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### **Ohioana Announces Ohioana Book Award Finalists**

Columbus, OH – March 18, 2008—The Ohioana Library has announced the 27 finalists for the 2008 Ohioana Book Awards. Of those selected, five of the authors, Anthony Doerr, Sharon Draper, Nikki Giovanni, Ann Hagedorn, and Paul Zimmer, are past Ohioana Book Award Winners; two of the authors, Natalie Babbitt and Angela Johnson, are past recipients of the Ohioana Alice Louise Wood Award for Children’s Literature; and two of the authors, Anthony Doerr and Lisa Watts, participated in the first Ohioana Book Festival this past September.

“This was an outstanding year for books by Ohio writers and books about Ohio and Ohioans,” said Linda Hengst, executive director of the Ohioana Library. “We receive 700 to 900 books a year, which become eligible for the book awards, so the authors of the books selected as finalists should feel truly honored.”

The book awards are given in five categories: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, juvenile literature, and “about Ohio/Ohioans.” Ohioana will announce the winners in each category near the end of August, and recipients will be honored at the annual Ohioana Day Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

These are the Ohioana Book Award finalists (short profiles of each author are also attached):

#### **Fiction:**

***Blood of Paradise* by David Corbett**, Columbus (Ballantine Book/Random House, 2007)

***Devotion* by Howard Norman**, Toledo (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

***Coal Black Horse* by Robert Olmstead**, Delaware (Algonquin, 2007)

***Hotel de Dream* by Edmund White**, Cincinnati (HaperCollins, 2007)

***Ohio River Dialogues* by William Zink**, Akron (Sugar Loaf Press, 2007)

#### **Nonfiction:**

***Broken Government* by John Dean**, Akron (Viking Adult/Penguin, 2007)

***Four Seasons in Rome* by Anthony Doerr**, Parma (Scribner/Simon & Schuster, 2007)

***Savage Peace* by Ann Hagedorn**, Dayton/Ripley (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

***...And His Lovely Wife* by Connie Schultz**, Cleveland (Random House, 2007)

***The Wet Collection* by Joni Tevis**, Martin's Ferry (Milkweed Editions, 2007)

### **Poetry:**

***Sleeping With Houdini* by Nin Andrews**, Poland (BOA Editions, 2007)

***The Little Book of Guesses* by John Gallaher**, Athens (Four Way Books, 2007)

***Acolytes* by Nikki Giovanni**, Cincinnati (William Morrow/HarperCollins, 2007)

***Inscribing My Name* by Herbert Woodward Martin**, Dayton (Kent State University Press, 2007)

***Embryos and Idiots* by Larissa Szporluk**, Bowling Green (Tupelo Press, 2007)

***Crossing to Sunlight: Revisited* by Paul Zimmer**, Canton (University of Georgia Press, 2007)

### **Juvenile Literature :**

***Jack Plank Tells Tales* by Natalie Babbitt**, Dayton (Scholastic Publishing, 2007)

***Fire from the Rock* by Sharon Draper**, Cincinnati (Penguin Publishing, 2007)

***Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**, Washington Courthouse/Powell (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

***Vinnie and Abraham* by Dawn Fitzgerald**, Cleveland (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2007)

***Wind Flyers* by Angela Johnson**, Kent (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

### **About Ohio:**

***House of Happy Endings* by Leslie Garis** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007)

***Out of the Woods* by Deborah Griffith, ed.**, (Ohio University Press, 2007)

***George Bellows: An Artist in Action* by Mary Sayre Haverstock**, Oberlin (Merrell Publishers Limited, 2007)

***Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman* by Lee Lowenfish**, (University of Nebraska Press, 2007)

***Berenice Abbott, Photographer* by George Sullivan**, (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

***Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio* by Lisa Watts, ed.**, Cleveland/Wooster (Ohio State University Press, 2007)

The Ohioana Awards were first given in 1942, with James B. “Scotty” Reston, Walter Havighurst, and Willard M. Kiplinger as the first recipients. In addition to the book awards, the library sponsors six other awards, including special awards in poetry and children’s literature, special citations, the Marvin Grant, the Pegasus Award, and the Career Award.

The mission of the Ohioana Library, established in 1929 by First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper, 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. Individuals can visit the library at 274 East First Avenue, Columbus, OH, or online at [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org)

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