

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

2nd 2ND QUARTER 2018

Adult Classes and Events

Meet Wisconsin Authors:

John Bates, author of *Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old-Growth Forests in Wisconsin and Where to Find Them*, spoke about the history of forests going back to the time of the settlers and shared his knowledge about birds. His talk appealed to naturalists and birders. Mr. Bates was in town for another event (partially funded with the City of Appleton). We worked with Kurt Eggebrecht, City of Appleton Health Officer, to bring John Bates to the Library. Friends' funding covered Mr. Bates' honorarium.

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 participants learned about different community resources and basic computer skills. St. Joseph Food Program provided snacks for the program. Friends funding supported 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 from Yoga Story stated that 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.

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 authentic Japanese treats.

Auto Care Basics Workshop:

JumpStart Auto Repair (a joint effort of Harbor House and Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Shelters) presented a workshop for 31 teens and adults to learn about basic auto maintenance. Participants were impressed by JumpStart's mission and the accessibility of the knowledge they shared. Each participant received a bag of car care items provided by JumpStart and APL. Friends' funds were used to purchase APL branded USB car chargers and to pay to reserve City of Appleton parking spaces in front of the library to provide hands-on instruction using real automobiles.

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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.

K-Pop Club:

K-Pop Club is designed for teens with an interest in 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

Make with Makey Makeys Tween Scene:

Twenty tweens discovered circuitry and electrical current during the May Tween Scene. Working in pairs, tweens set up and tested Makey Makeys. Tweens created video game controllers with the Makey Makeys and played the original Pac Man and Super Mario Bros. Friends' funds provided the Makey Makeys.

Henna Tattoo Tween Scene:

Thirty-one tweens designed and created their own tattoo using Henna, a plant-based dye that safely stained skin for 1-2 weeks. Henna was purchased with Friends' funds.

Children's Classes and Events

Hmong American Day Celebration

APL partnered with AASD schools, The Building for Kids and History Museum at the Castle to create a read-a-loud week for Hmong American Day. APL donated 60 books of "*The Whispering Cloth*" to AASD schools, and the schools organized their own story times and book discussions with questions provided by APL. The library hosted an event where The Building for Kids provided a craft activity for families, and 50 individuals attended. The History Museum at the Castle displayed Hmong artifacts and

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did their own story time. The purpose was to shed light on Hmong American's contributions, accomplishments, and their journey from Southeast Asia to the U.S.

Kids Expo 2018:

Area libraries partnered to share a space at the 2nd Annual Kids Expo held at the new expo center. United Way donated Golden Books to be distributed and Friends' Funds provided a make and take craft. Despite the Great Blizzard of April 2018, a steady stream of people visited the table throughout the day to receive books, make bookmarks, pick up flyers and hear what local libraries have to offer.

Mama Edie

In partnership with Appleton Bilingual School, Children's Services hosted Mama Edie Armstrong, who is a speech and language pathologist. Mama Edie took her audience through a worldwide journey through her highly engaging interactive storytelling and music that blended Spanish and English.

Summer Library Program Performers

On Thursday, Children's Services hosts special performers for families and day care providers. The performers offer free and engaging events for our area's youth. Tom Pease, a children's musician, gave 4 performances to over 828 attendees. Rondini, a magician, performed twice to an audience of 338. Friends' funds were used to pay the honorariums for the performers.

Programs for All Ages

Bazaar After Dark:

The Young Professionals Network and the Fox Cities Chamber hosted Bazaar After Dark (BAD) in downtown Little Chute in late April to draw positive attention to underutilized business districts in the Fox Valley and foster creative community collaborations. Community Partnerships outreach staff organized and staffed a vendor space at the event to provide information about library programs and services. Visitors were invited to play the Lollypop Tree game to win prizes and "Create your Future" or "Libraries are for Everyone" buttons. Friends' funds were used to pay for registration fees, supplies, and decorations.

Make Music Day

Make Music Appleton is a live, free June musical celebration with concerts on streets, sidewalks, and parks across the city. Community Partnerships outreach staff organized and staffed a vendor space at the event to demonstrate how to access music titles on Hoopla and free video music lessons through Artist Works. Friends' funds were used for prize treats and bookmarks for visitors.

Fox Cities Reads:

Ruta Sepetys, author of *Salt to the Sea*, was the 2018 Reads author. Her presentation attracted a crowd of 344 adults and students from quite a distance including Davenport,

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Iowa, and middle schools located in West Allis, Seymour, and DePere, Wisconsin. The Downtown Book Club chose *Salt to the Sea* for their March title and 13 people attended the discussion. The Friends funded books for circulation, t-shirts for the staff/volunteers and a portion of the author's honorarium.

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. Tara Pohlkotte served as our AIR April 2-June 29 and attracted 50 people to the following programs. She hosted two displays, two storytelling workshops (one for adults and one for children) and Living Libraries, an opportunity for patrons to record their voices and stories as part of an audio collection of stories and lives of our community.

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 -19 persons per session. Friends' funds support refreshments for this program and ongoing supply needs.

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. We often see friendships develop between group home residents and members of Valley Packaging. The Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees.

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 *Darkest Hour* and *Marshall* with attendance ranging from 10-19 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

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2nd quarter musicians included Franklin Nelsen and Barbara Hoffman. Attendance ranged from 25-33 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 April 34 have registered for this program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 100 books read.

500 Books Before Middle School:

This year-round reading program encourages students from grades K-6th grade to continue the habit of reading. Since April 40 have registered for this program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 50 books read.

Engraved APL Paperweights for Outdoor Outreach:

Children's Services purchased four paperweights for outdoor outreach to prevent APL brochures from flying around due to the weather. Staff previously used rocks to hold down brochures and made the paperweights available to other departments for outreach. The paperweights were used at Juneteenth where over 160 people stopped by our table.

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

APL Building Process Support:

A variety of tools to help support the building process were purchased with Friends funds. Those tools include; Smartsheets to keep projects organized, building process business cards to help staff promote the building process websites and gift cards to encourage staff to ask questions and provide input on the process.

Summer Library Program Promotion:

Three summer library program banners were purchased with Friends' funds. These banners help promote the program while encouraging community members to sign up for the program.

Comfort Room and Toddler Toys

In partnership with the Appleton Health Department, Children's Services has updated the Comfort Room to meet the requirements for a Breastfeeding Friendly Environment. Friends' Funds supplied toys for older children to play with while their caregiver is

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otherwise occupied. Dolls, sensory blocks and balls were purchased for use in the Comfort Room.

New Artwork in Children's Services:

Former Artist-in-Residence Leif Larson painted a cross-section of APL's atrium. The bright and eye-catching painting now resides next to the wall between the Children's Service Desk and the Self-Check Machines. Many children and their caregivers spend time discussing the components of the painting as part of the library. Friends' funds were used to purchase the painting.

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 April and June, we continued working with 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 outreach at various community evening and weekend events, making services available to library patrons, non-users, and underserved populations of all ages, and 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.