

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights April 2016

1. OPL held its second LEGOmania Design Contest, with children, teens and adults submitting 59 original LEGO creations. Once again the creativity of the designs was inspiring, with participants building everything from ships and spacecraft, to football fields and a replica of the Twin Towers. Every participant received a LEGO figure courtesy of House of Heroes Comics & Games and top winners in each category received prizes including House of Heroes gift certificates and LEGO-themed books purchased by the Friends of the Library. Contest judges Scott Dercks, owner of House of Heroes; local artist Leif Larson; and Tom Ruegsegger, a competition judge for Wisconsin LEGO League, stayed after the awards ceremony to talk with participants and offer LEGO building advice.
2. The Wisconsin History Tour exhibit moved into the library on April 1 and the Wisconsin Historical Society presented 12 educational programs April 5-8. The programs and a welcome reception brought 420 people to the library, with another 110 attending the History Happy Hour at Oblio's Lounge. The exhibit continues under the Dome through May 31, with OPL and community partners offering nine programs on Oshkosh and Winnebago County history throughout the month of May. The library will also be open for the May 7 Gallery Walk, with members of the Oshkosh Memorabilia Club displaying their collections during the event.
3. Wireless printing is now available for customers using their own laptops in the library. Users send their files to a designated e-mail to print documents and pick them up at the 2nd floor Reference Desk or at the service desk in Children's & Family Outreach Services in the lower level.
4. OPL's genealogy expertise was highlighted during programs by local history and genealogy librarian Mara in April. She showcased OPL genealogy resources during a Wisconsin History Tour talk for 40 people, delivered a talk on changes to U.S. Census questionnaires from 1790-1940 and was part of a "dead ends" panel that tackled tough genealogy questions that stumped individual researchers.
5. A travel talk on travel planning for the local Learning in Retirement group drew 30 people.
6. OPL fielded two teams for the Winnebago Literacy Council Spelling Bee. The event was a lot of fun and our teams represented the library with style, contributing to the \$6,000 the event earned to support WCLC programs and initiatives. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring our teams.