

ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – June 2023

“That Star Wars collection is really neat! It’s a kid’s dream come true!”

~ *Maurice, commenting on the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery display*

“Thank you for holding these sessions. I enjoy them so much! It’s fun to learn about artists and musicians I didn’t know before. Please repeat this class again!”

~ *Art & Music Literacy for Adults attendee, Pat*

“I had no idea how nice this library is! It’s really beautiful here. I will definitely come back to spend some time looking at the books. I want to sit out on that patio and relax!”

~ *County resident who visited Ashtabula Library for notary services*

“Big Thanks to the library for keeping me Happy in retirement!” ~ *Ashtabula patron, Sandra*

Patron who has used the library for the last 26 years said the library is the best resource in the county! We do so much for the kids and have great programs, and he was here a lot when he was working on his master’s degree.

~ *Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

"My grandchildren are enjoying the story hour on Friday morning. The librarian (Teresa) that is doing it is wonderful! Thankful for our local library!"

~ *Facebook message from regular Ashtabula storytime attendee*

At a recent Geneva DIY program, several attendees held an animated conversation about the beauty of both ACDL buildings and the wonderful services our staff provide.

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

A youth group from a local church delivered a basket laden with treats to the Geneva Library in thanks for the services we provide. Their beautiful handmade card mentioned Miss Tina’s storytimes, our treehouse, and our kind & patient staff. It is heartwarming to know that our community appreciates us as much as we appreciate them!

~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

“Thank you so much for showing us the library and all the great things there are to do there! We loved reading stories, using the computers, and climbing the tree!”


~ *Thank You card received from St. John’s Lutheran Preschoolers*

Congratulations to one of our Teen Action Group members, Adina Borcicky, for winning the *READ On! Ohio Award* (celebrating Ohio kids & teens who are enthusiastic readers). Adina was

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nominated by Cindi Crnic, and she will be recognized at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Conference in October of this year!
~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

While visiting one of my longtime House Call patrons, she told me she loved that I was her personal librarian. I always picked out the right books and movies for her, "I got her", and knew exactly what she liked. She couldn't thank me enough for all that I do for her.
~ Jim, Outreach Associate

"Our favorite place!"
~ Library Patron attending Community Connection Fair

"I love the art programs. It's a piece of the library you don't expect. And they do such a good job!"
~ Library Patron attending Community Connection Fair

"I love the Library! I do mostly digital library but I love the classes too!"
~ Library Patron attending Community Connection Fair

At a meeting wrapping up the end of the school year, AACS District Technology Coordinator, Tim Ranck shared high praise for Dwight. He said Dwight is a natural with the teens, always smiling and approachable in the building. He made a point of emphasizing that this is not something that students can expect as a "given" at school, making Dwight a positive light in their day.
~ Michael, Digital Library Branch Manager

Following the recent *Cut the Cord* program presented by Dwight, a patron informed Rebecca that she "just wanted to take him home in her pocket," he was so good.
~ Michael, Digital Library Branch Manager

A patron commented on how nice and beautiful the Ashtabula Library is compared to other libraries he has visited. His sister added that they both voted for the Library levy.
~ Karen, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Ryan and Lyn met with staff at the YMCA to plan weekly visits to the Ashtabula Library by *YMCA Summer Fun Club* classes.
- Ryan worked with Keegan to plan weekly visits from various groups from Kids Only.
- COVID test demand declined 57% from the previous month; the Ashtabula Front Desk distributed 52 COVID tests. Front Desk staff also distributed 65 coloring packets to children, 22 gun locks, and 3 Doterra Medication Disposal Kits. The seed library at Ashtabula remains extremely popular, too, though the planting season will soon draw to a close for most crops.

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- April's adult book display themes in Ashtabula included: *Birds and Butterflies* (books on identifying various birds and butterflies and ways to attract them to a garden), *Mental Health Awareness Month*, *Gardening and Landscaping*, *Cinco de Mayo and Hispanic Culture*, and *Meditation Month*.
- May's featured exhibit in the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery was *May the Fourth Be With You* -- an exhibit of Star Wars collectibles by Jim McClure.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in May included: The Ashtabula County Board of Elections, NEO Fund, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, AARP, 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, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Area City Schools, AFSCME Local 1197, LGBTQ Coalition, AACS Custodians, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Ashtabula Signer's Club, Peloris Group, Zonta, OIKOS Center, Ashtabula Friends of the Library, Lake County Free Clinic, Ashtabula Mobile Food Nextwork, Ashtabula Hustles Pitch Workshop, Lenape Native Path, Jarrod Bunch Football Camp, The Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, Sexual Assault Response Team, and the Geneva Camera Club.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive patron activity has remained steady at about 80 visitors in May. We welcomed visitors from Texas, South Carolina, and Iowa. Approximately 450 resources were used.
- Ashlee has completed eleven obituary requests; processed the remaining March 2023 newspaper obituaries and the first half of the April obituaries; edited and named 35 photos (70 files) from ACDL Photograph Collection, 27 images from Moina Large's History of Ashtabula County Vol 1, 92 images from Edgewood Arrow 1977 yearbook, all of 1914 Grand River Scimitar yearbook; and continued working on the 1856 Baker's Map Index.
- Ashlee worked in conjunction with Tuscarawas County Historical Society to assist a patron with family research.
- Carrie has processed several collections contained in the Archive including: The Women's Fortnightly Club, 1895-2022; Minutes of the Ashtabula Lyceum Course, 1916-1923; The Dairymen's Co-operative Sales Association, Pierpont, Manual and Minute Book, 1951-1967; and various local clubs' ephemera.
- Carol spent this month scanning photographs and adding data to about 150 pieces. She discussed file naming and organizational ideas with Carrie along with revisiting the Lee Letters in order to gain a more accurate description of the contents.
- Geneva Library served as a meeting place for a variety of community groups including: Aspire GED Classes, Spencerian Writers, local 4-H groups, Nantucket Woods

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Condominium Board, Friends of Geneva Library, The Rose Society of Ashtabula County, and NEO Fund. Meeting rooms were also frequently used as study spaces.

- Geneva staff distributed 15 at-home COVID tests, 10 Doterra Medication Disposal Kits, and 50 free gun locks.
- Jim completed 25 House Call visits and 31 Express Delivery stops during the month of May. These interactions facilitated circulation of more than 250 items. Jim was also able to place nearly 350 items in book drop locations throughout the ACDL service area.
- Bookmobile staff wrapped up service for the 2022-2023 school year this month. More than 500 children visited the vehicle to turn in their books and get information about ACDL's *Summer Reading Program*. Students and teachers are already looking ahead to Bookmobile service next school year.
- Bookmobile staff visited several area childcare and preschool facilities including Carol's Corner and Loving Cup Kids Academy in Geneva, and A.B.C. Child Care and Learning Center in Ashtabula. Children had a chance to enjoy storytime and select books.
- Community Bookmobile stops continue throughout the ACDL service area. A new evening stop was added at Geneva Township Park near Geneva-on-the-Lake. Community stops are now available in five townships including: Geneva, Harpersfield, Trumbull, Dorset, and Monroe. Additional community stops are held in neighborhoods across Ashtabula City.
- Geneva book displays for May focused on Spanish-language materials, seasonal summer books, summer reading suggestions, and selections from our paperback collection.
- Codi completed six tech help appointments at Geneva Library during the month of May. Appointments focused on photo printing and general device operation.
- Alecia began to assign new entries to the "Item Category 1" field in the catalog. A selection of items were simply listed as "Misc." which was unhelpful to patrons searching the catalog and made reporting accurate information regarding our activities difficult.
- On one day in May, during a four-hour timeframe, Karen notarized a total of 37 documents! A total of 166 documents were notarized in May.

PROGRAMMING

- Lyn and Ryan completed the program series, **Art and Music Literacy for Adults**. The last three sessions focused on the art of Wassily Kandinsky, Andy Warhol and Keith Haring. Russian composers (Tchaikovksy, Mussorgsky, et.al) accompanied the Kandinsky unit; the Velvet Underground was examined in coordination with Warhol; and punk/pop/club music by Grace Jones, Madonna and Michael Jackson — all friends of Haring's — were the soundtrack to our final classroom which culminated in class members creating sidewalk chalk graffiti a la Haring.
- Susan hosted her monthly **Adult Book Club** gathering. Participants read and discussed *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Patrons at the Ashtabula County Center for Active Living also read and discussed the same book.

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- For the **Adult DIY Group** in Ashtabula, patrons learned how to customize terracotta pots by using fabric and modge podge. They learned how to seal these and took home packets of seeds to plant in their new pots.
- Jayne Colin-Curie spoke about her background, her travels, and her writing process in the very well-attended and greatly enjoyed **author visit** centered around her book *Journeys with Jayne: Tales and Tribulations of a Crazy Travel Agent*.
- In **STEAM Engine** this month, youth (and a couple parents) learned how to make a solution that extracts the DNA out of a strawberry. They also made DIY slime using glue, cornstarch and water. At the request of participants, a special rock painting party was held to celebrate the end of another school year.
- **Ashtabula Storytime** themes were inspired by the theme for summer reading, *All Together Now*. The books read were about hugs, helping others, friendship, and togetherness. Also in May, Teresa started trying more techniques to get the children involved in the songs and stories by integrating laminated paper puppets and felt board characters. She passed out the paper puppets to the children and they helped her sing the song while "acting" as the characters. The children enjoyed using the puppets and responded well to having a visual to accompany the song.
- Artists studied in Teresa's **Art Literacy for Homeschoolers** class included Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Cassatt, Eric Carle, Vincent van Gogh, and Paul Cézanne. Activities included styrofoam plate printmaking, painted tissue paper floral arrangement collages, and construction paper sunflowers.
- **Summer Reading Kickoff Events:** Ashtabula hosted a record number of attendees to our summer reading event kickoff party on May 25. Families and individuals enjoyed root beer floats while registering for the *Summer Reading Club*. YO! intern, Aaron, and volunteer, Sheila, helped scoop ice cream and entice youth into registering for the club.
- Stephen provided **onsite storytimes** for Mrs. Knapp's classroom at Austinburg Elementary and for ViaQuest's Adult Day Program.
- Jim's **Rae Ann Reading Circle** program continued this month. The group is enjoying their reading of *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls.
- Geneva Library hosted an average of 72 students each day during after-school hours. This average includes a day where the count, due to unexpected bussing issues, was 125 students! Popular programs were **Stir It Up, Arts & Crafts, and Gadgets, Gizmos & Games**.
- Geneva Youth Services staff celebrated the **Kickoff to Summer Reading** with their annual **Root Beer Float Party**. Students had a chance to register for summer reading, enjoy a root beer float, and play outdoor games like cornhole and volleyball.
- Geneva's **Teen Action Group** put on a **Clue-themed Murder Mystery**. Participants had a blast rolling giant-size dice to determine the who, where, and how of the crime.

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- **Miss Tina's Storytimes** at Geneva focused on a different alphabet letter each week. Children and parents enjoyed practicing early literacy skills at each session including singing, talking, reading, writing, and playing.
 - Participants in Geneva's **Growing Mindful Gardeners Program** for youth ages 10-15 have been learning the basics of organic gardening. They have planted seedlings in their community garden plots and created garden-themed crafts like flower petal lanterns, bee baths, and olla watering systems.
 - Geneva patrons who attended **Introduction to Intuitive Tarot Reading** had a chance to use their intuition and imagination to tell the story in their cards. This popular program, hosted by local community member Lady Dee, was brought back a second time due to popular demand.
 - **DIY: Happy Watercolor Trees** at Geneva was great fun. Participants used brushes, sponges, and wax paper to create images of flowering spring trees.
 - **Geneva Cookbook Club** enjoyed reading and discussing Ali Slagle's *I Dream of Dinner*. This book focused on cooking basics and advised creative ways to use everyday ingredients to make delicious meals.
 - The **Geneva Book Club** discussed *Woman, Eating* by Claire Kohda. This novel's complicated heroine is a young millennial artist trying to figure out love and life, all while facing a very vampiric problem...what to eat?
 - Attendance at Geneva's **Coffee + Conversation** Program is growing. This monthly meet-up for adults focused on discussion of local news, events, and life.
 - The **Diabetes Empowerment Education Program** series held its last two sessions in May. Stacey Stangel, with Central State University Extension, led discussions about nutrition and wellness for those living with diabetes.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Lyn implemented a poetry and art project titled, *Empowerment: Self-Portrait Poem*, for a group of 12 eighth-grade girls at Braden Middle School. This project served as their yearly community project. The girls explored the structure of poems and used the self-portraits they created, as well as writing, to connect to a famous African American leader. The artwork is on display as part of the **Third Annual Black History and Me** art exhibit in the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery during the month of June.
- Ryan attended the organizational meeting of **English Festival 2024**. After a three-year hiatus, this county-wide program will be held again in May 2024 at Kent State University, Ashtabula. The meeting focused on itinerary and book title selection.
- Ryan attended the monthly **Head Start Policy Council** meeting, which focused on staff retainment and registration process for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Mike and Rebecca attended May's *Building Resiliency Together* meeting (and provided technical support) which featured **The Youth For the Future**, young men from Braden

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Middle School, with their advisors Ms. Sally Bradley and Ms. Joslin Seeds. In addition to discussing their collaborations with the Ashtabula City Manager's office, Ashtabula MHRS, and Community Counseling, they led small break-out sessions to give a youth perspective on strategies to foster community resiliency and internet safety. Cleveland's News Channel 5 was also here filming a story on the Youth for the Future group to be shared at a future date.

- Staff and the entire school body of **Christian Faith Academy** spent their last afternoon of the school year enjoying "field day" on the Ashtabula lawn. Dwight served as building host and helped get them set up by sharing outdoor games purchased for our *Family Fun Nights* (and general circulation). All were enthusiastic and thankful, and everyone had fun!
- ACDL was awarded a **John Cotton Dana Award** from the American Library Association and library vendor, EBSCO, for our 2022 Levy Awareness Campaign. We applied for this honor in March and are gratified that it was well received. The selection committee particularly loved the detail in our planning and the quality of the graphics. "We were all in agreement, it was just a really spectacular campaign." Mike and Rebecca will be attending the awards ceremony in Chicago on June 25.
- Mike attended two Ashtabula Lions Club meetings as Secretary in May 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- By far, the post with the greatest impact across our social media channels was the announcement of **Basic Sign Language for Beginners**. It reached over 5000 accounts and was shared 66 times. The second most popular social media post was the schedule of **Summer Reading Events**, which reached over 2000 accounts and generated some great conversations between parents.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Carrie completed NEO-RLS's 2022 *Leadership Academy* consisting of 25.5 contact hours of specialized training and ran from October 2022 through May 2023.
- Carrie and Alecia attended Ryan Dowd's training: *Homeless De-Escalation 501: Verbal Tools for Conflict*.
- Ashlee completed a second module of the *ORE Professional Development Training*.
- Ellen, Tiara, Laetitia, Carlos, Teresa, Christy, Sybil, Carrie, Ashlee, Ric, Karen, and Lyn completed training on the Xbox, PS4, and Nintendo Switch gaming consoles with Hayley, from the front desk, leading the training.
- Alecia, Laetitia, Sybil, and Lyn completed Ryan Dowd's homelessness training: *Kicked Out: How to safely ask someone to leave without having to call the police*.

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- Lyn also attended the Web Junction webinar: *Library Safety and Security: A Holistic Approach*.
- Lauren completed her final session of the *LEADERShip Ashtabula Signature Program*. The session focused on Ashtabula County's quality of life. Lauren had a chance to visit the Ashtabula Harbor area (including the Ashtabula Maritime Museum and Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum), In the Zone Gaming in Ashtabula, the Dr. James K. Bissell Nature Center at Morgan Swamp Preserve, and the Ashtabula Arts Center.
- Alecia completed *SEO Tech Services Committee Training* (three 2-hr courses).

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Friends of Ashtabula Library held their semi-annual Book Sale May 5th & 6th. Using, again, a “suggested donation” request rather than a set price for books, they raised over \$1100.
- Friends of Geneva Library met to organize their annual Spring Book Sale and to discuss fundraising and membership opportunities of focus for the coming summer. This year's Spring Book Sale raised more than \$600.
- Geneva Library volunteers assisted with light housekeeping and youth programs.
- Archives/Genealogy/Local History:
 - Maggie D. finished scanning the 2002 Edgewood Yearbook and scanned the first half of the 1986 Edgewood yearbook.
 - Tom M. proofed the March obituaries.
 - Marilyn S. entered May's obituaries into RB Hayes Obituary Index. She has also edited and corrected data previously entered into the RB Hayes index (approximately 180 pages).
 - Char L., along with covering the room, worked on organizing, labeling, and logging a total of 220 photos. She also completed a research request looking through June 1978 microfilm for a patron, and assisted Carrie in processing the Woman's Fortnightly Collection.
 - Kelsi J. finished editing 155 pages of the 1972 Edgewood yearbook, and then framed all 216 images; edited the first 115 pages of the 1977 Edgewood yearbook; and worked on editing the first 50 pages of the 1992 Edgewood yearbook.
 - Duane B., along with covering the room, began scanning the Morgan Township Council Minutes Book 1874-1926 (approximately 65 pages).

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