



# ACDL

## The Month In Review

### LIBRARY EXPERIENCES / TESTIMONIALS / REPORTS – May 2022

“I have never been in a library where everyone is so helpful! You guys do a great job!”  
~ *Ashtabula patron, Jessica*

“Thank you for having the AARP tax group here. I don’t know what I would do if they didn’t help me with my taxes every year. I am on a fixed income and it truly is a blessing.”  
~ *Ashtabula patron, Susan*

“The Library is the Star of Ashtabula. So many people don’t realize how wonderful it is. I tell everyone, “Go to the Library!”  
~ *Ashtabula patron, Liz*

“You have a beautiful library here. It’s so nice and clean, too. You should be proud!”  
~ *Ashtabula patron visiting from Geauga County*

“I have to tell someone – this is by far the best exhibit that I have seen, anywhere!”  
~ *Patron Cheryl, after viewing the “What I Was Wearing” exhibit*

“You’re our favorite after school homework environment!”  
~ *Ashtabula student patron*

“Your study rooms are very accommodating. Thank you!”  
~ *Ashtabula patron, Edith*

A desperate patron’s iPhone Touch ID stopped working and she was locked out of her phone (that has all her contacts and information on it!) Ric and Mike tried several things and finally figured out a way to not only get her into her accounts, but also got her iCloud reconfigured and her Touch ID to work again. She was elated!  
~ *Susan, Ashtabula Public Services Librarian*

“I love that I can come in and check out a Nintendo Switch to play at the library. I have one at home, but I don’t like taking it to school with me.”  
~ *Geneva Middle School Student*


A recent Geneva author event attendee shared with me, “This is really the most darling library, so beautiful!”  
~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

At a recent DIY program, a participant shared how happy she was to see interesting adult programming on the library’s event calendar. “I am so excited to come in for these programs, I can’t wait for the start of the nutrition program in May!”  
~ *Lauren, Geneva Branch Manager*

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Visitors continue to comment on how beautiful the library looks. Many are first time visitors and never knew the library was so nice. Others said they didn't know the community had a treasure like this.  
~ *Jim, Bookmobile/Outreach Assistant*

An Express Delivery patron thanked me profusely that the library provided her materials while she recovered from surgery at home. She said she would've gone crazy with no books.  
~ *Jim, Bookmobile/Outreach Assistant*

“I love connecting with the librarians! Y'all are always so nice and reliable and you interact with me even when im too shy to initiate the interaction, its really cool :) plus I also love the free wifi lol its handy”  
~ *ACDL social media follower*

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- *AARP Tax Assistance* programs ended, submitting 206 returns from Ashtabula Library visits and 169 returns from Geneva. Area residents were pleased to resume in-person tax preparation this year.
- Ashtabula saw a slight uptick in requests for Covid Tests in April, and distributed the remaining 150 tests. More have been ordered.
- Geneva Library served as a meeting place for more than 13 different community groups including Geneva Camera Club, Platt R. Spencer Historical Society, and the Ashtabula County 4H Equine Team. The library's common areas also served as a frequent meeting place for students and tutors.
- Jim completed a total of 29 Homebound stops and 14 Home Delivery Express stops with nearly 200 associated item checkouts. Patrons continue to comment on how astonished they are to learn about Home Delivery Express service, which can include both delivery and pickup services.
- Jim was able to restart his reading group at Rae Ann Nursing Facility after a long COVID hiatus. Jim will be visiting twice a month to read with a group of residents. This month Jim read Blockade Billy, Stephen King's baseball-themed mystery novella. Jim looks forward to sharing more stories with them in the coming months.
- Jim placed 255 items into dropbox collections throughout the ACDL service community.
- Stephen and Jim served 296 children and 33 adults this month on the Bookmobile Service stops included Superior Elementary, Saint John School, local daycares, and community stops. The Bookmobile even made an appearance at the Cleveland Guardians Kick-off Party in Austinburg! Community stops in Trumbull Township include the Township Park in Footville and the Township Administrative Building on Rt 534. New stops added to the May Bookmobile schedule include Austinburg Town Hall, Harpersfield Township Garage, and the Ashtabula neighborhoods of Bardmoor and Bonniewood.
- Melissa pulled together 30 books for Ridgeview educator, Chelsea Jeffers. She needed books on bunnies and spring for her classroom.

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- Melissa is also continuing to go to Michigan Primary School to share literature and read stories with the Celebrate group of After School Discovery. There are two groups; one of first graders and one of second graders. The second graders' favorite book was Laxmi's Mooch by Shelly Anand. The discussion that followed opened the door to the problem of bullying and realistic depictions of people.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room averaged 20 visitors per week in April, two of whom made the trek from Minnesota. Of the 90 or so visitors, 75% used the computers in the room & over 300 physical resources were used.
- Carol has completed the metadata for the third box of historical photographs. The three albums of Lee-Williams letters are completely scanned and file numbers applied. While we wait on the folks at Ohio Memory to make the fourth box of photographs available for metadata, Carol is adding transcription information to the Ashtabula County Historical and Philosophical Society book.
- The library has been contacted by a group from Italy that is assisting someone who is trying to obtain dual citizenship. His grandfather immigrated from Italy to Ashtabula in 1906. Our Archive holds the original Intent to Naturalize paperwork that is needed. Carrie is currently working with ICA, the group from Italy, as well as the Ashtabula County Clerk of Courts & Ashtabula County Probate Court to try to certify the information by means of the apostle as is necessary for international legal documentation.
- Dwight spearheaded ACDL's hosting of "*What I Was Wearing*" which was featured in the Ashtabula gallery in April. A partnership between Case Western Reserve students and the office of the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's office, the display highlights the fact that acts of sexual violence often have far more to do with opportunity rather than the type or style of clothing that victims wear. Dwight worked with the graduate students from Case for several months to plan the exhibit. The exhibit has received acclaim and broad publicity (even from Cleveland WEWs). Because of its popularity, this exhibit will be extended and featured through May.
- Through the Suicide Prevention Coalition, Lyn partnered with Christi Seth, Suicide Prevention Case Manager at Erie Veteran's Administration Medical Center- Behavioral Health, to supply the service desks with gun locks and educational materials for patrons. This is part of the S.A.V.E. Suicide Prevention/Firearm Safety program, sponsored by the VA. Christi will present an educational program covering the same topics at the Ashtabula Library later this year.
- MyPC devices in the Ashtabula adult patron computer lab were successfully upgraded to Windows 11 in order to ensure patrons are receiving the most current features and experience possible.
- An Ashtabula Front Desk barcode scanner was replaced with one capable of reading device screens. This offers the opportunity to field test and evaluate a new brand and model of device with more patron-friendly capabilities.

- Four Android based tablets were returned to service in Geneva based on patron need. Devices are those targeted at the busy “Teen Tech” programming at that location.
- Karen and Dwight notarized 154 documents for our Ashtabula patrons during the month of April. (Notarization is a free service through our library system.)

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH**

- Ryan co-hosted *Building Resiliency Together* at the Ashtabula building this month. The meeting focus was on *getting the word out* about resiliency, and then using that to expand business and community partnerships.
- Ryan attended an organizational meeting for (2023’s) *Longest Day of Play*, during which several program and financial decisions were resolved, and dates/locations were narrowed. Most importantly, the committee received an offer from Country Neighbor to write the days’ food costs for kids into their grant request for 2023, which will feed hundreds of kids at no cost!
- Lauren met with the superintendent of Geneva Area City Schools, Dr. Terri Hrina-Treharn, to identify opportunities for partnership between the library and local elementary schools. Also discussed were the topics of MakerSpace technologies and keyboarding clubs for students in grades K-3.
- Rebecca attended a C.R.E.A.T.E.S meeting and two Ashtabula Rotary Club meetings.
- Mike attended the Community Advisory Panel meeting, two Lions Meetings, the LGBTQ+ Coalition Public Meeting, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Meeting, the A-Tech School Board Meeting, the Ashtabula Area City Schools Board Meeting, and the Ohio Means Jobs Ashtabula Partners Staff Meeting.
  - Mike also attended Lions Club officers training; helped with the Lions Spaghetti Dinner; and assisted as a member of the Lions with Clean Up Ashtabula event on Earth Day.
- Friends of Geneva Library hosted a two-day Book Sale Event which raised over \$200 for the library.
- Volunteers for the Geneva Community Garden at Geneva Library constructed raised garden beds filled with soil and compost. Planting will begin on May 14.
- Friends of Geneva Library hosted an author luncheon for mystery writer Kylie Logan. Ms. Logan, who also writes under the name Casey Daniels, gave an engaging presentation on the history of mystery novels to a group of about thirty enthusiastic attendees.
- The display case at Geneva Library currently hosts a collection of items on loan from The Dr. James K. Bissell Nature Center at Morgan Swamp Preserve. Display items include a beaver pelt, fossils, and examples of animal tracks.

## MARKETING / PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Aubrey's book displays in Geneva highlighted National Poetry Month, baseball, and gardening. She also created a popular display to highlight "Staff Picks", a variety of items from the Geneva collection that are recommended by individual staff members.
- Karen prepared certificates and letters for all library volunteers for National Volunteer Week, mailing those which were unable to be presented in person.
- The big event this month was National Library Week and the theme, Connecting with your Library. We shared messages about how we connect with our patrons and how patrons can connect with ACDL. We touched on the food donations from Winter Carnival, OLC's Legislative Day, and library outreach, and we rolled out the new library cards this week as well.
- Using the momentum of National Library Week, we ran a contest to get ACDL magnets out into the community. The magnet contest involved taking an ACDL magnet, placing it somewhere in the community, and taking a picture of it. Here were some of our favorites:



- The May newsletter was sent out on April 26. It has an open rate of 23.29% which is great. The most clicked on event was the *Summer Reading Edventure Kickoff* in Geneva, followed by the *Roadmap to Local Food* event.
- Social media:
  - The most far reaching post this month was about the community garden project at the Geneva Public Library. The post reached over 5400 newsfeeds and was shared 43 times. The second most popular post was about our Volunteer of the Year: Marilyn Strubbe.
  - On Facebook, we gained 32 followers and 29 page likes.
  - On Instagram, we gained 8 followers and increased our reach from 476 to 1177.
- Newspaper and paid ads:
  - We sent out a press release on the volunteer of the year.
  - The Star Beacon's Shelly Terry asked for a quote on home improvement resources and she turned that quote into a much larger article on what's available at the Library, which was pleasantly unexpected.

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- Bookmobile stops have been added to the events release that goes to the Gazette.
- We bought ad space in the Ashtabula Foundation's 100th Anniversary program, produced by Great Lakes Printing:




## PROGRAMMING

- ACDL's *Adult Winter Reading Challenge* concluded on Earth Day. One winner from Ashtabula and one winner from Geneva were notified and each received a gift certificate from a local business along with a basket of ACDL swag and goodies. (Check our Facebook page for photos of the winners collecting their prizes!)
- Geneva's student *Chess Club* is popular and growing. One newcomer was so excited to learn the game that it was a big incentive to work through their homework just to have the opportunity to talk with Dwight, receive instruction, and play a game!
- An *ACDL Book Group* met for the first time in Geneva this month with a small but passionate gathering. We had an interesting conversation about *The Adventurer's Son* by Roman Dial.
- In April we had six very animated participants for our discussion of *The River* by Peter Heller with the Ashtabula group, and another seven with the Senior Center group for the same title. Dwight received feedback from participants that they very much look forward to these sessions. Several members of the group indicated that they hope to join us at both branches in May. This will allow them to read and discuss two books per month with our various groups.
- Ashtabula-born-and-bred author J.C. Raphael presented a program complimenting his book, *Monsters of Ohio*, a cryptozoology book about the most infamous monsters in our State. A hearty crowd delighted in Raphael's stories and exuberance, and locals were touched to hear about how his interest in these monsters started when he was just a child making "endless trips across the Spring Street Bridge to visit the Ashtabula Library."
- For Earth Day, Ashtabula Library hosted a Seed Exchange sponsored by Ashley Leveto-Dean, League of Women Voters, Kent State University, NAACP of Ashtabula County, Harbor Gardens, Ashtabula County Extension, My Neighborhood Collaborative and Ashtabula County District Library. This event was the Capstone Project for Ms. Dean, as a KSUA student. Sixty-six patrons visited the library and traded seeds and plants. Lyn

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distributed over 75 packets of perennial flower seeds, along with promotional materials for the Library.

- Also for Earth Day, Lyn presented an educational presentation on “upcycling”. Patrons were encouraged to upcycle magazines into decorative flowers. It was well-received by children and adults, alike; many of the patrons made two or more flowers.
- Carrie, along with the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, hosted a program presented by Marian Wood entitled, *Planning a Future for Your Family’s Past*. “What am I supposed to do with my stuff?” is a common question in the Genealogy Room. Marian is on the East coast so she presented via Zoom. Eleven people attended virtually with four in person. Carrie has extra handouts available in the room for those who were unable to attend.
- Lauren’s DIY program for April led participants through a birdhouse project. Attendees had the opportunity to create a one of a kind birdhouse bedecked with colored glass, stone, seashells, and moss.
- Ashtabula began hosting a multi-series program, *Art & Music Literacy for Homeschoolers* geared toward students in grades 1 - 8. Lyn, Michele and Ryan present classes geared around a particular artist’s life and career (Gauguin, Picasso, Andy Warhol, etc.) coupled with music history and composers relevant to the artist’s era (Wagner, Stravinsky, disco, etc.). This was followed by a craft styled after the artist-of-the-week. Classes have been well-received and well-attended, and the created art has been superlative!
- Ashtabula *Storytime* continues to draw a healthy attendance, averaging eighteen weekly. Almost all of the youth who attend are pre-K and their maturity (ability to pay attention and assimilate story concepts; willingness to interact with others; etc.) has been remarkable this year. One young storytimer especially loved Chu’s Day by Neil Gaimen and he was delighted to check out the rest of the books in the series for home. Another attendee was especially thrilled to read (and check out) books on Holi!
- Ashtabula’s *Tech Toy Time* is drawing excitement and enthusiasm. This month, the thrust was Ozobots. The group worked together on learning about them and how to use them. The first two sessions were getting familiar with the Ozobots, and the rest of the month was spent creating “roads” for them to traverse. One girl was very adamant to her mom that she needed her own ozobot, however the mom said “Why? They have one here”. Ozobots are great because they help introduce kids to coding without them knowing it.
- *Storytime* With Miss Tina saw increased attendance this month, with the final April session being attended by thirty-one children and adults. Attendees are taking advantage of the opportunity to learn, socialize, and play. This month Tina focused on poetry, rhyming, and the letter “U”. Laura Gehl’s One Big Pair of Underwear was a favorite story selection. Little ones are also utilizing the Geneva Art Lab area both before and after storytime.
- Geneva hosted an average of sixty-three students each day during the after school hours. Popular activities included *Anime Club*, *Stir It Up* cooking program, and use of technology toys such as Oculus and 3D Doodler pens.

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- Geneva's *Teen Action Group* (TAG) has been hard at work putting together a Harry Potter Escape Room. During early May, TAG members will host groups of students as they attempt to locate clues and solve their way to "escape".
  - Mark covered all four *Windows Basics* classes originally scheduled by Amanda. He had one attendee who proceeded through the entire series.

### COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

- Ashtabula purchased more than twenty-five new video games to circulate as well as new Nintendo Switch units for in-house use. (The video games have been circulating exceedingly well already!) Geneva has also made new additions to their collection of video games and devices. Their Nintendo Switch units have been in high demand during the after school hours.
- VOX audio-enabled books have proven to be quite popular with young patrons and their families. Both Ashtabula and Geneva will be moving forward with new additions to their collections.
- Tina and Lauren have begun a refresh project in Geneva's Teen area. In order to add new and engaging materials, including graphic novels and diverse fiction, the existing collection was reviewed for usage and condition. Titles no longer needed will be used in dropbox collections or donated to the Geneva Friends group.
- Lauren has also added new release materials to the Large Print, Adult Fiction, and DVD collections for the Bookmobile.
- In order to better serve patrons in distant areas of our service community, a small collection of hotspots has been ordered for circulation from the Bookmobile.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

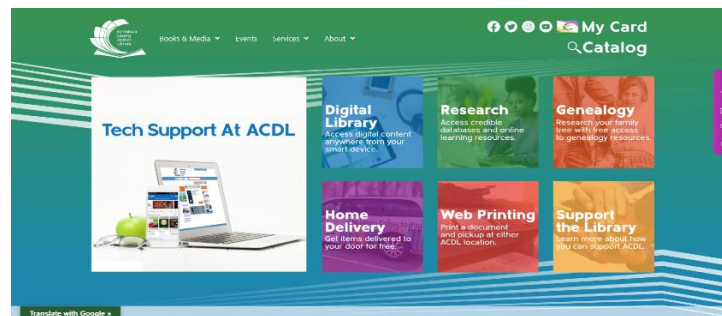
- Ric attended the webinar, *Empathy in Enforcement: 10 Rules for Handling Difficult Situations* by Eddie Kristan
- Ric also attended a three-hour course from Candid pertaining to how to use the GuideStar website. This website offers nonprofit organizations an opportunity to post a profile to enable them to receive funding from donors.
- Lyn and Ric attended the webinar, *How to Handle Problematic Behavior* by Ryan Dowd, author of, [The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone.](#)
- Lyn and Ric completed the training to be proctors for the Northstar digital learning program.
- Tina continues to attend monthly sessions of the *NEO-RLS New Supervisors' Academy*. The April session covered conflict resolution, trust, and team building.
- Lyn and Sybil attended the *2-1-1 Keys to Community* seminar which highlighted the 2-1-1 system service organizations, Community Action and the Veteran's Service Commission.



- Lyn and Ryan attended *Critical Conversations: Intellectual Freedom* which was part of the American Library Association (ALA) continuing education program.
- Melissa attended a *Reimagining School Readiness* workshop in Columbus. Half the day was spent investigating research on communicating with children and addressed cognitive skills they need to prepare them for school. The second half of the day focused on hands-on STEM programs that could be easily adapted to various age groups and skill levels.
- Melissa created updated game room troubleshooting tips and tricks for the Ashtabula Game Room, and learned the basics of the new switch controllers. She then worked with Hannah to devise an updated training curriculum and schedule for all front line and Information Station staff so all feel enabled to provide quality assistance to game room users.
- Rebecca received training from IGM on techniques that have greatly improved our printing and finishing abilities.

## TECHNOLOGY

- A “Staff (intranet) Hub” was launched offering a central place to house resources needed by the entire staff. The initial roll out contained material from Digital Library staff and Admin staff. The goal for the remainder of the year is to incorporate additional departments and slowly roll over publication access for as much content as possible to those departments.
- We rolled out significant website updates in April. The website has also received a visual change which is more in keeping with our current marketing (in particular, the green-blue gradient). The site now makes better use of space and pulls up access to useful links and information. Also, we now have the events of the current week displayed on the homepage to better highlight all activities in the Library.



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