



# Northfield Public Library Director's Report June 2018

## Director's Report

*Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Library Director*

### **City ID**

The City ID program was launched on Monday morning, June 4, from 9-12; we had a smooth and successful morning, with 27 people applying for their City ID cards. Two days later, on Wednesday evening we signed up 60 people in the same span of time, from 5-8 PM. We anticipate that our service numbers will continue to grow as word gets out in the community about the program. Northfield News reporter Philip Weyhe wrote a large article for the Wednesday edition of the paper, with a follow-up article to appear on Saturday. We are keeping our website up-to-date with new information at [www.mynpl.org/CityID](http://www.mynpl.org/CityID).

### **Buttons**

This is pretty trivial, but since we've talked about Library Board t shirts or buttons you all might like to know that we are actually purchasing a button machine! Up to now we have had to borrow the SELCO-owned machine, with all of the attendant time delays attached. Buttons are popular for Youth Services programs, of course—but now we can make Library Board buttons with the requested book fan logo (or maybe the book shelf logo? You all can decide!) In this way Library Board members can wear their button with pride at community events, library events, Riverwalk Market Fair, etc. Stay tuned!

### **Riverwalk Market Fair**

We were rained out last weekend, but hope to be down at Bridge Square on Saturday, June 9. Becky Benedict will be staffing the BookBike, with Emily Lloyd coming down to do a storytime at 11 AM. Regular appearances by Library Board members are expected—for the 9<sup>th</sup> we look forward to seeing Board Chair Sarah Weeks. Stop by if you are at the RMF buying your veg and flowers, coffee, rolles or artwork, and say hello!

## Adult Services

*Submitted by Leesa Wisdorf, Reference Manager*

May was a month for various staffing changes. Debby Nitz, Reference Librarian, retired after 29 years of service. Her last day was May 25. Debby worked part time, up to 29 hours per week. Those hours were used to hire a Youth Services librarian who would specialize in Teen

programming. Library Assistant Layna Mestad was promoted to work with Children's Programming Librarian Emily Lloyd. Long time Reference and Youth Services Manager Leesa Wisdorf will take additional desk hours and responsibility for the non-fiction adult collection (previously managed by Debby Nitz).

The Library Assistant position vacated by L. Mestad was posted internally and circulation clerk Tyler has been hired. Tyler has a library degree and experience that will benefit both library staff and library patrons. We are pleased that our staff have the opportunity to grow their skills at the Northfield Library and we look forward to both mentoring them and utilizing their unique talents.

***Submitted by Jamie Stanley***

**Millstream Commons Book Group, The Hobbit and Fantasy Fiction**

As the librarian who buys fantasy fiction for adults I thought that I have a pretty good understanding of what this genre was all about. But over the course of preparing for a book discussion at Millstream Commons in May about J.R.R. Tolkien's book ***The Hobbit*** I now realize I knew less than I thought. Fantasy is one of those genres that many adults do not care for. They often have preconceived notions of what this literature is about and dismiss it as being "only for kids". As a fan of fantasy fiction, I advocate for it because it can be immensely enjoyable for adults, if they are willing to give it a chance.

What are some of the basic elements of fantasy fiction? It is set in a world that exists parallel to our own. A secondary world as full and rich as the one we inhabit which in fantasy parlance is called the primary world. In the fantasy world magic and the seemingly impossible are possible. One must suspend disbelief to enjoy fantasy fiction. Fantasy stories also feature quests, and the person on the quest is usually young; a child, a teen or a young adult. They are the protagonist in the fantasy. The protagonist must be young because they are not fully formed spiritually and are in a state of grace. The purpose of the quest is to challenge their body and soul so that they may become stronger and find a higher purpose and calling. Becoming a leader is implicit in their development. One of the fascinating things about fantasy fiction is the best authors of this genre develop secondary worlds and characters that are rich in backstory, narrative and physical description. This is called world building and is also a hallmark of science fiction. As a don at Oxford University Tolkien spent more than sixty years developing the setting for ***The Silmarillion***, ***The Hobbit***, ***The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*** and lesser known works set in Middle Earth. Tolkien and his work continues to serve as source of enjoyment and study for millions of people around the world.

**Submitted by Joan Ennis**

- After visiting the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at the end of April, and explaining databases for their Minnesota History project, we had a number of students come to the library during May and research their project.
- On May 8, I went to Three Links to help with their monthly Brain Fitness session. Jamie and I are tying our book presentation the previous month with the next Brain Fitness session. I had presented books on Rural Life, and we used that theme in May.
- On May 15, I helped out with Career Day at the Middle School. The city had a booth for working for cities.
- Northfield Reads continues to meet by weekly, as we plan for programs for the next academic year. We have selected *A Good Time for the Truth; Race in Minnesota*, edited by Sun Yung Shin. The book is a compilation of writings by a number of non Caucasian Minnesota writers. We are hoping to have some of the writers speak in Northfield.
- A year ago a man living in Illinois called and said he was trying to figure out where his grandmother lived in Northfield. He said he thought she might have run a boardinghouse. He graduated from St. Olaf, as did other family members. Using our house card file, I was able to determine that she lived on First Street, near Way Park. I took a photo of the house and sent it to him. He called again last week, and said he was coming to visit Northfield, and would visit the library. He came on Friday, and was going to drive by his grandmother's old house. We also determined that she moved to a house on Forest Street, after selling her house on First Street in the 1940's. He was pleased to find more information on his grandmother.

Debby retired last month and I will miss working with her! We worked together for over 29 years.

## Youth Services

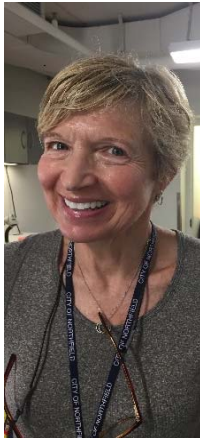
### ***Submitted by Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian***

May was a lot of fun in the Children's Department! First grade classes from Sibley, Bridgewater, and Greenvale Park elementary schools toured the library and learned about library cards and summer reading. Many thanks go to the Friends and Foundation of the Library for funding their bus trips to and from the library. I got out in the community to visit St. Dominic's, Longfellow, and Northfield Nursery Schools; and trained in our 2018 Library Pages. I tried a new approach to Page training this year, with a focus on preparing youth not just for the summer reading program but for the future teen job market. We spent time talking about customer service-- thinking about and sharing the good service we've received, and the not-so-good service we've received--, running scenarios, and considering the ways in which the library markets its collection and programs and their role in that during the summer. At our last session, all of the

Pages agreed that they feel ready for the summer and clear about their parts in it as it unfolds. A subset provided a natural and eager group for our new Youth Services Librarian, Layna Mestad, to begin working with. Layna took off with a running start, facilitating productive and insight-yielding discussions with the group about the future of the library's services to teens.

***Submitted by Layna Mestad, Youth Services Librarian***

I now write to you as the Youth Services Librarian! I spent the last couple weeks of May transitioning into this new role. My new desk (sorry Angelica) is right next to Emily's, and our new intern, Sabrina, is also sharing this space with us which has been great for youth services collaboration. I've been meeting with some of the library pages who are interested in bringing the Teen Advisory Board back in addition to planning the summer teen program which will take place on Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. A Marvel superhero event is in the works, and so far we're leaning toward a screening of a Marvel movie, superhero/villain costume contest, button making, and of course pizza. We're still in the planning stages, and I'm excited to see what they ultimately come up with. This is the first teen focused position here at the library, and I'm excited to work with the teens in Northfield to make this space at NPL their own. In addition to working with the teens, I will be helping Emily with storytime this summer by taking over baby storytime. I can't wait to start my Tuesdays with babies and their grown-ups, board books, and lots of Little Red Wagon!



## Circulation Services

***Submitted by Kathy Rush Vizina, Technology Circulation Services Manager***

I am pleased to introduce you to our new Circulation 1 Clerk that started at the library in May. Sue Pokorney is a long time library user and decided to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> career working in the library. She is married to Jim, also a frequent library user, and they have three children that are grown and gone. Her first career was in health care. Sue and Jim have lived across the street from the library for 25 years. Welcome to the Library Sue!

## Outreach, Shelving and Volunteer Services

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

## Volunteer of Month



### Teresa Ruiz

Volunteer since: January 2017

- Teaches Computer & Internet Basics Class in Spanish
- Leads Spanish Storytimes
- Translates promotional material

Thank you Teresa for all you do!

### Volunteers

• In May, I began a Volunteer of the Month promotion as a way to highlight our volunteer's time and efforts. **Teresa Ruiz** has been teaching a Spanish Computer class since September 2017. Her last class was held on May 29<sup>th</sup>, four of her students are pictured here. Teresa will be moving to Washington State in August. Library staff and patrons will miss her smiling face and positivity.

• Bookmobile volunteers **Margit Johnson** and

**CC Linstroth** joined Angelica this month during visits to ESL classes and Family School. Both volunteers reported that they enjoyed their time on the bookmobile. Thank you Margit and CC!

- On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Angelica and I spoke to St. Dominic's Hispanic Youth Group about upcoming volunteer opportunities. This fall we will be holding several Spanish immersion programs for middle school students and are seeking youth volunteers who have strong Spanish language skills.

### Outreach

Angelica and I met with Tasha Patrick, Life Enrichment Assistant at the Northfield Hospital Longterm Care to talk about outreach services for seniors. We shared information on the Homebound Program and other programming ideas including bring the bookmobile for a visit

### Book Bike

- May 9<sup>th</sup>: Angelica rode the bike with Greenvale students on Bike to School Day
- May 12<sup>th</sup>: Training with Eric : Becky N, Yani
- May 18<sup>th</sup>: Training with Eric: Layna & Tyler
- May 19<sup>th</sup>: Training with Eric: Jamie, Angelica, Laurie, Betsy (volunteer)



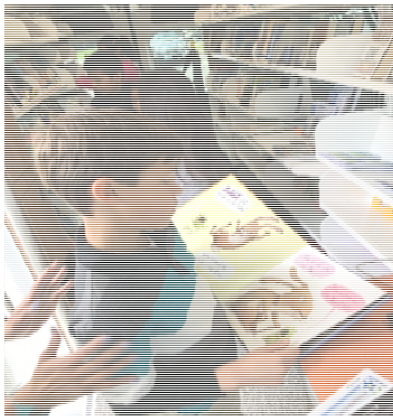


***Submitted by Angelica Linder, Outreach Coordinator***

Highlights of May 2018:

**Bookmobile:**

- The Promise Fair at Greenvale Park School on May 1<sup>st</sup> to promote the summer reading program and Books & Star as well the library services.
- ESL classes (English as second Language) and Family school on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> were the students had the opportunity to check out material that will helped them with their learning process and other information.



St. Dominic Church after Spanish service on May 13<sup>th</sup> we promote the library services, Northfield City IDs and helpful information about the different programs for the community.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> was Bike to school day! I had the opportunity to take the Book Bike and ride with kids from Greenvale School; I hand out summer reading program and Books & Stars.



**Spanish Storytime**

I finalized the series of Cuenta Cuentos in Spanish, May 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, I'm planning to start again after the summer and hopefully we could offer it one time a week.

1. Emily and I had a school visit to St. Dominic School to promote the summer reading program and more. We took the Bookmobile for kids to see it; they were very excited we had 150 kids.
2. I received City ID training on May 24<sup>th</sup> and we are ready to issue the cards on June 4<sup>th</sup>!
3. I attended at SELCO Advanced Circulation workshop on May 22<sup>nd</sup>
4. Becky Novotny and I attended to the 2018 Enhancing Quality Staff in Changing Times symposium at the University of Minnesota.

## Poet Laureate

***Submitted by Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate***

### May 2018 Events

Event	Date	Venue	Audience
Danez Smith	Monday, May 7	Northfield Public Library	120
Leslie Schultz	Monday, May 21	Northfield Public Library	30
Mary Moore Easter	Thursday, May 31	Content Bookstore	40
TOTAL AUDIENCE			190

May marks the end of the Poetry Night season for 2017-2018. In May, I finalized most of the Poetry Nights for 2018-2019:

- *September* (Northfield Poetry Festival): Joyce Sutphen and others TBA
- *October*: Bao Phi (Content) and Nicole Borg (Northfield Public Library)
- *November*: Michael Kleber-Diggs (Northfield Public Library)
- *December*: Faribault Poets: Larry Gavin, Audrey K. Helbling, John Reinhard, Peter Allen (Northfield Public Library)
- *January*: TBA
- *February*: Christopher Bakken (venue TBA)
- *March*: TBA
- *April*: Justin Watkins (Northfield Public Library)
- *May*: TBA

### Poetry Night Attendance 2017-2018

Month and Poet	Audience
October: Leila Chatti*	25

October: Neil Hilborn	50
November: Anders Carlson-Wee	30
March: Andrea Een*‡	60
April: Rachel Moritz	15
April: Jennifer Kwon Dobbs	20
May: Danez Smith*	120
May: Leslie Schultz*‡	30
May: Mary Moore Easter	40
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	390

\*Readings at Northfield Public Library

‡Local poet

### Northfield Poetry Festival Planning

In May I met with Rachel Haider (NAG) and Jessica Peterson White (Content) to plan for a performance by Patrick Scully (formerly of Patrick's Cabaret) of *Leaves of Grass—Illuminated*, a one-man show about Walt Whitman. The performance will take place on Sunday, September 30, 2018, at 7:30pm, in the NAG Theater. Co-sponsored by the Northfield Poet Laureate, the Northfield Arts Guild, and Content Bookstore. The event will be part of the three-day long 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Northfield Poetry Festival:

**Saturday, September 29:** Readings at Content, the Northfield Public Library, and Imminent Brewing, featuring Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen.

**Sunday, September 30:** *Leaves of Grass—Illuminated*. Northfield Arts Guild Theater, 7:30pm.

**Monday, October 1:** Poet and Minnesota Book Award winning children's author Bao Phi (Content)

Doug Bratland has again agreed to design the poster for the poetry festival.

### Other Planning

I put together the program for the First Friday Art Night reading at Imminent on June 1.

### Commissioned Poems

I was asked to write a poem honoring Nalani McCutcheon, who is stepping down after nine years as the founding executive director of the Cannon River STEM School in Faribault.

### Other

My poem "Phrasebook" was published online in *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters*: <http://ergon.scienze.com/article/poetry/phrasebook>



I was asked to contribute three poems (“Reading *Rebecca*, Far from Home,” “Jane Austen’s House at Chawton,” and “Light”) for a special “laureates” issue of the journal *Lost Lake Folk Opera* (Rushford, Minnesota), which will also include poems by current and former poets laureate Joyce Sutphen (Minnesota), Ken McCullough (Winona), Emilio DeGrazia (Winona), and Jim Johnson (Duluth).

Note: I will be in Greece from Sunday, June 10 through Sunday, July 8. I will be gone for the June ACC meeting, and will not submit a report for June.

### **Addendum to May 2018 Report**

On June 1, I had meetings to plan two projects. One is the project to create a collection of poetry lesson plans (including Northfield-specific plans) with Carleton College CCCE summer fellow Jelilat Odubayo and Prairie Creek Community School teacher Amy Brown. We met to create a preliminary work plan for the summer. Jelilat will be working on her own at home in Houston in June and July, and will be back in Northfield to work with Amy and me in August. Jelilat is being paid by Carleton; I would like to offer Amy a stipend from Poet Laureate funds for her work on the project. To support the project, I requested that the public library acquired some new books on teaching poetry to children.

The other meeting was with Katie Felland (FiftyNorth) about offering a series of poetry and art classes at FiftyNorth in Fall 2018, and Winter and Spring 2019. The series is inspired by the poetry and art series at Crossings at Carnegie in Zumbrota, but takes it a step further to create a series of transformations:

1. Poetry class (Fall 2018)
2. Art class, in which participants will create a work of art based on/responding to a poem created in the fall poetry class (Winter 2019)
3. Poetry class, in which participants will write a poem based on/responding to the artwork created in the winter art class (Spring 2019)

In late spring/early summer 2019, there would be an exhibit at FiftyNorth of the poems and artwork created in this series of classes. Katie and I will meet again in late July to start solidifying plans for this series.

I also hosted a successful First Friday Art Night reading on the theme of Community at Imminent Brewing. The participating writers were: Leslie Schultz, Joy Riggs (her piece was read by Myrna

Mibus), Alexis Valeriano, Becky Boling, Larry Gavin, Christopher Tassava, Orick Pegterson, Steve McCown, Carolyn Link, Zobeida Chaffee-Valdés, and Sarah Entenmann.