

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights February 2022

1. Submissions are open for two contests that give local writers a venue for their creativity.
  - OPL is partnering with the Downtown Business Improvement District to offer the 2022 April Poetry Walk. Local poets have until Feb. 28 to submit original poetry for consideration. A curated selection of original poetry will be displayed in storefront windows along Main Street from April 1-30.
  - The annual Lakefly Writers Contests are also accepting entries in several categories through March 5. This year's theme is Into the Unknown. Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony on May 7, at the conclusion of the Lakefly Writers Conference.

The library is also partnering with Oshkosh Poet Laureate Tom Cannon to offer poetry workshops for teens and adults in March and April; and children are invited to add their original poems to the "Poet-Tree" display in the library's lower level throughout April. OPL is proud to be involved in initiatives that offer community members the opportunity to develop and share their creative talents.

2. *Prominent Black Wisconsinites* was the focus of a talk presented by Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland at the Oshkosh Seniors Center recently. Twelve people attended the presentation, including a member of the League of Women Voters - Winnebago County. As a result, Sandy was invited to present the same talk to the League in March.
3. National news coverage about social workers in libraries brought OPL and the work of the City Library Collective (CLC) into the spotlight recently. Library Director Jeff Gilderson-Duwe was interviewed about the Whole Person Librarianship concept and staff training that OPL will be integrating into our new customer service model. An article was featured in the Oshkosh Herald and a segment aired on WBAY-TV2.
4. Taking the library out into the community creates new opportunities to match people with the resources and services they need. During a recent Connect Through Tech program at the Seniors Center, a gentleman asked Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland what the library does to help adults with reading. She connected him with the Winnebago Area Literacy Council and he has already been matched with a tutor.
5. The library participated in the Downtown Oshkosh Chocolate Stroll on Feb. 12. OPL was one of more than 20 locations throughout the downtown area handing out chocolate treats to 200+ participants. Adding a literary flavor to the event, staff added wings to gold-wrapped chocolates to recreate the golden snitches found darting and dashing through Quidditch matches in the Harry Potter novels.
6. Staff in Children's & Family Outreach are connecting with students at Lighted Schoolhouse afterschool sites and the Boys & Girls Club to promote the Wild Winter Read Off (WWRO). To create buzz about the challenge, staff are leading activities about the amazing world of honeybees featured in the book *Bee Dance*. They learned how the bees communicate, made their own bees and worked with their "hive mates" to forage for nectar and pollen to sustain

the hive. About 340 kids are logging their reading and will receive a free book from the library upon reaching their group reading goals. *Bee Dance* was written and illustrated by WWRO featured author Rick Chrustowski, whose work inspired many of our winter children's programs. Chrustowski will visit the library for a special event on Feb. 19.