Oshkosh Public Library Highlights
May 2013

1. The library launched a redesigned web site on May 6 that features a new look and improved usability on smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices. The new site scales to fit different sized displays in a way that allows for full use of most features, including information about library services, event calendars and online educational and consumer resources. Content on the site has been reorganized to make it easier for users to find the information and resources that are in greatest demand.

2. OPL hosted the exhibit, ***The Beauty of Birds*** during the May 4 Gallery Walk. The exhibit featured work by Wisconsin Nature Photographers, a statewide group of some of Wisconsin's best amateur photographers. The event was held in conjunction with Oshkosh Bird Fest and drew an estimated 500 people to the library.

3. The awards ceremony and reception for the annual Create-a-Book Contest was held under the Dome at the library on May 5. More than 90 people attended to see the winners of the elementary school writing contest receive their awards. Each year OPL promotes and participates in coordinating the contest, with entries judged by the Oshkosh Area Writer's Club and volunteers from UWO.

4. Author and entrepreneur Ed Paulson did a talk at the library on May 8 about starting a small business. The event drew 15 people, who listened to Paulson's advice, purchased his business guide book and asked questions about developing and financing a small business.

5. The Lakefly Literary Conference had a successful debut at the Oshkosh Convention Center May 10-11. The conference featured a wide range of workshops – from talks by best-selling authors to panels on citizen journalism and presentations about marketing a book – and drew more than 55 attendees hoping to gain insight into the craft and business of writing. The conference also brought Wisconsin author Michael Perry and his band, the Long Beds, to Oshkosh for a Friday night pre-conference concert at the Grand Opera House. OPL and the Friends of the Library were the main sponsors for the Lakefly Literary Conference, along with the Oshkosh Area Writer's Club and the Wisconsin Writer's Association.

6. CNN journalist John DeDakis talked about making the transition from journalist to novelist in a program at the library on May 9. DeDakis was in town to present at the Lakefly Literary Conference and his talk at the library drew 29 people.

7. OPL partnered with the Growing Seeds of Change Community Garden to offer a May 17 program on vegetable gardening for beginners. The program was a followup to a March program on indoor seed starting and drew 34 people.

8. Local author Vicky Reany Paulson presented a program at OPL on May 18 about tracing Abraham Lincoln's maternal family tree. Paulson, who is a direct descendant of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of our 16th U.S. President, wrote the book, ***Abraham Lincoln's Hanks Family***

Genealogy. Thirty-five people attended the program.

9. Materials created for the 100th birthday of the library lions received an Honorable Mention in the American Library Association's PR Xchange competition. OPL was one of two libraries to win awards in the Special Programs, Exhibits and Events category, which included more than 200 entries. Printed pieces submitted for the competition included handouts, promotional materials, an event flyer, Harris & Sawyer commemorative history booklet and the lion postcard series.