

Northfield Poet Laureate's Report May 2017

It is somewhat sheepishly that I submit this report for the month of May 2017. After an intense month of April (National Poetry Month), into which I packed at least two months' worth of activity as Poet Laureate (see report for April 2017), I spent the entire month of May in Crete. In the northern coastal city of Rethymno, I had daily modern Greek lessons, visited 4,000-year old archaeological sites, ate and drank extraordinarily well, swam in the Mediterranean, climbed the highest mountain on the island (Psiloritis, a.k.a Mt. Ida, 2,456 meters), and felt a powerful urge to "go native." Nevertheless, I returned to Northfield to resume my duties as Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate is back and open for business!

Activities. • After posting on the Poet Laureate Facebook page daily in April, I only posted three times in May. • I corresponded with a Northfield resident who had good suggestions for adding to the poetry collection at the Northfield Public Library, which I am preparing to pass along. • I accepted an invitation to speak about poetry, and specifically about introducing children to poetry, at the annual staff retreat of Prairie Creek Community School on Wednesday, June 7. • At the request of the chair of the Arts and Culture Commission, I chose three sidewalk poems to be installed in the new sidewalk south of the new Carleton College concert hall on Fourth Street.

Professional Development. • My adaption of Aeschylus' *Oresteia*, published by Hero Now Theatre in Minneapolis, went to the printer on May 25, and will be available in about two weeks. A book launch will take place in Northfield in July (details TBA). • My "lyric essay" titled "Telephone" will appear in *The Common Online* in June. *The Common* is a literary journal based at Amherst College that publishes writing that evokes a strong sense of place. • I am currently investigating the possibility of spending a month next summer (mid-June through mid-July 2018) at a writing workshop on the island of Thasos in the northern Aegean Sea.