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2011 OHIOANA AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Columbus, OH – September 7, 2011. The OHIOana Library Association announced today the winners of its 2011 OHIOana Book Awards and the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. This year will mark the seventieth anniversary of the OHIOana Book Awards, the oldest and most prestigious literary prizes in the Buckeye State. Awards will be given in all five categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, and About Ohio or an Ohioan.

The recipients of the 2011 OHIOana Book Awards are: (more information about each book and author at the end of this release)

FICTION: *Memory Wall* by Anthony Doerr.

NONFICTION: *A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness – and a Trove of Letters – Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression* by Ted Gup.

POETRY: *Field of Light and Shadow: Selected and New Poems* by David Young.

JUVENILE LITERATURE: *What Happened on Fox Street* by Tricia Springstubb.

ABOUT OHIO/OHIOAN: *Virginia Hamilton: Speeches, Essays, & Conversations* edited by Arnold Adoff and Kacy Cook.

OHIOANA WALTER RUMSEY MARVIN GRANT – (awarded to an unpublished author under the age of thirty) will be presented to Laura Maylene Walter.

The OHIOana Awards will be presented on Friday evening, October 14th and the public is invited to attend. The event will be held at the OHIOana Library and State Library of Ohio beginning at 6:00 with a reception, which will be followed by the presentation of the Awards

and an informal panel discussion with the award winners. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be available. Admission is \$30 per person and reservations are required.

The 2011 OHIOana Awards are presented with the support of the Ohio Arts Council, funding programs and organizations with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. Additional support has been provided by Seeley & Associates/Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. and the law firms of Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP and Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP. *Ohio Magazine* is the official print media sponsor.

For more information about the OHIOana Awards or to make reservations for the Friday reception please contact the OHIOana Library, 274 East First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43201, call 614-466-3831, or email OHIOana@OHIOana.org.

The first books recognized by OHIOana in 1942 were nonfiction titles. James Reston's book *Prelude to Victory* won the award and *Washington is Like That* by Willard Kiplinger and *The Long Ships Passing* by Walter Havighurst received honorable mention. The first OHIOana Book Awards for juvenile literature and fiction were given in 1943; *The Great Lakes* by Marie Emilie Gilchrist received the first Juvenile book award and *Bitter Honey* by Martin Joseph Freeman the first fiction award. In 1944 the first poetry book award (*Cloth of the Tempest* by Kenneth Patchen) and "about Ohio or an Ohioan" (*Ohio Comes of Age* by Philip Dillon Jordan) award was given.

ABOUT THE 2011 OHIOANA AWARD WINNING BOOKS AND AUTHORS

FICTION: *Memory Wall* by Anthony Doerr.

The beautifully written short stories in the *Memory Wall* address the connections between people objects and memories. Anthony Doerr was born and raised in Cleveland and received his MFA from Bowling Green State University. He has received numerous awards for his short fiction, including three O'Henry Prizes and most recently the 2011 Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award. His books have received much acclaim, including the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award and two previous OHIOana Book Awards. One of his first awards was the 2000 OHIOana

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant awarded to a writer under 30 years of age who has not had a book published. He currently lives in Boise, Idaho.

NONFICTION: *A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness – and a Trove of Letters – Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression* by Ted Gup.

Ted Gup, a Canton native, has been an investigative journalist and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his work for the *Washington Post* and *Time* magazine. He taught journalism at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland prior to becoming Chair of the Journalism Department at Emerson College in Boston, MA. *A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness – And a Trove of Letter – Revealed the Hidden Story of the Great Depression*, tells the story of his grandfather and the people of his hometown, Canton, OH, during the Great Depression of the 1930s. This book inspired three Stark County men to act and last December they pledged to give \$100 gifts to 150 families and individuals who have been hit especially hard by current economic times. They are patterning their generosity after the Canton businessman, who was known for decades only as B. Virdot. As was the case with the man who inspired them, the trio of benefactors wishes to remain anonymous.

POETRY: *Field of Light and Shadow: Selected and New Poems* by David Young.

Until his retirement in 2003, David Young was Longman Professor of English at Oberlin College, where he continues to work as the editor of Oberlin College Press. His honors include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Ohio Arts Council. *Field of Light and Shadow: Selected New Poems* is his eleventh book of poetry. It is a career-spanning volume with poems that display an exquisite ear tuned to the natural world, to love and friendship, and to the continually renewable possibilities of language.

JUVENILE LITERATURE: *What Happened on Fox Street* by Tricia Springstubb.

Tricia Springstubb, a New York City native, has made Cleveland her home for more than thirty years. She now writes full time, though she worked for many years as a children's librarian and is also a frequent book critic for a Cleveland newspaper. Springstubb is the author of more than five books for children. *What Happened on Fox Street*, set in a fictional middle-class Cleveland neighborhood, is the story of an unforgettable summer experienced by Mo Wren, her father, younger sister, and best friend Mercedes. Springstubb's inspiration for the plot of *Fox Street* came from a 2002 eminent domain case that threatened to replace

homes in Lakewood's west end. Young will also be delighted to read Springstubb's newly released sequel, *Mo Wren, Lost and Found*.

ABOUT OHIO/OHIOAN: *Virginia Hamilton: Speeches, Essays, & Conversations* edited by Arnold Adoff and Kacy Cook.

Virginia Hamilton, a Yellow Springs native, was one of America's most distinguished authors of children's books. This beautiful and impressive collection of speeches, essays, interviews, and conversations illuminate her work as well as speak to a new generation of readers. It sheds light on the genius behind her profoundly important body of work, on Hamilton as a serious scholar of history and folktales, and on the importance of place, time, family, and history to her and her work.

Adoff, a NYC native, moved to Yellow Springs, Ohio after marrying Hamilton. He is a poet, anthologist and the author of more than thirty published books for young people and their older allies. His has received numerous awards for his work. Kacy Cook, a Columbus native, is a graduate of the Ohio State University. She has been an editor for more than twenty-five years and recently released her first novel, *Nuts*, for young readers.

OHIOANA WALTER RUMSEY MARVIN GRANT – (awarded to an unpublished author under the age of thirty) will be presented to Laura Maylene Walter a Lakewood, Ohio resident.

The OHIOana Library Association's mission is to recognize and encourage the creative accomplishments of Ohioans; preserve and expand a permanent collection of books, sheet music, manuscripts, and other materials by Ohioans and about Ohio; and disseminate information about the work of Ohio writers, musicians and other artists to researchers, schools and the general public. It should be noted that because of budget constraint other OHIOana Awards have been suspended for 2011.

The OHIOana Library is supported by memberships, grants, contributions, and a subsidy from the State of Ohio.