



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – April 2023

“What a beautiful and stunning display– so diverse and inclusive– a perfect display to celebrate women! Every library should have a display like this!”

~ New patron commenting on the International Women’s Day book display

“We are so excited to see these programs here! Please keep them coming.”

~ Patron attending DIY Program: Hoop Wreaths

“Tax-Aide is great! We use it every year!”

~ Returning patron (who made a generous donation)

A patron who drove here from Andover called to say how helpful volunteer Dwayne was in Archives, and she raved about the kindness of all the staff here at the library.

~ Lyn, Head of Public Services, Ashtabula

“Carrie - the women's entrepreneurship quiz that you helped with was a HUGE success and I gave you all the credit for the research, as you deserved.”

~ Ginny Pasha, Youngstown Business Incubator, Ashtabula Coordinator

Trumbull Township Trustee Dr. John McMahan recently stopped by the Geneva Library and was pleased to see a book display featuring Bookmobile stops, including those in Footville. He was equally pleased to see books about the history of Footville prominently displayed in the Mary Louise Legeza Room saying, “Thank you so much for doing that, for making that history available.”

~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

A patron highly praised the service they unfailingly receive from us. They mentioned not getting that level of service or satisfaction from other professionals who assist them.

~ Jim, Outreach Services

A father brought his child to the Geneva Library to open a library card and mentioned to me, “You know, he likes reading books even more than playing video games. I am so happy he enjoys coming here.”

~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

The Edgewood Alumni Group is preparing a booklet of alum and as part of the research to identify classmates they accessed our yearbooks on our Ashtabula Memory site. They expressed their gratitude to us for offering such a wonderful and helpful resource.

~ Carrie, Archives Librarian

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The entire cast of *Mean Girls* asked to browse for books after school yet before rehearsal.

~ Dwight, Lakeside High School Coordinator

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 Tech Librarian

Dwight presented at the Ashtabula Area City Schools Board of Education meeting a summary of activities in the Lakeside High School Media Center, which reopened in late August, 2022. Several members of the AACS board congratulated Dwight on a job well-done and expressed excitement about the major refresh of the space and collection.

VISIT FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN OF OHIO:

State Librarian Wendy Knapp, and Serving Every Ohioan Coordinators, John Stewart and Jay Miley visited both the Ashtabula and Geneva branches of the ACDL in late March.

- Wendy, John, & Jay seemed genuinely impressed with the work we are doing at ACDL. We spoke to them about all the opportunities we are pursuing regarding our building expansion and our plans for expanding and enhancing our facilities and services. We talked in Ashtabula about the thoughts we're having about rethinking how we use and prioritize our space. Wendy loved the butterfly garden! And of course they all loved the Storybook Cottage and our idea of having it be an open art space for the kids.
- We showed them the needs we are facing in Geneva. They were impressed by our efforts with the Geneva afterschool crowd and the programming we generated to meet that need. They seem to be impressed with the direction we were taking with the expansion and the thoughtfulness we were approaching these opportunities. In light of the needs we shared, they very much "got it" when we shared the plans with them. They all fell in love with the treehouse and had their photos taken up there.
- The SEO folks commiserated with us regarding the challenges of the Bookmobile and are happy for us that we are pursuing a replacement. They were also impressed with our network closets and the work that had been done there.
- Wendy seemed VERY pleased about our partnerships and the conversation lingered for some time on the Rotary Tool Wall, the gun lock partnership with Erie VA Behavioral Health Program, the Geneva Community Garden, Lakeside High School, and our relationship with Geneva Schools. Wendy mentioned that quite a few public libraries do not have anything close to the relations we have been able to cultivate with our school systems.

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- They were also very impressed with the Archives & Genealogy space, noting the Zeutschel and the new ViewScan microfilm readers.
- It was an incredibly positive visit. They were incredibly kind, humorous, and down to earth.


PUBLIC SERVICE

- COVID test demand stayed steady in March; the Ashtabula Front Desk distributed 201 COVID tests.
- Front Desk staff also distributed 120 *Spring* coloring packets to children, eight (8) gun locks, four (4) Doterra Medication Disposal Kits, and 12 Sub Zero Survival Bags.
- Geneva Library staff freely distributed 52 COVID tests and 39 gun locks to local community members.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room patron activity leveled out in March with approximately 25 people personally visiting the room each week; about half of those accessed the computers in the room, and approximately 450 resources were used.
- Lauren and Lyn implemented a new seed library at both branches. The initial stock of seeds was provided by a local Geneva-area gardener, and additional seed packets are available to fill in as needed.
- Carrie has started entering folder level information into the OhioLINK Encoded Archival Description (EAD) tool to create the finding aid for the Vera Sommers collection; binders 1-12 are complete. She also finished editing and renaming WilGee 1 & 2, as well as the WilGee Diary, totaling 400 images. 225 GB of information has been named, loaded onto drives, and sent to Columbus for upload— half of which is now ready for metadata. This information includes 18 yearbooks, Photo Box 8, the Lee/Gee collection, a teacher's organization book, and the *Conneaut Class of 1929* book.
- There was a change in the way that Ohio History Connection wanted to receive our information for upload which delayed our Ashtabula Memory Project a bit, but we are back on track. Our first batch of uploads has been received, processed, and is now ready for Carol to complete the metadata.
- Ashlee has begun to learn some of the tasks in the Local History/Genealogy Archive. She has been introduced to How to: process the obituaries, scan documents with the Zeutschel, edit images with IrfanView, complete obituary requests, as well as, how to use the microfilm readers to search news articles. She has processed half of the February obituary records and has assisted patrons with microfilm set-up.
- The Good Life Singers will be using photos from our archive that they located on our Ashtabula Memory site. The images will be part of a slide show that goes along in the background of their next concert.
- A significant update for the website was launched that refreshed the part of the site where patrons can find ACDL's digital resources and tools. Patrons can now browse the selection

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of resources more visually and can use either their own keywords or provided categories to narrow down the list. Clicking on a link will take a patron to a new landing page that has been created for each resource. The intent is to provide patrons with a little more direction and information about each resource and also create a linkable page that can be used to market each database more effectively. We also launched a new page with some basic information about the SEO Libraries App.

- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in March included: NEO Fund, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, AARP Tax-Aide, Ashtabula County Beekeepers, Youngstown Business Incubator, Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Building Resiliency Together, Catholic Charities/Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Ashtabula County Transportation System, Edgewood Alumni Association, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, Sky Meditation, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Area City Schools (AACS), American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1197, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League Board of Directors, LGBTQ Coalition, AACS Custodians, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Community Learning Centers (CLC) Projects of Ashtabula County, Ashtabula Signer's Club, Peloris Group, Family Drug Court, Zonta, Ohio Small Business Development Center, and the Geneva Camera Club.
- Geneva Library meeting rooms were used for 39 meetings during the month of March and served nearly 330 meeting attendees. Local groups who utilized space included the Spencer Historical Society, local 4H and scout groups, Geneva Little League, AARP Tax- Aide, and the Alzheimer's Association. Meeting spaces were also utilized as quiet study areas.
- Codi completed eight (8) one-on-one tech help appointments in March. A popular topic of instruction was digital scanning and printing of photos.
- Geneva's March book display themes included Spiritual Wellness, Music in Schools, Women's History, and the ACDL Bookmobile. Geneva's lobby display cabinets featured interesting archival books from the shelves of the Mary Louise Legeza Room and materials featuring seasonal content related to Irish cooking and culture. Kudos to Austin, Tiffany, and Justice for their engaging displays.
- Tina created a popular book display in the Geneva Library children's department to highlight Ohio Deaf History Month.
- Jim completed 30 Homebound House Calls and 22 Express Home Deliveries totaling nearly 300 item checkouts. He also added 320 items to Book Drop collections throughout the ACDL service area, including our newest Book Drop collection at Byler's Community Kitchen in Denmark Township.

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- ACDL's Bookmobile visited Austinburg Elementary, Cork Elementary, Superior Elementary, and Saint John School. Nearly 550 students had a chance to board the bookmobile and browse for reading materials. The Bookmobile also visited and shared storytime with children at Loving Cup Kids Academy in Geneva.
- Community Bookmobile stops were held in Monroe, Dorset, Trumbull, Harpersfield, and Ashtabula Townships. Stops provided service to nearly 100 patrons.
- Rebecca finalized and ordered the new Welcome Brochure, which now fits the look and feel of our other brochures. It features QR codes to direct patrons to website resources. Photos were refreshed and a new section on our DIY Lab(s) is now included.
- Lauren's **LSTA grant** proposal for STEM programming resource materials was granted through the State Library of Ohio. The grant was written to address the need for supplemental enrichment programs to support identified gifted students in grades 3-5 attending Geneva Area City Schools. Funds totaling \$4700 will be used to purchase a STEM Lab Makerspace Cart and classroom set of STEM in Action Coding Mouse kits. Those resources will be put into use at the Geneva Library for elementary-age STEM programs.


PROGRAMMING


- Teresa led most of the Ashtabula **Storytimes** in March. Programs celebrated springtime animals, flowers and weather. Each week's theme was highlighted in at least three (3) shared picture books, singing and movement, and a planned craft that complimented the theme (coffee filter butterflies, handprint flowers, popsicle stick spiders).
- Lyn facilitated the St. Patrick's Day **Storytime** in Ashtabula. After reading the stories and dancing a few leprechaun dances, the children were tricked by a leprechaun and tried to catch him after he made a mess in the Art Lab and ran away! Afterward, everyone decorated green St. Patrick's Day crowns and made little craft leprechauns to take home.
- Hayley hosted a **Spring Rocks** rock painting event for 15 energetic and creative youth.
- **Adult Book Club:** Susan hosted a discussion of The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan, and five (5) patrons at the Ashtabula County Center for Active Living also read and discussed the same book, again with Susan as facilitator.
- **Sky Meditation** has gone online! Every Monday a group joins together on Zoom to practice meditation. The class is open to all skill levels.
- Sybil hosted **DIY: Modern Hoop Wreaths**, an adult craft class in Ashtabula. 12 enthusiastic participants joined her.
- Carrie hosted a program **How to Find Finnish Roots**, Saturday, March 25. Marjut Kivistö of Finland presented via Zoom. Nine people attended in person and twelve online.
- Dwight offered two (2) sessions of **Digitization Tips and Tricks** at the Ashtabula Library to talk with users about how to transfer VHS to DVD and how to scan physical photographs into the cloud or onto a flash drive.

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- Codi and Tiffany celebrated National Music in Our Schools Month by taking a musical program titled **Drums & Strings** on the road to Carol's Corner in Geneva. Children were able to learn about different types of percussion and string instruments and even have a hands-on jam session at the end.
 - Geneva Library partnered with the Geneva Area City Schools to offer two **Family Fun STEM Nights** for students in grades 3-8. Each night featured STEM activities that students and their family members could experience. Activities included owl pellet dissection, an egg drop challenge, a designer slime activity, and a "test your taste buds" experiment. Participants also had the chance to interact with tech toys like robots and virtual reality headsets at our Tech Petting Zoo. Students were invited to enter into an essay competition on the topic "What Does It Mean to SOAR Like an Eagle?"
 - The Emerging Tech Librarian hosted a **Tech Petting Zoo** as part of the Geneva STEM Family Fun Nights. Geneva Middle School Students especially enjoyed a robot named Dash on loan to us from NEO-RLS, and Virtual Reality gaming.
 - Stephen provided musical **Mobile Storytimes** to Geneva-area children at Loving Cup Kids Academy and Carol's Corner. His stories and guitar strumming always light up the little faces in his audience.
 - **Miss Tina's Storytimes** at Geneva included songs, stories, and dancing. Stories shared covered the themes of nursery rhymes, weather, and turtles. Little ones were introduced to a "Letter of the Week" during each session, and adults were introduced to the library's collection of Alphabet Letter Backpacks, each containing activities focused on one letter of the alphabet.
 - Miss Tina provided an outreach **Storytime** for students at Cork Elementary School. More than 160 students enjoyed a selection of fun tales all about hats.
 - Geneva welcomed an average of 66 students per school day during the month of March. Popular activities included **Arts & Crafts** using Perler beads, **Stir It Up** cooking program, and **Video Game Club**.
 - Jim's **Rae Ann Reading Circle** continued their reading of Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls.
 - Codi's **Geneva Book Club** read and discussed People Person by Candice Carty-Williams, a witty novel about family relationships.
 - Geneva's **March DIY** craft was a much requested reboot of a previous air plant terrarium craft. Participants created a simple terrarium for easy-care air plants and decorated them with natural or whimsical elements.
 - Geneva's **Cookbook Club** reviewed Imen McDonnell's The Farmette Cookbook. An American transplant to Ireland, the author shared recipes learned from family and friends near her Irish husband's dairy in County Limerick.

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- Local Geneva gardener Ruth Anne Jesionowski shared wisdom about organic gardening, garden planning, and seed saving at her hybrid in-person/online program titled **Let's Talk Gardening**.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Staff members from Ashtabula Library took shifts at our vendor table for the Ashtabula County Home Show. We opened library accounts, checked out materials, shared programming and database information, and had springtime “cootie catchers” for youth to decorate and create. In all, we spoke to over 350 people!
- Ryan met with new Ashtabula YMCA Director, Eric Stinehelfer, to discuss possible partnerships for the summer and next school year. Eric was also given a comprehensive tour of the Ashtabula building and met key building staff.
- Ryan attended monthly meetings for *Building Resiliency Together* (which we host in our Ashtabula building) and *Head Start Policy Council*.
- Ryan also attended what turned out to be the final meeting of *The Longest Day of Play* committee. After being forced to cancel the event because of COVID the last few years, a restructured planning committee struggled to find new committee members and community members willing to commit to the continuation of this long-standing event. As a result, the committee, under the recommendation of leader Katherine Whittington, decided to disband completely. Remaining committee members voted unanimously to donate the remaining money in our account to the Ashtabula County YMCA.
- Mike attended two Lions Club meetings in March and assisted the Lions at the monthly pancake breakfast.
- 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.
- Rebecca attended the Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) Partners meeting in Mike's stead. March was ACDL's turn to serve as the “host organization”. While the meeting was at the usual location, we were the primary subject of discussion on the Agenda. Rebecca presented the latest news from ACDL and showered them with our latest marketing. Her report prompted good conversations and Community Action requested a supply of brochures for clients.
- Lauren hosted a session of the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce's *Coffee Contacts* networking series at Geneva Library.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- The excitement on Social Media in March was all about the Seed Library. The Seed Library announcement reached just over 12k accounts, with 136 shares and well over 400 reactions. It generated some great conversations and ACDL was able to shout out to Henderson Memorial Public Library to toss some light on their own seed library project, which was a nice moment of organic library collaboration.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Ric and Susan attended an *Avoiding Common Online Scams and Threats* webinar presented by the Niche Academy, and *Google Products* presented by Ragan Snead, NEO-RLS Executive Director.
- Penny, Ryan, Codi, Lyn and Sybil attended the Ashtabula County Society of Human Resource Management (ACSHRM) seminar, *The Future of HR: Creating a Safe Brain-Healthy Workplace and Becoming a Strategic Partner*.
- Rebecca completed the Ryan Dowd course *Homeless Children and Libraries* which offered a fresh perspective on how homelessness affects children and how libraries can stand in the gap for these children. Rebecca reported there were many great takeaways from this training. One especially pertinent to her work was the suggestion that there should be a big marketing push for programs 48 hours prior to a program because crisis makes it hard for families to plan out a week or more in advance. The big-picture takeaway from the training was: “Our job should be empathy driven”.
- Mike attended the *Computers in Libraries Conference* in Arlington, VA March 28 - March 30th. Sessions and conversations at the conference were dominated by conversation about or connected to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ways that libraries should engage with it. Other hot topics included the direction of social media, virtual reality, and augmented reality in the library setting. Mike has already been in contact with the SEO consortium staff about some of the ideas raised at the conference.
- Ric and Tiffany attended a NEO-RLS webinar titled *Increasing Confidence as an In Charge Person*. Topics included the importance of knowing and understanding your building’s policies and strategies for resolving issues.
- Karen and Alecia attended NEO-RLS training, *Responding to Uncomfortable Situations in the Library Setting*. Alecia also attended NEO-RLS’s *Change Course without Rocking the Boat*.
- Lauren attended the Public Safety session of *LEADERship Ashtabula’s Signature Program*. She was able to visit the Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency, Geneva Police & Fire Departments, and the courtroom of Judge Marianne Sezon.
- Tina and Cindi traveled to Columbus to attend the *Solar Eclipse for Libraries* workshop. They enjoyed discussions on how to create meaningful space science programs related to the upcoming solar eclipse in April of 2024.



VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Archives/Genealogy:**

- Carol has completed scanning the 1914, 1925, 1927, & 1928/29 *Grand River Academy Yearbooks* (approximately 175 images), and has transcribed and entered the information for about 300 pages of the *Ashtabula Historical & Philosophical Society Book*. Now that there are images ready for metadata, her focus will once again shift to that task.
- Volunteer Char sleeved, identified, and logged into a spreadsheet, images 1680-1719 in Box 17, and images 1720-1806 in Box 18. She also worked on organizing the family vertical files, Bingham through Bowes.
- Volunteer Kelsi edited images 2 through 53 in the 1969 *Edgewood Arrow* yearbook.
- Volunteer Duane, along with covering the Local History/Genealogy Room, scanned the 1918-1923 *Ashtabula Rural Directory* (395 images); the *GAR H. J. Covill Minutes Book*, 1893-1902 (200 scans); and the *Trumbull & Morgan Township's Minutes Book*, 1867-1893 (100 scans).
- *Friends of Ashtabula Library* held a meeting to discuss the May book sale and other ways of fundraising. The group decided they would look into selling cloth book bags as an ongoing fundraiser during book sales. They also decided to hold a basket raffle during the May book sale. They will bring in themed baskets created by themselves and will display and sell them during the May book sale days only. This trial run will give a sense of the potential popularity of chance raffles to be investigated for future sales.
- *Friends of Geneva Library* met to discuss their upcoming May book sale.
- *Teen volunteers at Geneva Library* assisted with, and helped to set up, after-school programs. Additional volunteers helped with light housekeeping in the public areas of the building.

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