

Adult Services Librarian Report

Programming

Puzzle Palooza

The library hosted our 3rd Puzzle Palooza event on October 7th. Teams were trying to beat the 38 minute and 1 second record set previously by The Four Corners. The Four Corners competed again this time with two different team members. They won the competition for a second time, though didn't quite beat their previous time. Participants are looking forward to our next competition.



The Four Corners won Puzzle Palooza for the second time.

Trivia at TAQ and Bricks and Brews at TAQ

The library has partnered with TAQ Brewing for two programs. The first is a monthly trivia night at TAQ. Gavin creates the questions and gift cards to TAQ are given as prizes. The first event was well attended and drew 13 participants during the event.

The second program we have partnered with TAQ on is Bricks and Brews. Sarah R. creates a challenge each month and participants must meet that challenge using Lego bricks. The first challenge was to build the strongest bridge with at least six inches of clearance under it. The bridges were much stronger than anticipated, easily handling full cans of beer, kegs, and eventually the weight of one of the bartenders. It ended in a tie with two bridges refusing to give way at all. 23 people enjoyed the event.



TAQ owner Bob does his best to destroy a Lego bridge.

Sean Gaskell

We had a special guest Sean Gaskell perform for us using his 21 stringed West African harp called the Kora. The ancient instrument has historically been played by oral historians known as Griots in Gambia. He personally studied under two such representatives in Brikama, Gambia. He played traditional and original music during the program. The event was also livestreamed to Facebook.



Sean Gaskell playing the Kora.

Explore Our Trails

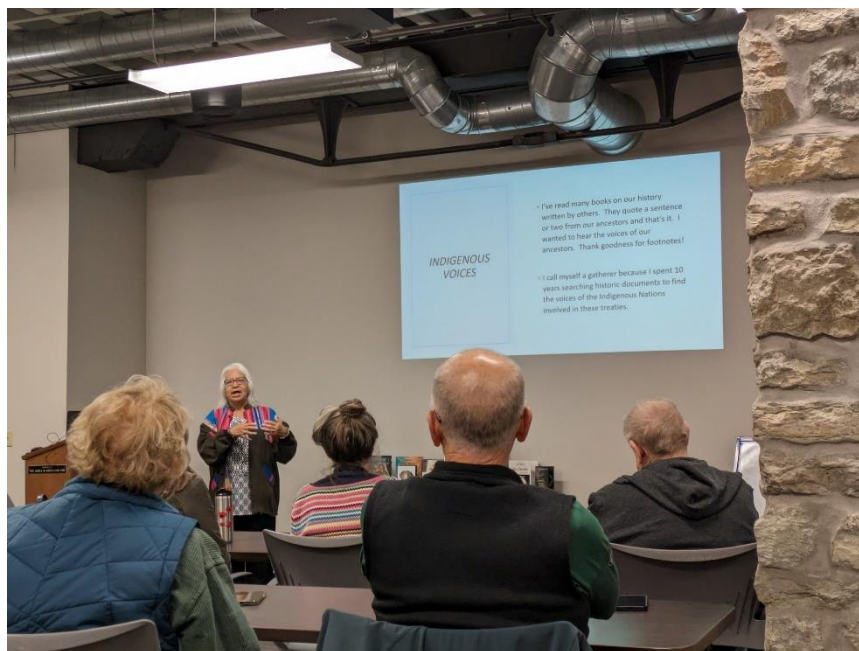
Library staff member Donna Leicht joined patrons for weekly early morning walks on three of Kaukauna's Trails. The group walked The Locks Trail, Nelson Family Heritage Crossing, and Konkapot Creek Trails. Water and energy bars were provided, and the group walked for an hour from 7-8am. We will likely bring this program back next year since participants expressed a desire to continue the walks.



Patrons enjoying the fall colors on the walks.

Dr. Carol Cornelius

This program was set up by and run by library staff member Kim Cackowski. She also wrote this summary of the program: Dr. Carol Cornelius author of *A History in Indigenous Voices: Menominee, Ho-Chunk, Oneida, Stockbridge, and Brothertown Interactions in the Removal Era* spoke at the Kaukauna Public Library on Monday, October 9. She talked about treaty history of Wisconsin and how tribes from the New York area were pressured to move to the Green Bay and Lake Winnebago Area. The book accounts nation-to-nation agreements that went unrecognized by the federal government resulting in more land being lost. Dr. Carol shared what that meant to the nations at that time from the Indigenous people's point of view. Not only did we discuss the history, but also how land loss affects Indigenous Peoples' culture. It was a night where we learned about resilience and reclaiming culture, and sharing from the Indigenous Nations point of view. In honor of Dr. Carol's visit, we were able to share a traditional food, corn soup. We learned about the tradition and stories behind the heirloom white corn now grown in Oneida in effort for food sovereignty. It was a great way to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day with sharing of knowledge, culture, and traditions.



Dr. Carol Cornelius speaking about indigenous voices.

Cruising the Danube and Discover Alaska with Heart of the Valley Travel

The library has partnered with Christine at Heart of the Valley Travel to offer educational travel programs at the library. The first program covered Christine's experience traveling the Danube on a river boat, and the second program was about exploring Alaska. Attendance has grown very quickly once word got out, with over thirty people attending the second program. Her next topic is exploring Switzerland by train. We plan to continue the programs into next year.

Technology Outreach

August's technology literacy topic was Facebook basics. At the Thompson Center, St. Paul Elder Services, and the library I taught older adults how to use and stay safe while keeping in touch with friends and family on Facebook. September's topic was comparison shopping online and navigating YouTube. At the comparison shopping class participants learned how to compare prices for items online as well locally in stores, how to check the price history of certain items for sale, and other tricks for making sure they find the best deal and stay safe while shopping online. The YouTube class introduced the website, demonstrated how to browse and search for videos, showed how to play, pause, fullscreen, and other video streaming skills, explained how YouTube is monetized, and gave examples of useful types of videos that can be found on the website.

Grants

East Asia in Wisconsin Library Program

The library has been happy to accept the East Asia in Wisconsin Library program grant for the last three years. UW Madison's Center For East Asian Studies awards grants of up to \$1,000 to libraries in the state for various programs or materials related to Far East Asia. I've applied again this year and have included the grant proposal summary below.

The Kaukauna Public Library plans to foster the cultural understanding of East Asia by hosting two events in 2024 in partnership with three other organizations. We are partnering with the Kanonji-Appleton Partnership, Japanese international students and Japanese language students from area high schools and colleges, and the City of Kaukauna Recreation Department. The Kanonji-Appleton Partnership (KAP) creates cultural exchange opportunities between Appleton, WI and its sister city Kanonji, Kagawa, Japan. Every summer Appleton area students and chaperones homestay in Kanonji for two weeks, followed by a Kanonji group home-staying in the Appleton area.

The first event is a hands-on Japanese cooking class. Japanese international students and Japanese language students from area high schools and colleges will teach participants how to cook a Japanese dish using the meeting room kitchen at the Kaukauna Recreation Department. The dish is yet to be decided, but the library will order a few Japanese cookbooks related to the dish for participants to check out. Cookbooks from other libraries will be borrowed to create a display to supplement our cookbook offerings.

The second event is an East Asian Cultural day in the summer of 2024. This daylong event will feature dances and instrumental performances, traditional arts and crafts, and another multicultural cooking program. I have contacted to a few performance groups and the cost of performance varies between about \$300-\$1000 per group.

Instead of an instructor lead cooking class, this cooking program will be structured collaboratively, pairing the Japanese students participating in the KAP exchange with local high school students. The students will be put into small groups and teach each other how to make a dish from their own country. This will allow the students the opportunity to work together and converse with students from another country.

Funds from the grant, if given, will pay for cookbooks, marketing expenses, food (if allowed), and a portion of the cost of the dance groups. Tentatively, the plan is to use a portion of the grant funds to pay for Madison's Zhong Yi Kung Fu Association Folk Art Performances, depending on availability. We must wait for KAP to finalize the dates the exchange students will arrive from Japan before we can confirm the performers. Because of this, there is a chance that this particular group will not be available. Any replacement group will be from the countries listed on the East Asia in Wisconsin Library Program 2023-24 Application Information PDF. There may be groups performing from countries outside of this list, depending on availability. Grant funds

will not be used for these groups. KAP and the Kaukauna Library will also use some of our own funds to pay for other performers and parts of the cooking program.