The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2016 Ohioana Book Awards! The awards, established in 1942, honor Ohio authors in Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, and Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature. The final category, About Ohio or an Ohioan, may also include books by non-Ohio authors. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Ohioana Awards.

Finalists include two Pulitzer Prize winners, a two-time National Book Award winner, a National Book Critics Circle Award recipient, two winners of the Mystery Writers of America Edgar® Award, a five-time Coretta Scott King Literary Award winner, two Cleveland Arts Prize recipients, and ten previous Ohioana Award winners. This year’s winners will be announced in July, and the awards presented at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, September 23. The 2016 finalists are:

**Fiction**

**Nonfiction**
About Ohio or an Ohioan

Poetry

Juvenile Literature
Ebbeler, Jeffrey. Click! Holiday House, 2015.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature

Speaking of literary prizes, in this issue’s cover story we proudly announce the 2016 Ohioana Book Award finalists. As you can see from some of the other major honors this year’s finalists have won, it is a stellar list indeed.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Ohioana Awards—a truly significant milestone. Every literary field has been represented, and nearly every major Ohio writer of the past seventy-five years has been honored—from James Thurber to Susan Orlean; Louis Bromfield to Toni Morrison.

In addition to the book awards, we’ll present the annual Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a special prize given to a writer age 30 or younger who has not yet published a book. The Marvin Grant has helped launch a number of authors, including our 2000 recipient, Anthony Doerr, who has gone on to win numerous literary awards, including the 2015 Pulitzer Prize.

As noted in our cover story, this year’s winners will be announced in July. Our 75th anniversary Ohioana Awards will be presented on Friday, September 23, in the beautiful atrium of Ohio’s historic Statehouse. We will send out invitations in August, and hope you will make plans to join us for this very special evening.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director
NEW BOOKS
The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library this January through March. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

Nonfiction
The University of Cincinnati: Soaring into Our Third Century. Univ. of Cincinnati Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2015. HC $40.00. This book tells the story of the University of Cincinnati in a coffee table book format, providing a link to the university’s upcoming bicentennial while discussing its academic roots.

Bright, Heidi. Thriver Soup. Sunstone Press (Santa Fe, NM) 2015. PB $34.95. This book discusses many of the self-care options available for cancer patients who are seeking holistic strategies for cushioning chemotherapy and softening surgery. Each topic begins with an inspirational quote, offers a story on self-care, and provides useful tips. With passion, authenticity, and a little humor, this book explores medical topics and holistic care and provides guidance for those suffering from cancer.

Brown, Tony (ed.). From the Cincinnati Reds to the Moscow Reds: The Memoirs of Irwin Weil. Academic Studies Press (Boston, MA) 2015. HC $49.00. Irwin Weil was born in 1928 in Cincinnati, Ohio; his father was a former owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. After discovering Russian literature in college, he went on to earn a doctorate in Slavic studies from Harvard and teach Russian literature at Brandeis and Northwestern. His memoir provides a first-hand look at Jewish, American, and Russian culture during the twentieth century.

Dawidziak, Mark. Mark Twain’s Guide to Diet, Exercise, Beauty, Fashion, Investment, Romance, Health and Happiness. Prospect Park Books (Altadena, CA) 2015. HC $16.95. This collection of quotations was expertly compiled by a well-known Twain expert and draws on lesser-known texts, speeches, and notebooks. The book contains the curmudgeonly writer’s thoughts on diet, exercise, medicine, smoking, drinking, and parenting, among other things, and is a perfect read for anyone who’s had enough of the ramblings of the blogosphere.


Gaston, Paul L. Ohio’s Craft Beers. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2016. PB $18.95. Ohio’s craft beer industry has boomed in recent years. This book takes you on a tour through more than forty of the state’s larger breweries while providing interesting perspectives on brewing, regional history, and the distinctive culture of a growing industry.

Herbert, Jeffrey G. Hamilton County Ohio Church Burial Records, 1890-1899. Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2015. PB $39.50. This genealogical resource indexes nearly 20,000 names from the death records of forty-eight Hamilton County churches and religious publications. Parents’ names, burial dates, death dates, ages, and maiden names are also listed.

Howe, Eber D. Mormonism Unveiled. Signature Books (Salt Lake City, UT) 2015. HC $37.95. Eber D. Howe (1798-1885) was a newspaperman who helped found the Cleveland Herald and later founded and ran the Painesville Telegraph. His 1834 book Mormonism Unveiled “was the single most influential critical book on Joseph Smith in the nineteenth century.” This edition reprints Howe’s original work; an introduction, notes, and cross-references by Dan Vogel (author and editor of several books on Mormonism) add historical context to help modern readers weigh the historical text.

Mautz, Scott. Make It Matter: How Managers Can Motivate by Creating Meaning. AMACOM (American Management Association) (New York, NY) 2015. HC $24.95. Although seventy percent of the workforce might be physically at work on a given day, their minds and hearts may never show up. Make it Matter provides a framework for managers to create meaning for their subordinates through the three pillars of “directory, discovery, and devotion.”


Both volumes of McBride's biographical sketches were published posthumously by his eldest daughter. The collection provides insight into early pioneer life in rural Ohio and pays tribute to the ordinary men who put down roots in the 1800s.


Ohio's climate can be as challenging as it is beautiful, so choosing the right plants and knowing how to care for them can be tricky. In this guide, McKeown divides plants into easy chapters and discusses methods for preparing soil, watering, applying fertilizer, and managing pests. His practical advice is enough to inspire anyone to get their hands dirty!


Columbus has a vibrant restaurant culture and history. In this tribute to the city's culinary past, Motz and Hayes take readers on a tour of long-forgotten eateries—several of which hosted famous historical figures—through old photographs and heartwarming tales.


Restaurant owners and managers from across Ohio have generously provided more than 200 well-loved recipes so that readers can create their own masterpieces at home. Most ingredients are easily found (although some may come from the gourmet section of the grocery store).


In 1861, Lt. Col. William Hoffman was tasked with finding a suitable site for a Union prison. The following spring, that prison opened on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie. Pickenspaugh uses diary entries and prison records to paint a picture of daily life in an officer's prison during the Civil War.


Learn the simple secrets of how to create eight-pointed stars with seven different quilt projects. This book provides step-by-step instructions for creating precise star shapes, allowing readers to make complex stars that will add a unique design element to any quilt.


The Giants have been blessed with numerous Hall of Fame—worthy players over the years. Forty of the greatest Giants players of all time are profiled in this collection for fans.

Smythe, Kathleen R. *Africa's Past, Our Future.* Indiana Univ. Press (Bloomington, IN) 2015. PB $30.00.

The past offers alternative models for thinking about our collective future, and this book provides a perspective of African social, economic, and political systems that offers different ways of thinking about a sustainable future.


In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt sent William Howard Taft on a diplomatic mission to China, Japan, and the Philippines with the goal of improving trade and cultural relations. Taft's entourage included diplomats, fellow Ohioans, the president's
daughter Alice, and an amateur photographer named Harry Fowler Woods, who took more than 700 photographs. This book documents the mission that not only helped promote treaty negotiations, but also helped Roosevelt win the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize.

Williams, James L. *Blazes, Posts, & Stones: A History of Ohio’s Original Land Subdivisions.* Compass & Chain Publishing (Columbus, OH) 2013. HC $74.95.

Complete with maps and figures, this comprehensive volume provides a fascinating history of surveying in Ohio as well as biographies of the individuals associated with surveying and mapping the state.


Alex Vause from *Orange is the New Black* finally gets to tell her side of the story. Wolters was the inspiration for the character of Alex on the critically acclaimed TV show, and here she shares her story, filling in the blanks while answering some common fan questions. Wolters not only reflects on the past, but also looks to the future in this provocative and entertaining memoir.

**Fiction**


When forensic investigator Maggie Gardiner begins work on her most recent case, she’s shocked not only by the girl’s injuries, but also by the fact that no one has reported her missing. She and her fellow detectives run down every lead, but the monster is closer than they imagine and nearly impossible to catch. Meanwhile, Jack Renner doesn’t kill for fun or for power, but to make the world a better place. When he tracks Maggie’s newest victim back to a seedy apartment, he knows that something must be done. As the case unfolds, everything Maggie believes about truth and justice will be challenged.


Chris Bullet is trapped in a coma, the victim of a terrible hate crime. As he floats above his town in a phantom state, he tells the tale of his circumstance and airs dark family secrets that have been hidden for generations.


In the two years since a deadly virus decimated the world’s population, Carly and Justin have survived the unthinkable and fought to protect the community they now call home. But a new threat has arrived, wearing uniforms and claiming to be what remains of the U.S. military. Even worse, their weapons may not be the only danger they carry with them.


A standalone addition to the *Secrets of the South Mysteries,* this complex crime drama follows private detectives Nate and Nicki Price as they travel from New Orleans to Memphis after receiving a cryptic plea from Nate’s childhood friend Isabelle. Nate must move past his complicated relationship with Isabelle and reign in his partner to save the subject of their investigation from a terrible fate.


When John Sassamon’s body is pulled from beneath the ice of Assowampsett Pond in 1675, speculation about who killed him runs wild. A Christian Indian missionary, John was caught between two worlds. As people on both sides call for retaliation, missionary John Eliot and Indian leader Metacom struggle to preserve their fifty-year peace. Kachuba artfully describes the events that led up to King Philip’s War, the deadliest war per capita ever fought on U.S. soil.


Normandy Falls is a Rust Belt town with a strange history. Although ghosts outnum- ber the living, the living may be more dangerous in this tale of Midwestern gothic horror.

Marie Durant Chagall’s privileged childhood ends abruptly when World War I hits France. After serving as a nurse on the brutal battlefield of Verdun, she returns to life through an unexpected gift from her deceased mother: a beautiful home among the lavender fields along the Meuse River. Marie opens up her home to wounded victims of the war and begins to heal herself as well.


Kinzie Nicolosi thought she was protecting the world at the Rothston Institute. Now that she knows the truth, she joins with the “commons” to protect humankind from the institute and the adepts. This fourth and final installment of the *Rothston* series pushes Kinzie to her limits to see just how far she will go to win, and at what cost.


This unique collection of stories features a blend of science fiction, horror, and fantasy. The stories touch on pop culture phenomena while taking the reader on an unforgettable journey through places ranging from outer space to the Deep South. Winner of the 2016 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a Fiction Collection.


After fleeing to the English countryside, midwife Bridget Hodgson and her deputy Martha Hawkins receive a mysterious letter that brings them back to London. Forced into service as a spy, Bridget investigates a terrifying murderer who is determined to revive the civil wars and destroy England.


Columbus private eye Andy Hayes, broke as usual, signs on to provide protection to a reporter pursuing a story in the midst of a presidential election. When murder strikes at the Statehouse, Andy finds himself in the middle of the chaos. Everyone has a motive for murder, and Andy has his hands full trying to solve the case.


Travis Baron was just a baby when his mother died in a boating accident and his father erased all traces of her from their home. Now in high school, Travis and his friend Mitch begin a search for information about the mother he never knew. With the help of a disgraced former detective, they discover the dangerous truth about Amanda Baron’s death and find their own lives threatened as well.

Poetry


In this collection, Collins shines a light on scientific racism in the early twentieth century, from Ota Benga (who was “exhibited” at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair and in 1906 at the Bronx Zoo) to Carrie Buck (whose forced sterilization is the subject of a famous Supreme Court eugenics case).


Demaree crafts a poetic experience that explores human relationships, with each poem representing one of nineteen steps toward understanding and change. The use of couplets and short lines creates a stark image on the page that accentuates each poem’s meaning.


Each of these stand-alone lyrical poems addresses the human desire to understand the world and give meaning to the subtle messages we receive from the world around us. Although the poems are beautiful
individually, they’re loosely connected through an underlying narrative in which the subject of the poems discovers that meaning comes from other people rather than the physical world.


Each one of Sirkin's poems will whisk readers away to a different part of the world with a different mindset. With political undertones, the poems are filled with trust and belief but also skepticism and distrust.

Stever, Margo Taft. *The Hudson Line*. Main Street Rag (Charlotte, NC) 2012. PB $10.00.

Stever’s poems capture the stories of individuals travelling along the route of a suburban commuter train. Each poem is like a parable filled with emotional meaning, and each person is much more than meets the eye. Stever’s poems reflect the inner turmoil and complexity of the human condition.


A chaotic and heartbreaking look at the world of mental illness, *The Lunatic Ball* provides an empathetic yet humorous view while maintaining respect for those suffering from mental illness. Stever’s poems cover topics from “insane asylums” to her own family history.


Stever’s poetry paints unforgettable pictures that range from soft to violent. Her provocative, lyrical writing will have readers pondering single lines for days to come.

**Young Adult**


Mercy has never truly recovered from her sister's death. To uncover the truth, she confronts the most likely suspects—a traveling band of gypsies. After finding an unexpected ally and discovering that someone is following her every move, Mercy is even more determined to get to the bottom of her sister’s death, knowing that what she may find will rock the foundation of her small town.


Michael Flynn is good at keeping secrets, including the fact that he lives in his car to escape his mother's hoarding. As if things weren't bad enough, he has been expelled and sentenced to community service after a high school stunt. There he meets Shelly, who has a difficult past of her own. She discovers not only Michael’s secret, but also his good heart. Can she help him choose the right path?

**Middle Grade & Children’s**


Join Bearcat, the University of Cincinnati’s mascot, as he takes readers on a tour around the campus. See the sights and meet some famous alumni along the way.


In this multiple-ending story, readers’ choices determine what happens to Kaya, a Nez Perce girl living near the Columbia River in 1764, and her mysterious new friend.


Paul Laurence Dunbar's famous poetry is artfully portrayed in this picture book alongside colorful illustrations. Over two dozen poems are included, providing examples of Dunbar's poetic style and insight into different phases of his life.


David FitzSimmons’ award-winning photos of North American marine animals populate this gorgeous picture book. Twenty common and fascinating animals from the Gulf of Mexico and the
Atlantic and Pacific Oceans make an appearance, accompanied by narratives that highlight the natural history of these curious critters.

Ikegami, Aiko. Friends. Albert Whitman & Company (Chicago, IL) 2016. HC $16.99. Making friends at a new school can be hard, especially when that new school is in a new country. But when a squirrel visits the new girl at lunch and stays to play, the girl and her classmates discover that differences (and friendship) can be magical.

Jakubowski, Michele. Soccer Star: Perfectly Poppy. Picture Window Books (North Mankato, MN) 2015. HC $21.99. Poppy is so excited to join her best friend Millie’s soccer team! She loves the new uniform and snacks after the game but isn’t happy about all the practice. After a bad day at the field, can Poppy decide if soccer is really worth all that extra effort?

Singleton, Linda Joy. Illus. by Christina Wald. Cash Kat. Arbordale Publishing (Mt. Pleasant, SC) 2016. HC $17.95. When Kat and Gram volunteer to help clean up the nearby park, Kat finds more than she bargained for—copper and silver coins, and even a dollar bill! Will she spend the money on a treat for herself, or donate it to the park? Children can learn about money and decimals as they follow Kat’s adventure.

Trounstine, Connie Remlinger. The Phantom Five. Archway Publishing (Bloomington, IN) 2015. PB $11.99. In 1942, after being cut from his high school basketball team, Manny Keefer becomes team manager to stay close with former teammates Wally and Felix. When a local newspaper refuses to print stories about their small school, the three boys create a fictitious team that soon takes on a life of its own. What will happen when the truth about the phantom team is discovered?

COMING SOON

Pickerington Teen Book Fest June 11, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Pickerington High School North, 7800 Refugee Road, Pickerington
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. This year’s keynote speaker is graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang, the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. The event is free and open to the public. Visit www.pickeringtonlibrary.org for schedules, breakouts, and more.

Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics 2016 Season at Thurber House
Thurber House’s annual literary picnics begin this month. Enjoy good food on the Thurber House lawn as you listen to great authors including Pauline A. Chen, Robin Yocum, Kevin P. Keating, and Edward Roach. Visit the Thurber House website at http://thurberhouse.org for more information and to order tickets.

Ohioana Book Club August 17, 2016, 10 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus
The book for August is Ohioana Book Award finalist The Wright Brothers by David McCullough. 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.