

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights February 2020

1. Response to this year's Wild Winter Read Off was unprecedented, with 267 children signed up for the revamped reading and learning experience. That's nearly seven times the participation in 2018 and well above the program goal of 100 registrations. This year's program centered on the work of Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. Themes from her books – life on a cranberry bog, a trip to the pool and jetpack adventures – were woven into reading and programs, all leading up to a special visit by the author on Feb. 22. More than 200 children attended library programs. Staff from Children's & Family Outreach also went out to six school sites to do WWRO activities with students in the district's after school programs. The well-focused effort succeeded in connecting people with the library and building excitement for reading and learning.
2. **Neighbors Past and Present: The Wisconsin German Experience**, ended its run at the library this week. The exhibit, which opened in January, offered an in depth look at German culture in our state. Along with the exhibit there were displays of local German-related memorabilia, including items from a local breweriana collector and artifacts from the Oshkosh Public Museum. Online resources including videos, newspaper articles and photos that help to tell the story of the German immigrant experience in Oshkosh were available at [oshkoshpubliclibrary.org](http://oshkoshpubliclibrary.org). During the exhibit, 150 people attended special programs, including an overview of the exhibit, a look at German ethnic groups in Oshkosh, a profile of a German immigrant turned movie mogul and a polka concert by the legendary Tuba Dan Band.

Neighbors Past and Present: The Wisconsin German Experience, is from the Max Kade Institute for German American Studies at UW-Madison. Special thanks to UWO Professor Emeritus of German Dr. Alan Lareau; author Lee Reiherzer; UWO Archivist Joshua Ranger, and the Oshkosh Public Museum for the coordination of local displays and on-going program support. See the exhibit on the library's second floor and under the Dome through Fri., Feb. 28.

3. The annual report on what's new in OPL genealogy acquisitions drew 16 people who wanted to learn about additions to the library collection that could help them to research their family history.
4. The library is participating in the Sustainability Reverse Pitch Competition at UWO, pitching a challenge on Feb. 12 to students interested in teaming up to tackle the problem of social isolation among people ages 22-35. In the pitch, OPL proposed creating a portfolio of initiatives and activities to help reduce social isolation and loneliness. Three student teams expressed interest in the OPL initiative. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland is serving as their advisor. The teams will tour the library building, create a package of proposed solutions and will present their ideas on April 23. Other businesses and organizations submitting pitches include Oshkosh Corporation, Planet Perk, UWO Waste Management, Amcor, and Ahlstrom-Munksjo.