

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights November 2023

1. Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis has pledged ongoing support for OPL's early literacy initiative, the 1000 Books Reading Challenge. The initiative was a beneficiary of the club's 2023 Bingo for a Cause fundraiser, which generated sufficient proceeds to cover several years of funding for 1000 Books. An initial donation of \$3,000 at the start of 2024 will fund booklets to help parents track their child's reading, tote bags, books and early learning toys for participating families. The 1000 Books Reading Challenge offers encouragement and guidance for parents, teaching them to talk, sing, read, write and play in ways that build the early literacy skills that lead to reading. Thanks to Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis for supporting early literacy in our community!
2. A presentation developed by Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland about The Orphan Train is gathering steam, with multiple community groups requesting the program. More than 40 people attended the program at First English Lutheran Church on Nov. 1; another 27 people from Winnebago County Home and Community Education group attended the talk under the Dome on Nov. 13; and the presentation is scheduled for the Oshkosh branch of the American Association of University Women in January.
3. A program under the Dome commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Oshkosh Woodworkers Strike drew more than 60 people for a lively and enlightening evening under the Dome. The event, organized by the Wisconsin Labor Society, was a "Who's Who" of labor historians and influential organizations, as the story of the strike, the resulting trial and landmark workers' rights verdict unfolded before an enthusiastic audience.
4. Modern Woodmen, a financial services organization, recognized children's librarian Lindsay Reuer with their Hometown Hero award and donated \$100 to the library in her honor. The organization has been supporting children's literacy with its Raising Readers program all year and noted the High Hopes Early Literacy Program and the 1,000 Books Challenge, both led by Lindsay. Congratulations to Lindsay and thanks to Modern Woodmen for recognizing the important work she is doing at the library to support early literacy.
5. OPL's Marketing Coordinator, Laura McDonald, graduated from the Wisconsin Library Association's Leadership Development Institute in October. LDI seeks to develop "goal-oriented and agile library leaders who are creative problem solvers able to navigate uncertainty, rapidly changing technology and shrinking resources." The six-month course wrapped up at the WLA fall conference.
6. Seventeen people attended estate planning workshops at the library during October to learn about powers of attorney; living wills; and special needs trusts for adult children. A Madison attorney was the presenter at the programs.