



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – July 2023

“Codi is just something really special, I was so impressed with the way he conducted the recent book discussion program. I am really looking forward to attending more.”

~ Geneva patron, Pat

“There’s fire up here!” exclaimed a young patron while excitedly waving a stuffed felt flame from the make-believe campfire in the Geneva treehouse.”

~ Overheard by Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

“I did it! I made the wall!”

~ Ashtabula patron Kayla, age 8, on seeing her artwork on the wall in Storybook Cottage

“Out of all the libraries I visit, this one is run the best! So many great services and programs for kids. The staff is always nice!”

~ Ashtabula patron, here for notary services

A member of the Ashtabula school board saw me at a function, and immediately approached to tell me that they, “follow the library on social media and (are) thrilled and impressed with all the many things you do!”

~ Ryan, Ashtabula Branch Manager

A patron came in to use the copier and needed assistance. Once done he said, he’s “...always been treated nicely here, better than the other places who offer printing services in the area.”

~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

“Thank you for being open late! You are a lifesaver!”

~ Patron using printing services in Ashtabula at 7:00 p.m., for a court date the next morning

“This is really fun, but I just wish that we had more time!”

~ VR Gamer comments to Dwight, Ashtabula

“These new computers are great! Much faster, and they just work better!”

~ Ashtabula Teen, using the new youth computers, Ashtabula


The parent of a local teen told me their child had no interest in coming to the library for summer programs. However, after attending (and enjoying!) the Donut Art painting program, that teen has returned as often as possible!

~ Tina, Geneva Youth Services

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“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. For the books, the visits, and our talks. You don’t know how much that means to me.”

~a House Calls Patron describing Jim’s Outreach Service

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Geneva Library served as a gathering place for nearly 40 meetings with over 230 attendees. An additional two (2) meetings were held in the Geneva Gazebo. Groups who utilized space included: Aspire, Friends of Geneva Library, NAACP of Ashtabula County, Ohio Nurses Association, and local condominium associations. Spaces were also used as quiet study areas.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Library in June included: AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula City Planning, Ashtabula County Alzheimer’s Association, Ashtabula County District Library Board, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, The Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Buckeye Schools, Building Resiliency Together, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Girl Scouts, Lakeland Community College, LGBTQ Coalition, NAACP, NEO Fund, OIKOS Center, Sexual Assault Response Team, Signature Health, Starting Point, Vantage Aging Solutions, Women’s Fortnightly Club, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Zonta.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive is averaging about 85 visitors each month as well as about 450 resources used. April - June 2023 stats for the Ashtabula Memory Page show 946 users, 1336 sessions, and 29,313 page views.
- Carol scanned and created metadata for 215 images in June.
- Ashlee completed seven (7) obit requests; processed the remaining April and May 2023 newspaper obits; scanned a donated postcard collection; and edited 40 images from Large’s History of Ashtabula County Vol 2, 1912 and 1918 Grand River Scimitar yearbooks.
- Geneva Library distributed 18 free at-home COVID tests, 40 Deterra drug disposal bags, and nearly 50 gun locks.
- Ashtabula Library distributed 20 COVID tests, three Deterra drug disposal bags, and 23 gun locks.
- The display cases in the Geneva Library lobby featured summer reading prizes and a selection of educational exhibits from The Nature Conservancy’s Morgan Swamp Preserve and the Dr. James K. Bissell Nature Center.
- Geneva book display topics included LGBTQ+ Pride, “As Seen on #BookTok”, and various seasonal summer selections.

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- Featured June book display themes in Ashtabula were: “All Together Now” (Summer Reading theme), Pride Month, Juneteenth, “Try a Paperback” and National Homeownership Month.
- Codi completed 10 Tech Help appointments with Geneva patrons. Topics included photo printing and basic device operation.
- Ric had three (3) drop-in “Tech Tuesday” attendees, all looking for assistance with their Android phones.
- Dwight continues to be an excellent resource for helping patrons with our digital equipment use in Ashtabula, and provided assistance to four patrons who had hurdles to jump in printing out photos (issues included “old phones” and weird formatting issues). He was also able to help a patron pull off still photos from an old VHS tape and create digital, glossy photos to be used for a family funeral.
- Outreach staff completed 37 Express Deliveries and 23 House Calls Deliveries, and Jim placed 250 items in Bookdrop Collections throughout the ACDL service area. June Express Delivery numbers hit records for both the number of deliveries and also the number of item checkouts (138)!
- The Bookmobile completed final school visits at local elementary schools to collect returns and pass out information on the summer reading program. While the school year has ended, Bookmobile staff are seeing many familiar faces at the Afterschool Discovery Summer Program that began in mid-June.
- Community Bookmobile stops continue in Ashtabula Township, Geneva Township, Harpersfield Township, Trumbull Township, Monroe Township, and Dorset Township, as well as neighborhoods in the city of Ashtabula. In all, the Bookmobile served 500 young people and nearly 100 adults during the month of June.
- Geneva Library welcomed new Youth Opportunities! worker Amy Fernandez. Amy will be assisting through August with shelving, sorting, and straightening of the Geneva collection.
- Ashtabula staff notarized 77 documents in June.

PROGRAMMING


- Laetitia began teaching **Basic American Sign Language for Beginners**, a six-week adult program that covers the alphabet and small phrases, and gives an overview of deaf culture. Participant (and community) response has been astounding and Laetitia is already strategizing continuation of the class.
- Ric hosted a program titled, **Prominent American History Writers** which highlighted notable nonfiction works by popular and award-winning authors like Jon Meecham, David McCullough and Doris Kearns Goodwin.

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- The **Writers' Group** discussed two (2) participant pieces at the June meeting. Also discussed was how one of our long-time members can hopefully get back on track with writing fiction after a couple of months of frustration.
- The **Cut the Cord to Cable** sessions in Ashtabula (11 attendees) and Geneva (14 attendees) were the best-attended programs that Dwight has run for adults! Both groups enjoyed lively discussions guided by patron questions.
- The **VR Gaming Programs** in Ashtabula have proven to be consistent draws with a total of 54 teen attendees over four (4) sessions including a number of enthusiastic regulars.
- Austin presented **Shipwrecks: From Space!** at the Geneva Library. The program instructed participants on how to find and identify shipwrecks in the Great Lakes using satellite imagery. A repeat session is planned for Ashtabula Library in July.
- Ashlee hosted the June **Genealogy** program, *Researching Your Irish Ancestors Online—Searching and Browsing for Success*.
- The **Ashtabula Adult Book Club** discussed Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng with six (6) people in attendance. At the Center for Active Living, six (6) patrons enjoyed the same title.
- Codi's **Geneva Book Club** discussed Elizabeth Strout's Lucy by the Sea. The novel explored the idea of ex-spouses quarantining together during the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The **Geneva Cookbook Club** discussed Jessie Sheehan's Snackable Bakes. This beautifully photographed collection of recipes represented delicious baked goods made from simple ingredients that can be found in most pantries, and most recipes could be prepared for baking in under 30 minutes.
- Jim's **RaeAnn Reading Circle** has nearly completed Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls.
- Stephen provided **Outreach Storytimes** at ViaQuest adult day program, Carol's Corner in Geneva, and at Austinburg Elementary.
- Tiffany's **Growing Mindful Gardeners** program at Geneva continues to teach young gardeners the concepts of organic gardening. Participants are growing produce and flowers in a community garden bed. Each session also involves making a craft. Crafts have included birdhouses, luminaries, and garden-themed masks.
- **Miss Tina's Geneva Storytimes** in June focused on the letter J, shapes and colors, and Independence Day. Groups averaging 28 attendees listened to stories, sang songs, and wiggled out their wiggles.
- Teresa led **Ashtabula Storytimes** in June focusing on themes related to colors, the alphabet and numbers. She averages 16 attendees and includes stories, an applicable craft, and often accompanies sing-alongs by playing the ukulele.
- **Art Literacy for Students**, an Ashtabula youth program led by Teresa, studied biographies and notable works by Kandinsky, Cezanne and Picasso. Each participant creates art inspired by the week's featured author, and last month they created cubist self-portraits,



dice designed on each side using Kandinsky's most prevalent shapes, and landscape paintings in the style of Cezanne.

- Teresa designed and led a **Storybook Walk** in the kids butterfly garden at the Ashtabula building. We Are Together by Britta Teckentrup was the basis of the program. Teresa created individual stations throughout the garden and walked participants through, reading the story aloud at each stop. After a couple times through, Teresa sent the kids out alone to complete a scavenger hunt she designed to accompany the story. Enthusiastic delight from youth and rave reviews from parents followed this creative and fun program!
- Hayley continues to draw large, exuberant crowds to her weekly **STEAM Engine** for youth program (37 kids here on June 14!). Popular hands-on STEM/STEAM activities this month included DIY Puzzles (youth were given a boilerplate of science terms and pictures and then had to cut them up, jigsaw puzzle style, and then have another participant put it together) and Matter Changing Experiment (participants each created mini exploding volcanoes and learned about liquids, solids and gasses).
- During the last week of school in June, Geneva Library had an average of 78 student visitors each day. Teen Action Group members enjoyed an end-of-year appreciation party with refreshments, while other students enjoyed meatball sliders at the Stir It Up program or participated in VR gaming.
- **Summer Reading** programs kicked off in late-June. Geneva programs included **Critter Club, Crafty Kids, STEAM Engine, Teens Create** (crafts), **Teen Gaming**, and **Art Together Now** (teen art). All programs are designed to highlight the summer reading theme "All Together Now". Ashtabula programs include **VR Gaming, Art Literacy for Students, STEAM Engine** and book club for youth.
- **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers** started with 20 participants. RSVP Volunteer, Jan Luoma, shared sample lesson plans and coached Teresa and Ryan in leading youth (and a few parents) in use of rhythm sticks, basic clapping exercises and demonstration and practice in using bells, triangles, maracas and other traditional rhythm instruments. Kids were absolutely delighted to be moving and making music!
- The **STEAM Engine** program at Geneva Library is utilizing LSTA grant-funded materials including the STEM Lab Maker Cart. Each Friday elementary age participants are given an engineering challenge. They are encouraged to plan out and discuss their solutions and then build their challenge item using materials from the cart. Challenges have included building a working swing set and houses based on the tale of The Three Little Pigs.
- Written and artistic works by participants in this year's **Black History and Me** contest filled the walls of the Tokarczyk Gallery in Ashtabula. First, second and third-place prizes were awarded in each category by judges selected by the NAACP of Ashtabula County. Participants were celebrated with a reception and awards ceremony at the Ashtabula building on Saturday, June 10.

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- Groups of students from the **YMCA** and **Kids Only** began making weekly field trips to the Ashtabula Library. Each group stays for 2 - 3 hours and staff leads them in age-appropriate art/literacy projects, STEM/STEAM activities, and help them in exploring different areas and genres of the library.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Geneva Area City Schools Superintendent Terri Hrina-Treharn presented the Geneva Library with a Portrait of a Graduate banner. Lauren contributed to the Portrait project team during fall of 2022. The banner depicts a shared vision of skills and characteristics that Geneva graduates can use to engage with their community. The banner is currently on display in the Teen Area at Geneva Library.
- Mike attended one Ashtabula Lions Club meeting as Secretary in June.
- Mike also attended the Ashtabula LGBTQ+Coalition Board June meeting as Secretary and donated several hours working on the Coalition website and social media marketing for Ashtabula Pride. Mike was heavily involved in presenting Pride on June 3rd as a member of the Coalition which was, in general, a successful day.
- Rebecca attended three (3) ADDA Promotions Committee meetings, two Rotary Club meetings, and Good Morning Ashtabula.
- Ryan attended monthly meetings for Head Start Policy Council (which focused on staffing and realignment of expected registration numbers) and Building Resiliency Together (which focused on workplace peer support).
- Ryan hosted an ACDL information table at Family Pride's Responsible Fatherhood Event. Held at Saybrook Township Park, this was a fun, playful event that provided an opportunity for fathers to spend quality time with their children and learn about some "Dad friendly" community resources.
- The Bookmobile attended festivities at Ashtabula Pride, which was held at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in early June. Lauren and Sybil were present to provide information about library resources and the summer reading program. They also brought a fun Pride-themed craft for kids and families to enjoy.
- The Bookmobile also attended Safety Day at the Ashtabula Area City Schools bus loop and the Nickel Carnival at Shannon's Mini Mart in Austinburg. These events provided additional opportunities to inform families about summer reading programs and distribute free books.
- Carrie joined the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society's booth to represent ACDL at the Strawberry Festival held at the Jefferson Depot. More than 250 people received information about The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive, including its available resources and upcoming programming and events.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

- While nothing in June went “viral”, a trio of posts performed strongly in the month of June with posts highlighting our sign-language classes (1,714 reach), a Geneva Township Park Bookmobile route (1,675 reach), and Ongoing Summer Programs (1,593 reach) all performing well.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Alecia attended a number of training opportunities including *Getting Started with Libby - Overdrive Resource Center* from Overdrive; *Subject Analysis Training Parts 1-3*; *Open Office* from SEO; and *Passive-Aggressive Behavior: Sources and Solutions for Library Workspaces* from NEO-RLS.
- Rebecca completed two sessions from the Ryan Dowd Series: *Homelessness 201* and *Backup: How to Backup a Co-worker During a Crisis*.
- Sybil completed the webinar: *Homelessness Q&A With Ryan Dowd*.
- Lyn and Ric viewed a webinar titled *Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace*, sponsored by Mindspring.
- Sybil, Hayley, Ellen, Christy, Carlos, Tiara, Laetitia, and Teresa, all completed the webinar: *Patron Response Framework: Responding with Empathy, Kindness, & Love in Difficult Situations* from NEO-RLS.
- Lauren attended the graduation celebration for LEADERship Ashtabula County’s Signature Program. This event was the culmination of her participation in the 2022-2023 program year.
- Tina attended two literacy webinars focused on phonics and word recognition. They included *From Struggle to Success in Automaticity* and *How to Ensure Decodables Are an Effective Tool for Phonics*.
- Carrie attended the Northeast Document Conservation Center’s webinar, *Personal Digital Archiving*.
- Carrie virtually attended the Society of American Archivists annual meetings held the last week of June. She attended the Technical subcommittee meeting dealing with DACS (Describing Archives a Content Standard), as well as subcommittee meetings dealing with Oral History and Public Archives.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Geneva volunteers assisted with shelving and light cleaning. Several teen volunteers also assisted youth services staff with summer programs.
- Friends of Geneva Library held their monthly meeting to discuss fundraising plans for the coming months, determine marketing strategy, and organize their assistance for upcoming summer movie nights at Geneva Library.

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- Archives/Local History:
 - Char L. helped cover the room during Carrie's vacation, and finished scanning the 1991 Edgewood Arrow, and the 1912 Ashtabula Polk Directory, as well as labeling and logging 257 ACDL history photos.
 - Duane B., along with covering the Local History/Genealogy Room, scanned the Rock Creek Mayor's Court 1871-1884 book (260 pages) and began scanning The Morgan Township/Rock Creek Village 1920-1929 Book.
 - Maggie D. scanned the 1962 Edgewood Yearbook (125 images).
 - Tom M. proofed the April obits.
 - Marilyn S. entered June's obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She's also edited and corrected the data entered into the RB Hayes index for the obituary binders' Obit 28, 30, & 32. (Appx. 300 pages.)

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