

GILLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – MARCH 2019

Prepared by Kay Rankel, director



MARCH IS NATIONAL QUILTING MONTH

Throughout the month of March, we're giving away prize packages to those who check out quilting books from our library. We have a lot of local quilters who have donated books, patterns, and sewing notions over the years, and I've put them together into prize bags to give away.



ESCAPE TABLE @ THE LIBRARY... A new activity @ our library is an ESCAPE TABLE, and individuals/groups have 15 minutes to complete the challenge to win a prize. Groups can pick up their passes @ the Circ Desk which will contain all of the info needed to unlock the challenge. This month's challenge is all about the Iditarod dog sled race...will you make it to Nome??? Here are some of the winners who completed the challenge within the time limit this month:





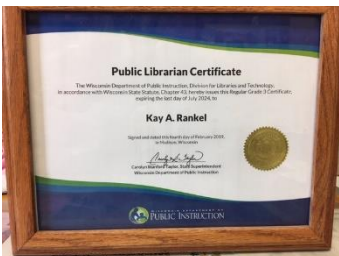
LUCKY DAY COLLECTIONS approved so far for OWLSnet

Our library consortium OWLSnet (which is comprised of the Nicolet Federated Library System and the Outagamie/Waupaca Library System) has been working with the Winnefox Library System for almost a year now to see if we could possibly join together as one System. There have been a lot of barriers to get over and many discussions have taken place, and we're getting closer to making this merge happen.

One thing that the Winnefox System would not give up was their "Lucky Day" collection. This is a collection of new materials that can only be circulated locally...in other words, a library would be able to purchase things strictly for local use, not to circulate throughout the entire library system. This is against current OWLSnet policy, as anything that our Gillett library purchases needs to be available to everyone who has an InfoSoup card throughout northeast Wisconsin.

At our Advisory meeting last week in Appleton, all but one of our member librarians agree that a "Lucky Day" collection is something that we could live with. The advantage of a Lucky Day collection is that new releases would be more readily available to our local folks here in Gillett; a disadvantage is that in order to have a Lucky Day collection, an individual library must also provide a copy for all of OWLSnet (this means that we'd need to purchase two of something when we would have only purchased one). Individual libraries/boards would need to make the decision on whether or not it would be enacted in their library.

So now our recommendation will go to the OWLSnet board for approval and it is expected to pass. Hopefully then the discussions will move forward with Winnefox...we should know more by early summer if both Systems will work towards a merger.



RECERTIFIED FOR ANOTHER 5 YEARS!

My Public Librarian Certificate was just renewed until 2024 from the Department of Public Instruction; I actually had more than 50 extra continuing education credits than what was necessary to pass. They require that you receive 100 CE credits within each 5 year period and a certain percentage now has to be in technology.

OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY FUNDING

Our County Library Board is currently working to approve the next 5 year plan, which includes the perimeters used to fund all 6 public libraries in Oconto County. Our Linda Hougas serves on this board as our Gillett representative, and they will be meeting on March 27th to discuss the plan again (they meet before our board meeting on that day).

All 6 public librarians here have been working together to come up with a proposal for this board to consider, and I think we've all finally come to an agreement on what best reflects how we serve our communities. For the first time, computer use is being considered. We're also recommending that wireless use be added to our circulation statistic because wireless use continues to increase in all libraries, and it's an important service that we provide.



EASTER IN GILLETT 2019

Our library is working with Hillside Assembly again this year to put on the Community Easter Egg Hunt in Gillett. This event will take place at the Gillett Elementary School on Saturday, April 13th, and the kids will hunt around the track before coming inside to collect candy down the Candy Lane. Hopefully the snow will be gone by then! I've already received a lot of donations from Gillett area businesses and organizations and have placed a candy order through Pat's Market (we want to stay local with as many of the purchases as we can). It's always a fun day, and we expect a lot of kids again this year. Our Janie will be wearing the bunny suit this year and she's excited to be a part of this event for the first time!

OUTREACH TO SERENITY & SUNSHINE...

Janie's first programs at our local daycare and assisted living facilities will be on Wednesday, March 20th. She'll spend an hour at each place reading and reminiscing, and will bring books along that the facilities can keep until the next week when she visits. We're looking forward to getting back out into the community again to those who can't come to us.