



# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### **LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – December 2023**

A patron moving here from out of state was overjoyed he could get a library card. “It’s been a tough year, thank God for the library!”  
~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

A mother attending the Diwali celebration thanked us for providing activities for local children. She said it can be hard to find things to do in this area but she can count on the library to have great programs geared towards her kids.  
~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

A gentleman watched as Ellen was switching out display books on the endcaps and straightening books in the large print section. He mentioned he watched someone dusting and straightening another section the day before. He said he never thought about how much work goes into keeping all the books looking clean, neat, and organized and just took it for granted until now. He said we are doing a fine job and that our workers do a great job keeping it nice!  
~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

“My mind has been blown!” ~ Ashtabula patron, Jeff’s remark after learning about our digital resources and what they give him access to, especially audiobooks

“It’s the first time I’ve been here since we moved to Geneva this summer. This is a really nice library!”  
~ Shared with Lauren by a student patron

“Thank you for providing space for student testing. Your staff have been welcoming, helpful, and accommodating, and you have such a cozy library!”  
~ OHDELA Testing Staff (Geneva)

While refilling a book drop at the Donahoe Center, a patron said to me, "I love it when you bring new books! I can't wait to look through them but I'll wait 'til you're finished!"  
~Jim, Outreach Associate


One of our Bookmobile patrons told me how happy she is with the books Hannah brings for her. She loves Hannah’s selections and good-naturedly complains about having so much to read.  
~Jim, Outreach Associate

“Is there any way that you can talk with whoever so that I can come down to the Media Center more often? I would especially like to come down during my lunch period. This place is like a quiet oasis and the cafeteria is just noisy and dumb.”  
~ Student interaction, Lakeside H.S.

Ashtabula  
440-997-9341  
4335 Park Ave  
Ashtabula, Ohio



Geneva  
440-466-4521  
860 Sherman St  
Geneva, Ohio



“I’ve been trying to get back into reading and I am really enjoying this book that I checked out with you last week. Is it part of a series, because I’m going to need something new before the end of the weekend.”  
~ Student interaction, Lakeside H.S.

“Can you show me how to bring up the programs on anatomy and physiology? I heard that these classroom sets of VR goggles have some really great science apps.”  
~ Leader of the after-school program, Lakeside H.S.

"This is the most beautiful library around." ~ Ashtabula notarization patron sharing with Karen

"I haven't been here for the longest time. I brought my kids when they were little. I'm going to get a library card so that I can bring my grandkids here. This place is wonderful."  
~ Ashtabula notarization patron sharing with Karen

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**


- COVID test demand increased in Ashtabula, with 302 kits distributed. Front Desk also distributed 15 gun locks and gave away four (4) Deterra drug disposal bags during November.
- We have partnered again with Sub-Zero Mission who will be supplying tents, sleeping bags, hats, gloves, socks and other survival gear to Ashtabula’s homeless population through the winter months.
- Geneva Library distributed 103 free COVID test kits and 23 gun locks.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in November included: AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula County Alzheimer’s Association, Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association, Ashtabula County Board of Elections, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Health Department, Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, Ashtabula Foundation, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Building Resiliency Together, Community Leadership Group, Gateway Academy, Geneva Camera Club, Girl Scouts, Help Me Grow, Kent State Ashtabula Allies, Kids For Positive Change, Legal Aid, LGBTQ Coalition, Master Gardeners, NEO Fund, My Neighborhood Collaborative, Second Chance Citizen’s Circle, Woman’s Fortnightly Club, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Zonta
- Local groups that utilized meeting spaces at the Geneva Library included: Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, Aspire GED classes, OhioRise, Geneva Area Music Boosters, The Rose Society of Ashtabula County, Geneva Country Quilters, and Life Without Chains. Geneva Library spaces were also frequently utilized for small study groups.

Ashtabula  
440-997-9341  
4335 Park Ave  
Ashtabula, Ohio



Geneva  
440-466-4521  
860 Sherman St  
Geneva, Ohio

- 963 voters from five (5) precincts visited the Ashtabula building to cast their ballots on November 7, while 467 from two (2) precincts visited the Geneva building to vote.
- Carrie assisted a graduate student who is researching a Superfund Site in Kingsville. He will be donating a copy of his thesis.
- Carrie assisted Ideastream (Cleveland PBS/NPR radio) with research for an upcoming program on NE Ohio “Main Streets”.
- In November, the Ashtabula Memory Page, hosted by the Ohio History Connection, engaged 187 users, 158 of whom were new to the site. There were 235 sessions with each session comprising about 25 items viewed; over 5700 items in total were viewed.
- Carol has completed the metadata for scans from two (2) photo boxes. She also completed an audit of the uploaded content on our site as some items were lacking OCR settings. Columbus is working to resolve this issue. (OCR, optical character recognition, is the use of technology to distinguish printed or handwritten text characters inside digital images of physical documents, such as a scanned paper document. [www.techtarget.com](http://www.techtarget.com))
- Austin is settling into his new role as Archives Assistant. He is well on his way to mastering scanning and editing images, as well as the process of creating his portion of the obituaries that volunteers Marilyn and Tom will need to complete their portion of the task.
- November book display themes in Ashtabula included: Veterans Tribute, American Diabetes Month, Native American Heritage Month – Discover Native American Authors, “Fall Into A Good Book”, and National Novel Writing Month.
- Geneva Book displays included winter holiday selections and a humorous display of romance books riffing on the well-known adage “No shoes, no shirt...”
- Mallory Entsminger joined us as a Youth Services Assistant in Geneva. Mallory holds an MLIS from KSU and has already been a great asset to us at the public services desk and leading after-school programming.
- Geneva welcomed new public services staff member Sarah Price. Sarah’s positive can-do attitude is a wonderful addition to an already great team.
- The ACDL Bookmobile was visited by nearly 500 students in the month of November. Schools visited included: Saint John School, Superior Elementary, Lakeside Junior High, Cork Elementary, Austinburg Elementary, and Happy Hearts/Building Bridges.
- Community Bookmobile stops served residents in the following areas: Geneva-on-the-Lake, Harpersfield, Ashtabula, Ashtabula Township, Dorset, Pierpont, and Trumbull Township.
- Outreach staff completed 13 House Calls visits, 36 Express Deliveries, and placed almost 350 items into book drop locations throughout the ACDL service area.
- Following a recent information session about available services to support community members with temporary or permanent visual limitations, Hannah stepped in to revitalize ACDL’s service through Ohio Library for the Blind & Print Disabled. Hannah has now taken over the coordination of Talking Book services. The program allows qualified




individuals to borrow digital cassettes loaded with audio recordings, as well as the devices necessary to access the content.

- Critical updates were completed on ACDL workstations, ensuring continuity of service and data security. Mark continues to expand and adapt our existing tools and practices to keep up with the increasing pace of updates and to allow them to be addressed with minimal business interruption.
- Several English classes had projects on mythology, followed by the literature of Charles Dickens, and a research project on Culture during the Victorian Era and the Industrial Revolution. Class visits associated with these projects, and items that were brought in to support these academic projects, were some of the key drivers of student traffic and circulation statistics.
- Mental Health Awareness was the theme of the current book display in the Lakeside Media Center. Several students took note of the books and commented on the importance of highlighting the subject.
- 116 documents were notarized at the Ashtabula Library in November, besting last year's November total of 53 documents.

## PROGRAMMING

- The theme for the month of November for **Ashtabula Storytimes** was "Thankfulness." Teresa and the attendees read books that all followed the same ideas of learning to appreciate the things we have and how to show our gratitude to those we are thankful for. Books read included Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora, which had a companion craft inspired by the story, where the children made stew pot-shaped thank you cards. We also read Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson and learned how to say "thank you" in ASL.
- Themes used for Tina's **Geneva Storytimes** were: pets, thankfulness, Thanksgiving traditions and foods, and toys. An average of 17 patrons attended each session.
- Stephen's **Sleepytime Storytimes** focused on the themes of Diwali and gratitude.
- November's **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers** was focused on learning how to follow along to a melody; when to play, when to rest, and how to count beats. To practice these concepts, we used songs like *Echo Sticks* by Rhythm Stick Rap and Tap and *Woodpecker* by Hap Palmer.
- This month's **Art Literacy** programs in Ashtabula featured the Dutch Golden Age painter Judith Leyster, African American abstract painter Alma Thomas, English Romanticism painter J.M.W. Turner, and Russian abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky. Each week we learned a little about the artists and discussed some of their work, then created artwork inspired by that week's artist. Some of these were self-portraits and abstract paper collages.

- **STEAM Engine** program participants at Ashtabula experimented with the science of water density by making lava lamps with oil, food coloring, and Alka Seltzer tablets. Students also incorporated math and engineering skills by planning out and building a marble maze.
- The Youth Services team hosted a **Diwali Celebration** in each of the buildings – a special event representing the power of light over darkness. Children came and made their crafts, painted Diyas (lamps), and discussed the power of light.
- Youth Services also hosted a **Holiday Decorating Party** in each building. Participants represented the three winter holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa and created various decorations to festoon children’s areas. Attendees and their families enjoyed painting, making paper chains, and learning how to cut patterned snowflakes. This program was especially popular in Geneva!
- Geneva staff hosted an average of **83 students each day during after-school hours**.
- **Homeschoolers @ the Library** programs in Geneva performed science experiments focused on water density. Students also studied geology by learning about the rock cycle, and creating model geodes using sugar and glue.
- Teresa’s **Teen Graphix Club** in Geneva worked on learning some basic animation principles using lightboards to create flipbook animations. The club members also had a “paint along with Bob Ross” day, following along with a Bob Ross tutorial, which everyone enjoyed.
- An average of 20 students participated in Geneva’s **Stir It Up** program for teens each week. Recipes made this month were: Veggie Wraps, Egg Roll in a Bowl, Banana Pudding, Chicken Stir-Fry, and Garlic Ginger Beef Ramen. There was a focus on food safety this month, specifically concerning poultry and the importance of washing everything (hands, utensils, cutting board) to prevent salmonella.
- Ashtabula’s **Stir It Up** followed the same menus, but because it draws a smaller crowd, participants have more one-on-one time with Tina to hone their skills. (Curiously, no students braved the “big snow” on November 28, but a family of four (4) passing through from Buffalo to southern Ohio just happened to stop in as Tina was setting up the program and they all participated with her in lieu of the teens.)
- Hosted by Stephen, **Teen Trivia & Brain Games** is doing well as an afterschool program in Geneva. There are upwards of 15 students who come and participate with excitement. They especially like the drawing mode where he asks them to have one team member draw something and have other members identify the sketch.
- Geneva’s **Gadgets, Gizmos, and Games** program is popular after school, too! Attendees particularly enjoy VR gaming, so much in fact, that they patiently take turns and willingly switch partners to enable a 20-minute session for all.
- Geneva teens were keen on Mallory’s **Bingo** program. The participants were not only enthusiastic about *playing* but also eager to take turns being the bingo caller.

- 
- The **Art & Music with Codi** program at Geneva attracted as many as 32 students during after-school hours. Program projects included introducing students to podcasting equipment, experimenting with recording effects for voice and music, and mixed media art.
  - Geneva staff introduced their after-school students to our **new karaoke machine**. Hilarity ensued, and the kids had a blast looking up songs to sing. As for staff, they will never hear Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" in quite the same way.
  - Carrie hosted the program, **Beyond Ancestry**, which was attended by 10 patrons in person, and 22 virtually.
  - Four (4) enthusiastic patrons trudged out in the big snow for Ashtabula Library's **DIY**. Participants learned how to create holiday gnomes, and a couple of them even made two!
  - **Tech Tuesday** in Ashtabula had two (2) patrons this month, one who needed cell phone help and the other who needed software help for their laptop.
  - Local author **Angela Baldree** visited the Ashtabula building to discuss her book Your Brother, which is a historical novel based on letters written home by her four (4) great-uncles during their foreign service in World War II.
  - Lauren and Ryan met with Jenna Hoyt from **OSU/Ashtabula 4-H** to plan their participation in a STEAM program for Winter Carnival 2024. Jenna and her team will bring a plethora of tech toys (along with staff to teach, coach, and enthuse) to each of our buildings that day.
  - Geneva's **DIY** program focused on handmade holiday gifts. Participants discussed recipes that can be used to create gift jars for friends and family this holiday season. Each person made one giftable mason jar each of chili and chicken noodle soup mix. Attendees then decorated their gift jars with holiday fabrics, ribbons, and hand-written tags.
  - Codi's **Geneva Book Club** discussed Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates. The novel centers on the lives of a 1950s-era suburbanite couple attempting to attain personal fulfillment pursuing mid-century ideals of success.
  - Geneva's **Cookbook Club** discussed Ree Drummond's The Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays. Participants talked about holiday recipes in the book, their own holiday favorites, and tips & tricks for holiday food prep. They were also treated to a cooking demonstration (and tasting) of Drummond's Mulled Apple Cider recipe.


## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Stephen performed outreach storytimes at ViaQuest and at three (3) classrooms at Austinburg Elementary, reaching approximately 23 students in each gathering. (There is a great joy in each time Stephen brings out the guitar!)
- Tina began visiting Head Start classes in November. She held storytimes for five (5) different classrooms, greeting over 70 students and teachers.

Ashtabula  
440-997-9341  
4335 Park Ave  
Ashtabula, Ohio



Geneva  
440-466-4521  
860 Sherman St  
Geneva, Ohio


- 
- Hannah presented outreach storytimes for classes at A.B.C. Childcare and Learning Center in Ashtabula.
  - Ryan attended a community partners meeting hosted by Commissioner Kathryn Whittington on the continuing support of the “Imagination Library.” Registration and continued funding ideas were reviewed and a plan to meet more regularly was established.
  - Ryan attended the monthly meeting of the Head Start Policy Council, whose thrust was on health issues prevalent in the classrooms, as well as a review of health resources available at Head Start and its partner organizations.
  - Lauren coordinated with LEADERship Ashtabula’s youth program staff to create a local history presentation to be delivered to students in December.
  - Mike assisted with the November Lions Club pancake breakfast and attended their regular monthly meeting. He also attended to ongoing Club Secretary duties. Mike also attended the November Ohio Means Jobs Partners meeting.
  - Official work concluded for the Community Broadband Accelerator Program in November which proved to be a worthwhile effort. Mike will continue to attend Broadband Taskforce meetings and participate as appropriate moving forward.
  - As is tradition, the Library Van was in the ADDA Christmas parade, making an appearance that is always popular. Staff handed out 900 pieces of candy.
  - As part of the UPPERDec after-school program at Lakeside, Dwight is teaching a series of classes on Digital Literacy. The first session focused on identifying and debunking online misinformation.
  - Dwight facilitated two (2) Virtual Reality sessions for the after school program at Lakeside. Students explored plant cells, viewed an artist’s concept of what a Black Hole looks like from space, and explored the city of Berlin from a hot air balloon!

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- The big splash on social media this month was the charming photo that Carrie found in the Archives of some ladies delivering Thanksgiving Day baskets in a horse-drawn carriage. The photo reached nearly 12,000 accounts and was shared 23 times. We also had some fresh interest in library delivery in the middle of the month.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Karen, Susan, Ric, Ellen, Laeteita, Christy, Natalie, Dawn, and Lindsey attended the *Homelessness: How to Manage Problematic Behavior* webinar by Ryan Dowd.
- Karen viewed the SEO video *What's New in BlueCloud Analytics* detailing the upcoming new procedure for library statistics gathering.
- Dwight continues his work toward INFOhio iCoach certification.

- 
- During the beginning of the month Dwight participated in a training session for the VR Classroom. This was a three-hour professional development session in which the Ashtabula Area City Schools' IT Team and a facilitator taught Lakeside staff how to use the new VR Equipment that is available for use as classroom sets. Lakeside High School now has 40 VR headsets available for virtual dissections, viewing 3D versions of artifacts and objects d'art, and exploring digital landscapes like Dracula's Castle and Hogwarts Hall to help bring books to life.

### **VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS**

- Friends of Geneva Library met to review their efforts over the past year and to nominate individuals for their annual "Friend of the Year" honor. This year the duo of Sue Tucker and Marsha Vandervort were recognized for this shared distinction. Ms. Tucker proved to be a powerful fundraiser for the group's annual Holiday Tree Raffle, and Ms. Vandervort's assistance in maintaining the vending machines at the Geneva Library was deeply appreciated by Friends and students alike.
- Geneva Friends wrapped up their annual Holiday Tree Raffle, with proceeds to be added to fundraising efforts for Geneva Library.
- Archives/Local History:
  - Char L., while covering the room also worked on organizing, labeling, and logging in approximately 100 photos.
  - Duane B., covered the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Room each Saturday in November and continues to help with research on the Sweet family.
  - Marilyn S. has entered the November obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She's finished editing and correcting the data entered into the RB Hayes index for two (2) obituary binders.
  - Tom M. has proofed the August obituaries.
  - Kelsi J. finished editing and then framed the 2015 Edgewood Yearbook, more than 60 pages.