

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 as a group we 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. Each month, meetings alternate between mornings in a coffee shop and evenings in a brewery. Friends' funds provide coffee, tea, or non-alcoholic beverages.

Find Your Ancestors: Finding Female Ancestors in U.S. Naturalization Records

The Find Your Ancestors series hosted Nancy Loe, an archivist, librarian and genealogist in April. Nancy provided attendees with an overview of laws affecting naturalization and citizenship – including special laws that affected females and various ethnic groups throughout the years – then shared what documents the process created and where to locate those documents. Attendees enjoyed Nancy's brief overview of the laws, explaining them in layperson terms and providing links in the handout to learn more. Several attendees shared they were unaware of some of the laws which resulted in some of our U.S.-born female ancestors losing their U.S. citizenship when marrying a foreign-born spouse. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Mysterious Codes: Passenger Manifests Letters and Numbers

In May, the Find Your Ancestors series welcomed back professional genealogist Christine Cohen as she discussed how to decipher the mysterious codes and notations you may find on your post-1891 passenger lists. Christine also shared details about the additional records you can locate depending on these codes and how those can shed more light on your ancestor's immigrant experience. Attendees remarked that it was a very informative presentation, and they now feel more confident about being able to locate and interpret these invaluable records. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Polls, Personality and Property: Making Sense of Tax Lists

The summer Find Your Ancestors sessions kicked off in June welcoming back fan favorite Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist, to discuss "Polls, Personality and Property: Making Sense of Tax Lists." After walking attendees through the various types of ways our ancestors were taxed and why, Judy gave examples of each type and showed how you might be able to use them in your genealogy research. She wrapped up by sharing resources that are available for finding these valuable records online and offline. Attendees were impressed with the wide array of tax records that are available and found Judy's presentation informative and entertaining – even with such a dry topic like taxes, Judy brings her signature humor to liven it up. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

2nd QUARTER 2024

Fox Cities Book Festival

Fox Cities Book Festival hosted two authors this year at Gibson Community Music Hall. Both author programs were well attended with participants engaging with the authors and community members discussing topics of love, tragedy, and music. Participants shared that they enjoyed having a smaller festival because they can engage more with the authors and connect with each other. Friends' fund supported the author programs.

Fox Cities Reads

Fox Cities Reads 2024 focused on the book, *Infinite Country* by Patricia Engel, providing an opportunity to explore the themes of immigration, family, home, and Colombian culture. Using a combination of in-person events, Zoom, and Facebook Live, participants engaged in six facilitated book discussions and selected readings, an immigration panel Q & A, and cultural presentations. In conjunction with the community read, APL hosted a cultural storytelling at Lawrence University. The discussions were rich and encouraged people in the Fox Cities communities to learn more about other cultures and to read, think, talk, listen, and grow together. Friends' fund supported the Fox Cities Reads author visit.

Tune Talk

Tune Talk is a new 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

Pre-Solar Eclipse Event

Teens celebrated April's highly anticipated Great North American Total Eclipse by designing mini galaxies with clear ornament balls, acrylic paint and glitter. Galactic-themed snacks were enjoyed. Participants were also given a pair of eclipse sunglasses through a generous donation by STARnet and their SEAL program. Friends' funding was used for program supplies.

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.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

2nd QUARTER 2024

Teen Summer Library Program: Guided Painting in the Park

The Teen Summer Library Program kicked off with a guided painting session in City Park led by local artist Leah Quinn. The engaged teen audience painted beautiful Northern Lights camping scenes - each one a unique masterpiece. Leah shared about mindfulness and art being an individual process. The program was full, and the teens enjoyed this special event. Friends' funding was used for Leah's honorarium, which included the supplies.

Teen Tuesday

Teen Services offered different activities during Teen Tuesdays throughout the community. One program featured squeegee abstract art, a fun activity that helped teens think creatively by using a non-traditional art medium (squeegee) to create colorful and unique art. This program attracted new participants and fostered connections. Friends' funds were used to purchase program supplies.

Children's Classes and Events

April– June Memorial Park StoryWalk

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

Worm Weather by Jean Taft

Bird Builds a Nest by Martin Jenkins

The Digger and the Butterfly by Joseph Kuefler

These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages for the months of April - June. 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.

Animal Battle Blast

On June 13, Children's Services offered this all-ages program as a nod to the popular, "Who Would Win?" children's book series. The celebration included mask making, games, parachute fun, and, best of all, balloon animals from local artisans, Mischief and Magic! Friends' Funds were used for supplies & performer fees. Everyone had a "blast"!

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

2nd QUARTER 2024

Bluey Bash

On April 13th Children's Services celebrated the popular cartoon dogs Bluey and Bingo. The program included photos with Bluey and Bingo costume characters, paper dog ear headbands, an obstacle course, a scavenger hunt, and playing pretend library. 590 people attended the program. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Craft Around the World

Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to buy supplies for Craft Around the World. In June, Children's Services offered 2 programs featuring crafts inspired by Guatemala and Italy. Both programs had over 40 participants.

School-Age STEAM

April-June's 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 Earth Day, oceans, skill toys, gardening, popcorn, coding technology, various dyes, air, and water. Thank you to Friends for purchasing the supplies and technology to make this on-going program possible!

Roaming Ruckus

Friends' funds were used to purchase materials for Roaming Ruckus. Roaming Ruckus is an open play program. Combining the ideas of Anji Play, Loose Parts play, and Play and Learn, we, as adults, step back and allow children to engage in play. While the program is in progress, we encourage parents to collect images and videos of their child at play, not staged photos or videos. When play is finished, we offer them an opportunity to share how they played through drawings and/or words on paper. June's Roaming Ruckus took place at Schaefer Park.

Symphony Storytime

On June 29th, Miss Karen was joined by Carrie Willer, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Karen read ***The Animal Song*** by Jonty Howley and ***You Are a Part of the Wonder*** by Ruth Doyle. Carrie played her cello 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. Friends' Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

Family Classes and Events

Fox Cities Butterfly Festival - Kiwanis

Friends' Funds were used to purchase supplies for this year's Butterfly Festival. Held on June 15th, this festival celebrates nature and butterflies through a variety of vendor tables/events and a butterfly release.

FRIENDS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARIES

2nd QUARTER 2024

Summer Library Program Kickoff

On June 8th Children's Services celebrated the kickoff of the Summer Library Program. The kickoff included a photo background, watermelon pixel art, paper airplanes, sunscreen painting, temporary tattoos, a scavenger hunt, a dramatic play station, coral reef creations, matching games, and sea animal crafts. 279 people attended the program. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Special Projects

Baby Yoda Pixel Art Wall Decoration

Friends' funds were used to purchase paper plates to create a Baby Yoda pixel art on the wall in Children's Services for the month of May.

Building Project Communications

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

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.

Every Child Ready to Read Digital Edition

Friends' Funds were used to purchase the digital Second Edition of Every Child Ready to Read® (ECRR) toolkit. This collection of resources provides materials to help public libraries and other early literacy centers present workshops that help prepare parents/caregivers for their critical role as their child's first teacher.

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.

Teen Summer Internship: Community Partnerships

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