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## ANNOUNCING THE 2018 OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL!

The Ohioana Book Festival marks a dozen years of celebrating Ohio authors and books—and you're invited to the party! The 12th annual Ohioana Book Festival takes place at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square on Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled day featuring 120 Ohio writers, panel discussions, special activities for children and young adults, a book fair, food, and more!

Check out the roster of authors below. Our next newsletter will include the complete schedule for April 14 and a list of events where you can see some of your favorite authors out in the community. We'll also be adding news and information on our website, blog, and social media—be sure to check them often! Mark your calendars for April 14—we'll see you there!

### *Fiction*

Tom Batiuk  
 Laura Bickle  
 Debra Sue Brice  
 Julie Chase  
 Casey Daniels  
 Meredith Doench  
 Mary Ellis  
 Alex Erickson  
 Amanda Flower  
 Robin Gianna  
 Steve Goble  
 Karen Harper  
 Sherri Hayes  
 John Hegenberger  
 Dennis Hetzel  
 Leanna Renee Hieber  
 Annie Hogsett  
 Susanne Jaffe

Jillian Kuhlmann  
 Kristen Lepionka  
 Olivia Matthews  
 Josef Matulich  
 Tiffany McDaniel  
 Tim McWhorter  
 Michael Nye  
 Eliot Parker  
 D.M. Pulley  
 Lisa Karon Richardson  
 Linda Robertson  
 David Selcer  
 Lucy A. Snyder  
 Jessica Strawser  
 Tara Tyler  
 Andrew Welsh-Huggins  
 Nick White  
 Robin Yocum

### *The Director's Chair*

Dear Friends,

Friday is Groundhog Day. We don't know yet whether Ohio's official State Groundhog, Buckeye Chuck, will pop out of his burrow in Marion and see his shadow, predicting six more weeks of winter, or if it will be the opposite, and we'll have an early spring.

I'm no forecaster myself on seasons or the weather, but there is one prediction I am confident in making about one day in spring: Saturday, April 14, is going to be a free, fun day for the entire family at the 12th annual Ohioana Book Festival.

Our cover story this issue is the announcement of our stellar lineup of 120 Ohio authors. They represent every literary genre from picture books to poetry, from novels to nonfiction. Whatever your age or interest—if you love reading and books, meeting authors, and mingling with other readers—the Ohioana Book Festival is for you!

It is thanks to you that each year's festival is bigger and better than the last. You have helped to make this

## *Nonfiction*

Hanif Abdurraqib  
Jennifer Bowers Bahney  
Bob Batchelor  
Nancy Christie  
Mark Dawidziak  
Laura DeMarco  
Jody Jean Dreyer and Stacy  
Windahl  
Dan Gearino  
David Giffels  
Jill Grunenwald  
Anietra Hamper  
Christine Hayes  
Gwendolyn Joslin Hiles  
Bob Hunter  
Stephen Kuusisto  
Tracy Lawson  
Susannah Maynard  
Karen McClintock  
Sarah Menkedick  
Gary Meszaros and Guy L. Denny  
David Meyers and Elise Meyers  
Walker  
Dan Méndez Moore  
Greg Murray  
Stephanie Romine  
Clayton J. Ruminski  
Margie Shaheed  
Larry Smith  
Richard H. Underwood  
Jeannie Vanasco  
Mark and Mary Willenbrink

## *Poetry*

Ruth Awad  
George Bilgere  
Teri Ellen Cross Davis  
Darren C. Demaree  
Kathy Fagan  
John Matthias  
Michael J. Rosen  
Rikki Santer

## *Middle Grade & Children's*

Bill Cotter  
Tadgh Bentley  
Emma Carlson Berne  
Tim Bowers  
Gary Buettner  
Tamara Bundy  
Mary Kay Carson  
Sally Derby  
Jeffrey Ebbeler  
Michelle Houts  
Laurie Lazaro Knowlton  
Terri Libenson  
Melissa Martin  
Jennifer Maschari  
Judy Carey Nevin  
C.F. Payne  
Julie Seabrook Ream  
Julie K. Rubini  
Michaela Schuett  
Jan Sherbin  
Andrew Speno  
Tricia Springstubb  
Linda Stanek  
Joe Sutphin  
Carmella Van Vleet  
Christina Wald  
Lindsay Ward  
Kathy Cannon Wiechman

## *Young Adult*

Chelsea Bobulski  
Cinda Williams Chima  
Carey Corp  
Ellen Fritz  
Dee Garretson  
Margaret Peterson Haddix  
Krysten Lindsay Hager  
Josephine Rascoe Keenan  
Lorie Langdon  
Kristina McBride  
Mindy McGinnis  
Natalie D. Richards  
D.W. Vogel  
Kerry Winfrey

the state's largest event celebrating Ohio authors and books. And it is thanks also to our funders, led by Presenting Sponsor Ohio Humanities.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. As always, the festival is free and open to the public, with no ticket and no advance registration required.

In the next newsletter we'll share more details about the festival, including a complete schedule of the day's programming. We'll also have a list of places where you can meet some of our authors at free community events prior to the festival. And of course you can check out our website, social media, and blog for regular updates from now until the day of the event.

See you in April...now if we can just hope Buckeye Chuck brings us an early spring!

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

# NEW BOOKS

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

## Nonfiction

Abdurraqib, Hanif. *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us: Essays*. Two Dollar Radio (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$16.99.

In an age of confusion, fear, and loss, Hanif Abdurraqib's is a voice that matters. Whether he's attending a Bruce Springsteen concert the day after visiting Michael Brown's grave or discussing public displays of affection at a Carly Rae Jepsen show, he writes with a poignancy and magnetism that resonates profoundly. In the wake of the nightclub attacks in Paris, he recalls how he sought refuge as a teenager in music and at shows, and wonders whether the next generation of young Muslims will not be afforded that opportunity now. While discussing the everyday threat to the lives of black Americans, Abdurraqib recounts the first time he was ordered to the ground by police officers—for attempting to enter his own car. In essays that have been published by the *New York Times*, MTV, and *Pitchfork*, among others, along with previously unreleased essays, Abdurraqib uses music and culture as a lens through which to view our world, so that we might better understand ourselves, and in so doing proves himself a bellwether for our times.

Bahney, Jennifer Bowers. *Betrayer's Waltz: The Unlikely Bond Between Marie Valerie of Austria and Hitler's Princess-Spy*. McFarland (Jefferson, NC) 2017. PB \$29.95.

Born into one of nineteenth-century Europe's more powerful families, Archduchess Marie Valerie was the favorite daughter of her father, Austria's Emperor Franz Joseph, and her mother, Empress Elisabeth. A sensitive young woman, she was determined to marry for love and in 1890 wed her cousin, Franz Salvator of Tuscany, and bore him ten children. The dashing Archduke was not faithful to his devoted wife. His affair with Stephanie Richter, a young, middle-class Jewish woman with a knack for flattering powerful men, led to an illegitimate child, a royal title of her own, and a career as a double-agent in the prelude to World War II. Princess Stephanie von Hohenlohe became vital to Adolf Hitler and betrayed the German Jews, the British government, and her home country of Austria—until Hitler betrayed her, leaving her without allies or protectors.

Bly, Lyz. *Diary of a Feminist Thug: Volume 1: His[Tories] of Her Land*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2017. PB \$10.00.

*Diary of a Feminist Thug* is a poetically written narrative that is replete with stream-of-consciousness thoughts and original journal images of a white GenX grrrl-woman, growing up in rust belt America in the late 20th century. Bly's text is memoir meets deposition, revealing the subtle and explicit ways in which patriarchy, misogyny, and toxic masculinity crush the psyches and abuse the bodies of women, even white, heterosexual, cisgender, middle-class women of Generations X and Y, who grew up amid the promises of the 1960s and 70s social "revolutions" for gender and racial rights and equality. The

2016 election of Trump reminded women how much they are despised, yet tolerated for their role as progenitors of racial identity and paternal "family" names. Bly's *Diary of a Feminist Thug* reveals the insidious psychosis at the heart of heterosexual relationships and white middle-class families and the emotional and physical toll they take on women who appear to be "just fine." While there are obvious privileges connected to whiteness and heterosexuality, these privileges still come with a cost; Valerie Solanas once said, "He who won't slit your throat will torture you to death slowly, often with diamonds."

Bonura, Sandra E. *Light in the Queen's Garden: Ida May Pope Pioneer for Hawai'i's Daughters, 1862-1914*. University of Hawaii Press (Honolulu, HI) 2017. HC \$32.00.

At the end of the 1800s, when Oberlin graduate Ida May Pope accepted a teaching job at Kawaihae Seminary, a boarding school for girls, she couldn't have imagined it would become a lifelong career of service to Hawaiian women, or that she would become closely involved in the political turmoil soon to sweep over the Kingdom of Hawai'i. *Light in the Queen's Garden* offers for the first time a day-by-day accounting of the events surrounding the coup d'état as seen through the eyes of Pope's young students. Author Sandra Bonura uses recently discovered primary sources to help enliven the historical account of the 1893 Hawaiian Revolution that happened literally outside the school's windows. Queen Lili'uokalani's adopted daughter's long-lost oral history recording, as well as many of Pope's teaching

contemporaries' unpublished diaries, letters, scrapbooks, and photos, tell a story that has never been told before. Towering royal personages in Hawai'i's history—King Kalākaua, Queen Lili'uokalani, Princess Ka'iulani and others—appear in the book, as Ida Pope sheltered Hawai'i's daughters through the frightening and turbulent end of their sovereign nation. Pope was present during the life celebrations of the king and then his sad death rituals. She had the extraordinary opportunity to travel with Lili'uokalani on her controversial trip to Kalaupapa's "leper colony" to visit Saint Marianne Cope and afflicted pupils. In 1894, with the endorsement of Lili'uokalani and Charles Bishop, Pope helped to establish the Kamehameha School for Girls, funded by the estate of Princess Pauahi Bishop, and became its first principal. Inspired by John Dewey and others, she shaped and reshaped Kamehameha's curriculum through a process of conflict and compromise. Fired up by the era's doctrine of social and vocational relevance, she adapted the curriculum to prepare her students for entry into meaningful careers. Lili'uokalani's daughter, Lydia Aholo, was placed in the school, and Pope played a significant role in mothering and shaping her future, especially during the years the queen was fighting to restore her kingdom. As Hawai'i moved into the twentieth century under a new flag, Pope tenaciously confronted the effects of industrialization and the growing concentration of outside economic power and worked tirelessly to attain social reforms giving Hawaiian women their rightful place in society.

Bowen, Margaret Casterline, and Gwendolyn Joslin Hiles. *Jersey Gold: The Newark Overland Company's Trek to California, 1849*. University of Oklahoma Press (Norman, OK) 2017. HC \$34.95. When gold fever struck in 1849, John S. Darcy—prominent physician, general, and president of the New Jersey Railroad— assembled a company to travel overland to California. *Jersey Gold* chronicles the experiences of the New Jersey argonauts from their lives before the gold rush to the widely varying fortunes each ultimately found. Animated by the trekkers' own words and observations and illustrated with maps, photographs, and drawings by one of the company's own men, *Jersey Gold* follows the Newark Overland Company's journey by rail, stage, and riverboat to the Missouri frontier town of Independence, the group's jumping-off point for the Oregon-California trail. There, the company splintered. Their divergent paths afford views of the westward journey from multiple perspectives as the companies faced the perils of the wilderness and the treachery of human nature. Once in gold country, many booked immediate passage home, but some remained with Darcy to work a successful mining operation before returning east with comfortable fortunes. A few, enchanted by the opportunities of the Golden Coast, took up permanent residence there—and in their stories we witness the emergence of California amid unprecedented lawlessness, the controversy of slavery, and diverse nationalities. The story of the Newark Overland Company—in many ways a panorama of the nineteenth century—ranges from

the wildness of the frontier through the chaos of the Civil War to the throes of early industrialization, and features such notables as John Sutter and Brigham Young. In chronicling this journey, *Jersey Gold* vividly re-creates a defining chapter in American history.

Christie, Nancy. *Rut-Busting Book for Writers*. Mill City Press (Maitland, FL) 2017. PB \$14.99. Are you in a writing rut? Do you have writing dreams you want to turn into reality but aren't sure how to do it? Do you struggle with time challenges, organization, or procrastination? Do you want to move forward in your writing life but feel "stuck" creatively or professionally? *Rut-Busting Book for Writers* has strategies to get you unstuck along with proactive suggestions from other writers who are willing to share their knowledge and experience. Break out of your creative or professional rut and get back on your writing track.

Dreyer, Jody Jean, and Stacy Windahl. *Beyond the Castle: A Guide to Discovering Your Happily Ever After*. Zondervan (Grand Rapids, MI) 2017. HC \$22.99. When the credits roll and you've left the park, when your Disney day is over, how do you take the magic with you into your everyday work and life? Jody Jean Dreyer worked for the Walt Disney Company for thirty years, and in *Beyond the Castle* she shares one-of-a-kind stories and insights into what sets the Disney experience apart, as well as secrets to help readers discover their own "happily ever after." Beginning with her first position as a summer intern at Walt Disney World, through her role leading synergy and special

projects for Disney (reporting to former CEO Michael Eisner), to her work with top leadership at Walt Disney Motion Pictures sharing the magic of Disney films around the world, Jody unpacks secrets that can change the way we understand ourselves, our work, and relationships, and how we can find our own path to happiness. You will read her stories about working with Walt's nephew, Roy E. Disney, her front-line role in the opening of theme parks around the world, and her own journey to discovering how to bring some Disney magic into every day. The wish for happy endings is written in our hearts. Every park guest or movie watcher is looking for their own "happily ever after," as they ask the questions: What's my story? Does it matter? Will the story end well for me? Jody's personal experiences and her underpinning faith help her to offer practical and sometimes unexpected principles to better appreciate and navigate our own stories.

Frazier, Nishani. *Harambee City: The Congress of Racial Equality in Cleveland and the Rise of Black Power Populism*. The University of Arkansas Press (Fayetteville, AR) 2017. HC \$39.95.

"BLACK POWER!" -- It was a phrase that consumed the American imagination in the 1960s and 70s and inspired a new agenda for black freedom. Dynamic and transformational, the black power movement embodied more than media stereotypes of gun-toting, dashiki-wearing black radicals; the movement opened new paths to equality through political and economic empowerment. In *Harambee City*, Nishani Frazier chronicles the rise and fall of

black power within the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) by exploring the powerful influence of the Cleveland CORE chapter. Frazier explores the ways that black Clevelanders began to espouse black power ideals including black institution building, self-help, and self-defense. These ideals challenged CORE's philosophy of interracial brotherhood and nonviolent direct action, spawning ideological ambiguities in the Cleveland chapter. Later, as Cleveland CORE members rose to national prominence in the organization, they advocated an open embrace of black power and encouraged national CORE to develop a notion of black community uplift that emphasized economic populism over political engagement. Not surprisingly, these new empowerment strategies found acceptance in Cleveland. By providing an understanding of the tensions between black power and the mainstream civil rights movement as they manifested themselves as both local and national forces, *Harambee City* sheds new light on how CORE became one of the most dynamic civil rights organizations in the black power era.

Gerken, Cyndie L. *Marking the Miles Along the National Road Through Ohio: A Survey of Old Stone Mile Markers on Ohio's National Road*. Muskingum Valley Archaeological Survey (Zanesville, OH) 2017. PB \$45.00.

Groundbreaking for the Ohio portion of the National Road, the nation's first federally funded interstate highway, took place on July 4, 1825 at St. Clairsville in eastern Ohio's Belmont County. Construction was temporarily

halted three miles west of Springfield in western Ohio in 1839 when funds ran out. Beginning a mile west of the Ohio River, stone markers were erected at one-mile intervals to where the National Road stopped west of Springfield. A total of 175 of these mile markers or "mile stones," which gave the distance to Cumberland, Maryland, where the National Road started, and to the nearest towns and county seats, could once be seen marking the miles along the National Road in Ohio. This richly illustrated publication provides an in-depth look at an interesting aspect of the Ohio National Road's history. Only about a third of these 175 markers can still be seen at their historic locations today. Some were moved to U.S. Route 40, and many can be found displayed or stored at various state or local museums and historical societies. This publication provides the historic and present location, as well as photographs of all of the known surviving Ohio mile stones, and discusses the changes in the engraving styles that occurred over time. Several early views of uniquely-shaped Ohio National Road markers, including two capped with stone balls, are also included. Interspersed throughout the book are historic and recent images of Ohio National Road landmarks, including bridges, taverns, automobile-era motels, and other points of interest near the markers. Mile markers along the so-called Dayton Cutoff, made to mimic National Road mile stones and fool travelers into thinking they were on the National Road, are also discussed. This book is over 300 pages and contains more than seventy-five maps, 400 photographs, and three appendices.

Giffels, David. *Furnishing Eternity: A Father, a Son, a Coffin, and a Measure of Life*. Scribner (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$24.00. David Giffels grew up fascinated by his father's dusty, tool-strewn workshop and the countless creations—some practical, others fantastical—it inspired. So when he enlisted his eighty-one-year-old dad to help him with the unusual project of building his own casket, he thought of it mostly as an opportunity to sharpen his woodworking skills and to spend time together. But life, as it usually does, had other plans. The unexpected deaths of his mother and, a year later, his best friend, coupled with the dawning realization that his father wouldn't be around forever for such offbeat adventures—and neither would he—led to a harsh confrontation with mortality and loss. Over the course of several seasons, Giffels returned to his father's barn in rural Ohio, a place cluttered with heirloom tools, exotic wood scraps, and long memory, to continue a pursuit that grew into a meditation on grief and optimism, a quest for enlightenment, and a way to cherish time with an aging parent. Giffels grapples with some of the hardest questions we all face as he and his father saw, hammer, and sand their way through a year bowed by loss. *Furnishing Eternity* is the story of a family searching for hope in its roots and the unexpected truths we arrive at in the process of creating.

Hayes, Christine, and Doug Motz. *Lost Restaurants of Central Ohio & Columbus*. American Palate (Charleston, SC) 2017. PB \$21.99. From remote diners to downtown political havens, the restaurants of

central Ohio satisfied palates for generations. In the era of Sunday drives before interstates, fabulous family-owned restaurants were the highlight of the trip. Sample the epicurean empires established by Greek, Italian, German, and Chinese families. Recall the secrets of Surly Girl's chandelier, the delicious recipes handed down by chefs, and the location of Flippo the Clown's former jazz hideaway. Following their previous book, *Lost Restaurants of Columbus*, authors Christine Hayes and Doug Motz deliver a second helping of unforgettable establishments that cemented central Ohio's reputation for good food and fun.

Hayes, Kevin. *George Washington: A Life in Books*. Oxford University Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$34.95.

When it comes to the Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton are generally considered the great minds of early America. George Washington, instead, is toasted with accolades regarding his solid common sense and strength in battle. Indeed, John Adams once snobbishly dismissed him as "too illiterate, unlearned, unread for his station and reputation." Yet Adams, as well as the majority of the men who knew Washington in his life, were unaware of his singular devotion to self-improvement. Based on a comprehensive amount of research at the Library of Congress, the collections at Mount Vernon, and rare book archives scattered across the country, Kevin J. Hayes corrects this misconception and reconstructs in vivid detail the active intellectual life that has gone largely unnoticed in conventional

narratives of Washington. Despite being a lifelong reader, Washington felt an acute sense of embarrassment about his relative lack of formal education and cultural sophistication, and in this sparkling literary biography, Hayes illustrates just how tirelessly Washington worked to improve. Beginning with the primers, forgotten periodicals, conduct books, and classic eighteenth-century novels such as *Tom Jones* that shaped Washington's early life, Hayes studies Washington's letters and journals, charting the many ways the books of his upbringing affected decisions before and during the Revolutionary War. The final section of the book covers the voluminous reading that occurred during Washington's presidency and his retirement at Mount Vernon. Throughout, Hayes examines Washington's writing as well as his reading, from *The Journal of Major George Washington* through his farewell address. The sheer breadth of titles under review here allows readers to glimpse Washington's views on foreign policy, economics, law, art, slavery, and religion—and how those views shaped the young nation.

Hershey, William L., and John C. Green. *Mr. Chairman: The Life and Times of Ray C. Bliss*. University of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2017. HC \$39.95.

Ray Bliss was a masterful behind-the-scenes force in the Republican Party for more than three decades at the local, state, and national levels. Recognized as a master of the "nuts and bolts" of practical politics, Bliss was among the first to use polling and television in campaigns. When Bliss took over as national chairman in 1965, the

GOP was on life support after Barry Goldwater's landslide defeat in the 1964 presidential election. Bliss rebuilt the party through hard work, innovation, a keen eye for detail, and uncanny political instincts. His shrewd ability to unite liberal, moderate, and conservative Republicans helped put Richard M. Nixon in the White House in 1968. This thorough biography chronicles Bliss's career from campus political czar at the University of Akron to a master of Republican politics at the local, state, and national levels.

Hunter, Bob. *Thurberville*. Trillium/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2017. HC \$29.95.

James Thurber's Columbus was not today's Columbus—or even yesterday's. It was a Columbus he both knew and created, a place perched on the fringe of reality and the fringe of his imagination. It is the place Bob Hunter revisits in *Thurberville*, a book where the author separates truth from fiction and identifies what parts of the famous humorist's hometown of 180,000 exist in the burgeoning metro area of more than two million today. Thurber's Columbus was a wild and crazy place, a city full of fascinating and sometimes peculiar characters, many in his own family. Because of the widespread popularity of his stories, that was also the Columbus that many of his readers around the world came to know. *Thurberville* chronicles those characters and explores that world. But it also examines the real city where Thurber struggled and then blossomed as a college student, worked as a newspaper reporter and a press agent, and achieved international fame as a humorist and cartoonist after he

left town, in part by writing about the subjects he left behind. Much of Thurber's best work was cultivated by experiences he had in Columbus and in his dealings with family, friends, teachers, and acquaintances there. They are worth a revisit and, in some cases, an introduction.

Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Dogs: Portraits and Stories*. Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2017. PB \$21.95.

Dog rescue has blossomed in recent years, as more and more people are choosing to adopt dogs from animal shelters and homegrown rescue organizations and have categorically steered away from purchasing dogs from breeders and puppy mills. In this beautifully illustrated book, Susannah Maynard provides personality-rich dog portraits and chronicles rescue dogs' journeys from a turbulent start to a warm, loving, happy, and safe home. Readers will find heartwarming and triumphant stories that point to dogs' characteristic resilience and unconditional love. Her subjects include puppies, adult dogs, and special needs dogs—of all breeds, and of course, mixed breeds—and her stories will empower readers to join the rescue effort or increase their volunteer involvement to better the lives of rescue dogs, one animal at a time.

McClintock, Karen A. *My Father's Closet*. Trillium/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2017. HC \$19.95. Thirty years after her father's death, Karen McClintock sets out to find the gay father she never really knew. As we follow the unraveling family secret, we find ourselves drawn into her story as she and her family stumble into infidelity,

grieve heartbreaking losses, and remain loyal in love. Set in Columbus, Ohio, *My Father's Closet* tells the story of how just before the war, McClintock's parents fell in love and married, while overseas in Germany the man who she believes became her father's lover was concealing his Jewish and gay identities in order to escape to America. A set of her father's journals, letters her parents sent to each other during the Second World War, and a mysterious painting all lead her toward the truth about her father. McClintock weaves a complex secret into the fabric of lives we truly care about. And in the process, she leads us out of her father's closet. This gripping memoir captures the longing children feel for a distant or hidden parent and taps into the complexity of human connection and abandonment. The characters are resilient and vibrant. The hidden lives, the nosey neighbors, and surprise lovers all show up. In the end, this extraordinary family finds ways to connect and freedom to love. Anyone who grew up with a family secret will appreciate the dynamics afoot in this fast-paced and compelling story.

Merry, Robert W. *President McKinley: Architect of the American Century*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$35.00.

In this great American story, acclaimed historian Robert Merry resurrects the presidential reputation of William McKinley, who loses out to the brilliant and flamboyant Theodore Roosevelt who succeeded him after his assassination. Merry 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. Republican President William McKinley in his two terms as president (1897–1901) transformed America. He 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, Robert W. Merry unfolds the mystery of how this bland man managed so much powerful change. McKinley settled decades of monetary controversy by taking the country to a strict gold standard; in the Spanish-American war he kicked Spain out of the Caribbean and liberated Cuba from Spain; in the Pacific he acquired Hawaii and the Philippines through war and diplomacy; he developed the doctrine of "fair trade"; forced the "Open Door" to China; and forged our "special relationship" with Great Britain. In short, he established the non-colonial imperialism that took America into global preeminence. He expanded executive power and managed public opinion through his quiet manipulation of the press. McKinley paved the way for the bold and flamboyant leadership of his famous successor, Teddy Roosevelt, who built on his accomplishments (and got credit for them). Merry writes movingly about McKinley's admirable personal life, from his simple Midwestern upbringing to his Civil War heroism to his brave comportment just moments before his death by assassination (it was only six months into his second term when he was shot). Lively, definitive, and eye-opening, Robert Merry resurrects this overlooked

president and places him squarely in a place of importance.

Murray, Greg. *Peanut Butter Dogs*. Gibbs Smith (Layton, UT) 2017. HC \$14.99.

Yorkies, Retrievers, Pit Bulls, Great Danes, French Bulldogs, and more! This winsome collection of photographs covers more than 140 lovable pups, most of them rescues, in expressions of peanut butter bliss. Names, ages, and brief bios of each dog accompany their portraits.

Pohlad, Mark B. *James R. Hopkins: Faces of the Heartland*. Trillium/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$34.95.

*James R. Hopkins: Faces of the Heartland* is the first extensive examination of this noted American painter and one of Ohio's most significant artists. Born in tiny Irwin, Ohio, and raised on a farm outside Mechanicsburg, Ohio, Hopkins garnered many official honors and exhibited alongside the most famous artists of his time. Hopkins's wife was Edna Boies Hopkins, a modernist printmaker known for her colored woodblock prints. Living in Paris, Hopkins painted modish women and Impressionist nudes, but his most important works are those he made in rural, southeastern Kentucky in the Cumberland Falls region. He painted the hill people he encountered there in a penetrating and distinctive style. He was the first American painter to do so, and his works look forward to the style known as Regionalism that emerged some fifteen years later. Hopkins was for decades a dynamic teacher and administrator, first at the Cincinnati Art Academy, where he replaced his mentor Frank Duveneck, and then at The

Ohio State University, where his presence is still felt. The research for this study is taken from archival sources, primary documents, and university archives. The result is the introduction of a previously unrecognized American master into the canon of American art history.

Ross, Aimee. *Permanent Marker: A Memoir*. KiCam Projects (Dayton, OH) 2018. HC \$18.95.

Aimee Ross was living a perfectly normal life raising three kids, married to her high school sweetheart, and teaching at her high school alma mater. Life was perfect—right until it wasn't. Unhappy in her marriage, Aimee asked for a divorce. Three days later, she suffered a heart attack at age forty-one. Five months after that, she survived a near-fatal car crash caused by an intoxicated driver. Her physical recovery took months and left her body marked by scars. The emotional recovery, though, would take longer, as Aimee sought to forgive the man who almost killed her—and to forgive herself for tearing apart her family. Aimee Ross writes with candor, wit, and humor as she finds the power in her story and chronicles her transformation into the woman she was always meant to be.

Ruminski, Clayton J. *Iron Valley: The Transformation of the Iron Industry in Ohio's Mahoning Valley, 1802-1913*. Trillium/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$29.95.

Youngstown, Ohio, and the surrounding Mahoning Valley supplied the iron that helped transform the United States into an industrial powerhouse in the nineteenth century. The story of the Mahoning Valley's unorthodox rise

from mid-scale iron producer to twentieth-century “Steel Valley” is a tale of innovation, stagnation, and, above all, extreme change. Located halfway between Pittsburgh and Cleveland, the Mahoning Valley became a major supplier of pig iron to America’s biggest industrial regions. For much of the nineteenth century, outside consumers relied on the Valley’s pig iron, but this reliance nurtured a reluctance on the part of Youngstown iron companies to diversify or expand their production. In *Iron Valley: The Transformation of the Iron Industry in Ohio’s Mahoning Valley, 1802–1913*, Clayton J. Ruminski argues that Youngstown-area iron manufacturers were content to let others in the industry innovate, and only modernized when market conditions forced them to do so. Desperate to find new markets, some Youngstown iron manufacturers eventually looked toward steel and endured a rapid, but successful, industrial transformation that temporarily kept their old enterprises afloat in a rapidly evolving industry. Richly illustrated with rare photographs of Mahoning Valley ironmasters, mills, furnaces, and workers, *Iron Valley* sheds light on a previously underrepresented and vital region that built industrial America.

Stillman, Deanne. *Blood Brothers: The Story of the Strange Friendship Between Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$27.00.

The little known story of the unlikely friendship of two famous figures of the American West—Buffalo Bill Cody and Sitting Bull—told through their time in Cody’s Wild West show in the 1880s. It was in Brooklyn, New

York, in 1883 that William F. Cody—known across the land as Buffalo Bill—conceived of his Wild West show, an “equestrian extravaganza” featuring cowboys and Indians. The idea took off. For four months in 1885 the Lakota chief Sitting Bull appeared in the show. *Blood Brothers* tells the story of these two iconic figures through their brief but important collaboration. *Blood Brothers* flashes back to 1876, when the Lakota wiped out Custer’s 7th Cavalry unit at the Little Big Horn. Sitting Bull did not participate in the “last stand,” but was nearby—and blamed for killing Custer. The book also flashes forward to 1890, when Sitting Bull was assassinated. Hours before, Cody rushed to Sitting Bull’s cabin at Standing Rock, dispatched by the army to avert a disaster. Deanne Stillman unearths little-told details about the two men and their tumultuous times. Their alliance was eased by none other than Annie Oakley. When Sitting Bull joined the Wild West, the event spawned one of the earliest advertising slogans: “Foes in ’76, Friends in ’85”—referring to the Little Big Horn. Cody paid his performers well, and he treated the Indians no differently from white performers. During this time, the Native American rights movement began to flourish. But with their way of life in tatters, the Lakota and others availed themselves of the chance to perform in the Wild West. When Cody died in 1917, a large contingent of Native Americans attended his public funeral. An iconic friendship tale like no other, *Blood Brothers* is truly a timeless story of people from different cultures who crossed barriers to engage each other as human beings.

Willenbrink, Mark and Mary. *Perspective for the Absolute Beginner: A Clear and Easy Guide to Successful Perspective Drawing*. North Light Books (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. PB \$22.99. Perspective is arguably the most important element of drawing and also one of the most difficult to master. It’s what gives drawings dimension and is the key to realistic drawing. Now the best-selling authors of *Drawing for the Absolute Beginner* are here to demystify perspective, simplify concepts such as vanishing points and multi-point perspective, and make it easy for you to experience success...and have fun while you’re doing it. The book includes tricks and techniques for creating depth and dimension using lines (linear perspective), values (atmospheric perspective) and color. Twenty-three mini demonstrations on how to apply basic principles of perspective make getting started easy. Twelve full step-by-step demonstrations, each with a structural drawing, cover a variety of subjects, including interiors, architecture, and still lifes. Starting with a simple box to illustrate fundamental concepts, artists will develop a working understanding of how to cast any subject in realistic depth and dimension. This book puts it all into perspective.

Wlasiuk, Jonathan. *Refining Nature: Standard Oil and the Limits of Efficiency*. University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2017. PB \$27.95.

The Standard Oil Company emerged out of obscurity in the 1860s to capture ninety percent of the petroleum refining industry in the United States during the Gilded Age. Economic success

masked the dark side of efficiency as Standard Oil dumped oil waste into public waterways, filled the urban atmosphere with acrid smoke, and created a consumer safety crisis by selling kerosene below Congressional standards. Organized around the four classical elements at the core of Standard Oil's success (earth, air, fire, and water), *Refining Nature* provides an ecological context for the rise of one of the most important corporations in American history.

### **Fiction**

Baer, Brian James, ed. *New Penguin Parallel Text: Short Stories in Russian*. Penguin Books (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$20.00.

This new volume of ten short stories, with parallel translations, offers students at all levels the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of contemporary literature without constantly having to refer to a dictionary. The stories—many of which appear here in English for the first time—are by well-established writers like Vladimir Sorokin, Ludmila Ulitskaya, Sergey Lukyanenko, and Ludmilla Petrushevskaya as well as emerging voices like Alexander Ilichevsky, Evgeny Grishkovets, and Julia Kissina. Drawn from the last two decades of the Soviet Union and the two decades following its collapse, they chart a period of dramatic social change, often using metaphors of the body, and represent a range of literary styles that highlight the dynamism of contemporary Russian fiction.

Erickson, Alex. *Death By Eggnog*. Kensington Publishing (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$7.99.

Krissy Hancock is staying in her

adopted hometown of Pine Hills, Ohio, for Christmas this year—and she even has a whole week off from her combination bookstore-café. But a killer is about to dampen her spirits...Unfortunately, Krissy's been roped into filling in for a sick elf in the local holiday musical extravaganza. With a demanding director, backstage gossip, and two men in fierce competition for the starring role, it isn't all sweetness and Christmas lights. Then a murder puts a stop to the production, and Krissy is faced with a pageant of suspects. Could her ex-boyfriend, a fellow elf, really be the culprit as the police are claiming? Or will the actor playing Santa be trading his red suit for an orange jumpsuit? When her behind-the-scenes investigation starts getting dangerous, the only thing Krissy really wants is to make it to Christmas dinner alive. But first she'll have to finish wrapping up this case.

Gianna, Robin. *The Spanish Duke's Holiday Proposal*. Harlequin Mills & Boon (Don Mills, Ontario, Canada) 2017. PB \$6.25.

Temporary Christmas fiancée—to future duchess! When paramedic Mateo Alves unexpectedly becomes heir to his family's dukedom, he's asked to return home. But Mateo loves his New York career. So when sparks fly between him and beautiful ER doc Miranda Davenport, he sees a way to appease his family over the holidays. Miranda can't believe she's agreed to be Mateo's temporary fiancée, but as love-child to the head of the wealthy Davenports she knows all about troubled families. Can a magical Spanish Christmas together bring them both the happiness they deserve?

Gilliam, Diane. *Dreadful Wind & Rain: A Lyric Narrative*. Red Hen Press (Pasadena, CA) 2017. HC \$17.95.

Named for an Appalachian murder ballad in which a girl is drowned by her sister, so the story goes: Neglected and abused by her family, eclipsed by her elder and more beautiful sister, a young girl longs for happily-ever-after, for something, someone to rescue her. She is soon swept away into the next chapter of her life: marriage—a promising world mirroring Old Testament stories and fairy tale traditions. But loving just anyone and living the age-old “ever-after” narrative, as it turns out, fails to bring true happiness after all. Dragged down by a destructive marriage, her sister's continued manipulations, and the growing weight of roles and expectations created by others at her back, she must choose between continuing in her familiar, complacent life, or boldly breaking free—and finally making her own way.

Hayes, Sherri. *Longing for His Kiss: The Serpent's Kiss Book 2*. Sherri Hayes (Plain City, OH) 2017. PB \$14.99.

Eight months ago, two uniformed men showed up at Grace Martin's door and told her that her husband wasn't coming home. She's tried to move on, but nothing will make that ache in her chest go away. Kurt wasn't only her husband. He was also her Master. With him gone a part of her is missing and she has no idea how, or even if, she can repair the hole that has been left.

Lang, Ruth Emmie. *Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstance*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$26.99.

Orphaned, raised by wolves, and the proud owner of a horned pig named Merlin, Weylyn Grey knew he wasn't like other people. But when he single-handedly stopped that tornado on a stormy Christmas day in Oklahoma, he realized just how different he actually was. That tornado was the first of many strange events that seem to follow Weylyn from town to town, although he doesn't like to take credit. As amazing as these powers may appear, they tend to manifest themselves at inopportune times and places. From freak storms to trees that appear to grow overnight, Weylyn's unique abilities are a curiosity at best and at worst, a danger to himself and the woman he loves. But Mary doesn't care. Since Weylyn saved her from an angry wolf on her eleventh birthday, she's known that a relationship with him isn't without its risks, but as anyone who's met Weylyn will tell you, once he wanders into your life, you'll wish he'd never leave. *Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstance* tells the story of Weylyn Grey's life from the perspectives of the people who knew him, loved him, and even a few who thought he was just plain weird. Although he doesn't stay in any of their lives for long, he leaves each of them with a story to tell. Stories about a boy who lives with wolves, great storms that evaporate into thin air, fireflies that make phosphorescent honey, and a house filled with spider webs and the strange man who inhabits it. There is one story, however, that Weylyn wishes he could change: his own. But first he has to muster enough courage to knock on Mary's front door.

Lattimore, W. Franklin. *Behind the Darkness: Book 3 of the Otherealm Saga*. Open Window (Livonia, MI) 2017. PB \$15.95.

Control is a Delusion...Control. An elusive, yet greatly-coveted power, sought after by the young and the old, the wealthy and the poor. Can it be bargained for? Bought? Seized? And if attained, how much control can an individual actually wield? Pittston Police Chief Brent Lawton is about to share a story with his wife that will affect both of their lives forever. Listen with her as she receives the account of a twenty-five-year-old man, endowed with an array of unexpected supernatural powers and sent on a chilling mission to protect the life of a fifteen-year-old pregnant girl named Elizabeth. Journey into a realm of spiritual beings that few believe exist, and find out if one person's good intentions can be enough to stop the murderous plans of an ancient, evil enemy. Who—or what—is really pulling the strings to life and death? Welcome to the Otherealm, where heaven, hell, and man battle for the soul.

Matulich, Josef. *The Ren Faire at the End of the World: An Arcanum Faire Novel*. Post Mortem Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. PB \$16.00. The time of sex, magick, and power tools is coming to an end. In spite of the worst legal, economic, and metaphysical efforts of Jeremiah Stone and his surviving family, it is almost opening day at Arcanum Faire. Marc Sindri wields his shovel and noumena against all comers as the witch Brenwyn explores the concept of non-accidental sex magick. Construction workers, witches, and minions on all sides deal with all the most fearful things

in Arcanum, Ohio: reanimated road-kill, raging queens, pike-wielding re-enactors, meat puppets, a Wiccan non-witch, and Eleazar's terrifying encounter with monogamy. And there's always the question of the second anvil.

McWhorter, Tim. *The Winding Down Hours*. PlotForge (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$15.00. Home isn't always where the heart is. The Taylors haven't spent this much time together in years. But with their mother gone and the tendrils of dementia slowly entwining their father, the three siblings have one last chance to relive their idyllic youth while packing up the family home. Life isn't as simple as when they were children, however, and missteps of the past have driven them irreconcilably apart. Only Mason, the middle Taylor, is determined to mend the fractures before the weekend ends and their time on the Cape is done.

Murano, Doug, ed. *Shadows Over Main Street Volume 2*. Cutting Block Books (Winchester, VA) 2017. PB \$13.95. You know this place. Seems normal enough. But you know better, don't you? You've heard rumors of strange histories. You've seen hints of dark deeds. Turns out you can go home again, and the shadows will be waiting for you. Bram Stoker Award® nominated editors Doug Murano and D. Alexander Ward bring you the next installment of their best-selling, critically acclaimed, small-town Lovecraftian anthology series: *Shadows Over Main Street, Volume 2*. Within these pages, you'll discover: \* America's pastime awakening dark secrets buried deep within the earth.

\* Vietnam War heroes who glimpse something worse than war and return home to discover a new kind of hell waiting for them. \*

The music of a generation—of many generations—revealed as something older, hungrier and more insidious than a bad acid trip.

\* A war-widow who rediscovers love and passion... only to cultivate the world's end. Featuring stories by Joyce Carol Oates, Joe R.

Lansdale, Gary A. Braunbeck, John F.D. Taff, Lucy A. Snyder, William Meikle, Ronald Malfi, Damien Angelica Walters, and others. With a foreword by Laird Barron and stunning illustrations by Luke Spooner. Every turn you take leads back to Main Street. We've been waiting. Welcome home.

Newman, Susie. *Lost Souls Café*. Black Rose Writing (Castroville, TX) 2017. PB \$19.95.

After being abandoned by her husband in a KOA campground, Sissy Jaspers must return home to Grace, West Virginia, and rebuild her broken life. Along for the journey is Hazel, a sweet and spirited older lady who has the gift of making everything taste better. With help from Sissy's father and brother, the two women turn an abandoned haunted house into a charming café. The Kitchen House, named for its resident ghosts, is a place of wonder where the living and dead coexist. The mystic café attracts patrons haunted by guilty secrets and burdened with grief. With a regular host of customers and a jamboree of spirits, The Kitchen House becomes the perfect venue for medium Pixie Moon-Dust to perform her psychic readings. As the physical world and spiritual world become intertwined, the lost souls are taught lessons of

forgiveness and acceptance, which leads them to redemption and love.

Nye, Michael. *All the Castles Burned*. Turner Publishing (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$17.99.

When Owen Webb, the son of working-class parents, receives a scholarship to the prestigious Rockcastle Preparatory Academy, the mysterious and enigmatic Carson Bly, an upperclassman from a wealthy and powerful family, befriends him. Their friendship, deepened through a love of basketball, becomes an obsession for Owen, who is desperate to avoid the growing trouble at home between his parents. When Owen's father is arrested for a shocking and unexpected crime, his family is torn apart, and Owen's anger and fear are carefully manipulated by Carson's mercurial and increasingly dangerous personality. Owen, who has fallen in love with Carson's beautiful but troubled sister, quickly finds himself caught up in a complex web of lies that threatens his once-promising future.

Olmstead, Robert. *Savage Country*. Algonquin Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$26.95.

Onto this broken Western stage rides Michael Coughlin, a Civil War veteran with an enigmatic past, come to town to settle his dead brother's debt. Together with his widowed sister-in-law, Elizabeth, bankrupted by her husband's folly and death, they embark on a massive and hugely dangerous buffalo hunt. Elizabeth hopes to salvage something of her former life and the lives of the hired men and their families who now depend on her; the buffalo hunt that her husband had planned, she now realizes, was

his last hope for saving the land. Elizabeth and Michael plunge south across the aptly named "dead line" demarcating Indian Territory from their home state of Kansas. Nothing could have prepared them for the dangers: rattlesnakes, rabies, wildfire, lightning strikes, blue northers, flash floods—and human treachery. With the Comanche in winter quarters, Elizabeth and Michael are on borrowed time, and the cruel work of harvesting the buffalo is unraveling their souls. Bracing, direct, and quintessentially American, Olmstead's gripping narrative follows that infamous hunt, which drove the buffalo to near extinction. *Savage Country* is the story of a moment in our history in which mass destruction of an animal population was seen as a road to economic salvation. But it's also the intimate story of how that hunt changed Michael and Elizabeth forever.

Pepper, David. *The People's House*. St. Helena Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. PB \$13.99.

Can someone heist the majority of the House of Representatives with no one noticing? That's the electoral coup that turns America upside down in *The People's House*—until one man notices. Youngstown reporter Jack Sharpe is logging time at the tail end of a disappointing career when he stumbles across election irregularities in his own backyard. The story quickly takes him far beyond his corner of Ohio as he discovers an international plot—one that strikes at the heart of American democracy by taking advantage of weaknesses in today's political architecture.

Pulley, D.M. *The Unclaimed Victim*. Thomas & Mercer Press (Seattle, WA) 2017. PB \$15.95.

In 1938, at the height of the Great Depression, a madman hunts his victims through the hobo jungles of Cleveland, terrorizing the city. Ethel Harding, a prostitute struggling to survive both the cold streets and the Torso Killer, takes refuge with a devout missionary sect—only to find that its righteous facade conceals the darkest of secrets. Sixty years later, the police find the butchered body of Alfred Wiley in the woods. But before his daughter, Kris, can even identify the remains, things he never told her begin to surface one by one—a mysterious private eye who'd been tracking him, an eerie website devoted to the unsolved “Torso” murders, missing archives, stolen books, and an abandoned Bible factory harboring vagrants. The more she learns about her father's obsession with the Torso Killer, the more Alfred's death appears to be related, pulling Kris further into Cleveland's hellish past. Living decades apart, Ethel and Kris must unravel the truth behind the city's most notorious serial killer...or die trying.

Ruscak, M.L. *The New Reign: Of Lite and Darke Book 1*. Wild Dreams Publishing (Lexington, KY) 2017. PB \$21.99.

Eighteen years ago, Princess Nisha became an orphan just days after her birth. Her parents and all of those with Fey blood were gone. All consumed by a fire that none had been able to stop. Or at least this is what is told. This is what is spoken aloud. Truth? Perhaps. But these are words Nisha has never trusted. Couldn't trust since they have never sounded quite right. Yet, not even her beloved aunt ever

believed her when she questioned the events of that night. No one believed her when she had turned thirteen and she became the queen of the Under Kingdom. They didn't trust her when her powers and natural abilities began to grow to frightening results. That was fine, if they didn't want to believe her then once she was home and crowned Queen of Darke, then she would show them. Once she was Queen then she would find every answer that she had ever wanted. It wouldn't matter who or what stood in her way, for she would show them why she should be feared. She would show them what was created when her parents were stolen from her. For she is Nisha and she is the daughter of the darkness.

Singer, Margot. *Underground Fugue*. Melville House Publishing (Brooklyn, NY) 2017. HC \$25.99.

It's April and Esther has left New York for London, partly to escape her buckling marriage and partly to care for her dying mother. Lonia, Esther's mother, is haunted by memories of fleeing Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II; Javad, their next-door neighbor and an Iranian neuroscientist, struggles to connect with his college-aged son; and Amir, Javad's son, is seeking both identity and escape in his illicit exploration of the city's forbidden spaces. As Esther settles into life in London, a friendship develops among them. But when terrorists attack the London transit system in July 2005, someone goes missing, and the chaos that follows both fractures the possibilities for the future and reveals the deep fault lines of the past.

Tyler, Tara. *Disposal: A Pop Travel Novel*. Curiosity Quills Press (Reston, VA) 2017. PB \$17.48.

In the future many problems are the same, but cool gadgets make chasing the bad guys more fun. Cooper and Geri are finally in a good place, but their bliss is short-lived when Cooper's rebellious nephew Jimmy comes down to stay with them in Atlanta for a summer internship. Now he thinks he's found the girl of his dreams in a fiery, exotic beauty. Pursuing her against all words of warning into a dangerous underground world, he ends up getting kidnapped by her powerful drug lord father. Geri tracks him down, but gets herself kidnapped as well. Now it's up to Cooper to use all his resources to save them, including the hot homicide detective Geri secretly despises and the latest sketchy gadgets his genius friend Hasan needs field-tested. Sure, why not? Cooper will try anything to get his family back.

Ullman, A.J. *Drifting Falling: Diary of a Call Girl Suicide*. Moonshine Cove Publishing (Abbeville, SC) 2017. PB \$13.99.

The story of twenty-one-year-old Ripley Astilla Luna, a smart, beautiful young woman who suffered multiple childhood traumas that have set her on a collision course with her fate to die by means of her own hands. Ripley, whose name is an homage to the protagonist of the *Alien* movies, dreamed as a child of becoming an astronaut. Under the care of her psychiatrist, Dan Truscott, a man deep in his own moral quagmire, and receiving counsel from Mort, her only friend, she tries to navigate her way off Earth and into space.

## Poetry

Culliton, Patrick. *Sam's Teeth*. Subito Press (Boulder, CA) 2017. PB \$18.00.

The small poems in Patrick Culliton's collection *Sam's Teeth* use the diction of rural and suburban Ohio life to immerse the reader in the melancholic world the poems inhabit. From taxidermy and barbecue sauce to schoolyards and the hardware store, everyday American life underscores the insidious timbre threading through the work. The reader is left haunted by "America's ghost meat" "ashamed of the way we kiss America." In Culliton's words: "I was raised Cleveland Irish Catholic and all I got was this lousy book of poems."

Davis, Allison Pitinii. *Line Study of a Motel Clerk*. Baobab Press (Reno, NV) 2017. PB \$17.00.

*Line Study of a Motel Clerk* examines a family's century-long effort to make a home in a changing world. Pitinii Davis takes readers on a heart-stopping journey through her lineage, with all the grit, beauty and truth of the working class immigrant struggle. One side of the family opens a trucking motel, the other a laundry. The businesses change hands through three generations as the industrial steel valley booms and busts. When these two disparate families become one, the new generation must question what it means to endure a place, a culture, a language, and a history.

Fuller, Molly. *For Girls Forged by Lightning: Prose & Other Poems*. All Nations Press (Tallahassee, FL) 2017. PB \$18.00.

The subtitle for this book, *Prose & Other Poems*, was chosen to immediately inform readers that

these pieces are both prose poems and flash fictions/micro fictions. Seamlessly and sequentially breaching the boundaries between prose poetry, brief fictions, and hybrids, readers will engage in weighing their own preconceptions about what they believe a work of poetry or prose is; in this way they may discover literary forms, as Campbell McGrath says, possessed of a beauty all [their] own, ramshackle and unexpected.

Gawur, Luba. *Scraping the Sky*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2017. PB \$4.99.

*Scraping the Sky* by Luba Gawur is the latest release in the NineSense series of nine-poem chapbooks published by Crisis Chronicles Press. *Scraping the Sky* includes "In One Day in New York City," "Almost Satori in Times Square," "Suspended," "The Girls of Midtown," "Christmas in Harlem," "Nostalgia," "Poem for Sasha," "Thief," and "Defying Gravity."

Gianneli, Adam. *Tremulous Hinge: Poems*. University of Iowa Press (Iowa City, IA) 2017. PB \$21.00. Rain intermits, bus windows steam up, loved ones suffer from dementia—in the constantly shifting, metaphoric world of *Tremulous Hinge*, figures struggle to remain standing and speaking against forces of gravity, time, and language. In these visually porous poems, boundaries waver and reconfigure along the rumbling shoreline of Rockaway or during the intermediary hours that an insomniac undergoes between darkness and dawn. Through a series of self-portraits, elegies, and Eros-tinged meditations, this hovering never subsides but offers, among the fragments, momentary

constellations: "moths all swarming the / same light bulb." From the difficulties of stuttering to teetering attempts at love, from struggling to order a hamburger to tracing the deckled edge of a hydrangea, these poems tumble and hum, revealing a hinge between word and world. Ultimately, among lofting waves, collapsing hands, and darkening skies, words themselves—a stutterer's maneuvers through speech, a deceased grandfather's use of punctuation—become forms of consolation.

Grandbois, Peter. *This House That: Poems*. Brighthorse Books (Omaha, NE) 2017. PB \$12.97.

Peter Grandbois' *This House That* is a haunting collection of poetry that traces the effort to reintergrate the self after loss. It is a book about family, about love, and about the mystery of being human.

Green, J.M. *The Novice Angler*. Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, KY) 2017. PB \$14.99.

Most poems in J.M. Green's *The Novice Angler* have been published in literary journals, and some have won awards. Together these poems hold hands and dive deeper into life's murky waters. They become a tale of the guideless male who awkwardly, sometimes painfully, casts line after line hoping to catch the true meaning of manhood and masculinity. From boyhood through young adulthood, he continues to catch nothing. Only as we enter poems of family loss and abandonment do nibbles and bites appear, and by the end of this short collection there is hope he has caught the big fish. A chapbook that begins and ends with a powerful secret, but in two very different rivers.

McGuire, T.J. *Mid-Life Chrysler*. Kelsay Books/Alrich Press (Hemet, CA) 2017. PB \$14.00.

In *Mid-Life Chrysler*, the gently sloping hills of northern Ohio, “with their vast rows of tombstones that / jut like crooked teeth, / are dying to tell their tales,” and the poet T. J. McGuire brings those tales to life. An abusive father goes to prison, leaving a son behind to make sense of the nightmare. The act of love takes on primordial dimensions as lovers drop their cell phones to communicate in “vowel-oriented sex-sounds.” “Spirals of rolled hay / turn into mastodon servings / of shredded wheat,” and a massage therapist reads “the Braille of your anatomy.”

Merricle, William. *Fractured Fairy Tales*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2017. PB \$7.00.

Merricle uses wit, wordplay, dark humor and insight in this collection of twenty-nine dark poem tales.

Nicely, Elliot. *The Black Between Stars*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2017. PB \$4.99.

A collection of nine haiku on the subject of loss, with a usage of binary colors and stark negative space to intentionally invoke a sense of disquiet and discomfort.

Nordgren, Sarah Rose. *Darwin's Mother*. University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2017. PB \$15.95.

In *Darwin's Mother*, curious beasts are excavated in archeological digs, Charles Darwin's daughter describes the challenges of breeding pigeons, and a forest of trees shift and sigh in their sleep. With a keen sense of irony that rejects an anthropocentric worldview and an imagination both philosophical and

playful, the poems in this collection are marked by a tireless curiosity about the intricate workings of life, consciousness, and humanity's place in the universe.

*Oct Tongue 2*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2017. PB \$15.00.

Achtung! Crisis Chronicles Press presents the long-awaited *Oct Tongue 2*, their biggest book yet (it's like eight books in one!). See October (and so much more) through the eyes of eight of America's finest poets: George Wallace, Lyn Lifshin, Mark Sebastian Jordan, Juliet Cook, Kathleen Cerveney, Dianne Borsenik, Margaret Bashaar, and Eric Anderson.

O'Donnell, Richard M. *Special Watch*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2017. PB \$7.00.

These prose poems are sensitive and often dark true accounts from the author's time working around maternity, pediatrics, and the mentally disturbed at the nation's oldest naval hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Powell, Lynn. *Season of the Second Thought*. The University of Wisconsin Press (Madison, WI) 2017. PB \$14.95.

*Season of the Second Thought* begins in a deep blue mood, longing to find words for what feels beyond saying. Lynn Powell's poems journey through the seasons, quarreling with the muse, reckoning with loss, questioning the heart and its “pedigree of Pentecost,” and seeking out paintings in order to see inside the self. With their crisp observations and iridescent language, these poems accumulate the bounty of an

examined life. These lines emerge from darkness into a shimmering equilibrium—witty, lush, and hard-won.

Rosen, Michael J. *Every Species of Hope: Georgics, Haiku, and Other Poems*. Trillium/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$19.95.

In his first book of poetry in twenty years, Michael J. Rosen captures life in the foothills of the Appalachians. *Every Species of Hope: Georgics, Haiku, and Other Poems* uses a variety of poetic forms, as well as Rosen's own pen-and-ink drawings, to give voice to the predicaments of living among other creatures who share a plot of land we think we claim as home. The poems are an attempt at homeostasis: that balancing act every creature works at every hour of every day—a way of living peacefully, expending the right energy in the most productive ways, avoiding or deflecting trouble, gravitating toward sources of fulfillment and contentment. At the center of this book is a suite of poems inspired by Virgil's *Georgics*, or “poems of pastoral instruction.” In Rosen's case, he is more the student than the teacher. Likewise, five short sections of haiku continue his meditation on—or mediation of—art and nature. As he has written, “Haiku provides a brief and mirror-like calm in the choppy waters—in the undertow—of current events: a stillness in time where more than our singular lives can be reflected.” Illustrated with two dozen pages from the author's own journal, *Every Species of Hope* is the consummation of decades of observation, humility, and awe.

## Young Adult

Alpine, Rachele. *A Void the Size of the World*. Simon Pulse (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

Rhylee didn't mean to kiss her sister's boyfriend. At least, not the first time. But it doesn't matter, because her sister, Abby, caught them together, ran into the dark woods behind their house... and never came home. As evidence mounts that something terrible has happened to Abby, no one wants to face the truth. Rhylee can't bring herself to admit what she's done: that she is the reason her sister ran away. Now Tommy, Abby's boyfriend, is the prime suspect in her disappearance, and Rhylee's world has been turned upside down. Slowly, Rhylee's family is breaking—their lives center on the hope that Abby will return. Rhylee knows they need to face the truth and begin healing—but how can they, when moving on feels like a betrayal? And how do you face the guilt of wishing a person gone... when they actually disappear?

Fritz, Ellen. *Uprising: The Second Birth Chronicles Book 2*. Tell-Tale Publishing Group (Swarz Creek, MI) 2017. PB \$20.00.

Detective Ted Peterson's investigation of a suspicious death leads him to suspect Lexi Collins and her boyfriend Adam. What he discovers is that they're extraterrestrials. Now he's caught up in the conflict between two alien races secretly inhabiting the earth. The Dabih are abducting women and running experiments. The Mira seem friendly toward humans—especially their leader, Sindri. But can Ted trust aliens to help him find the Dabih and rescue the kidnapped women before it's too late?

Gebhart, Ryan. *Of Jenny and the Aliens*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2017. HC \$17.99. When boy meets girl meets alien, the angst of first love gets an extraterrestrial intervention in a tale both outrageously funny and full of heart. Ten years after Earth sent messages out into deep space, there has been an answer. Music from a distant planet has reached our radios. Are aliens about to invade? No one knows, and almost-eighteen-year-old Derek doesn't really care, because at a wild end-of-the-world party, Jennifer Novak invites him to play beer pong. And things . . . progress from there. Derek is in love. Deeply, hopelessly in love. He wants it all—marriage, kids, growing old on a beach in Costa Rica. Jenny is The One. But Jenny has other plans, and they may or may not include Derek. He'll try anything to win her—even soliciting advice from the alien who shows up in his hometown. This alien might just be the answer to Derek's problem. But is Derek willing to risk starting an interstellar war just to get the girl? And just how far will he travel to discover the mysteries of the universe—and love?

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Children of Refuge: Children of Exile Volume 2*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. After Edwy is smuggled off to Refuge City to stay with his brother and sister, Rosi, Bobo, and Cana are stuck alone—and in danger—in Cursed Town in the thrilling follow-up to *Children of Exile*. It's been barely a day since Edwy left Fredtown to be with his parents and, already, he is being sent away. He's smuggled off to boarding

school in Refuge City, where he will be with his brother and sister, who don't even like him very much. The boarding school is nothing like the school that he knew; there's no one around looking up to him now, and he's still not allowed to ask questions! Alone and confused, Edwy seeks out other children brought back from Fredtown and soon discovers that Rosi and the others—still stuck in the Cursed Town—might be in danger. Can Edwy find his way back to his friends before it's too late?

Henry, Emily. *A Million Junes*. Razorbill (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

*Romeo and Juliet* meets *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in Emily Henry's brilliant follow-up to *The Love That Split the World*, about the daughter and son of two long-feuding families who fall in love while trying to uncover the truth about the strange magic and harrowing curse that have plagued their bloodlines for generations. In their hometown of Five Fingers, Michigan, the O'Donnells and the Angerts have mythic legacies. But for all the tall tales they weave, both founding families are tight-lipped about what caused the century-old rift between them, except to say it began with a cherry tree. Eighteen-year-old Jack "June" O'Donnell doesn't need a better reason than that. She's an O'Donnell to her core, just like her late father was, and O'Donnells stay away from Angerts. Period. But when Saul Angert, the son of June's father's mortal enemy, returns to town after three mysterious years away, June can't seem to avoid him. Soon the unthinkable happens: She finds she doesn't exactly hate the gruff, sarcastic boy she was born

to loathe. Saul's arrival sparks a chain reaction, and as the magic, ghosts, and coywolves of Five Fingers conspire to reveal the truth about the dark moment that started the feud, June must question everything she knows about her family and the father she adored. And she must decide whether it's finally time for her—and all of the O'Donnells before her—to let go.

Langdon, Lorie. *Olivia Twist*. Blink/HarperCollins (Grand Rapids, MI) 2018. HC \$18.99. *Olivia Twist* is an innovative reimagining of Charles Dickens's classic tale *Oliver Twist*, in which Olivia was forced to live as a boy for her own safety until she was rescued from the streets. Now eighteen, Olivia finds herself at a crossroads: revealed secrets threaten to destroy the "proper" life she has built for herself, while newfound feelings for an arrogant young man she shouldn't like could derail her carefully laid plans for the future. Olivia Brownlow is no damsel in distress. Born in a workhouse and raised as a boy among thieving London street gangs, she is as tough and cunning as they come. When she is taken in by her uncle after a caper gone wrong, her life goes from fighting and stealing on the streets to lavish dinners and soirees as a debutante in high society. But she can't seem to escape her past...or forget the teeming slums where children just like her still scabble to survive. Jack MacCarron rose from his place in London's East End to become the adopted "nephew" of a society matron. Little does society know that MacCarron is a false name for a boy once known among London gangs as the Artful Dodger, and that he and his "aunt" are

robbing them blind every chance they get. When Jack encounters Olivia Brownlow in places he least expects, his curiosity is piqued. Why is a society girl helping a bunch of homeless orphan thieves? Even more intriguing, why does she remind him so much of someone he once knew? Jack finds himself wondering if going legit and risking it all might be worth it for love.

McBride, Kristina. *The Bakersville Dozen*. SkyPony Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. Back in September, the town of Bakersville, Ohio, made national news when a video went viral featuring thirteen of the high school's elite in compromising positions. Now it's May, and every month since the "Bakersville Dozen" made their infamous appearance on the national stage, one girl has gone missing. Officials are no closer to identifying the criminal. Bailey "Like a Virgin" Holzman is getting really fed up with the scrutiny. She just wants to enjoy the rest of her senior year and have an epic summer before heading off to college. So when she discovers a note in her locker on the last day of school inviting her on a scavenger hunt, she thinks it's just a sweet surprise from her boyfriend trying to cheer her up. But following the clue leads her, instead, to the first official casualty. And another sinister envelope. The killer is close, and it could be anyone. Even the people Bailey's always trusted most—her best friend, her perfect boyfriend, or the boy-next door she's always pined for. With the clock ticking, she faces a terrifying choice: play the game by the killer's rules—follow the clues, tell no one, and no cops—for a chance to save the rest of the

missing girls, or risk becoming the next grisly victim.

McCahan, Erin. *The Lake Effect*. Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. lake effect | n. 1. The effect of any lake, especially the Great Lakes, in modifying the weather in nearby areas 2. The effect of elderly ladies, mysterious girls, and countless funerals, in upending your life, one summer at the beach. It's the summer after senior year, and Briggs Henry is out the door. He's leaving behind his ex-girlfriend and his parents' money troubles for Lake Michigan and its miles of sandy beaches, working a summer job as a personal assistant, and living in a gorgeous Victorian on the shore. It's the kind of house Briggs plans to buy his parents one day when he's a multi-millionaire. But then he gets there. And his eighty-four-year-old boss tells him to put on a suit for her funeral. So begins a summer of social gaffes, stomach cramps, fraught beach volleyball games, moonlit epiphanies, and a drawer full of funeral programs. Add to this Abigail, the mystifying girl next door on whom Briggs's charms just won't work, and "the lake effect" is taking on a whole new meaning.

Philips, L. *Perfect Ten*. Viking (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. It's been two years since Sam broke up with the only other eligible gay guy in his high school, so to say he's been going through a romantic drought is the understatement of the decade. When Meg, his ex-Catholic-turned-Wiccan best friend, suggests performing a love spell, Sam is just desperate enough to try. He crafts a list of ten traits he wants in a boyfriend and burns

it in a cemetery at midnight on Friday the thirteenth. Enter three seemingly perfect guys, all in pursuit of Sam. There's Gus, the suave French exchange student; Jamie, the sweet and shy artist; and Travis, the guitar-playing tattooed enigma. Even Sam's ex-boyfriend, Landon, might want another chance. But does a Perfect Ten even exist? Find out in this coming-of-age story with just a touch of magic.

Rogerson, Margaret. *An Enchantment of Ravens*. Margaret K. McElderry Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

Isobel is a prodigy portrait artist with a dangerous set of clients: the sinister fair folk, immortal creatures who cannot bake bread, weave cloth, or put a pen to paper without crumbling to dust. They crave human Craft with a terrible thirst, and trade valuable enchantments for Isobel's work. But when she receives her first royal patron—Rook, the autumn prince—she makes a terrible mistake. She paints mortal sorrow in his eyes, a weakness that could cost him his life. Furious, Rook spirits her away to the autumnlands to stand trial for her crime. Waylaid by the Wild Hunt's ghostly hounds, the tainted influence of the Alder King, and hideous monsters risen from barrow mounds, Isobel and Rook depend on one another for survival. Their alliance blossoms into trust, then perhaps even love, a forbidden emotion that would violate the fair folk's ruthless Good Law. To save both their lives, Isobel must choose between sacrificing her Craft or using her art to defy the ancient malice of the fairy courts... for Craft may hold more power over the fair folk than she ever imagined.

*Middle Grade & Children's*  
Alpine, Rachele. *You Throw Like a Girl*. Aladdin (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

Gabby's summer vacation isn't shaping up to be that great. Her dad was just deployed overseas, and Gabby is staying at her grandmother's house with her mom and baby sister until he returns. The one bright spot is that Gabby plans to sign up for the local softball league—her greatest love and a passion she shares with her Dad, who was a pitcher in college. But when Gabby goes to sign up for the summer league, she discovers that there wasn't enough interest to justify a girl's team this year. And to top it off, a horrible miscommunication ends with Gabby signed up to participate in the Miss Popcorn Festival—the annual pageant that Gabby's mom dominated when she was younger. Besides not having any interest in the pageant life, Gabby made a promise to her dad that she would play softball for the summer. Since her pitching skills rival any boy her age, Gabby creates a master plan: disguise herself as a boy and sign up for the boy's baseball team instead—and try to win the pageant to make Mom happy. Can Gabby juggle perfecting her pageant walk and perfecting her fastball? Or will this plan strike out?

Cotter, Bill. *Happy Face Sad Face*. Sourcebooks (Naperville, IL) 2017. HC \$7.99.

Faces can communicate a lot of things! Introduce little listeners to what different human emotions can look like, how widely they range, and what else can be learned from an expression in this fun, interactive board book.

Cotter, Bill. *Little Face Big Face*. Sourcebooks (Naperville, IL) 2017. HC \$7.99.

Faces can communicate a lot of things! Introduce little listeners to what different animal traits and emotions can look like, how widely they range, and what else can be learned from an expression in this fun, interactive board book.

Dougherty, Shawn. Illus. by Leah Busch. *Wake*. Blue Manatee Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. HC \$17.99. Awoken by his friend Owl in the quiet hours of the night, a boy ventures out to his special place in the forest. Owl is waiting there, along with Oak and Moon, and together they teach the boy about the sacred power of nature to connect all things. Filled with striking watercolor illustrations and poetic text, *Wake* is a quiet celebration of our bond with the natural world.

Jones, Sarah. *Alphabet Family Band*. Blue Manatee Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. HC \$7.99.

Add a little rhythm to your ABCs with this latest addition to the *ROYGBaby* series. Grab your congas, flutes, and xylophones—it's an Alphabet Family Band! Bright, colorful illustrations feature members of a family playing a host of different musical instruments in a warm island setting. Harmoniously combining two concepts (letters and music), this lively board book will soon become a family favorite.

Knowlton, Laurie Lazzaro. Illus. by Kathryn Mitter. *Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse*. Albert Whitman & Company (Chicago, IL) 2017. HC \$16.99.

Maple syrup season is here! Kelsey and her father begin harvesting sap from sugar maple trees. Family and friends join them to help in the process of turning the sap into maple syrup.

Lewis, J. Patrick, and Leigh Lewis. *It's Not the Baby*. Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2017. HC \$9.99. Who is making all the mischief in this house? It's not the baby! Short rhyming lines in this board book pose a toddler-appropriate whodunit, and expressive art shows the true culprits. Little ones will chime in on the repeated title refrain and will delight in the surprise ending—when of course, it finally IS the baby.

Libenson, Terri. *Invisible Emmie*. Balzer & Bray (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$10.99. This is the story of two totally different girls—quiet, shy, artistic Emmie, and popular, outgoing, athletic Katie—and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day, when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands. All the crushes, humiliations, boredom, and drama of middle school are compressed into one surprising day in this extraordinary graphic novel.

Long, Loren. *Otis Gives Thanks*. Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$8.99. Giving thanks makes Otis happy. He gives thanks for the land and country he loves. Otis is thankful for time to play games like hide-and-seek and ring-around-the-rosy. He cherishes his farm friends who make life on the ranch as happy as can be. And most of all, everyone's favorite tractor is thankful for the greatest thing in life: love.

Pilkey, Dav. *Dog Man #3: A Tale of Two Kitties*. Graphix (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$9.99. He was the best of dogs... He was the worst of dogs... It was the age of invention... It was the season of surprise... It was the eve of supa sadness... It was the dawn of hope... Dog Man, the newest hero from the creator of Captain Underpants, hasn't always been a paws-itive addition to the police force. While he can muzzle miscreants, he tends to leave a slick of slobber in his wake! This time, Petey the cat's dragged in a tiny bit of trouble—a double in the form of a super-cute kitten. Dog Man will have to work twice as hard to bust these furballs and remain top dog!

Pilkey, Dav. *Dog Man #4: Dog Man and Cat Kid*. Graphix (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$9.99. Hot diggity dog! Dog Man, the newest hero from Dav Pilkey, the creator of Captain Underpants, is back—and this time he's not alone. The heroic hound with a real nose for justice now has a furry feline sidekick, and together they have a mystery to sniff out! When a new kitty sitter arrives and a glamorous movie starlet goes missing, it's up to Dog Man and Cat Kid to save the day! Will these heroes stay hot on the trail, or will Petey, the World's Most Evil Cat, send them barking up the wrong tree?

Ream, Julie Seabrook. *Encyclopedia of Rainbows: Our World Organized by Color*. Chronicle Books (San Francisco, CA) 2017. HC \$16.95. This playful collection of rainbows is a bright and beautiful appreciation of all the color that surrounds us. Artist Julie Seabrook Ream invites us to see the extraordinary beauty of

ordinary objects: she gathers colorful iterations of a single type of thing, from feathers to fishing gear, matchbooks to macarons, and neatly arranges them in rainbow order. A fascinating index details all the objects in each rainbow, bringing the magnetic appeal of meticulous organization to this burst of color in book form. A striking package, with foil stamping on the cover and a rainbow-colored spine, makes this celebratory book a treasure for those who love art, design, and a fresh perspective.

Rosenberg, Meira. *Indiana Bamboo*. Iris Press (Oak Ridge, TN) 2017. PB \$12.00. Two days before Indiana Bamboo's eleventh birthday, Paradise Pets, her favorite store in the small town of River Creek, is robbed. All the animals are missing, from her beloved Maurice the Brown Bear to Princess Penelope, the puppy she's been coveting, and Indiana is on the case! She teams up with her best friend, Jamie, and her new friend, Tom, to search for clues. The kids tangle with the petnappers all over town, but all is nearly lost when Indiana suspects that Tom is a no-good double-crosser who's in cahoots with the bad guys. Just when things couldn't get worse, Indiana overhears the petnappers at Stefano Stefano's Ice Cream Parlor plotting to make the animals disappear forever. There's no time to lose, but how can Indiana foil their evil plan and rescue the animals before it's too late?

Rylant, Cynthia. Illus. by Brendan Wenzel. *Life*. Beach Lane Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. Life begins small, then grows... There are so many wonderful things about life, both in good

times and in times of struggle. Through the eyes of the world's animals—including elephants, monkeys, whales, and more—Cynthia Rylant offers a moving meditation on finding beauty around us every day and finding strength in adversity. Brendan Wenzel's stunning landscapes and engaging creatures make this an inspiring and intriguing gift for readers of all ages.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Nativity*. Beach Lane Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

In the spirit of her acclaimed *Dog Heaven* and *Cat Heaven*, Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant illustrates the nativity story in her powerful folk art style. Rylant takes the beloved text of the nativity story, as told in the King James Bible, and lovingly illustrates it in her simple but bold style.

Schuett, Michaela. *I Am a Unicorn!* Sky Pony Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$16.99.

Frog truly believes he is a unicorn. He has a rainbow-colored (clip on) tail, a pretty horn (party hat), and he can fly, too (on the swings). Goat keeps telling Frog he is NOT a unicorn. But when you truly believe, sometimes magic happens.

Singer, Marilyn. Illus. by Kristi Valiant. *Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing*. Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

A vibrant collection of poems celebrating all forms of social dance, from samba and salsa to tango and hip-hop. The rhythm of each poem mimics the beat of the dances' steps. Together with Kristi Valiant's dynamic illustrations, the poems create a window to all the

ways dance enters our lives and exists throughout many cultures. This ingenious collection will inspire readers to get up and move! Included with the book is an audio CD of the author reading each poem accompanied by music from composer Jonathon Roberts.

Speno, Andrew. *The Great American Foot Race: Ballyhoo for the Bunion Derby!* Calkins Creek (Honesdale, PA) 2017. HC \$17.95. This accessible and thoroughly researched nonfiction debut introduces young readers to a fascinating, little-known event—the Transcontinental Foot Race, which came to be known as the Bunion Derby. It is set in 1928, the height of the Roaring Twenties—a time of optimism, a time of excess, and the Age of Ballyhoo. Publicity-seeking Americans tried to outdo each other with outrageous stunts. Dance marathoners danced for days on end, pole-sitters sat atop flagpoles for weeks, trained athletes worked to beat records, and Charles Lindbergh made the first solo transatlantic flight. What could top this? Cyrus Avery, an ordinary Oklahoma businessman, teamed up with C.C. Pyle, the “P.T. Barnum of Professional Sports,” to hold a transcontinental foot race. More than 100 men of all races and nationalities started the race in California and faced all manner of obstacles—from extreme weather to poor food and living conditions to prejudice to injury—to make the cross-country journey across the United States, ending in New York City. This “Bunion Derby” pushed human endurance to the limits in an unforgettable show of “ballyhoo.” This book is written in a folksy style that perfectly captures the mood and tone of the late 1920s

and includes archival photographs, a map of the derby route, stats, a bibliography, and source notes.

Springstubb, Tricia. *Cody and the Heart of a Champion*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2017. HC \$14.99.

In Cody's life, some people keep her on her toes—just like Mother Nature, who is warm one day and snowy the next. Or like Cody's brother, Wyatt, who has started wearing collared shirts because his girlfriend likes them. Meanwhile, Pearl has begun playing soccer and it's all she can talk about. Spencer is busy creating a mysterious museum underneath GG's house and he's never around to play. And Spencer's mom doesn't look any different; could she really have a baby growing inside her? Maybe the baby is like Cody's beloved ants, waiting patiently inside the earth for spring to arrive. It seems like everything around Cody is changing—from seasons to friendships—but if she can navigate it all with her trademark enthusiasm, maybe the most important things will stay the same.

Springstubb, Tricia. *Cody and the Rules of Life*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2017. HC \$14.99.

In Cody's life, many things are hard to predict. Like why her older brother, Wyatt, is obsessed with his new bicycle called the Cobra, or why her best friend Pearl suddenly wants to trade favorite toys. Pearl says she will trust Cody with Arctic Fox because Cody is a trusty person. But Cody doesn't want to give up her beloved Gremlin, and she regrets it as soon as she hands him over. When the Cobra goes missing, Cody has to decide for herself who is trusty and who is

not. If only she had Gremlin to talk to! Surely Pearl wouldn't mind if she secretly traded back...it's not stealing if it belonged to you in the first place, right?

Umrigar, Thrity. Illus. by Ziyue Chen. *When I Carried You in My Belly*. Running Press (Philadelphia, PA) 2017. HC \$16.99.

The special bond between a mother and her child begins well before the baby is born. But once the baby is born and starts to grow into her own person, traits from both parents begin to show themselves in delightful and humorous ways.

*When I Carried You in My Belly* is a mother's song to her growing daughter, capturing the warmth and magic of the time when her daughter was housed inside her belly. The girl's laugh, her love of music, her sweet disposition, and her carefree attitude can all be traced back to her time in her mother's tummy, when her mother would laugh, sing songs, eat treats, and dance the day away.

## COMING SOON

**Thurber House Evenings with Authors** Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio  
The 2018 winter/spring series kicks off February 6 with travel writer Lori Erickson. For more information, visit <http://www.thurberhouse.org/evenings-with-authors/>

**Author Night: Michael Nye** February 15, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Gramercy Books, Bexley, Ohio  
Join the lauded author for the launch of his debut novel, *All the Castles Burned*, a coming of age story that takes place in Ohio. For more information, visit <https://www.gramercybooksbexley.com/events>

**Ohioana Book Club** February 21, 2018. 10:00 a.m. to noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio  
The book for February is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, the 2017 Ohioana Award winner for Book About Ohio or an Ohioan. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

**The Friends 2018 Speaker Series: Ann Hagedorn** February 22, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Ohio History Center, Columbus, Ohio  
Three-time Ohioana Award-winning author and historian Ann Hagedorn kicks off this new series presented by the Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden. For more information, email [director@friendsohio.org](mailto:director@friendsohio.org)

**Ohioana Book Festival** April 14, 2018, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square  
Join us for the 12th annual Ohioana Book Festival! The event will feature panel discussions, a book fair with 120 Ohio authors, kids room and activities, teen space, food trucks, and more. Free and open to the public. No ticket and no advance registration required. For more information, visit <http://www.ohioana.org>

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