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## CELEBRATING THE 2020 OHIOANA AWARDS!

The Ohioana Library has been giving awards to recognize outstanding literary achievement since 1942. But our 79th annual awards on October 21 marked a first: the first time they have been presented virtually! As we did with the 2020 book festival in August, Ohioana moved its awards ceremony online, since COVID-19 made it impossible to hold the event in person.

Ohioana’s Executive Director David Weaver served as master of ceremonies, with help from Ohioana board members and representatives of sponsors who introduced the award winners.



2020 Ohioana Awards Roundtable (top, L-R), Kenn Kaufman, Salvatore Scibona, Jeannie Vanasco (middle, L-R), Jasmine Warga, Brendan Curtinrich, Linda Feagler (bottom, L-R), David Weaver, Oge Mora

### *The Director’s Chair*

Dear Friends,

Recently one of my favorite Ohio poets, Maggie Smith, released her latest book. It’s called *Keep Moving: Notes on Loss, Creativity, and Change*. I was thinking how those words—“Keep Moving”—exemplify what everyone has had to try to do as best they can in this year of COVID-19.

Ohioana has certainly kept moving; trying to creatively and safely serve the public by increasing our presence on the web. We began last spring with our first online book clubs; which led to our biggest event of the year, the Ohioana Book Festival in August; and most recently, the Ohioana Awards, which you can read about in our cover story.

Coming up on November 12, we have a special event with a past multi-Ohioana Award winner, David Giffels, discussing his latest book, *Barnstorming Ohio to Discover America*. It should be a fascinating event, as we consider David’s findings in light of the 2020 election. Then on December 9,

The award ceremony began with the presentation of the 2020 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a competitive award for Ohio writers age 30 or younger who have not yet published a book. The Marvin Grant has helped launch the careers of many successful authors, including two of this year's book award winners. The 2020 Marvin recipient is Brendan Curtinrich, a native of Geauga County. Two of Brendan's prize-winning essays appear in the fall *Ohioana Quarterly*.

The presentation of the Ohioana Book Awards followed:

About Ohio or an Ohioan: David McCullough, *The Pioneers*

Readers' Choice: Kenn Kaufman, *A Season on the Wind*

Poetry: Hanif Abdurraqib, *A Fortune for Your Disaster*

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature: Jasmine Warga,  
*Other Words for Home*

Juvenile Literature: Oge Mora, *Saturday*

Nonfiction: Jeannie Vanasco, *Things We Didn't Talk About When  
I Was a Girl*

Fiction: Salvatore Scibona, *The Volunteer*

All but two of the winners appeared live for the event: poetry winner Hanif Abdurraqib accepted his award on recorded video and historian David McCullough's award in the About Ohio or an Ohioan category was accepted live by former Ohio Governor John Kasich.

After the ceremony, former Ohioana trustee and long-time senior editor of *Ohio Magazine* Linda Feagler moderated an authors' roundtable with the winners, in which they discussed their creative inspiration and their writing process.

Our media partner for the awards, The Ohio Channel, streamed the event live. Between Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube, the 2020 Ohioana Awards reached 9,700 viewers—our largest audience ever! The event is now archived online, and can be watched anytime at this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfHxVwkoI9M>

Copies of all this year's winning titles are available from our official bookseller, the Book Loft of German Village:  
<https://www.bookloft.com/ohioana-awards>

While we missed celebrating in person with authors and attendees, the virtual awards event was nonetheless a great success. Our thanks to everyone who made it so—sponsors, partners, presenters, and the Ohioana board and staff. And of course, all this year's award winners—congratulations once again!

We hope to see you all back at the Ohio Statehouse on October 14th, 2021, when we will celebrate the Ohioana Awards' 80th anniversary!

our book club will meet online to discuss writer and activist Gloria Steinem's memoir, *My Life on the Road*, which was an Ohioana Book Award finalist in 2016.

The holiday season will soon be upon us, including my personal favorite, Thanksgiving. As always, the Ohioana Library is thankful to have so many good friends who share with us the love of books and reading. We are especially grateful to you for hanging in there with us during this challenging and often difficult year. *Thank you.*

We wish you and yours all the best for a safe and happy holiday season.

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2021 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

The Ohioana Library Association thanks the following sponsors  
for their generous support of the 2020 Ohioana Awards:

**Award Sponsors**



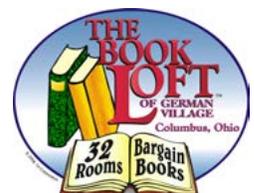
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## 91ST ANNUAL MEETING

It's not only the Ohioana Book Festival and the Ohioana Awards that moved online in this year of COVID-19. For the first time in Ohioana's history, our annual meeting also "went virtual." This not only kept everyone safe, but also made it easier for members from all over the state to join in, including many who had never attended an annual meeting before.

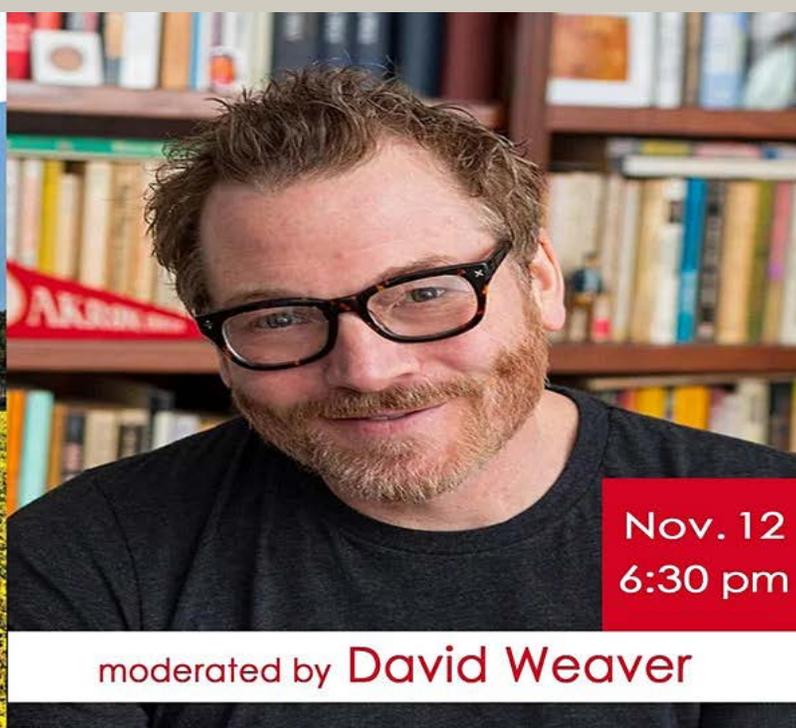
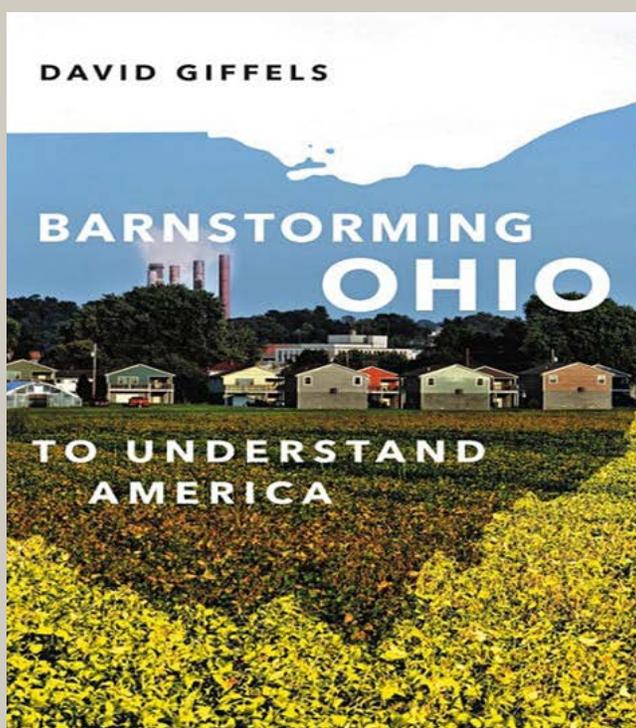
The highlight of the meeting was the election of trustees, including six new members: Flo Cunningham, Dionne Custer Edwards, Negesti Kaudo, Helen Kirk, Craig Rapp, and Chris Santagate, all of whom joined returning trustee Jay Yurkiw. We bid a

fond farewell to three long-serving trustees: Lisa Evans, Claudia Plumley, and Yolanda Danyi Szuch.

Elected to two-year terms as officers at the board meeting that immediately followed were John Sullivan (President), Katie Brandt (Vice-President), Bryan Loar (Secretary), and Jay Yurkiw (Treasurer). John Sullivan paid tribute to outgoing President Dan Shuey, who could not be present. Sullivan noted that Ohioana had made a number of great strides under Shuey's leadership, including moving the Ohioana Book Festival to the Columbus Metropolitan Library, and most recently in Ohioana's response to COVID-19.

## DAVID GIFFELS: BARNSTORMING OHIO TO UNDERSTAND AMERICA

November 12, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Online



Join Ohioana and the Book Loft of German Village for a special post-election event featuring Ohioana Award-winning author David Giffels in conversation with David Weaver. They'll discuss Giffels' latest book, an account of his year on Ohio's roads, visiting people and places that reflect our national questions and concerns; and examines how they were represented in 2020's historic election. Free. To register, and also order a copy of the book, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/barnstorming-ohio-to-understand-america-a-conversation-with-david-giffels-tickets-125620134203>