

### Adult Classes and Events

#### **Adult Programs:**

Formerly “Adult Learners at APL”, Adult Programs continue to enjoy Friends support as they furnished an honorarium for our most popular lecturer, Bob Schmall. Twenty-four patrons attended his lecture titled *The Great Eclipse* on August 10th. Mr. Schmall will lecture on *Slavery in America* in September.

#### **Blood on the Mountain Film Discussion:**

We hosted a *Blood on the Mountain* film discussion on August 3rd. This film examined the exploitation of the coal miners by corporate interests in West Virginia and the devastating economic and environmental impact on the population and their surroundings. Issues addressed in this documentary have been highlighted in recent national news coverage. Citizens Action Council co-sponsored by supplying refreshments and leading the discussion. Friends of Appleton Public Library funded the performance rights for this documentary screening.

#### **Let's Create:**

Let's Create was part of the adult Summer Library Program “Build a Better World” event series. Local artist, Marisol Encarnacion, led the card-making workshop. Adult participants learned to create their own greeting card to share with someone and spread goodwill. Let's Create allowed patrons who have never crafted before the opportunity to create their own greeting card and build confidence in crafting. Friends funds provided craft supplies and an honorarium for the workshop instruction.

#### **Storycatchers:**

Storycatchers partnered with the library to share stories on the theme, “Build a Better World” with the community. The storytellers sought to inspire the audience of 95 attendees to strive for social justice, environmental awareness, and kindness to everyone. The program allowed adult community members to tell their stories to make a difference in the world and to broaden people's perspective. Friends funds provided an honorarium to Storycatchers for coordinating speakers and leading the program.

### Teen Classes and Events

#### **Game Break Summer Edition:**

Game Break Summer Edition was a special summer teen event featuring video and tabletop gaming. This event provided teens with a safe place to hang out with other teens who share a common interest and give them a chance to socialize. The Oculus Rift Virtual Reality (VR) gaming system was introduced to teens at this event. Friends funds provided equipment, board games, and refreshments for the program.

#### **Minecraft Guild Summer Edition:**

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.

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

Additionally, teens use Oculus Rift to engage a virtual reality version of Minecraft. Friends funds support the access to a safe virtual space for this program.

#### **Mud & Prints - A Teen Event:**

Teens learned how to mold mugs from clay and local Master Potter Linda Schrage instructed them. After they molded their own creative individual mugs, Linda fired the mugs and brought them back for the teens to glaze. Many of the teens were new to the library and their parents expressed pleasure that the library was providing this unique learning opportunity. The Friends of the Library provided the stipend that covered the cost of materials, tools, and expertise of Linda Schrage.

#### **Party in the Park:**

Working with the Appleton Parks and Recreation, we were able to celebrate the end of the Teen Summer Library Program at the Scheig Center. Teens were able to enjoy outdoor fun and games as well as indoor activities. They were offered opportunities to complete the SLP Project Outcome Survey and share video feedback on their SLP experience. Teens and the parents who dropped-off & picked-up were very complimentary of the program; saying how they thoroughly enjoyed our program offerings. Friends funds provided refreshments and outdoor event equipment.

#### **Teens Explore Butterfly Gardens of Wisconsin:**

Eight attendees were treated to a personalized tour of the Butterfly Gardens of Wisconsin to learn the importance of preserving the pollinator population for our food supply of fruits and vegetables. Teens got a detailed view of the Garden's beehive and had a chance to see the queen. The teens also learned about butterfly migration and types of plants to help butterflies and bees flourish and survive to pollinate our food. This program was a natural fit for the summer reading theme "Build a Better World". Friends funds covered admission to the gardens for all participants.

### **Tween Classes and Events**

#### **Tween Scene – Nerdy Derby and Fidget Spinner:**

Tween Scene classes are designed for students in grades 3-6 to explore STEAM topics. Thirty-four students participated in one of two programs focused on building, exploring and creating fun STEAM projects. Friends' funds were used to purchase building supplies for small wooden derby cars and fidget spinners. Through the process of designing, building and racing derby cars, tweens learned weight and aerodynamics impact speed. Tweens also discovered the impact of weight and balance when utilizing and creating fidget spinners.

#### **Tech for Tweens – Mystery of Coding and Robots:**

Tech for Tweens classes are designed for students in grades 3-6 to explore a variety of technologies. Thirty-one students participated in one of two programs designed to explore programming and robotics. Friends funds were used to purchase supplies for those classes. During "Mystery of Coding", tweens used paper coding blocks and maps instead of computers to gain knowledge about the basic principles of coding. During

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

“Robots” tweens manipulated Ozobots, Little Bits, and Cubelets to explore the process of building and programming robots.

## Children’s Classes and Events

### **Preschool Coding Club**

Designed for 3-5 year olds, this three-week program teaches pre-coding skills such as patterns, if/then statements, coding vocabulary, creative thinking and more. Friends funded the Cod-a-pillars, Bee-Bots and Cubetto (the first Montessori approved robot). Children explore coding principles through these and other non-tech stations. (There are 15 registered attendees.) Once this program ends, these items will be incorporated into other programs such as Play and Learn. About 26 parents and children are participating in this three-part program.

### **Annual Children’s Parade:**

Children’s Services hosted a group to walk together in the annual Children’s Parade in Appleton. Friends funds were used to purchase craft supplies for kid’s costumes that related to the summer reading program theme “Build a Better World” and post parade craft activities for kids.

### **Annual Reach Out and Read Summer Promotion:**

The month of July has become an annual promotional month for Reach Out and Read (ROR) Partners – Fox Cities. A portable display sign paid for by Friends was used to draw attention to and provide instruction for participation in a storytelling campaign about family experiences with ROR in the Fox Cities. Staff t-shirts paid for by Friends, were worn during the month of July to promote Reach Out and Read Partners – Fox Cities and the storytelling campaign.

### **Columbus Summer School Outreach:**

To increase participation of low-income students in the Kids’ Summer Library Program (SLP), Children’s Services teamed up with summer school teachers at Columbus Elementary School. All 184 students attending summer school at Columbus were automatically enrolled in SLP to reinforce the fun and importance of summer reading. Teachers kept the reading log at school and APL librarians brought them weekly incentive prizes paid for by Friends. At the end of summer school, all children earned a new book paid for by Friends. Students also participated in fieldtrips to the library and were encouraged to continue participating in SLP after summer school ended.

## Programs for All Ages

### **Bazaar After Dark:**

The Young Professionals Network with the Fox Cities Chamber hosted Bazaar After Dark (BAD) in downtown Menasha in July and on Wisconsin Avenue in Appleton in September, to draw positive attention to underutilized business districts in the Fox Valley and foster creative community collaborations. Children’s Services and

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

Community Partnerships outreach staff organized and staffed vendor space at the event to provide information about library programs and services. At the Menasha event, visitors were invited to don some costumes and hats to have their photo taken at APL's decorated photo booth. At the Appleton event, visitors were asked to answer a question about what they enjoy creating and received an APL "Create Your Future" button or created and decorated their own buttons using a button-maker tool. Friends funds were used to pay for registration fees for both events and button supplies for the Appleton event.

#### **Latino Fest:**

Children's Services staff, Community Partnerships staff and APL volunteers shared a table with Menasha Public Library at Latino Fest at Pierce Park in September. The event featured Latino music, dance performances and great food. The APL table offered a free book to children and face painting for children and teens. Flyers about the ELL programs and the Refugee Immigrant Services Education (RISE) & Conversation Circle program were provided along with other library information. Friends funds were used to pay for registration fees for the event.

#### **Mash Up Con:**

This was a multi-generational event focused on the fandoms of Doctor Who, Star Wars and Star Trek, that pulled in fans from as far away Chicago and Milwaukee. The patrons who attended were very invested in the program and grateful to have a chance to explore their fandom with their friends. The evening concluded after a lively panel discussion with Author John Jackson Miller and other fan experts. Friends funds provided equipment and covered the cost of the author visit.

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

#### **Artist-in-Residence:**

The Artist-in-Residence (AIR) series contracts with local artists to place their work on display/exhibit in the library, provide lectures, workshops and demonstrations to community members of all ages. Friends funds pay for honoraria and supplies for the artist. Programming for Len Borruso and Mel Kolstad attracted seventy-five patrons. Len brought something new to the AIR program, the art of filmmaking.

#### **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 will host the Chaminade Women's Chorus in September.

#### **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 and attracts grandparents and parents

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

with young children. Interest in this program is growing with attendance of approximately one hundred people this quarter. Local group homes provide shuttle service for their residents. Friendships develop between group home residents and adult day program participants from programs such as Valley Packaging. We reached record attendance on July 17<sup>th</sup> with twenty-eight patrons, including at least three group homes, viewing the animated version of *The Three Musketeers*. The Friends fund movie popcorn and licensing fees for the G-rated Disney films.

**Thursday at the Movies** features blockbuster films and topical documentaries at the library. Friends funds pay for movie popcorn and 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 September, we screened *La La Land*, which attracted twenty-nine 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.

#### **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 events at the library and in the community. The teen program is designed to promote reading and creativity 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 staff connects with area businesses and organizations to procure donation prizes for the Children's, Teen and Adult Summer 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 to access of the library. Friends funds, along with Valley Transit, pay for the bus fares.

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

### **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**

#### **Children's Services School-Age Area Updates:**

The Children's school-age area is designed for students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Friends funds were used to purchase supplies for two LEGO walls, two Magnetic Poetry walls, new box games and new apps for the school-age iPads in the area. These items will entertain and inspire creative expression, logical thinking, problem solving and provide access to technology. All the new items help define the age appropriateness of the area and attract school-age children to it.

#### **APL-Logo Tote Bags and Coffee Mugs:**

Community Partnerships staff worked with the Marketing Coordinator to order APL logo tote bags and coffee mugs to use as registration incentives and weekly prize options for teens and adults before and during the Summer Library Program. Friends funds were used to pay for the incentives.

#### **Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:**

A new part time non-benefitted position was created to increase capacity for community engagement and outreach in the Community Partnerships section. Between July and September, Collen Holz has conducted research around local employment and job-skills support agencies and programs, building relationships and engaging in one-on-one conversations to learn more about other organizations to determine opportunities for APL and potential collaboration. She has coordinated and implemented pop-up programs in the library lobby to introduce patrons to the Boopsie app and Gale Course online resource and register for the Adult Summer Library Program. Colleen has also coordinated and implemented outreach at various community evening and weekend events, making services available to library patrons, non-users, and underserved populations of all ages, creating visibility for library resources. Friends funds are used to support this position.

#### **Children's Services – Library Outreach Position:**

A new part-time non-benefitted position was created to increase Children's Services capacity for community engagement and outreach. Between July and September, Sonja Rusch has been to Appleton pools during pool breaks to read to children and promote the Summer Library Program as well as other library programs. She has reignited a relationship with the Boys and Girls Club by offering to present three maker activities for the kids to engage in. Additionally, Sonja has coordinated and implemented outreach at various community evening and weekend events bringing fun and creative ideas to engage attendees and inform them of library programs and services. In an effort to



## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

reach low-income families, she has also dropped off many library-programming brochures to local laundromats. Sonja also assisted APL staff at Hispanic Heritage Day.

#### **Create Your Future Campaign T-Shirts:**

Friends funds provided the purchase of 145 Create Your Future campaign t-shirts for staff, library trustees and Friends board members. The goal of the t-shirts is to continue to provide awareness of the Create Your Future campaign, while promoting the mission/vision of the library, in a fun and unique way. Several community members have asked about purchasing shirts, which may lead to a small fundraiser for Friends.

#### **Appleton Public Library Mobile App**

Friends funds provided the creation of a new library app. The target audience for this project are patrons who are on-the-go with their mobile devices. The goal of the app is to increase the library's mobile-friendly online presence.