

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights March 2014

1. OPL will be the site for the Oshkosh Memory Café, a monthly gathering of early-stage dementia and Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, which will provide opportunities for participants to connect, socialize, learn about resources and find support. The Memory Café is a collaboration involving numerous community agencies and organizations who felt the library was a welcoming place to hold the program.
2. Nearly 100 people participated in the library's winter reading program for adults and teens, reading a total of 279 books throughout the six-week program. While many people think reading programs are just for children, OPL's adult readers appreciated the opportunity to win prizes for an activity they enjoy – reading!
3. An educational program about the Oshkosh Food Co-Op was held at the library on Feb. 25, with 55 people attending. Presenters shared the basics of food co-ops, talked about cooperatives in other communities and outlined how the Oshkosh co-op would operate a store in Oshkosh.
4. An exhibit of work from this year's Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest was displayed in the lower level of the library in March, with about 80 people attending a reception for the artists and their families on March 16. The exhibit is an ongoing partnership with the General Federation of Women's Clubs-Oshkosh Women's Arts Club and features artwork by Oshkosh middle school students.
5. Members of the cast of *Les Misérables*, which was performed in March at the Grand Opera House, presented a program at the library on Feb. 22 tracing the journey from Victor Hugo's literary masterpiece to a musical that has touched the hearts of millions. More than 30 people attended the program, which concluded with a song by the character Eponine that generated applause from attendees under the Dome as well as library users who heard it from other areas of the building.
6. Families gathered for OPL's annual birthday bash for Dr. Seuss on March 1. Participants read favorite Seuss stories together, made Cat-in-the-Hat bowties and Truffula Tree crafts, signed a birthday card and enjoyed birthday cake. An estimated 350 people attended the event.
7. More than 400 people attended the Legal Assistance Clinic at OPL in 2013, with another 255 attending at Neenah Public Library and 198 at Menasha Public Library. Organizers estimate that is \$174,200 in legal assistance provided at no cost to the clients served. Our libraries are proud to be involved in meeting this community need.
8. About 20 people attended the first eLocal Author Spotlight, a monthly program featuring writing and publishing tips from experienced local writers. A partnership with the Oshkosh Area Writer's Club, the series complements the upcoming Lakefly Literary Conference, May 9-10 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. OPL and the Friends of the Library are sponsors of the Lakefly again this year in partnership with the Writer's Club.