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# Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers

February 2014

# OHIOANA GOES TO THE MOVIES

The long season of Hollywood awards presentations comes to a close on March 2 with the 86th annual Academy Awards. The Ohioana Library, which was founded the same year the first "Oscars" were presented (1929), has honored many Ohio writers and performers whose work won or was nominated for one of the coveted gold statuettes. In celebration of this year's event, we present the following quiz about Ohioana and the movies. Have fun!

- 1. Doris Day (Cincinnati) introduced the Oscar®-winning song *Que sera, sera* in this 1956 thriller produced and directed by the legendary Alfred Hitchcock.
- 2. Ten-year-old Brandon deWilde calls after Alan Ladd in this classic 1953 western film based on a book by Cleveland's Jack Schaeffer.
- 3. In 1960, Jerome Lawrence (Cleveland) and Robert E. Lee (Elyria) had one of their most heralded Broadway plays made into a successful film starring Spencer Tracy, Frederic March, and Gene Kelly. It was loosely based on the

famed Scopes monkey trial of 1925. What was the name of the play and film?

- 4. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of screen legend Tyrone Power (Cincinnati). In 1939 (possibly the single greatest year in film history), Power starred in *The Rains Came*, based on a best-selling novel by Louis Bromfield (Mansfield). In what country is the story set?
- 5. The acclaimed 2013 film *Lee Daniels' The Butler* was based on a 2008 article in the *Washington Post* by this award-winning journalist and author born in Columbus.

BONUS: Ben Stiller starred in the 2013 remake of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, based on the 1939 short story of the same name by James Thurber (Columbus). In the 1947 version of the film, which famous redhead played Mitty?

- A. Arthur Godfrey
- B. Rick Astley
- C. Danny Kaye
- D. Howdy Doody

(Answers on p. 3)

### The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,
February is drawing to a close, and with it Black History Month. At Ohioana, we are celebrating the remarkable African American authors who have come from our state:
Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Virginia Hamilton,
Nikki Giovanni, Rita Dove, Toni Morrison, Sharon Draper, Angela Johnson, Robert Greer, Wil Haygood, and many more. Their works have touched several genera-

Many of these writers, even if they move elsewhere, remain close to Ohio and Ohioana. In Columbus to receive her fifth Ohioana Award in 2010, Rita Dove said, "I love coming back to Ohio. Every time I imagine the scene that I am trying to write at the moment, it is an Ohio scene."

American literature has been enriched by the contributions of these gifted writers, many of whom were trailblazers. Ohioana is proud to have their works as part of our collection and part of our history.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

tions of readers.

## REVIEWS

February is Black History Month! In celebration, we're reviewing two books that provide a unique perspective on the civil rights movement and on the continuing struggle for freedom and equality.



Lewis, J. Patrick. *When Thunder Comes: Poems for Civil Rights Leaders*. Chronicle Books (San Francisco, CA) 2013.

In this collection of poems, renowned Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis celebrates the world's civil rights leaders. Both famous and lesser-known heroes such as Nelson Mandela, Coretta Scott King, Josh Gibson, and Jackie Robinson are brought to life in stunning verses. Each poem tells the story of an activist's struggles and triumphs as they fought to make the world a better place. Beautiful illustrations and a short biography accompany each poem, making this the perfect book to introduce upper elementary readers to civil rights leaders. Adults will surely enjoy Lewis' work, too, and appreciate the care that went into each verse. The poems truly speak for themselves, and are a wonderful way to honor the men and women who dedicated their lives to

justice, equality, and a better future.

Cox, Julian. *Controversy and Hope: The Civil Rights Photographs of James Karales*. Univ. of South Carolina Press (Columbia, SC) 2013.

James Karales was born in 1930 in Canton, Ohio. After graduating from Ohio University, he moved to New York and eventually became a staff photographer for *Look* magazine in 1960. This job not only allowed him to travel the world, but also gave him the opportunity to document the civil rights movement over the course of several years. During this time he developed a professional relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and became one of only a few photographers who were granted access to King's home.

The photographs in *Controversy and Hope* include a range of assignments between 1960 and 1965, culminating with the historic Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights. Karales documented not only the major events of the civil rights movement, but also the preparations leading up to them, including quiet moments with the King family at home. Although the book includes iconic photographs, these images of "small moments" and of individuals during the march help tell a more personal story and provide a rare and moving perspective of events that changed the nation.

# NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in January. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## Nonfiction

Frederickson, Mary E., ed. Gendered Resistance: Women, Slavery, and the Legacy of Margaret Garner. Univ. of Illinois Press (Urbana, IL) 2013. PB \$28. Margaret Garner was an escaped slave who, in 1865, killed her daughter rather than have her forced back into slavery. This collection of essays focuses on women's resistance to slavery and oppression from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century.

Gibans, Nina Freedlander and James D. Gibans. *Cleveland Goes Modern: Design for the Home*, 1930-1970. Kent State Univ. Press

(Kent, OH) 2014. HC \$50. Using more than 150 images and interviews with architects and homeowners, *Cleveland Goes Modern* explores and documents the work of six modernist architects. Based on the award-winning exhibition of the same name, the book makes an important contribution to both regional and national architecture—especially since some of the homes featured in the book no longer exist.

Logsdon, Gene. *Gene Everlasting: A Contrary Farmer's Thoughts on Living Forever.* Chelsea Green Publishing (White River Junction, VT) 2014. HC \$24.95.

Farmer and philosopher Logsdon reflects on the events of his life and his recent bout with cancer, always keeping in mind what farming and nature have taught him about life and death.

Roos, Mike. One Small Town, One Crazy Coach: The Ireland Spuds and the 1963 Indiana High School Basketball Season. Quarry Books/Indiana Univ. Press (Bloomington, IN) 2013. PB \$26.

In 1963, the Ireland Spuds made it to the Sweet Sixteen of Indiana high school basketball with the help of a colorful coach and a heroic cast of players. Roos, whose father was the Ireland High School principal, paints a realistic picture of life in small-town Indiana when basketball was king.

#### **Fiction**

Rival. Dutton/Penguin (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$26.95.
Kate Chase Sprague was born in 1840 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her father, widower Salmon P. Chase, was a member of Lincoln's cabinet and aspired to the presidency himself. When Kate stepped into the role of her father's social hostess, she became the belle of

Washington. Only Mary Todd

had more to lose. Through the stories of these two women,

Lincoln was more powerful—or

Chiaverini, Jennifer. Mrs. Lincoln's

Chiaverini provides a unique look at national politics during the Civil War.

Ellis, Mary. The Quaker and the Rebel. Harvest House Publishers (Eugene, OR) 2014. PB \$13.99. When Emily Harrison loses her Ohio farm to foreclosure at the beginning of the Civil War, she finds work as a governess in Virginia and decides to continue her work with the Underground Railroad there despite the danger. Little does she know that her new employer's nephew, Alexander, is a Southern spy. As the attraction between Emily and Alexander deepens and the war rages around them, can they find a way to overcome their differences?

Flanagan, Robert. Story Hour & Other Stories. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$16. In this collection of short stories, Flanagan follows a group of Midwesterners as they face life's joys and challenges.

Gaus, P. L. *The Names of Our Tears*. Plume/Penguin (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$15.

Sherrif Bruce Robertson investigates the murder of Ruth Zook, who was coerced into becoming a drug mule while visiting Florida's Pinecraft Amish community. When another woman has a similar experience, Robertson must stop the killing before more innocent lives are lost.

Heath, William. *Devil Dancer*. Somondoco Press (Shepherdstown, WV) 2013. PB \$14.95. When the prize stallion Devil Dancer is shot, new detective Wendell Clay volunteers to work the case. His investigation takes him from the rolling hills of the Kentucky Bluegrass region to the mob-run dives of Newport and exposes him to a unique cast of characters as well as the dark side of the human heart.

## **Poetry**

Abbot, Steve, ed. *Common Threads 2013*. Ohio Poetry Association Press (Mansfield, OH) 2013. PB. The first annual edition of *Common Threads*, which showcases work by members of the Ohio Poetry Association.

Gundy, Jeff. *Somewhere Near Defiance: Poems*. Anhinga Press (Tallahassee, FL) 2014. PB \$20. Gundy's sixth book of poetry links local wisdom to distant events and everyday life to sacred callings.

Platz, Judy, ed. *An Act of Courage: Selected Poems of Mort Krahling.* Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$16.

Mort Krahling lived most of his adult life in Kent, Ohio, where he worked multiple jobs and wrote poetry. This collection, culled from the nearly 400 poems he left at the time of his death in 1998, provides both a personal and public history of the town and its people.

#### OHIOANA GOES TO THE MOVIES: ANSWERS

1. The Man Who Knew Too Much 2. Shane 3. Inherit the Wind 4. India 5. Wil Haygood BONUS: Danny Kaye

## LOOKING AHEAD: THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN

To celebrate Women's History
Month, Ohioana is partnering with
The National League of American
Pen Women and the State Library
of Ohio to present "Parallel Arts—
Women Create," an exhibit of
writing, art, and music. Learn about
the NLAPW and the exhibit below!

The National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW), headquartered in Washington D.C., may be the oldest women's arts organization in the country. Founded in 1897, it is a recipient of the Literary Hall of Fame Award and received the George Washington Honor Medal sponsored by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for its collaborative effort to promote an understanding and appreciation of America's rich heritage and unique freedoms.

Notable past members of the NLAPW include authors Pearl

Buck and Eudora Welty; sculptress Vinnie Ream (the only person to sculpt Abraham Lincoln from life just days before his assassination); Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood; and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, lauded as the hardest working active member of NLAPW (with a syndicated column as well as radio broadcasts and speaking engagements). Many members have been Pulitzer Prize winners.

Although the Greater Columbus Chapter of the NLAPW is alive and well today, that has not always been the case. Nearly a decade ago, the Dublin, Columbus, and Central Ohio Chapters were losing faithful, long-time members through the aging process, causing concern for each chapter. A meeting was held among the three chapters with the idea of merging. The NLAPW welcomed the proposal and the Greater Columbus Chapter was born.

The NLAPW's quarterly magazine,

The Pen Woman, is just one venue for the twenty active chapter members to showcase their talents. Others include local and national exhibits, book signings, speaking engagements, and concerts. The purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of the arts and to help promote the NLAPW's mission of outreach and education.

Today, members of the Greater Columbus Chapter continue to carry on the values and mission of the NLAPW and understand the power of words to initiate action, the power of art to move and inspire, and the power of an arranged score to nourish the universal soul.

Additional information about the National League of American Pen Women can be found on its website: <a href="https://www.nlapw.org">www.nlapw.org</a>.

Rosemary Barkes Vice President Greater Columbus Chapter, NLAPW

# **COMING SOON**

Parallel Arts—Women Create March 3-30, 2014 at the State Library of Ohio

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Columbus Chapter of the National League of American Pen Women, in partnership with the Ohioana Library and the State Library of Ohio, is exhibiting works by women artists, authors, and musicians from the Central Ohio area. The exhibit kicks off with a free reception on Friday, March 7 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the State Library. Additional artists' talks will take place Friday, March 14 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 19 from 11:00 a.m.-noon, also at the State Library. For more information about the NLAPW, see the article above.

Hamilton County Author's Tea Spring 2014, Main Library, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Each spring, Ohioana Library founder Martha Kinney Cooper would host a tea for Hamilton County authors at her Cincinnati home. Today, Ohioana and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County continue this tradition by recognizing Hamilton County authors at a ceremony at the Main Library. Details to come!

Ohioana Book Festival May 10, 2014 at the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, Columbus Once again we will host nearly 100 authors at our annual book festival. Announcements about featured authors, participating authors, and programming are coming soon!