

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights May 2015

1. Sixty members of Learning in Retirement attended a presentation by Reference & Adult Services staff on architect William Waters and monument donor John Hicks on May 5. Janice Dibble covered the life of John Hicks, his interest in the arts, politics and local history and the motivation behind his gifts of statuary to the City of Oshkosh. The OPL Board's role in the acquisition and restoration of the monuments as custodians of the Hicks Trust Fund was explained. Mara Munroe combined old photographs from OPL's past digitization projects with her own modern photos to provide examples of William Waters' work in Oshkosh. A portion of the audience also toured the first floor Periodical Reading Room, which includes some busts given by Hicks, and the section of the library building designed by William Waters.
2. More than 30 attendees and volunteers enjoyed a special Memory Café program to celebrate Memorial Day and spring. The program included patriotic songs and a presentation by Korean War veteran Bob Hoffman about his trip to Washington D.C. with the Old Glory Honor Flight. The poignant talk brought many attendees to tears. The group also potted purple pansies to take home to plant in their gardens. The Memory Café is held monthly at OPL.
3. OPL has joined 13 other Winnefox libraries to offer Flipster, a new online magazine service. Readers can access digital versions of 30 popular magazines, including top titles such as Good Housekeeping, Time, People, Sports Illustrated, Cosmopolitan, Prevention, Money and O - The Oprah Magazine, at www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org.
4. Staff in Children's & Family Outreach has been busy visiting Oshkosh schools and giving library tours for classes during the past month. So far 10 classes have visited the library and library staff has gone out to five schools to promote the summer reading program. Another eight groups are scheduled to either visit OPL or host a talk by library staff in the next month.
5. Six new cabinets for local history materials have been installed on 2nd floor. The locking cabinets were purchased with funding from the Alexandra Charitable Trust, the estate of Col. George Johnson, the estate of Thomas Lafontaine and the Friends of the Library.
6. 58 library users participated in the Adult Winter Reading Program, reading a total of 408 books during the cold winter months.