

The Director’s Chair ..... 1  
 2019: The Year in Review..... 1  
 Coming Soon ..... 3  
 New Books..... 5

## 2019: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Ohioana Library celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 . . . and it couldn’t have been a more exciting time, as you can see from our look back at some of the year’s highlights.

### Winter

- 2019 is The Year of Thurber, marking the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the humorist’s birth and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thurber House. Ohioana is an official partner in the year-long celebration, launching a four-part “Thurber@125” series in the winter issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*. Also in the winter *Quarterly*: an interview with National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Jacqueline Woodson.
- Ohioana presented “From Prison to Prominence: The Life and Literary Work of Chester Himes” at the Martin Luther King, Jr. branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library. Columbus mystery author Yolonda Tonette Sanders “interviewed” local actor Tony Roseboro, who played the pioneer black crime novelist. The program was part of “I, Too, Hear America Sing: The Harlem Renaissance at 100,” a community-wide project in which Ohioana was one of thirty official partners.
- Chloe Nelson became the 2019 Ruth Weimer Mount Intern.
- The official poster of the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival was unveiled, designed by Mount Vernon artist and illustrator Tim Bowers.

### Spring

- Jacqueline Woodson came to Columbus to receive the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Floyd’s Pick award for her book, *The Day You Begin*. First Lady Fran DeWine spoke at the award ceremony, which also celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Choose to Read Ohio, a joint project of the State Library of Ohio and Ohioana that encourages citizens to “Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life.” A dozen current and past CTRO authors joined us for the event.

### *The Director’s Chair*

Dear Friends,

It’s December, and hard to believe that not only is a year winding down, but a decade! This particular year has been an eventful one for Ohioana, as you can see from our cover story. The past twelve months have been filled with people, places, events, and activities that made our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year truly memorable.

Of course, we couldn’t have done it without the many wonderful friends Ohioana has from around the state. Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine, who since January have enthusiastically supported Ohioana, with special thanks to Fran, our Honorary Chair, carrying on a tradition that goes back to our founder, First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper.
- The Ohio General Assembly, which through the state budget provides a stable base of core operating support that sustains the library and makes our programming possible.
- Ohioana’s Board of Trustees, comprised of dedicated members



First Lady Fran DeWine joins ten Choose to Read Ohio authors at an event celebrating the program's 10th anniversary. Photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney.

- For the third consecutive year, the nationally-distributed comic strip *Crankshaft*, written by Tom Batiuk and illustrated by Dan Davis, features the Ohioana Book Festival for an entire week.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Ohioana Book Festival was presented for the first time in a new venue: the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library. The event drew nearly 150 authors and more than 4,400 attendees – both record numbers.
- The 2019 Ohioana Book Award finalists were announced, including the fourth annual Readers' Choice Award, inviting members and the general public to choose their favorite book of the year from among thirty award finalists.
- Ohioana presented historian David McCullough to a sold-out audience at the Ohio Statehouse on June 3. Governor Mike DeWine introduced McCullough, who spoke on his new book, *The Pioneers*. The event, presented as part of Ohioana's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, was recorded by C-SPAN and aired four times on BOOK-TV.
- Ohioana's board and staff began working on a new five-year plan, funded by a BOOST grant from the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Honda hosted a planning retreat for Ohioana leadership at their Heritage Center in Marysville.

### Summer

- Wil Haygood, David Giffels, Moriel Rothman-Zecher, Marcus Jackson, Ellen Klages, and Jacqueline Woodson were announced as the juried winners of the 2019 Ohioana Book Awards. Rachel Wiley won the fourth annual Ohioana Readers' Choice Award, selected by fans in an online poll.
- David Grandouiller of Jamestown was announced as the 30th recipient of the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, awarded to an Ohio writer age 30 or younger who has not published a book.

from throughout the state who generously share their time, treasure, and talent in support of our mission.

- Ohioana's staff, a "small but mighty" band of professionals whose daily efforts turn plans on paper into events, publications, and programs that directly serve more than 150,000 Ohioans every year.
- Ohio's talented authors, both from here and living here, whose novels, stories, poems, and picture books enthrall millions of readers each year . . . celebrating your work is why Ohioana was founded ninety years ago.
- Our contributors – individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations – whose generosity makes everything we do possible.

To each and every one of you...our most heartfelt THANKS!

Ohioana may be 90 years old, but our story is not just about the past. Today, Ohioana connects readers and Ohio writers, and promotes our state as one of America's great literary centers. We like to think Martha Kinney Cooper would be very proud! And we hope you are proud too, of the vital part you play in this continuing story.

From all of us at Ohioana, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year. We'll see you in 2020!

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

- Ohioana turned the spotlight on itself, with a cover story tracing the ninety-year history of the library in the summer *Ohioana Quarterly* as our eighth “Ohio Literary Landmark.”
- Ohioana held a 90th birthday celebration in Cincinnati, the home of its founder, First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper. Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine served as honorary chairs for the event, which featured Ohioana Award-winning author Wil Haygood in a conversation with David Weaver on “The Art of Biography.”

### Autumn

- The 78<sup>th</sup> annual Ohioana Awards were presented before a sellout crowd in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. The awards ceremony was streamed live by The Ohio Channel and can be viewed on their site: <https://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohioana-awards-2019>
- Ohioana held its 90<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the State Library of Ohio. The highlight of the annual meeting is the election of trustees. Rudine Sims Bishop, Helen Bolte, Bryan Loar, Cindy Puckett, and Daniel Shuey were re-elected as trustees, joined by two new board members: Daniel M. Best and Elizabeth Weibel. Geoff Smith was elected as Secretary, filling the last year of a two-year term.
- In October, a special exhibit tracing Ohioana’s 90-year history went on display in the State Library of Ohio. During its two-month run, the exhibit was viewed by more than 6,000 visitors.
- The fall issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* profiled the winners of the 2019 Ohioana Awards, featured a story by Marvin Grant winner David Grandouiller, and wrapped up our year-long series on James Thurber with a look at a Columbus Museum of Art exhibition curated by Ohioana Award winner Michael J. Rosen.
- Ohioana wrapped up its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with “90 Years...90 Books,” a blog series showcasing 90 titles by 90 Ohio authors published since Ohioana was founded in 1929.

In addition to the events mentioned above, we hosted four book club meetings, group tours, and school visits from second graders to college students. Staff members participated in the “Write Stuff” writers’ workshop at Upper Arlington Public Library (January), the American Library Association National Conference (June), the Mazza Museum Conference (July), and Books by the Banks Cincinnati USA Book Festival (October). The library also sponsored the annual Ohioana Hamilton County Authors Reception (April). See page 4 for more images from this year’s events.

Coming in 2020: the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Ohioana Book Festival (April 25) and the 79<sup>th</sup> annual Ohioana Awards (October). The winter *Ohioana Quarterly* will feature a special tribute to the late Toni Morrison and an interview with Oge Mora, whose *Thank You, Omu!* has been selected as the recipient of the fifth Floyd’s Pick award. Ohioana and the State Library of Ohio will join together to honor Oge, and also announce the 2021-22 list of books for “Choose to Read Ohio” at a special event on April 20. It promises to be an exciting year!

## COMING SOON

**Brews + Prose** January 7, 2020, Market Garden Brewery, Cleveland. The first-Tuesday-of-the-month literary series rings in the new year with 2018 Ohioana Poetry Book Award finalist Allison Pitinii Davis and Schooner Book Prize winning writer Liz Breazeale. For more information, visit [www.brewsandprose.com](http://www.brewsandprose.com).

**Ohioana Book Club** February 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio. The book for February is *American Duchess* by *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author Karen Harper. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

**Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant** application deadline is January 31, 2020. 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, click on the Marvin link at the bottom of this page: <http://www.ohioana.org/programs/ohioana-book-awards/>.

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

# 2019: THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Jacqueline Woodson speaks about her colleague and friend Floyd Dickman as she receives the award named for him. Photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney.



Clifford the Big Red Dog and friends at the Ohioana Book Festival. Photo by Mary Rathke.



Ohioana presents historian David McCullough at the Ohio Statehouse on June 3. Photo by Senator Jay Hottinger.



Ohioana's 90th birthday celebration in Cincinnati: Randy Cooper, great-grandson of Ohioana founder Martha Kinney Cooper, historian and guest speaker Wil Haygood, and Ohioana director David Weaver. Photo by Mike Judy.



Award winners Moriel Rothman-Zecher and Rachel Wiley sign copies of their books for fans. Photo by Mary Rathke.

## NEW BOOKS

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

### Nonfiction

Cryer, Dan. *Forgetting My Mother: A Blues from the Heartland*.

Parafine Press (Cleveland, OH) 2019. PB \$17.95.

When journalist Dan Cryer was just eight, his mother unexpectedly died. In their grief, he and his siblings shut out all memories of their beloved Pauline. In this haunting memoir, Cryer recreates his quest to discover this gentle mystery woman, her small-town midwestern milieu, and how this haunting absence has shaped his emotional life.

Dorr, Christina, and Liz Deskins. *LGBTQAI+ Books for Children and Teens*. ALA Editions (Chicago, IL) 2018. PB \$45.00.

There is a rich and varied body of literature for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, asexual/allied and intersexed young people, which can function as a mirror for LGBTQAI+ individuals and as a window for others. This resource for librarians who work with children and teens not only surveys the best in LGBTQAI+ lit but, just as importantly, offers guidance on how to share it in ways that encourage understanding and acceptance among parents, school administrators, and the wider community. Helping to fill a gap in serving this population, this guide gives school librarians, children's, and YA librarians the guidance and tools they need to confidently share these books with the patrons they support.

Ford, Lyn, and Sherry Norfolk. *Speak Peace: Words of Wisdom, Work, & Wonder*. Parkhurst Brothers (Marion, MI) 2019. PB \$15.00.

Lyn Ford and Sherry Norfolk have studied social distrust, disturbance, and dysfunction throughout their professional lives, which has led them to compile this anthology of peacemaking tools, stories, and interviews.

Hosier, Erin. *Don't Let Me Down: A Memoir*. Atria Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.00.

Erin Hosier's coming-of-age was full of contradiction. Born into the turbulent 1970s, she was raised in rural Ohio by lapsed hippies who traded 1960s rock 'n' roll for 1950s-era Christian hymns. Her mother's newfound faith was rooted in a desire to manage her husband's mood swings, which could alternately fill the house with music or with violence. All the while, Jack was larger than life to his adoring daughter. Full of conflict, their complex relationship set the tone for three decades of Erin's relationships with men; the Beatles provided the soundtrack. Jack bonded with Erin over their iconic songs, even as they inspired her to question authority—both his and others'. *Don't Let Me Down* is about a brave girl trying to navigate family secrets and tragedies and escape from small-town small-mindedness. It is a searing and often funny exploration of how women first see themselves through the lens of a parent's love, and of the ties that bind us to our childhood heroes, who ultimately lead us to ask that most profound of questions: Is love really all you need?

Kachuba, John. *Shapeshifters: A History*. Reaktion Books (London, UK) 2019. HC \$22.50.

There is something about a shapeshifter—a person who can transform into an animal—that captures our imagination; that causes us to want to howl at the moon, or flit through the night like a bat. Werewolves, vampires, demons, and other weird creatures appeal to our animal nature, our “dark side,” our desire to break free of the bonds of society and proper behavior. Real or imaginary, shapeshifters lurk deep in our psyches and remain formidable cultural icons. The myths, magic, and meaning surrounding shapeshifters are brought vividly to life in John B. Kachuba's compelling and original cultural history. Rituals in early cultures worldwide seemingly allowed shamans, sorcerers, witches, and wizards to transform at will into animals and back again. Today, there are millions of people who believe that shapeshifters walk among us and may even be world leaders. Featuring a fantastic and ghoulish array of examples from history, literature, film, TV, and computer games, *Shapeshifters* explores our secret desire to become something other than human.

Kasich, John. *It's Up to Us: Ten Little Ways We Can Bring About Big Change*. Hanover Square Press (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2019. HC \$19.99.

John Kasich has walked the corridors of power both in the politics, as a former leader of Congress, governor of Ohio, presidential candidate, and in the private sector, as an in-demand public speaker, best-selling author and a strategic advisor to

businesses and large non-profits. Yet he's seen that the most powerful movements have started from the bottom up. Rather than waiting on Washington, the solutions happen once we become leaders in our own lives and communities. The strength and resilience of our nation lies in each of us. That's what this book is about. In *It's Up to Us*, Kasich shares the ten little ways we each can bring about big change. Taken together, they chart a path for each to follow as we look to live a life bigger than ourselves. Taken one-by-one, they can help to lift us from a place of outrage or complacency or helplessness and move us closer to our shared American dream.

Kuhlman, Nan. ***Nontraditional: Life Lessons from a Community College***. Annorlunda Books (San Diego, CA) 2020. PB \$14.99. Nan Kuhlman reworked her plans for her career—and her life—several times to support the needs of her family. Then a chance encounter gives her another chance to pursue her dream of teaching college students. Kuhlman begins teaching writing classes at her local community college where many of the students are “nontraditional”—returning service members, laid off factory workers, and a range of other people who never thought they might be “college material.” In this collection of linked essays, Kuhlman introduces us to her students, the lessons she taught, and the lessons she learned along the way.

Louis, Matthew J. ***Mission Transition: Navigating the Opportunities and Obstacles to Your Post-Military Career***. HarperCollins Leadership (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$27.99.

Every year, about a quarter of a million veterans leave the military—most of whom are grossly unprepared for the transition. These servicemembers have developed incredible leadership, problem-solving, and practical skills that are underutilized once they reach the civilian world, a detriment to both themselves and society. Well-intentioned Transition Assistance Programs and other support structures within the armed forces often leave veterans fending for themselves. And the mission-first culture of the military results in servicemembers focusing on their active duty roles in the year leading up to their separation, leaving them little time to adequately prepare to join the civilian world. *Mission Transition* guides military personnel through the entire process of making a successful move into civilian professional life. Each chapter includes advice from other veterans, illustrations of key concepts, summaries, and suggested resources.

Maciejunes, Nanette V, and M. Melissa Wolfe, eds. ***Reflections: The American Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art***. The Columbus Museum of Art/Ohio University Press (Columbus/Athens, OH) 2019. PB \$55.00. *Reflections: The American Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art* adds a novel and provocative element to the library of art museum collection catalogs. In the traditional manner, *Reflections* features selected works—more than 125—from the museum's collection, accompanied by concise essays by scholars of art who reflect on and respond to the distinctive aspects of each work. To this customary approach, the editors have added

what they term intersections essays: an examination of a well-known work of art from the differing perspectives of two authors—most of whom are not art historians. For instance, acclaimed writer Joyce Carol Oates provides her perspective on George Bellows and is joined by Laurie Bellows Booth, an objects conservator and the painter's granddaughter. The book includes ten of these compelling essays, including contributions by such authors as Adam Gopnik and Alan Trachtenberg.

Millard, Candice. ***The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey***. Anchor Books (New York, NY) 2005. PB \$17.00. The first book by multi-award winning author Candice Millard. *The River of Doubt*—it is a black, uncharted tributary of the Amazon that snakes through one of the most treacherous jungles in the world. Indians armed with poison-tipped arrows haunt its shadows; piranhas glide through its waters; boulder-strewn rapids turn the river into a roiling cauldron. After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, Roosevelt set his sights on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon. Together with his son Kermit and Brazil's most famous explorer, Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon, Roosevelt accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it. In the process, he changed the map of the western hemisphere forever. Along the way, Roosevelt and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease,

drowning, and a murder within their own ranks. Three men died, and Roosevelt was brought to the brink of suicide. *The River of Doubt* brings alive these extraordinary events in a powerful nonfiction narrative thriller that happens to feature one of the most famous Americans who ever lived.

Stortz, Diane. ***Encountering God's Heart for You: 365 Devotions from Genesis Through Revelation.*** Bethany House (Minneapolis, MN) 2019. HC \$17.99.

God put the Bible together for humans, and he wants them to understand and know him better. But sometimes one can get lost in the details and miss the big picture. The Bible is more than just a collection of wisdom, instructions, and history. It's one unified story of the incredible love of God. *Encountering God's Heart for You* takes the reader on a daily journey through the full narrative of Scripture in a year. And in the process, it will draw the reader nearer to God as they discover his love and compassion. It won't cover every verse, or even every chapter, in the Bible, but by the time one is through, one will have a strong grasp of what the Bible is all about. Reading Scripture isn't just a way to collect information or check something off a to-do list. This book will attempt to bring the reader into God's presence to better understand the Bible's story of love, sacrifice, and redemption as he draws them to himself.

Sweeney, Nita. ***Depression Hates a Moving Target: How Running with My Dog Brought Me Back from the Brink.*** Mango Publishing (Coral Gables, FL) 2019. PB \$18.99. It's never too late to chase your dreams: Before she discovered

running, Nita Sweeney was 49-years-old, chronically depressed, occasionally manic, and unable to jog for more than 60 seconds at a time. Using exercise, Nita discovered an inner strength she didn't know she possessed, and with the help of her canine companion, she found herself on the way to completing her first marathon. In her memoir, Sweeney shares how she overcame emotional and physical challenges to finish the race and come back from the brink. There's hope and help on the track: Anyone who has struggled with depression knows the ways the mind can defeat you. However, it is possible to transform yourself with the power of running. You may learn that you can endure more than you think, and that there's no other therapy quite like pavement beneath your feet.

Thomson, Cindy. ***Celtic Song: From the Traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales.*** 7th & Cherry (Pensacola, FL) 2019. PB \$8.99. The Celts have always been a people of songs. Stories, legends, and wise sayings were better remembered when put to music. While the melodies may have faded, the wisdom of these songs still rises from mountain, valley, and bog to lift the spirit and encourage the modern wayfarer. While music has always been an integral part of the lives of the people of the British Isles and the diaspora around the world, an exploration of why this is so has seldom been explored.

Weibel, Betty. ***Little Victories: A True Story of the Healing Power of Horses.*** Brown Dog Books (Cleveland, OH) 2019. PB \$19.99. Debbie Gadus was fulfilling her childhood dream of working in the horse business and living on

her own when the riding arena roof collapsed on her and a young student during an extreme winter snowstorm. Rescue workers dug her out, doctors saved her life and therapists guided her through rehab and into her new life as a paraplegic living in her parents' home. This is the true inspirational story of how horses led a young woman back to her dream, and how disability enabled her to discover abilities she never knew she possessed. Debbie's story intersects with that of a small therapeutic horseback riding center for disabled persons that would go on to become one of the nation's leading facilities. *Little Victories: A True Story of the Healing Power of Horses* takes readers into the world of therapeutic riding and the little victories Debbie experiences as she learns to ride again, teach others with disabilities from her wheelchair, and develop a new carriage driving program for those who can't ride. In time, a quiet and reserved woman would gain confidence, becoming a leader and advocate for people with disabilities.

***About Ohio/An Ohioan The Columbus Renaissance Lookbook: A Look Back to Look Forward.*** Greater Columbus Arts Council (Columbus, OH) 2019. HC \$35.00.

Columbus, Ohio celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance with a vivacious citywide celebration that touched thousands of lives through art, inspiration and collaboration. Experience the movement that continues to sweep across this city by purchasing the stunning commemorative lookbook. This 200-page book documents the collective journey of our city

through rich photography and compelling stories. The narrative carries the reader from the early 20th century all the way through our vision for the future of African American creative expression in Columbus.

Batchelor, Bob. *The Bourbon King: The Life and Crimes of George Remus, Prohibitions's Evil Genius*. Diversion Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$27.99.

On the 100th anniversary of The Volstead Act comes the epic, definitive story of the man who cracked the Prohibition system, became one of the world's richest criminal masterminds, and helped inspire *The Great Gatsby*. Love, murder, political intrigue, mountains of cash, and rivers of bourbon—the tale of George Remus is a grand spectacle and a lens into the dark heart of Prohibition. Yes, Congress gave teeth to Prohibition in October 1919, but the law didn't stop George Remus from amassing a fortune that would be worth billions of dollars today. As one Jazz Age journalist put it, "Remus was to bootlegging what Rockefeller was to oil." Author Bob Batchelor breathes life into the largest bootlegging operation in America—greater than that of Al Capone—and a man considered the best criminal defense lawyer of his era. Remus bought an empire of distilleries on Kentucky's "Bourbon Trail" and used his other profession, as a pharmacist, to profit off legal loopholes. He spent millions bribing officials in the Harding Administration, and he created a roaring lifestyle that epitomized the Jazz Age over which he ruled. That is, before he came crashing down in one of the

most sensational murder cases in American history: a cheating wife, the G-man who seduced her and put Remus in jail, and the plunder of a Bourbon Empire. Remus murdered his wife in cold-blood and then shocked a nation winning his freedom based on a condition he invented—temporary maniacal insanity.

Bourdon, Jeffrey Normand. *From Garfield to Harding: The Success of Midwestern Front Porch Campaigns*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2019. HC \$29.95. In 1880, James Garfield decided to try something new: rather than run the typical passive campaign for president, he would welcome voters to his farm. By the end of the campaign, thousands of people—including naturalized voters, African Americans, women, men from various occupations, and young voters—traveled to Garfield's home, listened to him speak, shook hands, met his family, and were invited inside. The press reported the interactions across the country. Not only did Garfield win, but he started a new campaign technique that then carried three other Republicans to the presidency. Benjamin Harrison followed suit in 1888, and his crowds dwarfed Garfield's as Indianapolis exploded with hundreds of thousands of visitors. Eight years later, William McKinley ran the most famous front porch campaign from his hometown of Canton, Ohio, with around 750,000 Americans traveling down those streets—including miners' unions, women's suffrage groups, and Confederate soldiers to their Union counterparts. Finally, Warren Harding continued the tradition in 1920 and won by a sixty percent

popular majority. Using a technique very evident today, Republican campaign managers quickly realized that merchandising their candidate as a brand generated much support. After Harding, presidential candidates began to travel the country extensively themselves to speak personally to the American people.

Carroll, Tim. *World War II Akron*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2019. PB \$21.99.

When World War II engulfed the nation, the men and women of Akron dutifully played their part in the epic struggle. Keyes Beech ducked grenades as marines raised the American flag at on Iwo Jima. Newspaper magnate John S. Knight watched the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri just five months after his son was killed in Germany. On the homefront, Goodyear manufactured blimps used to hunt down Nazi submarines, and noted Beacon Journal cartoonist Web Brown pledged his talent and his pen to boosting morale at home and abroad. Replete with more than one hundred images, including many of Brown's wartime drawings, this thrilling account by local author Tim Carroll recalls all that Akron gave for freedom.

Grabowski, John J. Photographs by Lauren R. Packini. *Cleveland A to Z: An Essential Compendium for Visitors and Residents Alike*. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2019. PB \$29.95.

Cities around the globe, whether large or small, have characteristics that create a particular identity. So what about Cleveland? What are its nuances, its images? In addressing that question, *Cleveland A to Z* is not a typical city guide. Rather than concentrating solely on the usual

topics—landmarks, restaurants, shopping, and notable facts—this guide touches on deeper themes related to Cleveland’s people, places, stories, and events. These 72 short articles reveal details about the city’s rich history, while also hinting at the issues, attitudes, and even the quirks that define Cleveland’s character. *Cleveland A to Z* truly serves as an entry point for a fuller exploration of the city’s history. Originally released as part of the Western Reserve Historical Society’s 150th anniversary celebration, this book is evidence of the Historical Society’s outstanding and nationally significant collections. Almost every historical photo in this volume derives from the archives of the Society. Those collections represent a trust for the community—an essential service to students, scholars, family historians, and old and new Clevelanders.

Pender, Rick. *100 Things to Do in Cincinnati Before You Die: 2nd Edition*. Reedy Press (St. Louis, MO) 2019. PB \$16.00.

Cincinnati has been intriguing adventurers since its founding in 1788 as the Gateway to America’s western frontier. With its beautiful river valley reminiscent of Bavaria and centuries-old entrepreneurial spirit, Cincinnati has always offered a surprising variety of attractions, history, and dining. In the second edition of *100 Things to Do in Cincinnati Before You Die*, you’ll find the perfect guide to exploring everything with even more updated choices for visitors to experience. Tap into the city’s German heritage by sampling the food, drink, and even language of the old country at an authentic tavern, or learn about the best places to find a real Belgian

waffle. Learn about the updates to the city’s prized Memorial Hall and the exciting events that are revitalizing the Elm Streets arts corridor. Turn your gaze to the stars with all the tips you’ll need to visit the Cincinnati Observatory. Enjoy the city’s many green spaces like the Over-the-Rhine Parks, or time your visit to coincide with an outdoor festival. Between all the music, craft brewers, historic renovations, and red bricks, Cincinnati will capture the attention of any visitor who relishes in discovery. And with local author and tour guide, Rick Pender, leading you, even long-time residents will find fresh reminders of why they love it here. Grab a copy of this book, hop on the Cincinnati Bell Connector streetcar, and don’t forget to have a three-way chili as you explore the Queen City.

Prufer, Jason. *Small Town, Big Music: The Outsized Influence of Kent, Ohio on the History of Rock and Roll*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2019. HC \$29.95. Relying on oral histories, hundreds of rare photographs, and original music reviews, this book explores the countercultural fringes of Kent, Ohio, over four decades. Firsthand reminiscences from musicians, promoters, friends, and fans recount arena shows featuring acts like Pink Floyd, The Clash, and Paul Simon as well as the grungy corners of town where Joe Walsh, Patrick Carney, Chrissie Hynde, and DEVO refined their crafts. From back stages, hotel rooms, and the saloons of Kent, readers will travel back in time to the great rockin’ nights hosted in this small town. More than just a retrospective on performances that occurred in one midwestern college town, Prufer’s book illuminates a fascinating

phenomenon: both up-and-coming and major artists knew Kent was a place to play—fertile ground for creativity, spontaneity, and innovation. From the formation of Joe Walsh’s first band, The Measles, and the creation of DEVO in Kent State University’s art department to original performances of Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon* and serendipitous collaborations like Emmylou Harris and Good Company in the Water Street Saloon, the influence of Kent’s music scene has been powerful.

Rich, Marci. *Looking Back at Elyria: A Midwest City at Midcentury*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2019. PB \$23.99. Brimming with postwar optimism and prosperity, mid-twentieth-century Elyria seemed like Camelot and was, indeed, a brief passage on a beloved president’s campaign trail. You could visit the bears at Cascade Park and play on the slides. See a movie at the Capitol Theatre and enjoy a cherry Coke at the Paradise, but wait until the party line is free before calling your friends on your rotary telephone to make your plans. Run an errand for Mom at Hales Market and then walk up to the old Reefy mansion to check out a book at the library. Shop for your parents at Merthe’s and Harry’s Men’s Wear, then admire the groovy clothes at New Horizons East. Revisit your Elyria youth with this, your very own time-travel guide. Based on her award-winning articles for the Chronicle-Telegram, author Marci Rich combines journalism, historical research, and memoir to look back at her hometown with love.

Roth, Mitchel P. *Fire in the Big House: America's Deadliest Prison Disaster*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2019. HC \$19.95.

On April 21, 1930—Easter Monday—some rags caught fire under the Ohio Penitentiary's dry and aging wooden roof, shortly after inmates had returned to their locked cells after supper. In less than an hour, 320 men who came from all corners of Prohibition-era America and from as far away as Russia had succumbed to fire and smoke in what remains the deadliest prison disaster in United States history. Within twenty-four hours, moviegoers were watching Pathé's newsreel of the fire, and in less than a week, the first iteration of the weepy ballad "Ohio Prison Fire" was released. The deaths brought urgent national and international focus to the horrifying conditions of America's prisons (at the time of the fire, the Ohio Penitentiary was at almost three times its capacity). Yet, amid darkening world politics and the first years of the Great Depression, the fire receded from public concern. In *Fire in the Big House*, Mitchel P. Roth does justice to the lives of convicts and guards and puts the conflagration in the context of the rise of the Big House prison model, local and state political machinations, and American penal history and reform efforts. The result is the first comprehensive account of a tragedy whose circumstances—violent unrest, overcrowding, poorly trained and underpaid guards, unsanitary conditions, inadequate food—will be familiar to prison watchdogs today.

Ruffner, Howard. *Moments of Truth: A Photographer's Experience of Kent State 1970*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2019. HC \$34.95.

Working as a photographer for the Kent State University student newspaper and yearbook, Howard Ruffner was a college sophomore when the tragic shootings of May 4, 1970, occurred—a tragedy that left four students dead and nine others wounded. Asked to serve as a stringer for *Life* magazine in the days leading up to May 4, as student protests against the Vietnam War intensified and National Guard troops arrived on campus, Ruffner became a witness and documentarian to this important piece of history. Several of his photographs, including one that appeared on the cover of *Life*, are etched into our collective consciousness when we think about civil unrest and the latter half of the 20th century. Here, in *Moments of Truth: A Photographer's Experience of Kent State 1970*, Ruffner not only reproduces a collection of nearly 150 of his photographs—many never before published—but also offers a stirring narrative in which he revisits his work and attempts to further examine these events and his own experience of them. It is, indeed, an intensely personal journey that he invites us to share.

Schloman, William D., and Barbara F. Schloman. *A Century of Flight at Paton Field: The Story of Kent State University's Airport and Flight Education*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2019. HC \$39.95.

This detailed study explores the hundred-year history of the longest-surviving public-use airport in Ohio. Intertwining the

story of the airport's development with the history of flight-education programs at the university, the book highlights a vast cast of characters and an examination of aviation's development on the local level throughout the last century. What was once Stow Field, a small airport in a rural community, stands at the center of this story. Kent State's participation in the federal government's Civilian Pilot Training Program in the years leading up to World War II led to state funding for purchase of the airport and prepared the way for the creation of collegiate aviation. This brought in Andrew Paton, who created the first flight-training curriculum and established a vision for the role the airport could play in a university-run program. In the period between the two World Wars, Stow Field was also the site of aviation exhibits that drew as many as 80,000 people, including the christening of Goodyear's first helium blimp. As Kent State's airport is now enjoying both a new vitality and long-awaited investment, William D. Schloman and Barbara F. Schloman place this in context with the at-times-uncertain survival of Kent State's aviation program.

Stanforth, Sherry Cook, and Richard Hague, eds. *Riparian: Poetry, Short Prose, and Photographs Inspired by the Ohio River*. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2019. PB \$25.00.

This anthology contains work by sixty writers and photographers, supported in part by the Ohio Arts Council.

Tucker, Paula Stone. *Surviving: A Kent State Memoir*. Sunbury Press (Mechanicsburg, PA) 2019. PB \$19.95.

In a stunning parallel to our own times, this memoir of the late Sixties and early Seventies, *Surviving: A Kent State Memoir*, explores the turbulent era of the War in Vietnam, domestic violence, and a young woman's triumph in face of great danger and great loss. In an era as divisive as today's, she witnessed one of the events that became a turning point in public sentiment toward the War in Vietnam. On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen fired on students protesting the invasion of Cambodia at Kent State University, killing four students and injuring nine. Standing thirty yards in front of the Guard when they began firing, she escaped with her life. This uplifting journey follows her from her years as a naïve Catholic schoolgirl through her time at Kent State to her development as a journalist and mother. She heals in the weeks following May 4, as she awaits the birth of her baby. Her due date nears but problems arise as her husband becomes increasingly violent. Rejected by her family and without societal protections against marital abuse in place today, she is on her own. In an unexpected turn of events, she is freed from danger, only to have to learn to survive on her own.

### **Fiction**

Boyd, Shawn. *Raksasha: The Evolution of the Vampire, Book II*. Tell-Tale Publishing Group (Swartz Creek, MI) 2019. PB \$20.00. What happens when monsters collide? Sometimes a new abomination is born. Our seven brothers continue to use their gifts to fight the spread of evil. They are scattered, battling on several fronts, trying to stem the tide of bloodsuckers moving across the

land and figure out how to deal with new opponents that are being created as the evolution continues.

Boyd, Shawn. *Xiang Shi: The Evolution of the Vampire, Book I*. Tell-Tale Publishing Group (Swartz Creek, MI) 2018. PB \$23.00. In China 4th Century AD, a new evil is emerging in the war torn north. It strikes terror in the heart of all those unfortunate enough to encounter it, even those who survive. Seven brothers, Buddhist monks with special gifts, are determined to stop the rise and dominion of the bloodthirsty demon and his minions. Witness the evolution of the ultimate predator.

Fried, Seth. *The Municipalists*. Penguin Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$16.00. In Metropolis, the gleaming city of tomorrow, the dream of the great American city has been achieved. But all that is about to change, unless a neurotic, rule-following bureaucrat and an irreverent, freewheeling artificial intelligence can save the city from a mysterious terrorist plot that threatens its very existence. Henry Thompson has dedicated his life to improving America's infrastructure as a proud employee of the United States Municipal Survey. So when the agency comes under attack, he dutifully accepts his unexpected mission to visit Metropolis looking for answers. But his plans to investigate quietly, quickly, and carefully are interrupted by his new partner: a day-drinking know-it-all named OWEN, who also turns out to be the projected embodiment of the agency's supercomputer. Soon, Henry and OWEN are fighting to save not only their own lives and those of the city's millions of

inhabitants, but also the soul of Metropolis.

Gawell, Donna B. *War and Resistance in the Wilderness: A Novel of WWII Poland*. Blendon Woods Press (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$9.99.

When the Germans invade their Polish village in September 1939 to build the largest SS training camp outside of Germany, Anna, Jozef, and Stacia must work as forced laborers serving the Reich. Then, in 1943, Hitler moves his top-secret V-2 missile research project into their wilderness area. With test missiles exploding over their homes, Anna, Jozef, her priest, and other villagers become partisans for the underground Home Army. Just as it appears the Germans are losing, Stacia finds herself inside the cattle car of a train headed to Ravensbrück, a women's concentration camp. The rest of the village bursts into chaos, and the priest who was working with the Home Army goes into hiding in the church's roof for six months to avoid arrest. The novel begins with the amazing true story of an American pilot who made a forced landing in the village in 1944, told in three later chapters. List and his crew found hidden letters addressed to America in the outhouse, and one of them was Anna's letter. It was undeliverable, and he kept it in his briefcase for forty-five years.

Hess, Victor. *Jesse Sings: Jesse's World Book 1*. Victor Hess (Slidell, LA) 2017. PB \$10.95. Eight-year old Jesse Hall and his pregnant mother move to the "Eden of America," a small rural town in Ohio, to escape an abusive father addicted to gambling and alcohol. There, Jesse is bullied by

the most popular school kid, denied a church experience by a self-righteous preacher, and threatened with foster care by a well-meaning social worker. Can Jesse fulfill his dream of a normal family with his own parents and brothers and sisters? See a childhood romance grow with Lynn, a fatherless eight-year old girl, and watch what he learns from the lovely Five and Dime clerk. How does this all relate to a mummified corpse?

Hess, Victor. *The Clock Tower Treasure: Jesse's World Book*

2. Brother Mockingbird (Diamondhead, MI) 2019. PB \$15.99.

The 1950's was a time of new homes, television, astronauts, new cars, and rock and roll. It was also a time of nuclear threats and deadly polio. Out of this challenging decade comes the enchanting story of a ten-year-old boy from the Midwest showing a small town the meaning of toughness and tenacity. The Shawnee Indian treasure was a myth, they said. Nowhere to be found, except in the legends and tall tales of the region. Despite his polio, despite his poverty, despite his fractured family, Jesse Hall believes the stories and discovers irresistible clues in the courthouse clock tower. With each twist and turn, Jesse learns to overcome all that life can throw at him. He leads his Boy Scout pal, his nineteen-year-old nurse, and the local county historian in a quest for the mythical treasure—a hunt that yields a most unexpected discovery.

Hieber, Leanna Renee. *The Spectral City*. Rebel Base/Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$15.00. Her name is Eve Whitby, gifted medium and spearhead of the Ghost Precinct. When most women

are traveling in a gilded society that promises only well-appointed marriage, the confident nineteen-year-old Eve navigates a social circle that carries a different kind of chill. Working with the diligent but skeptical Detective Horowitz, as well as a group of fellow psychics and wayward ghosts, Eve holds her own against detractors and threats to solve New York's most disturbing crimes as only a medium of her ability can. But as accustomed as Eve is to ghastly crimes and all matters of the uncanny, even she is unsettled by her department's latest mystery. Her ghostly conduits are starting to disappear one by one as though snatched away by some evil force determined to upset the balance between two realms, and most important—destroy the Ghost Precinct forever. Now Eve must brave the darkness to find the vanished souls. She has no choice. It's her job to make sure no one is ever left for dead.

Lepionka, Kristen. *The Stories You Tell: A Roxane Weary Mystery*. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

A late-night phone call is never good news, especially when you're Roxane Weary. This one is from her brother Andrew, whose evening was interrupted by an urgent visit from Addison, a hip young DJ and one-time fling, who turns up at his apartment scared and begging to use his phone. She leaves as quickly as she appeared, but now Andrew is worried—especially when Addison never makes it home and her friends and family demand to know where she is. As the police begin to suspect that something may have happened to her, and that Andrew is involved, Roxane tracks Addison's digital footprint as she

goes deeper and deeper into the events preceding her disappearance. Meanwhile, a cop is found dead on the opposite side of town, leading to a swirl of questions surrounding a dance club whose staff—which includes Addison—has suddenly gone AWOL. As Roxane struggles to distinguish the truth from the stories people tell about themselves online, it's clear that the mystery of Addison's whereabouts is just the beginning.

Lutz, Anne Marie. *Taylenor*. Hydra Publications (Goshen, KY) 2019. PB \$14.99.

Jaena, a young priest, travels to isolated villages, blessing births and singing the souls of the departed to her goddess. In one village she finds Wiel, a boy with the rare mage talent known as taylen that is linked to a fatal illness. Jaena takes Wiel to the city to try to save his life. Too late, she discovers she has delivered Wiel into the hands of the Mage Defender, who rules by stealing the magic – and the lives – of children. Desperate to right the wrong she has done, Jaena races for aid to save Wiel and destroy the Mage Defender. At stake are the lives of the last remaining taylenor as well as Jaena's own survival – and the destruction of an ancient scourge that has reawakened to threaten all the people of Cassahn.

Meyers, David. *Hello, I Must Be Going: The Mostly True Story of an Imaginary Band*. Black Opal Books (Dallas, OR) 2019. PB \$13.99.

The year was 1970 and Zack Black & the Blues Attack was poised to be the hottest band in America. Radio loved them, demand for their record exceeded supply, and everywhere they played seats were sold-out. But when stardom seemed within their grasp, they

let it slip away. Will Black thought that chapter of his life was closed forever. He had not been in touch with his former bandmates since he moved to New York some forty years ago. But now a mysterious woman has approached him with an unusual request: will he help her carry out her husband's dying wish? Incredibly, Will finds himself tasked with putting the Blues Attack back together to prove to the world, and themselves, that they still have what it takes. But to do so means that the one-time friends will have to confront the secrets and lies that had contributed to their demise. Given a second chance, will they make the same mistakes?

O'Connor, Varley. *The Welsh Fasting Girl*. Bellevue Literary Press (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$16.99.

Twelve-year-old Sarah Jacob was the most famous of the Victorian fasting girls, who claimed to miraculously survive without food, serving as flashpoints between struggling religious, scientific, and political factions. In this novel based on Sarah's life and premature death from what may be the first documented case of anorexia, an American journalist, recovering from her husband's death in the Civil War, leaves her home and children behind to travel to Wales, where she investigates Sarah's bizarre case by becoming the young girl's friend and confidante. Unable to prevent the girl's tragic decline while doctors, nurses, and a local priest keep watch, she documents the curious family dynamic, the trial that convicted Sarah's parents, and an era's hysterical need to both believe and destroy Sarah's seemingly miraculous power. *The Welsh Fasting Girl* delves into

the complexities of a true story to understand how a culture's anxieties led to the murder of a child.

Petrone, Susan. *The Heebie-Jeebie Girl*. The Story Plant (Stamford, CT) 2020. HC \$22.95.

Youngstown, Ohio, 1977. Between the closing of the city's largest steel mill and the worst blizzard in more than 40 years, the table is set for remarkable change. Unemployed steel worker Bobby Wayland is trying hard to help his family and still pay for his wedding, but the only solution he can think of involves breaking the law. On the other side of town, a little girl named Hope is keeping a big secret, one she won't even share with her Great Uncle Joe—she can make things move without touching them. Watching over both of them is the city herself, and she has something to say and something to do about all of this.

Thompson, Chera, and NF Johnson. *A Time to Wander*. Solstice Publishing (Farmington, MI) 2019. PB \$15.95.

Two college kids on two different roads. Save for the one they share. An email exchange between former college lovers takes them back to their college years at Kent State, the 1970s. The Vietnam War is raging. Anti-war rallies hit the breaking point. It was a time of bell bottoms, vinyl, incense, free love, and travel by thumb. For Kris and Lena, two strangers on two very different paths, a thrown beer bottle shatters the lives they have known, bringing them together by chance. Lena is attracted to Kris and his live-in-the-moment personality. When he invites her to join him on a winter break hitchhiking trip, she kicks aside her uptight attitude and

accepts the adventure. The trip is harrowing at times, comical during others, and poignant as Lena and Kris learn about themselves and each other. The events that shape and seal the fate of their relationship in unpredictable ways are revealed in the authors' female/male alternating perspectives. Inspired by true events, a *Time to Wander* is a magical tale of freedom before the future takes hold.

Woff, TG. *Widow's Run*. Down & Out Books (Lutz, FL) 2019. PB \$16.95.

One night in Rome. One car. One dead scientist. Italian police investigate, but in the end, all they have are kind words for the new widow. Months later, a video emerges challenging the facts. Had he stepped into traffic, or was he pushed? The widow returns to the police, but they have little interest and no answers. Exit the widow.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Red at the Bone*. Riverhead Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.00.

An unexpected teenage pregnancy pulls together two families from different social classes, and exposes the private hopes, disappointments, and longings that can bind or divide us from each other, from the *New York Times*-bestselling and National Book Award-winning author of *Another Brooklyn* and *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Moving forward and backward in time, Jacqueline Woodson's new novel uncovers the role that history and community have played in the experiences, decisions, and relationships of these families, and in the life of the new child. As the book opens in 2001, it is the evening of sixteen-year-old Melody's coming of age ceremony in her grandparents' Brooklyn

brownstone. Watched lovingly by her relatives and friends, making her entrance to the music of Prince, she wears a special custom-made dress. But the event is not without poignancy. Sixteen years earlier, that very dress was measured and sewn for a different wearer: Melody's mother, for her own ceremony—a celebration that ultimately never took place. Unfurling the history of Melody's parents and grandparents to show how they all arrived at this moment, Woodson considers not just their ambitions and successes but also the costs, the tolls they've paid for striving to overcome expectations and escape the pull of history. As it explores sexual desire and identity, ambition, gentrification, education, class and status, and the life-altering facts of parenthood, *Red at the Bone* most strikingly looks at the ways in which young people must so often make long-lasting decisions about their lives—even before they have begun to figure out who they are and what they want to be.

### Poetry

Abbott, Steve. *A Language the Image Speaks: Poems in Response to Visual Art*. 11th Hour Press (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$24.95. Using the approach of ekphrasis—poetry responding to visual art—this collection of 48 poems explores a range of responses to paintings, photographs, and sculpture. Poems appear opposite the images that inspired them, including high-quality color and black-and-white reproductions of works from museums, galleries, and private collections throughout the United States, including works by Edward Hopper, Andre Kertesz, Herbert Bayer, Louise Nevelson, Jerome

Liebling, and Ben Shahn, as well as paintings and photographs by other artists from throughout the United States. Poem and image inform each other, blending to create a unique literary and visual experience.

Borsenik, Dianne, Juliet Cook, Puma Perl, and Jeanette Powers. *Heaven We Haven't Yet Dreamed*. Stubborn Mule Press (Devil's Elbow, MO) 2019. PB \$18.00. Dianne Borsenik, Juliet Cook, Puma Perl and Jeanette Powers all in one space, you know magic is happening. This anthology features twenty-three pages poetry each of these four radical femme poets.

Burgess, Kathleen S. *The Wonder Cupboard*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2019. PB \$15.00. In *The Wonder Cupboard*, Kathleen S. Burgess has written poems both filled, and filling, with wonder..."Why We Went to See Madame Luminitsa," "Marilyn's Lips," "I'm a pilgrim light needles into space," "Unearthing Earth Day." Using skillful language to draw crisp, colorful sketches of time and place, Burgess addresses a child's thrilled reaction to a father's wild driving, an F2 twister, Singer sewing machines, bird-watching, going braless, pregnancy, sunflowers, a Chinese lantern festival, missing women, mass shootings, and quiet hikes through Southern Ohio beauty.

Burroughs, John. *Rattle & Numb: Selected and New Poems, 1992-2019*. Venetian Spider Press (Cleveland, OH) 2019. HC \$29.95. *Rattle & Numb* is the prestige edition of the poetry of John Burroughs, State of Ohio Beat Poet Laureate 2019-2021, and master of the expressive beat voice for

which he has toured the US in his evangelism.

Hassler, David, Jessica Jewell, and Stephanie Siciarz, eds. *I Hear the World Sing: Italian and American Children Joined in Poetry*. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2019. PB \$19.95.

When schoolchildren from Kent, Ohio, and Florence, Italy, were invited to express their thoughts about "Where I'm From" in poetry, the connections that emerged between these students from different continents were remarkable. Their responses to this prompt—"lo vengo da" in Italian—demonstrate the underlying importance of home, families, the natural world, and the creative identities that children harbor within them. The 40 poems in *I Hear the World Sing*, printed in both English and Italian, are presented in three sections—"The Chirp of Little Birds," "Witness the River," and "I Write to Grow a World"—which explore and celebrate the commonalities between us. Anyone can be a poet, no matter the language one speaks or writes. And by presenting each poem in two languages, this collection emphasizes how successfully poetry transcends both physical and linguistic boundaries, no matter the age of the poet.

Kell, Charles. *Cage of Lit Glass*. Autumn House Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2019. PB \$16.95. The debut poetry collection of Charles Kell, *Cage of Lit Glass* engages themes of death, incarceration, and family through a range of physical, emotional, and philosophical spaces. In startling images of beauty and violence, Kell creates a haunting world that mirrors our individual and cultural

fears. *Cage of Lit Glass* follows multiple individuals and points of view, all haunted by various states of unease and struggle that follow them like specters as they navigate their world. Kell's poems form blurred narratives and playful experiments from our attempts to build lives from despair. A tense and insightful collection, these works will follow the reader long after the book is finished.

Mullet, Robin, and Holli Rainwater. ***The Curve of Her Arm***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2019. PB \$15.00. *The Curve of Her Arm* is a forty-page book containing thirty-three haiku and poems, Rainwater's haiku appearing first, with Mullet's parallel poems on the opposite pages. Each form is introduced within the poem that explores it.

Schubert, Karen. ***Dear Youngstown***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2019. PB \$15.00.

In *Dear Youngstown*, Schubert delves into stories meant to convey emotional truths about living in Youngstown, Ohio. From the opening poem, "Reading at the Old Ward Bakery" to the ending poem "After the New Yorker Festival" Schubert gently leads you through reminiscence and recall, offers observation, appreciation, and tribute to a city she clearly loves.

### **Children's**

Ashman, Linda. Illus. by Jamey Christoph. ***Outside My Window***. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, MI) 2018. HC \$17.00.

Children living in different parts of the world see very different things when they gaze out of their windows. One child looks out over a boulevard lined with palm trees, another sees a train whistling

past snow-capped mountains, and another waves to her father as he tends to their garden. But while their lives may seem different, there's something important that they all share. This book will spark readers' curiosity and imagination with its celebration of global diversity.

Bayer, Vanessa. Illus. by Rosie Butcher. ***How Do You Care for a Very Sick Bear?*** Feiwel and Friends (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$16.99. When someone dear is dealing with illness, it's difficult to know what to do or say. The actor Vanessa Bayer experienced this firsthand when she was treated for childhood leukemia. In her first children's book, she offers gentle, reassuring advice that people of all ages will appreciate.

Black, Patricia L.H. Illus. by Deborah Hayhurst. ***Twillaby Pond***: . Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, OH) 2019. HC \$19.99. A little wee pock and a water-blue pret sail off across Twillaby Pond on a wind-blown leaf to more adventure than they expected—sailing through a rainbow, meeting a new world of pond inhabitants they'd never even known about. Exhausted at the end of a long day and worried about how to get back home they get assistance from an unexpected source.

Burchwell, Erin M. ***Pip's Path Through Lancaster, Ohio***: . Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2019. HC \$19.99. Follow Pip and Pepper as they seek adventure and excitement in Lancaster, Ohio. Beautiful illustrations offer clues that launch the curious reader into an interactive scavenger hunt along with the characters. In the process, Pip steps out of his comfort zone to

make new friends, and at the end of the journey he finds a special surprise. Children and grown-ups alike will enjoy seeing the familiar sites of our beautiful town.

Houts, Michelle. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. ***Sea Glass Summer***. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2019. HC \$16.99.

One summer, a boy named Thomas visits his grandmother at her seaside cottage. She gives him a magnifying glass that once belonged to his grandfather, and with it Thomas explores the beach, turning grains of sand into rocks and dark clamshells into swirling mazes of black, gray, and white. When his grandmother shows him a piece of sea glass, Thomas is transfixed. That night he dreams of an old shipyard and the breaking of a bottle. Could the very piece of sea glass on his nightstand have come from that bottle? For the rest of the summer, he searches for more sea glass and hopes to have dreams that will reveal more of the sea's secrets. A stunning ode to stories and the seaside, this picture book invites readers to imagine the ocean of possibility that lives in every small or forgotten treasure.

Mora, Oge. ***Saturday***. Little, Brown and Company (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$18.99.

In this heartfelt and universal story, a mother and daughter look forward to their special Saturday routine together every single week. But this Saturday, one thing after another goes wrong—ruining storytime, salon time, picnic time, and the puppet show they'd been looking forward to going to all week. Mom is nearing a meltdown...until her loving daughter reminds her that being together is the most important

thing of all. Author-artist Oge Mora's highly anticipated follow up to Caldecott Honor *Thank You, Omu!* features the same magnificently radiant artwork and celebration of sharing so beloved in her debut picture book.

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!* Little, Brown and Company (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99. Debut author-illustrator Oge Mora brings to life a heartwarming story of sharing and community in colorful cut-paper designs as luscious as Omu's stew, with an extra serving of love. An author's note explains that "Omu" (pronounced AH-moo) means "queen" in the Igbo language of her parents, but growing up, she used it to mean "Grandma." This book was inspired by the strong female role models in Oge Mora's life.

Parsons, Celeste, ed. Illus. by Hannah Sickles. *Nelsonville from A to Z*: . Stuart's Opera House Arts Education Program/Monday Creek Publishing (Nelsonville/Buchtel, OH) 2019. HC \$19.99. This unique alphabet book explores places in and around Nelsonville, a small town in southeastern Ohio. Watercolors by local artist Hannah Sickles and short poems by area writers provide an ideal introduction to the town's history and attractions. A perfect bookshelf addition for readers of any age.

Tharp, Jason. *Bunny Will Not Smile!* Ready-to-Read/Simon Spotlight (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99. A bear named Big has a problem. His friend Bunny will not smile, no matter what Big tries, so Big needs your help! With appealing comic-inspired speech bubbles and interactive storytelling that prompts

kids to do everything from turning the page, to leaning in so Big can whisper an idea, to making their silliest silly face, beginning readers will giggle their way through this Level 1 Ready-to-Read.

Tharp, Jason. *Kiwi Cannot Reach!* Ready-to-Read/Simon Spotlight (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99. Kiwi sees a rope. He wants to pull it, but he cannot reach! What will happen next? Beginning readers can help Kiwi by turning the pages, shaking the book, and more in this interactive story from the author of *Bunny Will Not Smile!*

**Middle Grade/Young Adult**  
Bundy, Tamara. *Pixie Pushes On*. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$16.99.

Pixie's defenses are up, and it's no wonder. She's been uprooted, the chickens seem to have it in for her, and now her beloved sister, Charlotte, has been stricken with polio and whisked away into quarantine. So it's not surprising Pixie lashes out. But her habit of making snap judgements—and giving her classmates nicknames like "Rotten Ricky" and "Big-Mouth Berta"—hasn't won her any friends. At least life on the farm is getting better with the delivery of its newest resident—a runt baby lamb. Raising Buster takes patience and understanding—and this slowing down helps Pixie put things in better perspective. So too does paying attention to her neighbors, and finding that with the war on she's not the only one missing someone. As Pixie pushes past her own pain to become a bigger person, she's finally able to make friends; and to laugh about the fact that it is in places where she least expected it.

Farquhar, Polly. *Itch*. Holiday House (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$17.99.

After a tornado tears the roof of the school cafeteria, and Itch's mother goes on a two-month business trip in China, Itch's sixth grade year begins badly—particularly because he can't do fractions. At least he has his job at the pheasant farm, and the guys at school and Sydney to hang out with when he's not working. But when trading school lunches goes wrong and Sydney gets rushed away in an ambulance, Itch thinks it's his fault. When you suddenly don't have any friends, would you do anything—even things that are wrong—to get them back? This novel by a debut author, set in the Ohio heartland, captures the issues and feelings of being in middle school in a warm, humorous, and above all, recognizable, way.

Gleisser, Sheldon. *Dianasaurus Rex*. Hydra Publications (Goshen, KY) 2019. PB \$14.99.

Nothing is impossible. Disintegration and re-integration of solid matter? Time Travel? Gene splicing? Not Science Fiction, not any more. The freakish terrorist incident should have killed 16 year-old Diana Dunphy. Instead, she has an all-new body and some all-new abilities. Abilities courtesy of the most fearsome predator ever to walk the Earth.

McGinnis, Mindy. *Be Not Far From Me*. Katherine Tegen Books (New York, NY) 2020. HC \$18.99.

*Hatchet* meets *Wild* in this harrowing YA survival story about a teenage girl's attempt to endure the impossible, from the Edgar Award-winning author of *The Female of the Species*, Mindy McGinnis. The world is not tame.

Ashley knows this truth deep in her bones, more at home with trees overhead than a roof. So when she goes hiking in the Smokies with her friends for a night of partying, the falling dark and creaking trees are second nature to her. But people are not tame either. And when Ashley catches her boyfriend with another girl, drunken rage sends her running into the night, stopped only by a nasty fall into a ravine. Morning brings the realization that she's alone—and far off trail. Lost in undisturbed forest and with nothing but the clothes on her back, Ashley must figure out how to survive with the red streak of infection creeping up her leg.

Rubini, Julie K. *Eye to Eye: Sports Journalist Christine Brennan*.

Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2019. PB \$14.95.

Christine Brennan, the *USA Today* sports columnist, author, and commentator, uses her voice to advocate for diversity and equality in the world of sports, and her wisdom to encourage future journalists. Her passion for sports was sparked by her dad, who encouraged her to participate in athletics and, as he said, “smell the game”—go watch baseball and football games together. As a child, Christine wrote daily entries in her diary and listened to play-by-play coverage on her radio. She pursued this love of words through journalism school and applied her passion for sports by reporting on them for various newspapers. Since then, she has portrayed the setbacks and triumphs of athletes, all the while fighting her own battles for success—and respect—as a female journalist. From knocking down barriers in NFL locker rooms to covering every Olympics since 1984

to being the go-to commentator whenever scandal occurs in the sports world, Christine Brennan has done it all. *Eye to Eye* invites young readers to learn more about this remarkable journalist and perhaps to nurture their own dreams of investigating and telling important stories.

Tyler, Tara. *Windy Hollow: Beast World Series Book 3*. Tara Tyler Author Productions (Cincinnati, OH) 2019. PB \$14.99.

This summer, Gabe and his beast buddies fly across the Great Sea for the wedding of the century: a dragon prince and a beautiful harpy. Dragon weddings are adventures in themselves, but behind the scenes, the High Council is delivering the Revelation—to tell the rest of the world: beasts and humans exist. Though Professor Hardaway warns Gabe and his friends to stay out of it, they overhear news of an evil human scientist and a vengeful were-ogre experimenting on beasts. They can't resist sticking their snouts in and helping, whether the High Council wants it or not.

Vogel, D.W. *Superdungeon: The Forgotten King*. Future House Publishing (Provo, UT) 2019. PB \$16.95.

Treffen Cedarbough has trained his whole life to protect the Fae Woods. He knows what plants to eat and what plants will eat him. But most of all he knows that light magic in the Woods comes from the great and powerful Deeproot Tree. As the newest member of the Rangers, Treffen has vowed to protect the Tree with his life. When a deadly attack comes too close to Treffen's home, he seeks guidance from the elven elders and receives an ominous prophecy directly

from the Tree. An old enemy of the kingdom, the Forgotten King, plots to break free of his ancient prison. And according to the prophecy, it's up to Treffen to stop this evil from escaping. With the help of a pedestrian knight and an adventuring princess, Treffen confronts the darkness. But each battle brings them one step closer to the Lordship Downs, the heart of all evil in the Woods, and to the Forgotten King's carefully laid trap. Deep into enemy territory, Treffen must choose between his sacred oath and the lives of his closest friends.

Warga, Jasmine. *Other Words for Home*. Balzer + Bray (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$16.99.

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of “Middle Eastern,” an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.