

# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – February 2024

“Austin was wonderful! He helped me find the information I wanted and was so kind and patient.”  
~ *Genealogy Patron*

A mother brought her four children in and she was excited that her teens could play video games in a somewhat private space while she took the two younger ones over by the fish tank to read.  
~ *Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

“Thank you for teaching my kid! The (teriyaki meatball) recipe was wonderful and easy for them to make!”  
~ *Parent comment to Tina, Youth Services Librarian*

“We really appreciate that you have the ability to transfer our old VHS tapes to newer formats because otherwise this process would be very expensive for us if we needed to use another service.”  
~ *Ashtabula Patron discussing digitization station*

“I just found out that you do notaries! I’ll be sure to tell all of my friends because you don’t always know who to trust but I feel like I can count on you all.”  
~ *Ashtabula Patron discussing notary services*

“THANKS! This was a lot of fun! I’m not sure if I have a book in me, but I feel like having the support of a group of people who seem to know what they are doing will be very helpful!”  
~ *Ashtabula Patron reaction to their first meeting with the Writers’ Group*

“This is such a nice library. I have been coming in after school to check on my son, and he is having a really good time.”  
~ *Parent of a Geneva After-School Student*

A patron described their impression of image renderings for the proposed addition to the Geneva Library saying, “That looks really sharp! It blends in with the rest of the building perfectly!”  
~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

### PUBLIC SERVICE

- COVID test demand was steady in Ashtabula with 96 kits distributed during January. Front Desk also distributed 19 gunlocks, three (3) Deterra drug disposal bags, and seven (7) Sub-Zero Survival Bags. Geneva Library staff distributed 48 free COVID tests, 17 gunlocks, and four (4) Deterra drug disposal bags.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room, and other spaces in the Library in January included: AARP, AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula County Alzheimer’s Association, Ashtabula County

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Beekeepers Association, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Children's Services, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Ashtabula County Metropolitan Housing, Ashtabula County Society for Human Resource Management, Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, Building Resiliency Together, Community Counseling Center, Legal Aid, LGBTQ Coalition, Master Gardeners, NAACP, NEO Fund, Ashtabula County Sexual Assault Response Team, Ashtabula Transportation Dept., Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Zonta

- Carrie sent another batch of information to Columbus for upload to the **Ashtabula Memory** site. Included in this upload are the 1896/97 Ashtabula City Directory, two early Ashtabula Dart yearbooks, an Edgewood and a Geneva yearbook, and an ACDL Photobox.
- Austin completed six (6) obituary requests and worked on eight (8) research requests. He finished scanning Gladys' Postcard Collection (Ashtabula portion), and has begun scanning the Conneaut portion of the collection (approximately 425 images). He finished editing the 1911 & 1913 Ashtabula Darts (appx. 160 images). He processed the October 2023 obituaries and has begun to rebind our obit scrapbook collection.
- Carol scanned approximately 50 images from an ACDL Photobox and continues to edit transcriptions of the Ashtabula County Historical & Philosophical book while she awaits the next Columbus upload.
- Geneva Library staff completed four (4) one-on-one **Tech Appointments** for patrons needing assistance with Cricut operation and general computing tasks.
- Geneva Library served as a meeting place for a variety of community organizations including: The Rose Society of Ashtabula County, Aspire GED Program, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, Spencerian Writers Group, Geneva Business Women, Geneva Country Quilters, Friends of Geneva Library, Kiwanis Club of Geneva, and Ohio Rise. Geneva Library spaces were also frequently utilized as quiet study and tutoring space.
- Outreach staff completed 21 **House Calls** visits, 36 **Express Deliveries**, and placed 355 items into **Book Drop** locations throughout the ACDL service area.
- The **Bookmobile** visited area communities including: Ashtabula Township, Harpersfield Township, Dorset Township, Geneva Township, Pierpont, and locations in the City of Ashtabula.
- Kids Only Early Learning Center in Ashtabula added a **Bookmobile** stop in January. Hannah treated four (4) classes of children to amusing **Storytimes**, complete with songs. Book selections included Ploof by Ben Clanton and Alphabedtime by Susanna Leonard Hill.
- More than 350 students were served on the **Bookmobile** at school stops for the following locations: Saint John School, Austinburg Elementary, Happy Hearts/Building Bridges, Cork Elementary, and Lakeside Junior High. Inclement weather caused school

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cancellations and service disruptions for Geneva Platt Spencer Elementary and Superior Elementary.

- Boys & Girls Club, located at Huron School in Ashtabula, partnered with the ACDL Outreach team to begin **Bookmobile** service in February for after-school children.
- Penny and Lauren met with design representatives at Farber Custom Vehicles to discuss layout and interior finishes for the new Bookmobile that will begin customization in the coming months.
- Alecia began proactively working with SEO to start enhancing our catalog entries for **Library of Things** items. She plans to include manuals and images where possible for those patrons who discover these items through the catalog. Later enhancements will include turning on several item categories for our items, to offer more meaningful entries to the catalog.
- Reusing a refreshed staff device, Mark replaced the OPAC at the Geneva desk. This took the last of the Raspberry Pi OPACs out of service. Patrons in Geneva can now expect a more consistent experience.
- Mark completed a significant number of updates as technology vendors continue to release critical updates. Significant updates were made to the Fiscal Officer's laptop.
- The Technology Coordinator's Workstation received a significant RAM upgrade in order to address slowness and stability issues while working on Chrome. RAM was sourced from decommissioned devices.
- Mark wrote code to mitigate an issue Archives was experiencing with bulk file management.
- 113 documents were notarized in January.

### PROGRAMMING

- Geneva **Storytime** sessions were packed with enthusiastic crowds this month (an average of 21 attendees, with one session having 29 guests). Kids particularly loved the books and accompanying crafts about winter animals like bears and penguins, and caregivers, especially, were thrilled with the books on letters H and B. As part of the **Crayola Creativity Week** during the last week of the month, students and caregivers marveled at the book Pocket Full of Colors: Magical World of Mary Blair, Disney Artist Extraordinaire by Amy Guglielmo. Worksheets about color knowledge and mixing for preschoolers were much appreciated by all. (Tina also welcomed a couple of new families this month who really liked the playgroup at the end of **Storytime** because they got to meet and chat with the other parents and caregivers.)
- Teresa led **Storytime** in Ashtabula and highlighted books by famous picture book authors and illustrators including Jan Brett, Margaret Wise Brown, Eric Carle, and Jon Klassen. There was a craft based on each of the featured authors/illustrators—for example Jan Brett's The Mitten inspired creation of animal masks, Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar compelled the creation of paper chain caterpillars, etc.

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- Ashtabula **STEAM Engine** centered around the COSI Connects Learning Lunchboxes. The groups used the kits to work on water experiments like getting a paperclip to float on water and creating tin foil boats that can hold cargo. They also practiced engineering skills by using wooden building block challenges, and the even more difficult challenge of building robots that move! Each participating youth was given a COSI box for home use.
- In both Ashtabula and Geneva, Teresa replicated her **STEAM Engine** lessons for her weekly **Homeschoolers at the Library** program (and, again, each student received a COSI box to take home). She alternated the STEAM lessons with art literacy lessons, and participants learned about artists Bronwyn Bancroft, Vincent Van Gogh and Jackson Pollock, and created collages, sunflower paper art, and splatter paintings.
- Teresa led **Rhythm Band** for preschoolers in Ashtabula. Enthusiastic attendees used maracas, bells, and rhythm sticks to practice tempo, and playing vs. resting. A couple of the favorite songs this month were *Shake Your Maraca* by Little Groove where they were encouraged to shake their maracas high, low, and from head to toe, and *Spaghetti Legs* by Jim Gill where they used their whole body to dance and pretend their legs were made of spaghetti noodles.
- **Every Day Manners for Children** was a fun Ashtabula event geared toward ages 5-12 that covered things like table manners, saying “please” and “thank you,” and general etiquette for classroom (and social gathering) behavior. There have been a number of requests for Lyn to host this program again in the spring or summer.
- Lyn also led the **Let’s Make A Moon!** STEAM program in Ashtabula that focused on the total solar eclipse which will happen on April 8, 2024. Participants learned about the phases of the moon, eclipses, the moon’s structure, and used Crayola Air-Dry Clay to make one or more models of the moon.
- Ashtabula’s **Battle Build Legos**, a new program for kiddos this month, quickly grew into a hit with 16 attending by the last session of January. Participants were challenged to use legos to create things like a mitten and winter hat, the Three Little Pigs’ house, and Cinderella’s glass slipper. Emphasis each week is on turning their basic two-dimensional items into three-dimensional items.
- Mallory began a similar program for elementary aged children in Geneva. **Lego Battle Build** participants were overjoyed and had a blast using legos to recreate snowflakes, monsters, and planets.
- Recipes explored in **Stir It Up!** included Teriyaki meatballs, chicken salad with grapes and greek yogurt, and homemade waffles. This tween/teen program is repeated weekly in both buildings. Because of some spicy ingredients, some participants were hesitant to try the meatballs and greek yogurt, which gave the group an opportunity to discuss portion control and careful measurement. (We also found many students needed to practice breaking eggs after some initial disasters mixing waffle batter!)

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- Mallory led Geneva teens in a new program this month, **Destress Your Mess**. Designed to help alleviate stress by concentrating on a fun specific task, the group particularly enjoyed making sand slime. They loved that they got to choose from a variety of colors and learned how to fix slime when it didn't come out quite right. There were 30 tweens who attended this month.
- Bingo was the most popular of the rotating games featured weekly in the **All Fun & Games** program hosted by Mallory for the Geneva after-school kids. About 20 youth were present and they were especially excited to win little trophies!
- **Battle Build** is a weekly program for Geneva teens in which challenges are given with a pre-selected list of odd supplies. About 15 students attended each week and worked to create throwing stars, articulated grabbers, and spinning snowflakes. There were some very creative approaches to completing these challenges!
- The **Writers' Group** gained four (4) new members at our January meeting. We had an excellent conversation with Teresa who presented the prologue and part of an open chapter to her YA Fantasy Book.
- A large crowd of Geneva students (average of 35) enjoy **Gadgets, Gizmos & Games**. We had several new people try out the VR and Nintendo Switch, and a few kids even had impromptu Mario Kart Tournaments and a (virtual) Bowling competition.
- **Teen Art Club** in Geneva is a smaller but concentrated tween/teen group who meet weekly to experiment with all manners of artistic style and technique. This month they met to try out new mediums like chalk pastels, Styrofoam plate printmaking, and clay.
- Stephen partnered with the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities to host Geneva's first **Sensory Movie Night**. Modeled after successful events in Ashtabula, this inaugural event was enthusiastically attended, and guests watched *Family Camp* while enjoying pizza and other snacks.
- The Ashtabula **DIY for Adults** project this month was **Altered Art**. Sybil led a full house of guests who selected printed versions of famous paintings and put their own spin on them using paint, stickers, and markers. They were also able to frame their piece when completed.
- Ashtabula **Tech Tuesday** had three (3) drop-in patrons this month, all of whom needed help using cell phone apps/features.
- The **Geneva Book Club** discussed Bill Bryson's [A Walk in the Woods](#). Bryson's tale of his journey along the Appalachian Trail shines with humor and highlights the importance of preserving both the history and the living ecosystem that is America's last wilderness.
- The **Geneva Cookbook Club** discussed [Milk Street: Cook What You Have](#) by Christopher Kimball. This approachable book of recipes invites readers to open their pantries to create mouthwatering meals with ingredients on hand.



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- Participants in the **Coffee & Conversation** program at Geneva Library enjoyed an hour of casual conversation and shared good humor while discussing current events and enjoying light refreshments.
- The **DIY Geneva** project for January featured the use of beeswax in natural self-care products. Attendees enjoyed making beeswax lip balm and nourishing lotion made from beeswax, shea butter, and coconut oil.
- An average of 75 students visited the Geneva Library each day during after-school hours.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Stephen visited classrooms at **Austinburg Elementary** and **Ontario Elementary**, reaching more than 275 students. The kids were thrilled to have a mixture of songs and books, and particularly liked joining along in Sneezy the Snowman.
- As part of our ongoing partnership with **Youth LEADERship**, Stephen met with our assigned student team to crystalize age groups and prize structures for Summer Reading Club 2024.
- Seniors who attended Susan's **Book Club at the Center for Active Living** enjoyed the book All Around the Town by Mary Higgins Clark.
- Ryan attended the monthly **Building Resiliency Together** meeting, which focused on service of and collaborative efforts with Youth Opportunities and a brainstorming session on County housing resources and the possibility of hosting a Landlord/Tenant meet-and-greet.
- Ryan attended his final gathering of the **Head Start Policy Council**. Lunch was shared to celebrate the end of five-year tenure of both Ryan and Robinlyn Vogel (Ashtabula County Family and Children Council).
- Lauren hosted and attended the January meeting of the **Geneva Business Women** group at the Geneva Library. She spoke to the group about library services and resources to support local businesses and enrich the lives of patrons and their families.
- Lauren and Stephen met with Assistant Superintendent David Riley of **Geneva Area City Schools** to discuss planning for upcoming field trips to occur in February and **Family Fun STEM Nights** to take place in March.
- Lauren and Ryan met with Denise Brown of **University Hospitals Community Outreach** to discuss partnership opportunities related to upcoming traveling exhibits from the National Library of Medicine which will be hosted at ACDL buildings this spring.
- Mike attended one Lions meeting, participated in the First Saturday Pancake Breakfast, and fulfilled his duties as club secretary.



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### MARKETING

- As expected, the best performing post on social media was the initial announcement of **Winter Carnival**. This was followed by the post on the **Everyday Manners** program.
- We sent out the February newsletter in January and achieved a very healthy read-rate of 30.2%. Rebecca also sent out a correction email when it was realized that information for one of the programs was incorrect. This email performed *even better* with a read-rate of 37%. The most clicked on event in the email was Winter Carnival, followed distantly by the two DIY programs.
- January book display themes in Ashtabula included: MLK and the Civil Rights Movement, National Hobby Month, and a plethora of collections to ring in the new year: New Year: New Reads; New Year: New You; and New Year: New Adventure.
- Display cases at Geneva Library featured space-related selections including a NASA-published Braille/tactile book describing the upcoming eclipse. Patrons were invited to check out the highlighted materials.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Carrie, Sybil, Alecia, and Rebecca attended Ryan Dowd's *Human Trafficking: A Conversation with Karen Romero* training.
- Carrie attended the *Ohio Digitization Interest Group's* monthly meeting whose focus was on ethical digitization.
- Susan attended the NEO-RLS webinar *Weeders Attract Readers* which emphasized using the CREW method for weeding a library collection.
- Ellen, Lindsey and Lyn attended the webinar titled, *Patron Bashing in Libraries* sponsored by NEO-RLS.
- Sybil attended a *Strategic Leadership* webinar through NEO-RLS
- Lyn attended the seminar *Appalachian Familial Child Exploitation Training* which explored the differences in human trafficking in Appalachian areas, sponsored by Signature Health
- Lyn also attended the Signature Health coordinated *Partners with A Purpose* meeting, a local networking group of over 30 organizations that serve those in need.
- Rebecca attended *Google Ads & Analytics* training offered for free from Google. She expects to be able to finish this program in February.
- Alecia attended training sessions on *WorldShare OCLC Open Office* from SEO, *Practical Budget Management* from NEO-RLS, *Social Emotional Learning in the Library* from NEO-RLS, in-house training on exporting the Acquisitions Budget from Mike, *BLUEcloud Open Office* from SEO, and *Cataloging Open Office* from SEO



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### **VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS**

- Friends of Geneva Library met to discuss upcoming author events which will occur in April and May. The group is in the process of finalizing arrangements with a featured author for their annual Author Luncheon event. Friends also voted to provide financial support for Geneva Library programs including Winter Carnival, Summer Reading, and holiday programs throughout the year.
- Archives/Local History:
  - Char helped cover the room and assisted patrons with research. She also finished organizing, labeling, and logging in approximately 60 photos.
  - Duane covered the Local History / Genealogy Room each Saturday in January.
  - Marilyn entered the January obits into the RB Hayes Obituary Index. She finished editing and correcting the data entered into the RB Hayes index for two obituary binders.
  - Tom proofed the October obituaries.
  - Kelsi began editing the Edgewood 1986 yearbook, approximately 100 pages.