

Adult Classes and Events

Computer Classes in Spanish

The Hispanic Center of the Fox Valley taught computer classes in Spanish every Thursday at the library. The basic computer class taught Spanish-speaking adults essential computer skills. The courses helped adults learn basic computer skills that are required in jobs, professions, and school. Students who completed the class have learned to send e-mails, navigate the internet, and use Microsoft Word to write letters. Friends' funds were used to pay the honorarium for the instructor.

Find Your Ancestors Series: DNA from A to B

A group of 63 adults were excited to learn about using DNA in genealogy research from Dr. Daniel Hubbard. Dr. Hubbard covered a wide range of topics related to DNA including what your DNA is and how we inherited our ancestors' DNA, how to test your DNA, how accurate DNA testing is, the varieties of tests available, and what to do with your DNA matches when you do test. With so many audience questions, Dr. Hubbard stayed an extra half hour to answer them all! Many commented they were very impressed by his talk and it was the best talk they had attended. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Publishing Your Research

Jen Rubin of the Wisconsin State Historical Society Press walked a crowd of 25 attendees through the ins and outs of publishing and self-publishing. Jen discussed the different types of publishing, what to consider when deciding what type of publishing is right for you, and benefits and drawbacks of each type of publishing. She also shared self-publishing tools and about her experience self-publishing her own book. Attendees learned about several websites where they can publish family tree charts or large posters of their genealogy research, and InfoSoup's self-publishing toolbox. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Using Census Records

A crowd of 30 enjoyed Tracy Reinhardt's talk on census records, titled "Genealogists Never Die, They Just Lose Their Census." Tracy started off with a quick pop quiz to show how important some of the details you can find in the census are. Attendees learned how to work with early census records and about non-population schedules, which include mortality schedules and agricultural censuses. There were lots of great questions from the crowd and attendees were excited to hear that there were many ways to access census records using library resources. Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

FlipSide Kick-off Concert

On Feb. 28th, APL held the kick-off concert for the FlipSide Concert Series. Our goal with this concert series is to highlight our FlipSide musicians, allowing for increased visibility for local musicians, to provide access to local live music in a welcoming space, and to promote our FlipSide streaming service. We were able to get significant publicity for this program including live television and newspaper interviews. The bands are

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excited to be part of music at the library. Friends' funds provided honorariums for three local bands and PA equipment rental.

Hmong Contemporary Art & Culture Panel Discussion

This program was the first event of the Hmong Contemporary Art & Culture exhibit series. A panel discussion with emerging Hmong artists and the Diversity Director at UW-Green Bay was focused on Hmong women's roles, identity and contributions in the Hmong community and the community at large. They highlighted problems and identified their culture and social practices. The audience learned more about the panelists and Hmong culture. Friends' funds were used to pay the honorarium for the panelists.

Morning at the Movies

Morning at the Movies is a monthly film series designed for persons with cognitive disabilities, but it is open to everyone. Local group homes provide shuttle service for their residents to attend G-rated films. The Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees.

Writing and Yoga

This spring the library and Yoga Story hosted a Writing and Yoga class. The class created an opportunity for participants to practice yoga and write. The yoga is used to improve individuals' mental and physical health and the writing helps them to stretch the mind, to be creative and expressive. Each class participant enhanced their creativity and explored how movement in the body can free their mind. Friends' funds were used to pay the honorarium for the presenter.

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 buttons of their favorite anime characters. Friends funds also provided refreshments and materials for crafts.

Architecture Exploration

Architecture Exploration was a three-week program that consisted of one presentation per week. Homeschool teens used laptops, videos, and various craft materials to explore architecture. In the final week, teens toured downtown to identify representations of the architectural terms they learned during the program. Friends' funds provided materials for crafts.

K-Pop Club

K-Pop Club is a monthly event 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

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opportunities to build leadership and communication skills through this program. Friends' funds provide materials and refreshments for the K-Pop Club.

Pop-Up Makerspace: 3D Printer Pens

Teens learned about 3D printer pens and used templates and created unique shapes and designs. This program was offered on a day that many students had off from school. Friends' funds were used to purchase the 3D printer pens.

Pop-Up Makerspace: Sewing

Sewing was designed for teens who had incomplete sewing projects. Staff were available to help teens finish their sewing projects at this pop-up makerspace event. Friends' funds purchased the sewing machines and sewing materials for this event.

Tween Classes and Events

January Maker Quest

January's art-themed Maker Quest program reached 237 patrons, ages kindergarten to adult. Together, parents and kids had fun exploring art in many ways. Some of the highlights were drawing with 3D pens, tracing with augmented reality using the Osmos, making clouds in jars, trying out a human spirograph, planning architecture with the Arckit sets, and more. The technology and supplies that make this program possible are purchased with Friends' funds.

February Maker Quest

February's simple machine-themed Maker Quest program reached 179 patrons, ages kindergarten to adult. Our school-aged makers had fun with Wiggle Bots, Engino building sets and a zip line across the room for bugs or balloons to go on rides. Participants also designed articulated robot hands, catapults, and kaleidoscopes. We figured out how the Archimedes' screw works - and SO much more! The technology and supplies that make this program possible are purchased with Friends' funds.

March Maker Quest

March's storytelling-themed Maker Quest program reached 235 patrons, ages kindergarten to adult. This month the available technology included use of a green screen (OWLS), stop motion animation with StikBots, and creating our own video games with Bloxels. We also tried making books, building structures that the Big Bad Wolf couldn't blow down and loads of other great experiences. On his way out from Maker Quest one night a boy yelled, "I LOVE this place!" The technology and supplies that make this program possible are purchased with Friends' funds.

Tinkering with Tech

2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders had a blast at our latest visit to the Boys and Girls Club for the ongoing program, Tinkering with Tech. They learned about coding with the Ozobots and about circuitry with Little Bits. Both sets of educational technology were purchased with funds from Friends.

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Children's Classes and Events

Hmong Special: Family Photoshoot

We invited a local Hmong photographer to capture portraits for Hmong families free of charge. Families dropped in for quick photoshoots on Monday, March 4th. Professional family portraits can be costly, this was a great opportunity for families to capture memories. 17 people participated, and Friends' funds paid a stipend to the photographer.

Baby Sensory Exploration

On Tuesday, March 19 APL held the first Baby Sensory Exploration program at the library. 27 babies (0-2 years old) and parents attended the program. There were a variety of stations set up around the room including a sensory walk/crawl with different textures from sponges, Velcro, sandpaper, a bubble wrap runway, sensory hoops tied with different fabrics, sensory bags filled with brightly colored glitter gel, slices of pool noodles to thread on jumbo pipe cleaners and many other activities. Babies and caregivers were free to explore the different sensory stations and the program ended with the beloved bubble machine (a previous Friends' Funds purchase). The babies had a blast! One of their favorite stations was contact paper, sticky side up, taped to a table flat on the ground. They loved sticking foam shapes and their hands to the contact paper and peeling them off. The program will be repeated in May and several times during the summer. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the stations that will be reused in future programs.

Bakers Storytime

Hmong children explored the art of baking in Bakers Storytime. We shared stories, Hmong treats and made cinnamon salt dough ornaments together. One girl came up to me after the program and said, "I love coming to the library. Can we make slime next time?". There were 13 participants and Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies and treats.

Hmong & Hispanic Play and Learns in partnership with the Seed Library

On Sunday, January 27th, Kari from the Seed Library did a special program for Hmong and Hispanic families. She informed families about the Seed Library and how ethnic cultures can share their seeds as well to diversify the collection. We learned about the importance of gardening even in the winter by making bird feeders and painting seed pods. There were 29 participants. Friends' funds paid for birdseed and shortening so families could create their own birdfeeders.

St. Patrick's Day Program

On Friday, March 15 80 preschoolers and parents attended a St. Patrick's Day party for preschoolers. The party started with a short storytime and then the children made shamrock people, St. Patrick's Day wands and necklaces, and paper rainbows. The kids could also dig for leprechaun gold in the rice sensory bin, play with shamrock slime

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and have their faces painted. Friends' funds were used to purchase Fruit Loops for the rainbow necklaces.

Valentine's Day Program

On Wednesday, February 13, 43 preschoolers and caregivers attended the Valentine's Day Special. The program started out with a storytime and then kids had a chance to make some Valentine's Day crafts and play with chocolate and strawberry scented playdough. The playdough was a huge hit! Kids pretended to make chocolate truffles and cookies. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the crafts.

Programs for All Ages

Hijab Day Celebration

The community celebrated Hijab Day at the library on February 2. There was a presentation by the Fox Cities Muslim Women group, delicious food, and the opportunity to wear a hijab. Free scarves were given to those that chose to wear it for the day or part of the day. The importance of Hijab Day is to bring awareness to the meaning of hijab and to encourage Muslim and non-Muslim women alike to try to wear the hijab for a day. Friends funds were used to pay an honorarium for the presenters.

Summer Library Program T-Shirts

In order to help promote the upcoming Summer Library Program, Children's Services purchased some eye-catching t-shirts with funds from Friends. The theme this year is A Universe of Stories and our t-shirts show an astronaut reading a book in space. These shirts will be worn during outreaches, in-house programs, and promotional visits. You can see us all wearing them in our newest SLP video here:

<https://youtu.be/hBi88lsmXoU>.

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. Tyla Hilfreich offered engaging and welcoming workshops that provided opportunities for patrons of all ages to print on t-shirts, create collages, and learn how to layer art. We focused our efforts on the main floor to reach an audience who may be unfamiliar with printing from woodblocks. It was a great way to showcase new art, inspire those who might not have attended a formal event, and engage with questions or interest from visitors of all ages. Friends funds provided the honorarium for the artist and ink for t-shirt printing.

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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 inter-generational program. This program attracts people of all ages and abilities. Friends' funds support refreshments for this program and ongoing supply needs.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Prizes

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. Since January, 40 children have registered for the program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 100 books read.

Symphony Storytime

The partnership with the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra continues in 2019. We had our first 2 Symphony Storytimes in February with 62 participants. The theme was Seuss. Friends' funds paid for a portion of the performers' time. The rest is covered by the Fox Valley Symphony.

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

Constant Contact

Friends funds pay for our mass email service provider. We use this service to email our subscribers information about library news, classes, services and more.

Blocks for Early Childhood Area

Friends' funds were used to purchase jumbo, Lego-style blocks and tubs to store the blocks in. The jumbo blocks replaced the wooden blocks that were removed for cleaning. Kids are having a blast building tall towers and large buildings. The blocks are made from foam, so they don't hurt when they are knocked over and come tumbling down. Friends' funds were also used to purchase a new toy bus, racecar, and airplane to replace lost or damaged toys.

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position

This part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach related to job skill and workforce development. We have coordinated and implemented outreach and engagement to create visibility for library resources. We recruited and trained volunteers to assist patrons with computer use. We continue to explore and develop job skill and workforce development initiatives, including opportunities for volunteers to provide further assistance with employment searches.