

Library News

JANUARY 2015



Engagement, Learning, Stewardship

Thank you for sharing with us your hopes and dreams for the future of Oak Park.

Through multiple Community Conversations, we've learned so much throughout 2014 about what you value, and where you want to be as a community. We want you to know what you've told us about your community aspirations is driving how we will work with you in the year ahead.



Tell us what you think in person, via email at d.seleb@oppl.org and anytime online at oppl.org/contact

Reflecting shared values

These initiatives come directly from you, the Oak Park community, and the people that work with you every day, our library staff. They reflect shared values including collaboration, compassion, knowledge, opportunity, accountability, sustainability, and transparency,

Upcoming holidays

Thursday, Jan. 1

All buildings will be closed

Monday, Jan. 20

Dole Branch will be closed
Main Library, Maze Branch will be open

which inform and guide our transformative work.

Our commitment to engagement, stewardship and learning means we are listening, learning and growing with our community by:

- Building community partnerships, especially with other agencies serving Oak Park.
- Renewing our own commitment to service for better library experiences.
- Preserving community history and improving access to it.
- Acting upon the community's demand for financial and for

environmental responsibility.

Please keep talking, we are listening, and want to know:

- 1) What kind of community do you want to live in?
- 2) Why is that important to you?
- 3) How is that different from how you see things now?
- 4) What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change?

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2015!

David J. Seleb

Executive Director
Oak Park Public Library

Main Library 708.383.8200	Dole Branch Library 708.386.9032	Maze Branch Library 708.386.4751
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Creating welcoming environments for you

Library staff focus on transforming tension into moments of compassion, and relationship building

Good days, bad days, we all have them. We want you to know that at the library, we're committed to engaging with you (and each other) in nonjudgmental ways that we hope can transform a stressful moment and build compassionate relationships. In late 2014, close to 100 library staff members listened and learned about an innovative way to accomplish just that.

The Wakanheza Project™ developed by St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health is intended as a preventative method to decrease stress on families and harsh treatment of children in public places. This fall, co-developer Donald Gault shared the project's six principles with library staff in Oak Park, as well as examples of what he's seen accomplished in his 20+ years of both living and sharing the principles with others in public service roles.

What is Wakanheza?

"Wakanheza (rhymes with Elijah) literally means 'sacred being.' It is the Dakota word for child, reflecting for all of us what children are and should be considered to be," said Gabrielle Strong, Grotto Foundation Native

Language Revitalization Initiative. Practiced today at public libraries, museums, social service agencies, and hospitals around the United States, the project is aimed at transforming stress and discomfort. It is built around principles that allow people to better connect, including:

Judgment: Recognizing and suspending judgment of others;

Culture: Opening ourselves to all cultures and the opportunity to see beyond differences to share kindness with all people;

Powerlessness: Recognizing that many acts of violence arise from a sense of powerlessness, changing our perception of the actions of others at times of high stress;

Empathy and Respect: Embracing our ability to show understanding and offering to help;

Environment: Creating environments that enhance people's sense of being welcomed and cared about;

The Moment: Freeing ourselves to ask what we can do to help now, in this moment.

To learn more, just ask us, and email us at wakanheza@oppl.org

MEET OUR STAFF



Andy Leinbach, Assistant Manager, Branch and Customer Services

What I do at the library:

I get to do a bit of everything! But my most important responsibility is supporting staff members in the Branch and Customer Services Department and make sure they have everything they need to continue to provide excellent service to our patrons.

How I turn outward in my everyday work: I work very hard at focusing on why the Oak Park Public Library exists: to serve the community. Ultimately, we're about people.

My favorite "hidden library gem:" I love that the branches offer curbside pick-up. Call ahead, and we'll bring out your materials to you in the comfort of your car!

Each issue, we'll introduce new library staff member. Know someone we should feature? Please let us know at oppl.org/contact

