



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – September 2023

“I thank you and the library very much for your generosity! Ashtabula is such a beautiful community with such a rich history. I will try my best to let more people know the history/stories of the community through my writings.” ~ *Genealogy and Archives visitor, Taotao Matsui*

“The Zen Doodle class by Sybil was so much fun! I’m not a fan of ‘crafts’ but this class allowed freedom and creativity, which added to the ‘artistic value’ of the project! Well done!” ~ *Participant in Sybil’s DIY for Adults program*

“Lyn is awesome! She helped me upstairs with some printing. She is really cool!” ~ *Patron who came in to use the photo printer and check out our maker space*

A patron stopped in for notary service and said the last time he was here was when he graduated in the 1960s. He was amazed by how beautiful our space is. He signed up for a library card because, though he doesn’t read much, we have other non-book things he likes such as wi-fi hotspots and our streaming services, which he was excited to use. ~ *Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

A patron raved about being able to check out a hotspot for her small business. She has been trying to figure out what carrier would be best for internet usage in her area and was thankful for the opportunity to test out our Hotspots through Verizon. ~ *Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager*

"You know, during COVID we picked up a lot of test kits at both the Geneva and Ashtabula Libraries. I wanted to tell you that I can't think of any organization that exhibited as much kindness and grace through all of the pandemic. Everyone was so nice, patient and kind every time we made a stop. There was never any hesitation to help. I want to thank all of you for how wonderful you were to us." ~ *Patron Brian, commenting to Conklin staff*

“Wait, you have a pizza party at the main library today to thank you for all the hard work that you do? That sounds nice! Who should I talk with to let them know that you need to plan another one, because you guys are the best!” ~ *Student comments to Dwight, Lakeside H. S.*


“It’s really nice to talk with an adult that genuinely seems to like kids.” ~ *Student to Dwight, Lakeside H .S.*

A young Bookmobile patron recently gushed, “I love it when the bookmobile comes! I have visited every time!” ~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

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Bookmobile service is so important to the communities we serve. I am constantly reminded of this every time someone tries to pull out a wallet to “buy” books on the vehicle. It warms my heart when I see surprised and delighted reactions upon hearing our services are completely free with a library card.

~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

A patron using a computer in the Conklin area commented, “When you walk in the door it feels like home.” She is new to the area and just received her new ACDL library card that night. She mentioned she was going to bring her son in to get his card because she knew he would like it here. She was also excited to see that we had a sewing machine to check out as well as laminating and photo printing equipment, “and it isn’t too expensive”.

~ Karen, Administrative Assistant

I was speaking with a person outside of the library and she told me she *could not wait* to bring her sons (11 years & 4 years) to the Youth Services Open House in September.

~ Karen, Administrative Assistant

“Congratulations and thank you for your outstanding investments in our communities!” on receiving the John Cotton Dana Award.

~ From the *Weekly Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce Member News email*

A parent from Geneva Middle School came up to me at the open house and raved about the letter that was sent out to the parents and posted on Facebook. She said it was very well written. (see attached)

~ Stephen, Youth Services Manager

The School Nurse at Geneva Middle School came up to the table especially to say thank you to the library for providing such wonderful programs for students after school. She said that so many students talked about the programs excitedly and there were even students who didn’t get excited about much that were excited about them too.

~ Stephen, Youth Services Manager


PUBLIC SERVICE

- COVID test demand increased with 120 kits distributed in Ashtabula last month. Front Desk staff also distributed 17 gun locks and gave away 4 Detera drug disposal bags.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room, MFG Room, and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in August included: AFSCME Local 1197, Ashtabula Child Care Director’s Network, Ashtabula City Planning, Ashtabula County Alzheimer’s Association, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League Board, Ashtabula County Board of Elections, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Medical Center Nurses Union, Ashtabula County

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Mental Health and Recovery Board, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, 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 Local Schools, Building Resiliency Together, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Girl Scouts, Helping Hands, Key Bank, Lakeland Community College, Legal Aid of Greater Cleveland, Lions Club, Master Gardeners, NAACP, NEO Fund, NOPEC, OIKOS Center, Sexual Assault Response Team, Partners With A Purpose, Signature Health, Starting Point, United Way, Vantage Aging Solutions, Women's Fortnightly Club, Youngstown Business Incubator, and the YMCA.

- Geneva Library meeting spaces were used more than 30 times during the month of August. Users included: Friends of Geneva Library, Aspire GED Program, Geneva Country Quilters, Spencerian Writers, and Geneva Kiwanis Club. The Geneva Gazebo was also used as a meeting space for local groups. In total, more than 200 people attended meetings in Geneva Library spaces.
- Ashtabula hosted 672 voters for the Special Election on August 8 and Geneva hosted 510 voters.
- August was a huge attendance month for not only out-of-town researchers, but also international researchers! The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive welcomed researchers from: Virginia, two separate California researchers, two separate Florida researchers, Michigan, two separate South Carolina researchers, and a researcher from Tokyo, Japan. The researcher from Japan is focusing on Ashtabula as a study of women's roles in postindustrial America.
- Ashlee completed eight (8) obit requests; processed the July 2023 newspaper obits; scanned parts of 1896-97, 1912, 1915-16, and 1918-23 Polk City Directories; edited digital files of the 1966 Geneva Aquila yearbook; and continued the 1856 Baker's Map Index.
- Carol scanned approximately 425 images. Forty-five photographs have had metadata added and are about 1/3 of the way complete.
- With both school and summer education programs on break, August was a month to catch up on organizing and restocking the Bookmobile. Hannah and Jim refreshed materials on the shelves, repaired worn labels, and concentrated on services to community stops. The Bookmobile visited neighborhood stops in Ashtabula, as well as Ashtabula Twp, Trumbull Twp, Harpersfield Twp, Geneva Twp, and Dorset Twp.
- New Bookmobile stops will begin during September in Pierpont and the Glenwood Village community in Ashtabula. Elementary school stops will also resume in September.
- Outreach staff completed 27 House Calls visits, 40 Express Deliveries, and placed 180 items in Bookdrop Collections throughout the ACDL service area.
- A total of 139 documents were notarized from the Ashtabula Library in August.

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PROGRAMMING

- Ashtabula hosted a **Family Fun Night** on August 3 consisting of lawn games, visits from NOPEC (the energy bike and other “toys”) and the Ashtabula YMCA (who shared program and financial aid information, as well as fun swag). Kona Ice was on site for purchase, and of course, ACDL supplied popcorn while we ended the evening with an outdoor showing of *Charlotte’s Web*. More than 80 people joined us for some or all of the evening. It was a fun and memorable night and the families could not have been more appreciative of our efforts, so much so that we even received a handwritten thank you card from one of the families who attended!
- The theme for **Ashtabula Storytimes** this month was Alphabet August, so each week was inspired by a different letter of the alphabet "A" through "D". For example, for the letter "B", we read the books Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, Brontorina, and Otto the Book Bear. We sang songs like *B-I-N-G-O* and *Down by the Bay*, and our arts and craft activity was a paper bag bear.
- **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers** in Ashtabula continued throughout the month and a dedicated group of families returned every week to play with all of the instruments! Each week we spend a little time learning about the different instruments, then usually engage with rhythm sticks to get warmed up before moving onto the other percussion instruments. A favorite song of the month was *Rhythm Stick Train* where the children took turns leading the train around the room. (They liked to do this one over and over and over...!)
- **STEAM Engine** events at Ashtabula consisted of making slime, invisible ink, gliders, and performing Measurements in Space. For example, participants learned the basics of friction by making gliders and attaching them to a zipline. They enjoyed adding and taking away weights, and measuring how fast they would go each time. Distances and temperatures of our environment were compared with flash cards that were provided by the *NASA at My Library* box borrowed from NEO-RLS. Kids were amazed to learn how much hotter lightning is than a comet or the surface of the sun!
- **Art Literacy for Students** focused on a variety of artists, such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Berthe Morisot, Käthe Kollwitz, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and Anastasia Trusova. Hands-on activities included creation of a paper bird cage á la Renoir and using mixed media to create textured paintings in the style of Trusova.
- The **Youth Book Club** in Ashtabula ended the summer session by studying and discussing the last few chapters of Charlotte’s Web. All participants shared their thoughts on favorite characters, life (and death) on the farm, and, mostly, their keen interest in all things *spider!*
- Five participants gathered for the **Ashtabula Adult Book Club** to discuss Still Life by Louise Penny. Four participants discussed the same title at Susan’s book club at the Center for Active Living.

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- Sybil led **ZEN Doodling** in Ashtabula as a DIY Adult class. A dozen guests listened to relaxing music and learned about different patterns to use that are similar to Zentangle. They used fabric markers to doodle pouches to take home.
 - Ric helped four (4) patrons this month at Tech Tuesday sessions. One person needed help with email account access and the others came seeking Android phone help.
 - Carrie hosted a **Community Scanning Day** on August 12. Although in-person attendance was light, several people heard about the event and made appointments to scan on alternate days. (This includes The Burroughs Nature Club of Willoughby who will be donating to ACDL the scans they make.)
 - Carrie hosted a program focusing on **Italian Research**. It was attended by four (4) in-person guests and 12 online.
 - The **Writers' Group** had a nice twenty-minute writing exercise where they chose from three (3) different writing prompts and then created short pieces that were read aloud and discussed. They also heard from Jim that he presented his children's book, Iggy Tales, to publishers.
 - Hannah led **Outreach Storytimes** for local daycares and adult day programs including Carol's Corner, ViaQuest, and ABC Child Care. Audiences totaled more than 100 children and 24 adults.
 - Following their completion of Where the Red Fern Grows, Jim's **Rae-Ann Reading Group** is working through a new selection that brings both humor and heart, Michael J. Fox's memoir, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future.
 - Codi's **Coffee + Conversation** program at Geneva has evolved into a well-attended social program serving local adults. Participants discuss local events, exchange humorous anecdotes, and share life experiences while enjoying light refreshments.
 - **DIY: Geneva** participants crafted beautiful luminaries using mason jars, colorful pressed flowers, and ribbon. Luminaries were completed with the addition of flickering LED tea lights.
 - Geneva's **Cookbook Club** discussed Ian Knauer's The Farm: Rustic Recipes for a Year of Incredible Food. Recipes focused on using seasonal, local ingredients to craft delicious meals. Lauren demonstrated a recipe for Parmesan Pasta with Collard Greens and Bacon Crumble. Participants enjoyed the resulting dish, and there was enough left over to share with local teens visiting the library. Plates may have been licked clean...collards and all!
 - The **Geneva Book Group** discussed Michael Zadoorian's The Leisure Seeker. This book tells the tale of a married couple in their golden years who set out to travel Route 66 in search of a past they have a hard time remembering.
 - The last session of **Crafty Kids** in Geneva celebrated with Donuts. Participants had to sketch, then paint, still lifes of their selected donut, and could only eat the donut after they were done. (Of the twelve students, one child finished in 10 minutes – and quickly ate their donut – and another took the entire 90 minutes to create their masterpiece!)

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- Geneva’s **Storytime Playgroup** had two sessions in August. We read and sang about turtles and going back to school. This summer, Geneva used a two-tiered “playgroup” setting for storytime: the first half of the program being traditional storytime, the second half an informal gathering for adults to socialize while kids finish their craft or play with puppets, etc. Staff and adults raved about the chance for families to “mix and mingle” of their own accord, and attendance was extremely high all summer!
 - Geneva’s summer **STEAM Engine** program concluded with students each being tasked to create a mobile. Tina used the new STEM Lab Maker Cart with them for inspiration, and participants made good use of the materials at hand to create unusual and unique mobiles!
 - Geneva finished up youth programming for the summer with the final session of **Critter Club**, which studied wolves, and learned that without their packs, wolves would not be able to survive alone. Pack members rely on each other for everything from help with hunting to warmth during the cold nights.
 - A new slate of **After-School Programs** started in late August at the Geneva Library. Favorites like **Gadgets, Gizmos and Games** have returned. New additions include **Teen Graphix Club** (art and illustration), **Battle Build** (engineering challenges), **Teen Trivia**, and **Art & Music with Codi**.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Stephen spent a majority of his time getting acquainted with and building relationships with the local schools through their **Back-to-School Open Houses**. He attended open houses at Lakeside and Ridgeview as well as Platt R. Spencer, Austinburg, Cork, and Geneva Middle Schools (where he was joined by Cindi). Through these events they spread the word about fall programs happening at our libraries, and received multiple contacts in hopes to increase program collaboration throughout the year. We reached about 900 people through all of these events combined.
- Tina represented ACDL at the Ashtabula **Head Start Health Days** where she passed out information about programming coming up in the library, *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* folders, and invited families to attend the Youth Services Open House on September 6th. Head Start sent Tina a handwritten note full of compliments and appreciation.
- Lyn and Sybil represented ACDL at an open house for “The Hub.” The Hub is a new collaborative endeavor by community organizations that serve families across the county, including Youth Opportunities, A-Tech, Aspire, Steps Towards Success Life Skills Navigation Program and No Kidding Ohio-Ashtabula Program. These organizations work together to provide youth with educational and employment opportunities.
- Ryan hosted a **Tech Tuesday** session at the Center for Active Living. Attendees had many questions about basic use of their android phones. One person needed help transferring hundreds of photos from the Cloud to a newly purchased external hard-drive.

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- Ryan presented an overview of ACDL, with emphasis on digital offerings NorthStar, LinkedInLearning, and Candid, to enthusiastic members of the Ashtabula City Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committees at their August meeting.
- Ryan attended monthly meetings for Building Resiliency Together (which focused on planning a community event) and Head Start Policy Council (which featured approval of internal staff policies and slight adjustments and celebration of the Head Start summer programming throughout the county).
- Mike assisted with the August Lions Club pancake breakfast and attended to ongoing Club Secretary duties. Mike attended the August board meeting for A-Tech and the monthly Ohio Means Jobs Partners meeting.
- Mike began participating in Ashtabula's cohort participating in the Community Broadband Accelerator Program. The group from Ashtabula is receiving training from Broadband Ohio and the Ohio State University Extension leading to the creation of deliverables intended to set up the county to pursue grant opportunities and work with service providers to expand broadband access in the county. This eleven-week initiative meets weekly on Wednesday mornings.
- Lauren met with staff from LEADERShip Ashtabula's youth program to discuss and plan events for the group's upcoming Local History Day in December.
- Lauren also attended the August board meeting of the Geneva Area City School District where new staff members were introduced and relocation of the board's offices was discussed.
- Stephen and Lauren met with new administrative staff at the Geneva Middle School to discuss partnerships in the past and opportunities to come in the future.


MARKETING

- August book display themes in Ashtabula included: Plan A Trip (travel guides), Dog Days of Summer (nonfiction books about dogs), Beach Reads (fiction choices), and nonfiction offerings on Summer Hobbies and Back to School (which was extremely popular and frequently restocked!).
- Rebecca helped Dwight improve the wayfinding signage for the Lakeside collection to include QR codes that connect directly to pertinent electronic resources.
- Library Card Discount Program:
ACDL ended up with a total of 22 businesses for this year's Library Card Discount Program, which is six (6) more than last year – a big thank you to Karen for doing the cold calling! Rebecca finished editing the sponsor videos and then scheduled them on social media. She also ordered rack cards, printed posters and table tents, and hand delivered marketing materials to all but two of our businesses. We already have a lot of excitement generated around discounts this year and Rebecca thinks this will be a great ramp up to a robust year 3 and 4 in the Library Card Discount Program. The QR code has already been

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scanned 66 times. The full list of participating businesses can be found at <https://qrco.de/DiscoverMorePerks23>

- **Graphic Design Projects:**
Rebecca designed a few bookmarks for Youth Services, one with a list of the after school programs and a few coloring bookmarks for them to take to outreach events. She also designed and printed new labels for the *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* info packets.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- The farthest reaching post this month was a preview of the Discover More Perks Program, with a reach of just over 1400.
- The most engagement happened on a meme that expressed “We should lead with our delight in literature, not our pretentiousness.” This post had 71 likes/reactions, eight (8) comments, and six (6) shares.




PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Mike and Rebecca spoke to the Director of Leavenworth (KS) Public Library and several members of his staff about our John Cotton Dana Award-winning levy campaign. It was an excellent opportunity to reinforce the lessons of that campaign through coaching others and to make contacts with others in the profession.
- Ric, Dwight, and Karen attended the NEO-RLS webinar, *Internal Customer Service: It's More Than Just Being Nice!*
- Karen also attended an all-day webinar, *Mental Health First Aid*.
- Dwight discovered a series of videos that discuss the process and mindset of the typical Cricut user. Following these sessions, we were better informed about the various versions of the Cricut HeatPress, and eventually made the decision to purchase the EasyPress 3 for projects using vinyl transfers.

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- Rebecca completed two Ryan Dowd webinars: *Kicked Out!: How to safely ask someone to leave (without calling the police)* and *Ornery Teenagers: Compassionately and effectively managing their behavior*.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Archives/Local History:
 - Char, while covering the room, also worked on organizing, labeling, and logging approximately 100 photos.
 - Paula straightened one of the drawers of the card catalog.
 - Duane covered the Local History / Genealogy Room each Saturday in August and scanned two Morgan Twp. Record books, approximately 550 pages.
 - Tom proofed the June obits.
 - Marilyn entered the August obits into the RB Hayes Obituary Index. She also edited and corrected data that had previously been entered into the RB Hayes index (approximately 340 pages).
 - Kelsi edited and framed the digitized 1971 Edgewood yearbook (191 pages).