

# OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

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Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana  
QUARTERLY

WINTER 2017

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From the  
Director

Dear Friends,



Sixty years ago this coming June, the following announcement from the Ohioana Library appeared in a number of newspapers throughout the state of Ohio:

NEW MAGAZINE TO BOOST OHIO AUTHORS AND BOOKS (Columbus, Ohio, June 25, 1957) – A new magazine, to deal with Ohio books and authors and tell Ohio’s cultural story, will be published by the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association, it was announced today. The magazine will be called *Ohioana: Of Ohio and Ohioans* and will appear quarterly. The first issue is scheduled for March 1958. Contents will include articles, book reviews, news and

notes about Ohio authors, some work by Ohio artists, and perhaps an extract from a forthcoming book. Walter Rumsey Marvin, executive director of the library, will serve as managing editor.

Thus was born the *Ohioana Quarterly*. This issue marks the start of its 60th year of publication. Although the look, size, and layout of the *Quarterly* has undergone numerous changes over the years, its purpose has remained the same: to promote Ohio authors and books.

We start the next sixty years off with two special features. First, our cover story by Bryan Loar about the Mercantile Library in Cincinnati, the third in our “Ohio Literary Landmarks” series. Since 1835, “The Merc” has served as the literary center of the Queen City, playing host to some of the greatest writers in the world. Special thanks to the wonderful staff of the Mercantile Library and to Buck Niehoff for their help in making this story possible.

Our second feature is an interview with Donald Ray Pollock. Since he burst on the scene in 2008 with *Knockemstiff* (named for his hometown near Chillicothe), Pollock has become one of America’s most acclaimed writers. Michelle Gubola talks to Pollock about his latest novel, *The Heavenly Table*.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Here’s to our next sixty years—happy reading!

David Weaver  
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

A view of the Mercantile Library’s reading room, taken from the upper floor. Turn the page to read more about this unique Cincinnati library. Photo by Bryan Loar.





# Mercantile Library

## Ohio Literary Landmarks

by Bryan Loar

*Steeped in a rich history that includes visits by Harriet Beecher Stowe and Herman Melville, the Mercantile Library is an incredible, contemporary resource open to all. One of the few remaining subscription libraries in the country, the library supports an incredible collection of monographs and art while providing extraordinary public programming.*

### Promoting a Spirit of Useful Inquiry

Celebrated as the oldest continuously operating library west of Philadelphia, the Mercantile Library, originally known as the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association, was established in 1835 by forty-five merchants and clerks in Cincinnati, Ohio. At a time when public school systems had not yet been adopted

and social class systems remained, these enterprising men built a library to educate and improve the lives of its members. In his book *At the Center: 175 Years at the Mercantile Library*, Robert C. Vitz describes the pursuit of these self-made men as a means to democratize knowledge and create a local networking system.

Membership originally targeted the mercantile class within accounting, banking, insurance, and manufacturing. Over time, membership expanded to other industries. In 1859 women started joining as non-voting honorary members, and in 1872 the first African-American member joined.

The library was originally located on the second floor of the Independent Fire Engine and Hose Company building. However, the quarters proved challenging during the summer heat, causing the library to close and lose potential memberships. In the spring of 1840, the

association moved into the Cincinnati College building, sharing quarters with the Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati Law College, and the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Fire destroyed the college's building in January 1845, but the quick actions of library members saved the portrait of William Henry Harrison and all but seventy-eight volumes of the collection. The college rebuilt on the same location, and the library committed to raising \$10,000 for the effort. In doing so, the library bargained for a renewable 10,000-year lease to the grounds—a lease authored by none other than Alphonso Taft, father to U.S. President William Howard Taft.

Fire struck again in 1869, and, again, most of the collection was spared. In 1870 the Cincinnati College was rebuilt. After thirty-one years in a structure that was becoming increasingly outdated, Cincinnati College and the library were approached by Thomas Emery's Sons, a company that built its fortune on pork byproducts and then real estate. The Emerys wanted to build a modern edifice on the location, and the Mercantile Library, still owner of the lease, negotiated its placement on the top two floors along with exclusive use of an elevator. As a way to further entice the library to move into a new building, the Emerys suggested the building's name honor the library. In 1904, the Mercantile Library opened in a handsome space with stunning views that still delights.

From the turn of the century to the late 1960s, the library went into dormancy and membership dropped to a low of 323. However, when new director Jean Springer arrived in 1969, her enthusiasm, programming ideas,

and media savvy helped reinvigorate the library. She revived lectures by major literary figures and appealed to younger members through progressive parties. Springer's tenure lasted twenty-four years, during which time she doubled membership and reimagined the library's relevance.

Over the next twenty-two years, under the leadership of Albert Pyle, the Mercantile Library expanded programming to include civic discussions; significantly increased attendance to the library's premier fundraiser, the Niehoff Lectures; grew membership to over 1,000; and completed major updates, including the reuse of the twelfth floor as a lecture room.

Today, membership is affordable, open to all, and enjoyed by more than 2,500 intellectually curious individuals. Executive Director John Faherty, Collector Cedric Rose, Literary Programs and Marketing Manager Amy Hunter, and library staff are energetic and actively pushing the library forward. The Mercantile Library continues to support personal improvement and the exploration of contemporary ideas through an adaptive and open space, a notable collection, inspiring art, and extraordinary programs.

### Classically Contemporary

The renovated Mercantile Library is a light-filled architectural gem. While accents give the library a Victorian feel, the light, open, and adaptable space is in line with today's leading library trends.

Looking south toward the reading room



Original 1908 iron and glass floors



Stairs to the lecture room



Twelfth floor lecture room



Reading room facing north





As visitors exit the elevator, they are greeted with the brightly-hued walls of the anteroom, which contrast with the silky white marble of Joseph Mozier’s statue *Silence* and complement the rich wood tones of the entrance. A wall of arched windows generously illuminates the reading room by day and transforms into a glimmering vista at night.

On the north side, original iron and glass floors house a second story of stacks. The translucent, aquamarine glass flooring creates an ethereal effect and provides additional lighting for the floor below. Nearby desks for staff on the 11th floor are open and accessible, and displays highlight new arrivals.

Near the circulation area, a beautiful spiral staircase leads to the 12th floor lecture room. The room is richly decorated in Art Nouveau style and houses some of the first books collected by the library. Visitors immediately notice the hand-painted names of literary greats that have been Mercantile Library speakers.

Back down on the 11th floor, the center of the library is dedicated to the reading room, which is open, spacious, and flexible. Periodicals and rotating exhibits are found on movable displays, while ample seating is located on the library’s windowed east wall.

At the southern end, the library supports renovated stacks, a historic Steinway piano, and a performance stage. The room has hosted a multitude of events, including the library’s first Niehoff Lecture with famed comedian Jonathan Winters.

A Refined Collection

The Mercantile Library boasts a general collection of more than 80,000 volumes. The collection continues to grow under the direction of Collector Cedric Rose, including access to a range of e-books. Recent

acquisitions include Pulitzer Prize and Ohioana Award winner Anthony Doerr’s *All the Light We Cannot See* and works by past Niehoff lecturer and *New York Times* journalist David Brooks.

Historically, the library’s collection focused broadly on science and literature—any title that would support the technical or cultural improvement of the library’s membership. At times, special appropriations were made, and bequests directed collection development. For example, shortly after the Civil War in 1866, the library focused heavily on the fine arts, particularly illustrated works and books about the history of engraving and printing. That same year, a bequest directed the library to collect “light fiction.” The library’s board interpreted the wishes to mean the best editions of American and British authors, and the library purchased nearly 600 tomes the following year.

Other times, the collection grew by merger. In 1882, the Ex Army and Navy Officers’ Society loaned a collection of military books and memoirs to the library as a special collection. Because the society was created for Civil War veterans, the expectation was that the works would become part of the library’s permanent collection once the society ceased to exist.

Some of the library’s more notable works include first editions of Charles Dickens’s *Our Mutual Friend* and *Dombey and Son* as well as a 1479 folio-sized Bible written in Latin and published in Nuremburg, Germany.

The lavishly illustrated set of six volumes portraying ancient Rome, *Gli Edifizi Antichi dei Contorni di Roma*, and Lt. George M. Wheeler’s *Explorations*, with its one hundred card photographs, are fine examples of pictorial works that educated members before mass-market photography. Additional exemplars include the 1672 *True Prophecies or Prognostications of Michael*

*Nostradamus* and the 1884 *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* with illustrations by Gustave Doré.

Specimens of the Fine Arts & Rare Curiosities

In 1841, the Mercantile Library started its varied collection of paintings, presidential autographs, engravings, sculptures, and minerals. Because the library predated public art institutions in the state of Ohio and much of the U.S., it collected art and rare works in order to enlighten members in all areas of culture and discourse. Curiosities such as Latin pamphlets bound in sharkskin and the Declaration of Independence translated in Chinese and written on silk added variety to the library’s body of knowledge.

Through a series of commissions and gifts, the art collection grew handsomely before the Civil War. Personal letters from U.S. Presidents George Washington and John Adams were obtained, and many paintings and sculptures were acquired. Notable acquisitions include the library’s prized marble replica of Joseph Mozier’s *Silence* and Shobal Vail Clevenger’s original marble bust of President William H. Harrison, also a Mercantile Library member. A stately bust of Abraham Lincoln was sculpted by Thomas Dow Jones. Lincoln sat for Jones, once a Cincinnati resident, just prior to his presidency. Jones noted that Lincoln even wrote parts of his inauguration speech while Jones



Joseph Mozier's *Silence* welcomes visitors as they enter the library.



Buck Niehoff at the Mercantile Library (1995) by Stacey Davidson

sculpted. A painting of U.S. Senator Edward Everett by Joseph Oriel Eaton hangs near the library’s entrance. Everett famously preceded Abraham Lincoln with a two-hour oration before Lincoln’s two-minute Gettysburg Address. Unfortunately, the library’s ambitions to collect pieces of fine art and unique curiosities were not sustainable. The war and the growth of other economic and industrial centers contracted Cincinnati’s aspirations and the library’s ability to collect.

With the advent of renewed programming and membership growth over the last twenty-nine years, the Mercantile Library’s art collection has been reenergized. Busts of Robert Frost and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as well as sketchbooks by Cincinnati artist Elizabeth Nourse have been acquired. A contemporary portrait of H.C. Buck Niehoff by painter Stacey Davidson and a bust of Harriet Beecher Stowe were commissioned. For the Stowe bust, the library partnered with sculptor Walter Driesbach to honor the 150th anniversary of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. The limestone bust was unveiled at the inaugural Harriet Beecher Stowe Festival in Cincinnati.



The reading room is also host to rotating exhibits. This past autumn, Brooklyn-based artist Bryan Schutmaat, Houston-based writer Ashlyn Davis, and former Cincinnati Art Museum curator of photography Brian Sholis collaborated on *Islands of the Blest*, a photographic study on the exploration, settlement, and industrialization of the American West. After combing through 100 years of photography in digital public archives including the Library of Congress, Davis described the project as “poetic mining.”

Dynamic Programming

From yoga classes to literary masters of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, the Mercantile Library demonstrates its forward thinking through vibrant literary programs, discussion groups, and signature events.

Speakers including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rabbi Isaac Wise, Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Updike, Salman Rushdie, and Doris Kearns Goodwin, along with numerous other luminaries, illustrate the library’s strong legacy.

The Niehoff Lectures have given Patti and me the opportunity to share our greatest intellectual heroes, from Ray Bradbury and Julia Child to Seamus Heaney and Sir Salman Rushdie....Life just doesn’t get any better than that.  
—Buck Niehoff

Through literary programs, the library often hosts visiting authors on tour, panel discussions, book signings, and lectures. Autumn 2016 programs included political scientist Norman Finkelstein, historian Christopher Phillips, and Latino MacArthur Fellows founder Sandra Cisneros.

Discussion groups at the Mercantile Library are organized by members and encompass a wide range

of interests. The Cannon Club is the library’s longest-running discussion group and includes members from the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. Literary Journeys supports an international theme and is led by

former Columbia University English teacher Anthony Covatta. The Walnut Street Poetry Society was founded in 2004 and focuses on all things poetry. The Kamholtz Course, facilitated by University of Cincinnati English professor Jonathan Kamholtz, surveys a broad array of literature. And First Wednesdays is a popular lunchtime series featuring different moderators and books of popular interest. Recent or upcoming books include *Everybody’s Fool* by Richard Russo, *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen, and *Swing Time* by Zadie Smith.

The library’s signature events enrich members and the community. The Modern Novel Lecture invites cutting-edge novelists to connect with participants, and the 2035 Lecture explores the future of business, design, technology, and entrepreneurship. The Pyle Urban Lecture, named after former executive director Albert Pyle, calls on urban thinkers to discuss vitality in cities. Hearth & Home focuses on the art of living. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Lecture & Award lauds authors whose work is transforming the world, and the Niehoff Lectures help “strengthen the library’s role as Cincinnati’s premier forum for men and women of letters.”

Literary Center of the Region

The Mercantile Library is a jewel in Ohio’s Queen City and the nation. With a rich history and a vibrant future, the Mercantile Library continues to create a legacy of excellence by promoting literature and ideas, advancing interest in the written word, and celebrating the best in literary achievement. Learn more about this incredible literary landmark at [www.mercantilelibrary.com](http://www.mercantilelibrary.com).

*Special thanks to H.C. Buck Niehoff and the Mercantile Library’s Amy Hunter, Cedric Rose, and John Faherty for their help with this article.*

Niehoff Lectures

Established in 1986 at the suggestion of benefactors H.C. Buck and Patricia Niehoff, the lecture series presents a significant literary figure each year. The black-tie dinner and lecture raises important funds for the library’s operations as a collecting institution and literary center. Past speakers include recipients of the Pulitzer Prize, Emmy Award, National Book Award, Man Booker Prize, and other notable awards. The series enters its 30th year in 2017.

Since its inception, the series has hosted some of the greatest literary and entertainment figures of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Emmy Award-winning actor Jonathan Winters has the dual distinctions of being the inaugural speaker and the only lecturer to appear twice. Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and Peabody Award-winning chef Julia Child encouraged her audience to “be free, to love, to create, and to be truly alive.” Pulitzer Prize-winning author Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. praised public figures for their courage to criticize government in times of war. And National Medal of Arts author Ray Bradbury opened, “You have before you a book lover, a library lover.”

For 2016, the Niehoff Lecture showcased world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin. Goodwin has written the critically acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling *Team of Rivals* and *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*. Buck Niehoff described her talk as “mesmerizing.”



Clockwise from left: Jonathan Winters, Buck Niehoff & Julia Child, Ray Bradbury, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Images courtesy of the Mercantile Library.



# An Interview with Donald Ray Pollock

by Michelle Gubola

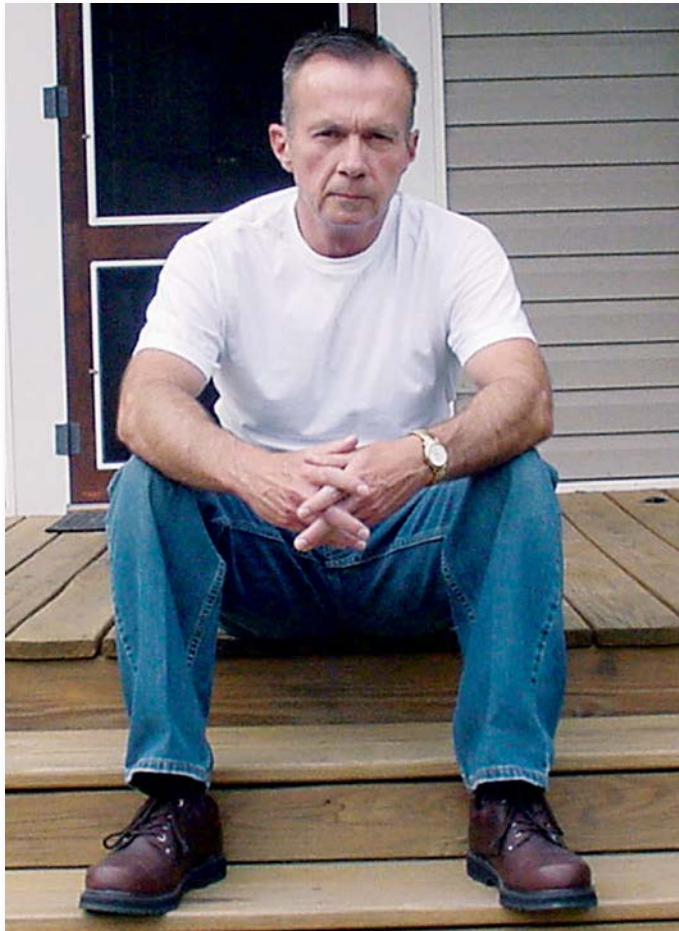


Photo by Patsy Pollock

Donald Ray Pollock grew up and lives in Ross County, Ohio. After a career as a laborer and truck driver at a Chillicothe paper mill, at age 50 Mr. Pollock enrolled in a writing program at The Ohio State University and published his short story collection, *Knockemstiff*. His first novel, *The Devil All the Time*, was named one of Publishers Weekly's Top Ten Books of 2011. Mr. Pollock recently spoke with the *Ohioana Quarterly* about his new book, *The Heavenly Table*.

**Q** In *The Heavenly Table*, the Jewett brothers are inspired by a dime store novel—*The Life and Times of Bloody Bill Bucket*. Was there an early book that captured your young imagination?

**A** I can remember reading a paperback book about Bonnie and Clyde. And I read that thing over and over—I don't know how many times. It got all frayed. I think I was around 14 when I first read it.

When I was very young we didn't have any books in the house. My parents were poor. We didn't even have a Bible. But my parents had romance and true crime magazines. And we had the tabloids you buy at the grocery store. Those were the things I started out reading. I didn't read books until I was in school. But I took to books right away. And I've always liked to read.

**Q** The relationship between brothers Cane, Chimney, and Cobb Jewett is dysfunctional but also touching. Do you have siblings or other family members who inspired those characters?

**A** I have a brother and two sisters—all still around—but they didn't have any influence. What happened with the brothers—what happens with most of my characters—is the more I work with them, the more I get to know them, I sort of develop feelings for them. And if I'm lucky, I guess that sort of shows through.

**Q** As dark as your content can be, I'm always surprised to find myself laughing. *The Heavenly Table* was downright funny in places. Have you made a conscious decision to add more humor?

**A** Yes, it was a conscious effort. I didn't want to write the same book as *Devil All the Time*. But I'm kind of limited. I knew it was still going to be dark and gritty. So what could I do different? I thought I could make it bigger, try to put in more characters, make it funny. So I was consciously trying to do that. The humor—some of that just comes from working with the people at the paper mill. Some of them were excellent storytellers and they could joke about anything. And it was all pretty raw. You have to look for humor in dark circumstances.

**Q** I've read that earlier in your career you labored over each sentence before you moved on to the next, but now you write a very rough first draft. Do the

violent, gritty parts come out of you naturally in that first draft or do you have to go back and add that?

**A** (Laughing) Oh, all that stuff just comes out easy. When I write the first draft it's very rough. I'm only trying to figure out the story line, and then I'll try to figure out how to separate out chapters. The book really gets written in the revisions. But I don't have to work hard to add the violent stuff.

**Q** *The Heavenly Table* is set in 1917, and the sense of time is very evocative in the book. What type of research did you do to bring it to life?

**A** We have several good local historians around here who have written about the Spanish Influenza and about Camp Sherman, so I read all of their stuff. I read a couple other books that were a broad picture of how America was politically and socially at that time. When the war was going on, our reasons for entering, things like that. So for example, in *The Heavenly Table* I talk about people's reactions to things like dachshunds and sauerkraut, and I lifted that right out of a book I read. And then other stuff—well, I pretty much grew up around people who lived like they were living in 1917, except maybe they had a radio or electricity. But they were living off the land, and living pretty rough. I don't have to use too much imagination to think about what it would be like.

**Q** All of your stories take place before computers and cell phones. How do you feel about those modern technologies?

**A** Hey, I like to have running water and electricity, but I'm not a big fan of technology. I'm sort of pessimistic about the handheld technology, where the person is walking down the street in their phone and not in the world. I carry a cell phone but only when I travel. And I bought my first one this year. Never had a cell phone before that; never had any problems. But my agent kept hinting that it would be better for everybody if I had a phone. I don't carry it around here.

I do watch TV. *Breaking Bad*, *Mad Men*, *House of Cards*. I think there's things a writer can learn from watching

these shows, about the way they tell a story. Actually, the way that I write, sort of episodic, with short chapters that move from one character to another, is similar to some of these television shows. For example, in many of these television shows you might meet a character in the first show and then you won't see him again until the tenth show. Somehow he's still in the story. I do that. But you can't get carried away with it. If you're going to be a writer, you still have to read.

**Q** Over the progression of your books the characters have come closer together. In *Knockemstiff* the characters had their own stories, but by *The Heavenly Table*, many of the characters are complexly intertwined. Has this been a purposeful evolution for you?

**A** I think so. I want to try to keep getting better as a writer. Writing is hard anyway, but then to try to figure out how to push everything forward and also link all the people up, it's sometimes kind of difficult. For the next book—it's more along the lines of a "conventional novel" with bigger chapters, not so many, not quite as fast. Sort of like with *The Heavenly Table* I didn't want to write *The Devil All the Time* all over again—although I know some

of my publishers were hoping for that—but I wanted to write something different. And better. I have a finite number of years in books left. When I can't get better anymore I will quit. That's it.

**Q** I was a little frustrated not knowing how it all worked out for the Jewett brothers. Any chance we'll hear more about them?

**A** I was frustrated too! I like to leave the endings a little ambiguous as much as I can. So even though the reader is pretty sure what happens to Chimney and to Cane, I don't really spell it out. But when I was working on the ending—and I tried a couple different approaches—the only thing that I really knew is that I wanted a least one of them to survive. My problem was I couldn't figure out which one of them I wanted to survive. Once I made the decision it became clear to me what was going to happen.

...What happens with most of my characters is the more I work with them, the more I get to know them, I sort of develop feelings for them. And if I'm lucky, I guess that sort of shows through.  
—Donald Ray Pollock



**Q** Any chance we'll read more about the brothers, or have you moved on to other things?

**A** I don't think these characters will appear again in my books. But there is one possibility. I've talked to some people recently who are interested in maybe making *The Heavenly Table* into a TV series, and they said that unless I was planning to write a sequel it would just be a one season deal. And after they said that I got to thinking .... because I left the endings to the brothers ambiguous there are several things I could do to sort of generate another book. But with this movie and TV stuff, you don't want to get too excited about something like that happening because there's just so much involved and usually it doesn't turn out.

**Q** When you're not writing do you think about it, do you feel guilty for taking a break?

**A** When I'm working I work in the mornings to try to get it out of the way so I don't think about it for the rest of the day. I used to write at night a lot, so all day I'd be thinking about how in the evenings I'd have to start writing. So now I try to get it all out in the mornings. I'm sort of always thinking about it in the back of my mind. But I can tell myself, hey I did okay today, I sat down there for *x* number of hours, and even if nothing happened I did it—I was in the chair. I've got a shed in the backyard and that's where I work. Couple reasons—one, to get away from everything. And two, because I smoke and it's the only place I can smoke. No internet, no phone, nothing out there.

**Q** Religion plays such an important role in both of your novels, and you use lots of religious symbols. I wondered if you are a religious man?

**A** I am very interested in religion, but I'm not religious myself. I'm an agnostic. But I'm fascinated with people who can believe in something so strongly when there is absolutely no evidence. My parents aren't religious. I was never forced to go to church. But I grew up with people, the old fundamentalist types, where everything in the Bible is literally true. And I've always been a little jealous of that

—man, I wish I could believe—because it would make things a little easier. To really believe, deep down, that if you follow a certain path and obey these rules you're going to go to heaven when you die. And these people have an image of heaven in their mind, like the Sunday school pictures with the streets of gold and all that stuff. I'm just fascinated with it. I go to church. I like the ritual. I just don't believe. My attitude—I don't think you can prove it and I don't think you can disprove it. So I'm sort of left up in the air.

**Q** You've written some pretty disturbing scenes. Does anything you've written still haunt you?

**A** No. Nothing in the books haunts me. With any of the books, except for the pieces I read in public I never look at them again. But there's a good reason for that. If I would open *The Heavenly Table* and start reading it, all I'm going to see is the stuff I could have done better. And the book's already published. I can't torture myself with that, so I'll just let it go.

**Q** At the beginning of *Knockemstiff* you share the following quote: "All Americans come from Ohio originally, if only briefly." What does that mean to you?

**A** That quote is from Dawn Powell, who is a writer from Ohio who ended up in New York, who wrote four really great novels set in Ohio. I think it means that all people are pretty much the same in terms of their passions and their problems, in terms of their humanity.

**Q** What does being an Ohioan mean to you?

**A** People ask me all the time—why don't you move? You're a writer now, writers can work anywhere. And I tell them that this is home for me. Granted there are some things I would like to change about it, but I can't. And I feel like this is the only place. After all that travel—I always feel a little uneasy, I always feel a little on guard—and it's not until I get back to Ross County that I can be myself, or feel I can be myself. And that's pretty much it.

**Q** How has Ohio influenced your writing?

**A** Ohio has influenced my writing for sure. The geography. The place. I grew up in Knockemstiff. Right in the middle of it. My mom's brothers built my parents' house in the 1950s and we had about 80 acres. And the farm next to us was 1,000 acres. I was out in the sticks. I guess when I'm writing I think of the place as another character, so there's that. And people say my stuff is "hillbilly" or "gothic"—the people that I deal with. You're not going to find them in New York City. You might find them on the south side of Columbus. I deal with hillbillies—with country people—and there's a lot of them around this part of Ohio.

**Q** My favorite thing you've written is one of the short stories, "Dynamite Hole." Is there really such a place?

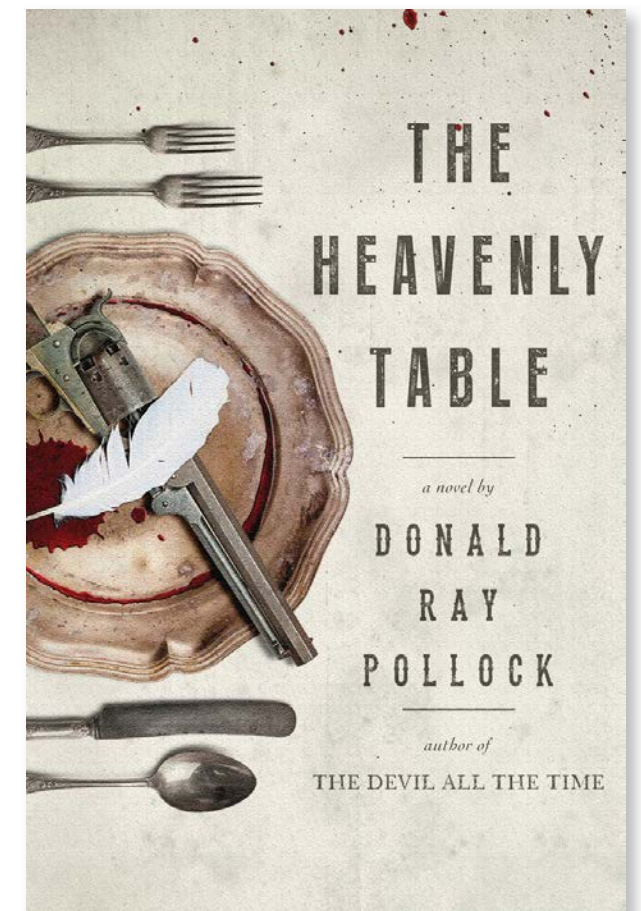
**A** Yes. There was such a place. There was a little place on Black Run Creek called Dynamite Hole. And the story I got from my dad was that back in the late 1930s or early '40s these two guys went there and threw dynamite in the water to get the fish out. And it created this sort of small stream, and you come to the dynamite hole that was a little deeper and hollowed out. We used to swim there. I don't know if I saw any snakes, but you had to watch for leeches. When you got out of there you had to check yourself for leeches.

**Q** You're just coming back from two trips to Europe this fall to talk about your writing. All your books have been very well received in Europe. What kind of questions do you get from your readers in Europe?

**A** Guns. In the States I never get asked about the guns. But in Europe I get asked all the time—why do so many people have guns? Do you own a gun? Lots of questions about guns. And in Europe people ask a lot of political and social questions. In the States everyone just knows we're like this, we all know we're crazy about guns.

**Q** Is this what you expected? Is this what you thought it would be like to be a published author?

**A** No. Not at all. My original goal was to publish one short story. If I could do that I would be satisfied. And then I went to graduate school at OSU and quit my job at the paper mill. It was one of the hardest decisions I've made in my life. I'd been there thirty-two years and all I had to do was hang in another ten years and I was going to retire. So when I went to OSU I thought if I could write enough stories to have a collection and get it published I'll get a job teaching at a small college somewhere and that will be it. That will be a nice life. But I discovered that I hated to teach and I wasn't very good at it. So I was stuck. What would I do now? By then we'd sold *Knockemstiff*. We did that while I was in grad school. So then I thought I'd write another book to try to earn some money. And it just went on from there. I never expected to be going to Europe or to have people talking to me about options on the books. I was trying to be sensible. It's a very precarious way of making a living. And I've been very lucky I've been able to do it without teaching or working at Walmart. It's turned out much better than I could have ever planned.

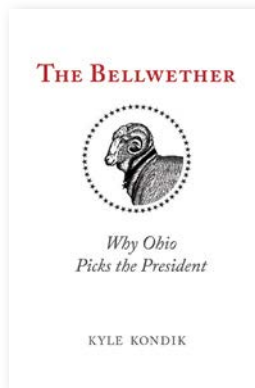


## NONFICTION

### Kondik, Kyle. *The Bellwether: Why Ohio Picks the President.*

Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$24.95.

A *bellwether* is a sheep that leads the rest of the flock. With the exception of the 1944 and 1960 elections, Ohio has correctly picked every U.S. president since William McKinley in 1896. In his book *The Bellwether*, Kyle Kondik, managing editor of a nonpartisan political forecasting newsletter, pulls together statistics and historical information to explain how and why Ohio voters are so accurate when it comes to predicting presidential elections.



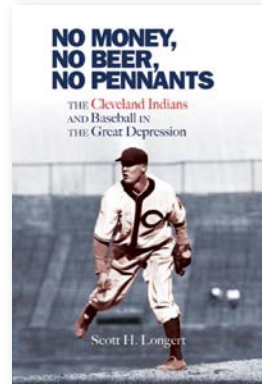
For readers who are fuzzy on how the election process works, particularly the Republican and Democratic conventions and the Electoral College, Kondik outlines the process and describes the maneuvering that takes place behind the scenes. He argues that Ohio has been the key state in the Electoral College for more than a century, and even identifies which areas of the Buckeye State have the most impact on the final result. An extensive bibliography and notes section at the back of the book provide additional information. Although *The Bellwether* includes a significant amount of statistics, it is easy to read, includes lots of history, and provides excellent insight into the election process and how Ohio leads the pack. An excellent book for concerned and informed voters.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

### Longert, Scott H. *No Money, No Beer, No Pennants: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Great Depression.*

Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$24.95.

As a lifelong baseball fan, having seen my first game at Cleveland's Memorial Stadium in 1953 on a father-son Cub Scout train outing from New Castle, Pennsylvania, I was looking forward to reading and reviewing this new book. Factor in the Indians having been in the classic 2016 World Series clash with the Cubs, and I pushed other books on my reading list aside to read *No Money, No Beer, No Pennants*.



Scott Longert has written previously about Cleveland baseball in *Addie Joss: King of the Pitchers*, and his familiarity with the team and its history is impressive. The 1920s lead off, as Longert reviews the pre-Depression ups and downs of the Indians. As with the entire fact-filled book, he is able to write entertainingly without the facts and numbers and details bogging down the reader, which I found amazing. Reviewers often don't read every page of a book they're writing about, but I really did go page by page, because Longert is that good a baseball writer.

In the late 1920s, Cleveland civic leaders had the city feeling confident about the future: the new Terminal Tower, a new municipal airport (one of the early ones in the country), and a new ballpark for the Indians to replace outdated and undersized League Park were being actively discussed with much optimism. Like most of the country at that time, the future looked rosy.

But with Wall Street's crash in October of 1929, ballpark-going fans had less money for non-essentials. Baseball execs were nervous, but for the first couple of years, attendance held up fairly well. As the Depression wore on, however, the ballparks began to see smaller crowds.

## BOOK REVIEWS | NONFICTION

Cleveland was in an awkward position; there had been great enthusiasm for a new ballpark for many years, but how could a projected \$2.5 million be spent with an uncertain return on the investment in such troubled times? Naturally Cleveland politics played an important part in the building of the stadium and thus in the fortunes of the team. Longert presents thorough specifics of various politicians and their realms of concern, but without overburdening the reader. Even Huey Long, Louisiana politician and then-mayor of New Orleans, comes into the picture. He wanted to keep Cleveland's spring training in New Orleans, so he bought a share of the club to keep them coming back and contributing to the local economy. While discussing baseball, the author keeps what was happening in Cleveland in broader perspective.

Longert does a great job of following the stadium story while describing what was happening in the dugout and on the field through those years of stadium uncertainty. There is not only game-by-game coverage (when needed to drive Longert's story), but also at times inning-by-inning and occasionally pitch-by-pitch details. He loads the lineup with anecdotes about not only the Indians, but baseball in general, always aware of the Cleveland team's place in the big picture of baseball and sports in America.

The annual meetings of baseball executives are covered well: which teams need what kind of help? How do they deal with the consequences of the economic problems their fans are experiencing without hurting their balance sheets? Cleveland, as an industrial city, was hard hit by the Depression. Slowdowns in the steel industry and auto-assembly plants left many without jobs. Relief claims rose, and shantytowns lined the lake.

Most players in baseball were asked to take a ten percent cut in salary. Many players objected to the lowered pay. Yet the owners never reduced the admission prices.

Once Cleveland Stadium opened in 1932, the owners were very apprehensive about revenue in the new ballpark. Although 80,000 fans showed up for that first game in the new stadium, the rest of the year saw average attendance of 5,000-6,000, not enough to meet expenses. After two years, it was clear that the huge stadium (constructed to accommodate football as well as baseball) was built at the wrong time and could not

break even as attendance dwindled. The team switched back to old, outdated, cramped League Park in 1934 and promptly began making a profit again. Prohibition had been repealed, and the area around the ballpark where people could drink before going to the ballgame boomed. It was the beginning of the turnaround for Cleveland baseball.

Longert maintains a well-balanced pace, sometimes breaking from his narrative to fit in the story of a player's background and rise to the majors, and the break is always appropriate to the text at large.

I enjoyed the discussion of the beginning of live play-by-play coverage of the games on radio. Hard to believe now, but there was controversy about whether to permit such coverage or not, as some thought it would suppress attendance. The Indians were one of the first teams to permit radio, then faced the controversy over whether or not to allow advertising. After a trial period, live radio was banned in 1933, the year after the new stadium opened, based on the belief that people would stay away if they could hear the game at home as it progressed.

However, radio coverage came back quickly, and the first live road game coverage occurred in 1935. That same year Cleveland hosted the third All-Star game, which had become wildly popular. It was held in the new stadium, and for the next eleven years Cleveland played in both venues: regular day games at old League Park, while Sunday and holiday games took place in the big new stadium where larger crowds could be accommodated for premium games. 1935 also saw the beginning of night games, which became well attended.

In 1936, the future of Cleveland baseball arrived: Bob Feller, who was still in high school when he began pitching for the Indians. He more than fulfilled everyone's hopes for him, eventually leading Cleveland to a World Series championship in 1948.

As I read, I kept thinking: how did the author find all the details that saturate this enjoyable book? How did he learn that 600 pounds of hot dogs were ready for the Opening Day crowd at League Park in 1928, and a team of seventy-five boys were ready to slap mustard on each one of them as they were sold in the stands? Longert's research is very impressive, and his writing is remarkable; he is able to sprinkle the text with amazing details while maintaining a high standard of prose.



His coverage of extensive game action is worthy of a professional baseball journalist.

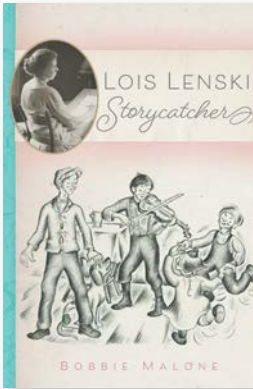
This book will be addictive to baseball fans who also enjoy reading about baseball. For me, it was a much-needed midwinter baseball fix, helping me survive until the pitchers and catchers report for spring training around February 20. Longert has hit a home run with *No Money, No Beer, No Pennants*.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN

**Malone, Bobbie. *Lois Lenski: Storycatcher*.**

Univ. of Oklahoma Press (Norman, OK) 2016. HC \$26.95.

Hearing the name Lois Lenski brings back memories of reading the *Little* books, featuring Mr. Small, and savoring *Strawberry Girl* and *Phebe Fairchild*. Perhaps you read *We Live in the City* or *Little Sioux Girl* from her *Roundabout America* series. We all have childhood memories of reading books written and illustrated by Lois Lenski. The author and illustrator won many awards throughout her career, including the Ohioana Award for juvenile fiction in 1943 for *Bayou Suzette* and a coveted Newbery Award in 1946 for *Strawberry Girl*. These are just a few of the many books Lenski wrote for children of all ages.



Bobbie Malone brings Lois Lenski to life in this study of her creative genius. Lenski was born in 1893 in Springfield, Ohio, and raised in Anna and later Columbus. She studied art at Ohio State University and was an illustrator for *Makio*, the university’s yearbook. After college, she trained in New York City while picking up illustrating and lettering jobs. Lenski then moved to London in 1920, where she illustrated her first book, *The Green-Faced Toad*. The book’s success launched her illustrating career. After leaving London and marrying art professor and commercial artist Arthur Covey, Lenski painted commercial murals for department stores and businesses along with her husband. It was at this stage that Lenski’s career took off. She illustrated fairy tales and other people’s stories until, inspired by her son Stephen’s love of books and

reading, she created picture books and adventure stories of her own. She wrote and illustrated her own works until her death in 1974.

Malone lovingly and meticulously recounts how Lenski researched her subjects, interviewed students and townspeople, lived among them for weeks at a time, and then constructed engaging historical fiction, contemporary stories, and even didactic works on life in cities and rural areas. Despite chronic ill health, Lenski worked on multiple books for different age groups, completing text and illustrations for two or three titles a year for most of her fifty-year career.

Malone weaves Lenski’s prolific career into the study of picture books and juvenile fiction. Readers will learn about the development of children’s books and their place in schools and homes throughout America from the 1940s through the early 1970s.

What was so appealing about Lenski’s books? Malone includes quotes from children of all ages who describe their delight at reading about people just like themselves. Lenski was a master at taking the stories she heard in the dialect of an area and constructing stories about real people, places, and events. Her stories stood in sharp contrast to the fairy tales that were all the rage at the time. Her books were replete with simple line drawings and subtle color washes that emphasized activities children could act out.

With an academic yet readable flair, Malone explains the philosophy and theory behind Lenski’s drawings—how they suit growing minds, curious toddlers, and adventuresome pre-teens. This biography follows the evolution of Lenski’s art and creativity, but does not include direct quotes about her motives or rationale. Instead, Malone uses indirect quotes and digressions to elucidate Lenski’s attitude about her own works.

Copious endnotes direct readers to articles by and about Lenski, to works about juvenile fiction, and to her numerous awards. A list of works Lenski authored and illustrated is included for easy reference. Alas, there is neither a bibliography of works Malone consulted and incorporated into this biography nor a list of works that Lenski only illustrated, articles written, or speeches presented. Readers must search elsewhere for a complete bibliography of this prolific author’s work. This would be a huge research project of its own, as in

the last years of her life, Lenski sent drawings, sketches, and manuscript drafts of her work to academic institutions and public libraries in the towns and cities that were the inspiration for her stories. Indeed, she did the same with her husband’s works after his death. Given the scattered nature of the output of Lenski’s career, Malone’s biography is even more impressive. Malone gathered information and resources from across the country, mining special collections in libraries and publishers’ archives (although no list of the repositories is included in the back matter).

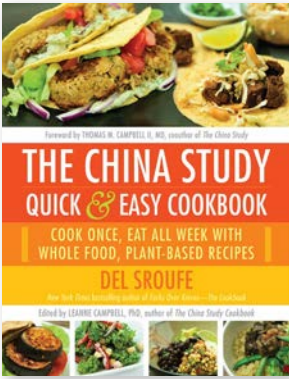
This biography is a paean to the incredible work of a prolific illustrator and author who touched the lives of children and their parents from 1920 until 1974. Readers will be reminded of their childhood and enchanted all over again by the numerous illustrations and photographs.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

**Sroufe, Del. *The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook: Cook Once, Eat All Week with Whole Food, Plant-Based Recipes*.**

BenBella Books (Dallas, TX) 2015. PB \$19.95.

In *The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook*, Del Sroufe presents a yummy selection of healthy, plant-based recipes. The book is designed with recipes listed in various meal planning categories, from breakfast dishes to sandwiches, entrees, desserts, and everything in between. All recipes are convenient and easy, especially for a busy lifestyle. Weekly menu planning tips provide suggestions for coordinating foods and preparation time. Each recipe contains dietary symbols to extend the understanding of the plant-based, healthy lifestyle.



The many recipe options in Sroufe’s newest cookbook make meal planning and cooking a joy. I especially enjoyed the two oatmeal cookie recipes, one for Oatmeal-Raisin Cookies and the other for Banana-Peanut Butter Cookies. Neither recipe uses white sugar or flour but includes unsweetened applesauce and whole wheat flour instead. Other tempting options

include Potato Salad with Pine Nuts, Olives, and Dill or Barbacoa Mushroom Burritos. This cookbook is a wonderful resource for making recipes for all meals and is also a good reference source for nutritional categories and meal planning ideas. *The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook* proves that one can produce a quick, easy, and delicious meal without sacrificing health and nutrition.

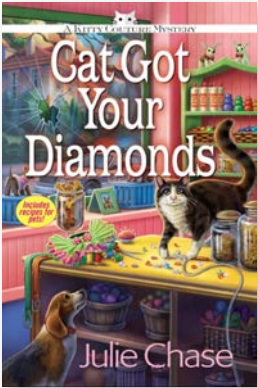
REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON

**FICTION**

**Chase, Julie. *Cat Got Your Diamonds: A Kitty Couture Mystery*.**

Crooked Lane Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$25.99.

The Garden District in New Orleans has a new store, The Furry Godmother, which caters to pet lovers. Lacy Marie Crocker bakes up organic pet treats and will dress your pet in style. Lacy has put her New York fashion design degree to good use making coats, hats, boots, and costumes for the discriminating pet.



One night, while collecting costume supplies from the storeroom of Furry Godmother, Lacy is startled by a thief. She sprays him with glitter as she is running out the back door, then quickly runs around to the front of the store to call 911. However, when the police arrive, the thief is dead. Detective Jake Oliver investigates, and Lacy becomes the prime suspect. With her business investor wanting out and her own freedom at stake, Lacy decides to investigate the crime herself. You’ll figure out the plot but not the culprit until the very end.

Julie Chase’s new series, *Kitty Couture*, is delightful and witty. (It also includes recipes for Lacy’s pet treats.) This cozy mystery is perfect for an airplane trip this winter.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

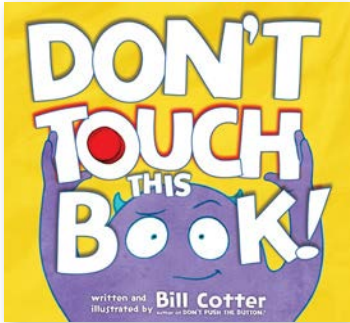


MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN’S

Cotter, Bill. *Dont Touch This Book!*

Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (Naperville, IL) 2016. HC \$16.99.

*Don't Touch This Book!* by Bill Cotter is about a cute little monster that does not want anybody to touch his book. The monster has so much fun playing with the reader that he allows the reader to slowly begin touching his book. He lets you use your fingers to make things, like colorful rainbows. Later in the book, he lets you touch the book with your whole hand.



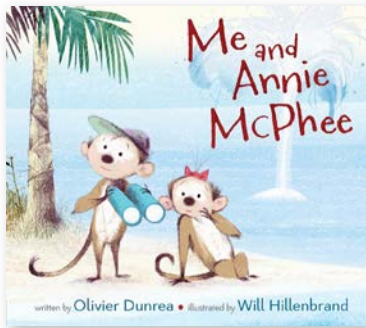
I think this book is a joyful picture book for third grade and down. I recommend this book for this age because it is for children, and it's fun. It lets you interact with the character. I enjoyed this book because it is funny and colorful with rainbows, dinosaurs, and robots.

REVIEWED BY RAEMA BROGDON, GRADE 4

Dunrea, Olivier. Illus. by Will Hillenbrand. *Me and Annie McPhee*.

Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99.

*Me and Annie McPhee* is written by Olivier Dunrea and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. It is a story about two monkeys. The monkeys live on an island and they think that no one else lives there. They claim that there is only room for the two of them. Soon they discover two little dogs that jump like frogs. That night, they meet many more silly animal friends including five little geese all named Maurice. The monkeys think that it's okay to share the island. Soon they realize it is too crowded.



The book was a really good book to read. It was a very funny and silly story. I think that *Me and Annie McPhee* has very easy vocabulary and repeats words and phrases

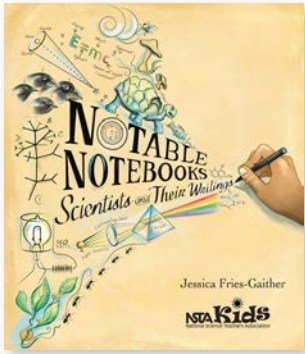
which is good for younger readers. Will Hillenbrand's colorful illustrations do a very good job of telling the story as well. It can help preschoolers with counting skills to ten because it counts the animals on the island down from ten to one, kind of like the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

REVIEWED BY KATHERINE NIVEN, GRADE 4

Fries-Gaither, Jessica. *Notable Notebooks: Scientists and Their Writings*.

NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2016. PB \$12.95.

*Notable Notebooks*, by Jessica Fries-Gaither, is a book about scientists' notebooks and how they are important to scientists and their work. It is a very good book to symbolize the importance of a scientist. The book explains how notebooks are a vital tool for a scientist.



Notebooks help scientists understand what they observe. Examples include how Galileo wrote about planets orbiting the sun, and how Isaac Newton had lots of numbers in his book that helped him figure out the theory of gravity, and how Maria Mitchell drew the stars.

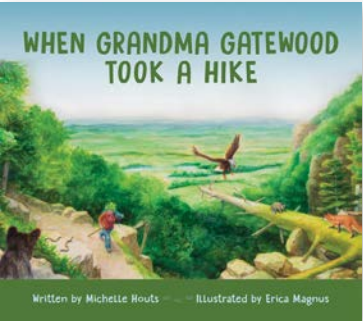
We would recommend this book to people ages five and up, because it has complicated words that younger people might not understand. It would also be a good book for a teacher to use in his or her classroom. As students, we now know why we use notebooks in science class and why we keep graphs, facts, and pictures in our notebooks.

REVIEWED BY SEELEY MAZUR & OPHELIA LONZO, GRADE 4

Houts, Michelle. Illus. by Erica Magnus. *When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike*.

Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. HC \$17.95.

On a chilly day in early May, Grandma Gatewood set out to be the first woman to hike the two thousand mile Appalachian Trail solo. She began her walk on Mount Oglethorpe in Georgia. Along the way, Grandma Gatewood passed farms and crossed meadows. She met families, and people offered to give her a good meal and a place to sleep for the night. When Grandma Gatewood came near snakes, she walked the opposite direction, and when flies bothered her, she would build herself a hat made of sassafras leaves and soon the flies were gone. Finally, on a cold, gray day in September, Emma Rowena Caldwell Gatewood became the first woman to hike the Appalachian Trail solo.



We would recommend Michelle Houts's newest book, *When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike*, for third graders and older. The illustrations are bright, colorful, and descriptive. They also help the reader understand what is going on, and they connect with the story. This book is a wonderful way to show Emma Rowena Caldwell Gatewood's courage and perseverance to be the first woman to complete the Appalachian Trail solo.

REVIEWED BY MADDIE JENKS & ALEXANDRA FLAMM, GRADE 4

Long, Loren. *Otis and the Kittens*.

Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$17.99.

In Loren Long's book *Otis and the Kittens*, Otis is a tractor that lives on a farm. There has been no rain for a while, and it is hot, hot, and hot. Otis likes to play tug-of-war with all of his friends. One day he is playing with his friends and he sees an orange tabby cat. When he is



about to go see where it is coming from, he sees a large puff of dark smoke. The smoke is coming out of the old barn. Otis rushes down to try to save the tabby cat's life and all of the kittens. He successfully saves six kittens but accidentally forgets one. He has to go back to the old barn to save the last kitten. When he gets the kitten to safety, he goes around the barn but then the floor collapses and Otis falls into it. Read the book to find out if he will be okay.

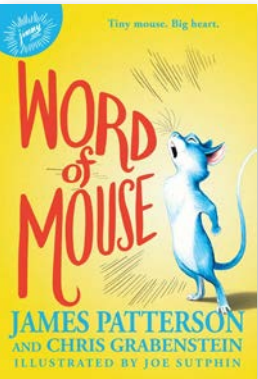
We recommend this book for younger children around the ages of 4-7 because it talks about friendship and helping your friends. The book shows kindness and bravery, which is good for children. A lesson Otis teaches is to never give up and to keep trying. In conclusion, *Otis and the Kittens* is a wonderful children's book and has wonderful pictures!

REVIEWED BY GWYN SMITH & JAYNE MCDONALD, GRADE 4

Patterson, James, and Chris Grabenstein. Illus. by Joe Sutphin. *Word of Mouse*.

Jimmy Patterson Books/Little, Brown & Company (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$13.99.

Isaiah is a mouse who loves his family, adores people food, and is a shocking shade of blue. This is nothing unusual to his brothers and sisters, who all gained colorful fur and special abilities from their life as lab experiments. But when Isaiah and his siblings attempt an escape from the Horrible Place, Isaiah gets separated and finds himself all alone. He meets a colony of "normal" mice who spend their time swiping food from the messy suburban house they live beneath. They can't read; they can't speak people words; and they are definitely not blue. But with his intelligence and compassion, Isaiah becomes an asset to his new adopted family. He enjoys being part of the clan (especially when a lovely girl mouse called Mikayla catches his eye), but he feels like he is hiding his true self and misses his family still trapped in the laboratory.



Everything changes when Isaiah meets a human in the neighborhood named Hailey. She also stands out as



being “different,” and she doesn’t mind Isaiah’s unique talents. With Hailey and the help of Mikayla and the clan, Isaiah hatches a plan to rescue his family from the Horrible Place. But is he brave enough to stand tall and speak up in the face of danger?

*Word of Mouse* is a wonderful middle grade novel. From whiskers to tail, Isaiah is a heroic and adorable main character. He narrates the story with humor and cute mouse-isms, giving readers a rodent’s view of the world. It’s a page-turning adventure, with short, fast-paced chapters full of action and fun that keeps readers guessing until the end. The story is illustrated by Ohioan Joe Sutphin. His pen-and-ink art brings the imaginative world to life, showing Isaiah and the other critters in charming detail. This book is a great choice for anyone looking for a tale that is both funny and exciting. It is especially perfect for readers who love animal stories such as *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*, *The Tale of Despereaux*, and *Stuart Little*.

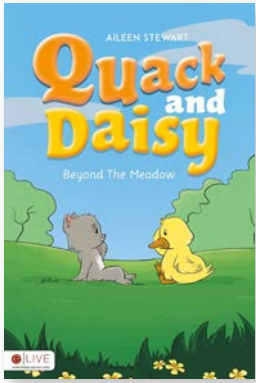
With a great cast of characters, thrilling plot, and lovely illustrations, *Word of Mouse* is a must-read book.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS

**Stewart, Aileen. *Quack and Daisy: Beyond the Meadow*.**

Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2016. PB \$8.99.

In Aileen Stewart’s *Quack and Daisy: Beyond the Meadow*, the reader meets a duck and a kitten. Quack and Daisy are best friends who are very curious and like to play in the meadow by the farm. Quack is a duckling, and Daisy is a grey and white kitten. Mama Duck told Quack not to go beyond the meadow, because it is dangerous. They wonder what is dangerous towards the end of the meadow, so they go and try to see why Mama Duck doesn’t want them going there. Will they follow Mama Duck’s rules, or will they go past the meadow where their curiosity leads them?



This book teaches about friendship and listening to your parents. If you want to learn more, read *Quack and Daisy: Beyond the Meadow* by Aileen Stewart.

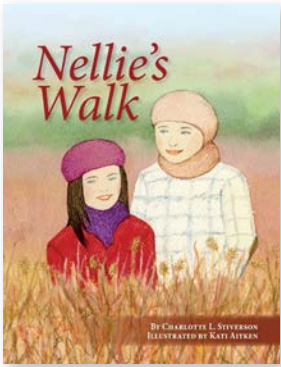
We recommend this book for young children and early readers, because it is short and descriptive but not confusing. It is appropriate for all children and also is a cute book.

REVIEWED BY VICTORIA TRAN & GRETA BAUER, GRADE 4

**Stiverson, Charlotte L. *Nellie’s Walk*.**

Oncology Nursing Society (Pittsburgh, PA) 2016. PB \$13.95.

*Nellie’s Walk*, by Charlotte Stiverson, is a wonderfully written story about a girl named Nellie whose mother has cancer. In the story, Nellie and her mother go on a walk. As they walk, Nellie asks her mother about the cancer. Her mother explains that cancer is just like nature. When Nellie asks her how cancer is like nature, her mother explains it to her in a beautiful and fascinating way. She tells Nellie how the medicine makes her lose her hair just like the trees lose their leaves to focus on their trunks. She explains how she has to focus on her body.



I would recommend this book to anyone, but especially to kids who have a loved one with cancer. Charlotte Stiverson, the author of this book, is an amazing teacher and writer of children’s books.

REVIEWED BY MALIA CHOW, GRADE 4

**Wahl, Jan. *The Long Tall Journey*.**

Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2015. HC \$18.99.

*The Long Tall Journey* by Jan Wahl, with illustrations by Laurent Gapaillard, is based on a true story about a female giraffe living in Sudan, Africa, in 1825. One day, she is taken from her homeland by strangers. The strangers take her on a journey, yet she doesn’t know where she is or where she is going. Her captors put her on a boat. She sees water and people singing. Atir and Hassan, two boys, take care of the giraffe during her journey. They stop at a port and pick up an antelope, three cows, and a noisy parrot. Then, they go out to sea. The giraffe meets lots of people and sees many places on her trip, which takes two years and covers 4,000 miles. She finally ends up in France, where they build her a

glass house in which to live. They are kind to her and treat her well. Despite this, she misses her friends, the taste of acacia, and her family, and she never goes back to her homeland. Even so, she makes the people who come to see her very happy, and this makes her happy in the end.

Audrey and Tyla thought this was a very interesting book. Madelyn appreciated that even though the giraffe misses her home, she finds happiness through entertaining people. Victoria and Emersen noticed that the author used excellent description by telling the reader about the giraffe’s feelings and surroundings. Even though the giraffe was taken from its home, the people who take care of her turn out to be fairly kind to her, and this was a surprise to Sophia and the class. Brenlynn and Ms. Kessler liked how the illustrations were so colorful and detailed. They really stood out, and some illustrations even took up two pages without any text. In other words, the pictures did a great job of telling the story as well. Some of the pictures made Boula and the rest of us sad, like the one in the beginning where people first capture her. She has ropes around her, and she sadly says goodbye to her friends. The class agreed with Katherine that the story was quite sad in some points, but happy in others. Bradyn and Sammy noted that it was also upsetting because it took two years and so many miles of travel for the animal. Rose felt tremendous empathy for the giraffe as did the rest of the class.

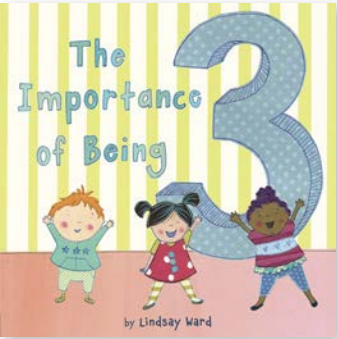
We would recommend this book to people who enjoy sad but well-written books. Although it’s a picture book, we suggest that it is appropriate for older elementary grades. Younger children may be scared by it and not understand some of the challenges the giraffe faces. Even though *The Long Tall Journey* is bittersweet, we really like how it is also magical and adventurous. We hope the giraffe enjoyed her fascinating life.

REVIEWED BY MS. KESSLER’S GRADE 4 CLASS

**Ward, Lindsay. *The Importance of Being 3*.**

Dial BFYR (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99.

*The Importance of Being 3*, by Lindsay Ward, is a good book for kids that are three and want to learn about their three-year-old life. This book is a clean, cute book; little kids will enjoy it.



*The Importance of Being 3* has great wording without any bad or hard-to-read words, and a young child can understand it easily. The colorful and cheerful illustrations in this book match perfectly with the words. There are not many words on each page, but the pictures take up the whole page. This book involves three children on their adventures of being three. These children explain how cool it is to be three. For example, the kids find different things that come in threes, like letters, numbers, and much more.

We recommend this book to three year olds that have a heart for adventure. We enjoyed reading this book and have three-year-old friends who also will like reading *The Importance of Being 3*.

REVIEWED BY GILLIAN SPANGLER & ELISE BARBER, GRADE 4



# Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana’s collection between September and November 2016. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## NONFICTION

Adams, Kevin, and Leonne M. Hudson (eds.). *Democracy and the American Civil War: Race and African Americans in the Nineteenth Century*. The Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2016. PB \$24.95. With topics ranging from antebellum abolitionists to the legacy of Reconstruction, the essays in this volume address the importance of democracy and race both during and after the Civil War.

Bashor, Will. *Marie Antoinette’s Darkest Days: Prisoner No. 280 in the Conciergerie*. Rowman & Littlefield (Lanham, MD) 2016. HC \$27.95. This book begins on August 2, 1793, when French queen Marie Antoinette became “Widow Capet, No. 280” in the Conciergerie, the “waiting room for the guillotine.” Although most prisoners were quickly convicted and executed, Marie Antoinette spent seventy-six days in conditions that were the opposite of her life at Versailles. This detailed and thoroughly researched account paints a vivid picture of the queen’s last days.

Boissoneault, Lorraine. *The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle’s Journey Across America: Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime*. Pegasus Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$27.95.

In the summer of 1976, high-school French teacher Reid Lewis, along with six teachers and sixteen students, set out to recreate La Salle’s historic journey from Montreal to the end of the Mississippi River. During the eight-month, 3,300-mile journey, they wore clothes and paddled canoes they had made themselves without the use of modern tools, gave presentations about the original expedition in communities along their route, and discovered themselves along the way.

Brown, Dale Patrick. *Literary Cincinnati: The Missing Chapter*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2011. HC \$24.95. *Literary Cincinnati* takes the reader on a joyous ride with some of the great literary personalities who have shaped life in the Queen City.

David, Mary A., and Barbara Davis Whitaker (eds.). *History of the GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women’s Clubs: Volume V 1994-2014*. 2016. The GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women’s Clubs was organized in Springfield, Ohio, in 1894. This volume documents the organization’s members, committees, activities, and awards between 1994 and 2004.

Davies, Richard O. *The Main Event: Boxing in Nevada from the Mining Camps to the Las Vegas Strip*. Univ. of Nevada Press (Reno, NV) 2014. HC \$29.95. In 1897, Nevada became the first state to legalize boxing (in order to stage the Corbett-Fitzsimmons world heavyweight championship).

This book chronicles boxing in the state from the early bare-knuckle days through the Rat Pack era to today’s mixed martial arts.

Deluca, Leo, and Steve Lucht. *Dayton’s Spirit of Community Service and Leadership*. Dayton History (Dayton, OH) 2016. HC \$29.95. In 1932, The President’s Club of Dayton was formed to promote volunteerism. This book honors the winners of the club’s Citizen Legion of Honor Award, and in doing so highlights sixty-five years of community service in the Gem City.

Dinan, Kim. *The Yellow Envelope: One Gift, Three Rules, and a Life-Changing Journey around the World*. Sourcebooks (Naperville, IL) 2017. PB \$15.99. After years of living with schedules and a mortgage, Kim Dinan and her husband decided to travel around the world. Just before their departure, they’re given a yellow envelope with a check and instructions to give the money to people they meet on their journey. As they travel across multiple countries and continents, they encounter both logistical and emotional challenges. But along the way, they learn that the capacity to give has nothing to do with money.

Dougherty, Shawn, and Beth Dougherty. *The Independent Farmstead: Growing Soil, Biodiversity, and Nutrient-Dense Food with Grassfed Animals and Intensive Pasture Management*. Chelsea Green Publishing (White River Junction, VT) 2016. PB \$34.95. Twenty years ago, Shawn and Beth Dougherty moved onto

## BOOK LIST | NONFICTION

property deemed “not suitable for agriculture.” Today, they obtain ninety percent of their food from that same property. This book describes the methods the Doughertys used to rehabilitate the soil through pasture management, select livestock, and minimize or eliminate the use of commercial chemicals.

Ford, Lyn, and Sherry Norfolk. *Boo-Tickle Tales: Not-So-Scary Stories for Ages 4 to 9*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishers (Marion, MI) 2017. PB \$17.95. Professional storyteller and educator Lyn Ford provides storytelling tips and techniques as well as a selection of not-too-scary stories perfect for young listeners.

Gordon, Roger. *The Miracle of Richfield: The Story of the 1975-76 Cleveland Cavaliers*. The Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2016. PB \$18.95. Cleveland sports fans didn’t have much to cheer about during the 1975-76 season, until Akron native Nate Thurmond led the Cavaliers to the Central Division title and eventually to the team’s first playoff appearance. This book documents the “Miracle of Richfield” from the season’s slow start to the thrilling playoff performance.

Heath, William (ed.). *Conversations with Robert Stone*. Univ. Press of Mississippi (Jackson, MS) 2016. HC \$55.00. Novelist Robert Stone wrote stories filled with action and tension, set in locations ranging from a small college town to Hollywood. In this collection of interviews, Stone provided in-depth answers to questions about his works, his life, and the creative process.

Howard, Steve. *Modern Muslims: A Sudan Memoir*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$26.95. In the early 1980s, Steve Howard left the U.S. for Sudan, where he would spend three years with the Republican Brotherhood, a group that advocated equality for women as well as other reforms. When the Brotherhood came into conflict, Howard saw firsthand the difficult choices communities and individuals had to make as they tried to reform and practice their faith. In this book, sociologist Howard provides a firsthand look at both African history and modern Islam.

Knight, Jonathan. *Classic Cavs: Second Edition, Revised and Updated*. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2016. PB \$19.95. This revised and updated edition of *Classic Cavs* counts down the fifty greatest Cleveland Cavaliers games from the team’s inception in 1970 to the 2016 championship.

Kondik, Kyle. *The Bellwether: Why Ohio Picks the President*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$24.95. For more than a century, Ohio voters have correctly picked the president more than ninety percent of the time. Kondik uses historical evidence and data-driven research to examine why Ohio voters are so successful at identifying the nation’s leader.

Lavin, Frank. *Home Front to Battlefront: An Ohio Teenager in World War II*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2017. HC \$34.95. Carl Lavin was a high school senior when Pearl Harbor was attacked. A year later he enlisted in the Army, which would take him from his hometown of Canton, Ohio, to

Britain and eventually the Battle of the Bulge. Based on extensive archival materials including Carl’s letters home, this book follows an ordinary young man through extraordinary experiences.

Longert, Scott H. *No Money, No Beer, No Pennants: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Great Depression*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$24.95. The Cleveland Indians began the 1920s as the best team in baseball, but by 1927 they were struggling. Real estate tycoon Alva Bradley bought the team, filled it with star players, and built a new multimillion dollar stadium. But after the stock market crash in 1929, the crowds didn’t follow. Baseball historian Longert follows the team through the Great Depression as they chased a pennant that would eventually come in 1948.

Maginn, Keith. *(Extra)Ordinary: Inspirational Stories of Everyday People*. KiCam Projects (Georgetown, OH) 2016. PB \$9.95. When Keith Morgan began to learn more about the people in his life, he discovered that seemingly ordinary people often had extraordinary experiences to share. These stories will help open readers’ eyes to the extraordinary people all around them.

Mangus, Michael. *Ohio: A Military History*. Westholme Publishing (Yardley, PA) 2016. HC \$35.00. Historian Mangus traces Ohio’s military history from prehistoric times through the present. Content includes a comprehensive record of conflict within the state, military personalities from Tecumseh to Eddie Rickenbacker, and civilian efforts from recruitment drives to



anti-war protests. Includes a list of historic sites and suggested further reading.

Martin, Sieglinde. ***Small Feet on the Run: Childhood During World War II Remembered and Arguments against War.*** Resource Publications/Wipf and Stock Publishers (Eugene, OR) 2016. PB \$25.00. This book documents the true stories of eighteen ordinary children who survived WWII Europe, where twenty-nine million civilians died. The children describe feeling fear and worry for family members at home and on the battlefield, collecting bomb shrapnel instead of baseball cards, scavenging for food, and experiencing the kindness of strangers and even enemy soldiers.

Mezurek, Kelly D. ***For Their Own Cause: The 27th United States Colored Troops.*** The Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2016. HC \$37.95. The 27th United States Colored Troops, composed mostly of free black Ohio men, served in the Union Army from April 1864 to September 1865, where they faced racism and inferior treatment in addition to the difficulties of combat. After the war, the men of the 27th publicly sought full citizenship and suffrage under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. In this first comprehensive history of the 27th, Mezurek examines not only the soldiers’ time in the army, but also their lives as veterans and the impact of their service on their communities.

Millard, Candice. ***Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston***

***Churchill.*** Doubleday (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$30.00. As a young man, Winston Churchill was convinced that he was destined to become Prime Minister of England, and thought battlefield glory would be the best way to launch his political career. After serving as a British Army officer in India and Sudan, he arrived in South Africa in 1899. Just two weeks later, he and the soldiers he was accompanying on an armored train were captured and taken prisoner by Boer rebels. Churchill’s daring escape across hundreds of miles of enemy territory not only jump-started his rise to political power, but also taught him lessons that would affect world history forty years later.

Oller, John. ***The Swamp Fox: How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution.*** Da Capo Press (Boston, MA) 2016. HC \$26.99. At a time when the American Revolution was on the brink of failure, Francis Marion and his militia fighters used guerilla tactics to repeatedly inflict losses on the highly trained British troops fighting against them. In the first major biography of Marion in more than forty years, Oller draws on historical evidence and recent thinking to tell the story of “the Washington of the South” and his crucial role in the Revolutionary War.

Olson III, Arthur Andrew. ***Forging the Bee Line Railroad 1848-1889: The Rise and Fall of the Hoosier Partisans and Cleveland Clique.*** Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2017. HC \$44.95. In the second half of the nineteenth century, a group of Indiana businessmen started to build a

railroad to connect their growing state to the Ohio/St. Louis rail corridor. They were eventually outmaneuvered by a group of Cleveland-based financiers, who were in turn overtaken by East Coast capitalists. This book not only documents the history of the Bee Line (which is still an important railway connecting Cleveland, Indianapolis, and St. Louis), but also provides a unique glimpse into nineteenth-century regional politics and railroad capitalism.

Phillips, Christopher. ***The Rivers Ran Backward: The Civil War and the Remaking of the American Middle Border.*** Oxford Univ. Press (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$34.95. Most Americans view the Civil War as a clear division between slave states like Kentucky and Missouri and free states like Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kansas. However, these border states experienced a “civil war within the Civil War” as debates about nationalism, race, and economics raged among neighbors, friends, and families. Phillips sheds light on the complex history of these states and shows how the Civil War reshaped American regions.

Pickenpaugh, Roger. ***McKinley, Murder and the Pan-American Exposition: A History of the Presidential Assassination, September 6, 1901.*** McFarland & Company (Jefferson, NC) 2016. PB \$35.00. On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot and killed by a young anarchist while in the receiving line at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. This examination of McKinley’s assassination is the first to focus on the Exposition itself as

a celebration of American progress and a microcosm of the country’s successes and challenges.

Ramey, Ralph. ***50 Hikes in Ohio: 4th edition.*** The Countryman Press/W.W. Norton & Company (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$19.95. This book provides directions, maps, and tips for making the most of trails in Ohio’s extensive system of state parks, nature conservancies, and historic sites.

Rice, Donald Tunnicliff. ***Cast in Deathless Bronze: Andrew Rowan, the Spanish-American War, and the Origins of American Empire.*** West Virginia Univ. Press (Morgantown, VA) 2016. PB \$27.99. In 1898, on the eve of the Spanish-American War, a young Army lieutenant named Andrew Summers Rowan was sent on a secret intelligence-gathering mission to Cuba. After the war was won, an entrepreneur named Elbert Hubbard wrote an account of the mission that made Rowan famous, resulting in magazine articles and even two movies. Unfortunately, much of what Hubbard wrote wasn’t true. Here Rice shares the facts about Rowan’s mission, and in doing so sheds light on the Spanish-American War, the Cuban rebellion, and American diplomatic history at the turn of the twentieth century.

Roman, Robert J. ***Ohio State Football: The Forgotten Dawn.*** Univ. of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2017. PB \$24.95. Author Roman draws on extensive archival research to document the early days of OSU football, when athletics were viewed as a path to respectability among wealthier, more established colleges. Although

the rules of the game were different, debates about facilities, coaches, and academics will sound familiar to football fans. Includes forty photos from the OSU archives.

Treese, Lorett. ***A Serpent’s Tale: Discovering America’s Ancient Mound Builders.*** Westholme Publishing (Yardley, PA) 2016. HC \$28.00. When European settlers first crossed the Appalachian Mountains into the Ohio Valley, they were surprised to find ancient, human-made mounds and earthen sculptures. Speculation on the origins of these mounds attracted everyone from scientists to psychics. But as the mounds began to disappear under both agricultural and urban development, scholars rushed to document them, giving rise to American archaeology.

Ziff, Katherine. ***ArtBreak: A Creative Guide to Joyful and Productive Classrooms.*** Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB \$22.95. Although self-directed play is an important part of child development, increasingly structured school days have reduced opportunities for such play. In this book, artist and former school counselor Ziff provides a flexible toolbox to help parents, teachers, and caregivers promote relaxing, art-based play.

Zoepf, Katherine. ***Excellent Daughters: The Secret Lives of Young Women Who Are Transforming the Arab World.*** Penguin Press (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$28.00. Just a generation ago, the Western concept of female adolescence did not exist in the Middle East; girls essentially went straight from

childhood to marriage. Today, young Arab women outnumber men in universities, and hundreds of thousands of girls and women attend Qur’anic schools; both groups are pushing for greater freedom and independence. In this book, journalist Zoepf documents the stories of young women in Syria, Lebanon, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt as these “excellent daughters” make different decisions than the generation before.

FICTION

Andriacco, Dan. ***Erin Go Bloody: A Sebastian McCabe-Jeff Cody Mystery.*** MX Publishing (London, UK) 2016. PB \$14.95. When best-selling author Jamie Ellicott returned home to Erin, Ohio, after a thirteen-year absence, his father welcomed him with open arms. His brothers, however, were less forgiving. When Jamie’s sister-in-law is killed, Sebastian McCabe and Jeff Cody investigate—and hope that murder isn’t a family affair.

Bauer, Sara Dobie. ***Bite Somebody.*** World Weaver Press (Albuquerque, NM) 2016. PB \$13.93. Becoming a vampire isn’t what Celia expected; after three months, she’s still awkward, still lonely, and still hasn’t bitten anyone to complete her transformation. When hunky Ian moves in next door, Celia starts to think her fairy-tale ending may be within reach—until her creator comes back to town.

Bickle, Laura. ***Nine of Stars: A Wildlands Novel.*** Harper Voyager (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$7.99. Since she moved to Temperance, Wyoming, Petra Dee has encountered more than her share



of the occult. But even Petra can’t identify the creature that’s killing wolves and leaving only their skins behind. Meanwhile, new sheriff Owen Rutherford’s investigation of a bizarre murder leads him to Petra’s partner Gabriel. Petra must outwit both the unkown creature and the sheriff before anyone else turns up dead.

Black, Lisa. ***Unpunished: A Gardiner and Renner Thriller.*** Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$25.00. When a copyeditor is found hanging above the Cleveland Herald’s assembly line, forensic investigator Maggie Gardiner suspects murder instead of suicide. In the past, homicide detective Jack Renner has used deadly force to enact his own code of justice—and only Maggie knows his secret. When more newspaper employees turn up dead, Jack may be the only one who can help Maggie find the killer.

Brinkman, Rosa B. ***Within These Walls.*** Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2016. PB \$17.99. John Resenburger followed his father into the ministry, and now serves as senior pastor for more than three thousand parishoners. But after learning that his father is having an affair, he now faces a decision: should he confront his father or shield his mother?

Castillo, Linda. ***Her Last Breath.*** St. Martin’s Paperbacks (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$7.99. Police chief Kate Burkholder is called to the scene of an apparent hit-and-run that left an Amish buggy smashed, a deacon and two of his children dead, and Kate’s childhood best friend a widow. But when

evidence shows that the car never slowed down, Kate realizes that she’s investigating a murder that will make her question everything she believes about the Amish culture in which she was raised.

Chase, Julie. ***Cat Got Your Cash: A Kitty Couture Mystery.*** Crooked Lane Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$25.99. Lacy Marie Crocker’s pet couture shop has gained a following in New Orleans. When she is invited to the home of fashion designer Annie Lane to discuss a possible tie-in, Lacy arrives to find two Siamese kittens next to a murdered Annie. Lacy takes the kittens—who will inherit Annie’s fortune—home temporarily, only to find them gone when she returns from work the next day. Along with police detective Jack Oliver, Lacy tries to find the kittens and find justice for Annie as well.

Costa, Shelley. ***A Killer’s Guide to Good Works: A Val Cameron Mystery.*** Henery Press 2016. PB \$15.95. When Val Cameron’s best friend Adrian, a museum curator, returns from a visit to an abbey and discovers a priceless relic in her luggage, she invites Val to come see it. But when Val arrives at the museum, Adrian is dead and the relic is gone. When Val discovers that a monk at the abbey has also been murdered, she searches for her best friend’s killer—and tries not to become the third victim.

Ellis, Mary. ***Magnolia Moonlight: Secrets of the South Mysteries.*** Harvest House Publishers (Eugene, OR) 2016. PB \$14.99. While Nate Price and his new wife Isabelle take a belated honeymoon,

former cop Beth Kirby and former forensic accountant Michael Preston are left to run Price Investigations. Although Beth resents working with someone who lacks experience, the two must put aside their differences—and have a little faith—to solve the murder of a local clergyman.

Erickson, Alex. ***Death by Pumpkin Spice: A Bookstore Café Mystery.*** Kensington (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$7.99. Bookstore café owner Krissy Hancock would rather be home than hobnobbing with the town’s wealthiest citizens at a Halloween party—especially after a failed marriage proposal and a run-in with an ex. But when a woman is strangled and the mansion is locked down, Krissy must help police officer Paul Dalton solve the crime while facing a few ghosts of her own.

Ervin II, Terry W. ***Relic Hunted: Book Two of the Crax War Chronicles.*** Gryphonwood (Grayson, GA) 2016. PB \$13.99. With the alien Crax advancing deep into human territory and the Capital Galactic corporation working with the enemy, time is running out for mankind. When security specialist Keesay joins two government agents to rescue key prisoners before Capital Galactic can hand them over to the Crax, he’ll use his old-school skills—including his brass knuckles—against anyone who gets in his way.

Grant, Kelley. ***The World Weavers: A Desert Rising Novel.*** Harper Voyager Impulse (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$7.99. In the year since Sulis fled to the desert to escape the wrath of a

vengeful deity, the war between gods and humans has encompassed the entire world. Sulis’s twin brother, Kadar, has joined the nomadic desert armies, who are slowly luring the gods toward the Obsidian Temple, where the final battle will take place and the world itself will be remade.

Hayes, Sherri. ***What Might Have Been: The Daniels Brothers Book 4.*** CreateSpace (Charleston, SC) 2016. Fifteen years ago, Trent Daniels let his high school crush Abby go off to college without telling her how he felt. Now she’s back in town, and Trent is determined not to make the same mistake again. But does Abby feel the same way?

Herriman, Nancy. ***No Pity for the Dead: A Mystery of Old San Francisco.*** Obsidian (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$15.00. In 1860s San Francisco, British-born nurse Celia Davies runs a free clinic. She has earned the trust of many of the city’s downtrodden, including a young boy named Owen, who has just discovered a corpse in the basement of a local real estate developer. Celia once again turns to Detective Nick Greaves for help, but in order to catch the killer, they’ll need to put aside their personal feelings about the case—and each other.

Hugo, Lynne. ***Remember My Beauties.*** Switchgrass Books/Northern Illinois Univ. Press (DeKalb, IL) 2016. PB \$15.95. Jewel is struggling with family on all fronts: her father, a former horse trainer, is now blind; her mother is housebound; her husband is inept; and her daughter is an addict. It’s only when caring for the remaining horses at her parents’ farm that

she feels at peace. But the return of her brother throws the family into a crisis that will destroy them all, unless they can somehow find a way back to each other.

Ingram, Dayna. ***All Good Children.*** Lethe Press (Maple Shade, NJ) 2016. PB \$15.00. Fourteen-year-old Jordan Fontaine lives in a world where humans are bred to serve the inhuman Over. Liaisons are tasked with supplying the Over with bodies, and children are sent to “summer camps” that have a high mortality rate. When Jordan tells her friends that a Liaison is coming, they avert their eyes. But the Liaison is being manipulated by someone else, and an unknowing Jordan will be drawn into a dangerous coup.

Kass, Linda. ***Tasa’s Song.*** She Writes Press (Berkeley, CA) 2016. PB \$16.95. In 1930s Poland, ten-year-old Tasa Rosinski dreams of playing the violin, and leaves her family to study in a nearby town. But in 1943, she and five family members—all Jewish—narrowly escape the Nazis by hiding below a barn built by their longtime employee. This novel follows Tasa from her childhood to postwar Vienna, celebrating the beauty of music and the power of the human spirit. Based on a true story.

Kort, Kate. ***Glass.*** Brick Mantel Books (Bloomington, IN) 2015. PB \$15.95. Menashe Everett is haunted by his past, ruled by addiction...and has spent the past ten years as a counselor to others with similar struggles. When he meets two especially challenging cases, Menashe must finally face his own problems in order to help them.

McLemore, Saundra Staats. ***Christmas Love & Mercy: Christmas Hotel Book 5.*** Desert Breeze Publishing (Castaic, CA) 2016. PB \$9.99. Chris Wright is carrying on the family business of managing the Christmas Hotel. Although his life is busy, Chris is lonely until he runs into Lori Anna Stanley, an old acquaintance. Their romance seems ideal until Chris finds reason to question his faith. Over the years many people have found their miracle at the Christmas Hotel—can Chris and Lori Anna do the same?

Niehoff, Buck. ***Jammu Mail.*** Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2015. PB \$14.99. During the 2008 protests for Tibetan independence, a Cincinnati businessman is tasked with taking a secret message from the U.S. government to the Dalai Lama. On a journey that moves from Paris to New Delhi to the Dalai Lama’s bungalow, he will need his wits and a little luck to evade pursuit and complete his mission.

Overstreet, Suzanne Sanders. ***Wait for Me.*** eLectio Publishing (Little Elm, TX) 2016. PB \$17.99. In July, 1942, Dorothy’s boyfriend Clyde leaves for boot camp. A twist of fate leads Dorothy to Clyde’s best friend Duane, whose family has endured more than their share of loss. Now the nation struggles to win the war and bring loved ones home...but not everyone will return. Based on a true story.

Parmley, Debra, and Robert Arrow. ***Isabella, Bride of Ohio: American Mail-Order Brides.*** Belo Dia Publishing (Ellendale, TN) 2015. PB \$7.99.



Not long after leaving Sweden for a new life in the U.S., Isabella loses both her parents and her factory job. Her only hope is to marry wealthy Donald Jenks, who writes beautiful letters about life in Ohio. But on the train she meets Tom, a Pinkerton agent who saves her from an attempted abduction. Will Isabella make it safely to Ohio—and is Donald really the man she is supposed to marry?

Ramos y Sanchez, Raul. ***The Skinny Years.*** Beck & Branch Publishers 2016. PB \$12.95. Eight-year-old “Skinny” Delgado’s family fled Castro’s Cuba in 1959, leaving a mansion in Havana for a bungalow in Miami. Over the next ten years, the family struggles to find a place in this strange new culture, and Skinny longs for the girl next door, who is “everything American—and everything he’s not.”

Strawser, Jessica. ***Almost Missed You.*** St. Martin’s Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$25.99. After strangers Finn and Violet have a flirtation on a Florida beach but fail to learn each other’s names, Finn posts a message on an online “missed connections” page—but Violet is not the one who answers the message. Six years later, Finn and Violet are back in Florida with their three-year-old son, Bear. When Violet returns to their hotel room to find Finn and Bear missing, she must reexamine everything she thought she knew about her husband, their friends, and their life together.

POETRY

Lentes, Cathy Cultice. ***Getting the Mail.*** Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, KY) 2016. PB \$14.49. In this collection of poems Lentes not only pays homage to her Appalachian roots, but also finds deeper meaning in everyday moments, “helping us notice the daily simplicities and the people who live them.”

Matthias, John. ***Complayntes for Doctor Neuro: & Other Poems.*** Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2016. PB \$17.00. In this new collection from Matthias, the poet’s versatility of form is once again on display. Notes at the end of the book provide additional context for specific poems.

Santer, Rikki. ***Kahiki Redux: Poems (2nd ed).*** 11thour Press (Columbus, OH) 2016. PB \$20.00. For more than forty years, the Kahiki was the largest free-standing Polynesian restaurant in the U.S. In this poetry collection, Santer celebrates this late great pop culture icon.

Waldner, Liz. ***Her Faithfulness.*** Miami Univ. Press (Oxford, OH) 2016. PB \$16.00. These meditations on pleasure, hope, and home are “the work of a vital, profuse mind undeniably at home in poetry.”

YOUNG ADULT

Fritz, Ellen. ***Vulnerable: In the Night Book Two.*** Tell-Tale Publishing (Swartz Creek, MI) 2016. PB \$15.00. Although new vampire Holly is still able to see her boyfriend Parker,

she can’t trust herself to be alone with him, and can’t wait until he graduates from high school, when Holly’s sire Byron will change him. But another vampire is bent on destroying everyone Byron cares about—starting with Parker. Will Holly be able to save him?

George, Elizabeth. ***The Edge of the Light.*** Viking (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$18.99. The final book of George’s *Whidbey Island* series focuses on Seth Darrow, who is struggling to help his grandfather recover from a stroke and get his relationship with his girlfriend on solid ground. His friends are also struggling, and when secrets are revealed, their lives are changed forever.

Henry, Emily. ***The Love That Split the World.*** Razorbill (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$17.99. Natalie Cleary is enjoying the summer before college in her Kentucky hometown—until the town begins to shift and reappear and she is visited by a spirit she calls Grandmother. When she meets a boy named Beau, she must learn the meaning behind Grandmother’s visits and travel between two worlds to save him.

Lawson, Tracy. ***Ignite: Book Three of the Resistance Series.*** DysCovered Publishing 2016. PB \$13.95. In this third volume of the *Resistance* series, nationwide food shortages have weakened the Office of Civilian Safety and Defense’s control over the population. When a Resistance mission against the OCSD goes horribly wrong, Tommy and Careen are left to shoulder the public blame, and Careen ends up under enemy

control. Tommy struggles to stop the OCSD’s next move and find Careen—but will he be able to trust her again?

McBride, Kristina. ***A Million Times Goodnight.*** Sky Pony Press (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$17.99. During a spring break party, seventeen-year-old Hadley “borrows” her boyfriend’s car, and in return he posts a naked picture of her online. Hadley has two choices: return to the party and force Ben to take down the picture, or take his car on a road trip. As each option plays out in alternating chapters, secrets are revealed and relationships are tested.

Richards, Natalie D. ***One Was Lost.*** Sourcebooks Fire (Naperville, IL) 2016. PB \$10.99. During a senior field trip, Sera and three classmates are separated from the rest of the group by a flash flood. When they wake up to find their supplies missing and writing on their skin, it’s clear they’re not alone. As their stalker grows bolder and more violent, uncovering the truth may be Sera’s only chance for survival.

Vogel, D.W. ***Horizon Alpha: Predators of Eden.*** Future House Publishing 2016. PB \$13.95. Two hundred years ago, the spaceship Horizon Alpha left Earth in search of a new home. When they landed on Tau Ceti e, they found a habitable planet as the scientists had expected. What they hadn’t expected were the dinosaurs. With the protective fence failing, rookie soldier Caleb Wilde leads a squad in search of a lost reactor core. It will be a race to see who returns to camp first—the soldiers or the dinosaurs.

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN’S

Borden, Louise. ***The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey.*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (Boston, MA) 2016. HC \$13.99. In 1940, Margret and Hans Rey fled Paris just ahead of the German army. Traveling by bicycle, train, and ship, they eventually reached the U.S.—along with a manuscript about a very curious monkey named Fifi whose name would later be changed to George. This new young reader’s edition includes activities and an interview with the author.

Coley, Liz. ***The Captain’s Kid.*** CreateSpace (Charleston, SC) 2016. PB \$14.99. When Brandon Webb was younger, he would dream of going on missions with his parents for the Space Survey Corps. Now his father has finally allowed him to join a year-long supply run to a failing colony. But when the ship is sabotaged, Brandon’s dream may turn into a nightmare.

Cotter, Bill. ***Don’t Touch This Book!*** Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (Naperville, IL) 2016. HC \$16.99. Although a purple monster named Larry is at first very clear that readers should NOT touch his book, he eventually invites kids to join in the fun by wiggling their fingers, walking like a robot, and more.

Dunrea, Olivier. Illus. by Will Hillenbrand. ***Me and Annie McPhee.*** Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99. This cumulative counting book begins with two monkeys on a deserted island who are joined by

an increasing array of critters, from “wee dogs who thought they were frogs” to “perky pigs all wearing wigs.” Children will love searching the illustrations for clues about the next animal to come.

FitzSimmons, David. ***Salamander Dance.*** Wild Iris Publishing (Bellville, OH) 2016. HC \$17.99. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands that fill with water in winter or spring and dry out in the summer. This book follows a year in the life of spotted salamanders, from eggs to larvae to adult salamanders, through hibernation, and back to the vernal pool for the salamander dance.

Flanders, Julie. ***Baby Moo’s Great Escape.*** Native Ink Press (Monrovia, CA) 2016. PB \$10.50. Baby Moo is a young cow who lives at Ohio’s Sunrise Sanctuary but dreams of traveling the world. When a new piglet comes to the sanctuary and steals all the attention, Moo decides the time is right to make his dream a reality. But the world outside the sanctuary is not as fun as Moo imagined, and he’ll need the help of his friends to find his way home.

Fries-Gaither, Jessica. ***Notable Notebooks: Scientists and Their Writings.*** NSTA Kids (Arlington, VA) 2016. PB \$12.95. This book uses rhyming text to explore scientists and their notebooks, from Galileo and Isaac Newton to Beatrix Potter and Jane Goodall. Pages at the end of the book include scientists’ biographies and instructions to help children create their own science notebooks.



Harpster, Steve. ***Draw Awesome Aliens and Rad Robots with Numbers and Letters.*** Harptoons Publishing (Milford, OH) 2016. PB \$7.99.  
Harpster provides kid-friendly instructions for drawing a collection of aliens and robots based on letters and numbers.

Harpster, Steve. ***Draw Crazy Cartoons with Letters.*** Harptoons Publishing (Milford, OH) 2015. PB \$7.99.  
Follow along with Steve Harpster as he uses letters to create cartoon animals and people.

Harpster, Steve. ***Drawing Dragons with Numbers.*** Harptoons Publishing (Milford, OH) 2016. PB \$7.99.  
Learn to draw dragons and other mythical creatures, from a baby griffin to the giant smork dragon, using numbers as the starting point for each illustration.

Harpster, Steve. ***Drawing Fun, Friendly Pets Using Lowercase Letters.*** Harptoons Publishing (Milford, OH) 2015. PB \$7.99.  
Harpster's easy-to-follow instructions help readers use lowercase letters to draw dogs, kittens, pocket pets, reptiles, and a few surprise entries.

Harpster, Steve. ***Drawing Super Cute Baby Animals Using Lowercase Letters.*** Harptoons Publishing (Milford, OH) 2016. PB \$7.99.  
In his trademark style, Harpster provides step-by-step illustrated instructions for drawing adorable animals using lowercase letters as a starting point.

Harpster, Steve. ***How to Draw the Haunted Creeps and Ghastly Ghouls of Spiderbite Using Letters.*** Harptoons Publishing (Milford, OH) 2016. PB \$7.99.  
In this book Harpster provides step-by-step illustrated instructions for drawing creepy creatures that live in a haunted house, a slimy swamp, and other scary locations.

Holbrook, Sara. ***The Enemy.*** Calkins Creek (Honesdale, PA) 2017. HC \$17.95.  
In 1954, twelve-year-old Marjorie Campbell is surrounded by enemies: Russian communists she hears about on the news; her former best friend Bernadette; and new classmate Inga, who could be friend or foe. As Marjorie struggles to make sense of friends, family, and politics, she finds the strength to stand up for her beliefs.

Houts, Michelle. Illus. by Erica Magnus. ***When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike.*** Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. HC \$17.95.  
This picture book tells the story of Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, who despite blackflies, bobcats, broken glasses, and a failed first attempt became the first woman to hike the Appalachian Trail.

Knight, Mary. ***Saving Wonder.*** Scholastic Press (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99.  
Curley Hines lives in Wonder Gap, Kentucky, with his grandfather, with whom he shares a love a words and a love of their mountain. But when a new boss takes over the local coal mining company, everything changes. Will Curley stay silent and save his way of life, or will he use his words to save his mountain?

Long, Loren. ***Little Tree.*** Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$17.99.  
In a little forest lives a Little Tree who loves his leaves. When autumn arrives and the trees around him drop their leaves, Little Tree hugs his leaves as tightly as he can. Year after year, he remains unchanged as the trees around him grow—until he learns to let go.

Long, Loren. ***Otis and the Kittens.*** Philomel Books (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$17.99.  
On a hot, dry day, Otis the tractor sees a tabby cat running toward the barn, and then sees something else—smoke! Otis follows the cat into the burning barn and carries her kittens to safety. But just as the last kitten escapes, the barn floor collapses, trapping Otis inside. Now the dependable tractor must depend on his friends for help.

Marks, Allison, and Wayne Marks. ***Og's Ark.*** Kar-Ben Publishing (Minneapolis, MN) 2016. PB \$7.99.  
Og the giant is so big that no bed fits him, so he tries to sleep on the hard ground. Because all the animals know he is kind, they gather around him each night for safety. But it's not until Og helps a man named Noah that he finally gets a good night's sleep.

Patton, Donna Alice, and Emily Chase Smith. ***Saddle Up! Rawhide Ranch Adventures Book 1.*** Chase Smith Press 2016. PB \$14.99.  
Twelve-year-old Bridget loves horses, so when she gets a chance to spend a week at Rawhide Ranch, she's thrilled. But Bridget has one problem: she's never been near a real horse. When she arrives at the ranch and sees how big the horses are, she

is paralyzed with fear—and ashamed to admit it. Can she overcome her fear before the final horse show?

Salamon, Julie. ***Mutt's Promise.*** Dial BFYR (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99.  
Luna the puppy has lived a happy life on a farm surrounded by her siblings and cared for by Gilberto, the son of migrant workers. But when Gilberto's family moves on and the farmer can't care for the puppies, he unknowingly sends Luna and her brother Chief to a puppy mill. When the two dogs escape, they set out on a journey to find their way home.

Springstubb, Tricia. ***Every Single Second.*** Balzer + Bray (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99.  
Twelve-year-old Nella's life is changing too fast, and although her former best friend Angela might understand, they're not speaking anymore. When Angela's older

brother makes a split-second, fatal mistake, the community is torn apart and past secrets are exposed. Nella must reexamine her beliefs about family, friends, and neighbors and decide what kind of person she wants to be.

Stine, Megan. ***Where Is the Brooklyn Bridge?*** Grosset and Dunlap (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$5.99.  
In this book, Stine traces the history of the Brooklyn Bridge from its design and construction through its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1964.

Stortz, Diane. ***Baby, Baby!*** Worthy Kids/Ideals (Nashville, TN) 2016. BB \$7.99.  
This rhyming board book follows babies through their daily activities of wiggling, giggling, yawning, napping, and being loved.

Tyler, Tara. ***Cradle Rock: Beast World Series Book 2.*** Curiosity Quills Press (Reston, VA) 2016. PB \$16.99.  
In a world populated by beasts, humans are thought to be evil mythical creatures. When Gabe, a goblin, accidentally discovers that humans are a real part of beast history, rumors start to fly. When Gabe's girlfriend Ona goes missing during a spring break search for more evidence, Gabe and his friends go to look for her, but find more than they bargained for.

Ward, Lindsay. ***The Importance of Being 3.*** Dial BFYR (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$16.99.  
Follow three three-year-old friends through a busy day as they learn about triangles, tricycles, and other fun things that come in threes.

## Coming Soon

**Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant**  
Application deadline: January 31, 2017

This annual grant awards \$1,000 to an Ohio writer, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. For more information and to apply, visit [www.ohioana.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Marvin-application-2017.pdf](http://www.ohioana.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Marvin-application-2017.pdf).

**Ohioana Book Club**  
February 15, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – noon  
Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for February is *Epitaph* by Mary Doria Russell (the 2016 Ohioana Book Award winner for Fiction and winner of the inaugural Readers' Choice Award). The club meets in the Ohioana reading room. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

Do you have a literary event you'd like to list in the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).





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**Save the  
Date!**

**April 8, 2017**

We hope you'll join us for the 11th annual Ohioana Book Festival, taking place Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Columbus on Capitol Square.

The festival will feature a book fair and book signings, panel discussions with your favorite Ohio authors, children's and teen activities, food trucks, and more. We hope to see you there!