

# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – January 2026

“You’re fantastic! Thank you for all the help on the computer.”

~ Geneva patron

A Geneva patron thanked the library for the wonderful homebound service provided to her close friend. She said her friend is doing so well and one of the reasons is because the library provides her books.

“The library is our favorite place to go.”

~ Geneva patron

“You can get help with anything at the library!”

~ Geneva patron

A gentleman came to the Conklin area to print blueprints. When paying, he waved off the change and said, “Man, I love this place, just keep it.”

~ Karen, Admin. Asst.

A gentleman needed help printing wirelessly. After printing his documents, I asked if there was anything else I could do for him. He replied, “No, this was awesome, you make it painless here.”

~ Karen, Admin. Asst.

“You do such a beautiful job of keeping everything so clean and neat. Ashtabula is lucky to have such a beautiful library.”

~ Patron Ariel

Every time I come here, I am reminded that I need to come more often. You have so many things to offer!”

~ Patron Aimee

“I love my Ashtabula Library!”

~ Ashtabula Patron

“This is awesome, I love coming here!”

~ Ashtabula Patron

“We are so lucky to have this library!”

~ Ashtabula Patron

“I haven’t been here since the remodel, this is beautiful!”

~ Ashtabula Patron

“I can’t think of a more deserving group, you guys are just wonderful!”

~ Ashtabula patron upon being told the floral arrangement at the front desk had been donated

“My kids love it here. They woke up asking if it was time to go to the library. Because they know today is library day!”

~ Ashtabula Patron

“You guys have a beautiful library; it’s a gem here in Ashtabula!”

~ Euclid Visitor

“I love being in this library, it’s so peaceful!”

~ Ashtabula Patron

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### PUBLIC SERVICE

- In January, ACDL staff welcomed more than **14,300 patrons** through the doors of the Ashtabula Library, Geneva Library, Bookmobile, and Lakeside Jr. High School. In addition, **7,280 items** were borrowed remotely through our Digital Library which is open 24/7.
- The **community organizations** that used the *Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room* and other spaces in the Ashtabula library in January included: AARP, Alzheimer's Support Group, Ashtabula Area City Schools Executive Board, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Historical Society, Ashtabula/Harbor High Alumni Association, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Board, Beekeepers Association, Bethlehem Experience, Building Resiliency Together, City of Ashtabula Laborers Union, Dalila Zia Herbal Instructional Course, Empower Her Ashtabula, Family and Children's First Council, Graduation Alliance, Home Safe, Lakeside Music Boosters, Legal Aid, Key Bank, NAACP, Second Chance Citizen's Circle (Catholic Charities), Senior Care Network, Sky Meditation, Rural King hiring event, United Wealth Education, Zonta.
- **Community organizations** using the *Robert S. Morrison Foundation Community Room* and other meeting spaces in the Geneva library included: AARP Tax Assistance Program, American Red Cross, Ashtabula County Health Department, Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District, Geneva Academic Boosters, Geneva Camera Club, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva Rotary Club, Life Without Chains (NA Group), REM Ohio, Spencerian Writers Group.
- 18 people checked their blood pressure at Geneva's *American Heart Association's* blood pressure kiosk in January, and Geneva staff handed out their last four (4) COVID home-test kits.
- Outreach staff made 23 **Express Delivery stops**, delivering 38 items, and made nine (9) **House Call** visits, delivering 47 items. 368 items were left at **book drop locations** in Ashtabula Township, Austinburg, Geneva-on-the-Lake, and Denmark.
- The *Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive* welcomed 100 researchers in January and approximately 350 resources were used.
- Austin completed 36 obituary and six (6) **research requests**. He continues scanning and editing items for our digital collection and writes up information for ACDL's new genealogy / local history blog.
- The **Digitization Station** continues to be popular. A new patron expressed excitement that they can transfer cassette tapes to MP3 and then burn them onto CD-Rs that can be formatted to play on standard CD players. The patron has approximately 50 cassettes of church services that they are looking to transfer in the upcoming year.
- Sybil and Ryan hosted visitors from the LEADERShip Signature program for a **tour of the building** and an overview of educational offerings for youth.

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### PROGRAMMING

- Carrie helped eight (8) patrons with their **Genealogy at the ACCOA** (Ashtabula Senior Center).
- Jim had 13 people attend his **Rae Ann Reading Circle** where they started reading Skellig by David Almond. 15 people attended his **Geneva Center of Nursing and Rehab Reading Circles**, where they finished Skipping Christmas by John Grisham and started Skellig as well.
- Ryan and seven (7) participants began studying The Food Lab by J. Kenji Lopez-Alt. All were impressed by the scientific exploration of food and ingredients. Participants were both delighted and overwhelmed by all the cooking and food preparation tips and tricks and will test those described for French onion soup when they make it from scratch at their February gathering.
- Elizabeth led 12 participants in discussing The Midnight Library by Matt Haig for **Geneva Book Club**.
- Jim led the first county-wide **America 250 Reading Challenge** by welcoming five (5) attendees to a discussion of Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen. Attendees all loved the book and reported they learned information about the war and colonial culture that really opened their eyes. *The Star Beacon* even stopped by to interview the group and take photos!
- Elizabeth coordinated a **Red Cross Blood Drive** in Geneva on January 3. There were 25 attendees. Two (2) staff members also donated blood!
- Eight (8) guests joined Elizabeth for **Coffee and Conversation** to discuss a grave robbery case, an underground Roman villa, dogs with expansive vocabularies, and an American climber free soloing (using no ropes or protective equipment) a building in Taipei.
- Bailey hosted two (2) Adult, two (2) Senior and one (1) Youth workshop(s) in **the Studio**. She welcomed four (4) walk-in sessions for adults and eight (8) after-school walk-in sessions for teens. She also had two (2) scheduled appointments and 33 consultations in January. Projects included assisting adults with various machines (such as helping a patron customize a hoodie using the Heat Press and the Roland Vinyl Printer Cutter) while most teens created stickers and buttons. Kiddos at the child workshop printed and then painted custom *Littlest Pet Shop* toys (and they loved the 3D resin printer)!
- Geneva had eleven (11) adult participants design and create needle punch coasters, or *mug rugs* in **DIY: Geneva**. On tufting cloth, participants sketched out basic shapes, pop culture symbols, abstract designs, etc. They applied their design using a wide punch needle and medium or worsted weight yarn. The program was well received.
- Teens raced in to get a seat for two (2) **Become-a-Barista** programs this month. They enjoyed making Unicorn Lemonade, brewing a Butterfly Pea Flower Tea (a *very* blue tea) that when mixed with their lemonade turned their drink into purple and green swirls, they then added a pinch of edible glitter to make it sparkly. All 15 teens said it was “super cool!” and proclaimed it their “favorite drink of the year!” They took a 180-degree turn the following week and made hot cocoa from scratch using evaporated milk, cocoa powder, sugar, and a little vanilla extract.



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They then set up a station of marshmallows, crushed candy canes, colored sugar crystals, and various extracts to add a signature flavor to their traditional hot cocoa, such as mint, banana, cinnamon, almond, and pumpkin spice. They loved that they could flavor their own and “jazz it up” and many took pictures to post on their socials later.

- Weather and holidays meant for just one **Stir It Up** in January. Teens had fun making quick set Jello and then used measuring spoons and cups to measure ingredients to make “regular” Jello. It was a fun lesson, and they loved taste-testing the different methods.
- A Friday favorite after a long week of school, **Teen Crafternoon** sessions centered around creating backpack keychains with Perler beads and making cut-out vintage style paper dolls (with flexible limbs).
- This month in **Wearable Art** the teens made pony bead keychain buddies. They also made jewelry using metal washers and acrylic paint pens and string. Teens especially enjoyed making color-coded backpack chains using color symbolism and color psychology to represent them or someone else.
- Students had a lot of fun making Isiah Zagar-inspired *Junk Mosaics* in **Afterschool Art Club**. They used hot glue to place odd bits and bobs on a cardboard backing to create a mosaic. They also enjoyed learning about Cezanne-inspired fruit still life painting techniques and used Cezanne’s *Apples and Oranges* as inspiration for their own still life paintings.
- Geneva students who participated in **Role Playing Games** went on a *Pirating Journey* where they liberated a ship from captors and fought sea monsters. The adventure continues weekly, as they fight new and challenging monsters that force them to really be creative when dreaming up new equipment they will need to move forward.
- **Esports** is a Geneva after-school program facilitated by David. Teens compete on multiplayer platforms in teams of 4-8 players. January games included Mario World Kart and Super Smash Brothers and the competition was fierce!
- **Mad Science** students in Geneva started the month using the *Action/Reaction kit*, a physics kit where they built a perpetual motion machine and studied action and reactions using steel balls that bounced off each other as they were jostled around. A marble run was very popular, too (teens built a tall racing track to race marbles), and they used a magnetism kit to learn how magnets work (such as what the invisible magnetic field is and how to use the forces of magnetic attraction and repulsion).
- After-school youth in Geneva began preparing for warmer weather in **Mindful Gardeners**. They learned plant basics and discussed what plants they were interested in growing. They created multimedia houseplants using different paper and materials to symbolize their plants. They also made mini ecosystems using small jars, tiny plants, layered rocks, sand and soil.

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- Students who attended programs in **the Studio** had a blast making Glowforge puzzles—they sketched out unique designs on plywood and then used the Glowforge to cut them into jigsaw puzzles. They also enjoyed a session creating sublimation mugs based on favorite images rescanned for size, then used sublimation markers to design them, and the heat press to adhere their designs to the mugs. Finally, students spent a session making their own fidget toys using Tinkercad, a browser-based 3D rendering engine suitable for youth and beginners.
- Younger kids and families enjoyed the themes of *Polar Bears*, *Germ*s, and *Counting* during Geneva Storytimes.
- **Ashtabula Storytime** guests celebrated Grandmothers with the books Leave Me Alone! by Vera Brosgol and Mrs. Honey's Hat by Pam Adams. The children, under Teresa's guidance, retold the story of Mrs. Honey's Hat using the felt board. Another unit, *Tongue Twisters*, featured the book Atticus Cattivus by Sarah Maizes. The kids practiced different tongue twisters and sang silly rhyming songs like *Down by the Bay*. *Winter* and *Snow* were used as themes, too, and they loved The King Penguin by Vanessa Roeder and the Vox book version of A Polar Bear in the Snow by Mac Barnett. (The children--and parents-- loved the demonstration of how a Vox book works!)
- Littles who attended **Rhythm Band** had fun playing all the instruments to *Rock-n-Roll Party Cats* and used rhythm sticks to keep time to Imagine Dragons' lullabies, among other activities. (This program is well attended every week, and caregivers love that their littles are learning so much more than music!)
- **Homeschoolers at Geneva Library** was well received this month with an even larger number of students-per-parent ratio than past sessions. Students enjoyed studying Paul Klee's painting *Cat and Bird*, learned what the term "abstract" meant in art, and created their own cat and birds with either paint or air-dry clay. The following week, students performed a *Salt Snowflake Painting* science experiment by mixing salt into water and using brushes to paint snowflake shapes with the salt water. While the paintings dried and crystalized, they learned about common snowflake shapes and how snow is formed. They also excelled at creating Georgia O'Keeffe Yarn Landscapes. Students studied Georgia O'Keeffe's painting *Lake George Reflection* and then made mountain landscapes by glueing colorful yarn to paper to create the image.
- Led by Tiffany, **Little Movers** is a Geneva program for preschoolers. Sessions start with getting their “wiggles out” and learning how to regulate their big feelings with Kyle the Koala Breathing Buddy, who uses sound and color to lead them in purposeful breathing techniques. They then settle onto yoga mats, oversized bean bag pillows and alphabet foam squares and enjoy stories like Yoga Bunny by Brian Russo and I Am Peace by Susan Verde. They also get play time with colorful scarves and sensory toys and bracelets, and enjoy free flow music and dance using rhythm instruments. Caregivers and their children already absolutely love this program and look forward to it every week!

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- The January genealogy program, *Write Powerful AI Prompts to Unlock Your Family History*, was attended by 10 patrons in person and 25 patrons online.
- Nine (9) patrons participated in the **community art project for Black History Month**. Each person created their own interpretation of Freedom using the media of their choice. The teens in Geneva also participated in making a Freedom Quilt, to be displayed with the other artwork in the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery for the month of February.
- Three (3) patrons attended the **Senior Center Book Club**, at the Ashtabula County Center for Active Living, where they discussed Colleen Hoover's novel, *Verity*.
- The January meeting for the **Writers' Group** was well attended. Participants reviewed writing samples from two (2) members and discussed editing strategies as a group.
- Ashtabula Passive Programming included:
  - *Blind Date with a Book: Happy New Year* with 22 checkouts.
  - *Staff Picks*: eight (8) checkouts, and
  - *Creative Coloring Club*: eight (8) patrons.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Ryan participated in *A-Tech's Mock Interview Day* at Geneva High School and interviewed juniors and seniors for potential mock jobs. He interviewed nine (9) students who were mostly nicely prepared and polished.
- Lyn attended the quarterly meeting for the *Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition*.
- Mike attended one (1) meeting of the *Ashtabula Lions Club*.
- Carrie attended the *Ashtabula County America 250th* committee meeting.
- Rebecca attended one (1) *Ashtabula Rotary Club* meeting this month.

### MARKETING

- Ashtabula displays featured topics including *National Science Fiction Day*, *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*, *International Day of Education*, *Home Organization Month*, and *Wild Weather*.
- Geneva displays featured topics including *New Year, New You!*, *Beat the Winter Blues*, *Cook Something Cozy*, and *Jumpstart Your Spiritual Journey*.
- Rebecca made strides in setting up two new email newsletters – *ACDL Quarterly* and *Genealogy Monthly*. She's been plugging in content on new landing pages and intends to have both newsletters ready to go mid-February. Each newsletter will have a highly curated audience.
- Social Media: Five posts reached over 3000 views this month: the job posting for the Fiscal Officer position, the Temporary Pause in Service post, and weather closings.
- Press Release: *Youth AstroNet at the Geneva Public Library*.



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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Alecia completed the LinkedIn Learning training, *Business Etiquette: Phone, Email and Text*, and Microsoft 365's *Excel Essential Training*.
- Alecia, Will, Madelin and Ellen completed *Cyber Mindfulness via Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement*.
- Rebecca started the *Top Skills Marketing Professionals Have Right Now* learning path on LinkedIn Learning and completed the following courses:
  - Social Media Marketing: Strategy and Optimization,
  - Content Creation: Strategy and Tools,
  - Email Marketing: Strategy and Optimization.

### VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
  - Jan, a new volunteer, is helping edit the scanned newspapers.
  - Char covered the genealogy / local history room each Monday morning in January. She added 59 photos and edited 46 issues of the *Ashtabula Beacon Record*.
  - Duane covered the genealogy / local history room each Saturday in January and continues helping a patron with research on an early settler of the area.