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LITERARY CONVERSATIONS THE OHIO CHANNEL LAUNCHES *BOOK NOTES*

By David Weaver

If there is a single thread that runs through surveys taken at the Ohioana Book Festival, it can be summarized in this comment by one attendee: “What I loved most was hearing from the authors, in their own words, talking about the creative process.”

Listening to an author talk about their book—and how the book came to be—is almost as much fun as reading the book itself. It was for people who enjoy hearing this kind of literary discussion that The Ohio Channel created *Book Notes*. The first season of the new show made its debut on Ohio public television stations on September 11 with children’s author and poet Michael J. Rosen.

It was little more than a year ago when Dan Shellenbarger, Executive Director of Ohio Government Television and The Ohio Channel, came to Ohioana to share an idea for a new interview program that he would



Dan Shellenbarger interviews author Celeste Ng for *Book Notes*.

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

Changing the clocks back and flipping the calendar to November reminds us that another year is winding down. It’s been an eventful one for the Ohioana Library—moving the Ohioana Book Festival downtown, adopting a new long-range plan, the passing of a new state budget, and just last month the presentation of the 2015 Ohioana Awards.

We are looking forward to 2016, during which our two signature events will mark significant milestones. On Saturday, April 23, we will present the 10th anniversary Ohioana Book Festival at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. Next fall at the Ohio Statehouse we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Ohioana Awards.

Also coming in 2016 will be new editions of two major projects on which we partner with the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio Center for the Book. A new Ohio Literary Map will be unveiled early in the year, providing a colorful

host with Ohio authors. We were delighted to help identify and contact other prospective guests, and four of the first authors interviewed by Shellenbarger were taped last spring at the Ohioana Book Festival: Tom Batiuk, Jeffrey Ebbeler, Ann Hagedorn, and Celeste Ng. I had the pleasure of doing an interview about Ohioana that will air next month.

Although each author appears to discuss their latest book, the interview is about more than just a single work. Shellenbarger, who serves as executive producer as well as host, says, “We try to concentrate our questions on the mechanics of writing and the pains and pleasures of the writing process. As it always happens, the books are too interesting not to discuss as well.”

The show has not limited itself to one genre or type of writer. Producer Ethan Roberts said, “We’ve been lucky to feature a diverse array of authors on season one of *Book Notes*, all of them sharing something different about the process and artistry of writing. But whether they grew up here or are a transplant, each of them had good things to say about how Ohio has shaped their work.”

Each new episode of *Book Notes* features a single author and airs Friday evenings at 9:00 p.m. on The Ohio Channel, which is accessible via cable on public television stations throughout Ohio. Once aired, each show is archived on The Ohio Channel website, where it can be viewed at any time.

Dan Shellenbarger has been gratified by the response to date, saying “This is incredibly fun to produce. Admittedly, when we started this program I knew we had some significant writers in our state but really had no idea how many we had. We just wrapped season one, and I can’t wait for season two!”

We’re also looking forward to it, as are many of those same people who attend the Ohioana Book Festival and love to hear “authors, in their own words, talking about the creative process.”

For more information about *Book Notes* and to view archived episodes, visit www.ohiochannel.org/programs.

depiction of Ohio’s notable writers, poets, and illustrators. In the spring the 2017-18 Choose to Read Ohio list will be announced. A project that grew out of the Ohioana Book Festival, CTRO spotlights Ohio authors and encourages people of all ages to “Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life.”

Featured in this month’s cover story is another project that we’ve had fun being a part of. It’s the Ohio Channel’s new television program, *Book Notes*—a show that, like Ohioana, connects readers and Ohio writers.

As you can see, there’s a lot going on at the Ohioana Library. None of it would be possible without our many friends like you. With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, let me express our sincere gratitude and our best wishes to you for a safe and happy holiday season.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

NEW BOOKS

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection in September 2015. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

Nonfiction

Hoffman, Sharona. *Aging with a Plan: How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly Improve Your Tomorrow*. Praeger (Santa Barbara, CA) 2015. HC \$37.00.

Using both personal experience and a background in health law, Hoffman provides a comprehensive guide to help readers prepare for their own aging and support aging relatives. Chapters provide information, recommendations, and checklists for social, financial, medical, and legal planning.

Livingston, Bill. *George Steinbrenner's Pipe Dream: The ABL Champion Cleveland Pipers*. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2015. PB \$18.95.

During the 1961-62 season of the short-lived American Basketball League, thirty-year-old George Steinbrenner assembled a team that won the league's first and only championship. This book tells the story of the league, the championship team, and its mercurial owner.

McNutt, Randy, and Cheryl Bauer McNutt. *Unforgettable Ohioans: Thirteen Mavericks Who Made History on Their Own Terms*. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2015. PB \$18.95.

In this book, authors Randy and Cheryl Bauer McNutt introduce readers to thirteen not-so-famous but nonetheless extraordinary Ohioans, from Lloyd Copas (a singer who helped establish modern country music) to Moses

Fleetwood Walker (who in 1884 became the first black player in Major League Baseball).

Stephens, Martha. *Me and the Grandmas of Baghdad and a Garden of Hope and Repose*. PeaceWorks Publishing (Cincinnati, OH) 2015. PB \$19.99. In this memoir, activist and retired college professor Stephens reflects on her life, from her Georgia childhood to her Cincinnati garden to winters in New Mexico. Throughout, however, she never forgets how her life is similar to and different from the lives of others—including the grandmas of Baghdad.

Willis, James A. *Ohio's Historic Haunts*. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2015. PB \$24.95. This book, based on more than 200 hours of one-on-one interviews and overnight stays with high-tech ghost hunting equipment, documents the history of more than twenty historic Ohio sites that are reportedly haunted.

Fiction

Buckley, Carla. *The Good Goodbye*. Bantam Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$27.00.

One evening, as Natalie Falcone leaves the restaurant she co-owns with her brother-in-law Vince, she receives the call every parent dreads: her daughter Arden and Vince's daughter Rory—cousins and college roommates—have been injured in an arson fire that killed another student. Although Natalie thought the girls were best friends, the investigation reveals a more complex relationship, forcing both families to confront the fact that nothing is really as it seems.

McWhorter, Tim. *Bone White*. PlotForge Ltd. (Columbus, OH) 2015. PB \$12.00.

Teenage girls are disappearing from Luke and Garrett's small Ohio town. To escape the growing fear and paranoia, the two high school seniors decide to take a fishing trip. When a sudden storm rolls in and the two take refuge in an old church, they discover a horror worse than anyone imagined.

McWhorter, Tim. *Blackened*. PlotForge Ltd. (Columbus, OH) 2015. PB \$14.00.

After a year of therapy, Luke is finally starting to move on with his life after losing his best friend and several classmates to serial killer Corwin Barnes. However, a gruesome delivery proves that Barnes is still alive—and that he hasn't moved on at all.

Parker, Eliot. *Fragile Brilliance: A Ronan McCullough Novel*. Roundfire Books (Winchester, UK) 2015. PB \$19.95.

When Charleston policeman Ronan McCullough attempts to stop the beating of a college student outside a downtown bar, he is nearly killed by the perpetrators. As he struggles to recover both physically and emotionally, his investigation uncovers a deadly drug ring.

Smiles, Terri-Lynne. *Origins (The Rothston Series Book 3)*. PlotForge (Columbus, OH) 2014. PB \$15.00. With her enemies beaten, Kinzie Nicolosi is ready to focus on her studies at the Rothston Institute, an organization that telepathically manipulates world events to protect mankind. When a new enemy rises, Kinzie isn't sure which will be harder—defeating it or the ghosts in her own mind.

Poetry

Carpathios, Neil. *The Function of Sadness*. Slipstream Press (Niagra Falls, NY) 2015. PB \$10.00.

In this collection, surgeon's son Carpathios, who "developed x-ray vision,/could see through everyone," opens our eyes to the sorrows in the world around us, seeking to "understand/the origin of all tears."

Gundy, Jeff. *Abandoned Homeland*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2015. PB \$16.00.

This is the seventh book of poetry by Jeff Gundy, a professor of English at Bluffton University and the 2015 Ohio Poet of the Year. Poet Philip Metres says, "If Whitman were born in the Midwest to Mennonite parents, listened to Dylan and the Dead and loved to laugh at himself, he'd sound just like Jeff Gundy...Gundy reminds us, over and over again, that paying attention to the delights and troubles of existence becomes a kind of psalm to this botched and beautiful creation."

Rosenfeld, Natania. *Wild Domestic*. The Sheep Meadow Press (Rhinebeck, NY) 2015. PB \$17.95. The poems in Rosenfeld's debut collection explore both self and history. Whether she is reflecting on a work of art, her own past, or not-too-distant history, readers are compelled to journey with her.

Vreuls, Diane. *After Eden*. Pinyon Publishing (Montrose, CO) 2015. PB \$16.00.

This collection of poems reflects a lifelong spiritual journey, with meditations on belief, grief, faith, and everything in between.

Middle Grade & Children's

Borden, Louise. *Across the Blue Pacific: A World War II Story*.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (Boston, MA) 2006. PB \$7.99.

In 1944, Molly is in fourth grade, and her neighbor Ted has spent the past three years in the Navy. When Ted is given a new assignment on a submarine in the Pacific, Molly must find a way to live with the uncertainty and reality of war.

This expanded paperback edition includes photographs from the USS Albacore, the submarine on which the author's uncle served and perished during World War II.

Wahl, Jan. *The Long Tall Journey*. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2015. HC \$18.99.

In 1825, the viceroy of Egypt sent a giraffe as a gift to King Charles X of France. The journey took two years and covered 4,000 miles, including a 500-mile walk from Marseille to Paris. This book imagines the experience from the giraffe's point of view as she traveled from the acacia groves of Sudan to one of Europe's largest cities.

COMING SOON

Thurber House Evenings with Authors September-November, 2015, at the Columbus Museum of Art
The 2015 series of author readings continues through November, featuring outstanding writers across all genres. For schedule and ticket information, visit www.thurberhouse.org.

Buckeye Book Fair November 7, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at Fisher Auditorium, Wooster
The 28th annual book fair is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping. For more information visit www.buckeyebookfair.com.

The Write Stuff November 14, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Upper Arlington Main Library
This all-day event features speakers and breakout sessions to help aspiring writers hone their skills. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit www.ualibrary.org.

Ohioana Book Club November 18, 2015, 10 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus
The book for November is *Neil Armstrong: A Life of Flight* by Jay Barbree. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.