

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

July 1st 2020 – June 30th 2021

Adult Classes and Events

Adult Summer Library Program 2020

Our goal this year was to keep the Summer Library Program simple, fun and rewarding for everyone. We encouraged adults to set their own reading goal and for each week, reading any amount, would earn them a badge on Beanstack. Each badge earned an entry into a weekly prize drawing. Friends' funds provided two weekly Appleton Downtown, Inc. gift cards, as well as two \$50.00 Visa Grand Prize gift cards.

Virtual Art Experience 2020

Artist-in-Residence Craig Clifford, the Head of Ceramics at UW Oshkosh created incredible pieces that each attendee of his series was able to paint and keep. In our first and second sessions, we partnered with the Children's section and hosted two virtual Zoom events for children where we painted Backyard Birds and Windchimes, all handmade by Craig. The third event was geared to adults and we painted incredible vases together virtually. Patrons used curbside pick-up for the ceramics, paints and brush they needed to participate. Friends' funds provided the honorarium and paint for these programs.

Artist in Residence - Virtual and In-person 2020-21

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.

Artist in Residence – Virtual 2021

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.

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Find Your Ancestors Series:

Unraveling the Mysteries of your Female Ancestors 2020

We kicked off our Find Your Ancestors series this October with genealogist Mary Risseeuw's talk on Unraveling the Mysteries of Your Female Ancestors. While it took a while to transition to a new virtual format, it was well worth the wait for the 63 attendees! Mary first discussed why you may have a harder time finding your female ancestors in records then presented several search strategies and types of records. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and shared: "Wow! Really wonderful webinar. Thank you so much!"; "Thank you so much, Mary, what an incredibly informative talk!"; "Excellent Presentation! Thank you," and "Thank you Katie and the Appleton Library for putting this together." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Using Historic Newspapers for Your Genealogical Research 2020

In November, Randi Ramsden from the Wisconsin Historical Society discussed how to use historic newspapers in your genealogy research, what types of information you can find in newspapers to fill in details about your ancestors, as well as several resources for seeing what newspapers are available and how to access them. We had tremendous interest in this program, with more than 220 registrants, 100 virtual attendees, and 84 video views. Because of the success of the program, we upgraded all future Find Your Ancestors programs from a Zoom Meeting to a Zoom Webinar to accommodate up to 500 attendees in future sessions. One attendee said, "Thank you! This was great! I have done genealogy research at the Appleton Library and it was one of the best ones! I tell everyone how wonderful your library is." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Getting Started in Italian Genealogy 2020

For December, we hosted professional genealogist and author Rhonda R. McClure courtesy of New England Historic Genealogical Society. A virtual crowd of 50 listened in as Rhonda gave an extremely informative presentation on how to get started in Italian family history research. Attendees found the presentation very informative and commented on how knowledgeable Rhonda was. We even had international attendees – with one attendee being from Melbourne, Australia, and another from Mexico! Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories 2021

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

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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 2021

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.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Deciphering Foreign Language Records 2021

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 2021

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.

Find Your Ancestors Series: Discovering Your UK/Irish Roots Online – Virtual 2021

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

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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 2021

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 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 2021

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 2021

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.

In The Round Knitting Circle 2021

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 2021

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

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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.

Civic Conversations – Virtual 2021

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.

Fox Cities Reads 2020

The 14th annual Fox Cities Reads selection was *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yang and was supported by the National Education Association's Big Read grant initiative. The NEA Big Read: Fox Cities Reads initiative spanned a full year and involved several community partners that led programming and community engagement around the book. Programming included a lecture on Hmong culture, Hmong-American storytelling, Storycatchers virtual storytelling on the theme of "Home," a Hmong story cloth exhibit, book clubs, and three presentations by the author. Community members of all ages learned about Hmong culture, history, and Hmong-American cultural identity. Friends' funds were used for books for library circulation, t-shirts for staff, supplemental programs, and a portion of the author's honorarium.

Small Business – Big Impact: Learn AtoZdatabases in Spanish 2020

Small Business – Big Impact serves people of color and immigrant business owners and entrepreneurs in their business startup, retention, and expansion. Library staff presented a Spanish-language introductory program to business resource database that the library subscribes to and makes available to patrons with a library card. Spanish-speaking program attendees learned how to use the tool to conduct market research to start and grow their business. Friends funds paid for text translation for marketing the program in Spanish.

Connecting Cards 2021

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.

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Teen Classes and Events

Summer Library Program – Teen Grand Prizes 2020

We wrapped up the 2020 Summer Library Program! Among the teens who successfully completed the Beanstack reading challenge, three were chosen at random. They each received a book bundle plus a fun mug and beautiful notebook from local vendor Blue Moon Emporium. We wanted to promote the love of reading and help patronize a local business from our vibrant community. Friends' funds were used to pay for the incentives.

Weekly Teen Take n' Create Packs 2020

This summer, we created 25 weekly take 'n' create packs for teens. Friends' funds were used to purchase materials for these kits which consisted of notebooks, upcycled terrarium kits, DIY bird feeders, shrink art, catapults, and corner bookmarks. Each kit contained items to create these projects. Participants were encouraged to be creative and use upcycled, household items when possible. Video tutorials on YouTube were also created for extra support and engagement.

Teen Holiday Grab n' Go Kits 2020

Teen services staff teamed up with a local business, The Fire, to spread some early holiday cheer! Friends funds were used to purchase complete kits which included clay plates, paint glazes, brushes, and instructions. Within an hour of opening the RSVP list, all 25 kits were claimed! The teen and family participation was overwhelmingly positive and exciting for these Grab n' Go Kits, with one parent sharing, "Thank you [for this]!!! My girls are so excited for this! Something to look forward to right now!"

Teen Take n' Create Packs 2021

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.

Teen Photo Expo Virtual and In-person 2020

The Teen Photo Expo was a collaboration between APL and UW Madison Extension. It was geared towards fostering creativity and art in a time of uncertainty among our Fox Cities teens. We received 8 entries under 5 specific categories, 1) nature/wildlife, 2) life at home, 3) summer, 4) my neighborhood, my city and 5) macro. Funding by the Friends helped purchase a camera set for the winner of the expo contest.

2D Art for Teens – Creating Your Personal Portfolio 2021

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

Media Animation for Teens w/Hmong Visual Artist & Designer Tou Yia Xiong 2021

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.

Books Build Community 2021

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

Maker Quest Camp 2020

This August we tried a new spin on Maker Quest by turning it into a week-long camp where participants met for one hour per day for a week. Families picked up their box of activities and materials for the week prior to the start date. The K-6th grade students were full of excitement each day as we met via Zoom and led them through STEAM themed projects. Together we made things like floam, sparkling fairy potions, dragon eggs, pop-sockets, kites, yarn turtles, and more. Friends' Funds were used to purchase the special supplies for the activity boxes.

Here is some of the feedback from parents:

"You ladies do a wonderful job! Materials & activities were awesome! I thoroughly appreciate you & all your hard work!"

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"It was very well organized and easy to prepare for as a parent. Good interaction between librarians and kids. Always knew how messy it would get in advance so could set technology up in an area that could handle the mess."

Maker Quest - Take and Make – February 2021

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 2021

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

George Book Club 2021

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.

Children's Classes and Events

Barely Balanced 2020

Medium from Barely Balanced entertained us with stunts, thrills, comedy, and interactive theater! The kids had a blast watching acrobatics and giggling at the silly jokes. They also got to try their hand at plastic bag juggling and learned some new tricks with popcorn. Attendance was virtual via the Zoom platform. Friends' funds were used for the performer stipend.

David Stokes 2020

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The Animal Dude, David Stokes, came to visit as one of the big performers for Children's this year. He gave us exclusive access to a 55-minute show through YouTube, then joined our patrons via Zoom for 2 Q&A sessions. David incorporated live animals, puppets, artifacts, songs, sign-language, and the stories into his video and brought live animals to the Q&A session. One patron loved it SO much that she had to run to her room to grab her own stuffed snake and put it on her head too! Friends' Funds were used for the performer stipend.

Building for Kids Children's Parade 2020

This year's annual Building for Kids Children's Parade was done differently. Families and businesses volunteered to decorate their property and be part of a driving map so families could safely socially distance and see some fun sites. At APL, we shared yard signs of some favorite book characters and created a book list based on those characters. We would like to thank Friends for helping make these decorations happen.

Summer Library Program Prizes 2020

This year's Summer Library Program included a completion prize of a selection of books for those who participated. The Children's Department wanted to ensure that this prize package included books with children of color to reflect the essential role that literature plays in building positive self-esteem and community reflection. Our Friends generously supported this effort by funding the purchase of books at each reading level for this effort.

STREAM Team Summer Camp 2020

STREAM Team went virtual this summer with a special STREAM Team Summer Camp edition July 20-25. This program was for 3-5-year olds and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Before the program started, patrons picked up a pack of supplies at the library that included everything they would need for the week of activities. Twenty preschoolers, divided into two groups, met on Zoom each morning for a short storytime and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each day had a theme, water, popsicles, gardening, bugs and favorites. The kids and parents had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback. Friends' funds were used for the special supplies.

"Thank you so much for all of your work on this. It is one of the highlights of our summer. Your work goes above and beyond for this program and providing it at home right now is even harder and you managed to make it look easy but I know the work that goes behind it so thank you again."

"Thank you so much for class this week! Linus and Florence are absolutely loving it. It has been the highlight of each day! Once again, I cannot thank you enough. We were all overwhelmed by the loving care put into the planning of this camp and the boxes. We are so grateful!"

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“I wanted to thank you for the wonderful program. I was very impressed with the activities and prepped and organized the kit was!”

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.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – April 2021

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 2021

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.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – June 2021

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.

September Downtown Storywalk 2020

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local businesses downtown as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public enjoyment. “A Map into the World” written by Kao Kalia Yang is the book on display for the month of September.

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The story follows a Hmong family who transitions to their new home, neighborhood, and life in America. It coincides with Kao Kalia's virtual author visit in October for Fox Cities Reads. Friends' funds are used to purchase the Storywalk books.

August Downtown Storywalk 2020

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local, small businesses downtown as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public enjoyment. "Drum Dream Girl" written by Maragrita Engle is the book on display for the month of August. The story follows a girl, who desperately wants to pursue music, but faces lots of challenges as only boys can play music on her island. It coincides with ADI's monthly theme of "Your Story".

July Downtown Storywalk 2020

In partnership with ADI, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Chalk* by Bill Thomson. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as storywalk pages. ADI connected with local businesses who posted the pages in their storefront windows. Families who walk downtown will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up from about the third week in July to the third week in August. In addition to the story itself, each page has a written prompt directing families to do actions (roar like a dinosaur, jump into a pretend puddle etc.) or answer questions (What would you draw with orange chalk? What do you think they are feeling?) as they read the story. Friends' funds are used to purchase the Storywalk books.

September Memorial Park Storywalk 2020

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *How to Take Care of Your Dinosaur* by Jason Cockcroft. 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 will be up for the month of September. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

August Memorial Park Storywalk 2020

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In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Summer Song* by Kevin Henkes. 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 will be up for the month of August. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

January Memorial Park StoryWalk 2021

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 2021

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.

January Downtown Storywalk 2021

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 2021

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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.

April – June Memorial Park StoryWalk 2021

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.

April & June Downtown Storywalks 2021

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.

July Memorial Park Storytime 2020

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In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Here Come the Aliens!* by Colin McNaughton to go along Parks & Rec's theme "Alien Invasion" for Children's Week. 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 will be up from 7/13 through 8/2. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

Korean Mask Workshop 2021

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.

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Creative Writing with Author, VT Bidania 2021

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 2021

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 2021

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

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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.

Pokémon Scavenger Hunt 2021

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 2021

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.

Kids Fun with Finance Series 2021

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

Fox Cities Book Festival – Virtual 2020

The Fox Cities Book Festival was presented virtually and maintained its "one community, one day" format where each participating community hosted all of their programs on one day. APL staff hosted ten virtual author programs for the public, one virtual author visit with area schools, one Facebook live chat with an author, and co-hosted additional programs in collaboration with other area libraries to support streaming technology and virtual moderating. Attendees learned about authors' inspiration, writing process, publishing experiences, and book content. Authors were pleased with their experiences and virtual exposure. Friends' funds were used for honorariums for the authors.

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Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Special Projects

Constant Contact 2020

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 2020-21

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: 2020-21

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

Anji Play Interview 2021

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

Anji Play Training & Roaming Ruckus: a True Play Program 2021

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.

Beanstack Badge Books 2021

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

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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!

Button for SLP Virtual Childcare Storytimes 2021

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 2021

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. 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.

Marketing to Teens 2021

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 2021

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.

Annual Report 2021

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 2021

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

Constant Contact 2021

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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.