

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

2nd QUARTER 2023

Adult Classes and Events

Bollywood Dance Workout

In April, we continued the Bollywood Dance Workouts with Mahima Grover. The program attracted people of all ages. Participants had a wonderful experience with the classes. They learned Bollywood dancing and culture that they rarely get to experience. A participant commented that the music was great, and the dancing was fun to learn and perform. The honorarium was made possible by Friends' funds.

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.

Collaborative Fiction Circle

This awesome collaborative writing game, held in April and May, has been a fun way for community members to meet and work creatively to make a story. Each session is new and exciting, and the participants can find their voices, creating and sharing wonderful stories. Friends' funds supplied coffee as a thank you to Lawless for hosting us and to reduce barriers to participation.

Community Powered Story Circle

APL concluded Community Powered, a year-long partnership with Wisconsin Humanities, where a Community Powered project coordinator was mentored by library staff in their community engagement and project development. APL was one of four libraries selected to participate in Community Powered. The Appleton project resulted in relationship building, storytelling programs, and a collaborative "Story Circle" program with APL and Fox Valley Literacy. Participants, Fox Valley Literacy students, practiced English and built community with one another during the Story Circle program. Friends of APL provided fiscal agent support for this initiative, enabling APL staff to participate in this unique collaboration and deepen relationships with community partners.

Entrepreneurs of Color Spotlight Series

The Entrepreneurs of Color (EoC) Spotlight series presented six sessions in its monthly virtual program that highlighted entrepreneurs' business journeys and engaged over 70 viewers to interact and learn. The EoC Spotlight is a collaboration between Appleton Public Library, the ColorBold Business Association, and UW-Madison Division of Extension for Outagamie & Winnebago counties. It is part of the Small Business – Big Impact initiative, an APL initiative that supports business startup, retention, and expansion efforts for and with people of color and immigrants. It is funded by the American Library Association's Libraries Build Business grant, with Friends of APL serving as the fiscal agent for APL.

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Fiber Arts with Pat Bishop

We were excited to welcome celebrated fiber artist Pat Bishop for a workshop. Pat showed attendees how to compose a simple landscape with fabric scraps. This easy and fun technique showcased how accessible it is to create beautiful art from your home with little supplies or experience. Friends' funds were used for an honorarium for the artist.

Find Your Ancestors: Breathing New Life Into Your Boring Ancestors

Although some people might believe they have boring ancestors, our June Find Your Ancestors speaker Melissa Barker showcased all the various interesting facts you might be able to locate for your ancestor to discover they really are not as boring as you think they were! After giving a wonderful overview of the various types of archives and records you might locate within those archives, Melissa walked the 208 attendees through a case study of an ancestor, showcasing record sets she used to expand his "boring" life into an exciting timeline of his life. Specific records she used included school records, court records, manuscript collections, old letters, and more. One attendee said, "This is such a valuable program - many ideas I have never considered until now!" Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors: Preserving Family Photos and Heirlooms

Our April Find Your Ancestors session hosted local genealogist Angie Knutson to discuss preserving family photos and heirlooms. Angie gave the 191 attendees practical advice for photo preservation, materials needed for preserving various heirlooms and where to purchase them. The second half of our program was dedicated to live demonstrations, including how to setup a station to uncurl your photos or documents and how to safely remove photos from sticky albums. One attendee remarked that they, "loved the live demo, very unique in a webinar presentation that made it very interesting and engaging." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors: Tracing Your Jewish Family History

For May, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted Debbie Trotsky Soren from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois to discuss tracing your Jewish family history. Debbie gave an overview of the research process and record sets available to start the search, both internationally and in US based resources. She also explained some more Jewish specific resources, such as databases available on the JewishGen website and Yizkor books, which document the history of the communities destroyed in the Holocaust. Attendees appreciated her explanation of some Jewish cultural traditions that are beneficial to know when researching and an overview of several symbols and phrases that could be located on your ancestor's tombstone. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

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Musician-led Ukulele Jams

To kick off the 2023 Summer Library Program and showcase the circulating ukulele collection, we invited musician Ashley Klatkiewicz to join us again for a group ukulele jam. Ashley does an incredible job welcoming new players and engaging experienced ukulelists. Friends' funds provided the honoraria for two instructor-led events and supported the purchase of music stands to hold sheet music for program participants.

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 May meeting celebrated the accomplishments of our TAP members during the spring session. The ambassadors enjoyed board games, pizza, and soda at Derks Park. Friends' funds were used to purchase refreshments for the meetings. TAP will resume once again in the Fall.

Teen Movie Night at Houdini Plaza

On June 9, APL partnered with Fox City Flix, People of Progression (POP) and the Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley S.T.A.R. program to bring a special outdoor viewing of the blockbuster hit "Black Panther Wakanda Forever" to Houdini Plaza. This was a special way to end the school year and kickoff summer. Over 115 participants were in attendance--popcorn, water bottles, the attendees enjoyed cotton candy and free swag. APL Teen Services was present to share the Summer Library Program and recruit applicants to the teen summer internship position. Thank you to the Friends for providing funding, for the film screening services, to make this event possible.

Teen Tuesday

During the summer, Teen Services hosts a monthly event called Teen Tuesday. Teens register and attend programming in different destinations throughout the city to enjoy activities that appeal to a variety of interests including crafting, gaming, visiting the planetarium and more. Friends' funds provide crafting materials and entrance fees to the various locations to help make these programs accessible to teens and families.

Children's Classes and Events

Family Classes and Events

April – June Memorial Park StoryWalk

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

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Spring is Here by Will Hillenbrand

Bird Watch by Christie Matheson

Let's Go on a Hike! By Katrina Liu

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.

Kidz Expo

April 14 & 15

The Fox Valley Kidz Expo was held at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center. APL shared a table with other Fox Cities Libraries where we offered information about library programming as well as a Tumble Bunny craft activity. Each child was given a bunny to decorate. The bunny was then taped together with two marbles inside. Once their tumble bunny was ready, kiddos were able to use three ramps covered in felt to experiment with physics, force & motion. Many parents and children made rabbits so they could race against one another. Friends' Funds paid for the exhibitor fee.

Hmong American Day Celebration

In celebration of Hmong-American Day, Miss Sia collected story cloths (inspired by traditional Hmong story cloths) artwork submitted by children in the community. All participants were entered into a raffle to win books written by Hmong authors. Eight winners were chosen. All artwork submitted was on display in the Children's department throughout the month of May. Friends' funds were used to purchase prize books for the raffle.

Light the Night

On May 19th, the library had a table at the first downtown Appleton Light the Night Market. In keeping with the theme, staff offered glow in the dark tattoos as well as bookmarks and glow in the dark paint activities. Despite cold and windy weather, almost 500 people stopped by the library table for glow in the dark fun and information about library programs. Friends' Funds were used to purchase glow in the dark paint and tattoos.

Unicorn and Yeti Party

On Sunday, May 21st, the children's department held a *Unicorn and Yeti* Book Club party based on the popular *Unicorn and Yeti* series. Fun activities included a Yei cotton-ball craft and yeti masks. Friend's Funds were used for program craft supplies.

SLP Decorations

Friend's Funds were used to purchase paper supplies which Children's staff turned into Summer Library Program decorations. These are spread throughout the library, but

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primarily in the Children's Department. Highlights include a new pathway into Children's and a giant Fire Flower on the wall. Patrons have been very excited when they enter the area and see the decorations, and this enthusiasm encourages Summer Library Program signups. Friends' Funds were also used to purchase the cardboard Mario cutouts, star stickers and SLP log stampers.

SLP Kick-off

On June 3rd, APL held a library wide Summer Library Program kick-off party. In the Children's Area, we had a variety of activities including Face Painting, Balloon animals provided by Mischief & Magic, STEAM stations, crafts, temporary tattoos and more. Well over 200 people came to the library for the activities and to sign up for SLP. Friends' Funds paid the stipend for Mischief & Magic as well as covering costs for face paint, temporary tattoos, and craft supplies.

Craft Around the World

Friends' funds were used to purchase craft supplies for a new program this summer called, "Craft Around the World." This program met during June & July. Each week staff shared stories and facts from different countries. Following Storytime, patrons made crafts from/inspired by the country of the week. June countries included Mongolia, India, and Japan.

Highlands Summer School Outreach

APL staff visited two groups of students attending Highlands Summer School to share library resources as well as stories and craft activities highlighting the culture of Puerto Rico. Friends' Funds were used to purchase craft supplies for maracas.

Flower Fest

On Thursday, June 8th the Children's Department hosted Flower Fest, a family program all about flowers. 79 children and caregivers attended the program. Attendees planted a flower to take home, decorated a paper flower that bloomed in water, pretended to be bees, and transferred nectar from flowers to a bubble wrap beehive, coded robot bees to knock over towers, created a paper flower crown and got temporary flower tattoos. Activities took place outside the front of the library and in the Children's department. Friends' funds were used to purchase dirt, seeds, peat pots, flower paper punches, construction paper, pipettes, and temporary tattoos.

Takin' It Outside

On June 16th, APL had a booth at the Takin' It Outside event. Organized by B.A.B.E.S. Inc. Child Abuse Prevention Program, this event was held in Memorial Park and featured activity booths from community organizations, balloon artists, face painting, a magic workshop and more. Over 100 people stopped by the library table to create scratch off bookmarks, paint Yoshi eggs and learn about library resources. Friends' Funds were used to purchase the scratch off bookmarks.

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Butterfly Festival

June 17, Children's staff attended the Butterfly Festival. Over 500 people stopped by the library booth where they made clothespin butterflies, wrote their names on scratch off bookmarks and learned about library programs and services. Friends' Funds provided the clothespins for the butterflies and the scratch off bookmarks.

School Age STEAM

Two sessions of School-Age STEAM held in June used Friends' Funds to purchase supplies. In the first session, participants tested out their engineering abilities by experimenting with a variety of different materials to create bridges. They were encouraged to use the scientific method to build an experiment, test it out and then rebuild using what they had learned. In the second session, participants created their own original playground design and then used engineering skills and artistic abilities to create what they designed out of a variety of materials.

April Symphony Storytime

Miss Tori was joined by Jennifer Bryan, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Tori read *Clarinet and Trumpet* and *Lost and Found: What's That Sound?* Miss Jennifer played many songs on her Oboe and English Horn, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends' Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

June Symphony Storytime

Miss Tori was joined by Corrina Albright, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Tori read *Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo* and *Symphony for a Broken Orchestra*. Miss Corrina played many songs on her viola, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends' Funds were used to pay the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the musician.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

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 four additional albums added to the collection.

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Fox Cities Reads

We hosted two book discussions in person and virtually for Fox Cities Reads 2023. This year's selected read was *Bird Box* by Josh Malerman. During the book discussion, individuals had the opportunity to share their unique interpretations of the book. The conversation engaged all the readers to participate and be inspired. Participants appreciated the selected book because it encouraged them to read out of their comfort zone and explore new genres. Friends' funds provided support for the Fox Cities Reads initiative.

Hmong American Day Art Contest

In honor of Hmong American Day, APL staff created a Hmong art contest opportunity for Hmong students from the Fox Valley to participate. We asked middle and high school artists of all skill levels to submit Hmong artwork to celebrate Hmong American Day. The artwork was showcased in the library along with materials from the Hmong Resource Collection. Patrons appreciated seeing the artwork from the students and the Hmong display. Friends' funds were used to purchase books for the participating artists.

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

Appleton Pride 2023

Appleton Public Library was invited to participate in the 2023 Appleton Pride event, a family-friendly event highlighting the LGBTQIA2S+ community in Appleton and the surrounding Fox Valley. The event celebrated diversity, equity, and inclusion. Library staff highlighted the library collection and shared library resources and services with participants. Attendees were pleased to be able to create and update their library cards at this community event. Friends' funds supported APL's participation and "Friend" level sponsorship of the event.

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.

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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 computer help service, relationships with volunteers, 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.

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.

Jumbo Light Bright

Friends' funds were used to purchase 4 jumbo light bright sets to use on light tables on the preschool STEAM Table and in Children's programs. This has been a well-loved addition with all ages stopping to interact.

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.

NEW North Ethnic & Diverse Microgrants for Nonprofits

APL is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant to fund its "Small Business – Big Impact Coworking" project. This grant supports staffing and program expenses for a series of mobile pop-up coworking experiences for small business owners and entrepreneurs, with specific focus on engaging Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to address racial and ethnic disparities in business information access and networks of support. This project supports APL's larger vision and plan for expanded business services that include a free, accessible, inclusive coworking space in our renovated library, by surveying and engaging with BIPOC business owners to understand what they want to see in the forthcoming space. Friends is serving as the fiscal agent for APL to receive this grant and enact this project.

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) T Shirts

Teen Services designed and ordered official TAP shirts for our Teen Ambassadors. The shirts feature the TAP logo and library initials in white on our brand (blue) color background. Our team of six TAP members were each eligible to receive a free shirt. This will help lend visibility to our TAP group, assist with recruitment and foster team unity. The library was awarded a grant through 4imprint's One by One charitable giving program to cover partial costs and Friends' funds supported the additional expenses.