



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – August 2023

An elementary school-aged student who attended both Book Club and STEAM Engine this summer created a very cute note stating that Hayley “is the nicest and most kind librarian” and that she loves Hayley.
~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

Multiple patrons commented on how nice the children's coloring contest pages look in the foyer. One said, "It makes me smile seeing all of the pictures in the entryway!"
~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

A boy and his grandma started coming to Art Literacy and said they both really enjoyed the program and love learning about and making art.
~ Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

“This was wonderful! The kids had so much fun! I’m glad you have this here in the library!”
~ Ashtabula mom of three children who came for a youth NASA STEM program

“Wow! Those look better than I expected! They are beautiful”
~ Ashtabula patron who printed a number of 4X6 prints on our photo printer

“The mobile van staff commented on how wonderful the library staff is and how much they like coming there. We appreciate your support so much!”
~ Peggy, Signature Health

Friday, just after Dwight came to work at the front desk, a woman came up and wanted to cancel her library card. She was angry that a relative had used her account to check out books on the bookmobile. Dwight was calm and spent a long time talking with her and in the end reassured her that he could put a note and an alert on her card to make sure that didn't happen again. He gave her his card so she could contact him if she needed to and told her who else he would let know about the situation. She was happy and calm when she left and I was impressed!
~ Colleague at the Ashtabula Library Front Desk


Morgan recently assisted a patron with making a large number of copies. When the job was finished, the patron remarked on how patient, kind, and helpful she had been. They really appreciated her help and wanted to know her name so that they could mention her wonderful service to her supervisor.
~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

A House Calls patron so enjoyed her library service that she called up her sister in Florida to tell her all about it. Her sister’s local library in Florida does NOT provide service to a residence, and after finding that out, our local patron is even MORE impressed with ACDL service!
~ Jim, Outreach Services

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A patron expressed to me how happy she was that our libraries are open late. She enjoys bringing her daughter to the library after her workday is over. She mentioned not all libraries offer service hours that are friendly for working families.

~Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager


PUBLIC SERVICE

- This month COVID test demand stayed steady in Ashtabula with 24 kits distributed. The Front Desk also distributed 24 gun locks and gave away eight (8) Deterra drug disposal bags. Geneva Library distributed an additional 59 COVID test kits and 37 gun locks.
- 138 documents were notarized at the Ashtabula Library this month. Geneva Library assisted with an additional 27 notary transactions.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in July included: AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula City Planning, Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula Foundation, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, The Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Police Department, Buckeye Schools, Building Resiliency Together, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Girl Scouts, Key Bank, Lakeland Community College, Legal Aid, LGBTQ Coalition, NAACP, NEO Fund, OIKOS Center, Sexual Assault Response Team, Signature Health, Starting Point, United Way, Vantage Aging Solutions, Women's Fortnightly Club, and Youngstown Business Incubator.
- Geneva Library hosted the following groups in public meeting spaces: Friends of Geneva Library, Life Without Chains Support Group, Kiwanis Club of Geneva, Aspire GED Program, Daughters of the American Revolution, The Rose Society of Ashtabula County, Nantucket Woods Condominium Association, Geneva Country Quilters, and Spencerian Writers. Geneva Library spaces were also frequently used as quiet study spaces.
- July was a busy month for out of the area visitors to The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive. We had patrons in to do research from: Virginia, Philadelphia, two separate patrons from North Carolina, Alaska, Georgia, New Jersey, and Norway!
- Ashtabula material displays for the month included: New Vox Books, All Together Now (books on local and global unity), Beach Reads, Summer Hobbies, "Play Outside" (books about outdoor sports and games) and "Time for a Picnic" (cookbooks that have picnic foods).
- Work in July began in earnest on a bottom up redesign of the website and events calendar. The current digital branch has come a long way and serves patrons well, but it is going to start holding the library staff back in a number of respects before too much longer. The

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ultimate expectation is that we will have a website with modern architecture; fully standards compliant (especially ADA); and most importantly *sustainable*. The current website has a lot of moving parts on the technical side, which require a specialist. The new site will allow ACDL staff to maintain it with a focus on content alone, and will ensure that we have the technical support to maintain it regardless of available staffing.

- We have deployed six (6) new all-in-one Dell computers in the Ashtabula Library Children's area. These replace the three (3) devices that were installed there in 2020 -- doubling the current station availability with faster, more capable devices. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the new devices are already very popular.
- Codi completed six (6) Tech Help Appointments at Geneva Library. Sessions focused on photo printing and smartphone device assistance.
- Geneva's lobby displays featured an assortment of items created by patrons and program guests. Prominently featured were woodwork sculptures made by Geneva local, Herb Adams, and summer art projects created by local teens.
- Geneva Book displays featured materials to highlight the summer season and books featured on BookTok.
- Jim completed 22 House Call visits and 26 Express deliveries during the month of July. In addition, he was able to place 245 items in book drop collections throughout the ACDL service area.
- The bookmobile completed service for the After School Discovery Summer Program where we served elementary-age students at a weekly stop. In total, 81 After School Discovery students had a chance to come aboard in July.
- A new community Bookmobile stop was added at the Community Counseling Center's Friendship Clubhouse at the Donahoe Center in Ashtabula Township. Other community stops continue in the Ashtabula neighborhoods of Bardmoor, Bonniewood, and Harbor Ridge. Additional stops can be found in Ashtabula, Trumbull, Harpersfield, Dorset, and Geneva Townships.
- Carol scanned and added data to approximately 280 local historical pieces. She is currently adding metadata to photographs, which consist of many portraits of local folks including the Allen, Belnap, Baxter, and Blakeslee families. As new objects are acquired, there is discussion as to how to house and label various pieces.

PROGRAMMING


- **Ashtabula Storytimes** were all summer themed. Each week was a different subject inspired by summertime, such as summertime treats, visiting the beach, and marine animals. Participants sang songs like "Baby Shark" and "Down by the Bay." The children helped tell felt boards stories, too, by counting along to the story of the "Five Baby Whales" and the "Five Little Ice Cream Cones." On one of the particularly nice weather days, we were able to provide a walking storytime in the garden, where we read the book, We Are Together by Britta Teckentrup.

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- This month's **Art Literacy for Students** focused on multiple artists from different periods and movements including Elisabeth Vigee Le Brun, Angelica Kauffman, and Helen Frankenthaler. For each artist there was an activity inspired by their work. For example, attendees modeled the work of Le Brun by creating self-portraits in vintage, ornate frames, and mimicked Frankenthaler by using her signature soak-stain technique.
- Ashtabula's **STEAM Engine** attracted a weekly average of 15 enthusiastic youth in July. Hayley led them on activities like an outdoor scavenger hunt for which they made little booklets with colorable templates, and searched the Butterfly Garden to find objects, insects, and plants. When they came back inside, they colored their books and went over everything they found. Another week, they made catapults to learn more about engineering and how things work. They tested their catapults by launching puffballs through the building. The third week in STEAM was rock painting, which included color-mixing techniques which all the participants enjoyed.
- Hayley, Teresa and Angela hosted weekly field trips from **Kids Only** and the **YMCA**. Each group stayed 2 - 3 hours each week and enjoyed modified versions of our **Art Literacy for Students** and **STEAM Engine**. These classes were followed by pre-arranged activity stations through which smaller groups rotated. There were art stations, Lego block building stations, and story writing stations. Some of the notable projects were friendship bracelets, pipe cleaner crafts, and rock painting tic-tac-toe.
- Teresa and Stephen led **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers** in Ashtabula. There is a core group of families who come almost weekly. We also see at least a couple new faces every week. There is pure joy evident as the kids choose their instruments and then parade with them. They are actually delighted by the idea of sound dynamics and love playing very softly and then very loudly. (They especially love the loud part!)
- Youth Services staff borrowed a **NASA @ My Library Kit** from the State Library and incorporated the interactive STEM kits into all aspects of their regular programming at the Ashtabula Library during the two-week lending period. The most popular component from the kit was Light and Shadows, a mini shadow box display that mimicked the sun's effect on trees, mountains and other earthly features.
- Ashtabula held a **Family Fun Night** on July 6 that featured life-sized board games, interactive crafts and a family movie. Unsettled weather forced the event indoors, but attendees had fun interacting with each other and staff; enjoyed the games; and even the adults seemed to love the film *Puss in Boots: The Last Stand*. Bakery Off Main food truck joined us and managed to draw in passerby attendees to the fun.
- A faithful group of young readers continued participation in Ashtabula's **Youth Book Club** where we continued our study of Charlotte's Web. Each week we took turns reading a couple of chapters aloud together, discussing what we read and what we learned from our prior week's "homework" (assigned chapter reading). We then completed a small hands-on craft or activity tied to the themes prevalent in the weeks' reading. All of the young




readers have been interested, interactive, and attuned to the story and the characters, resulting in great conversation and peer bonding.

- Lyn hosted author Nancy Christie for a seminar in Ashtabula entitled, **Making Money with Words**, which gave an overview of self-publishing and marketing for independent authors.
- Sybil led **DIY Ashtabula** for adults. Participants learned how to Mod Podge light switch plates by cutting out fabric or paper and adhering them to the covers using Mod Podge. This was a brand-new project to the half dozen attendees, and it was thoroughly enjoyed!
- **Ashtabula Adult Book Club** discussed Daughters of Erietown by Connie Schultz. Susan also featured the same title for a handful of readers at the Book Club at The Center for Active Living.
- Ric had three (3) drop-in patrons this month for **Tech Tuesday**. All were seeking Android phone help.
- Carrie hosted three programs this month: **Research Using Genealogy Websites** which was attended by 24 online patrons and 10 in person; **Author Talk with Kathy Warnes** of the Conneaut Historical Society which was attended by eight (8) patrons; and the showing of the **Bridge Disaster** movie followed by a **Q & A with creator Len Brown** which was attended by 38 patrons.
- Ashlee completed fourteen obit requests; processed the May and June 2023 newspaper obits; scanned the 1918-1923 Ashtabula Directory; edited the 1919, 1925, and 1928 - 1929 Grand River Scimitar yearbooks; and completed eight research requests.
- Tina's **Crafty Kids** summer craft program series at Geneva gave participants the chance to make projects including: Friendship Snack Mix, Painted Flower Pots, Sugar Scrub, and Homemade Musical Instruments.
- **The Critter Club** at Geneva helped kids learn about animals who function in groups. This month they discussed herds of cows, schools of fish, and flocks of birds.
- Geneva hosted **STEAM Engine** every Friday in July. Young participants were presented with a different engineering challenge each week. A favorite challenge was to build a boat that really floats using materials from the Stem Lab Maker Cart.
- **Miss Tina's Summer Storytimes** at Geneva have been very well attended, usually nearly 30 children and family members at each session! Children enjoy songs, stories, and a chance to play together or create art in the children's area.
- Cindi enjoyed strong teen attendance at her **Art Together Now** programs. Participants created tissue paper art pieces and painted shells and flower pots. Some examples of their work are on display in the Geneva Library lobby.
- Teens had a blast learning how to design and build games in Cindi's **Design a Game** program.

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- Cindi also led her teens in a craft program series called **Teens Create**. Projects included Kindness Clips, Starry Night Constellation Boards, and Bookmarks & Pin Buttons.
 - Codi led the Geneva Book Group in a discussion of Joseph Heller's Catch-22. The group really enjoyed digging into this satirical novel set during World War II.
 - **Geneva Cookbook Club** discussed Yvette van Boven's Home Made Summer. This beautifully photographed collection of stories and recipes featured flavors of summer with plenty of tart lemon and farm-fresh produce.
 - Lauren's **DIY Geneva** program let participants unwind their minds and relax while creating Zen Doodle Canvas Bags. Each person used stencils and fabric pens to create beautiful bags covered with delightful doodles.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Ashlee collaborated with Andy Pochatko at the Harbor-Topky Library to share research and articles on the Black Strings (a secret society of Ashtabula County abolitionists) with a university professor in California.
- Mike assisted with the monthly Lions Club pancake breakfast, participated in a Club vision-screening event at Geneva Public Library, and attended to ongoing Club Secretary duties.
- Rebecca attended two Ashtabula Rotary Club meetings.
- Ryan rejoined the re-invigorated Ashtabula Public Health Advisory Team, a county-wide consortium of public health and public service groups that meet monthly to share health statistics and concerns prevalent in our local communities.
- Lauren and Hannah took the Bookmobile to Careers on Wheels Day in Ashtabula. They had a chance to talk with more than 140 elementary and middle school students about what makes bookmobile work so much fun and why mobile service is so important to our community. Fun fact shared with students: The first documented bookmobile in the United States began service in rural Maryland around 1905. It was a wagon pulled by two horses: Black Beauty and Dandy.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Across our social media channels, we saw the most interest in event posts on Facebook promoting our movie programs on July 6 & 10 and the showing of the Train Disaster film on July 24. Our posts promoting our job openings were also among the most engaged with (3 of the 6 posts with the greatest reach).

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Stephen Moncrief was named Youth Services Manager and began his duties by getting workspaces organized, assisted in staffing assignments, and worked with Branch Managers and Youth Services staff to formulate and schedule all regular programming for both the Geneva and Ashtabula buildings for the fall.
- With Stephen's promotion to Youth Services Manager, bookmobile driver Hannah Poploske has transitioned into a full-time driver position. She has proven to be a valuable asset to our mobile services & outreach team.
- Carrie & Ashlee attended Northeast Ohio Regional Library System's webinar on *Working with Data in Excel*.
- Ashlee completed the *ORE (Ohio Reference Excellence) Professional Development Training Module 3*, which focused on equitable accessibility of information.
- Dwight completed the *iPartner* training from INFOhio and is now a certified INFOhio trainer. The expectation is that this will be a first step before moving on to *iCoach* certification, a more intensive 16 contact-hour training program that will establish Dwight as a true subject matter expert for INFOhio – the first in Ashtabula County. INFOhio is a collection of resources closely aligned to the Ohio Web Library that is focused on K-12 learning. Having Dwight trained in this way is therefore an important tool for providing quality service both at ACDL and Lakeside High School.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Archives/Local History:
 - Char L., while covering the room, also worked on organizing, labeling, and logging approximately 220 photos. She also finished scanning the 1915-1916 Polk Directory.
 - Paula R. helped to cover the room while Carrie was on vacation. She also started the process of swapping out worn out binders for new.
 - Duane B. covered the Local History / Genealogy Room each Saturday in July.
 - Tom M. proofed the May obits.
 - Marilyn S. entered July's obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She also edited and corrected data entered into the RB Hayes index (approximately 350 pages).
- Geneva volunteers assisted with youth programs, shelving, and light housekeeping.
- Friends of Geneva Library met to discuss providing snacks at the August Family Movie Night at the library and summarize their fundraising efforts at various events this summer.

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