Wrapping up our ChesCo ARPA grant

Earlier this year Atglen Public Library received $8750 from the County of Chester County American Rescue Plan Act. This grant was intended to fund initiatives that would bring people back into the library after the Covid pandemic. There were three main categories in our proposal: furnishings, collection development and the building sign.

You might first notice the sign near the front doors, finally identifying us to the world in blue and gold.

Items as simple as tables and chairs have allowed us to offer more programs and welcome people of all ages into the library. We purchased height-adjustable tables that accommodate both early learning programming and adult crafting programs. New card tables accommodate game play such as our weekly Mah Jongg group, and additional folding tables allow for programming and meetings. Children’s chairs play well with the adjustable tables, and let the children and the caregivers know that we are intentional about early learning.

Collection development was the other portion of the grant. We added 65 Spanish-language picture books, 70 children’s nonfiction books, and 23 teen ebooks and e-audiobooks, all in addition to our usual book purchases. In special collections we added several museum passes and are processing STEM kits. Describing and packaging these items is truly a process! Look for STEM kits and jigsaw puzzles soon in our new Library of Things.

Many thanks to our Chester County Commissioners for the funds to expand our collections and programming.
Upcoming Programs

Taiji (Tai Chi) Fundamentals comes to Atglen on Friday, January 5! This three-month introduction to Taiji will develop abilities needed before moving on to the Taiji forms. Because of its progressive nature, the class cannot accept drop-ins. Registrants are asked to commit to the full course, January 5 through March 29, 2024, from 11:15am to 12:00noon. When the weather allows, we could meet outside.

Instructor Shannon Luo has practiced Taiji for more than 9 years under Master Sun ZhenKang. Shannon was a silver medal winner in 2018 and again in 2023, and is a member of the USA WuShu Team for 2023 - 2025 (International Martial Arts). Shannon founded Tao's Taiji Academy (TaosTaiji.org) and has been researching ways and methodologies to enable students to learn Taiji correctly and effectively.

STEAM Saturday on January 6 at 10:30am will guide us through building our own streaming PC that will enable us to live stream gaming tournaments and podcasts and will interface with our future 3D printer. All ages are invited to participate in this incredible experience.

To register for these and other programs, visit our website at atglenpubliclibrary.org and click on Register for Programs.

A representative from PA Senator Katie Muth’s office will hold remote office hours here on January 19. They can assist with SEPTA Senior passes and state government services, such as handicap placard applications, notary services, tax rebate programs, and SNAP eligibility. Sen. Muth represents the 44th District, which now includes Atglen Borough and West Sadsbury Township.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on the third Thursday of each month for the 2024 meetings. The January 2024 meeting will be held on January 18 at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to the public.

Wishing you all the joys of the season and health and happiness in the New Year!