

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights March 2019

1. The library's annual celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday at OPL expanded its scope this year to include other favorite children's authors. The Read Across America Day Author Celebration featured the work of Roald Dahl and Mo Willems, in addition to Dr. Seuss. Families fished for Wonka Bars in the chocolate river (from Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), listened to Seuss's *Green Eggs and Ham* (spoken and in sign language), and honed their artistic skills by drawing the Pigeon (from Mo Willems' *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*). Books by all the authors were available to read during the event and check out to take home. A total of 160 people attended the event.
2. The magic of Harry Potter brought 182 fans of all ages to Harry Potter Book Night on March 7. Participants made scarves, drank butterbeer, dressed in costume and played trivia. The event is an example of the way a popular book can bring people together and the library's role as a gathering place to celebrate that camaraderie.
3. Learning in Retirement visited the library in March to hear a talk on Oshkosh manufacturers by Michael McArthur, OPL's local history and genealogy librarian. The presentation highlighted five businesses that represented the diversity of manufacturing in Oshkosh in the late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The library presents to LIR twice during the year, often on topics related to local history or technology. Fifty-three people attended the manufacturing program.
4. OPL's World Culture series continued in March, with 36 people attending a program focusing on Ireland and St. Patrick's Day. Participants were immersed in Irish music, folklore, language and customs. They learned why St. Patrick's Day is celebrated and heard about the significance of shamrocks and leprechauns.
5. An exhibit of winners from the annual Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest is on display in the library's lower level this month. The works of art were created by Oshkosh middle school students for the contest which commemorates the work and influence of Mears, an Oshkosh sculptor. A reception for the winners and their families was attended by 90 people on March 17.
6. The library was the site for a program presented by interns from the UW Oshkosh Kinesiology/Exercise & Fitness program on March 17. *Bold, Brave & Beautiful* addressed confidence, social media, healthy minds and bodies, and acceptance. The program was attended by 27 girls in grades 3-8.