



# ACDL

## The Month In Review

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

I asked a young patron who had been playing up in our Geneva Rotary Treehouse how they liked it. The young patron's mother smiled and said, "I've been told we're never going home."

*~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

"I love this building. Full stop. It's just so beautiful here!"

*~Geneva Library Patron*

*Via email to the Director:* I wish to acknowledge to you the enormous help Carrie Wimer has been in helping us put together our book, 'The Edgewood Years'. Without Carrie's help and expertise, we would have spent a much longer time in getting this production accomplished. It looks as if this will now be a great success!

*~ Regular patron and co-chair of "Edgewood Years," Judy*

A patron commented on how much she liked the end cap displays and the books on display in the fiction section. She said it has helped her find great books and introduces her to new authors.

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

Numerous patrons raved about the National Library books display. They engaged in questions and conversations with front desk staff about other library-related books we needed for our display (we had them but they were checked out!). It prompted them to place holds on more books and other materials related to libraries.

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

Patron Cindi loved the DIY Air Plant Terrarium. She texted her granddaughter during the program and decided that for her graduation open house she would buy air plants, bowls and accessories needed so that her granddaughter and her friends could make these and take them off to college in the fall. They were excited and she checked out a few books on the care of air plants.

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

First time patron remarked about how surprised he was at how nice and big our library is and that we have the coolest front desk staff!

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

Numerous patrons have raved about the Seed Library! It has brought in a number of new patrons who signed up for library cards and has sparked many conversations about other services the library provides.

*~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*


"I had fun with the clay but painting was my favorite!"

*~ itty bitty patron offering his opinion on the Warren Storybook Cottage Open Art Lab*

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A regular Geneva patron (and occasional Ashtabula patron) found me to say that “Geneva staff always treats me like a prince– and I thought it was just them being them. But the Ashtabula staff treats me the same way and now I just think it’s ‘ACDL people’ who are so kind and helpful!”

~ *Ryan, Ashtabula Branch Manager*

A patron recently sent a card to the Geneva Library saying, “I’ve lived in Geneva more than 20 years, but never really used the library. My printer wasn’t working, and I found myself visiting. The staff is very friendly, helpful, and polite. It takes time to provide help to customers...they deserve a big warm fuzzy for being so nice.”

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*


## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- In Ashtabula, COVID test demand declined 40% from the previous month; the Front Desk distributed 120 COVID tests. Front Desk staff also distributed 100 “Spring” coloring packets to children, 14 gun locks, and four (4) Doterra Medication Disposal Kits.
- Updates were launched to the ACDL website for the library board and library history pages. Both updates reflect ongoing attempts to improve the interactivity and consistency of the user experience.
- Patron visits to the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive were close to the same as March with approximately 25 to 30 people personally visiting the Room each week in April.
- Carrie was happy to host Board President Tom Westlake who stopped into the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive with a group of friends to show what resources were available to assist with research.
- Ashlee has begun assisting patrons in the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive with local history questions and resources, family history research questions/resources, and microfilm usage. This month she completed three (3) obit requests; finished processing the February 2023 newspaper obit records, and processed half of the March 2023 newspaper obits; scanned half the Edgewood Arrow 1992 yearbook; edited and named 61 photos (122 files) from the ACDL Photograph Collection Box 010; continued the 1856 Baker’s Map Index, letter L; and began the Ohio Reference Excellence (ORE) Professional Development Training.
- Carrie has been assisting a new business owner to Bridge Street with telling the story of their building. Not from the area, they were quite impressed with our library building, as well as the resources and staff available to assist with the research.
- Carrie continues to enter folder-level information into the OhioLINK Encoded Archival Description (EAD) tool to create the finding aid for the Vera Sommers collection; a total of 30 binders are now complete. She has also been editing scans of the Moina Large, History of Ashtabula County book, 450 images completed so far. 80 GB of information has been named and sent to Columbus for upload to our Ashtabula Memory site including

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17 yearbooks representing Conneaut, Edgewood, Geneva, Grand River, Spencer, and Rock Creek schools, and Photo Collection Box 9, comprising nearly 60 photographs.

- Carol has scanned about 170 pages of Ashtabula County yearbooks, including Edgewood and Grand River High Schools. In addition, she has completed metadata for approximately 50 photographs of Photobox 8, the 1929 *Teacher's Planning Book*, and the *Auralia Lee Diary*.
- Evelyn Shaeffer donated lake-to-river canal documents to the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive that include photos taken in 1945 with a notation as to how many feet underwater each area would be if the canal went through.
- Ric helped six (6) patrons on **Tech Tuesday** this month. Most patrons need help with their phones.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula library in April included: NEO Fund, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 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, Building Resiliency Together, Ashtabula County Transportation System, Edgewood Alumni Association, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, Sky Meditation, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Area City Schools, AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League Board of Directors, LGBTQ Coalition, AACS Custodians, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Ashtabula Signer's Club, Peloris Group, Family Drug Court, Zonta, Ohio Small Business Development Center, and the Geneva Camera Club.
- The Friendship Clubhouse has been visiting weekly. Lyn gave members a tour of the library on their first visit, and all members signed up for library cards. Friendship Clubhouse is a local group of individuals who meet to form friendships and build social skills. Membership is open to anyone with a history of mental illness (*unless that person poses a significant and current threat to the general safety of the Clubhouse community*).
- February's featured exhibit in the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery was *Splattered* by Chad Davis.
- April's adult book display themes in Ashtabula included: National Library Month, Earth Day, National Poetry Month, Springtime Reads, and there was a special Community Read selection, *The Coffee Bean* by John Gordon. Ellen also created a display in memory of the late author Anne Perry.
- Geneva Library served as a meeting place for 37 groups during the month of April. A total of 350 people attended those meetings. Groups included local 4-H clubs, Friends of Geneva Library, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, AARP Tax-Aide, and Buckeye Hospice. Spaces were also frequently used for student testing and study sessions.

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- Geneva Library freely distributed 63 COVID tests and 50 gun locks.
  - Codi assisted with nine (9) **Tech Help** appointments at Geneva Library.
  - Geneva's Adult book displays featured Spanish-language materials, seasonal books, and neurodiverse materials to highlight Autism Awareness Month. Book displays in the Children's Area focused on Deaf History Month and National Poetry Month.
  - The display cases at Geneva Library highlighted information and collection items belonging to the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, including a recently commissioned painting of the Spencer homestead.
  - Geneva hosted Aspire's local English as a Second Language (ESL) group for a library tour and discussion of resources available to patrons. Group members were also assisted with opening library cards during their visit.
  - The organization of materials at Lakeside High School continues to evolve. We are now thinking more about how best to market and display the collection so that the average student will be able to find materials quickly and get back to class.
  - As the school year wraps up, Dwight is working with Rebecca to market the Summer Reading program to Lakeside students in an effort to increase teen participation.
  - The **Bookmobile** served more than 400 students at local schools including Saint John School, Cork Elementary School, and Austinburg Elementary School. An additional 27 children were served through stops at ABC Childcare and Learning Center (Ashtabula) and Loving Cup Kids Academy (Geneva).
  - Community **Bookmobile** stops were held in Dorset, Trumbull, Monroe, and Harpersfield Townships, as well as the Ashtabula area neighborhoods of Bardmoor, Bonniewood, Harbor Ridge, and Mobile Acres.
  - Jim completed 23 **House Call** visits, 20 **Express Home Deliveries**, and placed 175 items in bookdrop locations throughout the ACDL service area. Bookdrop locations at Indian Creek Laundromat and Byler's Community Kitchen are seeing heavy use.
  - Both the Teen Gaming Room and the Warren Storybook Cottage received updates to their gaming capabilities. Teens are encouraged to use our XBOX Game Pass, and younger children are invited to use our Nintendo Switch to play games in the Storybook Cottage.

## PROGRAMMING


- Carrie hosted **England and Wales Vital Records Research 101**. Kate Townsend presented via Zoom. The program was attended by 8 people in person and 11 online.
- **Ashtabula Adult Book Club**: Susan hosted adult patrons who read and discussed The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Patrons at the Ashtabula County Center for Active Living also read and discussed the same title.
- Ryan and Codi led book groups through discussion about The Coffee Bean. Participants discussed the appeal of the book itself, compared the "adult" version of the book to the

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youth version, and helped them use the QR code on the flier to get their tickets to the author event.

- Lyn and Ryan implemented the program **Art and Music Literacy for Adults**. These are educational sessions paired with a fun art project in the style of a featured artist. Prior to participant creation, attendees also briefly study composers and works whose music matches the featured artist. Music by those composers accompanies the actual creation part of the program. The first three sessions focused on the art of Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Gauguin, and featured music by composers such as Richard Wagner, Maurice Ravel, and Igor Stravinsky.
- Teresa hosts a similar **Art Literacy** program for homeschooled students each week. She provides an overview of a featured artist each week and shows numerous slides of their work. Each session culminates with a participant project based on the featured artist (such as construction paper sunflowers in the style of Vincent Van Gogh and self-portraits based on those of Rene Magrite).
- Hayley leads **STEAM Engine** on Wednesdays. Geared toward elementary-aged students, a different activity is performed each week. April activities included studying clouds, creating and modifying hand-made rockets, and creating their own paint colors and textures. In April, we averaged more than ½ dozen students weekly (and a couple of amazed and delighted parents).
- The **Earth Day Seed and Plant Exchange** in Ashtabula drew 30 patrons from all over the county. The Ashtabula County Master Gardeners, the Ashtabula County Rose Society, and the My Neighborhood Collaborative all hosted tables, along with ACDL and some private individuals. Some of the items swapped included Dogwood, Persimmon, Flowering Plum, and Balsam trees, and the starts of a number of perennials. Many types of vegetable and flower seeds were also available, free of charge. There was an activity table for children with flower-based crafts provided by the library.
- The **Seed Library** at Ashtabula is also booming! Many of the seed drawers have had to be refilled. The Seed Library features both vegetable and flower seeds.
- Teresa led **Storytimes** in Ashtabula. Each week's program features songs (usually accompanied by a ukulele), stories, and a craft focused on a theme. April themes were "Love & Nature," "Opposites," "Reading/Library," and "Emotions."
- Tiffany's **Growing Mindful Gardeners** program held two sessions in April. Young participants are learning about organic gardening and have started seedlings that will be transferred to a community garden bed.
- Miss Tina's **Storytimes** focused on a different alphabet letter each week (L, D, S, & P). She also hosted a guest storyteller, Marisha Sullivan of the Holden Arboretum.
- Miss Tina hosted a **Royal Grape Gala** where local Grapettes shared their pageant experiences. Attendees enjoyed cookies and princess punch while making crowns.

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- Geneva Library hosted an average of 64 students each school day afternoon in April. Popular programs continue to be those that focus on crafts like **Perler beads** and the **Stir It Up** cooking program.
  - Codi led the **Geneva Book Group** in the discussion of Celeste Ng's Our Missing Hearts. This novel tackled topics including immigration, family separation, and freedom to read.
  - Under Cindi's guidance, Geneva's **Teen Action Group (TAG)** members have been hard at work designing their next mystery program.
  - Lauren's Geneva **Cookbook Club** reviewed Ronni Lundy's Victuals. This beautifully photographed cookbook celebrates the diverse foods at the heart of Appalachian cooking. Attendees had a chance to enjoy freshly prepared fried cornmeal mush with a roasted tomato and parmesan cheese topping.
  - Geneva's April **DIY** program invited attendees to create boho fabric-covered terracotta pots. Each person left with 2 pots decouped with colorful fabric and a package of seeds for later planting.
  - Stacey Stangel from Central State University Extension offered additional sessions of her **Diabetes Education Empowerment Program** at Geneva Library. Attendees learned about diabetes and how to form nutritional habits that support healthy diabetic living.
  - The **Writers' Group** discussed three (3) short pieces at the April meeting. One member of the group spoke at length on how useful he finds the program. Not only does he feel that he receives excellent advice and direction from our group members, he also mentioned that he would almost certainly not be writing his book without the group's encouragement.
  - In a series of follow-up appointments to **Digitization Tips and Tricks**, Dwight has met with one patron on four (4) separate occasions during the month of April, and another patron twice, to transfer VHS to DVD and to a flash drive.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Ryan and Lauren accepted book donations from Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities to celebrate *National Library Week*. The books highlighted the value of diversity and featured stories about people or characters with disabilities. The books presented to ACDL included Alice Wong's Disability Visibility, and Acceptance is My Superpower by Alecia Orego.
- The Bookmobile visited with more than 300 students at the *Careers on Wheels Day* at Michigan Elementary School in Ashtabula. Students came aboard to learn about the great ACDL work that takes place out of our mobile vehicles.
- The Bookmobile attended *Healthy Kids Day* at the Ashtabula County YMCA. Visitors to the vehicle had a chance to browse materials, pick up activity sheets, and enter a drawing for a COSI Lunchbox filled with STEM learning activities.
- Mike attended two Lions Club meetings in April and assisted the Lions at the monthly pancake breakfast.

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- Mike also attended the Coalition Board meeting as Secretary and donated several hours working on the Coalition website and social media marketing for Ashtabula Pride.
- Lauren and Mike attended an April meeting of the Trumbull Township Trustees. Trustees were updated on the status of a connectivity grant that could provide a public wifi access point at the Trumbull Township Administrative Building. Also discussed were future partnership opportunities including programming and tech training at the Administrative Building.
- Mike provided a letter of support to County Commissioners on behalf of the library for an Appalachian Regional Commission 2023 POWER grant. This grant is designed to acquire money to build broadband (fiber) infrastructure in southern Ashtabula County and promote digital literacy and skills development in the region to maximize the utility of the newly installed access.
- Ryan attended monthly meetings for Head Start Policy Council (where new members were inducted and a COLA increase for staff was sanctioned) and Building Resiliency together (focused on outreach efforts and branding).
- Ryan attended the first planning session of 2024's *All-County English Festival* (for junior high students). The main objective of the first meeting was to decide on possible dates for the festival so we can secure space at Kent Ashtabula.
- Ryan served as host and attended the April meeting of the Ashtabula County Society for Human Resource Management. Tommie Jo Brode, President of Venice Solutions Group, LLC, presented an overview of *HR Best Practices and Hot Topics*.
- Lauren and Ryan attended the *Ohio STEM Listening Tour* visit held at the Ashtabula Arts Center. The *Ohio STEM Listening Tour* is a series of community needs-gathering events sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education's *Future Forward Ohio* (<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Future-Forward-Ohio>) initiative.
- Ryan attended the *EDGE Info Zoom* hosted by Ashtabula County Community Action Agency and the Educational Service Center, which solicited feedback and ideas about an upcoming community resource center specific to Buckeye Local Schools (similar to Dragon Empowerment Center for Ashtabula Area City Schools).
- Lyn attended the quarterly meeting of the Ashtabula County Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- Sybil represented ACDL (and served as building host) for an extremely well-attended Signature Health Outreach Partners meeting held here.
- Rebecca attended three (3) meetings of the Ashtabula Rotary Club.
- Karen and Lauren prepared a basket to support the Geneva Business Women's Annual Purses and Pastries fundraiser event.
- The Geneva Library donated a door prize to help support the Geneva Chamber Chinese Auction.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

- In April, the post with the highest reach was about the Friends of the Library Book Sales, but the post with the most interaction was for National Library Workers Day, which gained 19 comments and 130 reactions.
- Also notable was a post at the beginning of the month highlighting a wonderful customer service story involving patron Elena Marquetti-Ali who was crowned Ms. Ohio Woman AmeriFest 2023 in part thanks to the availability of the library sewing machine which she used to complete her gown for the fashion competition.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Carrie attended Northeast Document Conservation Center's webinar on *How to Host a Community Scanning Day*.
- Carrie attended the seventh session of NEO-RLS's Leadership Academy in Munroe Falls, which focused on *Achieving Leadership Effectiveness: The Power of Influence*.
- Ashlee and Laetitia attended NEO-RLS's ALICE training at the Akron-Summit Library.
- Lauren attended the Education Day session of LEADERship Ashtabula's Signature Program. She visited middle and elementary schools at Conneaut where she had a chance to discuss maker tech and program opportunities for students. She also led a discussion panel on the topic of social/emotional learning and toured a selection of the many vocational programs at A-Tech.
- Mike attended the virtual Customers of SirsiDynix Users Group, Inc (COSUGI) 2023 Conference at the invitation of the SEO Staff. There were a number of worthwhile sessions highlighting new ways to use our existing capabilities, and upcoming capabilities to be offered by SirsiDynix as part of the Integrated Library System (ILS) and Catalog.
- Dwight attended the *Take 5* program offered by the State Library of Ohio and hosted by Warren-Trumbull County Public Library. The main focus was on teen services. The main themes of the day included *If you feed them, teens will come*. In addition, there were good tips on how to treat Teens as their own special and significant demographic.
- Rebecca continued with the Homeless De-Escalation series by Ryan Dowd with *Homeless De-Escalation 301: Preventing Conflict*.
- Karen attended the webinar, *Brain Fog HQ: Memory Enhancement Techniques for Professional Development* – sponsored by Administrative Professionals Plus/International Association of Administrative Professionals (AAP/IAAP).





## **VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS**

- Karen prepared certificates, letters, small gifts and a Volunteer of the Year (VOTY) award to be presented during National Library Week (April 23-29) to celebrate our library volunteers. Char Lehto, genealogy volunteer, was named 2023 VOTY with 305 volunteer hours recorded in 2022. In 2022, 35 individuals volunteered their time with a combined 1,819 total hours of donated services.
- Friends of Geneva Library hosted their annual author luncheon on April 15. This year featured NE Ohio Jane Ann Turzillo, who specializes in writing about true crimes, trains, and Ohio history. Following the event, the Friends of Geneva Library donated a copy of Ms. Turzillo's book Wicked Women of Ohio to the Geneva Library collection.
- Geneva's TAG volunteers assisted with afterschool programs and light housekeeping tasks.
- Archives/Genealogy:
  - The genealogy archive welcomed back high school volunteer Maggie. She scanned the 2015 Edgewood yearbook, approximately 145 pages, and is about halfway through the 2002 Edgewood yearbook, approximately 112 images.
  - Tom proofed the February obits.
  - Marilyn entered April's obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She also edited and corrected data entered into the RB Hayes index for the obituary binder Obit 27, volume 1, approximately 150 pages.
  - Char scanned Grand River Institute yearbooks 1921, 1924 and a souvenir historical sketch; finished the 1992 Edgewood Arrow, and a portion of the 1972 Geneva Aquilla; all totaling about 450 images.
  - Kelsi finished editing the 1969 Edgewood yearbook (125 images), and then framed all 181 images. She then began editing the 1972 Edgewood yearbook (approximately 60 pages).
  - Duane, along with covering the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive on Saturdays, scanned the Rock Creek Village Mayor's Court 1880-1924 book (343 images).

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