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NEW DATE FOR THE 2020 OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL!

The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce that the 2020 Ohioana Book Festival, originally set for Saturday, April 25, has been rescheduled. The new date is Saturday, August 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Columbus Metropolitan Library’s Main Library, located at 96 S. Grant Ave. in Columbus.

The change was made in response to the continuing health crisis brought on by the COVID-19 coronavirus. Many sporting and cultural events throughout Ohio have had to be cancelled or rescheduled as result. “We took this step for the health and safety of everyone concerned—attendees, authors, volunteers, and staff,” said Ohioana Board President Dan Shuey, adding “We will continue to monitor the situation, but our hope is that it will be safe to hold the festival later this year. The Ohioana Book Festival, now in its 14th year, has grown to become the largest literary event celebrating Ohio authors and books. People tell us how much they look forward to it. So we wanted, if at all possible, to reschedule the event versus cancelling it outright.”

Last year was the first for the festival to be hosted at the Main Library. Nearly 4,400 people attended, a new record for the event. The festival also drew 150 Ohio authors, representing every literary genre.

Shuey said, “Our thanks to Columbus Metropolitan Library CEO Patrick Losinski and his incredible team for their flexibility in making this change of dates possible. And we are very grateful to our funders, who have been there for us as we respond to this unprecedented situation. We couldn’t do the festival without their support.”

Ohioana expects that most of the festival authors who committed to the April 25 event will be joining us on August 29. For the latest information, please check the Ohioana website at www.ohioana.org.

The Director’s Chair

Dear Friends,

The best laid plans of mice and men go oft awry, says the familiar adage taken from an 18th century poem by Scotsman Robert Burns.

Our April Newsletter is always the special “Ohioana Book Festival” issue, where we share with you all the exciting details about the upcoming event. But not this time. As you know all too well, we are in the midst of a crisis that threatens every one of us; where our greatest common goal is keeping safe and healthy. It was for this reason we had to postpone this year’s Ohioana Book Festival, originally scheduled for April 25th.

Thankfully, working in partnership with our festival host, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, we have been able to set a new date—August 29. We can all hope that by then, this crisis will be behind us. It will take all of us working together—by staying apart (for now), and by following the sensible guidelines laid out by public health officials.

A TIME FOR READING!

The COVID-19 crisis has required most of us to hunker down at home. And one of the best activities for being home at any time is reading, especially when you can curl up and crack open a new book. Many great titles have already made their debuts this year; here are just a couple by Ohio authors!

Columbus Noir

If you live in Columbus and love a good mystery—and who doesn't?—then you should definitely check out this new anthology, edited by Andrew Welsh-Huggins, who is also one of the fourteen contributing authors.

Named by *CrimeReads* as “one of the most anticipated crime books of 2020,” *Columbus Noir* is the 101st in a series of award-winning original anthologies produced since 2004 by Akashic Books. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city.

For *Columbus Noir*, Welsh-Huggins, best-known as the creator of the popular Andy Hayes mysteries, is joined by contributors Tom Barlow, Daniel Best, Laura Bickle, Chris Bournea, Julia Keller, Mercedes King, Kristen Lepionka, Lee Martin, Craig McDonald, Khalia Moalim, Yolonda Tonette Sanders, Robin Yocum, and Nancy Zafris.

The book was launched March 3 by Thurber House as part of its Evenings with Authors series at the Columbus Museum of Art on March 3. Additional spring events have been postponed, but you will be seeing *Columbus Noir* authors out and about in the coming months, and it will be featured at the rescheduled Ohioana Book Festival on August 29.

For more information on *Columbus Noir*, visit www.akashicbooks.com/catalog/columbus-noir/.



Columbus Noir authors appear at the Columbus Museum of Art on March 3.

And, if you're going to be hunkered down at home for a while—what better activity than to read? This is the perfect time to delve into a book by your favorite author. Or be a little adventuresome and read a book by an author who's new on the scene.

We offer a couple of suggestions herein. In fiction, there's a wonderful new mystery anthology, *Columbus Noir*, edited by Andrew Welsh-Huggins, author of the Andy Hayes novels. And for lovers of nonfiction, *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit*, the debut from our 2016 Marvin Grant winner, Eliese Colette Goldbach. These are just two of the many new books by Ohio authors in 2020.

Finally, we bring this newsletter to a close by paying tribute to someone who was a good friend to the Ohioana Library, and to me personally—Nancy Wolfe Lane. A dedicated volunteer and a generous supporter, Nancy's love of books and libraries made a lasting impact on Ohioana.

Thank you as always for your support of Ohioana, especially in this difficult time. Take care and stay safe and healthy!

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

Rust

Barely three years after receiving Ohioana's Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant for emerging writers at the Ohio Statehouse, Eliese Colette Goldbach returned to Columbus on March 9 as a rising literary star. *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit* (Flatiron Books) grew out of Eliese's unique experiences as a female steelworker at ArcelorMittal in her native Cleveland. One of this year's most acclaimed debuts, the book got a national launch in early March with Eliese appearing on NBC's *The Today Show* and NPR's *Morning Edition*.

Eliese holds an MFA in nonfiction from the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program. Her work has appeared in many publications, and her essay, "In the Memory of the Living," won not only the Marvin Grant but also the Ploughshares Emerging Writers Award. Her steel-working days now behind her, Eliese teaches at John Carroll University.

Eliese is just the latest of a number of our past Marvin Grant winners who have gone from emerging writer to acclaimed author. Ohioana is proud of Eliese, thrilled for her success, and happy to have played a small part in her journey.

For more information on *Rust*, visit <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250239396>.



Ohioana Director David Weaver and Eliese Colette Goldbach at Gramercy Books Bexley on March 9.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE!



The "Shop This Window Online" display at Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers in Upper Arlington was recently highlighted in *Publishers Weekly* magazine. (Photo by Bryan Loar)

We'd like to salute businesses that have been particularly hard hit in this crisis: bookstores. Not only was April 25 set to be the Ohioana Book Festival, it was also National Independent Bookstore Day. Of course, that had to be cancelled, too.

Indie bookstores, located in almost every city and town in Ohio, are not merely retail outlets. With their book clubs, author visits, and other events, they are a vital part of the reading community. Their physical stores may be closed at this time, but they continue working creatively to serve their loyal public, on the web and via social media. Nearly all of them are just a click or call away, taking orders for books and other items like gift cards that can be delivered to your home.

Support your local indie bookstore—you'll be glad you did!

TRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL FRIEND

I knew Nancy Wolfe Lane years before I came to the Ohioana Library Association. Nancy was on the board of the Columbus Light Opera, an organization I co-founded and for which I served as its first director. Nancy loved the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas CLO presented every summer. And in 1992, when we produced Offenbach's comic opera *Christopher Columbus* for the Columbus Quincentennial, it was Nancy whose generous sponsorship made it possible.

When I first went to work at Ohioana in 2005, I hadn't seen Nancy in several years. I was so pleased to learn that Nancy had been a long-time member (although by then retired) of Ohioana's board. And in fact, I learned that Nancy's father, Preston Wolfe, had been involved with Ohioana before her: Mr. Wolfe, the publisher of the *Columbus Dispatch*, was a good friend of Walter Rumsey Marvin, Ohioana's second director from 1954 to 1965. Dr. Marvin's wife, Beatrice, was the headmistress at Columbus School for Girls during the very years that Nancy was a student there before graduating in 1957.

Soon after I started work at Ohioana, I called Nancy. She was, as she had been at the Light Opera, a great listener and a thoughtful adviser. And so generous: when in 2006 we started the Martha Kinney Cooper Society (named for our founder) to encourage leadership giving, Nancy became the first charter member. In the years that followed, Nancy continued to be one of Ohioana's strongest supporters. And in 2017, when the Columbus Foundation held one of its periodic "Big Give" campaigns, Nancy made the largest unrestricted gift Ohioana had ever received from a living individual.

Nancy's generosity was not just personal: in the 1990s, while serving on the Ohioana board, she was the catalyst for Wolfe Associates, the foundation supported by the Wolfe family and their enterprises, to make a number of substantial grants. These grants came at a critical time when Ohioana was preparing to move from its long-standing location on Front Street to the restored Jeffrey Mining Center, which is its home today.

Although Nancy Wolfe Lane was part of one of Columbus' most powerful families, she was never a person to seek the limelight. She was, to use the cliché, "quietly effective." And she was a true philanthropist, that word meaning "a lover of mankind." What Nancy did to help Ohioana and many other organizations was for one reason—because she was a person who cared and sought to do good.

When Nancy passed away on March 17 at the age of 81, it was a loss to not only her family and friends (and I proudly count myself as one of them), but the entire community. Thank you, Nancy—we are all better for having known you. And we'll never forget you.



David Weaver