

Adult Classes and Events

Cia Siab Storytelling

The library partnered with Cia Siab in Wisconsin: A HMoob Story to host a Hmong women storytelling session at Ban Vinai Restaurant and Bar. The storytellers shared a story and an object that represented their identity, resilience, or culture. The program created a safe space for Hmong women to share their stories. Friends' funds supported refreshments for the storytelling session.

Computer Help 1:1 Sessions

Computer Help is an in-person, one-to-one, drop-in and appointment service for up to 2 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.

Find Your Ancestors: Civil War Genealogy

In April, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted Russell Horton from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to present "Finding Those Who Served: Civil War Genealogy." Russ shared what details you might be able to find out about your Civil War veteran ancestors, including how to determine if they served or not. He showed several resources, such as muster rolls, pension files, and regimental histories, as well as how to obtain these resources since the vast majority of these are not available online. One attendee said his presentation was "easy to follow, informative and interesting." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors: Getting the Most out of Ancestry.com

The May Find Your Ancestors program was on "Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com," by Katie Stilp, Local History Librarian. We had 241 attendees who learned tips and tricks on how to search more effectively, how to find collections that are relevant to their research, how to locate unique features of the site, and more. One attendee said, "Great presentation. I've used Ancestry for many years but you showed me stuff I've never used before." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors: Wisconsin Genealogy Resources

In June, the Find Your Ancestors program featured Angie Knutson, a local professional genealogist, and Katie Stilp, Local History Librarian, discussing Wisconsin genealogy resources. Angie led the program by discussing resources like the Area Research Centers, Wisconsin Historical Society, and the importance of local libraries and historical/genealogical museums. Katie demonstrated how to access the library's electronic genealogy resources, including the Obituary Index, Post-Crescent Index, NewspaperARCHIVE, Wisconsin Recollection, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society website and more. One attendee said, "What a terrifically comprehensive program! I think all of these suggestions would apply no matter what state you might be researching in. Well done!" Friends provided financial support for this series.

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2nd QUARTER 2022

Grand Opening: Rock Painting

To celebrate our Grand Opening at the Kensington location, we created a passive program called “APL Rocks”. This self-directed activity had patrons using stencils created for us by the Menasha Public Library with the words, “APL Rocks” and “Books are Magic,” and paint pens with the suggestion that they plant these rocks in public places in their community. Friends’ funds were used to purchase supplies.

Nuestras Historias/Our Stories: Latinx Book Discussion

The library launched, “Nuestras Historias/Our Stories” a discussion of Latinx stories. The summer series included a collection of books that highlighted a diversity of Latinx narratives and experiences. The 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 and patronage of the small business hosting the program.

Tales and Travels

In June, we began the first of a six-month, bi-weekly series in partnership with the Fox Valley Memory Project, titled “Tales and Travels”. Each month, we explore a different destination through culture, food, music, and stories. The second session of each month is hosted by our former Artist-in-Residence, Elyse Krista-Miche, who leads the group in an art project specific to the destination. Friends’ funds are used to provide art supplies and materials, as well as the artist honorarium for this program.

Teen Classes and Events

Downtown Creates Outdoor Film Screening

In collaboration with Appleton Downtown Incorporated and Downtown Creates Series, Appleton Public Library hosted a movie night in Houdini Plaza featuring the hit movie “Mean Girls.” The film was chosen by popular teen vote at this year’s Future Fox Cities Career Expo. The PAC was on-site distributing gift bags related to their upcoming show, “Mean Girls”. Participants brought chairs and blankets to enjoy the film. Friends’ funds were used to purchase the movie DVD, secure the movie license, and reserve parking spaces for setup.

Teen Ambassador Program (TAP)

Our Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) is growing! We had two new teen members joining us this month at our monthly meeting location, Copper Rock, bringing our total to eight Teen Ambassadors. We had a fun round of introductions, lively conversation about upcoming summer volunteer opportunities, the temporary building and other events. Friends’ funds support refreshments and patronage of the small business hosting the program.

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Teen Tuesday: Clay Botanical Impressions

Teen Services hosted the first Teen Tuesday of the summer series at the Scheig Center featuring clay botanical impressions. Teens were invited to bring flowers or plants of their choice and express their creative side! We had the helpful volunteer assistance of two Teen Ambassadors. The teens were engaged, had fun, and even got a little messy! Friends' funds support the Teen Tuesday series.

Teen Tuesday: Anime Your Way with Carlos Nieto III

APL welcomed artist Carlos Nieto III as part of a collaborative inter-library art program. Teen fans of anime and budding artists focused intently and followed along as Carlos demonstrated expert tips, tricks and how-tos about drawing and shared about his experience in professional animation. Drawing supplies were provided by Carlos, and each teen left with their own personalized drawing. Friends' Funds were used for the artist honorarium.

Teen Tuesday: Take n' Create Watercolor Flower Home Kits

Teen Tuesday featured twelve Take N' Create Kits, great for the summer teen on-the-go! Library staff assembled watercolor supply kits with instructions and online access for support from Rooster Dreams Visual Arts. Teens were encouraged to share their completed artwork with library staff via email. Kit supplies were purchased with Friends' funds.

Teen Tuesday: Oreo Taste-Off

Teen Tuesday featured a fun and unique Oreo Taste-Off. The original Oreo squared up against five unique flavors: Birthday Cake, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie, Java Chip, and Toffee Crunch--served with milk! Teens were led through a guided tasting and asked to rate each cookie. Birthday Cake ranked first with Carrot Cake in last place. Upcoming programs and teen titles were shared. Friends' funded the program supplies.

Children's Classes and Events

Bouncing Beats Musical Storytime

Ukulele is a staple in the Bouncing Beats music storytime geared for 3–5-year-olds. During one activity, kids dance as fast as they can when they hear fast music and as slow as they can when they hear slow music. Playing/Strumming the ukulele quickly can be very hard on fingers, and felt picks I help to protect staff's fingers during storytime. Friends' Funds were used to purchase Ukulele Felt Picks.

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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.

Spanish Storytime

Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to rent the Theater room at the Building for Kids on Tuesday mornings during the summer months 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.

School-Age STEAM – June

School-Age STEAM is a new program this summer designed for children in grades K-6. It is held every Thursday in two different sessions. Each week has a unique theme with demonstrations and hands-on activities that highlight science, technology, engineering, art, and/or math. June's themes included All Hands-on Tech (with robots previously purchased with funds from Friends), Minute to Win It games, Planet Hoppers (with scale-sized planet simulations), and a very special Birds session with special guest, Craig Clifford. Craig Clifford led the students on a bird watching walk and then coached them in painting ceramic birds that he designed. Friends' funds paid for supplies and the artist stipend.

Multicultural Book Club with Boys and Girls Club of Appleton

Friends' funds were used to purchase craft supplies for a Multicultural Book Club in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Appleton. Program participants read books from different countries around the world and made crafts specific to that country. Patrons got the opportunity to learn how to use chopsticks, make Hmong hats, batik-inspired watercolor art, mooncakes and rakhi bracelets.

Storytime Bubbles

Friends' funds were used to purchase bubble solution for use in Toddler Storytime. Toddler Storytime ends with music and a room full of bubbles from our bubble machine. It is the highlight of every program brings joy to our young patrons. Bubble play is not only fun, but also a wonderful developmental activity that helps with visual tracking, fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and social skills

Family Classes and Events

Children's Passive Program – April & May – Your Favorite Place in Appleton

The April and May passive programs invited families to share their favorite places in Appleton by placing a sticker on a large map of Appleton, share more about why they

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love that place in the notebooks provided, and use art materials to recreate their favorite place through art. These maps were on display at the Oneida location before the closure and at our community partner, JJ's Laundromat. Friends' funds were used to purchase large maps of Appleton on foam board and two journals for the program.

Grand Opening – Mystery Seed Planting Activity

The Children's Department had a Mystery Seed Planting station at the library's grand opening on Monday, June 6. 268 children (and adults) chose one of four mystery seeds to plant in a cup, take home and care for. The mystery seeds (Zinnia, Marigold, Forget Me Not and Cosmos) were announced on Facebook a month later. Many patrons called throughout the month inquiring about when the seeds would be announced and shared they had a lot of fun growing their mystery seeds. Friends' funds were used to purchase the dirt, cups, seeds and Ziploc bags for this activity.

Hmong American Day Festival Outreach

Friends' funds were used to purchase lollipops and tassels to make for the Hmong American Day Festival outreach event on 5/14/22 at Jones Park.

Summer Celebration

What better way to kick off the fun of our Summer Library Program than with an all-age Summer Celebration? This party had it ALL with outdoor games (including cornhole, vertical cornhole, hopscotch, Skittles, hula hoops, life-sized Connect Four, life-sized Checkers and ring toss), a tattoo station, a craft station, a ball pit, an obstacle course, a juggler and a balloon twister! Many of the items used for this party were previously purchased with funding from Friends. New purchases utilizing Friends' funds included some of the games, craft supplies, tattoos and the stipend for the juggler and balloon twister from Mischief and Magic.

Kiwanis Butterfly Festival

This year's Butterfly Festival was on Saturday, June 18. Over 300 people stopped by the APL table where we shared information about the library as well as a bit of science through our art project. Families created butterfly sun catchers, the delight was palpable as children, and adults immediately began experimenting with which way to hold their creation to cause the most colorful design to appear on the ground or tablecloth. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for this program and wings for staff.

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:

April – Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
May – The Ugly Vegetables by Grace Lin
June – The Collectors by Alice Feagan

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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 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.

April – June ADI Downtown Storywalks

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. Children's utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of the following books:

April – The Neighbors by Einat Tsarfati

May - A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

June – Julian at the Wedding by Jessica Love

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

FlipSide

APL's online local music streaming collection, is accepting 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 are attending music and community events to share FlipSide with musicians and the community at large. Friends' funds were used to purchase marketing materials for library staff use at outreach events.

Fox Cities Reads 2022

The 2022 Fox Cities Reads selections were *There, There* by Tommy Orange and *Apple in the Middle* by Dawn Quigley. Dawn Quigley did a virtual presentation for students and community members. Tommy Orange had an author visit with the Appleton Area School District's Native American students where the students had the opportunity to eat dinner and ask the author questions. Afterwards, Tommy presented to the community at the Appleton North High School's auditorium, where an individual from the indigenous community thanked him for writing a story about them. Friends provided financial support for copies of the Fox Cities Reads selections to be added to the library collection and supporting the author programming.

Animoto – Video Making Subscription

Children's used Friends' funds to extend APL's annual Animoto subscription until July 2022. 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.

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PridEducation

Sunday June 26th from 3pm - 7pm, Rainbow Alliance Advocacy held their first annual PRIDEducation event at River Tyme Bistro in downtown Appleton. The Children's Department hosted a booth with library information and a bookmark coloring craft. Friends' funds were used to purchase the bookmarks.

Special Projects

Activity Path

Friends' funds were used to purchase carpet protection film to create an activity path in the temporary library space. The activity path had 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 include tiptoeing past a sleeping lion, jumping on lily pads, waddling like a duck, flying like a bird and many more. The path proved popular with patrons and staff both.

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 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.

Summer Library Program T-Shirts

Friends' funds paid for staff Summer Library Program t-shirts to help advertise for the summer library programs.