

1st QUARTER 2018

## Adult Classes and Events

### **Find Your Ancestors Series:**

#### **Digging for Doughboys**

Russ Horton from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum presented methods to research World War I soldiers from Wisconsin. This was part of the Find Your Ancestors series, supported by the Friends. Because Russ is a state employee, he presented at no cost. After every genealogy program, at least a couple of people stop to thank the Friends and APL for providing these programs.

#### **Today's DAR and the DAR Genealogy Records**

Betty Henry, an officer for both the Appleton and Wisconsin levels of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) organization, spoke about the DAR group, its library and research assistance, as well as their service projects to veterans and for education. Attendance was 42. Betty explained how she came to our January program to see what they are like, and followed up by going to the February program because she feels they are very helpful, quality programs, and she recommended the series to the audience. Friends' funds support this series.

#### **Tracing My Irish Ancestors**

Jon Domencich, President of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin, demonstrated methods of searching for Irish ancestors both in the US and in Ireland, showing photos and documents to illustrate his success. He described the resources of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin and the immigration museum associated with it, inviting the audience of 41 to visit the museum and research for free. Friends' funds made it possible for this speaker to come from the Milwaukee area.

#### **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 spring, RISE participants learned about different community resources and basic computer skills. Friends funding supports interpreter services, supplies and performer fees as needed.

#### **Yoga & Writing:**

This unique program provided an opportunity for adults to incorporate yoga and writing through a four-session program series. The yoga instructor stated every session was amazing and she was very happy to be able to offer yoga free to a variety of people. Friends funding supported the presenter fee, journals and yoga mats.

#### **Working with At-Risk Kids with Author Ben Mikaelson:**

In February, Children's Services in partnership with the Appleton Area School District hosted a visit from Ben Mikaelson, author of *Petey* and *Touching Spirit Bear*. A total of 71 adults and teens listened to Mikaelson talk about his experiences as a child learning to read and write English as a second language. This visit, funded by Friends, provided teachers, librarians and parents with a better understanding of needs of at-risk kids.

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

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### Teen Classes and Events

#### **A Harry Potter Valentine's Day Party:**

This special event gave teens a chance to explore the library by deciphering clues leading them to different Harry Potter themed items to gather pieces of a puzzle. Everyone who completed the puzzle received a chocolate frog. After the scavenger hunt, teens were able to explore the multi-stationed party room to “discover their patronus”, play games and create potions with pixie sticks. Friends' funds provided materials, incentives and refreshments for this program.

#### **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 authentic Japanese treats and learn how to use the sewing machine to make gloves for cosplay with our volunteer Heidi Smreck.

#### **Cookies, Milk, & PJs Story Time for LGBT+:**

Teens at the LGBT+ Teen Support Group (Goodwill Campus) requested this outreach program last May when we visited to promote the Teen Summer Library Program. Several picture books were read and a wide variety of young adult books were also brought along to book talk, share, and check-out using Sierra in the Wild. Many teens snapped pictures of book covers with their phones or made a list of titles of interest. One teen even inquired as to how he could donate money to the library as a thank you for the cookies. Friends' funds provided the milk & cookies.

#### **Escape Room – True Crime Challenge:**

This special event created a 3-room escape room for teens to solve and explore. Actual clues and false clues engaged the teens in a complex mystery to solve and led them to find a hidden treasure. Friends' funds provided incentives for this program.

#### **Frozen - A Disney Celebration:**

Volunteers dressed as the two main characters from Frozen for this Disney Celebration greeted patrons at the door. During the screening of the movie, everyone was encouraged to sing along with the songs and enjoy “snowball soup” (vanilla ice cream and lemon/lime soda). Friends' funds provided refreshments for this program.

#### **Game Break:**

Game Break is a teen event featuring video and tabletop gaming. This re-occurring event provides teens with a safe place to hang out with other teens who share a common interest and give them a chance to socialize. During this program, the Oculus Rift Virtual reality (VR) gaming system is used. Friends' funds provided equipment, board games, and refreshments for the program.

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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:**

This weekly event for teens provides a server 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.

### **Tween Classes and Events**

#### **Tween Scene – Pusheen Party**

Seven students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the February Tween Scene program celebrating all things related to Pusheen the cat comic strip and graphic novel character. To celebrate the joy of reading, students had fun at different activity stations that included making Pusheen bookmarks, creating a Pusheen figure out of polymer clay, sewing stuffed Pusheen the Cat dolls and creating Pusheens on Shrinky Dink plastic. Friends' funds purchased craft supplies.

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

#### **Special Event: Ready to Code**

In February, 55 children and their caretakers explored the world of coding through interactive stations and play-centered learning for all ages. Station equipment included OSMO Coding Kits, Cubelets, Little Bits, Bee-Bots, Code-a-Pillar and more. Friends' funds purchased all coding equipment.

#### **Special Event: Valentine's Day Party with Clifford for families**

On Valentine's Day, 85 toddlers, pre-school children and their caregivers celebrated the love of storytelling and the joy of imagination with Clifford the Big Red Dog! In addition to stories, photo ops and hugs from Clifford, participants explored craft and sensory stations. Friends provided the Clifford costume.

#### **Emoji Party**

In the month of February 47 school age children and their families celebrated love at an Emoji Party where children decorated emoji cookies, used emoji hints to puzzle out the titles of books, designed their own emoji and made emoji pins. Children had the opportunity to create emoji bookmarks out of duct tape and emoji stress balls out of

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balloons and flour. Cookies, cookie decorating and craft supplies were paid for with Friends' funds.

### Programs for All Ages

#### **Random Acts of Kindness Week:**

Volunteer greeters served coffee and bakery treats on 4 days during Random Acts of Kindness Week, February 11-17. A basket of kind quotes was placed at the greeter table and many patrons enjoyed picking a note at random and reading it aloud, inspiring some patrons to report other acts of kindness they either participated in or witnessed. APL volunteers, Public Services and Community Partnerships staff worked together to offer treats, notes and bookmarks at the service desks and bookmarks placed in books around the library. A teen group from Outagamie Youth and Family Services created over 100 bookmarks to hand out to patrons and to display at service desks. Friends' funds supported the food and coffee provided throughout the week.

### 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. Elizabeth Tubman served as our AIR from January 2-March 30. She hosted two displays, Knit-In & Knitting Clinic, Learn to Knit and Arm Knitting Workshops, and surpassed expectations by attracting 61 participants!

#### **Cocoa and Coloring Nights:**

Cocoa and Coloring Nights provide patrons with the opportunity to relax and socialize in an open environment. Group homes have brought multiple residents to enjoy this intergenerational program. This program attracts people of all ages and abilities and facilitates understanding and compassion for persons who are developmentally disabled. Attendance ranged from 8-17 persons per session. Friends' funds were used to purchase new gel pens this quarter.

#### **Films at the Library:**

**Monday Morning Matinee** (MMM) is a twice-monthly film series designed for persons with cognitive disabilities, but open to the public. Local group homes provide shuttle service for their residents to attend G-rated Disney films. MMM attracted 45 people this quarter. We often see friendships develop between group home residents and members of Valley Packaging. More families are taking advantage of this series. The Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees.

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**Thursday at the Movies** features blockbuster films and topical documentaries at the library. Participants range from teens to adults. Patrons have the opportunity to attend these screenings and foster social connections with others. This quarter we screened *The Glass Castle*, *Dunkirk*, *Deeply Rooted*, *Wonder* and *Saving Snow*. Attendance ranged from 14-37 persons. Friends' funds pay for refreshments and movie licensing fees.

#### **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 1<sup>st</sup> quarter including the Fox Cities Flute Choir, Jeanne Bauer, Alan and Guitar and the Renard Consort Recorder Ensemble. Attendance ranged from 32-65 persons.

#### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten:**

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1,000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. Since January, 53 more children have registered for this program. Friend's funds are used to purchase prizes for every 100 books read.

#### **500 Books Before Middle School:**

The new, year-round reading program that began in October encourages students from grades K-6<sup>th</sup> to continue the habit of reading. Since January, 39 students have registered to participate in this program. Friends' funds are used to purchases prizes for every 50 books read.

#### **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.

### **Special Projects**

#### **Equipment for School Age Field Trips:**

Five sound canceling headphones and five sensory seats were purchased with Friends funds to aid children with sensory processing disorders while visiting the library. These supplies are used during fieldtrips and whenever else they are appropriate.

#### **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

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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.

#### **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 resources and services. Total attendance at the NAMI Light Therapy information sessions was 64. Friends' funds were used to purchase theft protection safety locks so the lamps could be placed in carrels throughout the library in January.