

# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – November 2025

“You guys are always so nice!” ~ *Geneva patron*

“If you have a question about anything, you go to the library, someone there will know how to help you!” ~ *Geneva patron*

“The library is such a wonderful place.” ~ *Geneva patron*

“I am so thankful for the bookmobile! Without it, I wouldn't be able to check out as much.” ~ *Outreach patron*

“The number of programs always being offered is amazing!” ~ *Geneva patron*

"I have never been to this library before, and boy is it beautiful!" ~ *Ashtabula notary patron*

“I looked all over town for a notary, and someone said you have notary service here. I never knew!” ~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I really appreciate you guys. I just moved here and everyone at the library has been so nice and helpful.” ~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I was working on this project for hours, and Lyn just pulled everything I needed right up for me! And it was only 40 cents! You guys are amazing. This is an amazing establishment!” ~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I’ve been crying. I’m so happy you guys have these transfer services. These moments are what’s left of my family. It’s a legacy left behind. I’m grateful you have this, thank you!” ~ *Ashtabula patron*

“Your restrooms here are so clean and the water comes out nice and hot. You guys do a great job with them!” ~ *Ashtabula patron*

“Every time I come in here, I always think, what a beautiful library!” ~ *Ashtabula patron*

“I just saw on Facebook that you do VHS digital conversion, and I was thinking this would make the perfect Christmas gift for my parents.” ~ *Patron using the Creative Corner in Ashtabula*

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Geneva  
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Geneva, Ohio

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### PUBLIC SERVICE

- **19,521 visitors** graced the doors of the Ashtabula, Geneva, ACDL Bookmobile, and Lakeside Junior High School libraries during the month of November, with **7,997 items borrowed remotely** from our Digital Library.
- 19 **COVID home test kits** were distributed; 229 **faxes** were sent; and 129 documents were **notarized** from our Ashtabula and Geneva libraries.
- **The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula library in November included:** AACS Executive Board, AARP, Achieve Point Career Academy, Always Best Care, Alzheimer's Support Group, Ashtabula Area Teachers Association, Ashtabula County Board of Elections, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula/Harbor High Alumni Association, Ashtabula Lighthouse Assn., Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ashtabula Young Democrats, Bethlehem Experience, Building Resiliency Together, Bula Movie Club, Catholic Charities (HALO baskets), City of Ashtabula Laborers Union, City of Ashtabula Master Plan, CJ Prentiss Education Resource Center, Common Ground of NE Ohio, Woman's Fortnightly (Book) Club, League of Women Voters, Legal Aid, Lenape Native Path, LGBTQ+ Coalition, Second Chance Citizens Circle (Catholic Charities), Senior Care Network, Sky Meditation, Starting Point, Youngstown Business Incubator.
- **Community organizations using the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Community Room and other meeting spaces in the Geneva library** included AARP Tax-Aide, Ashtabula County Board of Elections, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ashtabula County Health Department, Ashtabula County SHRM, Aspire, Ashtabula County Master Gardners, Community Counseling Center, Geneva Athletic Boosters, Geneva Country Quilters, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Rotary Club, Help Me Grow!, Life Without Chains (NA Group), Modern Literary Group, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, Spencerian Writers Group.
- Outreach staff made 15 **Express Deliveries**, delivering 26 items, and made 15 **House Call** visits, delivering 109 items. 317 items were left at **book drop locations** in Ashtabula Township, Geneva-on-the-Lake, and Pierpont.
- 500 community members from Geneva Precincts 6 & 7 visited the Geneva Library to register their vote on November 4.
- Bailey conducted informational sessions and hands-on assistance in **the Studio** with two (2) patrons who scheduled appointments and 16 walk-in adult patrons. 37 additional adults came in for tours and planning sessions.
- The first upload of digitized microfilm is available on the **Ashtabula County District Library Digital Newspaper Collection** website hosted by Ohio Memory. This first upload includes the Ashtabula Beacon Record, Jan 01, 1900 – Jul 05, 1902.

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### PROGRAMMING

- 18 people attended Jim's **Geneva Center for Nursing & Rehab Reading Circles**, and 24 people attended his **Rae Ann Reading Circles**. Both groups continue to read Skipping Christmas by John Grisham.
- Eight (8) people attended Elizabeth's **Coffee and Conversation** and discussed arachnid superwebs, the history of the word *dude*, hundreds of sheep being herded through downtown Berlin, and mandatory greetings at Target stores.
- Six (6) people joined Elizabeth at **Geneva Book Club** and discussed Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury.
- Geneva **Cookbook Club** shared mixed feelings about the book, What's for Dessert by Claire Saffitz. While club members appreciated the baking tips, tricks, and general guidance provided in the opening chapter, most were disappointed with the recipes. (All members were in agreement, however, about the recipe, execution, and deliciousness of the key lime pie monthly participant Gerry taught us to make!)
- Bailly led two (2) General Adult and two (2) Senior Session **Studio Programs**. Participants used the sublimation printer and the heat press to create personally designed crossword puzzles and used the sublimation printer and heat press to create winter ornaments. 39 guests visited the Studio to create and design their own bottle openers during the ACDL Foundation's *Books & Brews* event.
- Keith and Bailey led four (4) sessions of **Studio Workshop for Teens**. Students really enjoyed using the Glowforge design space to customize their own checker boards and pieces and relished using the sublimation printer to create their own designs to print on a mug using the heat press. They repeated this process, too, to create their own unique patterns on pairs of socks (which they proudly wore and showed off). They also used the laser engraver to create scannable codes of links to their favorite song onto an acrylic charm. Now they can scan their charm to bring them directly to their chosen song via the Spotify app!
- Tiffany emphasized personal creativity paired with fine-motor skill practice in leading teens in **Gizmos & Gadgets**. They used multi-colored beads to create bracelets and necklaces and competed in several LEGO building challenges (both as teams and as individual players).
- Teens designed and carved stamps using rubber erasers and lithograph carving tools in Geneva's **Afterschool Art Club**. They also created an Egon Schiele-inspired Autumn Landscape after studying Schiele's painting *Four Trees* (1917), leading to a discussion of atmospheric perspectives and how to use them to create the illusion of depth in landscape paintings. They thoroughly enjoyed a unit studying John James Audubon's *Wild Turkey* painting and created their own colored-pencil turkey illustrations inspired by his work.

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- Crafty teens in Geneva enjoyed making rag-tie wreaths using scraps of fabric cut into one-inch-wide strips that they double knotted in a pattern around a metal wreath frame in Teen **Crafternoon**. Teens also enjoyed making pom-pom backpack charms by using colorful yarn, beads, and a larger clasp for their charms. (This was extremely popular, and the boys really enjoyed this program!) Another week, they had a “free design day” making characters with Perler beads. They particularly loved the Thanksgiving week activity of coloring vintage paper dolls that had jointed arms, legs, and heads using fasteners. Most popular were the woodland animal-themed paper dolls like *Little Red Riding Hood* and the *Big Bad Wolf*!
- Teens who attended David’s **Mad Science** classes after school enjoyed various Lego builds this month, starting with a diorama of a habitat that a pre-selected mini figure would live in. The following week they built a bridge and ramp then added small vehicles that forced them to test the durability of their designs. They particularly enjoyed the unit where they built skyscrapers and tested their earthquake survivability. Many had awesome (and well-constructed) designs that survived big earthquakes on their shake table (a table designed to mimic the shaking of an earthquake and an app on their phone compares it to real-life earthquakes).
- David also led **Role Playing Games** for Geneva teens. Students continued exploring the depths of dungeons in the Shadowdark gaming system (a game like D&D). Players have now designed their own characters and spent a session in the Studio printing 3D mini figurines of their characters. (They also enjoyed painting them after they were printed!)
- **Writer’s Block** programs focused on short stories about *Fall* and *Thanksgiving*. In one prompt, teens were tasked with a family dinner scenario where the main character must make an uncomfortable announcement to the rest of the family during their dinner. A popular (and difficult) prompt was the task of creating a poem based on fall colors like *orange* or *red*.
- Tiffany led Geneva youth in **Survival Skills**, which focused on practical emergency preparedness. Tiffany introduced CPR basics, essential first-aid care, and how to recognize and respond using the Emergency Response System. Teens practiced building miniature traps and snares using KEVA planks for their hands-on portion of the program. Participants also received a small tin “survival kit” containing a compass, paracord, carabiner clips, assorted bandages/gauze, and knot-tying guides.
- Geneva teens used Perler beads to create hieroglyphic symbols (such as the *Eye of Horace* and the *ankh*) as part of **Signs, Signals, & Codes**. They enjoyed learning about the ancient Egyptian alphabet and the use of pictures and symbols as part of their “writing.” Attendees also learned about common ancient Celtic symbols used in jewelry design and created their own jewelry using designs like the *Tree of Life*, *The Trinity Knot*, and more.





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- November's **Stir It Up!** cooking classes focused on baking. Blueberry muffins and mini-pumpkin pies were the recipes, and they were a big hit! Tina also discussed with the teens the importance of keeping the kitchen clean and organized while cooking, and they put theory into practice during these baking sessions.
- Teens had a blast this month with cozy fall coffeehouse style drinks in Sybil's **Become a Barista!** They made a White Chocolate Mocha using white chocolate and homemade vanilla syrup (using vanilla extract, sugar, and water), and Iced Caramel Macchiato, and a Cherry Mocha Latte, which required them to make hot chocolate from scratch and add cherry flavored syrup at the end. (The big thrill was using the milk frothier for the Cherry Mocha Latte, a first for all the teens participating that day!)
- **Homeschoolers at the Library** groups studied a picture of da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* then used a template to create their very own versions. They also enjoyed making Turkey Family paintings inspired by John James Audubon's *Wild Turkey* and other paintings. They loved a session requiring them to build Turkey Cozy Coops, an engineering challenge where the students were given a turkey toy and KEVA blocks and were tasked to build a coop.
- Geneva's **Little Scientists** enjoyed engineering a balloon-powered rocket ship launched along a string to maintain control of their ships. They had fun drawing turkeys and using art supplies from the maker cart to color and decorate them. And they loved building Lego Marble Mazes and watching their marbles roll through their designs!
- **Little Scientists** in Ashtabula created an Animal Hibernation Lab where they talked about which animals hibernate, which animals hibernate the longest, where they hibernate, etc. The students each then picked an animal and a book about that animal to help them build a mock Lego shelter for their chosen animal to hibernate in. Students also had a coding day where they programmed coding mice to get through mazes they created. And they, too, loved creating Turkey Cozy Coops with KEVA planks.
- **Geneva Storytime** preschoolers and their caregivers especially enjoyed a moon-themed week, and the kids loved Papa Please Get the Moon for Me by Eric Carle with its large, fold out pages (talking about the moon being made from cheese really made them giggle). A *Family Meals* theme was popular, too, and the rhyming text of Bee-Bim Bop by Linda Sue Park had the children repeating with Tina "*Hungry, hungry, hungry for some Bee-Bim Bop!*" This book also has the recipe included, so they can read the book and make the meal.
- Highlights of **Ashtabula Storytime** include a dragon-themed week featuring the books King Jack and the Dragon by Peter Bently and Dragon Was Terrible by Kelly DiPucchio. Teresa brought out a dragon puppet, and the children loved taking turns playing with it. Also extremely popular was a special Thanksgiving storytime event featuring Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson and Setting the Turkeys Free by W.



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Nikola-Lisa. Kiddos really enjoyed a craft based on the Kilola-Lisa book where they used large hand-stamp pads to create handprint turkeys.

- **Rhythm Band** preschoolers still love the *Bean Bag Song* by Hap Palmer the most. With much practice, everyone has mastered a difficult part of the song where it prompts them to balance a bean bag on different body parts in quick succession. When they first started using the song, everyone struggled, but this month all preschoolers followed along easily!
- Eight patrons enjoyed making cards, crafts, and holiday decorations at the **Winter Wonderland Holiday Open Art Lab**.
- At the **Senior Center Book Club**, seven (7) patrons discussed Women by Kristin Hannah.
- **Passive Programs** at the Ashtabula Library included *Blind Date with a Book: Ohio History* (17 checkouts), *Staff Picks* (10 checkouts), and *Creative Coloring Club* (7 participants).
- The November **Genealogy Program**, *Finding Ancestors in Your Family Tree*, was attended by 36 patrons, three (3) in person and 33 online.
- Austin presented *50 Years: The Gales of November, Ashtabula and Edmund Fitzgerald*, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Fitzgerald. There were 49 attendees, nine (9) online, and 40 in person.
- **Tech Connect** continues to be a popular program. Dwight assisted one patron in the setup of a new Android phone, and one of our regulars was overjoyed that the skills she has learned at this program have resulted in several recent sales on Etsy.
- **The Writers' Group** welcomed two (2) new members. They were quite excited to join a community of writers who share their work and provide one another with peer feedback.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Rebecca attended one (1) **Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce** meeting.
- Karen, Rebecca, Ryan, Mike, Alecia, Lyn, and Tina were joined by trustees, Tom Westlake and Jo Misener, in attending the **Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon** where Penny was honored as Business Person of the Year.
- Lyn represented the library and assisted at the 9th annual *Hope in Artistry* art reception hosted by the Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- Mike attended two meetings of the **Ashtabula Lions Club** and performed duties as Club Treasurer.
- Carrie attended the **Ashtabula County America 250th committee** meeting.

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### MARKETING

- Ashtabula displays featured materials on the topics: *Harboring Humanity*, *Native American Heritage Month*, *National Children's Book Month*, *Finances and Budgeting*, and *Cooking on a Budget*.
- Geneva displays featured materials on the topics: *No-Shave November* (biographies), *Native American Heritage Month*, and *baking season*. Books about *buildings and architecture* were featured on endcaps.
- Social Media: The most popular post this month was the promotion of *Holiday Bingo and Jingle Bell Bash*. Close behind was the recording of Austin's Edmund Fitzgerald program – which reached 840 accounts on Facebook!

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dwight, Mike, Dawn O., Rebecca, Ryan, Dawn R., Hayley, Keith, and Elizabeth completed *Cyber Mindfulness* training through Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement.
- Karen, Elizabeth, Hayley, and Jim completed *Business Etiquette: Phone, Email and Text* (LinkedIn).
- Sybil and Tina completed a four-part series, *Analyzing Picture Books to Support Early Literacy*.
- Teresa, David, Tiffany, and Keith completed the *Readers Advisory for Teens* webinar sponsored by NEO-RLS.
- Ryan, Sybil, Tiffany, Keith, Dwight, Tiara, and Avery completed *Canva Training* modules led by Rebecca.
- Lyn, Ric, Susan, Dawn O., Alecia, and Karen completed AED/CPR/First Aid training with the American Heart Association.
- Pamela was trained in book-covering procedures to assist Alecia in Technical Services.
- Alecia attended multiple *Office Hours* for Amazon Business.
- Becca and Tiara completed the webinar, *Communication Do's and Don'ts*.
- Josh, Keith, Dwight, Tiara, Avery, Becca, and Dawn O. completed the webinar, *Microsoft Teams Essential Training*.
- Dwight is working through a series of courses on LinkedIn Learning on *Open Broadcasting Software (OBS)*.
- Ryan attended the *Ohio Library Council Annual Convention* in Cleveland. In addition to visiting the Gadget Gallery and Makerspace Experience and general expo area, he attended workshops on topics like low-cost programming ideas; planning better meetings; teen cooking classes; “library of things” collections; and working with Friends of the Library groups. Best of all was the workshop on using State Library statistics which reinforced the strength and efficiency of Ohio's libraries (and led Ryan to think that ACDL is not only “in synch” with our peer systems, but frequently on the forefront of program and material selection offerings).



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### **VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS**

- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
  - Char covered the local history/genealogy room each Monday morning in November. She processed 80 photos to add to our collection.
  - Duane covered the local history/genealogy room each Saturday in November and continued helping a patron with research on an early settler of the area.

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