



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – October 2022

“You are all so warm and friendly here. I’m happy the kids have you to look up to.”

~Geneva Library patron

“Thank you for hosting the VA Suicide Prevention Program. When you have a family member who is considering suicide, you just don’t know what to do. Anyone can benefit from the information that was presented.”

~Ashtabula Library patron

“I told you! You just have to ASK HIM and he will give you a new library card!” There is an interesting rumor going around the Lakeside High School that if you just ask Mr. Meyer, the new librarian, he will give you a new library card. *~Student interaction with Dwight, Lakeside H.S.*

While helping customers at the fax and copy machines, the person at the copy machine said to the fax customer, “Don’t you just love our library? They are so helpful!” The fax customer responded saying, “Don’t you just love the staff? They are so wonderful!”

~Jim, Outreach Associate

I continue to hear mentioned words like helpful, wonderful, patient, and kind when patrons talk about our staff. It is truly heartwarming to hear patrons compliment ACDL staff and offer thanks for the service they receive.

~Jim, Outreach Associate

During the Grape Jamboree parade, so many people pointed at the ACDL van and shouted, “We love our library!” It is gratifying to know that our community members do love libraries, especially ours.

~Jim, Outreach Associate

After attending the Seed Saver program with Red Beet Row, two patrons came out of the program with huge smiles on their faces. One exclaimed, “That was great! I learned so much! You should invite them back again in the Spring!”

~Lyn, Ashtabula Public Services Coordinator

A very cute three-year-old and his Grandpa came in on a Monday morning. They had never visited the Library before. I gave them a tour of the picture books and the art room and helped them get out art supplies to make “dot” pictures (a la Seurat!). They were thrilled! I showed them a VOX book about dump trucks and they sat by the aquarium and read it together. The Grandpa stated, “We will have to come back. This is a fun place! I had no idea!” I love it when new patrons discover the library!

~Lyn, Ashtabula Public Services Coordinator

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



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



A patron made a generous donation to the library as a show of appreciation for the help that I gave her on Tech Tuesday. I showed her how to use some of the features on the smartphone that she just recently purchased, including how to take photos and send them via text or email and how to use the text message feature.
~Ric, Public Services Librarian

A patron provided a generous donation after having been helped by Susan at the Conklin Desk, stating, "She was extremely helpful and kind".
~Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

A patron thanked Hannah for all of her "great help!" with the copier and putting items on hold.
~Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

We had a new family come in with two little girls, Hayley showed them the art lab and got them paper and paint and they told their mom how nice Hayley was. The mother thanked Hayley for her help, knowledge, and guidance of the children's area.
~Sybil, Ashtabula Front Desk Manager

"I like that I don't have to wait while you put books on hold for me. I can drop my list with any of you girls and go!"
~Ashtabula patron, Virginia

"I never leave home without my library card!"
~Ashtabula patron, Becky

Two patrons came in looking for notary service who had been turned away from three other locations in the area because of staffing issues. They took a chance to come to the Ashtabula Library as a last resort. They could not have been happier to find that there was a notary available and that it didn't cost them to get the service they wanted as soon as they walked in the door.
~Karen, Administrative Assistant

"Thanks for another informative newsletter. Always glad to know about happenings throughout the ACDL." ~Peggy (at receiving monthly *Shareholder Review: What's Happening at ACDL?!*)
~Karen, Administrative Assistant

Dwight is always "selling" the free benefits of the library to students and staff at Lakeside High School. Every single day there is at least one person who comments "I didn't know we could do that!"
~Dwight, Lakeside High School Branch Manager / Emerging Tech Librarian



PUBLIC SERVICE

- Geneva Library distributed 156 free at-home COVID tests during the month of September and 25 free gun locks.
- Geneva Library hosted 17 meetings and 115 guests in our meeting spaces. Groups who utilized space included: Geneva Rotary Club, local condominium associations, Spencerian Writers, and the Animal Welfare Center of Ashtabula County.
- Austin created book displays in Geneva to highlight Banned Books / Freedom to Read Week and Environmental Conservation. Cindi created a display to highlight Geneva Grape Jamboree including books on grapes and wines as well as books with wine-colored covers.
- Brightly colored paintings, created by local artist Chad Davis, drew much attention to the Geneva Library display case. Many patrons commented on how much they enjoyed the display.
- Students and staff at Lakeside High School are learning what it means to have a Media Center in operation. For the last several years the library space has been a shortcut to class and a nice meeting room, but now students and faculty can borrow books, audiobooks, and ebooks from 89 different library systems.
- 54 students signed up for library cards at the Lakeside Media Center this month and the collection has seen 54 checkouts and 4 renewals.
- Edgewood High School Library, which uses ACDL's Integrated Library System (ILS) free of charge to manage their campus library and is under the leadership of professional librarian Christina Fischer, has seen 16 students sign up for new library cards in September and circulated 188 items with 47 renewals.
- A-Tech library, which uses ACDL's (ILS) free of charge to manage their campus library, issued 10 new cards and circulated 16 items with 6 renewals. They also recorded 102 items used in-house.
- Pymatuning High School Library, which also uses ACDL's ILS free of charge, issued 14 new library cards and circulated 52 items with 15 renewals this month.
- New wayfinding signage has been added to the Nonfiction stacks at Lakeside High School.
- Rebecca created an excellent series of posters for the Lakeside High School Media Center which showcase a variety of pro-reading messages. Dwight has displayed these items on the Nonfiction stacks.
- Regular community Bookmobile stops continue in Austinburg, Harpersfield, Footville, and the Ashtabula neighborhoods of Bardmoor and Bonniewood. A new bi-weekly stop with storytime has been added at the Dorset Township Community Center. More than 210 people took advantage of Bookmobile service during the month of September.
- The Bookmobile has also resumed monthly service at Austinburg Elementary School, and Saint John School. Superior Elementary School will resume service in October. Local Geneva child care centers Carol's Corner and Loving Cup Academy also continue to enjoy monthly Bookmobile visits where Stephen provides storytime and songs.

- Jim completed 16 Homebound visits resulting in more than 125 items checked out. He was also able to complete 13 Express Delivery stops and place 385 items in Book Drop Collections throughout the ACDL service area.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room saw approximately 100 visitors in September, many of whom were from out of state. States represented this month were: Tennessee, Michigan, Utah, Idaho, and California. Of the visitors, about half used our computers and 450 resources from within the room were used.
- Carrie, along with Maddy, Carol, and volunteers, continue to upload content to our Ashtabula Memory project. There are now 18 pages of content, including such things as: photographs, yearbooks, diaries, letters, & scrapbooks.
- Carol, our contract employee, continues to add metadata for the 6th box of historical photographs and the Elmira Wheeler-Shidler Diaries, as well as yearbooks.
- COVID test demand was steady in September. The Ashtabula Front Desk distributed 288 tests. They also distributed 9 additional gun locks bringing our total to 74 distributed so far.
- The Front Desk also distributed 200 “Back-To-School” coloring page packets.
- The Rokus are circulating continually and so far the return rate has been 100%. The most desired Rokus are those that are programmed for Netflix.
- This month’s displays in Ashtabula included: Back-To-School (subject study books); Staff Picks II; Suicide Awareness; National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and National Sewing Month.
- Ric and Susan continue to improve the collections through purchasing and replacing items. Susan completed the original cataloging of a few items this month as well.
- The WebChat feature is up and running on the ACDL website and we have fielded an average of 10 questions per month.
- ACDL celebrated Library Card Sign-Up month with our Discover More Perks campaign. This campaign was designed to encourage new patrons to create cards and included existing patrons in on the fun by partnering with local businesses to offer discounts to library card holders. Our initial feedback from businesses and patrons is positive and we received a number of positive suggestions to implement next year. In total, we did 5 videos, 8 social media posts (with multiple graphics in each post), one email (which had an open rate of over 23%), 20 hand-trimmed tabloid sized posters, 22 table tents, 1000 rack cards, and a press release. In total ACDL created 258 new library cards in the month of September which is the largest number of new cards in September in the last decade (closest runners up 2019 and 2016)!
- Ashtabula notaries certified 70 documents during the month of September.



PROGRAMMING

- Dwight facilitated “Welcome to the Library” presentations to 45 Lakeside Classes (approximately 600 students). Over a six-day period, up to two classes per period were present for each of seven class periods. Dwight spoke on the physical organization of the Media Center, how to place holds on both Lakeside and SEO Materials, and how to access the Digital Library holdings of ACDL. These sessions were the first of our Digital Literacy Sessions which will be a regular feature of classroom visits to the Media Center.
- Geneva Library’s after school programming is off to a strong start. The library sees an average of 74 students each school day. Weekly programming includes Anime Club, Stir It Up (basic cooking), Arts & Crafts, Video Gaming Club, Ink to Page (creative writing & illustration), Book Discussion Group, and Gadgets Gizmos & Games.
- Jim resumed his read-aloud program at Rae-Ann Nursing Facility in Geneva following a short break caused by an increase in local COVID cases. The group was able to continue with their reading of Erich Segal’s *Love Story*.
- Stephen led a session of his monthly storytime for participants in the ViaQuest Day Program. This audience is always enthusiastic and appreciative of ACDL staff and their book selections.
- Tina’s weekly storytimes at Geneva featured themes including: cats, grapes, and harvests. Young participants also had a chance to practice writing using crayons and chalk.
- Tina, with the help of Cindi, has resumed storytimes at Cork Elementary. About 150 students in grades K-3 have the opportunity to enjoy stories each Thursday.
- Mark led a Tech Teardown program for a group of interested students during after school hours at Geneva. He opened up a donated computer to walk students through the different parts that make up a computer and talked about how each part contributes to the operation of the unit.
- Codi led the monthly Geneva adult book club discussion of *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. This thoughtful book tells the story of a troupe of actors and musicians before and after a devastating flu pandemic.
- Lauren led the Geneva Cookbook Club’s discussion of *The Best of America’s Test Kitchen 2017*. Conversation centered around the strengths of this cookbook which include details on the science of why certain recipes work and the book’s value as a resource for learning how to build cooking skills. The group also enjoyed a loaf of Test Kitchen’s famous Almost No-Knead Bread.
- September’s DIY craft program in Geneva had participants celebrating both the Grape Jamboree and the arrival of autumn by creating seasonal pumpkin decorations made from wine corks.
- “Seed Saving with Red Beet Row” was highly successful. Many participants took home seeds and learned the skills they needed to collect seeds from their own flower and



vegetable gardens. Educators from agroecology education farm Red Beet Row in Jefferson brought their knowledge of seed saving to both Ashtabula and Geneva area residents.

- Geneva Library hosted a presentation with two local authors. Annette Brunner, along with her son Dr. Mark Brunner, discussed her memoir *Annette Remembers*. Mrs. Brunner discussed her experience of growing up as a young girl before and after the Nazi occupation of France.
- Ashtabula native Ted Dieffenbacher discussed his memoir *Lake Effect: Coming of Age in Ashtabula, Ohio* for groups at both Ashtabula Library and Geneva Library. Mr. Dieffenbacher discussed why he decided to write a memoir and his process for writing about his experiences.
- Tech Tuesdays served six patrons this month. Most patrons need help using their new cell phones, Chromebooks, and setting up email accounts. Ryan hosted a Tech One-on-One at the Ashtabula Center for Active Living and helped three persons with similar issues.
- *Paint-Along with Ms. Jan* was a fun acrylic art painting program attended by teens and adults. They painted an ocean scene with a frisky dolphin and had fun mixing the colors to achieve the effects they wanted. Lyn co-hosted this event with RSVP volunteer, Jan.
- Educators from the Veterans Administration in Erie presented their S.A.V.E. suicide prevention and lethal means education program, which was a great success.
- In cooperation with ACDL, The Mental Health and Recovery Service Board also presented their QPR suicide prevention training which was well received.
- Ryan led the Book Group in Ashtabula this month in discussing Stephen King's *Delores Claiborne*. He also visited the Ashtabula Center for Active Living to host our book club there (which also discussed *Delores Claiborne*).
- Lyn Glover's art exhibit "Altered Vision" attracted a number of visitors; 72 signed the guest books and 26 patrons attended the reception, which was fun for all.
- Dr. Sampurna Shakya (Dr. Sam) and the Referral & Community Outreach Coordinator Allison Loudermilk from APMC joined Melissa to host a storytime/slime making event at the Ashtabula Library. Dr. Sam read *Zombies Don't Eat Veggies* by Jorge Lacera and Megan Lacera before the slime-making began. Kids (and parents) enjoyed making slimy slime, glittery slime, and even multiple colors of slime.
- Ashtabula Library youth services partnered with The Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) to host a Sensory Movie Night. ACBDD supplied food and fidget toys, and flexible (and fluid) seating was used for comfort, as all enjoyed *Encanto*.
- Ashtabula storytimes celebrated themes of dogs, cats, and school. Even with little ones too small for school, they had a blast hearing stories with school buses, teachers, and classrooms
- A new program this fall, the first *Open Sensory* was all about foam. With shaving cream, cornstarch, soap, lotion, food coloring, foam beads, and sand, the kids were able to explore

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



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



four out of their five senses. Smells and sounds, and the feel of different textures and concoctions was a hit with kids and parents!

- A lot of fun was had during Ashtabula's *Steam Engine* sessions this month. Activities included making glowing goo, studying and recreating waves, and making zip lines and Minecraft wings (Elytra). The kids (and caregivers) love being able to work with their hands and make "messes" without worry.
- Deb Mohny and Heidi Barringer of the Ashtabula County Auditor's Office, real estate manager Dennis Huey, as well as our county auditor David Thomas, presented their program concerning researching your home / property. There were 15 in-person attendees at the Ashtabula Library and six joined the program virtually.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- Tina attended the *Reeds to Roots Skillshare* where she and ACDL board member Irene Skleres provided storytime and craft activities.
- Lauren and Melissa took the Bookmobile to *Safety Day at Clifford Kadon Park*. They had the opportunity to talk to more than 65 attendees about library services and programs. They also gave away 15 COSI Learning Lunchboxes filled with hands-on STEM activities for children in grades K-8.
- Lauren and Mike visited the *Dorset Township Community Cookout* with the Bookmobile. Residents had a chance to open library cards, check out materials, and receive information about library programs and services.
- Geneva Library staff had a chance to speak with nearly 200 *Geneva Grape Jamboree* attendees at the ACDL booth. Staff passed out program guides and information on free services and resources available from ACDL.
- Hayley and Ryan met 55 enthusiasts of Harry Potter (and other literary wizards) at the ACDL vendor booth at the inaugural *Magic on Main* event sponsored by the Ashtabula Arts Center and Bakery on Main. In addition to sharing program and event information on all-things library, we made Harry Potter "cootie catchers" with youth and sent everyone home with a craft celebrating the four Harry Potter houses.
- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula Library in September included: NEO Fund, Catholic Charities, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LGBTQ Coalition, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Women's Fortnightly Group, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, Youngstown Business Incubator, Building Resiliency Together, Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, Sexual Assault Response Team, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Community Counseling Center, Signature Health, Study Group, Zonta, League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County, Cross Stitch Group, Geneva Camera Club,



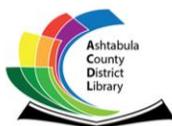
Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Family Drug Court and Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio.

- Melissa began visiting Spectrum Academy School for Autism. As a new venue just started this past summer, Melissa has developed a growing relationship with the students at the school. The themes for the month were personal space, finding (or not finding) the right words, and friendship.
- Melissa returned to After School Discovery to read to students. They eagerly welcomed her back and enjoyed listening to and discussing books on physical and cultural differences, oceans and seas, and personal space.
- For Melissa's September visit to ABC Daycare, the staff requested books in the same vein of *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*. Melissa shared *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers, *One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree* by Daniel Bernstrom, and *The Lumberjack's Beard* by Duncan Beedie. The kids loved going back and reviewing each item that was collected in each book.
- Lauren represented ACDL at the September meeting of the Geneva Businesswomen Group.
- Carrie and Rebecca attended *Ashtabula County Historical Society's Log Cabin Days*. We had about 50 people visit our table. We discussed library services, upcoming programs, where and how to find information, and our upcoming levy. Many were interested in "home research", which is a common question fielded by Carrie, and led smoothly into this month's program which just happened to be *Historic Property Research*.
- Mike attended his typical Lions meetings and the community and Board meetings for the LGBTQ+ Coalition. Mike worked with the Lions at *Grape Jamboree* at their fundraiser parking cars. He also attended the A-Tech Board Meeting and the Ohio Means Jobs Ashtabula Partners Meeting.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- This month, the post with the most reach was one of our Discover More Perks posts, followed closely by the Log Cabin Days post. The post with the most reactions was about Malachi, the Library Dog who ate a library book, followed by a photo of the bookmobile.
- Instagram is growing at a healthy rate and we have Twitter back on the board thanks to a new scheduling program that's included in our Adobe Creative Cloud suite called Adobe Express.
- We also had a lovely shout out on the Geneva, Ohio Facebook page this month from a patron who was very grateful for assistance on the computer.

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



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



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Tina attended two webinars in September: *How Any Library Can Do More STEM* and *School Library Journal's Fall Picture Books*. She also attended the September session of the NEO-RLS *New Supervisors' Academy* where topics covered included performance goals, coaching, and evaluations.
- Lauren completed Ryan Dowd's *Sexual Harassment: How to Respond to a Customer's Inappropriate Comments*. Content covered how to respond and set boundaries in customer service transactions.
- Lauren attended the orientation and opening retreat for LEADERship Ashtabula County's Signature Program. This program enhances knowledge of local issues, assets, and resources, and enhances leadership skills through community engagement.
- Sybil completed QPR suicide prevention training.
- Karen attended a NEO-RLS workshop entitled: *Understanding Our Limits: How to Set Boundaries with Library Patrons*

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- The Friends of Geneva Library met to plan for their October book sale and upcoming Holiday Tree / Wreath Raffle. Friend Sandi Kleps also coordinated with the Animal Welfare Center of Ashtabula County to offer a pet food giveaway and cat adoption event in the Geneva Library gazebo during the weekend of their October book sale.
- Geneva volunteers assisted with shelving, cleaning, and as parade walkers for the Geneva *Grape Jamboree* parade. Special thanks to TAG member Timothy Nolan whose tumbling during the parade was a particular delight to the crowd.
- In Ashtabula, youth services volunteer Phoebe continues shelf-reading juvenile nonfiction. She is also extremely diligent with keeping the game room updated. Phoebe also helps fill end cap displays with enticing, prescient materials.
- Volunteers in Archives/Genealogy have completed:
 - 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 with scanning the photograph collection.
 - Duane B. staffs the room on Saturdays when Carrie is not here.
 - Marilyn S. volunteers from home. She extracts and then enters information from the Gazette and Star Beacon into the RB Hayes Obituary index. She also takes the information from the obituary binders that Carrie creates and enters that into the obituary index.
 - Tom M. volunteers from home & proofs the obituary notebooks that Carrie creates.