

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights November 2021

1. Oshkosh's first Poet Laureate, Tom Cannon, was introduced to the community during a virtual reception on Nov. 4. Oshkosh Mayor Lori Palmeri and State Poet Laureate Dasha Kelly Hamilton spoke during the event and 21 people attended, including Tom's parents who live outside the area and would not have been able to attend an in-person event. Other attendees included Library Board President Bill Bracken and nationally known fiction writer Abby Frucht, along with members of writing clubs from Oshkosh and Fond du Lac.

Cannon is enthusiastic about his new role as the leading voice for poetry in the Oshkosh community. He is already hosting Open Mic events at Planet Perk and has created a Poet Laureate Facebook group where participants can find inspiration, share poems and celebrate the impact poetry can have on individual lives and communities. Watch for more events and activities at [oshkoshpubliclibrary.org](http://oshkoshpubliclibrary.org) and [facebook.com/groups/oshkoshpoetlaureate](https://facebook.com/groups/oshkoshpoetlaureate).

2. Participation in OPL's Two Sentence Horror Story Contest tripled from 2020 levels, with 66 entries submitted. Teen writers ventured into all manners of terrifying territory, with creepy and creative results. First Place in the high school division featured a macabre and clever twist: "My daughter wakes me up in the middle of the night to tell me how old she is turning tomorrow by holding up four fingers. I stay up the rest of the night trying to get her to tell me where or who she got the fingers from." The middle school winner was concise but chilling: When I smiled, she did not smile back. Something is wrong with this mirror." Enjoy the top three entries in each category at [oshkoshpubliclibrary.org](http://oshkoshpubliclibrary.org) under Kids and Teens.
3. Community members can now connect with OPL at the Oshkosh YMCA. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland visits the Y's 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue location on the first and third Thursday of each month. In addition to sharing information about upcoming events, issuing or updating library cards, discussing book recommendations and answering questions, there is also the opportunity to listen to community concerns and get feedback about the library.
4. OPL is a collection site for Operation Waverly, a drive to collect items for homeless veterans. Operation Waverly is being conducted in conjunction with White Christmas: The Exhibition, which is now open at the Oshkosh Public Museum. Items collected will be distributed to veterans in need via the Day by Day Warming Shelter. Also participating in the effort is the DAV Auxiliary and Miss Wisconsin's Outstanding Teen. Operation Waverly runs Nov. 13-Jan. 23.
5. The annual Creature Carnival brought in 23 entries from kids ages 2-18 in October. A flying snake, magical hula dancer and ghoulish bowling alley employee were just a few of the winning entries in the contest that inspired imagination and creativity.

6. Take-home kits continue to be popular with library patrons of all ages, offering the public the opportunity to engage with OPL at home when it fits into their lives. Programs such as Wonderlab for kids and Adult DIY offer an in-person or take-home option, while our High Flyers kits are designed specifically for families to track their early literacy activities at home over time. In October, 10 people came to the library for Adult DIY and 39 picked up take-home kits. Wonderlab saw 20 people attend in person, with 127 take-home kits distributed. For December, Adult DIY will continue to offer a hybrid option and DIY Ornament take-home kits will be available to help families get into the holiday spirit.
  
7. The library continues to expand its Business Center services on first and second floor. In addition to photocopy and fax services, patrons now have access to laminators on each floor and paper shredders will be added soon. Patrons may purchase envelopes, flash drives, ear buds and blank DVDs. Basic office tools including staplers, scissors, paper cutters and three-hole punches are available. Expansion of Business Center services has happened in response to patron requests for these types of convenience services.