

## 2009 OHIOANA BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

**Jaime Adoff** - Born in New York City and raised in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Adoff is an award-winning author of popular books for children and young adults. The son of poet Arnold Adoff and children's author Virginia Hamilton, Jaime's book, *Death of Jayson Porter* (2008), is a 2009 "Choose to Read Ohio" selection.

**M. J. Albacete** - M. J. Albacete prepared his biography of Clyde Singer from conversations he had with the artist over decades. He is currently executive director of the Canton (Ohio) Museum of Art and adjunct professor at Kent State University, Stark Campus.

**Rane Arroyo** - Rane Arroyo began his writing career as a performance artist. He is also a playwright, fiction writer and poet. He teaches creative writing at the University of Toledo and serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP).

**Andrew Borowiec** - Andrew Borowiec was born in New York and spent his early years in Europe and North Africa, later returning to the USA where he lived in the urban Northeast before taking up his current residence in Akron, Ohio. His photographs are in the collections of numerous museums including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian. Borowiec is a professor of art at the University of Akron.

**Andrea Cheng** - Andrea Cheng teaches English as a Second Language in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she lives with her husband and their three children. She is the daughter of Hungarian Jewish immigrants and grew up among extended family members, many of whom survived the Holocaust. Ms. Cheng attended Cornell University, where she studied Chinese. She is married to a Chinese American. Cheng has written many awarding, well loved books for children.

**Brock Clarke** - Brock Clarke is the author of *The Ordinary White Boy*, *What We Won't Do*, and *Carrying the Torch*. He has twice been a finalist for a National Magazine Award in Fiction. His work has appeared in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, the *Believer*, the *Georgia Review*, and the *Southern Review*; in the Pushcart Prize and *New Stories from the South* anthologies; and on NPR's *Selected Shorts*. He teaches creative writing at the University of Cincinnati.

**John W. Dean** - Akron native John Dean earned a BA from Wooster College and a law degree from Georgetown University. Dean is most well-known for his involvement with the Watergate scandal in the 1970s. Dean is currently an author, columnist, and commentator on contemporary politics, strongly critical of conservatism and Republican Party.

**Elizabeth Dodd** - Elizabeth Dodd grew up in southeast Ohio and has lived in the tallgrass prairie region of Kansas for more than a decade and a half. An English professor and director of the creative writing program at Kansas State University, Dodd has written two books of poetry, a book of criticism, and a collection of nonfiction essays, *Prospect: Journeys & Landscapes* (University of Utah Press, 2003), winner of the William Nelson Rockhill Award for nonfiction.

**Robert A. Flischel** - Flischel was a long-time photographer and contributing editor with *Ohio Magazine* and has served as contributing editor and photojournalist for a wide range of books and periodicals. His photos have appeared in *Life*, *Time*, *The Smithsonian* and *National Geographic Traveler* among others. Past major projects include photographic books on Cincinnati and on the Cincinnati Public Schools.

**David Giffels** - Former *Beavis and Butt-Head* writer David Giffels is a columnist for the *Akron Beacon Journal*. He is a contributing commentator and essayist on the NPR station WKSU in Kent, Ohio. In a 17-year career, he has won dozens of journalism awards, including the 2006 National Award for Commentary from the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors. He has been nominated five times for the Pulitzer Prize. Giffels has Bachelor's degrees in English and Mass Media and a Master's degree in English/Creative Writing from the University of Akron.

**William Greenway** – Atlanta native William Greenway has a B.A. from Georgia State University and a Ph.D. in Modern Literature and Poetry from Tulane University. He is currently a Professor of English at Youngstown State University, where he has been awarded Distinguished Professorships in both teaching and scholarship. He is the author of nine full length books of poetry.

**Richard Howard** - Richard Howard was born in Cleveland, and is the author of twelve books of poetry as well as the critical study *Alone with America* and the critical prefaces of the anthology *Preferences*. He is a Professor at Columbia University, a member of the American Academy and the Institute of Arts and Letters since 1983, served as the Poet Laureate of New York State (1994-1997) and the President of PEN American Center (1978-1980).

**P. F. Kluge** - P. F. Kluge is a novelist living in Gambier, Ohio. Kluge graduated from Kenyon College and now teaches creative writing there. He is the author of several acclaimed novels. Two of Kluge's works have been made into films, *Eddie and the Cruisers*, based on his novel of the same name, and *Dog Day Afternoon*, written with Thomas Moore as a *Life* article.

**Peter R. Mansoor** - Ohio State University graduate and current General Raymond Mason, Jr. Chair of Military History at OSU, and a recently retired US Army colonel, Mansoor's 26 year career in the US Army culminated in his service in Iraq as the executive officer to General David Petraeus, Commanding General of Multi-National Force in Iraq. His book, *Baghdad at Sunrise* (2008) has garnered national critical acclaim.

**Erin McGraw** - Born and raised in Redondo Beach, California, Erin McGraw received her MFA at Indiana University and has lived in the Midwest ever since. Along with her husband, poet Andrew Hudgins, she teaches at the Ohio State University and divides her time between Ohio and Tennessee.

**Toni Morrison** - Born Chloe Anthony Wofford, in Lorain, Toni displayed an early interest in literature. She made her debut as a novelist in 1970, soon gaining the attention of both critics and a wider audience for her epic power, unerring ear for dialogue, and her poetically-charged and richly-expressive depictions of Black America. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has been awarded a number of literary distinctions, among them the Pulitzer Prize for Literature and Nobel Prize for Literature.

**Patrick B. Mullen** - Patrick B. Mullen is a professor emeritus of English and folklore at Ohio State University and author of *Listening to Old Voices: Folklore, Life Stories, and the Elderly*. In writing *The Man Who Adores the Negro*, Mullen draw on over thirty-five years of fieldwork, to consider how African American cultural representations in folklore relate to racial dynamics in the United States.

**Amjed Qamar** - Amjed Qamar graduated from The Ohio State University with degrees in English and Psychology. She currently resides in Ohio and is employed by the Dublin City

School District. Qamar lived in Pakistan for several years and has been a frequent visitor over the past eighteen years. *Beneath My Mother's Feet* is her first novel.

**Michael J. Rosen** - Michael J. Rosen, the writer of *As the Tables Turn*, is the author, editor, and illustrator of a wide variety of more than 65 books, including works for both adults and children. He lives in Central Ohio, where he served for nearly 20 years as literary director of The Thurber House, a cultural center in James's restored boyhood home in Columbus.

**Julie Salamon** - Julie Salamon has written a series of award-winning books and her novella *The Christmas Tree* (1996) was a *New York Times* best-seller and has been translated into eight languages. She was a reporter and the film critic for *The Wall Street Journal* for many years, and then a culture writer on the staff of the *New York Times*. For *Hospital* she was chosen to be a Kaiser Media Fellow for 2006-2007. Born in Cincinnati and raised in Seaman, Ohio, a rural town of 800, she lives in downtown Manhattan with her husband and two children.

**Salvatore Scibona** - Salvatore Scibona's first book, *The End*, was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award and winner of the 2009 Young Lions Fiction Award from the New York Public Library. He administers the writing fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Scibona was born and grew-up in the Cleveland area and he was the recipient of Ohioana's Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant in 1998.

**Curtis Sittenfeld** - Cincinnati native Curtis Sittenfeld is the author of the bestselling novels *American Wife*, *Prep*, and *The Man of My Dreams*, which are being translated into twenty-five languages. *Prep* also was chosen as one of the Ten Best Books of 2005 by *The New York Times*, nominated for the UK's Orange Prize, and optioned by Paramount Pictures. Curtis won the *Seventeen* magazine fiction writing contest in 1992, at age sixteen, and since then her writing has appeared in many publications.

**Elizabeth Spires** - Lancaster native Elizabeth Spires is the author of five collections of poetry as well as several books for children. She has been the recipient of a Whiting Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Amy Lowell Travelling Poetry Scholarship, and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. She lives in Baltimore with her husband, the novelist Madison Smartt Bell, and their daughter, and is a Professor of English at Goucher College where she holds a Chair for Distinguished Achievement.

**Frank P. Vazzano** - Frank P. Vazzano is a professor of history at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio. He has contributed to the *Historical Dictionary of the Gilded Age* (2003) and *The Vice Presidents: A Biographical Dictionary* (1998). Additionally, he has published articles in *Ohio History*, *Congress and the Presidency: A Journal of Capital Studies*, *The Historian*, and *Louisiana History*.

**Mary E. Weems** - Mary is an accomplished poet, playwright, author, performer, motivational speaker, and imagination-intellect theorist. Weems' work has been widely published in journals, anthologies, and several books. Her most recent collection of poems, "Tampon Class" (Pavement Saw Press, 2005), is in its second printing. Mary Weems currently teaches in the English and Education departments at John Carroll University.

**Tracie Vaughn Zimmer** - Traci Vaughn Zimmer is a Literacy Coach at Endeavor Elementary School in West Chester, Ohio, part of the same district where she grew up. A proud alumni of The Ohio State University, she majored in special education, and received her master's degree in reading from Miami University of Ohio. In addition to writing poetry and novels for children,

Tracie's creates teacher guides, book club guides and curricula which are sought after by both award-winning authors and publishers.