

Adult Classes and Events

Adult Learners at APL:

Adult Learners at APL includes a speaker and lecture series, field trips and short courses. Adult Learners responds to community needs and leverages local experts to provide educational opportunities for adults ages 50+ who are interested in lifelong learning opportunities. Friends funds furnished an honorarium for our prime lecturer, Bob Schmall. Twenty-four patrons attended presentations which included Civil War Facts, Myths and Legends, and Gunfighters of the Old West.

Attic Theatre Script Club:

Attic Theatre collaborated with APL to introduce people to *Other Desert Cities*, a play which will be offered at UW-Fox Valley in July. Patrons were encouraged to check out the play script at APL. The Friends purchased fifteen script copies of *Other Desert Cities*. The Attic Theatre director and actors presented a short reading from the play and discussed the theme, story line, and character development with the readers. Four patrons checked out the play and ten persons attended the Play Script Club.

Teen Classes and Events

Anime Night:

Anime Night is a monthly event for teens with an interest in anime and the Japanese culture. Paper Discovery Center was a presenting partner for a special event and the teens learned how to make paper from pulp in accordance with the Japanese concept of Wabi Sabi. Friends funds provided refreshments.

Game Break:

Game Break is a monthly teen event featuring video and tabletop gaming. This event provides teens with a safe place to hang out with other teens who share a common interest. Friends funds provide equipment and board games for the program.

K-Pop Club:

K-Pop Club is designed for teens with an interest in aspects of Korean Pop culture including music, TV and food. Teens develop friendships with their peers around common interests, build trust with a caring adult (YA Librarian) and have opportunities to build leadership and communication skills through this program. Friends funds provide materials for K-Pop Club.

Minecraft:

A weekly event for teens where a server is provided to play the video game Minecraft in a cooperative environment. Teens learn about construction, collaboration and problem solving, while developing social and technological skills in a moderated environment. Additionally, teens have started to use Oculus Rift to engage a virtual reality version of Minecraft. Friends funds support the access to a safe virtual space for this program.

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The Space's Multicultural Food Night

The Space in Goodwill hosted the first Multicultural Food Night. LGBTQ teens learned about different cultures and countries. There was a large selection of food, including rice dish, tacos, and egg rolls. Community Partnerships staff joined The Space staff and teens for the evening. The program allowed us to promote the Teen Summer Library Program and build relationships with the LGBTQ community. Friends funds provided a dish to share at the food sampling area.

Tween Classes and Events

Tween Scene:

Tween Scenes are classes designed for 3rd through 6th graders and focus on building, exploring and creating through the STEAM fields. The subject matter varies and remains responsive to the needs and interests of the community. Classes in May included "Fantastic Fidgets", Freakish Toy Workshop" and "Egg Drop". Friends funds provide supplies for the classes.

Tech for Tweens:

Twenty students between grades 3 – 6 participated in a two-part stop-motion animation workshop for beginners. Tweens also learned techniques for creating new stories through animation. Friends funds provided supplies for the class: poster board, green screen cardboard and Lego people.

Children's Classes and Events

Hmong and Hispanic Classes:

Thematic bilingual game boards (five in Spanish and five in Hmong) were purchased with Friends funds for Play and Learn and English Language Learners classes. The game themes include: colors, counting, shapes, body parts, season clothes for different body parts etc.

Programs for All Ages

Free Comics Day

This yearly drop-in program highlights the role of graphic novels in promoting literacy to all ages. Our sponsors, Chimera Hobby and Penguin Random House, provided comic books to distribute and door prizes, while the Friends of Appleton Library provided funds for superhero bookmarks. Individuals of all ages could choose comic books and bookmarks to keep, while we promoted our graphic novel collections and downloadable services such as Hoopla, Comics Plus and One Play downloadable video games.

Hmong Culture Celebration

The library's ninth celebration of Hmong culture took place on the evening of May 26, 2017 at Long Cheng Marketplace. This celebration of traditional and contemporary Hmong music and dance, display of APL owned story cloths, and crafts for the children

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was a huge success with families, teens and adults for a total attendance of 308. We continue to build relationships with the Hmong community and nonprofit organizations, while giving local dancers and singers a place to share their talents. Our paid performance group, 7T from Stevens Point, was joined by free performances from many local singers and dance groups, including performances from individuals from as far away as Pennsylvania and Minnesota, and visits from Miss Hmong Wisconsin, Mrs. Hmong Wisconsin, Mr. Hmong Wisconsin and other “royalty”.

Wild Wisconsin:

This multi-generational program focused on Monarch Butterflies, Wisconsin pollinators and Native Wisconsin plants featuring speakers from Butterfly Gardens of Wisconsin, Riverview Gardens, local author Linda Vander Heyden (Mr. McGinty’s Monarchs) and station activities. Friends funds provided a variety of milkweed and a milkweed planting station. Families were able to take a milkweed home to plant in their gardens.

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Artist in Residence:

The Artist-in-Residence series contracts with local artists to place their work on display/exhibit in the library and provide lectures, workshops and demonstrations to the public. Friends funds pay for honoraria and supplies for the artist. The program celebrates the work of local artists and welcomes community members of all ages to experience the arts through engaging opportunities. Programming for Leif Larson and Stephanie Harvey attracted around 400 patrons within the Library and at outreach locations.

Fox Cities Reads:

Fox Cities Reads is a community-wide read event that takes place every April. The Fox Cities public libraries come together to hold this event to build community and promote literacy. Friends funds provided a contribution toward the honorarium for the Reads author, Sharon Draper, as well as copies of the community book, *Stella by Starlight*, and t-shirts for staff and volunteers to promote the event. Patrons and families, 4th grade through adult, participated in 2017 Reads programming with a focus on community awareness about race relations. This April over 5,100 people attended a Sharon Draper presentation at six venues while her book was checked out over 1,100 times.

Music @ the Library:

Music @ the Library showcases local musicians and bands providing music ranging from classic rock, country, and folk music to classical works by Mozart and Beethoven. Local senior living facilities provide shuttle service for their residents to attend these programs. Friends funds provide musicians with honoraria for their performances. Music @ the Library appeals to patrons and families of all ages. The Library hosted Michael Zwicky and Olivia Wittmann in April and a total of thirty-eight people attended the concerts.

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Films at the Library:

Monday Morning Matinee is a twice-monthly film series designed for persons with cognitive disabilities, but it is open to the public. Local group homes provide shuttle service for their residents to attend G-rated films. The Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees. Interest in this program is growing with attendance ranging from nineteen to twenty-six people at each program and we often see friendships develop between group home residents and members of Valley Packaging.

Thursday at the Movies features blockbuster films and topical documentaries at the library. Friends funds pay for refreshments and movie licensing fees. Participants range from teens to adults. Patrons who cannot afford to attend movies at the theater are given an opportunity to attend these screenings and foster social connections with others. In April and May we screened *Arrival* and *Fences* with a total attendance of sixty-five patrons.

3D Printing:

The Digital Creation Lab in the library is equipped with a 3D Printer. Library patrons may schedule a one-on-one session with a 3D printer coach to work through the process of selecting a design from an online collection or designing an object for print. Friends funds provide 3D printing tools and supplies.

Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (RISE):

This program was developed in partnership with Forward Services to meet the unique needs and interests of the growing population of refugees and immigrants in Appleton. RISE incorporates informational and recreational topics such as life skills, employment and library resources. Through RISE, we have seen an increase of new refugees and immigrants at the library using the computers, checking out books and obtaining library cards. Friends funds provided interpreters, supplies and refreshments.

Paper Summer Library Program:

There are four categories of the summer library program; adults, teens, children and baby/toddlers. The adult program encourages adults to read and attend programs at the library. The teen program is designed to promote reading through fun activities and incentives. The children's program is designed to encourage children to read, create and engage in activities with family and/or friends. The baby/toddler program focuses on the building blocks of reading. Friends funds support prizes, events and supplies for the Summer Library Program.

Online Summer Library Program:

READsquared, our online SLP platform, lets patrons log their reading, play games, take part in missions and earn digital badges for their accomplishments. The online platform makes the summer library program more accessible for patrons. Friends funds pay for the READsquared software.

Summer Library Program Postage:

During the summer months, the Children's Services connects with area businesses and organizations to procure donation prizes for the Children's, Teen and Adult Summer

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Library Programs. Solicitation and thank you letters are sent out to businesses. Friends funding pays for the postage.

Ride and Read:

This partner program with Valley Transit provides free transportation to the library on Wednesdays for children ages 17 and under, June through August. This service is designed to help remove barriers from attending programs at the library. Friends funds, along with Valley Transit, pay for the bus fares.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a national reading program, for children ages birth to 5. It runs year-round and follows the national mission to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading. Friends funds pay for incentive prizes.

Special Projects

Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities:

APL is an institutional member of Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities (CDFC), a local organization that provides education, honest dialogue, and advocacy, celebrating the broad spectrum of diversity in our community. CDFC has provided facilitation support for library programs and connected library staff with resources for programming focused on culture and social issues. Friends funds support our institutional membership and attendance at CDFC programs.

Early Childhood Makeover:

Our early childhood space will be improved with; three area rugs and two tables to accommodate four iPad stations. In addition, three tables were purchased to replace the old ones for children to work on puzzles, etc. The worn-out manipulative wall is being replaced with shelving for lots of new toys. Friends funds paid for the early childhood makeover.