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## ANNOUNCING THE 2022 OHIOANA BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the finalists for the 81st annual 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 or an Ohioan, may also include books by non-Ohio authors.

This year’s stellar list includes a Pulitzer Prize winner, three finalists for the National Book Award, a Dayton Literary Peace Prize finalist, and winners of the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Caldecott Medal, Newbery Honors, and the Kirkus Prize. Four finalists have had their works adapted for film and television. Eight authors are previous Ohioana Book Award winners and two are past recipients 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. On June 15, Ohioana will launch its seventh Readers’ Choice Award poll, allowing the public to vote online for their favorite book from the finalists.

Winners will be announced in July. The 2022 Ohioana Book Awards ceremony will be held at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Wednesday, October 26. The finalists are:

### **Fiction**

Bethea, Jesse. *Fellow Travellers*, Bellwether  
 Doerr, Anthony. *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Scribner  
 Gornichec, Genevieve. *The Witch’s Heart*, Ace  
 Stine, Alison. *Trashlands*, MIRA  
 Walter, Laura Maylene. *Body of Stars*, Dutton

### *The Director’s Chair*

Dear Friends,

The 16th annual (and third virtual!) Ohioana Book Festival is now in the history books. Our thanks to everyone who made the event a great success. If you missed any of it, or would like to watch a favorite panel again, the entire festival is now available on Ohioana’s YouTube channel. To find the individual program links, just go to the festival schedule page: <http://www.ohioana.org/programs/ohioana-book-festival/schedule/>

Now we move from one major celebration of Ohio literature to another. In February 1942, this headline appeared in the Columbus Dispatch: “Ohioana Library Award to Be Offered to Authors of State.” The accompanying article revealed that a committee of judges was being formed with the goal of naming the first Ohioana Book Award winner by October 1942. And they did, selecting James “Scotty” Reston as the first recipient.

In the eight decades since, more than 400 books by Ohio authors or about Ohio subjects have been

## Nonfiction

- Abdurraqib, Hanif. *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, Random House
- Butcher, Amy. *Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America*, Little A
- Haygood, Wil. *Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World*, Alfred A. Knopf
- Orlean, Susan. *On Animals*, Avid Reader Press
- Schillace, Brandy. *Mr. Humble & Dr. Butcher: A Monkey's Head, the Pope's Neuroscientist, and the Quest to Transplant the Soul*, Simon & Schuster

## About Ohio or an Ohioan

- Abbott, Anneliese. *Malabar Farm: Louis Bromfield, Friends of the Land, and the Rise of Sustainable Agriculture*, The Kent State University Press
- Alexander, Brian. *The Hospital: Life, Death, and Dollars in a Small American Town*, St. Martin's Press
- Baier, Bret, and Catherine Whitney. *To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876*, Custom House
- Broome, Brian. *Punch Me Up to the Gods: A Memoir*, Mariner Books
- Shesol, Jeff. *Mercury Rising: John Glenn, John Kennedy, and the New Battleground of the Cold War*, W.W. Norton & Company

## Poetry

- Ahn, E. Yetunde, née Emily Spencer. *East Walnut Hills*, Zone 3 Press
- Bracken, Conor. *The Enemy of My Enemy is Me*, Diode Editions
- Iris, Manuel. *The Parting Present / Lo que se irá*, Dos Madres Press
- Kim, Joey S. *Body Facts*, Diode Editions
- Zamora, Felicia. *I Always Carry My Bones*, University of Iowa Press

## Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature

- Carson, Rae. *Any Sign of Life*, Greenwillow Books
- Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Heart*, Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
- Kiely, Brendan. *The Other Talk: Reckoning with Our White Privilege*, Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
- Wang, Andrea. *The Many Meanings of Meilan*, Kokila
- Warga, Jasmine. *The Shape of Thunder*, Balzer + Bray

## Juvenile Literature

- Campbell, Marcy. Illus. by Corinna Luyken. *Something Good*, Little Brown Books for Young Readers
- Dawson, Keila V. Illus. by Alleanna Harris. *Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book*, Beaming Books
- Gorman, Amanda. Illus. by Loren Long. *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*, Viking Books for Young Readers
- Wang, Andrea. Illus. by Jason Chin. *Watercress*, Neal Porter Books
- Wynter, Anne. Illus. by Oge Mora. *Everybody in the Red Brick Building*, Balzer + Bray

honored with the award. In this issue, we proudly announce the finalists for the 81st annual Ohioana Book Awards.

Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram throughout June as we shine the spotlight on one finalist a day in our annual "30 Books, 30 Days" feature. And don't forget to vote for YOUR favorite book from all thirty finalists in our seventh annual Readers' Choice poll, which opens June 15. Then stay tuned as we announce ALL the winners in mid-July.

Also in this issue we pay a fond tribute to two friends who were a very special part of Ohioana for many years.

Finally, we provide a list of coming literary events to take us well into the summer season. We hope yours is a great one – filled with sun, fun, and books!

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## IN MEMORIAM

*David Weaver remembers two special people who were longtime friends and supporters of the Ohioana Library.*



Joan Schmutzler was one of the first members of the Ohioana Board of Trustees I met, when I joined the library as its first Development Director in 2005. Joan was a delightful person and a real character. She would always come early for board meetings and sit in the break room with staff, having coffee and chatting about everything from books to music to politics.

But Joan was much more than that. A career librarian, she was a devoted volunteer from the time she was first appointed to the Ohioana board by Governor Taft in 2001. A very generous supporter, in the early 2000s she made one of the largest gifts to Ohioana's capital campaign. She wrote reviews for the *Quarterly*, chaired the Music Citations, and was a judge for the Ohioana Book Awards. We became friends and remained so, even after she retired from the board in 2017. I last spoke to her not long before she passed away in December at the age of 83.



Ronald L. Stuckey was, to use an old cliché, a “Renaissance Man.” While most noted as an educator and international authority on aquatic and wetland plants (there is a plant he discovered that is named for him), he was also an electric steel guitarist and a HUGE fan of Bluegrass music, a photographer, and an author. It was as the latter that Ron first met the Ohioana Library.

Ron wrote more than 200 articles and a dozen books, one of which, *Lost Stories: Yesterday and Today at Put-in-Bay*, won the Florence Roberts Head Ohioana Book Award in 2003. A strong advocate for preservation, Ron generously endowed a fund to help make the biographical files in Ohioana's collection accessible to the public. I'd see Ron often at Ohioana events until his health began to decline. He would send me several notes every year, the last one just a month before he died in January, four days after his 84th birthday.

It is thanks to friends like Joan Schmutzler and Ron Stuckey that Ohioana is the organization that it is today. They will be missed. And they'll never be forgotten.

# COMING SOON

## Claire's Day

May 21, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Maumee Branch, 501 River Rd., Maumee, live event.

Marking its 20th anniversary in 2022, Claire's Day is a celebration of life, authors, illustrators, and reading excellence. Held annually in memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini, the festival is Northwest Ohio's largest celebration of literacy. For more information, visit [www.claresday.org](http://www.claresday.org).

## A Lit Summer Night

June 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Windows on the River, Cleveland, live event.

Literary Cleveland's fun, moving fundraiser party brings together the creative community for a memorable night to help increase equitable access to writing and publishing opportunities in Cleveland. Special guest is 2022 Ohioana Book Award finalist Susan Orlean. For more information and tickets, <https://www.litcleveland.org/events-programs/2022-fundraiser>.

## Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics

June 8 – August 25, 2022, Thurber House, Columbus, live events.

The popular outdoor series returns with a lineup of authors including Donte Woods-Spikes (June 8), Dean Regas (June 30), Jessica Strawser (July 13), Leigh Lewis (July 27), and Ohioana Award winners Thrity Umrigar (August 6) and Carter Sickels (August 25). For more information and tickets, visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

## Ohioana Book Club

June 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus, live event.

The title for June is the science fiction adventure novel *The Kaiju Preservation Society* by John Scalzi. The group will meet in person. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## Renewal through Poetry: NFSPS Annual Convention

June 23 – 26, 2022, Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, hybrid event.

The Ohio Poetry Association hosts the annual convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, with four days of readings, panels, workshops, and more. For information and to register, visit <https://www.ohiopoetryassn.org/nfspd-2022-convention>.

## Mazza Museum Summer Conference

July 12 – 14, 2022, University of Findlay's Mazza Museum, Findlay, hybrid event.

A three-day conference where teachers, librarians, and book lovers delight in educational and engaging presentations from some of the top authors and illustrators in the picture book industry. For more information and to register, visit <https://conference.mazzamuseum.org>.