



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – August 2025

I want to offer you (Penny) my congratulations on the completion of the Geneva Library expansion. I've seen the progress when I've had to drive through Geneva from time to time. You and your staff should be very proud of your accomplishment. ~ *Ashtabula resident*

“My grandson loved the summer programs, and he is excited about the fall teen programs!” ~ *Geneva patron*

Longtime patron (and volunteer) Carol made mention of the adult book-end displays. She said they caught her eye, look new, and displayed authors she hadn't heard of before. ~ *Dawn R., Geneva Circulation Manager*

Regular adult patron said he is going through a lot of trouble right now but when he comes here, he feels so welcome and cared for. He really appreciates the staff's continuous help and kindness each time he comes in. ~ *Dawn R., Geneva Circulation Manager*

“The new teen space is so awesome! I can't believe I get to hang out here after school!” ~ *Geneva Teen patron*

“Please tell me we get recipe cards every week in *Become a Barista!* I love this program!” (They do!). ~ *Geneva Teen patron Chloe*

A grandparent that regularly brings her grandson to the program told me how much they love coming to *Rhythm Band for Preschoolers*. She said it's the highlight of her grandson's week! ~ *Teresa, Youth Services*

“I work at a library in Pennsylvania and am just visiting. This place is beautiful!” ~ *Ashtabula visitor*



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“I drove in from Mayland. My father was born here, and I was looking for my grandmother’s grave. Duane was outstanding! He gave me a map of the cemetery plots that *they* didn’t even have! Now I have time to visit Walnut Beach too!”
~ *Ashtabula visitor*

“You guys take care of a lot of people here. You’re very patient, I appreciate what you do!”
~ *Ashtabula patron to Becca*

“Public libraries are so important for the health of a society. I will fight tooth and nail for my local libraries!”
~ *Notary patron*

“Thank you very much for coming over to the Geneva building. I very much appreciate the hard work that you put into the library, and I was so glad to see the new wing. The new equipment is BEAUTIFUL, and it was so nice to talk with you during your grand opening event!”
~ *Geneva patron to Dwight*

“Now that we’re back to classes, I can’t wait to have my students come down and learn how to use Hoopla. It seems so easy for our students to borrow a book for class that they can read directly on their Chromebooks.”
~ *Lakeside teacher*

Sybil and Tina encourage parents and students to check out the library after their Geneva Middle School orientation. Not only did they come to check out the new teen space, but staff also created several new library cards for teens *and* their parents!

Geneva schools are back in session. We had more than 400 tweens/teens walk through the doors after school on the first few days of classes (August 26 – 29). The teen patrons seemed excited to have their own space, and the adults were excited to have access to the rest of the library during after school hours.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **17,323 visitors** entered the doors of the Ashtabula, Geneva, and Bookmobile libraries during the month of August, with **11,140 items borrowed remotely** from our Digital Library. **242 documents were notarized** (double that of August 2024! and with no cost

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to patrons) and **272 free faxes were sent** with the assistance of Ashtabula and Geneva staff.

- The **community organizations** that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the library in August included: AARP, Alzheimer's Support Group, Ashcraft, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula/Harbor High Alumni Association, Ashtabula Lions Club, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Municipal Court (Recovery Court Graduation), Bethlehem Experience, Building Resiliency Together, CJ Prentiss Education & Resource Center, Common Ground of NE Ohio, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Democratic Party Writer's Workshop, Woman's Fortnightly (book) Club, Legal Aid, Lenape Native Path, LGBTQ+ Coalition, NEO Fund, Partners with a Purpose, Second Chance Citizen's Circle (Catholic Charities), Senior Care Network, Wellness Initiative for Senior Education, Youngstown Business Incubator.
- **Community organizations** that used meeting spaces in the Geneva Library included Ashtabula County Health Department, Ashtabula County Master Gardeners, Aspire, Community Counseling Center, Geneva Athletic Boosters, Geneva Country Quilters, Geneva Rotary Club, Life Without Chains (NA Group), Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, and Spencerian Writers Group.
- Outreach Services made 17 **House Call** visits distributing 86 items, and 15 **Express Delivery** stops delivering 52 items. 241 items were left during seven (7) stops to **Drop Locations** throughout ACDL's service area.
- Sonya Vedmar from the American Heart Association joined us to kick off our participation in **Libraries with Heart**. Sonya gave an overview of the program, shared heart healthy tips, and demonstrated the stationary blood pressure monitor that will stay in the Geneva Library. She also gifted both buildings portable blood pressure monitors that patrons may check out.
- The Geneva library distributed six (6) **COVID test kits**; the Ashtabula library, twenty-two.
- The **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive** was visited by 140 patrons in August including visitors from California and Maryland. Nearly 450 resources were used.

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PROGRAMMING

- **The Geneva Cookbook Club** enjoyed the book, We the Pizza by Muhammad Abdul-Hadi, with recipes by Michael Carter. Centered around a pizza shop in North Philadelphia, the book delighted club members with its unique graphics and typeset. All were touched by the stories of former inmates who work at the shops, and all were intrigued by the unusual ingredients used in many of the recipes.
- Lizz welcomed six (6) people to **Coffee and Conversation** who were thrilled with the snack selection and impressed by the September Adult book displays. Discussions centered on the ongoing drama with the wife of the Cleveland Heights mayor; a zoo in Denmark that asks patrons to donate their animals as feed (which led to a conversation about humane societies, ethical euthanasia and the grave situation our local APL is facing); unclaimed Guinness World Records (as Guinness World Records celebrates its 70th year!); and a Japanese city weighing limiting smartphone use to two (2) hours per day.
- Patrons used 5.5-millimeter crotchet hooks and 100% cotton yarn to learn how to crotchet Granny Square Coasters in **DIY programs** held in both Geneva and Ashtabula. Patrons learned the basic principles of crotchet, and even though many mistakes were made, the participants learned that the size of the crotchet hook and the type of yarn matter. Everyone completed at least one coaster, and many completed the set! (After Geneva DIY concluded, Keith gave participants a tour of the new addition in Geneva. They were especially impressed by the Studio and its capabilities.)
- Tina spearheaded the last two **Creative Kids** sessions with Kids Only Daycare, one with Keith and one with Teresa. Both sessions had 23 in attendance. At the first session, they enjoyed building with Keva planks, LEGO's and Magna-tiles, as well as cutting, coloring and making a vegetable patch, and using new alphabet tiles to build sentences. They were also tasked with choosing a biography from the children's collection and followed a template to complete basic info on their chosen person, detailing things like birth and death dates, what country the person was from, why were they famous, and other miscellaneous facts about their person. Taylor Swift, Marco Polo, George Washington, Roberto Clemente and Steph Curry were some of the chosen subjects.
- Tina hosted three (3) well-attended Geneva **Storytime** gatherings using the themes: *V is for Vegetables* with 45 attending; *B is for Baseball* with 33 guests; and *Back to School* with 35 children and caregivers in attendance. Learning worksheets pertaining to each theme and letter, along with coloring sheets and a simple craft, were also offered. A

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favorite during the baseball themed week was learning the 7th inning stretch song *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* and the creation of baseball players with accordion legs.

- Ashtabula **Storytime** participants retold the story *Silly Sally* using the flannel board. The Storytime frog puppet helped the children sing *Five Little Speckled Frogs* before reading the pop-up book, *The Wide Mouth Frog*. Several new families joined this month and said they were excited to keep bringing their toddlers to Storytime!
- Preschoolers at **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers** particularly enjoyed learning a new song called *Pass the Beanbag* where all the children sat in a circle and passed a beanbag around slowly and quickly to practice tempo.
- Ashtabula **Little Scientists** learned about telescopes and constellations. Students painted and decorated paper tube telescopes which they used to look at constellation cards. They also learned about Biome Diorama and each was tasked with creating a diorama of either a Savannah biome or a Taiga biome. They learned about the five major biomes and how their ecosystems are different from one another.
- **Little Scientists** in Geneva made slime using a Borax recipe. Students had a great time playing with the slime and studying the varying results of using different quantities of Borax. The following week students learned how to code. Using OZO the robot, students programed the coding mice to complete several mazes that they built. They also learned binary coding techniques through making a beaded necklace and using code in the pattern of the beads.
- Teens, too, learned the binary coding technique by using codes in beads for a bracelet or necklace in **Mad Science**. They also helped build mazes and programed the coding mice to complete more complex mazes.
- Teens enjoyed making pony bead animals during Geneva's **Teen Crafternoon**. Using string and pony beads, they created alligators, frogs, and more! and had the option to put a clasp on their creations to turn them into backpack charms.
- In **Afterschool Art Club**, teens completed a Meet the Artist form that they were able to decorate and doodle on while also telling a bit about themselves. After filling out their forms, each student created a folding self-portrait which unfolded to show the inner workings of their minds (things they like or hobbies they have; things that they felt represented who they are; etc.)
- **Signs, Signals, & Codes** is a new weekly program for after-school students in Geneva. At the first session, students learned about the Astrological calendar and the Zodiac signs, including its history and relevance from the time it was formed up to present day, and



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now, pseudo-science standing. Each participant was able to go online and print out a birth chart unique to them.

- Jim saw a total of 29 people at his two (2) Rae-Ann **Reading Circles**. They finished The Journal of Scott Allen Collins by Walter Dean Myers. Afterwards, Jim gave them an impromptu history lecture about World War II, and they told him about loved ones who had served in the war. 15 people attended his Geneva Center for Nursing and Rehab Reading Circles where they finished Ray Bradbury's collection of short stories, One More for the Road. Some of the stories sparked discussion with the residents.
- Five (5) members of the **Senior Center Book Club** read, My name is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout.
- The **Ashcraft Activity Adventure** group (17 participants) enjoyed the movie *Autumn and the Black Jaguar*. They also created papercrafts and played video games. The **Active Day** group (14 participants) watched the movie, *Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank*, and some members checked out books and DVDs. We plan to continue these collaborative programs with the Board of Developmental Disabilities through October, break for the winter, and resume them again in the spring.
- Our **Tech Connect** programs in both Geneva and Ashtabula are well attended. Dwight is focused on serving as many members of the community as possible. To that end, we are limiting each time slot to a maximum of 30 minutes, and the goal is to keep as many as possible to 10 minutes or less. Our patrons are *very* happy to receive this service. There is usually a “line”.
- The August genealogy program, *Researching Your Union Civil War Ancestors*, was attended by nine (9) in-house and 22 online attendees.
- Carrie went to the **ACCOA Center for Active Living** to assist patrons with their genealogical research. There were seven (7) attendees.
- Passive Programming in Ashtabula:
 - **Blind Date with a Book:** Juvenile Mysteries: 36 checkouts.
 - **Adult Coloring Club:** five (5) participants.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Youth Services and Outreach Services worked together to cover **all school open houses** for Geneva Area City Schools and the elementary campus of Ashtabula Area City Schools. Staff met students and caregivers, sharing library events info and swag. Dwight, Pamela and Andy (with YO worker, Clay) also attended *AACS Dragon Bash*. Tina and

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Teresa attended *Buckeye Local Schools' Back to School Bash*, and Sybil and Ryan attended the *City of Geneva's Back to School* event.

- Members of Outreach Services joined Teresa, David and Ryan to provide a bookmobile stop, games, library swag and events info at *Geneva's Movies Under the Stars* event on August 5.
- The bookmobile took part in the **Austinburg Country Days** Parade.
- Rebecca attended one **Ashtabula Rotary Club** meeting.
- Lyn attended the bi-monthly meeting of **Partners with a Purpose**.
- Carrie attended both the **America 250th Committee** meeting and the **July 4, 2026, Celebration Committee** meetings.
- Mike attended a **Ashtabula Lions** Board Meeting and participated in the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast. Of note, due to some reorganization in the club, Mike has swapped roles with the Club Treasurer and is now serving in that capacity.

MARKETING

- Rebecca quickly designed and ordered signs for the **Bill & Pat Douglass Children's Room**, the restroom, and the book sale room in Geneva. She gauged a color match by eye and came very, very close to the original sign colors. Painesville Publishing got the signs back to us very quickly, and Josh installed them within hours of receipt.
- The **September Library Card Sign-Up Month** campaign allows new and renewing card holders to be entered into a drawing to win a Kindle Fire tablet. All check outs (returning patrons) will be entered into a second drawing to win a library swag bag (a tote bag, water bottle, tee shirt, lunch bag, pen, and bookmark).
- **Social media:** The top three posts on social media this month were those featuring the photos of the expansion in Geneva and the Grand Opening– which is not surprising! We had a lot of nice photo posts this month thanks to the new volunteer and staff members who have sent in photos of programs.
- The most clicked on program of the **Augusts Highlights** email was the Youth Services Open House, followed very closely by the two Studio Workshop programs.
- Book displays in Geneva included materials on the themes *Dog Days of Summer*, *Staff Favorites*, *Art Appreciation*, and *Oceans/Beaches*.
- Book displays in Ashtabula included materials on the themes *Color Our World – Summer Reading*, *Back to School*, *Dog Days of Summer*, *All About Pies* – fiction and nonfiction,

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and *Pirates* - nonfiction books about pirates both modern and historical. The Adult Fiction end caps featured *Summer Reads*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dawn R., Jim, Monica, Elizabeth and Haley watched a short YouTube video *How to End a Conversation Politely*.
- Monica and Jim attended the webinar *How to Set Boundaries with Library Patrons*.
- Karen trained with Mike on how to upload board minutes, board agendas, month-in-review reports, and policies to our website—all are now current.
- Rebecca provided Pamela a basic lesson on using templates in Canva.
- Dawn O. and Clay trained on the Cricut.
- Christy trained on the laminating machine.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Friends of Geneva Library** hosted a visit from Kira Hartley Klinger and illustrator Kitt Allen who discussed and shared their new kids' book, Arlo the Camp Bus. Hartley Klinger was also the guest speaker at the **Friends Author Luncheon** where she discussed her adult non-fiction book, Fabric Wars and More!. 17 guests attended.
- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
 - Char covered the local history/genealogy room each Monday morning in August. She edited the digitized Ashtabula newspapers (completing 80 issues) and added some recent donations to our photo collection (31 images). She also proofread the June obituaries.
 - Duane covered the local history/genealogy room each Saturday in August.
 - Paula covered the local history/genealogy room while Carrie provided a genealogy program at the Ashtabula Senior Center.