

ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – February 2026

A patron left a small bouquet of flowers for staff at the Ashtabula Library on President's Day.
(displayed at the front desk)

“Today was an okay day, but it got better because I got to come here!”
~ Anonymous patron note

“Thank you for always helping me get what I need, I appreciate it!”
~ Patron Phyllis to Dawn O.

“I'm impressed with how dedicated you all are. You care about your job, and it shows.”
~ Ashtabula patron, John

“I went to your (Dwight's) *Cut the Cord to Cable* program last year. You told us all about how streaming services work, and I took notes. I didn't need to do research, because I already knew which services I wanted, and I felt confident because you held that class. I just thought that I should take the time to thank you.”

“You guys are such a wealth of knowledge!”
~ Geneva patron to Elizabeth and Jim

A temporarily homebound patron called to specifically thank Andy personally for helping deliver materials while she was recovering from surgery. “He was a lifesaver!”

“This is the most beautiful library I've ever seen”
~ Geneva Library visitor

A patron and her two kids were having trouble logging onto the computers and proclaimed Jim “magical” after he fixed their issue and got them online.

“The side displays (end caps) are terrific!”
~ Geneva patron

PUBLIC SERVICE

- In February, ACDL staff welcomed more than **18,000 patrons** through the doors of the Ashtabula Library, Geneva Library, Bookmobile, and Lakeside Jr. High School. In addition, **6,197 items** were borrowed remotely through our Digital Library which is open 24/7.
- The Ashtabula Library distributed three **Gun Locks** and 27 **Sub Zero Mission Survival Bags**.

Ashtabula
440-997-9341
4335 Park Ave
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Geneva
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- ACDL patrons sent out **204 faxes** and had 147 documents **notarized**.
- The **community organizations** that used the *Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room* and other spaces in the Ashtabula library in February included: AARP, Alzheimer's Support Group, Ashcraft, Ashtabula Area City Schools Executive Board, Ashtabula County Board of DD, Ashtabula County Historical Society, Ashtabula Lions Club, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Young Democrats, Beekeepers Association, Buckeye Pace, Building Resiliency Together, Bula Movie Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, Empower Her Ashtabula, Excell Schools, Geneva Camera Club, Girl Scouts, GRIT Coalition, Graduation Alliance, Lakeside Music Boosters, Legal Aid, Lenape Native Path, LGBTQ+ Coalition, NAACP, What the Ghost (paranormal exploration group), Partners with a Purpose, Second Chance Citizens Circle (Catholic Charities), Sky Meditation, United Wealth Education, Vantage Aging, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Zonta.
- **Community organizations** using the *Robert S. Morrison Foundation Community Room* and other meeting spaces in the Geneva library included: AARP Tax Assistance Program, Active Day, Ashtabula County Auditor, Ashtabula County Board of DD, Ashtabula County Health Department, Daughters of the American Revolution, Geneva Academic Boosters, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Little League, Geneva Rotary Club, League of Women Voters, Life Without Chains (NA Group), Platt R Spencer Historical Society, Ravenwood Health, REM Ohio, Sons of the American Revolution, Spencerian Writers Group, University Hospitals/Geneva Nurses Union.
- 17 people **checked their blood pressure** at Geneva's *American Heart Association's* blood pressure kiosk in February.
- Outreach staff made 17 **Express Delivery** stops, delivering 26 items, and made 13 **House Call** visits, delivering 131 items. 139 items were left at **book drop locations** in Ashtabula Township, Austinburg, Geneva-on-the-Lake, and Denmark.
- Austin completed 38 obituary requests and 12 archive research requests.

PROGRAMMING

- Ashcraft **Active Day Movie Club** had 14 attendees who enjoyed their lunch in the library and watched the movie, *Lucky's Treasurer*, while some members worked on an array of puzzles.
- The **Black History Art Reception** was a success in celebrating the community's artwork. Included among the pieces was a freedom quilt that incorporated squares made by the students at the Geneva Library.
- Ashtabula Library presented the **3rd Annual Films of the Freedom Movement**. This year the 2019 film *Harriet* was shown to 28 participants who indicated that they really enjoyed the movie. Refreshments were provided. After the film, the group discussed the underground railroad and Harriet Tubman's bravery.

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- Five patrons attended Susan's **Senior Center Book Club**, at the Ashtabula County Center for Active Living, where they discussed Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz.
- The February meeting for the **Writers' Group** was well attended. Attendees reviewed writing samples from two members and discussed editing strategies as a group. There were also two new people there to talk about their writing interests.
- There were new patrons at both the Ashtabula and Geneva sessions of the **Tech Connect** programs in February. The service continues to find new users while retaining its "regulars".
- The February genealogy program, **Breaking Down That Brick Wall**, was attended by 24 online and five in-person patrons.
- **Fiber Friends** is starting to attract new patrons as the word gets around. Two new members have joined who love having an opportunity to get out of their apartments to work on their projects and socialize.
- Fifteen people attended Geneva's **Cookbook Club** to conclude a discussion of The Food Lab by J. Kenji Lopez-Alt. The group practiced cutting onions and participated in making Fast French Onion Soup from the book, led by faithful attendee, Gerry. Regular participant, Beck, pre-made the book's traditional French Onion Soup recipe and club members taste-tested both.
- Ryan hosted Geneva's **Coffee and Conversation**. Ten people discussed ACDL's current financial situation (all were VERY supportive and complimentary of us); the BAFTA incident involving a man with Tourette spouting racial slurs; and Larry the Cat's 15th Anniversary as the Chief Mouser at 10 Downing Street, London, UK.
- Jim had 28 people attend his two Rae Ann **Reading Circles** and had 16 people attend his two Geneva Center of Nursing and Rehab Reading Circles. They continued to read the award-winning children's novel Skellig by David Almond.
- In **the Studio**, Bailey hosted two adult workshops, two senior workshops, two child activities for Pirate Day, and nine afterschool teen walk-in sessions. She had three scheduled appointments and 23 walk-ins and gave 76 tours of the Studio to potential users. In total, 32 adults were coached on projects on various machines, including a patron who made custom signage for her daughter's "Barbie" birthday and a gentleman who made stickers and a vinyl sign for his small business.
- Liz led 10 attendees in Geneva's **Adult Book Club**. Most participants savored Salmon Rushdie's Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder.
- **Geneva Storytime** groups enjoyed books about ducks featuring nonfiction and picture books. (Duck on a Bike by David Shannon was the favorite.) They loved learning about the Lunar New Year (and the Year of the Horse designation) and had fun with a session devoted to unicorns. They especially enjoyed Never Let a Unicorn Wear a Tutu by Diane Alber—it got everyone laughing. Kiddos also learned about the importance of brushing your teeth and enjoyed books celebrating February as Dental Health Month, with You Think It's Easy Being the Tooth Fairy by Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt being the clear favorite story of the week.

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- **Storytimers in Ashtabula** enjoyed the same books and themes as those in Geneva; except they celebrated Valentine's Day instead of the Lunar New Year. Attendees enjoyed reading Valentine-themed stories while looking out for the color of the day—*pink*. They played with pink puppets and pointed out the color pink as they followed the stories. They also created Silly Valentine's where they glued googly eyes to a cut and created cardboard heart. Everyone who attended got to take home a valentine and a treat!
- Parents and their babies and toddlers at **Sensory Stay & Play** (sessions in both buildings) enjoyed listening to heavy metal lullabies while exploring 'cloud dough'. The following week they listened to 90's alternative rock lullabies and enjoyed exploring an alphabet sensory bin in which the littles used tiny tongs to pull out plastic uppercase and lowercase letters that were swimming in a sea of shredded paper. They enjoy playing with sensory stones and tiles each week, too!
- Teresa and Tina led **Rhythm Band** preschoolers in a variety of styles and musical periods last month. One exercise had preschoolers listening for the tempos in different classical pieces and playing along using rhythm sticks; there were slow selections like *Fur Elise*, and faster ones like the works of Rossini. Another week, the theme was "I Love Rock & Roll" in which they used their rhythm sticks to match beat and mood, then moved on to adding instruments as accompaniment to the music (toddlers really enjoyed the rock music, but some of the grandparents did not!) Preschoolers also got physical by participating in a *Toddler Gym* with music that had them move their bodies to different beats by clapping hands, stomping feet, shaking their heads and then playing all the instruments.
- **Little Scientists** in Ashtabula had a variety of activities to enjoy in February. They took part in an *Earthquake Lab* which challenged them to build a structure that could support itself and was at least 12 inches tall, then they put their structures on a shake table and tested their stability during an "earthquake". Students also took part in a *Valentine's Day Building Challenge* during which they used prompt cards that were placed around the room then had to use the materials on the STEM cart to build the challenge detailed on the prompt card. They had a lot of fun creating mazes out of LEGO blocks, then creating codes to conquer the maze. They, of course, loved the *Slime Lab* unit: they used glue and a slime activator to create their own slime that they got to color, put in add-ins like glitter, and packaged up their slime to take home.
- Geneva's **Little Scientists** learned about structures and learned how to build bridges from Legos. The following week, they studied *weather* and built a snowstorm in a bottle. They also enjoyed learning about natural disasters and absolutely loved a volcano experiment where simulated volcanic eruptions were created by using plastic volcanoes, baking soda and vinegar. Finally, they spent a fun session using the Nano Hex Bugs to study how ants and bugs move about through their burrows.
- **Homeschoolers** at both Geneva and Ashtabula buildings completed a Winter Activity Poll and Graph in which they asked fellow students what their favorite winter activity was from a list of

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options and then graphed their results. They enjoyed learning about Salvador Dali Melting Clocks by studying Dali's *The Persistence of Memory* (1931) and then creating their own melting clock artworks. They made a Natural Disasters Lab which challenged them to build a 12" (+) structure that could support itself and then tested the structure's ability to withstand the shake-table "earthquake". They, too, created plastic volcanos that they subsequently made "erupt!" Students really enjoyed a *Mystery Artist Game*, in which they were given a case file on a mystery artist with clues about who they were and then had to work as detectives to solve the mystery artist, then recreate one of the artist's masterpieces.

- Geneva teens who attended **Become a Barista** made Cinnamon Dolce Lattes and Iced Sugar Cookie Lattes. For each drink, teens learned how to brew the 'perfect' pot of coffee and made flavored syrup from scratch. They also made Bobba Tea—first they got to see the dehydrated Bobba (or bubbles) and learned how to rehydrate them, then learned how to brew black tea for the drink. Students especially loved making their favorite tea drink, the Arnold Palmer. They learned the origin of the drink and then made lemonade from scratch and brewed the tea fresh.
- Teens at **Stir It Up!** enjoyed units making spaghetti with tomato sauce and cinnamon sugar crescent rolls.
- Dungeons & Dragons *Shadowdark* was played all month and had students facing off against a psionic villain who aimed to take control of reality in Geneva's **Role-Playing Games** (RPG) for teens/tweens. After defeating his minions, players were split into smaller groups and were led by student Gamemasters with RPG reference materials to continue their quests.
- Teens spent the month building structures and learning about the weather and natural disasters in Geneva's afterschool **Mad Science** club. Students really enjoyed building bridges out of decks of cards by carefully snipping the cards so that they could weave the cards together to build their bridges. They continued studying natural disasters by each building a snowstorm in a bottle. They built skyscrapers and other precarious structures with Legos and then tested their capacities to withstand an earthquake triggered by a Ruth Goldberg machine (a series of silly complicated events reminiscent of the game *Mousetrap*).
- Geneva after-schoolers in **Teen Crafternoon** classes had a blast making foil pressed magnets. They also had fun creating with Perler beads and learning basic crochet.
- **Afterschool Art Club** teens enjoyed sculpting a Mini Clay Bust after studying examples of bust sculptures from art history. They also examined the work of Impressionist artist Berthe Morisot and then created their own oil pastel portraits. They spent a unit sketching a landscape on fabric, then put it in an embroidery hoop and used thread to "paint" the landscape a la artist, Sophia Narrett. (For some of the students it was their first time trying embroidery and they all enjoyed it!) They learned about Cubist Still Life, inspired by Pablo Picasso, by drawing a still life of an object in front of them, then used rulers to divide the drawing up into sections to make them appear more abstract.



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- Geneva teens and tweens who attended **Studio Teen Workshops** had a plethora of activities to enjoy. Students experimented with upcycling by using discarded books, magazines, and newspapers to create buttons and pins of various sizes. They created heart-shaped trinket/candy boxes made with grey resin that they painted and then added 3D toppers made with the 3D printer. Another activity was based on creating bracelets using Kumihimo bracelet looms (a circular style disc with grooves for weaving) that were made using the Glowforge laser. Teens then used embroidery floss and laser cut charms to create a cord-like bracelet. And, as a group, teens created a chess board: one student used the Glowforge Design Space to create a simple board while the other teens each chose one chess piece and rendered it in Tinkercad. Finally, the board was engraved on a sheet of green acrylic and later painted half white to match the green and white resin chess pieces. This set was added to the board game collection in the teen area.
- Ashtabula Passive Programming included:
 - *Blind Date with a Book: Happy Valentine's Day*: 35 checkouts
 - *Staff Picks*: 6 checkouts
 - Romance Paperback bundles: 12 checkouts

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Lyn attended the bimonthly meeting for Partners with a Purpose and assisted the NAACP with an educational movie night that was open to the public (*Forgotten Hero: Walter White and the NAACP*).
- Mike attended a meeting of the Ashtabula Lions Club and attended to his duties as Club Treasurer.
- Carrie attended the 4th of July Celebration Committee meeting.
- Ryan served as the Vocabulary Judge for the **All-County Spelling Bee** sponsored by the Educational Service Center. (Students sit for the vocabulary quiz before they take the stage for the spelling portion of the evening.)
- Andy shared information about ACDL services and programs at Michigan Elementary's Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Rebecca attended three Ashtabula Rotary Club meetings.

MARKETING

- The top post on social media was Austin's story on Eliza Humphrey, 'The Goat Lady', followed by a photo story of the last Cookbook club meeting. Nearly tied for views for third place was the post on DIY Geneva and the photo story for Pirate Day.
- Rebecca has been working diligently on a new marketing venture, The ACDL Quarterly electronic newsletter. She hopes to get it out before the end of March.
- Press Release: *ACDL Unveils "The Significant Seven" Collection by Daniel Francis Bridy*



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- Ashtabula displays in February featured topics including *Black History Month*, *Love Languages*, *Lunar New Year*, *Home Organization*, and *Financial Independence*.
- Geneva displays focused on *Black History Month*, *Happy Valentine's Slay* (murderous spouses), *Applying for college*, *Sweets for My Sweet* (dessert cookbooks), *Boozy and Non-Boozy Beverages*, and end caps featuring *Love Ever After*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Carrie attended the NEO/RLS webinar, *Don't Go There: How to Avoid and Disengage from Controversial Conversations with Patrons and Staff*
- Dawn R. completed the NEO webinar *Library Funding 101*
- Tina attended the *Beyond the Basics: Unlocking the Magic of Libby* webinar
- Alecia attended the following trainings:
 - *Basics of Creating Original Catalog Records*
 - *Cataloging Unusual Items*
 - *Sharpening Your Excel Skills*
 - *Understanding the Basics of Microsoft Excel*
 - *Library Bootcamp: Technical Services and the "W"s of Cataloging*
- Rebecca finished the *Top Skills Marketing Professionals Have Right Now* learning path on LinkedIn Learning and completed the following courses:
 - *Digital Marketing Foundations*
 - *Marketing Tools: Search Engine Optimization (SEO)*.
 - *Photoshop Essential Training*
 - *Advertising on Facebook*
 - *Advanced Google Analytics 4*
 - *Communication with Teams*

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Friends of Geneva Library met on February 4 and discussed the library's precarious financial status. With a minimum amount of discussion and almost no dissent, they offered to donate a large portion of their funds and presented Ryan with a check for \$7,500 the next morning!
- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
 - Jan edited 45 issues of the *Ashtabula Beacon Record*.
 - Char covered the local history/genealogy room each Monday morning in February as well as extra days while Carrie was on vacation. She added 44 photos and edited 44 issues of the *Ashtabula Beacon Record*. She proofread the December obituaries and assisted three patrons with research.



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- Duane covered the local history/genealogy room each Saturday in February and continues helping a patron with research on an early settler of the area.
- Paula covered the room while Carrie did a program at the ACCOA.

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