



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – November 2023

“I love that the library is a ‘one place for all’ stop! I was able to make copies, get some paperwork notarized and send a fax all from the same place!”
~ *Ashtabula Patron*

“Best large print selection of any library!”
~ *Ashtabula Patron*

“When I need a quiet place I come to the library. I can grab a coffee in the morning and head over here to get my work done. Your staff is super nice!”
~ *Ashtabula Patron*

While working the Conklin Desk a person came in who only spoke Spanish. Without missing a beat, Susan grabbed her phone and the two of them were able to communicate via a translation tool. She was quite busy and helped this person while simultaneously helping a few others (these others weren't willing to wait while she assisted this person as they kept interrupting). No matter, she handled it perfectly and they left with a smile on their face saying many thank you's.

~ *Carrie, Local History / Archives Librarian*

“These are my two favorite books that I have EVER read!”

“Oh good! Would you like for me to place a hold for books 3 & 4?”

~ *Student interaction, Lakeside H.S.*

After sending out a many-paged fax, a patron resignedly asked me, “How much?” I replied with a gentle smile and said, “Not a thing, it’s free of charge.” Her whole face lit up, and she replied, “Well, bless your heart, something in this world is still free!” ~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

Lori B. with Help Me Grow! recently visited the Geneva Library to host an information table. While there, she snapped a few photos of interesting features at the library and posted them to Facebook with the caption, “Can I tell you what a treasure you have? It is beautiful AND you have terrific people who work there!”
~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

A House Calls patron shared she was not only thrilled with the personalized services she receives from Outreach staff, she was also grateful for the service she receives when she calls to speak with Geneva Library staff, too! She says everyone is kind and helpful, and she feels like the Geneva library is really “her” library.
~ *Jim, Outreach Services*


A parent in attendance at the Spooktacular Halloween party in Geneva remarked the event was a holiday event that felt “just right” for little ones...a nice mix of crafts, snacks, and entertainment that was good fun without being scary like so many Halloween events can be.

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

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A parent recently complimented ACDL on our commitment to providing weekly programs where homeschooled students can meet and learn together. Our ability to offer these programs every week is of great value to local homeschool students and their families.

~ Stephen, Youth Services Manager


PUBLIC SERVICE

- COVID test demand in Ashtabula increased this month with 265 kits distributed. Front Desk also distributed 15 gun locks and gave away five (5) Deterra drug disposal bags.
- ACDL has recently partnered with Vitality Supported Living and People First of Ashtabula County to distribute emergency preparedness kits for low-income households. So far, the Ashtabula Library distributed nine (9) kits, the Geneva Library, 10.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in October included: Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula Foundation, Building Resiliency Together, Gateway Academy, Geneva Camera Club, Girl Scouts, Legal Aid, LGBTQ Coalition, Master Gardeners, NEO Fund, Ohio Distance and Electronic Learning Academy, POC Community Forum/Rolesia Holman, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Women's Fortnightly Club, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Zonta.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive averaged approximately 35 visitors each week in October and welcomed researchers from Utah, Wyoming, and Arkansas, as well as the Edgewood High School Media Class.
- The Ashtabula Library was thrilled to serve as host location for **Meet the Candidates Night**, moderated by the Ashtabula NAACP with assistance from the League of Women Voters. More than 120 candidates, community leaders, and voters gathered to hear backgrounds, goals and strategies of those running for office.
- August book display themes in Ashtabula included: Halloween Reads; Haunted Ohio; Banned Books; True Crime Month; and Breast Cancer Awareness.
- October was **Archives Month** and Carrie had items from ACDL local archives collection on display in the gallery pertaining to the chosen theme of transportation.
- Class visits to the Media Center at Lakeside continue to drive new card sign ups, door count, and circulation. The English classes are looking to cultivate lifetime habits. The hope is to encourage our students to regularly visit the library, keep track of their checkouts, due dates, and renewals. Many students were amazed when we discussed the concept of automatic renewals, and our fine free philosophy.

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- Our second Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Book Display at Lakeside H.S. focused on Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This provided an opportunity for short conversations with students about healthcare, and loss. It may not seem like cancer is that common in students, but the life changing effect on families was a common theme.
 - The front desk at Geneva Library distributed 15 gun locks and 62 COVID tests.
 - Local groups continue to utilize the Geneva Library meeting spaces for gatherings. Meeting room users included: local 4-H groups, Kiwanis Club of Geneva, Aspire GED classes, Ohio Rise, Spencerian Writers, Geneva Country Quilters, and Geneva Academic Boosters. Meeting spaces were also heavily utilized for online student testing and as study rooms.
 - Codi assisted with six (6) one-hour tech appointments focused on photo printing and device operation.
 - Book displays at the Geneva Library focused on Information Literacy Awareness Month (featuring resources on fact-checking, identification of biases, and how to spot fake news), fall holidays (including Halloween and Dia de los Muertos), and books featured on #BookTok.
 - Both libraries made available a table of election-related information including absentee ballot applications, ballot issue language handouts provided by the Ohio Secretary of State's office, and Voter Guides supplied by the nonpartisan League of Women Voters.
 - Outreach staff completed a record 46 Express Deliveries (totaling over 220 item checkouts), 31 House Calls stops (totaling more than 280 item checkouts), and placed more than 230 items into Book Drop locations throughout the ACDL service area.
 - The Bookmobile serviced community stops in the following locations: Ashtabula Township, the City of Ashtabula, Geneva Township, Dorset Township, Harpersfield Township, Pierpont Township, and Trumbull Township.
 - The Bookmobile also served students and teachers at the following schools: Austinburg Elementary, Superior Elementary, Cork Elementary, Saint John School, Happy Hearts/Building Bridges, and our newest school stop...Lakeside Junior High! Nearly **650 students** had the chance to come aboard to search for their next favorite book!
 - An additional 77 children and teachers were served through Bookmobile stops at local daycares and preschools including A.B.C. Childcare in Ashtabula and Loving Cup Kids Academy in Geneva. These stops also included Storytimes and Songs on the vehicle.
 - 73 documents were notarized at the Ashtabula Library this month.

PROGRAMMING


- Carrie hosted the program, **Connect Your Family... Breaking Through Brick Walls**. Seven (7) attended in person and 15 attended virtually.
- Carrie held an **Archive Open House** so people could learn what the library's archive collection consists of. Seven (7) community members attended.

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- Susan Slater held a seminar at the Ashtabula Library on the **Fossils of Lake Erie**. She discussed the location of the best deposits of fossils in NE Ohio and also educated participants about the kinds and range of fossils in the local area.
- Historian Gary Hunter presented his program about **Historic Route 6**, including tourism associated with this historic landmark.
- **Author Kathy Schultz** visited the Ashtabula Library to present information from her book, The Underground Railroad in Ohio.
- **DIY Ashtabula** had 15 patrons in attendance. Participants learned how to create string art.
- Laetitia and Lyn implemented the **Halloween Paper Crafts Art Lab** in Ashtabula which was attended by 13 patrons who enjoyed making spooky decor for Halloween.
- Stephen and Lyn hosted the **Ashtabula Children's Halloween Party and Costume Contest**. 78 patrons attended, with 34 children participating in the Costume Contest. Refreshments, crafts and the movie *Monster House* rounded out the evening.
- Susan led the **Ashtabula Adult Book Club** at the Center for Active Living where attendees discussed Assaulted Caramel by Amanda Flower. Additional patrons enjoyed the same title at the monthly adult book group at the Ashtabula building.
- Stephen served as ACDL liaison to co-sponsor a joint event with the Ashtabula County office of Developmental Disabilities in a **Sensory Movie Night**. We welcomed about 30 folks to watch *Kung Fu Panda*, eat food, and use homemade sensory items.
- Stephen hosted an **Eclipse Event** at the Ashtabula building on October 15. While the weather was not conducive to eclipse viewing, a dozen people joined together to experience crafts, lunar-themed activities and to watch the NASA live stream of the Eclipse.
- **Ashtabula Storytime** themes were all Halloween-inspired! There were stories about ghosts, vampires, and skeletons, and Halloween picture book classics such as Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson and The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams. Everyone sang spooky versions of popular children's songs (*The Itsy Bitsy Spider* turned into *The Creepy Crawly Spider*) and also made thematic crafts including silly hanging skeletons using paper, straws, and yarn.
- **Geneva Storytime** themes were Little and Big (stories and worksheets comparing the two); Fire Safety (including a fire truck craft); Autumn Trees (with creation of decorated trees with stickers and pom poms); and Halloween (featuring hand-crafted witch puppets on a stick, which the kids absolutely loved!)
- Themes celebrated in the month's **Sleepytime Storytimes** (in both Geneva and Ashtabula) were Music Appreciation with Children, The Eclipse, Caregiver Appreciation, and Halloween. (Children enjoy the bubbles and songs most of all!)
- This month in **Rhythm Band** the children tried something totally new; they created their very own instruments! Using popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and toothpicks, the children made their very own harmonicas that they got to use during rhythm band and then take




home. Afterwards, one of the children who attended the rhythm band said that our library is the most fun library that she's ever been to!

- Geneva's **Homeschoolers @ the Library** programs were all autumn-based science. The children built candy corn catapults, learned about the anatomy of a pumpkin, and created bubbling witch's cauldrons using baking soda and vinegar!
- This month in **Teen Graphix Club** in Geneva, club members showed off their creative skills when asked to create drawings based on Drawtober prompts. We also talked about storyboarding for graphic novels and how to set up panels and text bubbles.
- **Stir It Up!** In Ashtabula we made Apple Crisp in a mug in the microwave, Autumn Rice Krispies Treats (regular rice krispies and fruity pebbles), Cinnamon Apple Chips in the microwave and 3-ingredient Sloppy Joe's. With a smaller number of students than in Geneva, we have more time to teach how to hold a knife, how to measure correctly, etc. Since October is Fire Safety Month, we taught about safety in the kitchen with some short videos about kitchen fires and how to safely put them out. In Geneva we made Apple Crisp, Rice Krispies Treats, 3-ingredient Sloppy Joe's and Turkey Cranberry Wraps (which included red onion, spinach and dried cranberries). Some of the kids tried these ingredients and to their surprise, really enjoyed them! An average of 25 students participated in this Geneva program each week.
- **Battle Build** participants faced several seasonal challenges during after-school hours at Geneva Library. Engineering and design challenges included creation of an articulated skeleton using only cardboard and MakeDo connectors, as well as building a model of Castle Dracula with a working drawbridge.
- After-school students at Geneva also had a chance to create projects that reflect their creativity in the **Teens Create** and **Art & Music with Codi** programs.
- **DIY Geneva** participants had a blast creating cute seasonal gnomes using fuzzy socks, filler, and a variety of unique embellishments.
- The **Geneva Book Discussion Group** met to discuss Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. This atmospheric novel, set in the post-colonial Mexican countryside, tells the story of a young woman's experience at High Palace, a family estate holding sinister secrets.
- Geneva's **Cookbook Club** met and discussed Mike and Stephanie Le's That Noodle Life. Participants were treated to a cooking demonstration (and tasting!) of a recipe pulled from the book...a savory Chicken Pho dish served with cilantro, bean sprouts, and other flavorful garnishes.
- Austin led a session of tales focused on the intersection of local history and the supernatural in his program **Ghosts of the Eerie Coast**.
- **Terror Talk with Jim & Codi** featured discussions of horror book and movie favorites and recommendations for titles to provide tons of scares for the Halloween season.
- Stephen hosted a well-attended **Spooktacular Halloween Party** at Geneva. Children and families were invited to dress in costume to make seasonal crafts, paint pumpkins, create

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and eat personalized snack mix, and watch a showing of Disney’s animated feature *Coco*. Children were all awarded a free book following a trick-or-treat and costume parade within the building.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Youth LEADERship selected ACDL as a mentoring site for their students to assist us in freshening, enlivening and marketing our Summer Reading Club 2024. Stephen and Ryan attended a portion of their October LEADERship Day and met with the group to discuss strategies and goals and create a timeline of events leading up to Summer Reading Kickoff (May 2024). Our “group” immediately provided germane ideas and insight. We are excited to work with them!
- Lyn attended the October meeting of Partners With A Purpose, a collaboration of local social service and health organizations that meet to share information and resources.
- Lyn also attended the quarterly meeting of the Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- Tina represented ACDL at the Craft and Vendor Fair at Ridgeview Elementary and spoke to 112 people. ACDL was part of a “select ticket” group designed by Ridgeview Elementary as a means of getting guests to learn more about local services. Guests met with us and similar organizations like the YMCA, Community Action, Ashtabula County Education Service Center to get their guest pass stamped and when completed, turned in their guest passes for a chance to win a \$25 gift card.
- Ryan attended the Buckeye Board of Education meeting on October 17. Ryan shared information about ACDL and our involvement with Edgewood High School and availability of services to all in the district. A small but receptive group of adults were in attendance, many of whom are already regular visitors.
- Ryan attended monthly meetings for Head Start Policy Council (which focused on certifications and budgets) and Building Resiliency Together (which focused on a plan to reach out to front line workers in social service, educational and other non-profit groups in the county).
- Mike assisted with the October Lions Club pancake breakfast and attended their regular monthly meeting. He also attended to ongoing Club Secretary duties.
- Mike attended the October board meeting for A-Tech and the monthly Ohio Means Jobs Partners meeting. Mike also continued his participation in the Community Broadband Accelerator Program which is due to wrap up early November.
- Hannah visited local health and rehabilitation facility Saybrook Landing to discuss library services and programs that could be offered to their residents.
- Jim and Justice hosted a table at the Great Lakes Geek Fest. They provided information to event attendees about library resources, services, and programs available free of charge to our community members.



SOCIAL MEDIA

- We made a BIG splash on Facebook this month with the post announcing the Rotary Tool Wall. We believe it is the farthest-reaching post in the history of our Facebook page with over 22,000 accounts reached! It was shared 46 times and comments were generally very positive. With this viral post, we more than doubled our average reach on social media for the month.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dawn completed the *Patron Response Framework: Responding with Empathy, Kindness, and Love to Difficult Situations* webinar.
- Rebecca completed Ryan Dowd's *Mental Illness Part 1: How to Handle Problematic Behavior* webinar.
- Dwight is participating in a series of webinars offered by INFOhio in order to become an iCoach. This is a more in-depth version of the iPartner program which involves a 15-hour series of classes that will lead up to the participant facilitating a minimum of one Professional Development session for the high school staff.
- Hannah traveled to the State Library in Columbus to learn about Ohio's Braille and Talking Book Service. The educational seminar provided information about how the programs work and how public libraries can make services available to local residents.
- Staff Day training sessions included:
 - Cyber Security (review)
 - *Professional Boundaries* by Bryanta Spencer, LISW
 - *Library Civility & Taking Care of Each Other: Creating Supportive Work Cultures*, a recorded webinar by Dr. Steven Albrecht
 - Tech training including how to use and assist patrons with electronic library services
 - *Strategic Planning* with Mandy Simon of the State Library of Ohio
 - *Library Civility: A Code for How We Treat Each Other* (audio podcast) by Dr. Steven Albrecht
 - Fun, games, and prizes.


VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- The Friends of the Ashtabula Library held their fall book sale. Nearly 200 people visited the sale and the Friends raised over \$800. Kudos to this small, energetic group, for their truly hard work and dedication to ACDL!
- The Friends of Geneva Library group held their annual fall book sale. Their efforts raised more than \$400.
- The Friends of Geneva Library met to organize and arrange items for their annual Christmas Tree Raffle. A variety of decorated trees and seasonal decor items are currently

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on view at the Geneva Library through November 10. The group is hosting a ticket sale table in the Geneva Library lobby. Funds generated will be used toward projects and programs at the Geneva Library.

- Geneva Library volunteers assisted with shelving and light housekeeping tasks.
- Archives/Local History:
 - Char L., while covering the room, also worked on organizing, labeling, and logging in approximately 100 photos.
 - Duane B., covered the Local History / Genealogy Room each Saturday in October as well as a few days during the month, and has been helping with research on the Sweet family.
 - Marilyn S. has entered the October obits into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She's also working on editing and correcting the data entered into the RB Hayes index.
 - Kelsi J. finished editing the 2002 Edgewood Yearbook and has begun editing the 2015 Edgewood Yearbook, approximately 220 pages.