

Adult Classes and Events

Artist in Residence - Virtual and In-person

Artist in Residence Wendi Turchan-Martin used nature literally and for inspiration in her sessions with us over April, May, and June. First, we created brushes with found materials like twigs and dried plants and used those brushes to paint together. We then partnered with The Flower Mill of Appleton and used their pressed, dried flowers to create mobiles with air dry clay and mod podge. Our last session brought us to Memorial Park where we created mini-earth art, using the texture and colors of found plants and leaves, sunlight, and the ground to create something beautiful to be left and found by others. Friends' funds provided the honorarium and supplies for these programs.

Civic Conversations – Virtual

During this quarter, we hosted two online Civic Conversations in which we examine topics that empower us to make informed choices, understand our collective history, and inspire civic and community engagement. On Earth Day, we discussed making a collective impact on global warming with Dr. Pablo Toral of Beloit College. In June, we discussed the women's rights movement and the dramatic strides toward full legal equality, as well as where we stand today with Dr. Paisley Harris of UW Oshkosh. Honorariums were made possible by Friends' funds.

Connecting Cards

This passive program created a connection to residents of care facilities by sending a cheerful message with the provided pre-stamped, pre-addressed cards. Senders had the option of including a return address if they would like to provide an opportunity to respond. By June, 77 blank Connecting Cards were taken by patrons and sent to residents at Oneida Heights. Oneida Heights reported that a number of residents were able to respond also. Friends' funds provided materials for this program.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Discovering Your UK/Irish Roots Online - Virtual

In April, the Find Your Ancestors series hosted genealogist and librarian Debra Dudek. Debra covered the three major genealogy websites for searching for English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish ancestors - FindMyPast, ScotlandsPeople and RootsIreland – and several other resources. Attendees were really impressed with Debra's knowledge and thoroughness of discussing the resources, and many attendees had plenty of new resources to check out that they had never heard of! One attendee said, "This is one of the best webinars on specific areas of research that I have attended. Thank you so much for presenting this to the public." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Mayflower Genealogy - Virtual

Mayflower genealogy was the topic of May's Find Your Ancestors virtual program, presented by Diane Woodworth Liebert, the Governor of the Wisconsin Society of Mayflower Descendants. Diane covered the history of the Mayflower voyage and settlement before discussing how to join the Society of Mayflower Descendants and the

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benefits of joining. How to research your Mayflower ancestor was also featured. One attendee said, "The presentation of the history was wonderful and well presented. The online resources will be beneficial to everyone doing research." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Organizing Your Genealogy – Virtual

In June, we hosted an online program with genealogist Angie Knutson to discuss organizing your research. She discussed how to document your family tree by using tools like research logs and pedigree charts before diving into best practices for organizing various types of records like fragile photos. One attendee commented, "I liked Angie's straightforward presentation style. Packed with information the webinar was very interesting and I plan on implementing all of her organization methods with my own genealogy." Friends provided financial support for this series.

Traditional Hmong Spoken Art with Hmong Shaman, Tou Ger Lor – Virtual

This virtual program was part of the many programs to honor Hmong American Day. We learned about Tou Ger Lor's journey of becoming a Hmong Shaman. He was a tween when his life journey changed—he was chosen by his ancestors to become a Shaman. He talked about being a spiritual healer and a mental health advocate in the Hmong community. The presentation was emotional and powerful. The participants were moved to tears by Lor's story. Friends provided financial support for Tou Ger Lor's presentation.

Teen Classes and Events

Media Animation for Teens w/Hmong Visual Artist & Designer Tou Yia Xiong

Hmong artist and designer for Manhattan Toys Tou Yia Xiong led a media animation session for teens on using a Take n' Create Pack component for program registrants. The artist guided participants using a grid style template who then received a GIF generated by the artist's technology. Our goal was to celebrate the richness of Hmong culture, have fun and to inspire young minds to consider careers in computer design, technology and engineering. The artist received an honorarium paid for by the Friends.

Teen Take n' Create Packs

Teen Summer Library Program kicked off with free books and the first of a series of four Take n' Create Pack offerings. The first take n' create pack included a ceramic mug, a combination of paint pens for teens to create unique designs, instructions, and a Project Outcome evaluation survey. The sign-up list was filled within days and 20 packs were distributed. Teens are encouraged to share their creations with us. Friends' funds were used to pay for the supplies.

Tween Classes and Events

Children's Classes and Events

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Creative Writing with Author, VT Bidania

Children's Services contracted with Hmong author, VT Bidania, to lead a creative writing workshop for the children of Appleton. VT Bidania is the first author to publish a book series with Hmong leads titled, *Astrid and Apollo*. She read a chapter from one of the books, talked about identity and the importance of representation, and then children were encouraged to write their own poems using one of her templates. VT also provided goodie bags for registered participants. Friends' funds provided the performer's stipend.

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Chain Making with Artist, Ger Xiong

Children's contracted Ger Xiong to lead a chain making workshop for children in grades 2-6. Ger is a talented young artist who's artwork centers on metals and jewelry. He spent a year in Thailand to study the works of Hmong metalsmithing. Participants who registered for the workshop received a kit with supplies and followed Ger as he taught them how to link coils of copper/brass to make a Hmong-inspired bracelet.

[A parent reached out and thanked us for the exposure to culturally diverse artists and the opportunity to learn such unique skills.](#) Friends' funds provided the performer's stipend.

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Media Animation with Tou Yia Xiong

Children's contracted Tou Yia Xiong to lead a Media Animation workshop for the children of Appleton. Tou Yia is an artist and toy designer for Manhattan Toys. His work has been featured on The View. In the workshop, he used the app, *Art Eater*, to teach children the different types of animation and how to create their own. Participants were very engaged and asked if we will bring the workshop again soon. Additionally, a parent thanked us for the exposure to culturally diverse artists and the opportunity to learn such unique skills. Friends' funds provided the performer stipend.

April – June Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of 3 books; *When Spring Comes* by Kevin Henkes, *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* by Ross Burach and *And Then Comes Summer* by Tom Brenner. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages for the months of April-June. 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. These titles will be up for 1 month each, April-June. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk. Friends' funds provided the books for the Storywalks.

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April & June Downtown Storywalks

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging StoryWalk 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. *Peanut Goes for the Gold* by Jonathan Van Ness is the book on display for the month of April. It follows Peanut who has their own unique ways of doing things. The book was chosen to align with a children's program in partnership with Diverse & Resilient and the Fox Cities Community Reads title *George. I am Enough* by Grace Byers is the book on display for the month of June. The story empowers black children to embrace themselves and was chosen in celebration of Juneteenth. Friends' funds provided the books for the Storywalks.

Pokémon Scavenger Hunt

As kids and their adults are welcomed back into the library, what better way to reacquaint them with the Children's Section than to have a super fun, Pokémon-themed scavenger hunt? Families and friends are having a great time working together to find 20 Pokémon characters throughout the area to earn a vinyl sticker prize at the end. The hunt helps patrons to remember where their favorite materials are located and, perhaps, introduces them to some lesser-known areas/collections. Friends' funds provided the sticker prize at the end of the Scavenger Hunt.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Friends' funds were used to purchase new prizes for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. The prizes include wooden cars, toy boats, dinosaur bath squirters, rubber duckies, and sensory balls. Children get to pick out a prize for every 100 books they read. The new prizes have sparked excitement in the program as children saw them in the display case during May and early June.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – April

Spring was in the air at April's Maker Quest! We had a wonderful time making some sounds of the season. The K-2nd group made Chirping Crickets. The 3rd-6th grade crew made Rain sticks and were extremely happy to use hammers for the first time in one of our programs! Both groups worked on their engineering and art skills with these unique projects. As always, we had the Make and Take bags for pick up and it was followed up with our Show & Tell program through Zoom. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – May

May's Maker Quest project was the same for all grade levels. We made Grass Heads. Using wheatgrass seeds, soil, nylons, and googly eyes, students made some absolutely adorable planting projects. When completed, the Grass Heads looked a bit like a Chia Pet with grass growing out of the top like hair. We all had fun trimming the grass hair that we grew. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

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Maker Quest - Take and Make – June

June is a very SWEET month for Maker Quest as all of our participants are working on their no-sew crafting and art skills. Kindergarten-2nd graders worked on making sock donuts while 3rd-6th graders made Pop Tart pillows. So far, the projects have been picked up and brought home to work on. We can't wait to see what they created when we see them on Zoom tomorrow for Show & Tell. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Kids Fun with Finance Series

APL is teaming with Junior Achievement to offer a 5-week financial literacy series this summer. Through JA videos, students hear from a different small business owner each week and learn about financial concepts such as wants/needs, effects of business on neighborhoods, entrepreneurship, marketing, product concepts, and more. We then take those concepts and work on a different activity for each class. Activities include inventing products, responsible spending, logo creation, etc. Thank you to Friends for funding the materials to make this happen.

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Special Projects

Anji Play Training & Roaming Ruckus: a True Play Program

Friends' funds were used to pay for a series of virtual workshops in the Anji Play model for staff at APL and the Building for Kids. After these sessions, staff worked closely with the trainers to develop the Roaming Ruckus program. This program is based on the 5 pillars of Anji Play: Love, Risk, Joy, Engagement and Reflection. Participants meet outdoors for a period of child directed play using open ended materials. At the end of their time, the children are encouraged to create a "Play Story" and share reflections on their play. At the end of each program, staff meet with the Anji Play trainers to discuss what they observed during the program and what adjustments might be beneficial. The programs are scheduled at various parks around Appleton including Arbutus, Linwood, Pierce and Kiwanis.

Button for SLP Virtual Childcare Storytimes

Friends' funds were used to purchase a voice recording button to use in the Summer Library Program virtual storytimes for childcares. One of the books being used most frequently is called "The Button Book" by Sally Nichols and the voice recording button is being used in conjunction with that book throughout the summer.

Grab and Go Craft Bags

Throughout the summer, Children's has offered Grab and Go Craft Bags both in the library by the self-check machines and out in the community at various outreaches.

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These bags are full of fun craft supplies for families to do at home. Friends' funds were used to purchase the paper bags. 350 bags have been assembled so far.

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.

Building Project Communications

Friends' funds paid for large public signage communicating where community members can find more information on the building project.

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.

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 Kairos Alive Dancing Heart programming, consumer health literacy programming, and outreach to promote well-being resources.

Marketing to Teens

Teen Services is distributing APL water bottles to teens participating in the COVID-19 vaccine clinic. We have given a total of 60 bottles filled with Summer Library Program promotional flyers and stickers. Efforts will continue through the month of July or until supplies last. Friends' funding was used to purchase the water bottles.

Teen Survey

A teen survey was distributed to gauge the interest of our teen patrons and their usage of library resources and to help shape future programming. The survey was available in English, Spanish, and Hmong and was accessible through an online link and hard copies at our service desk. The survey was a success with 60 responses collected. A gift certificate drawing for three randomly selected teens provided incentive to complete the survey. Friends' funds were used for translation services and to purchase the gift certificates.