

### **Adult Classes and Events**

#### **Charcoal Plein Air Workshop**

Working with the direction of artist Nathaniel Brandner, participants used charcoal, sketchpads, and the beauty of Peabody Park to explore texture, shadows, and grayscale. Program participants enjoyed exploring the park, trees, and nature from the perspective of an artist. They used their new knowledge, along with their sketchpads and charcoal to find beauty and draw their surroundings in their everyday lives. Friends' funds purchased art supplies and paid for the honorarium.

#### **Computer Help 1:1 Sessions**

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 among communities with limited access and information on how to use technology. Friends funds the position of the library assistant coordinating this service.

#### **Film Screening: Black Panther**

The Adult Summer Library Program featured a community film screening of the movie, Black Panther. With a large, blow-up screen in Houdini Plaza and free bags of popcorn, this community event was enjoyed by all ages. Attendees were excited about the availability of the film in a public space in Appleton. Friends' funds were used to cover the film license and popcorn.

#### **Find Your Ancestors: Getting to Know Fold3 Library Edition**

The August Find Your Ancestors (FYA) session featured librarian and professional genealogist Debra Dudek, who walked 179 attendees through Fold3 Library Edition, one of the library's genealogy databases. After an overview of how the site works, Debra discussed search strategies that will help users make the most out of using the database and highlighted how to effectively browse the collections to find some of the hidden gems. Many attendees commented they were impressed with the program, with one attendee saying, "I could never find anything on Fold3. Now I feel I can get somewhere with my research." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

#### **Find Your Ancestors: Introduction to Czech Archives.**

The September FYA session focused on Czech ancestors, specifically how to use some of the digital archives available for researchers. Our presenters were leaders from the genealogy group Sokol Milwaukee – Ann Cramer, Susan Chapman and Don Skarda. An overview of all the Czech archives was presented, with a specific focus on how to use three of them to find records like births, marriages and deaths. Attendees enjoyed the step-by-step introduction of the sites and the vast knowledge of the presenters. Friends' provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

### **Find Your Ancestors: School Records**

In July, the FYA series hosted The Archive Lady, Melissa Barker, to present “The ABC’s and 123’s of Researching Your Ancestor’s School Records.” A total of 183 live attendees tuned in as Melissa walked us through how to find out if school records for your ancestor existed and how to research our ancestors who may not have attended school but may still appear in school records, such as teachers, custodians, laborers, etc. Melissa also discussed some of the common types of school records you may be able to find, provided examples of each type, and discussed how to locate the records. One attendee said, “Melissa Barker was very informative, professional and knew the subject content very well.” Friends’ provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

### **Learn about Ballet Hispánico**

APL partnered with Fox Cities Performing Arts Center (PAC) and Latino Professionals Association (LPA) of Northeast Wisconsin for an in-person viewing of a virtual program with dance company, Ballet Hispánico. Attendees engaged in networking with LPA and learned about the dance company, influences behind their dances, and how their company engages with community across the nation. Friends’ funds paid for a portion of the refreshments for the event and PAC contributed space and additional refreshments.

### **Nuestras Historias/Our Stories: Latinx Book Discussion**

APL continued, “Nuestras Historias/Our Stories” a discussion of Latinx stories. The summer series included a collection of books that highlighted diverse Latinx narratives and experiences. Book titles were selected from offerings in Hoopla to ensure multiple copies of the books are accessible. The discussions are held at a local Mexican treats shop and participants engaged in dialogue and learned how to download e-content from Hoopla. Friends’ funds support refreshments from the small business offering space for the program.

### **Self-Reflection Meditation with Houa Lor**

The first two events of the Adult Summer Library Program explored meditation with presenter Houa Lor. The program was beautifully spoken in Hmong and English. Lor helped participants to understand their identity, self-acceptance, and purpose as they meditated. One individual joined both sessions because they had never participated in a bilingual meditation. They said, “It was beautifully done,” and it improved her stress-related health condition. Friends’ funds provided an honorarium for this presenter.

### **Tales and Travels**

Participants continue to travel the world in the bi-weekly series in partnership with the Fox Valley Memory Project. This quarter, participants explored the history, food, art, and cultures of Arizona, Egypt, and Italy. The second session of each month is hosted by APL’s former Artist-in-Residence, Elyse Krista-Miche, who leads the group in an art project specific to the destination. Friends’ funds are used for program supplies and an honorarium for the artist presenter.

# FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

## Teen Classes and Events

### **End-of-Summer Teen Bash at Pierce Park**

The End-of-Summer Teen Bash at Pierce Park welcomed new and returning teens, families and parents to enjoy snacks, games and free books. Staff shared book titles and upcoming programs and signed teens up for the Teen Ambassador Program. Teens had a great time connecting! Friends' funds were used to purchase the refreshments.

### **Teen Ambassador Program (TAP)**

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) resumed after a summer break. The program welcomed a special guest from Terra Luna join to talk with teens about her role, projects and how students can make an impact. Participants worked on a special assignment pertaining to the new building project, learned about upcoming volunteer opportunities and discussed upcoming programming. Friends' funds were used for refreshments.

### **Teen Crafting Corner: Crafting with Clay**

Teens participated in APL's new drop-in craft program at the Kensington location. They used books from the library's collection as inspiration for their creations. The teens engaged with each other throughout the program and expressed interest in attending upcoming teen programs. Teens and parents were grateful for programs geared towards teens. Staff used program supplies previously purchased with Friends' funds.

### **Teen Tuesday: DIY T-Shirt Crafting**

APL staff kindly donated a variety of t-shirts for upcycling in this DIY t-shirt crafting workshop. Teens repurposed old shirts into bags, scarves and other fun creations with the use of glue, sequins, fabric scissors fabric markers, and a library-crafting book for reference. Friends' provided financial support for this series.

### **Teen Tuesday: Mindfulness Mysteries w/Christy Sprotte**

Teen Tuesday featured a special "Mindfulness Mysteries" program with school psychologist and guest, Christy Sprotte. It was the most well attended Teen Tuesday program of the summer! Teens enjoyed deep breathing exercises, round table discussions, meditation and interactive stations (escape-room style). Friends' provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this presenter.

### **Teen Tuesday: Return to Kindergarten**

Teens gathered at the Scheig Center to revisit their kindergarten days. Free-play stations were set up with games, puzzles, LEGOs, blocks, Play Doh and coloring. Participants listened to music while they interacted in their preferred areas. They gathered for snacks & story time and ended with songs by staff presenter, Ms. Shanna, and her ukulele! Friends' provided financial support for this series and supplies for this program.

# FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

## 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

### **Teen Tuesday: Solar Printing and Sidewalk Chalk Art**

Teen Tuesday blended STEM concepts with art! Teens enjoyed learning about the science of sun art paper. Personal trinkets, flowers and seashells were used for imprinting. The teens also created chalk art. A parent of one of the teens shared how much she enjoyed the variety of teen programming offered. Friends' provided financial support for this series.

### **Teen Tuesday: Moon Charts & 3D Pen Art**

Teens met at the Scheig Center to make NASA 2022 Moon Charts & create cool designs with the library's 3D pens. This program was a huge hit with one teen commenting, "This is the BEST program so far this summer!" OWLS printed Moon Charts on heavy cardstock and helped laminate stencil templates. Friends' provided financial support for this series and supplies for this program.

## **Children's Classes and Events**

### **Activity Path**

Friends' funds were used to purchase additional carpet protection film to create a second activity path in the temporary library space. The activity path has a variety of movements for children (and adults!) to do on their way from the front of the building all the way to the Children's Department at the back of the building. Activities are fall themed for this round.

### **Graphic Novel Creation Club**

Graphic Novels are an intriguing tool and an amazing way for children to find joy through story creation. For three weeks, Karen hosted a Graphic Novel Creation Club. Friends' funds were used to supply the tools needed for participants to draw, color, and create their own graphic novel characters. Attendees learned that they had the power to create their own stories, and are not so hard to create with a little help. Graphic Novels were available for the children to get ideas from and/or to check out and take home.

### **Pokemon Party**

Children's hosted a Pokémon Party in August. Friends funded two balloon twisters from Mischief and Magic. They were amazing at creating any Pokémon the children requested and they even stayed well beyond the party time to ensure that everyone in their line received a balloon.

Friends' funds also provided us with a plethora of Pokémon supplies. Children and families learned step by step drawing of popular characters, made Pokémon headbands, searched and "caught" Pokémon, made their own Pokeballs, Pokedex's, and Pokémon, traded Pokémon cards, and sat down to get a Pokémon tattoo. While Pokémon has been around for many years, Pokémon continues to delight children and inspire them to come to the library and find Pokémon books to bring home.

# FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

## **Roaming Ruckus: a True Play Program**

Friends' funds were used to purchase new and interesting supplies including pool noodles, pool noodle connectors, interlocking foam mats, a fort building set, clips and clothespins. These additional materials provide the children more opportunities to learn both independently and through interactions with other children at the program. Each program begins with children playing separately, but by the end of the program they have all come together to engage creatively and cooperatively with the materials. These programs continued throughout the summer months meeting twice a month through August.

## **School Age STEAM – July**

The School-Age STEAM program continued for three weeks in July for children in grades K-6. It was held every Thursday in two different sessions. Each week had a unique theme with demonstrations and hands-on activities that highlight science, technology, engineering, art, and/or math. July's themes included learning about lift and drag for planes and helicopters, making Minecraft self-portraits through math, determining what materials sink or float based on their density, and making Elephant Toothpaste. These programs were possible through very generous Friends' funding for supplies.

## **School Age STEAM – August**

The School-Age STEAM program continued for three weeks in August for children in grades K-6. It was held every Thursday in two different sessions. Each week had a unique theme with demonstrations and hands-on activities that highlight science, technology, engineering, art, and/or math. August's themes included Music (to coincide with Mile of Music), Storm the Castle, and Human Body. We had so much fun learning - from the beautiful art of dragon eggs to the smelly, unsightly science of our digestion experiment. These programs were possible through very generous Friends' funding for supplies.

## **Spanish Storytime**

Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to rent the Theater room at the Building for Kids on Tuesday mornings June - August for Spanish Language Storytime. Appleton Ready to Read Funds are also used to subsidize museum visits for participating families. This reboot of the Appleton Ready to Read Program provides families the opportunity to explore the Museum and learn through play after attending storytime and receiving early literacy tips from staff.

## **Symphony Storytime**

Miss Tori was joined by Rachel Richard, a member of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for an all-ages family friendly Storytime at the Appleton Public Library! Miss Tori read *Owl Babies* and *Wow! Said the Owl* while Miss Rachel played many songs on her bassoon, led the children in a dance, and answered questions. Friends' funds were used to provide a stipend for the musician.

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

## Family Classes and Events

### **Back to School Bash**

Our Back-to-School Bash encouraged teachers, students, and families to get library cards and explore what the library has to offer for the upcoming school year. We partnered with Kiwanis Cops n' Kids to offer free books for attendees as well as a special reading by Police Chief Polly Olson. Attendees also had the opportunity to do fun crafts, attend storytimes with Children's Department staff, try out coding robots, apply tattoos, and more. Craft supplies were purchased new this year with Friends' funds. Robots and tattoos were previously purchased with Friends' funds.

### **Bubble Bash**

In July, the Children's department hosted a Bubble Bash at Memorial Park. 52 children and caregivers attended the program and participated in the bubble fun. We had stations for making your own bubble wand, creating giant bubbles, learning to write bubble letters, painting with bubbles, and even being encapsulated in a human sized bubble! The kids were in awe and had a blast! Friends' funds were used to purchase the supplies for the bubble wand making station, constructing the giant bubble wands and making the bubble solution.

### **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:

July - *Bear Came Along* by Richard Morris

August - *Muncha, Muncha, Muncha* by Candace Fleming

September - *Little Acorn* by Melanie Joyce

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 1 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.

### **Summer Library Program**

The 2022 Summer Library Program ran for nine weeks with 1056 children participating. Friends funded SLP prizes including the final prize of a book and the halfway prize of a bag and pop-it for children 3-12 or bag and bath toy for toddlers. Children LOVED choosing a book of their very own to keep as a reward for their summer reading challenge. Friends also funded SLP stickers which are used both as giveaways and as marketing throughout the community.

### **Programs for All Ages**

#### **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**

APL celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a special event at the Kensington location. Craft activities for children and teens included DIY bracelets and Mexican mirror art. Participants tried sweet treats, Puerto Rican pastries and champurrado. Lawrence University students performed Mariachi music live for participants. Friends' funds were used for the musicians' honorarium and the refreshments.

#### **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 30 community organizations sharing information and resources. Participants learned about the library and took photos with an oversized library card to recognize National Library Card Sign-Up Month. Friends' funds were used to pay the nonprofit booth fee.

#### **Rhythms of the World**

APL hosted an outreach table at Rhythms of the World, an annual community event that brings together the Fox Cities to celebrate music and dance from cultures around the world. APL staff also served on the planning committee. Participants learned about library cards, services, programs, and a collaborative initiative called Community Powered. Friends' funds provided sponsorship for the event, which included the outreach table.

### **Ongoing Classes, Events and Services**

#### **Adult Summer Library Program**

The Adult Summer Library Program's goal every year is to keep the experience simple, fun, and rewarding for all participants. Adults set their own reading goal each week and earn badges on the Beanstack app. Each badge earned an entry into a weekly book drawing. Adult SLP participants appreciated the free books. Friends' funds were used to purchase the program incentives.

#### **FlipSide**

APL's online local music streaming collection, accepted new music submissions this summer. Two community members were recruited to the FlipSide curators team to select submissions and promote FlipSide to musicians and music lovers. Library staff attended music and community events to share FlipSide with musicians and the community at large. Friends' funds were used to purchase outreach supplies for library staff use.

#### **Teen Summer Library Program**

The Teen Summer Library Program encouraged teens to read for two hours per week and log their progress in the Beanstack app throughout the summer. APL presented

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

each of the 78 teens who registered for the program with their choice of a free book to get them started on their reading. Of the teen readers who successfully finished the Beanstack reading challenge, three teens were randomly selected and awarded grand prizes. Friends' funds were used to purchase the grand prizes.

#### **Animoto – Video Making Subscription**

Children's used Friends' funds to extend APL's annual Animoto subscription until July 2023. Animoto is a video making website. Children's use it for video promotion and programming. All library departments have access to the service and encouraged to use it as needed.

### **Special Projects**

#### **Back to School Bash:Teen Activities**

APL hosted "Back to School Bash," a special event to celebrate the beginning of the school year at the Kensington location. Children's Services and Teen Services staff offered a variety of activities and hosted partner organizations, Empowered Tutoring and Terra Luna. Teens engaged in button making and 3D pen art, learned about fall programming, and signed up for Teen Ambassador Program. Friends' funds were used to purchase program supplies.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Early Childhood Toys**

Friends' funds were used to purchase some new vehicle toys and magnetic shapes for the early childhood play area. The vehicle toys are one of the main attractions in the play area and provide countless hours of enjoyment for our youngest patrons. The new additions include a carrier airplane, flat bed truck and race car, a truck pulling a camper and boat trailer, and replacement cars for the two car carrier trucks. We added the magnetic shapes to one of the metal endcaps for children to create their own designs or follow one of the laminated pattern pictures. We have received many compliments from children and caregivers about these additions and they are constantly in use.



## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2022

### **Teen Outreach Supplies**

Teen Services staff ordered APL-branded items for teen outreach events, lip balms and highlighters. Staff have found that sharing branded items are a fun and useful way to connect with teens and help make interactions memorable. Friends' funds were used to purchase the outreach items.