

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

4th QUARTER 2019

### Adult Classes and Events

#### **Computer Literacy Classes**

APL offers computer literacy classes in two languages, Spanish and Hmong. The goal of the class is to provide adults with a basic understanding of what a computer is, how it operates and the ability to use the applications. Students learn how to create an e-mail, create and type a Word Document, print, and practice keyboarding. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for the instructors.

#### **Flipside Concert Series**

Our goal with this concert series is to highlight our FlipSide collection musicians, increase visibility for local musicians, provide access to local live music in a welcoming space, and to promote our FlipSide streaming service. During the fourth quarter of 2019, we hosted Jennifer Hodges Bryan, a classical flutist who brought an entire ensemble with her. Then, we completely switched gears and hosted the funky rock band, More Than Merry in November on the main floor. At this event, a number of patrons stopped by and expressed excitement over having events like this right in the middle of the library. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for musicians.

#### **Mindfulness with Joy Series**

APL welcomed Joy Jordan as part of our Wellness Wednesdays Series for a three-part session starting in September and running through November. This session provides varied teachings and guided meditations, as well as suggestions for everyday practice. Participants learned about and experienced mindfulness. Friends' funds provided the honorarium.

#### **Morning at the Movies**

Morning at the Movies is a monthly film series designed for individuals with cognitive disabilities, but it is open to all. Local adult day programs and group homes provide shuttle service for their residents to attend G-rated films. The Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees. The films for 4th quarter were: Coco, The Secret of NIMH, and The Muppet Christmas Carol. There is no other program like this available in our community for no cost: more organizations have started sharing our flyers and attendees are very appreciative of the films.

#### **Native American Heritage Month**

##### **Native Stitches and Stories**

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, we hosted a program that describes itself as a historical tapestry of traditional, native quilt making, story and song artfully woven together. In Native Stitches and Stories, Oneida Storyteller, Debra Morningstar and WI quilt artist, Pat Ehrenberg highlighted stories from the cultural regions of the Four Directions of Turtle Island, including the eastern woodlands of the Iroquois to the deserts of the Hopi people. Attendees were able to learn about the skill and techniques involved with designing and creating quilts and understand the history of Native

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American cultures through storytelling. Friends' funds provided honorariums for this program.

#### **12 Tribes of Wisconsin**

For our second program honoring Native American Heritage Month, we welcomed Dr. Renee Gralewicz, a Brothertown Indian Nation Peacemaker and elder, and Associate Professor of Anthropology-Sociology and American Indian Studies. Dr. Gralewicz presented an overview of each of the 12 Indigenous Tribes currently in Wisconsin including their individual histories, belief systems, and customs. We learned how and when each nation lived in Wisconsin, about their fight to keep their land, and their contributions to protecting Wisconsin and the Earth. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for this program.

#### **Pecha Kucha Night**

Our annual Hispanic Heritage Month event included a Pecha Kucha storytelling format to showcase Latinx/Hispanic community members sharing stories of passion and connection. The presentation content ranged from educational/informational about countries of origin, to motivational for increased community engagement, to inspirational based on their lived experiences. The stories made people tear up with emotion, holler with laughter, and jump up to give hugs! This program was presented in partnership with the regional Pecha Kucha coordinator Jim Wendt at Gibson Music Hall. Friends' funds supported thank you items for the speakers and a program fee to Pecha Kucha.

### **Teen Classes and Events**

#### **Holidaze Mug Painting**

The purpose of this workshop is to engage tweens and teens in a fun and creative activity for the holidays. Decorated mugs can be used as personal keepsakes or as gifts. 25 ceramic mugs, a collection of paint pens and Hodge Podge spray were purchased for this event using Friends' funds. The event will be held on a non-school day to simplify participation and encourage participants to unwind during this busy time of year.

#### **I Can't Believe It's November – Black Friday Crafts**

Teens had the opportunity to decorate non-slip cozy socks with puffy fabric paint for themselves or a gift. We also had supplies for designing personalized greeting cards. Those in attendance had a great time and said they hoped we would do this again. Friends' funds purchased the paint, socks & washi tape for these craft projects.

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

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#### **Stranger Things Party**

Thirty teens (and Fang, mascot of the WI Timber Rattlers) joined us to celebrate this popular Netflix television series. Friends' funds purchased a toaster, Eggo waffles and toppings for "Eleven's DIY Waffle Bar", and gift cards for costume and/or "act out a scene" contest. Fang served as a celebrity guest judge for the costume contest. In addition to the waffle bar & contest, teens also decorated buttons to take home as part of the 1980s theme of the show. Teens who attended had a wonderful time, with a few going out of their comfort zone to perform in front of their peers.

#### **Teen Services Meet and Greet Pizza Party**

The purpose of this program was to introduce tweens/young adult patrons to the new Teen Services and Engagement Librarian and Teen Library Assistant while brainstorming and exchanging new and exciting programming ideas for 2020. Pizzas and soda were purchased with Friends' funds and a candy icebreaker with questions was used to further engage teens and deepen the conversation. The feedback received will shape future programming. Of the 10 participants at the party, some expressed their interest in joining a new Teen Advisory Board which is currently under development.

### **Tween Classes and Events**

#### **October Maker Quest**

Maker Quest was packed full of fun activities in the month of October. The kids made exciting things like calming jars, crayons in fun shapes, magnetic slime, color-changing slime, and bath bombs! They learn as they go each month and not getting it right in the first try is all part of the learning process while having fun experimenting. Thank you to the Friends and their generosity! This program would not be possible without their support. This program served 278 people and Friends' Funds were used for the special supplies.

#### **November Maker Quest**

November's Maker Quest was a hit! Makers got to learn sewing machine skills by sewing on paper and making cat toys! They also got to test how seal blubber works, paint camouflage on themselves, tinker with Bee Bots and Osmos, and make lots of projects using biomimicry. This program served 277 people and Friends' Funds were used for the special supplies.

#### **December Maker Quest**

We packed a LOT of fun in during the three weeks that Maker Quest was offered this month! For those of you that remember Magic Sand, the makers got to try some out this month. For technology they worked with the Oculus Rift, Osmos, and Google Cardboard. For creations, participants made Lego flags, Makedo cardboard constructions, Matryoshka paper dolls, and much more. The most popular this month were the Tomte Gnomes! This program served 188 people and Friends' Funds were used for the special supplies.

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## Children's Classes and Events

### **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, APL hosted a Hispanic Heritage Celebration. We had dancers from the Appleton Bilingual School and provided delicious food thanks to Friends of the Appleton Public Library. It was a great event where more than 100 people came and enjoyed different types of dancing from the Hispanic culture. Families spent time with friends and community leaders.

### **Stories & Stuff – Book Festival Author Edition**

Fox Cities Book Festival Author and former APL Children's librarian Pamela Cameron was Kathleen's guest at "Stories & Stuff" on October 9. The pair reunited for two back-to-back storytimes, featuring excerpts from Pam's book *Sport, Ship Dog of the Great Lakes*, along with other stories, music, movement, and other activities rounding out each program. Pam volunteered at APL in the 1980's and was on the Children's staff between 1987 to 1991. It was a wonderful opportunity to add a visit from Pam to the list of wonderful events on our Book Festival Day, thanks in large part to the support of our Friends.

### **Musical Movin' Storytime Jingling All the Way!**

As snow fell outside on December 12<sup>th</sup>, kids and families were dashing through imaginary snow in "Musical Movin' Storytime," with jingle bell bracelets they made together. The bells for the project were provided by Friends funds. There were various other bell-related activities in the classroom, including one with our colorful handbells also courtesy of Friends-- truly gifts that keep on giving. A jolly time was had by all for each of the three storytimes on December 12, the last of the 7-week series.

### **Black Friday Crafts**

A lot of fun was had at the Black Friday Craft Special. Children made a wide variety of gifts for the special people and birds in their lives.

Bird feeders, decorative pins and magnets, hot cocoa reindeer, cards and so much more! 45 people were served, and Friends' Funds were used for the special craft supplies.

### **STREAM Team Activities**

In October 3-5-year old kiddos learned about food in STREAM Team. Friends' funds were used to purchase apples, oranges, avocados, and celery for the art table. The foods were cut in half and dipped in paint so that kids could use them as stamps in their artwork. They learned about the shapes, colors and textures of the different foods. Friends funds were also used to purchase milk for a "magic milk" science experiment. Kids were in awe when they dipped a dish soap-soaked q-tip into a pan of whole milk with dots of food coloring in it. As soon as the dish soap hit the milk the food coloring spread across the pan like a firework because the soap is attracted to the fat in the milk and quickly spread throughout the pan. Kids were amazed by the colorful experiment and learned a lot.

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### **Library Program Prizes**

In November, 566 children signed up and participated in the B.E.A.R. (Be Excited About Reading) Bingo reading program. After completing 5 reading challenges in a row on their bingo sheet, kids were able to spin the wheel for a prize. The Friends of the Library funded the prizes, including slap bracelets, bouncy balls, sticky hands, and other fabulous prizes. Kids entered a drawing for our grand prize (a giant giraffe stuffed animal wearing a bear hat) after completing 5 bingos. 6-year-old Marina F. was the grand prize winner.

### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten Prizes**

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. Since October, 59 children have registered for the 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-6<sup>th</sup> grade to continue the habit of reading. Since October, 46 children have registered for this program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 50 books read.

## **Programs for All Ages**

### **Fox Cities Book Festival**

The Fox Cities Book Festival had a new "one community, one day" format where each participating community hosted all of their programs on one day. APL hosted ten author programs from 9:20 a.m.- 8:30 p.m. Attendees learned about authors' inspiration, writing process, publishing experiences, and book content. The attendees at Gaochi Vang's poetry reading were moved to tears by the power of her words and story. Friends' funds were used for welcome bags and honorariums for the authors.

## **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. Gregory Frederic, our Artist in Residence for October, November, and December, partnered with teens from the S.T.A.R. (Scholars on Target to Achieve Results) program to brainstorm words and images they felt represented libraries, learning, education, and our community to them. They were able to learn about Gregory's paintings and how he can visualize ideas and thoughts and put them on canvas. Gregory took their ideas and created a large-scale mural designed specifically for APL's teen space wall that was revealed on December 17th. Friends' funds were used to support this program, art supplies, an art plaque, and refreshments for the reveal.

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

Cocoa and Coloring Nights provide patrons with the opportunity to relax and socialize in an open, relaxed environment. Group homes have brought multiple residents to enjoy this inter-generational program and this fall, we brought in a professional voice-over artist to read a spooky story. This program attracts people of all ages and abilities. Friends' funds support refreshments for this program and ongoing supply needs.

#### **Valley Packaging Storytime**

APL staff provide a monthly Storytime for adult participants in the Valley Packaging adult day program. This program provides support for adults who experience moderate to profound impairments and/or are challenged with multiple disabilities. Library staff present stories, songs, and activities to groups of more than 50 participants. Friends' funds were used to purchase a mobile PA system to enhance these presentations.

### **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.

#### **Early Childhood Area**

The Early Childhood Area of the Children's Department got a mini update thanks to the Friends of the Appleton Public Library. An old, worn out wall manipulative panel was replaced with a new spinning gear panel. A set of foam boulders and a set of foam cinder blocks were purchased to be rotated along with other block sets in the Early Childhood Area. The cinder blocks were the first to be put out on the floor and patrons have been loving how soft they are and how cute their kids look making towers with materials that look so heavy.

#### **Breakout EDU**

Friends funded two amazing Breakout EDU boxes! These are puzzle boxes with locks and codes that will be used in future programming, field trip options, and for circulation in a kit. The escape room type format of this tool helps to promote critical thinking and collaboration in fun and exciting ways.

#### **Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:**

This Friends funded, part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach related to job skill and workforce development. Staff continue to coordinate and implement outreach and engagement to create visibility for library resources. Staff and volunteers are assisting patrons with computer use, job searches, online applications and writing resumes and cover letters through the Job Connection initiative in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Lab. Staff partnered with Job Center of Menasha to provide training for volunteers and cross-referral of services. Staff are exploring partnerships with POINT, Community Outreach Center, and FVTC Employment Connections to create awareness about higher-paying occupations, assist with skill

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development, address lifelong economic security, and support small business owners and entrepreneurs.

#### **Video Recording Equipment**

In response to our gaining popularity on social media and with the desire to maintain healthy archives of programs, we purchased a tri-pod which allows for recording with a cell phone. The use of cell phone allows us to live-stream onto social media as well as take pictures or video clips for immediate or future posting. This will be used in many different programs including concerts and art events. Friends' funds paid for the tri-pod.