

CELEBRATING THE 80TH OHIOANA BOOK AWARDS!

The Ohioana Library has been giving awards to recognize outstanding literary achievement since 1942. But 2021's event was truly special as we virtually celebrated the awards' 80th anniversary!

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.

The award ceremony began with the presentation of the 2021 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant to Hagan Faye Whiteleather. A competitive award for an emerging Ohio writer aged thirty or younger who has not yet published a book, the Marvin Grant has helped launch the careers of many successful authors, a number of whom have returned later as book award winners.

The presentation of the Ohioana Book Awards followed:

Readers' Choice: Tiffany McDaniel, *Betty*
About Ohio or an Ohioan: Carole M. Genshaft, ed., *Raggin' On*
Nonfiction: Aimee Nezhukumatathil, *World of Wonders*
Fiction: Carter Sickels, *The Prettiest Star*
Poetry: Marianne Chan, *All Heathens*
Juvenile Literature: Thrity Umrigar, *Sugar in Milk*
Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature: Jacqueline Woodson,
Before the Ever After

After the ceremony, Dan Shellenbarger, head of the Ohio Channel and producer and host of their discussion program, *Book Notes*, moderated an authors' roundtable with the winners in which they talked about their creative inspiration and their writing process.

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

'Tis the season . . . for end-of-year literary "best lists" and awards! We made our contribution to the latter in October with the presentation of the 80th Ohioana Awards, which we recap in our cover story.

A number of Ohio authors have already garnered year-end accolades. Brian Broome just won the Kirkus Prize for his memoir, *Punch Me Up to the Gods*. Two past Ohioana Award winners are finalists for the prestigious National Book Awards (to be announced November 17): Anthony Doerr in fiction for *Cloud Cuckoo Land* and Hanif Abdurraqib in nonfiction for *A Little Devil in America*.

In addition, Anthony Doerr, Dav Pilkey (*Dog Man: Mothering Heights*), and past Ohioana Award winners Susan Orlean (*On Animals*) and Sharon Draper (*Out of My Heart*) have all been named to Barnes & Noble's 2021 "Best Book" lists in their respective categories.

It reminds us once again of how many amazing writers and



The 2021 Ohioana Book Awards are plaques in the shape of Ohio. Designed by Kathryn Powers, each honoree’s plaque has the cover image of their award-winning book.

As we did in 2020, we moved the awards ceremony online, due to the recent upsurge of COVID-19 cases. The Ohio Channel, our media partner, streamed the entire program live on Facebook and YouTube to thousands of viewers in Ohio and beyond. If you missed the program, or would like to see it again, here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRu542oeE9A>.

Copies of all of this year’s winning titles are available from our official bookseller, the Book Loft of German Village, at www.bookloft.com.

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—our sponsors, partners, presenters, and the Ohioana board and staff. And of course, all of this year’s award winners—congratulations once again!

Hopefully, we’ll be back live and in person next October at the Ohio Statehouse. We’d love to have you join us as we celebrate the 2022 Ohioana Book Awards!

illustrators have Ohio roots. Their stories and pictures enrich us all.

At this time last year, there were fewer literary events as we were in the throes of COVID-19. This year, as you can see on our Coming Soon list, many more events are taking place, both virtually and, increasingly, in-person, led this weekend by the live return of the Buckeye Book Fair.

As Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away (my favorite holiday), let me say how grateful the Ohioana Library is for your friendship and support. You make what we do possible. *Thank you.*

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2022 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit www.ohioana.org.

The Ohioana Library Association thanks the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2021 Ohioana Book Awards:

Award Sponsors



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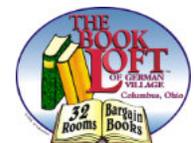
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COMING SOON

Buckeye Book Fair

November 6, 2021, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Greystone Event Center, Wooster, live event.

The 34th annual book fair, presented for the first time in a new location, is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping, featuring books by Ohio authors and illustrators. For more information, visit <https://buckeyebookfair.org>

Big Library Read: Natalie D. Richards

November 8, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., OverDrive, online event.

Join the hosts of the *Professional Book Nerds* podcast as they interview author Natalie D. Richards about her *New York Times* best-selling YA thriller, *Five Total Strangers*, which is the Big Library Read featured title. Free. For more information and to register, visit https://overdrive.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6jJ5XRSJTeqDFoC10yRvPA

Author Event: Genevieve Gornichec

November 9, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Licking County Public Library, online event.

Ohioana partners with the Licking County Public Library's Book Club to present a virtual event with special guest, Genevieve Gornichec, author of the best-selling novel, *The Witch's Heart*. Free. To register, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErFumvrzMrGNM8QOoimS2QIyCtoSPnDDAM>

Mazza Museum: 2021 Virtual Weekend Conference

November 12-13, 2021, University of Findlay's Mazza Museum, 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 Weekend Conference, a two-day virtual event full of educational and engaging presentations from top authors and illustrators in the picture book industry. Attendees will have access to replays of all programs for up to three months after the conference weekend. For more information, visit <https://www.mazzamuseum.org/adults/conferences/virtual-weekend-conference/>

Author Event: Marcy Campbell

November 13, 2021, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Upper Arlington Public Library, Friends Theater, Tremont Main Library, live event.

Picture book author Marcy Campbell will talk about her newest book, *Something Good*, exploring the power of words and empathy. Free. Presented in partnership with Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers, which will have copies of the book for sale at the event. To register, visit <https://ualibrary.libnet.info/event/5638694>

Author Event: Amy Butcher

November 18, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Gramercy Books Bexley, live event.

Join writer and scholar Amy Butcher to learn more about her memoir, *Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America*, the true story of two women who found meaning, strength, and friendship in one of the most punishing and magnificent landscapes on earth. Amy will be in conversation with *Kenyon Review's* Elizabeth Dark. Free. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/amy-butcher-discusses-new-memoir-mothertrucker-with-elizabeth-dark-tickets-166969764059>

Discover the Ohio Literary Trail

November 22, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Beachwood Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, online event.

Ohioana Director David Weaver joins Betty Weibel, author of *The Ohio Literary Trail: A Guide* to give viewers a virtual tour highlighting literary sites in Northeast Ohio and across the state. Free. For more information and to register, visit <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/5130010>