

## **Northfield Poet Laureate Report March 2019**

### **Events**

- March 1. Writers Night: Resilience and Sustainability (attendance: 35)
- March 14. Poetry Night: Emily Oliver (attendance: 15)
- March 18. I wrote and read a poem for the State of the City Address.
- March 21. Acoustic Café (Paradise Center for the Arts, Faribault). I participated in a poetry reading with four poets from Faribault.
- March 26. Danny Caine Poetry Reading (attendance: 10)

### **Workshops**

- March 5. I visited the Northfield High School AP Spanish class to talk about literary translation.
- March 12-14. I led a three-day (two hours each day) poetry workshop at FiftyNorth. The enrollment was capped at 10, and 10 people registered. Participants wrote poems in response to art created during visual arts workshops at FiftyNorth over the winter. (The works of art were inspired by poems written during a workshop I led in October.) The poetry and related works of art will be featured in an upcoming exhibit at FiftyNorth. In the words of one workshop participant: "Your workshop opened worlds."
- March 21. I read and wrote poetry with residents of a Laura Baker Services independent living residence.

### **Meetings and Planning**

- March 8. I attended the NDDC/ACC "Calling All Creatives" workshop at the Northfield Arts Guild.
- March 25. I attended the monthly meeting of the Northfield Shares a Dinner Creativity Committee.
- Ongoing. I've been working with Leslie Schultz to organize a reading/book party for her third collection of poetry, *Concertina*. The event, which will include music by New Prague-based concertina player Jake Minar Bastyr, will take place at HotSpot Music on May 9.
- Ongoing. I've been working with poet and Carleton visiting professor Chris Martin on a project to create audio walking tours of Northfield. Chris has grant funding (through Carleton's Public Works grant program) to offer four Northfielders an honorarium to write a script and record it at one of the recording studios at Carleton. In March, I commissioned four Northfield residents to create the walking tours: Logan Ledman, Jane McWilliams, Angelica Linder, and Bruce Anderson.

### **Poem in Your Pocket Day Planning**

I picked up the Poem in Your Pocket Day boxes from Kathy Vizina, who got them out of storage in City Hall. I've contacted most of the businesses who in 2017 offered discounts or freebies to 6th graders who recited poetry: the Quality Bakery, the Hideaway, Tandem Bagels, Cakewalk, and Content have agreed to participate again, and I'm waiting to hear from Goodbye Blue Monday. I'm scheduled to go into the middle school to talk to the participating 6th grade team on Wednesday, April 3 to introduce the Poem in Your Pocket Day concept. I've put together a

box of poetry resources for the teachers to use during National Poetry Month (books of lesson plans, etc.), and I'll be going into at least one of the language arts classes later in April to follow up with poetry activities.

### **Upcoming Events in National Poetry Month**

Thursday, April 4. Poetry Night: Justin Watkins. Northfield Public Library. 7pm.

Thursday, April 11. Great Lakes Poets Laureate on Social Justice: Reading and Local Book Launch. Readings by Rob Hardy, Sheila Packa (former Duluth Poet Laureate), Ken McCullough (Winona Poet Laureate), Emilio DeGrazia (former Winona Poet Laureate), and James Armstrong (former Winona Poet Laureate). Content. 7pm.

Wednesday, April 17. An Evening with Jimmy Santiago Baca. Carleton College. Kracum Performance Hall. 7pm.

Tuesday, April 23. Michael Bazzett Poetry Reading. Content. 7pm.

Thursday, April 25. Poem in Your Pocket Day.

Sunday, April 28. Great Lakes Poets Laureate Reading at Zenith Bookstore in Duluth (with Rob Hardy, Joyce Sutphen, Sheila Packa, Deborah Cooper, Ellie Schoenfeld, Emilio DeGrazia, Ken McCullough, and James Armstrong). 2-4pm.

Date TBD. Full-day residency in Sarah Bloom's 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes at Northfield Middle School.