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## 2014 HOLIDAY BOOK ROUNDUP

December is Read a New Book Month! It seems only fitting that we start the month with a roundup of new holiday titles received by Ohioana so far this year. Do you know of a new book by an Ohio author or illustrator about winter holidays, but don't see it here? Let us know! We'll request a copy for the library and will feature new holiday titles on our [Facebook](#) page as they arrive.

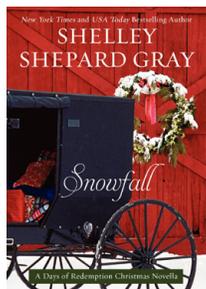
### Books for Adults



Smith, Joanne Huist. *The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle*. Harmony Books. HC \$15.00.  
 As the holiday season approached, Joanne Huist Smith and her three children were still grieving the unexpected death of her husband. But thirteen days before Christmas, daily gifts began to arrive, signed "Your true friends." In this book Smith shares her family's experience with the healing power of kindness.

Bog, Justin. *Hark: A Christmas Collection*. Booktrope Editions. PB \$10.95.

This collection of six short stories explores the full range of emotions surrounding the holiday season, from loss and regret to forgiveness and hope.



Gray, Shelley Shepard. *Snowfall: A Days of Redemption Christmas Novella*. Avon Inspire. PB \$12.99.  
 After being laid off from her job at a nursing home, twenty-year-old Ruth Stutzman is happy to find work, even if it means caring for widower Martin Rhodes's six children. As Ruth brings joy back into their lives, the children—and Martin—begin to care for her more and more. When Christmas draws near and Ruth is offered her old job back, she must make a choice that will affect them all.

### *The Director's Chair*

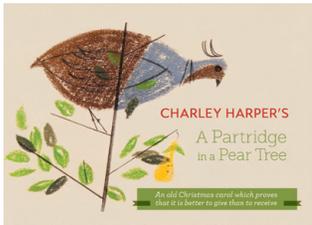
Dear Friends,

Can you believe it's December already? Another year winding down, another set to begin!

As you can see in this month's article, December is Read a New Book Month. I would guess that more new books are given in December than at any other time of year. As a boy, I would try to guess what was in each of the packages with my name on them under the Christmas tree. I could always tell which ones were books, and I could hardly wait to see what new titles my parents had gotten me. They knew I liked American history; did they get me a new biography of Abe Lincoln or Teddy Roosevelt? They also knew I was also a science fiction fan, and particularly loved the adventures of boy genius Tom Swift. I can still recall pulling the wrapping off *Tom Swift and His Triphibian Atomicar*. I read almost all the Swift books and wondered if all the wild machines Tom invented would someday come to pass.

Looking back, I realize that those books under the Christmas tree

## Books for Children of All Ages



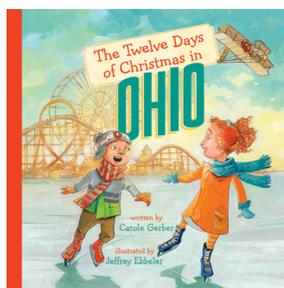
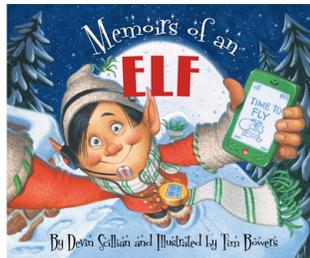
Harper, Charley. *Charley Harper's A Partridge in a Pear Tree*. Pomegranate. HC \$9.95.

Charley Harper originally created this never-before-published story for his family as a hand-sewn booklet on construction paper. In it, pastel sketches illustrate the familiar Christmas carol, while Harper's annotations ("What in the

world will I do with three French hens?") create additional whimsy for adults and children alike.

Scillian, Devin. Illus. by Tim Bowers. *Memoirs of an Elf*. Sleeping Bear Press. HC \$16.99.

Spark the Elf keeps Santa on schedule during his Christmas Eve deliveries—until they discover that a family dog has stowed away on the sleigh. Can Spark and Santa get him home by Christmas morning?

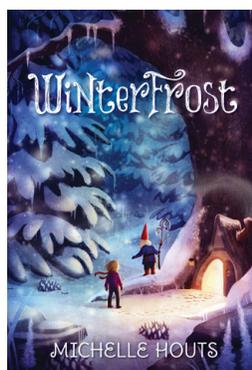


Gerber, Carole. Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler. *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio*. Sterling Children's Books. HC \$12.95.

When Matt's cousin Megan comes for a holiday visit, he gives her a twelve-day tour of Ohio from Cincinnati to Lake Erie and all points in between. Readers can learn about famous Ohio people and places, presented in the format of the familiar Christmas carol. (See review on p. 3.)

Houts, Michelle. *Winterfrost*. Candlewick Press. HC \$16.99.

In Denmark, it is a tradition to leave a bowl of rice pudding for the nisse, a tiny creature who watches over families and their livestock. However, when unexpected events cause twelve-year-old Bettina to be left alone with her baby sister Pia for a few days, the rice pudding is forgotten. After baby Pia disappears during a nap, Bettina must enter the magical world of the nisse to make her apologies and retrieve Pia before her parents' return.



helped foster my love of reading and writing. I am sure many of you have had that same experience.

I hope that however you celebrate the holiday season, a new book or two or more will be part of both your giving and receiving, and will bring many hours of reading pleasure in the new year.

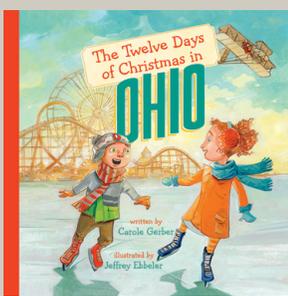
Of course, it would be great if that reading included new books by Ohio authors. This has been a banner year for writers from Ohio. Amazon.com's Best Books of 2014 had Ohioans in the top two spots: Celeste Ng at #1 for her debut novel *Everything I Never Told You*, and Anthony Doerr at #2 for *All the Light We Cannot See*, which was also a fiction finalist for the 2014 National Book Awards. Ohio native Jacqueline Woodson won the National Book Award in Young People's Literature for her poetic memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

We send our heartiest congratulations to Celeste, Tony, and Jacqueline. They are just three of the many outstanding Ohio writers whose works Ohioana collects, preserves, and celebrates. We receive more than 300 books each year representing every genre from nonfiction to children's picture books to poetry. There is truly something for every reader of every age. We hope some of those books find their way to you this season.

From all of us at Ohioana, best wishes for Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## REVIEWS



Gerber, Carole. Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler. *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio*. Sterling Children's Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$12.95.

In *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio*, Megan visits her cousin Matt in Ohio at Christmas time. She is introduced to the many cool and interesting facts about Ohio as Matt and his parents take Megan with them to explore the winter activities around the state. Megan writes letters to her parents telling them about historical sites, parks, landmarks, museums, famous people, recreational activities, and other seasonal events.

While the text of the book is both very readable and full of information, the design keeps the reader entertained. There are many activities that keep the reader engaged. Whether it is looking at Jeffrey Ebbeler's colorful illustrations, finding the cardinal hidden throughout the story, or singing "The 12 Days of Christmas in Ohio," the reader becomes involved in the story while having fun learning about Ohio and its many places to visit.

We would recommend *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio* to young readers so they can learn more about our state. Our fourth grade class liked this book a lot and especially enjoyed singing the song that goes with each page and each of Megan's adventures. This book makes a good holiday read-aloud and gift. Our fourth-grade teacher strongly suggests that other teachers who study Ohio with their students read this book to their classes. This is a holiday and Ohio history book that will be enjoyed by all ages and families.

*Reviewed by Ms. Stiverson's Grade 4 Class*

## NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in September and October. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

### *Nonfiction*

Comisford, Sue. *Ranger Creek Guest Ranch: Real Life, Real Faith*. Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2014. PB \$13.99.

When Sue Comisford's son was diagnosed with cancer, her family's priorities changed. After returning from a trip to an Arizona guest ranch sponsored by A Special Wish Foundation, the family began thinking about purchasing a guest ranch of their own. This book documents the history of the Ranger Creek Guest Ranch and the people that made it special.

Diemer, Tom, Lee Leonard, and Richard G. Zimmerman. *James A. Rhodes: Ohio Colossus*. Kent State

Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. HC \$34.95.

This book, written by journalists who covered Rhodes's political career in overlapping terms, documents his upbringing in a single-parent home, his education (which did not include a college degree), his four terms as Ohio governor, and two decades as a political elder.

Drake, Simone C. *Critical Appropriations: African American Women and the Construction of Transnational Identity*. Louisiana State Univ. Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2014. HC \$35.00.

By examining the work of contemporary black female artists from Toni Morrison to Beyoncé, Drake argues against a homogeneous view of black cultural studies and shows how more fluid and transnational approaches to identity reflect African American women's concepts of family and community.

Foster, Emily. *The Ohio State University District: A Neighborhood History*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

In this history of the neighborhoods surrounding one of the nation's largest universities, Foster documents a century of picnics, zoning wars, college culture, and neighborhood decay and rebirth.

Gurvis, Sandra. *Myths and Mysteries of Ohio: True Stories of the Unsolved and Unexplained*. Globe Pequot/Rowman & Littlefield (Guilford, CT) 2014. PB \$16.95. Gurvis investigates unsolved mysteries throughout the state, including the Cleveland torso murders, rumors of aliens at Wright-Patterson AFB, and hauntings in locations ranging from Ohio University to The Golden Lamb in Lebanon.

Herbert, Jeffrey G. *Index of Death, Marriage, and Miscellaneous Notices Appearing in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette 1804-1857*. Ohio Genealogical Society, Hamilton County Chapter (Cincinnati, OH) 2014. PB \$39.00. This 500-page resource for historians and genealogists indexes death and marriage notices appearing in one Cincinnati newspaper during the early 1800s. Additional miscellaneous notices include information about debt, guardianship, land payments, divorce—and found horses.

Holliman, Jeannetta, ed. *Works in Process: Women Over 50, Reflecting*. Biblio Publishing (Columbus, OH) 2014. PB \$10.94. This anthology contains stories, poetry, and journal entries by fourteen Central Ohio women born between 1924 and 1955. The selections, along with a short biography of each contributor, paint a unique portrait of women and aging.

Huhn, Rick. *The Chalmers Race: Ty Cobb, Napoleon Lajoie, and the Controversial 1910 Batting Title That Became a National Obsession*. Univ. of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2014. HC \$29.95. In 1910 auto manufacturer Hugh Chalmers offered a car to the baseball player with the highest batting average for the season. The contest between Detroit's Ty Cobb and Cleveland's Napoleon Lajoie came down to the last game of the season—and a decision that is still debated today.

Miklitsch, Robert, ed. *Kiss the Blood Off My Hands: On Classic Film Noir*. Univ. of Illinois Press (Champaign, IL) 2014. PB \$28.00. This collection of essays takes

a new look at classic film noir by examining often-overlooked aspects of the genre, including female detectives, Disney noir, the impact of the producer, and the Fifties heist film.

Rice, Daniel L. and Gary Meszaros. *Native Fishes of Ohio*. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$24.95.

With a combination of text and vivid color photographs, this book documents the history, behavior, and recent adaptations of more than 130 species of native Ohio fish.

Venrick, William B. and Jean Steel Venrick. *Echoes from the Hill: History of the Boys' Industrial School, Lancaster, Ohio 1856-1979*. The Wordwright Press (Lancaster, OH) 2014. HC.

This volume uses photographs, articles, and narrative to document the history of the Boys' Industrial School in Lancaster from its founding until it closed in 1979.

Weber, Mark W. and Stephen H. Paschen. *Side by Side: Alice and Staughton Lynd, the Ohio Years*. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$29.95.

Alice and Staughton Lynd have spent their lives championing social justice. This book covers their years in Ohio—from advocating for Youngstown steel workers to prison inmates—and their practice of accompaniment, or living within the community in need. This book is not only the story of the Lynds, but also of grassroots activism.

Weibel, Betty. *The Cleveland Grand Prix: An American Show Jumping First*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99. In addition to being home to the

first airplane and the first all-professional baseball team, Ohio is also home to the first show jumping grand prix in the Western Hemisphere. In this book Weibel traces the growth of horse sports in the Chagrin Valley and the birth of the Cleveland Grand Prix in 1965—the first North American event to rival European courses.

### **Fiction**

Ervin II, Terry W. *Soul Forge: A First Civilization's Legacy Novel*. Gryphonwood Press (Grayson, GA) 2014. PB \$12.99.

With her daughter inching toward death, Enchantress Thulease hires mercenary Flank Hawk to accompany her as she seeks the Soul Forge and a possible cure. Surviving the treacherous journey is doubly critical, for saving the young enchantress may be the only way to save the kingdom as well...

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *Snowfall: A Days of Redemption Christmas Novella*. Avon Inspire/HarperCollins (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$12.99.

After being laid off from her job at a nursing home, twenty-year-old Ruth Stutzman is happy to find work, even if it means caring for widower Martin Rhodes's six children. As Ruth brings joy back into their lives, the children—and Martin—begin to care for her more and more. When Christmas draws near and Ruth is offered her old job back, she must make a choice that will affect them all.

Harper, Karen. *Forbidden Ground: A Cold Creek Novel*. Harlequin Mira (Toronto, Canada) 2014. PB \$7.99.

Anthropologist Kate Lockwood has returned to Cold Creek, Ohio,

for her sister's wedding. She is also hoping to excavate a prehistoric burial mound located on best man Grant Mason's land. After Grant refuses, one of his best friends is killed, and he and Kate join forces to help the police with the investigation. When Kate is also attacked, she must decide whether she can trust the man she has come to love.

Ireland, Ryan. *Beyond the Horizon*. Oneworld (London, UK) 2015. PB \$14.95.

In the American frontier, a nameless man lives with a pregnant woman who is not his wife. When a stranger appears and advises the man to register the unborn child at a fabled military fort, the man sets out across the desert. After killing the woman, the stranger begins a hunt across time for the man, with the goal of rewriting the history of the American West.

Pope, Paul, J.T. Petty, and David Rubin. *The Rise of Aurora West: Battling Boy*. First Second (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$9.99.

Aurora West is not an average teenager. In addition to homework, she's also helping her hero father battle the monsters that plague Acropolis and trying to solve the mystery of her mother's murder. The answers may lie in her own childhood memories—if she can live long enough to piece them together.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Day of Atonement: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebtor Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00. Thirty years ago, eight-year-old Elana Campbell stormed out of her family's house and was never seen again. When detective Troy Evans hears that his childhood friend's body has been found, he returns

home to Houston to help with the case. As he tries to establish a relationship with his estranged father, he begins to uncover secrets in Elana's family as well. When the killer is revealed, he wonders if some secrets should stay buried...

Thomson, Cindy. *Annie's Stories: An Ellis Island Novel*. Tyndale House Publishers (Carol Stream, IL) 2014. PB \$14.99.

After the death of her father, a traveling Irish storyteller, Annie Gallagher sets sail for America. She finds work and friendship at a boardinghouse in the heart of New York City. When a fellow boarder is accused of wrongdoing and the postman seems a little too interested in her father's unpublished writings, Annie must decide who to trust as she struggles to make a home in her new country.

### Poetry

Brightman, Steve. *In Brilliant Explosions Alone*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$5.00.

Brightman's love of baseball shines through in this collection of poems about the Cleveland Indians' 2008 season—a metaphor for dreams and unmet expectations.

Burroughs, John. *The Eater of the Absurd*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2012. PB \$10.99.

As the title suggests, Burroughs uses a significant amount of word play as he explores life's frustrations without losing his sense of humor.

Burroughs, John and Diane Borsenik, eds. *Songs in the Key of Cleveland: An Anthology of the 2013 Best Cleveland Poem Competition*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Cleveland, OH) 2014. PB \$10.00.

This collection features poems shared during the first annual Best Cleveland Poem day (May 5, 2013).

Demaree, Darren C. *Temporary Champions*. Main Street Rag (Charlotte, NC) 2014. PB \$14.00. The poems in *Temporary Champions* explore the 1982 title match between Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and Kim Duk-Koo that resulted in Kim's death.

Finley, Mike. *For the Young Poets of Cleveland*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$5.00.

This collection by Pushcart Prize-winner Finley contains poems on topics including the nature of poetry and the nature of society.

Franke, Christopher. *As the Caffeine Kicks In*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

Cleveland poet Franke uses unconventional typography as well as language to express his thoughts on everything from religion and politics to aging and love.

Gildzen, Alex. *Blossoms: a collection of poems (1955 to 2013) in celebration of the poet's 70th birthday*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB.

Poet Gildzen explores nature and loss in this collection ranging from 1955 to the present.

Greenway, William. *The Accidental Garden*. Word Poetry (Cincinnati, OH) 2014. PB \$18.00.

Greenway's poems look back on sixty years of life, finding joy and sorrow in memories of family, home, and love.

McGuane, Jack. *Unfinished*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

The poems in this collection by octogenarian McGuane explore topics ranging from the nature of life to the smell of an elephant.

Provost, Terry. *An Uncountable Infinity Of Orgasms*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2011. PB \$5.00. The poems in this collection are often biting as Provost searches for answers to life's big questions.

Roberts, Andy. *The Green World*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2014. PB \$8.00. In his fourth chapbook, Roberts explores the natural world around us and turns small moments into cause for celebration.

Rosser, J. Allyn. *Mimi's Trapeze*. Univ. of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2014. PB \$15.95. This collection tackles subjects from shopping malls to the end of the world. Rosser's poems vary in length and format, but are united by insight and a sense of humor.

Seidl, Laraine. *Stitched Together*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$5.00. The fifteen poems in Seidl's collection detail both explosive and peaceful moments of a relationship.

Smith, Dan. *The Liquid of Her Skin, the Suns of Her Eyes*. Nightballet

Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00. Cleveland Dan Smith departs from his usual beat poetry with this collection of speculative poems ranging from an encounter with an alien barfly to a haiku trip on a sentient spaceship.

Stanley, J.E. *Selected Regions of the Moon*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

This collection of speculative poetry explores the universe as it is and also as it might be, including (in the titular poem) a moon that is no longer our own...

Veverka, Marian J. *The Overgrown Garden*. Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, KY) 2014. PB \$12.00. Veverka's love of nature is clear in these poems of people and places tied together by the natural world.

### **Young Adult**

Hastings, Avery. *Feuds*. St. Martin's Griffin (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99.

Davis is a "Prior"—genetically engineered to be smart and strong. However, when she meets Cole, an "Imperfect," she is as drawn to him as he is to her. With a deadly epidemic ravaging the Priors, Cole may be the only one who can help.

Maxwell, Lisa. *Sweet Unrest*. Flux (Woodbury, MN) 2014. PB \$9.99.

When Lucy's family moves to New Orleans, she begins having intense dreams of the city's past that are filled with people she somehow knows. The dreams also include Alex, a boy she just met but who seems to know her. As Lucy searches for answers, a vendetta reignites, a killer strikes, and Lucy must fight to save those she loves.

### **Middle Grade & Children's**

Harper, Charley. *Charley Harper's A Partridge in a Pear Tree*. Pomegranate (Portland, OR) 2014. HC \$9.95.

Charley Harper originally created this story for his family as a hand-sewn booklet on construction paper. Pastel sketches illustrate the familiar Christmas carol, while Harper's annotations ("What in the world will I do with three French hens?") create additional whimsy for adults and children alike.

Kennedy, Marlane. *Disaster Strikes: Volcano Blast*. Scholastic (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$4.99.

Noah and Emma's father has just moved the family to Alaska. Although Noah expects it to be boring, he is proven wrong when a dormant volcano on a small island suddenly erupts. Now Noah, Emma, and their new friend Alex must fight through ash and lava to make it off the island alive.

## COMING SOON

**Read a New Book Month** December is a busy month with upcoming Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's celebrations. Take a little time for yourself and stretch your literary horizons by reading a new book! Try a new author, new genre, or new title—you can find some possibilities in this newsletter and at your local library.

**Ohioana Book Club** meets February 11, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Ohioana Library. The book for February is *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng, named Amazon's Best Book of 2014. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

**Holiday Hours** Ohioana will be closed December 24–26 and December 31–January 2.