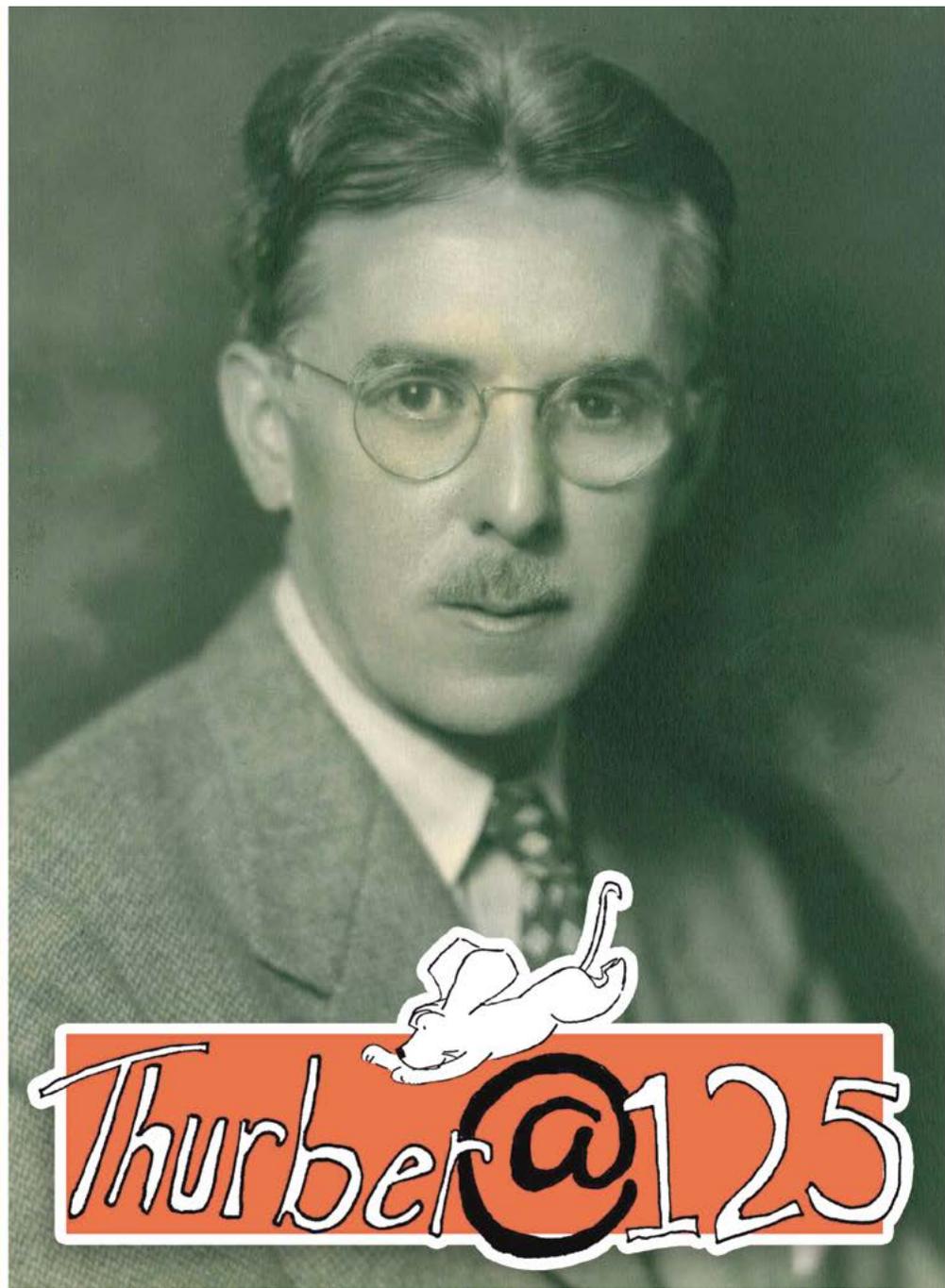
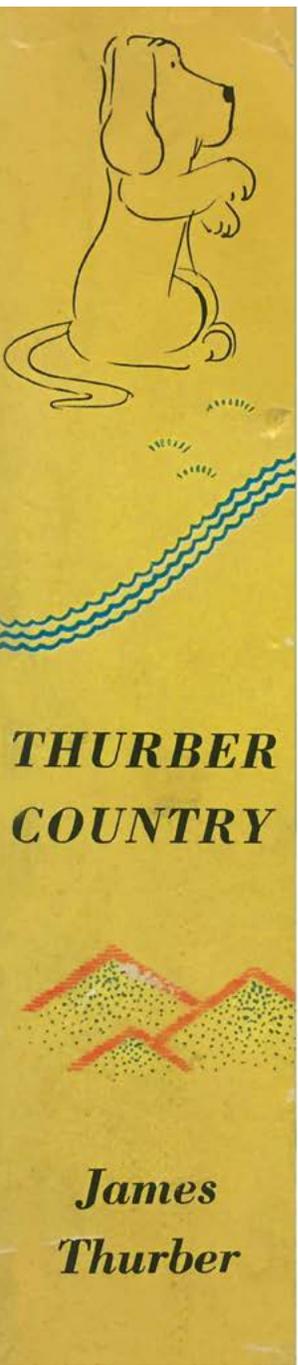


# OHIOana QUARTERLY

WINTER 2019 | VOL. 62 NO. 1



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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# QUARTERLY

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,



*“I am never very far away from Ohio in my thoughts, and... the clocks that strike in my dreams are often the clocks of Columbus. They have never struck, and never will strike, a finer hour for me than this one.”*

So said James Thurber in remarks read at the ceremony where the humorist received the Ohioana Sesquicentennial Medal in 1953. We’re proud to say Thurber was a close friend of Ohioana’s, as those heartfelt words attest. This year marks the 125th anniversary of Thurber’s birth, and what better way to mark the occasion than with a visit to Thurber House? Bryan Loar profiles the historic landmark, celebrating its thirty-fifth birthday in 2019, and a place, as their

tagline proclaims, “where laughter, learning, and literature meet.”

We also present a delightful article by author Jess Montgomery, who a few years back was the John E. Nance Writer-in-Residence, one of the great literary programs offered by Thurber House. Jess wrote her latest book, *The Widows* (which is reviewed in this issue!), during her residency.

But Thurber is not our only subject! There’s also my recent conversation with Jacqueline Woodson, one of Ohio’s most beloved writers and the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. Jackie’s book, *The Day You Begin*, has just been named the 2019 “Floyd’s Pick,” a special honor recognizing the most outstanding children’s picture book of the year by an Ohioan.

Finally, a quick quiz: name all the Ohioana Award winners who are also members of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and recipients of a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. It wouldn’t take long because there would be only one name on the list: Jorma Kaukonen, legendary guitarist and founding member of superstar bands Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna. Jack Shortlidge recently spoke with Jorma about his amazing career, which he’s now written about in his candid memoir, *Been So Long*.

Speaking of anniversaries... the Ohioana Library turns ninety in 2019! We look forward to an exciting year, one highlight of which will be moving the Ohioana Book Festival to a beautiful new venue: the Columbus Metropolitan Library Main Library! Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 27—we’ll see you there!

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

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

Portrait of James Thurber and Thurber@125 logo courtesy of Thurber House. Design by Kathryn Powers.

Correction: In the fall 2018 *Ohioana Quarterly*, the publisher of Robin Yocum’s novel, *A Perfect Shot*, was misidentified. The name of the publisher is Seventh Street Books, a division of Penguin Random House.



# The Clocks of Columbus Set to Strike for Thurber

By Bryan Loar

*Steeped in a rich legacy while at the same time fostering the best in contemporary writing and humor, Thurber House celebrates the written word through exciting programs for all ages. The new year marks humorist James Thurber's 125th birthday and the thirty-fifth anniversary of Thurber House. With many wonderful events scheduled for Thurber@125: A Year of Thurber, it's the perfect time to highlight James Thurber, Thurber House, and the special connection between the Ohio humorist and Ohioana.*

Born in Columbus, Ohio, on December 8, 1894, James Thurber was one of three sons of Charles and Mary Agnes ("Mame") Thurber. Thurber credits his prankster mother for his gift of comedy and satire. When Alistair Cooke asked at what point he decided to become a humorist, Thurber responded, "I don't think I made the decision myself. I think my mother made it for me."

Thurber's accomplishments are numerous. He wrote more than thirty books; won a Tony Award for *A Thurber Carnival*, his play that debuted in Columbus and later ran on Broadway; and was featured on the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek*. Upon the recommendation of E. B. White (*Charlotte's Web*, *The Elements of Style*), he joined the *New Yorker* in 1927. From then until his death in 1961, Thurber produced roughly 400 cartoons and nearly 500 stories and short prose pieces for the *New Yorker*.

Early life with his, at times, eccentric family left an indelible mark on Thurber, as did living in Columbus and honing his writing skills at East High School, Ohio State University, and the Columbus *Dispatch* before moving overseas, then to New York, and finally to Connecticut.

In 1953, Ohioana awarded Thurber the Ohioana Sesquicentennial Medal to honor his contribution to Ohio literature during the state's 150th anniversary. In his acceptance letter, Thurber wrote about the sustaining power of humor: "As a matter of fact, comedy, in all its forms, including the rusty art of political satire, is used to surviving eras of stress and strain, even of fear and trembling, but it sickens in weather of intimidation and suppression, and such a sickness could infect a whole nation." In closing, Thurber mused about his affection for his hometown: "I have lived in the East for nearly thirty years now, but many of my books prove that I am never very far from Ohio in my thoughts, and that the clocks that strike in my dreams are often the clocks of Columbus."

*My Life and Hard Times* recounts several incidents particular to Columbus and Thurber House. The hilarious chaos of "The Night the Bed Fell" and "The Night the Ghost Got In" took place at 77 Jefferson Avenue and features several family members. "The Day the Dam Broke" examines human behavior during Columbus' great flood of 1913, and "University Days" reflects on a few of Thurber's experiences at The Ohio State University.

Additional stories about Ohio State are also included in the book, *The Thurber Album*. "Length and Shadow" features Dean Joseph V. Denney for whom the university's Denney Hall is named. Thurber respected Dean Denney so much he made him the model for the wise Dean Damon in "The Male Animal." Thurber, although in poor health, made his last trip to Columbus to participate in the dedication of Denney Hall in 1960. Additionally, "Boy From Chillicothe" is about the great Columbus *Dispatch* cartoonist Billy Ireland, after whom Ohio State's Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum is named.

## Thurber House

A literary landmark since 1984, the actual house that James Thurber lived in during his university years is an incredible testament to the dedication of many staff, volunteers, and community members. Visitors are charmed to see the bathtub, staircase, bedrooms, and attic mentioned in Thurber's stories. Although the period furniture is not original, you can still see Thurber's typewriter in his bedroom and a wealth of memorabilia collected throughout his life.

Walking into Thurber House, visitors are greeted by a warm decor that communicates a middle-class upbringing. The front parlor features a fireplace, piano, and large arched window. Further in, the family room acts as a central location to learn more about Thurber House and to purchase books and other merchandise. Heading up the stairway to the second floor, one can see the breadth and caliber of visiting writers through hundreds of signed portraits, including Colson Whitehead, Nikki Giovanni, and Columbus native Wil Haygood.

Several bedrooms, including Thurber's, are located on the second floor. Thurber's room is modest, with enough room for a twin bed, two small desks, a throw rug, and not much else. The bedroom walls feature photos of East High School's 1913 graduating class and Ohio State's Scarlet Mask Club, the university's student theater organization and club where Thurber met his first wife, Althea. Thurber's actual typewriter sits bathed in natural light from the adjacent windows. One can just imagine the clicks, clacks, and dings as Thurber worked away on his Underwood Standard Typewriter No. 5 at the *New Yorker*. Look behind the closet door and one is treated to an entire closet filled with signatures and caricatures inscribed by visiting writers, humorists, and cartoonists.

Further down the hall, the Thurber parents' bedroom acts as the Thurber House museum room, exhibiting original playbills; Ohio State's former student humor publication, *Sundial*; awards (including Ohioana's); and a Thurber timeline. Around the corner, several original pieces of artwork with Thurber's notes can be found on the landing. If you're lucky enough to make it to the attic, you'll find the artist-in-residence studio and the space where supposedly the bed fell on Thurber's father.

Throughout the house, period wallcoverings, wood stains, oriental rugs, light fixtures, and more give the ambiance of a house filled with history. At the same

time, the work and programs of all at the Thurber House create a dynamic vibrancy.

## Programs

Thurber House offers an array of exciting programs for every age. Whether hearing a nationally recognized author speak, enjoying a reading from a local writer on a beautiful summer evening, or learning how to become the next great American writer, Thurber House creates outstanding literary opportunities for all.

### *Thurber Prize for American Humor*

The Thurber Prize for American Humor is the highest award for humor writing in the U.S. Presented nearly every year since 1997, a panel of national judges chosen from previous Thurber Prize finalists selects three candidates from a pool of around eight semi-finalists. All finalists attend the red carpet event, with the winner being announced at the close of the festivities. The most recent winner is Patricia Lockwood, who was chosen on December 5, 2018. Thurber House describes Lockwood's writing in *Priestdaddy* as ranging from "the comic to the deeply serious, exploring the balance of a hard-won identity with the weight of family and tradition." 2018's celebration was especially memorable for Ohioans; after being held in New York City since 2004, the Thurber Prize returned to its roots in Columbus, Ohio. Other past winners of the Thurber Prize include Trevor Noah, Calvin Trillin, Jon Stewart, and David Sedaris.



The parlor at Thurber House welcomes visitors.

### *Evenings with Authors*

This series of readings and chats features nationally known bestselling authors. Thurber House hosts both a fall and winter/spring series at the Columbus Museum of Art. The series also includes Author's Table Dinners prior to many of the readings, which provide a unique opportunity to share a wonderful meal with the author and discuss his or her work in an intimate setting. The 2019 lineup includes John Kenney (*Truth in Advertising*), Conrad C. Hinds (*Columbus and the Great Flood of 1913*), Diane Les Becquets (*Breaking Wild*), Cathy Guisewite (creator of the *Cathy* comic strip), Helen Ellis (*American Housewife*), Shawn Levy (*Rat Pack Confidential*), and several writers from the *Belladonna* comedy and satire website. Kenney and Hinds are part of *Thurber@125: A Year of Thurber* events. Hinds' event will include excerpts from Thurber's "The Day the Dam Broke," a lighthearted take on the 1913 natural disaster that is also the subject of the more serious original opera, *The Flood*, a co-presentation of Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra that premieres February 8, 2019.

### *Summer Literary Picnics*

Every summer, the Thurber House lawn transforms into an outdoor literary gathering with readings from authors who have an Ohio connection. Past authors include 2018 Ohioana Book Festival participants Anietra Hamper, Dan Gearino, and Karen Harper, as well as poet and Streetlight Guild founder, Scott Woods. Visit Thurber House's website ([www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org)) and social media for the 2019 schedule.

### *Adult Writing Workshops*

Workshops designed for adults at all levels of writing experience are held each spring. Past topics include writer motivation, mechanics, revising, and satire. Thurber House has also offered master classes and workshops on finding literary agents.

### *Young Writers Studio*

The studio hosts interactive classes that invite teens in grades 9-12 to write, create, and explore the act of writing. Columbus College of Art & Design Professor Robert Loss guides students through exercises meant to stretch budding writers in a creative and nurturing environment. Dates for winter and spring have been posted on Thurber House's website, and the program is supported by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, and the James W. Overstreet Fund of the Columbus Foundation.

### *Flip the Page*

Flip the Page is a teen literary journal written, staffed, and produced by Central Ohio teens. The journal showcases young local writers' work and provides insights into publishing. Writers whose work is accepted for publication are invited to read at the Columbus Arts Festival.

### *Young Docents*

Every year this fun initiative enlists a cohort of ten 5th and 6th grade students to lead Thurber House tours. Docents are taught all about James Thurber, his family, his works, his residence, and a docent favorite, ghost stories.

## **A Life of Laughter**

Although James Thurber faced many challenges over the years, he committed his life to humor. Through his writings and drawings, he explored the human condition, and his work continues to reach new audiences. Thurber wrote, "...Laughter is never out of date or out of place." In 2019 as Thurber House celebrates *Thurber@125*, we envision a year full of laughter, humor, and wit.

*Special thanks to Laurie Lathan, Anne Towell, James Tootle, and the Ohioana Staff for their insights and assistance in developing this article.*



Attendees enjoy a Summer Literary Picnic on the Thurber House lawn.

# On Being a Writer-in-Residence at Thurber House

By Jess Montgomery

“Hi. I’m a writer,” I said out loud—and immediately felt silly. I was, after all, alone in the Thurber House. But, I took a deep breath, looked around the cozily appointed third-story apartment—a bedroom, bathroom, study, kitchenette, and sitting room—and went on. “I’m just here to work on my novel.”

The Thurber House ([www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org)) in Columbus, Ohio, is the home of humorist, author, and New Yorker cartoonist James Thurber and serves as a nonprofit literary center and Thurber museum. I lived there for the month of October, 2015, as the John E. Nance Writer-in-Residence, a program created in 2012 by Sally Crane Cox to honor her late husband, a critically acclaimed photojournalist and author. The Nance Residency is a partnership between Thurber House and Ohio State University.

That first night, as the house settled and quieted around me, I recalled a friend telling me, half in jest, that if I got nervous about the house’s alleged resident ghosts, I should just politely introduce myself to them.

“Hi. I’m a writer...”

No response. I shrugged, went to bed—and couldn’t fall asleep. My mind re-wound to my journey to this residency.

That spring, I was partway into my novel-in-progress, *The Widows*, inspired by Ohio’s true first female sheriff serving in 1925. I had boxes of research notes, character sketches for a full cast, a plot outline, polished opening pages, and a partial chunk of clunky draft.

I also worked as a weekly newspaper columnist, director of a writing workshop, and adjunct instructor—a blessedly full work life. Yet, I longed for stretches of time in which to do nothing but write until I reached “The End” of a solid draft. So, I applied for the John E. Nance Writer-in-Residence program. When an email announced my selection, I was so stunned that I called Thurber House to verify the good news.

The only residency requirement was to teach two evening classes and give a public reading from my work. What an amazing gift—and yet, upon arrival, I stood at the bottom of the staircase to the third-story apartment and felt daunted—and not just at the prospect of toting up bins of research notes. It hit me that I’d have time to do nothing but write. Or... not. It was entirely up to me. There were no longer any excuses for NOT writing.

The next morning, I awoke energized. Looking back, I think the only “ghosts” I spoke to the night before were my own haunts—fears of not being “good enough” (reference my phone call), doubts about the project holding interest for anyone but me—fears and doubts that tend to haunt every writer.

I fell into a routine. Breakfast. Write. Lunch. Write. Mid-afternoon walk. Write. Dinner. Write. Bedtime. Each day: repeat. It was glorious.

On weekends, I took a few hours to explore the city. I taught my two classes. I had lunch one afternoon with the wonderful staff at Thurber House. Though they were too kind to say so, I must have seemed a bit ghostly myself: the writer in the third-story apartment.

With four days left, I got to “The End.” I wept. In relief and joy, and then from the old haunts of writerly fear and doubt. I shook those off, spent a few days polishing and proofing, and then sent my draft to my agent.

At my public reading, my voice quavered at first. Then I realized that Thurber House had given me an amazing gift—time and space and focus on this particular project. On myself as a writer. The least I could do was to give a gift in return, the best story I could share in that moment—an excerpt of *The Widows*.

I remain ever grateful that while my time at the Thurber House didn’t completely abolish my writerly haunts, it did reaffirm my passion for my creative calling.

“Hi. I’m a writer.”

# Been So Long

By Jack Shortlidge

*Musician and writer Jorma Kaukonen and his wife, Vanessa, have called Ohio home for more than thirty years. Ohioana has been proud to call Jorma a winner since 2010, when he received a citation for his contributions to music. And Bexley's Gramercy Books was proud to host Jorma for his only bookstore stop to promote his new book, *Been So Long: My Life and Music* (St. Martin's Press, New York, NY, 2018 HC \$29.98). Ohioana is also proud to offer a book review and interview with this major American musician.*

In 1967, the San Francisco band Jefferson Airplane became one of the most popular rock groups in the country. They had two national hit singles that year. The first song was the hard rocking "Somebody to Love," which their new singer Grace Slick brought to Jefferson Airplane from her former band, The Great Society. Their second hit was "White Rabbit," which Slick also brought from her former group, after the Great Society had disbanded in late 1966. "White Rabbit" was released in June of 1967, just two months after their first hit, and it became Jefferson Airplane's second song to make the Top Ten in *Billboard Magazine's* national ratings list.

Jefferson Airplane was celebrated for its two talented lead vocalists, Grace Slick and Marty Balin. The band was also known for its instrumentalists, which included bassist Jack Casady, drummer Spencer Dryden, and guitarists Paul Kantner and Jorma Kaukonen. Kaukonen was noted both for his playing on the electric guitar and for his fingerstyle mastery of the acoustic guitar. Jefferson Airplane's 1967 album, *Surrealistic Pillow*, also helped establish them as one of the top rock groups in the United States, as well as a hugely influential band in San Francisco's music scene. The Airplane performed at three of the most memorable rock festivals from that era, including the first Monterey Pop Festival in 1967, Woodstock in 1968, and Altamont in 1969.

Along with their two hit singles, *Surrealistic Pillow* includes "Embryonic Journey," an instrumental song composed by Kaukonen for acoustic guitar that showcases his fingerstyle playing. He came up with

the song in 1962, as he played chord progressions in the dropped D tuning that he had just learned. Before becoming a rock musician, Kaukonen concentrated on playing blues tunes on his guitar. "Embryonic Journey" is scarcely a blues piece, but it does include fingerstyle patterns that he mastered while listening to acoustic blues guitarists, most notably the Reverend Gary Davis.

In November of 2018, Kaukonen's engaging memoir *Been So Long: My Life and Music* was published. As the title suggests, the book is an overview of both his life and music career, from his vantage point fifty or so years after his tenure with Jefferson Airplane. His life has changed a great deal over that span of time, but the past still can catch up with him, such as when Jefferson Airplane was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. At the ceremony, Kaukonen comments, "the Airplane played "Volunteers," and I got to play "Embryonic Journey" as a solo. I am still amazed at the long legs this little piece has grown and that I was able to create it" [p. 228].



Jorma Kaukonen speaking at Bexley's Gramercy Books.

Kaukonen's memoir, though, is much more than a series of stories and memories about his musical career. With Jefferson Airplane, as well as his own band Hot Tuna, and by his work as a solo artist. More basically, *Been So Long* is "his story of redemption, renewal, and the power of love and friendship," as his longtime friend and musical colleague Jack Casady writes in an afterword to the book [p. 287].

The memoir chronicles many aspects of Kaukonen's life. He writes about his Finnish and Russian Jewish grandparents' reasons for emigrating to the United States. Kaukonen was born in Washington, D.C., on December 23, 1940, to Beatrice and Jorma Kaukonen Sr. His father worked as a diplomat in the State Department, and his wife and two sons followed him to appointments in Pakistan and the Philippines and other locales in the U.S. before they eventually returned to the place of his birth. He grew up in a fractious family where his parents were often at odds with each other and eventually split up. Jorma's marriage to his first wife, Margareta, was not a happy union, even though it lasted for twenty years. Kaukonen also was addicted to alcohol and opiates beginning with his years living in San Francisco, and for many years afterwards. Today, he is sober, but his sobriety was not easily achieved and involved several lapses along the way. His memoir does not flinch from covering such topics—the author addresses them directly and in detail.

In his book, Kaukonen strives to take ownership of his mistakes and to speak of both his friends and family with respect. He also gives credit to a college friend, Ian Buchanan, for teaching him how to play fingerstyle guitar. Kaukonen began going to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1961. He fell in with a group of guitar-playing students there, and it was evident that Ian was the most advanced one on the instrument. Kaukonen writes that Ian had "a beautiful [Gibson] J-200.... [He] patiently took me under his wing and started to teach me to fingerpick" [p. 54].

A few years later, while a fledgling band named Jefferson Airplane was gaining prominence in San Francisco, Kaukonen met Michael Bloomfield, lead guitarist for the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. Bloomfield was one of the most accomplished electric guitar players anywhere, and Kaukonen writes that "Mike... started to show me electric guitar tricks.... He showed me how to bend strings in a pitch-perfect way and many other techniques" [pp. 109-10]. This anecdote is one of many in which Kaukonen gives credit to friends and acquaintances for musical lessons he learned and later put to good use.

*"I'm the luckiest guy in the world."*

Kaukonen often relies on personal journal entries to mark the path on this journey through his life. He explains, "I've been journaling for a number of years now, and any time you see passages in italics, they will be from my diary" [p. 3]. The journal entry he cites suggests the open-eyed approach he will take to his life story: "I spend lots of time writing about recollections from the past. The journey is not always pleasant, but it is my journey. The road to enlightenment is slow and incomplete at best, but at least I'm making progress."

Personal writing of another sort is represented by song lyrics posted in a section at the end of the book. They begin with "The Last Wall of the Castle," a song that was recorded in 1967 for Jefferson Airplane's *After Bathing at Baxter's* record album. The song lyrics continue through his 2015 CD, *Ain't No Hurry*, with the songs "In My Dreams" and "Seasons in the Field." The lyrics demonstrate that along with his skills on the guitar, Kaukonen is an accomplished and prolific songwriter.

The book *Been So Long* includes a CD with live performances of five songs. One of these, "River of Time," was inspired by a dream he had in 2002 in which he saw his grandmother Ida, who had died many years earlier. Kaukonen remembered saying to her, "Grandma, you're alive," [to which she replied] "Oh no . . . I'm gone, your uncles are gone, your parents are gone, we're all gone. . . But we surround you in the river of time" [p. 254].

A verse from “River of Time” illustrates his ability to incorporate the words he heard in the dream into a lyric (although nothing, of course, is better than listening to the recording):

*The banks were shrouded in the fog  
From the shore a barking dog  
Recalled a time I'd long forgot  
The flowers there forget-me-nots  
I saw a wave from friends of mine  
As I rolled down that river of time.*

Kaukonen’s path to a healthier life also includes the story of Fur Peace Ranch in southeastern Ohio, near the Ohio River town of Pomeroy, where he and his second wife Vanessa have lived for almost thirty years. They purchased the property from a friend, and they had a plan for the property that turned into a guitar-playing camp for seasoned guitarists, beginning players, and all the stages in between. Jorma writes that he and Vanessa talked about what they should do with the real estate: “[W]e joked that the property where the ranch exists now would be a great place to teach and grow guitar players. Out of the blue the name Fur Peace Ranch came to us because it’s a ‘fur piece from anywhere.’”

Over the years the ranch has evolved to include cabins, a workshop, a bathhouse, an art gallery, and a 200-seat concert theater designed by Vanessa. The guitar camp is still a centerpiece of the ranch. On the ranch website, a list of guitar instructors over the years includes G.E. Smith, Arlo Guthrie, Jack Casady, Chris Smither, Patty Larkin, Happy Traum, Jonathan Edwards, Tom Feldman, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Bill Kirchen, Roy Book Binder, Michael Falzarano, Guy Clarke . . . “and the list goes on.”

Today, after having spent much of the last three decades in southeastern Ohio, Kaukonen reflected in a recent telephone interview that there is something special about the area and about the state. He has close friends in Ohio, such as his musical colleague and Fur Peace Camp Manager, John Hurlbut. Kaukonen’s many musical friends visit him and take part in public concerts and musical workshops. In thinking about what has happened with Fur Peace Ranch and his business partnership with Vanessa, he says, “I’m the luckiest guy in the world.”

# An Interview with Jacqueline Woodson

by David Weaver



Photo by Carlos Diaz

Please enjoy this Q & A with author Jacqueline Woodson and look for reviews of her books on pages 29 and 31 of this issue of the Ohioana Quarterly.

**Q** *Harbor Me* is about a group of young people who express their fears and feelings through the stories they share with one another. How important is that, especially given the challenging and often scary times in which we live?

**A** I think when we open up with people we trust, it alleviates some of the dread that comes with feeling like you're in a thing all alone. More than ever, we need allies and friends, and *Harbor Me* explores what can happen when we gather and actually talk to one another.

**Q** *The Day You Begin* starts with a poem from *Brown Girl Dreaming* about your great-grandfather being the only black child in an all-white school. How do stories help children understand and cope with the feeling of being “different?”

**A** Again, I think it's about, as Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop says, giving young people “mirrors and windows.” The stories allow children to see reflections of themselves, their families, their neighborhoods, their passions on the page and thus legitimizes them. I think it's amazing to be different, but “different” can also be lonely for a young person—until it isn't lonely anymore.

**Q** *Harbor Me* and *The Day You Begin* were both released on the same day. Were you working on both books at the same time? Do you find it difficult to be writing more than one book at a time, especially for different age groups?

**A** I'm usually working on more than one book at a time and am not aware of how they intersect until someone points it out to me. I think all aspects of writing are difficult, but I find it more challenging to write two books in the same genre (i.e., two middle-grade books or two adult novels) at the same time. So I tend to write with protagonists of different ages. This helps keep the stories clear in my head.

**Q** When you start a new book, do you do so with “theme” in mind? Or does everything start with a character? And do you know right away what form it will take—novel, poem, picture book—or does that come later?

**A** Nope, not a theme. My books are character based, and I usually know, about a third of the way in, the shape of the story I want to tell. I don't always know what the story's trying to say or how it's finally going to say it but I do know who my characters are—for the most part. They tend to morph and develop as I write and rewrite.

**Q** Has having children of your own—your son is now ten and your daughter, a teenager—had an influence on your writing?

**A** They've definitely made me more disciplined. I think I've always been thoughtful about the impact my stories will have on young people. I *hope* my kids like my work. I want them to. But in the end, I'm writing for

them and all children. They're lucky enough, though to get me simply as "Mom" and can choose how much Jacqueline Woodson they want in their lives.

**Q** You are the sixth National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and will be serving in that capacity through the end of 2019. I imagine you must be on the road a lot! What has the experience been like thus far? What message do you hope to share with people, especially young people, that you encounter?

**A** It's been amazing. And exhausting. And then amazing again. I hope people can find their way to books that truly speak to them. I hope they experience the power of those books. I hope they come together and talk.

**Q** You knew you wanted to be a writer when you were seven years old. What did you write first: prose or poetry?

**A** Poetry. Definitely poetry. It was a seven-year-old's poetry to say the least. But it did have an essence of where I wanted to one day be in the poems. Some of them are in *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

**Q** The two most honored writers of young people's literature who were born in Ohio are you and Virginia Hamilton. You've cited Hamilton as an inspiration. Was there a particular book or story of hers that you admired?

**A** Oh man—hands down, *Zeely*! I still have my copy from back in the day. That book shook me and showed me my future. I wanted to write a book like *Zeely* one day. Virginia's language and her love of people came through in everything she wrote. I also love *The Planet of Junior Brown*. She was challenging the world with her world. I wanted to do that too. I miss her.

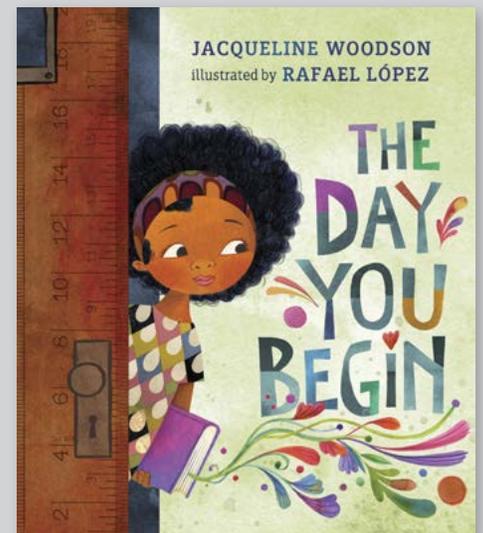
**Q** We proudly claim you as an Ohio writer, even though you lived here for barely a year after you were born, and you grew up in South Carolina and New York. You still have family in Ohio. How does it feel when you come back to Ohio? Do you think, even if you didn't live here very long, that somewhere inside you there dwells a Buckeye?

**A** I still say that I'm Buckeye to the Bone. Ohio was my first home. My dad, aunt, and cousins are all still there. I love that I can claim the Midwest, the South, and Brooklyn as home, and in each place, some part of me is infinitely grounded. So, yeah—even if you can't hear the twang, Ohio is a part of me.

## The Day You Begin: 2019 "Floyd's Pick"

In 2015, the Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) Advisory Council created a special honor to be given annually to one outstanding book of children's literature written by an Ohio author or illustrated by an Ohio illustrator. The honor is named for and presented in memory of children's literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman. "Floyd's Pick" is selected by the CTRO Advisory Council in addition to the twenty titles in the biennial Choose to Read Ohio list.

The CTRO Advisory Council has chosen *The Day You Begin*, written by Ohio native Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael Lopez, as the 2019 "Floyd's Pick." Woodson's book, a poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, is one we know Floyd himself would have loved and enthusiastically promoted to children everywhere.



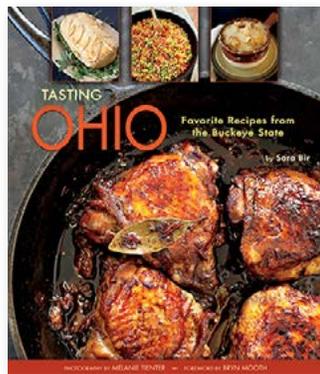
# Book Reviews

## NONFICTION

### **Bir, Sara, and Melanie Tienter (photographer). *Tasting Ohio—Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State.***

Faircountry Press (Helena, MT) 2018. HC \$29.95.

*Tasting Ohio—Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State* is a cook's delight. Written by Ohioan and chef Sara Bir, with photographs taken by southeastern Ohioan Melanie Tienter, *Tasting Ohio* is filled with yummy recipes accompanied by wonderful food illustrations, providing a resource of many menu options. Each recipe has an Ohio connection, whether it be a restaurant, bed and breakfast, or food-related organization, and these connections create a story to go with the recipe.



I love how the book is laid out with chapters that are set up by meal type categories, starting with breakfast recipes and ending with desserts and sweet treats. The recipes vary in complexity, with some that can be put together quickly and others that involve several steps. The selections fit all dietary needs, including special diets, such as gluten-free and vegan. The recipes I tested had very clear directions and were very tasty. I even got my husband to eat more vegetables with the Polish Cucumber Salad, one that I plan to have again soon, but it was especially good during the summer when cucumbers are available at the local markets. Many other recipes are on my list to try.

The recipe sampling from various food establishments throughout Ohio provides a fun way to discover recipes from favorite restaurants, such as Casa Nueva's Queso con Chiles Dip or the Worthington Inn's Catalonian Crème Brulée. Resources, such as contact information for the food contributors, a glossary/contact list for

specialty ingredients, and a complete index are included at the end of the book.

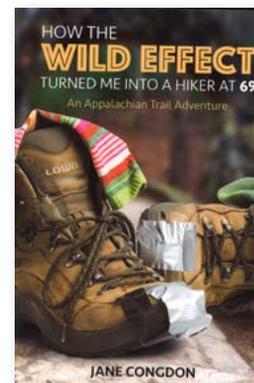
If you enjoy cooking, exploring Ohio's restaurants, learning more about Ohio's food people, or looking at appetizing food photographs, then you will want to grab a copy of *Tasting Ohio—Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State*. Bon Appetit!

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR

### **Congdon, Jane. *How the Wild Effect Turned Me into a Hiker at 60: An Appalachian Trail Adventure.***

Bettie Youngs Book Publishers (Info@BettieYoungsBooks.com) 2018. PB \$21.95.

The "Wild Effect" of the title refers to Cheryl Strayed's 2012 bestseller, *Wild*. That book—and the subsequent movie—has had a huge effect on many people, mostly women, who were inspired to get out on various trails themselves. Jane Congdon picked up a used copy of *Wild* in a Cincinnati bookstore, and her trail was destined. Though she "was afraid of animals and prone to being easily chilled," she somehow ended up becoming a long-distance hiker on the difficult Appalachian Trail (AT), which is every bit the equal of Strayed's Pacific Crest Trail.



As part of her preparation, Congdon bought an insurance policy that was called an Accidental Death and Dismemberment certificate. Yikes! But though she often fell and scraped, punctured, and twisted various parts of her anatomy, and had a large bear appear in a campsite, the policy went unused.

What was this sixty-nine-year-old retired textbook editor who lived in a comfy condo in a Cincinnati suburb doing out on the demanding, rigorous Appalachian Trail? Where "you don't wash for days or weeks. You

carry your own food, water, and shelter in a pack on your back. It's just you and the wildlife—ticks, snakes, bears, and more.” She felt her sedentary life slipping away. “Too many people I knew were leaving this world....The AT seemed like the ideal plan to shake it up.”

For the next year she collected and read books about the AT, buying gear and clothing, including the purchase of just the right pair of hiking boots. (She found out later how buying the wrong pair of boots could seriously affect, in a negative way, hiking the trail.) “The choices one makes when packing are dizzying,” she noted. To get her hiker-legs, she did small hikes with Road Scholar. She studied every page of the AT Guide—every detail as to the location of campsites, water sources (critical information), re-supply towns along the way, and laundry facilities. Hikers develop trail stench, so laundry stops are critical, even if it's just washing out clothes in a campsite sink while critters circle the laundry building, waiting for a late-night snack. Of course, her friends couldn't believe that she was planning to hike over 2,000 rugged mountainous miles, alone, rookie hiker that she was.

Just before leaving, she did connect with a former co-worker about hiking together, though her trailmate “Miles” was an experienced hiker and of a much different temperament than “Early Bird”—which were their trail names, given to or selected by every hiker. From the very beginning personality conflicts arose that threatened the continuation of thru-hiking the trail. This theme dominates the book like no other, save perhaps the demanding regimen of hiking through and camping in nature. They were different personalities with unequal skill sets. Not being alone in those rainy mountains of Georgia and North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia was of great comfort... sometimes... as were the other hikers they encountered. “The people we met were an education,” Congdon writes. Some of them would be seen off and on at campsites and shelters and on the trail as trail speeds and resting needs dictated varying paces. “Hike your own trail,” was the oft-spouted advice to one another. Hike to your capabilities, not anyone else's, including your trail-mate(s). Miles and Early Bird hooked up occasionally with another hiker or two going their way, which was NOBO—northbound, from Georgia toward Maine. A couple of them became good friends with Congdon and hiked with her on other trails after her efforts on the AT.

Often her trail journal entries read as follows: “I am miserable. Between the steep mountain slopes and my ridiculous pack weight (30+ pounds), I once again wondered what I was doing there. The trail was a challenge in every way, but I wanted to be able to do the necessary miles (about eight-to-twelve per day, once she had gained her trail legs) without whining. I wanted to be a good trail partner to Miles.” With conditions—the trail, weather, and her inexperienced body—so bad, what inspired her to continue to place boot after boot up and down the challenging mountains? “I discovered what kept me going was curiosity. The possibilities renewed my energy and I was like a compass needle pointing north.”

The details of life on a mountainous trail are well documented, including how she carried a device that let her pee standing up, but Congdon is honest enough to admit that on at least two occasions, she ended up peeing herself rather thoroughly.

It seems like the pair spent much of their hiking time in wetness: rain, storms, fog, mist. A great difficulty was trying to keep not only themselves dry, but also their gear, their clothes, their attitudes.

She and Miles experienced trail pain often from falls, sprained ankles, sore knees, and more. And yet, when they got back home, Congdon reports having hiker-hobble—“stiffness and pain from sitting, after so many weeks of being on the move. We took our first creaky steps like a couple of zombies.”

“Readjusting to a suburban life was a bumpy process. I was reconciling trail habits with a new reality... I had trail dreams night after night.”

In her epilogue, Congdon writes, “I didn't expect a perfect experience on the AT.... I didn't expect the trail to be so difficult, or my pace to be so slow. I didn't think I would have physical issues like falling. I didn't dream I'd be a rookie after reading forty-three books, or become the underdog of my own hike.” But she felt ultimately triumphant: “I could hike up a mountain without stopping. I could put up a tent in the rain. I could hike vast stretches of backcountry alone, or with a partner—all because another woman's story yanked me out of my comfort zone.”

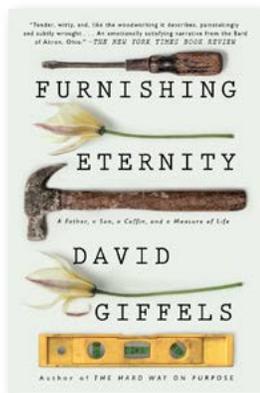
I enjoyed this book, though photos and sectional maps would have improved it. Perhaps because of my own modest AT hiking, I turned page after page as she walked day after day.

My AT experience occurred in western Connecticut—a very modest twenty miles or so over several days. I was a healthy 32 in 1977. Hiking the AT is not like hiking the Metro Parks trails. A friend and I clomped and climbed and camped, having a grand time, even if—like Congdon and Strayed—we found it a little more challenging than we anticipated. On our last night, on a promontory where we could see for miles and miles, we staked our tents, did some campfire cooking, and sat with beers watching the sun set over New York. During the night, a thunderstorm came up and nearly blew us away up there on the ledge. Two of the four tent pegs were wind-yanked from the thin soil, so that we awoke with the tent flapping in the gale allowing the storm into our tent. Thunder boomed around us up there while lightning crashed and illuminated our attempts to lash down the tent in a driving rain. Such are the trials on the trail, as Congdon well describes.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN, READER, TRAVELER, AND BOOKSELLER EMERITUS

**Giffels, David.**  
***Furnishing Eternity: A Father, A Son, A Coffin, and a Measure of Life.***

Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc. (New York NY) 2018. HC \$24.00.



This wonderful book about living with friends and family is full of vignettes and Giffels’ adventure building a coffin. The stories range from love and friendships, to listening to music on LPs, CDs, and at music venues. Giffels writes about doing things with Dad, mostly in his workshop but also sharing sports, Sunday meals, and a thirst for life (and beer).

Throughout the book, Giffels provides glimpses into how he handled first his mother’s struggle with cancer, then his best friend John’s cancer that devoured him so very quickly. He and John live life to its fullest as they both come to terms with the finality of the disease.

Then Giffels’ father is diagnosed with cancer for a second time. Giffels and his father work diligently, completing a casket while sharing the experience and quality time together.

Reading the book will stir memories of projects and adventures you had with your own parents, or with friends and family who have passed away. You’ll yearn for shared experiences with living relatives and friends and cherish them all the more.

Giffels is never morbid, even when dealing with John’s death or that of his mother. He’s realistic and emotional as he comes to terms with the eternal truth that all life is fleeting. You’ll be haunted by the vivid language and pictures of life, by the way the vignettes fit together, flowing from one topic to another yet always circling back to the building of the coffin and the practicality of death rituals and customs. Most of all, you’ll appreciate your memories of good times and family.

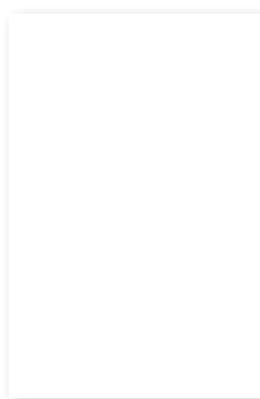
David Giffels is an associate professor of English at University of Akron, teaching non-fiction creative writing in the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts Program. He’s the author of several books and numerous magazine articles and is the winner of an Ohioana Book Award for *All the Way Home: A Memoir*.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

**Haygood, Wil, with contributions by Carole Genshaft, Anastasia Kinigopoulos, Nannette V. Maciejunes, Drew Sawyer, and David Stark. *I Too Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100.***

Rizzoli Electa (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$55.00.

*I Too Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100*, written by Wil Haygood in collaboration with the Columbus Museum of Art, is a wonderful book to accompany the unique exhibit held from October 19, 2018 – January 20, 2019. The book explains the events that led to the Harlem Renaissance and the accomplishments that arose from that period. Anyone who has an interest in African American



art and history, in general, will find this book to be an important one to read and to keep in their collection.

Wil Haygood is a Columbus native and a major 21st-century writer who often focuses on the African American experience. He not only authored this book, but was also the creative force and guest curator of the exhibit held at the Columbus Museum of Art. The Harlem Renaissance was a creative explosion that took place in the predominately African American community in New York City in the 1920s and 1930s. Haygood based the title of the exhibition and the book on the poem, "I Too," by Langston Hughes, a leading poet from this period. The poem addresses the second-class status of African Americans in 1926 and was written as a rejoinder to Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing." It is a proclamation that all black Americans have a rightful and equal place as creative individuals and as U.S. citizens.

Haygood has researched and written extensively about the Harlem Renaissance. He is considered one of the leading scholars of the era. He wrote an in-depth series about Harlem for the *Boston Globe* in 1983. He has also written several biographies about famous figures associated with the Harlem era, including Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Sammy Davis Jr., Sugar Ray Robinson, and Thurgood Marshall. The exhibit and the book are the result of many hours of research. As its main curator, Haygood consulted with officials at the Columbus Museum of Art and experts at other museums to select the work that is included in the exhibit. Since Haygood is a storyteller, most of the artworks are representative in nature and serve to advance a narrative. While some black artists during the Harlem Renaissance experimented with abstraction and more modern approaches, the exhibit is focused primarily on portraiture and scenes of everyday life.

From this creative concept for the exhibit, the companion book serves as a deep dive into the history and culture of the time period and brings the ideas of the Harlem Renaissance into the present. Haygood outlines the roots of the Harlem Renaissance, which had its beginnings in the race riots that followed the return of African-American soldiers from World War I. The war was seen as an opportunity for blacks to show their patriotism, but the American military was segregated. Dignitaries, like W.E.B. DuBois, urged blacks to align with white Americans and join the military. He certainly

understood the dilemma of black men, once oppressed, fighting alongside their oppressors. Yet, it was felt by doing so, their patriotism couldn't be denied and would help them to earn their right to vote, work, and live as equals in America. The military units were segregated, so the leadership of blacks serving in Europe was turned over to the French military. While in France, black soldiers were treated with respect and as equals. When these soldiers returned to America, they were met with prejudice and segregation. As a result, riots erupted all over America in 1919, in what came to be known as "The Red Summer." Concurrently, "The Great Migration" saw more than a half-million black Americans migrating from the South to the North to assume jobs, shifting from farm labor to factory positions. Included in this migration were artists, writers, teachers, lawyers, and doctors, as well as laborers. Some migrated as a way to shed the memories of an enslaved past, while others sought better economic and living conditions. From these new communities, artists and writers began to emerge, expressing and helping to transform the image of the black experience in America.

Haygood's narrative writing style provides an interesting, lively, and easy read; taking historical facts and details and turning them into vivid, nearly cinematic scenes. He traces the newly developed black real estate market in Harlem to a resulting sense of ownership. He describes the lives and the accomplishments of early Harlem dignitaries, such as Adam Clayton Powell Sr. and Jr., and W.E.B. DuBois. He discusses the important contributions of bandleaders, pianists, poets, writers, comedians, dancers and singers. Mr. Haygood explains the rise and importance of newspapers and periodicals published within the Harlem community in showcasing black artists, poets and essayists. Publications led by W.E.B. DuBois and later by Alain Locke not only shaped but also widened the social thinking around the entire country. W.E.B. DuBois, as a founding member of the NAACP, published the magazine, "The Crisis: A Record of the Darker Races". Such magazines served to investigate social injustice, showcase cultural arts and advocate for change in society. Mr. Haygood also focuses on the female contributions of the era by highlighting the lives and work of Zora Neale and Augusta Savage. He also wrote about some of the more historically important protests and public lynchings that led to the rise of black political leaders and awareness of the need for a civil

rights movement within the overall American culture. Mr. Haygood's quality of writing serves as a form of "documentation" that aligns perfectly with the "photo-documentation" included in the exhibit and companion book. During the Harlem Renaissance, W.E.B. DuBois encouraged African-Americans to document their lives through photos to show how they chose to represent themselves; as opposed to the way whites represented them during the 20th century. The resulting photos not only affirmed Black culture, they also challenged other visual representations of them at that time that supported a view of prejudice.

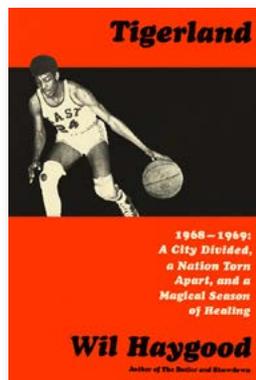
Mr. Haygood's book serves to tie together the major themes of the Harlem Renaissance movement. The chapters are arranged in themes that cover the lives of the people, the art, the literature, the music, the scholarship and the social history of the era. The exhibit includes 130 examples of painting, photography, sculpture as well as illustrations for book covers, posters, magazines and brochures. While many of these works were created in Harlem, some were created in Columbus, Boston, San Francisco, and Chicago during the same era. The book highlights key aspects of the art, with analysis from guest writers who are officials with the Columbus Museum of Art. The book and the exhibit are a true collaborative effort. Throughout the collaboration, Mr. Haygood celebrates the "hope" that was expressed in the Langston Hughes poem and resonated during the Harlem Renaissance period in the twentieth century. While many strides have been taken towards achieving this goal, the "hope" once seen as nearly a promise has yet to be fully realized 100 years later in the twenty-first century.

REVIEWED BY PEG BARGA, RETIRED ARTS EDUCATOR

**Haygood, Wil. *Tigerland: 1968-1969: A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing.***

Alfred A. Knopf (New York, NY)  
2018. HB \$27.95.

Tigerland lives at the intersection of sports, politics and culture. In it, journalist Wil Haygood recounts the exploits of Columbus' East High Tigers



basketball and baseball teams in 1968 and 1969. East became the first all-black high school in Ohio to win state championships in both sports in the same school year. But Haygood also, by necessity, writes about the assassinations of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and presidential candidate Robert Kennedy. And he writes about Olympic athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who ascended the podium after finishing first and third in the 200 meter dash and raised black-gloved fists into the air during the National Anthem, a powerful statement that Smith later called not a Black Power salute but "a human rights salute." These things happened out in the wider world, but Haygood suggests that Ohioans, especially black Ohioans, were affected by these events as much people living anywhere else in the country.

The Tiger basketball championship was almost expected. After all, the squad had won the state title the previous year and had two star athletes returning. So popular were the basketball Tigers, they played their games at the Coliseum on the Ohio State Fairgrounds and still had to turn fans away. Their games were even broadcast on the radio, a rarity in those days. But the Tiger baseball team was another story altogether. They didn't even have a dugout and were forced to carry folding chairs from the school to the ball field in order to have a place to sit between innings. Their uniforms were old, their gloves hand-me-downs. But they had something more important than that: they had outstanding Little League coaches (some were former players from the Negro Leagues) who provided the boys with fundamentals that would turn into victories when they showed up to play ball at East High.

Of the times and of Columbus Haygood writes, "Blacks held no political strength in the city, but they did now have athletic strength. The nation may have been on fire, and those embers still burning, but these championships were both undeniable and fortifying. They seemed, in their own unique way, to say to those who needed uplifting: Hold on."

Haygood dedicates the first half of his book to the juggernaut that was East High's basketball team, led by Nick Connor, Eddie "Rat" Ratleff and Bo-Pete Lamar. Lamar's story is particularly compelling: in 1967 while a student and star basketball player for North High School, Lamar was told he must shave off his Afro in order to stay on the team, which had qualified for

the state tournament. He quit rather than suffer the indignity, and enrolled at East the following year. The second half of *Tigerland* follows the improbable success of the baseball team, which featured Eddie Rat as the team's star pitcher. Throughout his book, Haygood leaves his sports narratives aside briefly to touch on, say, the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a black kid from Chicago visiting friends in Mississippi; or the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Haygood dedicates an entire chapter to Jackie Robinson, who broke the National League "color barrier" with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 and was an inspiration to all the Tiger baseball players. Another hero of *Tigerland* is East High School principal Jack Gibbs, a former Ohio State University football player who went on to become the first black principal in the Columbus Public School system. His impact was such that folks throughout Columbus began referring to East High as "the house that Jack built." *Tigerland* is a compelling trip back in time that resonates down the decades and is, alas, all too relevant today.

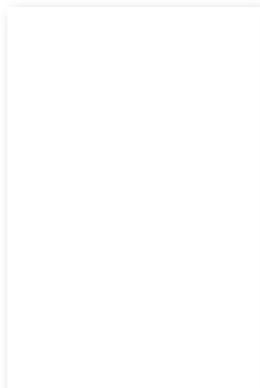
REVIEWED BY BILL EICHENBERGER, A WRITER AND EDITOR FOR THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION'S MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATION, ECHOES

**Hayes, Christine & Motz, Doug. *Lost Restaurants of Central Ohio & Columbus.***

American Palette (Charleston, SC) 2017. PB \$21.99.

Columbus, Ohio, natives Christine Hayes and Doug Motz have teamed together again to write their second book, *Lost Restaurants of Central Ohio & Columbus*, which continues their list of Central Ohio's restaurants that have disappeared over the years. It provides a wonderful way to discover more about central Ohio's former dining establishments, from simple to elegant fare.

The book is organized by restaurant types, with categories such as diners, neighborhood haunts, downtown favorites, and lavish dining to name a few. Within each category, various restaurants are listed with the dates in operation, Columbus location(s), and a description of the restaurant and its history. Menus,



old photos, and memorabilia add to the nostalgia. Fun little facts emerge from these descriptions and reveal more about Columbus and its dining history, such as the first Chinese restaurant in Columbus was the Far East, and some famous customers who dined at the Kahiki included Milton Berle, Andy Williams, and Zsa Zsa Gabor. A sampling of recipes, along with an extensive bibliography, is included at the end of the book.

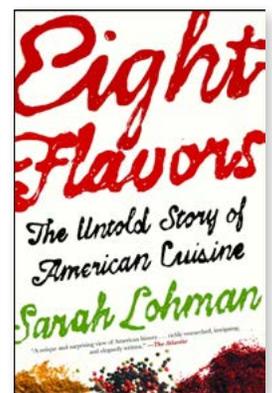
While I have not eaten at all of the restaurants, I grew up in Columbus hearing my parents talk about frequenting the Far East when they were children and going on dates to hear the Big Bands at the Grandview Inn in the 1950s. I remember having birthday celebrations with my great aunt at the Willard, special occasion dinners at L'Armagnac and Dragonfly, and morning coffee and a pastry at the French Loaf. It is fun to read about these restaurants and to connect with Columbus's past. *Lost Restaurants of Central Ohio & Columbus* is the perfect book to enjoy a trip down memory lane, while treasuring a part of the dining history of Columbus.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR

**Lohman, Sarah. *Eight Flavors: The Untold Story of American Cuisine.***

Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$26.99.

I like reading a book while on vacation. This past summer I traveled to Paris. I was in Paris over Bastille Day. I was in Paris when the national "soccer" team won its semi-final game and then the World Cup finals in Russia. I was in Paris the day the team came home to a ticker tape parade down the Champs-Élysées. Then there's the art, the streets, and of course, the food. I had to stop reading *Eight Flavors* by Sarah Lohman because I was on the trip of a lifetime and she was ruining it.



As I strolled through the Rodin sculpture garden, I daydreamed about my return home and experimenting with American cuisine. And it had to stop.

The madness did stop. I reopened the book in the fall and continued to be treated to a fantastic exploration of American history and American culture from the

perspective of the family dinner table and Lohman’s encouraging voice. Lohman’s book is much smarter than a descriptive background of how American kitchens became steeped in the aromas and tastes of black pepper, vanilla, chili and curry powder, soy sauce, garlic, MSG, and sriracha. *Eight Flavors* is part travel book, part cookbook, but maybe more importantly, part historical book.

The eight flavors share with readers our country’s history. While reading recent New York Times stories with headlines like “Inspectors Find Nooses in Cells at Immigration Detention Facility” and “Hysteria Over the Caravan of Immigrants,” my reading of *Eight Flavors* became an emotional experience. The eight flavors are the stories of our immigrants and those immigrants who are not household names but who have dramatically affected how Americans cook, how Americans eat, and how Americans share around the table. I learned Chinese immigrant Wong Chin Foo influenced a few of my holiday traditions. I learned that when I sit at some of my favorite Cincinnati restaurants, not only should I thank God for the food I’m about to receive, but also French chef Marie-Antonin Carême. Lohman spotlights important American contributions by those we don’t read about in school. She energetically shares uplifting stories of the underdog and skillfully weaves in the heartbreaking realities of racism and poverty.

But Lohman isn’t all heavy handed with historical drama. There are the recipes for the adventurous. Lohman has spent her entire adult life finding, and experimenting with historical recipes. She’s like the Indiana Jones of recipe boxes. For me, I was inspired to start with just trying to spice up my morning omelet with the right combination of garlic, black pepper, ginger, and turmeric.

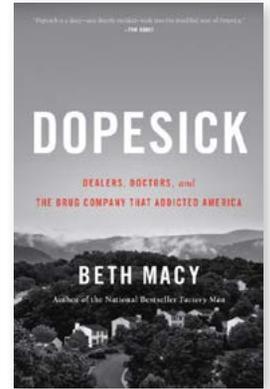
Plus, honestly, I became quite smitten with the author. Her personal journey to collect and curate the eight flavors that tell the story of who we are was whimsical and conversational. Lohman lightly peppers her first-person narrative with self-deprecating humor, which makes reading history simply a delicacy. Shameful puns are intended—I’m confident Lohman would appreciate my try.

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

**Macy, Beth. *Dopesick: Dealers Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*.**

Little, Brown, and Company (New York, NY) 2018.  
HC \$28.00.

Beth Macy, a native of Urbana, Ohio, and BGSU undergrad degree holder, has authored a definitive volume on how the opioid crisis spread into every corner of America, how it festered due to political inaction, and how it destroys families who did “all the right things.” This book belongs on your shelf next to J. D. Vance’s *Hillbilly Elegy*, Sam Quinones’ *Dreamland*, and Barry Meier’s *Pain Killer*. (Go look up that last one. It’s from 2003, and Macy tips readers off to its importance).



From the Bayer 1897 marketing of heroin as a non-addictive replacement for morphine to the modern-era peddling of Purdue Pharma’s OxyContin as a safe pain remedy, Macy takes us through the generations of lethal profiteering that have washed across the U.S. Also, sadly recounted is the lack of action taken by political leaders or regulatory agencies until the death count started hitting wealthier populations.

The term “dopesick” refers to the wracking physical condition an addict fears when running out of drugs—opioid pills or heroin in this case. As Macy explains, pharmaceutical company reps and drug dealers realize dopesickness “is one hell of a business model.”

Macy delves into the early warning alarm klaxons of the current crisis, from doctors to clergy to police to journalists to shell-shocked parents with dead children. (She notes that the Cincinnati *Enquirer* was the first newspaper to devote a writer to a “heroin beat.”) The story of how a well-heeled, deep-pocketed, connected corporation can continue to operate while dodging scrutiny and evading responsibility is not new or surprising. But with the death toll continuing to rise, the author takes us on a tour of the crushing blows the epidemic has wrought in the lives of parents and in the lost generations of the nation’s towns and cities.

This book is an important read in understanding why the political leaders of 2019 are shouting from the rooftops that fighting drug addiction is vital to our lives, economy, and future. And why it took so damn long to get to this point.

This is, pardon the term, a sobering read. When you're finished, make sure you give a copy to someone else. It's that urgent.

REVIEWED BY BRIAN PERERA, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
LOBBYIST OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, AND UPPER  
ARLINGTON RESIDENT

**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.

“FOES IN '76, FRIENDS IN '85.” This was the caption on the publicity posters after Sitting Bull joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

We twentieth-centuryites mostly have learned that it was called Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. But originally it was just Buffalo Bill's Wild West, for the entertainment was meant to actually be the Wild West, what with the cowboys fighting the Indians and stagecoaches being robbed but saved by the cavalry riding hard to their rescue. I'm a child of the 1950s, growing up addicted to cowboy shows. I still am, thanks to the retro westerns on cable TV. The Old West of 1865-1890 fascinates me, so when this book was published, I couldn't wait to read it. I knew of Sitting Bull's reputation as an enemy of the white man and as a participant in Cody's world-traveling extravaganza, but never thought about how it came to be. But how could Sitting Bull, a Lakota chief who, with Crazy Horse in command, wiped out Custer's command in 1876 thusly becoming America's number one enemy, become, within ten years, part of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show?

Now Stillman fills in that knowledge gap with this thrilling story of sworn enemies who became blood brothers. She populates the book with bloody battles and massacres by both sides, the spirits of ghost tribes

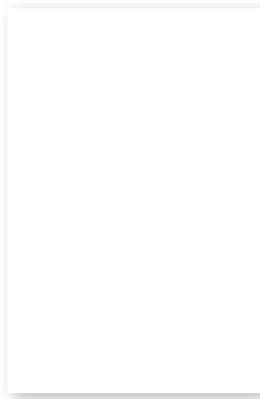
and lost settlers, easterners' fascination with the Old West, and the significance of the gift of a horse.

The concept of these two participants in the long-running clashes of Indians and whites becoming colleagues in an entertainment reproducing the war for the West is mind-boggling. By the end of that Old West period, it had begun celebrating itself with many traveling shows purporting to represent the “true” Old West, but none came close to the popularity that Buffalo Bill's Wild West received, even playing for the Queen of England on one of his extravaganza's international tours. Stillman captures it all in *Blood Brothers*. Her research is amazing, and her writing style is fluid. She sets the stage for the Battle of Little Big Horn and helps us understand the motives behind both sides of the battle. The Lakotas were the latest in a battle line first established in New England when whites began settling in what we called America. There are many volumes that document the perfidy of whites as they poured into this new land, which was already populated by Native Americans. Wouldn't you fight back if someone came onto your land, savaged and killed your family and friends, simply because they could, and wanted your land? Damn right you would.

Yet the notorious Sitting Bull, who had a price on his head, was willing to sit down and make peace with the whites. In 1868, at yet another attempt by the army to hold peace talks, i.e., to confiscate native land and move the tribes onto reservations, Sitting Bull acknowledged “I have done all the hurt to the whites that I could.” Yet he also said at the time, “Tell them to move the soldiers out and stop the steamboats; then we can have peace...I do not want anyone to bother my people.”

And we know how that turned out.

William Cody had been “a hunter, scout, shooter, rider, warrior, teller of tall tales, and man of adventure par excellence.” He helped bring about the slaughter of the millions of buffalo on the Plains, coming to understand that spectacle sold tickets, bringing any number of royalty to buffalo-shooting parties. From there it was a natural progression to portraying faux buffalo-hunting in arenas where Easterners paid to see the Old West, the Wild West, without the danger of being out there, where bullets and arrows were still flying. Cody added the horses and Indians and soldiers and cowboys and stagecoaches in a thrilling representation of what was



actually happening out West, which was soon to be something from the past, experienced only through the Wild West touring show.

Ned Buntline, author of hundreds of what were called dime novels, hooked up with Cody and came back East to author an extremely popular series titled Buffalo Bill, the King of the Border Men for the New York Weekly, “which included epic tales of buffalo massacres and battles with Indians.” He wrote a Broadway play called The Scouts of the Prairie in 1872, which featured drop-in appearances by Buffalo Bill, “just in from the Indian wars.” The play ran for at least eleven seasons. Buffalo Bill’s Wild West was Buntline’s dime novel dramatization come to life, even as the events they portrayed were still happening.

Once Sitting Bull had surrendered his depleted, starved, ragged tribe to the army, he immediately was in great demand by white entrepreneurs who knew his name, his participation, would draw crowds. The Army turned down most of the requests for his appearances, even rejecting Buffalo Bill several times before he was finally allowed to agree to a contract for him and his tribe.

So for five months in 1885, he traveled with Cody and his Wild West. They had great respect for each other and agreed to work together to portray as accurately as possible what they both had been through.

His responsibilities were limited—riding in the opening procession and sitting to be seen. He had been smart enough to negotiate in his contract that he alone would receive compensation for photographs and autographs.

Arenas were jammed for a look at the man they had been told was the most savage of red men. Sitting Bull had transformed himself, along with help from promoters like Cody, into a well-respected leader of his people, a wise elder who had fought the good fight and now lived as a captive with dignity. For after his appearances and tour with Cody, he still had to report back to the fort where he and his tribe were held in captivity. The fort’s commander, Major McLaughlin, believed that his mission was to “civilize Native Americans by forcing them to adopt white ways.”

Sitting Bull had been shocked by the poverty he saw in white America, especially among children, and he didn’t like life on the road. At the end of the season, the fifty-four-year-old Sioux warrior decided to go home. “The wigwam is a better place for the red man,” he said.

Both Cody and Sitting Bull had buffalo in their name and respected each other to the point that when Sitting Bull left Cody’s show, Cody gifted him with a horse, a gift of great significance at the time. After Sitting Bull was murdered, Cody bought the horse back from Sitting Bull’s widows.

Stillman writes, in a hopeful manner, “It seems that America has embarked on the painful and necessary journey of healing our original sin—the betrayal of Native Americans. This is the fault line that runs through the national story, and perhaps the brief time that Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill were together can serve as a foundation upon which this rift can be repaired.”

*Blood Brothers* is a good introduction to the Old West, but be forewarned: it will only make you want to read more about it. Another fine book is *Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West* by Hampton Sides.

Winner of the 2018 Ohioana Library Award for Nonfiction, *Blood Brothers* is an interesting and insightful story of a turbulent time in America’s history and of a rather unusual friendship.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN; READER, TRAVELER, AND BOOKSELLER EMERITUS

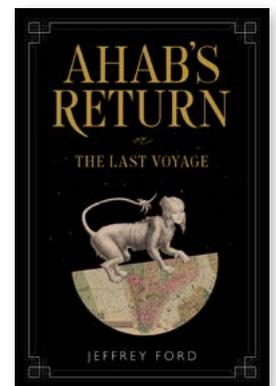
## FICTION

### Ford, Jeffrey. *Ahab’s Return, or The Last Voyage*.

William Morrow (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$26.99.

For those who only kinda sorta made it all the way through Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick*, rest easy. Jeffrey Ford’s *Ahab’s Return* doesn’t require that prerequisite.

Ford, the Ohio-based writing professor and author of *The Girl in the Glass* and *The Shadow Year*, has plucked Ahab from the back of the great white whale and put him down in the gritty streets of 1850s New York. Ford’s notion is that Ishmael got it wrong, and Ahab survived, and his search for wife and son have supplanted his whale obsession.



Ahab falls in with George Harrow, the book's narrator. Harrow is a newspaper reporter who has never met a story he couldn't "confabulate." Although the fabled captain keeps his oar in the story throughout the book, Harrow shoulders the burden of the novel. It's a canny choice, as the newspaperman's seedy, shady connections are the rich secondary characters that propel the story. The author allows Harrow to draw on his abundance of sources and allies to elude violent death while assisting Ahab in his quest.

Ford trebles down, introducing two other Moby-Dick characters. References to the Melville novel are noted, but don't become stumbling blocks for those who only have kinda sorta read the classic.

There is death and violence aplenty as the story dives beneath the surface of Manhattan into a world of street gangs, opium dens, and crime lords. The action is faster than a sperm whale dodging the harpoon.

In *Ahab's Return*, the reader might stumble over the border where realism meets mysticism as the protagonists deal with zombie-like foes and at least one mythical beast. That can be jarring, but at the point where one might be reluctant to suspend disbelief about the hazards that materialize repeatedly out of the New York murk, there is a clarifying thought or two that helped this reviewer: the story immerses Harrow in a world of opium dreamers, and, after all, he makes his living by making up stories.

Ford's decision to make Harrow a reluctant hero—he's timid about confrontation and his allies don't trust him enough to give him a pistol—helps keep the story grounded. Also commendable is the author's ability to weave historical settings into the tapestry of the story.

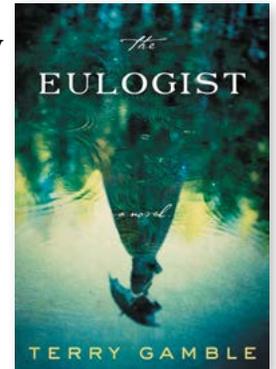
*Ahab's Return* will send some shivers your way, but in the end, should leave you satisfied, with all loose threads neatly tied off.

REVIEWED BY TOM WILLIAMS, OHIO NATIVE, WRITER, AND FORMER EDITOR OF MARION AND DELAWARE NEWSPAPERS

## Gamble, Terry. *The Eulogist*.

William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

Olivia Givens Orpheus is the eulogist in the novel. She is the only one left to tell her family's story and to disentangle the parentage of various offspring who drift in and out of her life. Their heritage is complicated by the miscegenation that inevitably results from the institution of slavery.



Olivia was born in Northern Ireland in 1804. After the Napoleonic Wars, the Givens lose their land. At the age of fifteen, Olivia accompanies her father, mother, and two brothers on the perilous voyage to America. Shortly after they settle in Cincinnati, Olivia's mother dies in childbirth, and her father deserts his three remaining children. James, the older brother, is entrepreneurial, eventually marries a wealthy woman, and becomes a successful businessman. Erasmus, the youngest, is an itinerate preacher and ne'er-do-well who marries the beautiful Julia and produces a son named William.

Erasmus disappears for long stretches of time, and after Julia dies, Olivia takes over the boy's care. Several years pass before Erasmus returns to claim his son, and Olivia follows the two of them down the river to a settlement, where Erasmus is involved in the dangerous business of helping runaway slaves escape to the north. Olivia travels back to Cincinnati and marries Silas Orpheus, an impoverished doctor. From him, she learns the healing arts. When he dies of an infection, she stays with Tilly, a Negro midwife who has been living with Silas. Olivia believes the woman is an emancipated slave.

Tilly isn't who she appears to be, and Olivia's attempt to save her from being returned to Silas' brutal brother in Kentucky results in catastrophe. Olivia tracks down Erasmus and William and, with financial help from James, works with her younger brother on a dangerous scheme to continue liberating slaves. At one point, she falls victim to a couple of cruel bounty hunters.

Olivia finds contentment with Theodora Winslow, the owner of a school, and teaches there for many years. She outlives almost everyone, including her brothers, their children, and some of their children's children.

Approaching her last years at the ripe old age of eighty-six, she finally understands where these children came from. The legacy is problematic, especially since one of them narrowly escapes being sold as a slave at auction.

*The Evulogist* ends in 1890, though most of the action takes place between 1828 and 1848 in the time leading up to the Civil War. Gamble creates a world in which the civilized society of Cincinnati is always on the verge of being swallowed up by the river and the wilderness that surrounds it. Life is cheap when one man can own another, and women are at the mercy of their fathers and husbands.

This novel is a thoroughly engrossing journey back to a period in history when religious, moral, and political values clash with the terrible realities of slavery. The country is in the throws of an industrial revolution and on the verge of a war that will tear it apart.

Terry Gamble was born in Pasadena, California, and graduated from the University of Michigan. She is the author of *The Water Dancers* and *Good Family*. The ancestors on her father's side landed in Cincinnati after emigrating from Northern Ireland, so the southern feel of the city lent itself well to the themes and concerns she explores here. She currently lives in San Francisco with her husband and two daughters.

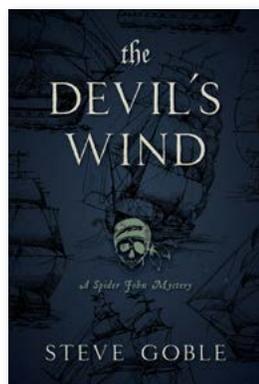
REVIEWED BY TERRI PAUL, WRITER AND PAST OHIOANA BOOK AWARD IN FICTION WINNER

### Goble, Steve. *The Devil's Wind*.

Seventh Street Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. PB \$15.95.

Steve Goble's *The Devil's Wind*, the second adventure involving reluctant pirate Spider John Rush (*The Bloody Black Flag*), beats the sophomore jinx. Beats it? Hell, it stomps it, thrusts a cutlass through it, unloads a flintlock in its belly, and keelhauls it for good measure.

Lifelong Ohio resident Goble again rises above his landlubber pedigree. His first novel, a braiding of pirate adventure and mystery, was a fine read. *The Devil's Wind* sails on stronger winds. Readers will appreciate that the author has crafted a tale that doesn't require reading its predecessor. Like Ian



Fleming or John D. McDonald, Goble's stories stand on their own. Also like those authors, Goble spins his yarns with crystal-clear efficiency.

Spider John, with his ex-pirate comrades Odin and Hob, is trying to escape the pirate life by shipping home to New England on a merchantman to be with his wife and growing son. Pirates and dastardly deeds get in the way, about 250 pages of them. Readers will meet fictional and real pirates who Spider John must avoid, mislead, or skewer, as the situation calls for.

*The Devil's Wind* is a locked-room mystery that cleverly sets down a series of false leads. Just as you say, "Aha, I've got you, Goble," the plot twists in your hands. Best not to try and cross sabers with the author; just sit back and enjoy the voyage.

Especially of note is the dialogue. Just enough "by thunders" and "lobcocks" (it's rude; don't yell it at your parents) to give you an eighteenth-century sea-faring flavor without forcing you to wade through dialect a la Twain or Dickens. However, if you have a mild-mannered, mystery-loving relative on your gift list, be warned that he or she will encounter language, that, like the seas the characters sail, is salty and blue. To be fair, the rude words are there for verisimilitude, not shock value. It feels like how real pirates would talk—crude oaths by vicious, paranoid, uncouth (and often unhinged) characters who always are on the edge of violence.

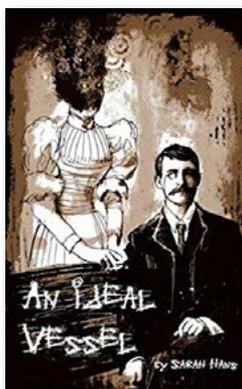
That seat-of-the-pants tension is the glue that holds *The Devil's Wind* together. Is there a happy ending? Suffice it to say that Spider John's third and fourth adventures are looming on the horizon. The trajectory of Goble's first two books is clear, and this bodes well for lovers of mysteries and pirate tales. In this age of streaming video services and mini-series, it requires only the smallest stretch of imagination to think of flipping on the television a few years down the road, smiling and saying, "Ah, Spider John, I knew you when."

REVIEWED BY TOM WILLIAMS, OHIO NATIVE, WRITER, AND FORMER EDITOR OF MARION AND DELAWARE NEWSPAPERS

**Hans, Sarah. *An Ideal Vessel*.**

Dragon's Roost Press (Online) 2018. PB \$9.99.

Just when you think you know everything about demonic possession and the travails of those nifty paladins who battle them across time and space, there comes a book that throws much of that into a tizzy.



In *An Ideal Vessel*, we have an engineer, Archibald Champion, his cleaner, Zuzana Uritski, and an automaton, Elspeth, possessed by the spirit of someone who has pledged to fight inter-dimensional demons. One of those very same demons possesses none other than H.H. Holmes, the guy who built a big old complicated murder mansion during the 1893 World's Fair. That's where this steampunkish, Lovecraftian, gaslight-y horror mystery Scooby-style adventure starts, and it only gets weirder from there.

Now, I know this sounds like a bit much, but bear with me. What holds this story together and keeps it from flapping its way off into gonzo-land is Columbus native Sarah Hans' ability to ground the characters. Each one comes across as a flawed, but driven individual who fits well into the world. None of them are perfect; they mess up a fair amount, in fact, and they feel very real. That grounded nature is especially important, given the history-shifting nature of steampunk compounded by dimension-hopping demons. It really solidifies the sense of heart to the affair, which is my buttered jam on rye toast, and helps make the oddity easier to swallow.

Please keep in mind that it is taking way too much of my personal reserves of restraint to not just blabber on and on about that end set piece, which is super bonkers and just plain wonderful. But I made a vow of non-spoilers, and I shall not violate said vow upon penalty of death. Just be prepared for weird and over-the-top shenanigans.

On the down side, it does have that Victorian staunchness of prose that may put some people off a bit, and the harsh and overabundant consonants of the characters' names were a bit distracting to me. Also, I really would have liked one more chapter to round

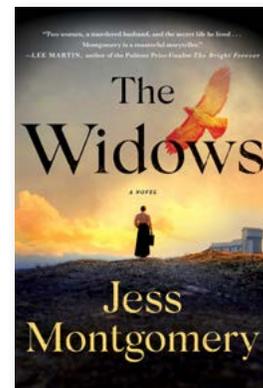
out Archibald and Zuzanna's narrative, as that felt too truncated. None of those are story killers, though, and I had a good amount of fun with this.

REVIEWED BY ANTON CANCRE, WHO DAYLIGHTS AS A HERDER OF EVENTUAL ADULTS AND FORCES HIS MENTAL MISGIVINGS ON OTHERS VIA OVERDRAWN METAPHORS FAR TOO OFTEN

**Montgomery, Jess. *The Widows*.**

Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$26.99.

*The Widows* is a gripping tale of two women, the murder of the man they both love, and their desperate search to discover the truth behind his killing. Set in fictional Bronwyn County, an amalgam of Athens, Vinton, Hocking, and Perry Counties in Ohio, the tale introduces us to Lily, the wife of Sheriff Daniel Ross, and Marvena Whitcomb, once Daniel's lover.



Lily and Marvena move in separate spheres until Daniel's death forces them into an unlikely partnership. Exploring the themes of friendship, a woman's place in society, the rights of workers, the corruption caused by greed, and the power of love to endure tragedy, the novel provides a powerful glimpse of the region and the politics of the 1920s.

Bronwyn County roils with passion and intrigue as the coal miners working for companies like the one owned by the Ross family agitate for better wages and working conditions. A recent mine disaster has taken the life of Lily's father as well as that of Marvena's common-law husband. Then Daniel, too, is found dead of a gunshot wound, and Lily is appointed sheriff. Even as she mourns her husband's death and cares for their children, she vows to find out the truth about Daniel's murder. She enlists Marvena in her search, but Marvena is also looking for someone, her oldest daughter, Eula, who may or may not be Daniel's child. The more clues the women uncover, the more tangled the threads that surround them. Fighting their way through discrimination, prejudice, and lies, Lily and Marvena are forced to lean on each other as they dig deeper into the mystery.

In the novel, Montgomery relies on the factual historical setting to ground the plot, using nearby West Virginia's Battle for Blair Mountain uprising as the basis for the

mine disaster and subsequent workers' revolt. She is adept at balancing the story of Lily and Marvena against the backdrop of the burgeoning women's rights issues of the time. The author also draws upon her own roots in Appalachia for the linguistic rhythms and superstitions that appear in the narrative. Her descriptions of the landscape ring true to anyone who, like this reviewer, has spent time in the hills of southeastern Ohio. The tale, inspired by the true story of the first female sheriff in Ohio, Maude Collins, and that of activist Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, breathes authenticity.

Jess Montgomery, who under her given name is a literary arts columnist and author of many other books, has crafted an evocative tale, one that keeps the reader guessing right to the end. She also shines a light on the little-known and long-lost stories of the miners' union movement, as well as the fight by women to be accepted in roles once open only to men.

In this faithful depiction of the dialect, customs, geography, and history of southeastern Ohio, Montgomery offers the reader a rare glimpse into the struggles, the strengths, and the courage of the people who live there.

REVIEWED BY JAN IRVIN, **LOREM IPSUM**

**Pepper, David. *The Wingman: A Jack Sharpe Political Thriller.***

St. Helena Press (St. Helena, CA) 2018. PB \$15.99.

It began with a comment by presidential candidate, Congressman Anthony Bravo—a comment about saving his fellow soldier, Staff Sergeant Thomas Kroon, in the Iraqi war. Jack Sharpe, the debate moderator during the Democratic candidate debate in New Hampshire at the beginning of campaign and primary season, was startled and intrigued. As a reporter and very informed citizen, he hadn't heard anything about Bravo's military service. Not one word. So begins David Pepper's second seat-of-your-pants political thriller.

Jack Sharpe is on the trail of another political conspiracy that will shake campaigning to its core. From vicious

ad campaigns to "fixing" elections, Sharpe and his crew investigate all and uncover a well-oiled machine that will chill you to the bone. They soon learn that all the members of Bravo's platoon are dead, some within days of the debate. Kidnapping, torture, and murder follow in the wake of Sharpe's and his colleagues' questions. Some people just disappear; others are doing their best to provide misdirection.

Sharpe's crew members hold tight to their courage and their determination to learn the truth about Bravo's bravery, about those behind Bravo's campaign successes, and about those who lost their leads during the primaries. Despite all odds, they peel back the layers of stories and lies, and find the shocking truth of who and what are behind the vicious political campaigns, the violence, and the threats.

This intense political thriller won't let you put down *The Wingman* until you discover who is behind the political machinations and intrigue. Clear your schedule or set aside a miserable rainy day to delve into this eye-opening tale. You'll wonder if it could be true because the fiction draws its themes and details from fact. It's a timely tale for this mid-year election season.

David Pepper trained as a lawyer at Yale, practiced and taught law, ran campaigns for Ohio Attorney General and State Auditor, and held several positions in Cincinnati county and city government between 2001 and 2010. He is the chair of the Ohio Democratic Party and continues to be active in Ohio politics.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OHIO

**Selcer, David. *Dream Catcher Murders: A Buckeye Barrister Mystery #4.***

Cozy Cat Press (Aurora, IL) 2017. PB \$16.95.

It all begins when Winston Barchrist III, an Ohio lawyer, heads to Sarasota, Florida, to investigate the validity of mortgages and loans that his client Charles Venable signed. Venable co-signed the loans with his partner, Julius Josephski, a local real estate wheeler-dealer who wants to develop Long Bar Key. The "Long Bar Harbor Development" project

was in trouble; Josephski wasn't paying the loan back, and the bank was beginning foreclosure. Barchrist flies to Sarasota to see if there is any way he can disentangle Venable from the foreclosure debacle, but after he discovers Josephski's body, he knows his job isn't going to be easy, especially when the cops start looking his way.

Barchrist has his work cut out for him. He starts by investigating the murder, which he didn't commit, then begins pulling on all the strings, loose and otherwise, to see what falls apart. He encounters Jackson Horseman, a Seminole Indian, who is firmly against the development, and Alexis Weidenfeld, Julius' ex and a hotshot real-estate mogul herself, who is heir to Josephski's fortune. Of course, Barchrist meets other characters who both help and hinder the case.

Over the course of a month or two, Barchrist digs for clues, stumbles upon two additional murders and several attempted murders, and tosses around theories left and right. Just when he thinks he's solved the crime and disentangled Venable, Selcer twists the plot again and, well, you will have to read the book to find out.

Selcer, an attorney by trade, fills the fourth Barchrist mystery with lots of legal wrangling, just enough legal jargon, and many pages of supposition, theory, and suspicion. Barchrist ruminates over the clues and crimes, rehashing what he knows and what he thinks happened. Fortunately, the story progresses quickly and, not surprisingly, another crime occurs.

The mystery is solid, and the person "whodunit" is a surprise. Barchrist works hard for his money and manages a successful outcome for Venable and himself. As it is his fourth mystery/investigation, he's got his patter down pat, and he sounds just like a lawyer.

Sadly, there are a number of typos, missing words, and some jarring contradictions and factual errors. Nonetheless, this cozy mystery is worth your time, especially if you want to learn all about the western Florida Keys, Sarasota, and real-estate deals.

David Selcer received his J.D. from the Ohio State University College of Law and has practiced law in Columbus for thirty-five years. He's authored the *Buckeye Barrister Mysteries* since 2013 and has won a first-place award from the *Chanticleer Book Review*.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OHIO

**Weisgarber, Ann. *The Glovemaker*.**

Skyhorse Publishing (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$29.99.

A stranger comes to the cabin door late one winter's night in 1888. The woman inside is alone, anxiously waiting for her husband to return from his months-long trip as a wheelwright to other small Mormon communities in Southern Utah. He's late, due a couple of weeks ago. And now this unfamiliar knock on the door.



Ann Weisgarber, a graduate of Wright State University in Dayton, does a great job of maintaining the suspense all the way through her novel. The deep canyon country where tiny Junction is located is a character in itself, especially during the winter when snow and cold and rock slides and invisible trails are difficult for men and horses.

Polygamous Mormon men on the run from prejudiced white men—some official law enforcers, some not—occasionally made their way to Junction to be guided on a treacherous route to Floral Ranch, a day's hard ride away, where the fugitives are hidden. The twenty-five or so settlers in the Mormon outpost of Junction dreaded such intruders, Mormon or not; they just wanted to be left alone in their chosen wilderness.

Though Weisgarber is from Ohio, she writes as though she were an insider of the community of marginalized Mormons. The reader is immediately grabbed when Deborah, the glovemaker of the title, responds to the January knock and opens the door to the stranger, much to her and the villagers' regret. She hands him over to a good friend, a leader of the community, with some relief, though she knows the consequences to the village will reverberate. But when another unfamiliar knock comes a few days later, and it's a marshal, she understands that the reverberation will be more immediate—and more disruptive—than anyone anticipated.

Finally, two more men survive the ride through the Wastelands surrounding the canyons and step onto her porch. The trouble these remote settlers had anticipated with each arrival is realized. How this tiny group of settlers handles all the trouble keeps the reader right with the author through the perilous winter trails of

human behavior driven by fear and prejudice towards those who are seen to be different.

Strongly recommended.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN, READER, TRAVELER, AND BOOKSELLER EMERITUS

## POETRY

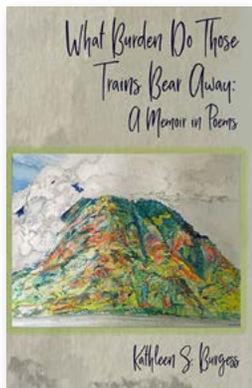
### **Burgess, Kathleen S. *What Burden Do Those Trains Bear Away: A Memoir in Poems.***

Harmony Poetry Series, Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$16.00.

Burgess has assembled a different kind of “on the road” collection of poems that—more like Elizabeth Bishop than Jack Kerouac—features the voice of a female traveler, whose journey is guided by memory as well as the map.

Burgess, who grew up in Urbana, Ohio, and now lives in Logan, Ohio, was clearly a child of the 1960s-70s, and Baby Boomers will recognize the cultural terrain, while Gen-Xers and Millennials may well be startled to learn that hitchhiking was an accepted form of transportation back then, that illegal drugs were just as accessible—and addictive—as they are now, and that casual sex and “hooking up” weren’t invented in the 1990s, but were prevalent in the 1960s-70s, owing to the advent of the birth control pill in 1963. The poems also mention touchstones of the era: the Vietnam War, draft dodgers and protests, the women’s movement, Peace Corps service, the moon landing, and Woodstock.

Many of the poems, though, are quiet, contemplative accounts or vignettes of people and places along the way—so much so that Burgess herself acknowledges in “Adaptation,” a poem in the middle of the book, the lack of imminent threat and intrigue one usually associates with travel in Mexico and Latin America:



*In case you're losing interest because no one has been murdered or buried... I'll tell you a story that Once-on-a-times In Barranquilla, on the Caribbean coast.*

The poem chronicles Burgess’s and her traveling partner’s encounter with “Raul” and his plan to have the couple buy and then smuggle cocaine out of Columbia. The “plan” instead turns out to be a swindle, as the pair soon discover that their coke is actually baking soda.

The poem concludes with them counting their blessings and drinking tea with a “senora” in the cheap hotel where they had previously hidden from the law. “The heat is all but unbearable though fans/whip up small breezes. It’s sundown. We’re alive./unrestrained.”

I wish I had room to cite more poems, as many display an engaging combination of music, rhythm, and wisdom that draws the reader right in, but I will have to settle for applauding Kathleen Burgess for how the forty-five poems in *What Burden Do Those Trains Bear Away* range from meditative to celebratory, from personal to political, from historical to contemporary, and from to humorous to deadly serious. Henry Miller once wrote that “One’s destination is never a place but rather a new way of looking at things.” With this collection, Burgess has reached that destination.

REVIEWED BY KATE FOX, POET, FREELANCE WRITER, AND FORMER OHIOANA QUARTERLY EDITOR

## YOUNG ADULT

### **Philips, L. *Sometime After Midnight.***

Viking Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

Nate and Cameron lead very different lives. Cameron is heir to the musical corporation, Paradise Entertainment, and Nate is a talented guitar player who works in food service and has big dreams. They meet by chance in a crowd while watching a concert and instantly discover how much they have in common. Yet among all of their common interests



and shared chemistry, there is one huge negative—the fact that Paradise Entertainment played a part in destroying Nate’s father’s life. Upon this realization, Nate disappears, and Cameron is left searching for him with the help of his sister and her dedicated social media following. Their paths might cross again, but the past isn’t easily forgotten.

Philips calls *Sometime After Midnight* a “Cinderella story,” a charming description for a work of YA fiction that is equally as charming. Finding love is rarely easy, especially as a teenager, and sometimes the difficulties that stand in love’s way can seem insurmountable. In Nate and Cameron’s case this is shown to the extreme. Beyond the normal uncertainty and stress that comes with dating, they also have to deal with fame, fortune, and celebrities along the way. These elements add a fun and unique twist to the classic teen romance story.

Despite the larger than life themes, Nate and Cameron are very relatable characters with realistic hopes, dreams, and fears. Witty and likeable, they deal with issues such as mental health, self acceptance, and self esteem, and their story is one part coming-of-age and one part romance. There are also strong supporting characters—in particular Cameron’s sister Tess, who’s personality goes far deeper than the socialite she presents herself as to be.

*Sometime After Midnight* is a lighthearted, fun, romantic, and satisfyingly crafted read. Philips’ background in music education clearly shines through in the many musical references she makes, which gives the novel character and depth. This book, easy to read and quick to get through, is very suitable for teens who are fans of lighthearted romance.

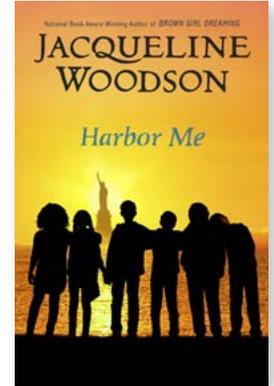
REVIEWED BY MORGAN PETERS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR,  
OHIOANA LIBRARY

## MIDDLE GRADE

### Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me*.

Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

When six students are first left alone in a room without an adult presence, uncertainty and suspicion arise. They soon discover though that this room provides a venue for them to share their stories safely—stories and experiences that are as diverse as the world around us. This room becomes a place where these children discuss the unfairness of the American life.



Jacqueline Woodson, the 2018 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, takes on a variety of issues facing America today in this middle-grade book. This diverse fifth/sixth grade group of students are each trying to navigate the uncertain world around them—discovering how the choices adults and other children make impact their everyday lives. Woodson finds authentic voices for these children, but more importantly, she creates a safe harbor for them to have these necessary conversations.

As the students begin to share stories, their world perspectives expand, enabling empathy and understanding to tear down walls of fear and misconceptions. As each reveals the reality of their life, the group’s determination grows to find ways to support and encourage one another—to find a place where they can be heard, where kindness goes a long way, and where letting go of preconceived prejudices opens doors for deep friendships that provide safety and acceptance.

*Harbor Me* is a must read. Not only will most children find a voice to connect with, but they will also discover the importance of allowing everyone to have a voice. They will begin to recognize the strength gained when we genuinely listen to one another. And hopefully, it will encourage them to offer their own harbors.

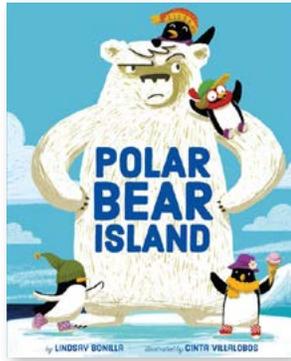
REVIEWED BY PATRICIA DUNN, LIBRARIAN

CHILDREN'S

**Bonilla, Lindsay. Illustrated by Cinta Villalobos. *Polar Bear Island*.**

Sterling Children's Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$16.95.

Parker is the mayor of Polar Bear Island. It's a peaceful and predictable place, where only polar bears are allowed. One day, a penguin named Kirby arrives. Parker wants her to leave, but she convinces the bear to let her stay one night. Kirby has lots of fun with the other polar bears, skating with them and teaching them how to make "Flipper Slippers." When it's time for her to skedaddle, the other polar bears beg Parker to let Kirby stay. Parker agrees to make an exception for Kirby—surely *one* penguin won't cause too much trouble on his perfect island. But then her entire family comes to visit! Can the penguins and other bears convince Parker that the island is more fun when it's open to everyone?



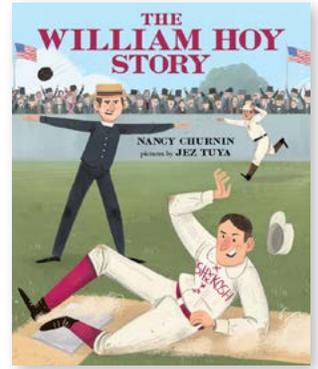
*Polar Bear Island* is an adorable story bursting with charm. The themes of friendship and inclusion are timely and presented in an entertaining style. Grumpy Parker and cheerful Kirby make a fun pair of opposites. As they get to know each other, Parker's stubbornness melts in clever ways, making this story of acceptance feel unique and fresh. The beautiful illustrations add to the fun—especially the "Welcome" (or rather "Unwelcome") signs that Parker changes throughout the book. It's a wonderful story to show that the world has a lot more to offer when we embrace everyone, and it's the perfect tale to warm your heart on a frosty winter day.

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

**Churnin, Nancy. Illustrated by Jez Tuya. *The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game*.**

Albert Whitman & Company (Park Ridge, IL) 2016. HC \$16.99.

*The William Hoy Story* is about a young boy who was born in 1862 and grew up dreaming of being a professional baseball player. When Hoy was just three years old, he contracted meningitis, which caused him to lose his hearing. He used a notebook to communicate, and he could also read people's lips if they were close enough to him. Despite having normal intelligence, he was teased and called a dummy, a common term used at the time for the hearing impaired and people who couldn't talk.



When he first joined a baseball team in the 1880s, the other players teased and played tricks on him since he couldn't hear. In fact, a team owner once tried to pay him less than other players since he was deaf. Likewise, one day he couldn't read the umpire's calls, and he thought he had gotten walked to first base when he really had struck out. When the pitcher and the crowd laughed at him, he quit that team. After that, he played for a variety of different baseball teams. He decided that in order to understand the umpire's calls, he and the umpire would come up with signals that he could understand. Soon everyone learned these signals. In fact, with these signals, he and his teammates could secretly communicate plays. Eventually, he joined the Cincinnati Reds, near his family's farm outside Houcktown, Ohio.

William Hoy became one of the most famous deaf people in history. He led the American League record in walks in 1901. He died in Cincinnati at the age of ninety-nine in 1961.

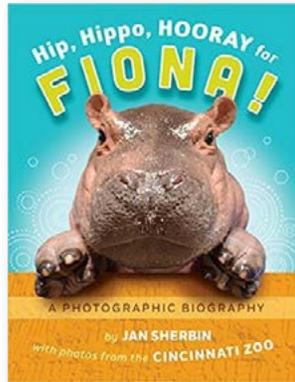
This was a great book that people should definitely read. William Hoy persevered through challenges, and that is something we should all aspire to do.

REVIEWED BY MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

**Sherbin, Jan. *Hip, Hippo, Hooray for Fiona!: A Photographic Biography.***

Insights Productions (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. HC \$25.99.

For those not familiar with Cincinnati's newest celebrity and Internet superstar, Fiona is a hippopotamus born six weeks premature at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden on January 24, 2017, weighing only twenty-nine pounds. Captured in the pages of Sherbin's book and illustrated with photos of the Cincinnati Zoo is Fiona's odds-defying journey from her tenuous early entrance into the world to the heroic efforts it took to not only ensure her survival, but to help her thrive and become a symbol for hope and resilience.



Before we had Thane Maynard's *Saving Fiona* (another excellent book), Dr. John Hutton's *Fiona's Feelings* and *Fiona's Friends*, and Richard Cowdrey's *Fiona the Hippo*, Jan Sherbin's book was the first to introduce Fiona's heroic tale of survival to the world in a way that even the youngest reader could celebrate. The text is engaging, communicating Fiona's struggles in a way that conveys the urgency of the situation in a child-friendly manner. The photos pair expertly with the text and capture Fiona's fighting spirit and unique personality.

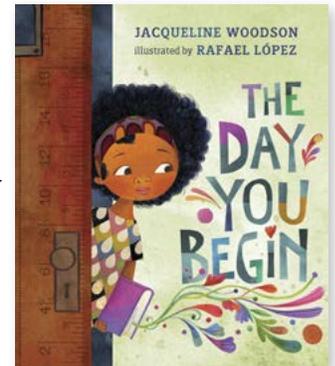
An active member of her Anderson Township community, Jan Sherbin was a freelance columnist and an award-winning author of various children's writings who unexpectedly passed away on September 26, 2018. I had the good fortune to work with Jan to bring her then "secret" book to the Books by Banks Cincinnati Regional Book Festival in October 2017. She was a passionate advocate of Fiona and of her book. Her desire to capture and preserve Fiona's inspiring story ensures that she will have a lasting legacy. Even now, almost two years later as Fiona inches closer and closer to the 1,000-pound mark, there is still a warm and poignant memory to reliving Fiona's story in the pages of Jan's book.

REVIEWED BY PAULA GEGLEIN, FIONA SUPER FAN AND JUVENILE SELECTOR FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Day You Begin.***

Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

*The Day You Begin*, written by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael López, is a call for children to embrace who they are as well as to accept others. This beautifully illustrated story describes the uncertainty children may face when they realize they do not feel they are like everyone else. They may look, talk, or eat differently from others.



Readers encounter these thoughts through Angelina's perspective as she observes those around her and discovers how differences are often treated negatively.

However, Woodson encourages, "There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you until the day you begin to share your stories." When Angelina finds the courage to give voice to who she is, she discovers that there may be more shared similarities than differences.

Jacqueline Woodson is the 2018 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. This richly diverse book is a perfect example of why she deserves that honor; the message that both children and adults need to hear rings loud and clear. Readers are challenged to begin sharing their stories, thereby finding ways to connect and to appreciate one another. *The Day You Begin* should be in every home and library.

REVIEWED BY PATRICIA DUNN, LIBRARIAN

# Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between **Month** and **Month**, 2018. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## ABOUT OHIO/ AN OHIOAN

Al-Marashi, Huda. *First Comes Marriage: My Not-So Typical American Love Story*. Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. HC \$24.00.

First Comes Marriage is the first Muslim-American memoir dedicated to the themes of love and sexuality. Huda and Hadi's story circles around a series of firsts, while also challenging long-standing taboos within the Muslim community and the romantic stereotypes we unknowingly carry within us that sabotage some of our best chances for finding true love.

Congdon, Jane. *How the Wild Effect Turned Me into a Hiker at 69: An Appalachian Trail Adventure*.

Bettie Youngs Books (Info@BettieYoungsBooks.com) 2018. PB \$21.95.

Record numbers of women were taking to the trails after reading Cheryl Strayed's best-selling memoir, *Wild*. Like many others, Jane had little hiking experience, yet she spent seventeen weeks on the Appalachian Trail. Jane logged nearly 1,200 miles hiking alone, with partners, and with a glass good-luck charm named Ms. Rabbit. This is her fascinating and humorous account of life in a land of bears, wild pigs, volatile weather, primitive conditions, trail town stops, and the personalities she met along the

way—and how a long-distance hike changed her perceptions of both Mother Nature and human nature.

Fisher, Andrew "Bud." *30 Below on Christmas Eve: Interviews with Northwest Ohio Veterans of the Korean War*. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2011. PB \$24.95.

Andrew Fisher returns to the University of Toledo Press to publish another series of interviews with local war veterans. This time, he focuses on the Korean War. While the Korean War is often referred to as the "Forgotten War," this book will bring to life the memories and experiences of those men and women who served their country.

Hatfield, Sharon. *Enchanted Ground: The Spirit Room of Jonathan Koons*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2018. HC \$28.95.

In *Enchanted Ground*, Sharon Hatfield brings to life the true story of a nineteenth-century farmer-turned-medium, Jonathan Koons, one of thousands of mediums throughout the antebellum United States. As heirs to the Second Great Awakening, which stretched from New York State to the far reaches of the Northwest Territory, the curious, the faithful, and Koons himself were part of a larger, uniquely American moment that still marks the cultural landscape today.

Haygood, Wil. *Tigerland: 1968-1969: A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing*. Alfred A. Knopf (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$27.95.

In 1968 and 1969, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy are assassinated. Race relations are

frayed like never before. Cities are aflame as demonstrations and riots proliferate. But in Columbus, Ohio, the Tigers of segregated East High School win the baseball and basketball championships, defeating bigger, richer, whiter teams across the state. And, just as important, Haygood puts the Tigers' story in the context of the racially charged late 1960s. The result is both an inspiring sports story and a singularly illuminating social history.

Jakle, John, and Dannel McCollum. *The Ohio: The Historic River in Vintage Postcard Art, 1900-1960*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2017. PB \$24.95.

The first half of the twentieth century was a period of great change along the historic Ohio River corridor. And it was the era of the picture postcard. All of these themes are woven together through a full-color display of more than 150 historic postcards that takes the reader along a 981-mile journey from the industrial colossus of Pittsburgh, past its trailing southern elements, and into the mining and agricultural areas on the way to Cincinnati, once known as Porkopolis.

Kaukonen, Jorma. *Been So Long: My Life and Music*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$29.99.

From the man who made a name for himself as a founding member and lead guitarist of Jefferson Airplane comes a memoir that offers a rare glimpse into the heart and soul of a musical genius and a vivid journey through the psychedelic era in America.

Meyers, David, and Elise Meyers Walker. *Lynching and Mob Violence in Ohio, 1772-1938*.

McFarland & Company (Jefferson, NC) 2019. PB \$39.95.

In the late nineteenth century, Ohio was reeling from a wave of lynchings and other acts of racially motivated mob violence. Many of these acts were attributed to well-known and respected men and women, yet few of them were ever prosecuted—some were even lauded for taking the law into their own hands. In 1892, Ohio-born Benjamin Harrison was the first U.S. President to call for anti-lynching legislation.

Nolin, David. *Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie: Where Aviation Took Wing*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2018. PB \$39.95.

Abundantly illustrated, this book includes a color photographic tour of the varied life of the prairie, as well as an overview of the Dayton Aviation National Historical Park that protects and interprets the Wright brothers' flying field.

Parker, Sandra. *Side Saddle on a Comet's Tail: The Life of Frances Dana Gage*. KDP (Port Charlotte, FL) 2018. PB \$25.00.

Born among Rufus Putnam's Ohio Company settlers in 1804, Frances Gage became the state's most prominent reform advocate. She fought for abolition, temperance, and women's rights over a career that ended in 1867, when she was felled by a stroke.

Robenalt, James. *Ballots and Bullets: Black Power Politics and Urban Guerrilla Warfare in 1968 Cleveland*. Lawrence Hill Books (Chicago, IL) 2018. HC \$27.99.

On July 23, 1968, police in Cleveland

battled with black nationalists. The dramatic shootout in the Glenville neighborhood left ten dead and more than fifteen wounded. The event sparked days of rioting and raised myriad questions. Were these shootings an ambush by the nationalists, or were the nationalists defending themselves from an imminent police assault? Mystery still surrounds how the urban warfare started and the role the FBI might have played in its origin.

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

Aimee Ross was living a perfectly normal life married to her high school sweetheart, raising three kids, and teaching at her high school alma mater. Life was perfect—right until it wasn't. Unhappy in her marriage, Aimee asked for a divorce. Three days later, she suffered a heart attack at age forty-one. Five months after that, she survived a near-fatal car crash caused by an intoxicated driver. Aimee Ross writes with candor, wit, and humor as she finds the power in her story and chronicles her transformation into the woman she was always meant to be.

Stever, Margo Taft, James Taft Stever, and Shen Hong. *Looking East: William Howard Taft and the 1905 U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Asia—The Photographs of Harry Fowler Woods*. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2015. HC \$39.95.

In 1900, Cincinnati William Howard Taft successfully completed his tenure as dean of the University of Cincinnati College of Law and began an appointment under President William McKinley as governor-general of the Philippines. As a federal administrator and diplomat, Taft negotiated amicable

trade and cultural interactions between East and West, and in 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt dispatched him on a mission to China, Japan, and the Philippines to further improve U.S.-Asian relations. His large entourage included prominent fellow Cincinnatians and the president's daughter, Alice, as well as photographer Harry Fowler Woods and a host of American diplomats. This is the remarkable story of Taft's mission and Woods' fascinating photographs.

Tabac, William L. *The Insanity Defense and the Mad Murderess of Shaker Heights: Examining the Trial of Mariann Colby*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2018. PB \$19.95.

By claiming insanity, did this Shaker Heights housewife get away with murder? They have no witnesses. They have no case. With this blunt observation, Mariann Colby—an attractive, church-going Shaker Heights, Ohio, mother and housewife—bet a defense psychiatrist that she would not be convicted of murder.

Turzillo, Jane Ann. *Wicked Women of Ohio*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2018. PB \$23.99. The Buckeye State produced its share of wicked women. Award-winning crime writer Jane Ann Turzillo recounts the stories of Ohio's most notorious vixens, viragoes, and villainesses.

## NONFICTION

Aldama, Frederick Luis. *Lantix Superheroes in Mainstream Comics*. University of Arizona Press (Tucson, AZ) 2017. PB \$22.95. Whether good or evil, beautiful

or ugly, smart or downright silly, able-bodied or differently abled, gay or straight, male or female, young or old, Latinx superheroes in mainstream comic book stories are few and far between. It is as if finding the Latinx presence in the DC and Marvel worlds requires activation of superheroic powers. *Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics* blasts open barriers with a swift kick. Aldama's book is the winner of the 2018 Eisner Award for Best Scholarly/Academic Work.

Aldama, Frederick Luis, ed. *Tales from La Vida: A Latinx Comics Anthology*. Mad Creek Books/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2018. PB \$17.95.

In the Latinx comics community, there is much to celebrate today, with more Latinx comic book artists than ever before. The resplendent visual-verbal storyworlds of these artists reach into and radically transform so many visual and storytelling genres. *Tales from La Vida* celebrates this space by bringing together more than eighty contributions by extraordinary Latinx creators.

Farland-Smith, Donna, and Julie Thomas. *Eureka, Again! K-2 Science Activities and Stories*. NSTA Press (Arlington, VA) 2018. PB \$44.95.

Like its best-selling counterpart for grades 3-5, *Eureka, Again! K-2 Science Activities and Stories* evokes Archimedes's famous cry. That's because it helps children make discoveries of their own about who scientists and engineers are and what they do. The book is so engaging and easy to use that it will become a resource you'll be excited to teach with every year. *Eureka,*

*Again!* is appealing because of its lively lessons, which are grounded in twenty-seven children's trade books.

Haygood, Wil. *I Too Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100*. Rizzoli Electa (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$55.00.

One hundred years after the Harlem Renaissance emerged as a creative force at the close of World War I, *I Too Sing America* offers a major survey on the visual art and material culture of the groundbreaking social, intellectual, and artistic movement.

Lange, Dave. *Virginity Lost in Vietnam*. Act3 (Cleveland, OH) 2018. HC \$27.95.

In 1969, Dave Lange, one of countless nineteen-year-olds, eager and fearful, deployed to Vietnam. What Lange experienced in his rambunctious adolescence, his tour with the U.S. Navy riverine forces, and his re-acclimation to civilian life form a unique coming-of-age story during one of the most tumultuous eras in American history.

Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Cats: Portraits and Stories*. Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2018. PB \$21.95. In this beautifully illustrated book, Susannah Maynard provides personality-rich portraits of cats and kittens and details their journeys from a turbulent start to a warm, loving, happy, and safe home. Cat lovers will find heartwarming and triumphant stories that point to felines' charms and unconditional love. Her subjects include kittens, adult cats, and special needs cats—of all breeds, and of course, mixed breeds—and her stories will empower readers to join the rescue effort or bolster their efforts to increase their volunteer

involvement to better the lives of rescue cats, one animal at a time.

Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Rabbits: Portraits & Stories of Bunnies Finding Happy Homes*. Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2019. PB \$21.95.

While much attention is paid to the fates of cats and dogs in need of homes, rabbits awaiting adoptive forever homes rarely find themselves in the limelight—but rabbits need love, too. In this book, author and pet photographer Susannah Maynard draws attention to the struggles and triumphs of rabbits in foster care or shelters, and chronicles the journeys of bunnies who have found their forever homes. Readers of all ages will enjoy more than 150 personality-filled portraits of rabbits—whether young, elderly, part of a bonded pair, or those with special needs—that show the charming personalities of these cotton-tailed critters.

Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$28.00.

On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. As one fireman recounted, "Once that first stack got going, it was 'Goodbye, Charlie.'" The fire was disastrous: it reached 2,000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. Brimming with her signature wit, insight, compassion, and talent for deep research, *The Library Book* is Susan Orlean's thrilling journey through the stacks that reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than

just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country. It is also a master journalist’s reminder that, perhaps especially in the digital era, they are more necessary than ever.

Parr, Patrick. *The Seminarian: Martin Luther King Jr. Comes of Age*. Lawrence Hill Books (Chicago, IL) 2018. HC \$26.99.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a cautious nineteen-year-old rookie preacher when he left Atlanta, Georgia, to attend divinity school up north. At Crozer Theological Seminary, King, or “ML” back then, immediately found himself surrounded by a white staff and white professors. Even his dorm room had once been used by wounded Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. In addition, his fellow seminarians were almost all older; some were soldiers who had fought in World War II; others were pacifists who had chosen jail instead of enlisting. ML was facing challenges he’d barely dreamed of. *The Seminarian* is the first definitive, full-length account of King’s years as a divinity student at Crozer Theological Seminary. Long passed over by biographers and historians, this period in King’s life is vital to understanding the historical figure he soon became.

Romine, Stefanie. *Cooking with Healing Mushrooms*. Ulysses Press (Berkeley, CA) 2018. PB \$15.95. Don’t fear the fungi! Mushrooms have been used to heal, nourish, and nurture the body, mind, and spirit for millennia. This book quickly and clearly details the healing properties of various mushrooms from the common button mushroom to exotic varieties like shiitake and enoki.

Luckily, you don’t need to be an herbalist, chef, or mycologist to reap the benefits of delicious, nutritious mushrooms. This handy cookbook serves up 150 easy-to-make dishes that incorporate these adaptogen-rich superfoods into recipes that are equally tasty and medicinal.

Scudder, Jillian. *Astroquizzical: A Curious Journey Through Our Cosmic Family Tree*. Icon Books (London, UK) 2018. HC \$24.95.

How did the Earth get to be the way it is? Just like all of us, it’s a product of its ancestors. In this enthralling cosmic journey through space and time, astrophysicist Jillian Scudder locates our home planet within its own “family tree.” For anyone interested in the big picture of how the cosmos functions and how it is all connected, Jillian Scudder is the perfect guide.

Stross, Amy. *The Suburban Micro-Farm: Modern Solutions for Busy People*. Twisted Creek Press (Milford, OH) 2018. PB \$34.95.

Reduce your lawn and your grocery budget. Take gardening to the next level! Would you like to grow healthy food for your table? Do you want to learn the secrets of farming even though you live in a neighborhood? Author Amy Stross talks straight about why the suburbs might be the ideal place for a small farm.

Sundberg, Kelly. *Goodbye, Sweet Girl: A Story of Domestic Violence and Survival*. Harper (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99.

In this brave and beautiful memoir, written with the raw honesty and devastating openness of *The Glass Castle* and *The Liar’s Club*, a woman chronicles how her marriage devolved from a love story into a

shocking tale of abuse—examining the tenderness and violence entwined in the relationship, why she endured years of physical and emotional pain, and how she eventually broke free.

Sutter, Paul M. *Your Place in the Universe: Understanding Our Big, Messy Existence*. Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. PB \$24.00.

An astrophysicist presents an in-depth yet accessible tour of the universe for lay readers, while conveying the excitement of astronomy. Topics include our place in the Milky Way galaxy; the cosmic web—a vast web-like pattern in which galaxies are arranged; the origins of our universe in the Big Bang; the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy; how science has dramatically changed our relationship to the cosmos; conjectures about the future of reality as we know it; and more. For anyone who has ever stared at the starry night sky and wondered how humans fit into the big picture, this book is an essential roadmap.

Tekulve, Susan. *Second Shift*. Del Sol Press (Washington, DC) 2018. PB \$12.99.

In this collection of twelve essays, Tekulve explores the tasks we perform that earn us more than a paycheck. Her topics include the gathering of secret family stories; surviving a night of haggis and Scottish whisky; mothering a musician son; facing down two teenage gunmen; and caring for a dying mother. The key word in this collection is *memory*. Whether exploring common occurrences or making narrative sense out of events for which there are few words, these

essays remind us that memories, and the shaping of them into stories, are the best kind of work.

## FICTION

Baker, Bree. *Live and Let Chai*. Sourcebooks Landmark (Naperville, IL) 2018. PB \$7.99.

Life hasn't been so sweet for Everly Swan over the past couple of years, but now that she is back in her seaside hometown and the proud owner of a little iced tea shop and café right on the beach, things are finally starting to look up—until a curmudgeonly customer turns up dead on the boardwalk. With one of her hallmark glass tea jars lying right next to him and an autopsy that reports poison in his system, it doesn't look good for Everly or her brand new business. As the townspeople of Charm, formerly so welcoming and homey, turn their back on Everly, she fights to dig up clues about who could have had it in for the former town councilman. With a maddeningly handsome detective discouraging her from uncovering leads and a series of anonymous attacks on Everly and her business, it will take everything she's got to keep this mystery from boiling over.

Bartow, Karina. *Forgetting My Way Back to You*. Vinspire Publishing (Ladson, SC) 2018. PB \$12.99.

At some point or another, everybody finds themselves wanting a second chance, whether it be missing the mark on an investment, failing to live up to a certain goal, or letting a true love slip away. It's very seldom that one receives the proverbial do-over. Charlee Stoll and Hunter Jett become the modern-day exception.

Bickle, Laura. *Witch Creek: A Wildlands Novel*. Harper Voyager (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$7.99. In the backcountry of Yellowstone, evil moves below the surface. Following *Nine of Stars* comes the next chapter in Laura Bickle's critically acclaimed Wildlands series. As the daughter of an alchemist, Petra Dee has battled supernatural horrors and experienced astonishing wonders.

Ellis, Mary. *Sweet Taste of Revenge*. Severn House (London, UK) 2018. HC \$21.99.

Private investigator Kate Weller must confront her troubled past and clear her brother's name in the second gripping Marked for Retribution mystery. When a wealthy socialite is found dead on her luxury yacht, her daughter Lainey hires Kate Weller to investigate. Agnes Westin created plenty of enemies during her climb to the top of society, many with a taste for revenge—but did any of them feel strongly enough to kill her? But Kate has another reason altogether for returning to Pensacola, Florida, the only town she has ever called home. Her brother Liam has spent the past sixteen years in jail for his part in a robbery homicide—and unless Kate uncovers the truth of what really happened, she will never be safe. Now someone wants to make sure her memories stay buried. Can Kate clear her brother's name before the real killer silences them both forever?

Erickson, Alex. *Death by Espresso*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$7.99. ARC.

Bookstore-café owner Krissy Hancock has plenty to keep her occupied outside business hours,

like preparing for her best friend's wedding and solving a murder. Krissy is meeting Vicki's parents at the Pine Hills, Ohio, airport—it's the least she can do as maid of honor, even if her relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Patterson is a bit strained. Besides, her own dad is coming in on the same flight. But there are a few additional arrivals, too. Her father's brought a date—and the Pattersons, both actors, seem to have an entire entourage trailing behind them. Uninvited guests are a headache—especially when one turns out to be, allegedly at least, the most important wedding planner in all the world. Though Vicki and Krissy have already made arrangements for a small, simple party, Vicki's snobby drama queen mother has her own ideas. Cathy the wedding planner is raring to go, possibly energized by the chocolate-covered espresso beans she compulsively munches. But while the caffeine keeps her awake, it doesn't keep her alive—and after Cathy chokes on an espresso bean after being hit in the head, Krissy has to find out who ended her supposedly stellar career.

Ervin II, Terry W. *Outpost: Monsters, Maces, and Magic #1*. Gryphonwood Press (Santa Fe, NM) 2018. PB \$9.99.

Glenn, a college sophomore, has a Sociology 102 paper that requires spending time with an unfamiliar group or culture. Luckily, two hot girls from his class have the same idea: attend the university's game club to get reaction material for their papers. A creepy game moderator shows up, ready to start a game of Monsters, Maces, and Magic. Glenn doesn't fret over the GM's disturbing vibe, figuring it'll lead to potential fodder for his paper. Moments

after rolling up his character and beginning the adventure, Glenn, his classmates, and three other players are drawn into the game, literally.

Felver, Brad. *The Dogs of Detroit: Stories*. University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2018. HC \$21.95.

Winner of the 2018 Drue Heinz Literature Prize for short fiction, the fourteen stories of *The Dogs of Detroit* focus on grief and its many strange permutations.

Flower, Amanda. *Flowers and Foul Play: A Magic Garden Mystery*. Crooked Lane (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99.

Florist Fiona Knox's life isn't smelling so sweet these days. Her fiancé left her for their cake decorator. Then her flower shop wilted after a chain florist opened next door. So when her godfather, Ian MacCallister, leaves her a cottage in Scotland, Fiona jumps on the next plane to Edinburgh. Ian, after all, is the one who taught her to love flowers. But when Ian's elderly caretaker Hamish MacGregor shows her to the cottage upon her arrival, she finds the once lovely grounds of Duncreigan in a dreadful shambles—with a dead body in the garden.

Gawell, Donna B. *In the Shadow of Salem: A Novel Inspired by True Events*. Heritage Beacon Fiction (Raleigh, NC) 2018. PB \$7.95.

In 1692, the residents in Salem and Ipswich live with stories of witchcraft, religious extremism, and false accusations. Mock trials lead to questionable convictions and speedy executions. Most of the condemned are women, all but one are hung. Others, including two infant children, die in prison. For

Mehitabel Braybrooke, life began as the illegitimate child of a prosperous landowner. Now her stepmother is convinced the girl is a pawn of the Devil. During a time when women have few rights and even fewer allies in the courts, what will become of the falsely accused?

Gianna, Robin. *The Family They've Longed For*. Harlequin (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2018. PB \$6.25. What she's always wanted: Love. A family. Him. Pediatric surgeon Rory Anderson is dreading returning to her small Alaskan hometown and seeing her ex, local doctor Jacob Hunter. After everything they lost, discovering he's a single dad brings back so many painful memories. Only when it becomes clear their chemistry is as powerful as ever, Rory dares to hope Jacob and his son could be the family she's always longed for.

Gianna, Robin. *Tempted by the Brooding Surgeon*. Harlequin (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2018. PB \$6.25.

The one man who won't let her in is the only man she wants! Annabelle Richards arrives in Peru to find she'll be working with renowned surgeon Daniel Ferrera—the man who almost ruined her career! She's worked too hard to let him get in her way again. But when Annabelle learns that Daniel's brooding exterior hides a wealth of pain, an unexpected passion ignites between them. Will temptation prove too much to resist?

Goble, Steve. *The Devil's Wind: A Spider John Mystery*. Seventh Street Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. PB \$15.95.

In the year 1723, Spider John, longing to escape the pirate life

he never wanted, has an honest seafaring job at last, aboard a sailing vessel, and is returning to his beloved Em and their child. But when Captain Brentwood is murdered in his cabin, Spider's plans are tossed overboard. Who killed Redemption's captain? The mysterious pirate with a sadistic past? The beautiful redhead who hides guns beneath her skirt? One of the men pining for the captain's daughter? There are plenty of suspects. But how could anyone kill the captain in his locked quarters while the entire crew was gathered together on the deck? Before he can solve the puzzle, Spider John and his ex-pirate friends Hob and Odin will have to cope with violence, schemes, nosy Royal Navy officers, and a deadly trap set by the ruthless pirate Ned Low.

Harper, Karen. *American Duchess: A Novel of Consuelo Vanderbilt*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$16.99. ARC.

Before there was Meghan Markle, there was Consuelo Vanderbilt, the original American Duchess. Karen Harper tells the tale of Vanderbilt, her "The Wedding of the Century" to the Duke of Marlborough, and her quest to find meaning behind "the glitter and the gold." From the dawning of the opulent Gilded Age to the battles of the Second World War, *American Duchess* is a riveting tale of one woman's quest to attain independence—at any price.

Harper, Karen. *Silent Scream: A South Shores Novel*. Mira (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2018. HC \$26.99. A violent past leads to a present danger...When an old college roommate invites Claire Britten to join her on an archaeological dig at

a Florida peat bog, it's an offer the renowned forensic psychologist can't refuse. Claire's husband, lawyer Nick Markwood, is comforted to see Claire working on a prehistoric burial site instead of an open grave for once. But Claire's investigative instincts kick in when some of the bog's perfectly preserved corpses show signs of a grisly fate. What really happened to these people?

John, Jeffrey Alan. *Lab Rats Can't Say No: A Story in the Future*. Lucid Books (Houston, TX) 2018. PB \$12.99.

Although futurists predict flying cars and delicious meals that pop out of machines, *Lab Rats Can't Say No: A Story in the Future* suggests coming tensions between humanity and technology. The story follows an aspiring journalist in the foreseeable future who searches for the truth about a murder, but stumbles instead into fantastic applied science that enables incredible life enhancements and power, but only for a select segment of society.

Laugheed, K. B. *The Gift of the Seer*. K.B. Laugheed (Arcadia, IN) 2019. PB \$7.99.

Katie O'Toole's epic adventure began in *The Spirit Keeper* (Plume, 2013) when she was rescued from a 1747 frontier massacre in Pennsylvania only to find herself chosen as the "Spirit Keeper" of a dying Indian seer. She hesitated to accept this mysterious obligation until she fell in love with the seer's bodyguard, an Indian man she called Hector. In *The Gift of the Seer*, Katie and Hector continue their journey across the continent, but the more Katie learns about the peculiar ways of her husband's people, the more she dreads arriving at their destination.

Lepionka, Kristen. *What You Want to See: A Roxane Weary Mystery*. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99.

The thrilling follow-up to *The Last Place You Look*, featuring troubled and determined private investigator, Roxane Weary. Marin Strasser has a secret. Her fiancé thinks her secret is that she's having an affair, and he hires P.I. Roxane Weary to prove it. Then, just days into the case, Marin is shot to death on a side street in an apparent mugging. But soon enough the police begin to focus on Roxane's client for Marin's death, so she starts to dig deeper into Marin's life—discovering that the woman she's been following has a past and a half, including two previous marriages, an adult son fresh out of prison, and a criminal record of her own.

Loewenstein, Laurie. *Death of a Rainmaker: A Dust Bowl Mystery*. Kaylie Jones/Akashic Books (Brooklyn, NY) 2018. PB \$16.95.

When a rainmaker is bludgeoned to death in the pitch-blackness of a colossal dust storm, small-town sheriff Temple Jennings shoulders yet another burden in the hard times of the 1930s Dust Bowl. The killing only magnifies Temple's ongoing troubles: a formidable opponent in the upcoming election, the repugnant burden of enforcing farm foreclosures, and his wife's lingering grief over the loss of their eight-year-old son. As the sheriff and his young deputy investigate the murder, their suspicions focus on a teenager, Carmine, serving with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Logan, Kylie. *The Scent of Murder*. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$29.95. ARC.

The way Jazz Ramsey figures it, life

is pretty good. She's thirty-five years old and owns her own home in one of Cleveland's most diverse, artsy, and interesting neighborhoods. She has a job she likes as an administrative assistant at an all-girls school, and a volunteer interest she's passionate about—Jazz is a cadaver dog handler.

Mastran, M. L. *Albion Moon: Albion Moon Chronicles, Book 1*. Champagne Book Group (Oregon City, OR) 2018. PB \$14.95.

Evaline needs to find out what happened to her brother Jimmy. As she digs deeper into his disappearance, she finds an ancient family secret carried through the bloodline that began centuries ago in the Scottish Highlands.

McWhorter, Tim. *Let There Be Dark: Collected Stories*. Hydra Publications (Goshen, KY) 2018. PB \$11.99.

From an oddities shop looking to expand their macabre collection to a back roads bridge with a horrifying past, *Let There Be Dark* is a collection of eight sinister stories full of ghostly phantoms, savage beasts, and the most frightening creature of all: humans. This first horror collection from the author of the best-selling novel, *Bone White*, thrusts you beyond the fringe and reminds us why we should all fear the dark.

Moore, Christopher. *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*. Harper Perennial (New York, NY) 2002. PB \$14.99.

The birth of Jesus has been well chronicled, as have his glorious teachings, acts, and divine sacrifice after his thirtieth birthday. But no one knows about the early life of the Son of God, the missing

years—except Biff, the Messiah’s best bud, who has been resurrected to tell the story. Verily, the story Biff has to tell is a miraculous one, filled with remarkable journeys, magic, healings, kung fu, corpse reanimations, demons, and hot babes. Even the considerable wiles and devotion of the Savior’s pal may not be enough to divert Joshua from his tragic destiny. But there’s no one who loves Josh more—except maybe “Maggie,” Mary of Magdala—and Biff isn’t about to let his extraordinary pal suffer and ascend without a fight.

Parker, Eliot. *A Knife’s Edge*. Publisher Page (Terra Alta, WV) 2018. PB \$19.95. ARC.

Six months after a drug cartel infiltrated Charleston, Ronan McCullough continues to fight the drug war that plagues the city. His investigations are halted when the body of a mutual acquaintance, Sarah Gilmore, is found in the trunk of a burning car. In an investigation that takes him deep into the professional and personal life of the victim, McCullough discovers secrets lurking in her past, and a tangled web of personal and professional conflicts, suspicion, and betrayal. Was Sarah killed for those reasons or for something larger? As Ronan seeks answers, his life and the lives of those closest to him are used as pawns in a deadly game that has no ending.

Poland, Tim. *Yellow Stonefly*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2018. HC \$26.95.

Haunted by her past and the deaths that marked it, Sandy Holston wields her fly rod with uncanny accuracy as her life plays out along a tight line between herself and a fish on the other end. In this rare fly fishing

novel with a female protagonist, Tim Poland weaves suspense and introspection into an unforgettable read. Fall 2018 Okra Picks List of best Southern books.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Day of Atonement: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebor Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00. The second in Essence bestselling author Yolonda Tonette Sanders’s Protective Detective series featuring Troy Evans, this suspenseful novel shows the devastation that domestic violence can cause and how sometimes, mistakes of the past cannot be undone.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *In Times of Trouble*. Strebor Books (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$7.99. Divorced single-mother Lisa Hampton has been able to start a new life after a scandalous incident that forced her to relocate to Ohio. Thanks to her job she has the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the wealthiest and most influential people in the state. Lisa’s biggest issue nowadays is her rebellious teenage daughter, Chanelle. Other than the stress of dealing with Chanelle, life couldn’t be any better for Lisa. She is best friends with Isaac and Olivia Scott, the most influential and powerful couple in the state. If she isn’t hanging with Olivia, Lisa is spending time with her new beau, Minister Eric Freeman. His prayers and words of encouragement have helped her weather the storms in her life. Lisa looks forward to the possibility of a future with Eric, though his expectations may be more than she can handle. When Chanelle accuses the Scotts’ son of rape, Lisa discovers how quickly her friends

become foes as Olivia and Isaac use their wealth, prestige, and power to manipulate justice. And just as things seem to be going smoothly for Lisa and Chanelle, Olivia makes one last destructive move that threatens everything they hold dear.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Secrets of a Sinner*. Harlequin Kimani Press (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2008. PB \$6.99.

Natalie Coleman has always done whatever she needed to do to survive—even if it meant stealing another woman’s husband or trading her favors for money. But now, with a steady job, a rekindled bond with her grandmother Big Mama and a promising new relationship, Natalie finally feels her life getting back on track. Handsome, smart, and sexy, Troy Evans is everything Natalie hoped to find in a man, and things quickly get serious—too serious for Troy. Devastated by his rejection, Natalie returns to the Mississippi home she ran from years ago. There, with Big Mama’s help and wisdom, she confronts the painful events of her past, finding comfort in the faith of those around her. And as old wounds heal and the burden of long-buried secrets is lifted, Natalie realizes that God has led her home to show her that with love, prayer, and a willing heart, every sinner can be saved and every life redeemed.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Shadow of Death: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebor Books (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$16.00.

The third in the new detective series that started with *Wages of Sin* and *Day of Atonement*, this thrilling page-turner explores what happens when homicide detective Troy Evans is framed for the murder of his

ex—and the secrets that got him there.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Soul Matters*. Warner Books (New York, NY) 2005. PB \$13.95.

Infidelity and deceit threaten a Christian family when they are forced to face the lies that are creating mistrust, disorder, and tension in their lives.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Wages of Sin: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebtor Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00.

Troy Evans believes in God, but he's seen enough evil on his job to shake his faith. Nonetheless, his loyalty to his family never wavers, and he would do anything to protect them—one of the reasons he is a workaholic. Natalie loves her family, but she's becoming increasingly frustrated with Troy's job. His schedule is often hectic and unpredictable, and she's also helping her best friend deal with some serious issues—and struggling to come clean about a secret she's hiding from Troy.

Sapp, Gregg. *Fresh News Straight from Heaven: A Novel Based Upon the True Mythology of Johnny Appleseed*. Evolved Publishing (Butler, WI) 2018. PB \$18.95.

John Chapman—a.k.a. Johnny Appleseed—knows this land better than any white man. Everywhere he goes, he shares the “Fresh News Straight from Heaven,” which he hears right from the voices of angels who chat with him regularly. God had promised him personally that he could build peace by growing fruit. Convincing people of that vision, though, is no easy task. Most folks consider him mad. Chapman's faith is challenged when war breaks out in

the land, leading to the bloody battle of Tippecanoe between Harrison's army and the Shawnee Prophet's warriors, and ultimately to the declaration of the War of 1812. *Fresh News* is the winner of the Pinnacle Book Achievement Award, Summer 2018, for Best Novel.

Scibona, Salvatore. *The Volunteer*. Penguin Press (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$28.00. Advance review copy.

The long-awaited new novel from a National Book Award Finalist, this is the epic story of a restless young man who is captured during the Vietnam War and pressed into service for a clandestine branch of the United States government. A small boy speaking an unknown language is abandoned by his father at an international airport with only the clothes on his back and a handful of money jammed in the pocket of his coat. But in order to understand this heartbreaking and indefensible decision, the story must return to the moment, decades earlier, when a young man named Vollie Frade, almost on a whim, enlists in the United States Marine Corps to fight in Vietnam.

Sittenfeld, Curtis. *Eligible*. Random House (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$28.00.

A modern-day *Pride and Prejudice*, this version of the Bennet family—and Mr. Darcy—is one that you have and haven't met before: Liz is a magazine writer in her late thirties who, like her yoga instructor older sister, Jane, lives in New York City. When their father has a health scare, they return to their childhood home in Cincinnati to help—and discover that the sprawling Tudor they grew up in is crumbling and the family is in disarray. Youngest sisters

Kitty and Lydia are too busy with their CrossFit workouts and Paleo diets to get jobs. Mary, the middle sister, is earning her third online master's degree and barely leaves her room, except for those mysterious Tuesday-night outings she won't discuss. And Mrs. Bennet has one thing on her mind: how to marry off her daughters, especially as Jane's fortieth birthday fast approaches.

Snyder, Lucy A. *Garden of Eldritch Delights*. Raw Dog Screaming Press (Bowie, MD) 2018. PB \$14.95.

Master short story author Lucy A. Snyder is back with a dozen chilling, thought-provoking tales of Lovecraftian horror, dark science fiction, and weird fantasy. Her previous two collections received Bram Stoker Awards, and this one offers the same high-caliber, trope-twisting prose. Snyder effortlessly creates memorable monsters, richly imagined worlds, and diverse, unforgettable characters.

Soli, Tatjana. *The Removes*. Sarah Crichton Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$27.00.

As the first wave of pioneers travel westward to settle the American frontier, two women discover their inner strength when their lives are irrevocably changed by the hardship of the Wild West. *The Removes* tells the intertwining stories of fifteen-year-old Anne Cummins, frontierswoman Libbie Custer, and Libbie's husband, the Civil War hero George Armstrong Custer.

Strawser, Jessica. *Forget You Know Me*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$27.99. ARC.

When a video call between friends captures a shocking incident no one was supposed to see, the secrets it

exposes threaten to change their lives forever. Molly and Liza have always been enviably close. Even after Molly married Daniel, the couple considered Liza an honorary family member. But after Liza moved away, things grew more strained than anyone wanted to admit—in the friendship and the marriage. When Daniel goes away on business, Molly and Liza plan to reconnect with a video chat after the kids are in bed. But then Molly leaves the room to check on a crying child. What Liza sees next will change everything.

Stout, Dan. *Titanshade*. Daw Books, Inc. (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$26.00. This noir fantasy thriller from a debut author introduces the gritty town of Titanshade, where danger lurks around every corner.

Thorndike, John. *A Hundred Fires in Cuba*. Beck & Branch Publishers (Burlington, VT) 2018. PB \$15.00. In the spring of 1956, a young American photographer falls in love with a Cuban line cook at New York's Waldorf Astoria. They have a ten-week affair that ends when Immigration arrests and deports him, and by then Clare Miller is pregnant. Few Americans know the name Camilo Cienfuegos. All Cubans do. In real life he was the most charismatic of Fidel Castro's commanders—until his small plane vanished only months after Fidel came to power.

Wolfe, Casey. *A Mage's Power: Book One of the Inquisition Trilogy*. NineStar Press (Albuquerque, NM) 2018. PB \$5.99. Built on the bones of an ancient city, modern-day Everstrand is where master mage, Rowan, has set up his enchantment shop. When not

hanging out with his werewolf best friend, Caleb, or studying, he dabbles in herbology and the controversial practice of blood magic. A prodigy who has already earned two masters, Rowan's bound and determined to reach the distinction of grandmaster, a mage who obtains a master's in all five Schools of Magic.

## POETRY

Abbot, Steve, ed. *Common Threads 2018*. Ohio Poetry Association (Mansfield, OH) 2018. 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 written by OPA members and contest winners, such as those who win the Ides of March and Ohio High School Poetry contests.

Baker, David. *Swift: New and Selected Poems*. W.W. Norton (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.95. ARC. *Swift* represents David Baker's evolution as one of American poetry's most significant voices. Gathering poems from eight collections—including the widely acclaimed *Changeable Thunder* (2001) and his masterful latest, *Scavenger Loop* (2015)—and adding three suites of new poems, David Baker proves himself once again “the most expansive and moving poet to come out of the American Midwest since James Wright” (Marilyn Hacker). With equal curiosity and candor, he explores the many worlds we all inhabit—from our most intimate relationships to the wider social worlds of neighborhoods, villages, and our complex national identity, to the environmental community we all share.

Bentley, Roy. *Walking with Eve in the Loved City*. University of Arkansas Press (Fayetteville, AR) 2018. PB \$17.95.

Finalist for the 2018 Miller Williams Poetry Prize, *Walking with Eve in the Loved City* is an ambitious collection. Using a variety of male figures—Jeff Goldblum, Ringo Starr, the poet's uncle Billy, to name a few—these poems skillfully interrogate masculinity and its cultural artifacts, searching for a way to reconcile reverence for the father figure with a crisis of faith about the world as run by men.

Bohinc, Katy. *Scorpio*. Miami University Press (Oxford, OH) 2018. PB \$12.99.

*Scorpio's* poems are at turns dramatic and mundane as a lust-filled pop song. They take us back to the poet's youth in suburban Ohio and move forward through the economic collapse of 2008 into a present where democracy often seems at risk.

Burgess, Kathleen S. *What Burden Do Those Trains Bear Away: A Memoir in Poems*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$16.00. In 1971-72, Kathleen Burgess hitchhiked through Mexico, Central, and South America with a lover. These poems tell the story. They are hip, astute, sumptuous, simultaneously accessible and cultured, their hint of the classical journey spun with the unique dangers a woman faces on the road, which couldn't be more timely, given the recent “#MeToo” movement.

Eisenberg, Susan. *Stanley's Girl: Poems*. Cornell University Press (Ithaca, NY) 2018. PB \$14.95. The fiercely lyrical poetry of

Stanley's Girl is rooted in Susan Eisenberg's experience as one of the first women to enter the construction industry and from her decades gathering accounts of others to give scaffolding to that history.

Fix, Charlene. *Taking a Walk in My Animal Hat*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$16.00  
Poems that take the reader on a journey into the lives of pets and other animals as well as connect the animal nature of humans with the animals themselves.

Glassmeyer, Susan F. *Invisible Fish*. Dos Madres (Loveland, OH) 2018. HC \$17.00.  
*Invisible Fish* is a poetic chronicle from girlhood to post-middle age by Midwestern author and somatic therapist, Susan F. Glassmeyer. These compelling lyrics and merciful narratives do not shy away from suffering or death, nor from what is poignant and joyful. The whole realm of the visible—the world as it is—is held together by what we cannot see. Because the poems in this collection are grounded in the sensory life of “the body,” they ring true to the reader, inviting mindfulness and evoking curiosity and reverence for what is invisible.

Hirt, Jen. *Too Many Questions About Strawberries*. Tolsun Books (Tolleston, AZ) 2018. PB \$10.00.  
*Too Many Questions About Strawberries* is a chapbook about concern. What are we concerned about? Why? Should we be concerned about this in this way? This is a book about living beyond concern. Jen Hirt is the 2003 Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant Winner.

Ramspeck, Doug. *Black Flowers*. Louisiana State University Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2018. PB \$18.95.  
In dark, lyrical verse, *Black Flowers* follows a speaker from childhood into adulthood, as he navigates the animistic world of crows, conjurings, and winter snows. Ramspeck guides readers through the brutality and beauty found in the natural world: the moonlight, “marrow-white, severed, falling bodily/to grass, the hours as permeable as clay” and “dust lifting across the road/as though to form a human shape.”

Shaheed, Margie. *Throwback Thursdays*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$10.00.  
The final collection by celebrated poet Margie Shaheed, who passed away in 2018. Published on her sixtieth birthday by NightBallet press, it is a celebration of her life and work.

Smith, Larry. *Tu Fu Comes to America: A Story in Poems*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$15.00.  
A story in poem form of a contemporary poet, Tu Fu, who comes to the streets of Cleveland, Ohio. As translator, Smith brings East and West together in this stunning work. Second edition originally published in 2010.

Wiley, Rachel. *Nothing Is Okay*. Button Poetry (Minneapolis, MN) 2017. PB \$16.00.  
*Nothing Is Okay* is the second full-length poetry collection by Rachel Wiley, whose work simultaneously deconstructs the lies that we were taught about our bodies and our beings, and builds new ways of viewing ourselves. As she delves into queerness, feminism, fatness,

dating, and race, Wiley molds these topics into a punching critique of culture and a celebration of self. A fat-positive activist, Wiley's work soars and challenges the bounds of bodies and hearts, and the ways we carry them.

## MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Alt, Jeff. Illus. by Hannah Tuohy. *The Adventures of Bubba Jones #3: Time Traveling Through Acadia National Park*. Beaufort Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$9.99.  
After Tommy “Bubba Jones” and his sister, Jenny “Hug-a-Bug,” inherit time travel skills from their Papa Lewis, they quickly earn a reputation for solving National Park mysteries by using their magical skills.

Carson, Mary Kay. *Alexander Graham Bell for Kids: His Life and Inventions with 21 Activities*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2018. PB \$16.99.  
Alexander Graham Bell invented not only the telephone, but also early versions of the phonograph, the metal detector, and hydrofoil boats. This Scottish immigrant was also a pioneering speech teacher and a champion of educating those with hearing impairments, work he felt was his most important contribution to society.

Charlton-Trujillo, e.E. *Fat Angie: Rebel Girl Revolution*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2019. HC \$16.99. ARC.  
More trouble at school and at home—and the discovery of a missive from her late soldier sister—send Angie and a long-ago friend on an RV road trip across Ohio.

Crane, C. A. Illus. by Bryan Janky and Elizabeth Wells. ***All About Winston Churchill***. Blue River Press (Indianapolis, IN) 2018. PB \$5.99. As prime minister, he helped lead Great Britain through the darkest hours of World War II. He was a statesman, author, painter, and an inspiring speaker. Born into an aristocratic British family with an American mother, he considered the United States his second home. Winston Churchill is considered one of the greatest statesmen of the twentieth century.

Draper, Sharon M. ***Blended***. Atheneum Books For Young Readers (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99. Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: one week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves. Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And she's beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks; it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

Garretson, Dee. ***All Is Fair***. Swoon Reads (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99. When Lady Mina Tretheway

receives a telegram at boarding school, she doesn't want to read it. In 1918, with war raging, she dreads telegrams, knowing they never bring good news. At first she doesn't understand the cryptic message. Then she realizes it's written in code, and the message leads her home to Hallington Manor. When Lord Andrew Graham appears with a dashing young American, Lucas Mueller, Mina learns that the two of them must work together on a dangerous project for the war effort.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***The Strangers: Greystone Secrets #1***. Katherine Tegen Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99. ARC. What makes you you? The Greystone kids thought they knew. Chess has always been the protector over his younger siblings; Emma loves math, and Finn does what Finn does best—acting silly and being adored. They've been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach the Greystone kids, and they're shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these complete strangers. The other kids share their same first and middle names. They're the same ages. They even have identical birthdays. Who, exactly, are these strangers?

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. ***Can Dreams Come True? Book One in the Cecily Taylor Series***. Clean Reads (Athens, AL) 2018. PB \$14.00. Aspiring actress Cecily has always had a huge crush on singer Andrew Holiday, so she tags along when her friend auditions for his new video. However, the director isn't looking for an actress, but rather the girl next door—and so is Andrew.

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. ***Creepy and True: Mummies Exposed!*** Abrams Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$16.99. ARC. Just when you think that you know everything there is to know about mummies, new ones are discovered! Packed with facts but light in tone, this book introduces young readers to the most compelling examples of mummies from all over the world.

Keenan, Josephine Rascoe. ***In Those Glory Days of Elvis: The Days of Elvis, Book III***. Pen-L Publishing (Fayetteville, AK) 2018. PB \$14.97. After the shocking death of her mother, seventeen-year-old Julie Morgan discovers that she has also lost her home because of a risky identity swap. Designed to save her from shame and disgrace, the "perfect scheme" backfires, forcing her to masquerade as her lookalike.

Pattou, Edith. ***West***. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (Boston, MA) 2018. HC \$17.99. In the sequel to the beloved high fantasy *East*, Rose sets off on a perilous journey to find her true love when he goes missing in a thrilling tale of danger, magic, adventure, and revenge. When Rose first met Charles, he was trapped in the form of a white bear. To rescue him, Rose traveled to the land that lay east of the sun and west of the moon to defeat the evil Troll Queen. Now Rose has found her happily-ever-after with Charles—until a sudden storm destroys his ship and he is presumed dead. With mysterious and unstoppable forces threatening the lives of the people she loves, Rose must once again set off on a perilous journey. And this time, the fate of the entire world is at stake.

Strandwitz, Peter. Illus. by Christina Wald. *The Hidden Shoreline*.

Collaborative Publishing Services (Seattle, WA) 2018. HC \$24.95. Trinket and her dog Grits find a rare treasure on their beach. Something inside it has the power to take them to the Hidden Shoreline, an alternate beach inhabited by things that can be found on any shoreline.

Van Vleet, Carmella. *Eliza Bing Is (Not) a Star*. Holiday House (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99.

How will Eliza make it through the sixth grade? Her ADHD tends to complicate things. Eliza Bing stuck with Taekwondo and earned her yellow belt even though her family expected her to quit. She's tough enough to break boards with her bare hands! Next up: middle school and, hopefully, a best friend.

Vogel, D. W. *Horizon Alpha: Homecoming*. Future House Publishing (Provo, UT) 2018. PB \$13.95.

The thrilling conclusion to the *Horizon Alpha* series. We are alive. Three words in Morse code change everything. Caleb Wilde thought his days outside Carthage Valley were over. Safe behind high mountains, the last of humanity was secure and thriving. But everything changes when a message comes through from the spaceship they left in orbit.

Winfrey, Kerry. *Things Jolie Needs to Do Before She Bites It*. Feiwel and Friends (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Jolie's a lot of things, but she knows that pretty isn't one of them. She has mandibular prognathism, which is the medical term for underbite. She's months out from having a procedure to correct her underbite,

and she cannot wait to be fixed. Jolie becomes paralyzed with the fear that she could die under the knife.

She and her best friends, Evelyn and Derek, decide to make a "Things Jolie Needs to Do Before She Bites It (Which Is Super Unlikely, but Still, It Could Happen)" list. Things like eat every appetizer on the Applebee's menu and kiss her crush Noah Reed. But since when did everything ever go exactly to plan?

## CHILDREN'S

Campbell, Marcy. Illus. by Corinna Luyken. *Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse*. Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Adrian Simcox tells anyone who will listen that he has a horse—the best and most beautiful horse anywhere. But Chloe does NOT believe him. Adrian Simcox lives in a tiny house. Where would he keep a horse?

Cotter, Bill. *Don't Touch This Book!* Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (Naperville, IL) 2016. HC \$6.99. Advance review copy.

Although a purple monster named Larry is at first very clear that readers should NOT touch his book, he eventually invites kids to join in the fun by wiggling their fingers, walking like a robot, and more.

Davis, Tonya L. Illus. by Elizabeth A.R. Davis. *Myra and Elmyra: A Tale of Two Sisters*. Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, OH) 2018. HC \$16.99.

Myra and Elmyra are two sisters living on a small farm with many animals. One stays up all day and one stays up all night. What

happens when many people have had a hand in cooking a pot of stew?

Fleming, Denise. *This Is the Nest That Robin Built*. Beach Lane Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

A robin's animal friends help build her nest in this cumulative collage picture book from Caldecott Honor recipient Denise Fleming. Robin is building a nest, and her friends are ready to help!

Fries-Gaither, Jessica. Illus. by Linda Olliver. *Exemplary Evidence: Scientists and Their Data*. NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2019. PB \$14.95.

If you think of science as a puzzle, you'll see that data is a key to unlocking it. *Exemplary Evidence: Scientists and Their Data* touches on the world's many riddles—from how we see to what's at the bottom of the ocean.

Gott, Barry. *Honk! Splat! Vroom!* Carolrhoda Books (Minneapolis, MN) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Speeding along in a road race, determined to be the first one to cross the finish line, five rival mice are challenged by a series of obstacles, from mud puddles to a hungry cat, before they are assisted by a friendly goose.

Grant, Jacob. *Bear's Scare*. Bloomsbury (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99.

Bear likes to keep his house clean and tidy. In fact, the only thing Bear loves more than cleaning is taking care of his small stuffed friend, Ursa. Then Bear sees a sticky spiderweb.... and where there's a web there is certainly a spider.

Hillenbrand, Will. *First Star: A Bear and Mole Story*. Holiday House (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

It's a beautiful summer afternoon, and Mole wants to stay outside and watch the stars turn on. Bear suggests they hike up to Camp Tiptop and stay the night. They pack—stuffing and rolling—stop to pick blueberries—yum, yum, yum!—and climb, climb, climb. As dusk falls at the summit, Bear tells Mole the bearish legend of how the first stars came to be: long ago, First Father Bear, First Mother Bear, and First Little Bear were the only bears in the world, and there were no moon or stars.

Knapp, Artie. Illus. by Guy Hobbs. *Little Otter Learns to Swim*. Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2018. HC \$15.95.

In this endearing and beautifully illustrated picture book, a baby river otter learns to swim, dive, and play in her natural habitat. The story is followed by two pages of fun facts about river otters, as well as information and resources from the River Otter Ecology Project.

Krisher, Trudy. Illus. by Brooke Boynton-Hughes. *Bark Park!* Beach Lane Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Come along and play with all of the dogs at Bark Park in this exuberant rhyming picture book that's a treat for animal lovers of any age.

Kulich, Kaitlin. Illus. by Laura Dobrota. *Pawpaw Is My Favorite Flavor!* Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, OH) 2018. HC \$15.00. Henry loves to go visit his grandpa on his farm in Athens, Ohio. During this visit, Henry and Grandpa come

across a pawpaw tree and decide to pick the fruit to make homemade ice cream. Henry finds out it's fun to try new things and even learns about pawpaws along the way.

Many, Paul. Illus. by Stan Jaskiel. *Dinomorphosis*. Pelican Publishing Company (Gretna, LA) 2018. HC \$16.99.

When a scary situation causes a dinosaur-sized transformation, how will Gregory adapt? When Gregory wakes up in the body of a dinosaur on the morning of his big class presentation, he's worried. He's scheduled to talk about the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs, and he's practiced all week so he won't be scared in front of the class. But he didn't plan for this!

Mora, Pat. Illus. by Raúl Colón. Bookjoy Wordjoy. Lee & Low Books, Inc. (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.95.

Whether we are collecting words, reading favorite books in the library, celebrating holidays, writing poems, sharing secrets, or singing a jazzy duet, words and books can take us on wonderful adventures and bring us joy.

Nevin, Judy Carey. *All Kids Are Good Kids*. Little Simon (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$7.99.

No two kids are alike, and this charming story celebrates those special differences that make kids both unique and similar.

Snyder, Besty. *I Can Explore*. Chronicle Books (San Francisco, CA) 2018. HC \$8.99. Adventure awaits! Young readers help characters explore the world—from embarking on a jungle safari through touch-and-feel fabric

leaves to riding a tandem bike through Paris—just by wiggling their fingers! Then, with two sets of hands, children assist these explorers as they head off on their next adventure in the finale.

Snyder, Betsy. *I Can Dream*. Chronicle Books (San Francisco, CA) 2018. HC \$8.99. Dream big! Young readers help characters pursue their aspirations—from driving a race car to traveling to Mars—just by wiggling their fingers! There's even more fun. In an impressive gatefold finale, kids help a firefighter, astronaut, artist, and more come together to follow their dreams.

Stanek, Linda. Illus. by Shennen Bersani. *Cheetah Dreams*. Arbordale Press (Mt. Pleasant, SC) 2018. HC \$17.95. Cheetahs are the most rapidly vanishing cat in Africa. The book shares the dreams of a bright future for cheetahs while engaging sidebars provide a wealth of natural history information.

Stortz, Diane. Illus. by Diane LeFeyer. *I Am: The Names of God for Little Ones*. Tommy Nelson (Nashville, TN) 2018. HC \$9.99. God is the Creator, the Healer, our Savior, and our Friend. And it is through God's names that we understand His character. Now little ones will understand how great our God is by learning His names and all the ways He cares for them.

# Coming Soon

## Thurber House Evenings with Authors

January 16 - May 9, 2019

7:3 - 9:00 p.m.

Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus

The winter/spring series kicks off with Thurber Prize winner John Kenney (January 16) and includes Ohio authors Conrade C. Hinds (January 30) and Cathy Guisewite (April 5).

For information and tickets, visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

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## Authors!

January 22, 2019

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Toledo Lucas County Public Library,  
Sanger Branch

Cleveland Clinic chief wellness officer Dr. Michael F. Roizen shares information and insights from his latest book, *What to Eat When*. Free and open to all. For information and to register, visit [www.toledolibrary.org/authors](http://www.toledolibrary.org/authors).

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## Carnegie Author Series: Author Talks at the Main Library

January 27 - September 22, 2019

Columbus Metropolitan Library,  
Columbus

The third annual series of author talks includes Ohioana Award winners Wil Haygood (Tigerland) on January 27 and Paula McLain (Love and Ruin) on March 10. The programs are free and open to all. For information and to register, visit [www.columbuslibrary.org/special-events](http://www.columbuslibrary.org/special-events).

## Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

application deadline is

January 31, 2019

This annual competition awards \$1,000 to an Ohio writer, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. For more information and an application, visit [www.ohioana.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Marvin-application-2019.pdf](http://www.ohioana.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Marvin-application-2019.pdf).

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## Ohioana Book Club

February 13, 2019

10:00 a.m. - noon

Ohioana Library, Columbus

The book for February is *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes* by Brad Ricca, a 2018 Ohioana Book Award finalist in nonfiction. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## From Prison to Prominence: The Life and Literary Work of Chester Himes

February 20, 2019

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch,  
Columbus Metropolitan Library

Columbus author Yolonda Tonette Sanders (the *Protective Detective* mystery series) presents an interactive and entertaining program on trailblazing African American novelist Chester Himes, who went from being an inmate at the Ohio Penitentiary to an influential writer and creator of the black detective genre. Presented as part of the "I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100" celebration. For information, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org) or email [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

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## Ohioana Book Festival

April 27, 2019

10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Main Library

Join us for the 13th annual Ohioana Book Festival in a new venue - the beautiful Main Library of Columbus Metropolitan Library! The event features nearly 140 authors, panel discussions, a book fair, special activities for children and teens, food trucks, and more. Free and open to the public. No ticket and no advance registration required. For more information, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

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To list a literary event in the *Ohioana Quarterly*, contact us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.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 September 1, 2018, through November 30, 2018. Special thanks to Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

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Lisa Klein

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Susan Schueller

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Marilyn Shrude

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## \$25 – 49

Christina "Tina" Butler

Candy Canzoneri

Connie Dow

Diane Fink

Alice Finley

Brad Hughes

J. Patrick Lewis

Debbie Peters

Ralph Ramey

Dan Shuey

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## In-Kind

PXPOhio

## "A very special library treasure"

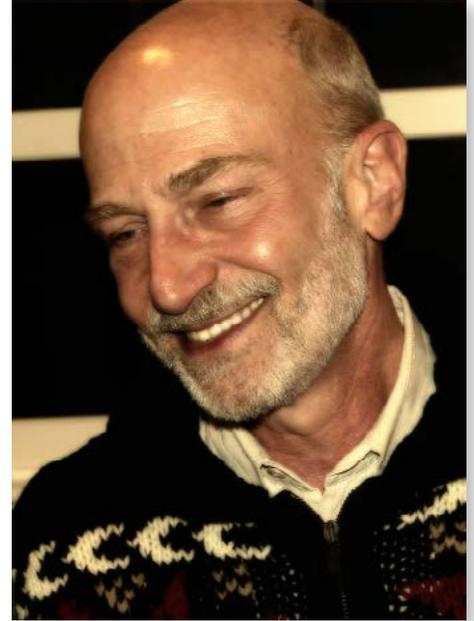
During my first year of teaching fourth grade at Columbus School for Girls, I discovered a very special library treasure, the Ohioana Library, when our Lower School librarian suggested taking a field trip to Ohioana to connect with our Ohio studies. Thirty years later, this library friendship continues.

These first field trips to the Front Street Ohioana involved riding the elevator up to the eleventh floor and then sitting in the stacks with books spread across the floor as our fourth graders researched various Ohio topics such as counties, authors, presidents, and famous Ohioans, often with a focus on women. When Ohioana moved to its new location on East First Avenue, we continued to visit and research. Over the years our learning opportunities have expanded beyond just researching to include Ohio author visits and book reviews written by the students for the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

Not only have my students grown through Ohioana, but I have, too. Working with the library to design an educational unit expanded my knowledge of the Underground Railroad in Ohio and of the many available children's books and resources by Ohio authors. Writing book reviews exposed me to many authors and writing styles and created a greater personal interest in all forms of literature. Meeting various Ohio authors expanded my knowledge of Ohio's literary world and provided new friendships. And then, there is the staff at Ohioana.

Whether our visits were on Front Street or First Avenue, Ohioana's staff is the best. They are compassionate people who care about educating the public, sharing their resources, and building friendships. Through them I have made dear friends, and I greatly treasure this special and unique library we have in our state.

Charlotte Stiverson



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

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**Save the  
Date!**

**April 27, 2019**

We hope you'll join us for the 13th annual Ohioana Book Festival, taking place Saturday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library at 96 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215.

The festival will feature a book fair and book signings, panel discussions with your favorite authors, children's and teen actives, food trucks, and more. We hope to see you there!