



A NEW FACE FOR A FAMILIAR SPACE



If you don't have young children, you might not have noticed that our children's corner has received a bit of

a face lift! The star of the show is the new Board Book shelf, which replaces three separate modules that had previously housed our collection of board books. This new shelf offers front facing browsing to our discerning toddler patrons, as well as a bottom shelf that smoothly rolls out to maximize the space it occupies. So far, our after story-time crowd has been quite satisfied with the change.

In addition to the new shelving, we also have installed a Lego Wall for children to play at while their parents chat or look at books. It is very important for us that the library be a useful communal space, and offering more areas for children to play helps us meet this goal. Duplo blocks are available in the tray on the Lego Wall and in the tub by the puppet theater, while Lego bricks are available at the circulation desk upon request for older kids.

Rounding out our newly revamped children's corner is our new unit for displaying our collection of discovery kits! It's now easier than ever to browse through our offerings.

Make sure to take a look at the Children's Corner next time you stop by!

New at the Library



*Soren's
Seventh
Song*

Dave Eggers

Fresh off of winning the Newbery Medal for *The Eyes and the Impossible*, Dave Eggers returns with a new picture book! Soren is sick of the boring, droning songs that his fellow whales sing, so he writes something a little jazzier. When it's met with indifference, Soren learns the importance of perseverance.



**START BRAINSTORMING NOW!
OOSTBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
ANNUAL PEEPS SHOW IS JUST
AROUND THE CORNER!**

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed full of things to celebrate! Here are a few books to read and displays to check out in the library this month!

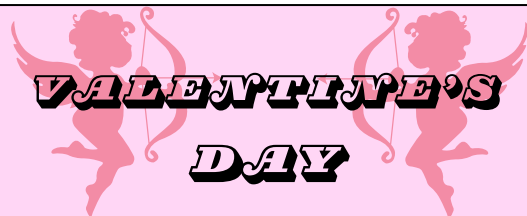


For Library Lovers' Month, your favorite librarians have decided to help you find some new books to love!

First, you can fill out a heart at the circulation desk to share the title of the last book you loved. Maybe your last favorite book will become someone else's next favorite!

After you've filled out your heart, make sure to stop by our Blind Date with a Book display! Surely you've heard that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover by now. With this display, we won't even give you that option! Each book on the display has been wrapped up and has only a short list of descriptors, its Goodreads rating, and its genre on display. Take a chance on one of our blind date books, and after you've finished, rate your date on the slips we've provided!

This display is being updated frequently throughout the month, so check back often for more opportunities to find a new book to fall in love with!



If you're on the hunt for fresh romance this Valentine's Day, we've got you covered! Tia Williams follows up her New York Times best selling romance *Seven Days in June* with **A Love Song for Ricki Wilde**, a grown up fairy tail romance between a florist who leaves a life of wealth behind to pursue her

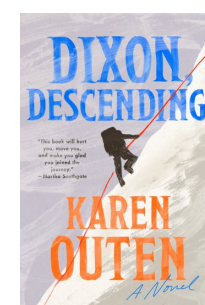
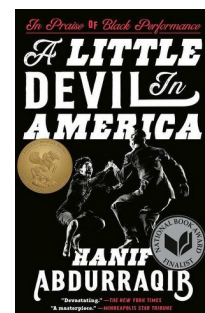


passions and a pianist who knocks her whole world off balance. Set against the backdrop of Harlem, this magical romance will sweep you off your feet. If you prefer a YA Romance, Ann Liang's new novel **I Hope This Doesn't Find You** imagines what would've happened if Lara Jean wrote hate mail instead of love letters. When the emails she writes to vent her frustrations get sent, straight laced Sadie finds both her world and her relationship with her long time rival turned upside down in this clever and snarky enemies to lovers romance.



Check out our Black History Month display this month, which features an eclectic mix of Graphic Novels, Biographies, Fiction, and Nonfiction celebrating Black Culture and uplifting Black Voices. Not sure where to start? For Nonfiction, Hanif Abdurraqib's National Book Award Finalist **A Little Devil in America: In Praise of Black Performance** offers a unique and compelling look at some of the most influential black

artists and athletes of all time, filtered through the author's own experiences. Abdurraqib has been dubbed one of the world's greatest living writers by the director of the Oostburg Public Library. If you prefer fiction, Karen Outen's debut **Dixon Descending** paints a powerful portrait of ambition and survival. Dixon gave up on his dreams, and even the notion of having dreams, when he fell .02 seconds shy of making the Olympic Track Team. Decades later, Dixon's brother convinces him to join him on a historic quest to become the first African Americans to summit Mt. Everest. These books and more will be on display all month!



2ND ANNUAL
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
**JIGSAW PUZZLE
TOURNAMENT**

Back just in time for spring, Oostburg's qualifying round of the 2nd Annual Sheboygan County Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 pm.

Test your puzzling prowess against the prodigious puzzlers in the province!

Assemble your team of 2-4 people, and then assemble a 500 piece puzzle as fast as you can! The winner moves on to the County Finals hosted by Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library and has the opportunity to compete against puzzlers from all over the county! Registration forms and full details will be available at the Oostburg Public Library starting at the end of February.

Talk to Jesse if you have any questions, and start practicing now! It's time to bring the trophy back to Oostburg!

LIBRARY 101

LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY



Representative Terry Katsma (in his second appearance in this newsletter!) with the directors of the Plymouth, Oostburg, and Elkhart Lake Public Libraries

Once a year, the Wisconsin State Capitol is flooded by hundreds of individuals wearing their best cardigans and most stylish pairs of glasses, all united by a singular purpose: spreading the news of how important public libraries are.

This day, fittingly titled Library Legislative Day, was held on February 6th. Library Directors, System Administrators, and other Library Advocates from all over the state were invited to meet with their representatives and their staffs in the Capitol to talk about what libraries are doing in their communities.

This is a great opportunity to meet directly with the people in power and thank them for their continued support of libraries. In Wisconsin, an expanded state budget for library funding has passed with bipartisan

support for 2024, with another increase expected in 2025. State funding goes to the library systems, in our case, the Monarch System, and helps cover resources that libraries like ours wouldn't be able to afford on our own. Most notably for the average user, state funding goes towards making Libby available and affordable to all libraries in the state. Library Legislative Day offers library folks an opportunity thank the people directly in control of those state funds. It also gives legislators the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have about the libraries in their districts, and to see how the public funding they voted for positively impacts their constituents.

A Note from the Director

Well folks, as of Valentine's Day, I've been at the library for one full year. That means my days of saying "I'm new here, I didn't know that" to get myself out of trouble are limited. It also means that I've theoretically done everything at least once, so 2024 should be no problem! In my first few months, I joked that if I could do three cool things for the library right after I started, I would be able to coast until retirement. What I wasn't counting on was how hard it would be to stop the momentum once I started introducing new things.

I get a sort of adrenaline rush whenever I introduce something and it's well received. When friends ask me how work is, I enter a sort of fugue state and come back to my body fifteen minutes later, having explained every statistic and every new plan I have for the library. Simply put, I've fallen in love with advocating for and working to improve the library.

Therefore, I am sad to announce that I will not be coasting this year. I will instead be knuckling down even harder and trying my darnedest to show the world why the Oostburg Public Library is the best library in the world.

Library Legislative Day was a great way to start this goal off on the right foot. I was able to have some really productive conversations with our representatives, and I can't thank them enough for their time or the Wisconsin Library Association for organizing all of those meetings. I also have to thank all of you out there who have shared with me what the library means to you, and how some of the new changes have impacted you. Your stories (told without names attached) illustrate the importance of libraries far more powerfully than any fact or figure I could find.

We have a lot of fun new things in store for you, and I have to bite my tongue so frequently to avoid revealing things that are still in their early stages that my tongue now has a permanent indent where my front teeth go.

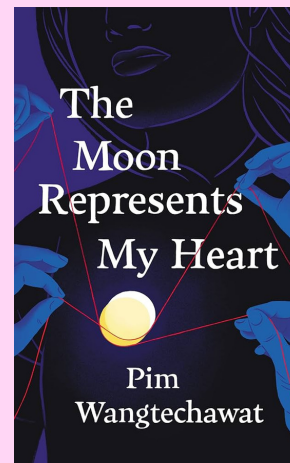
All this to say, it's going to be another great year at the library. Keep your eyes peeled in the coming months for updates on everything coming our way

I am so happy to be on this journey with you. See you at the next stop!

Jesse's Pick

The Moon Represents My Heart

Pim Wangtechawat



Fun Fact: Pim Wangtechawat briefly went to college with me. Another Fun Fact: Her debut novel is one of my favorite books, and has already been optioned by Gemma Chan to be made into a Netflix series.

If you're looking for an alternative type of love story this Valentine's Day, I can't recommend this story of a family blessed (or cursed?) with the ability to time travel. Delicately written and dripping with melancholy, I struggle to find the words to accurately describe the experience of reading *The Moon Represents My Heart*, so you'll have to read it and try to do a better job!

Jesse Rogers
Library Director