

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights March 2024

1. OPL Director Darryl Eschete and Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland represented the library at the Oshkosh Chamber's 2024 Business Expo on March 20. The pair highlighted the upcoming Evening with the Director event and a variety of library services and programs. It was a great opportunity for Darryl to meet local business leaders and community members.
2. Fun Fact: A library YouTube video has gone viral, with more than 60,000 views since it was uploaded in April 2021. How to make an Easter Egg Craft (by folding the pages of a book) has been viewed by people in several European and Asian countries. It's a great example of the power of instructional video content to enhance learning and extend the reach and impact of a library program.
3. A talk by Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland brought 21 people to the Oshkosh Seniors Center on a very cold February day to learn about The Great Migration. The talk generated lively conversation among attendees and generated ideas and requests for future presentations.
4. A new children's program, Saturday Surprise, offers a hands-on activity designed to spark imagination in kids ages 5 and older. The program debuted in March with the Beaver Building Challenge. Staff read the story *The Lodge the Beaver Built* and the kids worked together as a beaver family to build a dam and a lodge before their pond froze over for the winter.
5. A reception for the Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest & Exhibit was held at the library on March 17, with 49 participants, families and friends attending. The exhibit features amazing art created by local middle school students for the contest, established in 1927 in honor of the Oshkosh-born sculptor. Many thanks to the General Federation of Women's Clubs – Oshkosh Women's Arts Club for sponsoring the contest and bringing the art to the library each year. All are invited to view the art in the library's lower level through March 28.
6. A member of the Winnebago Land Genealogical Society presented a program at the library on March 14 about the often-complex task of navigating Irish records for genealogy research. Eleven people attended the program and learned how a research trip to Ireland enriched the story of one Oshkosh area Irish immigrant family.
7. Book Buzz is back on the library's YouTube channel after a brief hiatus, with Reader's Advisory Librarian Sarah Read at the helm offering the dish on new releases and suggestions for what to read while you wait for your favorites to hit the shelves.
8. A Mini Job Fair brought 34 people to the library to meet with ten employers about job opportunities at their companies. Feedback from job seekers, employers and staff from the Department of Workforce Development was positive.
9. Staff in OPL's Children's Department brought outreach activities to more than 300 local elementary age students for the Wild Winter Read Off. Each child received a free book of their choice for participating in the reading challenge.