



Northfield Public Library

Director's Report

May 2018

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director

City ID

On April 24 City Administrator Ben Martig, Outreach Coordinator Angelica Linder, two police officers and I attended a meeting at Greenvale Community School, to talk about the City ID and to meet and listen to a representative from the Mexican Consulate, which gave us the chance to give an update on our progress with the ID and to clear up any misinformation had been circulating in town. An audience of 30 attentive Northfielders attended. The firm deadline opening date for the City ID kick-off is June 4. For more information please go to www.mynpl.org/CityID.

Wifi on Bridge Square

City IT staff are working to bring free public WiFi to Bridge Square in the very near future. This will be a nice amenity for visitors and residents alike, and will be an aid to vendors (including the Library) during Riverwalk Market Fair Saturday mornings. Expanding public WiFi in downtown is part of the City's Strategic Plan, and is also a part of the IT Department Strategic Plan. Eventually our aim is to make free WiFi available throughout downtown along Division.

Northfield Experience

As I write this, we are in the final week of rehearsals gearing up to the performances this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers from the Friends, the Library Board and the Arts and Culture Commisison will be helping out by being the second person of two for evening performances. The library is one of several venues in Northfield; for more information go to www.thenorthfieldexperience.com

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

Despite the cold and snow in April, we hosted Mary Schier for a gardening talk on April 12. Former staff member Kathy Ness gave a presentation on April 10 on searching FamilySearch.org. Other adult programs included a poetry reading by Andrea Een and another nutrition program by Noel Aldrich. All were well attended. We are gearing up for a big poetry event on May 7 at 8

pm. National Book Award Poetry Finalist and Minneapolis resident Danez Smith will give a reading. This is being sponsored by the Library, the Northfield Poet Laureate (Rob Hardy) and the Carleton College Center for Civic Engagement. Smith is nationally known and we think there will be a big turnout. Local resident LuAnn Raadt will give a 2 part presentation on May 3 and 10 on DIY Herbal Remedies and Backyard Pharmacy.

This will be my last contribution to the Director's Report as I will retire on May 25. I have been at the Northfield Library since Dec. 19, 1988. I knew I wanted to be a librarian since I was in high school working as a page at the Jungman Library in Houston, Texas. After library school at the U of M I worked for a short time in the cataloging department at the Carleton Library before my first professional position in the Dakota County Library. And after 4 years there I found my way to my hometown library. And as they say "the rest is history" ☺. It has been a wonderful career and I feel lucky to have been able to serve the community where I live and work with an amazing staff. I wish everyone all the best.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

Refreshing the Large Print Book Collection

A major review of the large print book collection for adults is underway in the library! Work to "refresh" this collection is part of the plan to rotate some of these books, along with other library materials on the new bookmobile so that they can be loaded onto the bus and taken to various venues and events at which the Northfield Library has a presence. Joan, Debby and I, are working on refreshing the large print book collection.

Stages in the refresh process include reviewing circulation statistics for large print titles and removing (or weeding in library parlance) items that have not circulated for some time. Additionally, books with a worn or dated appearance are removed and sold by the library. Once the weeding process is complete, we will buy new titles that will (hopefully) enjoy high circulation rates.

Large print publishing is a specialty and only a couple major publishers are involved in this part of the book trade. The financial risks are high, the profit margins low for large print books and far fewer titles are published in large print format. One result is that the cost per title is considerably higher.

I have been investigating purchase options available for large print books in the mystery genre. My goal is to acquire as many "popular" mysteries as possible within my assigned budget. It has been an interesting project and I am enjoying learning about the many aspects of managing a large print collection.

Submitted by Joan Ennis

- Tax season is officially over! We recycled the small number of leftover booklets we have and replaced the shelves with colorful oversized books.
- Jamie and I met with Judy Hefer on April 13, to talk about our programs at Three Links Apartments. We have decided to follow up our presentation each month by going to the Three Links Brain Fitness program at the beginning of the following month. I gave a presentation on April 24 on books about immigration, and will tie in that theme in the Brain Fitness program for the month of May.
- The Open Writing Group is very successful. In April, I invited local writer and editor, Orlo Otteson to speak about memoir writing to the group. The attendees really enjoyed his talk. He also prepared some very useful handouts.
- On April 19, local nutritionist Noel Aldrich gave a presentation on the “Rainbow Diet,” which includes foods of many colors, to get the nutrients necessary for a healthy diet. Noel has given a number of presentations over the past 4 years and his talks are well attended.
- Sixth grade Middle School teacher Chris O’Neill approached me about helping with the Minnesota History Project again this year. Their project is based on the History Day theme, conflict and compromise, but focused on Minnesota history. On Monday, April 30, I was at the Middle School from 8:00 – 12:30, and talked to five different large groups of students, explaining how to research their topic using databases on the Northfield Public Library website. I was pleased to be able to go to the school and give the students information about how to use our library and website. Hopefully, the students will be coming to the library during the month of May.
- The Northfield Reads committee began meeting in April to decide our book for next year. Our topic will be racism. We are looking at several books, and are reaching out to faculty at St. Olaf and Carleton college to help give presentations.

A week ago, I had a very interesting and fun reference question. A couple came in and said they were visiting from Arizona and wanted to do some family research. I took them over to the newspaper index, and asked what the family names were, and we could start with newspaper articles. The first name was Goodman, and the second name was Pye! I told them I was sure we had plenty of information on the Pye family! I copied all the newspaper cards, so they could look up newspaper articles. I showed them many reference sources in the Pye Room, and they spent a week doing research. In addition, they asked if there was a history of All Saints Church, which the Pye family attended. I showed them the book that was written in 1987, and, because I told them that someone is currently writing a new history. (I attend All Saints and therefore knew this). I connected them with the writer and they all had a very enjoyable and informative dinner meeting together.

Youth Services

Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

April kicked off with a second opportunity to read at Camp Caldecott at Sibley Elementary and, after the unfortunate snow cancellation of one of our Saturday family programs on the 14th, two great family programs the following two Saturdays. On the 21st, Purple Door Youth Theater treated a standing-room-only house to their traveling show "The King's New Clothes." This take-off on "The Emperor's New Clothes" featured lots of hilarious asides and after the actors blew the audience away, they followed the performance with a few quick improv games for audience members to join in. Earlier on the 21st, the new bookmobile made its first appearance at Healthy Kids Day, to the excitement of 256 bookmobile visitors over the course of 3 hours. On Saturday the 28th, Poet Laureate Rob Hardy hosted a morning of



Children's Poetry in the atrium in celebration of National Poetry Month. Mayor Pownell, Superintendent Hillmann, and six Prairie Creek students were among the readers. Children's Services is gearing up for the Summer Reading Program, with planned visits to several preschools and the May 1 Northfield Promise Fair, as well as classroom tour visits coming up in May. Leesa and I are beginning to place our last big book orders before summer reading starts. I've been focusing on beefing up our children's graphic novel collection as the format continues to grow in popularity. Page training begins on May 8, and this summer's Youth Services intern, St. Olaf sophomore Sabrina Wieczorek, is set to start work in early June. On the evening of May 7, there will be a storytime training for volunteers who are interested in providing storytimes at Riverwalk Market Fair this summer.

Submitted by Leesa Wisdof, Reference and Youth Services Manager

We celebrated National Library Week April 8-14 with coffee and cookies each morning – a treat appreciated by our early visitors. Invited to write “post” a note about why they were in the library that day, patron reasons were varied but the majority still came for books, to work or study, to attend storytime or because they enjoyed reading the day’s paper in the Atrium . 300 hundred people tried their best, but Mary Cunningham guessed the exact number of M&M’s in the jar – 1,986 - and wearing a big smile took home the winnings. Still more folks came for programs on genealogy and gardening. On National Bookmobile Day we opened the doors for guests to come aboard and see the newest addition to our library outreach efforts.



Several library staff presented workshops at our Staff Training Day to increase staff understanding of library operations, safety and stress management. I presented a short session on acquisitions and cataloging. I heard a lot of positive feedback from staff on the instruction they received throughout the day and feel it was a useful investment for all concerned.

As in previous years, the library had a presence at Northfield’s Earth Day celebration on April 21. Volunteer Katie Hoskinson took seeds and books to the Armory and reported that business at our table was brisk. Katie also hosted a seed exchange IN the library the following Sunday afternoon and our ongoing free seed exchange is back on the 2nd floor near the reference desk. Community members are invited to take seeds they need, bring in any extra seed they may have, and to harvest and return seed to the library for 2019.



The Friends of the Library met to determine their annual Scholarship awards and stepped up to help fund this year’s Books & Stars. Our Friends support many library initiatives and events and I encourage anyone reading this report to become a member.

Debby Nitz and I are meeting weekly as we work toward her imminent retirement May 25.

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush Vizina, Technology Circulation Services Manager

On Friday, April 6th the library closed for the first time for a Staff Training Day. All staff were present except our high school student shelveers and Janet Sletten who teaches during the day. It was a 'fun' filled day with a lot of great information. We started the day at 8:00 with Yoga with Bob Bruce. We then had a staff meeting and it was great to have so many staff present! After the staff meeting Mark Dukatz, Deputy Police Chief, came and gave us building and personal safety instructions and a walk through of the building. We then had 3 break out sessions – each for 20 minutes – one was training on the bookbike, one was training on the new bookmobile and the third was IT training and questions with the IT staff. Lunch from smokehouse provided by the library and during our lunch Teresa talked to the staff about customer service and what to expect when we all take our turn with the bookbike on bridge square this summer. After lunch we had two more breakout sessions – one with Debby talking about genealogy and the Pye Room, Leesa explaining how books are ordered and cataloged. Emily showed the staff how to give a story hour. We ended the day with Kris Layman and relaxation Yoga. Thank you to the city for approving this day of training. I believe most felt it was very informative and motivating.

Outreach, Shelving and Volunteer Services

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

April is volunteer appreciation month. This year each volunteer (93) received a bookmark that included a portion embedded with wild flower seeds. The library is able to operate more effectively because the time and energies of its volunteers. I wrote an article that appeared in the Northfield News that featured Teresa Ruiz, a library volunteer who is truly committed to sharing her gifts with others. She developed and teaches a basic computer class for Spanish speakers as well as hosts Spanish storytimes.

I recruited volunteers for the summer to assist on the bookmobile, special events, storytimes and the City ID program. I received seven respondents regarding the storytimes and each will attend a training presented by Emily, the Children's Programming Librarian. Several people expressed interest in helping with special events and the bookmobile. There are seven volunteers for the City ID program.

Outreach

Angelica, Outreach Coordinator and I met with Daryl Kehler, ALC Director and Linda Oto, Summer Blast Coordinator (6-8 grade) this month to talk about possible partnerships. In our meeting with Ms. Oto, it was determined that scheduled library tours and an activity time for

small groups for the course of several weeks will be a good way to expose the middle schoolers to what the library has to offer. We are excited to add these tours to our calendars.

Angelica and I met with Milosha Malecha, Director of Activities at the Northfield Care Center. We were able to issue an agency library card for the staff to use to check out materials for short-term rehab residents. We discussed the homebound program and I materials left for Milosha. She will include the brochure in the packet of information she give to residents at their discharge. In mid-August the Northfield Retirement Community holds campus fair which is a great opportunity for the library to bring the bookmobile and the book bike.

Bookmobile

- April 11th: National Bookmobile Day- tours were offered several times during the day
- April 21st: Healthy Kids Day – 256 people – 2 library cards issued
- April 22nd: St. Dominic Church (after Spanish mass)- 48 people, 2 library cards issued
- April 24th: Greenvale School- Mexican Consulate visitor
- April 24th: Steve trained Tyler to drive
- April 30th: Steve trained Layna to drive

Working with Ryan Kiefer from the Streets Department, I was able to write up a procedure for drivers in case there are any mechanical issues. Deb Little, City Clerk asked my questions about what to include in written procedures if the bus is involved in an accident. The written procedures are available and a copy is on the bookmobile.

Book Bike

The library staff members are each scheduled to take the book bike to Riverwalk Market Fair beginning June 4th , where they will promote library services and a storytime will be performed. Each staff member could choose to ride the bike and to do the storytime – volunteers are available for each option. I am currently working on the volunteer schedule for the bike riders and gathering the supplies needed for the season. Several staff members will take riding training offered by volunteer, Eric Johnson in the coming weeks. It is hard to believe we are gearing up for Summer! Connie Nelson from Northfield Promise and I have been in touch regarding their use of the book bike. The schedule is set to begin on June 19th and run through August 28th. They will be taking the bike on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and visiting four neighborhoods each week giving away free books!

Submitted by Angelica Linder

- We were invited to participate in an event with Oswaldo Cabrera, (Mexican Consulate representative) on March 15th, organized by Teresa Stanley (LINK center) I served as an interpreter for Teresa Jensen and Ben Martig, they talked about Northfield City IDs and helpful information about the program to the community. The Northfield News wrote an article about the event.

- I set up a meeting on April 26th with Linda Oto (Youth Development Coordinator). We are working on ways to connect the Summer BLAST students with the library. We will have around 45-60 kids from 6th to 8th grade which they will be split into groups and coming for two hours for a library tour and activity. Starting June 20-July 25 (exact dates to be confirmed).
- On April 15th, I brought the Bookmobile to St. Dominic Church, patrons were able to check out materials, a total of 48 patrons, 2 new library cards issued, we handout brochures with City ID information. Had a wonderful respond! Future visits on May 13th and June 10th.
- Laurie and I met on April 17th, with Milosha Malecha (*Activities Director*) from Northfield Retirement Center, where we will continue our Outreach work - homebound promotion.
- Spanish storytime at the library is going well. On April 13th, I had a total of 6 adults & 4 kids. On April 27th 4 adults & 4 kids.

Poet Laureate

Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

Laureate Events

April 5: Poetry Night with Andrea Een (Northfield Public Library)

April 23: Poetry Night with Rachel Moritz (Content)

April 28: Beyond Rhyme: Children's poetry reading at the Northfield Public Library

April 30: Poetry Night with Jennifer Kwon Dobbs (Content)

Meetings

April 9: Arts and Culture Commission

April 11: Library Board

April 11: Poem in Your Pocket Day (preparing boxes for distribution)

April 20: Interviewed by Carleton student for her nonfiction writing class

April 30: Met with four Carleton computer science students about their class final project (creating a prototype of a city-wide master arts calendar)

Other

1. Wrote two commissioned occasional poems, for the annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation Program (April 25) and for Harmony Neal's MSAB Individual Artist Grant capstone event (April 29). The poems are archived here: <http://guides.mynpl.org/poetlaureate/poems>
2. Appeared with Bonnie Jean Flom on Paula Granquist's ArtZany! show on 95.1 The One. The program is archived here: <http://kymnradio.net/2018/04/27/artzany-sidewalk-poetry-and-poem-in-your-pocket/>
3. Distributed and collected Poem in Your Pocket Day boxes, with Bonnie Jean Flom and Paula Granquist.

4. Posted a poem a day on the Northfield Poet Laureate Facebook page, started a Northfield Poet Laureate Twitter feed (follow me at https://twitter.com/northfield_poet) and YouTube channel (to which I posted PIYP videos by Alyssa Herzog Melby, Heather Lawrenz, Hannah Singh, and Bridget Novak, and a video of the Andrea Een poetry night).
5. Began booking poets for 2018-2019 Poetry Nights: Nicole Borg (October 11), Michael Kleber-Diggs (November 15), both at the Northfield Public Library.
6. Organized and participated in a poetry writing group at the Northfield Public Library (2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 11am in the Pye Room).

Poem in Your Pocket Day

We added three new locations this year: Imminent Brewing, Tanzenwald Brewing, and the Contented Cow. Two businesses expressed disappointment that 6th graders didn't show up to read poems and get free baked goods before school on Thursday. The teacher who has organized this in the past, Rhea Mehrkens, was in maternity leave this year. I will be meeting with Rhea to try and ensure that this remains part of PIYP Day in the future, and that the responsibility doesn't rest entirely on her.

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 7: Danez Smith (Northfield Public Library, 8pm)
Monday, May 21: Leslie Schultz (Northfield Public Library, 7pm)
Thursday, May 31: Mary Moore Easter (Content, 7pm)
Friday, June 1: Writers Night: Community (Imminent, 5pm)