



Northfield Public Library Director's Report December 2017

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director

Happy New Year to new and returning Library Board members! We are very appreciative of your dedication to the library and of your service to the City of Northfield through your Library Board responsibilities. It is exciting to start the new year with you all, committed to advocacy and promotion of the library as representatives of the Library Board in our community.

This year we are expecting a number of new initiatives that will be challenging library staff to be innovative and organized in achieving our goals for 2018. After a number of years without a regular schedule of Bookmobile/Outreach programming, we are reinventing this service to align with the library and City strategic plans. We will be increasing our Outreach opportunities and partnerships using the library BookBike, including regular Storytimes on Bridge Square during fair-weather Riverwalk Market Fairs. We continue to partner with the NAG and Northfield Promise in providing arts and reading literacy through grant-funded Outreach. And of course, we will be implementing the much-requested Municipal/City ID program through the library location this spring. Stay tuned!

Reference librarians have made last-minute collection purchases to round out the 2017 budget cycle. In general, collection selectors usually allot monthly dollar quotas for spending collection dollars, but there is always the ebb and flow of publisher offerings throughout the year that affect how budgets are spent. End of the year reconciliations of the materials budgets can yield a small bonus of spending in December, as it did this last year.

We have shifted two relatively large genre fiction collections—Romance and Science Fiction—to see how the shifts affect the checkout rates of these collections. The hypothesis is that greater visibility and a place adjacent to the teen collection will improve Sci-Fi's circulation, but that Romance readers will navigate the library well—enough to find their chosen collection. Romance readers are generally very loyal and fairly fervent in their reading of Romances.

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Bookmobile

Neuger Communications has completed their design for the Bookmobile wrap, and it has been forwarded to the Graphics team at Farber. Tentative wrap date is Monday, January 8, with a tentative full completion date being January 15. A Farber employee will drive the bookmobile to MN for delivery; this person will also train library staff to drive the bookmobile. We have been seeking a sheltered location to house the Bookmobile until the City locates or builds a more permanent garage for vehicles, and we are hopeful that a nearby location can be confirmed.

City/Municipal ID

A small City staff committee has met to determine desired software functionality and whether or not we will be able to use existing software already owned by the city, such as Rec Pro or the software used for staff IDs. We are looking for a fairly automated system to avoid staff recreating templates and ID cards with each application. We are talking to other cities with Municipal ID initiatives for best practices and their choices.

Some of our tasks related to the implementation plan include plans to

- Identify, budget and track any hardware and software costs
- Design an application form and instructions in English and Spanish that can serve also as a library card application
- Determine workflow logistics, in-library set-up, staffing, and training, hours of service.
- Communicate with City Council, city staff and members of the community on regular progress updates for the City ID initiative
- Develop a plan to use qualified bi-lingual volunteers from the community to aid library staff by working with the public in explaining the filling out of forms. This will be a part of the overall work-flow plan, and we want to take advantage of the enthusiasm of the community to involve them in the initiative.
- Include the promotion of the City ID in our Outreach services efforts through library staff.

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

We have a nice slate of adult programs coming up in Jan. and Feb. We start Jan. off next week with the annual Adult Reading Program “Hot Reads”. Adults read a book, submit a description and enter a weekly drawing for a gift certificate from a Northfield business. We’ve been doing this program for about 20 years!! It’s a fun program and has always been popular. Sign up!!

Local and nationally acclaimed author Ben Percy will speak at the library on Monday Jan. 9. Noel Aldrich, local nutritionist, will speak about the health of our guts on Thursday Jan. 11. Lew Anderson will speak about the life-changing work of “Destiny Rescue”, an organization that works to raise awareness and end the enslavement and sexual exploitation of children on

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Saturday, January 13. On Saturday, January 20, St. Olaf Professor Ka Wong will present a film called “Beyond the Barbed Wire: Japanese Americans in Minnesota”. The library will also be hosting discussions of the International Film Forum partnering with Carleton College beginning January 18, discussing the theme of “Ecological and Civilizational Crisis: Envisioning a Sustainable Future and an Equitable and Fair World”. Films will be shown at the Carleton Weitz Cinema and discussions will be held in the Bunday meeting room at the library. Go to <https://apps.carleton.edu/arts/iff/schedule/> for a complete film schedule and check our online library event calendar for dates for the discussions.

The Library’s computer class for Spanish speakers will start up again after a brief hiatus on Tuesday evenings beginning Jan. 16. The Open Writing group continues beginning January 17.

More programs are being planned for February, including authors Peter Geye and Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin (who is also CSO of the Mainstreet Project here in Northfield). We will also host local musicians for a return of the Friday noon concerts in February.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

Saturday December 9th from 10:00 – 12:00, 34 people attended a library program in the Bunday Room about backyard bird feeding and the Audubon Bird Feeder Count 2017. Deb White, who owns Paddington Feed and Seed in Faribault, spoke about bird feeding, and Gene Bauer spoke about the national Audubon Bird Feeder Count, which enjoyed its’ 118th year in 2017. A collegial atmosphere prevailed during the program and I was delighted to learn that a number of people had come up from Faribault to attend it. A few of these people (including Ms. White) had told me they had not been in the Northfield Library before and planned to return as they found the building very appealing.

The census area for the Audubon Bird Count includes all of Rice County, which I believe is one reasons for the attendance of folks outside of Northfield. Other factors may be that Deb White is a Faribault resident and her business is well established. I distributed some publicity to The Riverbend Nature Center and the Rice County DNR who were receptive to my overtures to post and disseminate it. Riverbend expressed interest in co-sponsoring this event in the future and possibly other events in the future. The Northfield Library could cultivate this relationship with thoughtful programming.

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Children's Services

Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

December kicked off with a wonderful Saturday partnered event I hope to make annual: the Nutcracker Spectacular! Dancers from the Cannon Valley production came in full costume to demonstrate and teach dance steps; I told the story of The Nutcracker, and Bridget from the NAG offered two different art projects in the meeting room for children to make. December's hugest event, of course, is the Winter Walk Train Show, and the trains and carols



in the children's area brought in record numbers of excited families. Our first teen program since summer, "Dungeons and Dragons and Dinner and Dessert," was enthusiastically received by teens and is now scheduled to recur monthly by demand. With the help of volunteer Margit Johnson, all preschools in Northfield were contacted about sending the library's early literacy brochure home with students and outreach school visits—every preschool was interested in both. Our new Community Outreach Coordinator Angelica has already translated the brochure into Spanish. In January, I'm looking forward to offering my first evening storytime at Greenvale Park Community School. We've coordinated these to occur monthly, and added a Saturday storytime at the library to occur monthly as well (thanks to Laurie Kodet for making it happen with calendar wizardry). I'm thrilled to be able to offer storytime to community members who can't make weekday morning storytimes but have more flexibility on evenings and weekends.

Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Library Reference Manager

Even with the holidays and cold weather, December was a busy month. We said good-bye to two of our valued employees, David Greenfield and Ian Holmes, who are moving out of state to start new adventures. Layna Mestad, who is a current library school student and started at NPL as a part-time Clerk 1, will step into Ian's job as Library Assistant. She has spent many hours being mentored by him on website and social media responsibilities. And by the time you read this, staff will have been notified that long-time Reference Librarian Debby Nitz will be retiring in May of this year. Debby's departure is pushing a dialog about restructuring and succession planning. More on this in upcoming months.

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After talking with various City staff we decided to list the de-commissioned bookmobile with Fahey Auctions. The bookmobile was listed in their online auction site and sold for \$3500 minus their commission, and \$150 to pick up the vehicle and drive it to Glencoe. Proceeds from the auction sale were deposited in the new bookmobile project fund to pay for the new vehicle.

The Friends of the Library made an end-of-the-year push for donations, acquiring the funds to match an in-kind gift that met their final target of \$20,000. The Friends will be using this money to create an endowment, a goal that was delayed by the library renovation project, but was re-made a priority last fall.

I have been working on the Materials and Programming budgets. An increase of \$2,000 and a decrease in print reference expenses allows us to zero out our dependence on gift funds for the first time since LGA cuts several years ago. There are still some designated gift dollars that supplement the materials budget each year: Scriver money is used to purchase adult non-fiction, Gustafson funds are used to purchase children's materials, and the Cloherty memorial fund is split into adult and juvenile purchases.

Web Services

Submitted by Ian Holmes

I've been putting off writing this memo because A.) I've been doing my best not to acknowledge that I'm leaving and B.) How do you fit nearly two years worth of incredible experience and gratitude into an email? I remember my first day, walking into the staff area in city hall and feeling so welcomed by everyone I met. That feeling hasn't faded even a smidge since then. This is such a special library – I think that when I look back I'll be amazed that I was able to work someplace with so much heart and character and good people. I can't wait to see what's next for Northfield. In Boston, I'm only a text or email away and don't hesitate to drop me a line! I'll miss everyone so much (even Steve) and will always make the drive down to visit when I'm in the Twin Cities.

Shelving and Volunteer Services

***Submitted by Laurie Kodet,
Shelving/Volunteer Manager***

These are the designated "Homebound" shelves. Today is Thursday and so there have been several deliveries already this week. The bags on the bottom shelf



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shelves. Today is Thursday and so there have been several deliveries already this week. The bags on the bottom shelf ready to be delivered tomorrow.

I took a look at the Homebound delivery statistics for 2017 and discovered an increase in deliveries and items checked out. We had 555 deliveries in 2017 (average of about 10 a week) which is 159 more than 2016. Homebound patrons requested and received 2,837 items, which was 295 more items than 2016.

We currently have 70 patrons enrolled in our Homebound program and twelve volunteers who regularly deliver items. I set up a bi-weekly delivery to Parkview (Northfield Retirement Center) and weekly deliveries to Millstream Commons and to a few patrons. These regularly scheduled deliveries have helped to streamline the service.

Our Homebound program has increased in usage each year and as we increase our Outreach, I foresee this program continuing to grow.

Poet Laureate

Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

December 2017

The highlight of December was participating as narrator for the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra production of *The Nutcracker*, with dancers from the Northfield Arts Guild Dance Studio and the Cannon Falls School of Dance. I wrote a narration (primarily in rhymes) especially for the production.

Students have started signing up for the Be Heard Minnesota Youth Poetry Slam at the Weitz Center on Saturday, February 3. As of January 1, 8 of the 20 slots were filled, so there is still room for aspiring slam poets to sign up.

On Monday, December 18, I judged (for the fifth time) the Poetry Out Loud competition at Arcadia Charter School, along with Paula Granquist and Ann Gregory-Bjorkland. For the third year in a row, Anna Kochevar and Bella Callery were the winners and will go to the regional competition. I also met with Nancy Dennis from Prairie Creek Community School about participating in the school's artist residency in January. I will be helping to create an "all-school poem."

In other news, the board of Michigan State University Press unanimously approved the Great Lakes region poet laureates anthology, to which I have contributed, for publication in 2018. I will have two poems in the anthology, which focuses on poems on social justice issues by poet laureates from the Great Lakes region.

Because I was paid a generous honorarium for my participation in *The Nutcracker*, I am not requesting a stipend from City funds for December.

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