

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights February 2023

1. Developing presentations for community groups allows the library to showcase our information and research expertise and reinforces OPL's position as a center for lifelong learning.
 - a. Local History Librarian Michael McArthur presented on the history and status of Terrell's Island for 50 members of UWO-based Learning in Retirement on Jan. 25. His talk on Feb. 10 for the 40 members of the Oshkosh Public Museum Auxiliary focused on using city directories in genealogy research.
 - b. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland developed a talk on the Underground Railroad for the Oshkosh Seniors Center, which drew 33 people on Feb. 9. The presentation led to a request for the same talk at Franciscan Courts for another 23 people, which has since sparked requests for the presentation at other community locations.
 - c. Sandy also spoke to the current Leadership Oshkosh class on Feb. 15 during their Education Day program. She talked about "The Library for Movers and Shakers," highlighting our role as an information and research resource for patrons, for community and other groups. She also highlighted online resources and community engagement such as card clinics and community presentations.
2. The Wild Wacky Winter Program by Mad Science of Milwaukee brought more than 100 people to the library to see winter-themed science demonstrations that educated and amazed the audience of children and families. Plenty of action, humor and imaginative scenarios made this a dynamic learning experience for all who attended!
3. For the third consecutive reading challenge, Oshkosh readers have surpassed the community reading goal – this time beating the 300,000-minute target for the Wild Winter Read Off. As a reward, patrons can vote for a lawn game that OPL will add to our popular collection of games and puzzles available for checkout. OPL's winter reading programs have really gathered steam over the past several years, infusing a passion for reading and excitement over a good book into what can be a long and chilly season.

The library also partnered with the Oshkosh Area School District Lighted School House's six afterschool sites and the Boys and Girls Club during the Wild Winter Read Off. More than 400 kids built moon landers after hearing the story *Margaret and the Moon*, by featured author, Dean Robbins. The students will receive a new book to keep for completing the reading challenge. The book giveaway was co-funded by OPL and the participating partners.

4. The library welcomed Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis on Feb. 14 for their regular meeting and a presentation by Information Services Head and club member Joe Bongers. The program focused on library history, the services we provide today and the direction that libraries are headed in the future.