



Northfield Public Library Director's Report April 2018

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director

City ID

To paraphrase a certain political nattering nabob: Who would have thought creating a City ID program would be so complicated? There are so many moving parts—actual moving parts!—to this initiative that with each run-through we learn something new, and add, move, change staffing and our set-up to suit the latest reality. We very recently realized that we would need two staff people at a time to administer this effectively, plus a volunteer, which will impact when we are able to offer application hours. We will have a presence at the April 24 community meeting at Greenvale Community School, along with City Administrator Ben Martig and the Twin Cities Mexican Consulate. For the latest information please go to www.mynpl.org/CityID.

Closeout of the library project; The financial aspect of the library's renovation project was voted to be complete and closed by City Council on March 20; funds the City's reserve fund were used to make up a shortfall of \$177,000.

Library Outreach

Planning has begun for the spring and summer Bookbike schedule. Library staff will be at the Riverwalk Market Fair with the BookBike every Saturday morning from June through September, along with Story time volunteers, Library Friends and Library Board members. On Tuesday evenings Northfield Promise will be taking the BookBike to Northfield locations as a continuation of last year's book giveaway program. Outreach manager Laurie Kodet and Outreach Coordinator Angelia Linder are scheduling the bookmobile for a regular series of stops and events, including a regular presence at Books and Stars events Wednesday nights in the summer.

Northfield Experience Dance rehearsals in the library have made for a lively and fun atmosphere in March and April; we are looking forward to seeing the finished dance event next month, May 4-6. The library is one of several venues in Northfield; for more information go to www.thenorthfieldexperience.com

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

We have some interesting programs in April. Andrea Een will present a program Thursday April 5 of poetry and Norwegian folk music. Former staff member and amateur genealogist Kathy

Ness will present a program on April 10 on searching FamilySearch.org. Mary Schier, author and editor of Northern Gardener Magazine will present a program on Thursday April 12 – “Plants With Minnesota Roots: Growing a Heritage Garden”. We can only hope for spring and summer gardening ☺ Local Nutritionist Noel Aldrich will present again on Thursday April 19 on the “Rainbow Diet”. We are very excited to have Minneapolis poet and a 2017 finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry, Danez Smith, Monday May 7. He is nationally known and we expect a big crowd for this.

I will be presenting at our staff training day on searching our local paper either using our microfilm or searching online and also on searching Northfield history in general.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

Book Talks, Book Clubs and Reference Research

The first Thursday of each month a group of ten seniors and I meet at Millstream Commons for a book group discussion that lasts about 90 minutes. With the exception of one month last year, we have read works of nonfiction and February was no exception. Selecting titles for this group of intellectually acute, highly educated individuals takes time, but it is time well spent as the selections I have put forth thus far have proven good choices. One of the fiercest critics in the group loudly pronounced last month that our book under discussion River of Doubt: Theodore's Roosevelt's Darkest Journey by Candice Millard was “the best book she had ever read”. It was indeed a great book selection for this group. It combined a less well known chapter on the life of Theodore Roosevelt, a tale of adventure and derring-do down a wild, uncharted river in the Brazilian Amazon featuring a cast of larger than life characters, and the natural history of a fascinating (and hostile) area of the world visited by few people.

Submitted by Joan Ennis

Northfield Reads events culminated in March, and I was busy with a number of activities throughout the month. The book, *Revolution Where You Live*, focused on community, and making a difference at a local level. On Sunday, March 11, we invited the public to view a film, *Welcome to Shelbyville*, at the Weitz Center, and stay for a discussion. The film focused on a community learning to welcome immigrants to their community. On Tuesday, March 13, I led a book discussion at Content Books. The final event was on Thursday, March 22, at the UCC, and focused on making a difference and building bridges. Speakers from various groups within Northfield that have made a difference, talked about their projects and outcomes. We also talked about building bridges and how to communicate with people who hold different opinions. A variety of nonprofits set up displays explaining their projects and goals.

School of St. Dominic history day students displayed their final projects on Thursday, March 15.

Volunteer mentors and I viewed the projects, and we were pleased to see the work the students had accomplished. They displayed their research as a poster board, website, or skit. The regional competition was the following week, and one student will be going to state and one student won an honorable mention!

Tax season will be ending in mid April. We will probably have a flurry of people who are filing with the 1040 EZ form at the last minute!

Upcoming events include a presentation by nutritionist Noel Aldrich on April 19. He is a very popular speaker and draws a crowd. I will be giving presentations to sixth grade classes on April 23, explaining resources students can use for a Minnesota history project.

Communication & Web Services

Submitted my Layna Mestad, Library Assistant

I was busy the month of March updating information on our website. I helped Teresa create the subject guide for the City ID. The kick-off date is set for late April. We're updating it with news as necessary, so the [subject guide](#) is a great place to direct patrons for general information and important dates to be aware of.

I'm planning a new blog series that is similar to the Did You Know part of our staff meetings. I want the content to be about materials, services, etc. our patrons may or may not know we offer. If there is a service or anything in general about the library that you think should be highlighted in this segment, please let me know! I would love your input and feedback. To give you an idea, my first post was about how to limit search results using the online catalog. I used baseball related search terms since baseball season started last week, and did this in hopes of making the conversation about using the online catalog less dry. Also, be on the lookout for staff recommendations. It has been on the back burner since Ian left, but I'm bringing it back! I will be doing the similar format as he did. Each month, I'll have a staff member pick out a book to recommend that's currently available on our shelves, take a picture, write up 2-3 sentences on what the book is about/why you're recommending, post it to the circulation TV, Facebook and website. I think this will be another great way for our patrons to get to know us.

Children's Services

Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Reference & Youth Services manager

City Intern: In March we visited the High School over the lunch hour to advertise the Library's City Intern position. We received almost 30 applicants this year with over half of them college students. This is a change from the last 2 years when most of our applicants were high school aged. On April 4 we will hold interviews with the top 4 candidates and will be offering the

position to our top candidate by the end of the week. The Library's City Intern position will start in early June and primarily assist Emily Lloyd with the Summer Reading Program.

Youth Services Position: After much discussion about succession planning and the retirement of Debby Nitz in May, we decided to create a Youth Services position with her part time hours. Working with Emily and Teresa we crafted a job description and just got approval to post the position today, April 4. This position will close on April 20 and we hope to hold interviews the following week. It would be very advantageous to have this new staff person in place before the busy summer season.

The Scriver Room by the elevator has been turned into a 2 person staff office. After a false start – the desk was too long and hung over the doorway – the furniture is now in place and it only remains for me to put things away. Outreach Coordinator Angelica Linder will be joining me in this lovely new office and I look forward to working with her.

I have been striving to update the children's non-fiction collection before the summer reading program begins. Emily has taken over the juvenile fiction and will be beefing up the juvenile fiction as we plan for the hundreds of children who visit our library daily during the summer months.

I created a presentation for our Staff Training Day on April 6. The topic will be "How We Fill the Shelves: A Quick and Dirty Example of Acquisitions and Cataloging.

I am also researching options for replacement book bags as SELCO will no longer be supplying the heavy plastic bags we have used for the 2 decades I have worked here. The Friends of the Library sell beautiful heavy canvas bags and we have Kathy Ness's Boomerang Bags. We are discussing options including selling bags to patrons who do not bring their own and need one, similar to many other businesses and libraries. The Friends of the Library have offered to help cover the cost of bags in exchange for imprinting them with Friends information.

Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

In March, we increased the number of Spanish storytimes offered per month to two, and continued to see rising attendance at these storytimes. Spring Break activities were a big draw and success: with 55+ each day attending arts and LEGO activities on Tuesday and Thursday, and a beyond full-to-capacity crowd for Wednesday's National Eagle Center program (those that arrived even 5 minutes late were unable to find a





spot). Two classes from the YMCA visited on Thursday of the break and had a blast working on “The Nearly Impossible Scavenger Hunt,” which had kids scrutinizing the art on the first floor for tricky clues. The highlight of the month was the success of “The Great Family Book & Puzzle Swap,” a Saturday program that invited families to bring in books and puzzles that their family was done with and “shop” for books and puzzles other families brought in.

While the event was originally conceived to reach families with younger children, we also saw a lot of seniors in to swap puzzles and teens shopping for books. There were many requests for a reprise of this program, and we’re now planning to do it bi-annually.

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush Vizina, Technology Circulation Services Manager

April 1st is the deadline for the library’s annual report that is submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education. I am always very happy when I completed this report and send it off to the State. It is 10 pages of statistics that I have to spend much of March compiling. I need help from other library staff and the city finance office to complete. At the end it is a good indicator of what was accomplished in a year. Everything went up in 2017 from circulation to program attendance to service hours. We almost doubled our program attendance from 8,501 in 2016 to 15,611 in 2017. Our circulation went from 285,737 in 2016 to 320,190 – this includes both physical materials and downloadables. They always ask different questions that they don’t ask the year before. This year they had questions about our outreach services and do we work with local arts organization, homeschooling organizations and disability organizations. All of which we do. They ask how many adults and how many teens volunteer at the library and how many hours total is volunteered. We had 91 teen volunteers and 92 adults with a total of 2,746 hours volunteered. The part I like the least is figuring out the financial data and I get help for this part from our Finance Office staff and our accounting software. So I am happy that this report is done and now I can move on to other projects.

Shelving and Volunteer Services

Submitted by Laurie Kodet, Shelving/Outreach Services Supervisor/Volunteer Manager

On April 6th the library will be closed - we will be having library staff training day. The training day will include:

- two wellness components (yoga, stress management)
- hands-on training on the book bike & bookmobile
- storytime trainings

- safety training including an active shooter walk-through
- meeting room equipment set-up and use
- IT question/answer session
- Microfilm, Northfield News and history overview
- Acquisitions and cataloging overview

There have been many changes recently and more on the way. This staff- training day gives us an opportunity to spend time together learning and strengthen our team.

Angelica and I meet with Connie Nelson and Laura Turek, HCI Reading Team and Laura Tiano, HCI Growing Up Healthy to discuss the bookmobile and book bike scheduling. The HCI Reading team will be taking the book bike out again this summer one or two evenings a week where they will distribute free books. Angelica will be taking the bookmobile to Tuesdays in the Park (Northfield Estates and Dresden Park) beginning June 19th through August 28th. Collaborating with HCI helps the library work toward our goal of outreach to underserved populations.

Leesa and I meet with Sarah Weeks and Natalie Wall from St. Olaf library to discuss ways to streamline the application and distribution of public library cards for college students. The suggestion is that a college student could obtain a Northfield Public Library card application at the St. Olaf library. The completed applications will be returned to the library and processed and a St. Olaf library staff member will pick up cards. This process is very straightforward and should be simple to implement.

Three new volunteers began working in the library this month. Each of them is assisting with shelf maintenance, which not only keeps the stacks looking great but also helps the collection selectors with weeding. These volunteers are also assisting in preparing materials for the Summer Reading Program- lots of cutting, trimming, and folding. I am will be recruiting volunteers for storytime (Emily will do a workshop for them), bookmobile assistance, event/program assistance, City ID, and possibly additional book bike riders.

Outreach Services

Submitted by Anelica Linder, Outreach Services Coordinator

I met with TORCH coordinators Katie Lovrien (Middle school) and Tessa Kiesow (high school) working on ways to have partner and grow our youth participation in the future. Laurie and I are looking into having several high school aged TORCH students volunteer with some Spanish language programming scheduled for this fall.

I had very successful visits to the ESL classes and Family School; there were 24 attendees between the three locations. Bookmobile visits are scheduled for each location (May 7th and 9th). I presented Spanish storytime at Greenvale School on March 20th, 10 children attended. I am enjoying this outreach and am happy to see that attendance is rising with each new visit.

Spanish storytime at the library is becoming popular. On March 9th, Things that are Green was the theme and there were 5 adults and 6 children in attendance. On March 23th, our theme was Birds. At this storytime, we had new Native Spanish speaking volunteer, Liliana Ramos presenting. She brought in her real birds for everyone to see. Her assistance adds much to the program. Attendance is on the rise for these programs as well, we had our best turnout to date, 9 adults and 8 children.



I was invited to go to a meeting with Oswaldo Cabrera, Mexican Consulate representative, on March 15th, organized by Teresa Stanley (LINK center). He talked about legal IDs from Mexico, available resources for our local immigrant population and other helpful information. He will be visiting Northfield again on April 24th appearing at Greenvale Park School. Teresa Jensen and I are been invited to talk about the City ID.

Mikayla Fisher (Community Development Specialist, City of Northfield), Teresa Stanley (LINK center Coordinator), and I are working creating a list of official and non-official translators and interpreters of different languages. We would like the list to include translators and interpreters of Somali, Spanish, and Hmong Chinese. We would also like to include interpreters of American Sign Language. The goal is to have access to reliable and current contact information at the library, LINK center and the City of Northfield.

Poet Laureate

Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate Events

March 8-9. Attended the True Colors arts night at Prairie Creek. The focus of the evening event was on poetry. The following morning, I returned to Prairie Creek to read the new school poem to the children at the weekly All School Gathering. The poem, written with input from the students, will be prominently displayed at the school.

March 19. As part of the State of the City address event, I read a poem written with input from a dozen other Northfield poets. The poem, “Vision: A Rhapsody on Northfield’s Vision Statement” was also printed in the *Northfield News* story about the State of the City address.

March 27. I joined Diane LeBlanc, Emily Lloyd, Leslie Schultz, and Scott Jensen in judging the 2018 Sidewalk Poetry competition. Five poems were selected, by Steve McCown, Becky Boling, Avery Eastvold, Marie Vogl Gery, and Julie Ryan. (Judges Diane and Leslie, and winners Marie, Becky, and Steve were also contributors to the poem for the State of the City address.)

March 29. I introduced Jim Lenfestey's reading at Content. He was in town to read from his latest collection of poetry, *A Marriage Book: 50 Years of Poems from a Marriage* (Milkweed Editions 2017).

On March 26, I attended the book release event for Mary Moore Easter's collection *The Body of the World* at The Loft in Minneapolis. I subsequently booked Mary to read in Northfield on Thursday, May 31. This month I also continued to work with Steve McCown on his poetry manuscript, which he submitted to a potential publisher at the end of the month. I also wrote the monthly ACC column for the *Northfield News*, which appeared in the Wednesday, March 28 paper. I also began planning for a Writers' Night at Imminent Brewing as part of the inaugural First Friday Art Night (co-sponsored by the ACC and the NDDC) on June 1 at 5pm.

Summer Fellow --In the second half of March, I interviewed three applicants for a summer fellowship (internship) sponsored by the Center for Community and Civic Engagement at Carleton. The fellow will assist me in developing a collection of poetry activities and lesson plans that can be used in classes and summer poetry camp. If time permits, we will also explore the possibility of creating a local poetry podcast as another way of bringing the voices of Northfield poets to a wider audience.

All three applicants were wonderful and well-qualified. In the end, I offered the position to Jelilat Odubayo, and she accepted. Jelilat (the "t" is silent) is a first-year student from Houston, Texas, who has worked in the Carleton Writing Center, blogged for the Carleton Admissions Office, interned at a law firm, co-hosted a radio show on KRLX, volunteered at the Houston Public Library and the Holocaust Museum of Houston, tutored elementary school students in both Northfield and at home in Houston, and won a humanitarian award from the Houston Black History Society. She seems like an exceptional young woman who will bring creativity and diverse experience to the task of developing activities to engage Northfield children in writing and appreciating poetry.