



# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### **LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – August 2022**

A woman camping in the area for a week spent every afternoon at the Ashtabula Library. She told me that the staff was “the friendliest group of people I’ve ever encountered in a library—and I’ve been to a LOT of libraries all over the country!”  
~Ryan, Ashtabula Branch Manager

A couple came in late in the evening to look at the digitized newspapers. They had not been in the library for years. They had fun looking through the microfilm that documented an event they had attended twenty years ago. They printed copies of the articles they wanted, and said they would set an appointment with Carrie to talk about starting a genealogy project. They signed up for library cards on their way out and the gentleman said, “This is the nicest library I have been in and it’s right here in Ashtabula!”  
~Lyn, Ashtabula Public Services Manager

“This library is the Jewel of the City! It is kept pristine and has all the newest books.”  
~Sharon, Ashtabula patron

“I never tell anyone how to vote but I tell everyone to vote YES for the library’s levy! It’s the heartbeat of Ashtabula. So many resources and it’s all free! And it has the nicest staff!”  
~Lib, Ashtabula patron

“Every time I check out books from the library, I feel rich!”  
~Ashtabula patron

“This library is so comfy and delightful...you’re all so friendly!”  
~Geneva Library patron

A first-time Virtual Reality headset user mentioned, “These VR headsets are amazing! I want to come in every week and play!”  
~Codi, Geneva Public Services Manager

We had a young patron literally run into the library after being dropped off by a parent. He was just that excited to be here! I think that says a lot about the library and the services we provide.  
~Codi, Geneva Public Services Manager

“I really have no idea what I would do without the library and all of you. You are a blessing to me.”  
~Geneva patron

It was magical to watch a family experience one of our Immersive Reality Books together. They had selected the book about China. The parent, who grew up in China, was excitedly talking to their children about the history and beauty of the country. It was so much fun to watch the parent and children swap back and forth so that they could all explore the IR experience.  
~Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager

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Richard, one of the kids who came to Ashtabula's inaugural Video Game Launch Party came back the following week. His mom said he hadn't stopped talking about the library and that he has been "pretty much obsessed" with the library since the party.

~Dwight, Adult Programming & Outreach Coordinator

While on personal time, Melissa ran into one of the kids from the YMCA and her family at a local store and said, "Dad, this is the library lady! She taught us about mosquitoes!", as we had all learned that mosquitos are the deadliest animal in the world, by far.

~Melissa, Ashtabula Youth Services Coordinator

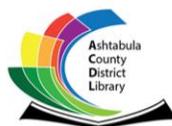
I had two patrons this month so thankful for our notary service that they each donated \$20.

~Karen, Administrative Assistant

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- Stephen's Spanish language skills have been seeing good use at community bookmobile stops. One customer was enthusiastic about being able to ask questions about her library account in her primary language.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Library in July included: NEOFund, Catholic Charities, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LGBTQ Coalition, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Women's Fortnightly Club, Sexual Assault Response Team, Ashtabula County Democrats, League of Women Voters, Lake County Free Clinic, AARP, ACMC Nurses Association, Ashtabula County Rotary Club, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, Ashtabula Lion's Club, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, Ohio Nurses Association, Ashtabula County Society for Human Resources Management.
- COVID test demand increased significantly in July. The Ashtabula Library distributed 496 tests while the Geneva Library distributed nearly 220 free COVID tests in the month of July.
- The Bookmobile made a total of 14 stops in July and served 103 children and 40 adults. Stops included the following community neighborhoods: Footville, Austinburg, Bardmoor, and Bonniewood. Jim and Austin completed 15 Homebound visits and 12 Express Home Delivery stops. Jim was also able to place 220 items into Community Dropbox locations.
- To date, Ashtabula Front Desk staff has distributed 390 coloring and activity sheet packets and crayons as part of a Summer Reading "Oceans of Possibilities" passive program. They also distributed all 500 NOPEC coloring books and have given away 65 yard signs for summer reading.

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- This month's displays in Ashtabula included: Anti-Boredom Month; National Picnic Month / National Ice Cream Month; Oceans of Possibilities: All things Ocean!; Popular Fiction (some of our most popular Fiction titles); and The Bissell Nature Center provided display items relating to plants and animals native to Ohio for this month's large cabinet display.
- Geneva's meeting rooms hosted a variety of community groups in July including Geneva Rotary Club, local Spencerian Writers, and Geneva Academic Boosters. A total of 16 meetings were held inside the building, and 3 were held in the gazebo. The Teen Area was utilized nearly every weekday as a quiet tutoring space.
- Geneva welcomed Tiffany Robbins to our public services team. She is a great fit and brings much positive energy to the position.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room welcomes new employee, Madelyn Dill. Maddy is a recent graduate of Mercyhurst where she received her B.A. in Public History and Anthropology. Completing special coursework in Historic Preservation & Archive & Record Management, as well as a study on the ethics of genetic DNA testing and an emerging interest in genealogy makes her a perfect fit to our staff. Maddy's role as an Archive Assistant will help Carrie to be able to focus more on tasks such as the ongoing digitization project and the processing & preservation of the many collections within the archive.
- Archives Volunteer activity highlights:
  - Char L. covers the room Wednesday mornings for Carrie and continues to sleeve & catalog our photo collection and work on organizing our Family Vertical Files. She's also been helping with the scanning of yearbooks.
  - Kelsi J. is prepping recently scanned yearbooks for upload to Ashtabula Memory.
  - Paula R. helps scan the photograph collection.
- Carol H., our contract employee, is adding metadata for the 5th box of historical photographs. She has completed the scan of the A. Moses diary from the Lee Collection. In addition, Carol is working on scans for the 7th box of photographs.
- A new Fax device has been installed in Geneva with the intention of it being a better solution for managing both the volume of faxing and the size of faxes we are seeing. If the Geneva device is as successful as we hope in the medium term, we anticipate installing an identical device in Ashtabula.
- Geneva displays included materials on the theme of YA for Adults. Lauren also created a display of cookbooks to advertise and develop interest in Geneva's Cookbook Club program.
- Tina created a display to showcase Geneva's new collection of IR Books featuring immersive reality experiences. Children and families can experience educational topics from animals to geography by using their smartphone and an IR headset. IR Books and headsets are now available as circulating items.



## PROGRAMMING

- Chalk The Walk Summer Reading Art Escapade in Ashtabula was a fun event where children learned how to draw a variety of sea creatures including jellyfish, seahorses and narwhals. Even some adults got in on the action! The children also learned about the origins of street art and how street art has become more widely accepted and commercialized over time.
- Tech Tuesdays served four (4) patrons in Ashtabula this month. Most patrons needed help using their cell phones.
- Bookmobile Storytimes continued for local day care classes at Loving Cup and Carol's Corner in Geneva. Driftwood Adult Day program was also added as a new monthly stop where library staff provide a craft and story time.
- Cindi held a party for all of our TAG members, and they had a blast. She has done a great job building this group and adding new members along the way. Several of the teens will be heading off to college soon with a bunch of fun memories from the library.
- Dwight hosted (with the assistance of Melissa) a Family Friendly Video Game Launch Party. The early portion of the event was very popular with kids and teens and the later portion had a few adults wander in. Participants were very excited about the prospect of ACDL doing more events of this nature in the future.
- The Cookbook Club had their inaugural session in Geneva. Participants discussed the goals of the group. We discussed the need for nonfiction books to be evaluated as we read through them. We discussed how to strategically incorporate information into our lives. There was a philosophical discussion about how, perhaps, recipes are more of a "concept" or a "starting point" and that we take that inspiration and modify as needed. The August session will involve a discussion of Gordon Ramsey's Quick and Delicious: 100 Simple Recipes to Cook in 30 Minutes or Less.
- The Geneva Book Group discussed The Midnight Library by Matt Haig. The general themes of this book included the idea that there are thousands of choices that we make in our lifetime and through the magic of the "midnight library" the main character was able to explore all the lives that she could have had, including the one where she was a rock star, and the one where she went out to coffee with that strange yet nice man.
- The Ashtabula Book Group and the Senior Center Book Group talked about the fascinating yet dark nature of Hannibal by Thomas Harris. Some of the discussion focused on questions including "Do you need to like a main character in order to enjoy a book about them?" The general conclusion was that he would be a fascinating person to visit an art museum with, but perhaps I wouldn't want to dine with him.
- The Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) with Stacey Stengal has had a good group of regulars in attendance of this six-week program at the Ashtabula Library. The focus is on strategies for living long-term with diabetes through lifestyle changes. The program includes a demonstration of recipes, which seems quite popular.

- The ACDL Writers' Group discussed tips for writing a variety of scenes. Vanessa is working on a car chase scene in her Korean Spy Story and she had very specific questions for the group about "How do you make it seem like a character is a highly skilled driver who can avoid being followed?" Dana was looking for tips on writing dialogue to fit her scene involving old friends, one of whom does not like her best friend's childish husband.
- Ashtabula Library hosted an outdoor screening of Finding Nemo on Friday night (July 8). A crowd of families joined staff on the front lawn for a fun, slightly interactive event (and the weather was perfect)!
- Ashtabula Storytime was a lot of fun this month. Volunteer Jan took over on July 8th and was much loved by attendees. With summer in full swing, the families not only love the stories but they also love socializing in the Children's (pollinator) Garden after story time. Connections are growing between families as well! Upon being greeted when they arrive for Storytime, the first question many of the kiddos ask is if their friends are there yet.
- The YMCA, Kids Only Daycare, and Burn's Kids College made their final summer classroom visits to the library this month. The highlight was being able to make their own ocean magnets. Also, using the book Animals by the Numbers (via Hoopla) they were able to not only learn an amazing amount of information about animals, but also practiced reading and deciphering many different types of graphs. Students from Burn's Kids College especially loved spending time in the pollinator garden and seeing how it changed throughout the summer.
- Carrie and the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society hosted a program by Lisa Alzo entitled, Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors. Seven (7) people attended in person with nine (9) online via Zoom.
- 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 July showing of Ghostbusters: Afterlife.
- Geneva's DIY program featured a cork trivet project. Attendees cut and layered cork tiles to create two-tone trivets using leaf and fox-shaped patterns.
- Tech Help appointments remain popular at Geneva. Help topics have included website building, file management, and both basic and advanced smartphone operation.
- July's Storytimes with Miss Tina focused on singing. Singing helps children better hear the sounds that make up words as a result of the words being more drawn out when sung. Songs included 5 Little Ducks and How Much is That Doggie in the Window.
- Popular Geneva Library summer programs for kids included Critter Club, Crafts & Creations, Full STEAM Ahead, and Gadgets, Gizmos and Games. Children have had a blast creating summer art projects, learning about sea creatures, performing experiments, and interacting with tech toys like the Rover Robot and Oculus.



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Lyn and Ryan attended the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association's Summer Meet and Greet where we learned about upcoming plans for fall and winter, as well as updates on downtown building restorations and potential for "a couple new, exciting" ventures coming.
- Alecia and Ryan provided library outreach at Head Start's Health and Education event at their State Road location. Current and newly enrolled Head Start students and their families received health screenings and visits with several local health and human services organizations. We registered families for library cards, shared program information, and recruited many for summer reading adventure and "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten."
- Melissa visited Michigan Primary three times this month to read to the After School Discovery Program participants. Each story was interactive and was followed up by a discussion. The evening after one of the sessions, one of the students came in with her family to see Melissa and get a library card.
- Melissa visited Spectrum Academy School for Autism twice in July. Each week had a theme; the first week was focused on taking care of oneself and the second week was about doing chores. These story times are interactive and the age range is quite big, but it is a very productive session. Melissa is able to read 2-3 books and the kiddos always have questions for her after and even ask her to read some of their favorite books.
- Geneva Library hosted a session of Head Start's Health and Education Day series. Local health partners were on hand to provide screenings to Head Start students and families. Special guest Dr. Sam from APMC Pediatrics provided a story time featuring a Daniel Tiger book titled Daniel Goes to the Doctor.
- Lauren coordinated with the Geneva Police Department to provide donated books for children who attended Safety Town.
- Lauren and Ryan headed out in the Bookmobile to attend the Careers on Wheels event at After School Discovery. Students learned about the types of jobs that are found in libraries and the importance of using a Bookmobile to connect with customers who may have difficulty accessing a library building. Students had the opportunity to ask great questions as well, including "How do you keep the books on the shelves when driving?" (Answer: Specially angled shelves), and "How many things fit on the Bookmobile?" (Answer: More than 3,000!).
- Lauren attended the Geneva Area City School District meeting where she spoke about the upcoming Student & Family Open House to be held on August 25 at Geneva Library. She invited board members, educators, students, and families to drop in and learn about the many free resources available to support local students and educators.
- Lauren, Angela and two members of the Friends of Geneva Library, Cindy and Michelle, set up a table at the Geneva Sidewalk Sale. Library staff provided info on upcoming programs and events, and our Friends managed a pop-up book sale.

- Library staff created over 200 library service information packets that were distributed in swag bags at the recent Covered Bridge Dinner. The library also provided a gift basket for the Covered Bridge Festival fundraising raffle.
- Mike attended his first board meeting as Ashtabula Lions Club Secretary and also as a member of the LGBTQ+ Coalition Board. Mike also assisted with the Lions Eye Screenings at Head Start events throughout the month of July, providing screening firsthand at the event at the Geneva Branch. He also attended the ATech Board Meeting for July.
- Rebecca attended her regular Ashtabula Rotary Club meetings for the month of July.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- We had a solid month on social media, maintaining the jump in post reach from June. Our engagement dropped off, but no further than the level for a typical month.
  - The star post for the month of July was an infographic about how many books were set in each state. This post had a reach of 15,708 and 307 reactions, comments, and shares.
- By the end of the month, ACDL had gained 20 likes and followers on Facebook.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Many staff members attended the Ryan Dowd training webinar, Unattended Children: How to talk to parents about their children's behavior.
- Geneva staff members focused on completing Ryan Dowd's Librarian's Guide to Homelessness training. This empathy-based training instructs how to best serve those experiencing homelessness and how to prevent conflict. The training was completed by Codi, Morgan, Cindi, and Stephen.
- Lyn attended a webinar titled, Mental Health In Their Own Words held by Ryan Dowd, homelessness expert and author of The Librarians' Guide to Homelessness.
- Carrie & Maddy attended the Ashtabula County Auditor's program on Historic House searching. The Auditor's staff will be presenting the program here at the library in September.
- Carrie attended the Society of American Archivists monthly meeting which was focused on Preservation: Priorities, advocacy, and the "big picture".

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