

# OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2017 | VOL. 60 NO. 3



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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# OHIOana QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2017

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The *Ohioana Quarterly* (ISSN 0030-1248) is currently published four times a year by the Ohioana Library Association, 274 East First Avenue, Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Individual subscriptions to the *Ohioana Quarterly* are available through membership in the Association; \$35 of membership dues pays the required subscription. Single copy \$6.50. U.S. postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Send address changes to Ohioana Quarterly, 274 E. First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio, 43201. Copyright © 2017 by the Ohioana Library Association. All rights reserved. Printed by PXPOHIO.

# From the Director

Dear Friends,



“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.” So wrote William Shakespeare in Sonnet 18 (which begins with his immortal line, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”).

I know many people share Sweet Will’s sentiment that summer flies by much too fast. Perhaps it’s because there are so many things to see, do, and enjoy during the season. One of the most enjoyable activities of all is to dive in to a good book, whether it’s at the beach, in the backyard hammock, or on the front porch.

Inside you’ll find a list of great books, with something for every reader of every age. Among them are the thirty finalists for the 76th annual Ohioana Book Awards. We announced this stellar lineup in May, and before the end of July we’ll announce the winners. You’ll be reading more about them in the fall *Ohioana Quarterly*.

Our cover feature is the latest in our “Ohio Literary Landmarks” series. If you’ve never visited the fabulous Mazza Museum at the University of Findlay, you’re in for a treat, and Bryan Loar’s story will make you want to go.

One person who was a great friend to both the Mazza Museum and the Ohioana Library was Floyd Dickman. As a tribute to Floyd after he passed away in 2015, the State Library of Ohio created “Floyd’s Pick,” a children’s book to be chosen annually as part of the Choose to Read Ohio program. The inaugural pick last year was Loren Long’s *Little Tree*. In this issue you’ll meet Jennifer Maschari, whose wonderful debut novel, *The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price*, was named earlier this spring as the second “Floyd’s Pick.”

We hope you have a wonderful summer, filled with good times and good books!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Weaver'.

David Weaver  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

This issue’s cover features artwork from the Mazza Museum, featured as part of our Ohio Literary Landmarks series. Turn the page to read more about the museum and its collection.

# The Mazza Museum

Ohio Literary Landmarks



Photo by Alvin Trusty

by Bryan Loar

*On any given day, the Mazza Museum is teeming with life. Tours, education, children, teachers, docents, prospective students, and exhibitions swirl together to create a dervish of a literary landmark unlike any other. “The Mazz” has 24,000 visitors a year, changes exhibits every three months, provides forty-seven programs, and is home to more than 11,000 original pieces of art. The museum consists of six galleries and is supplemented by a library, educational spaces, a gift shop, and an amazing corps of staff and volunteers. Join us on a journey through the most diverse collection of original artwork by children’s book illustrators in the world.*

## From Humble Beginnings

From its origins in the basement of the University of Findlay’s library, the Mazza Museum has flourished and become a destination for many. In 1982, the year of University of Findlay’s centennial, professor and children’s book author Dr. Jerry Mallett led the creation of the Mazza’s collection. Through university funding and the generous support of university alumni and the museum’s namesakes, August and Aleda Mazza, the Mazza obtained its first four works by Eric Carle, Ezra Jack Keats, Peter Spier, and Steven Kellogg. Moreover, Dr. Mallett set the stage to begin collecting at least one piece per year and initiated the development of educational programs.

In 1994, the Mazza Museum moved to its permanent home in the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion. In 2007, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Mazza

Museum, the construction of additional space for art and educational activities was completed. The addition expanded the space by 8,000 square feet and created room for a children’s art studio, resource library, classroom, preservation and restoration center, storage vault, and gift shop.

Mallett devoted his life’s work to teaching children to read and promoting an appreciation of language arts, children’s literature, and children’s book illustrations. He served as an elementary school teacher and principal, college professor, children’s book author, and children’s literacy expert. He recognized early that the illustrations



Dr. Jerry Mallett. Photo courtesy of the Mazza Museum.

in children's picture books are key in helping children learn to read and that the artwork extends and expands the meaning and context of the story.

## A Breathtaking Collection and Inspiring Exhibits

Visitors are in excellent company at the Mazza Museum. Caldecott and Newbery Medal award winners, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Golden Kite Award recipients, British Kate Greenaway Medal awardees, and a host of other award winners are represented in the museum.

Walking into the galleries, one is struck by the vast richness of the collection, the strong emphasis on education, the meticulous curation, and the loving details provided for every single work. Nothing is by chance, and the connections made between works and themes are boundless.

The collection has a broad representation of styles and materials, with works dating back to the mid-1800s. Mazza owns original works by Randolph Caldecott and Kate Greenaway. More recently, with the help of actor Anthony Edwards, noted author and illustrator Steven Kellogg gifted his life's work of 2,700 pieces to the museum. It was an extraordinary enhancement to the collection that placed every illustration from eighty of his books into the collection.

On the day we visited, "Rosemary Wells: An Artist Retrospective" was showing in one of Mazza's six galleries. Such beloved classics as the *Max & Ruby* series and *My Very First Mother Goose* spanned the Dana Younger Gallery along with contemporary works, demonstrating Wells' diversity and depth. Seeing the artist's hand within the works and the fresh pop of colors gave us a deeper appreciation of Rosemary Wells that could only happen by experiencing the works first hand.

Turn around near the museum entrance and you'll encounter a variety of items in various media that combine sketches, finished works, and books in which the published artwork can be found. For both visiting children and University of Findlay art students, the initial studies, called *preliminaries*, offer a glimpse into the creative process and demonstrate its sometimes



Mazza director Benjamin Sapp with work by Rosemary Wells.

messy and rarely perfect qualities.

In the adjacent Miller Gallery, recently named for former school teacher and decades-long Mazza docent Gail Miller, three themes take shape: book development, Mother Goose, and award winners. Under book development, you can see preliminaries, sketches, and finalized works of the wildly popular creator of the *Arthur* series, Marc Brown. Within Mother Goose, visitors will see classic stories that the Mazza believes are a vital part of literacy, brought to life with works by William Joyce (*The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*) and others. And just when you thought the Mazza couldn't possibly outdo the incredible work presented to the viewer thus far...along come works by award winners.

The line work of Maurice Sendak, the washes of Chris Rashka, and the intricate details of Susan Marie Swanson are all on display for visitors to contemplate. Caldecott, Newbery, and Golden Kite winners inspire wonder and awe. Other notables on display include pieces from *Snowflake Bentley*, illustrated by Mary Azarian, and work by Arnold Lobel, author and illustrator of the *Frog and Toad* books.

After the admiration of such iconic work wears off, visitors can turn the corner and enter the Laiho Gallery. This gallery is dedicated to paper-engineered books and

features art from Suse MacDonald, Matthew Reinhart, and others. Of particular note is the display of the construction process, which covers initial steps through the final outcome. The design thinking necessary to create these works demonstrates the depth of human ingenuity. As with other galleries, published books accompany the works.

Other gallery exhibits include “Alphabet Safari,” an interactive scavenger hunt with works by Steven Kellogg and others; “Unusual Media,” where visitors can find artwork created by finger painting and other unique methods and materials; and “Dinosaurs and Dragons,” where museum goers try to discern the difference between reality and fantasy. Notable works include James Gurney’s *Dinotopia* and Mark Teague’s *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?*

As the museum wraps around, more treasures await. The last gallery is the Reinhardt Gallery. It houses three exhibits, including a permanent exhibit featuring Patricia Polacco. Again, interactivity is a key component. “Thrones” challenges museum-goers to examine how power is portrayed and how they would want to be depicted as a ruler. The exhibit includes costumes and a royal throne for attendees, giving it a sense of theater and play. In “Around the World,” patrons use contextual clues to determine where scenes created by notable artists such as Eric Carle take place. Finally, “The Keeping Quilt” exhibit explores Patricia Polacco’s story about

“home, family, the future, and the past.” Several works from the book encourage viewers to create connections between their lives and the book’s themes.

## Behind the Scenes

Curation, preservation, exhibit preparation, and museum registration don’t usually elicit images of Indiana Jones; however, professional artist Dan Chudzinski is not your typical curator. For Mazza’s 2016 “Welcome to the Jungle” exhibit, Dan created an impressive installation based on Angkor Wat, a Cambodian temple depicted in movies including *Jumanji*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, and *The Jungle Book*. As we cautiously followed Dan into Mazza’s art vault, we paused to wonder what might be just around the corner. Relieved, we found a trove of treasures and a bit of humor. The vault is climate controlled and monitored by a special argon fire suppression system. Inside, illustrations of beloved children’s books are carefully arranged and protected in compact shelving. We were told a fictional accidental death due to shelving was created in jest (think of the classic chalk outline of a victim in an old murder mystery), successfully discouraging school-aged children on tours from entering the rolling stacks without permission.

Paper engineering on display in the Laiho Gallery



Exterior view of the Mazza Museum

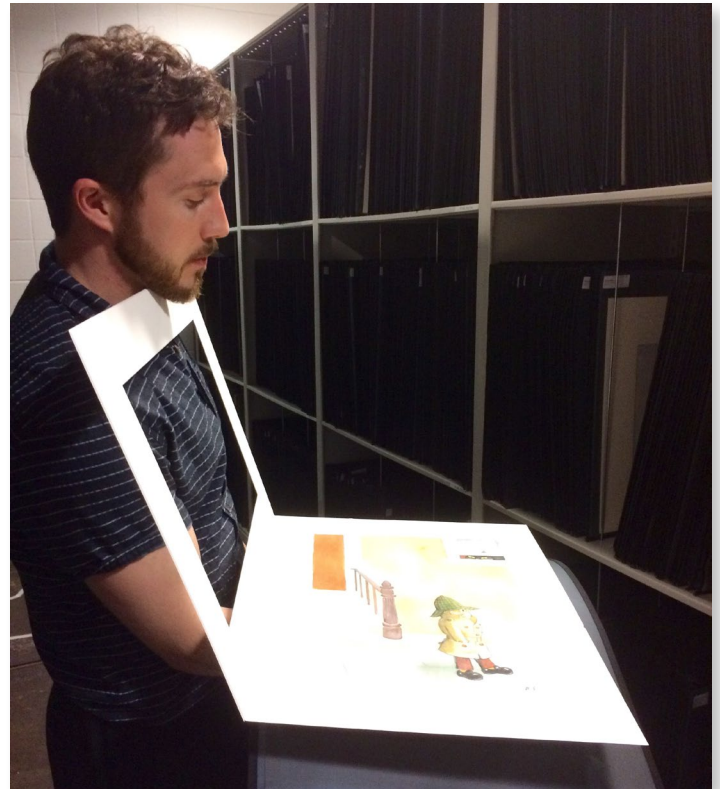


## Innovative Programming

Having a museum that cares for and displays some of the greatest children's book artwork in the world might be enough. However, the foresight of Dr. Mallett ensured a much richer and more meaningful connection to community and learning.

The Dr. Jerry J. Mallett Institute encompasses the Mazza Museum and its twenty-eight educational programs and outreach activities. The Mazza Weekend and Summer Conferences give teachers, librarians, and book lovers a glimpse into illustrators' process and inspiration. The 2017 Mazza Summer Conference will be held over three days in July and includes Jane Dyer, Barbara McClintock, and Jeffrey Ebbeler (illustrator of the 2016 Ohioana Book Festival poster and a 2016 Ohioana Book Award finalist) among others. This year's thirty conference breakout sessions are led by teachers and librarians and will provide techniques for using picture books in entertaining and educational ways.

The Mazza Medallion of Excellence for Artistic Diversity is a biennial award bestowed by the Mazza Museum at the University of Findlay. The award honors a living artist (at the time of nomination) of children's books who has created a work of exceptional quality. Awardees have demonstrated experimentation within styles and media and comprise a long list of incredible artists, including recent recipient David Wiesner. The



Curator Dan Chudzinski holds artwork from the collection.

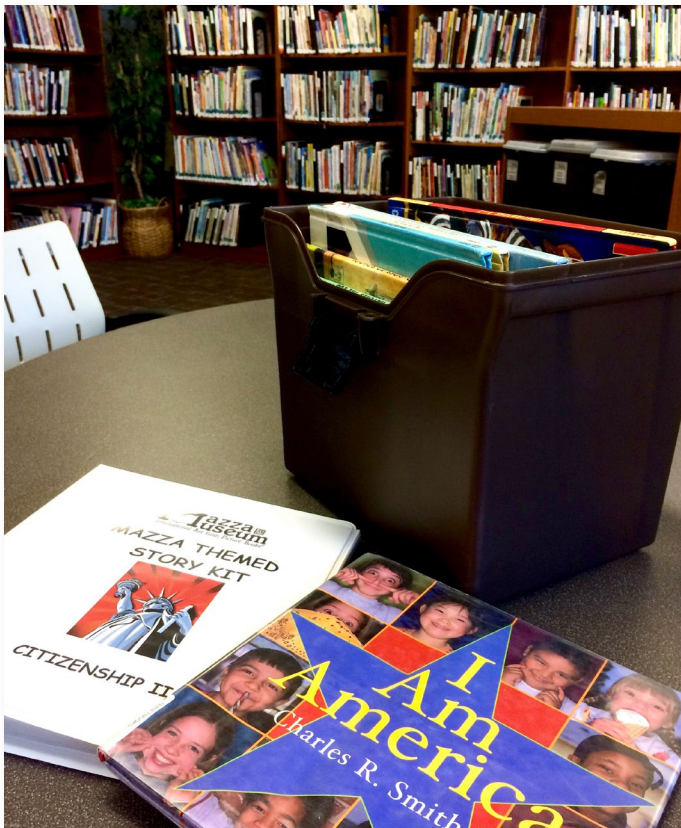
medallion itself is as unique as the artists honored. Findlay, Ohio, artist Betty Fulmer designed and created twenty medallions using handmade paper. The first medallion created is on display in the museum.

Children's classics in the Miles Gallery



Original artwork by Maurice Sendak





Story kits in the Mazza Museum library

## The Library

Located down the hall from the museum, Haven's Resource Center supports Mazza through a collection composed of Mazza authors and artists, artist video interviews recorded during Mazza conferences, reference materials, and story kits. The collection is open to students, teachers, librarians, and book lovers. The library's story kits give teachers essential learning tools including book lists, artist backgrounds, and sample lesson plans. More than fifty artist- and topic-themed story kits have been created.

## Come. See. Learn.

The Mazza Museum is a national treasure and a literary landmark. Its depth in children's book artwork is unparalleled, and its focus on child and adult education is outstanding. There is much to see and learn, including areas we couldn't cover in this article, such as the White Discovery Loft, forthcoming artist's residence in the Margaret Palmer Classroom, and the Alec and Sandy Reinhardt Children's Art Studio. We can't wait to visit again and hope to see you there, too.

Funday Sundays are free, family-friendly, themed gatherings that occur monthly October through April. Wildly popular, Funday Sundays draw an average of 475 people. Participants can expect activities, games, and story times; the upcoming season's themes include camping, wizards, dinosaurs, and more. Mazza also provides age-specific story times under its Tales for Tots program.

Children's educational programming features a week-long summer art camp for elementary students, and the museum's school extension program works closely with teachers' curricula while providing school visits for deeper learning. Throughout the school year, Mazza collaborates with local elementary art teachers to display students' artwork. School children examine an artist's style and recreate their own interpretations. The children's artwork hangs in a hallway near the Mazza inside the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion, which is open to the public beyond museum hours. Students are enriched by learning about an artist while experiencing the excitement of showing their work within a gallery.

*Special thanks to Director Benjamin Sapp, Curator Dan Chudzinski, and Librarian Mary Miller*





# An Interview with Jennifer Maschari

by Kathryn Powers



Photo by Mary Rathke

Ohioana is pleased to introduce Floyd's Pick for 2017: *The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price* by Ohio native Jennifer Maschari. Maschari's first published book is a novel for middle-grade readers about grief, magic, family, friendship, and more. The book was chosen by the advisory board of Choose to Read Ohio and is the second annual book named as a Floyd's Pick in memory of Floyd Dickman, a friend of children's literature who passed away in 2015.

**Q** What inspired you to write *The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price*?

**A** When I was younger, my father passed away after a long illness. Like Charlie, I experienced a whole host of emotions after the loss of a parent. I coupled this experience with my love of stories where entire other worlds existed behind some magical door or window or cupboard. I think the process of grieving can be compared to a journey, and this book is about Charlie finding the path to being okay.

**Q** This is your first published book. Can you describe the process of writing and publishing this project?

**A** I wrote the beginning half of *Charlie Price* over about a year or so in an online writing class I took. The class gave me weekly deadlines and feedback from fellow classmates and the teacher, all of which were so valuable to me. I then got an agent, and the book sold to Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins! My favorite part of the writing process is revision and with Charlie, I got to dig into the characters and story with my editor, which was both hard work and extremely rewarding. It was so wonderful to see the finished book on store shelves.

**Q** Your second book, *Things That Surprise You*, is coming out soon. Can you tell us about it?

**A** *Things That Surprise You* is a contemporary middle-grade novel about soon-to-be sixth grader Emily Murphy, who is having family and friend issues. She decides to order self-help CDs she saw on an infomercial and attempts to follow the advice, which she hopes will solve all of her problems. At its heart, the book is about shifting friendships, the love between sisters, and finding out who you are. (It also has a really great dog named Bean!)

**Q** Floyd was a passionate advocate for children's literature. How does it feel to be a representation of his legacy in supporting literacy for children and families?

**A** I had the opportunity to hear Floyd speak at conferences in the past, so I was able to see firsthand his love of children's literature and his commitment to literacy. For *The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price* to be a small part of that feels absolutely amazing; I'm very grateful.

**Q** What advice would you give to aspiring writers?

**A** I am still learning so much about writing myself, but the advice I always come back to is this: read a lot and write a lot.

# 2017 Ohioana Book Award Finalists

For lovers of reading, no summer is complete without delving into some great books, and here are thirty that should definitely be on your list: the 2017 Ohioana Book Award finalists!

First given in 1942, the Ohioana Book Awards are the second oldest state literary prizes in the nation and honor outstanding books by Ohio authors or about Ohio subjects in six categories.

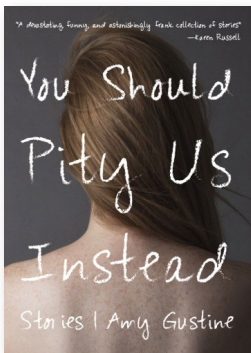
Among this year's finalists are winners of the National Book Award, the Pulitzer Prize, the Newbery Medal, and the Pushcart Prize; a Guggenheim Fellow; two U.S. Children's Poet Laureates; CNN's Presidential Historian; and five authors whose titles made either the *New York Times* or Amazon 2016 year-end "best" list.

We'll announce the book award winners in July, and will also announce the winner of the second annual Readers' Choice Award, selected in an online poll in June.

The awards will be presented at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, October 6. You'll be reading more about all the winners in the fall issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*!

The finalists are:

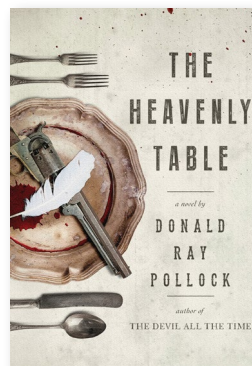
## FICTION



Amy Gustine



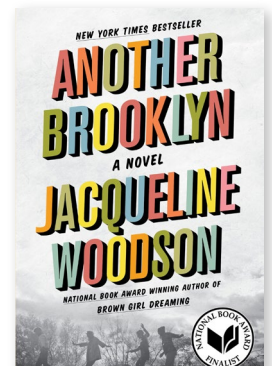
Tiffany McDaniel



Donald Ray Pollock

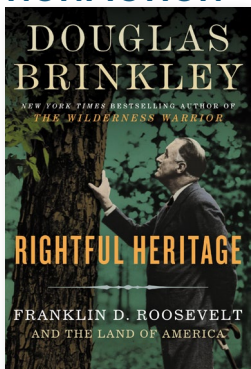


Marisa Silver

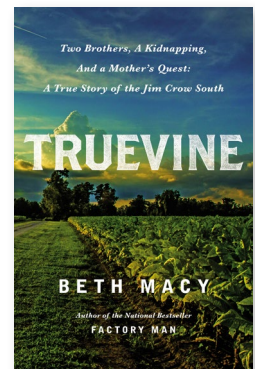


Jacqueline Woodson

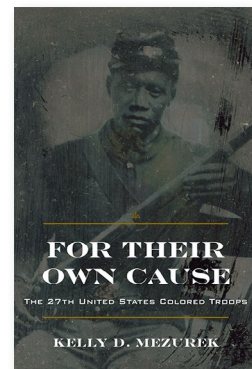
## NONFICTION



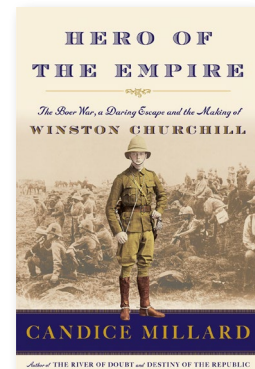
Douglas Brinkley



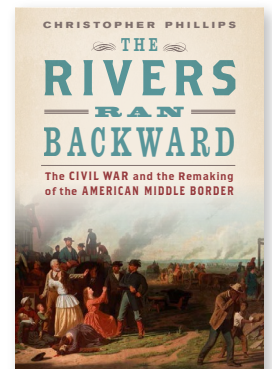
Beth Macy



Kelly D. Mezurek

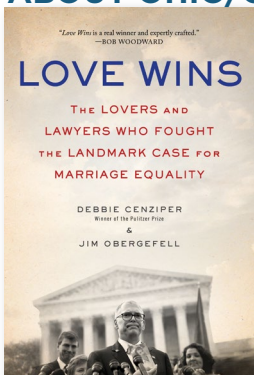


Candice Millard

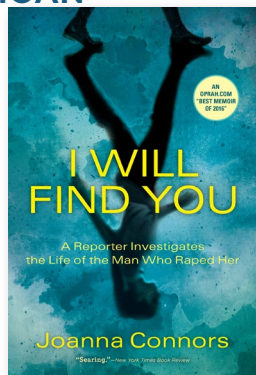


Christopher Phillips

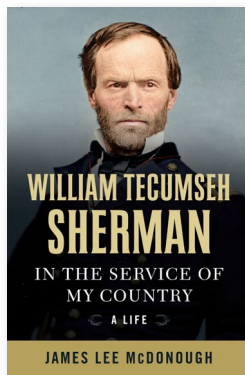
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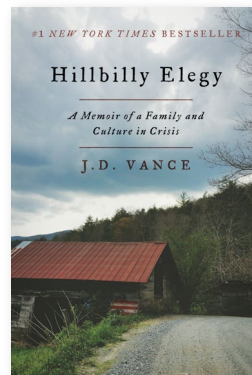
Debbie Cenziper & Jim Obergefell



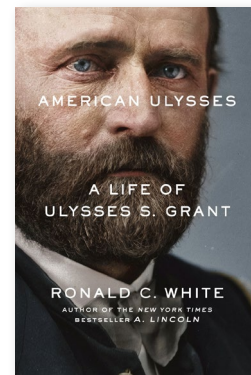
Joanna Connors



James Lee McDonough

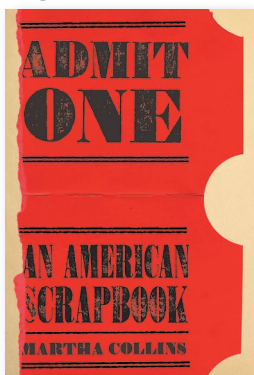


J.D. Vance

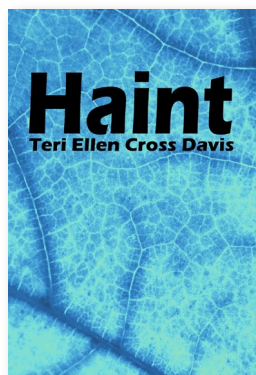


Ronald C. White

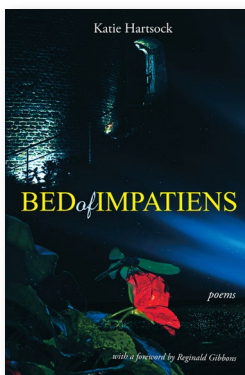
## POETRY



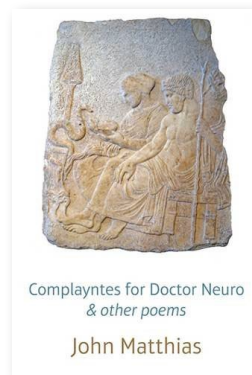
Martha Collins



Teri Ellen Cross Davis



Katie Hartsock

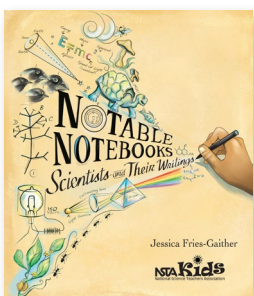


John Matthias

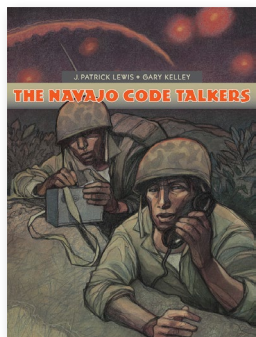


James J. Siegel

## JUVENILE LITERATURE



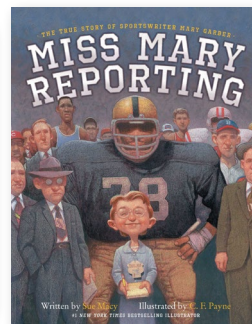
Jessica Fries-Gaither



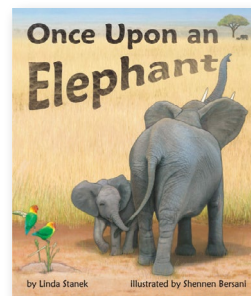
J. Patrick Lewis



Loren Long

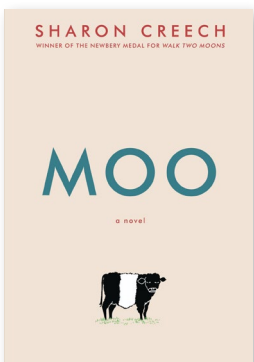


C.F. Payne

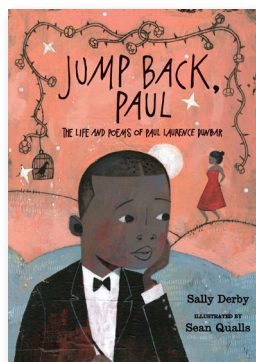


Linda Stanek

## MIDDLE GRADE/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE



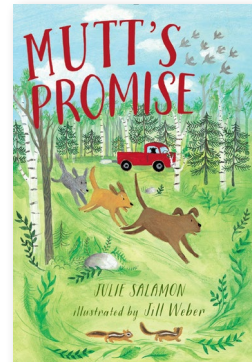
Sharon Creech



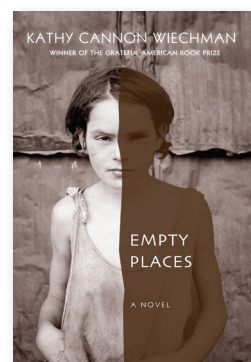
Sally Derby



Mary Knight



Julie Salamon



Kathy Cannon Wiechman

## NONFICTION

### **Dinan, Kim. *The Yellow Envelope: One Gift, Three Rules, and a Life-Changing Journey Around the World.***

Sourcebooks (Naperville IL) 2017. PB \$15.99.

Meet Kim and Brian as they travel around the world, searching for themselves and learning to give and receive gifts of kindness. At thirty, Kim decides that her ho-hum job in Oregon is not what she wants to do with her life. She must be something more, something else. She wants to travel and “find herself.” She convinces her husband, Brian, to give up his job as well. They sell their house and their worldly possessions and go “walkabout” for at least a year. Their friends, Michele and Glenn, give them a yellow envelope with \$1,000 to give away. The gift comes with three rules: don’t overthink it, share your experiences, and don’t feel pressured to give it all away. With the yellow envelope tucked into her bag, Kim and her husband set off.



Their journey starts in Ecuador and Argentina, where they begin to see the world through different eyes and realize that they are blessed with many advantages. As they travel in India, Bali, Indonesia, the Himalayan Mountains, and Vietnam, they discover more about themselves, their values, and about respecting other people and cultures.

Kim writes of their adventures, the people they meet, and the experiences they have. She also describes how she feels, how her relationship with Brian changes, and most of all, how her view of the world shifts from outsider to engaged world traveler. Throughout their wanderings, they aren’t broke, but they aren’t rich; they don’t stay in luxury but in hostels and small houses. Some of their experiences show how they move beyond “Ugly American” to become understanding and

sensitive visitors. While they gain some familiarity with Spanish during their travels in Central and South America, they spend most of their time interacting in English or using simple phrases. They do their best to adapt to the culture they are living in at the time.

While there’s an echo of Elizabeth Gilbert’s *Eat, Pray, Love* (Penguin Viking, 2006) and many other books about life on the road and finding oneself, *The Yellow Envelope* is a charming story for people who want to travel, to see how others live, and to look for the meaning of life deep within themselves.

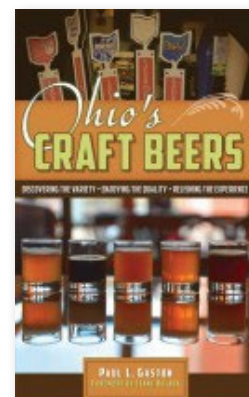
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

### **Gaston, Paul L. *Ohio’s Craft Beers—Discovering the Variety, Enjoying the Quality, Relishing the Experience.***

Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2016. PB \$18.95.

Astonishing. That’s the word that comes to mind when trying to describe Paul L. Gaston’s *Ohio’s Craft Beers*. Astonishing that this book would even exist.

Twenty-five years ago, Ohio craft beer consisted of “ice cold Hudy Gold,” or if you were a little more flush with cash, Christian Moerlein. But in 2017, my postal carrier delivered to my door a book detailing the offerings of nearly fifty Ohio craft brewers. I then took the book with me to the lounge of Wachusett Ski Area in central Massachusetts, where while enjoying one of Massachusetts’ craft brews, I could not read a single sentence without someone wanting to talk to me about the book and local craft beer.



Astonishing, really.

Gaston, a professor at Kent State, took sixteen months to visit breweries and brewpubs throughout Ohio. He travelled the entire state, sampling the beer, tasting the food, and getting to know the people who have revitalized brewing in Ohio.

Gaston, however, is not an erudite hops sniffer, or one prone to swooning over the lacing left by a helles. He's practical and reasonable, someone who likes the taste of a good beer but also enjoys the experience of having a beer with other human beings and those who brew it. In fact, he may be perfectly content to not write about craft beer at all.

"With the completion of this book," says Gaston, "it will be a pleasure to reclaim my 'amateur' status and to find a seat at the bar without checking for my reporter's notebook. But I would not have missed this opportunity to become acquainted with those responsible for craft brewing in Ohio."

After presenting a history of Ohio brewing, Gaston organizes his reviews into five regions—near Lake Erie, central Ohio, southern Ohio, northwest Ohio, and the southwest. He then approaches the brewpubs within the region, breaking down their major beer offerings, their food, and what he calls "Other Stuff"—live music, souvenirs, or other funky hipster things that might be happening at the brewery. He then captures the "Newsworthy" happenings of each brewery, such as new beer offerings. Finally, he gives "The Skinny," the nitty-gritty details of a brewpub's location, hours, and even parking.

Along the way, Gaston sprinkles in sidebars, little pieces like "Ten Great 'Entry-Level' Beers" and "Fifteen Great Architectural Experiences." In these, Gaston shows that he's not just a fan of good brew, but someone who also enjoys teaching. He wants his students to love what he loves.

But the question about Gaston's book is not really if it is any good—it is. It's thorough, practical, and surely useful to anyone looking to try new brew and new food throughout Ohio.

The question is what purpose does it serve? Reviewing Ohio's craft beers seems something of a quixotic task, as some of those he documents will be as ephemeral as a southern Ohio summer storm.

Perhaps its real achievement will be as an historical document, one that documented a scene as it was happening, as it was growing, as perhaps even Ohio itself was transforming to reflect similar changes throughout the country.

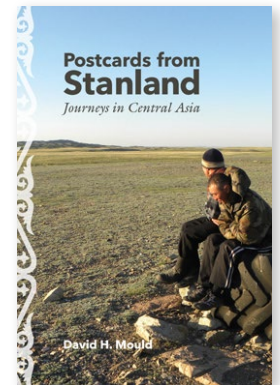
Time will tell. In the meantime, seek out Gaston's book, visit one of the brewpubs he reviews, and enjoy it while it lasts.

REVIEWED BY MATT COOKE, WRITER

## Mould, David H. *Postcards from Stanland: Journeys in Central Asia.*

Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$19.96.

David H. Mould is an emeritus professor of Media Studies at Ohio University in Athens. In the mid-1990s, Drew McDaniel, a faculty colleague, asked him if he would like to travel to Kyrgyzstan in central Asia to help set up a media center in Osh, a city in the southern part of that country. McDaniel explained that he had recently been to Kyrgyzstan, where he was intrigued by the changes taking place there as the country attempted to emerge from seventy years of Soviet rule. Mould's curiosity was piqued, although he confesses, "I didn't admit to Drew that I had no idea where Kyrgyzstan was."



Mould's decision to take the job led him to a region comprised of countries that became independent states after the Soviet Union broke up in 1991. Over the next twenty years, he made a dozen or more trips to the region, including travels to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as return visits to Kyrgyzstan. (His book is called *Postcards from Stanland* because of the suffix *stan* in the name of each country.) During his visits, Mould worked for agencies such as UNESCO and USAID as a media trainer and consultant for newspaper journalists and television news anchors. Mould also worked as a visiting professor teaching journalism and media studies at area universities.

*Stanland* gives the reader a clear impression of the differences between western journalists and journalists in Kyrgyzstan and neighboring countries, who have not had a heritage of working free of oversight from government censorship. There are various anecdotes that illustrate Mould's perception that his journalism students were not often aware of western methods of doing individual research or seeking out news of local interest rather than reporting stories based on

government proclamations. Mould also gives space to stories based on his own personal experiences as a recently arrived visitor to a country in the region. In Kyrgyzstan, for instance, we read about his encounters with government bureaucrats in Osh as he attempted to pay an overdue telephone bill, purchase an airplane ticket, and take a cat named Pushkin home to Ohio.

In addition, the book contains a good deal of historical and political information about the region, including how the breakup of the Soviet empire affected newly independent states.

For instance, Kazakhstan is the country that is largest in size and has had the most stable government since it became independent. The president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has been Kazakhstan's leader since 1989, two years before the downfall of the Soviet Union. Mould explains that "President Nazarbayev has used soft diplomacy, public relations, and foreign direct investment" to advance his country's place in the world.

A major example is the capital city of Astana, with architecture that struck Mould as "otherworldly" on his first view from an airplane: "Strange shapes rose out of the steppe—spires, domes, globes, ovals and pyramids in gold, silver, blue, and turquoise" [p. 182]. Since Astana became the country's capital in 1997, Kazakhstan has undergone a transformation that has made it into "an emerging economic and cultural power at the crossroads between Europe and Asia" [p. 183].

This has long been President Nazarbayev's vision for Kazakhstan, and its development has been due in large part to his firm guidance. Mould also reports, though, on governance that is autocratic in ways that are less palatable, such as maintaining firm control over news coverage by both newspapers and television and radio stations. The news censorship is evident in political elections, such as the 2011 presidential election in which Nazarbayev received daily media coverage for his work as president while other contenders had very little coverage. This lack of attention to other candidates was due in part to their inability to raise any funds for advertising their views and qualifications. In the end, the election resulted in Nazarbayev receiving 95 percent of the national votes. Indeed, one of the other contenders, Mels Yeleusizov, reported to journalists after casting his own vote that "he and his family had all voted for Nazarbayev" [p. 140].

The book also gives an historical orientation covering a much larger span of time. For instance, the Silk Road was an ancient trade route that connected China and India to lands as far away as the Mediterranean Sea. On its way to the west, the Silk Road wound through the steppes and mountains in Central Asia. Mould describes his own trips along parts of this legendary trade route and also describes how strategically located villages eventually evolved into modern cities such as Osh.

Mould's account of his visits to Central Asia is at its heart a travel memoir. Deftly written in language suitable for the general reader, the book has anecdotes about the people he met and the cities and towns he visited. And for readers with little prior exposure to Stanland, Mould provides interesting information about countries that are still attempting to overcome their dependence on a Soviet empire that ceased to exist over two-and-a-half decades ago.

REVIEWED BY JACK SHORTLIDGE, MUSICIAN AND RETIRED PUBLIC FOLKLORIST

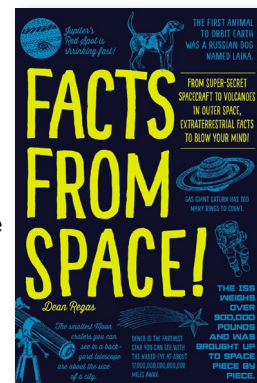
**Regas, Dean. *Facts from Space! From Super-Secret Spacecraft to Volcanoes in Outer Space, Extraterrestrial Facts to Blow Your Mind!***

Adams Media (Avon, MA) 2016. PB \$15.99.

Have you ever looked up at the stars and pondered these big questions of the universe?

- What is it like to brush your teeth in space?
- Who decided there should only be 88 constellations?
- Has anybody peed on the moon?

If these questions have kept you awake at night, then ponder no more! *Facts from Space!* by Dean Regas is an enlightening and entertaining collection of celestial knowledge. As an astronomer for the Cincinnati Observatory, it's clear that Regas knows his space trivia. The book is divided into chapter topics such as the sun, moon, planets, and stars. There's even a section called "Deep Thoughts About Space." The layout is accessible to both interstellar buffs and space newbies; instead of large chunks of information, the



topics are broken down into easily digestible facts. Each section includes basic overview points in case readers have forgotten some of their science lessons, while the rest of the information ranges from fascinating facts to hilarious trivia. A few of my favorites included:

- American astronaut John Young smuggled a corned-beef sandwich aboard Gemini 3 in 1965. (p. 20)
- Humans have left more than 400,000 pounds of trash on the moon. (p. 57)
- While humans are used to seeing red and orange sunsets on Earth, a sunset on Mars is actually blue. (p. 117)
- Everyone today recognizes the Big Dipper, but it will look like a “Big Spatula” by A.D. 75000 due to the stars shifting over time.

And of course, the answer to the biggest question of all: Buzz Aldrin was the first astronaut to pee on the moon. (pg. 5)

I really enjoyed *Facts from Space!* and found it to be a captivating read from beginning to end. It’s easy to fall down a black hole of discovery over the course of the book. An index at the back would have been appreciated to make it easier to find facts I wanted to revisit, but that’s a minor flaw in an overall wonderful compilation. If you enjoy amusing nonfiction books full of both wisdom and wit, then I highly recommend reading *Facts from Space!*

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS, OHIOANA LIBRARY OFFICE MANAGER AND SOCIETY OF CHILDREN’S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS VOLUNTEER

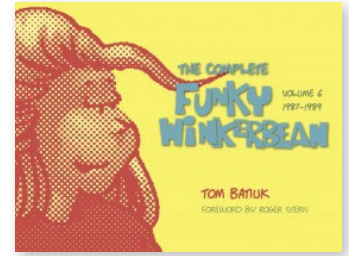
## FICTION

### **Batiuk, Tom. *The Complete Funky Winkerbean, Volume 6, 1987-1989.***

Black Squirrel Books, an imprint of the Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2017 HB \$25.99.

*Funky Winkerbean* is a syndicated comic strip appearing in more than 400 newspapers worldwide. In 1992, after writing and drawing the strip for twenty years, Batiuk changed the strip drastically, saying the characters had all graduated from high school four years

earlier. The strip became more dramatic and more like a soap opera in many ways, tackling serious issues such as gun violence, drunk driving, cancer, and death. Having a major character die of cancer in 2007, Batiuk time-jumped the strip again, this time ten years, showing how people had lived and adjusted in the aftermath of that tragic event.



*Volume Six* falls before those major changes, presenting the strips from 1987 to 1989. Full of sight gags and puns, the strip is still a mostly humorous one at this point, although there are hints of the dramatic turns to come. It’s the transition period, where the artist still shows one character repeatedly being the butt of jokes while also touching on teen pregnancy, steroid abuse, and dyslexia. One foot is still set firmly in the three-panel world of set-up + sight gag/bad pun, while the other is looking a little deeper.

Batiuk took what began as set-piece characters and turned them into living, breathing people: Funky, the high school everyman; Harry Dinkle, the greatest band director in the world; Ed Crankshaft, the curmudgeonly bus driver; John Darling, the somewhat vacuous talk show host; Les Moore, Crazy Harry, Cindy Summers, and the whole lot. Here, he looks at the world of teenagers not just as a short spot in the road of life, but as people, as humans, with all their baggage, and all their personal foibles.

This is both a turning point in the series and an end of an era of sorts, but still firmly entrenched in the three-panel school of hard yuks. There is many a laugh to be had, with slight glimmers of the darkness to come.

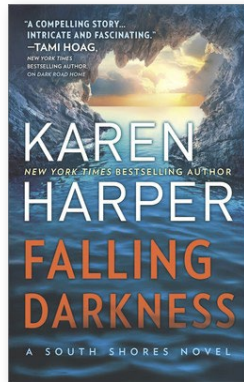
REVIEWED BY P.M. BRADSHAW

**Harper, Karen. *Falling Darkness: A South Shores Novel.***

Mira Books (Ontario, Canada) 2017. PB \$7.99.

Karen Harper has another hit.

*Chasing Shadows*, the first installment of the *South Shores* series, features Claire Britten, a forensic psychologist who is plagued with narcolepsy, and Nick Markwood, an experienced, aggressive lawyer who specializes in murders made to look like suicide. He goes head-to-head with Claire in the courtroom.



Investigating a murder in St. Augustine, they team up to solve the crime, only to be threatened at every turn while stumbling into danger beyond their control. Trust is in short supply while hormones and harrowing chases plague our heroes.

Claire teams up with Nick again in *Drowning Tides*, where they search for her missing daughter, Lexie, who was taken from their home in South Florida. Lexie's trail leads Claire and Nick to the Cayman Islands, where they confront Nick's nemesis, billionaire criminal Ames. It's Ames who murdered Nick's father, staging it to look like suicide. As the threads of this thriller come together, Claire and Nick face demands from Ames that will change their lives forever. This second adventure in *South Shores* launches the thrilling chase and adventures in *Falling Darkness*.

This time, forensic psychologist Claire Britten and her husband, lawyer Nick Markwood, are on the run from Ames, the ultimate bad guy, with family, an ex-husband, a bodyguard, the six-year-old daughter's nanny, and a few others. This thriller opens with the entire gang in little rubber rafts floating the Caribbean after their sabotaged plane ditched in the Gulf. Just miles off Cuba, they are rescued first from the water, then from Havana. The rescue is full of harrowing chases and near capture by Ames' men.

Already in witness protection, the group is transferred to Mackinac Island for the winter under assumed names. Of course, danger and murder follow them to this chilly island.

There are some quiet interludes in this thriller, just long enough for the characters—and readers—to catch their breath and gird their loins for the next intense chase or crisis.

The most confusing aspect of the book is the assumed names. While they call one another by their witness protection names, they are identified by their real names. It's difficult to keep them all straight.

There are mysteries inside this mystery made even more confusing if you haven't read the first two installments of the *South Shores* series. Read them in order to follow these intricate plots. The ending leaves readers yearning for more adventure, and Harper promises more books in the series.

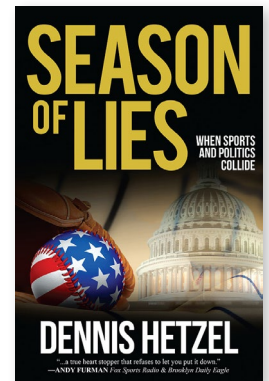
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

**Hetzel, Dennis. *Season of Lies.***

Headline Books, Inc. (Terra Alta, WV) 2017. PB \$19.95.

Baseball and political campaigns can be scandalous!

Do baseball and politics mix? They do when the president of the United States is a fanatical fan. President Luke Murphy is hooked on the Chicago Cubs, his hometown team and current winner of the World Series. He enlists the Cubs' pitcher to help him unearth the source of some scandalous rumors—or are they truths?—and to endorse his campaign for a second term.



Dennis Hetzel's current book, *Season of Lies*, picks up where his previous book, *Killing the Curse*, left off. President Murphy, having escaped an assassination plot at the World Series at Wrigley Field, is once again rooting for his hometown team, the Chicago Cubs, or as they are affectionately called in Chicago and Wisconsin, the Cubbies. On the day the Cubbies win the World Series, there's a lunar eclipse and a passing comet whose tail forms a cross, which brings in the ultra-right Christian element and triggers a series of Muslim uprisings against Christian communities in Asia. The comet is also the event that spurs Lydia Nicks, an



evangelical Republican, to run for president in an effort to unseat incumbent Murphy.

Enter the Cubs' newest pitcher, Trey Van Ohmann, who joins the team just as their manager Mike Surrey is fired for mouthing off. Good thing Surrey is also a great sports commentator, because he's picked up by the local station, where he talks constantly about sports and politics. Add to the mix Mike's daughter Amiee, his frenemy Bob Walters, and their fact collector/statistician Scott "Moose" Skowron. Oh yes, Bob and Moose are boyhood friends of President Murphy.

After a long windup, President Murphy reaches out to Van Ohmann to both endorse him and sniff out who is spreading scandalous comments and trying to tank both their careers.

The book reads as a complex political thriller with lots of characters, a good amount of backstory, and just the right amount of tension. It's perfect for readers who love political thrillers or baseball, in either order. Alas, the book is set in Chicago and Wisconsin, not Ohio; Ohioans will just have to transfer their loyalties to our western neighbors.

There are some great twists, some murder plots, and conspiracies by the third-party candidate and perhaps the Democratic opponent. Can the pitcher and his friends solve the mystery? Will the president earn a second term? Can baseball and politics mix? Read Hetzel's book and find out.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

## YOUNG ADULT

### Anderson, Tanya. *Gunpowder Girls: The True Stories of Three Civil War Tragedies*.

Quindaro Press (Kansas City, KS) 2016. HB \$16.95.

Although historical nonfiction is not typically a favorite genre of young adults, in *Gunpowder Girls*, Tanya Anderson brings to life the dangers young girls faced as arsenal workers during the Civil War, and she is able to make historical nonfiction truly enticing for all readers.

*Gunpowder Girls* tells the stories of three devastating explosions that occurred at different arsenals across the United States as well as stories of the women and young girls working in the perilous profession of ammunition production. Anderson includes detailed descriptions of the ammunition-making process along with pictures and diagrams to give the reader a glimpse into the difficult and dangerous work of the women who worked in these arsenals. Readers feel as though they are working alongside the arsenal workers throughout the book, even during the explosions. Anderson also meticulously researched the victims of the explosions and provides backstories for a number of them, helping readers understand the hardships that these women faced and the reasons why so many of them chose to work in such a dangerous environment.

By giving a thorough description of life away from the battlefield, *Gunpowder Girls* also tells the important story of the difficulties that women faced during the Civil War. Left without their husbands, the bread-winners of most families, wives and mothers were forced to take up jobs in order to earn enough to provide for themselves and their families during the war. The desperation of these women allowed companies to take advantage of them by paying lower salaries than the male workers who previously worked the same jobs and by forcing the women to work in unsafe conditions. This inevitably led to the many fatalities resulting from the workplace explosions described in *Gunpowder Girls*. Younger readers should know that these explosions are



described in detail and often include descriptions of women burning alive. However, not only does Anderson describe the devastating explosions at the three arsenals, she also describes the situations of the women who remained at home, making *Gunpowder Girls* a story about the dangers of women's experiences working in arsenals as well as a story depicting women's difficulties during the Civil War.

*Gunpowder Girls* is a riveting book filled with descriptions that allow readers to sympathize with its characters. Through detailed anecdotes, newspaper articles, and obituaries, Anderson invites the reader to travel back to the Civil War and experience the dangerous struggles of women who remained at home. While their husbands fought on the battlefield, arsenal workers faced similar dangers, working in rooms that could be reduced to ashes within minutes.

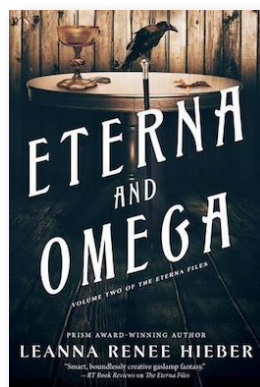
*Gunpowder Girls* is a book for any young reader who wants to learn about the other half of the U.S. population who stayed home during the Civil War.

REVIEWED BY FIONA MCALEARNEY, GRADE 11

**Hieber, Leanna Renee. *Eterna and Omega*.**

Tor Books (New York, NY) 2016. HB \$25.99.

Fans of Edgar Allan Poe and Shakespeare will find much to like in Leanna Renee Hieber's *Eterna and Omega*. The second book in her *Eterna Files* series, it stands alone as a solid novel. (I may go back and read the first book now, but it wasn't necessary to enjoy this one.) A member of the "Gaslamp Fantasy" genre, it is historical fiction, taking place in a Victorian England filled with magic and electricity.



An evil is descending on both England and the United States, and we find a British and an American team, at odds with each other, desperately trying to stop it. There is a clairvoyant protagonist, the ghost of a dead lover, and a motley group of assassins, mediums, and magicians, all working to get—or keep someone away from—the Eterna Compound, the key to immortality.

Hieber creates a wonderful and unique world here, filled with magic, science, and darkness. The action level is fairly constant, but it is a large canon of complex characters that drives the story forward. This is a classic tale of good versus evil, and Moriel is a truly great villain, fascinating and fantastically written.

The author seamlessly mixes commonplace life of the Victorian Era with the supernatural. Historical facts are entwined with paranormal fiction in a way that is natural and free of conceit. Some may liken it to the Steampunk universe, but there the characters are often pieces moved about the elaborate chess board of the world created; the surroundings become the main focus of that world. Here, those stock characters are anything but. Here, they are fully realized individuals, with depth of character, well-drawn emotional lives, individual strengths, and moments of quiet, honest fragility—true people, not set pieces.

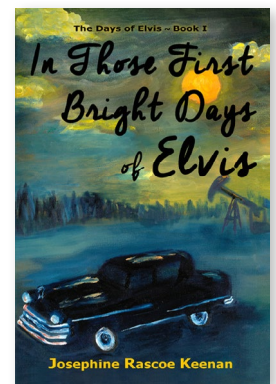
Hieber has created a unique, fast-paced, and fascinating world, one well worth visiting. Hopefully many, many times.

REVIEWED BY P.M. BRADSHAW

**Keenan, Josephine Rascoe. *In Those First Bright Days of Elvis*.**

Pen-L Publishing (Fayetteville, AR) 2016. PB \$13.97.

Fifteen-year-old Julie Morgan is trying to break into the "in" crowd in 1955, but at a time when reputation means more than reality, Julie must hide the fact that she's never gone steady and that her daddy walked out on the family before she was born. Her chance to impress the socialites comes when they find out she has met Elvis Presley. She sat in a crowd at the Hillbilly Amateur Show in her hometown and swooned every time he moved his hips. Her only distraction from Elvis that night was a girl in the crowd who looked almost identical to herself.



After the show, a chance encounter with Elvis marked the beginning of their friendship. He drove her home in his pink Cadillac and gave her a copy of his first record.

At the end of the night, Elvis stood on Julie's front porch and told her to stay true to herself.

Soon after, Elvis' career took off, and he credited Julie as his good luck charm. He began to send letters and exclusive records to her. Once the "in" crowd finds out about her long-distance friendship with Elvis Presley, they can't help but accept Julie into their group.

Julie quickly learns that being popular isn't all it's made out to be. The other girls are all going steady, and the only person who would even consider asking her for a date is a loser. Caught up in the world of high school popularity, she must decide what she would give to get and keep a boyfriend while also protecting her reputation.

One day, Julie notices the girl from the night she met Elvis. This girl is new to her school and trying to get Julie's attention. The popular crowd notices Julie's look-alike and cautions Julie about talking to the girl. This stranger is far too open and spends time alone with boys. If it comes out that Julie is acquainted with her, it could mean isolation from the group.

Set in Arkansas, this book is a tale of the struggles that faced teenagers in the 1950s. Throughout the book, Julie faces the challenges of a broken family, friendship, popularity, love, and losing her innocence. Josephine Rascoe Keenan shows us that although life moved at a slower pace in the 1950s, the teenage experience has remained the same. This is the first book in a series where Elvis Presley becomes the voice of reason in the spiraling life of Julie Morgan.

REVIEWED BY LAUREN SISLEY, HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH AND HISTORY TEACHER AND COLUMBUS SCBWI MEMBER

## McBride, Kristina. *A Million Times Goodnight*.

Sky Pony Press (New York, NY) 2016. HB \$17.99.

The highlight of seventeen-year-old Hadley's year at Oak Grove High School has always been the spring break party. This year is different. Her boyfriend is being a jerk, and it's hard to enjoy a party when it's held on the anniversary of your best friend's death.

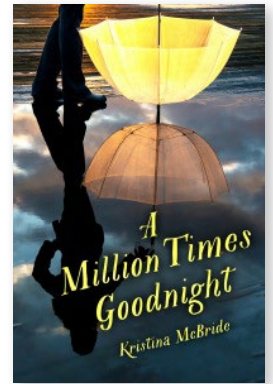
In her frustration, Hadley steals her boyfriend's car, fills it with her best friends, and ditches the famous spring break party to pay her respects to Penny. A year earlier to the day, Penny escaped the same party with more on her mind than Hadley ever fathomed.

While Hadley is visiting the site of Penny's death, her boyfriend, Ben, realizes his BMW is missing and retaliates by posting revealing photos of her online. They are pictures she doesn't even remember sending him. On her way back to confront Ben, Hadley chooses to raise the stakes. As she extracts payback for the pictures, she stumbles onto the circumstances surrounding Penny's death. By sunrise the next morning, Hadley realizes that those she cares about were entangled in the death that seems less like an accident with each new detail.

This story looks at one night from two perspectives. In one scenario, Hadley escapes the lies and secrets and travels to Florida in Ben's car along with someone from her past. In the alternating chapters, the reader sees the danger of that night played out on the stage of Hadley's hometown in Ohio.

Tension is created as the reader is introduced to Hadley's two options, and the consequences of her choices keep the pages turning. Kristina McBride fills this story with conflicts that are sensitive to this generation of young people and handles some delicate topics with a genuine and original voice.

REVIEWED BY LAUREN SISLEY



**Pope, Paul, and J.T. Petty; art by David Rubin. *Battling Boy: The Rise of Aurora West*.**

First Second Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$9.99.

*The Rise of Aurora West* is a sci-fi graphic novel about a girl who is a student by day and fights monsters at night. In the book, Aurora and her dad fight shadow monsters, and she realizes her old imaginary friend isn't what she made him out to be. Aurora also does an investigation with her friend about something she found when she was younger. Although she encounters trouble, Aurora does her best to make her dad proud because he is still in grief ever since something terrible happened to her mom.



I like this book because it has a good story, plot, and drama. When you read this book, you will start sitting on the edge of your seat because you always want to read more. I would recommend it to people ages 10+ because although it is really great, it is also kind of violent. I would also recommend it to people who like mysteries, science fiction, and drama.

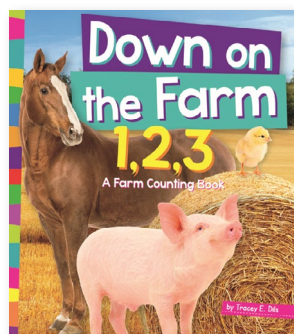
REVIEWED BY BOULA ROSS, GRADE 4

**MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S**

**Dils, Tracy E. *Down on the Farm: 1,2,3: A Farm Counting Book*.**

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

This book is a counting book that goes from 1–10 and shows most of the animals on a farm. This is a book recommended for kids in kindergarten through second grade; however, I think it's suited for any toddlers and babies. Parents can teach basic counting or just read it aloud to their babies. Whoever reads this



book experiences what it's like to be on a farm. The book is in a series from Amicus Readers.

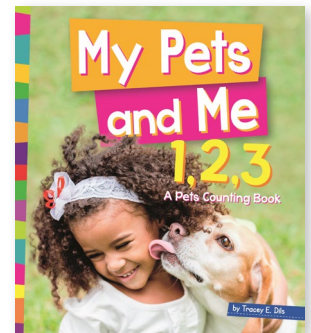
I think that this book is a very good learning book or gift for kids younger than kindergarteners. If you have a sister, brother, cousin, or friend who is under five or really likes seeing farm animals. I bet they would really enjoy it, but you don't even have to read anything—you can also just look at the pictures.

REVIEWED BY MADELYN MEUSE, GRADE 4

**Dils, Tracy E. *My Pets and Me: 1,2,3: A Pets Counting Book*.**

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

*My Pets and Me 1,2,3: A Pets Counting Book* is a counting book that counts different animals starting from one and ending at ten. The animals are one hamster, two turtles, three leopard geckos, four guinea pigs, five ferrets, six kittens, seven dogs, eight parakeets, nine rabbits, and ten goldfish. The text in this book gives cute, fun, and fascinating facts about each of the pets.



I recommend this book for ages five to seven, but I think ages two to four could enjoy this book too. This book is also good for kids learning their numbers 1–10. The text gives you fun facts about each pet. This book is also part of a small series of educational books.

REVIEWED BY BRENLYNN MORRIS, GRADE 4

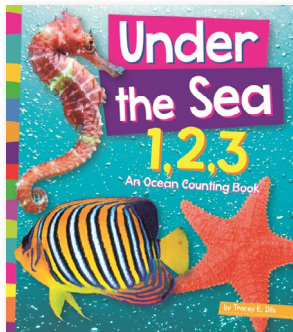
**Dils, Tracy E. *Under the Sea: 1,2,3: An Ocean Counting Book*.**

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

*Under the Sea 1,2,3* is a picture book about sea animals. You count by ones up to ten using the sea animals. It can build up early readers' confidence with reading and counting. You can learn new facts about different sea creatures because each page has informational text about the animal. It is very cool because they use real photos for pictures. The photos are close-up and are

very crisp. It is part of a series of books by Amicus Readers, which offers leveled books, too.

The book is recommended for kindergarteners to second grade. But I think it is good for ages two to six or any child who is learning to count. I feel it is a book for younger children because by second grade you are learning harder concepts than basic counting. I really like this book and I hope you do, too.

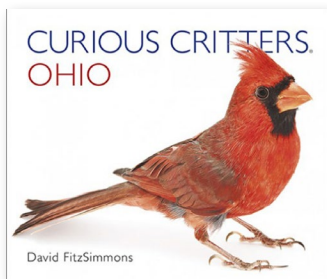


REVIEWED BY EMERSEN WHITE, GRADE 4

**FitzSimmons, David. *Curious Critters Ohio*.**

Wild Iris Publishing (Bellville, OH) 2015. HB \$17.95.

*Curious Critters* is a nonfiction book about different types of animals that live in Ohio. The author talks about animals like the spotted salamander, the Virginia opossum, the southern flying squirrel, the blue jay, and lots more. The author made it so that the animals seem to be talking about themselves.



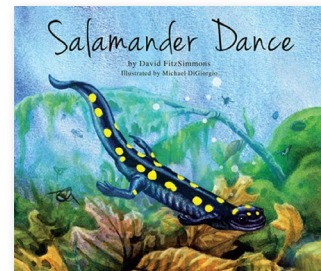
My favorite animal of them all is the spotted salamander, and my favorite part of the book is how the animals are talking about themselves. The photographs of each critter are amazing because they are so close up. You can see every detail about each one. In the back of the book there is an activity using life-sized silhouettes that I really liked. I would recommend this book for second grade and up because some of the vocabulary would be too hard for anyone younger to read.

REVIEWED BY MAYA CHAND, GRADE 4

**FitzSimmons, David, illus. by Michael DiGiorio. *Salamander Dance*.**

Wild Irish Publishing (Bellville OH) 2016. HB \$17.95.

*Salamander Dance* by David FitzSimmons is a book about how salamanders live their life. It gives closeup facts on the different steps on their life cycle. First, the baby eggs are in little jelly eggs attached to plants in spring vernal pools. When the baby salamanders get too big for their eggs, they push through the jelly and out into the vernal pool. The salamanders feed on plants and tiny bugs until they grow lungs and soon are going to leave the vernal pool. Summer comes and the vernal pool starts to dry up. The night before they leave the nearly dry vernal pool they meet on the bottom of the pool and they dance. They swing and sway, twist and turn all night long. When they leave the pool, snow starts to fall. The salamanders hibernate in little mounds in the dirt. When spring comes after a long winter of hibernating, adult salamanders go back to the vernal pools (now full of spring water) where they were born and lay new eggs. These fascinating creatures and their life cycle can be a wonder to all.



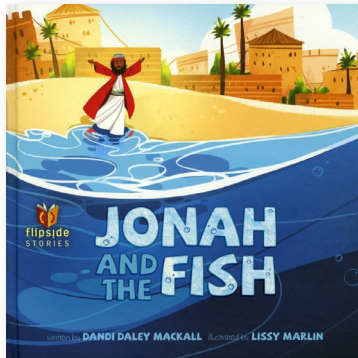
I liked this book because it explains how a life cycle works. It has very good vocabulary like *nestled* and *approached*. This book is probably for ages seven to twelve because it would be a little confusing for younger children and it had some higher-level vocabulary and metaphors. This book is an expository book written in sequence because it talks about the life cycle of spotted salamanders. I'd rate this book a four out of five only because it's a little short and hard to follow. The illustrations are lovely, but at times I thought that the pictures didn't go along with the text. If you read this book, I hope you enjoy the dance.

REVIEWED BY ANDREA GOLDEN, GRADE 4

**Mackall, Dandi Daley, illus. by Lissy Marlin. *Jonah and the Fish.***

Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (Naperville, IL) 2016. HC \$16.99.

*Jonah and the Fish* by Dandi Daley Mackall is based on the tale of Jonah and the Big Fish from the Bible. The story is about a man named Jonah who seemed to have bad luck. God asked Jonah to go to the city of Ninevah to preach God's word so that the people would be



nicer. Instead of going, Jonah disobeyed God, got on a ship, and sailed in the opposite direction to a different place. While he was on the ship, there was a big storm. The sailors were afraid that their ship would sink. Jonah knew the storm was his fault, so he asked the sailors to throw him out of the boat. After they tossed him out of the boat, a big fish came and swallowed Jonah. He was inside the fish for three days. After three days, he prayed to God and promised that he would obey him and go to Ninevah. Once he did that, the fish spit him out onto the land and he walked straight to Ninevah.

I thought that *Jonah and the Fish* was an interesting story. The author took a story from the Bible and made it more kid-friendly. I also liked how she included a lot of descriptive details. Mackall made the story extra interesting by making it into a flipside story. If you start at the front cover, it tells Jonah's side of the story. Then, if you flip the book over and start at the back, it tells the fish's side of the story. That was really exciting!

I thought the illustrations were great. They were cartoon-like, which I always think is neat. They were bright and colorful, but also had a lot of detail.

I felt sad for Jonah when he was thrown out of the boat because he really didn't want to go to Ninevah. Part of me felt like God should have helped him make the decision to go like he did, but I also think Jonah should have been allowed to make his own choice and not be forced. I would recommend this story for kids in grades one, two, and three. I thought the story was a little confusing because I had never heard that Bible story before. It would be best for kids that are Christian and go to

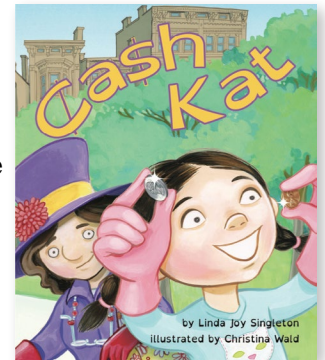
Sunday school or already have heard the story of Jonah. When I was reading it, I needed a teacher to help explain the story to me because the story was new to me.

REVIEWED BY TYLA DEBOSE, GRADE 4

**Singleton, Linda Joy. Illus. by Christina Wald. *Cash Kat.***

Arbordale Publishing (Mount Pleasant, SC) 2016. HC \$7.95.

*Cash Kat* by Linda Joy Singleton is a children's picture book about learning how to count money. The main characters are Kat and Gram Hatter. One day they go on a mission to clean up a city park.



Gram Hatter says that they're going to go on a treasure hunt. On the way, they find money. First, Kat finds a penny. Gram makes her a paper hat for this treasure. Kat learns how much it's worth, too. She keeps finding more and more coins and learns how much each one is worth. Gram Hatter makes her prettier hats every time she finds more money. Soon Kat finds a dollar. Then she decides to spend it all on ice cream.

However, Kat looks around and notices that the park is polluted with trash and plants are dying. She realizes this a chance to donate to the park. Gram and Kat turn in their trash bags to a lady at the park. They see a donation jar near the woman. Then a twist in the story happens. Kat puts all her money into the jar because she wants the park to be beautiful. As she walks away, the lady at the donation stand gives Kat a free ice cream coupon for her donation.

We agree that this book could be wonderful for children who are learning how to count money. The book teaches how to convert coins to other to other coins, like how ten pennies equal a dime. It also teaches kids that the size of a coin doesn't relate to its value. We would not recommend this book for grades four and up because most kids grade four and up know how to count money, and the concept is a little more educational for younger ages. We rate this four out of five stars. Overall, this book was not for our age level, but some younger children may enjoy it. We think the theme is that it's better to give than

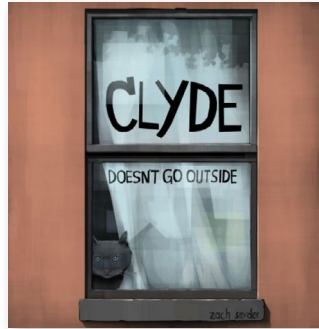
to receive, because Kat must make the decision to give to her community or to herself. We hope you give this book a try.

REVIEWED BY BRADYN CASSANDRA AND ROSE SEAMON,  
GRADE 4

### **Snyder, Zach. *Clyde Doesn't Go Outside.***

Upper Hand Press (Columbus, OH) 2016. PB \$18.00.

Clyde is a cat that does not go outside because he is not allowed. Instead, he naps all day. When Clyde looks out the window, he sees a bunny named Boo that lives in a shoe, as well as a turtle whose name is Tom and rides on his mom. There is also a robin named Rhonda who befriended an anaconda whose name is



Keith who has no teeth. Clyde sees a bat named Betty who eats nothing but *al dente* spaghetti, and has a mouse friend who ties the pasta end to end so she does not need to get down and get sweaty. Clyde knows a squirrel named Steve who likes to hang out on eaves and never leaves. These rhyming words create silly characters.

I thought the pictures were amazing. The backgrounds were fantastic, the detail was wonderful, and the animals were great. Except, I think there could be less in the story showing Clyde sleeping to keep the action going. The book was a rhyming book. I would recommend this book to a kindergarten or first grade student because of the simple vocabulary. Overall, the pictures were the most eye-catching part of the book and the animals in the story were cute.

REVIEWED BY SOPHIA NORTON, GRADE 4

# Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between March and May, 2017. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## NONFICTION

Bartenstein, Fred (ed.). *Lucky Joe's Namesake: The Extraordinary Life and Observations of Joe Wilson*.

The University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2017. PB \$29.95.

Joe Wilson (1938-2015), a native of rural East Tennessee, was a civil rights activist, self-educated scholar, founder/administrator of nationally important roots music enterprises, and was legendary for his colorful writing and opinions. *Lucky Joe's Namesake*, a companion to *Roots Music in America: Collected Writings of Joe Wilson*, presents Wilson's life and observations, mostly in his own words. This eclectic anthology is filled with Joe Wilson's published writing for magazines, books, and newspapers as well as privately circulated unpublished works, including an extended autobiographical essay. Wilson's lessons and artful ruminations are culled from a lifetime of devotion to music and cultural and social activism.

Bartenstein, Fred (ed.). *Roots Music in America: Collected Writings of Joe Wilson*.

The University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2017. PB \$29.95.

Joe Wilson served for twenty-eight years as executive director of the National Folk Festival and National Council for Traditional Arts. Throughout his impressive career, Wilson wrote extensively and colorfully about many facets of

vernacular music in North America, including works on major folk instruments and characteristic musical styles such as old-time, bluegrass, modern country, blues, cowboy, a cappella gospel, and others. This volume, a companion to *Lucky Joe's Namesake: The Extraordinary Life and Observations of Joe Wilson*, compiles Wilson's best writings on musical topics, including some previously unpublished works.

Beischel, Cynthia Kuhn. *Lost Tea Rooms of Downtown Cincinnati: Reflections & Recipes*. American Palate (Charleston, SC) 2016. PB \$21.99.

It was a different time. Ladies wore gloves, hats, and nice attire to luncheons at the Woman's Exchange. Shillito's provided a cosmopolitan environment for its patrons, while Mullane's was the perfect place to sip and socialize. The popular *Good Morning Show* radio program, hosted by charming Bob Braun and later Nick Clooney, was broadcast from McAlpin's Tea Room. Women gathered at Pogue's and Mabley & Carew tea rooms to celebrate birthdays, wedding showers, and baby showers over dainty tea sandwiches. Author Cynthia Kuhn Beischel brings the Queen City's bygone downtown tea rooms back to life and shares more than one hundred beloved recipes.

Davis, Wm. Bruce. *Fundamentals of Ohio Real Estate Law*. Carolina Academic Press (Durham, NC) 2016. PB \$60.00.

Ohio real estate law is filled with idiosyncrasies. As one of the key states in the westward expansion,

Ohio became a testing ground for many different real estate surveying systems, which are still used today. *Fundamentals of Ohio Real Estate Law* is organized in a logical manner, introducing basic concepts in early chapters and building to more complex topics, while focusing on real-world issues. This text covers the new real estate closing requirements effective in 2015. In addition to the content for an undergraduate real estate law course, this book contains three chapters for the required law prelicensing course for Ohio real estate agents.

Dawidziak, Mark. *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Twilight Zone: A Fifth-Dimension Guide to Life*. Thomas Dunne Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$26.99. Can you live your life by what *The Twilight Zone* has to teach you? Yes, and maybe you should. The proof is in this lighthearted collection of life lessons, ground rules, inspirational thoughts, and stirring reminders found in Rod Serling's timeless fantasy series. Written by veteran TV critic Mark Dawidziak, this unauthorized tribute is a celebration of the classic anthology show, but also a kind of fifth-dimension self-help book, with each lesson supported by the morality tales told by Serling and his writers.

Grandt, Jurgen E. *Seeking Home: Marginalization and Representation in Appalachian Literature and Song*. The University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2016. PB \$34.00. *Seeking Home* turns the stereotype of poorly educated Appalachian



people upside down by showcasing the region's ethnic diversity through a collection of essays discussing fiction, poetry, letters, and songs.

Harwood, Gary, Carole Harwood, and David Foster. ***Tiger Legacy: Stories of Massillon Football***. Daylight Books 2015. HC \$28.95. A community storytelling project that includes images and first-person narratives of all those who contribute to the Massillon, Ohio, high school football experience: the players, the coaches and staff, the principal, members of the Tiger Swing Band, the cheerleaders, the Pep Club, the Orangeman, the Sideliners, the Touchdown Club, the Tiger Moms, the mayor, the season ticket holders, the orange-and-black-clad fans, and the beloved mascot, Obie, the live tiger cub. The story of Massillon football can be seen in the extraordinary ways that the community comes together to support its Tigers season after season, generation after generation. *Tiger Legacy* is rooted in a more than one-hundred-year history that traces back to the origins of the sport. While football was not created in Massillon, it took root there in ways that popularized the game.

Haygood, Wil. ***The Haygoods of Columbus: A Love Story***. Trilium (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$24.95. The twentieth-anniversary edition of Wil Haygood's memoir of his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, is an uplifting and unsparing celebration of the ties that bind all loving American families. The lives of the Haygood clan—grandmother a hotel cook, mother a nightlife-loving waitress, father mostly absent, one brother a legendary pimp, the other a star-crossed dreamer, sisters whose fates included very little disposable

income—were intertwined with that of Mount Vernon Avenue, a seductive street of shops, juke joints, and speakeasies at the epicenter of Columbus's black community. Wil loved that avenue. Gifted and ambitious, he eventually found his first reporting terrain there, writing for the local paper, the *Call & Post*, while the first waves of urban renewal began to shake and shift the city of his childhood. Haygood tells of his early passions: his fierce love for his restless mother, his enthusiasm for fishing in the Olentangy River, and his adolescent love of basketball, which drove him to ride buses surreptitiously.

Herbert, Jeffrey G. ***Index of Hamilton County, Ohio, Reported Court Records 1841-1869***. Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. PB \$15.00. This index contains the names of individuals in more than 25,700 court cases reported in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* before 1869. Many of the records housed in the Hamilton County courthouse were destroyed by a riot and subsequent fire in March 1884. This index attempts to recreate as many court cases as possible from daily summaries reported in this local newspaper, which can provide valuable information to the family history researcher. Typical cases reported include probate court (wills and estates, guardianships, insanity cases, adoptions, probate notices), common pleas court (divorces, civil disputes, property cases and petitions, bastardy and criminal cases), superior and district court (appeals), and coroner inquests.

Kasich, John, with Daniel Paisner. ***Two Paths: America Divided or United***. Thomas Dunne (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$27.99.

When Ohio governor John Kasich ran for president, his powerful message of hope and togetherness struck a chord with American voters. In *Two Paths: America Divided or United*, he carries that message forward by reflecting on the tumultuous 2016 campaign, one of the most divisive and corrosive campaign battlegrounds in history. Kasich shares his concerns for America and his hopes for its future, and sounds a clarion call to reason and purpose, humility and dignity, righteousness and calm.

Leeke, Jim. ***From the Dugouts to the Trenches: Baseball During the Great War***. University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2017. HC \$32.95. Baseball, like the rest of the country, changed dramatically when the United States entered World War I, and Jim Leeke brings these changes to life in *From the Dugouts to the Trenches*. He deftly describes how the war obliterated big league clubs and largely dismantled the Minor Leagues as many prominent players joined the military and went overseas. By the war's end more than 1,250 ballplayers, team owners, and sportswriters would serve, demonstrating that while the war was "over there," it had a considerable impact on the national pastime.

Merry, Robert W. ***President McKinley: Architect of the American Century***. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$32.50.

Acclaimed historian Robert Merry attempts to resurrect the presidential reputation of William

McKinley. He portrays McKinley as a chief executive of consequence, whose low place in the presidential rankings does not reflect his enduring accomplishments and the stamp he put on the country's future role in the world. In his two terms as president (1897–1901), McKinley transformed America and established the U.S. as an imperial power. Although he does not register large in either public memory or in historians' rankings, in this revealing account Merry unfolds the mystery of how this bland man managed so much powerful change. Merry writes about McKinley's personal life, from his simple Midwestern upbringing to his Civil War heroism to his brave comportment just moments before his death by assassination. (He was only six months into his second term when he was shot.) *President McKinley* re-examines the importance of this overlooked president.

Pender, Rick. *100 Things to Do in Cincinnati Before You Die*. Reedy Press (St. Louis, MO) 2016. PB \$16.00.

Cincinnati has been an important, intriguing city since its founding in 1788. One of America's largest metropolises in the nineteenth century, it was known as the Gateway to the West. To reach the American frontier, most travelers ferried down the Ohio River. In Cincinnati they enjoyed a refined stop before heading to less populated regions. In the mid-nineteenth century, thousands of immigrants found new homes in Cincinnati, a city reminiscent of the European regions they left behind. These industrious people established institutions and businesses that

continue to give the city its unique identity—from music (especially singing) to beer and the arts. In *100 Things to Do in Cincinnati Before You Die*, readers are pointed to many facets of the Queen City to explore. Fine and casual dining, arts and culture, history, sports traditions, and some uniquely local shopping opportunities are all described in this book.

Pluto, Terry. *The Comeback: LeBron, the Cavs & Cleveland: How LeBron James Came Home and Brought Cleveland a Championship*. Gray & Company, Publishers (Cleveland, OH) 2016. PB \$15.95.

LeBron James came home on a mission: lead the Cavaliers to the NBA Finals and give Cleveland fans their first title in fifty-two years. Could the star restore his reputation, revive the franchise, and reward the fans? In 2016, down 3-1 in the finals, he and the Cavs launched an epic comeback and delivered glory. Cleveland's top sportswriter tells how.

Powell, James R. *The 1928 Bunion Derby: A Historical Tour and Driving Guide, Chicago to New York City*. University of Oklahoma Press (Norman, OK) 2017. PB \$36.95.

The historic 1928 "Bunion Derby" was a cross-country footrace from Los Angeles to New York City. In a supreme test of human endurance and fortitude, runners pounded the pavement for eighty-four straight days, covering more than 3,400 miles. Starting in Los Angeles, the competitors tracked the path of old Route 66 to Chicago. From there they followed a twisting 1,000-mile trail to New York City. While

previous books and articles have been written about the race, most have concentrated on the promoter, C.C. "Cash and Carry" Pyle, his runners, or the Route 66 portion of the race. In *The 1928 Bunion Derby*, author James R. Powell takes a more robust approach—including a turn-by-turn driving guide from Chicago to New York with historical background on the route and the racers. Powell not only portrays the runners and the intensity of such a race, but also explains important events that transpired in the years leading up to the Bunion Derby. His historical tour describes surviving sites along the route and offers stories reminiscent of American life in the late 1920s.

Regas, Dean. *Facts from Space! From Super-Secret Spacecraft to Volcanoes in Outer Space, Extraterrestrial Facts to Blow Your Mind!* Adams Media (Avon, MA) 2016. PB \$15.99.

From the sun's super-hot core to the many moons of Neptune, *Facts from Space!* travels to the far reaches of our solar system and beyond. Astronomer Dean Regas presents an exciting education on everything outside our atmosphere. The book is filled with space facts and trivia for amateur astronomers and science fiction fans.

Renner, James. *True Crime Addict: How I Lost Myself in the Mysterious Disappearance of Maura Murray*. Thomas Dunne Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$25.99.

When eleven-year-old James Renner fell in love with Amy Mihaljevic, the missing girl seen on posters all over his neighborhood, it was the beginning of a lifelong

obsession with true crime. That obsession lead Renner to a successful career as an investigative journalist. It also gave him PTSD. In 2011, Renner began researching the strange disappearance of Maura Murray, a UMass student who went missing after wrecking her car in rural New Hampshire in 2004. Over the course of his investigation, he uncovered numerous important and shocking new clues about what may have happened to Maura, but also found himself in increasingly dangerous situations with little regard for his own well-being. As his quest to find Maura deepened, the case started taking a toll on his personal life, which began to spiral out of control. The result is a dual investigation of the complicated story of the All-American girl who went missing and Renner's own equally complicated true crime addiction.

Smith, Larry. *The Thick of Thin: Memoirs of a Working-Class Writer*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2017. PB \$18.00.

Smith, the esteemed author of eight books of poetry as well as novels, memoirs, biographies, and other works, recalls his experience of Ohio mill-town life and the effect it had on his writing.

## FICTION

Bachelder, Chris. *The Throwback Special*. W.W. Norton (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$25.95.

This National Book Award finalist is the story of twenty-two men who gather every fall to painstakingly reenact what ESPN called “the most shocking play in NFL history” and the Washington Redskins dubbed the “Throwback Special”: the

November 1985 play in which the Redskins’ Joe Theismann had his leg horribly broken by Lawrence Taylor of the New York Giants live on Monday Night Football. Chris Bachelder introduces us to Charles, a psychologist whose expertise is in high demand; George, a garrulous public librarian; Fat Michael, envied and despised by the others for being exquisitely fit; Jeff, a recently divorced man who has become a theorist of marriage; and many more. Over the course of a weekend, the men reveal their secret hopes, fears, and passions as they choose roles, spend a long night preparing for the play, and finally enact their bizarre ritual for what may be the last time. Along the way, mishaps, misunderstandings, and grievances pile up, and the comforting traditions holding the group together threaten to give way.

Bennett, Christopher L. *Star Trek Enterprise: Rise of the Federation: Live by the Code*. Pocket Books (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$7.99. Admiral Jonathan Archer has barely settled in as Starfleet Chief of Staff when new crises demand his attention. The Starfleet task force commanded by Captain Malcolm Reed continues its fight against the deadly Ware technology, but one of the task force ships is captured and its Andorian crew is imprisoned by an interstellar Partnership that depends on the Ware for its prosperity. Worse, the Partnership has allied with a renegade Klingon faction, providing it with Ware drone fleets to mount an insurrection against the Klingon Empire. Archer sends Captain T’Pol and the Endeavour to assist Reed in his efforts to free the captured officers. But he must also keep

his eye on the Klingon border, for factions within the Empire blame Starfleet for provoking the Ware threat and seek revenge. Even the skill and dedication of the captains under Archer’s command may not be enough to prevent the outbreak of the Federation’s first war.

Cooper, Doug. *The Investment Club*. Rare Bird Books (Los Angeles, CA) 2016. PB \$17.95.

Forty million people visit Las Vegas every year, but most never get past the Strip. What about the people who live there? What brought them to the city, and what keeps them there? Five unusual characters meet at the El Cortez Casino in downtown Vegas. As the five learn to support and stabilize one another, they also determine the meaning and value of their own lives.

Cooper, Doug. *Outside In*. Rare Bird Books (Los Angeles, CA) 2016. PB \$15.95.

Former junior high math teacher Brad Shepherd has been forced out of his job after the overdose death of a student. Looking for an endless summer, he travels to Put-in-Bay, comforted by the hedonistic atmosphere. He trades his academic responsibilities for those of a bouncer, befriends a drug dealer, and loses himself to drugs and excess. As Labor Day approaches, Brad must face the grim reality of his empty quest. With nowhere left to run or to hide, he must find the courage to let go.

Ellis, Mary. *Sunset in Old Savannah*. Harvest House Publishers (Eugene, OR) 2017. PB \$14.99.

When socialite Evelyn Doyle hires investigative partners and

best friends Michael Preston and Elizabeth Kirby to do some routine surveillance on her wayward husband, the detectives find themselves embroiled in a mystery that leaves them in this beautiful, historic city longer than they had expected. Evelyn's husband turns up dead, leaving her as the police chief's prime target. The investigation reveals a hodgepodge of potential murderers, including a scheming business partner, a resentful mistress, and a ne'er-do-well brother. It's up to Mike and Beth to follow the trail of secrets that reaches further than the branches of the moss-draped oaks of Savannah. As praise of the agency gets around town, business is growing for Price Investigations. When Mike and Beth hire Kaitlyn Webb, Savannah's newest transplant, their workload eases, but will the ghosts of her past threaten everyone's safety before a killer can be put behind bars? And, can Mike and Beth find love as their friendship and faith are tested?

Ford, Jeffrey. *A Natural History of Hell: Stories*. Small Beer Press (Easthampton, MA) 2016. PB \$16.00. Emily Dickinson takes a carriage ride with Death. A couple are invited over to a neighbor's daughter's exorcism. A country witch with a sea-captain's head in a glass globe intercedes on behalf of abused and abandoned children. In July of 1915, in Hardin County, Ohio, a boy sees ghosts. These short stories explore contemporary natural history in a baker's dozen of exhilarating visions.

Harper, Karen. *Falling Darkness: A South Shores Novel*. Mira Books (Ontario, Canada) 2017. HC \$26.99. Claire Britten's training never prepared her for this—the forensic

psychology curriculum didn't cover plane crashes or how to help seven frightened people huddled in two small rafts awaiting a rescue that may never come. Especially when three people are her loved ones: her ex-husband; her young daughter; and the man she loves, Nick Markwood, whose pursuit by a criminal mastermind forced them all to run in the first place. When the bedraggled crew finally reaches dry land, they are still far from safe. Nick tries to secure transport to their witness-protection placement, urging everyone to stick to the identities laid out for them. They don't need any complications. But when danger follows them to their supposed safe haven, Claire and Nick no longer know who is helping or harming them. Wracked by doubt and mistrust, still hunted, they must band together—or fall.

Harper, Karen. *The IT Girls*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$14.99. They rose from genteel poverty: two beautiful sisters, ambitious, witty, seductive. Elinor and Lucy Sutherland are at once each other's fiercest supporters and most vicious critics. Together, they were unstoppable. Lucy transformed herself into Lucile, the daring fashion designer who revolutionized the industry with her flirtatious gowns and brazen self-promotion. When she married Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon, her life seemed to be a fairy tale. But success came at many costs to her marriage and to her children. And then came the fateful night of April 14, 1912—when the Titanic sank—and the scandal that followed. Elinor's novels titillate readers, and it's even asked in polite drawing rooms if you would like to "sin with

Elinor Glyn?" Her work pushes the boundaries of what's acceptable; her foray into the glittering new world of Hollywood turns her into a world-wide phenomenon. Although she writes of passion, the true love she longs for eludes her. But despite quarrels and misunderstandings, distance and destiny, there is no bond stronger than that of the two sisters—confidantes, friends, rivals, and the two "It Girls" of their day.

Hieber, Leanna Renee. *The Eterna Files*. Tor (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$24.99.

London, 1882: Queen Victoria appoints Harold Spire of the Metropolitan Police to Special Branch Division Omega. Omega is to secretly investigate paranormal and supernatural events and persons. Spire, a skeptic driven to protect the helpless and see justice done, is the perfect man to lead the department, which employs scholars and scientists, assassins and con men, and a traveling circus. Spire's chief researcher is Rose Everhart, who believes fervently that there is more to the world than can be seen by mortal eyes. Their first mission: find the Eterna Compound, which grants immortality. Catastrophe destroyed the hidden laboratory in New York City where Eterna was developed, but the Queen is convinced someone escaped—and has a sample of Eterna. Also searching for Eterna is an American, Clara Templeton, who helped start the project after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln nearly destroyed her nation. Haunted by the ghost of her beloved, she is determined that the Eterna Compound—and the immortality it will convey—will be controlled by the United States, not Great Britain.

O’Keeffe, Patrick Lawrence. *Cold Air Return*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2017. PB \$20.00.

Twelve-year-old Eugene discovers that he can listen in on adults’ conversations through a cold air return register in his bedroom. But what he overhears puts severe demands on his innocence, suddenly forcing him to face concerns more mature than he is, and, ultimately, to confront the person within him. Eugene’s story is a tale about tradition, prejudice, discovery, sex, and cultural values. The story explores the essence of family, camaraderie, community, love, and even baseball.

Roberts, Les, and Dan S. Kennedy. *Speaking of Murder: A Milan Jacovich Mystery*. Gray & Company, Publishers (Cleveland, OH) 2016. HC \$24.95.

When a celebrity-packed motivational event turns deadly, Cleveland private eye Milan Jacovich finds himself caught up in the mess. Milan and his associate Kevin “K.O.” O’Bannion are hired as extra security for several high-profile inspirational speakers at a convention in downtown Cleveland, where they get off to a rocky start. Each special guest seems more unpleasant than the last—particularly Tommy Triller, the main draw for the weekend, who has an ego to match his bank account. Tensions run high, but Milan thinks they have things covered until Triller’s dead body is found in his hotel room, a bullet hole between his eyes and a motivational CD jammed in his mouth. Among the suspects are fellow speakers, including southern psychologist Dr. Ben, who resented earning less than Triller; hip hop artist and convicted

killer Hy Jinx; and former big-league baseball manager Tony Nardoian, who might be willing to do almost anything for the right price. Milan figures he and K.O. are out of work when his significant other, Cleveland homicide detective Tobe Blaine, takes charge of the murder case. But to Milan’s surprise, his old nemesis and local mob boss Victor Gaimari asks Milan to work for him. Nardoian owes Victor, who wants to make sure the debt is paid and that the aging athlete’s gambling past stays under wraps as the murder investigation continues. Tobe’s not happy to have Milan and K.O. operating on her turf. But a job is a job, and Milan is determined to clear his new client of murder by finding the real killer.

Whitehead, Colson. *The Underground Railroad*. Doubleday (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$26.95. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood—where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned when Cora kills a young white boy who tries to capture her. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. Whitehead’s *Underground Railroad* is no metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar’s first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city’s placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for

its black denizens. And even worse, Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom. She encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. Whitehead re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era as his National Book Award-winning narrative weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Another Brooklyn*. Amistad (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$25.99.

Running into a long-ago friend sets memories from the 1970s in motion for August, transporting her to a time and a place where friendship was everything—until it wasn’t. For August and her girls, sharing confidences as they ambled through neighborhood streets, Brooklyn was a place where they believed that they were beautiful, talented, brilliant—a part of a future that belonged to them. But beneath the hopeful veneer, there was another Brooklyn, a dangerous place where grown men reached for innocent girls in dark hallways, where ghosts haunted the night, where mothers disappeared—a world where madness was just a sunset away and fathers found hope in religion.

## POETRY

Friebert, Stuart. *Decanting: Selected & New Poems 1967-2017*.

Lost Horse Press (Sandpoint, ID) 2016. PB \$21.00.

*Decanting: Selected & New Poems, 1967-2017* is a poetic biography of a variety of subjects, from cemeteries to oysters to wigs to the author himself.

Matthias, John, Jean Dibble, and Robert Archambeau. *Revolutions: A Collaboration*.

Dos Madres (Loveland, OH) 2017. PB \$20.00.

*Revolutions* is a unique collaboration between poet John Matthias, printmaker Jean Dibble, and critic Robert Archambeau. Two poetic sequences by Matthias, “The HIJ” and “After Five Words Englished from the Russian,” generate both a corresponding sequence of poster-poems by Dibble and a series of “free commentaries” by Archambeau. “The HIJ,” emerging initially from an alphabetical game using chance operations in the dictionary, eventually produces something of a character and a narrative, both of which are probed by the artist and commentator. The “Five Words” are translated from Russian poet Osip Mandelstam’s “He Who Finds a Horseshoe.” Again, the poster-poems enlarge on the text and the commentaries complete a sequence of revolutions without resolutions.

## YOUNG ADULT

Garretson, Dee. *Station Fosaan*.

Month9Books (Raleigh, NC) 2017. PB \$15.00.

Earth scientists and their families stationed on the remote planet of Fosaan were promised a tropical vacation-like experience. But

Fosaan, devastated from an apocalyptic event nearly three centuries ago, is full of lethal predators and dangerous terrain. Earthers are forbidden to go beyond the safety zone of their settlement and must not engage the small population of reclusive Fosaanians, descendants of the survivors. Sixteen-year-old Quinn Neen plans to do both of those things. When Quinn discovers a beautiful Fosaanian girl named Mira stealing food from his family’s living unit, he soon learns Earth’s government may not be telling the whole truth about Fosaan and the cause of the past disaster. There are some who wish to restore the planet to its former glory by any means necessary. Quinn finds himself caught between his loyalty to his own people and what is right for Mira and her people. This is the first book in the *Torch World* series.

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. *Dating the It Guy*. Clean Reads (Athens, AL) 2017. PB \$16.99.

Emme is a sophomore in high school who starts dating Brendon Agretti, the popular senior who happens to be a senator’s son and well known for his good looks. Emme feels out of her comfort zone in Brendon’s world, and it doesn’t help that his picture-perfect ex, Lauren, seems determined to get back into his life, along with every other girl who wants to be the future Mrs. Agretti. Emme is already conflicted because her last boyfriend cheated on her, and her whole world is off kilter with her family issues. Life suddenly seems easier keeping Brendon away and relying on her crystals and horoscopes to guide her. Emme soon starts to realize she needs to focus less on the stars and more on her senses. Can Emme

get over her insecurities and make her relationship work? Life sure is complicated when you’re dating the “It Guy.”

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. *Next Door to a Star*. Limitless Publishing (Kailua, HI) 2015. PB \$12.99.

Hadley Daniels is tired of feeling invisible. After Hadley’s best friend moves away and she gets on the bad side of some girls at school, she goes to spend the summer with her grandparents in the Lake Michigan resort town of Grand Haven. Her next-door neighbor is none other than teen TV star Simone Hendrickson, who is everything Hadley longs to be—pretty, popular, and famous—and she’s thrilled when Simone treats her like a friend. Being popular is a lot harder than it looks. It’s fun and flattering when Simone includes Hadley in her circle, although Hadley is puzzled about why her new friend refuses to discuss her former Hollywood life. Caught up with Simone, Hadley finds herself ignoring her quiet, steadfast friend, Charlotte. To make things even more complicated, along comes Nick Jenkins. He’s sweet and good-looking, and Hadley can be herself around him without all the fake drama. However, the mean girls have other ideas and fill Nick’s head with lies about Hadley, sending him running back to his ex-girlfriend and leaving Hadley heartbroken. When her parents decide to relocate to Grand Haven, Hadley hopes things will change when school starts... only to be disappointed once again. Cliques. Back-stabbing. Love gone bad. Is this really what it’s like to live *Next Door To A Star*?

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. *True Colors*. Clean Reads (Athens, AL) 2014. PB \$16.99.

Landry Albright just wants to be one of the interesting girls at school who always have exciting things going on in their lives. She wants to stand out, but also wants to fit in, so she gives in when her two best friends, Ericka and Tori, push her into trying out for a teen reality show modeling competition with them. Landry goes in nervous, but impresses the judges enough to make it to the next round. However, Ericka and Tori get cut and basically “unfriend” her at school. Landry tries to make new friends, but gets caught between wanting to be herself and conforming to who others want her to be. Along the way she learns that modeling is not as glamorous as it seems, deals with frenemies and a new crush, and discovers that true friends like you for who you really are.

Hieber, Leanna Renee. *Darker Still: Magic Most Foul Book #1*. Sourcebooks Fire (Naperville, IL) 2011. PB \$8.99.

Despite what everyone says, Miss Natalie Stewart knows that Lord Denbury did not commit suicide. He is alive, trapped within a golden frame. Natalie has crossed over into Lord Denbury’s world within a painting, and she’s seen what dreams haunt him. They haunt her too. The two are inextricably linked—bound together to watch the darkness seeping through the gaslit cobblestone streets of Manhattan. Unless she can free him soon, things will only get *Darker Still*.

Hieber, Leanna Renee. *Strangely Beautiful*. Tor (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$20.99.

Originally published as two books (*The Strangely Beautiful Tale of Miss Percy Parker* and *The Darkly Luminous Fight for Persephone Parker*), *Strangely Beautiful* unites Leanna Renee Hieber’s critically acclaimed novels in a single revised volume, restoring the author’s original vision for the work. Miss Persephone Parker—known as Percy—is different, with her snow-white hair, pearlescent pale skin, and uncanny ability to see and communicate with ghosts. Seeking to continue her education, Percy has come to Queen Victoria’s London and the Athens Academy. What she learns there will change her life forever.

Hieber, Leanna Renee. *The Twisted Tragedy of Miss Natalie Stewart: Magic Most Foul Book #2*.

Sourcebooks Fire (Naperville, IL) 2012. PB \$8.99.

“I’m coming for you.” The whispers haunt her dreams and fill her waking hours with dread. Something odd is happening. Something... unnatural. Possession of the living. Resurrection of the dead. And Natalie Stewart is caught right in the middle. Jonathon, the one person she thought she could trust, has become a double agent for the dark side. But he plays the part so well, Natalie has to wonder just how much he’s really acting. She can’t even see what she’s fighting, but the cost could be losing her heart, her sanity, and her soul.

McGinnis, Mindy. *Given to the Sea*. G.P. Putnam’s Sons (New York, NY) 2017. HC.

Khosa was born to be fed to the sea, to prevent the kind of wave that once destroyed the Kingdom of Stille. She can’t be sacrificed until she produces an heir, but human touch repulses her—except for the touch of the Indiri. Dara and Donil are the last of the Indiri, a native race with magic that’s seductive—a force of nature—but dwindling since the Pietra slaughtered their people. Witt leads the Pietra, the fierce warriors who are now marching on the Kingdom of Stille. The stone shores of Witt’s kingdom harbor a secret threat, and to ensure the survival of his people, he’s prepared to conquer every speck of Stille’s soil. Vincent stands to inherit the throne of Stille, but has no wife to share it with. When the beautiful and mysterious Khosa arrives without an heir, Vincent knows that his father will stop at nothing to make sure she fulfills her duty. Torn between protecting his kingdom and protecting the girl whose fate is tied to its very existence, Vincent’s loyalty is soon at odds with his heart. While royals scheme, Pietrans march, and the Indiri struggle to survive, the rising sea calls for its Given, and Khosa is destined to answer.

## MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Conrad, Pam. Illus. by Richard Cowdrey. *Animal Lullabies*. Laura Geringer (New York, NY) 1997. HC \$14.95.

As the day draws to a close in the animal kingdom, a mother swan hopes one more glide around the pond will send her young ones off to sleep. This collection of

sweet-dream lullabies by award-winning novelist Pam Conrad is perfect for the nursery set. Adults and children alike will recognize themselves in the gently humorous lullabies, full of the rustles and flutters of bedtime and the promise of safe slumber.

de Sève, Randall. Illus. by Loren Long. ***Toy Boat***. Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2007. HC \$16.99. A little boy has a toy boat that he made out of a can, a cork, a yellow pencil, and some white cloth. The boy and his boat are inseparable... until the day the wind pushes the boat out into the wide lake, and the little boat must face fierce waves, a grumpy ferry, a sassy schooner, and a growling speedboat to find his way home. A child-friendly adventure to inspire imaginative toy play.

Gerber, Carole. Illus. by Jane Dyer. ***A Band of Babies***. Harper (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$17.99. It was just an ordinary day at play group until Benny arrived. With flute in hand and drums in tow, Benny's love of music inspires the babies to get up and put on a show. Toot! Toot! Whee! Benny and his band of babies are a sight to see!

Grogan, John. Illus. by Richard Cowdrey. ***Marley and the Kittens***. Harper (New York, NY) 2010. HC \$17.99.

When a pair of adorable kittens joins the family, Marley is so excited to have two new friends to play with that he follows the felines everywhere. But Marley is no graceful kitten. By imitating their gentle behavior, he unintentionally makes a mess all over the house and gets into big trouble for it. *What did I do this time?* he wonders. Marley is

afraid he may have lost his number-one status in the household until an unlikely pair reminds him and his family that no one's purrrrrr-fect! In a story that hilariously reveals the differences between cats and dogs, everyone's favorite misbehaving pup learns from some new friends just how special he really is.

Lewis, J. Patrick. Illus. by Gary Kelley. ***The Navajo Code Talkers***. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2016. HC \$18.99. Amidst a complicated history of mistreatment by and distrust of the American government, the Navajo people—especially bilingual code talkers—helped the Allies win World War II.

Lewis, J. Patrick. Illus. by Kyle M. Stone. ***Please Bury Me in the Library***. Gulliver Books (Orlando, FL) 2005. HC \$16. There's nothing like curling up with a good book, but you have to be careful. Before you know it, a minute turns into an hour, an hour turns into a day, and a day may turn into...eternity. Inspired by the likes of Edward Lear, X.J. Kennedy, and Lewis Carroll, the author of *Arithme-Tickle* and *Scien-Trickery* has created a collection of original poems about books and reading that range from sweet to silly to laugh-out-loud funny.

Pimm, Nancy Roe. ***Bonded by Battle: The Powerful Friendships of Military Dogs and Soldiers from the Civil War to Operation Iraqi Freedom***. Quindaro Press (Kansas City, MO) 2017. HC \$16.95. Since the Civil War, U.S. soldiers and their canine companions have been inseparable. Over time, these dogs have shown they provide more

than love. *Bonded by Battle* is the first book to tell the whole 150-year story of how dogs and soldiers built a relationship on and off the battlefield, teaming up to become our military's most advanced counter-terrorism weapon.

Rosen, Michael J. ***The Million Stories of Marco Polo***. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2016. HC \$18.99.

Among the millions of stories ever told, the tales of the legendary explorer Marco Polo are the most renowned. Listen as an old-time scribe tells his curious young neighbor about stories that are worth remembering.



# Coming Soon

## Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics

July 19 – August 16, 2017  
Thurber House, Columbus

The 32nd summer season of outdoor picnics continues with Johnny Mast (July 19), Tiffany McDaniel (August 2), and Ohio Poet Laureate Amit Majmudar (August 16). For more information and tickets, visit the Thurber House website at [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

## Ohioana Book Club

August 16, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – noon  
Ohioana Library, Columbus

The book for August is *The Invisible Soldiers: How America Outsourced Our Security* by Ann Hagedorn. If you would like to attend, please email us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## Cleveland Book Week

September 5 – 9, 2017  
Cleveland

The second annual literary celebration presents ten events at venues throughout the city, including the 2017 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards ceremony at Playhouse Square. For more information, visit [www.anisfield-wolf.org](http://www.anisfield-wolf.org).

## Ohioana Book Awards

October 6, 2017  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus

Join us as we celebrate the winners of the 2017 Ohioana Book Awards. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards presentations and book signing. Tickets go on sale in September. For more information, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

Do you have a literary event you'd like to list in the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## Available Now: 2017-18 Choose to Read Ohio Posters!

Choose to Read Ohio spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. A joint project of the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana, and the Ohio Center for the Book, it encourages Ohioans of all ages to read and enjoy books together.

The colorful poster with the Choose to Read Ohio titles for 2017-18 was unveiled at this year's Ohioana Book Festival. For more information, visit <https://library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/library-programs-development/ctro>.



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The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from March 1 through May 31, 2017. Special thanks to Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

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- The Ohioana Book Festival, a free, public event attended by thousands each year.
- The Ohioana Awards, given to recognize outstanding Ohio writers and books.
- The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a competitive prize for emerging young Ohio writers.
- Ohioana's collection, an ever-growing repository of more than 80,000 items that playwright Jerome Lawrence called "the literary Fort Knox of our state."
- The *Ohioana Quarterly*, the colorful publication you hold in your hands, featuring book reviews, interviews, articles, and a calendar of literary happenings around Ohio.



Daniel Shuey with 2016 Ohioana Award winner Mary Doria Russell.

These programs help Ohioana "connect readers and Ohio writers," thanks to people like you. If you already support Ohioana—THANK YOU. If you'd like to become part of this special group, complete and send in the form below or join online at [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org). If you love books, reading, and Ohio literature, the Ohioana Library is the place for you! I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully meeting you at one of our events!

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Shuey

Daniel E. Shuey  
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Date!**

**Ohioana Annual  
Meeting**

**October 6, 2017**

Join us for the 88th annual meeting of the Ohioana Library Association on Friday, October 6, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43201. All members of Ohioana are eligible to participate; the agenda will include the election of trustees. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be served.

RSVP by e-mail to [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).  
For more information, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).