



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – July 2022

I would like to give a big Kudos to Lauren. With how COVID ran through our staff, she really did a great job in keeping things running with virtually no impact to our customer service. And she practically lived here that whole time, too!! ~ *Tina, Geneva Youth Service Coordinator*

A patron who brought her children to all of the *Art and Music for Homeschoolers* program reached out to me specifically to tell me (again!) how “superb” the class was—particularly the art history/projects created by Lyn. She wanted to express her thanks and appreciation, and hopes we’ll repeat this class next year. ~ *Ryan, Ashtabula Branch Manager*

“Thank you for all of your help! Everyone here at the library is so nice. I love coming here.” ~ *Ella, Conklin Desk patron*

“I love this library! The girls (Front Desk staff) always find what I’m looking for and are always so friendly!” ~ *John, Ashtabula patron*

“When are you getting the Lit Kits back? Those were amazing and the books chosen were great reads!” ~ *Chelsea, Ashtabula patron*

“It is beautiful here! It looks like a bookstore”! ~ *Beth, new Ashtabula patron*

“You can tell a lot about a community by looking at its library. The library is the heart of the community, and this community has a great heart.” ~ *Katie, Geneva patron*

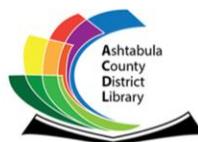
“We take advantage of children’s programs at quite a few area libraries, but we enjoy the Geneva programs best. Miss Tina does a great job keeping programs fun, and you can tell she really enjoys what she does!” ~ *Julie, Geneva patron*

Cindi did a great job modifying some of her teen programs when younger kids showed up and wanted to participate. There was a lot of laughing, and parents were really happy with the results! ~ *Codi, Geneva Public Services Manager*

A young lady at the Bardmoor Estates Bookmobile stop shared with me her fond memories of visiting the Bookmobile in years past. More recently she enjoys coming aboard with her aunt and assisting as a translator. ~ *Jim, Outreach Associate*

A young lady at the Bookmobile’s Bonniewood stop told me she is now so excited to read because of all the books on the Bookmobile! ~ *Jim Outreach Associate*

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While shopping for a new TV, the salesman talked about how to access the Kanopy app and informed me that libraries are the unsung heroes of the education world. Boy, was he surprised to find out I am a librarian!

~ Tina, Geneva Youth Services Coordinator

Teresa received many compliments from parents and children for her ‘impromptu’ story time in Melissa’s absence.

~ Ryan, Ashtabula Branch Manager

The Friends of Geneva Library group donated a total of \$1,000 toward the library’s 2022 Summer Reading Program. In addition, the group donated over \$100 in snacks that can be provided to youth who attend summer programs at the library. The support of our Friends group, including their time and advocacy efforts, helps to make possible the wide variety of programming and resources available to our community.

~ Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

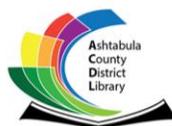
Volunteer Jay was a huge help in cleaning the stacks and sprucing up the library. A recent transplant to the Ashtabula area, he even brought his son in for a new library card!

~ Ryan, Ashtabula Branch Manager

PUBLIC SERVICE

- In the first six months of 2022 the *Ashtabula Branch, alone*, has notarized more documents (759) than during the entire year of 2021 (672). As of June 30, 2022, our entire library system had notarized 796 documents versus 788 for the entire year 2021! Local banks are still providing notary services but by appointment only and under strict guidelines, thus many bank customers are referred to the Library for notary services.
- During the month of June, the Front Desk staff gave away over 200 children’s coloring and activity packets which Lyn designed as a Summer Reading passive program. Sybil has been the champion of this endeavor and includes it as part of motivating everyone to sign patrons up for Summer reading.
- As part of a cooperative educational program between NOPEC and ACDL, Front Desk staff has handed out over 300 of the NOPEC coloring books and crayons.
- Myah reorganized the bulletin board and resource center so it is more user friendly for our patrons.
- Carrie has begun the process of converting the files of the Edgewood yearbooks to “prep them for upload to Ashtabula Memory.” She has also identified about a dozen issues that still need to be scanned and has created ‘jobs’ in the Zeuschel for the volunteers to work on.
- Ashtabula Victims of Crime requested information to assist locating family members of a murdered woman as the man who murdered her is up for parole. The victim was shot and killed by her husband on December 8, 1988.

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- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room received about 100 visitors in June; among them were two different families from Florida, as well as Virginia and Pittsburgh. Over 350 resources were used and about half of the visitors used the computers in the room.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Library in June included: NEOFund, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Zonta, Building Resiliency Together, Alzheimer's Support Group, LGBTQ Coalition, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Signature Health, Woman's Fortnightly Club, Ashtabula Highschool Alumni, Sexual Assault Response Team, Leadership Ashtabula, Ashtabula Lighthouse, Ashtabula County Young Democrats, League of Women Voters, Brightview, NAACP, and the Center for Active Living.
- Geneva Library hosted a total of 19 meetings serving over 140 meeting attendees. Groups who utilized meeting space at the Geneva Library included: NEO Sons of the American Revolution, local Girl Scout troops, Geneva Rotary Club, and Friends of Geneva Library.
- Youth Opportunities (YO!) worker Elizabeth 'Axel' Headley joined the Geneva team in early June and has been eagerly learning the ins and outs of the library and gaining valuable job experience.
- The Bookmobile continues to visit local neighborhoods including Bardmoor and Bonniewood in Ashtabula, Footville in Trumbull Township, Austinburg, and Harpersfield. Local daycares in the Geneva area are also enjoying Bookmobile service.
- Jim completed 18 Express Delivery stops and 21 House Call visits resulting in nearly 210 item checkouts. He was also able to place an astonishing 455 items in Dropbox Collections throughout the service community!
- We purchased two dozen ShelfWiz shelftalkers, which are small clip-on plexiglass sign holders. We wanted to be able to draw attention to digital resources on the shelves of physical resources in a way that was attention grabbing but not obtrusive and also wanted to creatively identify sections in nonfiction so that patrons can quickly locate the items and information that they're looking for.
- Geneva Area City Schools Superintendent Terri Hrina-Treharn donated a retired Geneva Eagles football helmet to the Geneva Library. The helmet is being displayed alongside the library's collection of local school yearbooks. The new yearbook display location has improved both access to and viewing of those materials.



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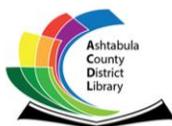
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- The Library Website received a complete replacement to the Digital Library page which we hope patrons will find more engaging and informative. It is designed to cut down on stimulus overload and help patrons browse more comfortably. It also debuts some mobile specific styling that we hope to include elsewhere to maximize the site's readability on mobile devices.
 - Penny, Lauren, and Jim traveled to Farber Specialty Vehicles in Columbus, Ohio to explore potential options for a future replacement bookmobile project. They were able to tour the customization facility and see several projects in progress. Vehicle designs viewed included Stepvans, Sprinter builds, and E450 and E550 chassis models. All models have the ability to be outfitted with wheelchair access and flexible shelving, including carts that detach from the walls and can be rolled to indoor locations.

PROGRAMMING

- The July (programming) Highlights email was sent out on 6/28. It has a unique open rate of 21.8% which is a few points lower than the open rates we saw in spring but still a healthy rate. Readers were most interested in the DIY: Cork Trivet program, the Cookbook Club, and Chalk The Walk.
- Folks gathered with us in both Ashtabula and Geneva to watch our June 17 **Virtual Field Trip** with the Cleveland Aquarium. 15 families also registered and watched it from their own homes.
- **Storytime in Ashtabula** exploded this month. During June, the attendance for storytime didn't drop below twenty—and on June 3, there were 33 people present! Better yet, we've seen new faces at every storytime. Many caregivers regularly express how much they appreciate storytime for their younger ones because there haven't been many opportunities for kids to be around other kids for so long due to COVID.
- Melissa hosted a **Toddlers and Tea Party** on June 17. To complement the theme, Melissa pulled a variety of fairy tales books to share with the families and many of them were checked out after the tea party was over. Every family in attendance signed up for the Summer Reading, and of course, those who didn't have library cards were sure to get one.
- Melissa led an **Ocean Magnet craft** on June 25. Participants used clear cabochons (small, smooth gemstones), crayons, glue, and paper to make their own faux beach glass magnets. Participants loved being able to customize their own magnets and were excited to take them home and decorate their fridges (or any magnetic surface) with their handmade creations.
- With the start of summer, Melissa has begun hosting regular visits from Burns Kids' College, Kids Only Daycare, and the YMCA. Groups made nature collages, explored the pollinator garden, listened to stories, talked about their favorite ocean animals, and were thoroughly introduced to the library. Many of the kids have been coming with their groups for years and have really gotten to know Melissa.

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- The second annual **Black History And Me Student Art and Writing Contest** reception was held on June 25th. Fifty-five community members gathered with the scholars as they received cash prizes for first, second, and third place in each category, Art and Writing. Conversation and refreshments were enjoyed by all. The contestants' work was displayed throughout the month of June in the William Tokarczyk Exhibition Gallery and was well-received by the public.
- The **Ocean Trivia For All Ages!** program, created and implemented by Lyn, was popular in Ashtabula. Kids of all ages competed to win snacks, toys and other fun prizes, while learning about the oceans and their unique inhabitants. The program will be replicated in Geneva in July.
- The **Ashtabula Book Group** and the **Ashtabula Senior Center Book Group** both discussed *No Country For Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy. Both groups had lively discussions. Currently the Senior Center Group has the best attendance with 5-7 regulars every month.
- The June meeting of the **Geneva Book Group** had a discussion of *Good Omens* by Neil Gaimen and Terry Pratchett.
- The **ACDL Writers' Group** continues to be popular via Zoom. We gave feedback on a new chapter of Vanessa's "Korean Spy Story" which is a romance set in South Korea, and Jon's "Law of Contagion." (This was the first chapter that we have seen of a Science Fiction tale set in the hinterlands of Greenland. There is a new virus emerging from the depths of the melting permafrost.) We talked about possible directions that the narrative could take and if it was "worth it" to do a second chapter, and rework the introduction.
- Summer programming in Geneva is off to a great start. Local youth can participate in programs every weekday including: **Gadgets, Gizmos & Games, Full STEAM Ahead, Teen STEAM, Imagine, Crafts & Creations, Teens Create, Critter Club, and Fresh Fab Foods for Teens.**
- Geneva Library partnered with Margie Netzel and the City of Geneva to offer *Movies Under the Stars* on the Library grounds. The library hosted a crowd of nearly 200 for the June showing of *Disney's Encanto*.
- **Critter Club** has been a favorite for elementary age program participants in Geneva. June topics included Shells (and the creatures who live in them) and Sea Turtles. Favorite factoid: Sea turtles can eat jellyfish!
- **Miss Tina's Geneva Storytime** continues to draw a crowd. An average of 27 children and family members attended each session. Story themes for the month of June included Summer, Fathers, and Oceans. Miss Tina also helped children to practice their talking skills by encouraging them to answer open-ended questions and retell stories.
- Geneva completed its adult nutrition program series called **Eat Smart - Move More**. This program was made possible through partnership with Central State University Extension. Presenter Stacey Stangel educated participants on how to purchase and prepare fresh healthy ingredients to make delicious family meals. Eight program attendees attended all



six sessions of the program and earned a \$25 grocery gift card provided by Central State University.

- Geneva's June **DIY** program attendees enjoyed making windchimes using skeleton keys, bells, embroidery hoops, and fishing line. The completed projects made a lovely soft chiming sound.
- A recent Bookmobile storytime at Carol's Corner in Geneva was a sight to behold. Stephen played a rousing guitar rendition of "Wheels on the Bus" for a group of 16 children, all of whom were singing right along with the chorus, "Beep, beep, beep, all through the town!" A favorite story selection this month was *Don't Splash the Sasquatch!* by Kent Redeker.
- Jim continues his adult reading program at Rae Ann Nursing Facility. The group is working their way through a reading of Erich Segal's *Love Story*.
- Melissa began summer outreach programming to After School Discovery. She goes weekly to meet with individual classes. They read and discussed books related to the Summer Reading Adventure theme, and shared information with all about our Summer Reading Club.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

- On June 30th we officially launched the Circulating Roku collection. After much study, discussion, and trial and error, ACDL has made available to the public 12 individual Roku devices loaded with access to Overdrive, Hoopla, Kanopy and either Disney +, Netflix, or HBO Max.
- The family of Elmira (Wheeler) Shidler of Geneva has given ACDL a copy of her diaries that cover the years 1877-1947. This compilation was quite the undertaking and they have graciously given us permission to share this information on our Ashtabula Memory page. We currently have her sister, Edna Wheeler's diary on Ashtabula Memory as well as the original in the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Archive.
- The Ashtabula *Oceans of Possibilities* book and DVD display created by Hayley was very popular and received many compliments. Ellen has done a great job keeping the endcap displays stocked with titles that tie into our summer reading theme, as well. Other displays this month included *Home Improvement*, *National Great Outdoors Month*, *PRIDE*, and *Men's Health*.
- Codi and Morgan have begun to weed Inspirational Fiction, Science Fiction, and Fantasy sections in Geneva in order to make room for new materials. Materials removed from Geneva shelves will be used to support the Ashtabula collections as needed.
- Austin and Morgan continue to weed through the Large Print section in Geneva. Removed items are being sent to Ashtabula to support the Large Print needs of their patrons.
- Book displays at Geneva included *Staff Picks* (selections recommended by staff members), *Pride Month*, *Shipwrecks & Treasures*, and Ocean-themed books.

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- Austin created a memorable display in the Geneva Library lobby highlighting Great Lakes history topics including lighthouses, Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ashtabula Harbor, and Native American groups who have lived in the Great Lakes region.
 - VOX books have proven so popular with our young patrons that we have begun to expand our collections at both buildings. Additional audio-enabled picture books have been purchased, and audio-enabled chapter books will begin to circulate in July.
 - Lauren has added a small collection of VOX audio-enabled books to the Bookmobile collection. These items have proven popular with families of young children and adult day programs.
 - The Library has also purchased IR Books which are books from the same vendor as the VOX Books targeted at older elementary aged children. They include Augmented and Virtual Reality experiences that are accessed via QR Codes with a smartphone. They circulate with a cardboard VR headset that only requires a smartphone to enjoy. We hope patrons find these new materials to be as engaging as the VOX books, and will be marketing them thoroughly.
 - The Digital Library launched “iVox”, a read-along app inspired by the popular Vox Books. It provides unlimited access from anywhere to animated read-along fiction and nonfiction books targeted at ages two to ten. We expect it will be a great tool for programming and for parents of reluctant readers.
 - A collection of Hotspots has been added to the Bookmobile. These items will help to increase internet connectivity in service areas that are located distant from the library.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- The fruits (and veggies) of labor have begun to appear in the community garden. Early produce harvests have included lettuce, green tomatoes, and peppers. June also saw installation of the storage tank which gathers rainwater from the library’s roofline for use as a source of water for gardeners.
- Dwight hosted the inaugural meeting for the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) at the Ashtabula Library. There was a conversation about “gaps in service” that Ashtabula services are currently experiencing. (One of the main issues in the area is that Ashtabula has no SANE Nurses– a healthcare professional who specializes in helping to deal with Sexual Assault.)
- Melissa joined Lauren at St. John school for their *Family Fun Day* to entice and register families for Summer Reading Edventure 2022. Overall, they were able to speak with 60 children and 8 parents about the reading program.
- In cooperation with the Ashtabula Maritime and Surface Transportation Museum, Carrie put together a display using information and pictures contained within the Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Archive concerning the St. Lawrence Seaway. This was a collaborative effort between ACDL, the Marine Museum, Harbor-Topky Library, and the

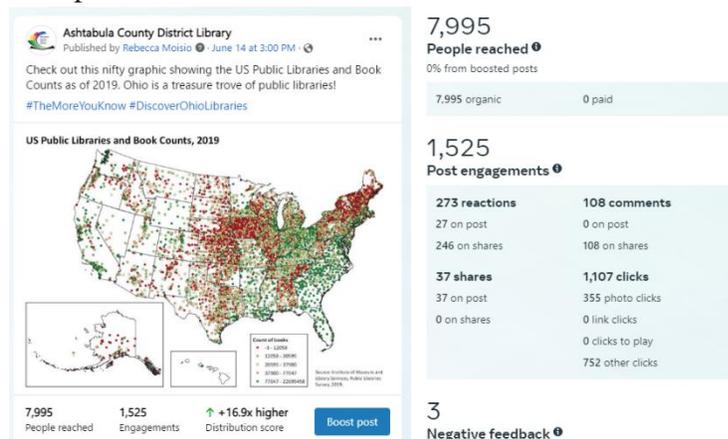


Conneaut Public Library. The ocean/lake themed program and month long display are being highlighted at the Conneaut Public Library.

- Ryan attended monthly meetings for *Building Resiliency Together*, Head Start *Policy Council*, *Longest Day of Play* and Head Start's *Health Service Advisory Committee*.
- Lauren attended the June meeting of the Head Start *Health Service Advisory Committee*.
- The Bookmobile participated in *Pride Ashtabula* held at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. Staffers Mike and Melissa interacted with at least 375 people at the event, discussing the Summer Reading Program, library services, and distributing free books. Many folks were pleased and excited to see the Bookmobile.
- Alecia continued our support for *Community Action's Book Buddies* program by lending her skills to the efforts to build a database of the books in the program. Beyond the obvious benefit of this participation, it also put her in place to learn of the intent to distribute some of the books at *Pride*. She shared this information with Mike who was able to be proactive about incorporating them in our *Pride* planning for the Bookmobile.
- A new flag has been installed at Geneva Library with the help of Geneva firefighters, Matt Parks and Doug Sickles. Parks and Sickles were able to assist by using a ladder truck to reach the top of the library's flagpole and install a new halyard.
- Mike attended a meeting of the Trumbull Township Board on behalf of the Library and reported on ACDL's Emergency Connectivity Fund grant application to establish WiFi access at Trumbull's township hall. The Board was pleased to hear about the project and looks forward to hearing from us.
- Mike attended the Ohio Means Jobs Partner Staff Meeting; Ashtabula Area City Schools Board meeting and two Ashtabula Lions Club meetings (including the annual Steak Fry). Mike was inducted as Lions Club Secretary for the 2022-2023 Club year, his term formally beginning on July 1st.
- Geneva Senior Center had requested a video that is essentially a quick commercial for the Senior Center. While it wasn't a video that we typically produce, it was an important follow-up project to maintain our positive relationship with the Geneva Senior Center. Rebecca filmed, edited, and recorded the voice-over for the video. They were very thankful to have a video in before their deadline.
- Acting on behalf of the Ashtabula Rotary Club, Rebecca presented the Tool Wall Rotary Grant Project to the Rotary Grants Committee to determine if this project would be eligible to receive the grant money. As it was deemed 'fundable', pending the last of the paperwork, Rebecca has started an itemized list of tools and we're brainstorming on storage solutions for this tool wall. We will have a total of \$4000 to spend on this project, which includes any special storage needs and signage. The Ashtabula Rotary Club will take part in preparing the tools for the tool wall - finding storage bags, assembling tool kits for checkout, etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- We generated some excitement this month with a few different posts on Facebook and ended up with a 60% increase in reach and 186% increase in engagement.
 - First we had a post on the art lab in Ashtabula which was shared by OLC and caught some attention.
 - Then we had a post featuring a gallery of photos from storytime which reached 1,236 newsfeeds and generated a lot of conversation on private shares.
 - But the post that went viral was an image of book count densities in public libraries across the US. It was shared on a Facebook group which then took off like wildfire, reaching nearly 8,000 newsfeeds with 1,525 post engagements. The high engagement numbers work in ACDL's favor as it tells the Facebook algorithm that we have content worth viewing which will, in turn, generate more reach on other posts.

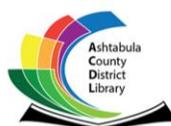


- By the end of the month, ACDL had gained 30 likes and 35 followers on Facebook.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Lyn attended a webinar titled *Grant Writing Basics* held virtually by SCORE Cleveland. SCORE Cleveland is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization affiliated with the Small Business Administration (SBA). They are committed to fostering and educating the small business community in Northeast Ohio.

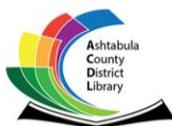
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- Ryan attended the State Library sponsored webinar with COSI to learn about the experiments and programming associated with the *COSI Lunchbox STEM kits* which will be shared with us in early July (ACDL will be receiving 100 of these boxes for free distribution). Lauren and Tina were able to access the archived version.
 - Tina attended a session of the NEO-RLS *New Supervisors' Academy* focused on HR topics like privacy, HIPPA, ADA, and discrimination.
 - Tina attended a webinar called *Libraries As Innovators in Early Childhood Education* produced by LENA, a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping caregivers with toddlers develop early talk skills.
 - Alecia attended Ryan Dowd's *Mental Illness (Part 3) Q&A session* as well as *Open Office Hours* offered by SEO.

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