

Northfield Poet Laureate Report July 2017

Events and Activities

July 15. With actors from Hero Now Theatre in Minneapolis, I took part in a staged reading from my adaptation of Aeschylus's *Oresteia*. After the reading, which took place at Content Bookstore, I signed copies of the book.

July 17-21. I led a poetry camp for seven-year olds at the Northfield Arts Guild. The camp met from 9am to noon, Monday through Friday. We explored Northfield's sidewalk poetry, played poetry-related games, and wrote poetry. Three children participated (but if you know seven-year olds, you know that I had my hands full).

Plans and Partnerships

High School Literary Magazine. I met with Hannah Pahs, a Northfield High School student, to talk about her plan to start a high school literary magazine. I shared the plan with the high school activities director, who will discuss it with a possible faculty advisor at the high school.

Book Talk Series. I met with Harmony Neal, a local writer, to begin planning a series of book talks/readings at the Northfield Public Library in September, October, and November. The idea is to read from and talk about books and authors in the library collection, with a focus on lesser known writers and writers from minority and underrepresented groups. The plan is for each of us to present for 15-20 minutes, each on a different writer, and leave 20 minutes for questions and discussion.

Sidewalk Poetry Project. I met with Bonnie Jean Flom to discuss supervision of the sidewalk poetry summer intern.

Carleton College. Carleton College has offered to provide lodging for a visiting poet once or twice a year at the college's Alumni Guest House (AGH). Thanks to Mark Gleason and Joe Hargis for making this possible. The Carleton English Department had previously offered to pay for a room at the AGH for visiting poet Leila Chatto in October.

Northfield Arts Guild. I had planned to meet with Alyssa Herzog Melby, the executive director of the NAG, on July 27, to talk about future collaborations, but needed to reschedule. We will meet on August 11. The NAG has agreed to make their theater available for a traveling one-man show about the poet Walt Whitman in the fall of 2018.

Content Bookstore. I met with the proprietor, Jessica Peterson White, about the 2017-2018 Poetry Night series. Content will also host a reading and book signing by local poets as part of the Poet Laureate capstone event in September. As of July 31, poets Diane LeBlanc, Leslie Schultz, and Florence Dacey have accepted my invitation to read and sign their books.

Imminent Brewing. I talked to the taproom manager, Laura Meyers, about holding a poetry open mic event at Imminent as part of the Poet Laureate capstone event. Imminent is happy to host that event; other collaborations are possible in the future.

U.N. International Day of Peace. I accepted an invitation to write and read a poem for the International Day of Peace celebration on September 21. I also discussed the possibility of getting other poets to read at the event.

New England Review. I accepted an invitation to participate in a group poetry reading in Middlebury, Vermont, as part of the *NER Vermont Reading Series* (<http://www.nereview.com/ner-vt-reading-series/>), sponsored by the *New England Review*. The reading is scheduled for Monday, October 16.

Social Media

I published 26 posts on the Northfield Poet Laureate Facebook page in July. The most popular post, about the Northfield-inspired sidewalk poetry project in Muscatine, Iowa, reached 529 people.