Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature
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Dear Friends,

“Let’s Start the New Year Right”

That’s the title of an Irving Berlin song that Bing Crosby first sang in the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*. A great tune, but completely overshadowed by another Berlin song that Crosby introduced in the same movie—“White Christmas.” I always liked Berlin’s New Year paean, which includes a memorable line about “our hopes as high as a kite.” Turning the calendar over to another January always brings a sense of excitement and promise. At Ohioana, we are certainly excited as we look forward to celebrating two major milestones in 2016.

On April 23, we will present the 10th annual Ohioana Book Festival at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. This event, which is free and open to readers of all ages, has grown from ten authors and 600 attendees its first year to more than 100 authors and nearly 3,500 attendees last spring. In the fall, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Ohioana Awards. Presented at the Ohio Statehouse, the awards recognize outstanding literary achievement by Ohio authors and about Ohio subjects. The list of award winners reads like a Who’s Who of great Ohio writers of the past seventy-five years.

Look for details on these and other Ohioana events on our website, www.ohioana.org, which has been completely redesigned. We hope our members and friends will like the new site as much as they liked the redesigned *Ohioana Quarterly* when it was launched a year ago.

Thank you for being a special part of the Ohioana Library. You make what we do possible. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events in 2016. With friends like you, we are truly, as Berlin’s song says, “starting the new year right.”

Happy reading!

David Weaver
Executive Director

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**ON THE COVER**

This issue’s cover art comes from the Ohio Literary Map, designed by Christine Colnar at the Cleveland Public Library. The Ohio Literary Map is a joint project of three organizations that promote Ohio writers: Ohioana Library Association, Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library, and the State Library of Ohio.
In this issue we introduce a new series of articles that will highlight literary landmarks—from authors’ homes to libraries and museums—throughout Ohio.

Malabar Farm was the home of Ohio native and Pulitzer Prize winner Louis Bromfield. Although the success of his books and screenplays made him well known in entertainment circles, he devoted the later part of his life to research and education about sustainable farming and conservation. Malabar Farm is a testament to this literary great with roots in the Ohio soil.

Louis Bromfield was born in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1896. His father, Charles, was a farmer and a New England native; his mother, Annette, came from a family of early Ohio settlers. Despite the fact that his father struggled to make a living as a farmer, Louis developed a love of the land at an early age. He also developed a love of writing, and worked as a cub reporter for local newspapers as well as working on his maternal grandfather’s farm.

After graduating from Mansfield Senior High School in 1914, Bromfield enrolled in Cornell Agricultural College. However, he returned home after his freshman year to help his father run the family farm. After the farm was sold the following year, Bromfield enrolled in Columbia University’s School of Journalism.

Bromfield’s college experience was once again short-lived. Becoming bored with school, he joined an American ambulance unit attached to the French Army and was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his service during WWI. After his discharge in 1919, he spent several months traveling the French countryside and observing local sustainable farming methods before returning to the U.S. later that year.

After settling in New York City, Bromfield worked at several jobs over the next several years, including journalist, newspaper editor, music and theatre critic, assistant to a theatrical producer, and advertising manager for a book publisher. In 1921 he married Mary Appleton Wood, who came from an established New England family.

Throughout his time in New York City, Bromfield worked on writing novels of his own. His first published book, The Green Bay Tree, was released in 1924. The first in his four-book Escape series, The Green Bay Tree is set in a small Ohio farm town struggling with the...
transition to an industrial way of life. The book became both a critical and commercial success. After the birth of his daughter Anne later that year, Bromfield moved his family to Long Island and began writing full-time.

In 1925 Bromfield and his family left for a one-month vacation in the French countryside. However, instead of returning to the U.S. as planned, they signed a fifty-year lease on a house in Senlis in the Picardy region of northern France. During their years in France, the Bromfields became known for lavish entertaining, and Louis struck up friendships with other expatriate writers and artists including Edith Wharton, Sinclair Lewis, Gertrude Stein, and Pablo Picasso. However, the house in Senlis was still a family home; Bromfield maintained a one-acre garden, and daughters Hope and Ellen were both born in France.

Bromfield periodically returned to the U.S. for work while his family stayed in France. After winning the 1927 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for Early Autumn (the third novel in the Escape series), he spent several months that year on a lecture tour of the U.S. In 1929 he took a job in California writing for Samuel Goldwyn at MGM, but bought out his contract and returned to France in 1930.

Bromfield's literary success had come at the same time that silent movies were being replaced by talking pictures, and Hollywood executives were looking for stories that took advantage of the new medium. His books were some of the first to be adapted into feature-length sound films; a half-dozen of his novels were made into movies in the 1930s and 1940s, with Bromfield writing some of the screenplays himself. Movies based on his books featured some of the biggest names of the era, including Humphrey Bogart, Lana Turner, and James Cagney. Mae West made her 1932 film debut in Bromfield’s Night After Night.

Bromfield wrote over a dozen screenplays in all. He also worked as an uncredited writer on Dracula (1931), starring Bela Lugosi, and on For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943), starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman.

Despite the popular success of his books and the films based on them, most of Bromfield’s books of the 1930s failed to win the critical praise of his earlier works. Some argued that he wrote with an eye toward film adaptation, causing his plots to become predictable. Others took issue with his support of individualism and push for a return to rural values. However, The Farm (about an established agricultural family in Ohio’s Western Reserve dealing with industrial encroachment) and The Rains Came (which draws parallels between British colonialism’s effects on the Indian way of life and industrialism’s effects on the agrarian way of life) are considered two of his best novels. The film version of The Rains Came, starring Tyrone Power and Myrna Loy, made its world premiere in 1939 in Bromfield’s hometown of Mansfield.
In 1938, with World War II looming on the horizon, the family finally left France and returned not to New York, but to Richland County, Ohio. Bromfield purchased the Clement Herring farm in 1939 and added neighboring parcels in 1940 and 1941; he named the new farm Malabar after the Malabar Coast in India.

Using the original Herring homestead as the center, Bromfield set about creating a residence that could accommodate not only his family, but also a multitude of guests. The “Big House” was designed to look as if additions had been made over a period of many years; construction of the thirty-two-room house took eighteen months.

Bromfield had been known for enjoying night life and entertaining throughout his years in New York and France; Malabar was no exception. Louis was a large man with a larger personality; he was outgoing, witty, and unafraid to say what was on his mind. At Malabar, the Bromfields continued to entertain often, and frequently invited their Hollywood acquaintances to Ohio. Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall were married there in 1945 with Bromfield serving as best man; other celebrity guests included Errol Flynn, Carole Lombard, Myrna Loy, and Tyrone Power. Even famous visitors were expected to do farm chores; James Cagney was once spotted working at the farm’s produce stand.

Although Bromfield continued to entertain, he had a higher purpose in mind for Malabar, which became fully operational in 1942. He established Malabar Farm as a research site for scientific farming, with a focus on restoring depleted soil and improving groundwater. He planted fields in several different kinds of grasses, which returned organic matter to the soil and provided feed for the farm animals. Bromfield used only natural fertilizer on the fields, and never used pesticides. He also practiced
contour farming to prevent erosion, created waterways and ponds to conserve water, and set aside several areas of the farm as wildlife habitat.

Malabar became a national model for sustainable agriculture; in its heyday, more than 20,000 visitors per year toured the farm and listened to Bromfield talk about the work taking place there. Bromfield also shared his passion for sustainable farming via a weekly radio show (Voice from the Valley), a syndicated newspaper column, magazine articles, and essays.

In 1945 Bromfield published his first nonfiction book, Pleasant Valley, which described his return to Ohio and the early years at Malabar Farm. He went on to write more books and essays on sustainable environmental practices before winning the 1952 Audubon medal for conservation. His wife Mary died at Malabar Farm that same year.

Louis passed away in 1956 at University Hospital in Columbus after a battle with cancer. Despite his many successes, Malabar Farm was in difficult financial straits, and Bromfield’s children sold it to a conservation foundation. The State of Ohio accepted the deed in 1972, and the property became a state park in 1976.

Today Malabar Farm is the only working farm state park in Ohio; Bromfield’s conservation farming practices are still in use. The farm hosts 35,000 visitors per year, and offers activities from hiking and camping to barn dances (a tradition started by Bromfield) to the annual Maple Syrup Festival and Ohio Heritage Days Festival. Malabar continues its commitment to education by offering tours of the farm and the Big House, providing exhibits on grass farming, and maintaining a 2,500 volume library on sustainable agriculture. For more information, visit www.malabarfarm.org.

Our sincere thanks to Malabar Farm’s Siera Marth and Thomas Bachelder. All photos in this article are courtesy of Malabar Farm unless otherwise indicated.
Columbus native Wil Haygood has enjoyed a successful career as a journalist for the Boston Globe (where he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist) and the Washington Post, and as the author of The Butler: A Witness to History and several other biographies. He won the 1998 Ohioana Book Award in nonfiction for his memoir, The Haygoods of Columbus. A graduate of Miami University, Haygood returned there in 2014 on a three-year appointment as the Wiepking Visiting Distinguished Professor, teaching courses in media, journalism, and film.

Recently Haygood talked with the Ohioana Quarterly about his most recent book, Showdown, which tells the story of the historic nomination of civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall to be the first black associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

Q Thurgood Marshall lived an extraordinary life, with many milestone events. What made you choose his 1967 nomination to the Supreme Court as the focal point of Showdown?

A In none of the previous books written about Thurgood Marshall have his confirmation hearings been covered in depth. It’s understandable why most of the focus has been on Marshall’s career on the court: the appointment was historic, and there would be much curiosity about his judicial career. What caught my attention was that the hearings were full of intrigue and populated with fascinating characters. It was also—the summer of 1967—such a tumultuous time in American history.

Q Why did President Johnson choose Marshall, and that particular time, for this historic appointment? As you point out, there wasn’t even a vacancy on the Supreme Court. How did LBJ manage to do it?

A President Johnson’s assault on segregation was aggressive. He knew there was no other way. He passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act, then the 1965 Voting Rights Act. He considered the nomination of a gifted African American to the Supreme Court the final nail in the coffin of state-sponsored segregation. All other court nominees had been white men. Marshall had been the chief NAACP lawyer, then a federal appellate judge, and then the nation’s solicitor general. LBJ knew Marshall had no equals in his field. Among his court victories had been the 1954 Brown school desegregation ruling, dismantling the separate but equal doctrine. Johnson wanted the best nominee he could find.

Q You examine the lives and backgrounds of each of the Southern senators who would most strenuously oppose Marshall’s nomination. Was there anything you learned about any of them that helped you get inside their mindset?

A Marshall’s chief antagonists on the judiciary committee, which conducted the hearings, were Senators John McClellan, James Eastland, Strom Thurmond, and Sam Ervin. Each had family members who had fought in the long-ago Civil War. The accepted laws of segregation had been dominant in each man’s upbringing. They could not forgive the North for its defeat of the South in the Civil War. And if there was one man who had haunted the South legally—with his Supreme Court victories in the arena of voting rights
and discrimination—it was Thurgood Marshall. So these men—well educated and nationally renowned—were wedded in their mindset that the South had been bruised, and that their vision of equality did not mean the same for black Americans as white Americans. They loathed Marshall.

Q. Which idea struck segregationists with more fear and anger: Martin Luther King Jr. in the streets, or Thurgood Marshall on the bench?

A. Segregationists could abide by Martin Luther King Jr. In their mindset there was a separation of church and state; they simply imagined his home church would call him home to get him off the streets. Thurgood Marshall was a different matter: his legal victories were profound. And no matter the threats that had been lodged against Marshall throughout the South, he was fearless. He kept filing those lawsuits. Marshall headed to the Supreme Court meant he WAS the law.

Q. Reading Showdown I came away with a greater admiration than ever for Lyndon B. Johnson. Do you think, were it not for Vietnam, that he would rank higher in history because of the momentous contributions he made to civil rights?

A. I believe there is now a long overdue evaluation of President Johnson’s legacy, especially in the arena of civil rights. We saw it with the movie Selma. In spite of that film’s controversy, he still emerges as a stalwart champion of civil rights. Vietnam has greatly affected his legacy. But it should not dim the brightness of his civil rights victories, which will endure.

Q. You have written biographies of four extraordinary African American men—Sammy Davis Jr., Adam Clayton Powell, Sugar Ray Robinson, and now Thurgood Marshall. Is there a single thread or theme that runs through their lives, other than the fact that all four were among the most celebrated African American men of their times?

A. I like to think that the biographies I’ve written have been about American rebels. Each man was considered an outsider from mainstream (read white) America, that is, until their talent and genius enabled them to cross over. Every day for them represented a kind of battle. They each turned their respective struggle into a kind of gritty art.

Q. The past few years have been incredibly busy for you, with both the film and book versions of The Butler and now the publication of Showdown. You’re also teaching at your alma mater, Miami University. You’ve said it takes about five to six years for you to research and write a book. Is there a next subject or next book already in the back of your mind?

A. I am working with the producers who have optioned my Sugar Ray Robinson book with the goal of making a movie. I am also doing some preliminary work on writing a theatrical play.

Q. We like to say “Every writer is first a reader.” You are a master at the art of biography. Did you read a lot of biographies as you grew up? What books and authors were favorites? Was there one work or maybe one author who made you say, “I’d like to do that”?

A. I was in my early 20s when I started thinking of narrative nonfiction writing. Long form journalism caught my attention. So did The Power Broker by Robert Caro. It’s about master builder Robert Moses and the social and political implications of his decision making. I was fascinated with the length of the book—more than 900 pages—and how it kept my attention on every page. I realized it must take endurance and a special gift to do something like that. I wanted to steep myself in the art of biography.

This dual biography features a modern-day thief and the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, Queen of Hungary (wife of Emperor Franz Joseph). Elizabeth, known as Sisi, was eccentric and anorexic, with hair that reached to the floor. She was self-centered and traveled continuously from the time she married until her assassination in 1898. Bahney lavishes much attention on the Empress, her foibles, and her rocky relationship with her husband.

The thief, Gerald Daniel Blanchard, gets second billing. He had the ingenious ability to circumvent any type of security system. After visiting Vienna in 1998 and seeing “Sisi’s Star”—the sole survivor of a set of diamond and pearl ornaments the empress would wear in her hair—he coveted it. After opening locks on exhibit cases and windows, he hired a plane, parachuted onto the castle in the middle of the night, and stole the jewel. After committing this daring crime, Blanchard resumed his life of theft, credit card skimming, fraud, forgery, and rehashing (returning stolen items to stores for refunds), with hints of gun running on the side, until Canadian officials finally caught up with him. Although he was guilty of multiple crimes, Blanchard served just five years in jail for bank theft; he never served time for the theft of the empress’s jewel, the famous pearl and diamond star.

Readers learn about Empress Elizabeth and her self-regulated life in an age when political tensions, anarchists, and revolution threatened monarchies. The intertwined story of the theft, hunt, and subsequent capture of Blanchard is intriguing, and leaves the reader wanting to know more.

Reviewed by Miriam Kahn


You wouldn’t expect a nonfiction book about the usually cut-and-dried process of hearings on a judicial appointment to pack the drama and intrigue of a John Grisham legal thriller. But Wil Haygood’s *Showdown* does just that.

Haygood, a native of Columbus and a former award-winning journalist for the Boston Globe and the Washington Post, is best known for *The Butler* and his biographies of Adam Clayton Powell, Sammy Davis Jr., and Sugar Ray Robinson. For his latest book, he has chosen as his subject one of the legal giants of the twentieth century: Thurgood Marshall, who made history in 1967 when he was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as the first African American justice to the United States Supreme Court.

Marshall was only thirty-two when he founded and became the first director of the NAACP’s Legal Defense Fund. There he became, according to the LDF’s website, “the architect of the legal strategy that ended the country’s official policy of segregation.” Of the thirty-two cases he argued for the LDF before the Supreme Court, Marshall won twenty-nine. Most notable was the landmark 1954 case *Brown vs. Board of Education,* which ended the “separate but equal” notion of school segregation.

Haygood could have chosen any number of Marshall’s victories to shine the spotlight on his brilliant career, but has opted in *Showdown* to focus on Marshall’s historic appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Johnson.
Understandably, Marshall was regarded by many white Southern political leaders as an enemy, particularly after the Brown decision in 1954. But in Texas-born Lyndon B. Johnson, he found an ally and an advocate. As president, LBJ had pushed through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the two most significant pieces of legislation in history aimed at ending segregation and guaranteeing rights for African Americans.

However, Johnson wanted to do more. He wanted to appoint Thurgood Marshall as the first black associate justice of the Supreme Court. It would be, as Haygood notes, the “final nail in the coffin of white supremacy.”

Haygood outlines how Johnson used his mastery of politics and people to bring Marshall to the Supreme Court. First, in 1965, Johnson elevated Marshall from the appellate court, where he’d been appointed by the late President Kennedy, to the position of Solicitor General—the top lawyer in the U.S. Department of Justice. Marshall was the first African American to hold that post. Two years later, Johnson again used his persuasive skills to engineer a vacancy on the Supreme Court by convincing then-associate justice Tom Clark that he should step down—not so Johnson could appoint Marshall to replace him, but so he could tap Clark’s son Ramsey as his new Attorney General. Clark stepped down, Ramsey became Attorney General, and LBJ nominated Marshall to the Supreme Court.

But the appointment required the approval of the U.S. Senate, with the first stop being the Senate Judiciary Committee. If Lyndon Johnson was determined to have Thurgood Marshall on the Supreme Court, there were four Southern senators, all devout segregationists, who were just as determined to block Marshall’s nomination from ever making it out of the Judiciary Committee. They included committee chairman James Eastland of Mississippi, a racist who owned a plantation employing 100 black sharecroppers and whose father had once lynched a black couple.

Before Marshall, most hearings on judicial appointments took less than a day. Haygood describes how the quartet of Southerners put Marshall through five grueling days of testimony. Marshall handled them all deftly, and in the end not only won over the majority of the Judiciary Committee but sailed easily to confirmation before the full Senate. He went on to serve twenty-four years on the Supreme Court before retiring in 1991, less than two years before his death.

I enjoyed the non-linear structure of Haygood’s book, which is not a traditional biography. The seventeen chapters are spread over five distinct sections, one for each day of the hearings. In these chapters, Haygood goes back to Marshall’s early life and upbringing and his rise to prominence as America’s most preeminent civil rights attorney. He also examines the Southerners who fought Marshall’s nomination as well as Lyndon B. Johnson, who knew that by advocating for civil and voting rights for African Americans and appointing Marshall to the Supreme Court, he was handing the South over to the Republican Party for the next few decades.

Thurgood Marshall is not known nearly as well as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a leader in the struggle for civil rights. But Marshall may have had the greater impact of the two, because he carried the battle to the place where the movement won many of its most significant victories—the U.S. Supreme Court. It was fitting that he ended up serving there himself as the first black associate justice. The story of how that came to be makes for a fascinating read.

REVIEWED BY DAVID WEaver


Staughton and Alice Lynd began their long involvement in political, labor, and social justice activism in the 1950s. Both came from families active in labor and political issues, and both had absorbed Quaker ideals of nonviolence and social justice from family members. Married in 1951, the couple spent three years at the Macedonia Cooperative Community in Georgia; after finishing his Ph.D. in history, Staughton accepted
a teaching position at Spelman College in Atlanta, while Alice worked in early childhood education. The couple were active in community organizing with organizations such as Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and in the civil rights and draft resistance movements of the 1960s.

By the early 1970s, however, the couple had become disillusioned with the increasingly bureaucratic and violent nature of many New Left organizations—including the SDS and SNCC—and were seeking new means to reach out to those in need of help. Staughton, blackballed by academia due to his activism, found himself unable to find a university teaching job. Hoping to find new avenues for social action, Stauf...
FICTION


Mackinac Island is a quiet summer resort town where bicycles and horses are the only approved means of transportation. Enter Chicagoan Evie Bloomfield, who is sent to the island to help her boss’s father, Rudy Randall, run his bike shop as he recovers from a broken leg. Evie, ever creative, jumps into life on Mackinac Island, helping Rudy spiff up his bike shop.

Within a day of Evie’s arrival, someone murders Rudy’s business rival by cutting the brake cord on her bicycle. When Rudy is accused of the crime, Evie marshals his neighbors and friends, investigates the murder, sizes up suspects among the quirky inhabitants of the island, and gets herself in lots of trouble with local lawman Nate Sutter.

Snappy dialogue, unbelievable accidents and mischief, and a little romance are just what Duffy Brown dishes up in this Cycle Path mystery. Readers will chuckle at the comedy, groan at the crazy antics of Evie and her new friends, and fall in love with Evie Bloomfield. Best read on a lazy afternoon, Geared for the Grave is a fun romp on the isolated island of Mackinac.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

You might also like:


The first thing you should know is that everyone lies.
The second thing is that it matters.

Before readers even begin the first chapter of The Good Goodbye, Buckley establishes the premise for this tragic story of how secrets, lies, misunderstandings, and bad decisions can alter lives in a split second or, in some cases, over a lifetime.

The story revolves around two families. Theo and Vince Falcone are brothers and are married, respectively, to Natalie and Gabrielle. Theo and Natalie have three children—twin boys and a daughter, Arden. Vince and Gabrielle have one daughter, Rory. Rory and Arden are close in age and have lived their whole lives more like sisters than cousins. Natalie and Vince co-own a restaurant, and life, on the whole, runs smoothly and happily. But when a bad investment by Vince puts the financial future of both families in jeopardy, hopes and plans change. As a result, all the little hurts and annoyances that have lain dormant beneath the surface of their lives begin to emerge, and cracks begin to form in the structure of the two families.

All of that, however, is put aside when the families receive a phone call and find out their daughters have been seriously injured in a fire at their college dormitory. Then the questions begin. What happened between the two girls? Was the fire deliberate? Why are the police involved? The families struggle as new information regarding their daughters seems to put everything they have ever believed about the girls in jeopardy. Natalie, especially, tries to understand how little she knew her daughter and is guilt ridden as she remembers recent opportunities when Arden tried to reach out to her.

I found it difficult to put the book down as I tried to decipher the complicated lives of these two young women and their families. The author uses the voices of the three main female characters—Natalie, Arden, and Rory—to narrate the story. The narrative shifts from one to the other as readers learn more and more about
the girls and their relationship with each other and their families. The happy facade of two cousins closer than sisters begins to crumble, and the truth begins to float closer to the surface as more is revealed about the unhappy and poisonous relationship between Rory and her mother. Like a jigsaw puzzle, the pieces begin to fall into place, and a more complicated family picture emerges.

There can be no perfect ending to the story of these families. Not all of the characters can be saved, but there are lessons to be learned for those who are. Lies are destructive; no matter how you justify them, in the end, they can ruin lives.

REVIEWED BY MELANIE STANLEY


It’s Civil War Re-enactment weekend at the Barton Farm living history museum when Maxwell Cherry is murdered. Maxwell’s aunt Cynthia, the major benefactress of Barton Farm, is beside herself. So is Kelsey Cambridge, the energetic, dedicated director of the museum. Intrepid Kelsey is determined to figure out who murdered Cherry, but first she has to sift through a host of his enemies, all of whom have motives. Is it the grouchy, mean-tempered master gardener whose city beautification project is also funded by Cynthia Cherry? What about Maxwell’s former girlfriend? Or his fiancée’s former boyfriend? With soldiers and guests all over the battlefields and the historic village, Kelsey has her work cut out for her. In the meantime, Police Chief Duffy and Detective Brandon have their sights set on Kelsey, who had motive of her own after Maxwell Cherry threatened to take away funding for Barton Farm. It’s a tangled web that Kelsey and the police try to unravel while keeping Barton Farm’s most lucrative weekend running.

Flower weaves the excitement of Civil War re-enacting with the stress of running a living history museum. She draws from her experience as a librarian and her familiarity with outdoor museums; although names were changed, readers may recognize both Burton Village and Hale Farm and Village, living history museums located in Northeast Ohio.

If you ever want to run a living history museum, or just volunteer at one, *The Final Reveille* will provide a taste of the joys, stresses, and pitfalls that surround all small historical organizations. And, if you love a cozy mystery, *The Final Reveille* will have you anxiously waiting for the next book in the series.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

Lindsey, Julie Anne. *Murder in Real Time: The Patience Price Mysteries.*
Carina Press (Don Mills, Ontario, Canada) 2014. PB $6.50.

Now that the summer tourists and fall birdwatchers have left Chincoteague Island, counselor Patience Price is looking forward to some peace and quiet. However, reality television has come to town, where actors and fans are hunting for ghosts and otherworldly manifestations. When two of the actors are murdered in her boyfriend Sebastian’s room at the local B&B, Patience does her best to stay out of the investigation—and the line of fire. For better or worse, she fails at both tasks and is dragged into danger that only increases as Halloween approaches. In addition to crime solving, Patience helps various residents with their problems, dispensing advice as needed in the oddest places. Can Sebastian and Patience solve the crime before anyone else is hurt or killed? Fans will devour this book while searching for the killer.

Lindsey puts together a fun fall romp on the island for her fans. This is the third book in the *Patience Price* series. While readers should enjoy the books in order, they do stand alone, and Lindsey fills in the gaps for readers who missed book two, which is available only as an e-book. If you love light mysteries, this book is perfect for a rainy (or sunny) afternoon.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN
YOUNG ADULT

Arnett, Mindee. *The Nightmare Charade.*
Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2015. HC $18.99.

The third and final installment of the *Arkwell Academy* series picks up several months after the events of book two. It is the start of dream-seer Dusty Everhart’s junior year at the academy. After being away from her boyfriend Eli all summer, Dusty is eager to pick up where they left off. But the dream-seer curse is still keeping them apart, and now Dusty and Eli are being followed by the enforcers of the magical Will Guard at every turn.

Although they still have dream sessions, Dusty and Eli are now chaperoned. When they are tasked with finding who stole the Death’s Heart, an object that has the ability to bring back the dead, they are forced to sign a confidentiality agreement. It leaves little opportunity for discussing the crime, much less solving it. And from what the dreams show, Dusty becomes convinced that her battle with the Red Warlock is far from over.

Then Dusty’s mother is accused of murder. Despite mounting evidence, Dusty is determined to prove that her mother is innocent. But without knowing who supports the Red Warlock, how can she trust anyone enough to ask for help? And how will she find a way to defeat the Red Warlock once and for all? Battling against evil magic, a forbidden love, and her mother’s imprisonment, Dusty will have to use all of her training to find a way to save her loved ones and herself.

Arnett does a nice job of tying together all the loose ends in this final book of the series. New facts about magical creatures and objects are sprinkled throughout, providing interesting backstory and context. In addition to following Dusty on the trail of the Red Warlock once more, it was nice to see her battle against the constraints of the dream-seer curse and find a way to save her mother. Once again, Arnett does a fantastic job with the pacing. *The Nightmare Charade* is full of twists and turns that keep readers guessing until the end.

REVIEWED BY A.D.H.

You might also like:
Arnett, Mindee. *The Nightmare Affair (Arkwell Academy, Book 1).* Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2013. HC $17.99.


Corp, Carey, and Lorie Langdon. *Shades of Doon.*
Blink (Grand Rapids, MI) 2015. HC $17.99.

In this third book of the *Doon* series, modern teenagers Mackenna Reid and Veronica Welling are both living in the mystical and medieval land of Doon. Although Mackenna is happy to be reunited with Duncan, she continues to struggle with finding her place. While Veronica has no doubt she belongs in Doon with Jamie, the belief in her ability to serve as queen is not as strong. When the two girls begin to have visions of the modern world, they second-guess the path they have chosen. Then they find themselves shoved through the portal to present-day Scotland. Is the kingdom relieving them of their duties, or is the witch Adelaide back? The girls manage to cross back over the bridge into Doon with the help of the Rings of Aontacht, but the experience leaves them shaken. Uncertain what powers the witch has, the girls begin to question everything around them. Led into a trap by someone they trust, Mackenna and Veronica are forced to remove their rings, their lifeline to Doon.

Suddenly, Mackenna and Veronica find themselves back in the lives they would have led before Doon. Mackenna must come to terms with leaving the Chicago stage behind, while Veronica must confront the ghosts of her childhood. Will the girls be able to find their way back to Doon without the rings, confront the witch, and finally have their happily-ever-after?
Fans of the first two books will enjoy being back in the fairy-tale world of Doon. The authors do a nice job of incorporating more history on this magical land—and the witch who won’t let go of it—while juxtaposing modern-day life. It was a nice twist to see both Mackenna and Veronica come to terms with the lives they chose to leave behind. While some of the plot was wrapped up neatly, other elements were left open for book four, which will hit shelves in August of 2016.

REVIEWED BY A.D.H.

You might also like:


MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN’S


In *Pitching for Success: Character Lessons the Joe Nuxhall Way*, the main character, Dominic, learns how to deal with life in a caring manner. With his father and baseball legend Joe Nuxhall as role models, Dominic discovers that controlling one’s temper and responding with a positive attitude are key approaches to success with people.

This book is a great read for elementary students. Not only does it teach the reader about Joe Nuxhall, a Cincinnati Reds pitcher and broadcaster, but it gives life lessons on how to solve problems and deal with social situations in an appropriate, considerate way. When the baseball game does not go the way Dominic wants, he soon discovers that losing one’s temper does not solve the situation. In the story, the reader also learns how Dominic expresses empathy and understanding for his sister Chelsea, who wants to play softball but is limited in this pursuit because she is confined to a wheelchair. When Chelsea discovers that she can play too in the Miracle Leagues, Dominic shares in her excitement.

As an elementary teacher, I would recommend that teachers have copies of this book in the classroom. Throughout the book, positive character growth words such as *courage, acceptance, compassion, open-minded, sportsmanship, and attitude* are highlighted and included with photographs of Joe Nuxhall. It provides ideal opportunities for group discussions about empathy and how to deal with friendship, team, and social situations, as well as teaching students about an influential figure in Ohio’s sports history.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON

Jakubowski, Michele. *Third Grade Mix-Up (Sidney & Sydney, Book 1)*. Picture Window Books (North Mankato, MN) 2013. HC $8.95.

*Third Grade Mix-Up* by Michele Jakubowski is about two main characters who are both in the same class and share the same name. Sidney, the boy, spells his name with an i and likes sports, a video game called Galaxy Conquest, and telling jokes. Sydney, the girl, spells her name with a y; she is a sassy third grader who likes fashion, Galaxy Conquest, and art. She also has an annoying baby brother named Owen. On the first day of school when Sydney walks into class, she goes to the desk she thinks is hers. She wonders if the teacher has spelled her name wrong—until Sidney arrives. Within the first few days, Sidney and Sydney become really good friends.

The story takes place throughout the school year, and Jakubowski includes lots of funny experiences in the book. Sydney’s younger brother Owen almost wrecks Sydney’s chance to trick-or-treat when he flushes her costume down the toilet. Sydney’s mom and friends help her solve this problem.
Halloween is also a time for pranks! Gomez’s brother, Lucas, pranks Gomez and Sidney with a monster mask. They both scream. But Gomez and Sidney prank back with caramel covered onions. Gomez and Sidney both laugh at Lucas and his friend, while shouting “Happy Halloween!” Then, the two of them run off.

We recommend reading this book because it is a fun and silly book about two classmates that become the best of friends. There are lots of adventures that make the reader want to read more. We hope you and any of your elementary-aged readers choose this book to read. You will enjoy it.

REVIEWED BY LIZZY AKEY, ELLA CHOMIC, & ELIZABETH MARTIN, GRADE 4

Jakubowski, Michele. *Dodgeball, Drama, and Other Dilemmas (Sidney & Sydney, Book 2).*

Picture Window Books (North Mankato, MN) 2013. HC $8.95.

In Michele Jakubowski’s *Dodgeball, Drama, and Other Dilemmas*, the main characters are two third graders named Sydney and Sidney. Sydney, the girl, likes to win and be in the spotlight, and she is sassy. Sidney, the boy, likes to play basketball and also likes to play Galaxy Conquest like Sydney. They are both eight years old and are in the same class.

The book shows both sides of the characters in each chapter. One day in class their teacher announces that they will participate in the Oak Grove Elementary School spelling bee. This changes everything in the friendship of the two kids. Sidney and Sydney become competitive in all the classes they take. For example, in gym class, they play dodgeball for the first time in the year. It ends with both kids against each other! What will happen??!! Then, the news that the school play is auditioning fills the friendship with drama! But when the play comes into view, they fix the friendship between them.

We recommend this chapter book for second and third graders because it is not hard to read, and it is fun and interesting. There are two other books in the series. We read the second book without reading the first one and understood it okay. This book also teaches kids not to let their competitiveness get the best of them!

REVIEWED BY SOPHIE BORNINO, ELLIANA CAIN, & MURIEL WALLACE, GRADE 4

Jakubowski, Michele. *Big Dog Decisions (Sidney & Sydney, Book 3).*

Picture Window Books (North Mankato, MN) 2014. HC $8.95.

*Big Dog Decisions* is about a boy whose name is Sidney with an *i* and a girl whose name is Sydney with a *y*. They both really want a dog, but their parents say that they are not allowed to because there are a lot of responsibilities when taking care of a dog. Even their friends can’t have dogs, because Gomez’s sister is allergic and Harley’s mom is a neat freak. So, they think up a dog-walking business called Happy Tails.

Later in the story, Sidney and Sydney realize how hard it is to take care of other people’s dogs. They have to walk the dogs and clean up after them. Dog walking also makes it hard to find time for other activities. Eventually, they find a solution, and Sidney is allowed to have a dog.

We would recommend this book. Sidney and Sydney have courage walking the dogs and are not afraid of them. When a dog drools on Sydney, she does not throw a fit. This book shows the reader that even if you do not get what you want, you can still work to be successful.

REVIEWED BY AVA KESSLER, LUPE OLOYEDE, & EUDORA SMITH, GRADE 4

When a Florida couple decides their ten-year-old son should experience winter snow, they rent a cabin not far from the wife’s childhood home near the Appalachian foothills of Ohio. The vacation goes as planned—filled with snowmen, sledding, and snowball fights—until the last morning, when a sudden whiteout catches the family unawares. As hours pass, the family becomes increasingly disoriented and exhausted. With drifts taller than the boy and freezing rain starting to fall, the family makes a den in the snow and the father, not knowing what else to do, whistles for help.

Not far away, a cattle dog has spent the morning as she spends every morning—working cattle with her solitary farmer. With the cattle safely in the corral, the cattle dog is settled in the barn when she hears a faint whistle. She follows the sound to the family; then, with night falling, she races to the farm and tries to get the farmer to follow her back into the snow. When the farmer doesn’t understand, she takes matters into her own hands.

Rosen’s spare, poetic language, combined with watercolor illustrations by Stan Fellows, sets the perfect tone in action scenes well as scenes filled with quiet desperation. Although the cattle dog’s actions may at first seem far-fetched, anyone who has ever watched a herding dog solve a problem will believe it could happen. As Rosen writes, “It’s work: The heeler had heard an unfamiliar whistle; she tracked the sound and the smell of something out of place; and she brought the missing back to the farm, because that’s a cattle dog’s work.” A bittersweet epilogue brings the story full circle and provides a satisfying conclusion.

REVIEWED BY STEPHANIE MICHAELS


Charlie is having pizza night with his family and a friend in the book Charlie Piechart and the Case of the Missing Pizza Slice. He is allowed to invite one friend over; but Charlie has four friends: Lewis, Scotty, Henry, and Barry. So, he is allowed to invite one-fourth of his friends to dinner. He ends up inviting Lewis over for pizza. Six people decide to split a large pizza, but they can’t agree on the toppings. Four-sixths of the pizza eaters are sure they do not want vegetables on it though. They finally agree on pepperoni pizza. Each person would get two slices, but after it is delivered, they discover that someone has stolen one piece of the pizza! It’s up to Charlie to discover who stole the pizza slice. Investigate along with Charlie and his magnifying glass in order to solve this delicious mathematical mystery.

This book is a picture book for young readers that includes a basic introduction to fractions. Claire, one of Ms. Kessler’s students, enjoyed this book because the mystery is actually solved in the end, unlike some book series that require you to read the next book in order to solve a mystery. The author uses fractions that connect to real life events, and Elizabeth liked this aspect of the story. Naomi noted that it was clever that Comstock and Sadler included Watson, the family dog, as an important character because animals are popular characters with kids. Ms. Kessler’s class liked the illustrations because of their vintage look, as if the story took place in the 1950s. The colors used on the pages intentionally made them look older than they were, and the kitchen had ‘50s style appliances and a table and chairs with mid-century modern “atomic” stars on them. Charlotte particularly noticed the style of drawing, especially the characters’ heads. She really liked that each person’s head was uniquely drawn. Olivia had hoped that Charlie would have needed to investigate more clues in order to find the thief. In her opinion, the story could have included
more of this kind of drama. For example, maybe putting prints on the pizza box or floor of the kitchen as clues would have given Charlie more to investigate. In summary, Ms. Kessler’s fourth grade class liked the book but would recommend it to younger children because of the simple fractions and the fact that it is a picture book.

Reviewed by Ms. Kessler’s Class, Grade 4

Van Vleet, Carmella, and Dr. Kathy Sullivan. *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space.*

Charlesbridge (Watertown, MA) 2016. HC $16.95.

Our class read the picture book *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space,* written by Ohioan Carmella Van Vleet and astronaut Dr. Kathy Sullivan. In this true story there is a girl named Kathy who takes a trip to outer space and becomes the first American woman to walk in space. As a child, Kathy loves planes and likes to go on adventures. Her dad designs planes and influences Kathy’s interest in flying. Riding on a Breezy (a type of plane without a cockpit) is an event that changes her life; it makes her realize that there are many opportunities and jobs available that allow her to see the world and that will eventually lead her to becoming an astronaut.

As students at an all-girls’ school, we were inspired by this book, which shows that women and girls can do anything that men and boys can do. In Kathy Sullivan’s time, many people thought that girls could not have as many opportunities as boys, but Kathy proved that you can fulfill your goals even if someone says you can’t. This book taught us that anyone can go to outer space and follow her hopes and desires, but you have to study and work hard. Kathy makes her choices and follows her dreams by becoming an astronaut, rather than a spy or diplomat. Her supportive family helps her to realize her goals.

This nonfiction picture book has lots of information about Kathy Sullivan. Its detailed illustrations alternate between childhood and adulthood. Our class recommends this book because Kathy is a role model with her perseverance, and this book tells a true story about outer space, Kathy’s dreams, and not giving up. *To the Stars!* shows that everyone, especially girls, can follow their dreams.

Reviewed by Ms. Stiverson’s Class, Grade 4
The following books were received at the Ohioana Library between August and November 2015. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

**NONFICTION**

Ballard, John. *Decoding the Workplace: 50 Keys to Understanding People in Organizations*. Praeger (Santa Barbara, CA) 2015. HC $37.00. In this book, professor and former management consultant Ballard provides guidance for anyone wanting to better understand workplace dynamics and become more successful. Topics include perception, motivation, group dynamics, influence, and more.

Bennett, Pamela, and Maria Zampini. *Garden-pedia: An A-to-Z Guide to Gardening Terms*. St. Lynn’s Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2015. PB $16.95. Gardening experts Bennett and Zampini present a friendly yet thorough guide to more than 300 common gardening terms. Each entry includes a brief definition followed by a longer explanation; most entries include color photographs. Sidebars and tips interspersed throughout the book make this a handy reference, especially for new gardeners.

Christenson, Dorothy. *Keep On Fighting: The Life and Civil Rights Legacy of Marian A. Spencer*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2015. PB $24.95. Born in Gallipolis in 1920, Marion Spencer joined the NAACP at age thirteen and spent her life working for civil rights, including the desegregation of Cincinnati schools and raising awareness of industrial waste practices in minority neighborhoods. This book documents both the struggles and the victories in a long life well lived.

Clark, Mark. *Star Wars FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Trilogy That Changed the Movies*. Applause Theatre & Cinema Books (Milwaukee, WI) 2015. PB $24.99. This book covers every aspect of the original Star Wars trilogy, from early screenplay drafts and casting to production and beyond. Even die-hard fans are likely to find new information in this thorough yet readable reference.

Congeni, Joseph. *Cleveland’s Bitter Pill: A Diagnosis of Injured Title Dreams and Die-Hard Fans*. Ringtaw Books (Akron, OH) 2015. PB $19.95. Cleveland sports fans are used to heartbreak—sometimes due to injuries suffered by key players at critical times. In this collection Congeni, director of sports medicine at Akron Children’s Hospital, tells the stories of the players and the injuries that dashed championship hopes.

Geoghegan, Thomas. *Only One Thing Can Save Us: Why America Needs a New Kind of Labor Movement*. The New Press (New York, NY) 2014. HC $25.95. In this book, labor lawyer Geoghegan argues that in a society of financial inequality and rigid corporate hierarchies, a new and different kind of labor movement may be the only way to save the middle class.

Gold, David M. *The Great Tea Party in the Old Northwest: State Constitutional Conventions, 1847-1851*. Quid Pro Books (New Orleans, LA) 2015. PB $23.99. Although members of the modern Tea Party movement claim the Boston Tea Party of 1773 as their inspiration, they may actually have more in common with the state constitutional conventions of the mid-nineteenth century. At that time reformers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin worked to limit government power by imposing debt ceilings, requiring popular election of public officials, and other measures. Gold provides a well researched look at those who sought to streamline government in an earlier era of American history.

Haygood, Wil. *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America*. Knopf (New York, NY) 2015. HC $32.50. Haygood’s non-traditional biography not only documents the life and career of Thurgood Marshall, but also uses Marshall’s Supreme Court confirmation hearing to shine a light on the politicians, activists, and others who participated in or fought against the civil rights movement.

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.


Bob Hines was born in Columbus in 1912. Despite a lack of formal art training, he became a staff artist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife and then for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His artwork appeared not only on stamps and in federal publications, but also in works by noted authors including Rachel Carson. This book shines a light on the life and work of an important artist and conservationist.


Today, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park attracts more than three million visitors per year. When Jeffrey Knowles grew up in the valley in the 1950s, however, it contained small towns and faint traces of an almost-forgotten canal. In this memoir Knowles not only reflects on his childhood, but also shares the history of the valley, from its early settlers to the days of the Ohio & Erie Canal and beyond.


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.


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).


In 1989 in a small South Carolina town, a white high school football coach moved a black quarterback to defense and replaced him with an inexperienced white player, causing thirty-one of the team’s thirty-seven black players to boycott the season in protest. The strike divided the town along racial lines, making it clear that the incident was about more than football and that racial tensions were far from settled.


Each tablespoon of soil contains billions of microorganisms that transform carbon dioxide from plants into carbon in the soil. Over time, poor farming practices have caused soil around the world to lose 80 billion tons of carbon, which are now floating in the atmosphere. In this book, journalist Ohlson introduces scientists, farmers, and others who are working to save the planet’s most valuable natural resource—the soil that feeds us.


In 1896, William McKinley defeated William Jennings Bryan by running what Rove calls “the first truly modern presidential campaign.” His strategy, which included careful targeting of voters, use of new technologies, and a powerful message that split and eventually reformed his own party, still holds lessons for today.

Spencer, Kathleen L. *Art and Politics in Have Gun—Will Travel: The 1950s Television Western as Ethical Drama*. McFarland & Company (Jefferson, NC) 2014. PB $45.00.

For a decade beginning in 1955, television Westerns made up nearly one quarter of prime-time programs. *Have Gun—Will Travel* was lauded as one of the best. In this book, Spencer places the series in its larger social context, compares it with other popular television Westerns, and examines what made it so successful, from its star to its portrayal of women and minorities.
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.

Although less well known than the Trail of Tears, the removal of the Delaware, Seneca, Shawnee, Ottawa, and Wyandot tribes from Ohio is no less disturbing. In this book Stockwell documents the interactions of the tribes and the U.S. government from Tecumseh’s death in 1813 to the removal of the last remaining Wyandots in the 1850s.

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**

Angie has volunteered to help librarian Austina Shaker organize the Rolling Brook Library’s annual book sale. However, when an Amish bishop who had threatened to ruin Augustina is found dead in the bookmobile, the librarian becomes the prime suspect in a murder investigation. Angie will need the help of her quilting circle, her new boyfriend, and her beloved dog Oliver to find the real killer.

Bialosky, Jill. *The Prize.* Counterpoint (Berkeley, CA) 2015. HC $25.00.
Edward Darby has overcome a dark past to have what every man wants: a loving wife, a child, and a successful career at an esteemed art gallery. But when one artist betrays him and his growing affection for another artist dredges up secrets from his past, he finds everything he has built in jeopardy. As desperate artists jockey to win a coveted prize, Edward struggles to remain true to himself and regain a life worth living.

Determined to excel in the world of equestrian sports, Dana leaves her home in Ohio to study with an elite Canadian trainer. There she finds both success as a rider and romance. But when a scandal threatens, her once-in-a-lifetime chance may come to an end.

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.

Hunter Galen, a New Orleans securities broker, suspects his friend and business partner of embezzling money. After the partner turns up dead and Hunter becomes the prime suspect, he hires rookie private investigator Nicki Price to prove his innocence. As Nicki’s attraction to Hunter grows and the pair encounter deception, blackmail, and death threats, they must rely on faith and determination to survive.

In this sequel to *Death by Coffee*, Krissy Hancock is thrilled that her mystery bookstore has been chosen to host an annual book
club competition—until one of the competitors is bludgeoned by a silver teapot and suspicion falls on her. With the police doing their best to prove her guilty, Krissy will have to work quickly to clear her name and find the real killer.

Sulis, a young woman from the Southern Desert, is pledged to serve the One in the Northern Territory’s Temple at Illian while her twin brother Kadar travels the world as a merchant. When Sulis tries to affect change within the Temple and Kadar joins the secret struggle to free the Forsaken caste from slavery, both twins become involved in a revolution that may draw the anger of the deities themselves.

In the American frontier, a 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. Soon after, the stranger kills the woman and begins a hunt for the man with the goal of rewriting the history of the American West.

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 paranoia, the two high school seniors decide to take a fishing trip. When a sudden storm rolls in and the friends 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.

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.

Petrone, Susan. Throw Like a Woman. The Story Plant (Stamford, CT) 2014. HC $25.95.
Brenda Haversham is a divorced single mom who is short on money and a social life. When she decides to try a “test your speed” pitching cage before a Cleveland Indians game, video of her fastball goes viral, and the Indians come calling. Soon Brenda is the first female player in Major League history—and must deal with everything that entails, good and bad.

In this sequel to The Fortress in Orion, a scientist who holds the key to the Democracy’s survival has been kidnapped by the enemy Coalition and hidden in their strongest prison, located somewhere in the Antares Sector. Can Nathan Pretorius and his team of Dead Enders locate the prison and rescue the scientist before it’s too late?

When Anthony Douglas’s father and Lydia Garrett’s guardian are murdered on the same night, the two discover that the murders are related; years earlier, both men were involved in hiding the legendary Peacock Throne at the request of India’s royal family. With word that Napoleon Bonaparte is seeking a way to drive a wedge between England and India, Anthony and Lydia join intelligence officer Marcus Harting on a journey around the globe to find the throne before the French—and catch the killer.

This collection of novellas and short stories takes a look at the underside of the rural Midwest and gives voice to the neglected, battered, and unheard.

Although Angelica always suspected there was something “off” about her family, learning the truth sends her into a tailspin of bad decisions. As an adult, she finally starts a journey of self-discovery that leads her toward home, and maybe toward a second chance at love as well.
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.

Thomson, Cindy. *Sofia’s Tune.* CreateSpace (Charleston, SC) 2015. PB $14.99. This final book in Thomson’s Ellis Island series introduces Sofia Falcone, an Italian immigrant whose discovery of a family secret sends her mother to a mental institution. When Sofia meets Antonio, a pianist investigating his father’s death, they discover a terrifying underworld in Little Italy. Revealing the truth may not only destroy the livelihoods of neighborhood immigrants, but may destroy their own families as well.

Yocum, Robin. *The Essay.* Arcade Publishing (New York, NY) 2012. HC $24.95. Jimmy Lee Hickam believed that, like most of his family, he was destined for jail—until his football coach convinces him to stay in high school, and his English teacher inspires a prize-winning essay that could lead, against all odds, to a better life.

**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.”

Finley, Mike. *Newspaper Taxis Appear on the Shore.* Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB $10.00. Pushcart Prize-winner Finley highlights ordinary moments with both pathos and humor.

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.”

Landis, Geoff. *The Book of Whimsy.* Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB $10.00. This collection of poems is not only whimsical (poems include “Sending My Mother to Mars”), but also subtle and profound. Landis has won awards for his science fiction and fantasy writing as well as his poetry.

Moffett, Judith. *Tarzan in Kentucky.* David Robert Books (Cincinnati, OH) 2015. PB $18.00. Moffett’s third poetry collection reflects her struggle to reconcile her strict religious upbringing with the evolutionary biology she accepted as an adult. This reflection, along with glimpses of life on her Kentucky farm, ultimately becomes a meditation on origin and belonging.

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.

Turzillo, Mary. *A Guide to Endangered Monsters.* Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB $10.00. This collection of thirty-seven poems covers topics ranging from creatures real and imagined to faraway worlds to housewifery, often with a wicked sense of humor and a twist at the end.

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.
**YOUNG ADULT**

Barzak, Christopher. *Wonders of the Invisible World*. Knopf Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2015. HC $17.99. Seventeen-year-old Aiden Lockwood is drifting through life in an Ohio farming community. When his former friend Jarrod returns to town, buried memories begin to surface along with haunting visions of the past. In the wake of tragedy, Aiden and Jarrod embark on a journey to break the curse that follows Aiden’s family and keep the invisible world at bay.

Hammond, Beth. *The Sound of the Stones*. eLectio Publishing (Little Elm TX) 2015. PB $17.99. When Frankie is inexplicably drawn to a used bookstore, the owner hands her a book that tells of a long-ago time when a heroine named Ashra tried to free her people from half-human creatures. Frankie and Ashra are separated by time and reality, but as the story unfolds, those barriers begin to break, and Frankie will never be the same.

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *In the Fields and the Trenches: The Famous and the Forgotten on the Battlefields of World War I*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2016. HC $19.95. Author Hollihan follows the stories of eighteen young men and women caught up in World War I. Some would go on to be famous, including J.R.R. Tolkien and Buster Keaton, but others would not return home. Although their stories are a century old, readers will recognize the universal themes of love, fear, friendship, and sacrifice.

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *Reporting Under Fire: 16 Daring Women War Correspondents and Photojournalists*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2014. HC $19.95. *Reporting Under Fire* profiles the lives of sixteen women who risked their lives to bring back stories and photos from the front lines in Europe, Korea, the Middle East, and beyond. Covering the century from World War I to the present, the book focuses on how each woman found her calling and her voice.

Lindsey, Julie Anne. *Goddess: A Calypso Novel*. Lyrical Press (New York, NY) 2015. PB $15.00. High school senior Callie Ingram has just discovered that she’s the resurrected leader of the Vikings. When Zeus tasks her with uniting the Viking clans and leading them into battle against the frost giants, she must fight to save her family and friends—and to hold on to her own humanity.

McGinnis, Mindy. *A Madness So Discreet*. Katherine Tegen Books (New York, NY) 2015. HC $17.99. Grace Mae’s family committed her to a Boston asylum in order to protect family secrets and avoid scandal. There, she locks her voice away until a visiting doctor who works in the new field of criminal psychology recruits her as his assistant. After moving to an ethical Ohio asylum, Grace finds friendship and begins to look forward to life outside the asylum walls. But first she must help the doctor stop a murderer and must also confront her own demons.

Miller, Brandon Marie. *Women of Colonial America: 13 Stories of Courage and Survival in the New World*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2016. HC $19.95. Based on primary sources, this book documents the lives of thirteen European, African, and Native American women in colonial America. Although the New World was defined almost entirely by men, these women nonetheless found a way to defy authority by building successful businesses, writing poetry, escaping slavery, and more.

**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
U.S.S. Albacore, the submarine on which the author’s uncle served and perished during World War II.

Carson, Mary Kay. *Inside Biosphere 2: Earth Science Under Glass.* HMH Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2015. HC $18.99. Biosphere 2, a glass and steel enclosure the size of three football fields, was built nearly thirty years ago to develop technologies for humans living in space. Today, however, scientists use Biosphere 2 as a giant living laboratory where they can study complex ecosystems under controlled conditions. Carson’s book describes studies on climate change, weather, and water and energy conservation that could positively impact life here on Earth.

Kennedy, Anne Vittur. *Ragweed’s Farm Dog Handbook.* Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2015. HC $15.99. Ragweed the farm dog provides helpful tips for other aspiring farm dogs, from waking the farmer to interacting with cows, sheep, and chickens to earning biscuits—the best part of the job.

Meyer, Karen. *North to Freedom.* Sable Creek Press (Glendale, AZ) 2015. PB $10.99. When Moses and Tom flee Kentucky to find freedom in the North, fear is their constant companion. Across the Ohio River, young Will Butler and his family fear the consequences of the Fugitive Slave Law, but still become a link in the Underground Railroad. Will Moses and Tom survive the journey to freedom?

Mora, Pat. *The Remembering Day: El Día de los Muertos.* Piñata Books/Arte Público Press (Houston, TX) 2015. HC $17.95. In this bilingual picture book, author Pat Mora imagines how the Mexican custom of remembering loved ones, the Day of the Dead, came to be.

Rosen, Michael J. *The Tale of Rescue.* Candlewick (Somerville, MA) 2015. HC $14.99. In the Ohio foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, a Florida family has rented a cabin so their ten-year-old son can experience the wonder of a snowy weekend. At a nearby farm, a cattle dog works forty head of cattle for her solitary farmer. When a sudden whiteout strands the family in snowdrifts taller than the boy, their only chance for survival is a brave and determined dog.

Sadler, Marilyn, and Eric Comstock. *Charlie Piechart and the Case of the Missing Pizza Slice.* Katherine Tegen Books (New York, NY) 2015. HC $17.99. With one pizza, six people, and seven possible toppings, Charlie and his family have a fraction-filled discussion as they decide what to order for dinner. When one slice of pizza goes missing, can Charlie use math to solve the mystery?

Schuett, Michaela. *Let’s Count Fish!* The Omnibus Publishing (White Marsh, MD) 2015. HC $12.95. When a cat goes fishing, he ends up counting more fish than he catches. Colorful illustrations and rhyming text accent this counting book for young children.

Stewart, Aileen. *Quack and Daisy.* Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2015. PB $8.99. When Daisy the kitten and Quack the duckling meet, they instantly become friends despite Daisy’s inability to swim, Quack’s inability to catch a mouse, and everyone telling them it’s impossible. Can their friendship survive?

Van Vleet, Carmella, and Dr. Kathy Sullivan. *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space.* Charlesbridge (Watertown, MA) 2016. HC $16.95. This picture book biography tells the story of Kathy Sullivan, who as a young girl dreamed of adventure, and as an adult became one of the first six women astronauts to train with NASA and the first American woman to walk in space.

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.
Ohioana Book Festival
April 23, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio

We hope you’ll join us for the 10th annual Ohioana Book Festival! The event will feature a book fair and book signings, panel and roundtable discussions with your favorite Ohio authors, a children’s activity room, teen space, food trucks, and more.

Ohioana Hamilton County Authors Reception
April 17, 2016
1:30–4:00 p.m.
Main Library, Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio

Book lovers can connect with local authors at the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. Dozens of published writers from Cincinnati and Hamilton County will chat with fans, sign books, and talk about the writing process.

Thurber House Evenings with Authors
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio

Tickets for the 2016 Winter/Spring Evenings with Authors series are now on sale; guests include Ohioana Award-winning novelist Tracy Chevalier on March 21. All events are held at the Columbus Museum of Art. For schedule and ticket information, visit www.thurberhouse.org/2016-ws-season.html.

Ohioana Book Club
February 10, 2016
10 a.m. – noon
Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for February is *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain. (Because *Circling the Sun* is a fictionalized account of the life of aviation pioneer Beryl Markham, attendees may also enjoy reading Markham’s memoir, *West with the Night.*) The club meets in the Ohioana reading room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you would like to attend, e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Pickerington Teen Book Fest
June 11, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Pickerington North High School, Pickerington, Ohio

Pickerington Public Library’s third annual Teen Book Fest gives you the chance to meet your favorite YA authors as well as attend panel discussions and writing workshops. The event is free and open to the public. Save the date and visit www.pickeringtonlibrary.org for more information.

Do you have a literary event you’d like to list in the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact the Ohioana Library at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Brews + Prose
First Tuesday of every month
Market Garden Brewery, Cleveland, Ohio

Founded in 2012, this monthly series of literary readings strives to make literature and authors more accessible and engaging. For more information, visit www.brewsandprose.com.
This issue’s cover features artwork from the 2016 Ohio Literary Map, a guide to the rich literary legacy of the Buckeye State. The map features a sampling of the talented writers that have called Ohio home as well as selected literary landmarks throughout the state.

For more information, contact the Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library, the State Library of Ohio, or the Ohioana Library.