

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights August 2014

1. Nearly 600 people attended the grand finale concert for OPL's summer reading program for children at the Grand Opera House. The concert, featuring well-known children's entertainers Tom Pease and Stuart Stotts, was a prize for children who completed two weeks of reading. Summer reading programs for children, teens and adults continue through Aug. 29 and a complete report will be shared at a future board meeting.
2. The Friends of the Library voted to allocate more than \$27,000 to be used for library programs and services, including the summer reading program, events and activities for teens, holiday decorations and programs, a Dr. Seuss celebration and other children's events, author visits, the Lakefly Writer's Conference and National Novel Writing Month activities. Many thanks to the Friends for their ongoing support!
3. Local author Steve Hazell was featured in the monthly Local Author Spotlight in July, discussing his book, *The Kindred Path*. Hazell shared his experience of friendship and loss and his journey to find closure as he wrote the book. About 18 people attended the program.
4. OPL is sponsoring a children's area at the Downtown Oshkosh Chalk Walk. The Sept. 6 community event will feature artists creating chalk drawings in Opera House Square and on Main Street throughout the day and into that evening's Gallery Walk. OPL is participating as a member of the Downtown BID Marketing Consortium.
5. A program on Chimney Swifts, presented at the library in partnership with the Winnebago Audubon Society and the Oshkosh Bird Club, drew 30 people on July 23. This is the second program presented with these groups this year.
6. Assistant Director Vicki Vandenberg is representing the library on the board for Friendship Place Oshkosh, a new pop-up pilot center for adults with mental health issues. The Oshkosh pilot will be used to assess how a mental health outreach program could make a positive impact in the Oshkosh community. Because of our role as an information resource and community gathering place, OPL was asked to participate and put up a display in the library to help raise awareness of the three-month pilot. Friendship Place Oshkosh is located at 240 Algoma Boulevard (the Algoma Beach Building) and is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.