

Adult Classes and Events

Bollywood Dance Workout

We hosted two in-person Bollywood Dance Workouts at City Center Studio, where Mahima Grover led participants through a simple dance movement routine for all ages and skill levels. Participants from the first classes responded with an overwhelming interest. They learned about the history and culture of Bollywood dance and built greater self-confidence with new dance moves. Because of the enthusiastic response, we will bring this program back in the summer. The honorarium was made possible by Friends' funds.

Books and Brews

Books and Brews is an exciting opportunity to connect over books without a prescribed read. Each month, we meet at a local brewpub or coffee shop and discuss our favorite reads. Readers are excited to connect to other readers and be inspired about new books and genres. Friends' funds support light refreshments from the small business offering space for the program, as a thank you to the host and to reduce barriers to participation.

Collaborative Fiction Circle

This unique collaborative writing game was dreamed up by a volunteer and has been a fun way for community members to meet and work creatively to make a story. We meet monthly at Lawless Coffee. Each session is new and exciting, and the participants are able to find their voices, creating and sharing wonderful stories. Friends' funds support light refreshments from the small business offering space for the program, as a thank you to the host and to reduce barriers to participation.

Find Your Ancestors - More Than Money and Land: The Evolution of Bounty Land, Military Pensions and Alternative Records

The March Find Your Ancestors session featured librarian and genealogist Debra Dudek, who shared an overview of the various military conflicts in the U.S., bounty and pension law, and several record collections that were produced from the various wars. An overview of how to locate these records, which included online resources as well as the wealth of information available in off-line repositories like the National Archives, was also shared. One attendee said, "This was one of the most informative classes that we've had." Another shared, "What a fantastic, comprehensive presentation, chock-full of useful information. Thank you, Appleton Public Library, for putting this together." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors - Using Maps for Genealogy and Local History

The Find Your Ancestors series kicked off the 2023 season hosting Lee Grady, Senior Reference Archivist at Wisconsin Historical Society. Lee walked the 296 attendees through different resources, ranging from the more well-known plat maps, Sanborn Insurance Maps and city directories to the more obscure Land Economic Inventory, Surveyor's Field Notes, and Wisconsin Historical Aerial Image Finder. One attendee

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1st QUARTER 2023

said, "The whole program was just great! Information was presented in an easy-to-follow format. Lee and Katie are very knowledgeable and direct you to great resources." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors - Where There Is – or Isn't – A Will

Our February Find Your Ancestors session featured The Legal Genealogist, Judy Russell, who is an internationally known lecturer and award-winning writer. Judy's talk focused on understanding the legal intricacies of settling our ancestors' estates, which sometimes involved them creating wills and the probate process (which happened even in cases when our ancestors did not leave a will!) One attendee said Judy was an "Excellent speaker who is also a great storyteller engaging her audience and keeping them interested and learning for the entire program." This was our highest attended Find Your Ancestors program to date with 389 attendees. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Ukulele Jams

APL added additional ukuleles to our circulating collection. To highlight the new ukuleles, we worked with Appleton Rock School to connect with a professional musician to lead two ukulele jams. Each session allowed new and seasoned ukulele players to enjoy a group playing session, learning new songs, and sharing joy as they learned together. Program attendees loved the events and expressed their excitement by requesting continued weekly programs, which are now being led by volunteers every Monday night through May. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for these two instructor-led events.

Wisconsin Author program

We were honored to host local author Betsy Schlabach at The Appleton Bookstore as she shared material from her recent book, "Dream Books and Gamblers: Black Women's work in Chicago's Policy Game". Betsy shared the incredible story of Harriet Jones, Chicago's most famous policy queen that pulled her into this subject and eventually to writing this book. Jones was the leader of a multimillion-dollar gambling operation that helped feed the hungry, build the South Side of Chicago's first African American owned department store, and support Provident Hospital, Chicago's only Black owned and operated Hospital. With this intimate setting, the audience had front row seats to engage with the topic and have a thoughtful discussion with Betsy.

Teen Classes and Events

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP)

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) ambassadors gather at the temporary library for their monthly meeting. Every month, library staff share library updates, propose new program ideas, create engaging opportunities for TAP. As of March 2023, three of our TAP members have been hired at APL as library pages. Our teen ambassadors helped coordinate the new Teen Summer Library Program model for 2023 in addition to a

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1st QUARTER 2023

Toiletry Drive Initiative to benefit teens at Appleton West High School. Friends' funds were used to purchase refreshments for the TAP meetings.

Teen Tuesday

Every month APL hosts a special evening event called Teen Tuesday dedicated to teens, creative expression and team building. Topics and activities vary from playing a game, kindness rock painting and vision boards. In March, teens were encouraged to bring favorite quotes and photos for their vision boards. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the activities.

Children's Classes and Events

Family Classes and Events

January – March Memorial Park StoryWalk

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

No Two Alike by Keith Baker

Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner

Old Rock (is Not Boring) by Deb Pilutti

These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages for the months of January - March. 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.

March Book Madness

March was our annual March Book Madness reading program for children 0-12 years old. Each child filled out their reading bracket with eight fiction and eight nonfiction books. For each pair of books, they got to decide which book was their favorite and move it on to the next round until they were left with one favorite book of the month. After completing their bracket, each child got to pick out a prize from a variety of different balls or a Wisconsin Herd keychain and enter one of the grand prize drawings for a hopper ball, Wisconsin Herd tickets or Mickey and Minnie Mouse bathtub basketball sets. The Friends of the Library generously provided the sensory and hopper ball prizes for this program and 718 children registered during the month of March.

Adopt a Reading Buddy

On January 21st we had 655 people attend our Adopt a Reading Buddy event for kids 0-12 years old. Each child got to choose a stuffed animal to adopt (dog, cat, bird, hedgehog, fish or lizard). They filled out an adoption certificate and promised to read to their buddy every day. Kids got to make a collar for their new pet, give them a vet

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1st QUARTER 2023

check-up and grooming. The stuffed animals were donated by PetSmart and the collar making supplies were generously provided by the Friends of the Library. This event was a huge success with patrons lining up outside the library before it opened. Comments from patrons included:

- “My daughter didn't want to go to school on Friday, she just wanted it to be Saturday to go to the library.”
- “We’ve had a big week this week and this event is definitely our highlight.”
- “My kids woke up SUPER early, excited to come here today.”
- Child to parent, “Can we pick out a book to read to my buddy right now?”
- “My daughter is having surgery on Monday and will be off her feet for quite some time. What perfect timing for her to come and pick out a snuggle buddy that she can read to as she heals.” (Daughter came in on crutches just so she could pick out which pet she wanted.)

Homeschool Conversation

This was a program designed to start discussions with homeschooling families about programming opportunities for their elementary-aged students. To give the conversation a more relaxing feel, we provided a table of tea and snacks for the adults/parents. There were also board games (previously purchased by Friends) for the kids to play while the adults talked.

Narwhal and Jelly Program

On Sunday, January 15th, the children's department held a Narwhal and Jelly Book Club party. Narwhal and Jelly are popular characters from the Children's Graphic Novel series by Ben Clanton. Participants discussed the books and made really fun "Jelly" and Narwhal" paper plate crafts. As all lovers of the series know, eating waffles is their favorite thing, and therefore waffles were made and eaten by program attendees. From wearable Narwhal horns to crafts and activities, much fun was had by the children. The craft supplies and waffle mix were funded by Friends.

School-Age STEAM – February & March

School-age STEAM runs for two hours and is a drop-in program. Staff create simple instructions for children and parents to follow and are available for any questions or troubleshooting. Each week two activities are offered. One activity is tech based and uses an assortment of tech items including: 3D pens, Osmo Masterpiece, Osobots, Keva planks, and more. The second activities vary widely depending on the theme. During February & March, activities included:

- Building Sail Cars and blowing them across the floors.
- Creating sculptures in the style of glass artist, Chihuly, using air dry clay and twisty straws.
- Using red and blue markers to create 3D art, then making 3D glasses with red and blue cellophane so the art is visible in 3D.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1st QUARTER 2023

- Making flapping butterflies from clothespins, painting with magnets, and using magnets to make tissue paper leaves float. Friends Funded the special materials for these activities.

Spring STREAM Team

Spring STREAM Team ran for 8 weeks in March and April. This program is for 3 – 5 year-olds and focuses on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Three groups of preschoolers meet every Monday for a storytime and hands on activities. The themes for this semester included transportation, outer space, texture, food, dinosaurs, frogs, St. Patrick's Day, and weather. The Friends of the Library generously funded the supplies for this program.

Symphony Storytime

Miss Tori was joined by Lori Murphy, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library on February 25. Miss Tori read *Mole Music* and *Because*. Miss Lori played many songs on her violin, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends' Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

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.

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.

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 supported the honoraria for seven artists added to the collection.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1st QUARTER 2023

Sidewalk Poetry

This was the first year that APL has hosted the City of Appleton's Sidewalk Poetry program in partnership with the Department of Public Works. We gathered a group of seven amazing community members to act as curators and they provided us with their knowledge of and passion for poetry. We were able to provide light refreshments for an after-work, in-person meeting as a thank you for their efforts. This in-person session provided multiple valuable connections and a sense of welcoming for the curators. Friends' funds provided the refreshments for this session.

Special Projects

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.

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.

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.