

Adult Classes and Events

Books and Brews

Books and Brews book discussion continues to bring people together to discuss the different books they are reading. This simple book club allows participants to read different genres and read at their own pace. A participant shares how much they love the book club because it creates a sense of ownership of their reading choices. Participants love the idea of being in a shared space with book enthusiasts to talk about books and enjoy different beverages. The participants also appreciate the monthly Books and Brews' book list that staff create from participant recommendations. Friends' funds provide coffee or non-alcoholic beverages.

Find Your Ancestors: A Revolutionary War Case Study

To celebrate Family History Month in October, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted Craig Roberts Scott, a well-known author and professional genealogical and historical researcher to present "A Revolutionary War Case Study." Craig walked attendees through methodology for researching a Revolutionary War soldier and used one of his real-life ancestors to showcase exactly how it could be done using resources such as the DAR website, Fold3, and Ancestry and showcasing actual record examples. One attendee shared, "Your presentation gave me so many new sources of records for my ancestors! I can't wait to start searches for more information!" Another attendee shared how helpful it was for Craig to discuss specific indexes available on the main genealogy websites and as a result they feel like they can navigate the available records with more ease. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Making Sense of All the Research You've Done

The Find Your Ancestors series ended a great 2023 season hosting researcher, lecturer, and author Robyn N. Smith, who presented "Putting It All Together: Making Sense of All the Research You've Done." Robyn offered tips and tricks to help attendees become a better organized genealogist, sharing information on her unique workflow of organizing records, how she backs her research up, cites sources, and creates tables for data analysis. The 327 attendees really enjoyed Robyn's framework and all the wonderful examples of her own research, showing them how to put these strategies into action. One attendee said, "Incredibly relevant and helpful to both new and experienced genealogical researchers! Clear, well-organized presentation, done to exactly the right depth, and with excellent examples. I liked and found EVERY section of the presentation incredibly clear and useful." Friends provided financial support for this series and honorarium for this speaker.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2023

Find Your Ancestors: Researching German Ancestry

In November, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted professional genealogist Dave Miller who presented on researching German ancestry, including those not originally from Germany or other parts of the world where they may have spoken German. In addition to discussing record types and strategies to help researchers get started, Dave shared the history behind the changing borders for what is now called Germany and the surrounding areas, which affects where the research should be conducted. Attendees appreciated the specific resource suggestions of where to find records and how Dave pointed out that several of the resources can be used to research non-German ancestors. One attendee shared, "I've never done research in Europe and was nervous about it. Feel better now." Friends provided financial support for this series and honorarium for this speaker.

Small Business – Big Impact Coworking Sessions

Library staff facilitated a series of four mobile, pop-up coworking sessions for small business owners and entrepreneurs. Each session offered a distinct program including technology help, an invited speaker leading a discussion on the business finance journey, networking, and mindfulness for entrepreneurs. Participants shared that it was great to meet and reconnect with community members, noting how they met some amazing business leaders and connected with multiple business owners and local stakeholders. They shared that they were able to access a network and information and thanked the library for the sessions. This series was funded by the NEW North Ethnic & Diverse Microgrants for Nonprofits, with Friends of Appleton Public Library serving as the fiscal agent for the \$5,000 grant that paid for staff, venue fees, honorariums for presenters, and supplies.

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. Our October meeting was spent planning the TAP-led November Teen Tuesday Program: A Helping Paw. Starting in November, our meetings moved off-site due to APL's move. TAP is rotating between East, West, & North High Schools for meeting locations through the end of the school year. Friends' funds purchased snacks and refreshments for this program.

Teen Craft Buffet

Prior to the Kensington building closure, teens were able to drop-in to the Teen Area to create unique crafts with leftover supplies not making the move to College Avenue. Teens were able to connect with the Teen Librarian during this program. Friends' funds purchased the supplies for this program, which were from previously held teen programs.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2023

Teen Tuesday: Scary Terrariums (October)

On October 24, teens gathered in the Teen Space for a fun seasonal craft. Using reindeer moss and miniature figurines, they each decorated unique & festive terrariums. A few of the attendees stumbled upon the program while in the library to study or browse for books. Members of TAP present at the program promoted TAP and teen programming to those in attendance. Friends' funds purchased the supplies to create the craft.

Children's Classes and Events

Family Classes and Events

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:

Pick a Pumpkin by Patricia Toht

Tree Hole Homes by Melissa Stewart

Joyful Book by Todd Parr

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 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.

Back to School Bash

The 2023 Fall Back-to-School Bash welcomed teachers, students, and families to the library to explore what APL has to offer for the upcoming school year. The program offered crafts, spotlighted library card acquisition/renewal, exploration with Cubelet robots, and a Penelope Rex costume character storytime. Robots were previously purchased with Friends' Funds, and Friends' Funds provided the Penelope Rex costume character.

School Age STEAM – October

October School Age STEAM programs were a lot of fun! There were four stations at each program and the topics for the month were pop art, human body, Keva engineering, and gross science. Some favorites from the activities were mold growing experiments, making lung models, bubble wrap art, and animal camouflage painting. Friends' Funds were used to purchase supplies for these programs. Attendees also continue to have fun with the Osmo iPad attachments that were previously purchased by Friends.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2023

Sean Gaskell and the West African Kora

On Sunday, Oct. 8, Sean Gaskell came to the APL temporary location and shared the music of the West African Kora. He also shared how the instrument was made and told stories using the traditional language from Gambia. The music was exceptionally beautiful. While the program was held in the Children's area, People throughout the library migrated toward the sound of Sean Gaskell and the West African Kora. Friends' Funds were used to pay Sean Gaskell a performance stipend.

Nate the Great Book Club

The *Nate the Great* Book Club was held on Sunday, October 15th. Attendees talked about the series, worked a scavenger hunt to solve a case and wrote white-crayon-resist-watercolor-art notes. In addition to these necessary detective skills, they created detective hats and suncatchers. Friends' Funds were used to pay for program supplies.

Symphony Storytime 10/21/2023

Miss Tori was joined by Heather Watney, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Tori read *I know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello and Pokko and the Drum*. Miss Heather played many songs on her cello, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

Symphony Storytime 11/11/23

Miss Tori was joined by Lori Murphy, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Tori read *The Mitten* and *Bear & Hare: Snow!* Miss Lori played many songs on her violin, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends' Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

ASL Storytime

This summer, APL was awarded a Rotary Foundation Helen Thom Roemer Grant. This grant was used to provide stipends to ASL Interpreters during Preschool Storytime in the Fall. ASL is a language that can be used not only by those who are deaf or hard of hearing, but also by nonverbal children and adults. While ASL is the third most used language in the United States, children and adults who use ASL as their primary form of communication tend to read at or below a third to fourth grade level. Bringing ASL into storytime not only normalizes the use of ASL, but also invites patrons who utilize ASL to fully participate in storytime. Friends' funds were used to extend the number of ASL interpreted Storytimes APL was able to offer in the Fall by providing stipends to ASL Interpreters.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Tech Help 1:1 Sessions

Tech Help (formerly named Computer Help) is an in-person, one-to-one, drop-in and appointment service for up to two 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 for individuals with limited access and information on how to use technology. The service was renamed Tech Help to communicate the range of support staff and volunteer can offer (e.g., computer, tablet, printing, microfilm use, phone, etc.) Friends' funds the position of the library assistant coordinating this service.

Special Projects

Building Project Communications

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

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 Tech Help service, relationships with volunteers, community partners, community initiatives, agency overview learning sessions for library staff, community partner outreach, the library, library programs, and outreach to promote well-being resources.

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.