

Adult Classes and Events

Civic Conversations

During this quarter, we hosted two online Civic Conversations in which we examine topics that empower us to make informed choices, understand our collective history, and inspire civic and community engagement. In one Civic Conversation, we learned about Reparations with Dr. Renee Gralewicz, an enrolled member of and Peacemaker for the Brothertown Indian Nation. We used this topic to examine beliefs and understanding of our history and its lasting impact. We provided a Resource Guide using items from our collection for deeper learning. An honorarium was made possible with Friends' funds.

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. Volunteers and staff have conducted 48 one-to-one sessions and continue to provide this service. Friends grant funds the position of the library assistant coordinating this service.

Connecting Cards

Connecting Cards – Holiday Edition was an evolution of an earlier successful program for connecting community members who may want to share their care for others experiencing social isolation. Connecting Cards - Holiday Edition provided 40 cards which library patrons filled with inspiring or heart-warming messages. We created a station near the Information Desk with the space to write, draw or decorate on holiday themed cards. These cards were picked up by Oneida Heights and distributed to its residents. Friends' funds provided cards for this program.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Coming to America by Train

Bob Lettenberger from the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay presented our November Find Your Ancestors session on Coming to America By Train. Bob discussed how the railroads were created throughout the United States and how many of our ancestors used the rails to travel throughout America as they immigrated. He talked the 176 attendees through what it was like to ride the immigrant trains and shared resources for learning more about your ancestor's journeys and how to research ancestors who worked for the railroads. Attendees were thoroughly pleased with Bob's expertise and patience as he worked to answer the more than 50 questions attendees had at the end of the session. Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Finding Ancestors Before 1850

To celebrate Family History Month, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted professional genealogist Amy Johnson Crow in October to discuss how to research ancestors before 1850. Amy talked the 300+ attendees through common challenges faced with pre-1850 research and how to tackle them, specifically focusing on certain collections of records

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like census records, probate and other court records, land and tax records, and voter records, to name a few. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, with many commenting how helpful it was and saying it gave them hope they can research further back on their family tree. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Researching Institutionalized Ancestors

Our final 2021 Find Your Ancestors session featured Lee Grady, Senior Reference Archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society, to discuss researching institutionalized ancestors. Lee discussed some of the amazing collections the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison has in regard to state and county institutions, such as asylums/hospitals, prisons, poor houses, orphanages and more. Using some of the WHS collections through two case studies, Lee showed the 168 attendees what information you can glean about an ancestor through some of the various record sets available. One attendee said: "I've attended nearly every one of your webinars and for me, this is the very best one." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Writing in Beads

November was Native American Heritage Month. We celebrated the rich history of Native Americans with an on-site display, a book discussion of *Firekeeper's Daughter*, and a storytelling program, "Writing in Beads" with well-known bead artist, Karen Ann Hoffman. The Writing in Beads participants appreciated the storytelling through her beautiful beadwork. They learned about Native American tribes, languages, and culture. Friends provided financial support for Karen's presentation.

Teen Classes and Events

Short Scary Story Teen Contest

The Short Scary Story Teen Contest was an opportunity for teens to showcase their storytelling and writing. We received 14 amazing entries and were able to provide relevant rewards for the contest winners. The grand prize winner was given a Kindle Fire 7 and our two runners-up were awarded awesome APL canvas bags with a selection of new YA/teen suspense books! Thank you to Friends of the Library for the funds to purchase the contest awards.

Take n' Create Packs: Holiday Snowman

Teen Services shared the final Take n' Create packs of 2021! We distributed 19 starter packs filled with socks, flannel, fabric glue, ribbon and more for teens to create their own snowman to keep or give away as a gift for someone special. Teens were encouraged to use their creativity and upcycle items from their homes. A virtual DIY program complimented this fun pack on December 6. Friends' funds were used to purchase the program supplies.

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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. 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.

Teen DIY Masquerade Masks

During the month of October, teens were given the opportunity to create their own masquerade masks in the teen space. Eye masks, feathers, jewels, and glue were provided. All supplies were utilized, and teens had a fun, creative experience. Thank you to the Friends for providing the craft supplies!

Author Discussion - "We Will Always Be Here"

Authors Jenny Kalvaitis and Kristen Whitson of "We Will Always Be Here" offered a wonderful virtual literature and historical presentation. Their book focused on the LGBTQ+ experience and stories from a youth/teen perspective in Wisconsin and shared best practices on research and preserving historical data. The Wisconsin Historical Society donated two books to give away to program participants. Friends' funds were used to help pay for author honorariums.

Tween Classes and Events

Children's Classes and Events

Brainstorm Bags

This October through December we ran a monthly program called Brainstorm Bags. Each month patrons could register and stop by the Children's Desk to pick up a bag of supplies. We created 50 bags each month for school age children. Some were preregistered and others were kept back to give to school aged children visiting the library. Our hope was to catch children who did not have computer or internet access so they could be part of the program as well, even if they weren't able to register for it. All participants were also invited to a virtual Show & Tell to share their experiences.

Each bag contained a hard experiment and a no fail experiment so participants would be challenged yet also remain excited about science. Show and tell really helped them dive deeper into understanding why the projects worked and gave them an opportunity to explain how something failed and how they finally made it work.

October's supplies included materials to make rockets including film canisters and effervescent tablets. Each child who attended the Show & Tell described what worked and what didn't, and the group talked through ways to make the rocket fly better. Staff also provided straw rockets that could be decorated and then launched using a bendy straw.

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In November each bag contained the materials to create a Hovercraft from a CD & balloon, and the supplies to make a triangle flyer. In December each bag contained the materials to create spool racers from a wooden spool, toothpick, & rubber band, as well as the supplies for a paper spin top. Friends' funds paid for program supplies.

Fall STREAM Team

Fall STREAM Team ran for 8 weeks and is an interactive science program for 3–5-year-olds focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Patrons picked up a pack of supplies before the program started and a second box halfway through the program. Twenty-eight preschoolers, divided into 3 groups, met on Zoom each Thursday for a short Storytime and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Friends' funds were used to purchase materials such as dice, stickers for counting and letter matching, sponges for a cactus water absorption experiment, colored popsicle sticks for fence pattern building, and Alka-Seltzer tablets for film canister flying bats

Bouncing Beats

This Fall, 5 preschoolers and their families participated in our interactive, music-making program Bouncing Beats. As we needed to shift this program from an in-person to a virtual format, we decided to 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! Friends' Funds were used to purchase the boomwhackers.

Family Classes and Events

Candyland

Friends' funds were used to purchase tissue paper, glitter, stickers, and packing tape to create our life-size Candyland board in the Children's department during the month of December. Tape was used to adhere the laminated tiles to the floor and tissue paper and glitter were used to create candy decorations around the department. Each time a child played our Candyland themed I-Spy, they received a candy themed sticker. Children who played Candyland also received drawing tickets for larger prizes. Some of these prizes were purchased by Friends' Funds. There were 391 entries in the Candyland drawings by the end of the month

Drive-In Storytime

In October, the Children's Team hosted a Drive-In Storytime in partnership with APD & Kiwanis n Cops n Kids. The first step in making this happen was to buy an FCC compliant radio transmitter. (Thank you so much, Friends!) Participants were given a bag of books from Kiwanis, then parked in the back half of the parking lot, which we reserved from the City. They then tuned their radio to a predetermined station. We had a lot of fun as we sang songs, beeped our horns, and Meghan Cash (from APD) read two stories. The kids could follow along by using the

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books they were given. It was neat to experience a new platform for programming. Friends' Funds were used to purchase the FCC compliant radio transmitter.

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:

October – Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming

November – This is How I Know by Brittany Luby

December – Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner

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 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.

October – December 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.

I Wish You Knew by Jackie Kramer is the book on display in October in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The story follows a child and those surrounding her, like her teacher and classmates, after her dad gets deported. Friends' Funds were used to purchase two copies of the book, *I Wish You Knew* by Jackie Kramer.

Friday Night Wrestlefest by J.F. Fox is the book on display for the month of November. It's a fun story with lots of rhyming words and colorful illustrations. Friends' Funds were used to purchase two copies of the book, *Friday Night Wrestlefest* by J.F. Fox.

Sweet People are Everywhere by Alice Walker is the book on display for the month of December. The book is an ode to humanity and portrays how beautifully diverse our world is. Friends Funds' were used to purchase two copies of the book, *Sweet People are Everywhere* by Alice Walker.

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.

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 (BFK). 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. This Fall the program met 5 times. Friends' Funds paid for the coaching sessions where APL & BFK staff met with Anji Play trainers to discuss how the program went. While the program will continue and we will stay in touch with the trainers, this ends our official training/coaching period.

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 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.

Fox Cities Book Festival - Virtual

The Fox Cities Book Festival was presented virtually for the second year, which included 40 public events and six school visits, and two international authors. APL staff hosted the keynote event with Dasha Kelly Hamilton, eight virtual author programs for the public, and one virtual author visit with area schools. Attendees learned about authors' inspiration, writing process, publishing experiences, and book content. Friends' funds were used for honorariums for the authors.

Imagine Fox Cities Involvement

Community Partnerships staff are members of the coordinating committee, engagement committee, and belonging committee of the Imagine Fox Cities community vision initiative. They inform the initiative with their unique perspectives as library workers and gain insights on community needs, interests, and opportunities to inform library offerings. Friends' funds supported Imagine Fox Cities logo apparel for participating library staff.

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