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2022: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

For Ohioana, as for many people, 2022 began on a cautious note as the COVID pandemic was still making its impact felt. But by fall, the light was definitely at the end of the tunnel. In October, for the first time in three years, we presented the Ohioana Book Awards in person. Along the way, we also held our third virtual Ohioana Book Festival, celebrated two significant anniversaries, and received a major national award. Join us as we look back in our annual Year in Review.

Winter

- One of the most popular literary genres—memoir—was the theme of winter’s *Ohioana Quarterly*, featuring interviews with seven authors and a conversation with Kirkus Prize winner Brian Broome. We also paid tribute to Ohio-born memoirist, General and President Ulysses S. Grant, whose bicentennial was celebrated in 2022.
- Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library launched a new podcast, *Page Count*, created and hosted by its first-ever fellow, Laura Maylene Walter, a past Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant winner and Ohioana Book Award finalist. One of the first episodes was devoted to the Ohio Literary Trail, with trail organizer, author, and Ohioana trustee Betty Weibel and Ohioana director David Weaver as Laura’s guests.
- In March, the official 2022 Ohioana Book Festival poster was unveiled. The poster was designed by children’s book author and cartoonist Terri Libenson.

Spring

- Author Brian Alexander joined the Ohioana Book Club virtually to discuss his bestselling title, *The Hospital*, which went on to win the 2022 Ohioana Book Award in the About Ohio or an Ohioan category.

The Director’s Chair

Dear Friends,

Another year is fast coming to a close. As you can see from our cover story, 2022 was a memorable one for the Ohioana Library.

For me personally, the highlight was the presentation of the Ohioana Book Awards in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium—our first major event to be held live in person since 2019. While we’ve put on many great events virtually over the past few years (I’m proud to say Ohioana didn’t cancel a single program during the pandemic), it was wonderful to connect with others once again on a person-to-person, face-to-face level.

As 2022 winds down, we’re thrilled to see books by Ohio authors and illustrators announced to several annual “best of” book lists. Among them are past Ohioana Book Award winners and finalists like Celeste Ng (*Our Missing Hearts*), Candice Millard (*River of the Gods*), and Ross Gay (*Inciting Joy*). And in October, Harmony Becker’s *Himawari House* won the prestigious Kirkus Prize for Young

- The 16th annual Ohioana Book Festival was presented virtually from April 29-May 1, with outreach and media activities taking place from April 13-May 7. The main event featured more than thirty live and recorded programs with nearly 120 Ohio authors, reaching an audience of more than 5,000 online viewers from across the country and beyond! Recordings of the entire festival can be viewed on Ohioana’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@ohioanalibraryassociation6688>
- The 2022 Ohioana Book Award finalists were announced and voting opened for the seventh annual Readers’ Choice Award, a special prize which invites Ohioana members and the general public to choose their favorite book of the year from among the thirty award finalists.

Summer

- Anthony Doerr, Hanif Abdurraqib, Brian Alexander, Felicia Zamora, Jasmine Warga, and Andrea Wang were announced as the juried winners of the 2022 Ohioana Book Awards. Manuel Iris was selected by fans for the 2022 Readers’ Choice Award.
- Louise Ling Edwards of Columbus was announced as the 2022 recipient of the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a competitive prize awarded to an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Marvin Grant, named for Ohioana’s second director.
- In 2022, we also celebrated the 65th anniversary of the *Ohioana Quarterly*, which was the theme of the magazine’s summer issue. For the cover, Kathryn Powers colorfully traced the evolution of the publication with a cover from each of its eight decades. Other special features included the new 2023 and 2024 list of Choose to Read Ohio titles and an interview with 2022 Floyd’s Pick winner Tracy Subisak.
- On July 13, Ohioana, the State Library of Ohio, and Ohio Center for the Book held a reception in Columbus to celebrate Choose to Read Ohio and Floyd’s Pick. A dozen CTRO authors joined us for the event, and we presented plaques to the 2021 and 2022 Floyd’s Pick recipients, Aiko Ikegami and Tracy Subisak.

Autumn

- At its nationally streamed virtual ceremony in October, the National Council of Teachers of English recognized Ohioana as the Honorable Mention recipient for the NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award. In its announcement, the NCTE said its awards committee had unanimously chosen Ohioana “for their role in preserving one of our greatest freedoms—the freedom to read and listen to the ideas of others.”
- On October 14, Ohioana virtually held its 93rd annual meeting. Highlights of the meeting included the election of new trustees Amelia Adams and Brad Hughes, and the re-election of trustees Gillian Berchowicz, John Sullivan, and Deborah Urton.

Readers' Literature. Kudos to all these authors!

With December being “Read a New Book Month,” I hope these wonderful books and many others by Ohio authors will be part of your holiday reading list. Remember, books are the perfect gift!

Thanks again for your friendship and support—you make what we do possible. From all of us at Ohioana, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director



The 2022 Ohioana Book Award plaques in the shape of Ohio. Designed by Kathryn Powers, each honoree's plaque has the cover image of their award-winning book.

- On October 26, the 81st annual Ohioana Book Awards were presented in person at the Ohio Statehouse for the first time since 2019. A near-sellout crowd attended the event live in the Statehouse Atrium, while another 1,800 viewed the ceremony as it was streamed live by our media partner, the Ohio Channel. All the award winners spoke, either in person or on video. Dr. Daniel Shellenbarger, producer and host of the Ohio Channel's literary program, *Book Notes*, moderated the lively roundtable discussion that followed the awards presentation. You can watch the entire program on the Ohio Channel: <https://ohiochannel.org/video/ohioana-awards-2022>
- Ohioana was a Community Partner with Gramercy Books Bexley as it presented events with two past Ohioana Book Award winners: Celeste Ng on October 28 and Moriel Rothman-Zecher on November 9. Ohioana director David Weaver moderated the conversation with Rothman-Zecher.

After several years of mostly virtual programming, it was great to be able to participate in several events live and in person around the state (see "Ohioana on the Road" on page 5).

With 2023 just around the corner, we look forward with excitement to the 17th annual Ohioana Book Festival, which will be presented in person for the first time since 2019. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 22, at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library. The winter *Ohioana Quarterly* will feature a cover story on mysteries set in Ohio, with seven Ohio authors sharing the inspiration and background for their bestselling novels. In May we'll announce the finalists for the 2023 Ohioana Book Awards. The winners will be celebrated this fall at the Ohio Statehouse. It promises to be an exciting year—we look forward to seeing you!

COMING SOON

Author Event: Natalie D. Richards
December 29, 2022,
7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Joseph-Beth
Booksellers, Cincinnati.

New York Times bestselling author Natalie D. Richards discusses and signs copies of *Seven Dirty Secrets*, her latest pulse-pounding YA novel about a girl who goes on a mysterious scavenger hunt. RSVP optional but not required to attend. Free. For more information, visit <https://www.josephbeth.com/event/natalie-d-richards-discussing-and-signing-seven-dirty-secrets>.

Author Event: Stephen Markley
January 20, 2023, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.,
Cuyahoga County Public Library,
Middleburg Heights branch.

Join the library as Stephen Markley visits to discuss his new novel, *The Deluge*, a masterful American epic charting a near future approaching the collapse of society. Markley's acclaimed first novel, *Ohio*, was an Ohioana Book Award finalist. Free. For more information and to register, visit <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/7366246>.

Ohioana Walter Rumsey
Marvin Grant

Applications are now open! This annual competition awards \$1,000 to an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. The application deadline is January 31, 2023. For more information and an application, click on the Marvin link at the bottom of this page: <http://www.ohioana.org/programs/ohioana-book-awards/>.

2022: THE YEAR IN PICTURES



The McConnell Arts Center in Worthington hosted an Ohioana Book Festival panel with authors David Hassler and Donte Woods-Spikes. Here they are joined by Ohioana director David Weaver and MAC director Erin Blue.



The Ohioana Book Awards were presented at the Ohio Statehouse on October 26. Dr. Daniel Shellenbarger emceed the post-awards roundtable with the winners. (Photo: Mary Rathke)



The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) recognized Ohioana with an Honorable Mention in the 2022 NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award.



This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. Alicia Szemprech of the Columbus Foundation presents the 2022 grant to Louise Ling Edwards. (Photo: Mary Rathke)



Author Michelle Houts signs copies of *Barn at Night* for eager young readers at the "Pajama Story Time" at Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers on April 29, presented as part of the 2022 Ohioana Book Festival.

OHIOANA ON THE ROAD!

Country singer Willie Nelson's hit song "On the Road Again" could have applied to the Ohioana Library in 2022. We did more events this past year around the state than we have since our 90th anniversary in 2019.

While the 2022 Ohioana Book Festival was mostly virtual, we presented several outreach events live and in person. The McConnell Arts Center in Worthington hosted a panel discussion with David Hassler and Donte Woods-Spikes. Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers presented a "Pajama Story Time" with Michelle Houts. And the final event of the festival was a talk and book signing with YA authors Mindy McGinnis and Natalie Richards at Paragraphs Bookstore in Mount Vernon.

Ohioana made its first-ever appearance at the University of Findlay in May when Ohio Literary Trail organizer, author, and Ohioana trustee Betty Weibel and Ohioana director David Weaver were presenters at the JustWrite Ohio State Tournament, a creative writing competition. More than two hundred high school students from around the state participated in the finals.

Literary Cleveland's Inkubator Writing Conference is one of the largest free writing conferences in the country. After two years of virtual programs, the 2022 Inkubator Writing Conference was presented in person once again on September 9-10 as part of Cleveland Book Week. Ohioana librarian Courtney Brown and library assistant Miriam Nordine took part in the two-day book fair held as part of the conference.



The Ohioana table at the Inkubator Writing Conference. Ohioana was a partner in the conference, held at Cleveland Public Library.



David Weaver, Little Professor Book Center owner Nicholas Polsinelli, and Ohioana trustees Gillian Berchowitz and John Sullivan at the October 22nd event in Athens.

On October 22, more than two dozen authors and avid readers gathered for Ohioana's first-ever Athens event at Little Professor Book Center, hosted by Gillian Berchowitz, an Ohioana trustee. Berchowitz spoke briefly and then introduced Ohioana director David Weaver, who talked about Ohioana's history and explained how its programs and services can benefit writers in Southeast Ohio and across the state. He credited Berchowitz, the director emerita of Ohio University Press, with helping him create the Ohioana Book Festival in 2007. Among the authors present were novelists Bonnie Proudfoot and John Thorndike, nonfiction author Carolyn Bailey Lewis, and children's author Kathy Elasky.

Last but not least, Paragraphs Bookstore in Mount Vernon hosted an event on October 28 with author Brian Alexander. Readers met Alexander for a reading and book signing of his Ohioana Award-winning book, *The Hospital*.

Events like this exemplify Ohioana's tagline – "Connecting readers and Ohio writers." We look forward to doing more events like these in 2023!