

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2018

Adult Classes and Events

Fabric Wreath Making Workshop:

Local artist, Marisol Encarnacion taught each participant to create their own Anthropologie-inspired, fabric tied wreath to take home. This interactive crafting program welcomed adults, teens, and families and was accessible for a wide range of abilities. Friends' funds paid for supplies and provided the instructor with an honorarium.

Computer Classes in Spanish:

The Hispanic Center of the Fox Valley taught computer classes at the library in Spanish on two different topics: Basic Introduction to Computers and Introduction to Microsoft Word. Participants in the classes learned more about computers and built computer literacy skills. Through the classes, participants learned how to start a computer, navigate a laptop, and learned to use Microsoft Word to create documents and letters. Friends' funds provided the course instructors with an honorarium.

Find Your Ancestors Series:

Using Maps in Your Genealogy

Lecturer Susan Fassbender guided 18 attendees through how to use maps to add another layer to their ancestors' stories. Susan provided a brief overview of available resources and where to find them – all of which can be used or found right here at Appleton Public Library. She discussed Google Maps, Google Earth Pro, Sanborn Insurance Maps, railroad maps, cemetery maps, and plat maps. Using real-life examples of research questions, she walked the audience through how each resource could be used to add rich detail to the lives of ancestors or histories of homes and businesses. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Writing Biographical Sketches

Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, captivated an audience of 35 while she discussed writing biographical sketches. Lori covered why they're important to write, what could be included in a sketch, how to structure a sketch, how to uncover details in your research to add to the sketch, and what you can do with your sketch once you've completed it. Friends provided financial support for this series.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo):

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is a national initiative to encourage and support writers to complete a 50,000-word manuscript in the month of November. A local municipal liaison, Aileen Ellis, visited APL's Creative Writing classes and other area libraries to tell people about NaNoWriMo. She offered five programs with structured writing exercises, incentives for achievement, coffee, chocolate, and comradery. The attendance at the programs ranged from 8-16 adults who came together weekly to write, share writing tips, encourage one another, and celebrate their success. Friends' funds paid for promotional materials and an honorarium for the organizer.

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 papercrafts, and create candy sushi inspired by actual sushi. Friends' Funds provided film licensing, refreshments, and materials for crafts.

An Evening at the Crafty Woodmaker:

This one-time event allowed teens to learn woodworking skills and teamwork to create inspirational hand painted signs for themselves and for the Teen Area of the library. Friends' Funds paid for the materials and expertise needed for the creation of these signs.

Holiday Ornament Making at The Fire:

Twenty teens met at The Fire for an opportunity to create their choice of either a fused glass or ceramic holiday ornament. Staff at The Fire provided the instruction while the teens brought their unique individual creativity. Friends' funds paid for the cost of the ornaments.

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.

Technology Pop-Up Programs:

Thirty-four people attended two teen pop-up programs, highlighting some of APL's technological resources. Thirty individuals stopped by to inquire and/or experience a demonstration of Oculus Rift VR (virtual reality), with some expressing their surprise and delight to try this technology. Four teens participated in hands-on learning with the Ozobots (color coding robots) for the global Hour of Code initiative. Friends' funds were used to purchase the Oculus Rift and the Ozobots in 2017.

Tween Classes and Events

Tween Scene – Card Making

The final tween scene of the year was card making. Students used their critical thinking skills to complete the copper tape circuit that would ultimately make the LED light on their decorated card light up. They found it challenging and rewarding. Thank you to the Friends for funding the LED lights and batteries we used.

Tinker Tuesday

Of the 5 stations available, the Wiggle Bots stole the show at Tinker Tuesday! The children were able to engineer their own wiggly robot creations. When they created

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something that didn't work, they used problem solving skills to reassemble something that did. Parents were also having fun and taking pictures. 29 children attended, and Friends' Funds supplied the Wiggle Bots.

Maker Quest

Maker Quest debuted December 4th. This weekly drop-in program offers a space for students K-6 and their families to explore STREAM concepts. It has a monthly theme and offers a special early afternoon homeschool edition as well as an after-school edition. The December theme was Magic, and Friends' Funds were used to purchase special supplies to allow students to create test tube rainbows, magic wands, LED light-up cards, bouncing bubbles, fizzing fairy potions, and so much more! Items previously purchased by Friends' funds, including the Osmos, Primo, and Code-a-pillars, are also being used for this program. In its first two weeks, it served 151 children and families.

Children's Classes and Events

Storytime Bubbles

Friends' funds were used to purchase a bubble machine and bubble solution. Bubble Time has become a regular part of the weekly Wonderful Infants & Ones and Time for Twos Storytimes. The bubble machine has become a highlight for the little ones.

Out of This World

Thursday, November 15 Children's Services hosted a special space program attended by 58 children and parents. The program consisted of a short story time and space crafts including balloon stamping to make planets, glitter shooting star wands, and flying saucers. There was also face painting, a sensory tub filled with moon sand, and dramatic play with a rocket and a space station in our play tents. Friends' funds paid for the moon sand and special craft supplies.

Gingerbread House Projects

Friends' funds were used to purchase graham crackers, frosting and assorted candies. These were used in three programs: Gingerbread Fun Puppets & Crafts, Play and Learn: Hmong Edition and Play and Learn: Hispanic Edition. All provided a fun creative time for kids and grownups alike. A total of 74 people attended these three programs.

Polar Express Movie Event

Children's Services had two Polar Express movie and craft events in December. Friends' Funds provided hot cocoa and marshmallows.

Robot Party

On Thursday, November 29th Children's Services hosted a Robot Party for preschoolers attended by 51 children and parents. The party began with a short story time and then kids made robot crafts and had a chance to play with some real robots. The robots included Ozobots, Cubelets, Beebots, Code-a-pillars, and Primo. This was a great opportunity for preschoolers to learn the first concepts of coding while having lots

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of fun. Friends' funds were previously used to purchase all the robots used in this program.

Programs for All Ages

Fox Cities Book Festival:

APL hosted or organized 18 separate events for the Fox Cities Book Festival (FCBF) with 8 events held at APL and 10 events at area schools. Patrons were able to talk to authors, attend writing workshops, learn Mexican folk art, and listen to impressionist music while engaging various types of literature and culture. Friends' funds paid for APL staff t-shirts and were contributed to FCBF to support author honorariums and related expenses.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration:

For this event APL partnered with the Appleton Bilingual School and Fox Cities Book Festival. A packed room enjoyed multiple dance performances and crafts that celebrated the Hispanic heritage of the Appleton area. Graphic artist Carlos Nieto taught native Mexican folk art in a special family craft. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for the artist, culturally specific foods for tasting, and materials for crafts.

Let a Thousand Flowers Blossom Expo:

For this event APL partnered with Northeast Wisconsin Chinese Association (NEWCA) to create a diverse expo of Chinese culture. For the first half of the program, participants were given a gameboard to fill as they visited different booths that explored Chinese culture. For the second half of the program various performances and presentations on Chinese culture were shared with a full audience. Friends' funds were used as an honorarium for NEWCA.

Light Up the Night

In November, APL attended Light Up Appleton presented by the Trout Museum. The event had lots of family oriented fun holiday activities such as live music, cookie decorating, letters to Santa and crafts. The APL booth featured an ornament craft, a winter coloring tile mosaic and a demonstration of how adults can access Consumer Reports off the APL website. Over 200 children and adults participated despite the chilly winds and temperature. Friends' Funds were used to purchase supplies for the crafts.

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. The program celebrates the work of local artists and welcomes community members of all ages to experience the arts through engaging opportunities. Friends' funds pay for honoraria and supplies for the artist. Jeffrey Zdrale, a skilled painter and longtime teacher, served as our AIR from October-December.

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Program participants have learned about selecting a subject and how to experiment with color in his workshops.

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. Friends' funds support refreshments for this program and ongoing supply needs.

B.E.A.R. Bingo

B.E.A.R. (Be Excited About Reading) Bingo is a reading program offered during the month of November. It encourages children and families to explore different genres and broaden their reading horizons. This year Children's Services offered three versions: 3-5 yr. old paper version, K-6 paper version & an online option. 404 children registered this year. Friends' Funds pays for the prizes.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten:

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1,000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. Since October 40 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 October 22 have registered for this program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 50 books read.

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.

Puzzles for Early Childhood Area

The Early Childhood Area offers a wide variety of interactive, play-based learning opportunities. One of the most popular stops in the area is the puzzle tables. Friends' funds were used to purchase new puzzles to replace ones that are missing pieces or are too worn to be used anymore. Our regular patrons always notice right away when there is a new puzzle to be played with.

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:

This part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach in the Community Partnerships section. We have coordinated and implemented outreach at various community evening and weekend events, making services available to library patrons, non-users, and underserved

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populations of all ages, and creating visibility for library resources. We recruited and trained volunteers to assist patrons with computer use. We continue to explore and develop opportunities for volunteers to provide further assistance with general and employment-specific computer literacy needs. Friends' funds support this position.