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2015: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2015 was a year of both looking back and looking forward for Ohioana as we celebrated anniversaries and moved our annual book festival to a new, larger location. Here are some of the highlights from the past year.

February Maggie Argiro, a Columbia University graduate student majoring in oral history, joined Ohioana as the 2015 Ruth Weimer Mount Intern.

Also in February The official 2015 Ohioana Book Festival poster, designed by Cincinnati author

and illustrator Jeffrey Ebbeler, was unveiled. It marked the first time that a poster was specially commissioned for the festival.

March Andrea Dixon and Bryan Loar, creators of Cbus Libraries, visited Ohioana to share stories and photos with their readers. Andrea and Bryan both became good friends to Ohioana, and in October, Bryan was elected to the Ohioana Board of Trustees. You can see more about Ohioana and the other amazing libraries they have visited on their website: <http://cbuslibraries.com/>



Visitors enjoy the 2015 Ohioana Book Festival.

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,
2015 is fast coming to a close. As you can see, it was quite a time for the Ohioana Library!

Happy as I am for the great year Ohioana had, I'm even happier that it has been such a great year for Ohio writers. Two of our 2015 Ohioana Book Award winners received great honors this spring: Tony Doerr won the Pulitzer Prize for *All the Light We Cannot See*, and Jacqueline Woodson was named the fifth U.S. Young People's Poet Laureate. Past award winner Rae Carson was named to the longlist for the National Book Award. Our congratulations to them and ALL the great Ohio writers who make us proud!

Since December is "Read a New Book Month," I hope some of these wonderful authors will be a part of your holiday reading. After all, books are the perfect gift!

Thank you again for your friendship and support. Best wishes for Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

David E. Weaver
Executive Director



Former Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis accepts the Ohioana Award for Juvenile Literature.

Also in March Sarah Binau of Bexley High School won the 10th anniversary Poetry Out Loud at the state finals on March 7. Ohioana director David Weaver served as an emcee for the state finals, which also featured 2014 Ohioana Poetry Book Award winner Kazim Ali as the guest performance poet.

April The 9th annual Ohioana Book Festival, held for the first time in downtown Columbus at the Sheraton at Capitol Square, attracted more than 100 authors and more than 3,000 visitors and featured expanded children's activities. More than two dozen outreach and media events brought the festival's total audience to more than 50,000 people.

May The Ohioana Board of Trustees adopted a new strategic plan that will take Ohioana to its 90th anniversary in 2019.

June The 131st Ohio General Assembly approved its biennial budget, including an operating subsidy for Ohioana in FY2016

and FY2017 as recommended by Governor John Kasich. The State provides about half of Ohioana's operating budget, and its support helps us leverage additional funds from sources around the state.

July Anthony Doerr, Ann Hagedorn, Jacqueline Woodson, J. Patrick Lewis, Stuart Frieber, Tom Diemer, and Lee Leonard were announced as the winners of the 2015 Ohioana Book Awards. Negesti Kaudo of Columbus was announced as the 2015 recipient of the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, awarded to an Ohio writer age 30 or younger who has not yet published a book.

September *Book Notes*, The Ohio Channel's new series about Ohio books and authors, made its debut with children's author and poet Michael J. Rosen. Ohioana director David Weaver was interviewed by host Dan Shellenbarger in a segment that aired November 20. All 13 episodes can be viewed online at <http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/MediaSearchResults.aspx?keywords=book+notes>.

October More than 120 people attended the 74th annual Ohioana Book Awards, which were held at the Ohio Statehouse atrium. The awards ceremony was streamed live by The Ohio Channel and can be viewed on their site: <http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx?fileId=147506>

Also in October Ohioana held its 86th annual meeting at the Columbus Foundation, which was the site of Ohioana's founding in 1929 when it was the Governor's Mansion. The highlight of the

annual meeting is the election of trustees; this year's class included new members Helen F. Bolte and Bryan Loar, who joined returning trustees Rudine Sims Bishop, Cynthia Puckett, and Daniel Shuey.

November Executive Director David Weaver celebrated his 10th anniversary with Ohioana.

December Governor John Kasich named Cincinnati attorney, author, and library supporter H. C. "Buck" Niehoff to a four-year term on the Ohioana Board of Trustees. Up to four appointees of the governor serve on Ohioana's board, in addition to the trustees elected by members at the annual meeting.

In addition to the events mentioned above, Ohioana hosted book club meetings, library tours, and elementary class visits; sponsored the annual Ohioana All-Star Authors 2015 event in collaboration with the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (April); participated in the Pickerington Public Library YA Author Fest (July), Books by the Banks (October), and the Upper Arlington Public Library's "The Write Stuff" event (November); and began a partnership with the Ohio Educational Library Media Association that will help us share information about Ohio authors and illustrators with schools throughout the state.

We are also looking forward to 2016, which will include two major milestones: the 10th anniversary Ohioana Book Festival and the 75th anniversary Ohioana Awards. We hope you'll join us as we continue to celebrate the work of Ohio's authors and illustrators!

REVIEW

Fertig, Judith. *The Cake Therapist*. Berkley Books (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$16.00.

Claire “Neely” O’Neil is a talented baker who returns to her hometown in Millcreek Valley, Ohio, to escape a crumbling marriage. The blue-collar town is reinventing itself as a destination for everything bridal, and Neely’s new cake shop is a hit. Her ability to “taste” people’s feelings gives her an uncanny knack for matching cake to customer. However, the taste of anger tells Neely that something isn’t right. A second, parallel story traces the history of Millcreek Valley’s residents, including the bakery’s scheming neighbor, Mrs. Amici. The two stories eventually come together, adding spice and a surprise ending to the tale.

This book is absolutely delicious, from the descriptions of cakes and frostings to the subtle romance. Unfortunately, the book doesn’t include recipes; readers must see Fertig’s cookbooks for those. The sneak peek of the next book in the series had my mouth watering all over again.

Reviewed by Miriam Kahn

NEW BOOKS

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

Nonfiction

Ballard, John. *Decoding the Workplace: 50 Keys to Understanding People in Organizations*. Praeger (Santa Barbara, CA) 2015. HC \$37.00. In this book, professor and former management consultant Ballard provides guidance for anyone wanting to better understand workplace dynamics and become more successful. Topics include perception, motivation, group dynamics, influence, and more.

Congeni, Joseph, and Thomas Bacher. *Cleveland’s Bitter Pill: A Diagnosis of Injured Title Dreams and Die-Hard Fans*. Ringtaaw Books (Akron, OH) 2015. PB \$19.95. Cleveland sports fans are used to heartbreak—sometimes due to injuries suffered by key players at critical times. In this collection, Congeni, Director of Sports Medicine at Akron Children’s Hospital, tells the stories of the

players and the injuries that dashed championship hopes.

Gold, David M. *The Great Tea Party in the Old Northwest: State Constitutional Conventions, 1847-1851*. Quid Pro Books (New Orleans, LA) 2015. PB \$23.99. Although members of the modern Tea Party movement claim the Boston Tea Party of 1773 as their inspiration, they may actually have more in common with the state constitutional conventions of the mid-nineteenth century. At that time reformers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin worked to limit government power by imposing debt ceilings, requiring popular election of public officials, and other measures. Gold provides a well-researched look at those who sought to streamline government in an earlier era of American history.

Haygood, Wil. *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America*. Knopf (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$32.50. In this nontraditional biography, Haygood examines the life of Thurgood Marshall and his impact on the Civil Rights movement,

as seen through the lens of the dramatic fight to make him the first African American Supreme Court justice.

Knowles, Jeffrey J. *Cuyahoga’s Child: Growing Up in the Valley of the Crooked River*. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2015. PB \$24.99.

Today, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park attracts more than three million visitors per year. When Jeffrey Knowles grew up in the valley in the 1950s, however, it contained small towns and faint traces of an almost-forgotten canal. In this memoir, Knowles not only reflects on his childhood, but also shares the history of the valley, from its early settlers to the days of the Ohio & Erie Canal and beyond.

Oestreich, Joe, and Scott Pleasant. *Lines of Scrimmage: A Story of Football, Race, and Redemption*. Univ. Press of Mississippi (Jackson, MS) 2015. HC \$35.00.

In 1989 in a small South Carolina town, a white high school football coach moved a black quarterback to defense and replaced him with an inexperienced white player, causing thirty-one of the team’s thirty-seven

black players to boycott the season in protest. The strike divided the town along racial lines, making it clear that the incident was about more than football and that racial tensions were far from settled.

Rove, Karl. *The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$32.50.

In 1896, William McKinley defeated William Jennings Bryan by running what Rove calls “the first truly modern presidential campaign.” His strategy, which included careful targeting of voters, use of new technologies, and a powerful message that split and eventually reformed his own party, still holds lessons for today.

Fiction

Alan, Isabella. *Murder, Plainly Read: An Amish Quilt Shop Mystery*. Obsidian (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$7.99.

Angie has volunteered to help librarian Austina Shaker organize the Rolling Brook library’s annual book sale. However, when an Amish bishop who had threatened to ruin Austina is found dead in the bookmobile, the librarian becomes the prime suspect in a murder investigation. Angie will need the help of her quilting circle, her new boyfriend, and her beloved dog Oliver to find the real killer.

Petrone, Susan. *Throw Like a Woman*. The Story Plant (Stamford, CT) 2014. HC \$25.95.

Brenda Haversham is a divorced single mom who is short on money and a social life. When she decides to try a “test your speed” pitching cage before a Cleveland Indians game, video of her fastball goes

viral, and the Indians come calling. Soon Brenda is the first female player in Major League history—and must deal with everything that entails, good and bad.

Shonkwiler, Eric. *Moon Up, Past Full*. Alternating Current Press (Palo Alto, CA) 2015. PB \$11.99. This collection of novellas and short stories takes a look at the underside of the rural Midwest and gives voice to the neglected, battered, and unheard.

Thomson, Cindy. *Sofia’s Tune*. CreateSpace (Charleston, SC) 2015. PB \$14.99.

This final book in Thomson’s Ellis Island series introduces Sofia Falcone, an Italian immigrant whose discovery of a family secret sends her mother to a mental institution. When Sofia meets Antonio, a pianist investigating his father’s death, they discover a terrifying underworld in Little Italy. Revealing the truth may not only destroy the livelihoods of neighborhood immigrants, but may destroy their own families as well.

Yocum, Robin. *The Essay*. Arcade Publishing (New York, NY) 2012. HC \$24.95.

Jimmy Lee Hickam believes that, like most of his family, he is destined for jail—until his football coach convinces him to stay in high school, and his English teacher inspires a prize-winning essay that could lead, against all odds, to a better life.

Poetry

Burroughs, John. *Beat Attitude*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB \$7.00.

Inspired by Beat poets and music and launched at BeatStreet

Cleveland in September 2015, this collection of poems ranges from the two-line “Baloney” to the two-page “In Due Season.”

Finley, Mike. *Newspaper Taxis Appear on the Shore*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB \$10.00. Pushcart Prize-winner Finley highlights ordinary moments with both pathos and humor.

Landis, Geoff. *The Book of Whimsy*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB \$10.00.

This collection of thirty-nine poems is not only whimsical (poems include “Sending My Mother to Mars”), but also subtle and profound. Landis has won awards for his science fiction and fantasy writing as well as his poetry.

Moffett, Judith. *Tarzan in Kentucky*. David Robert Books (Cincinnati, OH) 2015. PB \$18.00. Moffett’s third poetry collection reflects her struggle to reconcile her strict religious upbringing with the evolutionary biology she accepted as an adult. This reflection, along with glimpses of life on her Kentucky farm, ultimately becomes a meditation on origin and belonging.

Turzillo, Mary. *A Guide to Endangered Monsters*. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2015. PB \$10.00. This collection of thirty-seven poems covers topics ranging from creatures real and imagined to faraway worlds to housewifery, often with a wicked sense of humor and a twist at the end.

Young Adult

Hammond, Beth. *The Sound of the Stones*. eLectio Publishing (Little Elm TX) 2015. PB \$17.99.

When Frankie is inexplicably drawn to a used bookstore, the owner hands her a book that tells of a long-ago time when a heroine named Ashra tried to free her people from half-human creatures. Frankie and Ashra are separated by time and reality, but as the story unfolds, those barriers begin to break, and Frankie will never be the same.

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *In the Fields and the Trenches: The Famous and the Forgotten on the Battlefields of World War I*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2016. HC \$19.95.
Author Hollihan follows the stories of eighteen young men and women caught up in World War I. Some would go on to be famous, including J.R.R. Tolkien and Buster Keaton, but others would not return home. Although their stories are a century old, readers will recognize the universal themes of love, fear, friendship, and sacrifice.

Lindsey, Julie Anne. *Goddess: A Calypso Novel*. Lyrical Press (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$15.00.
High school senior Callie Ingram has just discovered that she's the resurrected leader of the Vikings. When Zeus tasks her with uniting the Viking clans and leading them into battle against the frost giants, Callie must fight to save her family and friends—and to hold on to her own humanity.

McGinnis, Mindy. *A Madness So Discreet*. Katherine Tegen Books (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$17.99.
Grace Mae's family committed her to a Boston asylum in order to protect family secrets and avoid scandal. There, she locks her voice away until a visiting doctor who works in the new field of criminal psychology recruits her as his assistant. After moving to an ethical Ohio asylum, Grace finds friendship and begins to look forward to life outside the asylum walls. But first she must help the doctor stop a murderer, and must also confront her own demons.

Middle Grade & Children's
Kennedy, Anne Vittur. *Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2015. HC \$15.99.

Ragweed the farm dog provides helpful tips for other aspiring farm dogs, from waking the farmer to interacting with cows, sheep, and chickens to earning biscuits—the best part of the job.

Meyer, Karen. *North to Freedom*. Sable Creek Press (Glendale, AZ) 2015. PB \$10.99.
When Moses and Tom flee Kentucky to find freedom in the North, fear is their constant companion. Across the Ohio River, young Will Butler and his family fear the consequences of the Fugitive Slave Law, but become a link in the Underground Railroad nonetheless. Will Moses and Tom survive the journey north to freedom?

COMING SOON

Ohioana Book Festival author applications due December 31, 2015

The tenth annual Ohioana Book Festival will be held Saturday, April 23, 2016, at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. For more information and a downloadable application form, visit www.ohioanabookfestival.org.

Ohioana Book Award nominations due December 31, 2015

The Ohioana Book Awards began in 1942, and are awarded each year in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, juvenile literature, middle grade & young adult literature, and books about Ohio or an Ohioan. For more information and a nomination form, visit www.ohioana.org/awards/book.asp.

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant applications due January 31, 2016

The \$1,000 Marvin Grant is awarded each year to an unpublished author age 30 or younger. For more information and an application, visit www.ohioana.org/awards/marvin.asp.

Ohioana Book Club February 10, 2016, 10 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus

The book for February is *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

The Ohioana Library would like to thank all our supporters, including volunteers, members, donors, and the major event sponsors listed below, for their contributions throughout the year.

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