



# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – May 2025

"I love coming to this library, this place is the best!"

~ Young Ashtabula patron

"It's pretty bad when you come in so often the librarians know your name! But I love it here; it's so close to home and everyone here is great!"

~ Ashtabula patron

"Thank you for all the services you provide. This was so easy! It's a one-stop shop!"

~ Ashtabula patron who composed, printed, and copied their documents, and had them notarized

"Bless you (Dwight) and the wonderful work that you do every day! You don't know how pleased I am that I can come into the library, meet you, ask you *anything* about computers. I know a trick or two about my iPad, but you have been *very* helpful! God bless you!"

Penny and I joke about it a little, but there are several older ladies who are very effusive with their highest praise for me (Dwight) connected to my Tech Connect programs. The most recent came from a patron who has come to both the Ashtabula and Geneva branches once or twice a month for the last six (6) months.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

- More than **13,500 visitors** graced the doors of the Ashtabula, Geneva, and Bookmobile libraries during the month of May, with nearly **8,500 items borrowed remotely** from our Digital Library. 144 documents were notarized, and 110 faxes were sent with the help of Ashtabula staff. Staff also distributed eight (8) Covid tests and two (2) gun locks.
- The **community organizations** using the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the library in May included Alzheimer's Support Group, Ashcraft, Ashtabula/Harbor High Alumni Association, Ashtabula County Board of Elections, Ashtabula County Board of DD, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County MHRS Board, Ashtabula County Society for Human Resource Management, Ashtabula Lighthouse, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Board, Bethlehem Experience, Building Resiliency Together, Catholic Charities, City of Ashtabula, Common Ground of NE Ohio, Friends of the Library, Impac Therapeutics, Jerrod Bunch Youth Football, Key Bank, LGBTQ Coalition, Legal Aid, My Neighborhood Collaborative, NAACP, NEO Fund, Ohio Nurses Association, Second Chance Citizens Circle (Catholic Charities), Senior Care Network, United Eastern Lenape Nation, United Wealth Education, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Zonta.
- **Community organizations** that used meeting spaces in the Geneva Library included 4-H, Ashtabula County Health Department, Aspire, Geneva Country Quilters, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Rotary Club, Life Without Chains (NA Group), Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, and Spencerian Writers Group.

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- Sixteen boxes containing **1,182 rolls of microfilm** were sent to the Crowley Company for digitization. Rolls included in the shipment were: Star Beacon, 1916-2012; Geneva Times, 1930-1979; Ashtabula Sentinel, 1832-1910; Ashtabula Telegraph, 1849-1911; Jefferson Gazette, 1979-2010; and a handful of miscellaneous rolls. ACDL extends a huge *Thank You* to the **Ashtabula County Genealogical Society** for funding the digitization of our extensive microfilm newspaper collection.
- The **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive** had quite a few visitors from out of the area in May: New Jersey, Indiana, Dayton (OH), Illinois, and Nova Scotia.
- Over Memorial Day Weekend, Digital Resources staff completed a migration of ACDL's email and data from Google Workspace to **Microsoft 365**. Microsoft 365 will provide ACDL with industry standard tools like Office Suite and further integrate out IT and software infrastructure. All of this is with the intent of providing more opportunities for the staff to be informed and connected and creating new opportunities and tools to serve library patrons.
- The end of the school year was quite hectic as many of the ELA teachers brought approximately 1,500 books to the **Junior High Media Center**, with the request that we add them to our circulating collection. These items are books that they use every year to help teach the curriculum.

### PROGRAMMING

- Dawn led the adult **Book Group** in Geneva. Ten participants read and discussed First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston. All enjoyed the book and most enjoyed the ending!
- Ryan led **Cookbook Club** in Geneva which continued its study of Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat. This month focused on synthesizing author Samin Nosrat's tips and techniques into our own everyday cooking methods. (This book is highly recommended by all members of the Cookbook Club!)
- A handful gathered for Geneva's **Coffee and Conversation**. Led by Elizabeth, the group enjoyed bagels and coffee while discussing the escaped inmates from New Orleans, historical facts about Memorial Day, and "Chewey the Raccoon" (the raccoon with the meth pipe discovered during an Ohio traffic stop) which led to a deeper conversation on animal welfare.
- Keith led **DIY: Paint & Sip** groups in both Geneva and Ashtabula. He guided attendees in creating personalized acrylic paintings of cypress/weeping willow trees while they snacked on cookies and sipped tea and lemonade.
- The genealogy program, **What's New at WikiTree...** was attended by five (5) in person and 57 online patrons.
- The **Ashtabula Kite Fest** was a success despite rain and high winds. The Ohio Association for the Elevation of Kites held a kite-making workshop and presented the history of kite flying. They also displayed an impressive 8-foot-tall pirate kite with a 10-foot tail! Altogether, 14 children participated in the kite-making workshop and 58 patrons attended. We are hoping to host the Second Annual Ashtabula Kite Fest next year.
- Seventeen members of the **Active Day** group spent a fun afternoon in the library watching the movie *Shaun the Sheep*, playing learning-based card games, and assembling puzzles.

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- Tina co-hosted a **Sensory Movie Night** with the Ashtabula Board of DD. They ended their season watching *Toy Story 4* and enjoyed pizza and cookies.
- The **Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board** presented a public **QPR training session** at the Ashtabula library. Ten individuals received training in this session.
- The Monday night knitting group, **Fiber Friends**, had five (5) participants in each of two (2) sessions, and are eager for their group to grow.
- The **Writers' Group** had a high volume of material to work through for the May meeting. We had four (4) submissions for the month which made for a lively discussion. We are currently looking to balance the desire to serve as many of our writers as possible with the need to make certain that the program is kept within the confines of the 90-minute format.
- Our **Tech Connect** programs in both Geneva and Ashtabula are well attended. If anything, patrons would prefer that we expanded the services as several patrons have now requested time for a consultation outside of the time frame of the program.
- Dwight offered two sessions of **Designing for the Glowforge**. The programs were an introduction to both The Studio, our maker lab in Geneva, and to the laser engraver. The programs included a series of videos on how to engrave a design on a glass salt & pepper shaker, as well as a pattern on a leather-bound notebook.
- Dwight also offered two sessions on **Designing for the Large-Format Poster Printer**. The discussion was mainly focused on using Canva.com as a starting point for creating 24" x 72" glossy posters. Rebecca's previous marketing materials were beautifully executed and gave an excellent example of the sort of results that we will be offering our patrons with this new tool in The Studio.
- Dwight is working on programming for the summer camp run by the **Ashtabula County Community Action Agency**. This continuing partnership with the Dragon PLUS after school program has Dwight creating a series of projects related to teens using the new 3D resin printer. This program will culminate with each teen creating a Rube Goldberg Machine that incorporates one 3D printed object.
- **Summer Reading Kickoff Parties** were held in both buildings on May 22. Although the crowds were tween and teen heavy, several families with younger children joined us to register for summer reading, learn about summer programming, and start the summer on a sweet note with root beer floats.
- Tina led **Storytime** sessions in Geneva whose themes all celebrated different letters of the alphabet with corresponding books, crafts and activity sheets/coloring sheets to take home. Favorites were A Mouth Full of Minnows by John Hare, complemented by the creation of a turtle mosaic (to celebrate the letter T), and How to Dress a Dragon by Thelma Lynne Godin, accompanied by the creation of colorful dragon masks (to study D).
- **Storytime** in Ashtabula was led by Teresa and Tina and featured books and crafts about funny animals. Kids enjoyed I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen and They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel. The children's absolute favorite was Teresa's frog puppet that taught them the song *Five Little Speckled Frogs*.



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- Focus on individual instruments and unique sounds was the thrust of **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers**. They used “bells only” for most of one session using individual bells, sleighbells and jingle sticks; in another, they used only rhythm sticks to study percussive sounds. The favorite was the session using Boomwhackers and, with practice, they made a band of them to play *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.
- **Little Scientists** in Geneva used coding mice, nano bugs to create binary messages on necklaces, and experimented with chemical balloon inflation. Students made lemon volcanoes by cutting lemons in thirds then adding food coloring and baking soda to create a chemical reaction. They finished the semester with an art week where they worked on summer decorations and murals that are now hanging in the Children’s Room.
- Ashtabula’s **Little Scientists** worked on an Elemental Precipitation Lab inspired by Marie Curie. They modeled a process Marie Curie invented to extract radium from rocks by using Epsom salt rocks and a washing soda solution to separate liquid from solid matter -- Marie Curie got radium; our Little Scientists got salt. (The participants said this was the coolest experiment they've done at Little Scientists so far!) Students also spent a week creating paper planes and were tasked with making (and modifying) launchers to make their planes go ever further. Another favorite this month was making slime and elephant toothpaste (creating a chemical reaction that spews foam from a bottle).
- **Homeschoolers at the Geneva Library** worked on several things through the month of May including creation of paper plane launchers and parachutes and making a collaborative painting for the Children’s Room. Students had the most fun with a Shadow Puppet Theater where students created their own mini theaters out of recycled cereal boxes and then used their puppets to perform for parents at the end of the class.
- Teresa led **Homeschoolers at the Ashtabula Library** where students also created paper plane launchers and parachutes and created their own shadow puppet theater characters. They had the most fun making Aztec Mosaic Masks by using a clay paste to attach mosaic tiles to cardboard.
- Teresa led artistic tweens and teens in Geneva’s **Afterschool Art Club**. They spent a session following up on an earlier project of self-portraits and modified the mission from “introduce yourself through self-portrait” to “show how you’ve grown”. They made *puzzle art*, wherein each student created their own free-form puzzle piece, then all participants put the puzzle together to make a collective piece. They also completed a *felt mouse craft* where they designed, cut and sewed stuffed mice dolls. It was a great opportunity for students who had never sewn before to learn basic stitching techniques.
- **Teen Crafternoon** was well attended by afterschool kids in Geneva. Students created mixed media landscapes, spring flower bouquets out of Perler beads, and painted rocks with acrylic markers.
- Geneva students worked with watercolors and acrylic paint pens during **Open Art Lab** and made still life drawings and painted self-portraits.





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- In **Teens Create**, Tiffany led teens and tweens in making macramé plant hangers and wall decor with yarn and wooden rods. They also made two collaborative wildflower tapestries with canvas fabric and paint and had a blast making tiny house plants with green beads and miniature flowerpots.
- Tina hosted **Stir it Up** for Geneva students. They made caramel apple bites, sausage gravy and potatoes, and microwave scrambled eggs.
- Sybil led afterschool kids in **All Fun & Games** which focused on games that are puzzle related. They completed a 350-piece crossword puzzle, played medieval-themed puzzle games, *Clue*, and various word-riddle puzzles.
- David's **Tech Toys** classes in Geneva took VR tours and created their own environments with world-building apps.
- VR headsets were also popular in David's tween program, **Gadgets, Gizmos, & Games**, but students also had fun creating things with Perler beads and 3D pens.
- Carrie went to the **ACCOA Center for Active Living** to assist patrons there with their genealogical research. There were seven (7) attendees.
- Groups of students from **Austinburg Elementary** and **Geneva Platt R. Spencer Elementary** had **field trips to the Geneva Library**. Sybil, Tina and David led seven different classrooms through the Hobbit Door and into modified Storytimes featuring books about libraries and books, and traditional library songs. All students got a full tour of the library (including excursions to the tree house) and received stickers, coloring pages, and summer reading event flyers to take home.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Ryan attended **Career Day at Platt R. Spencer Elementary School**. He met with all the students in grades 4 and 5 and spoke about **Summer Reading Club 2025**, general services, and programs available to all. He also gave an overview of afterschool activities for those making the transition to Geneva Middle School next fall. A student and his mother came in that very night to get library cards because of Ryan's visit!
- Andy and Pamela attended **Career Day at Geneva Middle School**. Organized by A-Tech, this event brought members of the community and local businesses together to discuss career ideas with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Andy led a classroom portion for the rotating groups of students that gave an overview of library/bookmobile services, and Pamela gave tours of the bookmobile that showed how method turns into actuality.
- Karen represented ACDL at the **Ashtabula Regional Medical Center's Community Connection Fair**.
- Carrie attended both the **America 250th Committee** meeting and the **July 4, 2026, Celebration** committee meeting.
- Mike attended two (2) **Ashtabula Lions Club** meetings in his capacity as Club Secretary and assisted with the First Saturday Pancake Breakfast.

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- Rebecca attended one (1) **Ashtabula Rotary Club** meeting, the Greater Ashtabula Area Chamber's monthly **Good Morning Ashtabula** meeting, and a **NEO Fund Networking Meeting: Marketing 101**.

### MARKETING

- Item displays at the Geneva building included plants/gardening, *Star Wars*, and Memorial Day. The ***Blind Date with a Book and Movie*** display resulted in 29 circulations (plus, a former City Council member took several photos of the display to post on social media which got a plethora of "likes!")
- Displays for May in the Ashtabula building included Asian American & Pacific Heritage Month, National Pet Month, *Star Wars*, Noodles, and Spring Gardening.
- The passive program in Ashtabula, ***Blind Date with A Book***, remains popular. This month *Star Wars* and other Sci-Fi books were featured which resulted in 14 checkouts.
- The top performing social media post this month was the job posting for the Makerspace Librarian position – reaching over 2000 accounts. Close behind it, with a reach of just over 1800, was the post on the Friends of the Library book sale in Ashtabula.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Alecia attended *Basic Cataloging and Classification LSSC* presented through Infopeople Online Learning.
- Austin attended Ryan Dowd's webinar, *How to Address Body Odor Without Awkwardness*, and Ohio Net's *Introduction to Dublin Core* webinar where he was introduced to the basics of metadata.
- Rebecca, Alecia, Carrie W. and Ryan attended Ryan Dowd's webinar, *Beyond the Pizza Party: A Panel Discussion on How to Maintain Staff Morale*.
- Keith completed the webinar, *Consistent Programming and Unrelenting Empathy: Building a Teen Audience*.
- Tiara, Dawn O., Madelin, Will, Becca, Carrie H., and all Geneva staff completed Beanstack training for summer reading.
- MS Outlook and OneDrive training was completed by Lyn, Susan, Ric, Dawn O., Madelin, Ellen, Will, Becca, Carrie H., Christy, Tiara, and all Geneva staff.
- Ric, Susan, Dawn O., and Carrie H. completed QPR training.
- Mike had another very busy month for **LEADERShip Ashtabula Signature Program** with two (2) theme days on the calendar. *Quality of Life Day* was an eye-opening reminder that "there's nothing to do in Ashtabula County" is only true in one's mind. The focus of discussion was on the notion of "third places". Mike made a point of reminding his classmates that libraries are popular third places as well.
- Mark attended the NEO-RLS training webinar, *Time Management: Yours and Theirs*, and found several techniques he intends to incorporate.



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### VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
  - Char covered the Genealogy room each Monday morning in May. She edited the digitized Ashtabula newspapers (completing 65 issues) and added some recent donations to our photo collection (75 images).
  - Duane covered the local history/genealogy room each Saturday in May.
  - Tom proofread the March obituaries.
  - Rebecca assisted with editing the digitized Ashtabula newspapers, completing four (4) issues in May.
  - Paula covered the local history/genealogy room while Carrie W. presented a program at the Ashtabula Senior Center.

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