

# ACDL

## The Month In Review

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

A deaf patron came in to make adjustments to her library card and was overjoyed when she was able to communicate with Laetitia through American Sign Language. She even came back another day so Laetitia could help her find some books she was looking for.

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

Patron came in needing to get something notarized, faxed, and help researching in Genealogy. She asked if we by chance had a wheelchair for her mother since she could not walk far. We were able to help her with everything, including the wheelchair. She and her mother were grateful for the services!

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

A mother of four was happy that there were things to do for all her children at the Winter Carnival. They signed up for library cards and checked out a few items. She couldn't wait for the upcoming programs!

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

I had a patron call the Conklin Desk looking for books that taught Greek language, as she has a trip to Greece planned for the Fall. I told her about the Transparent Language program we offer and guided her through the basics. She called back the next day and raved about how easy it is to use, and how it is exactly what she needed.

*~ Lyn, Ashtabula Head of Public Services*

“This is the funnest day ever!”

*~ Four-year-old attendee of the Winter Carnival Venetian Mask Craft program to Lyn*

An attendee of the Digitization Tips and Tricks program was very excited to receive excellent instruction “This was a very helpful program! Thank you for your time and patience.”

*~ User comments to Dwight, Emerging Technology Coordinator*

“He’s been waiting to come back ever since President’s Day to play more VR.”

*~ Mom’s commentary at VR programming, Ashtabula*

“Wait?! You have the Eragon books!”

*~ Student reaction to new materials, Lakeside High School*

A Geneva patron came to the front desk seeking information about future Computer Basics programs. She had enjoyed her session so much that she wanted to tell others about dates for upcoming sessions.

*~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*


“Can I come live at the library?”

*~ Geneva Area Elementary Student*

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440-997-9341  
4335 Park Ave  
Ashtabula, Ohio



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“I’m so glad we are doing Perler beads today, it’s the only thing that helps me focus after having tests all day.”  
~Geneva Middle School Student


## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- Covid test demand stayed steady in February; the Front Desk distributed 218 Covid tests. Front Desk staff also distributed 205 “Valentine’s Day” coloring packets to children, 24 gun locks, 8 Doterra Medication Disposal Kits, 2 yoga mats and 12 Sub Zero Survival Bags.
- Geneva Library distributed an additional 121 Covid tests and 50 gun locks.
- Lyn and Ryan met with representatives of Catholic Charities and Legal Aid of Cleveland to strategize the use of Ashtabula Library as a meeting space for Legal Aid appointments. Use of our space will help Legal Aid send more pro-bono attorneys to Ashtabula County each month, and will allow for more appointments per month.
- The supplies needed to send our images to Columbus for Ohio Memory upload have been received. One drive containing 115GB of information including yearbooks, photos, and a teacher’s organization book have been mailed to Columbus.
- Maddy Dill completed 7 obit/research requests; processed the January 2023 newspaper obits; processed 13 new books; typed 1856 Baker's Map Index letters A-K, which is part of a future collaborative project; edited 2 yearbooks - Conneaut 1970, 1971; scanned 3 yearbooks - Geneva 1966, 1977, & Edgewood 1977; and scanned the Esch Postcard Collection.
- This month’s new display themes in Ashtabula included: Fall in Love with a Good Book, Black History Month - displays of works of literature by African American authors and biographies of African Americans, Heart Month - displays of books about heart health and Anti-Valentine’s Day.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room were Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Library in February included: NEO Fund, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, Good Morning Ashtabula, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen’s Circle, AARP, Ashtabula County Beekeepers, Youngstown Business Incubator, Ashtabula County Alzheimer’s Association, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center, Building Resiliency Together, Catholic Charities/Second Chance Citizen’s Circle, Ashtabula County Transportation System, Edgewood Alumni Association, Signature Health, Sky Meditation, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Area City Schools, YMCA, Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio, AARP, Rotary Club, AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League Board of Directors, LGBTQ Coalition, AACS Custodians, Early Education Center, and the Geneva Camera Club.

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- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive patron activity was on pace with January's numbers. In February approximately 135-140 people visited the room to do research; about half of those accessed the computers in the room as well.
  - Carol worked on scanning approximately 60 pages of one of the yearbooks. She continued to correct and edit the formatting for about 70-80 pages of the Ashtabula County Historical and Philosophical Society book.
  - This has been a very busy yet exciting time at Lakeside High School. Receiving, entering new items into the Online Card Catalog, stamping, and shelving were the main activities of the month.
  - New materials have prompted renewed interest from students at Lakeside High School. The Graphic Novels and Manga are very popular, as are the New Fiction and YA sections.
  - Chess is very popular during the lunch hour at Lakeside High School. Dwight is working with Mr. Hernandez to teach students the game. Hernandez loves to discuss the philosophy of chess. Topics of discussion include life strategies, being cognizant of your actions, knowing that making bad moves in the game or in life, have meaningful consequences. Slow down, be thoughtful and deliberate, and players often see better outcomes.
  - Front facing books on display at Lakeside are incredibly popular. Dwight is seeing a high correlation between books that are displayed to which books ultimately get checked out.
  - Jim and Hannah completed 22 Homebound House calls, 30 Express Home Deliveries, and placed 165 items in bookdrop collections throughout the service area.
  - Geneva Library's meeting rooms hosted 42 meetings (418 meeting room users) during the month of February. Community groups who utilized space include: Geneva Rotary Club, Friends of Geneva Library, Ashtabula County 4H clubs, Sons of the American Revolution, Geneva Little League, and area housing associations.

## PROGRAMMING


- We had near record attendance numbers in our buildings on **Winter Carnival** day! We had games, educational crafts, scavenger and library bingo puzzles, snacks, food trucks and even (cup) cake walks. More than 225 people were on hand in Ashtabula to view Jungle Terry, and popular annual programs such as "Mask Making" reached room-maximum numbers.
- Geneva's **Winter Carnival** crowd reached more than 165 people during the ever-popular Jungle Terry visit. Families had a great time learning about Venetian masks & carnival celebrations around the world, making crafts, and playing games like mini-golf.
- **Essential Computer Skills** sessions with Dwight continue to be very popular with older adults. Some users don't have an email or have never used a mouse before, yet seem to gain much needed skills through attending this program.
- Eight Ashtabula patrons read and discussed Educated by Tara Westover. Three patrons at the Ashtabula Center for Active Living also read and discussed the book.

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- Fifteen patrons attended **Valentine's Day Art Lab** and had fun making Valentines and other crafts. Three participants had a quick lesson in watercolor as well. One patron said she really appreciated the variety of materials they had to work with.
- For **Tech Tuesday** in Ashtabula, Ric had four patrons this month. One patron wanted to learn how to use Microsoft PowerPoint, so Ric highlighted the NorthStar Digital Literacy and LinkedIn online learning tools.
- Jim's **Rae Ann Reading Circle** featured readings from Where the Red Fern Grows. More than 25 participants enjoyed readings over two February reading sessions.
- Stephen held outreach **Storytimes** for nearly 40 children at local daycares Carol's Corner and Loving Cup Kids Academy in Geneva.
- The **Bookmobile** had more than 560 total visitors during the month of February, including more than 430 visitors at area elementary schools. Schools visited this month included Saint John School, Austinburg Elementary, and Superior Elementary.
- **Community Bookmobile** stops were held in Dorset, Footville, eastern Monroe Township, Harpersfield Township, and the neighborhoods of Bonniewood, Bardmoor, and Harbor Ridge in Ashtabula.
- Codi completed 18 **Tech Help** appointments at Geneva Library. Topics covered included digital photo scanning, photo printing, and computer basics.
- **Geneva Book Club** discussed How the Light Gets In by Louise Penny.
- The **Geneva Cookbook Club** discussed Judy Gelman's The Book Club Cookbook. While the recipes proved to be hit-or-miss, the cookbook did serve to generate interest in some of the books the recipes were intended to reflect, like Devil in the White City, Anna Karenina, and Water for Elephants.
- February's **Geneva DIY** program featured modern hoop wreaths. Participants created minimalist floral wreaths using a simple metal hoop, floral wire & tape, and artificial flowers & greenery.
- Geneva had an average of 77 student visitors each day during after-school hours. High attendance was 108 students, and lowest attendance was 49.
- Popular after-school programs included **Stir It Up, Arts & Crafts** with Perler beads, and **Gadgets, Gizmos & Games**. Student participants in **Stir It Up** learned how to make waffles made with oat milk, chocolate dipped strawberries, citrus & apple salad, and ramen with stir-fried vegetables.
- Geneva's **Teen Action Group** developed and led an escape room on the theme of *Stranger Things Season 2*. Much fun was had by all, and no students were trapped in the Upside Down.
- Youth services staff at Geneva hosted field trips for gifted students from each of the three Geneva Area City elementary schools. Students had a tour of the library, enjoyed a reading of The Book with No Pictures by B. J. Novak, and participated in a STEM experiment called Blubber Gloves. The experiment asked students to think about marine animals like



seals and whales that rely on the insulating characteristics of blubber to survive in cold environments. Students tested a blubber stand-in (vegetable shortening) along with several other materials to determine which provided the best insulation against icy temperatures.

- Rebecca responded to interest in **Staff Picks** by launching a series of related bookmarks. Each includes a list of themed titles and a QR code linking to the same list online so patrons can more easily find the items in the catalog and reserve them. In the initial run, Rebecca designed, printed, trimmed and distributed submissions from Ashlee, Dwight, Hannah, Mike, and Rebecca.
- Rebecca also designed and distributed a number of other bookmarks for patrons' benefit including Bookmobile Reminders; Christian Fiction Book Lists; and Digital Health Resources. It is expected that a great many more bookmarks will be generated as collection advertising is a major point of emphasis in 2023.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH**

- Ryan was the judge for the Vocabulary portion of the All-County Spelling Bee. Held at the Early Educational Center, the County Bee featured winning spelling bee champions from each school district in the county. The winner of the vocabulary component scored a perfect 100% (and the runner-up student—a longtime Geneva patron—only missed one answer because they somehow forgot to answer a question)!
- Lyn attended the first meeting of the newly-formed Ashtabula County Outreach focus group. The purpose of the group is to network with local organizations to find ways to support each other, and form partnerships to better serve the public.
- Carrie attended Session 5 of NEO-RLS's Leadership Academy which focused on strategic leadership.
- Codi served as an interviewer for Mock Interviews at Geneva High School where students had a chance to prepare for and participate in live interview scenarios with local community representatives.
- Jim drove the decorated ACDL van in the Geneva Winterfest parade. Two volunteers from the Geneva Teen Action Group assisted with handing out candy to parade watchers.
- Lauren attended LEADERship Ashtabula County's February Mid-Year Retreat. This session allowed members of the adult Signature Program to hear presentations on the projects of Youth Program participants. The meeting allowed for an exchange of ideas and feedback between both groups.
- Mike attended two Ashtabula Lions meetings and provided greeter cashier services at the Monthly Lions Pancake Breakfast,
- Mike provided significant assistance as a board member presenting the LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County's Public meeting which took the form of a Valentine's party located in the Ashtabula Library meeting rooms. Mike also attended the Coalition Board meeting

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as Secretary and donated several hours working on the Coalition Website and Social Media Marketing for Ashtabula Pride.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- For the second month in a row, the post on Winter Carnival was the highest performer with an additional 16,000 reach from the previous month (for a total of 27,835). We also tested out Facebook Ads this month for the winter carnival and paid \$50 for about 7,500 in reach.
- After that post, the next best post was the photo gallery of Winter Carnival activities with a more typical reach of 2929.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Ryan attended a four-part series *Conversations Worth Having* facilitated by OhioNet. The class focused on topics Appreciative Inquiry; Framing Conversations; and Positive Framing in pursuit of conversations that help teams develop conversations that adopt a growth mindset and help provide both feedback and feed-forward discussions and actions.
- Ric attended the *Avoiding Common Online Scams and Threats* webinar presented by the Niche Academy and *Google Products* presented by Ragan Snead, NEO-RLS Executive Director.
- Lyn and Sybil attended the NEO-RLS *Adult Summer Reading Seminar: All Together Now Palooza*, which presented ideas for programs that could be implemented during Summer Reading.
- Tina completed a webinar on *Women and Science in Early Children's Literature*. The webinar discussed how to integrate science into early childhood education and the effects of literature selections beyond the library or classroom.
- In preparation for learning how to manage our website, Rebecca completed the course *WordPress Essential Training* via LinkedIn Learning. This covered many of the basic skills needed for WordPress management. Rebecca found the sections on learning how to manage plugins and the media library most helpful.


## **VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS**

- **Archives/Genealogy:**
  - Volunteer Duane, who staffs the Genealogy room most Saturdays, also helped to staff the room while Carrie was on vacation. During this time, he also scanned the 1929-1936 Morgan Rock Creek Village Record Book; the 1898-1899 Ashtabula County Directory; and the 1918-1923 Ashtabula County Rural Directory.
  - Volunteer Kelsi edited the 1957 & 1964 Edgewood yearbooks.
  - Volunteer Char helped to staff the Genealogy room while Carrie was on vacation and helped serve ice cream at the Winter Carnival. She also sleeved, identified, and

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logged into a spreadsheet images 1449-1581 of Photo Box 16 and images 1582-1679 of Photo Box 17.

- Friends of Geneva Library met to discuss their upcoming April Author Luncheon with Ohio history and true crime author Jane Ann Turzillo, and their book sale in May.
- Volunteers at Geneva library assisted with shelving, light cleaning, and as assistants for Winter Carnival events.

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