The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2019 Ohioana Book Awards. First given in 1942, the awards are the second-oldest state literary prizes in the nation and honor outstanding works by Ohio authors in five categories: Fiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature, and Nonfiction. The sixth category, About Ohio/An Ohioan, may also include books by non-Ohio authors.

Among the literary honors this year’s finalists have previously received are the National Book Award, the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Cleveland Arts Prize, the Edgar Award, and the Pushcart Prize. Two authors have had books made into major motion pictures, while another was a writer for MTV’s iconic 1990s series Beavis and Butt-head. Four authors are finalists for their debut books, while six are past Ohioana Award winners.

Ohioana will profile all the finalists in the coming weeks with the return of “31 Books, 31 Days,” a special feature on our Facebook page in which one finalist is highlighted each day.

Winners will be announced in July, and the 2019 Ohioana Book Awards will be presented at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Thursday, October 17. The finalists are:

**Fiction**
a stellar list of authors representing every literary genre from picture books to poetry, from novels to biographies. Several of these authors are among America’s and Ohio’s most celebrated writers, while others are just at the beginning of what promises to be great writing careers. We applaud them all and look forward to sharing more about them and their books in the days and weeks ahead.

We know our founder, First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper, would be pleased and proud of everything that is happening in this memorable 90th anniversary year. And we know she’d join us in thanking you, for it is your support and your shared love of books and reading that makes it possible. Thank you!

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

David, Giffels. Furnishing Eternity, Scribner.
Haygood, Wil. I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100, Rizzoli Electa.

About Ohio or an Ohioan
Congdon, Jane. How the “Wild” Effect Turned Me into a Hiker at 69, Bettie Younks Books.
Haygood, Wil. Tigerland, Knopf.
Hazelgrove, William. Wright Brothers, Wrong Story, Prometheus Books.

Poetry
Barngrover, Anne. Brazen Creature, University of Akron Press.
Bentley, Roy. Walking with Eve in the Loved City, University of Arkansas Press.
Jackson, Marcus. Pardon My Heart, TriQuarterly/Northwestern University Press.
Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. Oceanic, Copper Canyon Press.

Juvenile Literature
Campbell, Marcy. Illus. by Corinna Luyken. Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse, Dial Books.
Fleming, Denise. This is the Nest That Robin Built, Beach Lane Books.
Mora, Oge. Thank you, Omu!, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature
Arnold, David. The Strange Fascinations of Noah Hypnotik, Viking Books for Young Readers.
Draper, Sharon M. Blended, Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books.
NEW BOOKS

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

About Ohio/An Ohioan
AAC 150. The Art Academy of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB $40.00.
AAC 150 spans the Art Academy of Cincinnati’s history from 1869 through 2018. Nearly 150 pages of rare and revealing images illustrate this historic narrative.

Abu-Absi, Samir, ed. Arab Americans in Toledo: Cultural Assimilation and Community Involvement. The University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2010. PB $22.95.
Arab Americans in Toledo is a collection of essays, interviews, profiles, and pictures that explores one of Toledo’s most diverse ethnic groups. Its members ”both Christian and Muslim, and from many nationalities” have come together to form a vibrant and important local community. The book’s chapters are equally diverse, covering language, food, religion, history, and culture, as well as stories of those whose lives have enriched Northwest Ohio since the first Arab immigrants arrived in the early 1880s.

Norman P. Auburn, tenth president of The University of Akron (1951–1971), was a husband and father as well as UA’s most important leader in the second half of its 150 years. His third-born child remembers the private man behind the public figure. In 1926, a draftsman’s son met a minister’s daughter at the University of Cincinnati. In order to convince her father that he could support her, he gave up law school and a graduate fellowship to launch a career in public relations. They married, and he built a new career at their alma mater, where he rose to second-in-command. In 1951, they were called to preside at Ohio’s tenth-largest college in the gritty one-industry town of Akron. Twenty years later, The University of Akron had become the third-largest university in Ohio, having grown from 4,500 to 20,500 students. Norm and Kay Auburn treated the President’s Home as a manse and the university constituents as a congregation. They entertained there extensively, inviting every student, faculty, and staff member and showing off the distinguished visitors they brought for lectures, commencements, and commissioning. Behind the scenes they raised three children to adulthood and marriage and arranged for the lifelong security of their disabled child. Soon after their retirement, Kay died. Norm had already begun a new career as a rent-a-president and had consolidated the banking career which the UA Board had permitted him to start. Three years later, he found a new life partner who helped prolong those post-retirement careers.

American Originals is another in a series of books examining Toledo’s ethnic heritage published by what has become the University of Toledo Press. The book is rife with historic photographs of Polish Americans, their place in the local religious community, and interviews with local Poles. It illustrates some of the influences on modern culture that Polish immigration had on the area as well as the United States in general.

Leaving a Legacy is a selective collection of excerpts from the vast writings of the nineteenth-century doctor and medical pioneer Daniel Drake. From Drake’s life, documented here in his own words from excerpts of lectures, personal journal entries, presentations, speeches, books, and letters to his children, readers learn about the scope of his accomplishments in medicine, contributions to his community, and dedication to his family. Diller goes beyond biography to contextualize Drake’s life choices and what made him a role model for today’s physicians. Diller selected 180 thematically arranged excerpts, which he paired with original reflection questions to guide the reader through thought-provoking prompts. In doing so, Diller presents the lessons from Drake’s remarkable life and work as a guide for others who wish to build an enduring legacy.

Douglas, John, and Mark Olshaker. The Killer Across the Table: Unlocking the Secrets of Serial Killers and Predators with the FBI’s
autobiography takes us through a rich and moving forty-year journey. We are made privy to her innermost thoughts growing up as a privileged child in Trinidad, her meteoric rise to fame as a young thespian in her homeland, and her later struggle with her identity as a black immigrant in the United States. In each photograph of Joanne from childhood through adulthood we see the challenging eyes of an individual who is wise beyond her years, determined, and frankly rebellious. This book affords the reader an opportunity to look through the lens that reveals the soul of a teacher whose seemingly disparate experiences form the foundation for everything she does.


Army veteran Andrew Fisher has compiled and edited a book based on some of the Veterans’ History Project interviews that are archived in the Ward M. Canaday Center of the University of Toledo’s Carlson Library. What a Time It Was is a selection of eighty interviews from among the hundreds in the collection. As a volunteer for the local Veterans’ History Project effort, Mr. Fisher interviewed over 500 veterans in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. In 2005, he was one of the twelve most prolific volunteers in the nation who were invited to Washington, DC to be honored by the Library of Congress. The book includes interviews with men and women of all the service branches, both theaters of operation, and the home front. There is an appendix listing and profiling all of the VHP interviewees whose recordings are housed in the Canaday Center as of October 2009.


This book is the result of a decade-long campaign to preserve and document disability history in Ohio, fusing together activism, rigorous scholarship, and preservation.


Genealogy and history of prominent members of Butler County, Ohio families as compiled by Kathleen Stuckey Fox, a descendant, who has become a prominent Butler County historian.


Ohio-born author and social activist Fannie Hurst continued to write weekly letters to her husband, Jacques S. Danielson, for sixteen years after he died, until her own death in 1968. Historian Kathleen Stuckey Fox and author Diana Royer present Hurst’s letters in their entirety, as well as an analysis on the historical and personal impact they have made.
Hand, Greg, ed. *From the Temple of Zeus to the Hyperloop: University of Cincinnati Stories*. The University of Cincinnati Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. HC $34.95. As the University of Cincinnati celebrates its bicentennial, students, faculty, staff, and alumni look back on the university’s remarkable past and its progression as a pioneer in higher education. *From the Temple of Zeus to the Hyperloop* reflects the breadth and diversity of the university over its rich and eventful history, emphasizing just what makes UC’s history so special and inspiring—it’s stories.


Several years in the life of the author, a former headmaster at the University School in Ohio, reflections on mortality, incidents in his personal life and marriage, with an account of his activities as lecturer and writer on education. A candid and deeply personal memoir, told in the form of a diary.

Herbert, Jeffrey G., and Julie M. Ross. *Archdiocese of Cincinnati Roman Catholic Baptism Records: Early-1859, Excluding Hamilton County*. Hamilton County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB $32.00. This index contains the names of over 18,800 Roman Catholic baptisms recorded in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati prior to 31 December 1859. The present archdiocese is located in the western and southwestern portion of Ohio. The source material for this work is the microfilm copies of original baptismal registers which were kept by the individual parish churches and are stored at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This index contains baptismal records of all existing Roman Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati except for Hamilton County, Ohio, which is covered in a separate set of publications. Early records from the town of Minster, Ohio, in Auglaize County list the place of origin in Germany for many of the founding families. This information has been extracted as a separate list and is included in the publication.

Hisle, Janice. *Submerged: Ryan Widmer, His Drowned Bride, and the Justice System*. Chilidog Press (Loveland, OH) 2018. PB $20.00. A young bride drowns in her bathtub. Her husband of four months is accused of murder. What happened in their tiny suburban bathroom—and why—was never resolved. A true-crime drama, based on exclusive new information, *Submerged* exposes hidden angles of a case that captivated and divided an ordinary American community, tore apart two families and tested the criminal justice system. Compelled by conscience and curiosity, former Cincinnati Enquirer reporter Janice (Morse) Hisle—who covered the saga of Ryan and Sarah Widmer from the start—returns ten years later to tell the untold story.


In this book, Barbara Alice Mann's purpose is not to prove facts or to give an interpretation of historical events, but to pass along essential, traditional cultural narratives and knowledge to her granddaughter. Her readers are in the privileged and rare position of being allowed to listen.

McCullough, David. *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2019. HC $30.00. Pulitzer Prize–winning historian David McCullough rediscovers an important and dramatic chapter in the American story—the settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define our country. As part of the Treaty of Paris, in which Great Britain recognized the new United States of America, Britain ceded the land that comprised the immense Northwest Territory, a wilderness empire northwest of the Ohio River containing the future states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. A Massachusetts minister named Manasseh Cutler was instrumental in opening this vast territory to veterans of the Revolutionary War and their families for settlement. Included in the Northwest Ordinance were three remarkable conditions: freedom of religion, free universal education, and most importantly, the prohibition of slavery. In 1788 the first band of pioneers set out from New England for the Northwest Territory under the leadership of Revolutionary War veteran General Rufus Putnam. They settled in what is now Marietta on the banks of the Ohio River. McCullough tells the story through five major characters: Cutler and Putnam; Cutler’s son Ephraim; and two other men, one
a carpenter turned architect, and the other a physician who became a prominent pioneer in American science. They and their families created a town in a primeval wilderness, while coping with such frontier realities as floods, fires, wolves and bears, no roads or bridges, no guarantees of any sort, all the while negotiating a contentious and sometimes hostile relationship with the native people. Like so many of McCullough's subjects, they let no obstacle deter or defeat them.

McLaughlin, Cynthia G. The State Library at 200: A Celebration of Library Services to Ohio. The Donning Company Publishers (Brookfield, MO) 2017. PB. The State Library of Ohio celebrated its bicentennial in 2017 with exhibits, publication of this book, and a culminating open house celebration on August 4, 2017. The purpose of the bicentennial exhibits were to present the history and legacy of the State Library of Ohio and its relationship to the foundations and evolution of Ohio's libraries over the past two hundred years. This includes documenting the cultural shift of libraries in society, identifying how the State Library of Ohio and Ohio's libraries have pioneered innovation in the library and information science profession, and document how Ohio libraries, access to information, and librarianship has changed.

Morales, Ben. Hindsight: Northwest Ohio Through the Lens of Time. The University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2016. HC $39.95. A collection of over 100 rephotographed locations in the Toledo region, combined with relevant information describing their historical significance. Portraying the past and present in the same frame forces the viewer to see things differently, and hopefully primes their curiosity to recognize the hidden history all around us.

Nonfiction
Grubb, Blair. The Calling. The University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2011. PB $14.95. These stories deal with the uniquely intimate relationship between patients and their physicians. It is a relationship based on the patient's history, secrets, and deepest fears, but also those of his or her doctor. In these touching essays, Dr. Grubb recounts stories that have stayed with him, influenced him as a physician and touched him as a person. He depicts memorable encounters he has had in his calling as he strives to be a good healer and a good human being.


McCoy, David B. Gullah Culture: 1670 to 1950. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2017. PB $8.99. It was a mystery to author David B. McCoy how the Gullah culture has been so overlooked by the American educational system, considering their "story represents a crucial component of local, regional, and national history." McCoy takes readers inside the world of the Gullah, their roots, traditions, beliefs, and languages.

McCoy, David B. Join the Parade of Horses and Heroes: Knowledge About Volunteering at an Equine-Assisted Therapy Program for Special-Needs Individuals. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2017. PB $8.99. The purpose of this publication is threefold: 1) to share some of the therapeutic benefits horses provide individuals with disabilities, 2) to stress that certified instructors are primarily responsible for imparting physical, cognitive, and emotional skills, and 3) to explain the role volunteer sidewalkers play in keeping riders safely on the saddle and in encouraging riders to perform all assigned tasks to the best of their abilities. This is also a great reference book for anyone involved with equine-assisted activities and therapies. Royalties are donated to nonprofit organizations.


On the orders of Emperor Hadrian in 122 AD, a great wall was constructed, coast to coast, across northern England. Separating the tribes in what is now Scotland from the Roman occupied area of Great Britain, this massive structure was one of the glories of the Empire. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes a path along its eighty-four-mile length. Walking this trail to celebrate his seventieth birthday, the author shares the camaraderie of his three companions and other hikers, including a couple of dogs, who join them along the way. He struggles over the unexpectedly rugged, desolate terrain and discovers the spiritual magic of the hiking trail that clarifies the transition to his seventh decade.


The legal profession once operated on a smaller scale—folksy lawyers arguing for fairness and justice before a judge and jury. But by the year 1900, a new type of lawyer was born, one who understood business as well as the law. Working hand in glove with their clients, over the next two decades these New York City “white shoe” lawyers devised and implemented legal strategies that would drive the business world throughout the twentieth century. These lawyers were architects of the monopolistic new corporations so despised by many, and acted as guardians who helped the kings of industry fend off government overreach. Yet they also quietly steered their robber baron clients away from a “public be damned” attitude toward more enlightened corporate behavior during a period of progressive, turbulent change in America. Author John Oller, himself a former Wall Street lawyer, gives us a glimpse of turn-of-the-century New York, from the grandeur of private mansions, elegant hotels, and the city’s early skyscrapers and transportation systems to the depths of its deplorable tenement housing conditions. Some of the biggest names of the era are featured, including business titans J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller, lawyer-statesmen Elihu Root and Charles Evans Hughes, and presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson. Among the colorful, high-powered lawyers portrayed, *White Shoe* focuses on three: Paul Cravath, who guided his client George Westinghouse in his war against Thomas Edison and launched a new model of law firm management—the “Cravath system”; Frank Stetson, the “attorney general” for financier J. P. Morgan who fiercely defended against government lawsuits to break up Morgan’s business empires; and William Nelson Cromwell, the lawyer “who taught the robber barons how to rob” and was best known for his instrumental role in creating the Panama Canal. In *White Shoe*, the story of this small but influential band of Wall Street lawyers who created Big Business is fully told for the first time.


It was the sensational Washington, DC, death case that punctuated the end of the Roaring Twenties. The victim was an attractive young nurse found semi-nude in her apartment with a pajama cord around her neck. Detectives said it was a suicide, but a maverick patrolman thought otherwise and took on the entire metropolitan police force to try and prove it. The turmoil caused by patrolman Robert Allen overturned the coroner’s verdict, saw the police investigation criticized on the floor of the Senate, and sent the case before a grand jury, which indicted the husband, a debonair ladies’ man and semipro football player. And that was only the beginning.


Featuring a variety of rock and roll, blues, folk, and pop performers from the early 1970s through the 2000s, Rockwood has accumulated a plethora of images that illustrate venues in the southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio regions. The book includes performers such as Bob Dylan at the University of Toledo; Ritchie Blakemore in Detroit; Buddy Guy in Clarkston, Michigan; and John Rockwood capturing all parties involved doing what they do best—engaging in their preferred art forms.

Shoeless Joe in the spring of 1989, his novel was thrust into the limelight when, he will come. “Kinsella’s iconic lines such as “If you build it, he will come.” Kinsella’s work was thrust into the limelight when, in the spring of 1989, his novel Shoeless Joe was turned into the international blockbuster Field of Dreams.


This book takes readers through the city’s storied history and vibrant culture. Beginning at Fountain Square, the heart of the city, the book rolls out to the riverfront, then back downtown and outwards, eventually to the locations outside of the city center. Sites include the Roebling Suspension Bridge, Fountain Square, Union Terminal, Music Hall, Carew Tower, Mount Adams Incline, the canal, Old Main Library, Albee Theater, Shubert Theater, Arnold’s Bar and Grill, City Hall, Post Office, Nasty Corner, Taft Museum, Enquirer Building, Sixth Street Market, Union Terminal, Lincoln Park, Rookwood Pottery, Eden Park Reservoir, Gwynne Building, Contemporary Arts Center, Baldwin Piano Company, Convention Center, and the Plum Street Temple.


When we think of constitutional law, we invariably think of the United States Supreme Court and the federal court system. Yet much of our constitutional law is not made at the federal level. In 51 Imperfect Solutions, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton argues that American constitutional law should account for the role of the state courts and state constitutions, together with the federal courts and the federal constitution, in protecting individual liberties. The book tells four stories that arise in four different areas of constitutional law: equal protection, criminal procedure, privacy, and free speech and free exercise of religion. Traditional accounts of these bedrock debates about the relationship of the individual to the state focus on decisions of the United States Supreme Court. But these explanations tell just part of the story. The book corrects this omission by looking at each issue—and some others as well—through the lens of many constitutions, not one constitution; of many courts, not one court; and of all American judges, not federal or state judges. Taken together, the stories reveal a remarkably complex, nuanced, ever-changing federalist system, one that ought to make lawyers and litigants pause before reflexively assuming that the United States Supreme Court alone has all of the answers to the most vexing constitutional questions.


In resource-challenged Athens County, Ohio, staff and volunteers at the nonprofit Athens County Foundation came up with a daring idea: to host a locally sourced, gourmet dinner for four hundred people. The meal would be held on the brick-paved main street of the city of Athens to raise funds for the food bank and increase awareness of the persistent local struggle with food insecurity, as well as to raise the visibility of the foundation. The logistical challenges were daunting, but the plan would unite the community around the common theme of providing for its own. Since then, Bounty on the Bricks has become a touchstone event that raises close to one hundred thousand dollars for the food bank. In The Community Table, Athens County Foundation executive director Susan Urano translates her years of nonprofit experience with large-scale annual fundraisers into a step-by-step guide for development professionals, community leaders, and volunteers. Urano guides readers to consider when to mount a fundraiser, who the stakeholders are, what social and financial value the event will bring to the community, and how partnerships might augment the payoff. Using real-life examples, she explains how organizers can learn from mistakes and illustrates methods of team building, conflict resolution, and problem solving. Sample ideas, timelines, budgets, publicity plans, and committee structures round out The Community Table.

Fiction


Petra Dee and her immortal husband, Gabe, have been trying to gain a toehold in what passes for ordinary life in Temperance, Wyoming—a wickedly enchanted
land founded generations ago by the alchemist Lascaris. Petra may be adept when it comes to the uncanny, but as a geologist, she still can’t fathom the wildfires suddenly engulfing Yellowstone National Park, or why Gabe claims to have seen the sky explode in flames. The answers could lie in the past. It was a dreadful night in 1862 when Lascaris went harvesting for souls, only to be set upon by townsfolk determined to eliminate the root of all evil in a trial by fire. Petra can’t help fearing that Lascaris has crawled out of the ashes of history to wreak vengeance—and to complete his mission by claiming every vulnerable soul in Temperance. With the help of Gabe and her coyote sidekick, Sig, Petra must now venture into Lascaris’s shadow before he turns her world into an inferno burning out of control.

Croley, Michael. *Any Other Place: Stories*. Blair (Durham, NC) 2019. PB.

In his debut collection, Michael Croley takes us from the Appalachian regions of rural Kentucky and Ohio to a village in South Korea in thirteen engaging stories in which characters find themselves, wherever they are, in states of displacement. In these settings, Croley guides his characters to some semblance of home, where they circle each other’s pain, struggle to find belonging, and make sense of the mistakes and bad breaks that have brought them there. Croley uses his absorbing prose to uncover his characters’ hidden disquiet and to bring us a remarkable and unique collection that expands the scope of modern American literature.


From the author of *The Water Dancers* and *Good Family* comes a novel set in Ohio in the decades leading to the Civil War that illuminates the immigrant experience, the injustice of slavery, and the debts human beings owe to one another, witnessed through the endeavors of one Irish-American family. Cheated out of their family estate in Northern Ireland after the Napoleonic Wars, the Givens family arrives in America in 1819. But in coming to this new land, they have lost nearly everything. Making their way west they settle in Cincinnati, a burgeoning town on the banks of the mighty Ohio River whose rise, like the Givenses’ own, will be fashioned by the colliding forces of Jacksonian populism, religious evangelism, industrial capitalism, and the struggle for emancipation.

After losing their mother in childbirth and their father to a riverboat headed for New Orleans, James, Olivia, and Erasmus Givens must fend for themselves. Ambitious James eventually marries into a prosperous family, builds a successful business, and rises in Cincinnati society. Taken by the spirit and wanderlust, Erasmus becomes an itinerant preacher, finding passion and heartbreak as he seeks God. Independent-minded Olivia, seemingly destined for spinsterhood, enters into a surprising partnership and marriage with Silas Orpheus, a local doctor who spurns social mores. When her husband suddenly dies from an infection, Olivia travels to his family home in Kentucky, where she meets his estranged brother and encounters the horrors of slavery firsthand. After abetting the escape of one slave, Olivia is forced to confront the status of a young woman named Tilly, another slave owned by Olivia’s brother-in-law. When her attempt to help Tilly ends in disaster, Olivia tracks down Erasmus, who has begun smuggling runaways across the river—the borderline between freedom and slavery.

As the years pass, this family of immigrants initially indifferent to slavery will actively work for its end—performing courageous, often dangerous, occasionally foolhardy acts of moral rectitude that will reverberate through their lives for generations to come.


Before there was Meghan Markle, there was Consuelo Vanderbilt, the original American Duchess. Karen Harper tells the tale of Consuelo Vanderbilt, her “Wedding of the Century” to the Duke of Marlborough, and her quest to find meaning behind “the glitter and the gold.” On a cold November day in 1895, a carriage approaches St. Thomas Episcopal Church on New York City’s Fifth Avenue. Massive crowds surge forward, awaiting their glimpse of heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt. Just eighteen, the beautiful bride has not only arrived late, but in tears, yet her marriage to the aloof Duke of Marlborough proceeds. Bullied into the wedding by her indomitable mother, Alva, Consuelo loves another. But a deal was made, trading some of the vast Vanderbilt wealth for a title and prestige, and Consuelo, bred to obey, realizes she must make the best of things. At Blenheim Palace, Consuelo is confronted
with an overwhelming list of duties, including producing an “heir and a spare,” but her relationship with the duke quickly disintegrates. Consuelo finds an inner strength, charming everyone from debutantes to diplomats including Winston Churchill, as she fights for women’s suffrage. And when she takes a scandalous leap, can she hope to attain love at last?


It is September 1940—a year into the war—and as German bombs fall on Britain, fears grow of an impending invasion. Enemy fighter planes blacken the sky around the Epping Forest home of Susan Shepherd and her grandfather, Bertie. After losing her parents to influenza as a child, Susan found comfort in raising homing pigeons with Bertie. All her birds are extraordinary to Susan—loyal, intelligent, beautiful—but none more so than Duchess. Hatched from an egg that Susan incubated in a bowl under her grandfather’s desk lamp, Duchess shares a special bond with Susan and an unusual curiosity about the human world. Thousands of miles away in Buxton, Maine, a young crop-duster pilot named Ollie Evans has decided to travel to Britain to join the Royal Air Force. His quest brings him to Epping and to the National Pigeon Service, where Susan is involved in a new, covert assignment. Codenamed Source Columba, the mission aims to air-drop hundreds of homing pigeons in German-occupied France. Many will not survive. Those that do make the journey home to England can convey crucial information on German troop movements—and help reclaim the skies from the Luftwaffe. The friendship between Ollie and Susan deepens as the mission date draws near. When Ollie’s plane is downed behind enemy lines, both know how remote the chances of reunion must be. Yet Duchess’s devotion and her singular sense of duty will become an unexpected lifeline, relaying messages between Susan and Ollie as war rages on—and proving, at last, that hope is never truly lost.


This long-awaited new novel from a National Book Award Finalist tells 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. Breaking definitively from his rural Iowan parents, Vollie puts in motion an unimaginable chain of events that will turn her life upside down. The man, a devout Mormon, is on the run from the U.S. government, which has ruled the practice of polygamy to be a felony. Although Deborah is not devout and doesn’t subscribe to polygamy, she is distrustful of non-Mormons with their long tradition of persecuting believers of her wider faith. But all is not what it seems, and when the Marshal is critically injured, Deborah and her husband’s best friend, Nels Anderson, are faced with life-and-death decisions that question their faith, humanity, and futures.

Poetry


"In A Green Line Between Green Fields.


In the inhospitable lands of the Utah Territory, during the winter of 1888, thirty-seven-year-old Deborah Tyler waits for her husband, Samuel, to return home from his travels as a wheelwright. It is now the depths of winter, Samuel is weeks overdue, and Deborah is getting worried. Deborah lives in Junction, a tiny town of seven Mormon families scattered along the floor of a canyon, and she earns her living by tending orchards and making work gloves. Isolated by the red-rock cliffs that surround the town, she and her neighbors live apart from the outside world, even regarded with suspicion by the Mormon faithful who question the depth of their belief. When a desperate stranger who is pursued by a Federal Marshal shows up on her doorstep seeking refuge, it sets in motion a chain of events that will turn her life upside down. The man, a devout Mormon, is on the run from the U.S. government, which has ruled the practice of polygamy to be a felony. Although Deborah is not devout and doesn’t subscribe to polygamy, she is distrustful of non-Mormons with their long tradition of persecuting believers of her wider faith. But all is not what it seems, and when the Marshal is critically injured, Deborah and her husband’s best friend, Nels Anderson, are faced with life-and-death decisions that question their faith, humanity, and futures.
Fields, Steve Abbott not only asks the fundamental questions (Who am I? Who are you? Who are we together?), he dares to imagine for himself and others—an Alzheimer’s patient, an aging widower, the nation—who we are when we no longer recognize ourselves as ourselves. Abbott’s highly lyrical-narrative lines echo poets such as Phil Levine and Richard Hugo, heroes of both the white working class of the last century and of the poetic imagination. Word by word, their ‘insistent rhythm’ nudges us ‘like newborns, awake.’” —Kathy Fagan, author of Sycamore

Brady, Philip. Phantom Signs: The Muse in Universe City. The University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2019. PB. Philip Brady’s new collection of essays, Phantom Signs, assays the enthusiasms and hidden architectures of a lifetime spent in academia and in poetry. Brady, a poet, professor, basketball player, editor, and book publisher, brings tremendous erudition and empathy to bear on topics ranging from the wrath of Achilles to the flat earth theories of Kyrie Irving.

Stever, Margo Taft. Cracked Piano: Poems. CavanKerry Press (Fort Lee, NJ) 2019. PB $16.00. From her compelling and beautiful descriptions of life inside a nineteenth-century private insane asylum to her colorful and often critical depiction of elements of contemporary society, Margo Taft Stever’s poems are profound. They describe the delicate line between the certifiably insane and the irrationality of everyday life, and depict a society that is sometimes harsh and ugly and sometimes soft and loving, with stunning imagery.

Middle Grade & Young Adult

Dunskey, Martha. Illus. by Monica Wyrick. Fire and Forgiveness: A Nun’s Truce with General Sherman. The University of South Carolina Press (Columbia, SC) 2019. HC $18.99. Making peace with her spiteful classmate Clara seems impossible to Jane. Despite encouragement from Mother Baptista, the mother superior at their convent school, Jane and Clara dig in their heels. As the girls brood they hear the cannons of the Civil War explode outside their school as General Sherman and the Union army attack the city of Columbia, South Carolina, in February, 1865. Mother Baptista asks Sherman for protection for her nuns and students, and he promises they will be safe inside their convent school. But despite his promise, they have to flee in the middle of the night through a chaotic, burning city. Will Mother Baptista forgive Sherman? Can Jane and Clara make peace when the adults in their world are at war? Based on first-person accounts of true events, Fire and Forgiveness is a reminder of the important role forgiveness and peacemaking play in life’s conflicts big and small, whether between quarreling children, proud adults, or warring nations.

Pilkey, Dav. Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild (Dog Man #6). Graphix/ Scholastic (New York, NY) 2019. HC $9.99. Is Dog Man bad to the bone? The heroic hound is sent to the pound for a crime he didn’t commit! While his pals work to prove his innocence, Dog Man struggles to find his place among dogs and people. Being a part of both worlds, will he ever fully fit in with one?

Woolard, Jim. Jersey Red. Goldminds Publishing (Springfield, MO) 2008. PB $14.95. Josh Benson is miserable. He has lost his beloved mongrel dog, Shep. The school bully is out to get him. He is afraid to approach the girl he loves for fear of being rejected. Worse yet, on top of these woes, he is convinced he’ll never win the respect of his father, a local legend. Things hit rock bottom when he is given a runt of a redbone coonhound that he doesn’t want. But to his utter surprise, it is the friendship and courage of the unwanted Jersey Red that provides him the strength to face the challenges confronting him at school and at home and become his own man.

Walt Hannar blames his son, Ben, for the death of his prized coonhound, Sweet Lou. Ben prays for an opportunity to regain the closeness he once enjoyed with his father. His hopes soar when his father purchases a Redbone hound from a kennel in far off Arkansas to take Sweet Lou’s place. Perhaps the new coonhound will help his father forget the past and eventually forgive Ben. Ben’s hopes prove short-lived. To the utter embarrassment of his father, Ozark Red, the new coonhound, runs the wrong scent and makes a fool out of his father in front of half the hunters in Licking County.

Emma Jean, Ben’s sister, insists that he make things right with the dog breeder that cheated their father before the whole family falls apart. But if their father, a former policeman, can’t get a new hound or his money back from a crook five states away, how can Ben?

**Coming Soon**

**Thurber’s Columbus** May 22 – August 18, 2019, Thompson Library, The Ohio State University, Columbus. This exhibit explores Thurber’s early life, works inspired by his experiences in Columbus, and his legacy in Columbus and beyond. Free and open to the public. For information, visit www.thurberhouse.org/year-of-thurber-events/thurbers-columbus-exhibit?blm_aid=835584

**Ohioana Presents David McCullough** June 3, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus. The Ohioana Library welcomes Pulitzer Prize– and Ohioana Award–winning historian and author David McCullough for a discussion of his new book, *The Pioneers*. For information and tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/ohioana-presents-david-mccullough-tickets-60485415506

**Brews + Prose** June 4, 2019, Market Garden Brewery, Cleveland. The seventh season of monthly literary readings concludes with authors Mike Croley and Anne Valente. For more information, visit www.brewsandprose.com.

**Birding and Book Signing with Andrew Welsh-Huggins** Saturday, June 8, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Grange Insurance Audubon Center, 505 W. Whittier St., Columbus, OH 43215. Join the author of the Andy Hayes mystery series (*Fatal Judgment*) at this special event combining the great outdoors and literature. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/grange-insurance-audubon-center/birding-and-book-signing-with-author-andrew-welsh-huggins/411406459414328

**Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics** June 12 – August 21, 2019, Thurber House, Columbus. The thirty-fourth summer season of Wednesday outdoor picnics opens and closes with two Ohioana Book Award winners: Michael J. Rosen (June 12) and Ruth Awad (August 21). Four other Ohio authors will appear in the series: Kaira Rouda, Marika McCoola, Linda Castillo, and Andra Gillum. For information and tickets, visit the Thurber House website at www.thurberhouse.org.

**Capitol Conversations: Doris Kearns Goodwin** June 25, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus. Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize– and Ohioana Award–winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin gives the keynote for the kickoff of this new speaker series presented by Capitol Square Foundation. For information and tickets, visit www.capitolsquarefoundation.org/Capitol_Conversations.htm
Ohioana Presents David McCullough

Prize-winning historian appearing June 3 at Ohio Statehouse

The Ohioana Library will present renowned historian David McCullough in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on Monday, June 3, at 11:30 a.m. The program is being presented by Ohioana as part of its 90th anniversary celebration. C-SPAN will be at the Statehouse to record the program for airing on BOOK-TV.

McCullough will be speaking on his new book, The Pioneers, released May 7 by Simon and Schuster and already a national bestseller. Written with McCullough’s signature narrative energy, the book rediscovers an important and dramatic chapter in the American story—the settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define our country.

“We are thrilled that David McCullough is coming back to Columbus and Ohioana to help us celebrate our 90th anniversary,” said Ohioana Executive Director David Weaver, noting that McCullough was here in 2016 to receive the Ohioana Award for his book, The Wright Brothers.

Among his many other honors, McCullough has won two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, and the nation’s highest civilian recognition, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In addition to his books, McCullough’s rich, distinctive voice is known through his narration of numerous programs for public television, including Ken Burns’ acclaimed Emmy-winning documentary, The Civil War.

Tickets for the McCullough event are $60 each and include the lecture and a signed copy of The Pioneers. There will be neither a book signing nor book sales at the event. Tickets are available online via Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ohioana-presents-david-mccullough-tickets-60485415506

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