

Adult Classes and Events

Books and Brews

We continued our popular Books and Brews series, meeting at a new venue each month. Alternating between a local brewpub or coffee shop, we get together to discuss our current favorite reads. Readers are excited to connect to other readers and to be inspired about new books and genres. Friends' funds supplied an optional coffee or non-alcoholic beverage as a thank you to the host and to reduce barriers to participation.

Books for Cooks

Books for Cooks is a group of people getting together to discuss and share recipes from their own selected cookbook each month. Through the cookbook discussion program we share stories and bring the community into cooking and learning new food culture. The first session was filled with inspiring food stories, including our host Mahima Grover talking about the essential spices for Indian cooking and how dishes vary wildly across different regions of India. Everyone had the opportunity to share their cooking and favorite recipes from the cookbooks, learning new dishes and making new friends. The gift cards were made possible by Friends' funds.

Find Your Ancestors: Genealogy of a Neighborhood

In August, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted genealogist, historian, writer and lecturer Mary Risseuw to present "Genealogy of a Neighborhood: Urban and Rural." Mary discussed the methodology and resources you can use to research the neighborhoods where our ancestors lived to uncover additional information about their lives and extended family, friends and neighbors. Using a case study from her own research as an example, she walked attendees through how to use common – and not so common – resources such as census records, newspapers, plat maps, immigration records and more. Attendees especially appreciated her real-life example, with one attendee saying, "I really like the fact that she carried a single case study through so that we could see the complexity of the issues and understand the importance of doing this type of research." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Homesteading: Land for All

In July, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted genealogist Christine Cohen to discuss researching ancestors who were homesteaders. After providing an overview of what the Homestead Act was, Christine shared examples of potential genealogical information you may be able to find in a Homestead application file, regardless of whether your ancestor finalized their application or not. Christine then detailed how you can locate your own ancestor's homestead record and other land records using both online and offline methods. One attendee shared, "I learned about resources I didn't know about and have a plan of action to do some specific research on my family." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2023

Find Your Ancestors: Researching Hispanic Genealogy

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted Joy Oria in September to discuss researching Hispanic genealogy. Joy shared how to start your search for Hispanic ancestors by identifying their place of origin before walking attendees through some of the common records available for researchers. She also offered several translation tips before wrapping up with an overview of what records are available from the main genealogy websites, Ancestry and FamilySearch. Attendees particularly enjoyed Joy's suggestions for research strategies to help them navigate the available resources more effectively. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

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. The first meeting of the new school year was held in September with seven teens attending, including two new members. We reviewed the TAP Code of Conduct and made changes based on feedback of those present. Teens also had an opportunity to brainstorm ideas for November and December programs. Friends' funds were used to purchase snacks and refreshments for this program.

Teen Tuesday: Barlow Planetarium

Teen Services welcomed teens to the Barlow Planetarium for a double-feature star show as part of the Teen Summer Library Program (TSLP) Teen Tuesday series. The teens had a great time learning about galaxies, constellations and physics and were actively participating throughout the programs with the lead presenter. Friends funding was used to purchase the tickets. The remaining tickets were used for a prize giveaway during our special teen-led constellation program in August.

Teen Tuesday: Timber Rattlers Stadium Tour

Teens and Teen Services staff met in July at the Timber Rattlers stadium for a behind-the-scenes tour of the newly renovated ballpark. We were able to visit the locker room and training facilities, sit in the dugout, and learn about all the different aspects of running a minor league baseball team. We also learned about the stadium as an event facility that is utilized year-round. Friends funding was used to pay the fee for our tour.

Teen Tuesday: It's In the Stars!

APL hosted a special Teen Tuesday program coordinated by our teen intern, as her capstone project through DPI's Teen Internship Pilot Program. Teens explored zodiac signs, created mixed media art, checked out astrology books and enjoyed star-themed refreshments. Our intern also created a poster guide of book recommendations based on astrology. Friends' funds were used for program supplies and refreshments.

Children's Classes and Events

Family Classes and Events

July – September Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of the following books:

Berry Song by Michaela Goade

The Hidden Rainbow by Christie Matheson

Acorn Was a Little Wild by Jean Areana

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 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.

Craft Around the World – July

Friends' funds were used to purchase craft supplies for a weekly program called, "Craft Around the World." In this program, staff shared stories from different countries and patrons were able to create crafts from/inspired by that country. Countries included Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico.

Summer Outreach – Highland's Elementary

The Children's Outreach Specialist visited Highland's Elementary this Summer to share information about the library as well as stories and crafts with the students. The students really enjoyed learning about different musical instruments from other countries and especially maracas from Puerto Rico. Friends' Funds were used to purchase program supplies.

School Age STEAM - July

Our School Age STEAM program was offered twice in the month of July. One was detective themed where we used the microscopes (previously purchased by Friends), built and deciphered secret codes, studied fingerprinting, and solved mystery book title puzzles. The other was invention themed. It included designing and creating our own bubble wands, catapults, and toy creatures. We were able to utilize some previously purchased, leftover supplies and buy some new ones all with support from Friends.

Mario Madness

Kids and families had a ton of fun at our Mario Madness event this July. The event was held at Kensington and featured crafts, photo ops, tattoos, a scavenger hunt inside and a giant obstacle course outside. It couldn't have been done without Friends Funding!

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2023

We bought new supplies for the activities and reused items that we'd purchased with Friends' Funds from previous programs.

Music Exploration with Aurora Institute for the Arts

On July 21st, Randy Manning and Anna Herrera from the Aurora Institute for the Arts came to perform and share children's sized violins and cellos for 29 library patrons. They played a few songs for the audience and children were invited to experience what it's like to play a cello and a violin. The program was filled with excitement and was buzzing with the joy of connecting with new instruments. Friends' Funds provided a stipend for the performers.

Symphony Storytime 8/19/2023

Miss Tori was joined by Beth Kinzel, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Tori read *Bear Loves Music* and *The Music Tree*. Miss Beth played many songs on her flute, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends' Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

Summer Outreach- Fox Valley Estates Mobile

This summer staff visited to Fox Valley Estates Mobile. While we were there, we gave away free books, made library cards, and shared ice cream. Some families came to ask questions about the library and spend time with talking to staff. We noticed several families with young children and hope to connect them to the services the library offers for the community. Friends' Funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Wind and Water Wondertorium

To celebrate the end of the Summer Library Program, we hosted an event for children to create and explore things that fly and things that float. Attendees created bird kites and hung on tight, so those birds would not fly too high. They made sailboats and became the wind as they raced them across the water. Balloons became rockets and they soared through the children's area bringing delight. Using corks and pinwheels, they discovered how important it is to put the propellers of a helicopter in the right direction. If they put the pinwheels on wrong, the cork simply dropped, but when they put them on right, there were cheers of delight! Friends' Funds were used to purchase craft supplies for the program.

Back-to-School Bash

This year's Back-to-School Bash welcomed teachers, students, and families to the library to explore what we have to offer for the upcoming school year. We offered crafts, spotlighted library card acquisition/renewal, explored with Cubelet robots, and celebrated with a huge Penelope Rex costume character storytime. Robots were purchased previously using Friends' Funds and Friends' Funds were used to purchase supplies for the crafts and a set of guided reader bookmarks.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2023

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

This September, the Children's department celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a special storytime highlighting Puerto Rico. Attendees learned about Puerto Rico's history and traditions. After storytime, the children painted flags of Hispanic Countries on rocks. Families were able to take the rocks home with them.

School Age STEAM – September

Starting in Sept, our School Age STEAM began running on Tuesday nights from 5-7pm. Each week has a different theme. The four themes for September were: forces/motion, fairy tale science, rocks, and clouds. Amongst all the fun activities, some that stood out were growing crystals, hot cocoa cloud dough, and creating structures that the Big Bad Wolf (a dressed-up hair dryer) couldn't blow down. Friends' Funds were used to purchase supplies for these programs.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Adult Summer Library Program

The Adult Summer Library Program engaged 550 adults in reading, having fun, exploring new books, and participating in library or community programs. 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 weekly prizes. Some parents commented that the program encouraged them to sign up along with their children and model the practice of daily reading. Survey results showcased the success and the enjoyment participants had by being engaged in the program. The program stamps and grand prizes 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 one additional album added to the collection, bringing the 2023 additions to five.

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 other cultures, perspectives, and experiences through music and dance. The sponsorship was made possible with Friends' funds.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2023

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.

Teen Summer Library Program

The Teen Summer Library Program featured a prize system designed to encourage reading in teens throughout summer and avoid the summer slide. Teens visited the library regularly to earn stamps/drawing tickets and to participate in monthly activities. We saw a significant increase in participants this summer. Friends funded the purchase of program stamps and popular themed prize packages.

Special Projects

American Sign Language Flash Cards

This summer, APL was awarded a Rotary Foundation Helen Thom Roemer Grant. This grant is being used to provide stipends to ASL Translators during Preschool Storytime this 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. Friends' Funds were used to purchase ASL flash cards to be used during storytimes and other programs.

Book Club in a Bag Totes

Friends' funds paid for Book Club in a Bag Totes. Book Club in a Bag offers community members the opportunity to request a specific title and number of copies needed. Staff checkout materials and gather them in a handy tote for patrons to pick up.

Building Project Communications

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

Campfire Set

Friends funds were used to purchase a felt campfire set to replace the previous set that was falling apart. The campfire set includes felt logs, axe, flames, rocks, marshmallows, graham crackers, chocolate, and roasting sticks. The campfire set is a well-loved dramatic play set that goes perfectly with our campfire themed rug.

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

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2023

sessions for library staff, community partner outreach at 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.

Latino Fest

APL hosted an outreach table at Latino Fest, Casa Hispana's annual celebration of Latinx/Hispanic culture and community. APL was one of over 60 community organizations sharing information and resources. Participants learned about the library and were able to update and get new library cards. Friends' funds were used to pay the nonprofit booth fee.

Library Groundbreaking Event

The library hosted a community groundbreaking event at the Oneida St. location, which drew local leaders, library partners, and patrons to learn about and celebrate this milestone. Library staff coordinated fun activities including a community-supported mural with artist Ally Wilber and Hmong songs and dancing with musician Kimberly Moua. Friends funds provided funding for supplies and honoraria.

Outreach Bookmarks

Scratch off bookmarks were purchased with Friends' Funds for the Children's Department to bring on outreaches and use during programs. Events they were used at include Fire Safety Day and the BABES Takin' It Outside Event. They were a huge hit with the kiddos!

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.

Pretend Play Mailbox

Friends funds were used to purchase a new, plastic, pretend play mailbox to replace our broken metal mailbox. The mailbox is used multiple times a year at our monthly passive activity table for a variety of mail themed activities.

Summer Library Program

This year kids had a blast with the Summer Fun: Super Mario Edition theme. We offered a paper program for 0–12-year-olds. Kids colored in a coin for every 20 minutes they read or were read to. For every 5 coins they colored in they earned a star sticker that they placed on 1 of 2 Mario cardboard cut-outs with the collective goal of covering Mario in stars to power him up. By the end of the summer the Marios were so covered, they were unrecognizable! Halfway through the program kids got a packet of coupons for kid's meals at local restaurants and a choice of a prize (star balloon wand, star

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2023

fidget, light up star stuffed animal or star stress ball). After completing the entire program kids received a grand prize drawing ticket and got to choose a book to keep. The grand prizes included 2 Star Wars Lego sets, pet vet play set, coding dog, piranha plant puppet, farmers market sorting set, \$25 gift card to Target and \$50 gift card to Marcus Theaters. A total of 989 kids participated in the program and 782 kids completed the program.

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for funding the purchase of the Mario cardboard cut outs, star stickers, Mario stamps for the logs, Mario stickers for I Spy prizes, materials for 2 Mario themed activity paths and PRIZES!