

Adult Classes and Events

Books and Brews

With the purpose of connecting patrons to more books and to each other, we created a casual book club - all the inspiration without the assigned homework. This monthly program that started in December pops up at different local establishments that 'brew' to discuss books we have read or are excited to read. Our sites include ACOCA Coffee, McFleshman's Brewery, Lawlss Coffee, and Stone Arch Brewpub. Business owners have been incredibly welcoming, and attendees have been excited to visit new-to-them spaces, meet new people, and be inspired with a great list of books to add to their TBR (to-be-read) pile! Friends' funds support light refreshments from the small business offering space for the program.

Computer Help 1:1 Sessions

Computer Help is an in-person, one-to-one, drop-in and appointment service for up to two hours with library staff or volunteer to assist patrons with general computer and technology use. The goal is to reduce the digital divide and improve digital literacy for individuals with limited access and information on how to use technology. Friends funds the position of the library assistant coordinating this service.

Find Your Ancestors: DNA Workshop

The Find Your Ancestors series wrapped up a great 2022 season with two back-to-back presentations on DNA from Diahn Southard, Founder of Your DNA Guide. Diahn presented: "Five Tips to Make Sense of Your DNA Testing" and "Find Missing Ancestors Using DNA Testing: An Introduction for Genealogists." During the sessions, she walked attendees through how to get the most out of your autosomal DNA testing, reviewing testing options, tools to understand your DNA results and matches, and how to use your DNA results and genealogy research to locate unknown ancestors. One attendee said this was "The best presentation on this topic I've heard. Lightbulbs finally went off!" Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Identifying and Interpreting Historic Photos

In October, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted Tina Beaird, owner of Tamarack Genealogy and Genealogy/Local History Librarian at Plainfield Area Public Library in Plainfield, Illinois, to discuss identifying and interpreting historic photos. Tina talked the nearly 200 attendees through how to spot the details in historic photos and use these details to learn more about the photographs. She also discussed photo themes, trends, props, backgrounds, and eras, and how to use this information to identify and date photos or to learn more about photos that may feature our ancestors. One attendee said the program was, "Very informative. I didn't really think to look at old photographs with such a detective eye." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2022

Find Your Ancestors: Researching Native American Ancestors

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, the Find Your Ancestors presentation for November was “Sources and Methods for Researching Native American Ancestors” presented by Paula Stuart-Warren, internationally recognized genealogical educator, researcher and consultant. Paula covered a wide range of resources in her two-hour presentation, ranging from the obvious census records to the hard-to-find private sources and manuscripts that may be in archives or libraries. In addition to sharing the resources, she also shared the historical context around the records, such as Indian school records, so researchers could look at them with an understanding of the time period in which they were created. One attendee said the presentation was “very thorough and filled with excellent sources and research tips.” Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Native American Heritage Month: No More Stolen Children

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, Heather Bruegl, a decolonial art and education expert, presented “No More Stolen Children: A history of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the fight to save it,” an overview of how the ICWA came into existence and the potential impact of the current Supreme Court case on tribal sovereignty. We worked in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO)-Fox Valley Student Center and Diversity Office to host the speaker virtually for an in-person group of attendees at the UWO-Fox Valley campus. We heard from the University staff and students how meaningful the program was and how much they appreciated the partnership and programming. Attendees stated they knew little about this topic and appreciated the information. Friends’ funds provided the honorarium for this presenter.

Tales and Travels

Tales and Travels participants “traveled the world” in the bi-weekly series in partnership with Fox Valley Memory Project, wrapping up the 2022 sessions in November. This quarter, we explored history, food, art, and cultures of Italy and Poland, as well as explored stories of “home”. The second session of each month is hosted by APL’s former Artist-in-Residence, Elyse Krista-Miche, who leads the group in an art project specific to the destination. Fox Valley Memory Project is sponsoring this program in 2023 in response to numerous participant requests. Friends’ funds were used for program supplies and the artist honorarium for this program.

Teen Classes and Events

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP)

Teen Services continues the exciting monthly Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) for teens (ages 13-17) interested in making a positive difference at APL and in the community. Meetings included discussions and guest speakers sharing opportunities for teen engagement, volunteerism, and employment, prompting TAP members to speak at a City Council meeting, join a teen-led housing coalition, and secure library employment. TAP members’ contributions were recognized in a team building holiday

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2022

celebration. Friends' funds supported program supplies, thank you gifts for participants, and refreshments.

Teen Crafting Corner

Teens participated in APL's drop-in craft program series at the Kensington location. In one session they learned the history and art of pointillism art and practiced their skills with acrylic paints, cotton swabs and paper. In other sessions, they created bracelets and festive fairy light jars. Each teen created unique and fun designs and were eager to take their projects home and share with family! Friends' funds supported the program supplies.

Children's Classes and Events

Family Classes and Events

October – December Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of the following books:

We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt by Goldie Hawk

Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson

Snow Globe Wishes by Erin Dealey

These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages for the months of October - December. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail can read the story as they go. These titles are up for one month each. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk. Friends' funds provided the books for the Storywalks.

B.E.A.R. Reading Program

This November we held our annual B.E.A.R. Bingo reading program. 612 children signed up and participated. After completing 5 reading challenges in a row on their bingo sheet, kids were able to spin the wheel for a prize. The Friends of the Appleton Public Library funded the prizes, including pull-back cars, make-a-face stickers, pencils, and other fun prizes. Friends also funded the prize wheel. This wheel has multiple settings so it can and may be used for other programs and outreaches. Upon completion, kids were entered into a grand prize drawing for one of two giant bears. The giant bears were also funded by Friends.

Patron experience: One 9 yr.-old boy told us that he just hasn't been very interested in reading much this year until he signed up for B.E.A.R. Bingo. He loved that the squares gave him ideas of what to read.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

500 Books Before Middle School

This year-round reading program encourages students from grades K-6th grade to continue the habit of reading. Replacement prizes, funded by Friends, were purchased in October.

Animoto – Video Making Subscription

Children's used Friends' funds to extend APL's annual Animoto subscription until July 2023. Animoto is a video making website. Children's use it for video promotion and programming. All library departments have access to the service and are encouraged to use it as needed.

FlipSide

APL's FlipSide is an online library of local original music which highlights Fox Cities artists to help our community discover & celebrate local music. APL staff worked with its team of community curators to select seven new albums to add to the collection. Friends' funds support the honoraria for artists and thank you gifts for the curators

Fox Cities Book Festival

The Fox Cities Book Festival (FCBF) coordinated a mix of in-person, virtual, and hybrid programs this year. An APL staff member serves on the FCBF Author Committee and supported fifteen author programs that engaged 429 participants in discussion, learning, and engagement centered on books, writing, and storytelling.

Special Projects

Bluetooth Speaker

Friends' funds were used to purchase a Bluetooth speaker for Children's programming at Kensington. It is used multiple times a week in story times and is perfect for this time when we do not have a dedicated program room with audio equipment.

Book Club in a Bag Totes

Friends' funds paid for Book Club in a Bag Totes. Book Club in a Bag offers community members the opportunity to request a specific title and number of copies needed. Staff checkout materials and gather them in a handy tote for patrons to pick up.

Building Project Communications

Friends' funds paid for outside printing of various building project communications.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2022

Chime Bars

One additional set of chime bars was purchased in December to allow for greater participation in the Bouncing Beats Program. The Chime Bars are also used as part of a rotation in the Monday evening Musical Playground series, and they will continue to be used in upcoming programs. Friends' Funds purchased this set of chime bars.

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:

This Friends funded, part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach related to individual and community well-being. The staff member has increased capacity related to computer help service relationships with volunteers, community partners, community initiatives, agency overview learning sessions for library staff, community partner outreach at the library, library programs, and outreach to promote well-being resources.

Constant Contact

Friends' funds pay for our mass email service provider. We use this service to email our subscribers information about library news, classes, services and more.

Preschool STEAM Table and Toys

Due to the popularity of our Tween STEAM table, we decided to purchase a miniature STEAM table geared toward 0–5-year-olds. The table is low enough for little kids to comfortably reach while standing and has a raised edge to prevent manipulatives from rolling off. Along with the table we purchased activities to rotate each month including Tegu magnetic cars/trains, puzzles, rainbow stacking pebbles, and foam cinder blocks (for the main play area). The mini-STEAM table has already become a main attraction of the Children's department in the few weeks since it has been added. The preschool STEAM table and toys were generously purchased using Friends' Funds

Loomly

Friends' funds pay for our social media content scheduler. We use this service to proof and strategically schedule content for all of our social media outlets.

Tween STEAM Table Equipment

In 2019, Friends purchased a STEAM Table and accessories for our Tween area. With projects that change monthly, it has become a well-loved, hangout area that encourages engagement, collaboration, flexibility, and creativity. This year, Friends graciously funded new and updated accessories for our table. The additions included a wooden gameboard, microscopes, Clixo magnetic construction, TOMYOU building balls, jackets for our Bee Bot coding robots, writing tablets, and more. Great tools to keep kids engaged in learning! Thank you so much!

Rugs & Campfire Set

Two new decorative rugs were added to the Children's Department. One rug has a picture of a large pond with lily pads and steppingstones on it and the other rug has a campfire with log benches on it. A fabric campfire set was also added to the Children's Department complete with sticks to roast fabric marshmallows and make s'mores with

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2022

fabric graham crackers and chocolate. Less than a minute after the play campfire was put out on the new rug, two little girls ran over to play. Thank you to Friends for providing the funding for the new rugs and campfire set.