



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – January 2023

"I just love this library. It's so beautiful!"

~ *Ashtabula patron*

"Beautiful space! I can check out as many books as I want and you girls are great!"

~ *Newer Ashtabula patron*

Patron gave a generous donation after help with a difficult print job and said he was thankful for all the help!

~ *Sybil, Front Desk Manager*

After booking meeting space for her non-profit, longtime patron Liz called the Ashtabula library her "Home Away From Home" and said, "I love it here!"

~ *Lyn, Ashtabula Public Services Coordinator*

"Whenever I want to go shopping for books, I come to the library and get my fix. The selection is better and the staff is friendlier!"

~ *Longtime Ashtabula patron*

"Having these Hotspots is great! It let me bridge a gap when I moved and had to wait to get internet installed. Thanks!"

~ *Newer Ashtabula patron*

As I was describing ACDL's House Calls service to a local customer, she exclaimed, "Oh my goodness, it feels like Christmas! You are treating me like a queen!"

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

"Is that more goodies? It seems like you are getting more books every day!"

~ *Lakeside H.S. Staff Member*

"Wait, you can do that? I didn't even know that was a thing!"

~ *Lakeside H. S. student reaction to receiving PDFs of materials from Oxford University*

On a recent day with no school, a Geneva mother gave her child the choice between going to a local bowling and amusement establishment or visiting the Geneva Library. He picked the library. He walked through our front doors with a huge smile on his face!

~ *Tina, Youth Services Coordinator*

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440-997-9341
4335 Park Ave
Ashtabula, Ohio



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




PUBLIC SERVICE

- Covid test demand decreased in January; the Ashtabula Front Desk distributed 72 tests. Geneva's staff distributed an additional 69 tests.
- Front Desk staff distributed 80 "New Year" coloring packets to children. One yoga mat and two Survival Bags were also distributed (in conjunction with SubZero Mission).
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room was busy in January being visited by more than 140 people, one of whom traveled from California to do research. Of those using the Archive about half used the computers in the room and more than 450 physical resources were used as well.
- Carrie has been working on creating the finding aid for Vera's Collection in the OhioLINK Encoded Archival Description (EAD) tool & has edited most of the John Lee and WilGee collections including between 500-1000 individual images.
- Carol worked on rescanning the 1936 Ashtabula City High School Dart yearbook which contained approximately 100 pages, as the one previously uploaded was missing quite a few pages. To complement this activity, the original scans were deleted from the Ohio Memory database. Some of the metadata for the 7th box of 72 historical photographs had to be re-worked and is now completed, and half of the 1951 Aquila yearbook was scanned.
- Maddy completed 22 obit/research requests and processed the December 2022 obituaries. She also edited and named the files contained in photo box 9 (112 images); edited the Geneva 1951 & 1963, and the Conneaut 100+ Years yearbooks; and scanned the 1971 & 1972 Edgewood yearbooks.
- This month's display themes in Ashtabula included: Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr 's birthday; Human Rights; *Time for a New Adventure: SciFi and Fantasy*, *Happy New Year: Improve Yourself* and *Discover Art!*.
- January's featured artist in the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery was Mary Graves, who also held a nicely attended reception on January 4.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Library in January included: NEO Fund, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LGBTQ Coalition, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, AARP, Ashtabula County Beekeepers, Ashtabula County Sexual Assault Response Team, Youngstown Business Incubator, Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, LEADERship Ashtabula County, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center, Key Bank, Building Resiliency Together, Catholic Charities, Ashtabula Business Accelerator, Brightview, Ashtabula County Transportation System, Homesafe, Edgewood Alumni Association, and the Geneva Camera Club.
- The staff all-in-one computers that had been replaced at the service desks have been repurposed as OPACs (online public access catalogs) in Ashtabula. In addition to resolving

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some concerns with monitor adapters failing for these devices, this is improving the reliability and the consistency of the in-house Library catalog experience for patrons.

- Geneva Library hosted a total of 33 meetings for local community groups including Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Geneva Little League, and Friends of Geneva Library. More than 230 community members had the opportunity to visit the Geneva Library meeting spaces.
- In the month of January, Jim completed 20 Home Delivery Express stops and 16 Home Delivery House Calls (previously marketed as Homebound service). He was also able to place 355 items in Bookdrop collections throughout the ACDL service area.
- The Bookmobile visited Austinburg and Cork Elementary schools in the Geneva area, as well as Superior Elementary in Ashtabula. A total of 453 students and 25 educators had a chance to come aboard and browse for materials.
- Continuing community Bookmobile stops included Dorset Community Center, Footville Township Park, and the neighborhoods of Bardmoor and Bonniewood in Ashtabula.
- New community Bookmobile stops were added in the month of January for the Whispering Willow neighborhood on Rt 307 south of Geneva, the Mobile Acres neighborhood along Route 20 in Ashtabula, Harbor Ridge Apartments in Ashtabula, and JNJ Outdoors Shop on Hilldom Road in Monroe Township.
- In order to add additional Bookmobile service points, Hannah Poploske has accepted a position as part-time Bookmobile Clerk/Driver. Her assistance is much needed.
- Tiffany provided an outreach storytime for children at Loving Cup Kids Academy in Geneva. Stephen also provided a storytime visit at ViaQuest's adult day program in Geneva.
- Codi completed seven (7) tech help appointments at Geneva Library. Topics covered included digitization and printing of photos and how to access online green card renewal resources.
- A student was looking for the poetry of Federico García Lorca and Lope de Vega. The sources were very specific and only available at a few libraries in SEO or, immediately as PDFs. In this case it was much more convenient to provide the student with links to immediately access these materials on their Chromebook.
- Dwight has finished the first phase of the Day 1 Collection at Lakeside High School. This includes the selection and ordering of approximately \$15,000 worth of new materials for the collection.
- Dwight continues to work on shifting the Adult collection at Lakeside so that books can be displayed more prominently. After moving the paperbacks to display racks, the hardcover fiction is much easier to browse and users can more clearly visualize items in the collection.

- Duplicate copies of popular adult fiction and nonfiction from the Bookmobile have been added to the collection at the Lakeside Media Center. Extra duplicate copies have been sent to Edgewood High School for their Media Center collection.
- Chess sets that were originally obtained for programming at Ashtabula and Geneva have been brought to Lakeside for use in some new lunchtime programming with the Credit Recovery students.
- The Emerging Technology Librarian ordered four (4) new Quest 2 VR Goggles for use in programs. We look forward to providing sessions on fitness, virtual travel, and gaming in the upcoming months.

PROGRAMMING

- **Storytime:** Ashtabula storytime themes this month were trucks, blankets, home, and winter animals. A newly added component to storytimes is the inclusion of an easy hands-on craft. Families loved designing their own garbage truck, creating a paper quilt, coloring winter animals, and creating their own origami house and sharing their favorite room. Also, Lori Babik from Help Me Grow visited Storytime to meet, observe, and share resources with parents.
- **Stories & Steam:** This was a special Ashtabula program where Melissa shared a book with local homeschoolers and they all did a STEAM project related to the book. The first book was After the Fall which was paired with an egg drop. The second was Fancy Nancy Bubbles, Bubbles & More Bubbles which was paired with mixing up and creating different bubble solutions to see which would make the biggest bubbles.
- **STEAM Engine:** Ashtabula Youth Services continued Steam Engine with four (4) activities this month. Families explored chemistry with the *Quicksand*, *Exploding Milk* and *Unbreakable Bubbles* activities, and experimented with physics by designing and launching airplanes. The attendance for this program has increased nicely since its inception.
- Local Author **Linda Porcello** presented her books, Little Letters from Linda and More Little Letters from Linda – Letters TO Linda in an Ashtabula meet-the-author event.
- Former Cleveland Browns quarterback, **Dr. Kenneth Polke**, presented his book, Conquering Your Adversities in a local author event. He spoke of his Collinwood upbringing, his stint in the NFL, and his post-football career as a dentist.
- Ric assisted five (5) unique patrons during **Tech Tuesdays** in Ashtabula.
- Susan hosted January's **Adult Book Club** in-house as well as at Ashtabula's Center for Active Living. January's book was A is for Alibi by Sue Grafton.
- Melissa hosted another field trip of students from the Educational Service Center. There was a tour of the library as well as a discussion on all the careers available while working in a library. Melissa also shared online library tools that could help students looking for guidance on finding a career.

- Jim's **Rae Ann Reading Circle** continued in January with readings from Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls. This reading circle is regularly attended by 15 or more residents at each session.
- Codi's **Geneva Book Club** read and discussed How the Light Gets In by Louise Penny. Group participants highly enjoyed this wintery mystery featuring Inspector Gamache.
- Codi's **Coffee + Conversation** program participants at Geneva had a lively discussion which ranged from careers to internet privacy and security. They even had a chance to discuss library services like Interlibrary Loans.
- January's **DIY** program participants had a chance to relax and create homemade self-care products like chocolate sugar body scrub and fragrance-infused bath salts.
- The four (4) sessions of **Essential Computer Skills** were well attended. The goal of the program is to introduce users to Northstar Online Learning which we offer as an online learning tool, and then allow them to use the tool at their own pace to continue their learning journey.
- The **Tech Toys I Got for Christmas** was conceived of as a series of four (4) sessions where adults could receive one-on-one guidance and coaching on a variety of technology questions, including the setup and use of new devices. The attendees seemed very pleased with the in-depth assistance that they received. Dwight taught one couple how to download audiobooks to their phone and another patron asked for assistance in refreshing her laptop PC.
- Geneva Library had an average of 75 students visit each school day after the end of classes.
- After school **Arts & Crafts** participants have been enjoying crafts made from Perler Beads. These fusible beads allow for 2D and 3D creations that can be taken home to share with friends and family. Notable projects included a 3D blooming cactus sculpture and a mosaic of a roaring T-Rex.
- Students in the **Stir It Up** program at Geneva enjoyed making dishes like banana sushi, no bake cookies, and homemade pancakes.
- Geneva Library's **Teen Action Group** have been rehearsing for their latest escape room adventure. This live event will feature story elements from season two of the TV show *Stranger Things*.
- Tina's **Geneva Storytimes** featured tales focused on the winter season and the letter "P". An average of 16 participants at each session enjoyed stories about penguins, polar bears, and all things "winter".
- Tina presented onsite storytimes at Geneva Platt R. Spencer and Cork elementary schools. More than 430 students had a chance to enjoy her presentation of stories about penguins, including Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups by Tadgh Bentley.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Melissa met with Lori Babik from Help Me Grow and Allyson Abruzzino from Ashtabula County Community Action Agency about ways to reach out and get resources to caregivers of young children (especially teen mothers) in the area.
- Melissa read to the students at After School Discovery one time in January. They welcomed the new year with books on snow and hardships.
- Ryan was a guest speaker for LEADERship's *Health and Human Services Day* (held, in part, at the Ashtabula Library). He spoke about our equitable approach to serving patrons regardless of general appearance, demeanor, odor or personal bias. He also discussed the importance of group adherence to our zero-tolerance policy and how it's been used effectively to discourage unacceptable behaviors in our buildings.
- Ryan attended the monthly *Building Resiliency Together* meeting (held at the Ashtabula Library) which focused on rebuilding the core group of active participants [indeed, attendance was at a 2-year high]. He attended *Head Start Policy Council's* monthly gathering, too, which centered on welcoming and orienting new community board members and a required review of Head Start's recent audit.
- Melissa and Ryan met with Manda Jackson of the Board of DD to plan a sensory movie night for the Board's students. We discussed feasible and practical ways to incorporate the general public into the movie night without upsetting vulnerable students.
- Mike attended two Ashtabula Lions meetings in January as club Secretary and participated in the monthly pancake breakfast. He also attended the public meeting of the LGBTQ+ Coalition, and the Board meeting as coalition Secretary.
- Lauren finalized plans for upcoming *STEM Family Fun Nights* and library field trips for gifted elementary-age students with Geneva Area City Schools Assistant Superintendent David Riley.
- Lauren hosted and attended the monthly meeting of the Geneva Business Women group at Geneva Library.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- The most popular post this month was regarding the upcoming **Winter Carnival** - reaching just shy of 11,000 accounts on Facebook, being shared 139 times. The next most popular post was for the Youth Life Skills Workshop, which reached 6173 accounts and was shared 71 times. Our Facebook audience was also enthusiastic about the two new Bookmobile stops.
- Facebook has changed which stats it makes available in the analytics tool and is no longer providing accurate *page like* numbers, focusing instead on *page followers* and *page reach* (in lieu of *post reach*).



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Carrie attended Session Four of NEO-RLS's *Leadership Academy* which addressed delegating tasks.
- Ryan attended a webinar on SMART Recovery in Libraries that addressed hosting SMART recovery meetings in libraries and partnering with already existing SMART Recovery groups in our communities.
- Ryan, Dwight, and Carrie attended the NEO-RLS program *A Long-Term Approach to Hybrid Programming* that addressed the physical and practical use of hybrid programs beyond the COVID-era. We learned about different technical setups (particularly audio setups) than we had experienced, but also discovered that we were the only participant library using an OWL!
- Ric viewed the webinar, *Understanding Our Limits: Setting Boundaries with Library Patrons* presented by NEO-RLS.
- Hayley, Myah, Hannah, Ashlee, Sybil and Lyn completed the *How to Be Good Library Ambassadors* webinar presented by NEO-RLS.
- Melissa attended *Children's Summer Reading Workshop: All Together Now* at the Hilton Garden Inn in Twinsburg.
- Both Cindi and Melissa attended *Teen Summer Reading Program: All Together Now* at the Westlake Porter Public Library.
- Rebecca took Ryan Dowd's *Homeless De-Escalation 101*. The timing proved extremely fortuitous as she had a challenging interaction with a homeless patron less than a week later. With the training fresh in her mind, Rebecca was able to respond productively and with compassion.
- Alecia attended a NEO-RLS webinar *Delegating Made Easy*, and also received training on the Viewscan Microfilm readers in the Archives.
- Lauren participated in LEADERship Ashtabula's *Health & Human Services Day*. She had a chance to participate in a poverty simulation held at the Ashtabula YMCA, meet staff and program participants at Donahoe Center's new Friendship Clubhouse, and network with representatives from a variety of service agencies throughout the area including Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Lake County Free Clinic, Job & Family Services, YMCA, and Catholic Charities.
- Tina attended the *Simplify Reading for All Students* webinar presented by School Library Journal.



VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Archives/Genealogy:**
 - Duane is in the process of learning how to scan with the Zeuschel.
 - Marilyn has entered December's obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She has also edited and corrected the data entered into the RB Hayes index for the obituary binders, Obit 15 vols 1 & 2.
 - Char has finished photo box 15, logging more than 100 images into the spreadsheet, and has sleeved and entered into the spreadsheet 122 images from photo box 16.
 - Kelsi edited the scans of the 1966 Edgewood yearbook.
 - Tom has proofed the obituaries completed by Maddy for December.
- Ashtabula Youth Services volunteer, Phoebe, helped maintain the youth collection with shelving, shelf reading, and dusting. Once a week Phoebe updates the game room and makes sure all tech is working properly.
- Friends of Geneva Library met to confirm the election of officers, discuss fundraising opportunities for 2023, and approve the donation of funds to support programming efforts like summer reading and winter carnival.