

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights

October 2019

1. The library is getting back to basics to work toward our strategic goal: A library card in every hand. As part of OPL's outreach efforts, staff is issuing new library cards and updating existing cards at off-site locations. OPL is piloting this approach at local expos and wellness events, as well as setting up Card Clinics at locations including Evergreen and the Oshkosh Seniors Center. In addition to getting cards up and running, staff has also been able to demonstrate OPL's online resources and features of the online catalog; help people locate items of interest in our collection and at other libraries; make connections with potential community partners; and get feedback from people about the library and ways that OPL can better serve the community.
2. Children's & Family Outreach invites children in the community to share their collections for display in the library's lower level. Currently a child's collection of dragons is showcased and a staff member brought in her American Girl doll with it's accessories to create some buzz about this opportunity. "Kids collect all sorts of interesting things and it's nice to be able to give them a place to show off their treasures," says Children's Librarian Adeline Miller.
3. DIY for Adults is a fun, social crafting experience that continues to grow at OPL. Starting in 2016 as a monthly program, sessions are now offered twice each month to accommodate demand. The class size has also expanded, thanks to help from library volunteers. Projects have included soap making, paint pour canvases, photo transfer wood art and most recently a stylish spooky wreath made from rolled up book pages. DIY is a success story in OPL's efforts to encourage the library habit and to make OPL a place to explore and discover in Downtown Oshkosh.
4. A new event encouraging creativity in both design and storytelling has captured the imagination of children this fall. The Creature Carnival tasked children and teens with creating a beast, monster, robot, alien or other creature and write a backstory for their masterpiece. To make it easier for families to participate, two sessions of Creature DIY offered supplies and a space for kids to create their entries. At the time of this report, OPL had received 36 entries.
5. An awards celebration for the Mark Gruenwald Comic Book Challenge was held at the library on Sept. 28, with more than 200 people gathering under the Dome to view the winning comic book entries and honor local comics icon Mark Gruenwald. A total of 35 entries were received for the contest. Mark's widow, Catherine Schuller-Gruenwald, sent a video message for the event; a tribute painting that was created in 2016 was on display and the library's collection of Gruenwald's work was available for viewing. Partners in the comic book challenge were the Winnebago County Literacy Council, Zaronis, House of Heroes Comics+Games and OPL.