



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – March 2026

“I recently moved here from Youngstown, and this is one of the nicest libraries I have ever been in.”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I just wanted to give some kudos to whomever is doing the displays here. The women’s history books and DVDs look great!”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I like ordering from you because it’s quick! I get my books in just a few days.”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I love coming to your library. It’s so relaxing! I stop by after work to unwind.”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

“Thank you for keeping the restrooms clean. I appreciate you!”

~ *Ashtabula patron*

Ashtabula Memory, the library’s digitized local history collection, had over 30,000 views in the first quarter of 2026!

PUBLIC SERVICE

- In March, ACDL staff welcomed more than **20,900 patrons** through the doors of the Ashtabula Library, Geneva Library, Bookmobile, and Lakeside Jr. High School. In addition, **6,560 items** were borrowed remotely through our Digital Library which is open 24/7.
- ACDL patrons sent out **305 faxes** and had **188 documents notarized**.
- The Ashtabula Branch distributed two (2) **gun locks** and four (4) **Sub Zero Mission Survival Bags** in the month of March.
- The **community organizations** that used the *Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room* and other spaces in the Ashtabula library in March included: AACS Executive Board, AARP, ACCESS, Achieve Virtual Academy, Alzheimer’s Support Group, A-Tech, Ashcraft, Ashtabula County Board of DD, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Historical Society, Ashtabula/Harbor High School Alumni Association, Ashtabula Lighthouse, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Beekeepers Association, The Book Worm Club, Building Resiliency Together, Bula Movie Club, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Delta Kappa Gamma, Empower Her Ashtabula, Homeschool Teen Activity Group, Key Bank, Koski Construction, Lakeside Music Boosters, League of Women Voters, Legal Aid, LGBTQ+ Coalition, Little Mouse Books, NAACP, Second Chance Citizens Circle (Catholic Charities), United Wealth Education, Youngstown Business Initiative, 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 Board of DD, Ashtabula County Health Department, Challenge U Community School, Geneva Area Music Boosters (GAMBA), Geneva Business Women, Geneva Camera Club, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Little League, Geneva Rotary Club, Life Without Chains (NA

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



Geneva
440-466-4521
860 Sherman St
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Group), Platt R Spencer Historical Society, Ravenwood Health, REM Ohio, SKY Breathing & Meditation, Spencerian Writers Group, University Hospitals / Geneva Nurses Union.

- Outreach staff made 18 **Express Delivery** stops; delivering 18 items and made 24 **House Call** visits; delivering 118 items. 157 items were left at **book drop locations** in our service area.
- The **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive** welcomed 110 researchers in March, and approximately 300 resources were used.
- Len Brown, producer of the documentary, *Engineering Tragedy: The Ashtabula Train Disaster*, **donated his research** for the documentary to our archives.
- Austin completed 19 obituary requests and worked on three (3) research requests.

PROGRAMMING

- Carrie helped patrons with their genealogy at the ACCOA (Ashtabula Senior Center). There were seven (7) attendees.
- Seventeen people reviewed Hot Sheet: Sweet and Savory Sheet Pan Recipes by Olga Massov & Sanae Lemoine at Geneva's **Cookbook Club**. Overall, the group felt that there were too many ingredients and too much cookware involved for recipes that sounded as if they were simple to construct. Nonetheless, there were tasty recipes from the book shared. We had pre-made Roasted Dates with Blue Cheese and Hot Honey; and Gerry & Michael made Crispy Ramen with Cabbage and Bacon during the meeting, while Ryan and Joe made Quesadilla for a Crowd.
- Ryan led ten participants in Geneva's **Book Club**. While a few participants found A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman trite, others found it "sweet and touching," and one man said it was, "only one of two books that ever made me cry!"
- Bailey led a busy month in **the Studio**. She hosted two (2) Adult Studio workshops, two (2) Senior Studio workshops and one (1) Studio workshop for children. She gave 36 tours of the Studio and helped 25 adults and eight (8) afterschool teens with drop-in projects on various machines (such as helping a patron make custom vinyl decals for his motorcycle windscreen using the Glowforge.) Many teens used the sublimation printer and heat press to create custom mugs for their parents.
- Jim had 26 people attend his two (2) Rae Ann **Reading Circles** and 23 people attend his two (2) Geneva Center of Rehab and Nursing Reading Circles. He finished reading David Almond's award-winning novel Skellig at both facilities and read Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham at Rae Ann in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.
- Jim welcomed 10 participants to **Coffee and Conversation**. Topics included the recent meteorite strike in Northeast Ohio, Opening Day for Major League Baseball (notably the Cleveland Guardians), patient service in hospitals, the high costs of college and how little it cost when "we" went to college.
- Attendees at **Geneva DIY** experimented with multi-media embroidery. Cotton fabric squares were pre-embroidered using the Brother Entrepreneur then used to adorn three simple plant pots. Attendees were given instructions on two basic embroidery stitches: a backstitch and a lazy daisy. Some came together to share other stitches, such as a French knot and a colonial knot. Patrons used varying combinations of embroidery floss, felt pieces, beads, and charms to embroider unique plants growing from the pots.

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- Newborns and “very littles” joined caregivers for **Sensory Stay and Play** programs in both Ashtabula and Geneva. The curriculum is basically the same for each session because staff feels it's better for the kids (and the parents, too!) They use sensory tiles, a makeshift ball pit, puppets, and low lighting, and play music ranging from classic Disney to lullaby versions of music by the Beatles, Fall Out Boy and Pink Floyd.
- Preschoolers who attended Ashtabula **Storytime** groups particularly loved a fairy-themed story time with Laura Ingalls Wilder's fairy poems and Phoebe Wahl's Backyard Fairies. They also enjoyed a multilingual story time with books featuring words in different languages, especially All Cats Welcome by Susin Nielsen and Bela and Lily by Natasha Khan Kazi. Kids also had fun learning the popular Spanish children's song Arroz con Leche. A celebration of Spring featured Spring Hare by Eugene Yelchin and a wordless picture book which is good for having the children use their imaginations and make up their own stories for the pictures. But the story that “stole the show” was Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever by Suzanne Lang, in which Grumpy Monkey thinks he is sick because the other animals say he has spring fever.
- Geneva **Storytime** groups celebrated Spring and studied lions (March comes in like a lion) by reading books like Lion Lessons by Jon Agee. They then marched like lions through the jungle during the beanbag parade. Geneva kiddos also got to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (with 37 in attendance!) by reading books like How to Trap a Leprechaun by Sue Fleiss. The favorite story was a *Pete the Cat* book, The Great Leprechaun Chase by James Dean.
- **Rhythm Band** preschoolers had fun with animal songs where they scarf-danced like swimming fish to Laurie Berkner's *Goldfish* and beat out rhythms with rhythm sticks to Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. The kids dig pop and rock music, too, and love using their instruments to rock out to songs like *I Love Rock and Roll* and *Slow Ride*. They also enjoyed multicultural songs where they danced and listened to music with lyrics in different languages, playing along to the rhythm with their hands and rhythm sticks.
- **Little Movers** in Geneva sessions included interactive storytime elements combined with yoga flow, breathing exercises, music, and sensory play (including instruments and tactile materials). Attendance ranged from 15–27 participants weekly. One of their favorite activities was *The Floor is Lava* -- an interactive dance number similar to musical chairs in which they danced until the music stopped and the *floor turned to lava*, at which point they had to jump onto the nearest sensory tile for safety.
- **Homeschoolers** in both buildings enjoyed creating an ornithology lab using natural materials to build a bird nest, learning about how to go birding and keep a birdwatching journal, and studying how common (area) birds look and sound. They also enjoyed a unit where they used cardboard and painted tubes to create animal sculptures. Everyone had fun using recycled materials to design obstacle courses and creating teams to race their own “marble runs.”
- **Little Scientists** in Ashtabula loved creating “marble runs” and ornithology labs, too. They also spent a unit creating floatable boats using popsicle sticks and other buoyant materials. Participants also began growing flowers and vegetables with our *Grow a Seed in a Bag* initiative. They are now tasked with monitoring and recording growth of their plants each week.
- Kids had fun building Lego mini figure habitats and a Lego Zoo during one unit in **Geneva's Little Scientists** and created a stable for a cowboy in another. They used the *Penworthy Human Body*



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Learning Resources Kit to study the brain, heart, and skeletal system. They also loved a session in which they continued their exploration of natural disaster science by building cities made of Legos and then tested their endurance after being struck by a giant meteorite simulation.

- Geneva teens who participated in **Mad Science** also reveled in the task of making Lego cities and testing them during meteorite strikes. They really enjoyed making Lego mini figure habitats while discussing different types of animal habitats. When completed, the Lego Habitat (zoo) was displayed in the *Bill & Pat Douglass Children's Room*.
- *Super Smash Bros Mario* fighting game continues to lead the way as the most popular way to compete against one another in Geneva's Afterschool **E-sports** program. (*Mario Kart* world comes in a close second!) Both provide a great opportunity to have multiple players active at one time.
- Another popular group activity for Geneva students is **Role Playing Games**. Teens and tweens continued their previous adventures with *Shadowdark*, the companion series to *Dungeons and Dragons* 5th edition. Students lead the adventures in the thieves' guild to retrieve stolen loot and then ventured down the Crystal Coast to find the source of magical crystals. There was also student designed and run campaigns involving the *Five Nights at Freddy's Video* game series and a haunted amusement park.
- **Become a Barista** highlights included learning to make Coconut Milk Lattes where students learned about alternatives to dairy milk in the process. However, their favorite drinks were the Blue Raspberry Refresher and the Raspberry Limeade. The refresher was served in a fancy glass and teens enjoyed sipping them while socializing. A few teens had never had limeade and were very excited to try it—particularly when infused with a strong raspberry tea.
- Also still popular with Geneva students is **Stir It Up!** March recipes were Chicken and Rice, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, and Chicken Ramen (the most popular).
- Artistic students spent much time enjoying their favorites, Perler beads and pony beads, during Geneva's **Teen Crafternoon** gatherings. Students also had fun in a session using acrylic paint markers to paint the edges of paper flowers made previously—a huge hit!
- Teens and tweens enjoyed a Pre-Raphaelite Poetry and Art session during Geneva's **Afterschool Art Club**. They chose an artist/artwork to create an acrostic poem about, or they chose a story and created a painting based on the story. They enjoyed a session devoted to creating Magazine Mixed-Media Collages, and had a blast with an Art History Scavenger Hunt, in which they were given a collection of paintings to study and tasked to find a list of items in the paintings (like an *I Spy* game).
- Afterschool Geneva students who attended **Wearable Art** created air-dry clay beads for jewelry such as bracelets and necklaces, and explored paper mâché techniques to design and build masks. Their masks were further refined by using finishing techniques such as paint and Mod Podge.
- Teens discussed plant selection and garden planning, planted seeds, and monitored sprout growth over time in Geneva's **Mindful Gardeners**. In addition to basic gardening, there was also a session where participants used fresh ingredients to make smoothies, reinforcing the connection between gardening and nutrition. Attendance has increased from an average of 5 to 12 participants as the weather has gotten warmer!



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- Units for students in **Studio Workshop for Teens** included programs using 3D pens, the creation of personalized posters using Canva and the poster printer (each student created their own design and then took their printed products home on glossy posters 12 x 18 in size), and a project with the 3D printer in which they used white resin on the 3D printer to create textured Easter baskets (which they were then able to paint and decorate as desired). Students also took leftover materials from the Adult DIY program and used the embroidery machine and Glowforge laser engraver to create pot decorations and plants. Their results were slightly different than that of the Adult DIYers, creating plants that were much more abstract and greatly varied. They created not only simple flowers but also cacti, live and dead trees, mushrooms, etc.
- Two (2) patrons bedazzled their books in the **DIY: Book Bedazzling** program.
- Susan had four (4) patrons attend her **America's 250 Reading Challenge** book discussion. They read and discussed the book, My Dear Hamilton by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie.
- Four (4) members of Susan's **Senior Center Book Group** discussed West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge.
- Twenty-one patrons from Ashcraft's Active Day group participated in the **Movie Club**, where they watched the movie *Lucky's Treasure*, completed Spring coloring sheets, and checked out new DVDs and books.
- The Board of DD's artists' reception drew in a crowd of over 160 patrons. It was an excellent event and very well received as usual.
- Carrie hosted the **America 250 Reading Challenge** discussing Valiant Ambition by Nathaniel Philbrick. There were four (4) attendees.
- Ashtabula Passive Programming included:
 - Blind Date with a Book: 20 checkouts
 - Staff Picks: 8 checkouts
 - Creative Coloring Club: 12

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Lyn attended the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board's Events Committee meeting where they discussed the success of the 2025 P.A.R.T. Conference and plans for the Hope in Artistry Art Show and the Prevention Coalition's One Life Race. Plans for future community training were also discussed.
- Carrie attended the Ashtabula County America 250th committee meeting and the 4th of July celebration meeting.
- Mike attended a meeting of the Ashtabula Lions Club and attended to his duties as Club Treasurer.
- Rebecca attended *Good Morning Ashtabula* on 3/19 at the Countryside Event Center.



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MARKETING

- **ACDL Quarterly:** The first issue of *ACDL Quarterly* was sent out this month. The distribution list is still very small, but the open rate was 40%. In Q2, Rebecca will focus on building up the subscription list so that we have a larger audience for the second ACDL Quarterly.
- **Social Media:** Nearly all of our stats are up this month on Facebook – including views, follows, and content interactions. The most popular post by far this month, viewed over 8000 times, was Austin’s story on the launch of the Louis R. Davidson in the Ashtabula Harbor in 1912. Facebook estimates that we gained 16 new followers from this post.
- Material displays in Geneva included *Good Luck / St Patrick's Day*; *International Women's Day & Month*; and *Spring gardening*.
- Material displays in Ashtabula included *Women's History Month*; *First Day of Spring*; *Happy Pi Day!*; *Women in History*; *St. Patrick's Day*; *Irish Authors*; and *Women's History Month DVDs*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Hayley became a notary during the month and quickly helped over a dozen patrons with the service.
- Alecia attended Amazon’s Open Office Hours.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
 - Jan edited 85 issues of the *Ashtabula Beacon Record*.
 - Char covered the room each Monday morning in March as well as extra coverage throughout the month as staff covered other desks. She assisted patrons with research, added 52 photos to the collection, and edited 49 issues of the *Ashtabula Beacon Record*.
 - Duane covered the room each Saturday in March and continued helping a patron with research on an early settler in the area.
 - Paula covered the room while Carrie provided a program at the ACCOA.