

Adult Classes and Events

Books and Brews

Books and Brews offers APL patrons a welcoming space to discuss their latest reads. In the winter months we have seen fewer attendees, which has provided unique opportunities to dive into deeper literary discussions. Topics included intellectual freedom, the importance of representation in literature, and authenticity in writing. In the fourth quarter, Books and Brews met at Good Company and Copper Rock Coffee Company. Friends' funds provide coffee, tea, or non-alcoholic beverages.

Find Your Ancestors: How Social Security Records Can Help with Brick Walls

In November, the Find Your Ancestors series welcomed Roslyn Torella to discuss using Social Security records for your genealogy research. After discussing a brief history of how Social Security began and what benefits our ancestors would have received, Roslyn shared how to decode Social Security numbers to determine where our ancestors lived and when they got their numbers. Roslyn then showed various resources available online and examples of records that could be requested through the Social Security office that will give additional information on our ancestors, such as earning records, which show a person's full work history. Attendees were particularly impressed with Roslyn's knowledge and expertise, given that she previously worked for Social Security and gave attendees an insider's knowledge on how the records were created. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Researching Your Ancestor's Medical History

The Find Your Ancestors series wrapped up its 2024 series hosting professional genealogist Jane Neff Rollins to discuss how to research the medical history of our ancestors and why it is an important aspect of our genealogy research. In addition to showing where to look for clues into the health of our ancestors while navigating around medical privacy laws, Jane shared where to learn about obsolete medical terminology and resources available online and offline for obtaining available records. Attendees appreciated the speaker's expertise and examples shown throughout the presentation. One attendee shared they had never thought about researching the health of their ancestors and the potential implications it could have on their own health – or the health of future generations – but because of the program, they plan to do this research now that they know how important it is and where to locate available resources. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Spirit of St. Louis: Military & Civilian Records at the National Personnel Records Center

To celebrate Family History Month in October, the Find Your Ancestors series welcomed back genealogist and librarian Tina Beard to present "Spirit of St. Louis: Military & Civilian Records at the National Personnel Records Center." Tina discussed the various locations of the National Archives and Records Administration and the records they hold, specifically highlighting military records. She then went into further

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2024

details about the various record types you can find at the NPRC, access restrictions of the records, and how you can request the records for in person research or how to access them if you cannot visit in person. Attendees were extremely impressed with Tina's wealth of knowledge, which was particularly showcased during our longer-than-usual Q&A session, in which Tina answered an astonishing number of questions covering a wide range of military and civilian records. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Tune Talk

Tune Talk is a small (but growing) community of music lovers, gathered to discuss bands, albums, songs, and shows. Participants share song recommendations in a round-robin fashion, which we then sample throughout our conversation. Each session brings a little different vibe; Notable genres covered this winter include Prog Rock, Americana, and Christmas/ Winter Holiday. Friends' funds have been used to book meeting spaces.

Teen Classes and Events

Holidays and History at Hearthstone Museum

Teens were treated to a private tour of the Hearthstone Historic House Museum. The engaged teens learned about the important significance of this home including its ground-breaking electrical system, architecture and technology. A booklist was created referencing historical literature featured on the fireplace tile designs. We learned about upcoming opportunities; the teens were excited and asked many questions during the tour. Friends' funds were used for the entrance fees.

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP)

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) Ambassadors gather once a month to discuss library news, program ideas, and more. TAP is rotating between Appleton East, Appleton West, & Appleton North High Schools for meeting locations to engage new members and facilitate accessibility to existing members. Friends' funds supported refreshments for this program.

Teen Tuesday: Ceramic Ornament Painting at The Fire

Teens of all ages decorated their own unique ceramic ornament at The Fire in downtown Appleton. Attendees were delighted with the selection and spent time painting their ornaments with care and precision. A parent picking up their teens after the program expressed gratitude for programs like this. She said they are looking forward to the renovated library's opening and appreciated the opportunity to have this available at no cost. Friends' funds paid for the cost of this program.

Children's Classes and Events

October – December Memorial Park StoryWalk

Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of the following books:

Ghost Afraid of the Dark by Sara Conway
We Are Grateful by Traci Sorrel
When Winter Comes by Aimee Bissonette

These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. 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.

Crafty Creators

Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to buy supplies for Crafty Creators. In November Children's Services offered three programs featuring crafts inspired by farm animals, dinosaurs, and forest animals.

School-Age STEAM

October-November Tuesday night School-Age STEAM programs were well attended and a ton of fun! As always, each week had its own theme to explore. Kids in grades K-6 tried activities and experiments related to the Titanic, volcanoes, National Book Month, superheroes, spooky STEAM, storybook creations, dinosaurs, and famous landmarks. Thank you to Friends for purchasing the supplies and technology to make this on-going program possible!

Family Classes and Events

Dinovember

Children's Services celebrated Dinosaurs in November. Every Monday we held Drop-in Dino Activities for 3-5 year olds with dinosaur themed hands-on activities. Toddler and Family Storytimes were dinosaur themed and there was a dinosaur scavenger hunt. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for Drop-in Dino Activities, a scavenger hunt prize, a photo backdrop and paper plates for dinosaur pixel art on the wall in Children's Services.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2024

Popular Character Voting

Thank you so much to Friends for providing the funds for our Storybook Character Voting Booth. From Oct 21 to Nov 5, the children who visited APL had the opportunity to vote for their favorite of the six story characters. They could step into our voting booth, fill out a ballot, cast their vote, and get an "I Voted" sticker. Kids and their caregivers delighted in this unique introduction to civic engagement. (P.S. Dog Man was the winner for 2024!)

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and ServiceSpecial Projects

Children's Program Supplies

Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for programming in the new library. Some of the items include a sensory bin, two storytime carts, an art drying rack and more.

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.

Early Childhood Area

Friends' funds were used to purchase toys for the Early Childhood play space in the new library and replace worn out toys from the temporary library. Some of the items include large foam building stones, timbers and cinderblocks, puzzles, toy cars, magnet playsets and infant toys. The Early Childhood play space is heavily used by families and these toys are sure to be loved for years to come.

Digital Creation Studio Equipment

Friends' funds were used to purchase technology and equipment for the Digital Creation Studios in the renovated library. This equipment will facilitate dynamic experimentation and creation in the studio spaces.

Loomly

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

Library Brand Identity Update

Friends' funds were used to contract with a communications firm to refresh the Appleton Public Library brand identity, helping us to fully illustrate the library's vision and mission.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2024

Puppet Stage and Puppets

The Children's Department is looking forward to bringing puppets and puppet shows back in our newly renovated library. To make these shows possible, Friends' Funds were used to purchase a portable puppet stage that will allow puppet shows to be performed with a flexibility that matches our new facility. Additional puppets were also purchased to round out the puppet collection.

Sensory Room

Friends' Funds were used to purchase specialty items for the Sensory Room including wall panels, a compression canoe and a waterless LED color column. These items are designed to help users of the room regulate sensory input.

Technology Upgrades

Friends' Funds and the Trout Endowment for Reluctant Readers allowed for a fantastic upgrade to the technology we can offer for programming! We know through experience that one strong way to engage, motivate, and support reluctant readers is to blend literacy materials with technology and hands-on manipulatives. With this in mind, we purchased new coding robots, digital microscopes, document cameras, Lego Education sets, a green screen, a globe, and a jumbo simple machines set. These upgrades and additions to our resources help to keep our services up-to-date and appealing for our current patrons while also attracting new program attendees. Thank you so much for your support!