

Assistant Director's Report on February 2022

Youth Services

We offered 18 programs for kids, teens, and families in February. Program attendance was 430. We offered two grab and go activities for kids – A Bird Month kit that include a DIY bird house and information of a citizen science bird count activity. A Lunar New Year kit was offered as part of our Center for East Asian Studies grant and included multiple crafts, a book list, and ingredient to make a traditional recipe. We gave out 40 of each kit.

The Preschool Play Area opened on February 25 as face coverings became optional in the library. That, along with the phase out of registration for storytimes, has seen lots of new activity in the Youth Department this month. Ashley created an activity-filled area by rearranging furniture and adding some new toys. A Lego table was added in the school-age area. In-person arts, crafts, and activities will be popping up in the department, including a Seuss scavenger hunt and a drop-in art table.

Thanks to a generous donation in memory of Diana Driessen, **a brand new AWE Learning Station computer was added.** The top-of-the-line learning station is designed for ages 2-12, and delivers 180 award-winning, pre-loaded educational games directly on the workstation. They are available in English and Spanish. With no internet required, we will be able to offer our young learners a safe learning environment on a digital platform. All content is STREAM-aligned (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Music, and Math).

Summer Library Program will be here soon, beginning June 6. Our calendar of activities is complete and will include a number of storytimes and activities in the garden, outreach to local parks and schools, special performers, a Touch a Truck event, Harry Potter and Disney themed days, an outdoor movie night, and Fairy Walk. We will begin in-person classroom visits with all of the schools in Kaukauna in May. We aim to see every 4K-6th grade student in person this year.

Adult Services

We offered 6 programs for adults in February, with attendance of 46. In early March we celebrated Women's History Month with a Focus on Local History program on March 15 dedicated to Sophia Strathearn, who was active both locally and statewide as part of the Woman's Relief Corps and other women's movements. At a time (early 1900s) when women had very little political input, she was front and center advocating for veterans, women's right to vote and other issues of great significance.

The library hosted the traveling exhibit "'We Stand on Their Shoulders:' A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting" which explores moments when women in Wisconsin gained political rights and highlights a few key leaders. The eight-panel display shares the important story of women's quest for political rights and recognition through quotes, photographs, and a timeline of events. The exhibit was loaned by the History Museum at the Castle and their exhibit partners the Wisconsin Historical Society and the 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition. The exhibit was on display March 7-18.

Fox Cities Reads 2022's featured author is Tommy Orange, author of the award-winning novel *There, There*. Orange will visit the Fox Cities for an in-person event on May 12 at 6:30pm. In addition to *There, There*, the Reads committee selected a second title this year, *Apple in the Middle* by Dawn Quigley. She will visit with

students and the public virtually on May 3rd. Both books are now available to borrow from the library. A number of programs are being planned for before the visits in May. See the latest at <https://foxcitiesbookfestival.org/event-reads/>.

Administrative Updates

We have selected a **Creator-in-Residence** for Summer 2022 and look forward to introducing you and the public to them next month! They bring with them a variety of experience in creating and working with the public. We are excited to display their work throughout the library, the programs they will teach for kids, teens, and adults. The Creator-in-Residence will be announced in April and programs offered June through August.

The Friends of the Library fundraiser “Thank You for Being a Friends: an afternoon with the Golden Girls” is coming up on April 2. Staff members Jody and Jenny are putting together an afternoon of trivia, photo ops, and prizes. Ticket holders will receive a goody bag, a one year Friends membership, and a chance to win a number of gift certificates from local businesses. Funds from the event will support Summer Library Program performer fees. Tickets can be purchased through the library’s website or by emailing Angela.