

1st QUARTER 2022

Adult Classes and Events

Computer Help 1:1 Sessions

Computer Help is an in-person, one-to-one, drop-in / appointment service for up to 2 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 among communities with limited access and information on how to use technology. A Friends' grant funds the position of the library assistant coordinating this service.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Breaking Down Your Brick Walls in Family Research

In February, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian at Wisconsin Historical Society, to present "Breaking Down Your Brick Walls in Family Research." Genealogists inevitably run into a roadblock in our research where we can't get back any further - often called the dreaded "brick wall." Lori provided lots of helpful tips and tricks, including examining your research and re-evaluating what you have already done before declaring you have a brick wall. This was a record-setting session with 333 live attendees and 500 registrants - our highest to date! Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Finding Your Ancestors in Norwegian Documents

Our Find Your Ancestors series marked our 50th presentation milestone by hosting professional genealogist Eleanor Brinsko on March 12th for her "Finding Your Ancestors in Norwegian Documents" presentation. Eleanor walked the 131 live attendees through several types of Norwegian records such as Norwegian farm books, census records, immigration records and religious records. She also shared several website resources, doing several demonstrations of each, attendees thought this was especially helpful. One attendee commented that this was an "excellent presentation with really helpful advice." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Genealogy Programs

In January, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted professional genealogist Angie Knutson to discuss genealogy programs. Angie walked the 238 live attendees through the various options of genealogy software and genealogy websites where you can host your family research. One attendee said, "The information and directions provided was helpful to apply to my research tools and the directions I can further investigate. As always, the topic for the program was outstanding." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Teen Classes and Events

John Lewis Teen Art Contest

This year marked the first annual John R. Lewis Teen Art Contest for Teen Services. The purpose of the contest was to honor the life and legacy of Congressman and Civil Rights Activist John Lewis, highlight Black History and inspire creativity in our teens. Our judges consisted of Timber Smith (COA DEI), Laura Jones (African Heritage, Inc.)

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and Lisa Nett (Library Board Member). Two teens submitted sketch and paint art and a short description based on the following themes: bravery, courage, service, and patriotism culminating in a live Zoom program presentation on March 3. Winners won canvas bags with new YA/Teen books and gift cards to local, Black-owned businesses courtesy of Friends funds.

Future Fox Cities Career Expo

Teen Services participated in this year's Future Fox Cities Career Expo on March 8-9. Over 2,600 8th grade and high school students from Northeast Wisconsin attended this robust career expo featuring a variety of employers. We exchanged inspiring conversations with teens, gathered signatures for TAP and volunteer opportunities, handed out a ton of candy and ran a successful contest featuring a summer movie option for an ADI collaboration (receiving 192 votes!) Friends' funds were used to purchase incentives for this event.

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. The group held its first *in-person* meeting at the conference room inside Copper Rock Coffee Company on March 15. Six teens had a lively and engaging conversation about the new building, SLP and upcoming projects – the teens were so excited! Program supplies and refreshments are provided by Friends' funds.

Tween Classes and Events

Bookmark Bonanza

To encourage fun in reading, and avoiding dog eared books, we held a Bookmark Bonanza program. It was held via Zoom, and attendees had a wonderful time creating a wide variety of bookmarks. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for this program.

Paper Plane Palooza

There is nothing more exciting than paper planes. In this program, we learned how to make some very interesting folds. Children made a total of ten different planes. Each plane had a different style of flying. By far, a favorite was the Roller Blade, which did not fly, but spun its way to the ground.

I was amazed at the complexity of the planes, which the children grasped very quickly. Paper planes are such an exciting way to get children interested in engineering. The excitement could be felt right through the computer screens. There were several amazing and wonderful "ah, ha" moments. The support of Friends makes these programs soar! Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for this program.

Virtual Author Visit - Cassandra Kohanski

3rd-5th grade students had the opportunity to meet teen author, Cassandra Kohanski. Cassandra is a freshman at Winneconne high school, who is the self-published author of the book, *Marley's Journey*. Through Friends funding, participants

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received a free copy of the book to read prior to the program. Then, via Zoom, they met Cassandra, asked her questions about writing/illustrating/publishing, and got to meet the dog that inspired the story.

Children's Classes and Events

Winter STREAM Team

Winter STREAM Team ran for 6 weeks in February and March. This program was for 3 - 5-year-olds and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Patrons picked up a pack of supplies from the library that included everything they would need for 6 weeks of activities. Twenty-eight preschoolers, divided into three groups, met on Zoom each Thursday for a short storytime and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each week had a theme; Valentine's Day, dental & body health, gardening, opposites, space, and St. Patrick's Day. The kids and parents had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback. Friends' funds provided the supplies for the activities.

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:

January – Mice Skating by Anne Marie Pace
February – A Way with Wild Things by Larissa Theule
March – Hooray for Hoppy by Tim Hopgood

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 1 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.

January – March ADI Downtown Storywalks

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. Children's utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of the following books:

January 2022 - Groundhug Day by Anne Marie Pace
February 2022 - Superluminous by Ian De Haes
March 2022 - Festival of Colors by Vashti Harrison

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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 2022. Animoto is a video making website. Children's use it for video promotion and programming. All library departments have access to the service and encouraged to use it as needed.

Programming Microphone

Friends' funds were used to purchase a microphone for children's virtual programming. The microphone is used for Preschool Storytime, Bouncing Beats, and to record upcoming staff trainings.

Special Projects

Building Project Communications

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

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.

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, Kairos Alive Dancing Heart programming, relationships with 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.