

# OHIOana QUARTERLY

OCTOBER 2014 | VOL. 57 NO. 2

**SUPER  
BOYS**

BRAD RICCA

**ETCHED IN CLAY**

LEE & LOW BOOKS

BETH  
OFFMAN

Looking for Me



PAMELA  
DORMAN  
BOOKS  
VIKING

**SKY WARD**

WEST

**THE BULLY PULPIT**

**DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN**



SIMON & SCHUSTER

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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# OHIOana QUARTERLY

October 2014

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,



Welcome to the new *Ohioana Quarterly*!

The Ohioana Library Association celebrates its 85th anniversary this fall. What better time to introduce a fresh new look on a familiar face?

“Connecting readers and Ohio writers” is Ohioana’s tagline. The *Ohioana Quarterly* has done just that since 1958. For more than fifty years, readers have discovered new books, met new authors, and explored Ohio’s rich literary landscape in the pages of the *Quarterly*.

They can continue to do so—now in a magazine format that’s easier to read and that allows more content per page. The new *Quarterly* includes more photos, more color, more features, and more news about literary happenings from around the state. And most important—after several years of producing two double issues annually, I’m pleased to announce that we will once again publish the *Ohioana Quarterly* four times a year.

As I noted, this year marks Ohioana’s 85th anniversary. It was in October, 1929, that Ohio First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper decided that there should be a collection of books by Ohio authors in the Governor’s Mansion. From that simple idea, the Ohioana Library was born. From 300 books received that first year, Ohioana has grown steadily. Eighty-five years later, the collection now holds more than 75,000 items. Our programming has expanded to include awards, the *Quarterly*, and the Ohioana Book Festival. Martha Kinney Cooper would be proud indeed!

The highlight of this anniversary (and every fall) is the presentation of the annual Ohioana Awards, which will take place October 10 at the Ohio Statehouse. You can read about this year’s winners starting on page 4.

We hope you find the new *Ohioana Quarterly* to be fun, entertaining, and informative. We welcome your comments and suggestions and look forward to your feedback.

Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Weaver'.

David Weaver  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

Congratulations to the 2014 Ohioana Book Award winners: *The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin; *Super Boys* by Brad Ricca; *Etched in Clay* by Andrea Cheng; *Sky Ward* by Kazim Ali; and *Looking for Me* by Beth Hoffman.



# 2014 Ohioana Book Awards

The Ohioana Book Awards were established in 1942 to recognize excellence in writing by Ohioans and about Ohio. Each year awards are given to outstanding books in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, juvenile literature, and books about Ohio or an Ohioan. We are pleased to present the 2014 award winners on the following pages.

## FICTION

### *Looking for Me* by Beth Hoffman



Beth Hoffman was born on an elevator during a snowstorm, a story her father enjoyed telling whenever the opportunity arose. For the first five years of her life, she lived (along with her mother, father, and older brother) on her grandparents' farm in northeast Ohio. It was a rural area, and other than a few tolerant garden

toads and a highly social chicken, there wasn't anyone to play with. So Hoffman created imaginary friends. She would draw pictures of them, build them homes out of shoeboxes, and write stories giving them interesting names and complex lives.

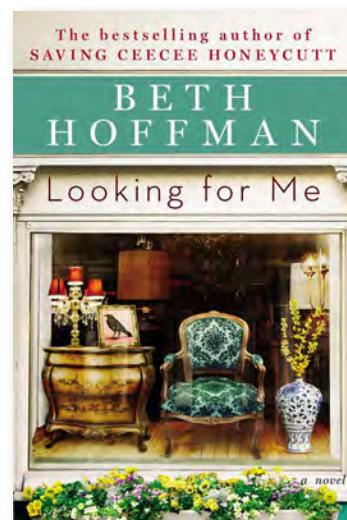
Hoffman loved writing and painting. She wrote her first short story when she was eleven and sold her first painting at the age of fourteen. She believed the sale of the painting was a sign of what direction she should take in life, so she chose to study art. Hoffman built a career in fine art that soon segued into interior design. She ultimately became the president and co-owner of an interior design studio, but still kept writing short stories and dreaming of becoming a novelist.

During the busiest year of her professional life, Hoffman nearly died from a severe infection. After finally being discharged from the hospital, she returned home to convalesce and reevaluate her life. Her dream of writing a novel resurfaced, but there weren't enough hours in the day to fulfill the demands of her career and write a book. However, Hoffman yearned to write so badly that she began crafting newspaper and magazine story ads for the furniture in her shop—stories of who owned the pieces, who stole them, and who fought for them in divorce. The story ads were a huge hit, and she loved creating them, but it wasn't the same as writing a full-length novel.

Then, one snowy January morning in 2004, a stranger called Hoffman's design studio and inquired about the story ads she wrote. He said he and his wife loved them so much they cut them from the newspaper and taped them to their refrigerator. He wondered if Hoffman ever considered writing a book. Like an unexpected gust of fresh air, his words blew the door wide open. Hoffman knew if she were to write a novel, it had to be then or never. She chose then.

That April, Hoffman sold her portion of the design business and began to write. She typed "The End" of *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* nearly four years later, and to her surprise and delight, the book went on to be a *New York Times* and international bestseller. Three years later *Looking for Me* launched and was also a *New York Times* bestseller. Rights have sold to eleven foreign countries.

If there's a moral to Hoffman's story it's this: take a chance, embrace your dreams, forgive, let go, and move on. Oh, and there's one more thing: be mindful of the words of strangers.



## NONFICTION

### ***Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster—The Creators of Superman***

by Brad Ricca



A writer, poet, and filmmaker, Brad Ricca was born in a western suburb of Cleveland. He attended Miami University for a B.A. in English, Ohio University for an M.A. in English, and Case Western Reserve University for a Ph.D. in English. He is currently a SAGES Fellow at Case Western Reserve University, where he teaches classes on comics, popular culture, and biography and is a recipient of the Richard A. Bloom, M.D. Award for Distinguished Teaching. He also teaches at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

*Super Boys* is the first literary biography of the creators of Superman. It draws on nearly ten years of research in dusty libraries and secret comics hoards to uncover the story of Cleveland teenagers who, in the midst of the Great Depression, created a global icon.

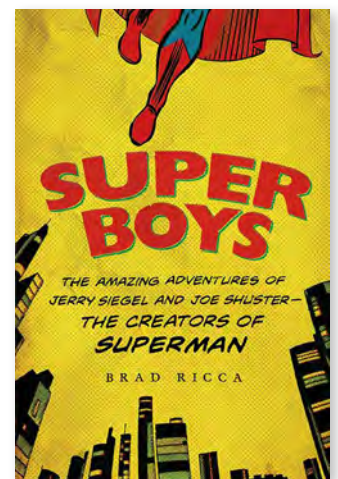
As a lifelong Clevelander and comics reader, Ricca was told from a young age that Superman had been created by two local boys. He never believed it, but the story always stuck with him. Years later, he would return to the story as an adult in an attempt to figure out how they did it. What he found was nearly unbelievable: that the story of Superman was almost an autobiography of two poor kids in a last-ditch effort to make it big. Superman was not created in a vacuum; he was carefully and deliberately pieced together like a puzzle spread out across the floor—a puzzle meant to make sense of the world and

to save it from itself. Jerry and Joe didn't come up with Superman; they just welded him together from existing parts.

Among scores of new discoveries, the book reveals the first stories and pictures ever published by the two, where the first Superman story really came from, the real inspiration for Lois Lane, the template for the colorful costume, and much more. *Super Boys* also tracks the boys' unknown, often mysterious lives after they left Superman as they fought for decades to regain the rights to a multimillion dollar character—which they sold away for \$130. The book was named a Top 10 Book about the Arts for 2013 by *Booklist*, a Book-of-the-Month by Amazon, a "Must Summer Read" by the *Los Angeles Times*, a Best of 2013 by the *Columbus Dispatch*, and was featured in *The New Yorker*.

Ricca has spoken about comics and popular culture in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Boston Globe*, and on NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has given talks at The Maltz Museum of Jewish History and the legendary Comic-Con International: San Diego, along with numerous schools and conferences from Oxford to Kyoto. He has contributed essays to various books about comics and has written academic articles about Emily Dickinson, Herman Melville, William Faulkner, and other American authors. He writes an online column about comics history called "Unassuming Barber Shop" for *The Beat* and is a regular contributor to *StarWars.com*.

Ricca won the St. Lawrence Book Award for his first book of poetry, *American Mastodon*, which was featured on *The Rumpus* as well as *A Writer's Almanac with Garrison Keillor*. His documentary film, *Last Son*, screened all over the world and won a Silver Ace Award at the Las Vegas International Film Festival. He also won a prestigious Cleveland Arts Prize in Literature for Emerging Artist of 2014.





## ABOUT OHIO

### ***The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism***

by Doris Kearns Goodwin



Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Goodwin is the author of six critically acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling books, including her most recent, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*. *The Bully Pulpit* is a

dynamic history of the first decade of the Progressive era, that tumultuous time when the nation was coming unseamed and reform was in the air. Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks Studios has acquired the film rights to the book.

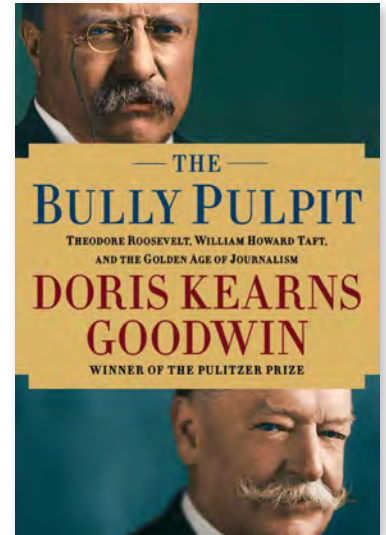
Spielberg and Goodwin previously worked together on *Lincoln*, based in part on Ms. Goodwin's award-winning *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. The book illuminates Lincoln's political genius as the one-term congressman and prairie lawyer who rose from obscurity to prevail over three gifted rivals of national reputation to become president. The film *Lincoln* grossed \$275 million at the box office and earned twelve Academy Award® nominations.

Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*, and is the author of the bestsellers *Wait Till Next Year*, *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*, and *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, which was adapted into an award-winning five-part TV miniseries.

Goodwin is well known for her appearances and commentary on television, where she is seen frequently on NBC, MSNBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, CNN, *The Charlie Rose Show*, and *Meet the Press*. Other appearances include *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *The Colbert Report*, *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, and many more. Goodwin has served as a consultant and has been interviewed extensively for PBS's and the History Channel's documentaries on LBJ, the Kennedy family, Franklin Roosevelt, Abraham and Mary Lincoln, and Ken Burns's *The History of Baseball* and *The Civil War*.

Goodwin earned a Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University, where she taught government, including a course on the American presidency. She served as an assistant to President Lyndon Johnson in his last year in the White House, and later assisted President Johnson in the preparation of his memoirs. Goodwin is the winner of the Charles Frankel Prize, given by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Sarah Josepha Hale medal; and the Lincoln Prize.

Goodwin resides in Concord, Massachusetts with her husband, the writer, presidential advisor, speechwriter, and playwright Richard N. Goodwin. She was the first woman to enter the Boston Red Sox locker room and is a devoted fan of the World Series-winning team.



## POETRY

### *Sky Ward* by Kazim Ali

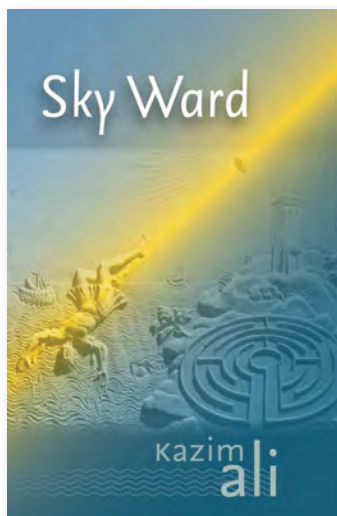


Kazim Ali has worked as a political organizer, lobbyist, and yoga instructor. He is currently on the faculty of Oberlin College, where he teaches in the Creative Writing and Comparative Literature departments.

Ali's volumes of poetry include *Sky Ward*, *The Far*

*Mosque*, *The Fortieth Day*, and the poetic memoir *Bright Felon: Autobiography and Cities*, which was a finalist for the Ohioana Book Award in Poetry, the Lantern Award in Memoir, and the Asian American Literary Award. He has also published the novels *Quinn's Passage*, named one of the Best Books of 2005 by Chronogram; *The Disappearance of Seth*; and *Wind Instrument*. He is the author of three collections of essays: *Orange Alert: Essays on Poetry, Art and the Architecture of Silence*; *Resident Alien: On Border Crossing and the Undocumented Divine*; and *Fasting for Ramadan: Notes from a Spiritual Practice*. He is the translator of *Water's Footfall* and *Oasis of Now: Selected Poems*, both by Sohrab Sepehri, as well as the novel *L'Amour* by Marguerite Duras.

He is the founding editor of the small press Nightboat Books and is the series editor for the *Poets on Poetry* series from the University of Michigan Press.



## JUVENILE

### *Etched in Clay: The Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet* by Andrea Cheng



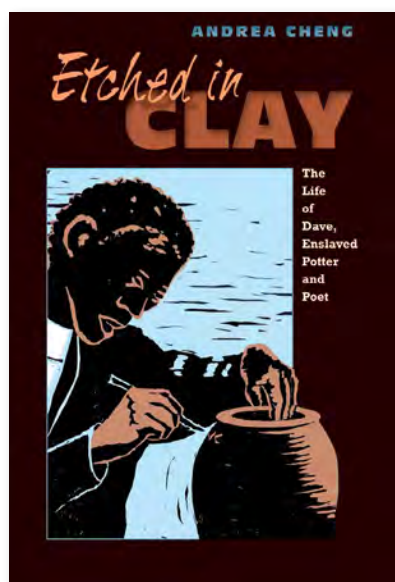
Andrea Cheng grew up close to downtown Cincinnati with her parents and extended family members. Her parents were Holocaust survivors from Hungary; as a child, Cheng listened to their stories from underneath the dining room table where she liked to hide. Very early on, she became aware of issues of prejudice, civil rights, race, and class. She attended Cincinnati public schools, where she had many excellent teachers. She is especially grateful to her elementary teachers, one of whom told her in sixth grade that she had a talent for writing. From then on, Cheng decided that someday she would become a published writer. Her parents encouraged her by reading her early stories and providing opportunities for her to explore all the arts. She loved making figures out of clay, sewing, and drawing.

Later, when Cheng was trying to publish her work, her mother took on the task of “bookkeeper” and kept track of where the stories had been sent and where they had been rejected. Her sister, who teaches second grade in downtown Cincinnati, shared the stories with her students. After ten years of rejection letters and countless revisions, Cheng finally published her first title, *Grandfather Counts*, in 2000 with Lee and Low, a publisher of multicultural children's books.

Cheng studied English literature and Chinese at Cornell University, where she received a Master's degree in linguistics. She and her family have traveled to both Budapest and Shanghai to get to know their extended families. Some of Cheng's books draw on her background as the child of Hungarian immigrants as well as the background of her husband, the son of immigrants from China. Others draw on the lives of her children growing

up in inner-city Cincinnati, where she and her husband now live. In addition to writing books for children, Cheng teaches English as a Second Language at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

Cheng is the author of several award-winning books for children and young adults. Her first novel, *Marika*, was selected by the city of Cincinnati for “On the Same Page,” a citywide reading program. *Honeysuckle House*, *Anna the Bookbinder*, and *Shanghai Messenger* received Parent’s Choice Awards. *Grandfather Counts* was featured on *Reading Rainbow*. *Where the Steps Were*, the first book that Cheng has both written and illustrated, received starred reviews in both *Publisher’s Weekly* and *Kirkus*. *The Year of the Book*, a Junior Library Guild selection, was reviewed in *The New York Times*. This chapter book features Anna Wang, a fourth grader who loves to read and sometimes has trouble making friends. Readers can follow Anna Wang in fifth, sixth, and seventh grades in *The Year of the Baby*, *The Year of the Fortune Cookie*, and *The Year of the Three Sisters* (coming in 2015). Cheng’s book *Etched in Clay*, a biography in verse of Dave the Potter, received the



Lee Bennett Hopkins award for children’s poetry (2014) as well as starred reviews in both *Kirkus* and *School Library Journal*. Recently, Cheng has been writing creative non-fiction for young people. She is currently working on a biography in verse of daguerreotypist J.P. Ball, a free man of color who lived in Cincinnati from about 1825-1855.

## 2014 Ohioana Book Award Finalists

### Fiction

*Sandcastle and Other Stories*

by Justin Bog

*Julia & Rodrigo* by Mark Brazaitis

*Middle C* by William H. Gass

*The History of Us* by Leah Stewart

*The Promise* by Ann Weisgarber

### Nonfiction

*Mr. Joe* by Joseph Barnett and Jane Congdon

*Marie Antoinette’s Head* by Will Bashor

*John J. Gilligan* by Mark Bernstein

*Alexander Wilson* by Edward H. Burt Jr. and William E. Davis Jr.

*Cleveland’s West Side Market* by Laura Taxel and Marilou Suszko

*Washed Away* by Geoff Williams

### About Ohio

*Spectrality in the Novels of Toni*

*Morrison* by Melanie R. Anderson

*Ida McKinley* by Carl Sferrazza Anthony

*Glorious War* by Thom Hatch

*When Core Values Are Strategic* by Rick Tocquigny with Andy Butcher

### Poetry

*Hunger to Hunger: Hungry/Foame* by David Baker

*Chasing Utopia* by Nikki Giovanni

*Hemming the Water* by Yona Harvey

*In the Present Tense* by Myrna Stone

### Juvenile Literature

*Fat Angie* by e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

*Washashore* by Suzanne Goldsmith

*Love Disguised* by Lisa Klein

*When Thunder Comes* by J. Patrick Lewis

*Not a Drop to Drink* by Mindy McGinnis



# The Glass Eye by Jeannie Vanasco

An excerpt from the 2014 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant Winner

The hero is a feeling, a man seen  
As if the eye was an emotion,  
As if in seeing we saw our feeling  
In the object seen . . .

—From “Examination of the Hero in a Time of War” by Wallace Stevens

My parents and I were playing a game we called The Memory Game. The goal was to find among all the cards two that matched. I was four. It was my father’s turn.

I waited what felt like a long time for him to choose a card when, finally, I turned one over for him: an open door with nothing on the other side.

“What am I looking for?” he said.

I could see him as he looked at me, looking as if he were looking through me. My mother and I followed him to a mirror and watched him close one eye, then the other. When the right eye closed I disappeared.

“I close my right eye,” he said, “and I can’t see Jeannie.”

I closed my left eye, then my right, in that game of illusions that moves objects, moving my father an inch each time.

I remember almost nothing before The Memory Game. It is as if my life begins there. Years of it are full of shadows, but the night I disappeared is full of light.

And yet, not until he died fourteen Novembers later did my memory of that night return.

By then he had lost his left vocal cord, his left eye, part of his intestines. For cause of death, the coroner wrote “throat cancer.”

“He had to write something,” my mother says.

I also have to write something, but I refuse to simplify.

My father deserves so much more.

Almost every day my mother and I talk on the phone, and almost every day we talk about my father. She still lives in Ohio, in the house he died in. I live in New York, not far from the house where he was born. He died more than ten years ago.

Just as I have no idea why he died exactly—“He had so many things wrong with him,” my mother tells me—I have no idea why he lost his eye.

“Degenerative eye disease maybe?” she says on the phone. “Advanced glaucoma? The doctor said it happens to something like one in a million people.”

“What happened exactly?”

“Your dad’s tear ducts were closed and clotted with blood, and the doctors couldn’t get them to drain. I don’t know what you call it.”

“Try to remember.”

“I can’t.”

In the photos that I have of my father, he is almost always looking at me, never at the camera. It made it difficult to choose his obituary photo; my mother and I were cropped out of it.

In the original photo, the three of us are at the kitchen table. My father is sixty-six, my mother is forty-six, and I am four. In a month, at that same wooden table, his left eye will stop working, but in the photo his eyes are fine—a deep brown so piercing they seem to look right inside you and know you. What hair he has is white and blends in with the white curtains behind him. His olive skin shows wrinkles. His forehead and cheeks have the greasy shine familiar to Sicilians. He looks strong, thick-waisted but not fat. He is wearing belted gray slacks and a crisp white button-down shirt. Underneath his shirt, he likely is wearing his gold necklace of the holy family. He is standing behind my mother, leaning in and smiling. She is smiling, holding me on her lap. With her clear tan skin and thick curly blond hair, she looks young enough, is young enough, to be his daughter.

And then there is me. At four years old, I want one blue eye the shade of my mother’s, and one brown eye the shade that my father and I share. But in a month, his eye doctor will tell me, “You have your dad’s eyes,” and those words will fill me with

pride and I will never want a blue eye again. My wavy brown hair is pulled into a ponytail tied with a blue ribbon. My father likely tied that ribbon. When I was a child, he did my hair—trimmed, brushed, and often braided it. He had been a barber when he was young, and throughout my childhood he seemed young.

Not once did I look at him and see an old man. Worried that other children would tease me about his age, he tried to color his hair dark brown the year I started school; it turned deep red, and he wore a hat everywhere—including home.

That he ever thought I could be ashamed of him hurts.

I remember one visit to my father's eye doctor, and only one—even though my mother tells me there were more.

"We brought you with us because your dad didn't trust anyone to watch you," she says, "and I had to drive him. He was in so much pain, but he wouldn't tell anyone he was in pain. 'That pain of his must be excruciating,' his doctor told me."

I remember my father sitting in the middle of a white room, peering into a coal-black lens machine with his left eye. A circle of lights shone over him. I sat at my mother's feet with a coloring book.

"I don't see nothing," my father said.

His doctor leaned cautiously into him, prodding the eye with a wand of light.

"You asked for a crayon the color of nothing," my mother says.

I remember the doctor leaving the

room and returning with a nurse. She motioned for me to follow her into the hallway. I did, and she closed the door behind us.

"Your grandfather is a brave man," she said.

She told me to stay where I was and disappeared into another room before I could say, "He's my dad."

I cracked open the door and looked at him. The doctor was pressing a needle into the eye, and my father didn't flinch.

"How did Dad accept the loss of his eye?" I ask my mother. "Did he accept it?"

"Yes, I think so. I don't know if you remember how he used to throw up constantly and couldn't walk up and down the steps. We had that sofa bed in the living room and he had to sleep down there all the time. It was like a pressure that built in his eye. He either had to live with it or have the eye taken out. So he said, 'Let's have the eye taken out.'"

I remember the hospital felt a long way from home.

I remember we stopped on the way and ate hamburgers in what used to be a bank. Chandeliers hung above us.

"Do you remember the priest in his room, the other patient?" she asks.

"No."

"The priest told your dad, 'I don't know if I could accept that,' and your dad said, 'Well, what makes the difference if I accept it? It's not going to change it.' He was very brave about it. Your dad was very brave."

We returned home in our rusted brown van the same day of his surgery. I closed my left eye for most of the drive. I remember snow-covered fields rushing by.

"I'm surprised Dad was able to drive after his surgery," I tell my mother.

"I drove," she says. "He didn't drive. He couldn't drive."

"I thought he drove."

"No, I remember that trip. Your dad told you, 'You've been so good. We can do anything you want.' You told him you wanted your ears pierced. For months, he'd said you were too young for earrings, and for months after that he drove you to the mall to get your ears pierced. Each time—at least a dozen times—you covered your ears at the sight of that ear gun. So he said, 'If we go, you have to see it through this time.' You said, 'I can do it.' I'll never forget the scene you made in the jewelry store that day."

I remember the "piercing station"—a tall chair beside a mirror framed by light bulbs—sat in the front of the store. I navigated my way between the white turning stands of earrings. I told a woman behind the counter that I wanted my ears pierced. She led me to the chair where my parents were waiting. I stared up at my father's eyepatch as he lifted me onto the chair. The woman showed me a cardboard display of birthstone earrings. I pointed at a green pair.

"Those are for May," my mother said, and immediately I wanted them. My father was born in May. "Blue is for March."

The woman removed a blue pair from a drawer. My mother left and

returned with another woman. My mother explained that the women would pierce both my ears at once.

“It’ll be over with sooner that way,” she said.

I closed my eyes, and my father held my hands. I told him I had changed my mind.

“He told you, ‘If we leave, this is it. We’re not coming back.’ You started crying,” my mother says. “You still wanted your ears pierced, but you went on begging the women not to hurt you. Your dad squeezed your hands. You were wailing, wailing that you wanted your ears pierced. I walked away, embarrassed. Some guy says to me outside the store, ‘Look at that old man making that girl get her ears pierced.’ I just smiled. I pretended not to know either one of you.”

“Three,” the women said. “Two. One.”

I heard a loud click.

When I opened my eyes, my father was crying.

“Here he had his eye removed,” my mother says. “Didn’t cry about that. You get all worked up about having your ears pierced and then he breaks down. You remember what you told him? He told me afterward.”

“Don’t cry, Dad,” I said. “It didn’t hurt.”

Next, I remember a woman painting my father’s new eye. Spools of red thread, shiny blades, small jars of paint, and brushes thinner than my watercolor brushes sat at her long desk.

She explained that the new eye should look like, rather than be, an exact match because no one’s eyes match perfectly.

As she painted, she looked at my father’s real eye, then down at the glass eye, then back at his real eye. Meanwhile, I practiced drawing my father’s eye in my coloring book.

“What do you think?” she asked me when it was finished.

I looked at my father, then down at his new eye.

“Am I remembering right?” I ask my mother. “Did I watch someone paint Dad’s new eye?”

“You watched,” my mother says. “And I remember what you said when it was done: ‘It looks real.’”

I often forgot, until he died, that his left eye was artificial, but I see now how it mattered, how it affected the father he was.

“He felt so guilty about it,” my mother says. “He wanted to keep building you toys and shelves. He wanted to prove himself. One morning—this was a few weeks after his surgery—he started building you a dollhouse. I was washing dishes when he came inside with a piece of wood stuck in his stomach. ‘I almost lost my hand,’ he told me. You weren’t there. You were in school.”

“Was it serious?” I ask.

“The wood wasn’t in deep. I helped him pull it out. But it hurt his confidence.”

I now remember our next garage sale. His table saw sat on a table with the clothes I had outgrown. I was assigning prices with our sticker gun.

“How much for the saw?” I asked him.

The question seemed so inconsequential then.

“He really went downhill after he sold that saw,” my mother says.

“He continued building things though,” I tell her.

“But he couldn’t make the cuts himself.”

Sometimes even he forgot he had a glass eye.

I remember, with my mother’s help, when the time came to renew his driver’s license. It was May, almost his sixty-seventh birthday. Six months had passed since he lost his eye. My father stared into the vision test machine; it looked like a tiny white telescope.

“That day,” my mother says, “I won’t forget it. We’re at the DMV. They’re testing his eyes. He tells the woman behind the machine, ‘The machine isn’t turned on.’ She apologizes, fools around with it, says, ‘It should now be on.’ So he looks again. ‘I still don’t see nothing,’ he tells her. So he says to me, ‘Barb, you look in.’ So I do. ‘I can see in,’ I tell him. There’s this pause, and then he says to the woman, ‘Oh I forgot. I have a glass eye.’ You should’ve seen that woman’s face. She says, ‘You’ll have to excuse me. I’m going to wet my pants,’ and runs off. Everyone in the DMV’s laughing. Your dad was laughing. He really did forget. He



had a sense of humor about it. But he worried about how the eye affected you.”



“I can’t see out of my left eye,” I once told him. I was four, maybe five. “Do you think I need a glass eye?”

“Are you lying?” he asked gently.

He lifted my chin, looked into my eyes, and I apologized for my first lie.

“I just want to be like you,” I said.



And what was he like? Who was he then—to me?

He was home.

When I was born, he retired from his painting job at the hospital where he and my mother met. His legs were bad, and his doctors had insisted he quit working. After my mother returned there, to her job in medical records, she cried because I would cry without him near me.

“You only wanted him,” my mother says. “You wouldn’t stop crying unless you had him. You wouldn’t let me put you to bed, read you stories. You were with him all day. You were used to him. I’d call from work and ask what he was doing. ‘I’m making Jeannie animals out of paper.’ Or ‘I’m teaching Jeannie how to twirl spaghetti.’” She pauses. “He saw how unhappy I was. ‘She needs her mother,’ he told me. So I agreed to quit working. You were a year old. I was worried about money, but he said we could make do on his retirement and Social Security.”

And we did. No one could say I did without. I had dogs and turtles and bunnies. I attended private school. I practiced ballet at a dance

studio near the lake, learned how to paint fish and birds on Saturdays in an artist’s home. Every month, I accompanied my father to the bank where he bought savings bonds in my name “for your college someday,” he said. Only later would I notice the holes in his socks.

He transformed our house into a magical place. Our garage was his magician’s hat. My mother often helped him carry out new, amazing objects: bookshelves taller than them, rose arches, birdhouses with as many as eight different entrances, dollhouses shaped like our house. Too enormous to fit through our back door, my favorite dollhouse required him to remove the door from its hinges. In the summer months, the dollhouse stayed outside. One day he mounted it on wheels.

“A mobile home,” he called it.

The roof, made of real asphalt like ours, lifted off to reveal an attic. He added screens and shutters to all the windows. He wallpapered each room. He used free samples of linoleum and carpet from a local flooring store; the saleswoman assumed we were redecorating our house. He even made a staircase and cut a hole in the second floor.

“I don’t want to make your dolls have to fly from floor to floor,” he said.

Before our garage sales, I parked the dollhouse out of view, usually on our back porch. At one sale, however, a woman noticed the dollhouse from our driveway. I was walking around with my sticker gun, lowering prices, when I noticed her playing with the blue shutters. I ran over.

“This for sale?” she asked.

“No,” I told her. “My dad made it.”

She removed a pen and checkbook from her purse and offered me a thousand dollars.

“It’s not for sale,” I said.

“Where’s your dad?”

I pointed at him.

“That old man in the eyepatch?”

“He made it,” I said, “and with only one eye.”

She stooped and patted me on the shoulder.

“You’re very lucky,” she said and walked away.

My father came over and asked what she had wanted. I told him.

“Go get her! I’ll make you a new one.”

But she had already left.

He even built a one-room house for me in the backyard; he fenced in a private yard behind it and taught me how to manage my own garden. He made our red picket fence out of scrap wood from a lumberyard where, on its opening day, I rode a pony and won a goldfish.

Passers-by slowed down their cars and pointed at our yard. Finches always seemed to be splashing in our birdbaths, and strange colorful flowers appeared unexpectedly.

“Did you plant that?” my parents asked one another.

The answer was often no.

Strangers stopped their cars to take a closer look. One day a man stopped without intending. I was in the middle of the driveway,

practicing how to ride a bike. My father stood close by, but when he spotted a car speeding toward our corner, he shouted and ran toward it. The driver slammed his brakes. I chased after my father and watched as he reached one hand through the driver's open window and said, "You'd be worth going to prison for." He pointed at me, and then at the stop sign. That evening, he began building a long lattice fence to stretch across our driveway. A few days later, he mounted the fence on wheels. He demonstrated how it worked. My mother and I clapped.

And who was I—to him?

When I think of the fence, I think of the child he lost.

Her name was Jeanne.

Not once did my father mention Jeanne in my eighteen years with him. I first learned about her from my mother when I was eight.

I was dancing in my bedroom with an unlit candle when she called me downstairs. My teacher, Sister Paulina, had asked three second-grade girls to lead our First Communion ceremony with a dance. The dance required me to hold a candle above my head, and I was

terrified of setting the church on fire. I practiced at home every day for a month.

When I walked into the living room, my father was in his chair, holding a small white box. As my mother explained that he had a dead daughter named Jeanne (pronounced the same as my name) "without an i," he opened the box and looked away. Inside was a medal Jeanne received from a church "for being a good person," my mother said. My father said nothing. I sensed that I should not ask any questions.

Later that day, in the basement, my mother told me Jeanne had died in a car accident. I sat on the steps as my mother folded clothes and confided what she knew.

Two other girls were in the car. The car could seat three people in front. Jeanne sat between the driver and the other passenger. The driver tried to pass a car, then hesitated and tried to pull back into her lane. She lost control and the car crashed. Jeanne was the only one who died.

"Your father blames himself," my mother said. "He can't talk about it."

"Why?" I asked.

"He gave her permission to go out that night."

Jeanne had asked him if she could see a movie with her friends. He asked what her mother had said. "She said to ask you." He said it was fine, she could see the movie. He had no idea his first wife already had said no. He and his first wife weren't speaking.

"Did you know his first wife?" I asked.

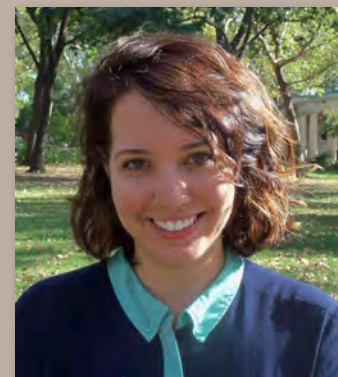
"No, he was divorced long before I met him."

"What did Jeanne look like?"

My mother said she had never seen a photo.

That week I painted portraits of Jeanne in watercolor. I titled them "Jeanne." My art teacher told me she was disappointed that such a good student could misspell her name. From then on, I included an *i*.

The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant is awarded each year to a writer, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. The 2014 Marvin Grant winner, Jeannie Vanasco, was born and raised in Sandusky, Ohio. She studied journalism and creative writing on full scholarship at Northwestern University and graduated from New York University's MFA poetry program fully funded. She was the first person in her family to attend college. She is a 2014 Emerging Poets Fellow at Poets House and a 2014 recipient of the Amy Prize from *Poets & Writers*. Her writing appears in the *Believer*, *The New York Times Book Review*, a McSweeney's anthology, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere.



# An Interview with Mindy McGinnis

by Ellen McDevitt-Stredney



Mindy McGinnis's journey to literary success fits with the survival theme of her first two young adult novels; the Ohio author wrote for ten years before her book *Not a Drop to Drink* was published in 2013. The book, which tells the story of a young woman's struggle for survival in a future with little fresh water, is a 2014 Ohioana Book Award finalist and a 2015-2016 Choose to Read Ohio

selection. A follow-up book, *In a Handful of Dust*, was released in September.

In addition to working as a librarian, McGinnis also writes the popular *Writer, Writer, Pants on Fire* blog, which features interviews with authors and agents and provides advice to aspiring writers. She took the time to talk with us about writing, publishing her second book, and the publication process.

**Q** : You wrote for ten years before you got an agent and published your first book, *Not a Drop to Drink*. Your website states that you grew up in the woods and had a deep desire to survive out there on your own. How do you think that desire relates to your story as a writer? The theme of your first book is family, survival, and knowing yourself. Do you believe this reflects your writing career in any way, or your own personal strengths?

**A** : I spent a lot of time in the woods as a kid, and grew up reading Laura Ingalls Wilder. Survival has always been an interesting theme to me, and it seems that many characters in books have the odds stacked against them. They never back down, and you don't hear any success stories about people who decided to quit, do you? Having my mind planted in fiction at a young age taught me that perseverance can pay off.

**Q** : How is the publication of your second book, *In a Handful of Dust*, different from the first?

**A** : I've lost the debut jitters. I know more about what is expected of me, and what I can expect when I participate in events. As a debut I think I had an idea in my mind of people lining up to buy books and get them signed. In reality you're lucky if five people show and you're not related to any of them. But I'm grateful to see those five!

**Q** : You mentioned in an interview with K.C. Maguire that *In a Handful of Dust* is not a sequel, but a companion book to the first. Did you originally have both books in mind during the writing of the first? How many projects do you have going on at one time?

**A** : I wrote *Drink* as a standalone, because I knew that the market was saturated with trilogies. It was really well received and HarperCollins asked if I had an idea for another one. *Drink* takes place over a few miles in Ohio, and the question of what the rest of the country looks like had come up before in interviews. So, I moved forward in time ten years to use a different character as the focus, and set her on a journey towards California—on foot.

**Q** : You have some control over the covers for your books, which is unusual for writers early in their careers. Why was this important to you? Was it difficult to negotiate?

**A** : I don't know if I have control so much as I'm fortunate to work with a publisher that wants my input. I also can come at everything not just as an author having an emotional reaction to her work, but as a YA librarian. They listen to my viewpoints, and—they agree—implement my ideas. I don't know that it's a negotiated point so much as a culmination of people working together towards a shared goal.

**Q** : You have three other novels that you wrote before *Not a Drop to Drink*, and they went unpublished. I can imagine that is a tough exertion for a writer. What would you say you took away from the writing of those first three novels?



**A** : I took away from it that I'm not the bright, shining genius I thought I was. Those first three novels are really, really bad. I've re-read them, and I was making very basic mistakes. I'm actually thrilled they were never published because they are very much practice exercises rather than fully formed novels.

**Q** : You've said, "Fiction is made-up, but everything is based off something." You also advise other writers to research topics that spark their interest. Your novel *Not a Drop to Drink* was inspired by a documentary; what other things or places inspire you? Have you ever struck inspiration at your library?

**A** : I'm always reading—fiction, non-fiction, magazine articles—you name it. Sometimes you'll see something that buries a seed, and what grows out of it might be an entirely different plant than you expected. Reading about science and history are two things that are endlessly entertaining; the truth is much, much stranger than fiction. The only thing I've ever been struck by in my library is jealousy when I read a cover flap and see what a fantastic, original idea someone else had!

**Q** : Can you describe your relationship with your agent? You speak openly about how much you trust your agent and how much success you've had with her. What would you say is most important in a writer-agent relationship?

**A** : I trust her completely, and she respects my opinion. We're a good team because she lets me have my head and push the boundaries with my writing, but I respect her opinion when she lets me know where/when to rein it in. We definitely share literary interests. My writing is quite dark, and I knew I had to find an agent that wasn't going to ask me to lighten things up a bit to make it more sellable. The most important thing in the relationship is trust and mutual respect.

**Q** : After a writer gains an agent, and the manuscript is sent out, there is a waiting period to hear back. Can you describe your feelings during that waiting period? Were you nervous or confident? Did the feelings change with your second book?

**A** : I don't know if you're allowed to print the words that describe my feelings during that waiting period. Seriously, it was a really horrible time. I was on

subs to publishing houses for about six months, which is a fairly long time. After ten years searching for an agent, these were supposed to be my glory days... and all I was doing was biting my nails and refreshing my emails. I was definitely nervous, but yes, that changes as you get used to the process. A lot of good books don't make it past submission, so to get four pushed through has taught me that it takes more than a good writer with a good book. You start with those things, but then you have to add a dedicated agent, an enthusiastic editor, and a whole team of people at a publishing house behind the manuscript in order for it to make it to publication. If you have books that don't make the cut (I've had one), it's the norm.

**Q** : What made you so driven to lend a helping hand to other writers? To anyone who is aspiring to become a writer, what would you say is essential for him or her to do?

**A** : When I first started blogging a few years ago, I looked around to see what I could do to make my blog stand out from the glut of book blogs. It used to be that everyone had an opinion—now everyone has an opinion and a blog. Just like with writing a novel, if I wanted my blog to succeed I had to offer something different. So I built a blog that provides information to aspiring writers—the kind that I was looking for when I was trying to get published. I didn't want to read manuals; I wanted real stories from people who had been there and made it happen for them.

The essential thing to know about writing is that you have to do your homework if you want to succeed. It's a business, and you have to learn the business before you can become one of the cogs that produces a book. The time of a solitary writer who mails in their manuscript and talks to three people a year is past. You're expected to be a writer, and a promoter, and a marketer. Learn how to be all these things.

**Mindy McGinnis's second book, *In a Handful of Dust*, is in stores now.**



# Recipe

## Graham Cracker Ice Cream

Makes about 1 quart

2 2/3 cups whole milk  
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons  
cornstarch  
2 ounces (4 tablespoons) cream  
cheese, softened  
1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt  
1 1/2 cups heavy cream  
3/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup light corn syrup  
1/2 cup roughly chopped (1/4-  
inch pieces) graham crackers,  
preferably Annie's Honey Bunny

**PREP:** Mix about 2 tablespoons  
of the milk with the cornstarch in  
a small bowl to make a smooth  
slurry.

Whisk the cream cheese and salt  
in a medium bowl until smooth.

Fill a large bowl with ice and  
water.

**COOK:** Combine the remaining  
milk, the cream, sugar, and corn  
syrup in a 4-quart saucepan, bring  
to a boil over medium-high heat,  
and boil for 4 minutes. Remove  
from the heat and gradually whisk  
in the cornstarch slurry. Bring  
the mixture back to a boil over  
medium-high heat and cook,  
stirring with a heatproof spatula,  
until slightly thickened, about 1  
minute. Remove from the heat.

**CHILL:** Gradually whisk the  
hot milk mixture into the cream  
cheese until smooth. Add the  
crackers and allow the mixture to

steep until the crackers dissolve,  
about 3 minutes. Force the mixture  
through a sieve, then pour it into  
a 1-gallon Ziploc freezer bag and  
submerge the sealed bag in the ice  
bath. Let stand, adding more ice  
as necessary, until cold, about 30  
minutes.

**FREEZE:** Remove the frozen  
canister from the freezer, assemble  
your ice cream machine, and turn  
it on. Pour the ice cream base into  
the frozen canister and spin until  
thick and creamy.

Pack the ice cream into a storage  
container. Press a sheet of  
parchment directly against the  
surface and seal with an airtight  
lid. Freeze in the coldest part of  
your freezer until firm, at least 4  
hours.

### VARIATIONS

**Animal Cracker Ice Cream:** For an  
ice cream that is both familiar and  
indescribably delicious, substitute  
animal crackers for the graham  
crackers.

**Blue Cheese Graham Cracker Ice  
Cream:** Substitute Gorgonzola  
dolce for the cream cheese. The  
result will be a little saltier, and the  
cheese will bring out the caramel  
notes.

Excerpted from *Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream  
Desserts* by Jeni Britton Bauer (Artisan  
Books). Copyright © 2014. Photographs  
by Kelsey McClellan.

## SIMPLY SPLENDID

Jeni Britton Bauer opened her  
first ice-cream shop in 1996 in  
Columbus, Ohio's North Market.  
Today, Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams  
has shops in six major cities and  
is sold by more than 1,000 retail  
partners.

Bauer's first cookbook, *Jeni's  
Splendid Ice Creams at Home*,  
was designed to help home cooks  
recreate the unique flavors and  
texture of her signature ice creams.  
Her newest cookbook, *Jeni's  
Splendid Ice Cream Desserts*,  
expands on this with more than 100  
recipes for not only ice cream, but  
also baked desserts, sauces, and  
toppings.

*Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream Desserts*  
is available in stores now. See the  
review on p. 17.



# Book Reviews

## NONFICTION

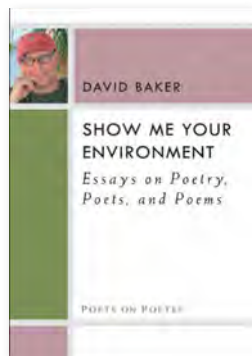
### Baker, David. *Show Me Your Environment: Essays on Poetry, Poets, and Poems.*

University of Michigan Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. PB \$30.00.

Present company excepted, few people read essays about poetry for the sheer pleasure of it, though most of us in high school and college were at least assigned a few—Helen Vendler, Marjorie Perloff, Harold Bloom, and others made a respectable living telling the rest of us how to read a poem. Poets, too, occasionally weighed in; Poe’s “Philosophy of Composition” (1846) chronicled the writing of “The Raven”; Eliot’s “Tradition and Individual Talent” (1919) laid out the tenets of Modernism, and Brooks and Warren’s *Understanding Poetry* introduced readers to New Criticism (1938). Overall, however, both academe and publishing, until at least the mid-twentieth century, appeared more content with poets writing poems and critics critiquing them.

Then in 1968, Donald Hall and the University of Michigan Press launched *Poets on Poetry*, a revolutionary series of books that invited poets to write about poetry from their own perspective—revealing how poets approached the act of writing, reclaiming poetry from the nit-picking appraisal of critics, and best of all, publishing books that were, even for generalists, a pleasure to read. One of the latest in the series, David Baker’s *Show Me Your Environment: Essays on Poetry, Poets, and Poems*, continues that tradition. Ostensibly addressing the theme of poetry and place, Baker ultimately takes the reader on a literary tour, with lingering stops in the lives and work of George Herbert, Emily Dickinson, John Keats, Marianne Moore, and Ohioans James Wright and Stanley Plumly.

Baker, originally a Missourian but now an Ohio transplant (he teaches at OSU and is poetry editor of the *Kenyon Review*), uses biographical details mixed with perceptive assessments to physically and intellectually “locate” certain poems and passages. A shining example



is Martins Ferry native James Wright’s “Father,” an early poem Baker uses to demonstrate that “the trope of transfiguration or transformation may be the most important trope in all of Wright’s work, present from his earliest work to his last.” Anyone who has read Wright’s “Beautiful Ohio,” where the poet, in a moment of epiphany, identifies sewer runoff as “beautiful” because of what it represents, immediately feels the truth of this assessment.

Similar insights into the lives and writings of more than twenty-five poets, including Maxine Kumin, Ted Kooser, Anne Carson, and Larry Levis, make this literary travelogue a joy to read. And like the very best of guides, Baker occasionally stops to point out a new path or overlooked intersection: in “Life Lines: Issa and Ellen Wheeler Cox,” Baker compares poems by two nineteenth-century poets, Japan’s Kobayashi Issa and Wisconsin’s Ellen Wheeler Cox, that address the ephemeral nature of this shared human landscape. As Issa’s haiku, written after his infant daughter’s death, reminds us: “The world of dew/ is the world of dew/and yet, and yet—” a fitting description of the place Baker invites us to visit with him in this lovely book.

REVIEWED BY KATE FOX

### Bauer, Jeni Britton. *Jeni’s Splendid Ice Cream Desserts.*

Artisan (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$23.95.

Discover a variety of tempting and refreshing dessert recipes in the newest cookbook by Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams founder and owner, Jeni Britton Bauer. The book begins with an explanation of the events in Bauer’s life that influenced her ice cream. Her background in art, perfumery, and science can be seen in her ice-cream flavors, which are a sensory pleasure. The cookbook’s introduction, which is written in a fun, readable way, provides helpful cooking suggestions and tips for substituting different types of ingredients.





After the introduction, the reader is presented with tantalizing photos and easy-to-follow recipes for delicious desserts. Recipes include assorted ice-cream flavors from Black Forest Cake Ice Cream to Fresh Peach Frozen Yogurt, baked goods such as Jake's Chocolate Truffle Cookies and Sweet Empanadas, and toppings including Salty Graham Gravel and Runny Chocolate Sauce. The recipes have symbols to indicate if they are gluten free, dairy free, or vegan. This is an attractive bonus when looking for desserts to serve those with special dietary needs.

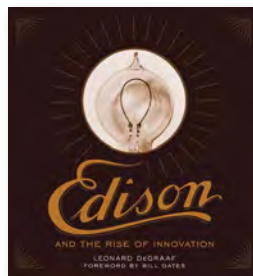
This reviewer tried the Lady Baltimore Cake, which was declared a "keeper" by family members. It would be a great dessert to use for company; the recipe is not fussy, but is easy to make with ingredients that are stocked on a normal home kitchen shelf. This cookbook also suggests how to adapt recipes in both baking and presentation. While we enjoyed eating the Lady Baltimore Cake plain, it can be altered to fit different tastes and needs by sprinkling powdered sugar on top or using it as a layer cake with Blackberry Jam and Huckleberry Frozen Yogurt (recipes included) to create the Big Blackberry Butte. Whichever recipes you try in this cookbook, enjoy them; they are a treat for both making and eating.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON

**DeGraff, Leonard. *Edison and the Rise of Innovation*.**

Sterling Signature (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$29.95.

Thomas Alva Edison, born in 1847 in Milan, Ohio, was the consummate inventor. From an early age he fiddled with electricity, circuits, and gadgets. At age seven he rode the rails delivering mail; by 1862 he wrote and printed a newspaper that provided railroad timetables, shipping information, and personal ads. While that part of his career was short, he learned telegraphy at age fifteen and was an itinerant telegrapher during and after the Civil War. The telegraph, although not a new communications device, was the springboard for Edison's inventiveness. From the printing telegraph to the quadraplex telegraph (capable of sending four distinct messages at one time along the same line)



to the acoustic telegraph, Edison constantly worked to improve the inner workings of each device and streamline its functionality. Phonographs, telephones, moving pictures, electric light bulbs, the storage battery, portland cement, and rubber are just some of the myriad inventions Edison developed or improved during his lifetime.

DeGraff, an archivist, worked with Edison's papers at Rutgers University before joining the National Park Service, which maintains the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in Menlo Park, New Jersey. He tells the story of Edison's inventions, business ventures, successes, and failures in straightforward, accessible narrative. The book is filled with photographs of Edison's inventions, pages from his notebooks, patent applications, advertising ephemera, and other related items. Many of today's technological gadgets are based upon Edison's inventions; from the telephone to the fax machine, from the phonograph to motion pictures, his genius has left its mark on the machines of our everyday life. DeGraff brings Edison to life in this wonderful retelling of the trials and discoveries of America's great inventor.

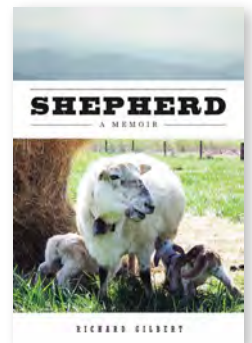
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

**Gilbert, Richard. *Shepherd: A Memoir*.**

Michigan State Univ. Press (East Lansing, MI) 2014. PB \$24.95.

In 1996, academic and writer Richard Gilbert and his wife Kathy, a university administrator, moved with their two children from Bloomington, Indiana to new jobs at Ohio University. Richard, especially, also came to the area armed with a desire to buy a farm in the beautiful, secluded Appalachian foothills that surround the college town of Athens. The Gilberts spent over a decade acquiring land, rebuilding a farmstead, and breeding and raising Katahdin sheep. Richard Gilbert's introspective reflections on his life and ambitions during this undertaking are chronicled in his new book, *Shepherd: A Memoir*.

A major theme in this memoir is Gilbert's transition from romantic idealism to experienced pragmatism.



As a newcomer to the livestock industry, Gilbert approaches his dream of farming with enthusiasm and vigor. But the difficulties and stresses that accompany animal husbandry and land management soon reveal themselves to the writer. Gilbert's naivete is worn away through his humbling experiences on his backwoods farm, where he comes to find that "farming seemed unreasonably difficult, an expensive lesson in humility."

For any aspiring upstart agrarian, Gilbert's book serves as a warning that inevitable inconveniences and pitfalls abound. The family spends all of their savings and maxes out their credit cards buying land and rebuilding a money-trap home. Gilbert is given shoddy deals on farm equipment from seasoned locals as he builds his farm from scratch. Some of his early dealings with livestock deliver less than spectacular results, and Gilbert feels duped. The farm and farm work create a source of tension between Gilbert and his wife. At one point, when feeling overwhelmed at having bitten off more than he could chew, Gilbert candidly admits that he felt he had "dragged us into disaster. We could have settled so easily in our house in town, or bought a tidy farmette where we could have gardened, raised a few chickens, added a handful of sheep, and maybe grown into farming. If only I'd stopped at Mossy Dell instead of forcing the purchase of Fred's house. All for that damn cornfield."

As the previous quote illustrates, one of this text's greatest strengths is its poignancy. The ups and downs of Gilbert's farm projects coincide with a deeper reflection on the poignant dilemmas common to all humankind. Gilbert's memoir is especially refreshing due to the narrative voice's sincerity and frankness. The writer is willing to acknowledge and discuss the pain and perplexity of defeat, the loss of one's dreams, and the awareness of one's own personal shortcomings. Gilbert paints affecting images of animals sick and dying, the aging and dying of friends, his own aging, his children growing up and moving away, and how his work on the farm helped him come to terms with his father's legacy. These reflections on the self and discussions about the inescapable loss of things that we care for give Gilbert's text depth and help to make it much more than a celebratory, idealized back-to-the-land story.

Eventually, Gilbert and his wife move on, selling off their flock of sheep and their farm in the hollows of southeastern Ohio. A year before they go, Gilbert

describes his standing in a community in which he was once an outsider and in an industry in which he was once just a greenhorn. He was running fifty head of ewes that could financially sustain themselves. "In summer 2006, two years after Mossy Dell's sale and ten years after our arrival in southeastern Ohio," Gilbert writes, "I was serving as a trustee of Katahdin Hair Sheep International, was chairman of the Breed Improvement Committee and the Shepherd Education Committee, and was a contributor to sustainable farming journals... Locally, I was on a panel studying ways to foster our region's economic development while preserving its prickly Appalachian soul." Thus, though the book focuses on Gilbert's external struggles and internal worries, it is also a fine testament to his ambition and dedication to a goal. In the end, Gilbert's memoir reveals the challenges of small scale family farming while at the same time showcasing the value of perseverance and aspiration.

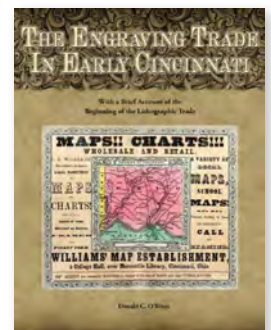
REVIEWED BY MIKE RYAN

### O'Brien, Donald C. *The Engraving Trade in Early Cincinnati: With a Brief Account of the Beginning of the Lithographic Trade.*

Ohio University Press (Athens, OH)  
2013. HC \$39.95.

Ohio has a long and proud history of nurturing the printing arts, and Donald O'Brien's beautifully designed book about the history of engraving in Ohio pays homage to that history. O'Brien enumerates and describes every engraving company, artist, and printer in the Cincinnati environs from 1793 through the end of the Civil War. Printing companies large and small are included in this descriptive catalog. Company histories as well as biographical sketches of the artists, engravers, printers, and publishers fill the 170 pages of this thin yet informative book. Sample engravings illustrate almost every page.

In six central chapters, O'Brien covers early engravers and printers beginning with William Maxwell, the state's first printer, who published *Centinel of the North Western Territory* and *Laws of the Territory of*



*the United States North-West of the Ohio* in the 1790s. O'Brien also covers the thriving bank note engraving industry, which began as early as the 1810s in Cincinnati and was embraced by numerous engraving companies. Also included is a brief illustrated history of paper money, which was printed in Ohio for various banks until the industry moved to New York City in 1873.

A chapter on the Ladies Repository and the Methodist Book Company is the centerpiece of this book. The Methodist Book Company moved west across the Allegheny Mountains with the settlers, bringing ministers, writers, artists, and publishing to Cincinnati before 1830. This vast publishing concern produced and distributed religious books and journals full of articles and engravings suitable for every household. The Ladies Repository was published for 36 years until 1876, when the Methodist Episcopal Church changed the name and mission of the magazine. This chapter is replete with title pages and frontispieces from the magazine and full-page engravings by the famous artists of the day.

The final chapter on lithography begins with a history of this printing technique and descriptions of printers who produced lithographic maps as early as 1821. The first lithographic printing shop in Cincinnati was Klaphrech & Menzel, established by 1839. The chapter ends with Strobridge (1850s–1971), which dominated the local industry from the 1850s through the Civil War. A brief bibliography, along with footnotes, will entice readers to explore the history of this fascinating industry.

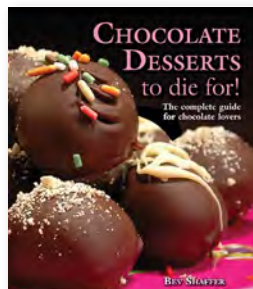
If you are curious about the early history of printing, this book is for you. O'Brien writes a very readable history of engraving that is a much-needed addition to the history of printing in Ohio and the Northwest Territory.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

### Shaffer, Bev. *Chocolate Desserts to Die For! The Complete Guide for Chocolate Lovers.*

Pelican Publishing (Gretna, LA) 2013.  
HC \$26.95.

If you are a chocolate lover or someone who enjoys creating chocolate treats for family and friends, this is the book for you. It



is not only filled with delicious recipes, but also includes helpful chocolate facts and tips. In the introduction Shaffer provides a mini-course on chocolate, explaining the differences between various chocolate types from cocoa powder to milk chocolate and providing information about working with and storing different chocolates.

The recipes range from classic cookies and brownies to more elaborate dishes such as a white chocolate and brie cheesecake. This reviewer tested the Buttermilk Chocolate Bread recipe (made into muffins) and the Crispy Chocolate Snaps. Both were a hit, and the Crispy Chocolate Snaps brought back childhood memories of favorite bakery cookies. Creative touches are added to some of the presentations, such as individual hot chocolate cakes that are baked and served in Mason jars. Photographs of the finished creations ensure that readers will enjoy looking through the cookbook to decide what to make next.

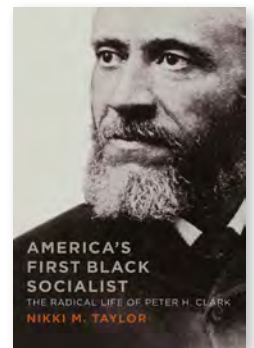
REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON

### Taylor, Nikki M. *America's First Black Socialist: The Radical Life of Peter H. Clark.*

University Press of Kentucky  
(Lexington, KY) 2013. HC \$40.00.

Nikki M. Taylor's *America's First Black Socialist: The Radical Life of Peter H. Clark* is a fascinating study of an important figure in nineteenth-century African American history. Yet, as Taylor's book so accurately portrays, Peter H. Clark's legacy has been lost, or at least obscured. Moreover, this loss of legacy is due in no small measure to Clark's own actions during his lifetime: his wavering political allegiances; his betrayal of black Americans' interests; and his own personal ambitions, as borne out in his politics.

The first African American to teach in Ohio's black schools, Clark was also the first principal of a black school within the state. He was born into a family that belonged to the African American elite of Cincinnati. As Taylor notes, "he represented the 3rd generation of free people in his family" (23). However, during his childhood he learned abiding lessons about racism and





its effects on America's black citizenry. Clark witnessed racial violence early in life in 1836 (at the age of seven) and also in 1841, which Taylor characterizes as "the third major mob attack to occur during Clark's twelve-year life" (26). In discussing Clark's early years, Taylor also mentions his acquaintance with John Mercer Langston, who would become a lifelong friend. This careful recounting of Clark's early life helps the reader understand his privileged background, such as his attendance at Cincinnati School, the first high school for African Americans in the state (29). While in high school, Clark received not only "a classical education; he also received an education in socialism" (30). This exposure to socialist thought also took place through Clark's interaction with Thomas Varney, a white man for whom Clark apprenticed as a stereotypist.

Clark was both a contemporary and close friend of Frederick Douglass, and at one point he worked as an editorial assistant to Douglass. In May of 1856, Douglass introduced Clark as a speaker at the Radical Abolition Party conference in Syracuse, New York. In addition to his involvement with political abolitionism, Clark may have been involved in the Underground Railroad; Taylor cites his friendship with Levi Coffin as well as Clark's publication of the *Herald of Freedom*, an abolitionist weekly. Through these and other involvements, Clark became a "voice of equality" on behalf of his people and a leading African American voice within the Republican Party, both in Ohio and nationally.

However, by the mid-1870s, Clark and other African American leaders within the GOP were becoming disillusioned with the Republican Party for failing to live up to its promises of "full racial equality" (115). Clark's disillusionment with the GOP was also due to his inability to secure a patronage position within the party. As Taylor notes of Clark's politics during the 1870s, "A practical man who did not see either party as African Americans' salvation, Clark thought African Americans should promise their votes to the party that offered them a measure of political power and civil rights" (129).

Following this, Clark's voice became more radical, addressing the Sovereigns of Industry in 1875 and also becoming the first African American to join a socialist political organization. Taylor's nuanced account of Clark's shifting political career shows a man who campaigned on behalf of Rutherford B. Hayes and thus

believed that Hayes's administration owed him a plum position (specifically, president of Howard University). However, Clark also broke ranks with the African American community by supporting the Southern policy of the Hayes administration, which effectively ended Reconstruction by withdrawing federal troops from the South. During the 1870s, Clark also ran for political office as a socialist on two separate occasions.

The final chapters paint a poignant picture of a man who seemed to feel that the Republican Party, to which he had been loyal, had not rewarded him appropriately for his years of service. During the 1880s, Clark's involvement in a bribery scandal, his switch to the Democratic party, and his opposition to school desegregation served to discredit him in the eyes of the African American community. Indeed, toward the end of his life, Peter H. Clark seemed to seek recognition through any means necessary, including specious claims of kinship to American explorer William Clark.

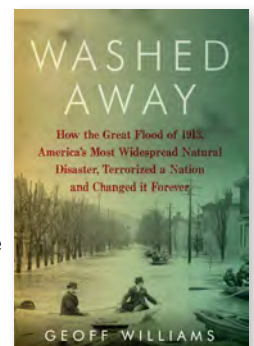
In the final analysis, Taylor's biography of Peter H. Clark is recommended reading for any who wish to understand nineteenth-century African American politics. Clark was an enigmatic figure, a radical black thinker whose leadership and outspoken oratory greatly commended him to his community. Yet, he was also a leader whose flaws, political missteps, and shifts greatly diminished his earlier reputation. As Taylor's work clearly shows, the life of Peter H. Clark deserves more scholarly attention.

REVIEWED BY DR. FRANK E. DOBSON JR.

**Williams, Geoff. *Washed Away: How the Great Flood of 1913, America's Most Widespread Natural Disaster, Terrorized a Nation and Changed It Forever.***

Pegasus Books (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$28.95.

On March 23, 1913, tornadoes struck Omaha, Nebraska, killing many and demolishing homes in large swaths. After destroying telegraph and telephone lines, the storms hurtled east. This was the first and ultimately least destructive stage of a massive storm that covered almost two-thirds of North



America for three terrifying, rain-drenched days. No one living east of the Mississippi River escaped the wrath of these storms; in their wake, cities were flooded, roads and railroad tracks washed away, and communication lines damaged. Cold, wet, homeless, and hungry, people picked themselves up and worked together to rescue the stranded, and companies opened their buildings to feed, clothe, and shelter survivors. News and requests for assistance took hours and sometimes days to reach state governments. Eventually the National Guard brought much-needed supplies and assistance to beleaguered townsfolk. The costs for recovery were high as many contributed time, money, and labor to drying out and cleaning up cities. Government and governing bodies were tested; some succeeded while others struggled.

Williams's history of this storm and subsequent flooding is a blow-by-blow account of events. Hour by hour, readers learn about the storm, its approach, its destructive power, and the aftermath. With the plethora of information about the storm from news stories and personal accounts ranging from Nebraska to Maine, there is no lack of fodder for this tale. Although the narrative sometimes bogs down in minutia, in the end, Williams writes a readable account of the storm, bringing the cold and horror of the disaster to today's reader.

If you don't know about this flood, this is the book to read. Ohio features prominently despite being just one of many states devastated by the storm. If you want to read more about the storm in Dayton, check out Trudy E. Bell's *The Great Flood of 1913* (Arcadia Publishing, 2008) or Allen Eckert's *Time of Terror: The Great Dayton Flood* (Little, Brown, 1965).

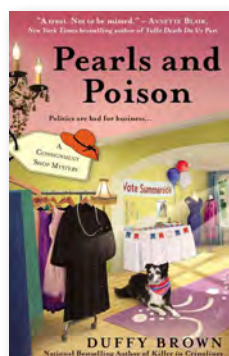
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

## FICTION

### Brown, Duffy. *Pearls and Poison: A Consignment Shop Mystery*.

Berkley (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$7.99.

Judge Gloria "Guillotine" Summerside is running for Alderman



against Kip "Scummy" Seymour in Savannah, Georgia. After a very public tiff, Seymour is found dead, and the judge is the prime suspect. Reagan, Gloria's daughter, is most unhappy with the accusation and teams up with her aunt Kiki, her dog Bruce Willis, and her sometime nemesis Walker Boone to find the killer. With a host of suspects—including shady characters, politicians, and businessmen—Reagan pokes her nose into trouble that goes off with a bang (including shotguns and an exploding house). Closer to home, she has to deal with an out-of-work mother who's determined to help her at her consignment shop despite a terrible color sense. Reagan and Kiki's madcap adventures get them into trouble time and again as they sleuth for the truth, making this cozy mystery an entertaining and enjoyable read.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

### Keller, Julia. *A Killing in the Hills*.

Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2012. HC \$24.99.

Welcome to Acker's Gap, deep in the hills of West Virginia, where the air is clear, the scenery is beautiful, and people's lives are tough. Sheriff Nick Fogelson and Raythune County Prosecutor Belfa "Bell" Elkins are hot on the trail of drug rings that are plaguing cities and rural communities alike. Into their midst has come a string of prescription drug crimes including thefts, suicides, and now murder as a triple homicide disrupts the balance of life one quiet Saturday morning at the local coffee house. Bell's daughter Carla witnesses the killing and, realizing she has seen the gunman before, asks around to learn his name—only to be caught in the gunman's sights. At the same time, Nick and Belfa also search for clues to the identity of the gunman, who leaves a string of bodies in his wake.



The first installment of Julia Keller's series set in Acker's Gap is suspenseful; alternating tension and dialogue draw the reader into the underlying story of the prescription drug trade, chronic poverty, and desperation. Keller's language is full of metaphor and illustrative description. This language fleshes out the story and provides detail, creating mental images that are bound to haunt the reader long after finishing this

mystery. Readers are in luck, for Keller has written two more books in the series: *Bitter River* and the just-released *Summer of the Dead*. A very short story, “The Devil’s Stepdaughter: A Bell Elkins Story,” is available in electronic format, and *A Haunting of the Bones: A Bell Elkins Novella* is due out in December 2014.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

**Keller, Julia. *Bitter River*.**

Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$25.99.

When county prosecutor Bell Elkins receives a predawn call from Sheriff Nick Fogelsong, she knows the news won’t be good. A car found in the Bitter River contains the body of sixteen-year-old Lucinda Trimble, who was already dead—and pregnant—when the car went into the water.



As Bell and Nick investigate, they discover that the murder is not the only mysterious event occurring in Acker’s Gap, West Virginia. The out-of-the-way Appalachian town is in for some rough surprises as sheriff and prosecutor search for the truth behind Lucinda’s death and the father of her unborn child. As the story twists and turns, Bell also struggles with the physical distance between herself and her teenage daughter, now living with her ex-husband in D.C. When Matt Harless—an ex-CIA interrogator and a friend of Bell’s ex-husband—comes to Acker’s Gap to escape D.C., he brings additional trouble in his wake.

Keller writes with extremely detailed, descriptive language, which initially slows the pace of the narrative. As the story progresses, however, the language drifts to the background and the mystery takes center stage. It takes a while for the tension to build, but when it does, Keller’s murder mystery will grab you, hold on tightly until the very end, and leave you hanging for Bell and Nick’s next adventure (*Summer of the Dead*, which is in stores now).

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

**Kelly, Suzanne. *Stolen Child*.**

Bottom Dog Press (Huron, Ohio) 2013. PB \$17.00.

Lucy strains to hear the muted voices downstairs, although she knows a decision has already been made; she will spend the summer with Grandma Fahey due to her mother’s illness. Lucy longs to spend another carefree summer in a home filled with laughter and tales of Irish lore with the other side of the family, her Grandma Keary. Little does she know that an unexpected adventure is about to begin.



Life with Grandma Fahey is filled with daily Mass, regimented study, and prim and proper rules of etiquette and dress. But as time goes on, Lucy realizes that perhaps there is another side to her grandmother hidden beneath her rigid exterior—a side that begs to be discovered by her curious, sweet, and stubborn granddaughter. Legends and traditions of long ago surface with stories of mythical faeries, and Lucy gradually begins to understand the true value of her Irish upbringing. This is a summer she will long remember.

The story takes place in 1960 in Kansas and chronicles the historic popularity of JFK and his meteoric rise from unknown senator to president of the United States. This warm and inviting book will appeal to readers who enjoy exploring this era in our nation’s history as well as those interested in Irish history and the story of the Irish in America. There are many familiar references to religion as well as information about Irish folklore and the perilous journey to America the Irish people endured. Above all, this book emphasizes the invaluable knowledge a grandparent can pass on to a child and that child’s ability to open a seemingly cold heart with amazing results. There are moments of joy combined with sadness and a wistfulness of days gone by that make for an appealing read.

REVIEWED BY ELAINE LOLLI



Ng, Celeste. *Everything I Never Told You*.

Penguin Press (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$26.95.

The Lee family finds themselves struggling to cope with their identity as a mixed-race family in Ohio during the 1970's. The story begins after the death of the middle child, Lydia, and revolves around the relationship each member of the family had with her. On the surface, sixteen-year-old Lydia appears to have been an exceptional student who caused her family no problems. But as each member digs into the reason behind her death, we uncover how family threads have molded her, pushed her, and ensnared her. Balancing the academic expectations of her mother with the social expectations of her father while trying to find her place as the only half-white/half-Chinese female in her high school, Lydia lost her sense of self. A heartbreaking look at the consequences of family dynamics, choices, and finding acceptance, this book will have you turning the pages until you reach the end.



Celeste Ng weaves a powerful story in her debut novel. Though we find out immediately that Lydia is dead, it takes the length of the book to find out what led to her death. The plot reaches back to the childhood of Lydia's parents, revealing the challenges and choices they faced—including the societal stigma of an interracial relationship—and their hopes for their children. Each stage of their lives impacts the course of Lydia's and her siblings' lives. While the book does shift between the five different perspectives of each member of the Lee family, Ng provides each character with a unique and distinct voice. The author balances the characters through small snippets of their lives that are expertly blended to give a clear picture of a family.

REVIEWED BY ANDREA HALL

Weisgarber, Ann. *The Promise*.

Skyhorse Publishing (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.95.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Catherine Wainwright is a lovely, accomplished pianist in Dayton, Ohio. The only child of doting parents, her ensemble plays in concert halls and prominent homes. But when her scandalous love affair with a married man is exposed, her career and livelihood are threatened. Former acquaintances shun her and whisper behind her back. Pressured to find a husband, Catherine begins a correspondence with Oscar Williams, a suitor from childhood days who is now a widower and father to five-year-old Andre. When Oscar asks for her hand in marriage, she accepts, hoping her past is never revealed.



After enduring the long journey to Galveston, Texas, Catherine finds herself incapable of running a household with no amenities. What can she possibly know about becoming a ready-made mother to a grieving child? Housekeeper Nan Ogden is astounded that Oscar has chosen this Yankee woman as his partner. Nan has vowed to love and protect Andre, and secretly mourns the unrequited love she feels for Oscar.

When Oscar introduces his new bride to the curious townspeople at a social dance, their reactions are mixed. But when Nan picks up her fiddle and cautiously joins in the celebration, these two incredibly different women realize that music may be the common ground they share, along with their love for the same man and child. They can't possibly know that soon their survival skills will be tested in ways they never imagined by the Galveston Storm Surge of 1900—a hurricane so deadly it would claim the lives of over 6,000 people in a matter of hours. As the pages turn, readers begin to understand the innermost feelings of these characters until the emotional end.

The author's in-depth and moving descriptions of this tragic disaster are riveting. Above all, however, this book reiterates the power of unselfish love. There are many memorable passages readers will contemplate long after the heartfelt ending.

REVIEWED BY ELAINE LOLLI

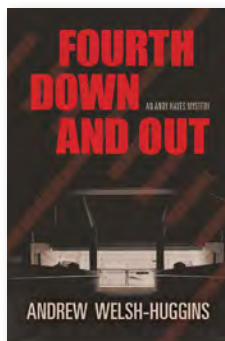
Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. *Fourth Down and Out: An Andy Hayes Mystery*.

Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2014. HC \$26.95.

Andy Hayes is a former Ohio State University football player turned private investigator. His current investigation begins harmlessly enough: retrieve a laptop and wipe a reputation-damaging video from the computer and YouTube. Unfortunately for Hayes, that is not the end of the job. The laptop is stolen, and the investigation snowballs into a tangled web of intrigue, deceit, and some tense visits by local and federal law enforcement agents. To top it off, Hayes is beaten up several times by rabid OSU football fans holding a twenty-year grudge. What grudge? Supposedly Hayes threw a game, and his name in OSU fandom is mud. Hayes's old OSU connections are also twisted into the mystery of the missing laptop.

This mystery is filled with scenes of famous places in Columbus. Hayes lives in German Village; walks his dog in Schiller Park; and drives into Hilltop, Franklinton, and Easton, not to mention a jaunt to the Hocking Hills. The best descriptive scenes are of Bexley and the North Market. Even if readers don't know Columbus, they may have heard of Schmidt's, famous for its brats. Welsh-Huggins intersperses Hayes's investigation with descriptions of streets, neighborhoods, and football. If you aren't a football fan, you may not get all the sports references, but you'll still enjoy the story. The mystery holds together, the action is steady, and the violence is minimal despite Hayes's multiple encounters with a baseball bat. Best of all, the investigation comes together into a neat package and leaves Hayes set for his next job, coming next year.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

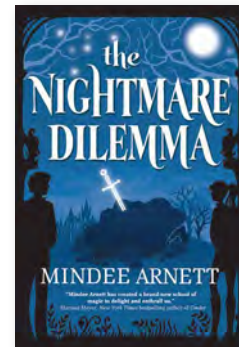


## YOUNG ADULT

Arnett, Mindee. *The Nightmare Dilemma*.

Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

In the second installment of the *Arkwell Academy* series, Destiny Everhart finds herself in the middle of a mystery on school grounds. Dusty, as her friends call her, is a Nightmare—a magical being who feeds off human dreams. She is also a dream-seer, meaning certain dreams show her the future.



When a fellow classmate is attacked and cursed, Dusty is asked to see if anything in the victim's dreams will help catch the assailant. Dusty sees clues, but nothing concrete. She also finds her friend Eli in the dream and is worried about implications against him. Since he doesn't have magic, she knows he couldn't be behind the attack. Dusty enlists Eli, along with her siren roommate, Selene, to help investigate.

However, they don't find easy answers. Since the restriction of magical use, the Will, has been broken, magical tempers are running high. Each magical group feels they have been forced to hide their true nature for too long. Some are ready to fight back. This brings a new guard to campus to help regain control. Then Dusty's ex-boyfriend shows up. After being held in prison for his part in assisting an evil warlock bent on overthrowing the magickind government, he's let go for lack of concrete evidence. Dusty doesn't believe she can trust him, but he just may hold the answers she needs to crack the case. Will the fight claim the lives of Dusty and her friends, or will they stop the attacks in time?

The author does a nice job of interspersing the necessary information from book one, *The Nightmare Affair*, so the reader understands what happened, but I recommend reading it first. There were times I found myself a bit confused and frustrated that the characters knew more than I did. I also found myself wanting to know more about the traits and abilities of the various magical beings. Aside from that, the story has excellent pacing and a satisfying conclusion.

REVIEWED BY ANDREA HALL

**Helmes, Amy and Kim Askew.**  
***Tempestuous.***

Merit Press (Blue Ash, OH) 2012. HC \$17.95.

***Exposure.***

Merit Press (Blue Ash, OH) 2012. HC \$17.95.

***Anyone But You.***

Merit Press (Blue Ash, OH) 2014. HC \$17.99.

Kim Askew and Ohioan Amy Helmes skillfully transpose three familiar Shakespeare plays—*The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*—to the setting of a contemporary high school, where romantic rivalries, misunderstandings, and uncontrollable fate play roles in the everyday lives of teens.



In *Tempestuous*, Miranda Prospero is working at a hot dog stand in the mall when a winter storm hits. Everyone is trapped overnight, including a dangerous thief and Miranda's former friends, who turned on her after they were caught cheating. Miranda, channeling Shakespeare's Prospero, sends Ariel to wreak revenge on the bunch. She gets inadvertently handcuffed to surly Caleb, and the two eventually forge a common "bond." A pleasant surprise is how Miranda, in attempting to bring Ariel and Chad together, has the tables turned on her by Ariel. There are some truly hilarious moments, as when Ariel convinces the bad girls their cellphone flashlight is a "CopperPhone app" that results in a tan.

*Exposure* is Helmes's and Askew's version of *Macbeth*. The main character, Skye Kingstone, prefers to observe life from behind the lens of a camera while nurturing a crush on hunky hockey player Craig MacKenzie. Craig is the Macbeth figure due to his role in the death of a perceived rival, Duncan. But the real force of evil is Craig's controlling girlfriend, Beth, whose greatest ambition is to be prom queen. To that end she shoves Duncan into a frozen pond. When she and Craig try to cover up the crime, Beth starts to break down until she is obsessively rubbing a blood spot from her white leather coat. She ends up offstage somewhere while Skye gets the handsome guy, Craig. Skye loves him

despite his dubious deed, and even inspires him to confess his role in Duncan's death. There are three odd girls who make cryptic prophecies and a march to save an ancient tree on the school's campus (meant to evoke Birnam Wood), but many of the Shakespeare references are incidental rather than integral to the story.

The best of the three novels is *Anyone But You*, an updated *Romeo and Juliet* in which two warring families run competing Italian restaurants in Chicago. Two stories unfold in alternating chapters. One set in the 1930s and 1940s explains the origin of the family feud that still rages, and the second concerns Gigi Caputo and Roman Monte, star-crossed lovers in the present day. (In a humorous tribute to Shakespeare's famous balcony scene, the new lovers meet in an alley lit by a motion-activated light.) The engrossing tale of the lovers' forebears Nick Monte and Benny Caputo, friends divided by their mutual love of the beautiful Stella, hinges on a missing letter (as in *Romeo and Juliet*). Its discovery by Gigi paves the way for the reconciliation of the families in the present. This way, the authors cleverly avoid a tragic end for their modern protagonists Gigi and Roman, while remaining true to the spirit of Shakespeare's play.

The three books are inaugural titles in a new imprint from Merit Press dedicated to YA fiction "with a particular emphasis on strong, savvy, female heroes rising to conquer sometimes stunning challenges thrown at them by a very real contemporary world" ([fwmedia.com/press-room/meritpress](http://fwmedia.com/press-room/meritpress)). The editor is Jacquelyn Mitchard, author of twenty-four books.

This is Mitchard's first foray into editing, and it could have been more thorough. Cluttered sentences, mixed metaphors, and clichés are sometimes distracting, and characters can spend too much time explaining their emotions and reactions. Vocabulary such as *patois* and *demiurge* sometimes makes the characters sound like ironic adults instead of teenagers. Despite the issues with diction and voice, however, the pace of the novels is mostly brisk. Askew and Helmes are skilled storytellers, so there's enough genuine emotion, teen angst, and action to keep the stories afloat and interesting. *Tempestuous* is entertaining, *Exposure* suspenseful, and *Anyone But You* particularly well-crafted.

REVIEWED BY LISA KLEIN



**Roecker, Lisa and Laura. *The Liar Society: The Third Lie's the Charm*.**

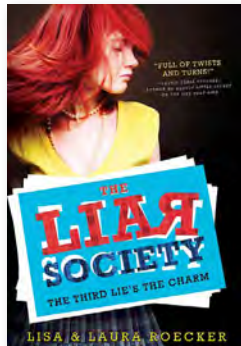
Sourcebooks Fire (Naperville, IL) 2013. PB \$9.99.

*The Liar Society: The Third Lie's the Charm* is the final installment of the *Liar Society* trilogy. One doesn't need to read the first two books to understand the plot; the authors do a nice job of filling in the details without a mass of information right up front.

Kate is still grieving the death of her best friend Grace, who died in a fire on school property. Kate is convinced that Grace's death is a result of feuding secret societies, the Brotherhood and the Sisterhood. She joins the Sisterhood in the hope that she'll be able to discover the truth from inside the organization. But the deaths continue, and someone begins leaving entries from Grace's journal for Kate to find. Without knowing who to trust, Kate must try to piece the clues together and find the killer before one of her remaining friends becomes the next victim—or she does.

As if grieving for her best friend and taking down secret societies isn't enough, Kate finds herself in the midst of a love triangle. Torn between Liam, the boy who wants to save her, and Bradley, her longtime crush who also just lost his best friend, Kate doesn't know who to choose. Liam wants Kate to give up her fight for revenge, while Bradley wants to help her. Will Kate's decisions help her find love or tear them all apart?

REVIEWED BY ANDREA HALL



the eyes of the main character, Andora, who goes by the nickname of Andi.

The story starts with Andi and her older sister Bethany on their way to Killdeer, Ohio. They are traveling with their former guardians Mr. and Mrs. Cragmeyer and are going to move in with their twenty-year-old Aunt Amelie.

One day Andi decides to move into the attic at her aunt's house so she can have her own room. While she is cleaning out the attic, she discovers a secret mini door with a chest in it. The chest has her name on it, Andora Boggs. She and her neighbor go on a fun journey to see who this other Andora is. Some of the suspenseful adventures that happen to them are sneaking into a college professor's office and getting trapped in a conveyor belt.

I really liked *Andi Unexpected* because it was very mysterious, interesting, fun, and different. I also liked how every chapter ended mysteriously. I would recommend it to mystery readers and students ages 8-12.

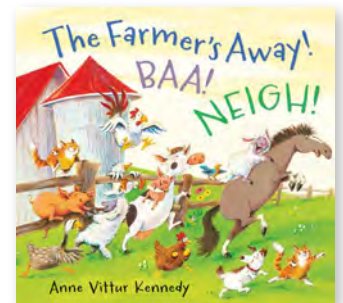
REVIEWED BY ESTHER WODA, GRADE 4

Editor's Note: The next *Andi Boggs* novel, *Andi Under Pressure*, is available in stores now.

**Kennedy, Anne Vittur. *The Farmer's Away! Baa! Neigh!***

Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. HC \$15.99.

The book *The Farmer's Away! Baa! Neigh!* is a great picture book for children. It is a story about a farmer and his animals. The animals party when the farmer is out cutting in the fields on his tractor and pretend to be normal animals when he is around. When the animals were partying they wore fancy dresses, jewelry, and shoes. In the story there were cows, ducks, dogs, cats, sheep, pigs, birds, bees, horses, fish, frogs, mice, and snakes. Even though not all the animals are barnyard animals, the book still is funny. I loved the funny drawings, the cute outfits on the animals, and the



**MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S**

**Flower, Amanda. *Andi Unexpected*.**

Zonderkidz (Grand Rapids, MI) 2013. HC \$10.99.

*Andi Unexpected* is a novel by Amanda Flower, a mystery writer who lives in Ohio. In this recent novel, Flower tells the story through



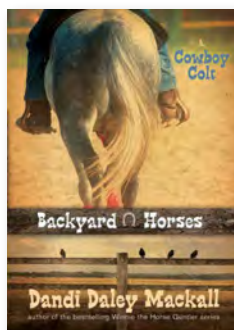
inside cover sneak peak. While I was reading the book I realized that it was less of a narrative and more of a story told through pictures because the text is simple; it mainly contained animal sounds more than a real story. I recommend this book for children under three or four years old.

REVIEWED BY MARLIE BOISTON, GRADE 4

**Mackall, Dandi Daley. *Cowboy Colt (Backyard Horses)*.**

Tyndale House (Carol Stream, IL) 2011. PB \$5.99.

*Cowboy Colt* is a book by Dandi Daley Mackall. A fourth grader, Ellie James, has her own horse named Dream. They are best friends. When her best friend from school, Colt, starts acting weird, she tries to find the perfect horse for him. But with her brother's baseball team problems, her dad trying to hang onto his job, and her mom volunteering as much as possible, can she really do it?



I really liked this book because it is about persevering. The book is also in first person, which made it really cool. If you're not an expert on horse words, there is a dictionary of them in the back of the book. I also think that the language that the author used was very kid friendly. I would probably recommend the book for 7-10 year olds.

An opinion I have about this book is that there isn't really a big exciting plot. Some things just happen so quickly. Another opinion I have is that in some scenes, there are lots of characters that are hard to keep track of. However, I like that in some spots in the book, you have to infer what is happening, but for younger readers, it may be easier for them to read books that contain directly stated information.

I love that this book is about friendship troubles. Ellie kind of has a mystery revolving around her, and she wants to solve it. If you don't like books about horses, this may not be the book for you. I am a horse girl and thought the book was great. If you like books about friends, you may like this book, even though you don't like horses. Overall, I thought the book was amazing.

REVIEWED BY MAYA A. LANG, GRADE 4

**Maier, Ali. *Mom Made Us Write This in the Summer*.**

Erie Island Media (Brunswick, OH) 2013. PB \$9.95.

The book *Mom Made Us Write This in the Summer* by Ali Maier is about two twins, Maggie and Max. They are ten years old and they have to share a journal over the summer. They have very different views on everything that happens in the summer. They go to the zoo, a hotel, the doctor, and many more places.



This is a great book, and I would recommend it to a friend because it was very humorous. I thought it was really funny when Maggie and Max wrote about when they went to the doctor's office and how Maggie was afraid of shots. I also liked the drawings and the funny notes that they both left on each other's entries.

REVIEWED BY SARAH LONER, GRADE 4

**Meyer, Karen. *Whispers at Marietta*.**

Sable Creek Press (Glendale, AZ) 2013. PB \$9.99.

A pioneer girl named Rachel had moved west from Massachusetts to Marietta, Ohio in the 1790s, but was not happy about it. She and her brother went into a field when they lost their dog, Bounder, and found a locket on their way to find him. The locket would play an important part in getting their dog back. They also discovered a pictograph on a tree that had fallen down in the woods. Later on in the story, Rachel and her friend, Maggie, were kidnapped by Shawnees. The pictograph gave clues to help explain what had happened to the girls. This historical fiction novel includes mystery and adventure and makes it easy for readers to make pictures in their heads. We highly recommend this book for nine-year-old readers and older. It will definitely keep your attention and you will want to keep on reading until you find out what happens.

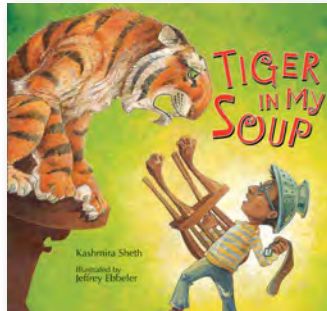


REVIEWED BY SOPHIA NAGY & MAYA PALACKDHARRY, GRADE 4

**Sheth, Kashmira. *Tiger in My Soup*. Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler.**

Peachtree Publishers (Atlanta, GA) 2013. PB \$15.95.

Kashmira Sheth wrote the picture book *Tiger in My Soup* and Ohioan Jeffrey Ebbeler created its illustrations. *Tiger in My Soup* is about a boy who is trying to get his sister to read a book to him about tigers. He keeps asking his sister to read to him, which becomes very annoying to his sister. So, she distracts him by giving him alphabet soup for lunch. When he starts to eat his soup, a tiger pops out from it. He has a war with the tiger. He tackles it, runs from it, slaps it, and hides from it. Since he let the soup get cold, his sister gets mad at him and then puts the soup in the microwave. When he eats the heated soup, the tiger gets hot. All of her brother's activity has annoyed the sister. In order to quiet him, she finally asks to read his book, but he wants her to roar like the tiger in the book. He now thinks his sister is the tiger and decides to keep a sharp eye on her.



I thought this was a fun book with really cool illustrations. I like how Ebbeler makes the drawings realistic with some of the same objects appearing throughout the different illustrations. One of my favorite illustrations is where the sister turns into the tiger, and I can see half of her as a person and half of her as a tiger. This is a good book for people who like funny things and for older brothers and sisters to read to their younger brothers and sisters.

REVIEWED BY CARMEN MERKEL, GRADE 4

**Springstubb, Patricia. *Phoebe and Digger*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2013. HC \$16.99.**

Tricia Springstubb, along with illustrator Jeff Newman, made a book called *Phoebe and Digger*. It is about a girl and her toy backhoe, which is called Digger. When Phoebe's mom got a new baby, Phoebe got a new digger. When Phoebe's mom had to take care of the baby and Phoebe, she realized that was too much to take care of. She decided to go to the park. At the park Phoebe wasn't acting very nicely, so her mom told her to sit on a

bench. Digger sat with her. After what seemed like a day, Phoebe's mom told her if she could be nice she could go play. While Phoebe was playing, a girl took her toy digger. Phoebe asked politely if she could have her toy back, but the girl would not give it back. Then Phoebe's mom came over, and that made the girl return Phoebe's toy. Since Phoebe's mom understood that Phoebe was trying to be nice, she bought a popsicle for both of them to share.

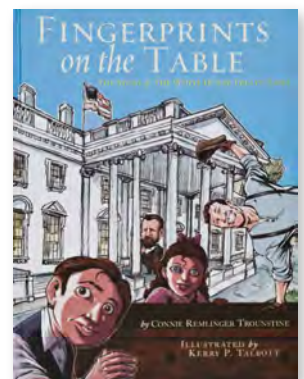
This book would be good for young children to read because it teaches kids to be kind. It also would help children with new brothers or sisters. It shows kids how to be patient with younger siblings. The illustrations are very detailed and colorful. They add more to the story. My favorite illustration is when Phoebe, Phoebe's mom, Digger, and the baby arrive at the park. It is very big and colorful and shows kids playing on the playground. I really liked this book, and I would recommend reading it.

REVIEWED BY GRACE WONG, GRADE 4

**Trounstine, Connie Remlinger. *Fingerprints on the Table: The Story of the White House Treaty Table*.**

White House Historical Association (Washington, DC) 2013. HC \$16.95.

*Fingerprints on the Table* was written by Connie Remlinger Trounstine and illustrated by Kerry P. Talbott. This book tells about the workers who made this table and about all of the presidents and their children who used this table. Like the title says, everyone involved with the table left their fingerprints.



The story tells how the workers made the table and what they used to make it. There are special compartments in the table, and each person who sits at the table has a special key to lock up important papers to keep them safe. This keeps them from losing the papers. The table came from New York to Washington, D.C. while President Grant was in the White House. President Grant's children would sneak up on the meetings and



leave their fingerprints on the table. In this story, it also says that President Hayes invented the Easter egg roll. Hayes's son Scott wanted the egg roll, so his dad started it in 1879, and it still continues today.

I like how this book talks about the presidents and I like how they illustrated the book. The artist makes the illustrations look like they are three-dimensional, because the table looks like you could touch it, and President Theodore Roosevelt's chest and his tie look as though they are popping out. I would recommend this book to my friends and family and to students who study U.S. presidents and the White House. Through this book, one can learn lots of historical facts.

REVIEWED BY SOPHIA NAGY, GRADE 4

### Van Vleet, Carmella. *Eliza Bing Is (Not) a Big, Fat Quitter*.

Holiday House (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.95.

Eliza Bing is an eleven-year-old girl who just can't sit still. She has a reputation for quitting everything she starts. One of her hobbies is baking, and she wants to take a baking class with her friend Tony at Sweet Caroline's Cakes—but her parents think her inability to focus on one thing will cause her to quit that too. Eliza's brother Sam is no longer able to finish his taekwondo class, so to prove she is not a quitter, Eliza takes her brother's place. Her stern instructor, Master Kim, sets high expectations for her. Can she keep up? When Eliza is paired with a mean girl from school, Madison Green, she wonders if she can deal with her. And when she injures herself in an embarrassing way, Eliza must find a way to work through it. Can Eliza prove to her parents—and to herself—that she is not a big, fat quitter?



The use of similes and descriptions in the book make it fun and add to the enjoyment of reading. Through the character of Eliza Bing, Carmella Van Vleet encourages the reader to know that he or she can do anything and also teaches people not to quit right away. It's nice to have a story about never giving up, and it inspires us to never quit. This book is funny, sad, and happy, and we definitely would recommend *Eliza Bing Is (Not) a Big, Fat Quitter* for other students to read.

REVIEWED BY COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CLASS OF 2022

As our class read together *Eliza Bing Is (Not) a Big, Fat Quitter*, we found that this book was full of situations to use to talk about friendships, responsibility, and determination. When we visited with the author, Carmella Van Vleet, we found that Eliza Bing was based on her daughter Abby (check out the book's dedication). It is cool how Eliza had a very different girl personality, and it is inspirational for us to see a girl who does taekwondo and who also wants to be an amazing baker.

# Book List

The following books were received at the Ohioana Library between February and July 2014. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## NONFICTION

Attiyah, Ray. ***The Fearless Front Line: The Key to Liberating Leaders to Improve and Grow Their Business***. Bibliomotion Books+Media (Brookline, MA) 2013. HC \$24.95.

Author Attiyah provides a blueprint for organizations of all sizes to improve and grow by focusing on core processes and supervision. Real-life examples provide further clarity and motivation.

Bachelda, F. Lynne. ***Wild Cincinnati: Animals, Reptiles, Insects, and Plants to Watch Out for at Home, at the Park, and in the Woods***. Clerisy Press (Covington, KY) 2012. PB \$15.95.

This guide to urban flora and fauna not only helps readers identify plants and animals found in the Queen City, but also helps them avoid potentially unpleasant encounters.

Badal, James Jessen. ***In the Wake of the Butcher: Cleveland's Torso Murders***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$24.95. Between 1934 and 1938, a serial killer terrorized the Kingsbury Run neighborhood of Cleveland and evaded the city's safety director, Eliot Ness. In this revised and expanded edition of his 2001 book, Badal includes new information on the killer's secret lab—and his identity.

Basinger, Randall L. ***Putnam County Courthouse, Ottawa, Ohio: Commemorating 100 Years 1913-2013***. 2013. HC.

This local history celebrates the Putnam County, Ohio courthouse from the 1909 petition seeking its construction to the present day. Archival and contemporary images help document the building's history.

Batiuk, Tom and Chuck Ayers. ***Strike Four! The Crankshaft Baseball Book***. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$24.95.

This volume collects 25 years of memories from fictional Toledo Mud Hens pitcher Ed Crankshaft, from his minor league glory days to his attempt to recapture that success later in life.

Bauer, Jeni Britton. ***Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream Desserts***. Artisan Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$23.95. Bauer's second cookbook not only includes new ice cream recipes (including a vegan version of her signature Salty Caramel), but also baked treats, sauces, and toppings to accompany her frozen treats.

Beachy, Eli R. ***World War II in Medina County, Ohio: At Home and Overseas***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99. With the outbreak of WWII, people who had never before left Ohio traveled the world as part of the war effort. In this book Beachy shares the stories of Medina County residents from the front lines to the home front, documenting one small community's greatest generation.

Bodo, Murray. ***Francis and Jesus***. Franciscan Media (Cincinnati, OH) 2012. PB \$15.99.

This book traces the life of St. Francis and his development as a teacher, protector of the poor, and as a person who tried to reflect Jesus in all aspects of his life.

Brooks, Michael E. ***The Ku Klux Klan in Wood County, Ohio***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

The Ku Klux Klan appeared in Wood County in 1922. At its peak in the 1920s and 1930s, its nearly 1,400 members included elected officials and nearly 40% of the ministers in the county. Author Brooks chronicles the Klan's rise and decline in one Ohio county.

Campbell, Teri. ***Food Lighting and Photography: A Commercial Photographer's Guide to Creating Irresistible Images***. New Rider (Berkeley, CA) 2013. PB \$44.99. Commercial food photographer Teri Campbell not only shares lighting, shooting, and post-processing techniques, but also provides advice on setting up a studio, finding clients, and marketing your photography.

Chenfeld, Mimi Brodsky. ***Still Teaching in the Key of Life: Joyful Stories from Early Childhood Settings***. Redleaf Press (St. Paul, MN) 2014. PB \$11.95.

This collection of twenty heartwarming stories will remind readers why teaching is important in the lives of young children.

Cook, William A. ***Diamond Madness: Classic Episodes of Rowdiness, Racism and Violence in Major League Baseball***. Sunbury Press (Sunbury, PA) 2013. PB \$16.95. For more than 125 years, a close relationship has existed between

baseball players and fans. Cook's book, however, reveals "rowdy" exceptions involving some of baseball's greats, from Babe Ruth to Joe Morgan.

D'Annibale, Betsy. ***The 1924 Tornado in Lorain & Sandusky: Deadliest in Ohio History***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

On June 28, 1924, an F4 tornado formed over Lake Erie and made landfall in Sandusky and Lorain. Before the day was over, a city was destroyed and thousands of lives were changed forever.

Doerr, Joe Francis (ed.). ***The Salt Companion to John Matthias***. Salt Publishing (Cromer, Norfolk, UK) 2011. PB \$29.95.

Eighteen contemporary writers contribute essays, interviews, and poems that offer insight into the work of poet John Matthias. For more on Matthias, see the three-volume set of collected works listed in the **Poetry** section of this issue.

DuSablon, Mary Anna; John Cicmanec; Connie J. Harrell; and Brian Balsley. ***Walking the Steps of Cincinnati: A Guide to the Queen City's Scenic and Historic Secrets***. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2014. PB \$24.95.

This revised and updated edition of DuSablon's 1998 guidebook maps thirty-four walks around Cincinnati's neighborhoods and covers many of the city's more than 400 sets of steps.

Fensch, Thomas. ***At the Dangerous Edge of Social Justice: Race, Violence, and Death in America***. New Century Books (North Chesterfield, VA) 2013. HC \$30.00. Fensch shares the stories of twelve Americans who either risked or

sacrificed their lives in pursuit of social justice and racial equality.

Fogarty, Robert S. ***The Righteous Remnant: The House of David (2nd ed.)***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$24.00.

Founded in 1903, the House of David was a communal religious group that believed a "righteous remnant" of humanity would be saved after armageddon. In this new edition, Fogarty traces the group's rise and fall and allows readers to draw comparisons to similar groups today.

Frederickson, Mary E., ed. ***Gendered Resistance: Women, Slavery, and the Legacy of Margaret Garner***. Univ. of Illinois Press (Urbana, IL) 2013. PB \$28.00.

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.

Freedman, Lew. ***Game of My Life: Cincinnati Reds—Memorable Stories of Reds Baseball***. Sports Publishing (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$24.95.

Spanning the decades from the Big Red Machine to the present, some of the Cincinnati Reds' best players share stories of their most memorable games.

Gibans, Nina Freedlander and James D. Gibans. ***Cleveland Goes Modern: Design for the Home, 1930-1970***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. HC \$50.00.

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.

Gilbert, Richard. ***Shepherd: A Memoir***. Michigan State Univ. Press (East Lansing, MI) 2014. PB \$24.95. When college professor Gilbert and his wife moved to Appalachian Ohio to raise sheep, they were unprepared for the culture shock that awaited them. Gilbert documents their struggles and triumphs as well as his own struggle to make peace with his father's loss of his boyhood farm.

Gold, Betty with Mark Hodermarsky. ***Beyond Trochenbrod: The Betty Gold Story***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$19.95.

In 1942, Trochenbrod, Poland was the only all-Jewish town in existence outside of Biblical Israel. When the Nazis began systematic executions on August 11 of that year, only 33 of the town's 5,000 residents escaped—including 12-year-old Betty Gold. This book describes her struggle to survive in the woods outside the town, her family's rescue, and their eventual journey to America.

Guerrieri, Vince. ***The Blue Streaks & Little Giants: More Than a Century of Sandusky & Fremont Ross Football***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2013. PB \$19.99. Fremont and Sandusky High Schools played their first game on November 2, 1895, beginning the second-oldest high school football rivalry in Ohio. Sports journalist Guerrieri tells the story of the players, coaches, and more than 100 games that have fueled this historic contest.



Guy, Susan M. ***Mobsters, Madams & Murder in Steubenville, Ohio: The Story of Little Chicago***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

Although nearly all cities have crime, Steubenville had more than its share in the early years of the twentieth century. During Prohibition crime spiked even higher, earning Steubenville the nickname “Little Chicago.” Jefferson County native Guy documents the crimes and criminals as well as the police officers and Prohibition dry agents who fought them.

Hand, Becky and Stepfanie Romine. ***The Spark Solution: A Complete Two-Week Diet Program to Fast-Track Weight Loss and Total Body Health***. HarperOne (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$26.99.

This two-week program jump starts weight loss by providing an eating plan with recipes, workout plan, and daily motivation from people who have lost weight and kept it off.

Herbert, Jeffrey G. ***Index of Death and Marriage Notices Appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer, 1818-1869***. Little Miami Publishing Co. (Milford, OH) 2013. PB \$45.00.

In addition to the marriage and death notices described in the title, this genealogy resource also indexes other events such as divorce, guardianship, debt relief, and the occasional criminal conviction. Created by the Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Hubbell, John T. (ed.). ***On Lincoln: Civil War History Readers Vol. 3***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$29.95.

For sixty years the journal *Civil War History* has presented influential scholarship on military, political, and

social aspects of the Civil War. Here, the journal’s former editor collects essays that examine Abraham Lincoln’s ideals, leadership, and presidency, and explains how each essay expands our understanding of Lincoln and the Civil War.

Koester, Nancy. ***Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life***. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (Grand Rapids, MI) 2014. PB \$24.00. During her lifetime, Harriet Beecher Stowe was arguably the most famous—and most influential—woman in the United States. This biography documents the religious and cultural struggles that inspired her to write *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and change the course of American history.

Koile, Wendy. ***Legends and Lost Treasure of Northern Ohio***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

With a cast of characters ranging from French colonial soldiers to John Dillinger, this book shares the stories of northern Ohio’s missing treasures, from sunken ships to lost loot.

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.

McKee, Vince. ***Jacobs Field: History & Tradition at the Jake***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99. When Jacobs Field opened in 1994, it helped revitalize a city and a fan base.

Author McKee interviewed players, managers, and front office personnel to get the inside story of this exciting time in Indians history.

Mechem, Charles S. Jr. ***Who’s That with Charlie? Lessons Learned and Friends I’ve Made along the Way***. Clerisy Press (Covington, KY) 2013. HC \$23.95.

The career of Cincinnati businessman Charlie Mechem Jr. spanned six decades and included work as an attorney, broadcasting executive, and commissioner of the PGA. In this book Mechem shares stories about and lessons learned from friends including Neil Armstrong, Jack Nicklaus, and Wendy’s founder Dave Thomas.

Pathy, Sam. ***Wrigley Field Year by Year: A Century at the Friendly Confines***. Sports Publishing (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$35.00.

Chicago’s Wrigley Field is one of only two major league ballparks to survive for 100 years. Baseball historian Pathy divides this book into nine “innings,” each describing a period in the park’s history and containing year-by-year statistics, interesting events, and photographs.

Pramuk, Christopher. ***Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line***. Michael Glazier (Collegeville, MN) 2013. PB \$19.95.

This collection of stories and images documents the perspectives of a diverse group of artists, poets, and theologians as they reflect on questions of race.

Rall, Ted. ***Silk Road to Ruin: Why Central Asia Is the Next Middle East (2nd ed.)***. Nantier Beall Minoustchine (NBM) (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$19.99.

A combination of graphic novel and travelog, *Silk Road to Ruin* documents Rall's experiences as he retraced the Silk Road from Beijing to Istanbul.

Reitelbach, Diann Auld. ***Catching the Thief: A Story, A Search, and Schizophrenia***. Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2013. HC \$12.99. In the fall of 1972, Diann Reitelbach's son Kirk was a scholar, athlete, and president of his senior class. Then his personality began to change. This book documents Kirk's struggle with schizophrenia, its effect on the rest of his family, and Reitelbach's 30-year journey to free her son from the disease that is "the thief of the soul."

Ricca, Brad. ***Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster—The Creators of Superman***. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$27.99.

*Super Boys* is a comprehensive biography of Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster from their first meeting as Cleveland teenagers. Author Ricca shows how the boys' own stories influenced the creation of the world's most iconic superhero and follows their lives and legal battles after they signed away rights to the character for \$130.

Roach, Edward J. ***The Wright Company: From Invention to Industry***. Ohio Univ. Press (Ada, OH) 2014. PB \$22.95.

In 1909, six years after their first flight at Kitty Hawk, Wilbur and Orville Wright decided it was time to start manufacturing their airplanes for sale. With the backing of Wall Street tycoons, the Wright Company was established and trained hundreds of early aviators. However, the shift from running a bicycle

shop to running a corporation was a difficult one. This book provides a detailed look at a relatively unknown part of Wright Brothers history and its impact on early aviation.

Roos, Mike. ***One Small Town, One Crazy Coach: The Ireland Spuds and the 1963 Indiana High School Basketball Season***. Quarry Books (Bloomington, IN) 2013. PB \$26.00. 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.

Schmiel, Eugene D. ***Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era***. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2014. PB \$26.95. Although Jacob Cox was in poor health and the father of six children at the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined the Union Army as an Ohio volunteer. He later became governor of Ohio, Secretary of the Interior, and a university president. However, he is best known as the foremost participant-historian of the Civil War. Schmiel presents a thoroughly researched biography of this general drawn from the ranks.

Shaffer, Bev. ***Chocolate Desserts to Die For! The Complete Guide for Chocolate Lovers***. Pelican Publishing (Gretna, LA) 2013. HC \$26.95.

Shaffer's latest cookbook includes recipes for more than 100 different chocolatey desserts as well as tips for buying and working with various forms of chocolate.

Tebben, Joseph R. ***The Old House: Louis Sullivan's Newark Bank***. The McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company (Granville, OH) 2014. PB \$22.95.

In the early 20th century, as he neared the end of his career, famed architect Louis Sullivan built eight small-town banks. One of them, built for The Home Building Association Company, still stands in Newark, Ohio. Author Tebben weaves the stories of Sullivan and banker Emmet Baugher together with the story of the building itself to document the history of Newark's "jewel box."

Tibor, Alfred with Judy Perry Kurimai. ***Celebration of Life: The Alfred Tibor Story***. Studio T, Inc. (Columbus, OH) 2012. PB \$14.95. Born in Hungary in 1920, Alfred Tibor survived life as a prisoner of war in Russia before emigrating to the United States and becoming a sculptor. Tibor's work includes 13 public sculptures in Columbus and more than 500 pieces in private collections around the world.

Weintraub, Stanley. ***General Sherman's Christmas: Savannah, 1864***. Smithsonian Books (New York, NY) 2009. HC \$24.00.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1864, William Tecumseh Sherman was pushing his Union troops in a 300-mile march across Georgia. His methodical approach to Savannah convinced Confederate general W.J. Hardee to retreat across the Savannah River, allowing Sherman to present the city to Abraham Lincoln as a Christmas gift—three days early. This book tells the story of Sherman's march and the fight for Savannah in the voices of soldiers and civilians as they neared the end of a long and bloody war.

### COLLECTION NOTE:

Our thanks to the family of Arthur E. and Jan S. Adams for the generous donation of their works:

Adams, Arthur E., Ian M. Matley, and William O. McCagg. ***An Atlas of Russian and East European History***. Frederick A. Praeger (New York, NY) 1966.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Beware the Pale Horse: A Novel of Suspense***. Aegina Press (Huntington, WV) 1999.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Bolsheviks in the Ukraine: The Second Campaign, 1918-1919***. Yale Univ. Press (New Haven, CT) 1963.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Imperial Russia After 1861: Peaceful Modernization or Revolution?*** D.C. Heath and Company (Boston, MA) 1965.

Adams, Arthur E. and Jan Steckelberg Adams. ***Men Versus Systems: Agriculture in the USSR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia***. The Free Press (New York, NY) 1971.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Moscow Nights***. Vantage Press (New York, NY) 2000.

Adams, Arthur. ***Quimby: A Novel***. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 1988.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Readings in Soviet Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice***. D.C. Heath and Company (Boston, MA) 1961.

Adams, Arthur and Ronald Suny. ***The Russian Revolution and Bolshevik Victory: Third Edition***. D.C. Heath and Company (Lexington, MA) 1990.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Special Agent***. Vantage Press (New York, NY) 2000.

Adams, Arthur E. ***Stalin and His Times***. Holt, Rinehart and Winston (New York, NY) 1972.

Adams, Jan S. ***A Foreign Policy in Transition: Moscow's Retreat from Central America and the Caribbean, 1985-1992***. Duke Univ. Press (Durham, NC) 1992.

Adams, Jan S. and Donald E. Schulz (eds.). ***Political Participation in Communist Systems***. Pergamon Press (New York, NY) 1981.

Adams, Jan S. and Marilyn R. Waldman (eds.). ***Transnational Approaches of the Social Sciences: Readings in International Studies***. Univ. Press of America (Lanham, MD) 1983.

### FICTION

Andriacco, Dan and Kieran McMullen. ***The Poisoned Penman***. MX Publishing (London, England) 2014. PB \$11.95.

In 1922 London, gossip journalist Langdale Pike is poisoned while having tea with American reporter Enoch Hale—just as Pike is about to reveal information bigger than his usual social gossip. As Hale tries to track down the killer, he draws the attention of Mycroft Holmes and his younger brother, Sherlock. Can Hale and Sherlock uncover Pike's secret before Hale himself becomes the next victim?

Bennett, Christopher L. ***A Choice of Futures (Rise of the Federation)***. Pocket Books (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$7.99.

The end of the Romulan War has

paved the way for the creation of the United Federation of Planets. Admiral Jonathan Archer, former captain of the starship Enterprise, envisions a Federation dedicated to exploration. Others, however, want to use it as a military power. When a new threat emerges, Archer and his former crew work to steer the fledgling Federation toward a unified and peaceful path.

Bennett, Christopher L. ***Tower of Babel (Rise of the Federation)***. Pocket Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$7.99.

Admiral Jonathan Archer hopes to bring the Rigel system into the newly formed United Federation of Planets, thereby stabilizing a key sector of space. When a hostile faction kidnaps Starfleet personnel (including a young officer who will play a vital role in the Federation's future), Archer and his former Enterprise crew must locate the hostages before the system is plunged into war.

Brown, Duffy. ***Pearls and Poison***. Berkley Prime Crime (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$7.99.

Reagan Summerside's mother, Judge "Guillotine Gloria," is up for re-election. When her opponent is murdered, she becomes the prime suspect. Can Reagan clear her mother's name before the real killer puts an end to her investigation—permanently?

Bryan, Lissa. ***Under These Restless Skies***. The Writer's Coffee Shop (Waxahachie, TX) 2014. PB \$21.99. In Tudor England, Will has spent his life alone. When he finds Emma, a selkie, sleeping on the beach, he steals her pelt, binding her to him. Together they travel to the court of Henry VIII, where Will serves as the king's fool and Emma befriends Anne Boleyn.



As the king's behavior becomes more erratic, can Will protect the woman he has come to love?

Castillo, Linda. ***The Dead Will Tell: A Kate Burkholder Novel***. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$25.99.

When two deaths occur in the small community of Painters Mill, police chief Kate Burkholder quickly discovers that an apparent suicide is actually murder. Her investigation uncovers a link to a thirty-five-year-old tragedy and a murderer willing to kill anyone who gets in his way.

Castle, Catherine. ***The Nun and the Narc***. Soul Mate Publishing (Macedon, NY) 2013. PB \$11.99. When novice Sister Margaret Mary stumbles into a drug deal and is captured by the local drug lord, undercover DEA agent Jed Bond is her only chance for escape. As the attraction between them grows and Jed begins to open his heart, Sister Margaret must decide which path to follow.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. ***Mrs. Lincoln's Rival***. Dutton (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 Lincoln was more powerful—or had more to lose. Through the stories of these two women, Chiaverini provides a unique look at national politics during the Civil War.

Davis, Ed. ***The Psalms of Israel Jones***. Vandalia Press (Morgantown, WV) 2014. PB \$16.99.

Aging rock star Israel Jones has begun to act unstable onstage, inciting his fans to violence. When Israel's son, Reverend Thomas Johnson, hears of the trouble, he joins the concert tour to see for himself. The journey gives him one last chance to reconnect with the father who abandoned him—and possibly reconnect with his wife, his congregation, and God as well.

Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. Scribner (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$27.00.

In France, blind Marie-Laure lives with her father near Paris's Museum of Natural History, where he works as a locksmith. When the Nazis invade, they flee to Saint-Malo, taking the museum's most valuable jewel with them. In Germany, the orphaned Werner becomes an expert at building and repairing radios. When the Nazis discover his talent, they send him to a brutal Hitler Youth academy and then on a special assignment to track the resistance. As the stories of Marie-Laure and Werner converge, Doerr shows us how people can find light and hope against all odds.

Ellis, Mary. ***A Plain Man***. Harvest House (Eugene, OR) 2014. PB \$13.99. When Caleb Beachy rejoins his Amish community after spending several years in the English world, he discovers there's more to reconnecting with his faith than resuming Amish practices. Josie Yoder gives him hope for the future—and may be able to help him find faith in his heart as well.

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 \$16.00.

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 (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$15.00.

Sheriff 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.

Gebben, Claire. ***The Last of the Blacksmiths***. Coffeetown Press (Seattle, WA) 2014. PB \$16.95.

Michael Harm is a farmer's son in Bavaria who jumps at the chance to travel to America and apprentice with a Cleveland blacksmith. Surviving the trip is just the beginning as Michael experiences a harsh master, anti-immigrant bigotry, the Civil War, and the beginning of a machine age that threatens to render his livelihood obsolete.

Harper, Karen. ***Dodelig Vann (Down River)***. Harlequin (Stockholm, Sweden) 2010. PB.

When Lisa Vaughn is accidentally plunged into the rapids of an Alaskan river, she is left for dead. When lodge owner (and Lisa's former fiancé) Mitch Braxton finally finds her, they must not only fight their way out of the Alaskan wilderness, but also fight to survive against a killer on the loose. (Swedish edition.)

Harper, Karen. ***Skjulte Farer (Below the Surface)***. Harlequin (Stockholm, Sweden) 2008. PB.

When Briana Devon surfaces from an ocean dive, her twin sister and their boat are gone. After swimming to a small barrier island, Briana struggles to understand what happened—and what her sister was hiding. (Swedish edition.)

Harper, Karen. ***Verloren dochter (Return to Grace)***. Harlequin Holland (Amsterdam, Netherlands) 2012. PB.

Hannah Esh fled her Amish community with a broken heart and dreams of a singing career. When she returns for a secret visit with friends and one is killed, the investigation brings long-buried secrets to the surface. Hannah must bridge two cultures to stop a killer before the killer stops her. (Dutch edition.)

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.

Hersh, C.D. ***The Promised One***. Soul Mate Publishing (Macedon, NY) 2013. PB \$13.99.

The Turning Stone ring gives its wearer the power to change shape—a powerful weapon for evil in the wrong hands. When homicide detective and shape shifter Alexi Jordan learns her mentor has been murdered and the ring stolen, she risks her job and the man she loves to get it back.

Keller, Julia. ***Summer of the Dead***. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$25.99.

A killer is stalking the struggling inhabitants of Acker's Gap, West Virginia. The investigation leads county prosecutor Bell Elkins and sheriff Nick Fogelsong to Lindy Crabtree, a coal miner's daughter who is clearly keeping secrets. As Bell tries to catch the killer and cope with her own sister's release from prison, she must decide whether Lindy is a suspect or the next victim.

Maazel, Fiona. ***Woke Up Lonely***. Graywolf Press (Minneapolis, MN) 2013. HC \$26.00.

ThurLOW Dan is the founder of Helix, a cult that promises to end loneliness via speed-dating, mixers, and social media. However, Dan is still lonely—for his ex-wife. Through his misadventures, author Maazel explores the nature of intimacy with those who matter to us the most.

McClellan, Brian. ***The Crimson Campaign: Powder Mage, Book 2***. Orbit Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$26.00.

In *Promise of Blood*, the first book in the *Powder Mage* trilogy, Field Marshal Tamas overthrew a corrupt king, factions struggled for power, and gods woke to walk the earth. In this sequel, Tamas finds himself cut off behind enemy lines as an

angry god leads an army against him. McClellan's series continues with its unique blend of flintlocks and magic.

Miltner, Robert. ***And Your Bird Can Sing***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$16.00.

The short stories in this collection reflect Miltner's background in poetry; they have been described as “playful, inventive, and rhythmic,” and portray working people with realistic poignancy and ambiguity.

Ng, Celeste. ***Everything I Never Told You***. Penguin Press (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$26.95.

Lydia is the middle—and favorite—child of Marilyn and James Lee, an interracial couple living in 1970s Ohio. When her body is found in the local lake, their delicate family balance unravels. Ng's debut novel paints a moving portrait of how history, cultural differences, and parents' dreams for their children can pull us apart or bring us understanding.

Paisley, Linda. ***Back In Eden***. Avalon Books (New York, NY) 2001. HC. When Wilhelmina “Willy” Heidler returns to her hometown one summer to care for her ailing mother, the last person she expects to see is childhood friend Marshall Gray. Although the two parted on bad terms when Marshall left for college, Willy has never forgotten him. Can she forgive past mistakes?

Paisley, Linda. ***Hunter's Vigil***. Avalon Books (New York, NY) 2004. HC.

Anxious for a fresh start, Hannah Morgan takes a teaching job in the small town of Whetstone, Montana. Rancher Hunter Grissom gets to know the new teacher as she uses part of his land for a school ecology

project, and a friendship develops. However, when Hannah risks her life to save Hunter's cattle, he realizes his feelings go deeper. Can he save Hannah and learn to trust his heart?

Paisley, Linda. ***Jenny's Texas Cowboy***. Avalon Books (New York, NY) 2000. HC.  
After a family tragedy strikes, Jenny Courter leaves college to care for her orphaned nephew and run the family ranch in Montana. When her brother's friend Josh arrives to help, the two are immediately attracted to each other. Can a Texas/Montana relationship work, or will Jenny be forced to give up the land she loves?

Resnick, Mike. ***Cat on a Cold Tin Roof: An Eli Paxton Mystery***. Seventh Street Books/Prometheus (Amherst, NY) 2014. PB \$15.95.  
Private investigator Eli Paxton is struggling to make ends meet, so he accepts a job to find a missing cat—which happened to be wearing a diamond-studded collar when it disappeared. As Paxton investigates he must navigate a complex plot involving the mob, a Bolivian drug cartel, a murdered financial advisor, and a shady real estate tycoon. He may even emerge with enough money to pay his bills...if he survives.

Sittenfeld, Curtis. ***Sisterland***. Random House (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$27.00.  
Twin sisters Kate and Violet were born with the ability to see the future. Although Vi embraced her talent, Kate sought to hide it and settled in the suburbs to raise a family. When Vi publicly predicts that a major earthquake will hit St. Louis, Kate worries it is the end of the "normal" life she has built for herself—and is also afraid that Vi is right...

Weisgarber, Ann. ***The Promise***. Skyhorse Publishing (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.95.  
In 1900, Catherine Wainwright leaves Dayton, Ohio to avoid a scandal. Heartbroken and penniless, she marries childhood friend Oscar and moves to Galveston Island, Texas to live with him and his young son. But the island is remote, the boy grieves for his recently deceased mother, and Oscar's housekeeper Nan also has feelings for Oscar. When a hurricane hits the island, all three are tested as never before. First U.S. edition.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. ***Fourth Down and Out: An Andy Hayes Mystery***. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2014. HC \$26.95.  
Columbus private investigator Andy Hayes thought the job would be easy: erase an embarrassing video from a certain laptop. When someone else with a claim on the computer ends up dead, Andy must convince the police he's not responsible while finding out who is.

Woolard, Jim R. ***Raiding with Morgan: A Novel of the Civil War***. Kensington (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.00.  
In the summer of 1863, Confederate general John Morgan led 2,000 soldiers across the Ohio river. This novel tells the story of one Confederate soldier during the raid and its aftermath.

## 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.

Bilgere, George. ***Imperial***. Univ. of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2014. PB \$15.95.  
Bilgere's sixth poetry collection documents moments large and small in the lives of post-WWII Americans from childhood to the present.

Curtis, Grace. ***The Shape of a Box: Poems***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2014. PB \$16.00.  
In this combination of prose and verse, Curtis molds language, form, and type as she explores everyday moments.

Finkelstein, Norman. ***Scribe***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2009. PB \$15.00.  
This collection—divided into "Drones and Chants," "Collages," and "An Assembly"—explores the contrasts between group and individual, light and dark, and real and ideal.

Fix, Charlene. ***Frankenstein's Flowers***. CW Books (Cincinnati, OH) 2014. PB \$19.00.  
The three sections in this poetry collection—"Persephone and the Light," "The Reader," and "Filmography"—bridge the gap between culture (whether ancient or modern) and introspection.

Grubbs, Gerry. ***The Hive Is a Book We Read For Its Honey***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2013. PB \$16.00.  
In this volume, inspired by a quote from Rainer Maria Rilke, Grubbs uses the world of bees to explore themes ranging from desire to the nature of the universe.

Gundy, Jeff. ***Somewhere Near Defiance: Poems***. Anhinga Press (Tallahassee, FL) 2014. PB \$20.00.



Gundy's sixth book of poetry links local wisdom to distant events and everyday life to sacred callings.

Hambrick, Jennifer. ***Unscathed***. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$10.00.

In this collection of poems, Hambrick focuses on cherished, everyday moments to explore the nature and essence of love.

Hansel, Pauletta. ***What I Did There***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2011. PB \$15.00.

In this collection Hansel shares what is essentially a memoir in verse, exploring family, work, and love in a way that lets readers journey with her.

Hughes, Betsy. ***Breaking Weather***. National Federation of State Poetry Societies Press (Mechanicsburg, OH) 2014. PB \$15.00.

This collection of sonnets about seasons, emotion, arts, and the end of life was the winner of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies 2013 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition.

Jenike, Lesley. ***Holy Island***. Gold Wake Press (Boston, MA) 2014. PB \$14.95.

Ranging in setting from Europe to Maine, the poems in this collection show both observation and introspection as Jenike explores the concept of dwelling both in a place and in one's self.

La Charity, Ralph. ***Farewellia a la Aralee***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2014. PB \$18.00.

The poems in this collection were originally performed in September, 2013 as a tribute to poet and playwright Aralee Strange. The volume also includes an appendix

titled "Cinemanuensing" and a CD of La Charity delivering the poems.

Matthias, John. ***Collected Shorter Poems, Vol. 1: 1961-1994***. Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2013. PB \$23.00.

This volume of Matthias's collected works includes the poems that first established his reputation. The book also includes a section of monologues, a song-cycle text, and selections from his very earliest work.

Matthias, John. ***Collected Shorter Poems, Vol. 2: 1995-2011***. Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2011. PB \$23.00.

This volume of Matthias's collected works assembles shorter poems from the second part of his career.

Matthias, John. ***Collected Longer Poems***. Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2012. PB \$23.00.

This volume of Matthias's collected works covers all of his long poems written after 1970 with the exception of "Trigons," which is available separately.

Murphy, Robert. ***From Behind the Blind***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2013. PB \$18.00.

Like some of Murphy's other works, the poems in *From Behind the Blind* explore the ambivalence of the human condition by combining the present with the distant past and joy with despair.

Platz, Judy, ed. ***An Act of Courage: Selected Poems of Mort Krahling***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$16.00.

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.

Smith, Larry. ***Lake Winds: Poems***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$18.00.

Although the poems in this collection don't shy away from suffering and injustice, they also recognize the peace that can be found in small, everyday moments.

Spidel, Lianne. ***Bird in the Hand***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2014. PB \$17.00.

The poems in this collection are snapshots of a life, and paint vivid pictures of the events and people that comprise it.

Volck, Brian. ***Flesh Becomes Word***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2013. PB \$17.00.

In this debut poetry collection, Volck, a physician by trade, explores questions of flesh and faith.

Williams, Tyrone. ***Adventures of Pi: Poems 1980-1990***. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2011. PB \$15.00.

Williams's poems explore culture and race as he manipulates language, form, and symbols (both figurative and literal) to add layers of meaning.

## YOUNG ADULT

Arnett, Mindee. ***The Nightmare Dilemma***. Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

Sixteen-year-old Dusty Everhart is a nightmare—literally—and attends Arkwell Academy, where her classmates include mermaids, sirens, wizards, and demons. Life at school is getting complicated: the class jokester has been accused of a

vicious assault, her new boyfriend's prophetic dreams are turning into nightmares, and her ex-boyfriend is back at school with a hidden agenda. Dusty must get to the truth in this sequel to *The Nightmare Affair*.

Berne, Emma Carlson. ***Never Let You Go***. Simon Pulse (New York, NY) 2012. PB \$9.99.

After making a bad decision, Megan has spent the entire school year trying to make things right with her best friend, Anna. When Anna invites her to spend the summer at her uncle's farm, Megan thinks they are finally back on track. However, when both girls fall for the same boy, Megan discovers that Anna isn't one to forgive and forget...

Berne, Emma Carlson. ***Still Waters***. Simon Pulse (New York, NY) 2011. PB \$9.99.

When Hannah and her boyfriend sneak off for a pre-college trip to a remote lake house, things start to go subtly but terribly wrong. The deserted house looks as if someone has been living there, and Colin's personality starts to undergo dark changes. Hannah will have to fight to save not only Colin, but herself as well.

Helmes, Amy and Kim Askew. ***Anyone But You***. Merit Press (Blue Ash, OH) 2014. HC \$17.99. In this modern retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, star-crossed teens Roman and Gigi must unravel the mystery of the decades-old feud between their families before it tears them apart forever.

Helmes, Amy and Kim Askew. ***Exposure***. Merit Press (Blue Ash, OH) 2012. HC \$17.95.

In this contemporary spin on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, shy teenager Skye learns that the quest for power—even in high school—can be dangerous. A boy named Duncan is dead, cheerleader and social climber Beth may be a sociopath, and Skye is increasingly attracted to potential prom king Craig. Can Skye save herself and Craig from a deadly fate?

Helmes, Amy and Kim Askew. ***Tempestuous***. Merit Press (Blue Ash, OH) 2012. HC \$17.95.

In this take on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Miranda has been banished from her school's popular crowd and now spends her time working with a crew of misfits at the local mall's food court. When a winter storm traps workers and shoppers inside the mall, Miranda seeks revenge against her former clique with a little help from her new friends.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. ***The Secrets of Tree Taylor***. Knopf Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

In the summer of 1963, thirteen-year-old Tree Taylor has two goals: (1) to experience her first real kiss, and (2) to write an article that will get her a spot on the high school newspaper. When a gun goes off across the street, Tree believes she's found her story. As she digs deeper, she must decide whether keeping a secret is more important than exposing the truth.

Snider, Brandon T. ***Vampire Academy: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion***. Razorbill (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$18.99. 2014 marked the big-screen release of the first book in Richelle Mead's *Vampire Academy* series. This companion book contains interviews with the author, cast, and crew as well as behind-the-scenes photos.

Tracey, Scott. ***Darkbound: The Legend of Moonset Book Two***. Flux (Woodbury, MN) 2014. PB \$9.99. Malcolm desperately wants to be free of his life as a witch in the hated Moonset coven. Then a demonic prince offers him a deal: if he can solve a twenty-year-old murder, the prince will sever the magical bond. Malcolm jumps at the chance to be free, but soon realizes the prince's bargain is not what it seems...

## MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Altman, Joel. ***Gapper's Grand Tour: A Voyage through Great American Ball Park***. Mascot Books (Herndon, VA) 2013. HC \$14.95.

Gapper's search for his mascot friends in Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park takes him on a journey from the Riverfront Club to the pitcher's mound.

Borden, Louise. ***Across the Blue Pacific: A WWII Story***. Houghton Mifflin (New York, NY) 2006. HC \$17.00.

In 1944, Molly is in fourth grade, and her neighbor Ted has spent the past three years in the Navy. When Ted is given a new assignment on a submarine in the Pacific, Molly must find a way to live with the uncertainty and reality of war. This book is based on the WWII experiences of the author's uncle.

Burke, Zoe. ***Charley Harper's What's in the Rain Forest? A Nature Discovery Book***. Pomegranate Kids (Portland, OR) 2013. HC \$14.95.

Animals and insects from Charley Harper's painting *Monteverde* are paired with rhyming text to help children explore the Costa Rican

rain forest. The complete painting appears on a fold-out page in the back of the book, along with a key for identifying each creature.

Burke, Zoe. ***Charley Harper's What's in the Woods? A Nature Discovery Book***. Pomegranate Kids (Portland, OR) 2013. HC \$14.95. Animals and plants from Charley Harper's painting *Birducopia* are paired with rhyming text to guide children through a walk in the woods. The complete image is shown in a fold-out page at the end of the book, allowing readers to locate their favorite animals.

Carson, Mary Kay. ***Beyond the Solar System***. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2013. PB \$18.95. This book for ages 9 and up not only traces the history of astronomical discoveries, but also includes 21 hands-on activities to help children explore those concepts.

Cheng, Andrea. ***The Year of the Fortune Cookie***. HMH Books for Young Readers (Boston, MA/New York, NY) 2014. HC \$15.99. When eleven-year-old Anna Wang's teacher gets approval to adopt a baby from China, Anna is invited to travel with her. Although Anna has been looking forward to the trip, she is also nervous, and wonders—is she more American or more Chinese?

Coates, Doug. ***Pitching for Success: Character Lessons the Joe Nuxhall Way***. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2014. HC \$16.95. When eleven-year-old Dominic has trouble with both his Little League pitching and his temper, his father teaches him that sportsmanship and compassion are more important than the final score.

Creech, Sharon. ***The Boy on the Porch***. Joanna Cotler Books (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$16.99. When John and Marta awake one day to find a boy asleep on their porch, they realize they have been chosen to care for him. Although the boy cannot speak or explain his history, they embrace his warm spirit and artistic talents. Can their unlikely family last?

Flower, Amanda. ***Andi Under Pressure***. Zonderkidz (Grand Rapids, MI) 2014. PB \$10.99. Andi and her best friend Colin are excited to attend science camp at the local university. However, when a series of pranks is blamed on the janitor, Andi is suspicious. When one prank goes too far and injures the science professor, Andi and Colin must find the truth before the camp is closed for good.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Just Ella***. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 1999. PB \$6.99. Being an almost-princess isn't all it's cracked up to be. Ella's new life in the palace involves royal genealogy lessons, decorum, and a not-so-charming prince. However, breaking a royal engagement is no small task. Can Ella escape and find the life she really wants?

Kenah, Katharine. ***Ferry Tail***. Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. HC \$16.99. Walter loves his "job" as a ferry dog—greeting cars, bringing the captain his newspaper, and tasting bacon for the cook. When the captain's cat moves in and no one seems to need Walter's help anymore, he decides to try his luck on land...and finds an unlikely friend.

Kennedy, Anne Vittur. ***The Farmer's Away! Baa! Neigh!*** Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. HC \$15.99.

When the farmer's away, the animals play—and dance, and picnic, and waterski. Simple text that mimics the sounds made by barnyard animals helps even the youngest listeners follow along, while older children and adults will laugh out loud at the animal antics in Kennedy's colorful illustrations.

Lewis, J. Patrick. ***Everything Is a Poem: The Best of J. Patrick Lewis***. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2014. HC \$24.99.

Former Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis has authored more than eighty-five picture books since becoming a full-time writer just fifteen years ago. This volume collects some of his best poems, from silly to serious.

Lewis, J. Patrick. ***Harlem Hellfighters***. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2014. HC \$18.99. The 369th Infantry Regiment—the first African American regiment to serve as part of U.S. forces in WWI—became known as the "Harlem Hellfighters" due to their ferocity in battle. However, they were equally well known for the regimental band that, under the leadership of famed bandleader and lieutenant James Reese Europe, took the sounds of jazz, blues, and ragtime overseas. Lewis's text and Gary Kelley's powerful illustrations combine to tell the regiment's story from its federalization in 1916, through training in the deep South and battle in France, to their homecoming and Europe's untimely death in 1919.



Mackall, Dandi. ***My Bible Animals Storybook***. Tyndale Kids (Carol Stream, IL) 2014. HC \$14.99.

In this book Mackall provides a collection of animal-themed Bible stories told in child-friendly language. Each story references the related Bible verse(s) and provides fun facts about the featured animal.

Morgan, Emily. ***Next Time You See a Firefly***. NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2013. HC \$18.95.

Part of the *Next Time You See* series, this book includes detailed photographs, fun facts, and activities to help children learn about fireflies.

Morgan, Emily. ***Next Time You See a Pill Bug***. NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2013. HC \$12.95.

Part of the *Next Time You See* series, this book includes detailed photographs, fun facts, and activities to help children learn about pill bugs.

Morgan, Emily. ***Next Time You See a Seashell***. NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2013. HC \$12.95.

Part of the *Next Time You See* series, this book includes detailed photographs, fun facts, and activities to help children learn about seashells.

Morgan, Emily. ***Next Time You See a Sunset***. NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2013. HC \$12.95.

Part of the *Next Time You See* series, this book includes detailed photographs, fun facts, and activities to help children learn about sunsets.

Scribner, Curtis and Ashley. ***Findlay: A Cincinnati Pig Tale***. Tiny Scribbles Publishing (Cincinnati, OH) 2012. PB \$14.98.

Findlay, a farm pig, dreams of a place where pigs can do anything they want. When he hears about a place

called "Porkopolis," he sneaks onto the farmer's truck and explores the city.

Solheim, James. ***The Only Alex Addleston in All These Mountains***.

Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler. Carolrhoda Books (Minneapolis, MN) 2014. HC \$17.95.

Ohioan Jeffrey Ebbeler illustrates this story of a boy and a girl with the same name who, even when separated by time and "a few zillion miles," remain best friends forever.

Trent, Shanda. ***Farmers' Market Day***. Illus. by Jane Dippold. Tiger Tales Books (Wilton, CT) 2013. HC \$12.95.

When an enthusiastic (and slightly clumsy) little girl visits the farmers' market with her family, good-natured fun ensues.

Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn. ***Steady Hands: Poems about Work***. Clarion Books (New York, NY) 2009. HC \$16.00.

This collection of nearly forty poems explores jobs from dog walker to filmmaker.

# Coming Soon

## Brews + Prose

First Tuesday of every month  
Market Garden Brewery,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Founded in 2012, this monthly series of literary readings strives to make literature and authors more accessible and engaging. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/MarketGardenBreweryReadingSeries](http://www.facebook.com/MarketGardenBreweryReadingSeries).

## Ohioana Book Awards

October 10, 2014  
6 – 9 p.m.  
Ohio Statehouse Museum  
Gallery, Columbus, Ohio

Celebrate Ohio literature with Ohioana as we recognize the 2014 Book Award winners. The evening will include award presentations, a round-table discussion, and book signings as well as hors d'oeuvres and Ohio wine.

Before the awards, Ohioana Library members may also attend the annual meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the State Library of Ohio. The meeting agenda includes the election of trustees and a celebration of Ohioana's 85th anniversary.



October 11, 2014  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Duke Energy Convention Center,  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Books by the Banks features nearly 100 authors; panel, author, and publishing sessions; and an expanded Kids' Corner with storybook characters, library mascots, story times, games, and other fun activities. For more information visit [www.booksbythebanks.org](http://www.booksbythebanks.org).

## Buckeye Book Fair

November 1, 2014  
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Fisher Auditorium, Wooster, Ohio

The 27th annual book fair has nearly sixty authors scheduled to appear; a portion of the profits is used to purchase books for schools and literacy programs. For more information visit [www.buckeyebookfair.com](http://www.buckeyebookfair.com).

## Ohioana Book Club

November 12, 2014  
10 a.m. – noon  
Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

November's book selection is the winner of the 2014 Ohioana Book Award for Nonfiction, *Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster—The Creators of Superman* by Brad Ricca. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## Thurber House Evenings with Authors Series

Columbus Museum of Art,  
Columbus, Ohio

The 2014 series of author readings continues to feature outstanding writers across all genres. For schedule and ticket information, visit <http://thurberhouse.org>.



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## Let us know what you think!

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*! We'd love to hear your feedback about the new format, and welcome comments and suggestions for articles or other content. E-mail us at **[ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org)**. Don't forget to look for our next issue in January 2015!