

ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – December 2025

“I’m so overwhelmed by how nice this is, I feel like I could cry!”

~ *Visiting GHS graduate touring the new wing of the Geneva building*

“Kudos to Jim! He was very helpful in locating a title for me. He looked it up, got it on hold for me, let me know when it was ready, and sure enough, when I came in, it was right there on the holds shelf for me!”

~ *Geneva patron, Gerry*

“I know it might sound trite, but I am deeply grateful [for all your help].”

~ *Ashtabula patron to Ric*

“This is such a beautiful library. I never visit it enough!”

~ *Geneva patron*

“Everything you offer is just amazing!”

~ *Geneva patron*

“Thank you for all you do at the library. We always look forward to seeing you (Dawn).”

~ *Geneva patron*

“This current Geneva staff is the most cohesive staff I've ever seen here! They all work together so well and seem to really like each other. (Even when I was here, we were always swiping at each other.) They are just great!”

~ *former Geneva employee (who preceded Ryan, even!)*

“Thank you for being so nice. This has been a hard process for us, and we appreciate your kindness very much.”

~ *Ashtabula notary patron who was selling their family home*

“Thank you for your help. I live in Dorset, and the internet connection is terrible. I always come in to print things for work. I'm not so good with computers, you (Dawn) are appreciated!”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

“My daughter is here for testing; I've never been here before. This is beautiful!”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

Ashtabula
440-997-9341
4335 Park Ave
Ashtabula, Ohio



Geneva
440-466-4521
860 Sherman St
Geneva, Ohio

ACDL

The Month In Review

“I moved toward Saybrook, so I don’t get out here very often, but this library is just amazing! And that fireplace is stunning!”
~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I really appreciate that you folks do notaries. Sometimes it’s really hard to get to the bank at the right time.”
~ *Ashtabula patron*

“Do you know of any other place that does this service? I very much enjoy that I can come in and ask you questions about computers and phones. It is clear that you are doing something that people like me very much need, and I think you are the only one who does this!”
~ *Geneva Patron*

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **13,718 patrons visited** the Ashtabula, Geneva, ACDL Bookmobile, and Lakeside Junior High School libraries during the month of November, with **7,647 items borrowed remotely** from our Digital Library.
- 40 **COVID home test kits** were distributed in Ashtabula and 26 were given out in Geneva. 185 **faxes** were sent and 65 documents were **notarized** from our Ashtabula and Geneva libraries.
- 37 people used Geneva’s **blood pressure machine kiosk** (making a grand total of 260 since the kiosk was installed in August 2025!).
- **The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the library in December** included AARP, After School Discovery, Alzheimer’s Support Group, Ashtabula Area City Schools Executive Board, Ashtabula County Beekeeper’s Association, Ashtabula County Board of DD, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Society for Human Resource Management, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Board, Building Resiliency Together, Bula Movie Club, Challenge U, City of Ashtabula Laborers Union, Common Ground of NE Ohio, Jefferson Community Development Corporation, Lakeside Music Boosters, Legal Aid, LGBTQ+ Coalition, Little Mouse Books, NEO Fund, Partners with a Purpose, Senior Care Network, Sky Meditation, United Wealth Education, Youngstown Business Initiative, and Youth Leadership.
- **Community organizations using the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Community Room and other meeting spaces in the Geneva library** included Ashtabula County

ACDL

The Month In Review

Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ashtabula County Health Department, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center, Buckeye Online School, Geneva Area Teachers Association (GATA), Geneva Country Quilters, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Rotary Club, Life Without Chains (NA Group), Modern Literary Group, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, Spencerian Writers Group.

- Bailey conducted informational sessions and hands-on assistance in **the Studio** with five (5) pre-scheduled patrons and gave tours, overviews and consultations with nine (9) drop-in visitors.
- Outreach staff made 18 **Express Deliveries**, delivering 27 items, and made 13 **House Call** visits, delivering 84 items. 153 items were left at **book drop locations** in Ashtabula Township, Geneva-on-the-Lake, and Pierpont.
- Another batch of digitized newspapers was sent to the **Ohio History Connection** for upload. This batch included the Ashtabula Beacon Record, 1902-1905; The Kingsville Tribune, various dates between 1885-1904; the Ashtabula Dart Newspaper, various dates between 1931-1943; and the Andover Citizen, 1959-1961. This upload contained just over 800GB of information.
- The **Ashtabula Memory** site for the fourth quarter of 2025 had nearly 3,500 sessions and approximately 13,500 views. For the year 2025 there were a total of almost 7,100 sessions and 61,600 views.

PROGRAMMING

- Jim finished Skipping Christmas by John Grisham at his first December Rae Ann **Reading Circle** (15 people attended). The activities director planned to show the movie “Christmas with the Kranks” (based on the Grisham book) that evening so the circle could compare the book to the movie. At his second December visit, Jim read a collection of Christmas stories and poetry from the anthology A Vintage Christmas as well as the original Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke in the Bible.
- Participants of the Geneva **Cookbook Club** appreciated the comprehensive nature of The Good Housekeeping Christmas Cookbook and none of the eight (8) people present got sick from the pecan pie Ryan made!
- Tiffany and Ryan hosted students from **Geneva High School’s ESC programs**. Students took a tour of the building, enjoyed a craft table, and made homemade chocolate cookies. The students had a great time and were extremely capable bakers!
- Dawn R. and Ryan hosted **Holiday Bingo** in Geneva for 43 adults (and a few younger adults!)
- Elizabeth led Geneva’s **Adult Book Club**. Ten (10) attendees discussed Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir.

ACDL

The Month In Review

- Bailey led extremely popular **Studio** programs for both adults and seniors. This month attendees practiced using the embroidery machine. They designed and then embroidered stockings.
- Eight (8) attendees gathered in Geneva for **Coffee and Conversation** with Elizabeth. The group discussed a drunk raccoon in Virginia, a reindeer raised by dogs, a hiker stuck in quicksand (who was rescued because her library book club members noticed her absence), and drones flying crab legs, steaks, marijuana, and cigarettes to prison inmates.
- Participants of both Geneva and Ashtabula gatherings of **DIY** created shelf stable hot chocolate in a jar. Participants used a basic recipe Keith created, then discussed options for sugar free substitutes as well as other additives to make the recipe personal to them. They personalized the design of jars and created gift tags for those meant to be seasonal gifts.
- **Homeschoolers at the Library** (both locations) created winter landscape paintings inspired by Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Hunters in the Snow*; read Robert Frost's poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* then were challenged to create their own winter poem; and completed winter-themed building challenges (such as "build a mug of hot chocolate") using only LEGOs.
- **Little Scientists** in Ashtabula enjoyed a Snowflake Science Lab where they used diffusion techniques to make coffee filter snowflakes, and salt and glue snowflake paintings; created gingerbread houses out of cardboard; and also completed the winter-themed LEGO challenges.
- **Little Scientists** in Geneva focused on making fun ornaments with Perler beads as well as creating LEGO marble mazes. They worked with OZO the Coding Bot and his amazing tricks. Students love creating a path with hidden messages for OZO to decode. Each message gives OZO a specific job to do.
- **Storytime** kids in Ashtabula particularly loved *Polar Bear Day* featuring books like A Polar Bear in the Snow by Mac Barnett and participated in a felt board story, *Marco the Polar Bear*, where they helped Teresa "feed" Marco fish in different colors of the rainbow as the story progressed. Also popular was a special Christmas storytime with books like When Santa Was a Baby by Linda Bailey and Suzy Goose and the Christmas Star by Petr Horáček.
- Geneva **Storytime** gatherings featured themes of toys, featuring books like Toys in Space by Mini Grey, and Christmas, with How to Catch Santa Claus by Alice Walstead & Andy Elkerton and A Very Fuddles Christmas by Frans Vischer being the favorites.
- **Sensory Stay & Play** for preschoolers featured Christmas themes with holiday lullabies playing in the background. Children played with stuffed animals and puppets as well as a sensory bin filled with pinecones, shredded tissue paper and little plastic ornaments.
- In addition to practicing their old favorites, kids at **Rhythm Band** learned a new song called *Animal Walk* by Ladybug Melodies where each animal in the song is represented by

ACDL

The Month In Review

a different instrument. Each child is assigned an instrument and then must wait for their animal cue to play in the song—they love it!

- Teens at Geneva's **Afterschool Art Club** created mixed media collages inspired by Robert Frost's poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.
- **Mad Science** teens each built a holiday village of their own creation. Then they made Lego cars and trucks to go into the village and started a short stop-motion animation film of the activity. As a final treat (and lesson) of the year, they studied the chemistry of baking cookies and made Disney themed sugar cookies.
- This month in **Role Playing Games**, David helped the students develop characters of their own and began to build 3-D prints of the characters they designed (these will be printed during winter break and ready for action when students return). All students also participated in a new roleplaying game that was created by one of the other students. This student ran the table as game master while the others played and gave him feedback about his game.
- David led **Writer's Block** for students as they worked on holiday short story prompts “you're at a holiday party-- explain the scene” and “create a heartwarming story about finding the perfect gift.” For the final session of the year, they were prompted to write scary or horror Christmas stories.
- **Stir it Up** teens learned to make different Christmas cookies during the month, including peppermint cookies and sugar cookies.
- Keith and Bailey led three (3) sessions of **Studio Workshop for Teens**. All students created personalized ornaments for themselves and to share with other teens using a different piece of equipment each week. Ornaments were made with the Glowforge to craft one-dimensional Christmas ornaments on medium weight maple plywood; with the 3D printer in conjunction with design elements in Tinkercad; and with the sublimation printer & the heat press, using either pre-printed collages or by drawing unique designs using sublimation markers.
- Geneva teens who attended **Survival Skills** worked through a series of survival scenarios that tested them on a culmination of the skills they have learned throughout the fall. They also created a mini shelter using miscellaneous items with a warm rock as the test. They then buried the shelter in the snow and after a half hour checked to see if their rock was still warm or cold and if it was dry or wet.
- The Ashtabula **Holiday Bingo and Jingle Bell Bash** event was a huge success with over 270 patrons joining us for lunch, 35 for Bingo and 69 for the raffle. We also had a visit with Santa, distributed free children's books, and had holiday crafts for the children to make. It was a fun day for all! Lyn, Tina, and Teresa organized and implemented the event with help from Ellen and Tiara.
- At the **Senior Center Book Club**, five (5) patrons discussed Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides.

ACDL

The Month In Review

- **Passive Programs in Ashtabula included** *Blind Date with a Cookbook: Let's Bake; Staff Picks; Holiday Movies* (double features) and *Creative Coloring Club*.
- The cybersecurity training course that was offered to staff has greatly enhanced the **Tech Connect** program. The key take-home message of the *Gateway One: Cyber Mindfulness* training is that computer users need to slow down their thought process and avoid making emotional decisions when it comes to cybersecurity. Dwight reports that the training not only made him more aware of the most common phishing schemes and attacks, but it also gave him the words to talk more articulately with the public about how to: slow down, think and avoid most of these potential issues.
- The bookmobile visited all Geneva elementary schools, the Ashtabula elementary schools and all elementary classes at St. John. In addition, they were able to add a new stop at St. John School for 7-12 grades, which has already gotten good traction. More county youth are served bi-weekly at the After School Discovery and Boys and Girls Club stops. The stop at Eagle Country Store is extremely popular with Amish students.
- The December Genealogy program, *Scottish Immigration to America*, was attended by nine (9) patrons in person and 17 patrons online.
- Lyn presented a short informational program about Library Careers and gave a tour to over 130 elementary and middle school students and parents from Afterschool Discovery.
- Carrie helped patrons with their genealogy at the ACCOA (Ashtabula Senior Center). There were seven (7) attendees.
- Rebecca has been working with Dwight on a series of Roblox videos to be published on our social media pages. Dwight is doing all the filming and pre-production while Rebecca handles the editing and posting. They have finished the first in the series and plan to start posting these in January.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- The bookmobile took part in Geneva's Christmas Parade on December 5.
- Lyn represented the library at the Partners with a Purpose bi-monthly meeting.
- Mike represented ACDL at the November/December Ohio Means Jobs Partner meeting on December 10th.
- Rebecca attended two (2) Ashtabula Rotary Club meetings/service projects in December.

MARKETING

- Ashtabula displays featured *Cooking on a Budget; Personal Finance; Happy Holidays; Cozy Holiday Romance; and National White Ribbon Month*.
- Geneva displays featured topics *Spiritual Literacy Month; Universal Human Rights Month; Emoji Reads; and Christmas*.

ACDL

The Month In Review

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Lyn, Ellen, Madelin, Will, Jim, Elizabeth, Dawn R, Haley K., Hayley N., Andy, Pamela, Tina, Ryan, Carrie, Austin, Karen, and David completed *Microsoft Teams Essential Training* offered through Linked-In.
- Haley K attended the *Notary Education* class at the Ashtabula County Law Library.
- Elizabeth attended the *Big Programming for Small Budgets* webinar from Programminglibrarian.org.
- Ryan attended a virtual meeting on *Mentoring* sponsored by ACSHRM.
- Avery, Dawn O., Sybil, Tiffany, Keith, and Ryan completed *Canva* training developed and presented by Rebecca.
- David, Haley K, Lyn, Ric, Susan, Carrie, Austin, Karen, Dawn O., Ellen, Becca, Avery, Will, Tiara, Teresa and Madelin completed the training: *Cyber Mindfulness via Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement*.
- In addition to the Cyber Mindfulness training from OPCI mentioned above, Mark and Mike completed the *Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement* courses *Cybersecurity 101*, *Frameworks*, *Risk Management*, and *Organizational & Third Party Security*. Mark also completed training in *Vulnerability Management* and *Network Control Systems*.
- Lyn, Ric and Susan completed *Etiquette: Phone, Email, and Text* by Toni Purvis, proprietor of The School of Disruptive Behavior, hosted by LinkedIn.
- Will trained to use the laminating machine.
- Rebecca attended the course, *Email Marketing Strategy: Warming up a Cold Email List*.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- The Friends of Geneva Library completed their holiday chance raffle by auctioning off more than 25 ticketed prize baskets, raising more than \$1,200.
- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
 - Char covered the local history/genealogy room each Monday morning in December. She added 39 photos, proofread the October obits, and edited 14 issues of the *Ashtabula Beacon Record*.
 - Duane covered the local history/genealogy room each Saturday in December and continued helping a patron with research on an early settler of the area.
 - Tina worked on transcribing and began scanning the 1999 Geneva yearbook.
 - Paula covered the local history/genealogy room while Carrie presented a program at ACCOA.