

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2017

Adult Classes and Events

Adult Programs:

Adult Programs continue to enjoy Friends support as they furnished an honorarium for our most popular lecturer, Bob Schmall. His November lecture was "Life in the Universe" and the December topic will be "Pearl Harbor on the 76th Anniversary of the Attack". Mr. Schmall has developed a following and new patrons attend each session.

Find Your Ancestors Series:

Etched in Stone—Cemeteries, Their Symbols and Customs

Speaker Dennis Jacobs spoke about the history and meaning of symbols used in cemeteries, how to use the clues found there in your research, and how to preserve the stones. A very attentive group of 38 genealogists and history buffs followed his every word, with pages of his handout turning in unison. Friends provided financial support for this series.

German-Language Resources for Genealogists in America and Europe

Antje Petty, Associate Director of the Max Kade Institute at the University of Wisconsin Madison, provided an overview of German-language resources for genealogists. She showed examples of many German language documents from both the U.S. and Europe as well as where to find them, and instructed attendees on how to interpret Old German script and print. The Friends provided funds that made it possible for this speaker to come and give information to the 35 attendees.

Get Crafty!-Card Making:

This program provided an opportunity for parents with children to create holiday cards together. A diverse group of people took part in the program to learn and get inspired by Marisol Encarnacion. Friends funding supported the presenter fee and supplies.

Home Maintenance Workshop:

This program was developed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity to offer a home maintenance workshop for homeowners. Habitat provided materials for the workshop, gift cards, work gloves, safety goggles and refreshments for attendees. Individuals learned tips and tricks to maintain their home and build confidence in their skills. Friends funding supported the social media advertising.

NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month):

During the month of November, Public Services transformed the former Digital Creation Lab - now called The Lab - into a creative writing space for people to come and work on their 50,000 word novels. The Lab was stocked with library materials related to writing, dictionaries, and reference books. During the month-long event, pop-up programs were held in the library lobby and marketing cards were distributed to introduce patrons to writing classes available through our online resource, Gale Courses. Friends' funds supported the purchase of Story Cubes to prompt ideas for writing.

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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. In the fall, RISE participants practiced speaking in English with the Fox Valley Literacy Council. In addition, they learned how to use a knitting machine, create blankets, and write stories. Friends funding supports interpreter support, supplies and presenter fees.

“The Messenger” Film Discussion:

We hosted “The Messenger” film discussion in October. This film examines the decline in the songbird population and what this could portend for the human race. The Sierra Club co-sponsored by supplying refreshments and leading the discussion. Friends funded the performance rights for this documentary screening. The DVD was added to our circulating collection following the screening.

Teen Classes and Events

Anime Night:

Anime Night is a monthly event for teens with an interest in anime and Japanese culture. Friends’ funds provided an opportunity for teens to screen anime, make crafts, enjoy refreshments and have a special opportunity to learn how to use the knitting machine to make anime creations with Lois Bittner.

Cookiepalooza Cookie Decorating:

Twelve teens will have the opportunity to participate in a holiday cookie-decorating program. Teens will have the opportunity to socialize in a safe environment with other teens. Each will be given a half-dozen undecorated cutout cookies and materials to decorate them as they wish. The teens will also be given containers for their cookies so they can bring them home and, if desired, can give them as a gift. Friends’ funds will be used to purchase the cookies and icing, as well as decorating supplies.

Game Break:

Game Break is a teen event featuring video and tabletop gaming. This reoccurring 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.

“He Named Me Malala” – Film Screening and Discussion:

Over 30 people attended the screening of “He Named Me Malala” and most stayed for the discussion of the film. This movie was screened after teens read the book in their book club and requested a public screening of the film. Friends funds provided covered the cost of screening the movie.

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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 and refreshments for the K-Pop Club.

Minecraft Guild:

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 use Oculus Rift to engage a virtual reality version of Minecraft. Friends' funds support the access to a safe virtual space and refreshments for this program.

Polymer & Bead Jewelry Making for Teens:

Teens who attended this event learned how to make necklaces and multiple styles of earrings using beads and polymer clay. The YA librarian instructed the group of teens how to create jewelry from beads and how to reuse older jewelry to create new pieces. Friends' funds provided materials for this event.

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 influences speed. Tweens also discovered the impact of weight and balance when utilizing and creating fidget spinners.

Tween Scene – Outrageous Origami and Skitbot Stop Motion Animation

Tween Scene students from 3rd to 6th grade build, explore and create. In October, tweens toured the Trout Museum of Art to see the exhibit OR!cursion: Original Origami by Robert J. Lang. They discovered how Lange created his origami works of art and the type of computer software that he developed to assist with his art. Friends' funds were used to pay the cost of museum admission for the tweens. During the November, tweens experimented with Stikbots to create stop motion animation videos. The Friends funded the purchase of the Stikbots for this program and future programs.

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

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

Children’s Classes and Events

Board Games for the School Age Area

Creating fun and interesting spaces for diversion and leisure is a big part of our mission. In Children's Services, we recently updated the board game collection available for the public in the School Age Area. With Friends funds, we were able to purchase 13 board games and puzzles to foster positive social interactions between children, their peers and or their caregivers.

500 Books Before Middle School

The new, year-round reading program that began in October encourages students from grades K-6th to continue the habit of reading. When students register, they receive a log to track how many books they read. For every 50 books read, the student receives a prize. At the end of the program, students receive a certificate of completion. If completed, students are welcome to register for the program again! Since October, 23 participants have registered. Friends’ funds were used to purchases prizes for every 50 books read.

BEAR Bingo

BEAR Bingo is an annual reading program that runs during the month of November in Children’s Services. Children from pre-school through 6th grade registered for the program receive a bingo board with different reading challenges. BEAR helps kids keep reading for fun during the school year and encourages them to become familiar with different collections in the library. Four hundred thirty-three participants registered with the paper bingo board. Forty –five participants registered to play online. Friends funded the prizes children received when they earned a bingo and the grand prizes of panda bears and a Build a Bear Workshop gift card.

Mini Makers – Halloween & Robots

Students grades K-2 who register for Mini Maker classes explore the fields of science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Halloween

The theme for the October Mini Maker program was Halloween. Children and their caregivers experimented with mixing bubbling solutions, built “bone” bridges across the slime river, constructed a catapult that launched candy corn, made monsters with craft supplies, explored air pressure with floating eyeballs, and made Halloween themed tangrams. There were 54 participants including a girl scout troop. Friends’ funds were used to purchase some of the supplies.

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Robots

The theme for the November Mini Maker program was Robots. Children and their caregivers got the chance to experiment with 4 different types of robots (Ozobots, Cubelets, Beebots, and Codepillars; built wiggle art bots out of pool noodles, electric toothbrushes and markers; and constructed balancing robots and gliding robots out of paper. There were 16 participants. Friends' funds were used to purchase some of the supplies.

Mad Scientist Party (K-6th grade)

School aged kids and their caregivers were able to pretend to be mad scientists at the party and experimented at three activity stations. The first station they got to experiment with circuitry by making light up Jack O' Lantern cards using led lights, batteries and copper tape. The second station they experimented with chemistry as they combined ingredients to make slime to take home. At the last station, they learned about DNA and created a candy DNA model. There were 62 participants. Friends' funds provided the candy and slime supplies.

Programs for All Ages

Disney Celebration Night - Beauty and the Beast:

At the request of teens, a new program has been added called Disney Celebration Night. This all ages event included a craft, refreshments, sing-along quiz, and the screening of the original "Beauty and the Beast". Friends' funds covered the cost of screening the movie, refreshments and a craft.

Fox Cities Book Festival:

The Fox Cities Book Festival occurs annually during one week in October. The Fox Cities public libraries come together to hold author visits which build community and promote literacy. Friends' funds provided a contribution toward the honorarium for the 10 authors at Appleton Public Library. Over 400 persons attended author visits featuring author talks for children and adults. Will Schwalbe, Patricia Skalka and James Campbell were the most popular authors during the weeklong event.

Hispanic Heritage Month:

The library's third celebration of Hispanic Heritage took place on October 7. There were different performances like Mexican Folklore dance, Azteca dance, musical performances, crafts and traditional foods. Our annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month brings community members and performers to the library to connect families to our diverse city and celebrate cultures and histories. The performers enjoyed sharing their culture with the audience. Friends' funds supported performances fee and food.

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Light Up Night:

The Trout Museum of Art and the Fox Cities Building for the Arts in partnership with Appleton Downtown businesses and local nonprofit organizations kicked off the holiday season with Light Up Night. Organizations set up booths with a variety of family oriented activities including: cookie decorating, puppet making and letter writing to Santa. The event featured two band performances and a lighting ceremony in Houdini Plaza. One hundred thirty-two people visited APL's booth to make holiday cards and pick up information about APL programs. Friends' funds supported the card supplies.

RISE Community Resource Fair:

APL and Forward Services implemented a Community Resource Fair for refugees and immigrants in Appleton. The fair attracted more than 250 adults and children. A variety of social service agencies and community resources for education, employment, utilities and wellness participated in the event. Feeding America provided a mobile food pantry with more than 700 pounds of food. Friends funding supported the reservations for the parking meter stalls.

Steampunk Saturday:

Steampunk Saturday attracted a variety of ages for an afternoon of crafts, entertainment and learning about steampunk. Many of the 95 attendees tried all the crafts: stamped tiles, creating buttons, and creating fascinators and ribbons to wear. Some great costumes were worn for the costume contest, people posed for souvenir Victorian style photos, and guests brought amazing steampunk items they had created. We had many return guests, some of whom have come every year for six years; as well as people new to Steampunk. The Friends of Appleton Library provided funds for craft supplies, tea and biscuits, prizes for the costume contest and door prizes.

Volunteer Fest:

The Volunteer Center of East Central WI hosted Volunteer Fest. Over 300 people attended to collect volunteer and program information from various Fox Cities organizations. Children's Services staff accompanied Colleen Holz to highlight Children's programs and promote volunteering at the library. Friends sponsored a table at the event, and provided supplies for a children's activity.

World Kindness Day:

Public Services, Children's Services, and Community Partnerships staff presented a celebration for World Kindness Day that included coffee and snacks for patrons, kind messages on scrap paper and posters with positive messages throughout the building, a photo booth, an interactive kindness wall, and other surprises throughout the day. This celebration fostered positive interactions and conversations with patrons. Patrons were inspired to share acts of kindness and report back on the impact of their good deeds. Friends' funds supported the refreshments for the celebration.

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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. The program celebrates the work of local artists and welcomes community members of all ages to experience the arts through engaging opportunities. Mel Kolstad presented a demonstration in October and Michael Wartgow's artwork was on display at the lower level art wall during November-December. He hosted a demonstration in November, will lecture about his artwork, and influences this December.

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 Disney films. The Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees. Interest in this program is growing with attendance of approximately one-hundred people this quarter. We often see friendships develop between group home residents and members of Valley Packaging. Average attendance is 22 people per screening. **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 October and November, we screened "Loving" and "Deepwater Horizon". December's film will be "The Wedding Plan".

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. While Music @ the Library appeals to patrons and families of all ages, local senior living facilities provide shuttle service for their residents to attend these programs. Friends' funds provide musicians with honoraria for their performances. The Library hosted a variety of musicians and groups during the 4th quarter including Dolce, Jennifer Levenhagen, New Horizons Band-Fox Valley, and Jason Solis. The New Horizons Band attracted 90 people.

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.

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

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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.

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:

This part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach in the Community Partnerships section. Between October and December, we were able to continue 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. Through this position, we have coordinated and implemented pop-up programs in the library lobby to introduce patrons to online resources, 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 support this position.

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.

Light Therapy Lamps:

Community Partnerships is working with NAMI Fox Valley to provide APL patrons with access to light therapy lamps in the library over the winter months. These lamps are useful for people experiencing Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) or even a touch of the "winter blues". As the days get darker and colder, these tools can provide some relief for sluggishness, depression, and more. Starting in January 2018, NAMI Fox Valley will provide instructional support and information about SAD, depression, and their

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resources and services. Friends' funds were used to purchase four lamps for public use in the library.