you last week before I left. I was able to reconnect with several of the other librarians and staff members before I took off. I have been met with nothing but kindness and open mindedness as I have picked the brains of everyone I shadowed and I cannot be more grateful for their honest reflections. Hearing about actual community enrichment at work like projects to fix the bookmobile, finding the new children's librarian, and designing events and acquisitions all to serve the people has made me very enthusiastic about my official decision to attend UW-Madison.*

*After four years in Northfield these Tuesday's have only made it harder to say goodbye as It allowed me to get out of the St. Olaf bubble and experience the vibrant public. Again I want to thank you for organizing this opportunity.*

*Best,*

*Curran Olson*

## **Circulation Services**

***Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Manager***  
Circulation Report –

Offering Internet for our library patrons is an important part of what we do. We have 19 Internet computers, 9 iPads that can be checked out in the building, and wireless. I wanted to show you how the Internet computers are being used. This chart shows all 19 Internet computers and their usage for April. The first 16 are the computers upstairs and the last 3 are downstairs in the children's area. As you can see some computers are more used – due to their placement. The bottom chart shows how many ci-

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(Northfield), co-(Rice county), and visitors used the computers. Since we returned to the remodeled library and added 9 computers we usually have an available computer for anyone who needs it.

#### COMPUTER UTILIZATION

Computer	Sessions	Minutes Used	Availability	Utilization
NOR-LIB-PUB-001	81	3,759	16,080	23.38%
NOR-LIB-PUB-002	39	2,083	16,080	12.95%
NOR-LIB-PUB-003	48	1,913	16,080	11.90%
NOR-LIB-PUB-004	123	3,725	16,080	23.17%
NOR-LIB-PUB-005	138	7,672	16,080	47.71%
NOR-LIB-PUB-006	28	1,302	16,080	8.10%
NOR-LIB-PUB-007	36	1,951	16,080	12.13%
NOR-LIB-PUB-008	92	5,047	16,080	31.39%
NOR-LIB-PUB-009	40	2,927	16,080	18.20%
NOR-LIB-PUB-010	28	1,465	16,080	9.11%
NOR-LIB-PUB-011	23	1,276	16,080	7.94%
NOR-LIB-PUB-012	44	2,134	16,080	13.27%
NOR-LIB-PUB-013	141	7,479	16,080	46.51%
NOR-LIB-PUB-014	23	1,042	16,080	6.48%
NOR-LIB-PUB-015	43	2,709	16,080	16.85%
NOR-LIB-PUB-016	109	7,257	16,080	45.13%
NOR-LIB-PUB-017	28	1,190	16,080	7.40%
NOR-LIB-PUB-018	95	3,078	16,080	19.14%
NOR-LIB-PUB-019	58	2,663	16,080	16.56%
Total:	1,217	60,672	305,520	19.86%

#### GROUP DETAILS

Group	Members	Sessions	Minutes
nor-ci	7,403	895	44,472
nor-co	1,927	103	4,443
nor-visitor	1,474	227	11,816

## Poet Laureate

### ***Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate***

#### **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

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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 Herseeth 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.

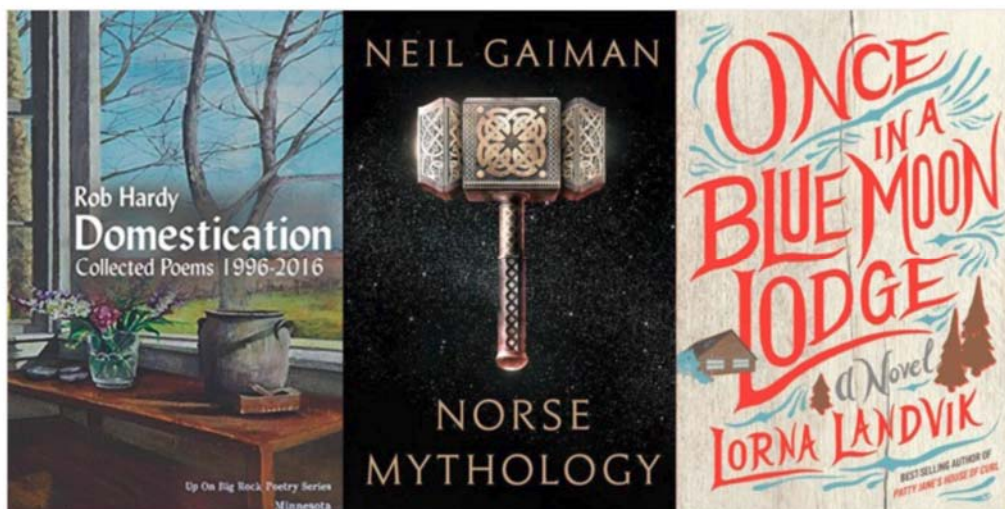
Slam poet Neil Hilborn is booked to perform at Content on Thursday, October 26 at 7pm. Hilborn is the creator of the all-time most-viewed slam poetry video on YouTube. A workshop with high school students is TBA.

### **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-tourrecommendations>).

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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.

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