

The Director's Chair .....1  
 Ohio Authors: Robert McCloskey...1  
 Reviews .....3  
 New Books .....3  
 Coming Soon .....6

## OHIO AUTHORS: ROBERT MCCLOSKEY

In late October, Ohioana staff presented two four-hour sessions about Ohio writers through the School for Older Wiser Lifelong Scholars (OWLS) at the Westminster-Thurber Retirement Community. The audience was lively, and the staff enjoyed sharing information about just a few of Ohio's many authors. We'll be highlighting some of these authors in the newsletter over the coming months. Because November marks the third annual Picture Book



*Cleveland Press, Nov. 2, 1954*

Month, we're starting with author/illustrator Robert McCloskey, who was the first two-time winner of the Caldecott Medal (the equivalent of an Oscar® for children's book illustration).

Robert McCloskey was born in Hamilton, Ohio in 1914. He had varied interests as a child and played several musical instruments, including the piano, harmonica, oboe, and drums. He then became interested in all things electrical and mechanical, tinkering with clocks, construction sets, and old electric motors. He eventually discovered art when he started drawing for his school paper.

After graduating from Hamilton High School, McCloskey won a scholarship to attend art school in Boston, where he often stopped to feed the ducks on the way to class. He then moved to New York to study at the National Academy of Design, and did some commercial work. After showing some of his artwork to a children's book editor, he was advised to "get wise to himself" find his own style.

### *The Director's Chair*

Dear Friends,

As we shared with you throughout this year, October marked Ohioana's 85th anniversary. Our month-long celebration was a great success. There were wonderful articles about Ohioana in newspapers across the state. We were honored with official proclamations from Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly. The celebration was capped with a sold-out Ohioana Awards event at the Ohio Statehouse on October 10. Our thanks to everyone who attended, including our special guest, former Ohio Governor Bob Taft; the generous sponsors who helped make it possible; and most of all, the award winners themselves who were in the spotlight for this memorable evening.

Wonderful as it was to look back and celebrate this special anniversary, we are even more excited as we look to the future. We just introduced the new *Ohioana Quarterly*, and are thrilled with the great response it has received from readers. We are already at work on the January issue.



McCloskey presents a copy of *Lentil* to Ohioana's director, Florence Roberts Head, at the Lazarus Book Shop. *The Columbus Citizen*, May 1940

He returned to Ohio for a while, where he drew and sketched, before moving back to Boston and getting a job painting murals.

The result of that time in Ohio was McCloskey's first book, *Lentil*, which was published in 1939. It tells the story of a boy in small-town Ohio who can't sing, so he learns to play the harmonica. McCloskey's second and probably best-known book, *Make Way for Ducklings*, won the Caldecott Medal in 1942. It was based on the ducks he had observed in the Boston Public Gardens each morning on the way to art school, and on the traffic problems they created as they waddled across the city streets. McCloskey actually purchased ducks so he'd be able to draw them properly. His roommate at the time remembered the experience years later; McCloskey would follow the ducks around the studio with sketchpad in hand, and would put them in the bathtub so he could observe them swimming.

McCloskey served in the Army stateside during WWII, using his artistic skills to create training illustrations. After the war, he moved with his family to an island

off the coast of Maine, where he lived for most of his adult life. He continued to write books based on his Ohio childhood (*Homer Price*, *Centerburg Tales*) and his Maine home (*Blueberries for Sal*, *One Morning in Maine*). It is said that the author delivered manuscripts to his publisher by rowing a boat to the mainland and its small, rural post office. *Time of Wonder*, his first full-color book, won the Caldecott Medal in 1957.

McCloskey wrote and illustrated only eight books during his lifetime, and illustrated ten more for other authors. He once stated that he was not prolific, but had to "wait until it bubbles out." However, he is considered one of the best children's book illustrators of his time, entertaining generations of readers with his signature blend of adventure, mischief, and humor. He published his last book in 1963, forty years before his death in Deer Isle, Maine at age 88.

We've begun planning the 2015 Ohioana Book Festival, which we are pleased to tell you is moving to a new location—the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 25! If you're an Ohio author and would like to be considered for the festival, visit our website at [www.ohioanabookfestival.org](http://www.ohioanabookfestival.org) for details and an application. The deadline to apply is December 31.

We are also planning some new events with authors, and are excited to announce that the first of these will be "An Evening with Karen Harper," an intimate dinner affair at the Bravo! restaurant at Lennox Town Center in Columbus on Thursday, November 20. The award-winning author of more than sixty *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling books, Karen will talk about her new *Cold Creek* series: *Shattered Secrets* (released in September), *Forbidden Ground* (just released) and *Broken Bonds* (coming in January). See page 7 for more details. We hope to see you there!

Finally, Thanksgiving is November 27. We at the Ohioana Library have so much to be thankful for, and at the top of the list are the many, many friends from across the state who share our love of books and reading and who make what we do possible.

From all of us at Ohioana, our best wishes to you for a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## REVIEWS

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

This eloquent free-verse memoir is a finalist for the National Book Award. In it Jacqueline Woodson reveals what it was like for her growing up as a Black girl in the 1960s and 1970s in an America “caught between Black and White.” Born in Columbus, OH, Woodson and her siblings spent much of their childhood in Greenville, South Carolina with their grandparents before moving to Brooklyn to reunite with their mother.

The absorbing poems, full of arresting details and vivid imagery, pull the reader into the heart of Woodson’s strong, proud, and loving family. Her choice of events and memories to recount is brilliant, incorporating important historical context, but keeping the focus on the family and on her own evolution from a child who loved stories but found reading difficult to the superb writer she has become.

## NEW BOOKS

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

### Nonfiction

Barbree, Jay. *Neil Armstrong: A Life of Flight*. Thomas Dunne Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$27.99. Barbree, the only reporter to cover all 166 U.S. astronaut flights, draws on five decades of friendship as well as interviews and NASA transcripts to tell Neil Armstrong’s story from combat in the Korean War through his career at NASA, including his walk on the moon.

DeAloia, Michael. *Lost Grand Hotels of Cleveland*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

Between the 1880s and 1930s, Cleveland’s hotels hosted U.S. presidents, business moguls, and Hollywood royalty. This book provides a narrative and photographic history of seven of those grand hotels—only one of which survives today.

Giffels, David. *The Hard Way on Purpose: Essays and Dispatches from the Rust Belt*. Scribner (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00.

David Giffels was born in Akron in the 1960s, just as the golden age of midwestern industry was ending. This collection of essays describes coming of age in the Midwest as well as the people and culture that make the area unique.

Hagedorn, Ann. *The Invisible Soldiers: How America Outsourced Our Security*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$28.00.

Not too long ago, only mercenaries provided military services for hire. During the Iraq War, however, private security contractors eventually exceeded U.S. troops. Private contractors now not only assist the military, but guard embassies, provide police training, and perform intelligence analysis. In this book, former *Wall Street Journal* reporter Hagedorn examines the difficulties of monitoring these companies and the potential risks of U.S. dependence on their services.

Mizejewski, Linda. *Pretty/Funny: Women Comedians and Body Politics*. Univ. of Texas Press (Austin, TX) 2014. HC \$55.00.

Women with good comic timing, from Katherine Hepburn to Phyllis Diller, have traditionally been described as either “pretty” or “funny.” In this book, Mizejewski focuses on six contemporary women writer-comedians who defied the “pretty v. funny” barrier, and examines the social impact of their success.

Rall, Ted. *After We Kill You, We Will Welcome You Back as Honored Guests: Unembedded in Afghanistan*. Hill and Wang (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$26.00.

In 2001, graphic journalist Ted Rall traveled through Afghanistan without embedding himself within a military unit. He returned nine years later, traveling with just a few colleagues and funded by Kickstarter rather than a news organization. This combination of travelogue, cartoons, and photographs paints a graphic picture of how the country has changed—and how it has stayed the same—after years of war.

Robinson, Debra. *The Dead Are Watching: Ghost Stories from a Reluctant Psychic*. Llewellyn (Woodbury, MN) 2014. PB \$15.99. Although Debra Robinson grew up in a psychic but religious family, she didn't embrace her abilities until adulthood. In this book Robinson, now a professional psychic who works with paranormal investigation groups, recounts several of her most frightening supernatural experiences.

### **Fiction**

George, Elizabeth. *The Edge of the Water*. Viking (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99.

Becca King is secretly living on Whidbey Island, hiding from her criminal stepfather. As her life becomes intertwined with a mysterious seal and an even more mysterious girl, both long-buried secrets and Becca's own paranormal powers are revealed. This follow-up to *The Edge of Nowhere* is the second book in George's Whidbey Island series.

Gray, Shelley. *Secrets of Sloane House: A Chicago World's Fair Mystery*. Zondervan (Grand Rapids, MI) 2014. PB \$15.99. After Rosalind Perry's sister disappears while working as a live-in maid at Sloane House in 1893 Chicago, Rosalind gets a job there to uncover what happened. She finds that Sloane House and its residents hold dark secrets. Although the World's Fair has brought a new kind of crime to the streets of Chicago, Sloane House may be even more dangerous...

Hayes, Sherri. *Crossing the Line*. The Writer's Coffee Shop (Waxahachie, TX) 2014. PB \$17.99. Detective Paul Daniels is a single

dad struggling to raise his daughter, Chloe. When he suddenly finds himself without anyone to watch Chloe while he's at work, Megan Carson volunteers to be his live-in nanny. Although Megan has made some mistakes in the past, it doesn't take long for Chloe—and her father—to work their way into Megan's heart.

Hendrix, Grady. *Horrorstör*. Quirk Books (Philadelphia, PA) 2014. PB \$14.95.

Something strange is happening each night at the Orsk furniture store in Cleveland—merchandise is destroyed, but security cameras show nothing. When three Orsk employees volunteer to work an overnight shift to catch the culprit, they encounter something worse than they could have imagined.

Landefeld, Kurt. *Jack's Memoirs: Off the Road*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$19.95. In this fictional autobiography, Landefeld imagines what might have happened if Beat Generation author Jack Kerouac had lived instead of dying in 1969. Looking back on his life at age 80, Kerouac recalls a different kind of journey that still celebrates the richness of American culture.

Lincoln, Deborah. *Agnes Canon's War: A Novel*. Blank Slate Press (St. Louis, MO) 2014. PB \$14.95. Agnes Canon dreamed of traveling west from her Pennsylvania home and finding true independence. Jabez Robinson had already traveled across the country, seeing both beauty and destruction. When the two meet in Missouri on the eve of the Civil War, they try to build a life for themselves while the country crumbles around them.

Matthias, John. *Different Kinds of Music: A Novel*. Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2014. PB \$20.00. This novel focuses on six episodes in the life of archivist and thief Timothy Westmont. Interchapters about music provide additional glimpses into Westmont's life. Like a collection of letters and photographs, the pieces combine to tell the story of a man and a life.

Scalzi, John. *Lock In: A Novel of the Near Future*. Tom Doherty Associates (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.99.

In the near future, Haden's Syndrome has created the greatest medical crisis in history by leaving its victims "locked in"—fully aware, but unable to move. Although there is no cure for Haden's, new robotics technologies allow victims to work in the real world, and a special virtual reality environment allows them to interact with others, both locked in and not. Finally, a small percent of the population is discovered to be controllable, allowing the locked in to use their bodies. In this environment, FBI agents Chris Shane (a Haden's survivor) and Leslie Vann begin to investigate a murder that turns out to be just the tip of a much larger crime...

Valente, Anne. *By Light We Knew Our Names: Stories*. Dzanc Books (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. PB \$14.95. This collection of thirteen stories explores boundaries between grief and joy, science and magic, and this world and the next.

### **Young Adult**

Chima, Cinda Williams. *The Sorcerer Heir: An Heir Chronicles Novel*. Hyperion (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99.

In this finale to Chima's *Heir Chronicles*, the peace between the Wizards and the other guilds is threatened by forces inside and out. As Emma and Jonah try to rebuild their trust in each other, they must also try to prove their innocence in a string of murders and uncover a long-buried secret that may hold the key to everything.

Gebhart, Ryan. *There Will Be Bears*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. HC \$16.99.

Thirteen-year-old Tyson loves spending time with his grandfather Gene. When Gene moves into a care facility to help control his kidney disease, Tyson sneaks off with Gene to go on his first elk hunt, where there will be bears...

Leigh, Vicki. *Catch Me When I Fall: Dreamcatcher Book 1*. Curiosity Quills (Reston, VA) 2014. PB \$14.99.

Since his death 200 years ago, Daniel has guarded humans from nightmares and other creatures that feed on fear. When he's assigned to protect Kayla, a sixteen-year-old psychiatric patient, he notices the nightmares have taken an unusual interest in her. When Kayla is attacked, Daniel discovers what makes her so special and vows to protect her at any cost—even if it means giving up his immortality.

McCahan, Erin. *Love and Other Foreign Words*. Dial Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

Josie speaks several languages fluently, including High School, Boyfriends, and Break-Ups. In the face of impending disaster, however, she must examine her feelings for her best friend, her sister, and a special boy, and learn the language of True Love.

Pattou, Edith. *Ghosting*. Skyscape (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99. One summer night, a teenage dare involving alcohol and guns goes tragically wrong. The event and its aftermath are described in free verse from the viewpoint of each of the teens involved, creating a haunting story of guilt and survival.

Raasch, Sara. *Snow Like Ashes*. Balzer + Bray (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

As an infant, Meira was one of only eight people who escaped when the Kingdom of Winter was conquered. She has spent the past sixteen years in exile, training to be a warrior. When scouts discover the location of a locket that can restore Winter's magic, Meira goes after it herself, and finds a world and a destiny very different from what she expected.

Stine, R. L. *Party Games: A Fear Street Novel*. Thomas Dunne Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

Stine returns to Fear Street for the first time in almost twenty years with the story of Rachel Martin, who jumps at the chance to attend Brendan Fear's exclusive birthday party despite his family's gruesome history. When the guests start dying one by one, Rachel doesn't know who to trust as she struggles to survive the most dangerous party game of all—murder.

### *Middle Grade & Children's*

Brenning, Juli. *Maggi & Milo*. Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

When Maggi and her best friend Milo (a border collie) go on a frog hunt, it looks like a lost cause until Milo saves the day.

Burke, Zoe. *Charley Harper's What's In the Coral Reef? A Nature Discovery Book*. Pomegranate (Portland, OR) 2014. HC \$14.95. Fifty different reef dwellers from Charley Harper's painting *The Coral Reef* are paired with rhyming text that introduces children to each creature. The complete artwork is shown in a fold-out page at the end of the book, allowing readers to locate their favorite creatures.

de Seve, Randall. Illus. by Loren Long. *Toy Boat*. Penguin Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. BB \$7.99.

Illustrated by Ohioan Loren Long, this board book edition of the 2007 original describes the adventures of a little boat on a big lake and celebrates the power of friendship.

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

Houts, Michelle. *Winterfrost*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. 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. When 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.

Kirk, Daniel. *Ten Thank-You Letters*. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

Pig is writing a thank-you note to his grandmother when his best friend Rabbit stops by. Rabbit is inspired to write nine thank-you letters of his own, but his interruptions try Pig's patience. Happily, the tenth thank-you letter reminds Pig what friendship is all about.

Kirk, Daniel. *You Are Not My Friend, But I Miss You*. Abrams Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.95. Monkey and Dog are best friends until Dog grabs Monkey's ball and runs away. After some unsuccessful attempts to befriend a rock and a worm, Monkey decides to be his own best friend—and comes to realize that sharing is a two-way street.

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Voices from the March on Washington*. Wordsong (Honesdale, PA) 2014. HC \$15.95. The 1963 March on Washington is described in verse through the eyes of six fictional characters, each with his or her own reason for attending.

Long, Loren. *Otis and the Scarecrow*. Philomel (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

When a scarecrow appears on the farm, Otis the tractor and the farm animals think they have a new friend. When the scarecrow doesn't respond to them, however, they turn away. One rainy fall day, Otis shows the large impact of a tiny step toward friendship.

Rosen, Michael J. *The Forever Flowers*. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2014. HC \$18.99. Reluctant to let her favorite Forever Flowers go, a young grouse carries them along on her fall migration. When their extra weight causes her to plunge into a cold river, she is rescued by a spaniel and his human companion and becomes part of their home. With the arrival of spring, the grouse must once again make a choice between holding on and letting go.

Scillian, Devin. Illus. by Tim Bowers. *Memoirs of an Elf*. Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. 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?

Stine, Megan. *Who Was Marie Curie?* Grosset & Dunlap (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$4.99.

Part of the *Who Was...?* series, this book documents the life of scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

Stine, Megan. *Who Was Ulysses S. Grant?* Grosset & Dunlap (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$4.99.

Part of the *Who Was...?* series, this book describes the life and career of Ulysses S. Grant, the commander of Union forces during the Civil War who later became president of the United States.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99. In this collection of free-verse poems, Ohio native Woodson describes what it was like growing up alternately in South Carolina and New York during the 1960s and 1970s. The poems not only describe her feelings of being only "halfway home" in each place, but also share her joy as she discovers writing. (See review on page 3.)

## COMING SOON

**Ohioana Book Club** meets November 12, 2014 at the Ohioana Library

The book for November is *Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster—The Creators of Superman* by 2014 Ohioana Book Award winner Brad Ricca. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

**An Evening with Karen Harper** November 20, 2014 at Bravo! Cucina Italiana, Lennox Town Center, Columbus See page 7 for information on how to reserve a seat for dinner and conversation with best-selling author Karen Harper.

**Holiday Hours** Ohioana will be closed Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day and Nov. 27-28 for Thanksgiving.



*New York Times* and *USA Today* Best-Selling Author  
**KAREN HARPER**  
Joins Ohioana for a Special Dinner Event

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014 — 7:00 P.M.

in the private dining room of  
Bravo! Cucina Italiana Restaurant  
Lennox Town Center — Olentangy River Road, Columbus

Enjoy an intimate dinner with Karen and hear about her new *Cold Creek* trilogy.  
Signed copies of her books will be available for purchase (cash or check only).

Reservations are \$40 per person and include dinner (choose one of three entrées  
plus salad and coffee, tea, or a soft drink). Cash bar.

SEATING IS LIMITED—MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

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or call 614-466-3831