

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2024

Adult Classes and Events

Books and Brews

Books and Brews continues to be APL's low-pressure book club, where community members gather to discuss their latest reads. In a round-robin style, participants give a brief book summary and review, then exchange reading recommendations. What makes Books and Brews special is its ability to offer opportunities for readers to branch out into different authors, genres, and topics, as well as its ability to create a unique connection point for community members. In the 3rd quarter, Books and Brews met at Coffee Wizardz, Stone Arch Brewpub, and Lawlss Coffee. Friends' funds provide coffee, tea, or non-alcoholic beverages.

Find Your Ancestors: Shaky Leaf Syndrome: Using Website Generated Hints More Effectively

In August, we hosted Professional Genealogist Sara Cochran to discuss how to effectively use hints that are given from the popular genealogy sites many researchers use. After briefly discussing the pros and cons of hints and what researchers should be doing before working with them, Sara walked attendees through how to evaluate each record to determine if it is for the person you are researching or not. Attendees enjoyed Sara's enthusiasm, humor, and the easy-to-understand steps for success she recommended. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Social and Civic Clubs: Discovering Your Ancestors' Community Involvement

In July, the Find Your Ancestors series welcomed back Melissa Barker, who is affectionately known as The Archive Lady, to discuss researching your ancestors' involvement within the community. As an archives manager, Melissa shared several examples of the records that are found in archival collections that can shed light on the various social and civic organizations in a community, the state, or the wider nation. Melissa also shared why volunteer organizations were so vital to our ancestral communities and why they might have gotten involved in the first place. Many attendees were amazed at the wide variety of resources available and appreciated looking at this unique viewpoint of our ancestors' lives, which doesn't tend to be discussed or thought about when researching genealogy. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Swedes in Wisconsin and Beyond: Unlocking Your Swedish Family History

The Find Your Ancestors series kicked off the fall season hosting Professional Genealogist Deanna Eckman Korte as she presented "Swedes in Wisconsin and Beyond: Unlocking Your Swedish Family History." During her presentation, Deanna showcased a variety of resources you can use in the US and in Sweden to trace ancestors, such as church records and naturalization paperwork. She also discussed the various naming conventions, such as patronymic surnames and how women kept their maiden names, to consider when researching your family in Sweden. Attendees

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appreciated the vast knowledge of the presenter, as she shared the motivations behind the Swedes immigrating to the United States and specifically Wisconsin. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Tune Talk

Tune Talk is a discussion-based program that brings together music lovers of all genres. The goal of the program is to create a space where community members can share their recent music discoveries, give and receive recommendations, discuss concert experiences, and express excitement for upcoming shows. As conversations delve into specific artists and songs, we listen to the music together so everyone can participate in the discussion, regardless of their familiarity with the work. Friends' funds have been used to book meeting spaces.

Teen Classes and Events

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. Ambassadors were instrumental in helping to build the 2024 Teen Summer Library Program, including the programs and prizes. Friends' funds supported snacks for this program.

Teen Summer Library Program: Natural DIY Self Care

With the use of natural ingredients, teens formulated samplers of dry shampoo, body scrub, shower bombs and a clay mask perfect for anytime self-care. Our teen summer intern assisted with program preparations, clean up, and a book display. Teens were engaged in learning more about natural beauty/wellness and requested another similar program in the future. Friends' funds were used for the program supplies.

Teen Summer Library Program: Nature Windchimes

Teens transformed tree branches into whimsical windchimes, equipped with a few simple crafting items and a vision. Our teen summer intern assisted with program preparations and implementation. Participants were able to create new friendships through meaningful conversations. Friends funding was used for the internship position and program supplies.

Teen Summer Library Program: Pulp Painting at Atlas Science Center

Teens had the opportunity to visit the Atlas Science Center and learn about the paper making process from one of their STEM educators. Each teen was able to create pieces of paper uniquely designed by them. They also had the opportunity to explore the museum's exhibits and participate in an educational scavenger hunt.

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Those who attended were very engaged in the presentation and happy for the opportunity to visit this special space. Friends' funds supported admission fees.

Children's Classes and Events

April– June Memorial Park StoryWalk

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

My Garden by Kevin Henkes

Summer Colors by Diana Murray

Seeds Move! by Robin Page

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.

Bubble Bash

On July 11th Children's Services held a program all about bubbles. The celebration included bubble wand making, painting with bubbles, giant bubble wands, bubble snakes, and making bubbles big enough to fit kids (and adults) inside. Seventy-eight people attended the program. Friends' Funds were used for supplies.

Craft Around the World

Craft Around the World aims to ignite a love for reading and cultural exploration among children and their families. Patrons engage in creative craft activities inspired by diverse countries and cultures, fostering a deeper appreciation for global traditions and stories. Four sessions were offered in July. Families, both returning and new, enjoyed the enriching blend of Storytime and hands-on crafting. Friends' Funds were used to purchase program supplies.

Musical Playground Friends' Funds and the Austin and Judy Boncher Appleton Library Endowment Fund were used to fund a four-week, early childhood Musical Playground Program. Randy Manning, from the Aurora Institute of the Arts, lead the program and introduced attendees to stringed instruments, rhythm, and more. Aurora Institute of the Arts brought child sized stringed instruments such as cellos and violins which allowed our youngest patrons to explore their musical curiosities and encourage a lifelong connection to the arts.

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School-Age STEAM

July - September 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 air activities, water activities, wild backyards, building, human organs, music, fantastic fantasy, Olympics, space, artists, zoo creations, brain games, and jungle challenges. Thank you to Friends for purchasing the supplies and technology to make this on-going program possible!

Swiftie Party

In August Children's Services celebrated the popular musical artist, Taylor Swift. The program included a photo station, friendship bracelets, an album scavenger hunt, song decoding, word searches, song voting, glitter face painting, paper rings, and VIP badges. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies.

Family Classes and Events

Children's Summer Library Program Children, ages 0-12 years old, had a blast with our Summer Fun Summer Library Program. Kids colored in a shape for every five books or 20 minutes they read or were read to. For every five shapes they received a fish sticker to add to the ocean mural at the library. Halfway through the program kids got a packet of coupons for kids' meals at local restaurants and a choice of prize (sand bucket & shovel, water tube fidget, or pinwheel). After completing the program, kids choose a book to keep and received a grand prize drawing slip. The grand prizes included experiences (ride in a fire truck, ride in a police car, treats with the major, meet a digger, and tour of the new library) and physical prizes (LEGO bundle, coding toy, and Target gift card). 683 children participated in the program and 572 children completed the program.

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for funding the purchase of decorations, SLP kickoff supplies, halfway prizes, prize books, and some of the Grand Prizes.

Symphony Storytime

On July 27, Miss Karen was joined by Kenneth Johnson, trombonist, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra (FVSO) for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Karen read *Song in the City* by Daniel Bernstrom and *Play This Book* by Jessican Young. Kenneth played his trombone as Miss Karen read each story. Each page had unique sounds and music. The children danced along throughout each story and enjoyed playing music with shaker eggs.

On August 31, Miss Karen was joined by Randall Manning, violinist, for Symphony Storytime. Randall played music throughout the story, *Kat Writes a Song* by Greg Foley and *Salsa Lullaby* by Jen Arena. Randall shared his violin with the children and showed them how he makes music using the bow.

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On September 28, Miss Karen was joined by Lori Murphy, violist, for Symphony Storytime. Along with some singing and dancing, the children listened to the books, *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade and *Jam Berry* by Bruce Degen. While children love Symphony Storytime, many adults also join us during these storytimes and fully participate in the movements and actions that are asked of the children.

Friends' Funds are used for Performer stipends.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Adult Summer Library Program

The Adult Summer Library Program engaged 233 adults in reading, having fun, and exploring new books. The program promoted adult literacy and encouraged patrons to interact with us in new ways by coming to the library each week to get their reading logs stamped for a chance to win incentives related to nature, gardening, and art. The program incentives were purchased with Friends' funds.

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 new albums to add to the collection. Friends' funds supported the honoraria for six additional albums added to the collection this year.

Latino Fest

APL hosted an outreach table at Latino Fest, Casa Hispana's annual celebration of Hispanic/Latinx culture and community. APL was one of over sixty community organizations sharing information and resources. Participants learned about the library, were able to update and get new library cards, and enjoyed a fun activity. Friends' funds were used to pay the nonprofit booth fee and purchase activity supplies.

Rhythms of the World

Library staff continue to be part of the planning committee for the annual community event, Rhythms of the World. We share our resources and connections with the planning committee to offer a wide range of performances at the event and serve as an event sponsor. This event is an opportunity for our community to understand diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences through music and dance. The sponsorship was made possible with Friends' funds.

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Teen Summer Library Program

The Teen Summer Library Program featured reading log and incentives to encourage teens to read throughout summer and avoid the summer slide. Teens visited the library regularly to earn stamps and drawing tickets and to participate in monthly activities. Friends funded the program incentives.

Special Projects

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 our social media outlets.

Pixel Art Wall Decoration

Friends' funds were used to purchase paper plates to create a school bus pixel art on the wall in Children's Services for the months of September and October.

Teen Summer Internship: Community Partnerships

APL employed a teen summer intern for over 115 hours in Community Partnerships to learn about community-engaged librarianship and advance library programs and community outreach. The internship supported a young person's experience working in libraries and exploring pathways for continued civic engagement and career development. The internship also strengthened staff engagement with teens. The intern assisted library staff with teen and adult programs and outreach planning, implementation, and review. Friends' funds supported the part time non-benefitted position.

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.