

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Adult Classes and Events

Appleton's POW Camp

In July, the library welcomed author Bill Stokes to discuss his historical fiction novel Margaret's War and talk about the prisoner-of-war camps in Appleton and Wisconsin. A crowd of 23 enjoyed Bill's stories about how he became a journalist and then through his research he finally was able to make his dreams of becoming a novelist a reality. After reading two excerpts from the book, Bill took questions from the audience, sharing information on what life was like for the POWs both here and abroad, how the POWs came to Wisconsin, and the locations of the camps around the state. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for the speaker.

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, type on Word Document, print, and practice keyboarding. The advanced class helped adults improve beyond the basics to become more proficient at using common computer programs. 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 third quarter of 2019, we hosted Doug Wheeler on September 14th. Doug is a Folk and Americana artist with a long history and deep connection to Appleton and the Fox Cities. 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. During the first quarter of 2020, we hosted Adria Ramos, who played a solo acoustic performance on the main floor. During the second quarter of 2020, we hosted Evan Meulemans virtually, from his home in New York. Eric played a solo acoustic which was posted on Facebook and will continue to be available on the APL YouTube channel for future viewing. 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 will both learn about and experience mindfulness. Friends' funds provided the honorarium.

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Morning at the Movies

Morning at the Movies is a monthly film series designed for persons with cognitive disabilities, but it is open to everyone. Local 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. 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.

Summer Library Program Events

Friends' funds covered the cost of programs for the Adult Summer Library Program, including programs with our kick-off event with storyteller, Kathy Prestidge on June 13th. This and the following two SLP programs built on the theme of this year's theme, "Universe of Stories" and allowed community members to realize, connect with, and share their own important and unifying stories.

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 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

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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.

Bad Art Night

We kicked off a new program with a night of creative decoupage at McFleshman's Brewing Company. We used McFleshman's bottles, book jackets, dried flowers, and anything else we could find as craft materials. Adult participants had the opportunity to connect with others and get creative with no pressure to make "real" art. Friends' funds provided a couple of pizzas and craft supplies.

Find Your Ancestor Series: Finding Your Belgian Roots

Genealogist Sue Havel presented to a crowd of 24 people about how to research their Belgian ancestors. After discussing a brief history of the Belgians settling in Wisconsin, Sue went through many different websites related to researching Belgians as she talked about different research strategies to use in your research. Several of those in attendance said how impressed they were with Sue's knowledge of genealogy. A video of the program was posted to the APL YouTube channel and it has gained more than 150 views thus far! Friends' funds provided an honorarium for the speaker.

Find Your Ancestor Series: Researching Religious Records: Where to Start

A group of 27 people enjoyed genealogist Dave Miller's talk on religious records. Dave discussed what types of information is typically found in religious records, the various religious records there are, and where to find them. He went through several state, national, and international resources and offered a handout, giving attendees a glimpse into the wealth of resources there are to hunt down their ancestors using religious records. After the program, one attendee said, "He was a great speaker, definitely invite him back again!" Friends funds provided an honorarium for the speaker.

NEA Big Read: Fox Cities Reads

The 2020 Fox Cities Reads selection was *The Latehomecomer* by Kao Kalia Yang. This year's Reads initiative was supported by a grant from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read program. It involved several community partners that led programming and community engagement around three of Yang's books for adults and children. Friends' funds were used for books for library circulation, supplemental programs listed below, and a portion of the author's honorarium. The author presentations will be rescheduled for the fall.

NEA Big Read: Fox Cities Reads - Bridging Two Worlds: Forging an Identity

Dr. Pafoua Her discussed her personal experiences as a refugee child, young adult and woman in the United States and how she forged her identity and leveraged her experiences to create understanding, inclusion, and unity. She discussed many aspects and traditions of the Hmong culture. Dr. Her spoke from the heart and touched the feelings of every person listening to the presentation. The audience appreciated the program and learned more about the history of the Hmong. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for the presenter.

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NEA Big Read: Fox Cities Reads - Share Your Hmong-American Story

The United Hmong American Association (UHAA) partnered with APL to host a Hmong-American Story Sharing at Barnes and Noble. There were four storytellers who shared about the hardships from Laos to Thailand, the refugee camp life, and life in the United States. The stories were very powerful and emotional. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for UHAA.

Surviving Genocide: A Story of Hope

APL staff was a part of a new Congolese Community Outreach Initiative that organized a series of Appleton and Oshkosh programs called "Surviving Genocide: A Story of Hope," featuring Congolese author and human rights activist Sandra Uwiringiyimana. Congolese high school students, families, and community members met with the author and she shared a public presentation at Fox Valley Technical College. Friends' funds contributed to an honorarium for the author.

Wellness Series: Be Safe and Flourish

As part of our Wednesday Wellness Program, Renee Beese incorporated spoken word and empowerment entertainment to encourage trusting our gut in life decisions and staying safe, physically and emotionally. Friends' funds provided an honorarium.

Spanish & Hmong Instructional Videos

Four different instructional videos were created in Hmong and Spanish to teach, transfer knowledge, and show adults how to use different online resources. The different videos focused on how to create an e-mail in Hmong and Spanish, how to use social media in Hmong, and how to apply for unemployment in Hmong. The videos were shared widely with community organizations and reached over 1K views on APL's YouTube Channel. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for the instructors.

Meditation Mondays

During our closure and in these unique and challenging times, Joy Jordan worked to remind us we are in this together. Every Monday from April through the end of May, Joy Jordan provided audio Meditation prompts on timely topics: "Refuge from Information overload," "Working with fear and anxiety," and "Moving forward with intention." Each session was accompanied by deeper learning guides on Joy's website as well as a curated book list on Infosoup. These audio programs will continue to be available on the APL YouTube channel. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for this program.

Virtual Art Experience

2021 Artist-in-Residence Wendi Turchan created a digital art program for tween-adults, highlighting accessible techniques that anyone can use and supplies that we can find right in our recycling bin. This program showcased that art is something we can find all around us. The "Inchie Art" program was shared on Facebook and remains on our APL YouTube channel for future viewing. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for the artist.

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Teen Classes and Events

Anime Night

Anime Night is a monthly event for teens with an interest in anime and Japanese culture. Friends' funds provided an opportunity for teens to screen and discuss anime. Friends' funds also provided refreshments and materials for crafts.

End of the Teen Summer Library Program Celebration

Once the 9-week program was complete, teens were invited to celebrate their reading achievements by joining us for fun, food, & friends. Teens were able to choose from craft activities (coloring & rainbow loom), board games, and playing with the Nintendo Switch. The teens also enjoyed pizza & soft drinks and finished off the event by making ice cream bar aliens out of Klondike bars & toppings. Friends' funds purchased the supplies and refreshments for this program.

Guardians of the Galaxy Movie Marathon

In July, library volunteers were room hosts for this back-to-back showing of this popular Marvel Comics based film series. This title was chosen because it fit with the summer reading theme "Universe of Stories". Teens had the opportunity to take a break from the heat with friends, watch a movie, and eat! Friends' funds were used to purchase popcorn for the program.

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, build trust with a caring adult (YA librarian) and have opportunities to build leadership and communication skills through this program. Friends' funds provide materials and refreshments for the K-Pop Club.

Pop Up Paper Crafting

Teens had the opportunity to participate in paper crafting in our YA area with two different projects inspired by our teen services summer intern. Teens created origami paper bracelets and learned paper quilling. Teens and parents engaged in great conversations and learned about teen services. All supplies used were leftovers from previous programs funded by the Friends.

Super Hero / Super Smash Bros. Program

This program was designed for tweens and teens with an interest in gaming. Teens develop mentorships and friendships as they learn different aspects of the video game, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, and earn prizes from winning the tournament. Friends' funds were used to purchase a Nintendo Switch gaming system, games, and equipment. Additionally, Friends' funds provide refreshments and prizes for this program.

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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.

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.

Mask-Making for Teen-stravaganza

We created fun masks at the Teen-stravaganza! Supplied with rhinestones, feathers, oil pastels, and glue guns, teen patrons created unique masks to welcome this fun time of year. Teens engaged in good conversation with APL staff and with each other, also providing feedback and input on programming. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies.

MLK Day of Service 2020

We celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by providing in-house service projects and kindness crafts for our community through MLK Day of Service 2020 in collaboration with Appleton Areas School District. Over 20 patrons visited APL and volunteered to help with book sorting, toy labeling, and creating fun crafts and rock paintings with words of hope and phrases of inspiration. These handmade treasures

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and toiletry donations received from our display were gifted to the Boys and Girls Club, Runaway and Homeless Youth Services. Friends' funds paid for craft supplies.

UndocuAlly Workshop

APL welcomed University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Inclusive Excellence Center DREAMer Taskforce, for a 3-hour "UndocuAlly" training. This training was an in-depth look into the history and policies of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and provided participants with tools and strategies to help support our local DACA students and families in achieving their educational and personal goals. Role-play exercises and brochures were offered to increase attendees' awareness and understanding of these issues. The training was eligible for continuing education credits and was attended by educators, parents, local leaders, and staff. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for the presenters.

30-Day Teen Kindness and Wellness Challenge

The Challenge consisted of a 30-day calendar filled with activities based on kindness/self-care activities as well as library resource exploration. Examples of these included writing a thank you note to a postal worker, doing yoga, or downloading an audiobook. Participants sent us pictures of their projects – one teen completed all 30 days and created an amazing photo diary of her many adventures. Friends' funds were used to purchase two \$25 gift cards for the winners.

At-Home Watercolor Art Therapy for Teens and Families

Kay Church from the Boys and Girls Club, Home Base (formerly Runaway and Homeless Youth Services) brought her art skills into the homes of our youth and families by creating a watercolor art therapy video. Before the library closure, Kay was slated to visit our library to lead an in-house class where Friends' funds were used to purchase watercolor palettes for our teens. Our plan is to reschedule this class in the future and continue supporting the arts among our youth.

Teen Poetry Contest

APL celebrated Poetry Month with a Teen Poetry Contest. Teens were instructed to create an original poem of their own choosing and include a short video of them reciting their work. Common themes that arose from the poems included hope and acceptance. The winner was announced through a wonderful video compilation created by OWLS staff. Friends' funds were used to purchase a \$50 gift card for the grand prize winner; all contestants received an APL-branded water bottle.

Weekly Teen Take n' Create Packs

This year, we are giving away 25 weekly take 'n' create packs for teens during the summer. Friends' funds were used to purchase materials for these kits which consist of notebooks, upcycled terrarium kits, DIY bird feeders, shrink art, catapults, and corner bookmarks. Each kit contains items to create these projects, participants are encouraged to be creative and use upcycled, household items when possible. Teens are welcome to share their creations to foster engagement.

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Young Adult/Teen Survey 2020 Initiative

This short survey will ask about teen services at APL, challenges in attending library programs, teen interests, and will also introduce information about our future Teen Advisory Board (TAB). In addition, this is a great opportunity for feedback on current and future teen programming. Friends' funds were used to translate this survey into Spanish and Hmong by Fox Valley Communications, LLC. A "soft launch" is in the works, hard copies will be distributed to our patrons once we reopen.

Tween Classes and Events

July Maker Quest

Maker Quest reached a record number of 305 for attendance in July. The "Toy" theme for the month gave us lots of room for fun activities such as making Thermotropes, sand slime, crayon slime, pet blocks, whirly gigs, spin tops, and more. It was standing room only on the day when we made our own squishes out of memory foam and fabric paint! Thank you to Friends for their continued support for supplies and technology.

August Maker Quest

Maker Quest served a lot of happy children with our music theme in August. We had fun making and experimenting with Punk Rocks, Onomontopeia Blasts, Thumb Banjos, Guitar Greeting Cards, Mambranophones, Cell Phone Amplifiers (out of toilet paper rolls), and lots more. The kids also got to experience technology by mixing sounds with Snap Circuits and programming robots to play xylophones. Thank you to Friends for funding this program and to the volunteers that help to keep it running smoothly.

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

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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.

January Maker Quest

Game Making was the theme for January's Maker Quest. Patrons enjoyed untraditional games such as a life-sized Connect Four, Skittles spinning top/bowling game, and making their own video games with Bloxels. They also experienced building their own game making skills by fashioning game pawns out of clay, molding and painting their own dice out of memory foam, making paper plate mazes, and much more. Thanks to Friends, makers also got to try their hand at Olympic-style cup stacking!! Friends provides the materials and technology that we use repeatedly to make Maker Quest happen. 240 people attended this program in January.

February Maker Quest

Our Maker Quest theme for Feb was Winter Fun. This month we had fun making glitter wands from straws sealed with a hair straightener, Mardi Gras masks, love bugs, XOXO watercolor art, yarn snowflakes, and more. For technology, the kids got to tinker with Little Bits, Strawbees, and 3D pens. It was a maker-tastic good time! Friends' funds supply special monthly craft supplies as well as materials and technology used repeatedly in Maker Quest. 188 people attended the February sessions.

March Maker Quest

In the two weeks that we were able to hold Maker Quest in March, 110 people came in for our art-themed month. For technology, our maker friends tried out a marker air sprayer, Ozobots, and Osmo Masterpiece Drawing Tool with iPads. For exploration into other areas of STEAM, they made things like foil art, marble rollers, Cat in the Hat hats, pull string art, salad spinner art, and more.

Colossal Fossils

Dino Dave with Colossal Fossils did a wonderful job as one of our big summer performers this year. His show brought history to life with woolly mammoth bones, strange looking skulls, shark teeth, dinosaur bones, and some awesome surprises. While this was originally planned as an in-person program, it took place virtually instead. This was made possible with the purchase of the Be.Live streaming program. Thank you to our Friends for this opportunity! Friends' Funds were used to pay a stipend to Colossal Fossils as well as the Be.Live Streaming subscription.

Colossal Fossils also did an evening program with the ELL families we serve through Zoom. The kids had so much fun learning about different cultural myths and dinosaur fossils. A mom sent a text saying, "My boy really enjoyed the program. He cannot stop talking about it. Thank you for doing all that you do!" This same boy was able to show his collected fossils to be identified by Colossal Fossils. The program was a great balance of education and fun!

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Children's Classes and Events

Hat's Amazing

The Hat's Amazing party was a lot of fun. We had many styles of hats to make. It was a lot of fun to see everyone trying to make different hats and add their own unique styles. Friends' Funds paid for special hat making supplies. There were 26 attendees.

Science Day with Mr. J.

On July 11th we had two science shows with Mr. J. 235 attendees learned about surface area, temperature changes and other fun science facts through experiments including watching Mr. J lay down on a bed of nails. Friends' Funds paid for the performer's stipend.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie Party

On July 18th we held two "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" parties. We started the program by reading the book and then children made crafts, played with cookie dough play dough and got a chance to take a picture with the mouse costume character. A total of 152 people attended this program. Kids had a blast meeting this beloved book character thanks to the Friends of the Appleton Public Library who funded the costume character rental.

Rockin' Around the Universe with Randy Peterson

It was great to have Green Bay area singer/musician/storyteller/educator Randy Peterson back at APL for another fun, interactive and imaginative show, "Rockin' Round the Universe" blended Randy's love for music with his enthusiasm for astronomy, a great fit for the summer library program theme. Featured in his 2 performances was a flashing rocket ship, models of the planets, and catchy songs like the "Mars Macarena" and the "Jupiter Jump," Randy gave each audience a chance to sing, dance, play, laugh and learn--a fun time! 222 people attended his shows. Friends' Funds paid the performer stipend.

Steve Keller's Traveling Snake Show

On August 1, thanks to the library's Friends, snake expert Steve Keller and some of his (human) friends, introduced audiences to his friends of the reptilian persuasion. Pythons, corn snakes, and boas were just a few of the varieties of snakes featured at each of 2 events. After providing more fascinating facts about the characteristics and behavior of the different snakes, and some tips on handling them, Steve and friends brought out many of the snakes for audience members to hold if they wished: the highlight for many that day. Geared for children and families, these great programs drew a few curious adults as well. There were 257 attendees and Friends' Funds paid for the performer stipend.

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Summer Library Program Prizes

Friends' Funds were used to purchase books and incentives for the Summer Library Program. This year there were three different children's programs: Baby/Toddler, Childcares and the Kids program. This program served 3775 children.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

On October 10th, 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 12th, 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

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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.

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.

Three King's Day

In 2019, we did some informal surveying of ARTR families to discover what they would like to see more of at the library. Cultural programs ranked high on their list, so we kicked off 2020 with a 3 Kings party on January 6th. We read a bilingual story about the holiday, shared information about how it is celebrated around the world, gave away books, created crowns and ate the traditional Rosca (Mexican bread). More than 80 people attended, and Friends' Funds were used to purchase the Rosca and special craft supplies.

Star Wars Parties

Jedi Masters and Dark Side members joined us for a Star Wars Party that rocked us out of this world! Droids were built, Chewbacca puppets ran through the party, and Jedi training brought the force to the library.

We even had a Darth Vader and a Storm Trooper attempt to bring down the Deathstar. We hosted the program for two days. For young ones on Friday and for the rest of the family on Saturday. Over 160 people attended, and Friends' Funds were used to purchase special craft supplies.

March Madness

This March, we rolled out a brand-new reading program called March Madness. Using a basketball theme and a bracket inspired log, children were encouraged to read fiction and nonfiction titles, list them in the brackets and choose a winner. 607 children registered for this program and Friends' Funds were used to purchase the prizes.

Weekly Live Storytime

The Children's team started a weekly Facebook Live Storytime where attendees make choices in real time to effect the outcome. Kids can listen along at home and then participate in choosing which path the story will take by voting in the comment section. We take the path with the most votes and see where it leads us. Thank you to Friends for providing funding for some of these books!

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Downtown Storywalk

In partnership with ADI, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Undefeated* by Kadir Nelson and Kwame Alexander. 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 the third week in June to the third week in July. In addition to the story itself, each page has a QR code directing families to additional resources for parents and children.

Memorial Park Storywalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Explorers of the Wild* by Kade Atkinson. 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 6/22 through 7/12. The story will be changed out every 2 weeks throughout the summer and monthly the rest of the year. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

Programs for All Ages

Latino Fest

APL hosted a table at Latino Fest, the annual celebration of Latinx culture presented by Casa Hispana. We partnered with Menasha Public Library and spoke with people of all ages at the outdoor event. Children's and Community Partnership staff and volunteers promoted National Library Card Sign Up Month. Friends' funds paid for the booth fee to participate in the event.

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. Our Artist in Residence for July, August, and September was Kayla Gerrits. Kayla creates digital maps based on fantasy lands, Dungeons and Dragons style. Her art and instruction gave a platform to, elevated, and made accessible an underappreciated form of art. Friends' funds provided the

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honorarium for the artist and supplies including Dungeons and Dragons dice. 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. Our Artist-in-Residence, McKenna Ihde was honored and excited to take on her first ever residency. She took it on with full force, bringing in mechanical arms to demonstrate detailed painting and creating a painting to give away. She taught us about adding texture, then assisted us in creating our own textured pieces and helped us explore the art of henna. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for the artist and supplies.

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. 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.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Prizes

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. Since July, 54 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-6th grade to continue the habit of reading. Since July, 46 children have registered for this program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 50 books read.

Symphony Storytime

In collaboration with the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, and help from our Friends, our fourth and final Symphony Storytime of the year took place on Tues., September 17, and focused on instruments from the brass family. With Miss Kathleen and special guest FVSO musician Bruce Atwell, audiences enjoyed stories and music, and learned how brass instruments get their sounds. Bruce treated all to the mellow tones of the French horn, a rousing rendition of a Rossini composition on natural horn; and sounds

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from a horn homemade from a hose and a funnel! With lots of chances for kids to move and sing along, each of two storytimes was followed by a chance for everyone there to explore musical instruments set out in the room afterward. We are fortunate to have both the Library Friends and the FVSO in our community to help bring music, stories and fun to people of all ages. There were 100 attendees.

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.

Tween Area Update

The Tween Area of the Children's Department has some exciting new updates thanks to the support of our amazing Friends! With the vision of shaping this area into a bright and welcoming hangout that encourages engagement, collaboration, flexibility, and creativity, the following additions have been made:

- Three 3-2-1 Tables that can be pulled apart or pushed together for more flexibility to meet patron needs
- Four purple armchairs that give the area a much-needed pop of color and youthfulness
- A STEAM Table with a guard rim around the top so makerspace activities be an everyday part of life at the library
- Accessories like Makedo, Strawbees, Q-Ba-Maze, a solar robot, wooden puzzles, and lots more to use on the new STEAM Table

Early Childhood Area Update

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.

Summer Library Program Merchandising

Friends' funds pay for our summer library program merchandising, including large hanging posters and window clings. The goal of the merchandising is to increase awareness and participation of the summer library program.

Adult Summer Library Program Events

Friends' funds covered the cost of programs for the Adult Summer Library Program, including programs with Storycatchers on July 18th at the library and August 16 at The Draw. These programs built on the theme of this year's SLP, "Universe of Stories" and

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allowed community members to realize, connect with, and share their own important and unifying stories.

Adult Summer Library Program Materials/Incentives

Friends funds covered the cost of some of the incentives for the Adult Summer Library Program, including a partnership with Artist-in-Residence Tyler Hilfreich to create a design of his own around the theme, “Libraries are for everyone,” for SLP tote bags. Each incentive was given in a tote bag with Tyler’s design (totaling 20 bags). We also purchased incentives for SLP group participants, Valley Packaging and Appleton Retirement which allowed us to reach another 130 participants. Incentives included books, music, brain games, and paints. Friends’ Funds provided the honorarium for the design and for incentives for groups.

Teen Summer Library Program Incentives

The teen summer library program is designed to promote reading and engagement through activities and incentives. This year, APL received donations from 57 local and national businesses, which allowed library staff to allocate Friends funds to fewer, higher quality incentives such as APL-branded reusable water bottles, phone stands, and book lights. Teens and parents were pleased with the new incentives.

National Library Card Sign-Up Month

We partnered with 22 local businesses in September for National Library Card Sign-up Month. The businesses generously provided discounts to customers who showed their InfoSoup library card. Whisk & Arrow, a local bakery, encouraged community members to sign-up for library cards by providing free cookies to new patrons. From that event, we created 55 new cards and had 186 participants in the raffle drawing. Friends funds were used to purchase sign display holders and three gift cards for the raffle drawings.

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.

Children’s’ Programming Tarps

Friends funds were used to purchase 2 tarps to replace the large tarp. The tarps will be used to protect the carpet in the children’s program room from paint, slime and various other messy materials used in many programs. Having 2 smaller tarps will allow us to easily use one tarp when only a small area needs to be protected or both tarps to cover the same area as the old, larger tarp.

Oral History Interview Kits

APL staff created multilingual Oral History Interview Kits that will soon be available for patrons to check out to record their own oral history interviews. The kits include a digital voice recorder, cord to save recordings to a computer, manual to show people how to

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use the recorder, and interview tips and sample interview questions. Friends' funds paid for kit equipment and translation of the kit manual into Hmong and Spanish to make the kits more accessible to those in our community.

Balls for Storytime

Friends funds were used to purchase 6 new soft-touch balls for use in baby/toddler storytimes to replace the balls that were popped or leaking air. These are the toddler's favorite toy to play with during social play time after storytime. They dribble, roll and even bouncy on top of them like a Hoppity-Hop. Everyone was excited to see the replacements after a few weeks without them.

Connect Four Travel Bag

Late last year, Children's Services purchased a jumbo, life-sized Connect-Four game to use in programs and on outreaches. Friends' funds were used to purchase a travel bag for the Connect Four game. This will allow us to take it on around town on outreach events as well as easily store it in the Children's workroom.

Outdoor Signage

Friends funds paid for outdoor signage for promotion of various services during the closure of the building.

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.

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.

Activity Kits for Circulation

More activity kits for children will start to circulate this year! These STEAM focused kits each include books and fun items such as robots and big soft dinosaurs. For the kits to circulate efficiently they required luggage tags for labeling and some needed oversized bags for storage. Thanks to our Friends, these materials have been purchased.

Explore Fox Cities

Explore Fox Cities offers library card holders the chance to visit area attractions, cultural institutions, and performances for free. The pass expanded beyond FAN (Fox Arts Network) Pass in February to allow for other offers, from the Weis Science Museum and Bubolz Nature Preserve. Although pass distribution is temporarily on hold this summer, staff have remained in communication with partners and are planning for future

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distribution. Friends' funding supported the initial display and were used to add a large sign above the display.

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 have coordinated and implemented outreach and engagement to create visibility for library resources. Staff recruited and trained volunteers to assist patrons with computer use, job searches, online applications and resume creation through the Job Connection initiative in the 2nd floor Lab. Staff created a partnership with Job Center of Menasha to provide training for volunteers and cross referral of services. Staff are exploring partnerships to create awareness about higher demand occupations, assist with skill development, and support small business owners and entrepreneurs.