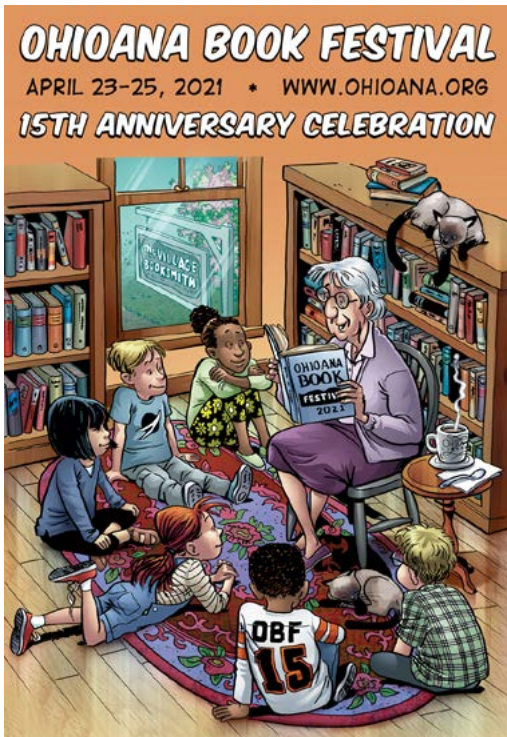


ANNOUNCING THE 2021 VIRTUAL OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL!

The Ohioana Book Festival celebrates its 15th anniversary this year . . . and you're invited! The 2021 festival will be held virtually from April 23 through 25. As we did last year, we decided to present the festival in this format to keep everyone safe as we continue to fight the pandemic.

We're delighted that, thanks to the wonder of technology, we will still be able to share with you all the things you love about the Ohioana Book Festival: a fun-filled weekend featuring panel discussions, conversations, and readings. There will be story times and activities for children. We'll also have a number of virtual outreach programs with community partners from all around Ohio.



Cartoonist Tom Batiuk, creator of the beloved *Funky Winkerbean* and *Crankshaft* comic strips, has created this year's official poster. Tom is just one of the 140 Ohio authors and illustrators who will be participating (check out the roster on p. 2). We're sure you'll see some of your favorites in this stellar list! Our next newsletter will include the complete festival schedule. We'll also be adding news and information on our website, blog, and social media—be sure to check them often!

Mark your calendars now for April 23-25—we'll see you online as we celebrate 15 years of the Ohioana Book Festival!

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite times of the year is February. No, it's not because I like the cold or shoveling snow! It's because February is when I get the chance to announce the authors who are coming to the Ohioana Book Festival each spring. And looking at the list of wonderful novelists, children's writers and illustrators, poets, and nonfiction authors always warms me up, regardless of the weather outside!

This year is especially meaningful, as we celebrate the festival's 15th anniversary! It's hard to believe that this event—which began with ten authors and a single title in 2007—is now the largest celebration of Ohio authors and their books.

As you can see from our cover story, we're pulling out all the stops to bring you an exciting line-up of some of your favorite authors, plus introducing many new authors we know will be favorites in the years to come!

Of course, we would have loved to celebrate this anniversary with

FICTION

Tom Batiuk
Pete Beatty
Matt Betts
Tonya Ulynn Brown
John Bullock
Nancy Christie
Karin Cecile Davidson
Nathan Elias
Mary Ellis
Amanda Flower
Jennifer Geiger
Steve Goble
Gwen Goodkin
Eileen Curley Hammond
Nancy Herriman
Leanna Renee Hieber
Anna Lee Huber
J.E. Irvin
Linda Kass
John-Michael Lander
Theresa E. Liggins
Kylie Logan aka Lucy Ness
Olivia Matthews
Tiffany McDaniel
Tonya Mitchell
Jess Montgomery
Eliot Parker
Brian Petkash
Michael Prelee
Eman Quotah
Gregg Sapp
E.F. Schraeder
Salvatore Scibona
Curtis Sittenfeld
Lucy A. Snyder
Alison Stine
Dan Stout
Jessica Strawser
Don Tassone
John A. Vanek
Laura Maylene Walter
Donna Wyland

NONFICTION

Will Bashor
Craig M. Chavis, Jr.
Cindy Collins
Lynette Ford
Carole Genshaft

David Giffels
Eliese Colette Goldbach
Megan E. Griffiths
Kenn Kaufman
Robert Kroeger
Patrick Leber
Jacqueline Lipton
Jeannine de Nobel Love
David Meyers & Elise
Meyers Walker
Denise Monique
David H. Mould
Norm N. Nite
Roger Pickenpaugh
Brad Ricca
Nita Sweeney & Brenda Knight
Talzoya
D.M. Testa
Jane Ann Turzillo
Jeannie Vanasco
Elissa Washuta
Betty Weibel

POETRY

Pamela R. Anderson
Zoë Brigley
Darren C. Demaree
Carmen Gabriel-Watson
David Lee Garrison
Ross Gay
Kari Gunter-Seymour
Kelly Harris-DeBerry
Mabel C. Jones
Kip Knott
Paula J. Lambert
Charles Malone
Philip Metres
Kiya Renae
Rikki Santer
D.E. Zuccone

MIDDLE GRADE AND YOUNG ADULT

Karin Biggs
Jenn Bishop
Gary Buettner
Mary Kay Carson
Sarah Anne Carter
Cinda Williams Chima
Doug Coates

everyone in person. But with COVID still a threat, and with Ohioana committed to keeping everyone safe, we'll once again be presenting the festival virtually. Thanks so much for your continued patience and understanding.

We'll have much more to share in the coming weeks, so keep your eye on our website and social media as we reveal more details about the festival programs and schedule.

Fifteen years . . . it doesn't seem like it's been nearly that long! It's certainly been an exciting journey since 2007. Although the festival has seen many changes over the years, we still hold true to our original promise: the Ohioana Book Festival has something for every reader of every age. The Ohioana Book Festival is an event for YOU!

We look forward to having you join us in celebrating our 15th anniversary festival this April!

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

Margaret Peterson Haddix
Krysten Lindsay Hager
Sandra K. Horn
Intisar Khanani
Sophia R. Klein
Jason R. Lady
Terri Libenson
Mindy McGinnis
Karen Meyer
Patricia Miller
Bryan Prosek
Natalie Richards
Maria Romasco-Moore
Jennifer Ann Shore
Linda Sohner
Andrew Speno
R.L. Stine
Tara Tyler
D.W. Vogel
Jasmine Warga
Jacqueline Woodson

JUVENILE
Tim Bowers
Erin Alon Brain
Tamara Bundy
Mark M. Dean
Kathy S. Elasky
Rebecca Greenfield
J.A. Hall
Will Hillenbrand
Kate Hoefler
Aiko Ikegami
Scott Longert
Mark Miesse
Oge Mora
Samuel Narh & Freda Narh
Nancy Roe Pimm
Merrill Rainey
Cristina Sicard
Tricia Springstubb
Frank Tupta
Thrity Umrigar

Christina Wald
Lindsay Ward
Katie Weyler & Carrie Weyler

*Author lineup may change without notice

COMING SOON

Author Event: Matthew Gavin Frank and Aimee Nezhukumatathil March 4, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Gramercy Books Bexley, online event

Ohioana is pleased to be a Community Partner with Gramercy Books as it presents Matthew Gavin Frank (*Flight of the Diamond Smugglers*) and 2019 Ohioana Poetry Book Award finalist Aimee Nezhukumatathil (*World of Wonders*) in a conversation about nature, pigeons, and diamond smugglers. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.gramercybooksbexley.com/event/conversation-about-nature-pigeons-and-diamond-smuggling-author-matthew-gavin-frank-talks-0>.

Ohioana Virtual Book Club: David Giffels March 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – noon, online event

Ohioana Award-winning author David Giffels is the special guest as the club discusses his latest best-selling book, *Barnstorming Ohio to Understand America*. If you would like to attend this free virtual event, please email us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Empowered Minds: Buckeye Book Club Thursday, April 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., online event

Licking County Library, in partnership with the Ohioana Library, presents the new Buckeye Book Club, which explores fiction works by some of the best Ohio-based authors. Our **April 2021** title is *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood—and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. For more information and to register, visit: <https://lickingcountylibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=24409&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2021/04/01>