

OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2017 | VOL. 60 NO. 2

OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL

Connecting Readers
and
Ohio Writers



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2017

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From the Director

Dear Friends,



“In the spring a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.”

Perhaps that is true of the young man imagined in Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s immortal poem, “Lockley Hall.” But I can tell you that here at our library, in spring everyone’s fancy turns to thoughts of the Ohioana Book Festival!

Thanks to you, the Ohioana Book Festival begins its next ten years on Saturday, April 8. If you were at the first festival in 2007, then you were one of 600 attendees who heard from ten authors. And if you came to our 10th anniversary event in 2016, you were one of 3,000 attendees who came to connect with more than 120 authors!

As you can see from our cover story, we will once again present a stellar line-up of Ohio authors, representing every literary genre. And as it has been since the very first festival, it’s free and open to the public, a family-friendly event with no ticket and no advance registration required.

None of this would be possible without the support of our sponsors and partners, our dedicated volunteers, and the participating authors and publishers. Most of all, the Ohioana Book Festival would not be possible without people like YOU. It is thanks to you that the festival has grown to become the largest event in the state that celebrates Ohio literature.

We hope you enjoy reading about the festival in the following pages. But there’s more to this issue than just news about April 8. You’ll also find reviews and descriptions of books recently received in our collection, as well as a list of literary happenings across the state.

Maybe Tennyson was right about our thoughts turning to love in the spring. If you love books and reading, then the Ohioana Book Festival is an event that was created just for you.

See you at the Sheraton Capitol Square in Columbus on April 8!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Weaver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Weaver
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

This issue’s cover comes from the 2017 Ohioana Book Festival poster. The artwork was created by author and illustrator Lindsay Ward, who will appear at the event on April 8. Learn more Lindsay and her work on page 14!

Ohioana Book Festival

Join Us April 8 for the 11th Annual Festival!

by David Weaver

Good books need good readers and good readers need good books. And the place where readers and books can meet is at the 11th annual Ohioana Book Festival. We are looking forward to seeing you there because there's something for everyone—and it's FREE!!!

The book festival began in 2007 and has grown tremendously, from ten authors to nearly 120 and from 600 attendees to more than 3,000. It's the state's largest event dedicated to Ohio authors and literature. It's been a great ten years so far. Will you join us for the next decade? It's because of you that we can look forward to the next milestone of twenty years!

The Ohioana Book Festival will be at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square on Saturday, April 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — no ticket and no advance registration required.

MEET THE AUTHORS

Our stellar lineup of literary talent this year includes some special authors who represent Choose to Read Ohio, a project of our friends at the State Library of Ohio, in which Ohioana is pleased to be a partner. The new Choose to Read Ohio list for 2017-18 includes twenty books, and we're thrilled that the authors of ten of those books will be here April 8.

Young children will adore books from David FitzSimmons, Anne Vittur Kennedy, and Lindsay Ward, who write and illustrate picture books. Lindsay created the poster for this year's festival; read more about her on page 14.

Middle grade and YA readers will be thrilled with Edith Pattou, Tricia Springstubb, e.E. Charlton-Trujillo, and Carmella Van Vleet. These writers address the dreams and struggles of children and young adults in the real world and in worlds of fantasy. Their work is award-winning, notable, and best-selling.

For adults, Brad Ricca brings to life the world of the super boys who created Superman, and Julie Zickefoose brings her superb artistic sensibility to the creation of amazing illustrations of birds.



Returning authors D.M. Pulley and Andrew Welsh-Huggins at the 2016 Ohioana Book Festival

This year's festival will also be honored with three of the winners of the 2016 Ohioana Book Awards. They are poet Nin Andrews, young adult author Shelley Pearsall (who is also on the new Choose to Read Ohio list), and novelist Mary Doria Russell. Mary won not only the fiction prize, but also our first-ever Readers' Choice Award for *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral*.

Two special guests will join us for the first time at the Ohioana Book Festival. Jennifer

Chiaverini is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the beloved *Elm Creek Quilts* series and, more recently, historical fiction, including her latest, *Fates & Traitors: A Novel of John Wilkes Booth*. Also making his festival debut is C.F. Payne, whose unique artwork has been seen in books and for such magazines as *Time*, for whom he painted the classic cover portrait for President Obama's first inauguration. It's little wonder C.F. was recently named as a recipient of the 2017 Ohio Governor's Award for the Arts.

You can check out the complete list of all our amazing authors in the next few pages. As we like to say, there is something for every reader of every age!

The Sheraton Columbus is not the only place you'll be seeing festival authors. Many of them will be doing outreach in the community during the week leading up to the main event—visiting schools and libraries, making appearances on radio and television, and participating in other activities. We'll keep you posted on our website about these special events.

DIALOGUES & DISCUSSIONS

The heart of the festival program has always been the panels and roundtables. Attendees have told us they enjoy hearing authors speak in their own words about their books and discuss writing and the creative process. Each discussion lasts forty-five minutes and includes ample time for questions from the audience.

Practically every literary genre is covered, from science fiction and fantasy to history and biography, from poetry to picture books. There will also be at least one panel on the publishing process—everything you wanted to know about getting your book in print! Check out our website for the list of the panels and participating authors.

FUN FOR KIDS

Our popular Kids' Room is back this year with festival programming for young readers. Kids can have fun with crafts, dress-up, building with Legos®, balloon twisting, and other exciting activities. Ohio children's book authors and illustrators will also visit throughout the day for story times and drawing demonstrations. Be sure to stop by to meet your favorite writers and artists!

And don't forget about the festival's favorite book-loving critter! Daniel Kirk's beloved Library Mouse will also be making a return appearance, visiting the kid's space and greeting fans in the common area.



Speed dating with authors in the 2016 Teen Space

JUST FOR TEENS

For the second year, Ohio's school librarian association (OELMA) is proud to partner with Ohioana for the annual Ohioana Book Festival with programming for the Teen Space. Back by popular demand, the Teen Space will include a makerspace filled with exciting materials you can use to wonder, imagine, and create. School librarians will be on hand to guide teens with these hands-on activities. In addition, the Teen Space will offer several panels on a variety of topics with Ohio authors and illustrators who will discuss tips for writing and illustrating for publication. Get up close and personal with established Ohio authors during the speed dating with authors—ask questions, get autographs, and take selfies.

COME JOIN US!

It's been amazing to see how far the Ohioana Book Festival has come since the first event in 2007. We couldn't have done it without the many authors, sponsors, donors, partners, and volunteers who have played a part. Most of all, we couldn't have done it without the readers: the people, just like you, who love books and enjoy mingling with writers and other readers. If I've just described you, then April 8 at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square is the place for you to be. Join us and celebrate the beginning of the Ohioana Book Festival's next ten years! For updates and further information, visit www.ohioanabookfestival.org.

Festival Authors

This year's stellar lineup of Ohio writers and illustrators includes Choose to Read Ohio authors, 2016 Ohioana Award winners, and three special guests. See the complete list of festival authors starting on page 9.

CHOOSE TO READ OHIO

e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

e.E. Charlton-Trujillo is from Mathis, Texas. Even though she was adopted at birth, she has always known her heritage was Mexican American. Her third novel, *Fat Angie*, won the American Library Association's Stonewall Award in 2014. Currently, she's directing her second feature documentary and writing three novels plus a trilogy and a *Fat Angie* sequel. It's a busy life, but one she is honored to live because it is always about empowering readers to know they are not alone.

David FitzSimmons

David FitzSimmons is a professor of English at Ashland University in Ohio. A freelance writer and photographer, his work has appeared in *Ohio Magazine*, *Natural Ohio*, *Popular Photography & Imaging*, *Shutterbug*, and other magazines as well as in numerous newspapers and online publications. His Choose to Read Ohio book is *Curious Critters: Marine*, which is a rich collection of photographs of marine life, rendered in luminous clarity.

Anne Vittur Kennedy

Anne Vittur Kennedy began her career in corporate illustration and quickly jumped to children's books, which she both writes and illustrates. In addition to being an accomplished horsewoman, Anne is the recipient of many awards, including Teacher's Choice, Green Earth Book Award, ALA Notable Book, and an Irma S. Black Honor Book. She is honored to represent Ohio with her Choose to Read Ohio book, *The Farmer's Away! Baa! Neigh!*

Edith Pattou

Edith Pattou is the author of *Ghosting*, a contemporary novel for young adults told in free verse. She has also written three award-winning fantasy novels for young people—*East*, a retelling of the Norwegian folktale "East of the Sun and West of the Moon," and the two *Songs of Eirren* books: *Hero's Song* and *Fire Arrow*. She is also the author of the *New York Times* bestselling picture book *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden*. *East* is her Choose to Read Ohio book.

Shelley Pearsall

Shelley Pearsall is a former intermediate and middle school teacher. She has worked in museum and outdoor education by leading workshops and programs for all ages. Shelley has six nationally-recognized fiction books for youth in grades 4 through 8, including *Trouble Don't Last*, a Scott O'Dell Award winner, and *All of the Above*, an ALA Notable Book. Her most recent book, *The Seventh Most Important Thing*, is not only her Choose to Read Ohio title, but also the winner of the 2016 Ohioana Book Award for Young Adult Literature.

e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

David FitzSimmons

Anne Vittur Kennedy

Edith Pattou

Shelley Pearsall



Brad Ricca

Brad Ricca teaches classes on writing, comics, popular culture, and narrative biography at Case Western Reserve University, and also teaches at the Cleveland Institute of Art. His Choose to Read Ohio book is the first literary biography of the creators of Superman, *Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster—The Creators of Superman*. *Super Boys* was named to several year-end lists, including a Top 10 Book on the Arts for 2013 by *Booklist* and a 2014 Ohioana Book Award in Nonfiction.

Tricia Springstubb

Tricia Springstubb has received the Ohioana Book Award for Children's Literature (twice!), the Ohio Arts Council Grant for Individual Excellence, and a fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center. Her two most recent books are the middle-grade novel *Every Single Second*, which *Publishers Weekly*, in a starred review, called "an unsettling, compelling, and heart-warming tale," and *Cody and the Mysteries of the Universe*. *Moonpenny Island* is her Choose to Read Ohio title.

Carmella Van Vleet

Carmella Van Vleet is a former teacher and the author of numerous hands-on science and history books. Her middle-grade novel, *Eliza Bing Is (Not) A Big, Fat Quitter*, is a Junior Library Guild selection, 2015 Christopher Award Winner, and 2017-18 Choose to Read Ohio selection. Her most recent book, *Aviation: Cool Women Who Fly*, was released in 2016.

Lindsay Ward

Born and raised in sunny California, Lindsay decided to try snow and moved to upstate New York, where she received her B.F.A. in illustration from Syracuse University. After bouncing around a bit in New York and Boston, she landed in Ohio. She lives in Peninsula, just south of Cleveland, with her family. Most days you can find her sketching and snipping paper in her studio or designing stationery. *Henry Finds His Word* is her Choose to Read Ohio title.

Julie Zickefoose

Julie Zickefoose started off as an illustrator of natural history subjects as a college freshman. A six-year stint as a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut chapter proved a strong motivator both to learn more about ecosystems and to go back to drawing. Julie's first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, was published in 2006. *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds* is her Choose to Read Ohio title and was Oprah's Book of the Week in April 2012.

Brad Ricca

Tricia Springstubb

Carmella Van Vleet

Lindsay Ward

Julie Zickefoose



OHIOANA AWARD WINNERS

In addition to Shelley Pearsall, we are delighted to welcome two of her fellow winners to this year's festival.

Nin Andrews

Nin Andrews's poems and stories have appeared in many literary journals and anthologies including *Ploughshares*, *The Paris Review*, and *Best American Poetry*. The recipient of two individual artist grants from the Ohio Arts Council, she is the author of six chapbooks and six full-length poetry collections. Her book, *Why God Is a Woman*, won the 2016 Ohioana Award in poetry. Her next book, *Miss August*, will be published in the spring of 2017.

Mary Doria Russell

Mary Doria Russell has been called one of the most versatile writers in American literature and one of our greatest contemporary storytellers. Her novels are studied in literature, theology, and history courses in colleges and universities, and often chosen as book club and "community read" selections. Her most recent book, *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral*, won the Ohioana fiction prize as well as the inaugural Ohioana Readers' Choice Award.

SPECIAL GUESTS

We are pleased to welcome back Tom Batiuk and two special guests making their first-ever appearances at the Ohioana Book Festival: Jennifer Chiaverini and C.F. Payne.

Tom Batiuk

A native of Akron, Ohio, Tom Batiuk (rhymes with "attic") spent several years as a high school teacher before creating the celebrated comic strip *Funky Winkerbean* and its popular spin-off, *Crankshaft* (see back cover). Batiuk is a past winner of both the Ohioana Citation and the 1996 Governor's Award for the Arts.

Jennifer Chiaverini

Jennifer Chiaverini is the *New York Times* bestselling author of several acclaimed historical novels and the beloved *Elm Creek Quilts* series, as well as six collections of quilt patterns inspired by her books. Her historical fiction includes *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*, which was called "an absorbing stand-alone historical novel" by *Library Journal*. Jennifer was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

C.F. Payne

C.F. Payne's portraits capture his subjects' character in a unique yet recognizable way. His artwork has graced the covers of *Time*, *Readers Digest*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and many other publications. He has illustrated ten children's picture books, including *The Remarkable Farkle McBride* and *Micawber*, written by another Ohioan, John Lithgow. His artwork has been exhibited in many prominent institutions.

Nin Andrews

Mary Doria Russell

Tom Batiuk

Jennifer Chiaverini

C.F. Payne



Festival Authors: Complete List

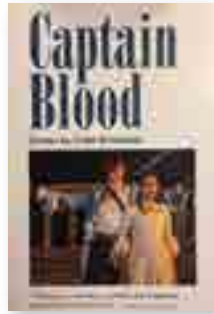
FICTION



Dan Andriacco



Chris Bachelder



Vidas Barzdukas



Tom Batiuk



Laura Bickle



Debra Sue Brice



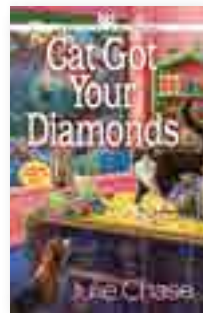
Rosa Brinkman



Lissa Bryan



Gary Buettner



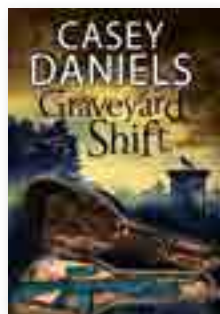
Julie Chase



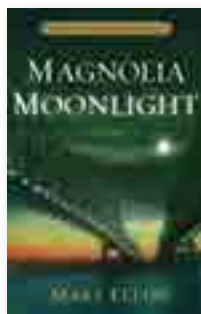
Jennifer Chiverini



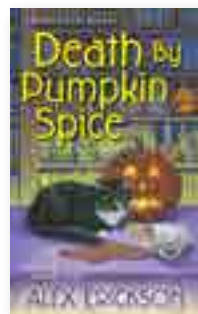
Shelley Costa



Casey Daniels



Mary Ellis



Alex Erickson



Terry W. Ervin II



Amanda Flower



Kelley Grant



Karen Harper



Sherri Hayes



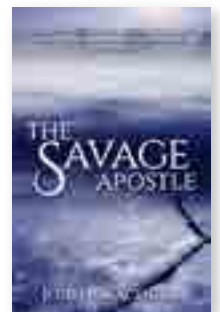
John Hegenberger



Leanna Renee Hieber



Dayna Ingram



John Kachuba

FICTION (cont.)



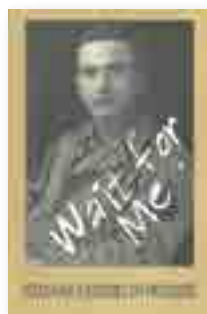
Linda Kass



Tiffany McDaniel



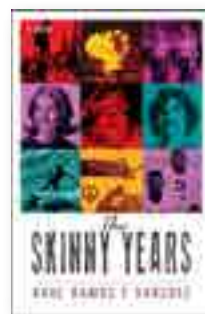
Michael Olin-Hitt



Suzanne Sanders
Overstreet



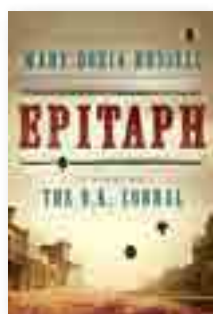
D.M. Pulley



Raul Ramos y
Sanchez



Joyce Richardson



Mary Doria
Russell



David Selzer



Lucy A. Snyder



Jessica Strawser



Cindy Thomson

NONFICTION



Andrew
Welsh-Huggins



Robin Yocum



Ian Adams
Randall L. Schieber



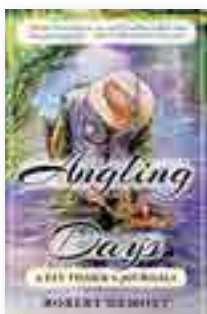
Will Bashor



Mansel G.
Blackford



Mark Dawidziak



Robert DeMott



Kim Dinan



Paul L. Gaston



David M. Gold



Roger Gordon



William Heath

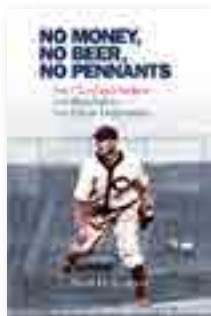
NONFICTION (cont.)



Jonathan Knight



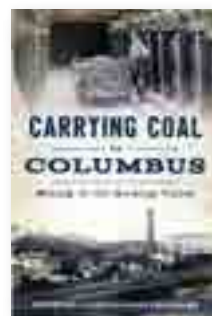
Frank Lavin



Scott Longert



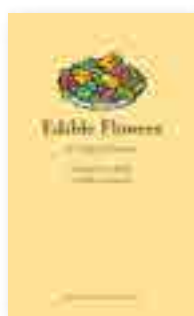
Sieglinde Martin



David Meyers
Elise Meyers Walker



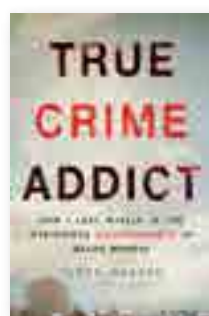
Charles Mintz



Mary Newman



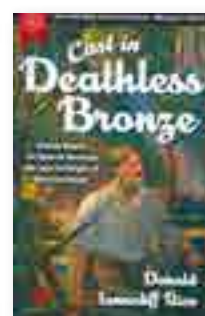
Roger
Pickenpaugh



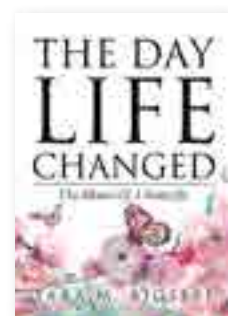
James Renner



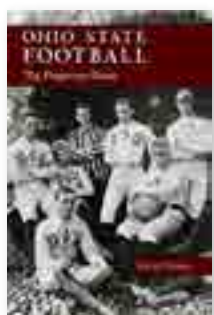
Brad Ricca



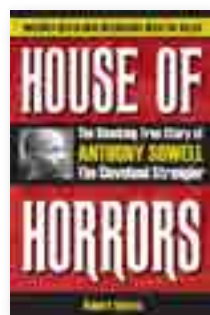
Donald Tunnicliff
Rice



Tara M. Rigsbee



Robert J. Roman



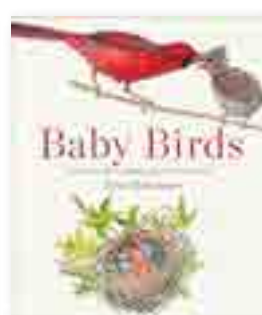
Robert Sberna



William J. Shkurti



Jeff Suess



Julie Zickefoose



Katherine Ziff

POETRY



Neil Zurcher



Nin Andrews



Darren Demaree



Cathy Cultice
Lentes



John Matthias



Rikki Santer

YOUNG ADULT



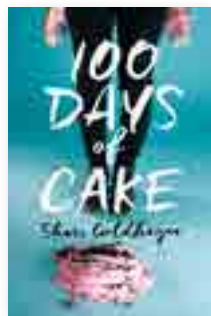
e.E.
Charlton-Trujillo



Carey Corp
Lorie Langdon



Ellen Fritz



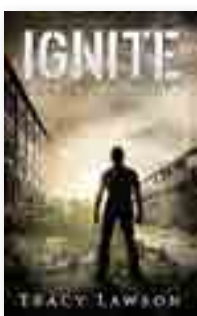
Shari Goldhagen



Krysten Lindsay
Hager



Lorie Langdon



Tracy Lawson



Kristina McBride



Mindy McGinnis



Nancy Roe Pimm

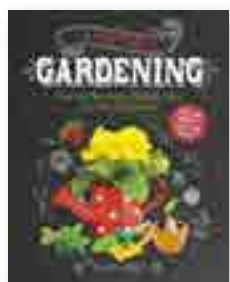


Natalie D.
Richards

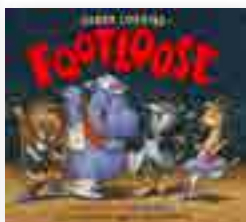


D.W. Vogel

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S



Lisa Amstutz



Tim Bowers



Liz Coley



Bill Cotter



Tracey Dils



David
FitzSimmons



Julie Flanders



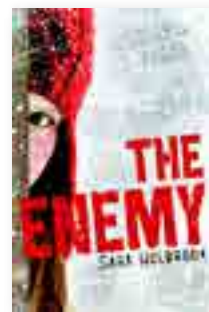
Lyn Ford



Jessica
Fries-Gaither



Steve Harpster



Sara Holbrook



Josephine Rascoe
Keenan

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S (cont.)



Anne Vittur
Kennedy



Mary Knight



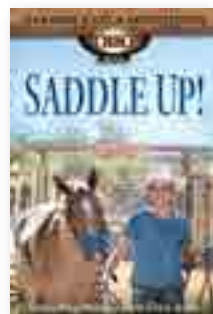
Erica Magnus



Jennifer Maschari



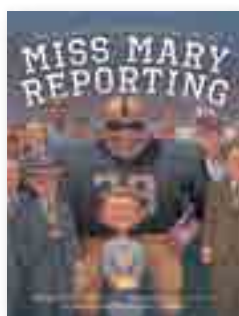
Karen Meyer



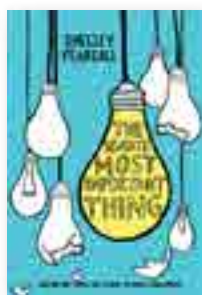
Donna Alice
Patton



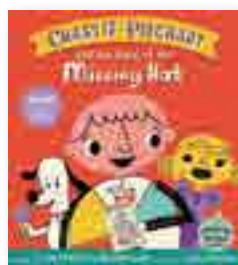
Edith Pattou



C.F. Payne



Shelley Pearsall



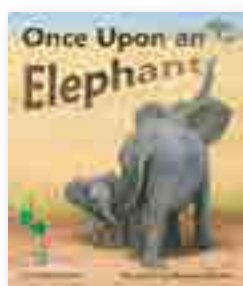
Marilyn Sadler



M. Earl Smith



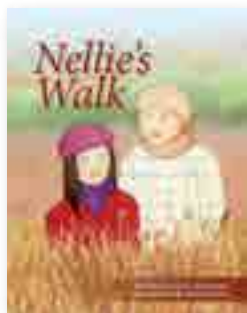
Tricia Springstubb



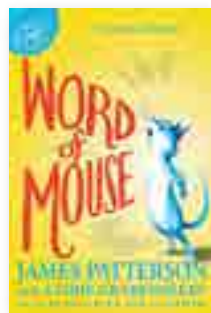
Linda Stanek



Aileen Stewart



Charlotte
Stiverson



Joe Sutphin



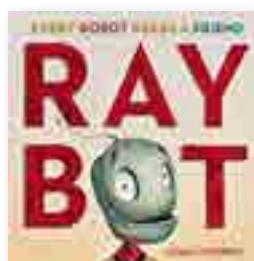
Tara Tyler



Carmella Van
Vleet



Lindsay Ward



Adam F. Watkins



Kathy Cannon
Wiechman

An Interview with Lindsay Ward

by Kathryn Powers



Concept art for the 2017 festival poster

The 2017 Ohioana Book Festival poster was designed by Ohio author and illustrator Lindsay Ward. Learn about her creative process and her latest book below!

Q What was your inspiration behind the design of the book festival poster art?

A While I was sketching ideas for the cover, I noticed that the shape of Ohio looked like an open book. From there I created all the characters crowded around each other reading the Ohio shaped book. I thought it would be a great way to promote Ohio authors by using the shape of Ohio as the book itself.

Q What inspired you to become an author and illustrator? Was there a specific book, author, or artist that influenced your passion for children's literature?

A My first job was at Hicklebee's Children's Bookstore in San Jose, California, when I was in high school. I always knew I wanted to be an artist, but I wasn't sure what field of art I wanted to go into. It wasn't until I started meeting authors and illustrators at the

bookstore that I realized that I wanted to make books too. I distinctly remember when Jim LaMarche came to promote his book *A Story For Bear*. After he signed my book, I told him I was going to become an illustrator too. About eight years later, I did.

Q As someone who both writes and illustrates her own books, can you tell us about your creative process? Do the words and pictures come together, or do you start with a visual idea and add the text later?

A I typically start with a story first. I like to work from a narrative. On rare occasion, the character will pop into my head first and then I will write the story around the character. Which is actually odd now that I think about it considering I started as an illustrator and came to writing much later. Once I nail down a draft of a story then I will begin sketching and fleshing out characters and a book dummy.

Q Can you tell us a little about the title you're bringing to the Ohioana Book Festival?

A *Brobarians* is my newest picture book, all about two brothers who have an epic battle over a stolen bah-bah. The idea came from watching *Conan the Barbarian* late one night with my husband and a story he told me about him and his brother. My husband is two years older than his younger brother, and when they were little he used to steal his brother's bottle and hide behind a chair while he consumed it until their mom would figure out what happened and take it away from him. Apparently this happened a lot. Between that story and the words of Conan, I thought the idea of baby barbarians would be very funny. The entire book is told in a very adult voice, projecting how the brothers see themselves, not as two little kids, but as great warriors.





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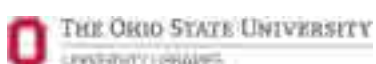
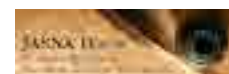


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Book Reviews

NONFICTION

Bashor, Will. *Marie Antoinette's Darkest Days: Prisoner No. 280 in the Conciergerie.*

Rowman & Littlefield (Lanham, MD) 2016. HC \$27.95.

Will Bashor, in his newest biography of the controversial French queen Marie Antoinette, stresses that he does not intend to defend her or to justify her actions. He simply means to document her last days at the Conciergerie prison, where French prisoners were incarcerated for a very short time before being sentenced in the nearby Tribunal court. The conditions were so poor that the prison was referred to as “antechamber of the guillotine.” Marie Antoinette was kept in these dank, unsanitary conditions for two and a half months before her death.

Bashor describes in perfect detail the circumstances leading to the French Revolution and Marie Antoinette's arrest and incarceration. Using archived documents and secondary material from eighteenth- and nineteenth-century sources, Bashor attempts to describe the events as accurately as possible. From the August day Marie Antoinette was taken from her children and registered as “Widow Capet, No. 280” in the prison to her death on October 16, 1793, no detail is spared. Several abortive escape attempts, including some Marie Antoinette was not even aware of, make one wonder how history would have changed had any of them succeeded. Also included are depositions and interviews not only with Antoinette and her accused conspirators, but also with her young son Louis Charles, who was coerced into lying about being physically and sexually abused by his mother and his aunt.

This portrait of Marie Antoinette's dim fate and the events leading up to it is a must-read for anyone interested in the French Revolution or the tragic fates of royals. We know what she wore, what she ate, and what



she said—all clues to her state of mind as she waited for her trial. Though Marie Antoinette's infamous end is well-told in history classes, the circumstances surrounding her incarceration and trial are not. No matter how one feels about her influence on history and culture, this fascinating look at her last days is illuminating and heartbreaking.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN

FICTION

Bickle, Laura. *Nine of Stars: A Wildlands Novel (Dark Alchemy #3).*

Harper Voyager, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$7.99.

Petra Dee, geologist at Yellowstone National Park, and Gabriel Manget, the lone surviving Hanged Man and former Pinkerton, are officially a couple. They still live in Petra's trailer just outside of Temperance. It's cold and snowy this winter, a great setting for their next adventure—and what an adventure it is.

They set out to find and stop Skinflint Jack, a mysterious creature built like a man with giant antlers. Gabe's heard of him, a frustrated, crazy, nineteenth-century hunter who crossed paths with Lascaris, master dark alchemist. Skinflint Jack is wreaking havoc in the back country and killing wolves—lots of them. When Petra finds the wolf pack, she realizes they aren't ordinary wolves, but Shape Changers, members of a long-ago Indian tribe.

To make matters worse, Owen Rutherford, the new sheriff and owner of the ranch, is out to get Gabe. Well, he wants to know who the dead men are under the Lunaria, the formerly magic tree, and who killed his cousin Sal. That means he needs to find Gabe. It won't be a surprise to Bickle fans that the two threads intersect. To say more will spoil the story.



There's lots of suspense, a little alchemy, and a great snow chase in this adventure. Best of all, there's lots of paranormal activity. The end is a real cliffhanger, so get ready for #4.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

Gustine, Amy. *You Should Pity Us Instead*.

Sarabande Books (Louisville, KY) 2016. HC \$15.95.

The characters created by Amy Gustine are familiar. They might not be your immediate family or your next-door neighbor, but you've seen them around: the next cul-de-sac over, perhaps, or at the park, with all of the other parents watching a soccer tournament. But you really should consider that you might be one of them.



"Could that be me someday?" I thought after reading Gustine's "An Uncontaminated Soul," about a crazy cat lady. The main character, Lavinia (she named herself after Emily Dickinson's cat-loving sister) is a saint and a horror. Her home is soaked in the stench of animal urine. She's not sure how many cats she has. (It's more than fifty—the health department counted.) She seems remarkably incurious about what drove her husband to suicide. But she coerces her neighbor into breaking into a locked car to save some kittens. And the neighbor, who was in love with her mother, cares more about her and her cats than one would imagine. And Lavinia's rationale for her work? She takes care of cats because she can.

In "Prisoners Do," an adulterous affair is conducted in the shadow of a marriage ruined by illness. The protagonist abruptly breaks through the paper-thin barrier that keeps her separated from her lover's home life, providing a realization that these walls are ever-so-permeable regardless of what kinds of protections the lovers thought they had created.

In the title story, "You Should Pity Us Instead," Gustine considers the place where the rubber of ideology hits the road of community. "Diversity provided no cover," as Molly discovers after her family moves from liberal Berkeley, California, back to her Ohio hometown after

her academic husband publishes a book about atheism. Turns out that people who believe in God are not going to thank you for your fine work. In fact, you risk Amish-level shunning. Author Gustine has sympathy for wife and mother Molly, a little less so for husband, father, and writer Simon (who doesn't have to interact with anyone else), and quite a bit for the one person, Elizabeth, who is willing to maintain a tenuous friendship for the sake of their daughters' stronger bond. Elizabeth is having her own struggles within her Christian community and may soon have to make choices. The upshot? Everyone is in the same boat despite the level of belief.

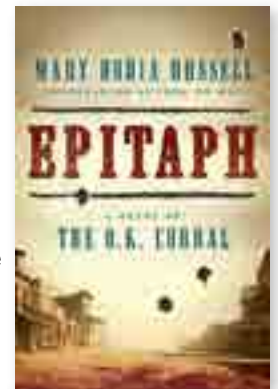
Gustine hammers on none of these relationships, having no agenda except that people are people. Her stories read almost as straight reportage, chronicling the lives of those far, near, and nearer than one might think.

REVIEWED BY LESLIE BIRDWELL SHORTLIDGE

Russell, Mary Doria. *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral*.

Ecco (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$16.99.

Epitaph is like a memorial, one built of the available materials of the hard and unforgiving land of the American West. The land yields up its gold only to the lucky few—and then they have to keep it. Like a memorial, the book is a moving tribute to the lives of those who came before.



Given pride of place in this novel is Josie Sarah "Sadie" Marcus, long-time companion to Wyatt Earp. Rescued from the shadows of history, Josie is here a fully realized character. The novel begins with Josie playing piano in the music room of a hotel in Tombstone, where she is admonished by a more skilled pianist—dentist and gambler Doc Holliday. Josie is in Tombstone to remake herself. Rather than the daughter of a baker, she becomes the daughter of a banker. She hitches her own wagon to Irish politician Johnny Behan in Tombstone after leaving home in San Francisco to perform on the stage and begin a glamorous life.

The other women associated with the Earp family, Alvira, Louisa, Bessie, and Josie's predecessor Mattie,

are partners in both prosperity and peril. They stitch tents to sell to miners and fear the revenge of those who hate Wyatt, Virgil, Morgan, and James Earp. Likewise, Doc Holliday's companion, Kate Harony, offers better wisdom and council than he's able to accept.

It's rightly ambitious for Russell to invoke *The Illiad* in the chapter headings. Stories about the American West—true, embellished, or flat-out lies—are the country's Trojan War. Today we know that there was such a place as Troy, thanks to a German archaeologist who loved stories. But was there a Helen? No matter: the story of war, men, women and gods persists, just as our myths persist of the ruthlessness and nobility of men in the West. In keeping with the mythos of the West, the way many Americans learned of it from television and movies, the indigenous population is only shadow in this novel, and Mexico is a line in the sand.

The title of the novel is also a play on the town's newspaper, *The Tombstone Epitaph*, founded by editor John Clum. As the newspaper of record, its stories became fact even when driven by rumor. Russell does a fine job of tracing the insidiousness of rumor and how effectively it can be managed by people of less than good will, falsely placing Doc Holliday at the scene of a robbery and helping to set up the final confrontation.

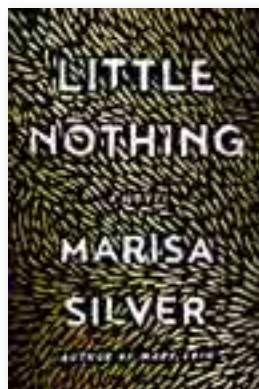
In the last portion of *Epitaph*, we see the attempts of Josie Marcus to consolidate and sell the story of Wyatt Earp with the help of new friend John Flood, who does his level best to create a coherent narrative from Josie's insistent yet unhelpful storytelling. "Who tells the story, and why...That makes all the difference," writes Russell in answer to the question from *The Illiad*: "Who in the future will speak well of you?"

REVIEWED BY LESLIE BIRDWELL SHORTLIDGE

Silver, Marisa. *Little Nothing*.

Blue Rider Press (New York, NY)
2016. HC \$27.00.

Pavla, a beloved child born to peasants in an unnamed country, stuns her parents and community when she is born—she is a dwarf. Pavla is precocious and beautiful; her glorious hair and pretty face



are the talk of the town, attracting both flattering and unwanted attention. When Pavla turns fourteen, her parents worry that she will never marry due to her dwarfism, and that she will have no one to care for her when they die. So they seek a "cure" for her smallness.

At first they go to Zlata, a local witch Pavla's mother consulted when trying to conceive a child (whose "magic" may have caused Pavla's dwarfism in the first place). Zlata gives Pavla's parents instructions for "natural" remedies to make her grow. They don't work. Her parents begin consulting every doctor they can find and eventually settle on Dr. Smetanka, who promises to improve the child's condition. His assistant Danilo quickly falls for Pavla, but despite Danilo's best intentions, Dr. Smetanka's terrifying actions result in Pavla's magical transformation and flight from her community. Danilo accompanies her, though eventually their paths diverge.

Little Nothing reads like a folktale. The beginning portion of the book, when Pavla is a child, could have come right from the pen of a Grimm. The story is quite bleak, even horrifying at times. The violence that precedes Pavla's eventual transformation is often followed by even darker events. After the first third, the story goes into a completely unexpected path. Pavla's story is one of a world in transition, one that is intolerant of perceived imperfections and expects her to conform. Her beauty shines through even after her gruesome transformation, affecting the lives of everyone she meets, whether they realize it or not. No one loves her more than Danilo; it can be argued that the entire tale is roughly more Danilo's story than it is Pavla's.

The fast pace and dreamlike quality of Silver's writing lead to a lot of questions. Not all of them are answered in the book, but that does not take away from the story. Silver asks us to question reality—"Am I real?" a character pointedly asks near the end. But then, what is "real?" Is Pavla a woman or a wolf? Does Danilo love her, or does he not? There are times when the book feels relentless and the allegorical language can be overwhelming, but the ending feels satisfying and appropriately magical.

As a child, Pavla was called "Little Nothing" by her classmates. Pavla does not mind the nickname. She loves it. "She knows that if nothing is little, then it must be something indeed." Silver's fairy tale will not appeal

to everyone, but to those who like folktales and magical realism, it is something, indeed.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN

Yocum, Robin. *A Brilliant Death*.

Seventh Street Books, an imprint of Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2016. \$15.95.

Combine a coming-of-age book with a murder mystery and you get Robin Yocum's newest novel, *A Brilliant Death*. Travis Baron grew up without his mother, Amanda, in the Ohio River town of Brilliance. His abusive, truck-driving father, Big Frank, never talked about her. As a teen, Travis wants to know how mother died fifteen years earlier. He hears rumors and innuendo, but rarely does anyone want to tell him what happened.



How do you find out the truth? Ask questions—and that's what Travis Baron and his friend Mitchell Malone do as they seek the truth about her disappearance. They search newspapers and courthouse records and ask the police, including a gritty former detective Chase Tornik. Slowly, Travis and Malone piece together the clues.

Set thirty years after Travis's death, Malone spins a tale of friendship, investigation, and the sad truth behind Amanda Baron's death. The story is told through Malone's eyes. He's a little jaded by time and much saddened by the loss of his friend. In the end, it seems he's unburdening himself by telling this tale.

Yocum is a wonderful wordsmith bringing characters to life one descriptive word at a time. You'll be drawn into the investigation and into life in the small town of Brilliant, where secrets are just waiting to be uncovered. *A Brilliant Death* is gritty, full of violence and heartbreak, and also full of the trials of coming of age in the Ohio rust belt. It is the perfect confluence of love, searching for the truth, and uncovering the past.

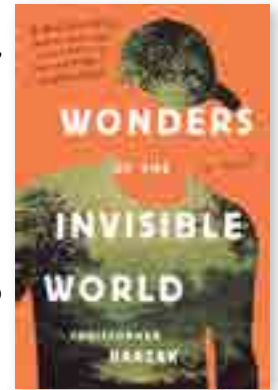
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

YOUNG ADULT

Barzak, Christopher. *Wonders of the Invisible World*.

Knopf (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$17.99.

Who among us has not been put under a spell by our mother? True, she probably did it for our own good. Or maybe that was just the family dynamic, so she did it to us because it was done to her. But one day, the spell will be lifted by a combination of our own understanding and with some help from our friends. And then what?



Christopher Barzak takes this concept and makes it real within the world of the story. He also riffs playfully on the stern warning of New England minister Cotton Mather, who published a book with the same name in 1693. For Mather, the "wonders" meant witches—and we all know the evil that resulted in Salem, with the innocent murdered due to fear and superstition.

For protagonist Aiden Lockwood, the wonder will begin when the spell begins to lift. He had completely forgotten his best friend from childhood, Jarrod Doyle. But Jarrod never forgot him and has returned to the Ohio town of Temperance. Jarrod's greeting to Aiden one day in high school is the trumpet—muted, but unmistakable—that recalls Aiden to himself and, ultimately, shows him how to grow up.

Christopher Barzak writes eloquently of the submerged lives of adolescents, the unwitting victims of adults who try too hard and succeed almost too well in severing young people from self-knowledge and self-determination. It is done with love and with a need to protect, but it never works. Say it again: it never works.

REVIEWED BY LESLIE BIRDWELL SHORTLIDGE

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Coley, Liz. *The Captain's Kid*.

LC Teen (Charleston, SC) 2016. HC \$14.99.

Brandon Webb spent his young life wishing he could accompany his parents on their interstellar missions with the Space Survey Corps. When his mother disappears on a supply drop to the war-torn planet Esperanza, Brandon's father hangs up his astronaut gear and settles into a safe job on Luna, closing the airlock on Brandon's dreams of space travel. But as the situation on Esperanza worsens, Captain Gordon Webb is called into action again. This time Brandon insists that he won't be left behind, and his father reluctantly agrees to let him suit up for the one-year mission into the stars.

Life on a starship is nothing like Brandon thought it would be—from the other teenage “space brats” he tries to befriend to the alien-like creature on board who calls Esperanza home. But someone—or something—wants to make sure the ship doesn't reach its destination, putting Brandon and his father in the crosshairs of a saboteur's plot. It's up to Brandon to unravel the mystery, end an interspecies war, and maybe find the courage to ask out the pretty girl in his class.

The Captain's Kid is a fun sci-fi novel full of action and excitement. Danger and secrecy lurk around every corner on the starship *Reliable*, creating a fast-paced, page-turning adventure. Brandon is a charming and relatable main character, narrating the story from the hilarious perspective of a young teen. Readers will root for him as he tries to crack the conspiracy, keep his loved ones safe, and somehow snag his first kiss. The plot is full of twists and turns as well as heartfelt moments. It definitely kept me guessing (and eagerly reading) until the end! Coley's sci-fi world is also fantastically crafted, with imaginative technology and a fascinating futuristic society. Readers will find themselves at home in a world that feels like it could exist in the not-too-distant future.



With a great protagonist, thrilling plot, and captivating world, *The Captain's Kid* is a perfect book for sci-fi fans.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS

Knight, Mary. *Saving Wonder*.

Scholastic Press (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$6.95.

Curley Hines lives with his grandfather in Wonder Gap, Kentucky, among the Appalachian Mountains. Curley loves his town and his routine. Every week, his papaw gives him a new word to learn, and Curley spends his days attending school and pondering his weekly word with his best friend, Jules.



Curley would be content for his days to go on this way forever. However, his way of life is threatened when the coal mining company in his town is acquired by a new owner. Everything Curley knows is suddenly changing: his papaw is keeping secrets, and Jules is more interested in the new kid in town than in hanging out with Curley. Even the very mountain on which he and his papaw live is being threatened. Curley must use all his resources, and Papaw's words, to find some way to preserve the place that he loves.

Saving Wonder is an absolutely charming novel to read. The characterization really stands out, with Knight making Curley, Papaw, and the host of supporting characters feel very real and alive. Learning about different words throughout the book makes this a great read for middle graders, who may be unfamiliar with some of the words and discover them along with Curley. Above all, this is a great coming-of-age story. The concept will be relatable to many middle-grade children, who are likely experiencing changes that they cannot control. Curley's journey helps readers understand how to cope and deal with change through masterful prose that is often very funny and touching. As her debut novel, this book is a wonderful achievement for Mary Knight that deserves to be read.

REVIEWED BY MORGAN PETERS

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between December 2016 and February 2017. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Alexander, Brian. *Glass House: The 1% Economy and the Shattering of the All-American Town*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$26.99.

When Brian Alexander accompanied his mother on a visit to their hometown of Lancaster, Ohio, he was shocked at the state of the once-thriving city. The Anchor Hocking Glass Company, once the world's largest maker of glass tableware, was the base of Lancaster's economy. Alexander traces the roots of Anchor Hocking's downfall and the collapse of Lancaster's industry through portraits of its residents. This book examines Wall Street's effect on Main Street and the people who live in towns like Lancaster all across America.

Barton, Julie. *Dog Medicine: How My Dog Saved Me from Myself*. Penguin Books (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$17.00.

When she was twenty-two, Julie Barton collapsed on her kitchen floor in Manhattan. She was one year out of college and severely depressed. Summoned by Julie's incoherent phone call, her mother raced from Ohio to New York and took her home. Haunted by troubling childhood memories, Julie continued to sink into suicidal depression. Psychiatrists, therapists, and family tried to intervene, but nothing reached her until the day

she decided to do one hopeful thing: adopt a Golden Retriever puppy she named Bunker. This is the story of the anguish of depression, the slow path to recovery, the beauty of forgiveness, and the astonishing ways animals can help heal even the most broken hearts and minds.

Dyer, Joyce, Jennifer Cognard-Black, and Elizabeth Walls (eds). *From Curlers to Chainsaws: Women and Their Machines*. Michigan State University Press (East Lansing, MI) 2016. PB \$29.95. A collection of lyrical and illuminating essays about the serious, silly, seductive, and sometimes sorrowful relationships between women and their machines. This collection explores objects we sometimes take for granted, focusing not only on their functions but also on their powers to inform identity. For each writer, the device moves beyond the functional to become a symbolic extension of the writer's own mind—altering and deepening each woman's concept of herself.

Fenn, Lisa. *Carry On: A Story of Resilience, Redemption, and an Unlikely Family*. HarperWave (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$25.99. When journalist Lisa Fenn saw a newspaper photo of two young wrestlers from a tough Cleveland high school, she flew back to her hometown to meet the boys, Leroy Sutton and Dartanyon Crockett. Lisa, who had decided to film the two boys for ESPN, grew close to them and began to understand their friendship, which was originally based on their physical disabilities but quickly grew into a brotherly bond. The three formed a surprising

connection that Lisa found she could not walk away from after her documentary was finished. She worked to give the boys a chance to overcome poverty and physical handicaps through school and athletics, until they grew into a loving, resilient family.

Gold, David M. *The Jacksonian Conservatism of Rufus P. Ranney: The Politics and Jurisprudence of a Northern Democrat from the Age of Jackson to the Gilded Age*. Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2017. HC \$64.95.

A founder of the Ohio State Bar Association, Rufus P. Ranney was immensely influential but has been understudied until now. He left no private papers, and even destroyed his own correspondence. David M. Gold works with the public record to reveal the contours of Ranney's life and work. The result is a new look at how Jacksonian principles crossed the divide of the Civil War and became part of the fabric of American law, and at how radical antebellum Democrats transformed into Gilded Age conservatives.

Hemery, Michael. *So We Go: The Day My Father Died*. Dees Publishing (Athens, GA) 2016. PB \$18.95.

Hemery's memoir follows his father's last day alive, interwoven with stories of his childhood and his father's two-year decline. The book delves into the world of ALS ("Lou Gehrig's Disease"), euthanasia, and the medical community's abandonment, but also offers a story of hope—and even laughter—as the Hemerys rally around their beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

Kahn, Miriam. *Moving Types*. Logan Elm Press at Ohio State University Libraries (Columbus, OH) 2014. PB.
A history and commemoration of Ohio's printing industries and the important people who influenced them.

Kirker, Constance L., and Mary Newman. *Edible Flowers: A Global History*. Reaktion Books Ltd. (London, UK) 2016. HC \$19.95.
Edible Flowers is the fascinating study of how flowers have been used for cooking in many cultures around the world. The book explores the cultural, symbolic, and religious meanings behind the eating of flowers on nearly every continent.

Laux, Douglas, and Ralph Pezzullo. *Left of Boom: How a Young CIA Case Officer Penetrated the Taliban and Al-Qaeda*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$27.99.
Young CIA operative Doug Laux recalls his undercover operations in Afghanistan. Laux struggled with lying to his family and colleagues about what he really did for a living and the toll it took on him emotionally. His approach to his assignment resulted in unprecedented success, including the removal of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad from power.

Lavin, Frank. *Home Front to Battlefield: An Ohio Teenager in World War II*. Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2016. HC \$34.95.
Carl Lavin, a high school senior from Canton, Ohio, enlisted in the U.S. Army when he turned eighteen, after Pearl Harbor. He went to combat with the 84th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge. This foot soldier found himself

thrust into a world where he and his unit grappled with the horrors of combat, the idiocies of bureaucracy, and the oddities of life back home—all in the same day. The book is based on Carl's personal letters and recollections as well as those of people he served beside, official military history, his private papers, and more. Frank Lavin reflects on his father's emotions and the role of the individual in a total war effort in which human soldiers were interchangeable, expendable cogs.

Logsdon, Gene. *Letter to a Young Farmer: How to Live Richly Without Wealth on the New Garden Farm*. Chelsea Green Publishing (White River Junction, VT) 2017. HC \$22.50.
The final book of essays by self-described "contrary farmer" Gene Logsdon, completed just before he died. The book addresses the next generation of small-scale "garden farmers" seeking a better way of life. Logsdon offers his opinions on everything from robot farming to fake steaks. A storyteller and troublemaker by nature, Logsdon's last essays describe his vision of a nation filled with garden farmers.

Lohman, Sarah. *Eight Flavors: The Untold Story of American Cuisine*. Simon and Schuster (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$26.95.
The United States boasts a culturally and ethnically diverse population, which makes for a continually changing culinary landscape. But a young historical gastronomist named Sarah Lohman discovered that American food is united by eight flavors: black pepper, vanilla, curry powder, chili powder, soy sauce, garlic, MSG, and Sriracha. In *Eight Flavors*, Lohman sets out to explore how these influential ingredients

made their way to the American table.

Matthias, John. *At Large: Essays, Memoirs, Interviews*. Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2016. PB \$25.00.
At Large takes its title from John Matthias's "Editor at Large" column, published in *Notre Dame Review*. The book is a series of personal essays, many involving literary commentary, along with literary essays that read like memoir. It also functions as a kind of anthology of John Peck's book-length poem *Cantilena* and James Walton's unpublished novel *The Progress of Romance*. There are also interviews and a conversation with Joe Francis Doerr.

Menkedick, Sarah. *Homing Instincts: Early Motherhood on a Midwestern Farm*. Pantheon (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$25.00.
Sarah Menkedick spent her twenties trekking alone across South America, teaching English to teenagers on Reunion Island, picking grapes in France, and camping on the Mongolian grasslands. For her, meaning and purpose were to be found on the road, in flight from the ordinary. Yet the biggest and most transformative adventure of her life might be one she never anticipated: at 31, she moves into a tiny nineteenth-century cabin on her family's Ohio farm and begins the journey into motherhood.

Miklitsch, Robert. *The Red and the Black: American Film Noir in the 1950s*. University of Illinois Press (Champaign, IL) 2016. PB \$28.00.
Critical wisdom has it that we said a long goodbye to film noir in the 1950s. Robert Miklitsch begs to differ. Mixing scholarship

with a fan's devotion, the author analyzes marquee films like *Kiss Me Deadly* alongside lesser-known classics. He addresses the social and technological factors that downplayed the genre as well as the filmmakers who continued to pioneer it, re-examining a lost period in the history of American film.

Rigsbee, Tara M. *The Day Life Changed: The Bloom of a Butterfly*. Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2016. PB \$12.99.

No one ever thinks that when they leave their home in the morning they won't return, especially on a beautiful day in July. But for Tara Rigsbee, a distracted driver making a left turn changes her life forever. The loss of her best friend takes her on a journey through depression and pain, but through prayer and faith she passes through the storm and blossoms into recovery.

Shafer, Ronald G. *The Carnival Campaign: How the Rollicking 1840 Campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" Changed Presidential Elections Forever*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2016. HC \$26.99.

Americans have come to expect a circus atmosphere in presidential campaigns, but prior to 1840, they were nothing like that. The fight between incumbent Democrat Martin van Buren and Whig Ohioan William Henry Harrison, dubbed "Old Tippecanoe" after a battlefield, became the first campaign launched as mass entertainment. Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Shafer presents the colorful story of the time when image first trumped ideas in presidential politics.

Sharp, S. Pearl. *The Evening News: Essays and Commentaries from NPR and Other Clouds*. Poets Pay Rent Too (Los Angeles, CA) 2015. PB \$18.00.

Forty essays and commentaries broadcast on NPR's *The Tavis Smiley Show*, *News and Notes*, *Tell Me More*, and other broadcast and print media.

Wrenick, Frank E., and Elaine V. Wrenick. *Automobile Manufacturers of Cleveland and Ohio, 1864-1942*. McFarland & Company, Inc. (Jefferson, NC) 2016. PB \$39.95.

This comprehensive look at the heyday of automobile manufacturing in Ohio chronicles the region's early prominence in an industry that was inventing itself. More than 550 Ohio manufacturers are covered, from Abbott to Zent. Familiar names such as Packard, Stutz, Crosley, and Willys are documented alongside lesser-known and forgotten automotive ventures such as Auto-Bug, Darling, and Ben-Hur. Attention is given to the various ancillary industries, services, and organizations that nurtured and, in many cases, survived the decline of Cleveland's automotive industry.

FICTION

Barzdukas, Vidas. *Captain Blood*. Dramatic Publishing (Woodstock, IL) 2016. PB \$9.95.

A dramatic modern adaptation of Rafael Sabatini's *Captain Blood*. Dr. Peter Blood is convicted of treason for treating the wounds of a rebel during an uprising against King James II. Sentenced to a life of slavery in Barbados, Blood falls in love with Arabella, the niece of a plantation owner. The pair plan to escape, but a pirate attack forces

Blood to choose between escaping to freedom without Arabella or staying with her and remaining a slave. Blood reluctantly escapes, unaware that fate will eventually bring him back to Arabella.

Batiuk, Tom. *The Complete Funky Winkerbean Volume 6: 1987-1989*. Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2017. HC \$45.00.

The sixth volume of the collected *Funky Winkerbean* comic. This volume has some big changes to the ongoing narrative, including the introduction of Cindy Summers and Bodean and the introduction of *Crankshaft* as a spin-off.

Brice, Debra Sue. *Icing: A Deliciously Sweet Romance*. WaveCloud Corp. (Aurora, CO) 2016. PB \$12.99.

Denie Shaw seems to have a perfectly balanced life—she owns Icing, a cupcake shop, with her three best friends. When Cleveland Monsters hockey player (and Denie's crush) Tom Billingsly enters the scene, Denie must overcome her fear of heartache to trust in God to give her the recipe for her best life.

Fearnside, Jeff. *Making Love While Levitating Three Feet in the Air*. Stephen F. Austin State University Press (Nacogdoches, TX) 2016. PB \$18.00.

Thirteen short stories of varying genres linked thematically by the recurring idea of flight in its various definitions and senses. The characters are sometimes in flight from their situations, sometimes from other people, and sometimes from themselves.

Gabriel, Jerry. ***The Let Go: Stories***. Queens Ferry Press (Plano, TX) 2015. PB \$14.95.

This collection, set in the varied landscapes of Ohio, includes seven stories about hardships and the hope that arises from them.

Harper, Karen. ***Drowning Tides***. Mira Books (Ontario, Canada) 2017. HC \$26.99.

When forensic psychologist Claire Britten started working with lawyer Nick Markwood on his South Shores project, she had no idea it would endanger her life—and the life of her daughter. But when the little girl goes missing from her South Florida home and Nick insists his longtime nemesis is to blame, Claire frantically follows the trail to the Cayman Islands, desperate to save her daughter before it's too late. Nick always knew the man who staged his father's "suicide" was out to get him, but kidnapping the child of someone he cares about is despicable. Finding the billionaire criminal is one thing—meeting his demands in order to save Claire's daughter is quite another. What he wants threatens their professional and personal interests...but what choice do they have when a child's life is on the line?

Hieber, Leanna Renee. ***Eterna and Omega***. Tor Publishing (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$25.99.

In the United States, scientists and scholars working for the hidden Eterna Commission have been murdered by preternatural means. Clara Templeton, a Sensitive and cofounder of the commission, along with Senator Rupert Bishop, suspects that agents from Great Britain are responsible for the deaths—including those of her love,

Louis Dupris. Louis's ghost insists she is wrong, but despite having psychic abilities, she can't hear him. In England, the ultrasecret Omega division knows that Americans are behind the murders. Neither Eterna nor Omega knows they are being manipulated by a third party who wants to conceal his own grandiose schemes of world conquest.

Kendall, Gillian Murray. ***The Book of Forbidden Wisdom***. Harper Voyager Impulse (New York, NY) 2016. PB \$6.99.

On Angel's sixteenth birthday, her younger sister Silky wakes her to prepare for her marriage to Leth, a man she likes but does not love. Trey, her oldest childhood friend, loves her but can only watch helplessly. But Angel's brother Kalo interrupts the ceremony. He wants her dowry and also believes Angel can lead him to the legendary Book of Forbidden Wisdom, which can bring him wealth. Angel, Silky, Trey, and a new friend, The Bard, take off on a journey to remain one step ahead of Kalo, fight for their freedom against his evil, and unite in their love for each other.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. ***With Love, Wherever You Are***. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (Carol Stream, IL) 2017. HC \$22.99.

Combat nurse Helen Eberhart and Lt. Frank R. Daley, M.D., marry after a whirlwind romance. They are both sent to the front lines of Europe in WWII, with only letters to connect them for months at a time. Based on a true story, *With Love, Wherever You Are* is the story of battles in both love and war, and of how Frank and Helen defied all odds to be together.

Melnick, Daniel. ***The Ash Tree***. West of West Books (Fresno, CA) 2015. HC \$25.00.

The story of an Armenian-American family who makes a home in California after the Armenian genocide in 1915. The story is spread among five members of the Ararat family who overcome tragedies both personal and historic to build a universal story about immigrants in America.

Olin-Hitt, Michael. ***Messiah Complex and Other Stories***. Middlecreek Publishing (Beulah, CO) 2016. PB \$19.95.

A collection of eleven stories, previously published in literary journals and anthologies. The title story, "Messiah Complex," won the Prism Short Story Award in 2016. These stories represent eighteen years of short story writing and publishing by Michael Olin-Hitt.

Pulley, D.M. ***The Buried Book***. Lake Union Publishing (Seattle, WA) 2016. PB \$14.95.

It's 1952, and nine-year-old Jasper Leary has just been abandoned on his uncle's farm with nothing but a change of clothes and his Bible. No one knows where his mother has gone or if she is coming back. Jasper decides to flee, embarking on a dangerous search that will take him through a shocking and adult world of scandal and murder. The past is still chasing his mother—and now it is after him, too.

Richardson, Joyce. ***Nude with Red Hat***. MuseItUp Publishing (Canada) 2015. PB \$14.95.

The second book of the *Museum Mystery* series. Susan and Amy are charged with finding the wife of the dean of the College of Fine

Arts in Foothills, Ohio, after she goes missing. The dean receives a nude painting of his wife in the mail, postmarked “Mexico.” He asks Susan and Amy to investigate, and they run head-on into art fraud, prostitution, and murder.

Silver, Marisa. *Little Nothing*. Blue Rider Press (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$27.00.

Pavla, a beloved child born to peasants in an unnamed country, stuns her parents and community when she is born—she is a dwarf. Pavla seeks a “cure” for her smallness from a charlatan, but his terrifying actions result in her magical transformation and flight from her community. Pavla crosses paths with Danilo, who seeks to protect her. This allegorical novel is not only a commentary on the nature of being, but also a subversive fairy tale about love and overcoming superstition while adopting modern invention.

Yocum, Robin. *A Welcome Murder*. Seventh Street Books (Amherst, NY) 2017. PB \$15.95.

Johnny Earl, a professional baseball player, ends his career unceremoniously with a knee injury. He gets busted for selling cocaine and serves seven years in prison. He heads back to his hometown of Steubenville, Ohio, to retrieve a cache of drug money he stashed before he went to jail. But before he can leave town, he is picked up for questioning by the FBI for the murder of Rayce Daubner, the informant who helped get him sent to prison in the first place. Then, a former prison cellmate (and white supremacist) shows up to claim the drug money. Five characters with separate agendas come together in

a tale of murder, lies, and political intrigue.

POETRY

Borsenik, Dianne. *Age of Aquarius: Collected Poems 1981-2016*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2016. PB \$15.00.

This collection of poetry celebrates the popular culture of the “Age of Aquarius” as well as the zodiac sign.

Cross Davis, Terri Ellen. *Haint: Poems*. Gival Press (Arlington, VA) 2016. PB \$18.00.

A *haint* is a ghost or apparition, but it can also mean a lost soul, or, according to this collection of poetry, a mean person, usually a woman.

Demaree, Darren C. *Many Full Hands Applauding Inelegantly: Three Poetry Sequences*. 8th House Publishing (Montreal, Canada) 2016. PB \$19.88.

Demaree’s latest collection of poetry is tripartite; its sections can be read individually or together as a continuous narrative. Birth (“A Violent Sound in Almost Every Place”), Life (“We Are Arrows”), and Death (“All the Birds Are Leaving”) are all represented in the collection.

Fagan, Kathy. *Sycamore: Poems*. Milkweed Editions (Minneapolis, MN) 2017. PB \$16.00.

A collection of poems that takes the sycamore as its inspiration, providing insights on lost love, nature, and the process of recovery.

Fleming, Deborah. *Into a New Country*. Cherry Grove Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2016. \$19.00. Formal and free-verse poems following an anonymous speaker through love and loss from youth

to maturity. The poems address the subjects of love, death, art, and war through locations in Europe, Asia, and America to discover new “countries” of mind and heart.

Kendig, Diane, and Robert E. McDonough, eds. *In the Company of Russell Atkins: A Celebration by Friends on His 90th Birthday*. Red Giant Books (Shaker Heights, OH) 2016. PB \$12.99.

A poetry anthology celebrating the life and work of Russell Atkins, written and edited by his friends and fellow poets from Ohio.

Hague, Richard. *Beasts, River, Drunk Men, Garden, Burst, & Light: Sequences & Long Poems*. Dos Madres Press (Loveland, OH) 2016. PB \$25.00.

Retrospective of Hague’s long-form poetry, invoking memory, nature, science, and dream.

Hartsock, Katie. *Bed of Impatiens*. Able Muse Press (San Jose, CA) 2016. PB \$19.95.

Myths and myth making form the backdrop of the Midwest in this poetry collection. Featuring tributes to Saint Augustine’s *Confessions* and the travelogue “Hotels, Motels, and Extended Stays.”

Oestreich, David. *Cosmophagy*. Folded Word (Meredith, NH) 2016. PB \$8.50.

A chapbook of poems about nature, influenced by Thoreau and Whitman. A love song to the earth, to language, and to you. Come. Listen. The voice you hear may speak to your own.

Stone, Myrna. ***Luz Bones***. Etruscan Press (Wilkes-Barre, PA) 2017. PB \$16.95.

A collection of forty-six poems in various formats that run chronologically to tell the stories of real people throughout history, from the famous—Martin Luther, John James Audubon, and Mae West—to the unknown—Annie C. and H.L. All relate mixed emotions about their “near-death” experiences and their aftermath.

YOUNG ADULT

Anderson, Tanya. ***Gunpowder Girls: The True Stories of Three Civil War Tragedies***. Quindaro Press (Kansas City, MO) 2016. HC \$16.95. In the Civil War, the government hired women and girls—some as young as nine—to make millions of rounds of ammunition. They worked 72-hour weeks with little training. Poor immigrant girls and widows paid the price for carelessness at three major arsenals. Many of these workers were killed, blown up and burned beyond recognition. This is the first account of this long-forgotten disaster.

Goldhagen, Shari. ***100 Days of Cake***. Atheneum (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$17.99.

Molly Byrne is the only senior at Coral Cove High School who is not mapping out every aspect of her future. She just wants to spend the summer watching *Golden Girls* reruns and hanging out with her cute coworker at FishTopia. Some days, these are the only reasons she gets out of bed. Molly has been struggling with depression. Her mother is convinced that baking the perfect cake will cure her—as if sugar alone can magically make her care about SATs. Nope. Suddenly,

Molly discovers that FishTopia is turning into a stupid country diner, and she feels like her life is out of control. Forced to figure out what—if anything—is worth fighting for, she begins to reexamine her life.

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. ***Competing with the Star***. Limitless Publishing (Kailua, HI) 2016. PB \$12.99. Hadley moves to a gorgeous beach town just before the start of her sophomore year and meets a great new guy named Nick Jenkins, who quickly becomes her boyfriend. Nick is her dream guy, but he has a past. He used to date former TV actress Simone Hendrickson. Nick says the affair is long over, but when Hadley finds out Nick and Simone have kissed after school one day, Hadley must determine whether Nick is telling the truth and whether she can rival his affection for a famous TV star.

Langdon, Lorie. ***Gilt Hollow***. Blink (Grand Rapids, MI) 2016. HC \$16.99. Willow Lamott tried to forget her best friend, who was convicted of murder. When Ashton Keller returns to their small town of Gilt Hollow four years later, Willow is instantly drawn back to him and his dark world of vengeance and mystery. Ashton also immediately falls again for Willow, who inspires him to try to clear his name and become the good person she sees inside him. But their search for the truth about the real killer may end up destroying them both.

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Amstutz, Lisa J. ***The Ultimate Guide to Gardening: Grow Your Own Indoor, Vegetable, Fairy, and Other Great Gardens***. Capstone

Young Readers (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$12.95.

An illustrated, step-by-step guide to gardening. Simple instructions and vibrant photographs make it easy for kids to understand everything they will need to become a gardener.

Dils, Tracey E. ***12 Questions About the Bill of Rights***. Amicus 12-Story Library (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Tells the story behind the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Each spread provides information about the context, wording, and lasting effects of the document, paired with interesting sidebars, questions to consider, and historical images.

Dils, Tracey E. ***12 Questions About the Indian Removal Act***. Amicus 12-Story Library (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Tells the story behind the law that forced thousands of American Indians out of their ancestral homelands. Each spread provides information about the context, wording, and lasting effects of the document paired with interesting sidebars, questions to consider, and historical images.

Dils, Tracey E. ***Around the Moon 1,2,3: A Space Counting Book***. Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Introduces the moon, planets, and other objects in space while teaching the concept of counting to ten.

Dils, Tracey E. ***Down in the Jungle 1,2,3: A Rain Forest Counting Book***. Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Introduces rain forest plants and animals, such as orchids, jaguars,

and snakes, while teaching the concept of counting to ten.

Dils, Tracey E. ***Down on the Farm 1,2,3: A Farm Counting Book.***

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Introduces pigs, horses, chicks, and other objects around the farm while teaching the concept of counting to ten.

Dils, Tracey E. ***Falling Leaves 1,2,3: An Autumn Counting Book.***

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Introduces leaves, pumpkins, apples, and other seasonal fall objects while teaching the concept of counting to ten.

Dils, Tracey E. ***My Pets and Me 1,2,3: A Pets Counting Book.***

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Introduces dogs, cats, hamsters, and other fun pets while teaching the concept of counting to ten.

Dils, Tracey E. ***Under the Sea 1,2,3: An Ocean Counting Book.***

Amicus Ink (Mankato, MN) 2016. PB \$8.99.

Introduces whales, sharks, and other animals of the sea while teaching the concept of counting to ten.

Gross, Sandra. ***I See, You See: Day.***

Blue Manatee Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2016. HC \$7.99.

Written and illustrated by artist Sandra Gross, *I See, You See: Day* tells the story of a baby's day using high-contrast illustrations perfect for a baby's developing eyes and growing recognition.

Hutton, John. Illus. by Doug Cenko.

The Sleepy Solar System. Blue Manatee Press (Cincinnati, OH)

2016. HC \$17.99.

In this picture book for early readers, the rhyming text describes the bedtime routines of the planets and their friends.

Massa, Michael A. ***The Boy Who Stopped Time.*** Mirror Publishing

(Milwaukee, WI) 2014. PB \$12.99.

A little boy in an Italian village, wishing to stop his grandfather from dying, convinces the local church friar to stop the village's clock in his quest to "stop time," only to realize that time still moves on, but love always remains.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man.*** Graphix/Scholastic (New York, NY) 2016.

HC \$9.99.

Part dog, part man, all hero—George and Harold have created a new hero who digs into deception, claws after crooks, and rolls over robbers.

When Greg the police dog and his cop companion are injured on the job, a life-saving surgery changes the course of history, and Dog Man is born. With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound has a real nose for justice. But can he resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty?

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man Unleashed.***

Graphix/Scholastic (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$9.99.

Dog Man, the newest hero from the creator of Captain Underpants, is still learning a few tricks of the trade. Petey the cat is out of the bag, and his criminal curiosity is taking the city by storm. Something fishy is going on! Can Dog Man unleash justice on this ruffian in time to save the city, or will Petey get away with the purr-fect crime?

Sims, Stacy. Illus. by Sharaeh Khosravani. ***When We Are Quiet.*** Blue Manatee Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2016. HC \$7.99.

This board book is a product of the City Silence Project's mission to slow down the world by turning off digital devices and boosting stillness, wonder, and creativity. The book is designed to be calming and to help families appreciate the benefits of gentle quiet.

Smith, M. Earl. ***Little Karl.***

Michelkin Publishing (Roswell, NM) 2016. PB \$9.99.

Little Karl walks through the city with his mother and asks questions about the world. Why can't everyone live together as comfortably as his family? An explanation of Marxism for young readers.

Ward, Lindsay. ***Brobarians.*** Two Lions (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

This is the tale of the mighty Brobarians. Two warriors, once at peace—now at odds. Iggy the Brobarian has taken over the land. Can Otto the Big Brobarian win it back? Or maybe, with a little help, the two brothers can find peace.

Wright, Maureen. Illus. by Will Hillenbrand. ***Share, Big Bear, Share!*** Two Lions (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

Big Bear has a huge pail of berries. His friends wish they could eat some, too. So the old oak tree says, "Share, Big Bear, share!" But Bear doesn't listen very well, and each time the tree tells him to share, he does something different. Will his friends ever get to eat some berries?



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Coming Soon

Ohioana Book Festival

April 8, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio

We hope you'll join us for the 11th annual Ohioana Book Festival! The event will feature a book fair and book signings, panel and roundtable discussions with your favorite Ohio authors, a children's activity room, teen space, food trucks, and more. No ticket and no advance registration required.

Thurber House Evenings with Authors

Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio

The 2017 Winter/Spring Evenings with Authors series continues with David Grann, Annabelle Gurwitch, and a special event with Damion Searls. For tickets and information, visit www.thurberhouse.org.

Ohio History Connection

April 30, 2017

2:00 p.m.

800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio

A discussion about Sarah Morgan Bryan Piatt, poet and essayist. Event is free with museum admission. Visit Ohiohistory.org for more information.

Ohioana Book Club

May 17, 2017

10 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for May is *Capitol Punishment: An Andy Hayes Mystery* by Andrew Welsh-Huggins, who will join us for the discussion. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Claire's Day

May 20, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Maumee Branch
501 River Rd., Maumee, Ohio

Claire's Day is the celebration of life, authors, illustrators, and reading excellence. Held annually for the past sixteen years in Maumee, Ohio, in memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini, this book festival is Northwest Ohio's largest celebration of literacy! Shelley Pearsall will be among the participating authors. Visit www.claresday.org for more information.

Do you have a literary event you'd like to list in the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact the Ohioana Library at ohioana@ohioana.org.

BACK COVER: CRANKSHAFT COMES TO OHIOANA!

Special thanks to Tom Batiuk for bringing the lovable cast of *Crankshaft* characters to the 2017 Ohioana Book Festival! The strip is set in Columbus for the entire week, starting with the April 3 strip, which is reproduced on the back cover of this issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*. Written by Tom and drawn by Chuck Ayers, the strip debuted in 1987. Like he has done with *Funky Winkerbean*, Tom has at times tackled some serious subjects in the strip in a humorous yet touching way. *Roses in December: A Story of Love and Alzheimer's* was a 2016 finalist for both the Ohioana Book Award and the Eisner Prize.



Ohio Humanities is a presenting sponsor of the **Ohioana Book Festival**

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Crankshaft comes to the Ohioana Book Festival!
See page 30.