

Adult Classes and Events

Artist in Residence - Virtual

Artist in Residence Willow Bayer showcased her unique artistic style in which she focuses on one element of a real-life image, photo, or sketch and brings them to life replicating each layer and creating an almost 3D quality. We started with two workshops in which we learned the rebuilding techniques on a sketch by Willow, then taking that a step further to create dimension and build depth with a photo. For the third session, Willow demonstrated how she uses technology to replicate shapes, allowing the architecture of an image to really stand out. All of these sessions were hosted through Zoom and patrons used curbside pick-up for the supplies they needed to participate. Friends' funds provided the honorarium and supplies for these programs.

Connecting Cards

In order to create a connection to residents of care facilities, we created an opportunity to send a cheerful message with pre-stamped, pre-addressed cards. Blank cards are available at our first-floor information desk, ready to be filled out and dropped in the mailbox and delivered to a person right here in our community. Senders have the option of including a return address if they would like to provide an opportunity to respond. We are currently partnered with Oneida Heights for this program. Friends' funds provided materials for this program.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories

We kicked off a fresh new year of the Find Your Ancestors series with professional genealogist and author Gena Philibert-Ortega's talk on "We're Related to George Washington?: Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories." Gena, who has worked on the former PBS show *Genealogy Roadshow*, shared real-life examples of stories she had to prove or disprove as she showcased resources genealogists can use for their own family stories. Resources included Digital Public Library of America, Internet Archive, the U.S. Newspaper Directory, ArchiveGrid and more. More than 100 attendees enjoyed the presentation and shared: "Best genealogy webinar I've attended in a while." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Using Alternative Resources

Our second January Find Your Ancestors program speaker was Cathy Dailey, Vice President of Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, who presented on using alternative resources in your research. We had tremendous interest in this program, with a record number 176 attendees and 260 registrants. Cathy used case studies from her own research to illustrate how much rich detail you can add to your ancestor's stories through some unique records you might not have considered researching. One attendee said, "I would never have been able to travel there to attend from Danville IL and I learned a lot!" Friends provided financial support for this series.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

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Find Your Ancestors Series: Deciphering Foreign Language Records

In February, we hosted genealogy speaker, author, and translator Katherine Schober for her talk “Help! I Don’t Speak the Language: Tips and Tricks for Deciphering Foreign Language Records.” A virtual crowd of 152 listened in as Katherine shared numerous resources to help attendees translate foreign language records in any language. Attendees enjoyed Katherine’s hands-on examples as she demonstrated the resources and were eager to try out her many tips. One attendee shared, “Please keep having quality presenters on a variety of topics like you do.” Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: World War II Genealogy

In March, we hosted Russ Horton from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to discuss “Tracing Private Ryan: World War II Genealogy.” Russ shared several resources attendees could use to decode their ancestor’s military experience, including obtaining their DD214 separation form. He then shared how to take the research further by using resources like regimental histories or Fold3.com to paint a more detailed picture of what war was like. One attendee shared, “Since I am not from Wisconsin nor do I have any ancestors or relatives from Wisconsin I liked that this genealogy lecture focused a lot on general information about how to find a World War II ancestor.” Friends provided financial support for this series.

In The Round Knitting Circle

In February, we held three virtual knitting circle events with expert knitter, Sara Pederson, who walked us through the step-by-step process of knitting a scarf. We learned how to cast on, create a knit stitch and a purl stitch. These events were held via Zoom and videos were created to walk a new knitter through each step. Videos will be available on our Youtube channel. Friends’ funds provided an honorarium and materials for this program.

Take n’ Create: CreativeBug Packs

The Take n’ Create: CreativeBug Packs were filled with essential planner materials for adults, but people of all ages were free to reserve a pack. These packs were offered to introduce our patrons to APL’s online resource CreativeBug and to provide a resource for a creative outlet to promote well-being. We received feedback from a participant excited to work on an already organized project with their group. Overall, participants discovered a new and free resource for future arts and craft uses. Friends’ funds were used to purchase program supplies.

Teen Classes and Events

2D Art for Teens – Creating Your Personal Portfolio

Local artist and student at Cooper Institute, Simon Garb led this 5-week course for teens in grades 7-12. Teens were introduced to various artists and modes of 2D art while engaging in guided practice to improve their skill. Six teens participated in this program, increasing in confidence and willingness to share as sessions progressed.

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Friends' funds were used to pay Simon for his instructional work and to purchase sketchbooks for participants to create their own portfolios.

Books Build Community

Books Build Community fosters shared experiences around a specific book, through formal and informal book discussions in homes, workplaces, and around town. This year's title, *The Voting Booth* by Brandy Colbert, was selected by teens in the Fox Valley through a survey. The central themes for this year's reimagined BBC were race, racism, and anti-racism. Supporting partners included representatives from Appleton Area School District (AASD), AASD Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office (DEI), and Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley STAR Program. Friends' funds supported an honorarium for a virtual author visit with Brandy Colbert and library copies of *The Voting Booth*.

Tween Classes and Events

George Book Club

In coordination with Fox Cities Reads, APL offered a 4th-6th grade book club program for the book *George* by Alex Gino. Participants received their own copy of the book to keep. Our club met for two weeks, reading half of the book before our first session and finishing it before the last. We discussed summaries, vocabulary, setting, book-to-life connections, favorite parts, and predictions. As an added bonus, Nick Ross from Diverse and Resilient joined us for both sessions. The club learned a lot together while having fun and open discussions.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – February

February's Maker Quest Take & Make and Show & Tell programs were full of heart! The kindergarten - 2nd grade crowd used science and art skills to make some fizzing heart art with baking soda, food coloring, and watercolor paper hearts. The 3rd-6th grade kids used science and engineering to make a working heart pump model. It was a challenging month for them, but they were so happy when they got it working! Thank you to our Friends for making another successful month possible!

Maker Quest - Take and Make – March

Our Maker Quest crew had a lot of fun with engineering in March! The K-2nd grade group constructed a leprechaun trap complete with ribbon weaving through berry baskets and use of coin/gem treasure as bait. Our 3rd-6th graders made their own adorable bird marionettes. Measuring and attaching the strings so they all worked well together was the biggest challenge of this project. Both groups picked up their supplies at the library and crafted their projects at home. We then offered a Show & Tell program

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via Zoom, where participants showed us what they made and talked about the challenges and successes of their projects.

Children's Classes and Events

Korean Mask Workshop

The Korean Mask Workshop took place on March 27th at 11AM on Zoom. This program was geared for the K-6 crowd and 16 patrons attended. Seonjoo So Oh was our featured guest artist and during the program she shared about the traditional Korean Mask Dance (Bongsam Tal-Chum), Korean drumming, and traditional Korean drums. Each registered participant received a take-and-make kit containing a watercolor kit and 3-D mask template to create their own mask at the end of the program.

This workshop was also funded in part by East Asia in Wisconsin, a grant dedicated to honoring and uplifting East Asian culture in response to increasing hate crimes and violence against the Asian American community.

STREAM Team Spring 2021

Spring STREAM Team ran for 8 weeks in March and April. This program was for 3–5-year-olds and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Patrons picked up a pack of supplies before the program started and then picked up a second box halfway through the program that included everything needed for the 8 weeks of activities. Thirty preschoolers, divided into four groups, met on Zoom each Thursday for a short storytime and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each week had a theme, winter, St. Patrick's Day, opposites, robots, eggs & bunnies, birds, butterflies, and Earth Day. The kids and parents had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback.

January Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *The Wish Tree* by Kyo Maclear and Chris Turnham. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title is up for the months of December and January. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

March Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *The Snowy Day* by Jack Ezra Keats. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title is up for the months of March. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

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January Downtown Storywalk

Children's partnered with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille written by Jen Bryant was the book on display for the month of January. The story follows Louis Braille and how he lost his sight to how he invented braille, the tactile writing system for the blind and visually impaired. The book highlights January as Braille Literacy Month.

February & March Downtown Storywalk

Children's partnered with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho was the book on display for the month of February. The poetic story is about a young girl who loves her eyes, although different from others, because they carry many generations of strength and stories. Her eyes kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea just like her mama's, amah's, and mei-mei's. It is a very empowering book for many children from Asian backgrounds.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Special Projects

Anji Play Interview

In January, the Children's Department in partnership with the Building for Kids submitted an application and interviewed with Anji Play. The interview was successful and Anji Play will lead Children's Staff and Building for Kids' staff through official Anji Play/True Play training in April. This training will lead to outdoor early childhood programming during the summer based on the Anji Play model. More information to come!

Beanstack Badge Books

In anticipation of a virtual 2021 Summer Library Program, Children's purchased a little over 1000 Badge books from Beanstack. These books are a combination of reading trackers & activity booklets complete with stickers, games, and a connection to the online program. These Badge Books will take the place of regular reading logs for children participating in the online summer library program. Patrons have indicated a decided preference for a paper program, so we are hoping to encourage summer signup with these cool books!

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Annual Report

Friends' funds paid for professional graphic design work for our first annual report. We will use our annual report to help communicate the impact of the library to various stakeholders through stories and statistics.

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.

Animoto Video Production

Friends' funds paid for a year-long subscription to Animoto, an online video production software tool. This software helps staff create videos for promotion of services

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:

This Friends funded, part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach related to individual and community well-being. The staff member has increased capacity related to Rhythms of the World, National Library Card Sign Up Month, and Kairos Alive Dancing Heart programming, APL's Small Business – Big Impact initiative, the Take n' Create: CreativeBug program, and consumer health literacy program planning.