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Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers

May 2021

Ohioana Announces 2021 Book Award Finalists

The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the finalists for the 80th anniversary Ohioana Book Awards. First given in 1942, the awards are the second-oldest state literary prizes in the nation and honor outstanding works by Ohio authors and illustrators in five categories: Fiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature, and Nonfiction. The sixth category, About Ohio/An Ohioan, may also include books by non-Ohio authors.

Among the literary honors this year’s finalists have previously received are the National Book Award, the Pulitzer Prize, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Newbery Medal, the Kirkus Prize, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Cleveland Arts Prize. Five authors are finalists for their debut books. Six have previously won Ohioana Book Awards and one is a past recipient of Ohioana’s Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant for emerging writers.

Beginning June 1, Ohioana will profile all the finalists with “30 Books, 30 Days,” a special feature on our social media in which one finalist is highlighted each day. Later in June, Ohioana will launch its sixth Readers’ Choice Award poll, allowing the public to vote online for their favorite book from the finalists.

Winners will be announced in July. The 80th anniversary Ohioana Awards ceremony will be held at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Thursday, October 14. The finalists are:

Fiction
Martin, Lee. Yours, Jean, Dzanc Books.
McDaniel, Tiffany. Betty, Knopf.
Nonfiction
Downs, Maggie. Braver Than You Think: Around the World on the Trip of My (Mother's) Lifetime, Counterpoint.
Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments, Milkweed Editions.
Ricca, Brad. Olive the Lionheart: Lost Love, Imperial Spies, and One Woman's Journey into the Heart of Africa, St. Martin's Press.

About Ohio or an Ohioan
Backderf, Derf. Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio, Harry N. Abrams.

Poetry
Black, Ali. If It Heals At All, Jacar Press.
Chan, Marianne. All Heathens, Sarabande Books.
Lambert, Paula J. How to See the World: Poems, Bottom Dog Press.
Majmudar, Amit. What He Did in Solitary, Knopf.

Juvenile Literature
Metcalf, Lindsay H., Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley, eds. Illus. by Jeanette Bradley. No Voice Too Small, Charlesbridge.
Muth, Jon J. Addy's Cup of Sugar: Based on a Buddhist Story of Healing, Scholastic Press.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature
Pearsall, Shelley. Things Seen from Above, Knopf Books for Young Readers.
Reynolds, Justin A. Early Departures, Katherine Tegen Books.
Taylor, Mildred D. All the Days Past, All the Days to Come, Viking Books for Young Readers.
CONTEST!

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY!

Join us for a kick-off event April 24th & 25th at noon with Author/Illustrator/Paper Engineer Merrill Rainey to learn more about the Color, Cut, Create Contest! and pick up some tips & tricks on how to add that WOW factor to your submissions!

A contest Q&A will follow the April 25th session.

The first 10 registrants on both April 24th and April 25th will receive a FREE copy of either Color, Cut, Create - Dinosaur World, or Horse Ranch.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
- April 24th • Kick-off event for Kids ages: 5-8
- April 24th • Registration Opens
- April 25th • Kick-off event for Kids ages: 8-12
- April 25th • Q&A
- June 11th • Submission Deadline
- June 14th - 18th • People’s Choice Awards Voting
- June 28th • Color, Cut, Create awards LIVE!

Please check festival schedule for times.

2 categories to enter!

1. Color, Cut, Create, and Photograph • For kids ages: 5-8
2. Color, Cut, Create, and Animate • For kids ages: 8-12

To find out more about the contest & rules visit: www.color-cut-create.com

WINNING CATEGORIES & PRIZES!

Our GRAND PRIZE winners (1 per category) will be chosen by Merrill Rainey. Winners will be announced live on June 28th and will receive:
- $50 credit to The Book Loft of German Village.
- An Endurax iPad Tripod for iPhone/Tablet.
- Each winning entrant’s work will be displayed on the Ohioana website and shared on our social media channels.

Our PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD entries for each category will be posted to an online gallery to be voted on by the public the week of June 14th. Winners (1 per category) will be announced live on June 28th and will receive the following:
- $25 credit to The Book Loft of German Village.
- Each winning entrant’s work will also be displayed on the Ohioana website and shared on our social media channels.

Sponsored by the OHIOANA Book Festival!
Coming Soon

Author Event: Paula McLain in Conversation with Connie Schultz
May 20, 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 best-selling and Ohioana Award-winning novelist Paula McLain (*The Paris Wife*) in the launch of her highly-lauded crime novel, *When the Stars Go Dark*. Paula will be in conversation with Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Connie Schultz, author of *The Daughters of Erietown*. For more information visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paula-mclain-in-conversation-with-connie-schultz-tickets-143246938449?aff=o-deimcmailchimp&mc_cid=247491d5fa&mc_eid=59d5c3bf6f.

Thurber Prize in American Humor
May 21, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Thurber House, online event
The Thurber Prize for American Humor event is a night that shines a spotlight on writing, humor, James Thurber, and the city of Columbus itself. Join finalists Dave Barry, Kira Jane Buxton, and Damon Young for this free virtual celebration to see which of them will claim the 2020 prize. For more information visit https://www.thurberhouse.org/thurber-prize-for-american-humor.

Ohioana Virtual Book Club: The Daughters of Erietown
June 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – noon, online event
The book club’s spring pick is *The Daughters of Erietown* by author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Connie Schultz. Free. If you would like to attend, please email us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Wright Memorial Public Library: Ohio Literary Trail
June 16, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., online event
Join us for a tour of the Ohio Literary Trail from the comfort of your home and discover Ohio’s rich literary heritage through more than 70 sites. This presentation will focus on Southwest Ohio and include highlights from other regions around the state. Whether you are an armchair traveler or a road warrior, you will discover gems for explorers of all ages. For more information visit https://www.wrightlibrary.org/ohioliterarytrail.

Literary Cleveland: Inkubator Writing Conference
July 11–25, 2021, online event
This year’s virtual conference will feature 31 free events including interactive classes, craft talks, open mics, panel discussions, and 11 multi-session workshops. Nationally-recognized writers participating include Andy Borowitz, Mary Norris, Kathryn Schulz, and Thrity Umrigar. Free. For more information, visit https://www.litcleveland.org/events-programs/inkubator-conference-2021.

University of Findlay: Mazza Summer Conference
July 12–14, 2021, online event
The University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum celebrates the original art of picture books using education, exhibits, events, and artist events. Join them for the 2021 Mazza Summer Conference, a three-day virtual and interactive conference full of educational and engaging presentations from top authors and illustrators in the picture book industry. For more information visit https://www.mazzamuseum.org/adults/conferences/summer-conference/.