

ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – October 2025

“We have some really nice libraries in Youngstown, but I’ve never been to a library more beautiful than this (Geneva) one!”

~ Chuck, Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

“Wow! This addition is really, really, nice and something Geneva kids and your staff really, really deserve!”

~ Longtime Geneva patron

“I absolutely love your displays.”

~ Geneva patron

“Lizz is wonderful and the best.”

~ Geneva Book Club

“Thank you (Jim) for everything you do for me and for everyone else.”

~ Geneva patron

“You guys are just wonderful. I should come here more often.”

~ Geneva patron

“I love the wrapped books. I wish you did them more often.”

~ Geneva patron

“I don’t know what I would do without the library.”

~ Geneva patron

“My wife and I always look forward to seeing your (Elizabeth) displays.”

~ Geneva patron

“Your thing about wrapping books... it's really cool.”

~ Geneva patron

“The treehouse is awesome!”

~ Young Geneva patron

“You guys really have a great library and it’s because of people like yourself (Becca)!”

~ Ashtabula patron

“I am in such good hands here. You (Dawn) and Dwight have been so patient. You’re both perfect for this job. Thank you so much!”

~ Ashtabula patron

Patron Jeanne really enjoyed two of the staff pick books, one from Ellen and the other from Austin.

“Thank you for having an interpreter (Spanish) here today!”

~ Ashtabula notary patron

A patron stopped at the Front Desk after visiting Genealogy and let us know that it is amazing; Carrie and Austin were a tremendous help to him over the past couple of days!

~ Ashtabula patron

New patron Diana complimented the size and appearance of the Ashtabula Library, saying it was very spacious and beautiful!

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



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

ACDL

The Month In Review

A patron told me how beautiful our Ashtabula Library is and how much he loves it that our staff are all so helpful, kind, and welcoming. “You’ve got a great team!”
~ Teresa, Youth Services

An Ashtabula patron said he was happy to know that there is a Spanish speaking person on staff.
~ Madelin, Public Services

“Thank you for being so helpful (Conklin Desk staff). I could never get all of this done by myself!”

“Thank you! This was the funnest party I’ve been to!”
~ Ashtabula Children’s Halloween Party attendee

“If you are looking for a fun book with sort of a spooky feel to it, you should make sure and take a look at the book display that Mr. Meyer has put together over here.”
~ English Teacher at Lakeside Jr. High

“It’s so nice to see the students enjoying the space, the new books, the beautiful couches; and you should know that they really appreciate the work that you are doing here at the Junior High.”
~ English Teacher at Lakeside Jr. High

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **20,343 visitors** graced the doors of the Ashtabula, Geneva, and Bookmobile libraries during the month of October, with **8,742 items borrowed remotely** from our Digital Library.
- Ashtabula Library staff handed out 24 **COVID test kits**; the Geneva Library distributed 16. Additionally, three (3) **gun locks** were distributed, 257 items were **faxed**, and 130 items were **notarized** between the two buildings.
- **The community organizations using the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula library** in October included: AARP, Alzheimer’s Support Group, Ashcraft, Ashtabula Area City Schools, Ashtabula Beekeepers Association, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Board of DD), Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Ashtabula County Society for Human Resource Management, Ashtabula/Harbor High Alumni Association, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Bethlehem Experience, Building Resiliency Together, Common Ground of NE Ohio, Ducro Funeral Services, Woman’s Fortnightly Book Club, Friends of the Library, Geneva Camera Club, Girl Scouts, Instructional Resource Group, Legal Aid, LGBTQ+ Coalition, Jersey Mike’s, Keys to Community, NEO Fund, Star Testing, Second Chance Citizens Circle (Catholic Charities), Trinity Book Club, 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 DD, Ashtabula County Health Department, Aspire, Buckeye Online Schools, Cleveland Clinic, Community Counseling Center, Geneva Athletic Boosters, Geneva Camera Club, Geneva Country Quilters, Geneva Kiwanis Club, Geneva Rotary Club, Geneva Soccer, Life Without Chains (NA

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



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



ACDL

The Month In Review

Group), Ohio Connections Academy, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, Spencerian Writers Group, Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber (featuring Representatives David Thomas and Sarah Fowler Arthur).

- Outreach staff made 27 **Express Deliveries**, delivering 55 items, and made 16 **House Call** visits, delivering 95 items. 191 items were left at **book drop locations** in Ashtabula Township, Geneva-on-the-Lake, and Pierpont.
- Geneva and Outreach staff attended Trunk or Treats in our service area. Tiffany and Ryan distributed candy, free books, and swag to over 300 people at the event sponsored by Victory Hyundai in Austinburg. Sybil and Dawn, too, interacted with over 300 people at Geneva Middle School, giving away candy, free books, coloring books, and crayons. Tiffany decorated the van for these two events and won 3rd place in the **Best Decorated** contest at the Geneva Middle School event! Finally, Outreach staff participated in Geneva's Ghou! Fest parade and attended the Trunk or Treat immediately following.
- A patron contacted the **Archives Department** via email inquiring about a relative of hers who was buried at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. The patron has been stuck in her research (at a brick wall) for some time. Austin went through the records and found her relative was buried under the surname of her third husband. Austin also found information on a relative of the patron that she didn't know or have, including obituary and death dates for her relative's second and third husbands. She sent a very kind email with the words specifically 'jumping for joy', with it being a years-long mystery finally solved by our library!
- Classroom visits to the **Media Center at Lakeside Junior High** continue to be a key driver of traffic. During the month of October, 22 classes came to the library to check out, renew, or return items.
- Bailey conducted informational sessions in the **Studio** with three (3) patrons who scheduled appointments and 16 walk-in adult patrons, in addition to meeting and greeting 24 adults who came in for tours and planning sessions.

PROGRAMMING

- Jim had 21 people attend his **Geneva Center for Nursing & Rehab Reading Circles** and had 14 people attend his **Rae Ann Reading Circle**. They continued to read *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham, sparking discussions with residents about the craziness of the Christmas season.
- Geneva Youth Services staff hosted a **Zombie Prom** on October 30. Over 100 tweens and teens enjoyed light refreshments as they danced, played games, and sang karaoke. They participated in a costume contest and really enjoyed the face painting station and blacklight temporary tattoo station. It was a huge hit with the youth, and in their own words, "this is so, not lame!"
- Tina, Teresa and Lyn led a **Children's Halloween Party** in Ashtabula on October 30th. With 63 in attendance, they watched the movie *Hocus Pocus* on the big screen, enjoyed activity pages (such

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



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

ACDL

The Month In Review

as cutting out a spider and putting him on a web), and created Halloween bookmarks. Kids also enjoyed a scavenger hunt, collecting candy and small prizes.

- Tina's October **Geneva Storytime** themes were *apples, the letter A, ghosts, the letter G, witches, the letter W, Halloween, and the letter H*. David took the reins from Tina on October 8th and read all about *monsters*.
- Teresa's **Ashtabula Storytimes** focused on autumn-themed stories and songs. They had a special Halloween Storytime on October 31st with not-so-spooky stories. Kids dressed in their costumes and sang fun Halloween songs.
- Both buildings held a **Sensory Stay & Play** program for preschoolers. This month Tina made an alphabet sensory bin that babies and toddlers enjoyed. They played in a colorful ball pit and made Lime Jello playdough that the littles could squish on their own.
- Teresa has been incorporating bean bags into **Rhythm Band for Preschoolers** with the song *The Bean Bag* by Hap Palmer to practice keeping a rhythm, and the kids have been loving it. It's their new favorite activity! Preschoolers also enjoyed a special Halloween rhythm band with songs like *Monster Mash* and *Witch Doctor*.
- Elementary aged students who attended **Little Scientists** in Geneva created an elaborate autumn coloring project involving decorated pumpkins and colored paper leaves that fell from a tree. They also got to be little "witches and wizards" and made potions using vinegar and baking soda in cauldrons. They loved watching the chemical reaction, making the caldrons bubble over!
- Ashtabula's **Little Scientists** also loved creating bubbling cauldrons. They also enjoyed making candy corn catapults and Halloween slime. Students spent a unit creating a phenology lab where they came up with all the signs of seasons (changing summer to fall) and added them to a bingo card. Then they went outside and tried to find enough seasonal signs to make a Bingo. They did a fall LEGO building challenge where they were given a prompt (ex. "build a bat") and then had five (5) minutes to come up with how to build it out of LEGO blocks. They also enjoyed making hidden fall messages using invisible ink and then revealing them with a turmeric solution.
- **Homeschoolers at the Library** enjoyed a Yayoi Kusama-inspired art lab where they made polka dot pumpkins from orange play dough and pony beads and made polka dot pumpkin paintings. They also did a fall LEGO building challenge. They made Mary Cassatt-inspired clay teacups and learned how to draw a portrait. And they loved celebrating Halloween with a spooky science lab where they made a bubbling witch's brew with baking soda and vinegar, engineered candy corn catapults, and made Halloween slime!
- Teens painted spooky gallery-style portraits using acrylics and mixed media techniques during the annual **Ghostly Galleries Art Program**. This popular program gives kids an opportunity to have their creativity on display, as finished products are used as part of Geneva Library's seasonal decorations.



ACDL

The Month In Review

- Other units studied in Geneva's **After School Art Club** included "drawing in reverse" (using white pencil on black paper), and creation of illustrations in black watercolor, inspired by the artist Stephen Gammel and his work in the books Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark.
- Geneva teens designed pixel-style art and created their own unique characters using Perler beads as part of **Gadgets, Gizmos and Games**. They also created vintage Goth Portraits—a mixed-media activity that combined historical portrait-style painting with various pins, buttons and ribbons to adorn their artwork — a hit with teens!
- More *crafty* Geneva teens used discarded books, scraps of paper, and other odds and ends to make a 'junk journal' during **Teen Crafternoon**. It was very popular, and teens asked to do it again! During other sessions, teens got to make woodland animals using pony beads and string, and used Perler beads to make backpack charms and keychains.
- **Role Playing Games** in Geneva featured teens having fun exploring the new worlds of *Shadow Dark*, a Dungeons & Dragons-based role-playing game. Teens created various characters including pirates, gladiators, and wizards with the mission to recover lost treasure.
- Teens who attended **Survival Skills** learned about signaling for help using flags, smoke, and more. They also spent a session learning navigation and compass skills including using the sun and other stars as guides when nothing else is available. And to prepare for the Zombie Prom, they embarked on a fantasy survival skill set where they learned how to survive a zombie apocalypse.
- Teens and tweens were introduced to the Braille alphabet, and they used Perler beads to create a backpack charm or keychain using the Braille alphabet as part of Geneva's **Signs, Signals, and Codes**. They also learned universal hiking trail signs and created paracord bracelets that can also be used when hiking.
- Teens completed Owl Pellet Dissection and bone identification as part of Geneva's **Mad Science** program. After students identified various bones from the pellets, they attempted to put them back together or create a chimera, a mythical beast using multiple animal bones. As creepy as it sounds, many teens were curious about the whole process!
- Afterschool Geneva students who are aspiring writers focused on short stories this month as part of **Writer's Block** activities. Teens began with a different prompt to start the story each week. In week one, teens got to choose their settings from either a rooftop or a car stuck in traffic, and in week two they got to write about having dinner with three cartoon characters. The third week, stories about dinosaurs were popular, and they finished the month by creating scary short stories.
- Bailey and Keith held three **Studio Workshop for Teens** programs in Geneva—all "full houses." They designed their own puzzles, posters, and stickers using Canva software, the 3D printer, and poster printer. Keith incorporated the embroidery machine and embroidered little pots onto canvas, and teens learned how to cross-stitch leaves and plants into the embroidered pots. Some students even incorporated beads as flowers into their patterns.

ACDL

The Month In Review

- **Stir It Up! participants learned** about kitchen habits (like keeping your area clean and free from obstacles so no disasters happen in the kitchen) and spent time reflecting on completed recipes, contemplating effort, time, and taste involved. The dishes created were Chili Mac, Strawberry Cheesecake Chimichangas, and Crescent Mummy Dogs.
- Geneva students also love **Become a Barista!** Teens and Tweens made hot cocoa and baked cookies on the first really cold day and made apple tea using green tea and apple juice, cinnamon and other warming spices on another chilly day. (They had fun adjusting the sweetness and how strong the other spices were!) Participants loved making traditional Boba tea, also known as Bubble Tea, and enjoyed helping to brew the black tea, sweetening it by using a mix of brown and white sugar. They rehydrated the Boba balls for their tea. (This was the most popular drink of October as they snapped pictures to send to their friends and parents!)
- Tiffany's **Volun-Teens** gathered to discuss teen volunteer opportunities, program expectations, leadership roles, and future projects. They created a lamppost witch that was hung in downtown Geneva, had a pizza party, and helped create decorations for the Zombie Prom.
- Bailey hosted two (2) adult programs in the **Studio**—both fully attended -- and two (2) Senior programs (registration was full, but some registrants did not attend). For one class, participants used the Glowforge to make *Spooky Season* signs and Fall Leaf Wreaths. At another, patrons made tote bags with the sublimation printer and heat press, and candle holders with the Roland printer and Glowforge laser engraver.
- Jim and Dawn O. hosted **Terror Talk** in both Geneva and Ashtabula. Seven (7) horror-loving fans attended in Geneva and eight (8) attended in Ashtabula to discuss frightening books and films to celebrate the season.
- Eight (8) people attended Elizabeth's **Coffee and Conversation** and discussed an ancient Roman artifact that was found in a New Orleans back yard; a Mothman gathering in West Virginia; Derbyshire police solving the mystery of a crocodile found in a canal; and a hair museum closing its doors (leading to discussion on strange collections).
- Elizabeth hosted **Geneva Book Club**. Six (6) people attended and discussed Fahrenheit 451.
- Patrons had fun making cards, crafts and spooky decorations at the **Hallowed Harvest Open Art Lab** in Ashtabula.
- Sixteen friends from the **Active Day** group at Ashcraft visited the library this month. They enjoyed their lunch and the *Addams Family* movie, and spent some time choosing new materials to check out.
- Ric hosted a presentation at the Geneva library titled *The Golden Age of Saturday Morning Cartoons*. He covered popular cartoons such as The Flintstones, Scooby Doo, Smurfs, and more, and showed clips of each of the shows.
- Christy presented a program on **Banned Books** which was well-received by seven (7) patrons.



ACDL

The Month In Review

- Ashtabula shared three (3) passive programs including ***Blind Date with a Book: Mystery***: 27 checkouts, ***Staff Picks***: six (6) checkouts, and ***Creative Coloring Club***: six (6) participants.
- Geneva's passive program ***Blind Date with a Book: Spooky Edition*** saw 83 checkouts.
- **Tech Connect** continues to be a popular program. Many regulars are very grateful for the opportunity to speak with a knowledgeable member of staff that they have grown to appreciate and trust. Several of the most recent clients have had concerns related to the shift from Windows 10 to Windows 11.
- **The Writers' Group** discussed a writing sample from a new member who is interested in creating a screenplay and then creating a movie. It was a good opportunity to read a format that most of our members were less familiar with.
- The October Genealogy program, ***Read All About It!...*** was attended by 31 patrons -- 26 online and five (5) in person.
- At the **Senior Center Book Club** led by Susan, five (5) patrons discussed *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Ryan attended the October meeting of **Building Resiliency Together** which focused on creating comprehensive care packets of tactile objects paired with community resource information to be shared with clients of Children and Family First.
- Tina attended the **HeadStart Policy Council** meeting on October 9th.
- Mike attended two (2) **Ashtabula Lions** meetings in his capacity as Treasurer.
- Carrie attended the **Ashtabula County America 250th** committee meeting and the **4th of July Festival** meeting.
- Carrie went to the **ACCOA Center for Active Living** to assist patrons with their genealogical research. There were six (6) attendees.
- Carrie was interviewed by former ACDL employee Madelyn Dill for a paper she is writing on the relationship between archives and law. She is pursuing her master's degree in Law, Justice, and Culture at Ohio University.
- Rebecca attended four (4) **Ashtabula Rotary Club** meetings, including one ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Guyreino's location.

MARKETING

- Ashtabula displays featured *Happy Halloween!*, *National Cookbook Month*, *National Coming Out Month*, *Creepy*, *Kooky*, *Haunted*, and *Budgeting and Personal Finance*.
- Geneva displays featured *Banned and Challenged Books*, *Looking for Signs from the Stars* (Science/Spirituality), *Award-winning books*, and books with eyes on the cover that cast a slightly eerie spell as they stared back from bookend displays.

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



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



ACDL

The Month In Review

- The favorite this month on social media was the initial post advertising Austin's program on the Edmund Fitzgerald. As of November 4th, the post had been viewed over 6,000 times and shared 31 times! Well behind this, the next two popular posts were about the open position in Ashtabula and the Staff Day photos.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sybil and Tina attended the Collection Development training *Celebrating Holidays & Heritage Months* sponsored by Teaching Books.
- David attended the webinar *Creating a Lego STEM/STEAM Program* through Lego Education.
- Rebecca, Dawn O., Dawn R., Haley K. and Ryan completed *Business Etiquette: Phone, Email and Text* (LinkedIn).
- Lyn, Ric, Christy, Ellen, Dawn O., and Will completed the webinar *Communication Do's and Don'ts*, hosted by Alex Rohn, a licensed health counselor who works for Mindspring Mental Health Alliance.
- Tiara and Becca completed *Homelessness Training* with Ryan Dowd.
- Both Austin and Carrie attended the Ohio Library Council's webinar on walking tours.
- Alecia viewed a webinar and attended Open Office Hours with Amazon about Amazon Library materials purchasing.
- Rebecca attended the following trainings: *Microsoft Teams Essential Training*, *Canva for Web and Digital Design Projects*, *Writing with Impact*, *Learning to Write Marketing Copy*, *Designing A Poster*, and *Universal Principles of Design*.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- **Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room:**
 - Char covered the Local History/Genealogy Room each Monday morning in October. She added 80 photos to the collection and began proofing the September obituaries.
 - Duane covered the Local History/Genealogy Room each Saturday in October and is helping a patron with research on an early settler of the area.
- Friends of Geneva Library hosted a fundraising **Paint and Sip** facilitated by Friend, Kit Allen. Fifteen (15) guests made beautiful art and had a lot of fun!