

# OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2018 | VOL. 61 NO. 2

## OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

# Contents

## FEATURES

- 4**      **2018 Ohioana Book Festival**
- 16**     **An Interview with Christina Wald**

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 20**     **Nonfiction**
- 23**     **Fiction**
- 27**     **Drama & Poetry**
- 29**     **Young Adult**
- 30**     **Middle Grade**
- 31**     **Children's**

## BOOKS AND EVENTS

- 33**     **Book List**
- 43**     **Coming Soon**

# OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2018

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### EX-OFFICIO

Karen Waldbillig Kasich, Columbus

### ELECTED

President: Daniel Shuey, Westerville

Vice-President: John Sullivan, Plain City

Secretary: Geoffrey Smith, Columbus

Treasurer: Jay Yurkiw, Columbus

Gillian Berchowitz, Athens

Rudine Sims Bishop, Columbus

Helen F. Bolte, Columbus

Katie Brandt, Columbus

Lisa Evans, Johnstown

Bryan Loar, Columbus

Mary Heather Munger, Perrysburg

Louise Musser, Delaware

Claudia Plumley, Dublin

Cynthia Puckett, Columbus

David Siders, Cincinnati

Yolanda Danyi Szuch, Perrysburg

Jacquelyn L. Vaughan, Dublin

### APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Carl Denbow, Ph.D., Athens

Carol Garner, Mount Vernon

H.C. "Buck" Niehoff, Cincinnati

### TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Francis Ott Allen, Cincinnati

Christina Butler, Ph.D., Columbus

James Hughes, Ph.D., Dayton

George Knepper, Ph.D., Stow

Robert Webner, Columbus

## OHIOANA STAFF

Executive Director.....David Weaver

Office Manager.....Kathryn Powers

Library Specialist.....Courtney Brown

Program Coordinator.....Morgan Peters

Editor.....Leslie Birdwell Shortlidge

Co-Editor.....Stephanie Michaels

The *Ohioana Quarterly* (ISSN 0030-1248) is currently published four times a year by the Ohioana Library Association, 274 East First Avenue, Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Individual subscriptions to the *Ohioana Quarterly* are available through membership in the Association; \$35 of membership dues pays the required subscription. Single copy \$6.50. U.S. postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Send address changes to Ohioana Quarterly, 274 E. First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio, 43201. Copyright © 2018 by the Ohioana Library Association. All rights reserved. Printed by PXPOHIO.

# From the Director



Dear Friends,

”Spring is the time of plans and projects.”

So wrote the great Russian author Leo Tolstoy in his classic novel, *Anna Karenina*. And it is certainly true: the season brings plans for spring holidays to graduations to weddings, and big projects from giving the house a thorough cleaning to planting the garden.

For Ohioana, spring marks the time when months of planning result in our biggest project of the year: the annual Ohioana Book Festival.

It’s hard to believe that when the Ohioana Book Festival opens its doors at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, we’ll be celebrating a dozen years of connecting readers and Ohio writers in what has become our state’s largest literary event. As you can see from our cover story, we will once again present a dazzling array of authors representing every literary genre and offering something to delight every reader.

As it has been since the beginning, the festival is free and open to the public, a family-friendly event with no ticket and no advance registration required. This wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners, our dedicated volunteers, and the participating authors and publishers. Most of all, the festival would not be possible without YOU.

In addition to the book festival, our spring issue features book reviews, a list of titles recently received in our collection, and a calendar of literary happenings across the state.

We wish you a wonderful spring in which all your plans and projects may be fruitful. Most of all, we hope your spring “to do” list includes joining us for the Ohioana Book Festival on April 14 at the Sheraton Columbus.

See you there!

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

David Weaver  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

This issue’s cover comes from the 2018 Ohioana Book Festival poster. The artwork was created by children’s book illustrator Christina Wald, who will appear at the event on April 14. Learn more about Christina and her work on page 16!

# Ohioana Book Festival

Join Us April 14 at the Sheraton Columbus for the 12th Annual Festival!

by David Weaver

Love reading? Enjoy mingling with authors and other readers? Then the Ohioana Book Festival was made for you! And it's FREE!

The twelfth annual edition of the festival takes place at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square on Saturday, April 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. No tickets and no advance registration are required.

Whether you're new to the festival or a long-time attendee, we promise you'll have a great time: an all-day extravaganza that features panel discussions, activities for kids and teens, a huge book fair, food trucks, and more! And thanks to you, it's grown to become the state's largest event dedicated to Ohio authors and literature.



A lively panel discussion during the 2017 Ohioana Book Festival

Speaking of Ohio authors—with 120 coming to the festival, you're sure to meet your favorites and also find new ones. This is your chance to learn firsthand what goes into your favorite fiction, nonfiction, and books for young readers—and get autographed copies while you're there! Yes, the Ohioana Book Festival is a book lover's dream!

## MEET THE AUTHORS

The stellar lineup of authors this year (check out the complete list starting on page 6) represents every genre from picture books to poetry, from novels to nonfiction.

As we like to say, there is something for every reader of every age at the Ohioana Book Festival!

Among the authors are more than a dozen Ohioana Book Award winners. And nearly twenty authors are featured from Choose to Read Ohio, a special collaborative project of the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana, and the Ohio Center for the Book that encourages everyone to

“Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life.”

We're excited that, in addition to many popular authors making return visits to the festival, we have twenty-eight authors who are making their first appearance with their debut books. It's always a thrill to introduce readers to the new authors who may soon become their favorites!

By the way, the Sheraton Columbus is not the only place you'll be seeing festival authors. Many of them will be doing outreach in the community during the week leading up to the main event—visiting schools and libraries, making appearances on radio and television, and other activities. We'll keep you posted on our website about these events.

## DIALOGUES & DISCUSSIONS

The heart of Saturday's program has always been the panels and roundtables. Festival goers tell us they love to hear authors talk about their books and discuss



A young reader at the 2017 Ohioana Book Festival

their creative process. Each discussion lasts forty-five minutes and includes ample time for questions from the audience.

Practically every literary genre is covered. We'll also present our annual roundtable on publishing—everything you wanted to know about getting your book in print! Check out our website for the list of the panels and participating authors.

### **FUN FOR KIDS**

Our special “Kid’s Room” is back and better than ever. Once again, we’ll have a full day of activities just for kids, from crafts and games to building with Legos® to balloon twisting.

We’ll also have visits throughout the day from the festival’s children’s authors, who will be reading stories, drawing pictures, and leading other fun creative things. And some special surprises, too!

### **JUST FOR TEENS**

For the third year, the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA) is proud to partner with Ohioana for the festival with special programming for the Teen Space. Activities will include a “makerspace” filled with exciting materials you can use to wonder, imagine, and create. School librarians will be on hand to guide you with these hands-on activities.

In addition, the Teen Space will offer special sessions with a number of Ohio authors and illustrators who will discuss tips for writing and illustrating for publication. It lets the teens get up close and personal with these authors—to ask questions, get autographs, and take selfies.

### **COME JOIN US!**

*Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers.*

Ohioana Library’s tagline says it all. And no event does this better than the Ohioana Book Festival! As we’ve said before, it’s a book lover’s dream. And it wouldn’t be possible without the many authors, sponsors, donors, partners, and volunteers who play a part.

Most of all, it wouldn’t be possible without readers like you. The Ohioana Book Festival was created for you. And it exists because of you. We’ll see you at the Sheraton Columbus on April 14!

For updates and further information, visit [www.ohioanabookfestival.org](http://www.ohioanabookfestival.org).



Readers and writers at the 2017 Ohioana Book Festival

# Festival Authors

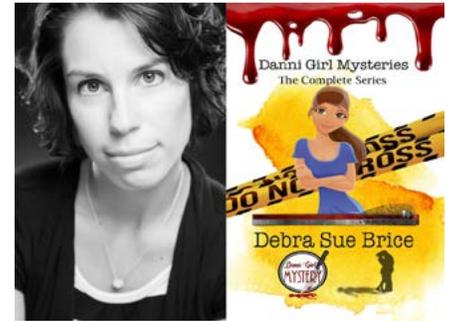
## FICTION



Tom Batiuk



Laura Bickle



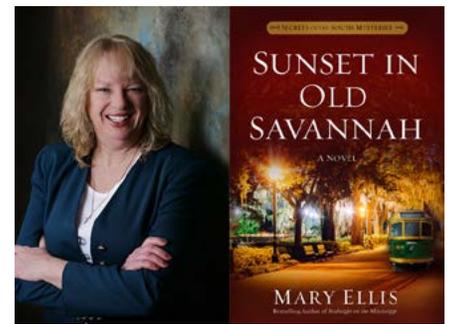
Debra Sue Brice



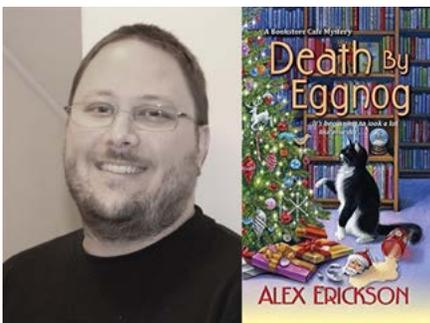
Casey Daniels



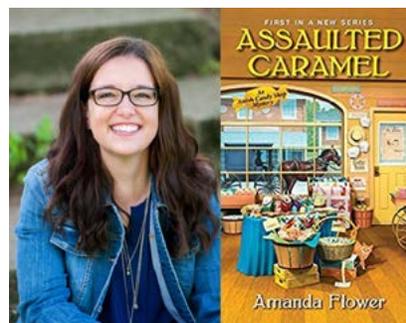
Meredith Doench



Mary Ellis



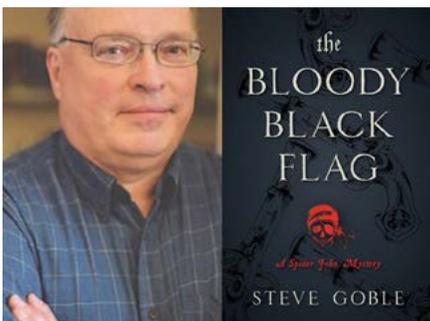
Alex Erickson



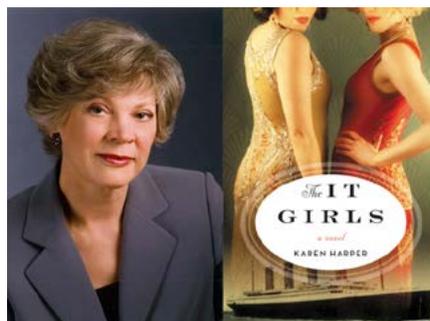
Amanda Flower



Robin Gianna



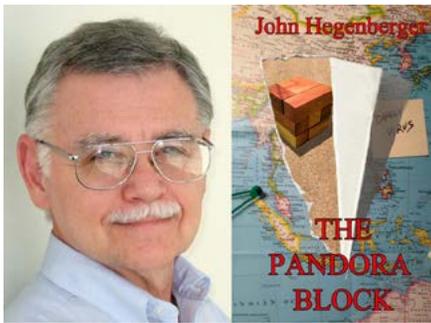
Steve Goble



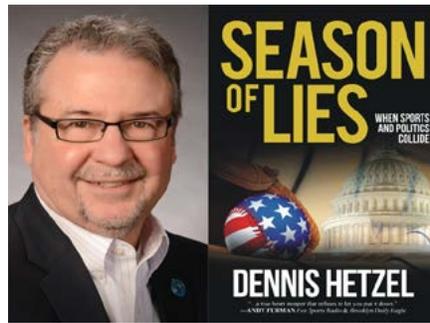
Karen Harper



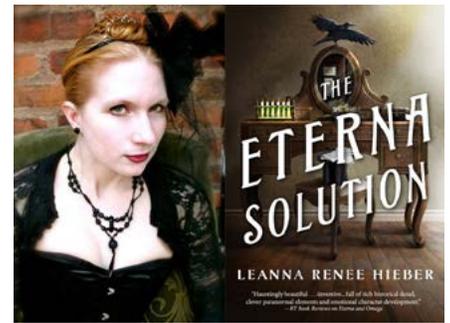
Sherri Hayes



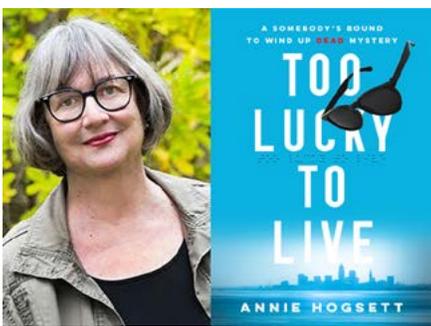
John Hegenberger



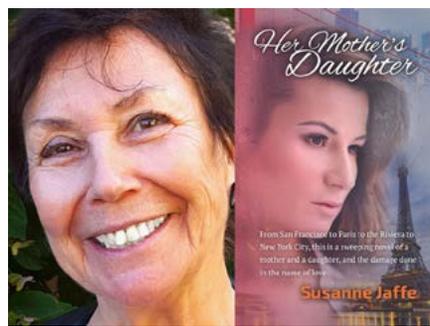
Dennis Hetzel



Leanna Renee Hieber



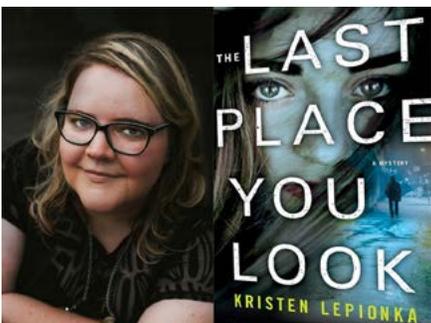
Annie Hogsett



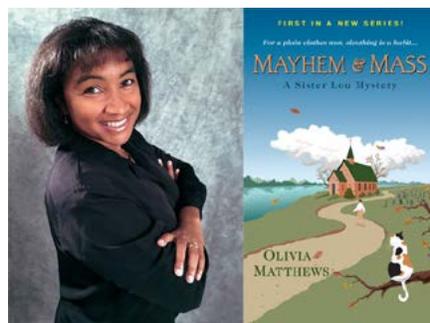
Susanne Jaffe



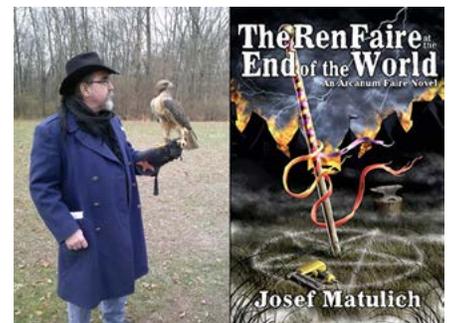
Jillian Kuhlmann



Kristen Lepionka



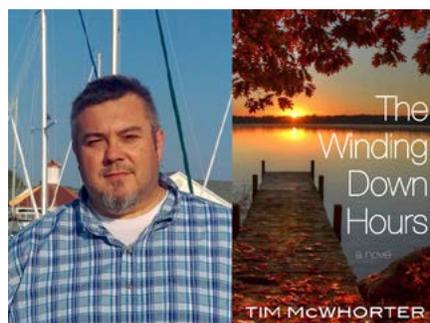
Olivia Matthews



Josef Matulich



Tiffany McDaniel

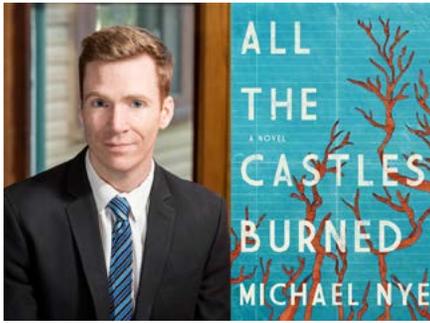


Tim McWhorter

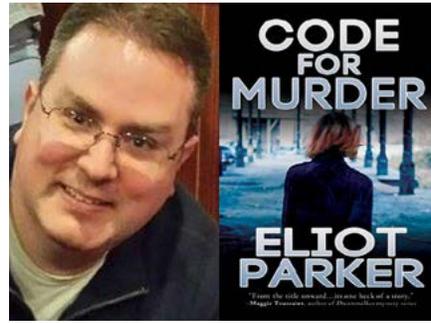


Susie Newman

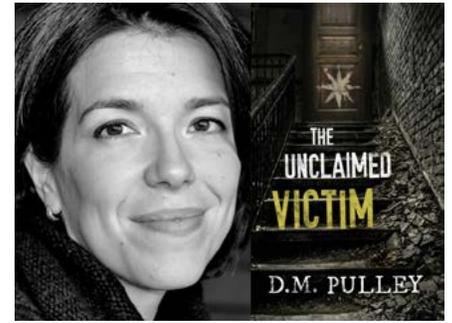
FICTION (cont.)



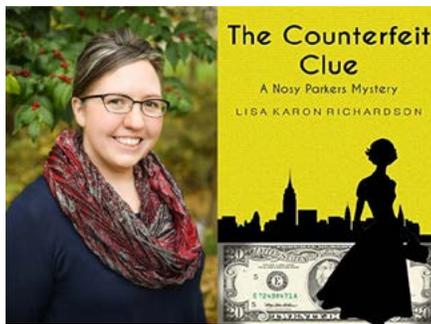
Michael Nye



Eliot Parker



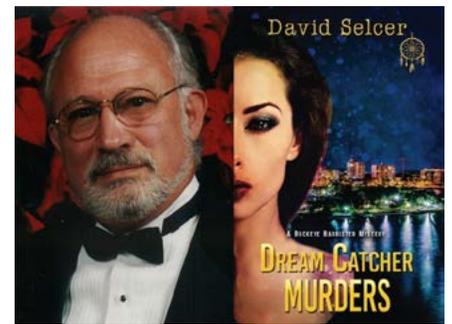
D. M. Pulley



Lisa Karon Richardson



Linda Robertson



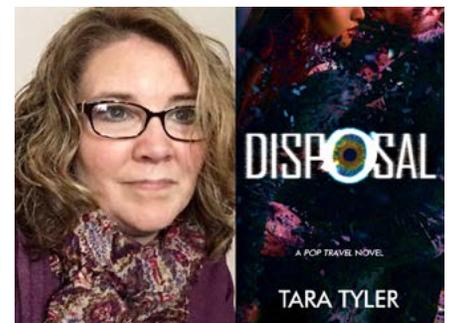
David Selcer



Lucy A. Snyder



Jessica Strawser



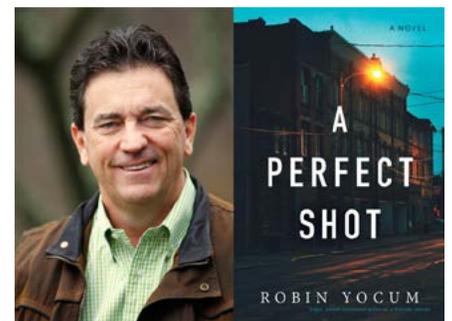
Tara Tyler



Andrew Welsh-Huggins

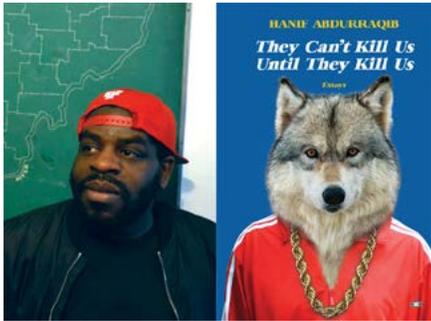


Nick White

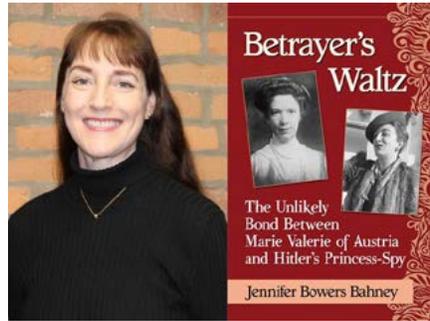


Robin Yocum

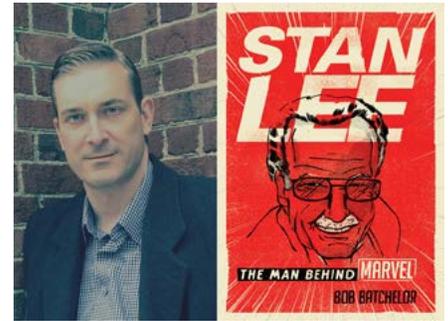
NONFICTION



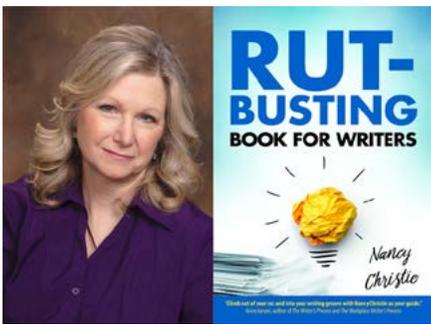
Hanif Abdurraqib



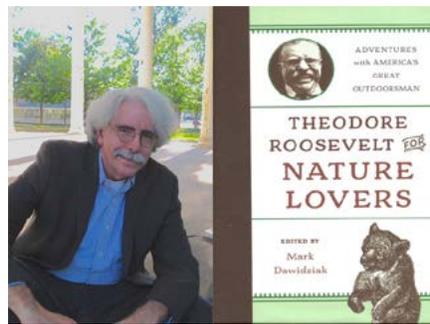
Jennifer Bowers Bahney



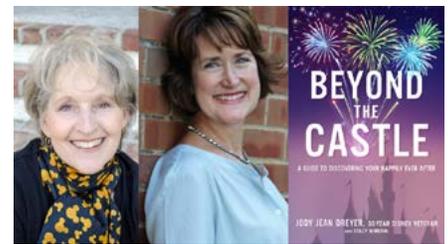
Bob Batchelor



Nancy Christie



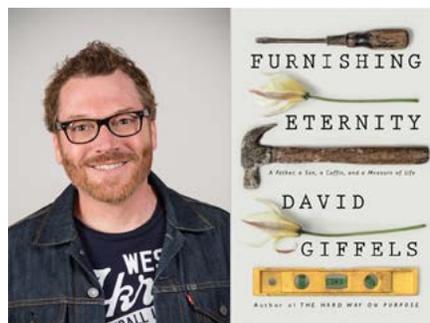
Mark Dawidziak



Jody Jean Dreyer and Stacy Windahl



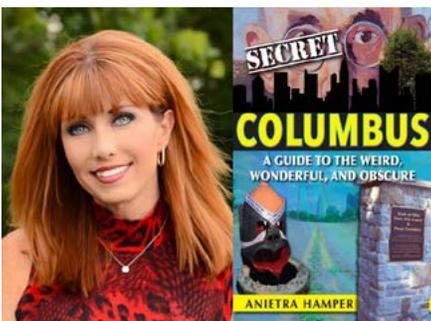
Dan Gearino



David Giffels



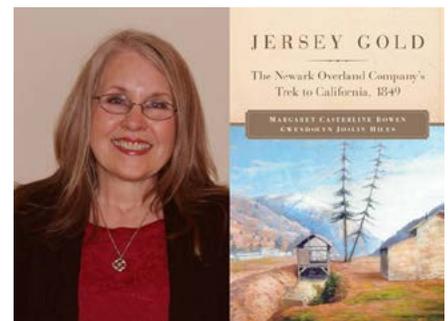
Jill Grunenwald



Anietra Hamper

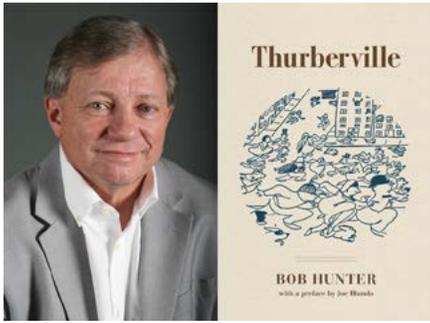


Christine Hayes and Doug Motz

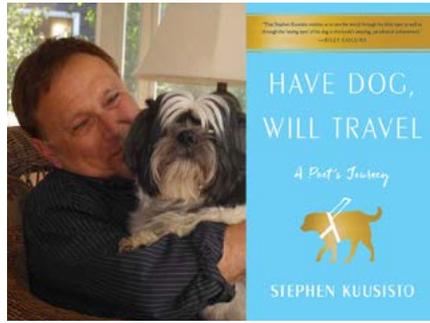


Gwendolyn Joslin Hiles

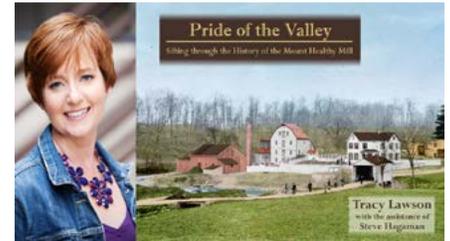
**NONFICTION (cont.)**



Bob Hunter



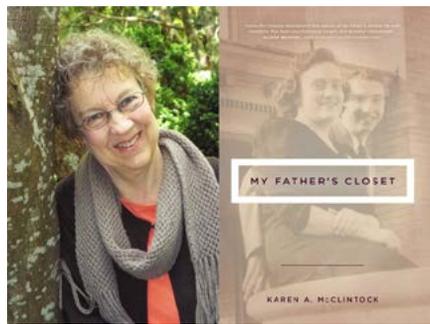
Stephen Kuusisto



Tracy Lawson



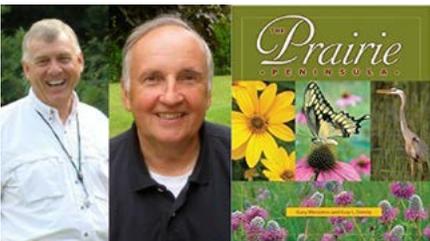
Susannah Maynard



Karen A. McClintock



Sarah Menkedick



Gary Meszaros and Guy L. Denny



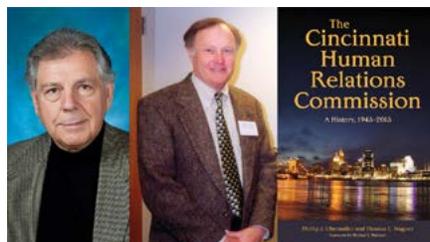
David Meyers and Elise Meyers Walker



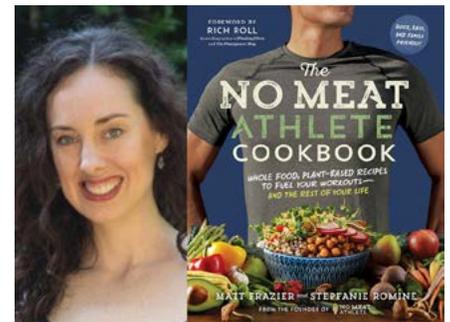
Dan Méndez Moore



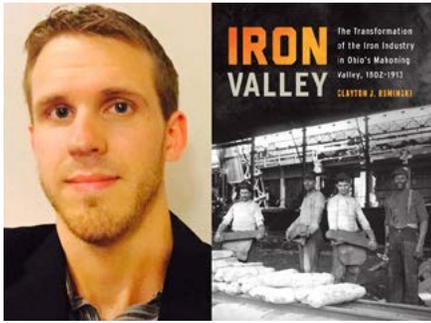
Greg Murray



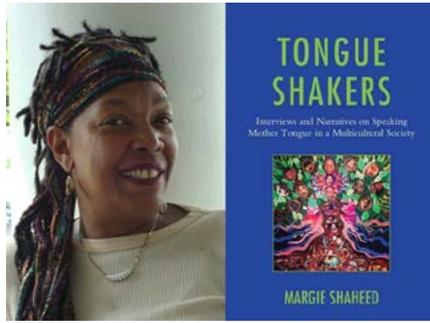
Phillip J. Obermiller and Thomas E. Wagner



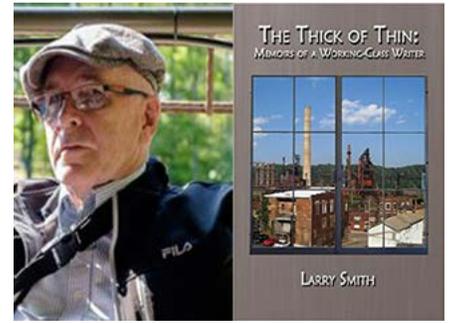
Stefanie Romine



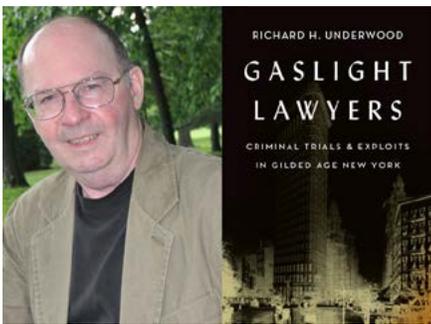
Clayton J. Ruminski



Margie Shaheed



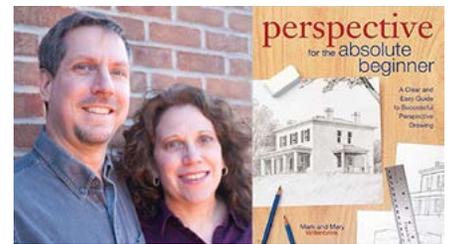
Larry Smith



Richard H. Underwood



Jeannie Vanasco

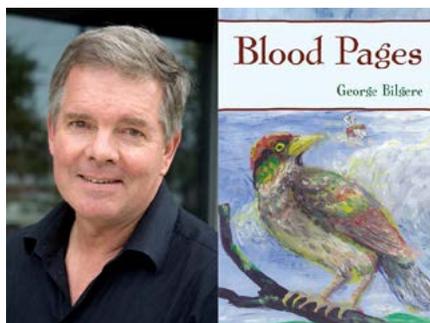


Mark Willenbrink and Mary Willenbrink

**POETRY**



Ruth Awad



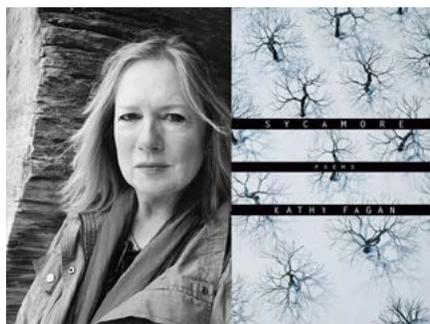
George Bilgere



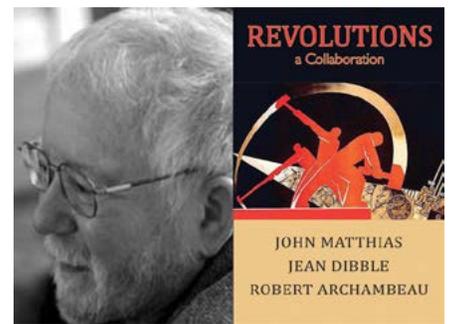
Teri Ellen Cross Davis



Darren C. Demaree

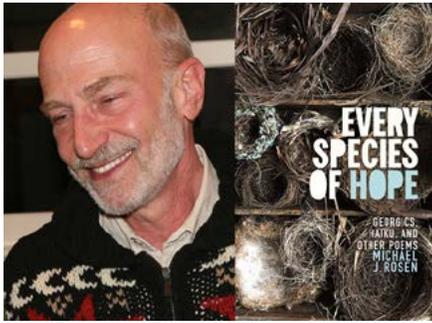


Kathy Fagan

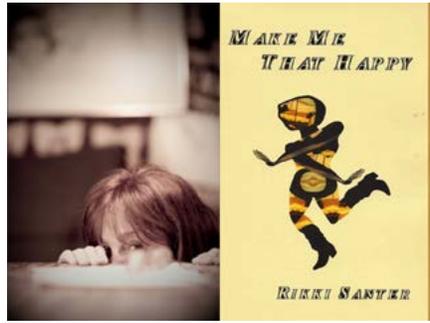


John Matthias

**POETRY (cont.)**



Michael J. Rosen



Rikki Santer

**YOUNG ADULT**



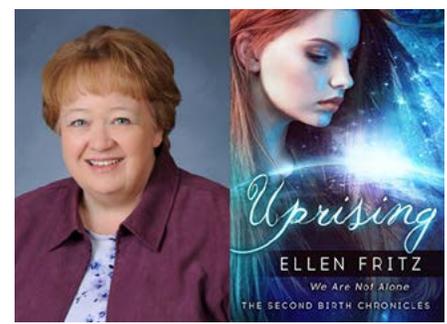
Chelsea Bobulski



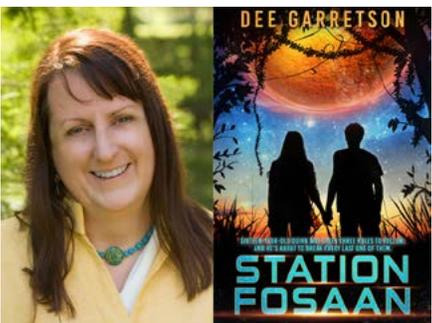
Cinda Williams Chima



Carey Corp



Ellen Fritz



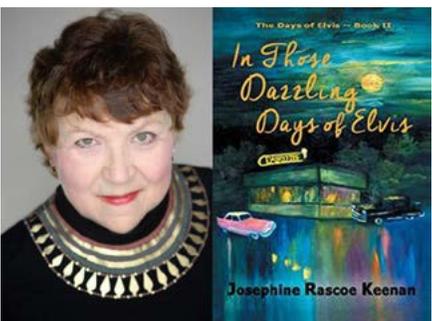
Dee Garretson



Margaret Peterson Haddix



Krysten Lindsay Hager



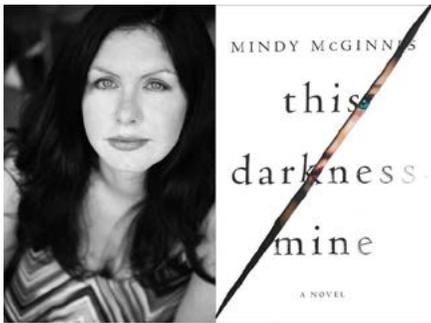
Josephine Rascoe Keenan



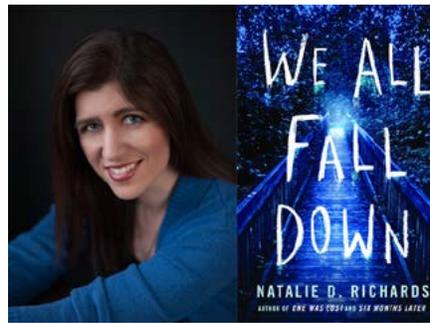
Lorie Langdon



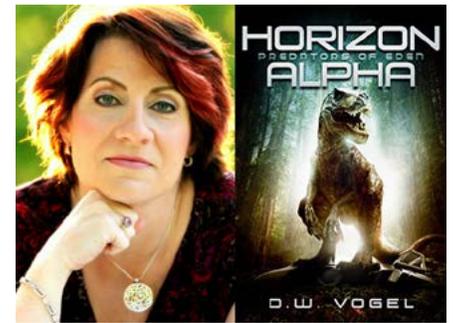
Kristina McBride



Mindy McGinnis



Natalie D. Richards

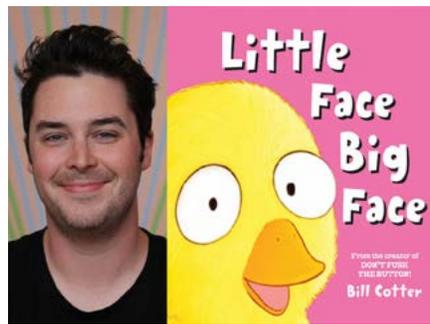


D. W. Vogel

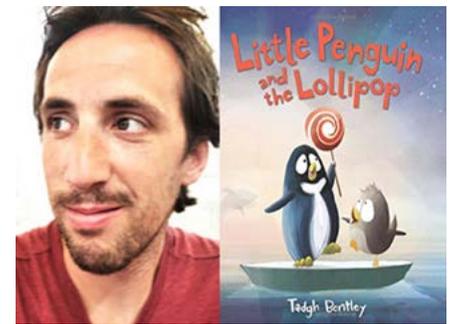
### CHILDREN'S & MIDDLE GRADE



Kerry Winfrey



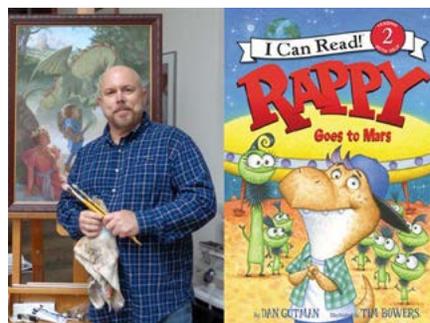
Bill Cotter



Tadgh Bentley



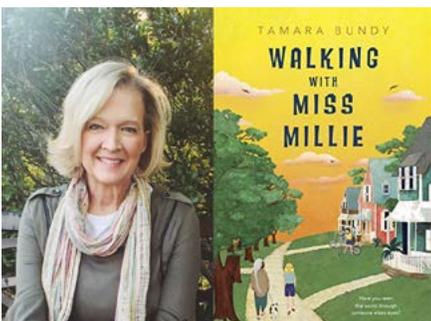
Emma Carlson Berne



Tim Bowers



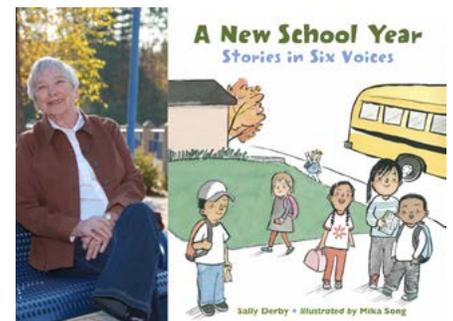
Gary Buettner



Tamara Bundy

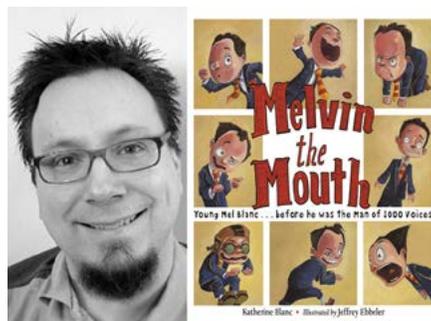


Mary Kay Carson

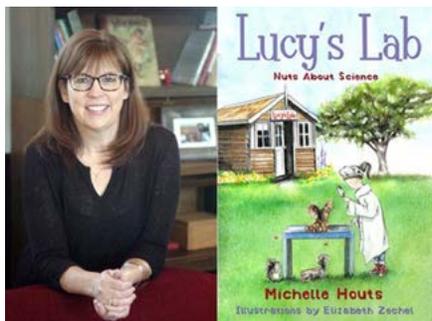


Sally Derby

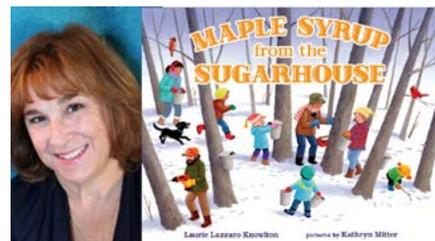
**CHILDREN'S & MIDDLE GRADE (cont.)**



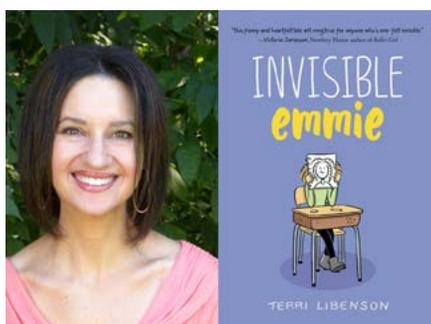
Jeffrey Ebbeler



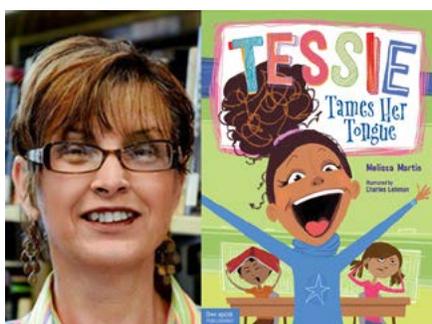
Michelle Houts



Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton



Terri Libenson



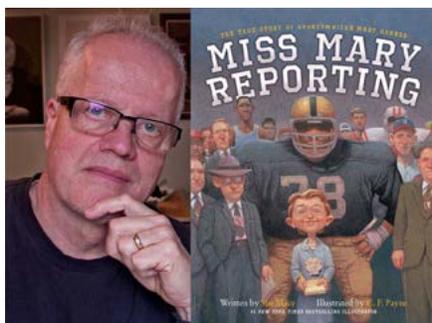
Melissa Martin



Jennifer Maschari



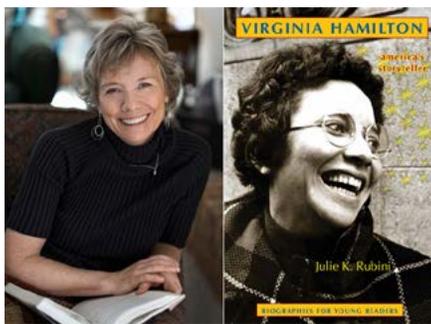
Judy Carey Nevin



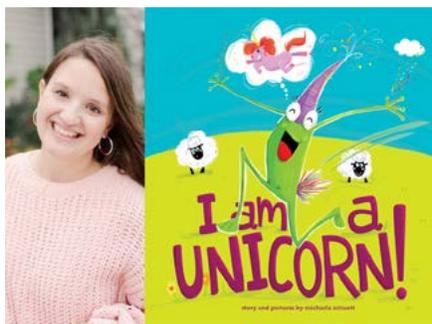
C. F. Payne



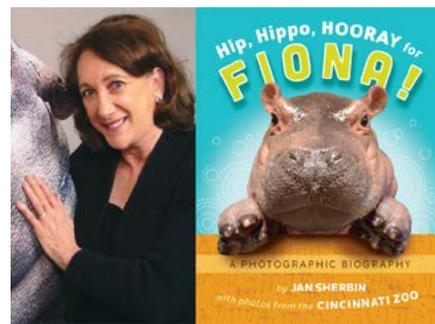
Julie Seabrook Ream



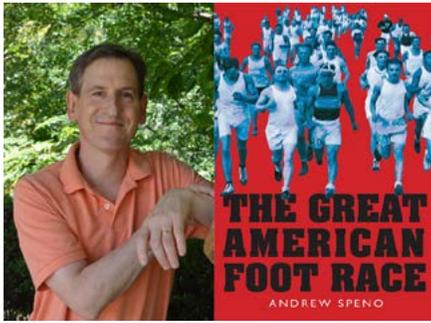
Julie K. Rubini



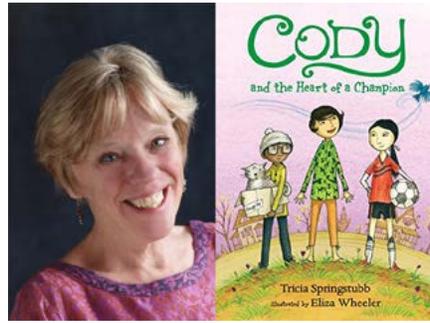
Michaela Schuett



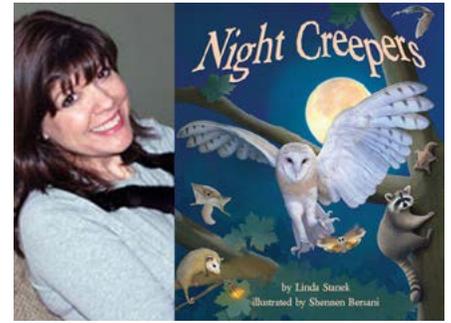
Jan Sherbin



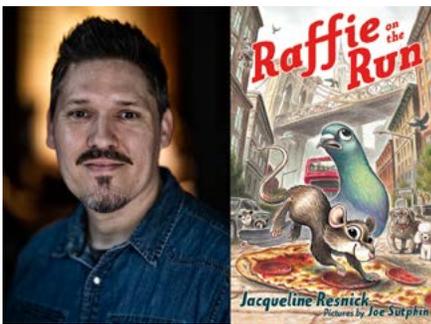
Andrew Speno



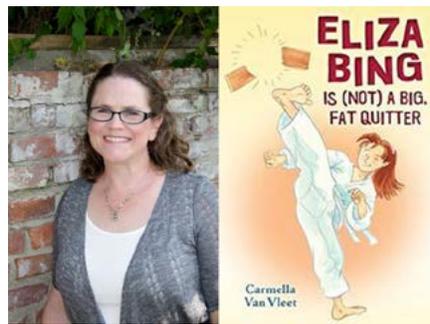
Tricia Springstubb



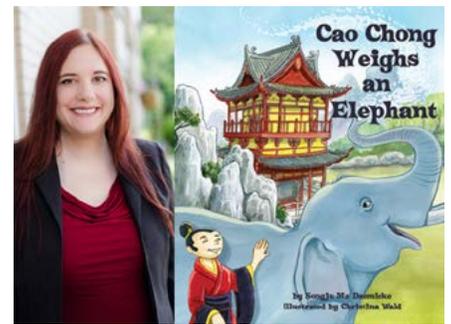
Linda Stanek



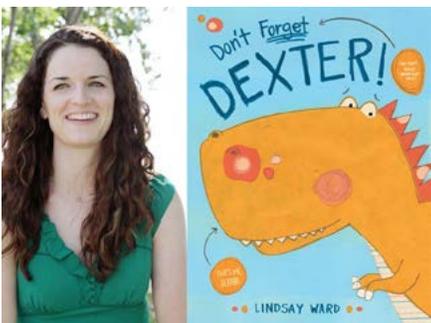
Joe Sutphin



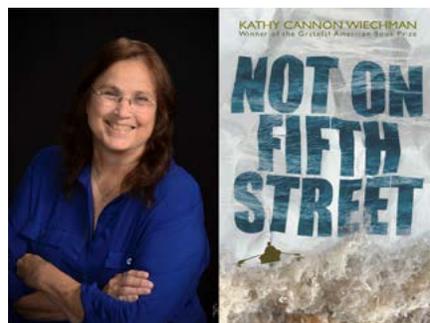
Carmella Van Vleet



Christina Wald



Lindsay Ward



Kathy Cannon Wiechman

# An Interview with Christina Wald

by Kathryn Powers



Christina Wald

*The 2018 Ohioana Book Festival poster was designed by illustrator Christina Wald. An artist specializing in animal and science illustration, Christina gave Ohioana a behind the scenes look at her creative process and her latest book.*

**Q** What was your inspiration behind the design of the book festival poster art?

**A** I loved the past posters and noticed how much freedom the artists had to do a really cool illustration. When I started sketching, I pursued a couple different directions: a space theme (since Ohio has more astronauts than any other state) and fantastical animal flights of fancy.

**Q** What inspired you to become an illustrator? Was there a specific book, author, or artist that influenced your passion for children's literature?

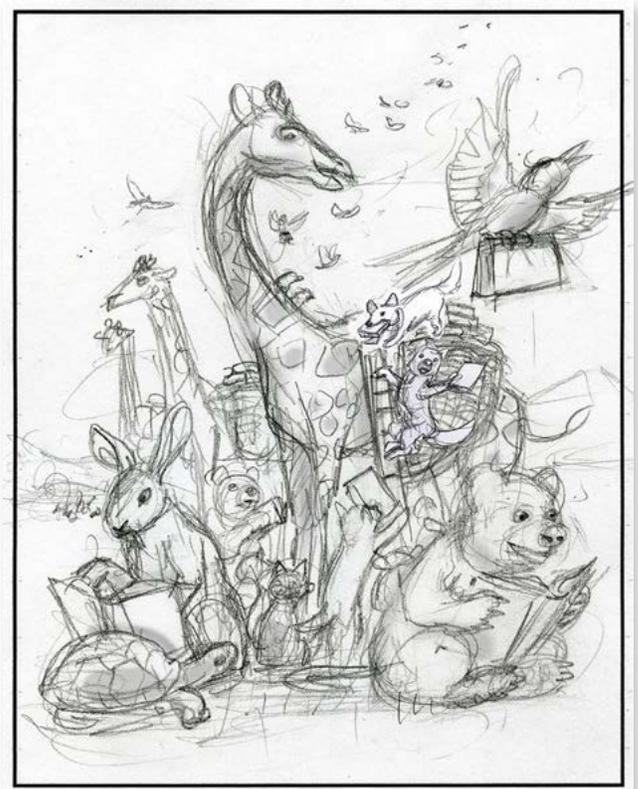
**A** My love of comics. I became obsessed with them as a young teen when I read Wendy Pini's *Elfquest*.

**Q** Can you tell us about your creative process? Do you spend a lot of time sketching and planning, or do you like to paint by the seat of your pants?

**A** I start by brainstorming in my sketchbook. I do a bunch of thumbnail ideas and then develop them into rough sketches. Once I have the design down, I put together reference images in Photoshop.

**Q** Can you tell us a little about the title you're bringing to the Ohioana Book Festival?

**A** I have a variety of books that recently came out. *Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant*, which came out last fall, was just named a Mathical Honor book. It is also on the Notable Social Studies list, a Best STEM Book, and Outstanding Science Trade Book. It was written by Songju Ma Daemicke and is the first of my books that I have painted in watercolor.



Concept art for the 2017 festival poster



# FUN

for

# EVERYONE!

## KIDS' ROOM

### **AUTHOR VISITS**

Meet Ohio authors and illustrators

### **HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

Crafts, Legos, dress-up and more

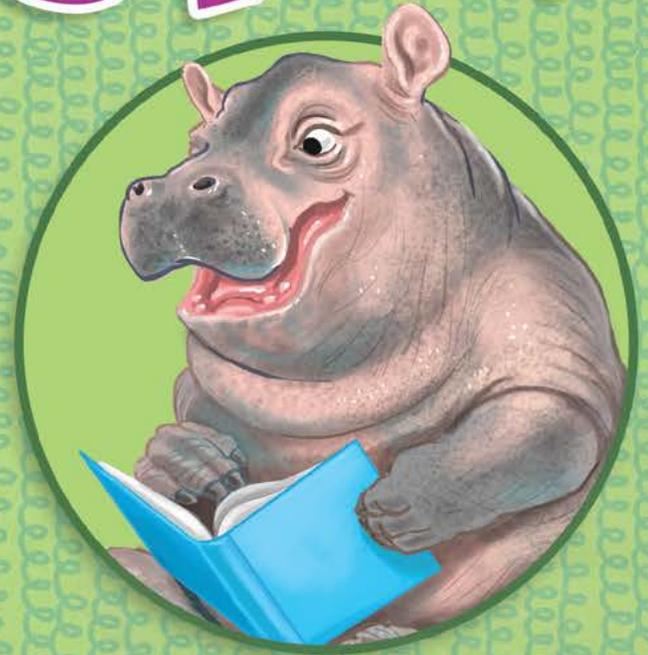
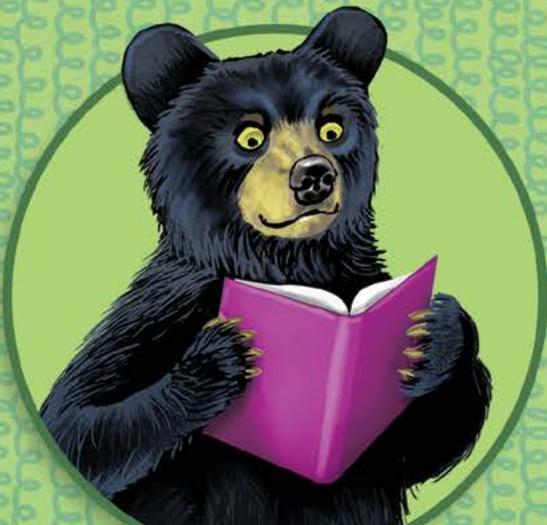
### **BALLOON TWISTING**

Learn to make balloon animals

### **EARLY LEARNING AREA**

Build, play, read, and explore

### **DOOR PRIZES**



## TEEN SPACE

### **VIP VISITS**

Panels, discussions, and drawing with YA authors and illustrators

### **MAKERSPACE**

Wonder, imagine, and create

### **SPEED DATING**

Ask questions and take pictures with your favorite authors

### **DOOR PRIZES**

## PRESENTING SPONSORS



## SPONSORS



Greater Columbus Arts Council

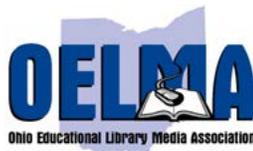


COVER to COVER  
books for young readers



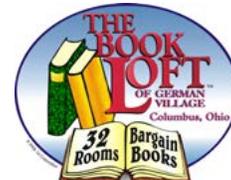
Tom E. Dailey Foundation Inc

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

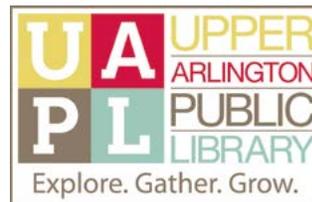
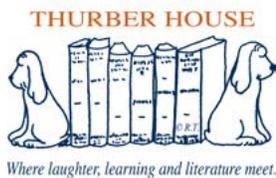


## MEDIA PARTNERS

## BOOKSELLER



# PARTNERS



# Book Reviews

## NONFICTION

### Hayes, Christine, and Doug Motz. *Lost Restaurants of Central Ohio & Columbus*. Foreword by Liz Lessner.

Charleston, SC: American Palate, a division of History Press (Charleston, SC) 2017. \$21.99.

Christine Hayes and Doug Motz take readers down memory lane once again. *Lost Restaurants of Central Ohio & Columbus* is full of vignettes, tales, and descriptions of now shuttered but not forgotten restaurants, cafes, and eateries.

Vivid descriptions and photographs showcase restaurants that have closed, some as recently as last year. Each entry includes the names of the eating establishment and the years its owners and staff served hungry customers. Photographs and illustrations of the buildings, serving areas, and even menus and advertising will spark readers' memories of well-loved places.

The bulk of this slim volume showcases Columbus restaurants paired with their owners. Some of these restaurants came and went; others were well established and are sorely missed. Hayes and Motz include "families" of restaurant — those that were chains, franchises, or in multiple locations. Twenty-six pages recount the histories of restaurants that were "Farther Afield" (pp. 113-139) in fifteen towns and villages that surround Columbus, including Delaware, Granville, Bellefontaine, and even Worthington. The penultimate chapter includes a reprise of the history of "L'Armagnac and L'Antibes" told through an exclusive interview by co-owner and co-chef Dale.

The final chapter showcases the much beloved and missed "Kahiki," which closed in 2000. While this restaurant warranted a book all its own, Hayes and Motz sagely included it in this book about lost restaurants.

Casual browsers might think this is a book about out-of-the-way restaurants that only locals and natives know

about. It is just that. It's not a guide book for the intrepid traveler, but rather a wonderful selection of restaurants that once were and are still remembered fondly by Columbus residents.

Each restaurant's story evokes a memory of yummy food, great dates, and get-togethers with friends and family. It makes a great gift and an engaging read. You'll laugh and cry, you'll reminisce with friends, and you'll remember the wonderful food that Columbus had to offer. Best of all, you'll want to get out and eat at the popular — and not so popular — restaurants all around Columbus to create new memories that could be collected in yet another volume in the series.

An Appendix is full of mouth-watering recipes from the restaurants — favorites that will delight all readers who love trying out new and familiar recipes.

If you haven't read the first volume, *Lost Restaurants of Columbus*, you should pick up a copy and extend the joy of remembering good eats and epicurean delights.

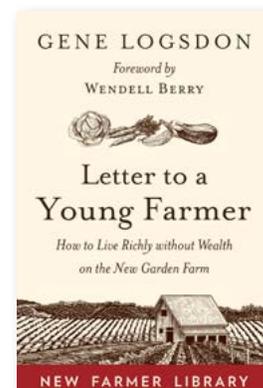
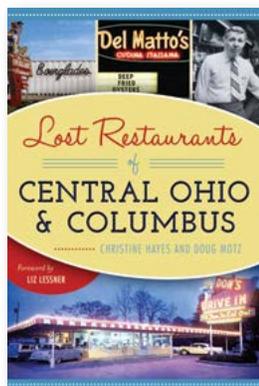
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH.

### Logsdon, Gene, with an introduction by Wendell Berry. *Letters to a Young Farmer: How to Live Richly without Wealth on the New Garden Farm*.

Chelsea Green Publishing (White River Junction, VT) 2017. \$22.50.

We sharpen our understanding of the world by honing ideas and experiences against the grit of resistance: opposing opinions or alternate perspectives of others (many of which we didn't even know to consider).

Arguments — and most every book is an "argument" within the author him/herself, if not with the prevailing assumptions, distortions, or indifference in a culture — refine the nuances of our individuality, acknowledge distinctions, and share sympathies.



Commonality is as key as diversity: both ensure the viability of the planet's populations.

A “new garden farmer,” philosopher, and writer, Gene Logsdon sets out to “celebrate the rise of the smaller-scale, bio-intensive, environmentally friendly garden farm.” And he does this in the sincere guise of “the contrary farmer,” a name he gave himself for the five decades he operated his small farm in Sandusky, Ohio. Indeed, he suggests that people who prosper at farming possess a similar “bullheadedness,” a general suspicion of formalized education, and a willingness to think of a “little farm as my island of security when in fact security does not exist anywhere.”

Beyond these shared characteristics, he classifies a few successful farming types: the “wealthy serf,” who thrives as a bigger business and usually starts with an inheritance and/or significant acreage; the farmer who has rejected loans and expansion for the most part, and farmed conservatively; those whose farms are their second jobs — just something in their blood they have to do; and then the novel farmer who's gone the artisanal route, producing specialty items for specific markets.

*Letter to a Young Farmer* speaks not only to Logsdon's intended audience, but offers them the sort of presentation they might most enjoy. Here is, as his longtime friend Wendell Berry points out in his foreword, a man committed to “the necessary calm of sense-making.” As such, the voice for this volume is pitched somewhere between an elder's epistolary advice — a twentieth-century, American-style Virgil's *Georgics* — and an informal talk at a Future Farmers of America meeting in a local community room. In the twenty-five chapters of this book — the last Logsdon finished before his death — readers of his previous books will find his perennial concerns sharpened like indispensable tools. Readers meeting Logsdon here for the first time will welcome a lifetime of farming experience distilled into a hard-won perspective on the major, vital role farmers play in our entire economic system.

For the most part, Logsdon resists the novelty of a passing topic in favor of rotating his subjects like crops—he goes with the more successful plantings—cycling through them in different “plots”: farming and money, banks, pressures from government, and “get big or get out” bullying. He also addresses the changing state of livestock health, available soil, farmers' markets,

future farmers, and genetically modified plants and hormone-infused animals. Likewise, he tends each crop with as much advice as advocacy, personal experience as collected research. And much of it he's infused with his own hybrid of wit and wisdom: “Do not try to run away from an attacking ram.” And “...if during courtship you want to find out whether you and your beloved will get along okay in marriage, spend some time milking cows together....”

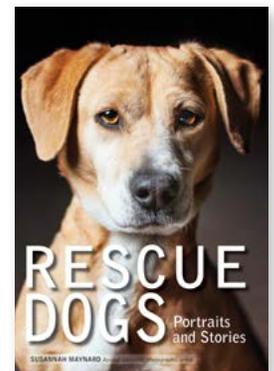
Even if this “letter” isn't particularly addressed to you, Logsdon's last harvest of essays is a valuable perspective to enlarge your small philosophies.

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL J. ROSEN, WHO HAS CREATED SOME 150 BOOKS FOR READERS OF ALL AGES.

### **Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Dogs: Portraits and Stories.***

Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2017. \$21.95.

This charming book of photos is full of puppies and dogs, adopted or waiting and yearning for their forever homes. Maynard includes descriptions of each of the pups and dogs, a little about their pedigree or breed, and, of course, something about their personalities. Littermates are described separately for they are rarely adopted en masse. The final chapters include descriptions of special needs dogs and groups of dogs. Yes, there are dogs with special needs or who need a little extra loving. These dogs are often deaf, blind, missing a limb, or elderly. The groups are just that—dogs from the same home or litter that need to be adopted together.



The book will charm you. It's designed to inspire readers to adopt a dog from one of the rescue groups that are so terribly important for saving dogs and puppies and connecting them with forever homes. A portion of the proceeds goes to Recycled Doggies in Cincinnati, Muttville Senior Dog Rescue in San Francisco, and HeARTs Speak.

As you look through the pages of beautifully photographed dogs, you'll “ooh and ahh” over the

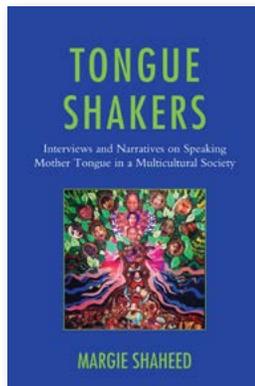
charming creatures yearning for loving homes. The book is a reminder that there's always someone out there in need of love, affection, and a few cuddles.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH.

**Shaheed, Margie. *Tongue Shakers: Interviews and Narratives on Speaking Mother Tongue in a Multicultural Society.***

Hamilton Books (Lanham, MD) 2016. \$26.90.

Margie Shaheed is a poet who has always honored both the so-called standard American English and the black English she speaks and writes as unique and essential parts of who she is as a black woman in America. A couple of years ago, she began following in the footsteps of Zora Neale Hurston, author and cultural anthropologist who, in the first half of the twentieth century, carefully documented the way black people in the United States were using mother tongues informed by various African dialects that travelled here during the Diaspora, the languages of the indigenous people, and the languages that various white ethnic groups were still developing into American English.



Shaheed's work broadens Hurston's lens to include the voices of immigrants from all over the world, the children of immigrants who were born here and were either raised to embrace their mother tongue—to become bilingual or multilingual by learning American English — or whose parents made the decision to “cut out” speaking their mother tongues for the sake of rapid assimilation into American society.

An untrained qualitative researcher who uses interviewing as her research method, Shaheed shares those interviews in the book. She started by approaching strangers she encountered on the street to see if she could either interview them at that moment or make arrangements to interview them at a later date.

As her project developed, she conducted research to learn more about Hurston's work, the work of black linguist Geneva Smitherman, and others. She also reached out to scholars, including me, for assistance.

The result is a book designed for a general audience—sans the twenty-five-dollar words of the academy—filled with the voices of everyday and not-so-everyday people originating from countries as varied as Columbia, South Africa, Jamaica, and Mauritania, and currently living in different cities in the U.S.

A recurring theme in this well-written and well-organized book is the importance of language to culture of origin. Each of the interviewees, ranging from age 16 to the mid-60s and identifying as either male or female, connected their mother tongue to the heart of what it meant to be part of their family: “...One day I would love to meet someone here I can communicate with in my mother tongue because it feels like part of me is missing” (24). Without exception, people who had lost their mother tongue regretted it, and several were making certain they either re-learned it and/or that their children were able to speak what was often the only language other family members spoke.

*Tongue Shakers* is written in three sections:

1) “Mother Tongue Coming to America,” about people who immigrated to this country and had to learn the language; 2) “Mother Tongue American Style,” about people who were born here, but whose families were from another country; and 3) “Black English as Mother Tongue: Black in the Day,” which draws on the experiences of black people (myself included) who speak what Geneva Smitherman carefully defines as black English in her 1986 book, *Talkin and Testifyin: The Language of Black America*.

*Tongue Shakers* also includes two Appendices. In Appendix A, Shaheed shares several strong poems written by various interviewees. For example, in the poem “Chakras of Refugee Embodiment or 7 Ways to Love Your Asian Body,” Tu Anh Phan writes “AH! Language is only broken/when it remains in your throat/naw, shout this out:” MY SOUND is the vibration of my ancestors” (89). Appendix B includes the Interview Questionnaire Guides for the first two sections, followed by the questions for the Black English section.

While Shaheed takes time to concisely describe her method and process, including the challenges involved in getting people to open up about something as personal as their mother tongues, the book never loses its center — the amazing stories of survival, success, and resilience and the ways language and culture are inextricably connected. Nina L., an interviewee in the book, says it best: “I believe young people should be exposed to as many languages and cultures as possible, and that would help make a better, more compassionate world. Getting people to open their eyes to difference, [to] embrace it, expands our comfort zone. We don’t lose, we gain” (70). Amen.

REVIEWED BY MARY E. WEEMS, PH.D., RECIPIENT OF THE CLEVELAND ARTS 2015 EMERGING PRIZE IN LITERATURE.

## FICTION

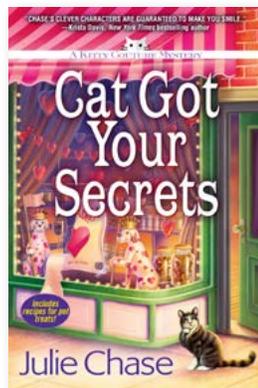
### Chase, Julie. *Cat Got Your Secrets: A Kitty Couture Mystery #3.*

Crooked Lane (New York, NY) 2017. \$26.99.

Costume designer to New Orleans pets, Lacy Marie Crocker is settled in and happy at her store, “Furry Godmother.” She bakes pet-friendly cookies and whips up great costumes for beloved pets including dogs, cats, llamas, guinea pigs, and turtles. There’s never a dull moment at her shop or in her life.

When Lacy’s father is accused of killing his friend Wallace Becker, the owner of the Cuddle Brigade, Lacy has to investigate. After all, Becker’s Cuddle Brigade is all about pet sitting and walking, tapping into the same affluent clientele. And her father couldn’t possibly kill anyone. There’s definitely a misunderstanding about what their fight was the night before Becker’s murder.

It’s no surprise that Lacy crosses paths with handsome, suave Detective Jack Oliver who is, of course, investigating the murder. Rather than team up, Lacy and Jack cross paths as each questions the most likely and unlikely suspects of upper crust New Orleans. Without



a doubt, there are lots of secrets among the rich crowd, secrets that threaten lives and fortunes.

To top it off, the National Pet Pageant is coming to town, and Lacy’s mother volunteers her for the Welcoming Committee. The pageant is on Valentine’s Day, of course! Lacy’s extra busy baking treats, designing red costumes, and juggling Pet Pageant responsibilities.

*Cat Got Your Secrets* wouldn’t be a cozy romance mystery without a love interest or two. Lacy’s best friend and the city’s most eligible bachelor, Chase Hawthorne, competes with Oliver for Lacy’s heart.

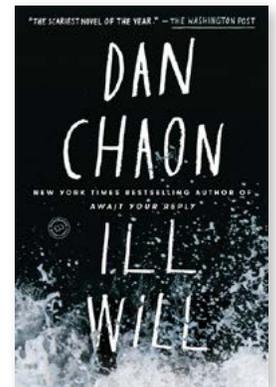
There’s great humor in this cozy that’s dressed up as a mystery with a good dose of romance. Julie Chase brings out the best in all her characters. It doesn’t matter what order you read this series, but if you want to follow the romantic escapades of Lacy, Chase, and Jack, then start at the beginning with *Cat Got Your Diamonds* and the birth of the “Furry Godmother” and so much more.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH.

### Chaon, Dan. *Ill Will.*

Ballantine Books (New York, NY) 2017. \$28.00.

Suppose the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves don’t really belong to us. Suppose our past isn’t really our past. Our true self doesn’t exist, and we are blank slates, waiting to be written upon by the people around us. Dustin Tillman, the central character in Dan Chaon’s latest psychological thriller *Ill Will*, literally embodies these existential quandaries.



Dustin’s story begins when his father severs an arm in a work accident. Because of a generous insurance settlement, the Tillmans can afford to adopt a brother for Dustin, a deeply disturbed teen named Russell. He terrorizes and abuses Dustin, eventually planting an idea in the young boy’s porous, unformed mind that comes to horrifying fruition in the form of a brutal mass murder. Dustin’s mother, father, aunt, and uncle are shot to death one summer evening, although no one seems to know or fully remember exactly what happened. Dustin, along with an older

cousin, accuses Russell, who is convicted on the basis of this testimony and goes to jail. After thirty years, he is set free, in part because of the intervention of another cousin whose story about the murders contradicts Dustin's own. Russell seeks to ingratiate himself into his long-lost brother's life, with catastrophic results.

Dustin is an opaque character, who can't finish sentences. When he discovers a letter from his dead wife in his son's drawer, he refuses to read more than the first sentence for fear of obliterating his own recent history and discovering something about himself he doesn't want to know. Ironically, Dustin is a psychotherapist who specializes in helping his patients recover repressed memories, lost parts of themselves, through hypnosis. However, he is so pathologically out of touch with his own past and present that he ignores his troubled sons and falls under the spell of a patient, an ex-cop who may not be who or what he seems to be. This man involves Dustin in a compulsive investigation of an apparent serial killer that ends up posing a grave risk to Dustin and the people he loves. He finally gives Dustin a gun, calls him brother, and pushes him toward the abyss.

The novel jumps back and forth in time and is populated by a series of unreliable narrators who provide clues about what might have happened all those years ago. But none of them ever tells the whole "truth," if it exists. The quote at the beginning of the final section encapsulates the author's method perfectly: "...it is the mystery that lasts and not the explanation."

I'm not sure I agree. While I admire the scope and artistry of the puzzle Chaon has crafted and enjoyed fitting the pieces together, I really *do* want an explanation, a resolution of the mystery that I'm not likely to get in the real world. It's why I read books like this in the first place.

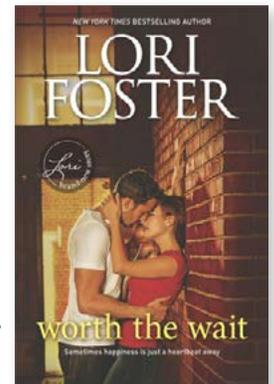
REVIEWED BY TERRI PAUL, PREVIOUS OHIOANA BOOK AWARD IN FICTION WINNER.

## Foster, Lori. *Worth the Wait*.

Harlequin/HQN Books (Ontario, Canada) 2017. \$15.99.

Get ready for a hot and steamy romance in the Harlequin tradition. There are three couples bound to hook up and experiment with some sizzling sex.

Meet Hogan Guthrie, recently widowed and relocated with his son Colt from Columbus to Clearbrook, Ohio. Hogan is a hunk, an accomplished accountant, and a master at grilling ribs. His son Colt is a savvy seventeen year old who would be going to college if his mother hadn't frittered away his college fund. He's got his sights set on Charish, the new girl at school who is shy and cute.



Nathan Hawley, the local sheriff and former SWAT team member, is serious about the safety and security of the people of Clearview. He cannot wait to find out what his new neighbor is hiding about her past and present.

Ah, the women! Violet Shaw is the owner of Screwy Louie's, the local diner that serves up a mean burger and Hogan's special ribs. She's a saucy woman who tries to resist Hogan's charms and fails miserably. That means she's hot, bothered, and oh so ready for steamy sex with her hunky Barbecue Master. Joni Jeffers is a full-out abuser and Hogan's boss at the accounting firm. She's hot to get him and she's not subtle about it. The problem is Hogan isn't interested in the least. Finally there's Brooklin Sweet. She's Nathan's neighbor, a little skittish, and — of course — oh, so cute. A new arrival in Clearbrook, she's obviously troubled, which draws Nathan to her like bees to honey. Charish plays a minor role as Colt's love interest. She's new to the game of love and feeling her way into a serious relationship.

As with most steamy, erotic, love stories, all the men need to do is look at their women, and a rather explicit sex scene ensues. The writing is tastefully done but there's a lot of sexual innuendo and a fair amount of sexual tension. The pages burn with desire, passion, and adult fun.

The underlying story line is interesting and drives the story forward more than the sex, and there's a lot of sex, foreplay, and more sex.

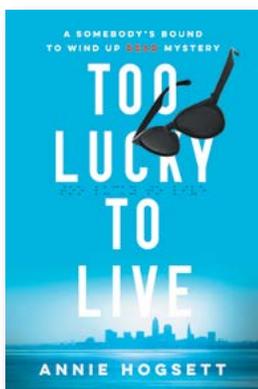
*Worth the Wait*, book two of the *Guthrie Brothers* series, builds on the relationships and friendships in *Don't Tempt Me*. Those couples, including Hogan's brother Justin, his next-door neighbor by the way, are interwoven into this new book. While you don't have to read the series in order, if you want the full force of the Guthrie charm, check out both books. Lori Foster has a hit on her hands that's perfect for romance readers.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH.

**Hogsett, Annie. *Too Lucky to Live: A Somebody's Bound to Wind Up Dead Mystery #1.***

Poisoned Pen Press (Scottsdale, AZ) 2017. \$15.95.

How lucky can one person get? Too lucky! Which is exactly what happens to Allie Harper, a down-on-her-luck, hard-working Clevelander, who prevents Thomas Bennington III from being run down at an intersection. He's blind, she's courageous, and they are both on the run. "Why?" you ask. Well, he won the MondoMegaJackpot for \$175 million dollars, and everyone wants the winning ticket.



Nothing goes right for Allie and Thomas. They try to do the right thing, but everywhere they turn, someone wants the ticket, the money, and their lives. In the end, it's Thomas's big heart that will do them both in.

This tangled tale of luck and disaster will tie you up in knots, will stretch your disbelief, and make you shake your head at the trouble Allie and Thomas encounter. Of course, they have lots of help, but not always from the best or most honest people. Annie Hogsett's first published mystery is bound to garner raves and likes. It's zany like Evanovich, Tim Dorsey, and Carl Hiaasen, with non-stop action and plenty of wrong turns. Hogsett has a wonderful hit on her hands.

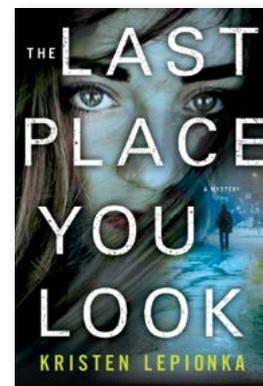
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH.

**Lepionka, Kristen. *The Last Place You Look.***

Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2017. \$25.99.

*"Matt said you find things. For a living."*

Columbus private investigator Roxane Weary is a hot mess. Her cop father has just been killed in the line of duty. Roxane's family is frustrated, growing argumentative and resentful in their grief. She's still hung up on her ex, Catherine, who floats back into her life whenever she feels like it, only to run out again immediately. She's having a self-destructive affair with her dad's partner Tom that they both know is going to end badly.



Roxane is passed out drunk on her study floor when her phone rings: it's Danielle, a prospective client whose brother Brad — black and from the "wrong" neighborhood in Belmont, a tiny, close-knit Columbus suburb — was convicted fifteen years earlier of the murder of his girlfriend Sarah's parents and is now on death row. Sarah disappeared at the same time and has never been found. Only Danielle just saw Sarah, alive and well in broad daylight, still in downtown Belmont.

Roxane takes the case. What follows is a mire of missing blonde teens, unsolved cases that her father was working on, and evidence of a dark cover-up by law enforcement. Roxane battles her own demons as she gets in deeper and deeper, spiraling out of control and further into alcohol and danger until her own life is at stake.

Roxane Weary is a powerhouse of a character. She's a mess, but an endearing, compelling one. Her devotion to her clients and cases is as hardcore as her drinking. She *finds* things—people, answers—and she's good at it. She cares. Whether it's agreeing to attend dinner at her mother's house despite family tension, doggedly pursuing clues while risking arrest and bodily harm, or counseling a young girl who is terrified of her own feelings toward her missing best friend, Roxane puts other people ahead of herself at every turn. She's fierce, she's compassionate, she's funny, she's tenacious. She's unapologetically bisexual and unshakably loyal to a few

people who don't deserve it. She's a drunk and a screw-up. I adored her.

The mystery Roxane gets thrust into has a lot of twists and turns. Red herrings abound, and the ending was not anything I expected. But it ties together nicely and is extremely satisfying. Though this story stands tall on its own, I was glad to hear Kristen Lepionka's next book is a continuation of Roxane's story. Not one bit of her story drags; Lepionka's prose is compelling, and all of her characters act and sound like real people. The Columbus setting jumps off the page. Familiar landmarks add to the authenticity of the story. I almost feel like I could run into Roxane drinking terrible coffee while walking down High Street, or find her brother Andrew tending bar at the Westin. At one point Roxane spends a horrific night in jail, a visceral, nauseating experience that had me freaked out and glued to the pages long into the night.

*The Last Place You Look* is Kristen Lepionka's debut novel. It is densely plotted, compelling, and obviously very well researched. It's the best mystery I have read in years. Lepionka is a talent to be watched, and I can't wait for Roxane's story to continue in *What You Want to See*, later in 2018.

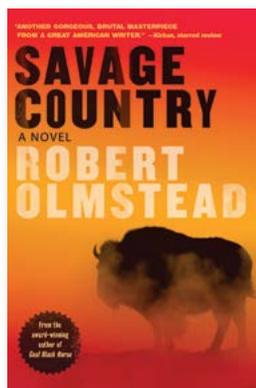
REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA LIBRARY SPECIALIST.

**Olmstead, Robert. *Savage Country*.**

Algonquin Books (Chapel Hill, NC) 2017. \$26.95.

Olmstead's ninth book is set in the Old West and focuses on the last buffalo hunt in Kansas 1873. Readers learn all about the hunt, the men, the killing and skinning, and most sadly, the destruction of the buffalo and an Indian way of life.

Elizabeth Coughlin, recently widowed, and her now-deceased husband, David, were about to embark on a buffalo hunt. When David dies, Elizabeth must overcome her financial losses as she continues to organize the hunt. Her brother-in-law, Michael Coughlin, comes to the rescue. He pays off her debt and agrees to lead the buffalo hunt. The timing



is perfect as he's taking a break from his job collecting and killing big game in Africa and Asia—great credentials for an American hunt. After gathering a host of bandits, bad men, killers, and skinners, they head off across the plains to find the last herd of buffalo.

Written in a high literary style, with well-crafted language full of polysyllabic terms, Olmstead describes the hunt in vivid, gory detail. From the intense days of slaughtering buffalo, skinning the animals, and butchering the carcasses, readers confront the magnitude of the slaughter and destruction of the species and a way of life. As the hunters and skinners become numb to death, so readers will grow tired of the vivid descriptions of the devastation.

Olmstead's characters carry on terse conversations, no words or actions wasted. Unlike the never-ending descriptions of the hunt, the characters are barely developed, leaving the reader wondering about motivation and even the emotions of the characters. The characters aren't lovable or admirable; in fact they seem one-dimensional.

While the hunt is the focus of this short novel, there is no background or discussion of the political, military, or societal motivations or rationale behind the destruction of the buffalo. Set after the Civil War, there is little attention paid to continued settlements in the plains and across Indian territories. Interactions with Indians and former slaves are both violent and stereotypical in the extreme, bordering on offensive.

Olmstead applies his wide range of literary skills to this disturbing period of American history. Fans of Olmstead's writing style and his previous books will find *Savage Country* a brave addition to his corpus.

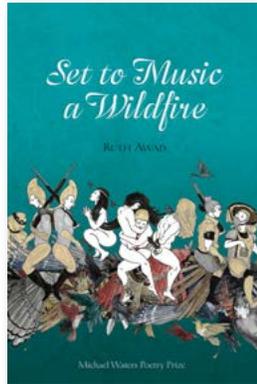
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH.

DRAMA & POETRY

**Awad, Ruth. *Set to Music a Wildfire.***

Southern Indiana Review Press (Evansville, IN) 2017.  
\$14.00.

A few years ago, the *New York Times* revived the “Does Poetry Matter?” debate. I’d seen this argument before in *Poets & Writers* magazine and others. Occasionally, mostly poets challenge one another on the current state of poetry. Poems are no longer the words that spark revolutions — not like the good ‘ole days. True? Probably. There are too many media choices, and most of the population would rather get its short verse from Twitter. Nonetheless, here and there, the literary community wants to challenge its poets to write the verses that could strike a nerve in the sociopolitical climate.



Ruth Awad’s *Set to Music a Wildfire* contains those verses. In the world of a Trump presidency, during a time when underrepresented populations feel most threatened, Awad pulls the reader not just into the pages, but also into the life of the immigrant. A Lebanese-American poet, Awad’s most important talent in *Set to Music a Wildfire* is her ability to educate her readers on the Lebanese experience while inspiring their empathy. To reckon with Awad’s poems is to reckon with the person in the mirror.

Awad writes lines that cling and haunt long after the book is closed:

*So I am born from the mouth of a bullet hole, / and  
Lebanon’s burnt shell offerings / roll away.*

*There was the broken teapot and two women, their  
clothes / torn open, and an infant.*

*What else / will save them from / the world  
they’ve burned?*

When Awad writes a description of Hell, I feel Hell.

The poems can be violent, but each stanza nurtures a space for a reader’s personal *lectio divina*. Awad’s

poems, especially her couplets, invite pauses — mini-meditations — a quiet space in the middle of a war-torn country. These are the lives of our immigrants, not just immigrants of Lebanon or the Middle East, but also the immigrant stories of many survivors from many violent areas of the world. Her repetition in “Battle of the Hotels” recreates a sense a fear and anxiety of the survivors as best a poem could. Awad reminds me that the surviving isn’t over when the country is left behind. The survivor’s struggle happens here, in America, too.

Awad shares a family story. At times, the stories of a father don’t connect, and when she relies on writing “you,” the “you” becomes distracting. Her translation of another’s experience feels disconnected. However, halfway through the book, in poems like “Love like Samson’s Lion While My Mother Shaves My Father’s Head” and “Lebanese Famine in America” the “I” serves a strong and unique voice, and Awad hits her stride.

Section three, the last section of the book, is powerful and heartbreaking. Awad is at her best writing a child’s observation of adulthood and... well, I won’t spoil it. She’s desperate and vulnerable, and so was I. “Town Gossip” is my favorite. Trust me, though I felt guilty, the gossip is worth overhearing.

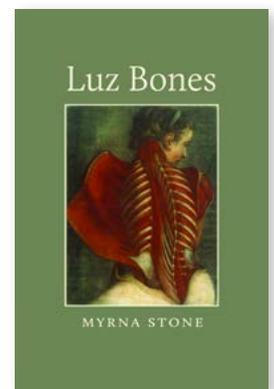
Awad is a poet to follow. Her best is yet to come.

REVIEWED BY J. M. GREEN, WRITER AND LIBRARIAN, XAVIER UNIVERSITY.

**Stone, Myrna. *Luz Bones.***

Etruscan Press (Wilkes-Barre, PA) 2017. \$17.95.

Having *Luz Bones* by my bedside is like having the Netflix of poetry books. Within its pages I can choose a docudrama series or independent films or fantasy, etc. This collection of formal poems has been successfully competing with my television remote that lies beside it.



When I first read this fifth book of poems by Myrna Stone, my practice was traditional. I read the first poem and continued reading in order until I read the last. Usually,

I move in this fashion for a second reading as well, and only after the second reading do I return to this poem or that poem.

But after the first reading of *Luz Bones*, I took a different, more binge-reading approach: *You know, before I turn off the lights, I think I want to binge on the Hans Christian Andersen series. Tonight, I'm definitely bingeing on the Siamese Twins narratives. Okay, it's Friday, I'm tired, got to keep it short tonight – I'll get my Mae West fix.*

When a poet can transport her reader to an intimate place in history, the journey is magical. One of my favorite intimate moments in poems is James Cummins's "Edmund Wilson and His Wife, Elena, Have Dinner with Edna St. Vincent Millay and Her Husband, Eugen Boissevain, August 6, 1948." The poem is intrusive; it's uncomfortable. And I relished my role of dinner crasher—the uninvited neighbor forgotten at the end of the table who has no other role but to gaze, to gawk. I got an independent film but I wanted a miniseries—for crying out loud, at the very least a miniseries. I wanted more.

Stone delivers the more. She's a formalist, and sometimes the death of the formalist is constructing the narrative story within the form. Sometimes the form feels forced. It's not organic. It feels like these two entities — a form and a story — have been matched up, but they don't belong together. Not the case with Stone's poems. Her story and her dialogue fit beautifully in the sonnet. Her end words are like well-cast actors — they are strong and thoughtful without drawing attention to themselves. Her rhymes are lyrical and not distracting. Stone made me squirm as I read "Sally Bunker Looks Back on Her Marriage" when she writes, "The children came / forthwith — eleven for me, ten for Addie — / and most survived infancy." And when the dialogue of the first-person narrative is simple, as in "Jenny Lind to Her Husband After He Discovers Her Cache of Letters from Hans Christian Andersen," the sonnets are at their best.

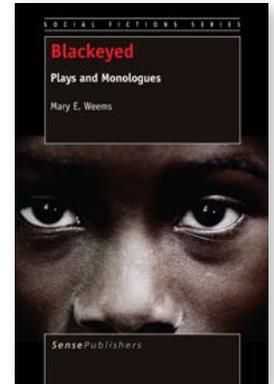
My favorite poems are Stone's triolets. My God, her triolets. And there's the trick that Stone played on me. Unlike the one poem from Cummins, Stone satisfies my need for more story with her Audubon poems, with her Siamese Twins poems, with her Andersen poems. But with her triolet form, there I sat again, wanting more.

REVIEWED BY J. M. GREEN, WRITER AND LIBRARIAN,  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY.

## Weems, Mary E. *Blackeyed: Plays and Monologues*.

SensePublishers (Rotterdam, NL) 2015. \$36.00.

In the realm of African Spirituality lies a concept of the energy described as The Creator and by others as "God" inhabiting all that exists. Science describes things in other terms, namely, organic and inorganic. Within science, inorganic denotes an object or substance not considered to be a living thing.



*Blackeyed*, a collection of plays and monologues deftly accomplishes the idea of giving life to inanimate things while simultaneously exemplifying such intellectual concepts as auto/ethnography, ethnotheatre, poetic inquiry, and others against a backdrop of the black experience. One need not understand the pedagogy to be affected by the vastly tragic narratives contained in this important work. Simply reading this material will lead the reader through the maze of life experienced, observed, filtered, and interpreted by Mary E. Weems.

*Blackeyed* thusly is an appropriate title for this work. Through her lense we can clearly envision the divinity of abandoned artifacts discarded in the wake of a foreclosed dwelling. We get a clear picture of the full impact of the tilt of a hat that carries the spirit not only of its wearer, but its wearer's predecessor. We imagine the depth of pain caused by loss, betrayal, incest, mental illness, and the myriad issues wreaking havoc on the souls of black folk. Even in the midst of anguish, we momentarily dally in a brief interlude of loving thoughts.

Weems' resonant poetic voice shines through the characters in bursts of dialect and nuance. Human conflict, racial undertones, and the struggle for civil and human rights reverberate. If one desires a glimpse of the lives of African Americans absent from classroom history books and mainstream cinematic depictions, *Blackeyed* is perfect starting point. In all of its admitted "messiness," it provides context, perspective, form, and substance.

Through it all, the spirit of cultural authenticity is woven into the fabric of these narratives, perhaps unbeknownst to its author, connecting the DNA of the ancestors who planted the seeds of exposition in a *griot* long before she became aware of their existence. In the now, they are undoubtedly marveling at the flower that blooms to the delight of those exposed to its tragic beauty.

REVIEWED BY VINCE ROBINSON, ARTIST/AUTHOR/ARTS ADVOCATE AND CO-OWNER, LARCHMERE ARTS.

## YOUNG ADULT

### Bobulski, Chelsea. *The Wood*.

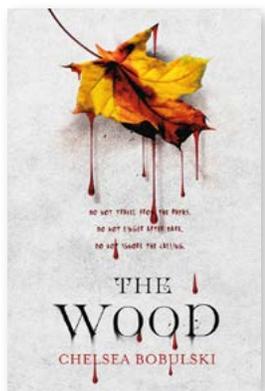
Feiwel and Friends (New York, NY) 2017. \$17.99.

Winter has been in training nearly her whole life to take over as guardian of the mysterious forest behind her house. The wood is alive, and for generations, members of Winter's family have guarded its paths and guided the time travelers who find themselves lost back to their proper place. Her father has just three rules:

*Do not travel from the paths.*  
*Do not linger after dark.*  
*Do not ignore the calling.*

But then Winter's father disappears, leaving Winter and her mother to deal with the aftermath. The wood is beginning to rot, and displaced travelers are arriving in alarming numbers. Not even Winter's mysterious Uncle Joe can explain what is going on. When Henry, a young man from eighteenth-century England who knows more than he should about the wood arrives, Winter must decide whether to follow her uncle's guidance or to follow her heart.

One of the best parts of Chelsea Bobulski's debut novel is the atmosphere. This book is best read on a stormy autumn night in the safety and warmth of one's own home. Bobulski's descriptions of the rotting wood and the slow build-up as she reveals what is really happening get under the reader's skin in a delicious way. This reader will never be able to drive past Ohio State University ever again without looking out for rotting leaves.



The creeping dread Bobulski evokes bleeds over into the real world; Winter's relationship with her mother and her feelings of being an outcast from her high school friends are familiar to anyone who was ever a teenager. The dying wood evokes a lot of memories and feelings about the death of childhood, but as trees are reborn, so is Winter. The love she feels for her father and the emerging warmth she develops for Henry anchor her to her mission, and the results are exciting and satisfying.

This novel seems to be a stand-alone, but it would not be surprising if Bobulski decided to revisit Winter's tale. The world-building in the book is intriguing and mysterious, and leaves plenty of room for future stories. Either way, it is a spooky and incredibly unique story that will enthrall readers.

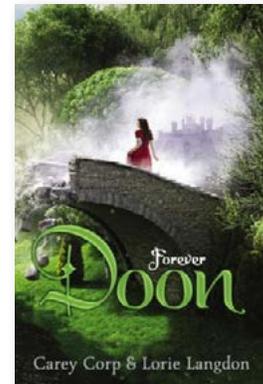
REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA LIBRARY SPECIALIST.

### Corp, Carey, and Lorie Langdon. *Forever Doon*.

Blink (New York, NY) 2016. \$17.99.

When an evil witch threatens to take over Doon, only four friends stand in her way. Veronica is leading the way for all the Dooniens trapped in Doon, while Jamie is fighting to stay sane in the witch's grasp. In Alloway, Duncan and Mackenna are preparing an army to defend Doon. Will they survive or will Doon be doomed?

This story starts with Mackenna and Duncan in Alloway; and in Doon, Veronica is trying to save Jamie from Adelaide the witch. Veronica is trying to put on a brave face, for she believes Jamie is dead. Instead, Jamie is suffering unbearably in the witches' dungeon. Back in Alloway, a girl from the modern world named Cheska mysteriously arrives. After long weeks of mourning over Jamie, Veronica dreams that he tells her to storm the witches' castle to rescue him. Veronica and two friends end up getting Jamie out of the castle, but make a narrow escape.



*Forever Doon*, the exciting sequel to *Doon*, is stuffed to the seams with adventures. It is hard not to fall in love with each and every character. I love how each chapter is written from the perspective of either Veronica, Duncan, Jamie, or Mackenna. When I finished this book it was very bittersweet, and I found myself wanting more. I encourage everyone to read this fabulous book.

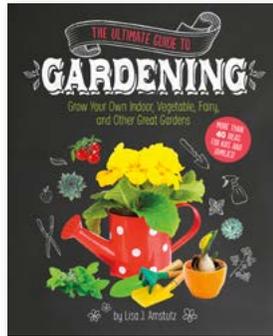
REVIEWED BY ISABELLA MCINTYRE, FORM IV STUDENT, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

## MIDDLE GRADE

### Amstutz, Lisa J. *The Ultimate Guide to Gardening*.

Capstone (Mankato, MN) 2016. \$12.95.

*The Ultimate Guide to Gardening* is an ideal book for all types of gardeners, especially beginning ones. This book is very informative about supplies and directions, which makes it easy to follow. The photographs show you what you are going to make or do and further clarify the directions. Amstutz gives creative ideas for different types of vessels to use and reuse for growing plants. For example, spice jars are made into habitats, old shoes are a place to grow the plant hens and chickens, and cut pages of books become a home to succulents. Besides learning about gardening, *The Ultimate Guide to Gardening* encourages the reader to find other uses, such as natural dyes, foods, and teas, for the plants from the garden you have grown.



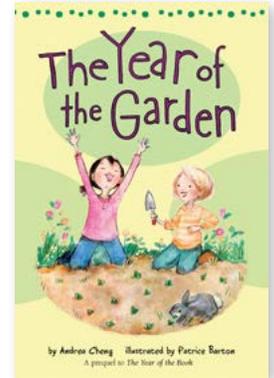
To review *The Ultimate Guide to Gardening*, our class split up into smaller groups, tried some of the garden activities, and planted our plants. We reused different types of containers, such as a teacup and saucer, a bunny pitcher, a vase, and an old decorative pot. Now we have different types of plants growing in our classroom and have ideas for things we can do on our own at home. If you are into gardening, or if you are interested in having decorative plantings in your home or classroom, you will enjoy *The Ultimate Guide to Gardening*.

REVIEWED BY MS. STIVERSON'S FORM IV CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

### Cheng, Andrea, illustrated by Patrice Barton. *The Year of the Garden*.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York, NY) 2017. \$15.99.

*The Year of the Garden* by Andrea Cheng is a book that teaches the reader about the meaning and importance of friendship. The main characters, Anna and Laura, have some tough times because Laura already has other friends. As the story progresses, Anna's and Laura's friendship grows as they bond together through nature, especially when they find a bunny that needs care and love. Other characters, such as Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and Anna's mom, give ideas, advice, and help as the girls deal with their growing friendship.



*The Year of the Garden* is a good book for all ages, but it is written mainly for second through sixth graders. In this book, all readers will learn more about problem-solving, kindness, creativity, teamwork between generations, empathy, respect, loyalty, and especially friendship. Cheng's writing style keeps the reader involved with its details and descriptive language.

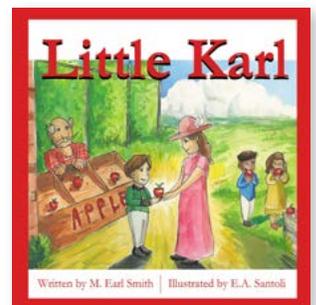
While *The Year of the Garden* deals with nature and friendship, there are other books in *The Year of the...* series. *The Year of the Garden* is the last book that Andrea Cheng wrote before she died in 2015. We would highly recommend this book to our friends.

REVIEWED BY MS. STIVERSON'S FORM IV CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

### Smith, M. Earl, illustrated by E.A. Santoli. *Little Karl*.

Michelkin Publishing (Roswell, NM) 2016. \$3.56.

*Little Karl* by M. Earl Smith is about a boy who takes a walk with his mom through the city. He asks a lot of questions about the people he sees and why they're so sad, or poor, or hungry, and he wonders why we



can't all have money and houses and happiness. The book portrays unhappy things that happen in the world, and Karl keeps asking his mom questions that she can't answer.

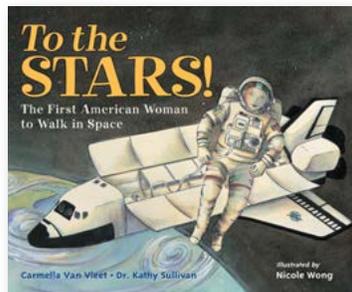
I really liked that Karl was caring and thinking about other people. I thought the illustrator did a great job with the colors, and some of the pictures were funny. I also liked how the picture on the left was in color and the picture on the right was black and white. I recommend this book for eight-year-olds and younger. It's a good book for teaching about the disparity between the "haves" and the "have nots" that happens in our world.

REVIEWED BY RAEMA BROGDON, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

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

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

*To the Stars!* is a picture book that tells about Dr. Kathy Sullivan and her quest to become an astronaut. Her family supported her interests, and her dad brought home blueprints from work that helped her imagine and explore the world. She loved to pursue interests that were mainly the domain of men at that time, like being a spy or a diplomat. One day as a teenager visiting an airport with her dad, a pilot asked a friend to go up in his odd-looking plane called *The Breezy*. His friend didn't want to go, but Sullivan, having overheard the conversation, said she'd like to go, and he welcomed her aboard. In the air, Sullivan could see the whole world. This experience inspired her to become an astronaut—one who actually did get to see the world as the first American woman to walk in space.



Some of Ms. Kessler's students gave their opinions of the book. Amelia thought this story was inspiring because Sullivan persevered even when a lot of people tried to discourage her from pursuing "boy stuff." Gabby liked

that it showed younger girls that being a girl isn't just about being a princess or fashionista. McKenna liked how the illustrations depicted technology from a time before she was born, and Lila also enjoyed how the book described how times were in the past when it came to the roles of women in society and appreciated reflecting upon how times have changed.

Even though *To the Stars!* is a picture book for children, Lily believes it can inspire women of all ages to push through something that may be holding them back, or pursue something that they have always believed is too hard for them. Ms. Kessler's class really liked *To the Stars!* and want to thank Sullivan and Van Vleet for writing it.

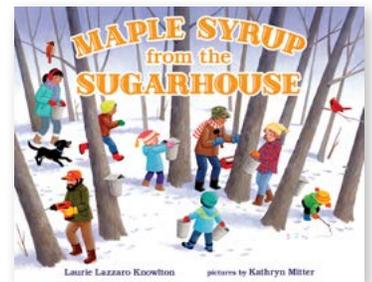
REVIEWED BY MS. KESSLER'S FORM IV CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

**CHILDREN'S**

**Knowlton, Laurie Lazzaro, illustrated by Kathryn Mitter. *Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse.***

Albert Whitman & Co. (Chicago, IL) 2017. \$16.99.

Have you ever wondered how maple syrup goes from tree sap to a tasty breakfast topping? *Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse* shows this process through the eyes of young Kelsey and her family's annual syrup-making traditions.



When the ground begins to thaw each winter, the woods at Kelsey's house fill with sap-harvesting activities. Kelsey helps her father hammer metal spiles into the trees and watches eagerly as sap fills their buckets drip by drip. Friends and family come from afar to assist with the harvest, bringing lots of helping hands and plenty of snacks, too!

But when the buckets are full of sap, it's not ready to eat yet. The sap must be processed at the sugarhouse first. Kelsey brings Daddy wood to keep the fires hot and sap boiling long into the night. When the sap changes from clear to gold, it's finally ready. Friends and family

work together to bottle the fresh syrup, then celebrate with a big pancake breakfast! As the sun rises, it's time for everyone to head to the woods for another day of harvesting—although little Kelsey might need more pancakes and a nap first.

*Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse* is a kid-friendly and informative look at the process of making maple syrup. Although she's small, Kelsey finds plenty of ways to assist with the syrup activities. It takes the effort of everyone to bring in a successful harvest, emphasizing the importance of working together. The illustrations are bright and charming, showing both the hard work that goes into the process and the fun everyone has during the annual gathering. In addition, bonus facts can be found at the end, including such interesting tidbits as which U.S. states have sugar maple trees for tapping, and how many gallons of sap go into one gallon of golden syrup.

*Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse* gives readers a fascinating, behind-the-scenes peek at how families carry on syrup-making traditions today. Just make sure you have a fork nearby; you're definitely going to want to follow up this book with a huge plate of fluffy pancakes.

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

# Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between December 2017 and February 2018. 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, 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.

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 daughter of Austria's Emperor Franz Joseph, and Empress Elisabeth. In 1890 she wed her cousin, Franz Salvator of Tuscany, and bore him 10 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.

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 twentieth century.

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. At the end of the 1800s, when Oberlin graduate Ida May Pope accepted a teaching job at Kawaihae'o 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.

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.

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? *Rut-Busting Book for Writers* has strategies to get you unstuck along with proactive suggestions from other writers who have "been there and done that" and are now willing to share their knowledge and experience.

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'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.

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.

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. Ohio. This richly illustrated publication provides an in-depth look at an interesting aspect of the Ohio National Road's history.

Giffels, David. *Furnishing Eternity: A Father, a Son, a Coffin, and a Measure of Life*. Scribner (New York, NY) 2018. 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.

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.

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. 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 about Washington.

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.

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.

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

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. 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.

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, which loses out to the brilliant and flamboyant Theodore Roosevelt who succeeded him after his assassination. He portrays McKinley as a chief executive of consequence whose low place in the presidential rankings does not reflect his enduring accomplishments and the stamp he put on the country's future role in the world.

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.

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

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.

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.

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—during their time in Cody's Wild West show.

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.

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 captured 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 atmosphere with acrid smoke, and created a consumer safety crisis by selling kerosene below Congressional standards. *Refining Nature* provides an ecological context for the rise of one of the most important corporations in U.S. 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 stories. Drawn from the last two decades of the Soviet Union and the two decades following its collapse, the stories 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.

Baum, Chris. *Surrender*. Covenant Books (Murrells Inlet, SC) 2017. PB \$13.95.

“Surrender” can mean many things to many people, even animals. In this religious fairy-tale satire about a Sasquatch named PoBo, we learn its meaning on many different levels.

Calhoun III, Cornell Hubert. *The Mighty Scarabs (An East Tech Story): A Play in Two Acts*. Original Works (Los Angeles, CA) 2016. PB \$11.99.

The ball stops bouncing for everyone... eventually. When the heroes of Cleveland’s East Technical High School basketball team won the state championship in ‘55, the world was theirs for the taking. Thirteen years later, the ball has stopped bouncing and reality has set in. A funny, lyrical and mournful exploration of what happens to inner-city hardwood stars when the glory days are a distant memory.

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.

Flinchbaugh, Nancy. *Revelation at the Labyrinth*. eLectio Publishing (Little Elm, TX) 2017. PB \$18.99. Join the Magnificent and Marvelous Book Club (the MAMs) on an

adventure as they launch a re-entry organic farm for women in recovery. The ancient pilgrim path of the labyrinth leads them all through personal healing and redemption, while finding hope for the planet as they encounter the turmoil of domestic violence, addiction, cancer, and climate change.

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.

Hart, Sandra Merville. *A Rebel in My House*. Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas (Raleigh, NC) 2017. PB \$9.95.

Sarah Hubbard makes her living as a seamstress in her solitary home beside Willoughby Run, a creek near Gettysburg. Her loyalties are firmly on the side of the North so when Confederate soldier, Jesse Mitchell, seeks refuge at her home she cautiously agrees to help him. When Union soldiers spill onto their property, Sarah’s compassionate decision to conceal Jesse’s presence in her home leads to more hardships than she can imagine.

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.

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

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. Construction workers, witches, and minions on all sides deal with all the most fearful things in Arcanum, Ohio.

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 youth while packing up the family home.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Ruscsak, 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 all 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.

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

The stories of Esther, her mother Lonia, her neighbor Javad, and Javad's son intertwine just before 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.

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.

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. 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 the Earth and into space.

Weems, Mary E. *Blackeyed: Plays and Monologues*. SensePublishers (Rotterdam, The Netherlands) 2015. PB \$36.00.

The topics covered in the book include housing and foreclosure, suicide, assault, mental health, the Black male experience, and more. The book intersects with critical race theory because the majority of this work positions race at the center of the experiences of the fictional or fictionalized characters. Embedded in these chapters are the interweaving of personal and ancestral stories, news reports, informal conversations, observations, interviews, and online research expressed in language unapologetically Black, critical, reflexive, and proud.

## POETRY

Bilgere, George. *Blood Pages*. University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2018. PB \$15.95. In *Blood Pages* George Bilgere continues his exploration of the joys and absurdities of being middle-aged and middle-class in the Midwest.

*Common Threads 2017*. Ohio Poetry Association Press (Mansfield, OH) 2017. PB \$10.00.

Published annually and edited by Steve Abbott, *Common Threads* is an OPA members-only journal and is one of the privileges of membership. The journal features poetry of OPA members and those who win the Ides of March and Ohio High School Poetry contests.

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

The small poems in Patrick Culliton's collection use the things and 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, the stuff of everyday American life underscores the insidious timbre threading through the work.

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 the grit, beauty, and truth of the working class immigrant struggle.

Fuller, Molly. *For Girls Forged by Lightning: Prose & Other Poems*. All Nations Press (Tallahassee, FL) 2017. PB \$18.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Together these poems dive deep 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.

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.

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 shifts and sighs in its sleep.

*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. 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 Cerveny, 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 Virginia.

Powell, Lynn. *Season of the Second Thought*. 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.

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.

Rumney, Linwood D. *Abandoned Earth*. Gival Press (Arlington, VA) 2016. PB \$15.00.

Rumney creates a world both menacing and comforting at once. This beautifully written collection contains what few books of poetry manage: high spirits, a keen eye and, above all, an embracing wisdom.

## YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE

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. 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 there's no 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.

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. Now Tommy, Abby's

boyfriend, is the prime suspect in her disappearance, and Rhylee's world has been turned upside down.

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 case leads him to suspect Lexi Collins and her boyfriend Adam. What he discovers is that they're extraterrestrials. Now he's without backup and caught up in the conflict between two alien races secretly inhabiting the earth.

Gebhart, Ryan. *Of Jenny and the Aliens*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2017. HC \$17.99. When boy meets girl meets alien, first love gets an extraterrestrial intervention in a tale both outrageously funny and full of heart.

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 this thrilling follow-up to *Children of Exile*.

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

Laforet, Christine Sromek. *Being Bree: Bree and the Nametag Worries*. Clear Fork Publishing (Stamford, TX) 2017. PB \$10.99. Six-year-old Bree Wilson thinks she needs a nametag to make friends on the first day of school. She worries she won't make any since the class is too busy going over rules and reading baby books to share nametags. Belly breaths and counting help Bree calm her worries until her nametag mysteriously disappears at recess and her extra one falls apart. Bree has a meltdown, but, with the help of her Gifted Instruction teacher, she learns friendships are formed with kind words and actions.

Langdon, Lorie. *Olivia Twist*. Blink/HarperCollins (Grand Rapids, MI) 2018. HC \$18.99. Olivia Twist is an innovative reimagining of Charles Dickens' 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.

Libenson, Terri. *Invisible Emmie*. Balzer & Bray (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$10.99. This is the story of two totally different girls—shy, artistic Emmie and popular, outgoing Katie—and how their lives unexpectedly intersect 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.

McBride, Kristina. *The Bakersville Dozen*. SkyPony Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. 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. Bailey, "Like a Virgin" Holzman is getting really fed up with the scrutiny. She just wants to enjoy the rest of her senior year. 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.

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. But then he gets there. And his eighty-four-year-old boss tells him to put on a suit for her funeral.

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. But does a Perfect Ten even exist?

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 supra 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!

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!

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.

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 Penelope, the puppy she's been coveting, and Indiana is on the case!

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.

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

In Cody's life, some people keep changing, like her 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? It seems like everything around

Cody is changing but if she can just navigate it all with her trademark enthusiasm and charm, 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?

## CHILDREN'S

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.

Derby, Sally. Illus. by Mika Song. *A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices*. Charlesbridge (Watertown, MA) 2017. HC \$16.99.

In a unique narrative, readers meet a diverse group of six children ranging in age from kindergarten through fifth grade. With nerves and excitement each child gears up for a new school year by hustling in the morning, meeting new teachers and new classmates during the day, and heading home with homework and relief by day's end. Simple, bright illustrations focus on each child and his/her worries, hopes, and successes on the first day of school.

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 ending — when of course — it finally IS the baby.

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Last Laughs: Prehistoric Epitaphs*. Charlesbridge (Watertown, MA) 2017. HC \$16.99.

Macabre, ironic, and witty epitaphs share how prehistoric creatures like the terror bird, the woolly mammoth, and the T-rex met their demise. The ever-entertaining J. Patrick Lewis and the inimitable Jane Yolen offer a collection organized by era, with posthumous poems paired with short secondary text providing additional factual information about each creature.

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Let's Celebrate Christmas*. Children's Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$25.00.

From building a gingerbread house to sharing presents under the tree,

this book helps readers celebrate the joys of Christmas. They'll even learn why sometimes Santa prefers the front door!

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Let's Celebrate Halloween*. Children's Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$25.00.

From carving a jack-o'-lantern to trick-or-treating with friends, this book helps readers celebrate the joys of Halloween. They'll even learn what their Halloween dreams may mean!

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Let's Celebrate Thanksgiving*. Children's Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$25.00.

From setting the table to sharing a meal with family, this book helps readers celebrate the joys of Thanksgiving. They'll even learn a turkey's fondest Thanksgiving wish!

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Let's Celebrate Valentine's Day*. Children's Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$25.00.

From making a card for a friend to sharing a kiss with a parent, this book helps readers celebrate the joys of Valentine's Day. They'll even learn how flamingos show their love!

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.

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.

Rylant, Cynthia. Illus. by Brendan Wenzel. *Life*. Beach Lane Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99. 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. Cynthia 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.

## Ohioana Book Festival

April 14, 2018  
10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square,  
Columbus, Ohio

Join us for the 12th annual Ohioana Book Festival! The event features a book fair and book signings, panel and roundtable discussions with your favorite Ohio authors, a children's activity room, teen space, food trucks, and more. Free — no ticket and no advance registration required. Visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org) for more information.

## The 2019 Friends Speaker Series: Ian Adams

April 19, 2018  
7 p.m.  
Ohio History Center  
800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

Join Ohioana Award-winning photographer and author Ian Adams (*Ohio in Photographs*) as he shares images and experiences in this new series presented by the Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden. Visit [www.friendsohio.org](http://www.friendsohio.org) for tickets and information.

## Thurber House Evenings with Authors

Columbus Museum of Art,  
480 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio

The 2018 Winter/Spring Evenings with Authors series concludes with Robin Yocum (*A Perfect Shot*) on April 25 and Janet Beard (*The Atomic City Girls*) on May 15. Visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org) for tickets and information.

## Ohioana Book Club

May 16, 2018  
10 a.m. – noon  
Ohioana Library  
274 East 1st Ave., Suite 300  
Columbus, Ohio

The title for May is the 2017 Ohioana Book Award-winner in fiction, *Little Nothing*, by Marisa Silver. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## Claire's Day

May 19, 2018  
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library,  
Maumee Branch  
501 River Rd., Maumee, Ohio

Claire's Day is the celebration of life, authors, illustrators, and reading excellence. Held annually for the past sixteen years in Maumee, Ohio, in memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini, the festival is Northwest Ohio's largest celebration of literacy. Claire's Day events are also held May 5 in Defiance and May 12 in Toledo. For more information, visit [www.claresday.org](http://www.claresday.org).

## Thurber Center Series: Lee Martin

May 30, 2018  
7 – 9 p.m.  
Thurber Center  
77 Jefferson Ave., Columbus, Ohio

This new quarterly series featuring authors with an Ohio connection opens with Ohioana Award-winner Lee Martin and his latest collection of short stories, *The Mutual UFO Network*. For tickets and information, visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

# Thank You!

The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from December 1, 2017, through February 28, 2018. Special thanks to Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

## **\$10,000 and above**

Ohio Humanities

## **\$5,000 – 9,999**

Cover to Cover Children's Books  
State Library of Ohio

## **\$1,000 – 2,499**

Huntington National Bank

## **\$500 – 999**

Richard & Marilyn Doerr  
Ted & Frances Strickland  
Jacquelyn Vaughan  
Jay Yurkiw

## **\$250 – 499**

William Bombeck

## **\$100 – 249**

Dale Abrams  
Aldus Society  
Tom Batiuk  
Carol Branscomb  
Clayton Cormany  
William Dorsey  
Edith Emery  
Barbara Estevez

Kathleen Fia  
Megan Gilligan  
Rosemary Joyce  
George & Phyllis Knepper  
John & Jeanne Marszalek  
Lowell & Ellen Satre  
Melody Snure  
Richard L. Stein  
Martha Stimson  
Doreen Uhas-Sauer  
Mary Vance

## **\$50 – 99**

Gretchen Brandt  
Amy Coombs  
Dorothy Cox  
Michael Curtin  
Carl Denbow  
Stella Dickman  
James Farmer  
Diane Fink  
Emily Foster  
Friends of the Porter Public Li-  
brary  
Joyce Geary  
Eric Gnezda  
Marilyn Greenwald  
Ann Hanning  
Larry Holt  
Martha Howell  
Bob Hunter  
Miriam Kahn

Bobbie Kirby  
Wayne Lawson  
New Century Club  
Marilyn Paulsen  
Martha Pituch  
Claudia Plumley  
Jan & Miriam Riker  
Janet Schneider  
David Siders  
Robin Smith  
Soros Literary Club  
Cathy Tilling  
Anne Voight  
Dennis Vroom  
Jane Ware  
Patricia K. Williams

## **\$25 – 49**

Sunny "Pongsun" Allen  
Andrea Dixon  
Susan Farnum  
Celeste A. Friedman  
William E. Hillenbrand  
Robert Hust  
Vicki Newell  
Nancy F. Rubenstein  
Susan Schueller  
Diane M. Selby  
Martha Shaw  
Ronald & Rose Solomon  
David & Aina Weaver

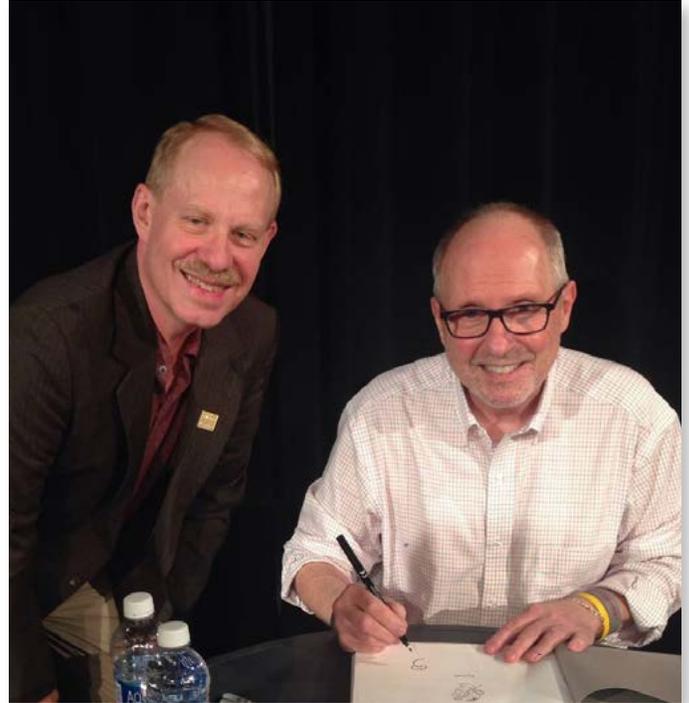
## Tom Batiuk Supports Ohioana

You know you've arrived when your event takes center stage in a nationally syndicated comic strip. We're grateful to Tom Batiuk—one of America's most beloved cartoonists—for shining the spotlight on Ohioana this way:

"I've always appreciated Ohioana's goal of supporting and honoring Ohio authors, as well as their concomitant charge of helping people to find and read them. The latter is exemplified by the book festival they hold each year and from which I drew my inspiration to have Lillian, my bookstore owner in *Crankshaft*, decide to cross over that line from reader to writer.

"I was on a book festival panel for aspiring authors when I realized that this is what makes the Ohioana Book Festival unique. Not only are people there to buy books written by Ohio authors, but there's a sizable coterie of attendees who want to become Ohio authors themselves. It was with this in mind that I decided to have Lillian attend the book festival last year to learn how to become a writer. The story arc was conceived as a triptych wherein Lillian will return this year wanting to now learn what to do with the manuscript that she's written, and then next year... well, that would be telling.

"The entire piece is my homage to the inspiring work that the Ohioana Library does day in and day out."



Ohioana Executive Director David Weaver (l) with Tom Batiuk, creator of *Crankshaft* and *Funky Winkerbean*

Yes, I want to support Ohio literature by making my tax-deductible contribution to Ohioana in the amount of:

\$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email/Telephone

My check payable to Ohioana is enclosed.  
 Please charge my:  
 Visa  Mastercard  Discover  Amex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CVV

Please send your donation with this form to Ohioana Library Association, 274 E. First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43201. You may also make your gift online at [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org). All donors of \$50 or more receive a print subscription to the *Ohioana Quarterly*, invitations to Ohioana events, and Ohioana's e-Newsletter. Questions? Call 614-466-3831 or email us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

**PROUD TO SUPPORT THE OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL**

# **DMIG**

**DISPATCH MEDIA GROUP**

**11 NICHE MAGAZINES**

**16 DYNAMIC WEBSITES & APPS**

**21 COMMUNITY WEEKLY PAPERS**

**19 BIG ANNUAL EVENTS**

**And, of course,  
1 AWARD-WINNING,  
WATCHDOGGING, ICONIC,  
146-YEARS-AND-STILL-GOING-STRONG  
DAILY NEWSPAPER.**

***This is real news.***

Subscribe to The Dispatch today by calling  
1-877-734-7728 or visiting [dispatch.com/subscribe](http://dispatch.com/subscribe).



Ohio Humanities is proud to be  
a presenting sponsor of the  
*12th Annual*  
*Ohioana Book Festival.*

*Ohio*  
**HUMANITIES**  
REAL ISSUES. REAL CONVERSATIONS.

[OhioHumanities.org](http://OhioHumanities.org)

[www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org)

Join us April 14  
for the  
Ohioana  
Book Festival!



*Crankshaft* comes to the Ohioana Book Festival!  
See pages 6 and 45.