



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – October 2023

“This library is super-fast at getting books in for my kids that I homeschool. I appreciate it!”

~ *Ashtabula patron, Christine*

"It was nice to sit out on the patio and read part of my book! I love using the study rooms, too!"

~ *Ashtabula patron, Robert*

A recent patron raved about the non-book items we lend; she really loves having access to our hotspots and Rokus.

~ *Ashtabula Front Desk Manager, Sybil*

Zonta Club of Ashtabula Area gave the Front Desk staff roses for "always being so helpful and kind."

~ *Ashtabula Front Desk Manager, Sybil*

“You know that stereotype about how people give the craziest, most vague descriptions of books and a librarian takes that information and gets you exactly the book that you wanted? Yeah, Mr. Meyer is really good at that.” ~ *Mrs. Middleton, English teacher speaking to her class, Lakeside*

“I love the way that you put EXACTLY the books that I want on those stands at the end. It’s like a beacon telling me which ones are the good books!”

~ *Student Comments to Dwight, Lakeside High School*

A recent patron at Geneva exclaimed to a second patron, “Wow, I can’t believe they even lend pumps for bike tires!” The second patron replied, “Of course they do, it’s the library.”

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

A Geneva meeting room user remarked to the front desk, “I am so amazed that your staff handle the after-school hours so well. There are so many kids who come in, yet the staff do a great job keeping things calm.”

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*


"Congratulations! A very busy month and great detail reporting of all the librarians do for our community. I am always amazed at all the activities and opportunities reported in these newsletters."

~ *Peggy, email after receiving the ACDL Month In Review newsletter*

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"As I think I have expressed before, I thoroughly enjoy reading these newsletters. They are extremely informative. I very much appreciate all you do for our schools from attending a multitude of our Open Houses to meeting with new administration. We are always grateful for the support and partnerships with the library."

~ Terri Hrina-Treharn, Ph.D, GACS Superintendent

Harbor Gardens offered this feedback to our Discover More Perks Library Card Discount Program 2023: "EXCELLENT WORK!!! Great job with marketing well in advance, with media both social and print and great follow-through on multiple levels!"


PUBLIC SERVICE

- COVID test demand increased with 304 kits distributed from the Ashtabula Library. The Front Desk also distributed 14 gun locks and gave away two (2) Detera drug disposal bags during the month of September. Geneva Library distributed an additional 167 COVID test kits and 72 gun locks.
- The Ashtabula Library notarized 98 items in the month of September.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in September included: AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula City Planning, Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula Foundation, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, The Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Police Department, Buckeye Schools, Building Resiliency Together, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Girl Scouts, Huntsman Company, Key Bank, Lakeland Community College, Legal Aid, LGBTQ Coalition, NAACP, NEO Fund, NOPEC, OIKOS Center, Sexual Assault Response Team, Signature Health, Starting Point, United Way, Woman's Fortnightly Club, Youngstown Business Incubator, and the YMCA.
- As summer gave way to fall, we had slightly fewer visitors to the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room. Among those groups that did visit, however, we were especially pleased to twice welcome The Burroughs Nature Club of Willoughby, who scanned two of their scrapbooks and shared the scans with us for our collection.
- Ashlee completed 15 obit requests; scanned half of the 1921 Polk Directory; edited 169 files of the 1966 Geneva Aquila Yearbook; completed two (2) research requests; added an instructional document on program hosting instructions for Genealogy, and a reference document for local funeral homes; started an instructional document for annually planning and hosting Ohio Archives Month, and an instructional document on filling requisitions

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for archival supplies; created a keys inventory spreadsheet for all keys used in the genealogy and archive room; and gathered and designed relevant news articles, photographs, and circulation books to display in the Gallery for the Archives' October display for Ohio Archives Month.

- A new batch of content was sent to the Ohio History Connection for upload. This batch contained six (6) Grand River Yearbooks, an Edgewood Yearbook, and photo box content. In the month of September, the Ashtabula Memory page had 150 visitors, 100 of whom were new users. There were over 200 sessions with each session comprising about 27 individual items viewed with over 4000 items viewed in total.
- New soft seating has arrived at Lakeside High School. Dwight worked with Tim Ranck and Mark Astorino to select new eye pleasing and durable furniture. They selected seven (7) armless modular chairs and matching coffee tables. ACDL and AACCS continue to work together to make the Lakeside Media Center more inviting, engaging, and welcoming to students.
- Four (4) teachers brought their eighteen classes to visit the Media Center at Lakeside High School during September. The main activities during these visits included issuing new cards, updating patron records, and searching for materials either for book reports or for pleasure reading. This resulted in approximately 350 students coming through the library during these sessions held on five (5) different days.
- Geneva Library hosted a total of 34 meetings with over 150 attendees. Meeting room users included: The Rose Society of Ashtabula County, Friends of Geneva Library, Geneva Country Quilters, Spencerian Writers, Life Without Chains, Aspire, and the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society.
- Codi assisted with five (5) one-on-one tech assistance sessions. Computer and smartphone settings and basic operation were frequent topics covered with patrons.
- Geneva staff started to shift the paperback collection from the rear of the building to shelves located near the new books section. We trust that increased visibility of the paperback collection will lead to better usage of those materials.
- The Geneva Library's lobby display case featured art from local painter Chad Davis. Chad has a passion for splatter paint pieces, including canvases and ceramics. He even allowed visitors to enter to win a piece from his collection!
- Geneva book displays covered topics including Back to School resources, Booktok selections, and cozy fall books.
- Jim completed 18 House Call visits and 35 Express Deliveries in September. He was also able to restock area Book Drop collections with nearly 400 fresh items. The most frequently used Book Drop locations are found at Indian Creek in Geneva-on-the-Lake and Byler's Community Kitchen in Denmark Township.
- Jim and Hannah resumed Bookmobile service at several local schools during the month of September. September school service included Superior Elementary and Happy

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Hearts/Building Bridges in Ashtabula, and Austinburg Elementary. Nearly 350 students had the opportunity to come aboard and browse for their next favorite book. Several more schools will be utilizing Bookmobile service starting in October.

- A new community Bookmobile stop was added in Pierpont by request of area residents, and an additional stop was added in the Ashtabula area at Glenwood Village.
- Community Bookmobile stops continue in the Ashtabula area neighborhoods of Bardmoor, Bonniewood, Mobile Acres and Harbor Ridge, Friendship Clubhouse in the Donahoe Center, Geneva-on-the-Lake, Dorset, the neighborhood of Whispering Willow in Harpersfield Township, and in Footville.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month** was the subject of the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Book Display at the Lakeside Media Center for the 2023-24 school year. Dwight put together a book list and added hand carved figurines, a fan, and postcards with examples of Latin American Art on loan from Melissa Stewart of the Spanish Language Department.


PROGRAMMING

- Ashtabula Youth Services Department held an **Open House** on September 6. Stephen, Tina, Teresa and Hayley had stations setup around the meeting room that sampled planned youth programming for the fall. They represented all their gifts with participant creation of homemade holders for library cards, homemade mango salsa, a coding mouse, and guitar playing with stories. The coding mouse and homemade library card stations were swarming with kids throughout the event and the salsa and homemade chips needed constant replenishment. Over 70 people stopped in, participated, and had fun at this energetic event.
- Stephen began a new **Sleepytime Storytime** at both the Ashtabula and Geneva buildings. This is a quieter, more calmer evening storytime offering designed to calm and relax. Stephen has already received positive feedback from parents and also plans to incorporate a Zoom aspect to the programs going forward.
- Stephen and Tina took turns facilitating **Art Literature for Homeschoolers** in Ashtabula and modified syllabuses created by Teresa to highlight pointillism (Seurat), watercolors (Van Gogh), and movement art (Haring).
- Hayley hosted two **STEAM Engine** programs each Wednesday in Ashtabula: one during the day that was geared toward homeschoolers, and one in the early evening that was open to all. Participants created puzzles together, marshmallow towers, and crafts with leaves from outdoors, giving them a chance to explore how and why leaves change colors.
- Ashtabula **Storytime** theme was Autumn! Teresa chose books and songs all centered around autumnal subjects like the leaves changing color, picking apples from trees, and squirrels getting ready for winter. Also starting this month, Teresa put together early literacy handouts that included book recommendations for each weekly theme, songs, and early literacy tips. Updated weekly, parents and caregivers can take these handouts and

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use the tips at home to help encourage reading outside of storytime and to build a love of reading with their little ones.

- Ashtabula's **Rhythm Band** continues to draw an infectious audience. For the month of September, kids continued using rhythm sticks and percussion instruments to play along to all kinds of songs with all kinds of rhythms. This month's favorite song was *Woodpecker* by Hap Palmer, where the children tried to echo the sounds of the woodpecker in the song using rhythm sticks.
- Ric helped four (4) people during **Tech Tuesday** sessions. In addition to typical issues with emails and photos, other needs seemed more specific this month. (For example, one person needed tutorial instructions on how to set up Microsoft 365, and another needed to register for an Apple account to manage her new iPhone.)
- **DIY Ashtabula** had eight (8) patrons in attendance. Participants were led by Sybil, who guided them in learning to découpage and create a luminary using dried flowers.
- In conjunction with the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashlee hosted a well-received program on **Researching Newspapers**. There were eight (8) in-house attendees and 24 online attendees.
- Carrie presented a program on **Joining Lineage Groups**, seven (7) people attended.
- **The Writers' Group** celebrated the news that one of their members signed a contract with a local publisher to edit and publish his children's book, *Iggy Tales*, which the group has been reading and giving feedback on for approximately a year.
- **DIY Geneva** focused on fall with a string art project. Attendees had a chance to create colorful geometric fall patterns using yarn on canvas.
- **Geneva's Book Group** met to discuss *Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart* by Joyce Carol Oates. This novel explores the themes of race and class through the tale of two families.
- **Geneva's Cookbook Club** discussed Sara Bir's *Tasting Ohio: Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State*. Participants had a lively discussion about the recipes and places represented in the book. They also enjoyed a recipe demonstration of *Better Than Takeout Noodles* (a Lo Mein-style dish featuring noodles, pork, kale, and hoisin sauce) from their October cookbook selection.
- Native Ashtabula County **Author Rodd Whelpley** discussed his poetry collection, *Blood Moon, Backyard Mountain*. The poems touched on geography both familiar and imagined, and familiar topics including life, loss, and place.
- Geneva's after-school programs are back in full swing. This season, teens & tweens are enjoying **Battle Build** (weekly engineering challenge), **Trivia**, **Stir It Up** (cooking class), **Teen Graphix Club** (art & illustration), **Arts & Crafts**, **Art & Music With Codi** (expressive projects using art and music), and **Gadgets, Gizmos & Games**.
- During the month of September, Geneva Library had an average of 86 student visitors each day. The highest single-day attendance was 127.

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- Teresa led several sessions of Geneva's **Homeschoolers @ the Library** program. Sessions focused on STEM learning concepts and incorporated learning with a hands-on project each week. September topics included dinosaurs, fossils, and volcanos.
- **Miss Tina's Storytime at Geneva** sessions have been well attended. An average of 20 attendees each week had a chance to listen to stories about bugs, autumn, and grandparents.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Hayley (joined, in shifts, by Laetitia and Teresa) represented ACDL at **Magic on Main**, an interactive youth event featuring fun, games and all things magic! ACDL shared information about youth programming and materials, and sent home Harry Potter-themed take-and-make Hogwarts crafts and cootie catchers.
- Ryan participated in monthly meetings for Building Resiliency Together (whose thrust was planning an event aimed at grandparents and other elders who are raising youth) and Head Start Policy Council (which focused on back-to-school enrollments and Head Start staff development and recognition).
- Mike assisted with the September Lions Club pancake breakfast and attended the first meeting of the new year. He also attended to ongoing Club Secretary duties.
- Mike attended the September board meeting for A-Tech and the monthly Ohio Means Jobs Partners meeting. Mike also continued his participation in the Community Broadband Accelerator Program.
- Hannah and Lauren took the Bookmobile to a block party in the Bardmoor neighborhood. They had a chance to meet new faces, sign up library cards, and enjoy some great music and food. Thank you to Ashtabula native Seneca O'Neil for putting together the event and inviting the Bookmobile!
- Penny and Lauren attended the September session of the Ashtabula County Profiles Breakfast Series.
- ACDL staffed a table at the Geneva Grape Jamboree. Participating staff had a chance to talk about library services, programs, and upcoming events. The event also allowed an opportunity to share information about the Discover More Library Perks program and encourage community members to take advantage of discounts at their favorite businesses before those discounts expired at the end of September.
- Jim and Hannah drove the festively decorated ACDL Van in the Grape Jamboree parade.


MARKETING

- A new Events Calendar has launched. ACDL has switched to LibraryCalendar by LibraryMarket ahead of the launch of a new website later this year. LibraryCalendar has a number of features and capabilities that are much better suited to public libraries than the old calendar, including handy options for the public to share events, and seamless integration with the upcoming website. There are ongoing tweaks and refinements that will

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take place over the next month or so (to be expected), but so far the launch has been deemed successful.

- The Discover More Perks Library Card Discount Program 2023 was held for the second year during September, Library Card Sign-up Month. The QR codes were scanned a total of 203 times. Rebecca sent out a questionnaire to participating businesses and the replies continue to come in but there have been some really positive responses from businesses including Styles by Carol, Harbor Gardens, Harbor Print Center, and Sticky Fingers BBQ. Harbor Print Shop saw 20-30 Library Card holders stop by. Sticky Fingers and Styles by Carol were delighted about the uptick in business.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- The most wide-reaching post this month had to do with the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale, reaching over 2000 accounts. The next two wide-reaching posts (hovering around 1800 each) were associated with the Library Card Discount Program. On Instagram, the most popular post was the photo of the ACDL library card, which expired in 1999.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teresa attended the *Early Literacy 101* workshop hosted by the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County.
- Rebecca completed the Ryan Dowd course *Jerks with Homes: How to Deal with Members of the Public Who are Being Jerks About Homeless Folks*
- Alecia attended *Substance Abuse 101* from Ryan Dowd.
- Mark attended the *NEO-RLS IT Networking Meeting*.
- Numerous staff members attended LibraryCalendar training in anticipation of the rollout of the new software.
- Karen trained with Carrie on how to edit archival scans.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Friends of Geneva Library met to discuss their upcoming Fall Book Sale and Holiday Tree Raffle.
- Geneva volunteers assisted with shelving materials.
- Archives/Local History:
 - Char, while covering the Local History / Genealogy Room, also worked on organizing, labeling, and logging approximately 215 photos.
 - Troy helped to cover the room while Carrie was on vacation.
 - Duane covered the room each Saturday in September and has been helping with research on the Sweet family.
 - Tom proofed the July obits.

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- Marilyn has entered the September obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She's also edited and corrected the data entered into the RB Hayes index for obituary binders (approximately 250 pages).
- Kelsi edited approximately 150 pages of the 2002 Edgewood Yearbook.

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