

Northfield Public Library Director's Report June 2017

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and IT Services

BookBike!

As I am writing this, I am anticipating our first outing with the new Library BookBike, and I have to say that this is rather a leap into the unknown. How will people react to the BookBike? How will they use it? How will WE use it? Will it be mainly a promotional tool for the library and for the City, or will we actually find that we will be doing “legit” library work, like checking out materials and issuing library cards? I have no idea! When people see it they always smile (or laugh), and so that is encouraging. My fear is that they will stay away from our location at the Riverwalk Market Fair, expecting to be exhorted to use the library, when in fact they haven't set foot in the building since they were a 5th grader on a school tour, and besides, they now buy all their books on Amazon and find out all their info from Google! I truly want the BookBike to be a success, but am not sure how to measure success. I'll be doing my best to count the folks I interact with, but perhaps we measure success by how much fun we are bringing to people, and how much fun we are having. Sometimes it's not all about the numbers but the fun. I look forward to having Library Board members join me each Saturday. Wish me luck!



On a slightly more serious note, the BookBike is a wonderful intersection between library supporters, the biking community, who will be riding as volunteers in many cases to transport the BookBike to different locations, and Early Literacy promoters, in the form of Northfield

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Promise. Promise will be using the BookBike on Thursday evenings for their book give-aways at underserved neighborhoods around town.

Some of you know this, but the BookBike is the result of much study, research and prototype-building by Eric Johnson; he has our undying gratitude for getting this project rolling and completed. His quest for near-perfection has resulted in what he calls “BookBike 3.0” the third iteration of the BookBike. 3.0 was built and painted thanks to River City Builders; we also have Tom’s Downtown Bicycles of Northfield to thank for the very cost-effective BookBike bike. Thank you all.

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

It seems hard to believe but I have been working on setting up some adult library programs for the fall. Many are in the beginning stages but here are some of the possibilities: a talk on Antarctica from a local glaciologist, yoga classes, a parenting class, a class on healthy homes, a class on how to clean up your gardens and prepare for winter, a follow up on our “Decluttering” talk last spring, a writing workshop, astronomy class and more!

In May I was “shadowed” by a local St. Catherine University library school student. I also met with the library safety committee and Northfield Police officer Thad Monroe to develop a safety plan for the library. The library also hosted Alice Thomas from the Save the Depot group on May 11 to give an update on the renovation progress of the depot. This was a great program and well attended.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

David Greenfield and I attended the annual one day Minitex InterLibrary Loan Conference on May 17, 2017 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education & Conference Center in St. Paul. The speakers at that event included **J. Jeff Kober**, President of Performance Journeys and CEO of World Class Benchmarking, **Katie Birch**, Executive Director of Resource Sharing for OCLC, and **Valerie Horton**, Director of Minitex, University of Minnesota.

Mr. Kober presented the keynote address at the conference titled “Things I Wish I Could Tell My Librarian”. The title of the Ms. Birch’s presentation was “Revolutionizing Resource Sharing”, while **Valerie Horton’s** speech was called “Drastic Times Call for Statistics”.

Each of the speakers focused on very different aspects of library management. Mr. Kober spoke exclusively about the customer experience, Ms. Birch about efforts on the part of OCLC to move forward with the next generation of resource sharing among libraries, and Ms. Horton provided

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an overview of statistics cumulated at a macro level about library operations and what they mean for those of us who work in the field.

This is the second Minitex Conference I have attended and both have been excellent. The high quality of the speakers, the reasonable price, the relatively short duration of the event, the mid-size venue, and the mix of librarians from both academic and public at different stages in their career come together once a year at this low key conference. This event provided me with just the right amount of practical information and inspirational talk I was looking for.

Submitted by Joan Ennis

I have been meeting regularly with the Northfield Reads committee, and we are close to deciding on a topic and a book. We hope to have the book selected in June, so that we can provide high school teachers with the title, with the possibility of incorporating it into class readings. We often have people asking for reading suggestions, and more so in the summer, when some people have more free reading time. Jamie and I came up with the idea of promoting Readers Advisory this summer. Jamie is drafting a poster titled "Book Match." Reference librarians will advertise what we already do, but hopefully make more people aware that we can help them with ideas for new reading. Patrons can schedule a time with us, or just come to the desk.

I am also working on a libguide that has alternative title suggestions for some of the bestsellers from the last few years. For example, we have people ask for "a book like *All the Light We Can Not See, A Man Called Ove*," and others. I also plan to print this as a booklist.

We were not able to present a program at Three Links this month because of scheduling difficulties at the library, but Jamie and I will be presenting a program on June 13, on gentle or easy summer reads.

The library will partner with St. Olaf College this summer and present a Jane Austen Book Club in July. A faculty member and several college students will lead a discussion on *Northanger Abbey* on July 10, 17, and 24. The group size will be limited to 10 people, and members will receive a free copy of the book.

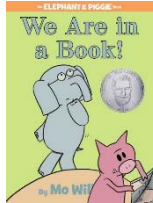
Children's Services

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

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In May we hosted First Grade Tours for students from Northfield Public Schools and St. Dominic's. We also hosted 3 tours from the Northfield Nursery School for preschoolers. This annual event gives children a chance to meet the Children's staff, hear about summer programming, and get a tour of the library. Our intent is to whet their interest in reading throughout the summer to prevent the documented "Summer Slide". Bussing is paid for by the Friends of the Library.

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Anticipating high demand I selected, ordered and cataloged many, many books in preparation of the 2017 summer reading program. First Readers to our library love the Brooklyn author Mo Willems, whose ever popular “Elephant & Piggie” books are always checked out. I purchased 35 additional E&P titles bringing the total number of copies to over 100, hoping that now our excited new readers will find some on the shelves!

Higher than normal summer circulation is true for Books on CD as well, and I ordered additional high-interest fiction & non-fiction so that we have a good supply of new titles for our patrons who will be travelling or working on projects this summer. June is Audio Book month so I also created PR for the monitors, Facebook, and a hard copy handout.

Along with Teresa, Kathy Rush and Laurie, I participated in both the Library and the City’s strategic planning process.

Ian and I worked up a new Staff Picks book promotion that features a library staff member holding up a book they would recommend reading. Ian was the Guinea pig and went first. This will be posted on our library monitors and on our web page or Face Book page.

Staff Picks!

Ian - 2666 by Roberto Bolañ

“I got sucked into Bolaño’s world.

This book is a mystery, an ethnography, and a brilliant piece of literature, all rolled into one. Join the hunt for Benno von Archimboldi!”

FIC BOLA



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Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

In Children's Services, May was all about first grade tours, Library Page trainings, building components of the summer reading program and the summer activity schedule (with lots of help



from the Pages!), and growing our storytime audience. Thanks to the FFOL, Leesa and I were able to give 347 first graders tours and a story, and those without library cards have been coming in to get them in droves! Last month's largest storytime served 26 kids; May's largest got up to 39 kids. I'm particularly proud of a new program devised by the Pages and me: Reading Buddies for the summer reading program. Trained Pages will be available from 9-11 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to read with (or to) children on a drop-in basis. Time spend with a Reading Buddy will count towards kids' summer reading logs.

This photo shows some of the Reading Buddies and has been used in fliers and posters around town. If this pilot is successful, we will make it part of every year's summer reading program.

Web Services

Submitted by Ian Holms, Reference and Web Services

We've sprung in to summer with the chess club, tech program, and website all going strong! The club has had 15 people show up for the first three sessions and I can't say I beat too many of them, but it has been a gas. I'm hoping to expand the numbers through more word of mouth advertising. On the web side of things, everything held together despite my 2-week absence. Over the past month the site has gotten 9700 pageviews, nearly two hundred of which went to the e-library page. The kid's page received 210 views, and our Books & Stars and SRP 2017 lib-guides received a combined 279 views. We're also planning a strong summer reading push on Facebook this month, so keep an eye out for that.

Lastly, tech tutorial applications have remained steady. David and Steve took most of the appointments while I was away. We helped one person unlink their ipad from their iphone, and another person get more comfortable using Gmail and the Google suite. Don't hesitate to give us a holler if you're looking for some tech help. No question is too small.

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Shelving and Volunteer Services

Laurie Kodet, Technology/Circulation Supervisor

Book Bike Volunteer Update

Four volunteers and four staff members have completed the classroom and on-the-bike trainings.

Here are a couple of photos of volunteer, Naomi Miessler and trainer, Eric Johnson. Naomi is riding the book bike and pulling the prototype of the trainer.



Volunteers have signed up to deliver the book bike to Books and Stars events, which will be staffed by members of the Friends and Foundation. Two more volunteer riders will be completing their training with Eric next week.

I have also been working with Connie Nelson from Northfield Promise and the City's HR department to ensure all volunteer riders have a background check and waiver on file.

New Volunteers

Two new volunteers begin working at the library in May. Orianna just finished her second year of college and will be volunteering through the summer. Sarah is an Ameri-Corp worker who works with Head Start and she too will be volunteering through the summer. Both of these volunteers are assisting with condition weeding, shelf reading, and dusting in the children's area. This work is incredibly helpful, it aids in keeping the library looking neat and assists the librarian's in collection development.

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Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Manager

A fun new thing the Circulation Staff is doing is sending a Welcome to the Library postcard to all new patrons. If the new patron is a child they will receive a card that they can color. If the patron is an adult they receive a card signed by Teresa and talks about the many services the library offers. The idea for this program came from two staff members who attended a Customer Service Workshop at SELCO. The cards were designed by Kathy Ness before she retired and now circulation staff send out between one and two hundred a month.



Poet Laureate

Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

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

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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.

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