

Adult Classes and Events

Artist in Residence - Virtual and Self-Directed Activities

Artist in Residence, Elyse-Krista Mische, a CNA and hospice volunteer and an advocate of the Death Positive Movement, uses her art to contemplate mortality, memory, and time. We connected Elyse-Krista with the Fox Valley Memory Project's Memory Café to help participants find joyful connections and beauty in a photograph or item from their past. Elyse-Krista created an "Existential Thinking Station" used as a self-directed activity to stimulate deeper thinking about our lives and how we want to be remembered. Those responses are being used by Elyse-Krista to create a Community Soul Vessel, representing the 'soul' of Appleton. Patrons can take a 'Make and Take' soul vessel kit to create their own. Friends' funds provided the honorarium and supplies for these programs.

Breathing Session with Parnee Poet

Parnee Poet, plant mama, artist, massage therapist, martial artist, self-defense and breathing awareness educator led an outdoor breathing workshop at Peabody Park as part of the Adult Summer Library Program series. Participants gained breathing awareness that helps to "rest and digest" instead of "fight/flight/freeze/appease." They learned how to identify their breathing pattern and re-sync their natural breathing pattern of relaxation. Friends' funds supported the presenter honorarium.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Finding Your German Ancestors Using Maps and Gazetteers

In July, the Find Your Ancestors series featured John Wasserstrass, president of the German Interest Group – Wisconsin, to discuss how to find your German ancestors using maps and gazetteers. John walked the 155 attendees through several resources including Meyers Gazetteer, Kartenmeister, Geschichtliche Orts-Verzeichnis (GOV), and the Germans to America collection, sharing pros and cons of each. Attendees commented that his presentation was easy to understand, and they learned several resources they weren't familiar with. One attendee shared, "That was awesome! Within a half hour of the webinar, I found my long lost great-great paternal grandfather! This was my holy grail of ancestors. Thank you!" Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Irish Genealogy

Genealogist Dave Miller was our speaker for September, discussing how to research Irish genealogy. Dave walked the 133 attendees through several different record types as well as how to obtain those records whether you are in the United States or you are planning on visiting Ireland to do research. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed Dave's presentation, with one commenting, "I have heard Dave speak several times and always learn something new. A great presenter who's very generous sharing what he knows." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2021

Find Your Ancestors Series: Researching the Family Black Sheep

Nearly 200 attendees joined us in August as we hosted “The Legal Genealogist,” Judy G. Russell for her talk, “Rogues, Rascals and Rapsallions: The Family Black Sheep.” Judy is widely known in the genealogy community – being an expert in genealogy and the law – so she was the perfect speaker to tell us how to research those ancestors who may be lawbreakers, philanderers and/or deadbeats. Attendees really appreciated her storytelling, wit and humor while delivering the information and using examples - some of which she even tailored to Wisconsin and Appleton criminals! One attendee commented, “The presenter was extremely qualified and informative. While much of this material could be used by beginners it was definitely of use to experienced researchers which is definitely what I am after.” Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Green Lake Festival of Music

The Third Lake Brass Quintet, in partnership with the Green Lake Festival of Music, gave us our first in-person concert of 2021. This collection of professional brass musicians provided an exciting musical tour of each of their instruments, including the history, their range of use, and their significance in a quintet. Friends’ funds covered an honorarium for the group’s performance.

Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border ¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!

In September, we hosted the Wisconsin Humanities traveling exhibit, *Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border ¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!* The exhibit was enhanced by two meaningful community conversations about immigration and a 30-day reflective journal designed by local artist Marisol Encarnacion to provide community members with a safe space to reflect on their experiences. Participants appreciated the journal and the exhibit. A participant said, "Heartwarming and eye opening. I was able to learn a lot from not only this exhibit, but the amazing people that work at the library." Friends provided an honorarium for the artist.

Nature Walk at Wild Ones

A program offered as part of our Adult Summer Library Program was a naturalist-led Nature Walk at Wild Ones Natural Landscapers. Participants learned about the benefits of planting Wisconsin native plants and flowers, how they impact pollinators, the detrimental effects of lawns and lawn care to the environment, and just how easy it is to support our ecosystem with native plants, even in container gardens. Some attendees had their own prairie gardens and others were new to this topic and excited to learn more. Senior lecturer and Habitat Restoration Researcher, Shannon Faust-Davis provided great tips and tons of plant inspiration for all! Friends’ funds supported a presenter honorarium.

Resin Pendant Keychain Virtual Workshop

The Flower Mill presented a virtual workshop as part of the Adult Summer Library Program. Participants picked up a supplies kit at the library and learned to use preserved floral blooms and resin to make teardrop shaped pendant keychains. Friends’ funds supported the program costs.

Teen Classes and Events

Solar Viewing

Our Solar Viewing event took place on September 29 at Houdini Plaza. Participants had fun and learned from NASA ambassador Joe Slezak, poster boards with visuals of the sun, a professional telescope and a staff-led story time! Friends' funds were used to support venue-related expenses. The weather was perfect, and our families had a great time!

STEAM Take n Create Packs and Virtual Program

Registered participants received a STEAM kit full of supplies for the 3-day virtual program that took place the following week. Our "X-STREAM Team" were science and art instructors, William and Aida Jackson, from Florida. Teens had a great time building an International Space Station, skyline painting, and crafting their own mobile hand with fish wire – all while learning valuable science, art concepts and life skills. Additionally, we received a wonderful compliment from the parent of one of the participants thanking us for providing programming to tweens and teens – her son really enjoyed the program! Upon completion of the 3-day program, all participants received a special certificate, pins and stickers from the Jacksons. Friends' funds provided the presenter honorarium and kit supplies.

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP)

Teen Services has begun a new and exciting monthly Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) for teens (ages 13-17) interested in making a positive difference at APL and in the community. Participants receive a welcome kit which includes a notebook, pen, highlighter, post it notes and silly putty – plus trendy, motivational stickers. Teens can join virtually via Zoom and share their input on library services and programs. Friends' funds support the welcome kit supplies.

Take n' Create Packs: Pinot's Palette

Teen Services collaborated with Pinot's Palette for the final Take n' Create pack of the summer. Each of the 15 kits included a canvas (5 summer designs), brushes, paint, a cup and step-by-step instructions. Teens were welcome to follow the attached instructions or free hand their own designs. A Project Outcome survey was included, and feedback was welcomed. All 15 packs were claimed and served as a creative outlet for our young patrons. Friends' funds supported kit supplies.

Take n' Create Packs: Simple Simon Bakery

Teen Services collaborated with Simple Simon Bakery to create a Take n' Create pack for teens. 20 teens picked up kits of cookies, icing, and sprinkles to decorate their own goodies. Several parents thanked staff for offering fun activities for teens and one parent shared photos of their teen and younger sibling working together to decorate cookies. Friends' funds supported kit supplies.

Tween Classes and Events

Children's Classes and Events

Bouncing Beats

In September, preschoolers and their families were invited to participate in our interactive, music-making program Bouncing Beats. As this program needed to shift from in-person to virtual, we put together music-making kits for our participants so that we were still able to create music together.

In their kits, one of the items that participants received was a set of boomwhackers. We used these pitched plastic tubes to explore chords, create sound effects for picture books, and craft our own melodies. It was a blast! Boomwhackers were returned at the end of the program so they can be used again. Friends' Funds were used to purchase the boomwhackers.

July – September Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of 3 books; *Over in the Forest: Come Take a Peek* by Marianne Berkes, *Bee Dance* by Rick Chrustowski, and *Apple Pie Tree* by Zoe Hall. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages for the months of July - September. 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 are able to read the story as they go. These titles will be up for 1 month each, July - September. 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.

July – September ADI Downtown Storywalks

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging StoryWalk 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.

Outside, Inside by LeUyen Pham is the book on display from mid-July to the end of August. This story captures 2020 and the feeling and moments we experienced while being inside and outside. It also pays tribute to frontline service professionals. Friends' Funds was used to purchase two copies of the book, *Outside, Inside* by LeUyen Pham.

Dreamers by Yuri Morales was on display during September in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The story follows an immigrant family and their transition in a new place. Friends' Funds was used to purchase two copies of the book, *Dreamers* by Yuri Morales.

Art in the Park

Children's had a booth in the Kids area of Art in the Park. Our goal was to create artwork similar to Eric Carle's carefully textured illustrations. Friends' Funds were used to purchase texture plates which children then used to create their own textured materials. While many children chose to simply try texture after texture with a wide variety of colors, others chose to create their own designs.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2021

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Friends' funds were used to purchase new prizes for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. The prizes include wooden cars, toy boats, dinosaur bath squirts, rubber duckies, and sensory balls. Children get to pick out a prize for every 100 books they read. The new prizes have sparked excitement in the program as children saw them in the display case during May and early June.

July Maker Quest

Children made tile mosaics, popsicle flashlights, squishies and a whole lot more. Leftover supplies were also used during Children's Week and were very popular. Friends' funds were used to purchase the main supplies for the mosaics and the popsicle flashlights.

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 mainly use it for video promotion and programming including Finding Miss Pa Ja. All library departments have access to the service and are encouraged to use it as needed.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Prizes

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. July – September, 22 children registered for this program. Friends' Funds are used to purchase prizes for every 100 books read.

500 Books Before Middle School

This year-round reading program encourages students from grades K-6th grade to continue the habit of reading. July – September, 25 children registered for this program. Friends' Funds are used to purchase prizes for every 50 books read.

Special Projects

Anji Play Training & Roaming Ruckus: a True Play Program

Friends' funds were used to pay for a series of virtual workshops in the Anji Play model for staff at APL and the Building for Kids. After these sessions, staff worked closely with the trainers to develop the Roaming Ruckus program. This program is based on the 5 pillars of Anji Play: Love, Risk, Joy, Engagement and Reflection. Participants meet outdoors for a period of child directed play using open ended materials. At the end of their time, the children are encouraged to create a "Play Story" and share reflections on their play. At the end of each program, staff meet with the Anji Play trainers to discuss what they observed during the program and what adjustments might be beneficial. The

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2021

programs are scheduled at various parks around Appleton including Arbutus, Linwood, Pierce, Kiwanis and City Park. This program met four times in July and three times in September.

Grab and Go Craft Bags

Throughout the summer and fall, Children's has offered Grab and Go Craft Bags both in the library by the self-check machines and out in the community at various outreaches. These bags are full of fun craft supplies for families to do at home. Friends' funds were used to purchase the paper bags.

Building Project Communications

Friends' funds paid for large-printed concepts for community outreach. Friends' funds also paid for gift cards for focus group attendees to show appreciation for participation.

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 Outreach

Library staff engaged in outreach on a weekly basis at Long Cheng Marketplace and LEAVEN. Staff provided resources and opportunities on library services and programs, registered new library cards, or updated existing ones. Community Partnerships and Public Services staff worked together to showcase special collection materials from the Hmong Resource Collection, share resources for well-being, create new library cards, and update library accounts. Friends funded giveaway items for the outreach tables.

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 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.

Hispanic Heritage Month Take n' Create Packs

The Children's Department and Teen Services joined efforts celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. This year's festivities offered a reimagined program including a special family Take n' Create pack designed for children and teens. Inside each of the 75 packs were crafting supplies for Mexican tissue paper flowers and clay pottery painting, instructions, and a Project Outcome survey. Friends' funds were used for kit supplies.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2021

National Library Card Sign-up Month

The theme for this year's National Library Card Sign Up Month was "Libraries Empower," so staff highlighted how having a library card empowers patrons of all ages. APL partnered with other OWLS libraries and attended various events to create and update library cards for community members. We engaged with over 80 individuals through outreach. Staff also designed a case display on the 6th floor of City Hall showcasing how libraries empower. Library staff secured a \$500 grant from 4imprint for tote bags as incentives for new library cards and Friends funded giveaway items for the outreach table.

Outreach T-Shirts

Friends' funds paid for Appleton Public Library logo t-shirts for our outreach staff. The t-shirts help the public identify and connect with the library and library staff members when they are participating in outreach events.

Rhythms of the World

The annual Rhythms of the World event took place in September at Houdini Plaza during Appleton Farmer's Market. This year's event included different cultural dance performances, a fashion show, non-profit organization booths, a blood drive and food drive. The event was a huge success with over 150 people in attendance and over 75 people interacting with library staff at an APL information and library card registration table. Participants enjoyed coming to the event to learn and connect with different cultures through dance and music. Friends' funds were used to sponsor the event and support the library's outreach table.

Summer Library Program (Adults)

The Adult Summer Library Program engaged 495 registrants to the virtual Beanstack program, with one participant sharing, "It kept me accountable and helped me reach my goal, one book a month instead of one book a year." In addition to reading, the program was focused on connecting patrons to nature with plant and nature themed prizes, including tree identification guides, succulent plants, and a planter, hand-shovel and pollinator focused seeds. For the grand prizes, we provided two Wisconsin State Park passes with gas cards. Each prize was given in APL Summer Library Program totes. Friends' funds supported the program incentives.

Summer Library Program (Teens)

This summer wrapped up another successful TSLP program! We presented each of the 200 teens who registered for the program with an opportunity to select their own book. Of the teen readers who successfully finished the Beanstack reading challenges, 3 teens were randomly selected and were awarded grand prizes. The three grand prizes featured were a Kindle Fire, Samsung Galaxy Fit and a NorthFace backpack – perfect items for back-to-school. One teen shared, "The teen prize options were really cool!" Friends' funds supported the program incentives.