ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Mission Service Meeting at the Tauber Family Center
Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Program

The guest speaker was Sia Chang from the Appleton Public Library Ready to Read program.

- In the early 2000's there was a concern about school readiness for area Hmong and Hispanic children, so the Appleton Public Library launched a Ready to Read initiative and hired one Hmong person.
- This early literacy program empowers parents with strategies and skills to become their child's "first teacher" at home, especially if English is not their first language.
- Expanded to a Hispanic position (Norma has been in this role since it was established with financial backing from the City of Appleton.)
- Appleton Ready to Read
    - Home Visit
    - Library Tour
    - Early Childhood Programming
- Program began for children 0-5, but there was interest in continuing programming for older kids
    - Cultures and Crafts Book Club
        - Program is designed for children K-6 who are multilingual or from a culturally diverse background, but all are welcome.
        - Share stories by diverse authors, themes, etc.
        - Crafts are based on the story of the day
- Partner with other local agencies and schools.
- Colleen Holz is the volunteer coordinator if anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this program.

Call Business Meeting to Order
Jeanette Johnson, president 2:02 p.m.

- Attendees: Jeanette Johnson, Karen Grosnick, Tracy Dollevoet, Pastor Lynn Martin, Lucretia Fehrmann, Kathy Schlichenmayer, Carol Maynard, Renee Hein, Chris Bushman, Julieann Bushman

Gathering Prayer Pastor Lynn

Minutes of Last Meeting-Corrections/Additions No changes

Correspondence No correspondence

Treasurer's Report Treasurer, Carol Maynard
- Approximately $1766.21 in the account right now ($.59 quarterly dividend)

Offering

- Offerings placed on table

Update on current missions

- $1000 in SCRIP cards were delivered by Jeanne Senner to the Pastor of the Neenah/Menasha UCC church to distribute as needed for tornado damage relief
- Vets and Friends-St. John will pay for the lunch on 11/18
  - $500 to sponsor a meal
  - Vets and Friends will be closed Thanksgiving week
- Little Dresses for Africa
  - Kathy Schlichenmayer reported that they are very grateful for the $450 donation from St. John. St. John is listed on a bulletin board as a donor. Kathy will take a photo of that board to be included in Constant Contact.

Old Business

- St. Joe's donation box is empty
  - They also accept donation of egg cartons (one dozen quantity cartons only)

New Business

- Reverse Advent Calendar
  - Pastor Lynn will solicit ideas for food donation entries to be added to a custom reverse advent food donation calendar on Sunday, November 15th
    - Tracy will put them in a calendar for distribution the following week
- All St. John members are invited to attend the Immanuel UCC Dorcas group's Christmas outing to the Out O Town Club on Thursday, December 10th. 5:00 p.m. cocktails/6:00 p.m. dinner.
- $100 check to the Appleton Public Library for our speaker today-Memo: Appleton Ready to Read Program
- We will be participating as a drop box location for the Help for the Homeless campaign next year-February 14th-March 7th (2027)
- Think about ideas for 2027 speakers-let Jeanette Johnson know if you have any connections or ideas
- $250 Gift cards to Fred & Nancy

Next Meeting/Program

- December Luncheon
  - Thursday, December 3rd at 11:30 a.m.
  - Good Company-Jeanette will get count and make reservation
- There will be no meetings in January or February

Adjournment 2:16 p.m.

❖ Respectfully submitted by: Tracy Dollevoet

Appleton Ready to Read

Developed in response to the Fox Cities LIFE Study which brought light to declining reading scores of third grade children in the Appleton area, Appleton Ready to Read leverages resources to assist parents of children age birth to five with development of their child's early literacy skills.

Appleton Area School District test score data shows children who speak English as a second language are more likely to score below proficient in reading. Appleton Ready to Read engages in strategic outreach to connect with multilingual families so children enter kindergarten ready to read with an increased chance of educational success.



For more information about Appleton Ready to Read, please call Appleton Public Library Children's Services at **920-832-6187** or stop by the Children's Services department.

Founding Supporters

Appleton Ready to Read was established through generous grants from our community.

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

Thrivent Financial Foundation

Bemis Company

Bower Family Foundation

Lake Shore Cleaners, Inc.

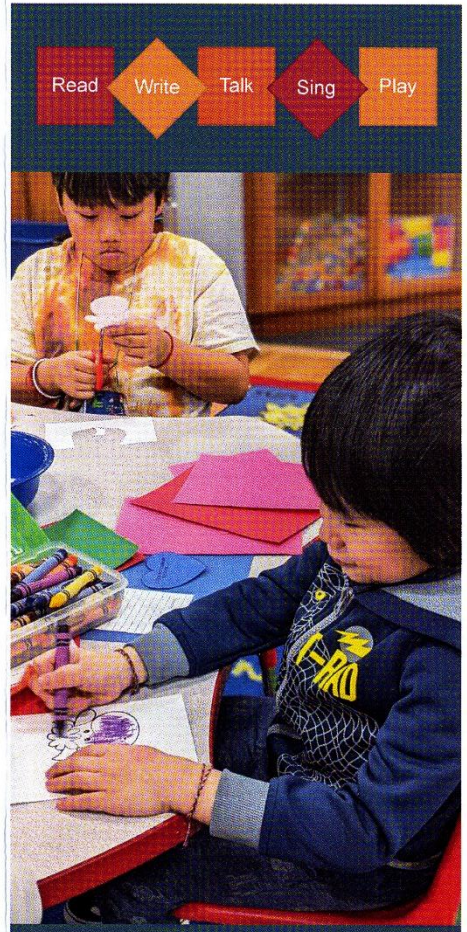
Pfefferle Management

Friends of Appleton Public Library

Will & Ruth Bloedow

APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Appleton Ready to Read



A Community Initiative Supporting Multilingual Families

Appleton Public Library

We strive to show parents and caregivers how to be their child's first teacher and prepare them to enter kindergarten ready to read. Families will receive the following services from our outreach specialists as part of Appleton Ready to Read:

Home Visit

Our outreach specialists make home visits to present current practices for developing early literacy skills. During the visit they focus on the importance of reading and writing with children. Parents receive a toolkit, including a book, crayons, and a coloring book to encourage families to engage in pre-literacy activities together.

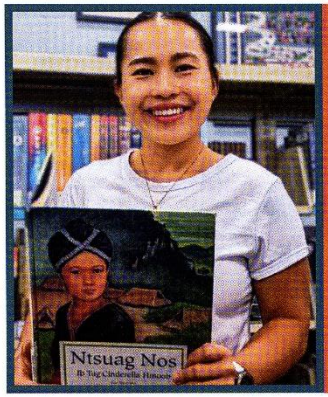
Library Tour

Parents receive a tour of Children's Services, have the chance to sign up for a library card and learn how to select age-appropriate material for their child.

Early Childhood Programming

Library staff host a variety of programs throughout the year where parents learn how to help their child develop pre-reading skills, social skills and confidence through literacy activities and interactive, play-centered learning.

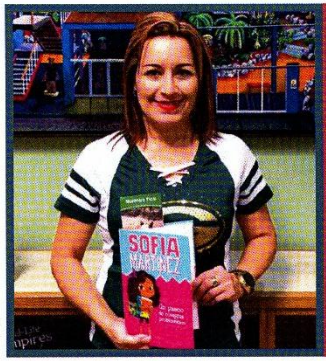




Sia Chang
Hmong Family Outreach Specialist

Contact:
schang@apl.org
920-422-7143

Miss Sia graduated from UW-Madison with a double major in political science and international studies. She enjoys traveling and spent three years living abroad in Thailand and Indonesia.Her background includes teaching and working with youth from diverse backgrounds.



Norma Oliveras
Hispanic Family Outreach Specialist

Contact:
noliveras@apl.org
920-419-4279

Miss Norma holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Puerto Rico. She has 10 years of experience working for Head Start prior to working at the library.





Cultures & Craft Club



Selected Thursdays at 4:30pm

- September 10 & 24
- October 8 & 22
- November 5 & 19

This program is designed for children in grades K-6 who are multilingual or from culturally diverse backgrounds. Children will learn valuable skills as they read, share stories with their friends and explore various activities.

Location: Appleton Public Library
200 N Appleton St. Appleton WI 54911

If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate format or other accommodation to access any library events, please call 920-832-6173.

(920) 419-4279 Norma Oliveras • (920) 422-7143 Sia Chang

Please complete the form below and submit it to the library, or call for more information.

Parent's First Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

☐ Check Here if you wish to NOT be photographed.

Children Food Allergy _____