

## **Oshkosh Public Library Highlights May 2018**

1. OPL celebrated World Book Day on April 21 with books highlighting many countries, games, and an art activity. The library also partnered with the Fox Valley Reading Council to offer the Recycle Reads book swap. Both programs drew a total of 80 people.
2. The library offered a set of Genealogy programs in April focusing on use of our in-house version of Ancestry and other topics of interest to those researching family history. More than 80 people attended the programs, which included small-group sessions on different features of Ancestry, strategies for using other public records for genealogy research and a Genealogy Lock-In. OPL partnered with the Winnebago Genealogy Society for several programs.
3. OPL partnered with several area experts to offer informational programs during Money Smart Week, April 23-28. Topics covered included investing, working with the IRS, estate planning, increasing the value of your home, the Affordable Care Act and retaining more income. Nearly 60 people attended the events.
4. The library partnered with the Oshkosh Area School District's early learning team to offer a special event for 4K students and their families on May 1. Engaging and fun literacy activities highlighted the important early learning skills that librarians and teachers agree lay the foundation for reading: Talk, Sing, Read, Write and Play. A total of 264 people attended, having a positive experience at the library and learning about resources and activities that will hopefully bring them back to visit again.
5. May 5 was a busy day at OPL, with four events happening throughout the day that brought more than 460 people to the library. Events included BikeOsh, Amazing Oshkosh: A Kiwanis Quest, a performance by the Oshkosh Youth Choir and Bird Fest under the Dome (part of Oshkosh Bird Fest and Gallery Walk). While difficult to measure, it is likely that many who attended these events do not visit the library regularly or enjoyed activities that were different than their typical library experience.
6. The 2018 Lakefly Writers Conference was held May 11-12 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Mystery writer Lori Rader-Day was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included Patricia McConnell (formerly a co-host of Calling All Pets), UW-Oshkosh instructor and first-time author Laura Jean Baker, and Winnebago County Coroner Barry Busby. There were 82 registrants and 15 vendors. Awards were given to Lakefly contest winners on Friday evening during a ceremony at the library; this year there were 139 contest entries, which is the highest number received in any given year.