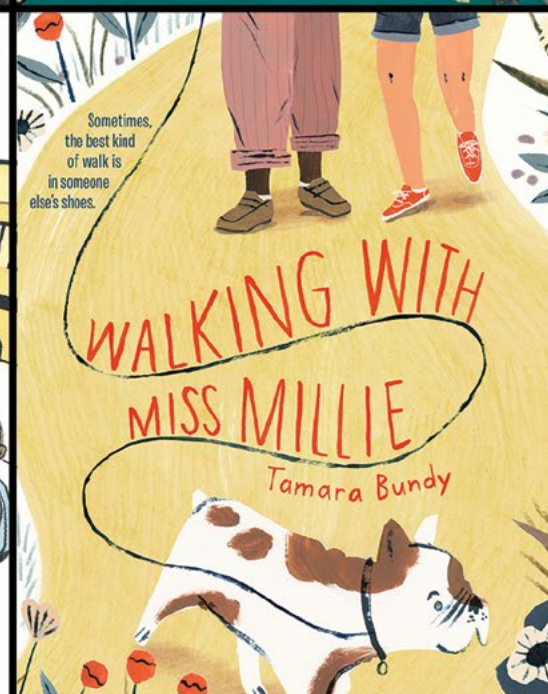
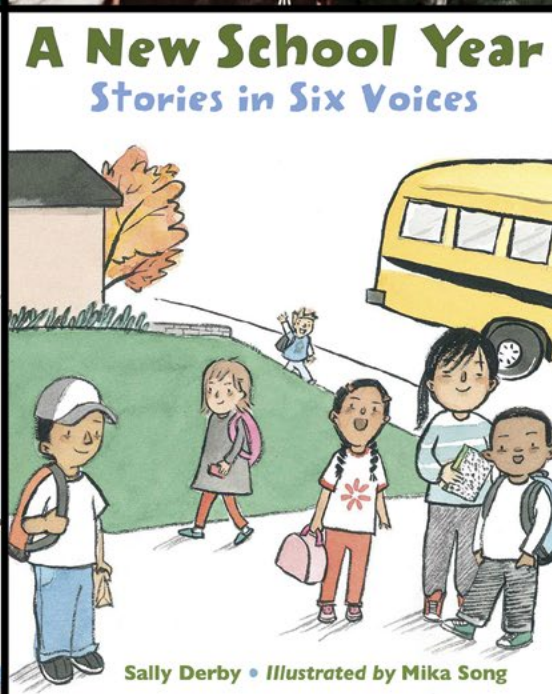
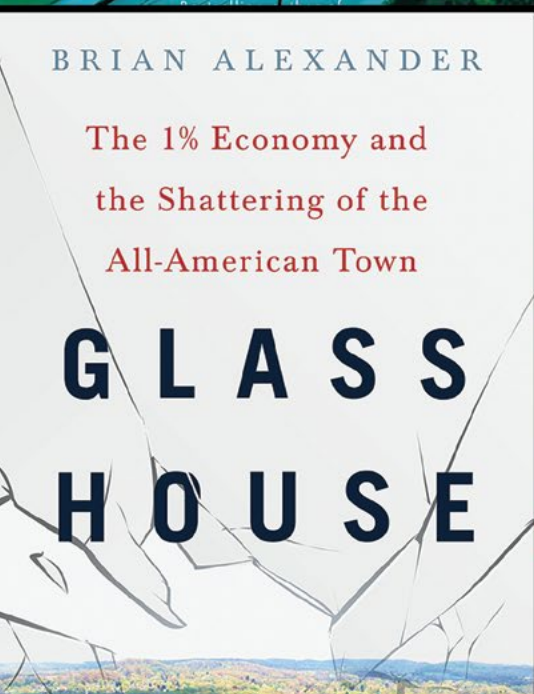
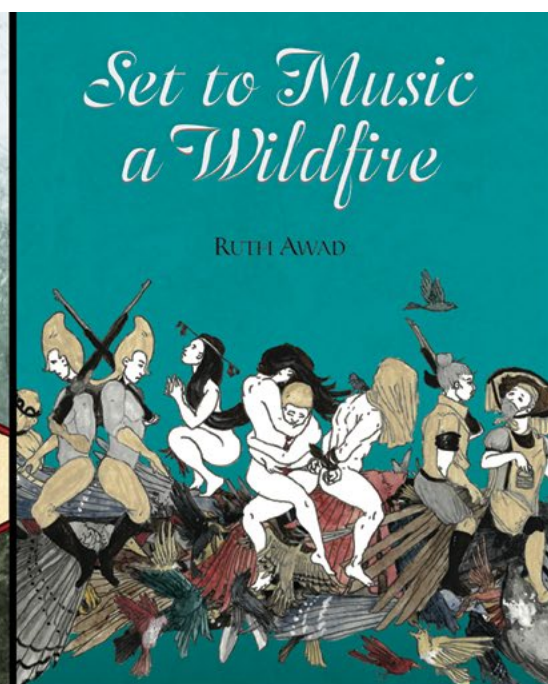
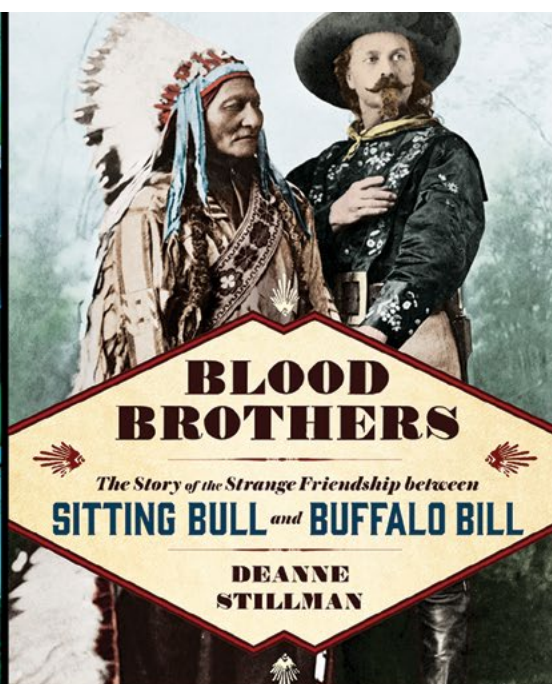


OHIOana QUARTERLY

FALL 2018 | VOL. 61 NO. 4



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

FALL 2018

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From the Director

Dear Friends,



Break out the champagne . . . blow up the balloons . . . order the party hats and noisemakers . . . it's time to *celebrate!*

Autumn is always a festive time for the Ohioana Library. For one reason, it's when we present the annual Ohioana Awards. On October 18, we'll do it again, for the 77th consecutive year (the awards are the second oldest state literary prize in the nation). You'll meet the six outstanding book award winners featured in the article beginning on the next page. You'll also meet Christopher Alexander Gellert, the recipient of this year's Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a special prize for an Ohio writer age 30 or younger who has not yet published a book.

We're pleased to share one of Christopher's winning stories in this issue.

There is another reason we're celebrating: the October 18 event marks the beginning of Ohioana's 90th anniversary year. Truly a milestone.

This year also marks the centennial of one of our nation's most heralded and important movements: the Harlem Renaissance. Ohioana is proud to be a partner in "I, Too, Sing America – The Harlem Renaissance at 100," a celebration of the African American literature, art, and music of that golden period and the people who created it. Many events will be taking place in Central Ohio, the highlight being an exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art, curated by two-time Ohioana Award winner Wil Haygood. We hope you enjoy reading our special section, which includes a story with rare images from Ohioana's collection about two notable Ohio writers of the Harlem Renaissance: novelist Chester Himes and legendary poet/playwright Langston Hughes.

As always, you'll also find in this issue reviews of notable books, a list of titles recently received, and a calendar of upcoming events. One more reason fall is such a festive time are the many wonderful literary happenings taking place all over Ohio.

And finally, fall is festive because of the holiday season. My personal favorite is Thanksgiving. And one reason Ohioana is thankful every year is for our wonderful friends who share our love of books and reading. You make what we do possible. Thank you—and have a wonderful (and festive) season.

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

David Weaver
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

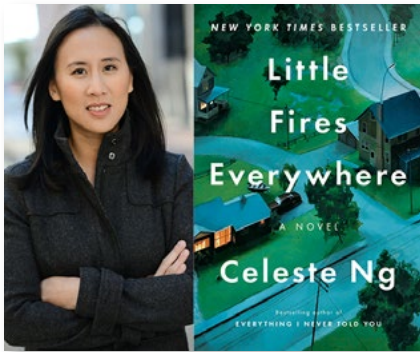
This issue's cover features images of the 2018 Ohioana Award-winning books. To learn more about this year's award winners, see the article on the next page.

2018 Ohioana Awards



The Ohioana Book Awards were established in 1942 to recognize excellence in writing by Ohioans and about Ohio, and are the second oldest state literary prizes in the nation. Each year awards are given to outstanding books in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, juvenile literature, middle grade and young adult literature, and books about Ohio or an Ohioan. This year's awards also include the third annual Reader's Choice award, selected by readers across the state.

Fiction



Celeste Ng, *Little Fires Everywhere*, Penguin Random House. In Shaker Heights, everything is planned, and no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter, Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt

to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides.

Celeste Ng is the author of the New York Times bestselling novels *Everything I Never Told You* and *Little Fires Everywhere*. Her writing has been awarded the Pushcart Prize, the Massachusetts Book Award, and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, among other honors. She earned an MFA from the University of Michigan and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. To learn more about her and her work, visit celesteng.com or follow her on Twitter (@pronounced_ing).

Nonfiction

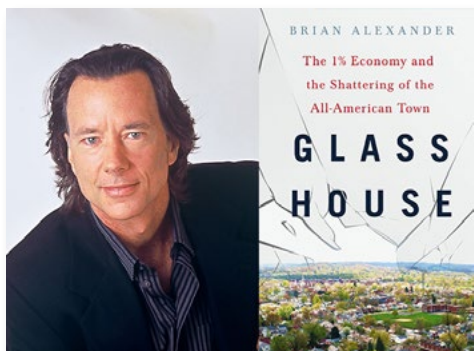


Deanne Stillman, *Blood Brothers: The Story of the Strange Friendship between Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill*, Simon & Schuster. *Blood Brothers* tells the story of two famous figures of the American West—Buffalo Bill Cody and Sitting Bull—through their brief but important

collaboration. An iconic friendship tale like no other, *Blood Brothers* is truly a timeless story of people from different cultures who crossed barriers to engage each other as human beings. And it foretells today's battle on the Great Plains.

Deanne Stillman's books include *Blood Brothers* (starred review in *Kirkus* as "best of the year"), *True West*, *Desert Reckoning* (Spur Award winner, praised in *Newsweek*), and *Mustang*, an *LA Times* "best book of the year" available in audio read by Anjelica Huston. She also wrote the cult classic, *Twentynine Palms*, a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller that Hunter Thompson called "A strange and brilliant story by an important American writer." She writes the "Letter from the West" column for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and is a member of the core faculty at the UC Riverside-Palm Desert MFA Low Residency Creative Writing Program.

About Ohio or an Ohioan



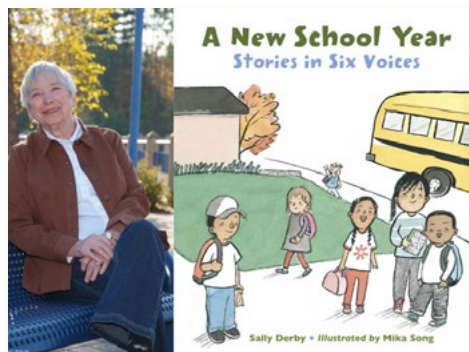
Brian Alexander, *Glass House*, St. Martin's Press.

In 1947, *Forbes* magazine declared Lancaster, Ohio, the epitome of the all-American town. Today it is damaged, discouraged, and fighting for its future. The Anchor Hocking Glass Company, once the world's largest maker of glass tableware, was the base on which Lancaster's society was built. As *Glass House* unfolds, bankruptcy looms. Alexander shows how financial engineering took hold in the 1980s, accelerated in the twenty-first century, and wrecked the company.

Brian Alexander is an award-winning journalist who has written about American culture for decades. He's a regular contributor to national magazines and news organizations and a two-time finalist for the National

Magazine Award. He has also been recognized by Medill School of Journalism's John Bartlow Martin Awards for public interest journalism, the Association of Healthcare Journalists, and other organizations. He is a frequent contributor to and a columnist for MSNBC.

Juvenile Literature



Sally Derby, *A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices*, Charlesbridge. New shoes! New binders! New school year! In a unique narrative, readers meet a diverse group of six children ranging in age from kindergarten through fifth grade. With nerves and excitement each child gears up for a new school year by hustling in the morning, meeting new teachers and new classmates during the day, and heading home with homework and relief by day's end.

Sally Derby is the author of many books for children, including *Kyle's Island* (Charlesbridge), *Sunday Shopping* (Lee & Low), *Jump Back, Paul: The Life and Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* (Candlewick), and *No Mush Today* (Lee & Low). Her picture book, *A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices* (Charlesbridge), was chosen as the annual "Floyd's Pick" by Choose to Read Ohio. Sally lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature



Tamara Bundy, *Walking with Miss Millie*, Penguin Random House. Alice is angry at having to move to Rainbow, Georgia—a too small, too hot, dried-up place she’s sure will never feel like home. Then she gets put in charge of walking her elderly neighbor’s dog. But Clarence won’t budge without Miss Millie, so Alice and Miss Millie walk him together. Strolling with Clarence and Miss Millie quickly becomes the highlight of Alice’s day. Miss Millie shares her family’s story with Alice, showing her the painful impact segregation has had on their town. And with Miss Millie, Alice is finally able to express her own heartache over why her family had to move there in the first place.

Tamara Bundy is a high school English teacher with a master’s degree in writing and a former columnist for the *Cincinnati Post* (her regular column on being a mom was also featured on EWTN global Catholic radio). *Walking with Miss Millie* is her debut novel.

Poetry



Ruth Awad, *Set to Music a Wildfire*, Southern Indiana Review Press. In Lebanon during the civil war, a teenage boy and his family witness leveled cities, displaced civilians, the aftermath of massacres. Resources are scarce, and uncertainty is everywhere. What does it mean to survive? To leave behind a home torn apart by war? To carry the burden of what you’ve seen across an ocean? These poems follow a man in search of security as he leaves his country for America, falls in love, and becomes a single father to three daughters.

Ruth Awad is a Lebanese-American poet whose debut poetry collection, *Set to Music a Wildfire*, won the 2016 Michael Waters Poetry Prize from SIR Press. She is the recipient of a 2016 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, the 2012 and 2013 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, and the 2011 Copper Nickel Poetry Prize. Her work has appeared in *New Republic*, the *Missouri Review*, *CALYX*, *Nashville Review*, the *Adroit Journal*, and elsewhere.

Congratulations also to the 2018 Ohioana Book Award finalists! Among this year's finalists are winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award; the Newbery Medal; the IPPY, Lambda Literary, Edgar, and Spur Awards; and the Cleveland Arts Prize. Look for these titles at your local library or bookstore.

FICTION

Jeffrey Ford. *A Natural History of Hell: Stories*

Ruth Emmie Lang. *Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstances*

Robert Olmstead. *Savage Country*

Thrity Umrigar. *Everybody's Son*



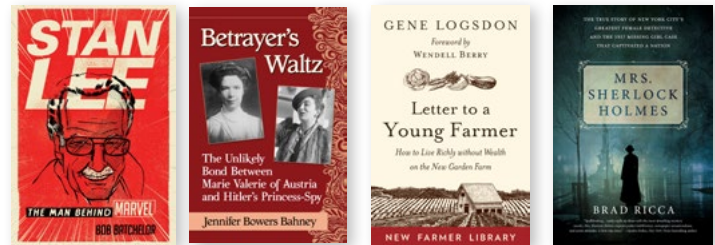
NONFICTION

Bob Batchelor. *Stan Lee: The Man Behind Marvel*

Jennifer Bowers. *Betrayer's Waltz*

Gene Logsdon. *Letters to a Young Farmer*

Brad Ricca. *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes*



ABOUT OHIO OR AN OHIOAN

Jonathan Blunk. *James Wright: A Life in Poetry*

Ron Chernow. *Grant*

Robert W. Merry. *President McKinley: Architect of the American Century*

James Reston, Jr. *A Rift in the Earth: Art, Memory, and the Fight for a Vietnam War Memorial*



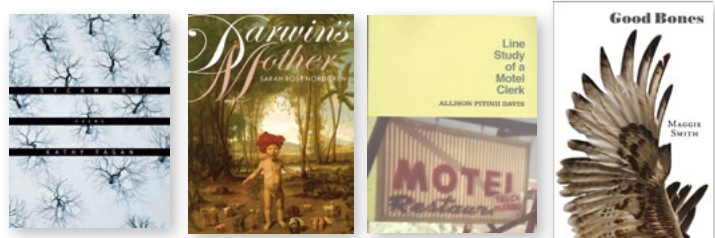
POETRY

Kathy Fagan. *Sycamore*

Sarah Rose Nordgren. *Darwin's Mother*

Allison Pitinii Davis. *Line Study of a Motel Clerk*

Maggie Smith. *Good Bones*



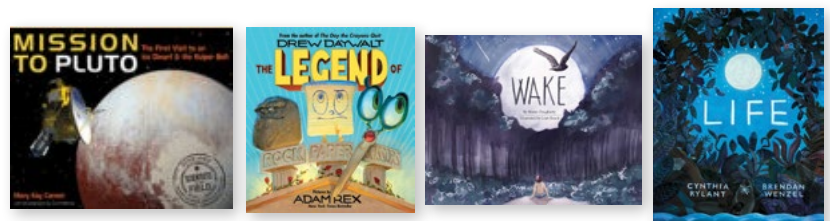
JUVENILE LITERATURE

Mary Kay Carson. *Mission to Pluto: The First Visit to an Ice Dwarf and the Kuiper Belt*

Drew Daywalt. *The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors*

Shawn Dougherty. *Wake*

Cynthia Rylant. *Life*



MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Erin McCahan. *The Lake Effect*

Margaret Rogerson. *An Enchantment of Ravens*

Julie K. Rubini. *Virginia Hamilton: America's Storyteller*

Tricia Springstubb. *Cody and the Rules of Life*



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Why Cleveland?!

by Christopher Alexander Gellert, 2018 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant Winner

All anyone can ever seem to remember about Cleveland is that our river caught on fire, several times. We've been in the news lately after LeBron and the Cavaliers broke a fifty-two-year-old dry spell for our sports teams; the dust has just cleared from the Republican Convention. But nothing better illustrates how the rest of America thinks of us than the elevator pitch for the TV Land show, *Hot in Cleveland*: three "aging" actresses make an emergency landing here on their way to Paris and they are "hot in Cleveland." It's a place to settle for, and settle down. I never thought I'd return.

I flew into town Christmas Eve after a year of teaching English in Chile. It's been a long time since I lived at home. I still feel like I'm visiting. Even as a boy, I remember when we crossed the border into Ohio after a trip out East, my father would mock his Midwestern progeny as "Buckeye Boy," the lilt of affection drowning out the trucks. At the kitchen table my parents would trade each other the *Wall Street Journal* for the *New York Times*, while the local paper seemed to exist only for the funnies. I'm a native Clevelander raised out East. I never entirely understood the appeal of living here—why we did. I decided I'd find out.

I didn't have to go far. No further than my block. Half the houses on my street (Maynard Road in Shaker Heights) are full of natives who left to build a life somewhere else, only to come back and lay their foundations here. When I was a kid, I remember the family across street arriving with boxes freshly sealed in Dublin, unpacking their old life, beginning anew. Paul is Irish, but his wife Gigi is from Shaker. Paul speaks carefully, picks his words, almost as though he isn't entirely satisfied with the choices he was offered. His leisurely brogue is complemented by Gigi's swift clip in her speech, her accent darting between Cuyahoga County and County Cork. They both wear their hair short and tousled, ready for wind.

When I sat down with them recently and asked what had pulled them back, Gigi chuckled, "I keep getting pulled back." (She had also previously lived in Chicago.) They mentioned all of the things that you might expect to hear

about Cleveland: a sense of balance, affordable housing, good schools—and the lake. Paul recalled his childhood growing up on the Irish Sea, and while the lake may not ever equal the majesty of the ocean—Paul misses the squalls on the open sea—perhaps the lake's very size and pacific nature reflect Cleveland's Goldilocks virtues.

Gigi summarized this just-right quality: "It's the perfect size. You get a city, a big city, a Manhattan, a Chicago, and if you want to go out to a restaurant, the only people who you are likely to see that you know are the people you arrange to see. You get to some place too small, and you never meet anyone new. Cleveland is right there in the middle..."

She continued, voicing Cleveland's plainsong: "I'm the youngest of six, and all of my brothers and sisters grew up and moved away, and then they were always spending their lives looking for a neighborhood like the one we grew up in, and they would constantly move someplace to see if they had the same network of friends and street parties, and just school systems, and it's really hard to find. I'm the only who managed to get back here, and they're all jealous."

For outsiders though, the appeal can be hard to fathom. Gigi recalled telling her Irish friends where she was from, and "They kind of look at you, like oh that's in the middle, isn't it?"

Just a couple of doors down, Dave Neundorfer and Jennifer Keiser evoked the bemused skepticism of their friends when they told them they were moving to Cleveland—"Why?! Even Clevelanders, That's the wrong way to be moving."

Jennifer is from Boston; Dave is the native who dragged his wife back. He always knew he wanted to make a life here. The pair of them don't look Cleveland. They look too good.

Dave recounted how they came back, "When I was in my first year of business school, I set the goal of being back

in Cleveland within five years of graduating... and I ended up coming back within five days.” Dave has roots and family here but Jennifer confessed to me, “I’m surprised how quickly I felt loyal to the city, and invested in what’s happening here.” Both of them now feel, as Jennifer describes it, “In the role of evangelizing it to our friends.” Cleveland’s hardly perfect—and it lacks the glamour of other big cities in the U.S. It’s too solidly dependable to be sexy.

Of course, it’s this almost stolid reliability that makes Cleveland so appealing when people start raising a family, laying foundations. Jennifer and Dave (who have a one-year-old) are not only unofficial spokespeople to their friends back on the coasts, but are intimately involved in Cleveland’s growth. Jennifer mentors young entrepreneurs, especially women, and invests in young start-ups through her company, Flashstarts. Dave founded his company, LineStream, as an automotive software firm, using building-block processes to help optimize and automate manufacturing. LineStream was born of regional investment and ties to local manufacturing that served as a testing ground for the product.

And yet despite this, his backers were skeptical. Dave explained his argument, “If we’re raising two million or four million dollars in Cleveland, we’re going to get twice as much runway in Cleveland as we would in California. In extending that runway, it can be the difference between success and failure in the start-up world.”

Clevelanders love their rust-worn city and their beleaguered sports teams unconditionally. Dave directly addressed this: “My personality is one to be involved in the process of improvement, rather than to enjoy once a city has already reached its pinnacle or its steady state. Cleveland is in a state of constant flux.” And he articulated the spirit of community, “If you’re here, and you’re involved in your community... there’s almost not only the ability to get involved, but the expectation to.” Cleveland’s affordability means that people feel less pressure to earn large salaries just to eke out a living, which gives them more time to devote to charitable work, or to be involved in public service and public sector work.

It’s why Eric Forman came back. At the other end of my street from Dave and Jennifer you’ll find Eric, an affable, avuncular man with glasses who interrupts himself

mid-sentence to consider his word choice. He’s the new principal at Onoway Elementary School here in Shaker. He is the kind of person you want to be responsible for children; his commitment and care are apparent when he talks about his work. Eric returned to Cleveland two years ago after a decade in New York, joined by his wife Ellie, and their infant daughter, Evie. The two met as teachers, and Ellie now works at the New Teacher Project here as a consultant.

Eric couldn’t help but wax nostalgic about his time in the city, but he also admitted that he knew their time there had “an expiration date.” The Formans’ return home signals not only hope for Cleveland, but serves as a warning to New York and other large cities in the U.S. “There are a lot of people like my wife and me, and there’s always been talk, about making it more affordable for middle-class people.” Eric explained. “We’re people with multiple graduate degrees who work hard and do public work. The city’s not going to be able to survive if everybody like my wife and I have to leave.”

Perhaps though, what struck me most about our conversation is his excitement about a car accident he had in Cleveland. “I remember going home from that and telling my wife, we live here because that experience was so simple and amazing and full of good people.” And for Eric, that’s not New York. “In New York, getting your car fixed would literally have been a nightmare. Every step of that road you would have encountered somebody’s who’s a jackass.” For Eric, livability isn’t just about the cost of housing or good schools, but the people who form a place.

Just next door to the Formans, Katherine Hollingsworth came home, just as Eric did, so she didn’t have to choose between doing what she loved and earning enough so she could afford the life she wanted for herself and her children. Katherine’s husband is a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and she works as an attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Katherine speaks with authority and ease. It’s not difficult to imagine her commanding a courtroom, dispensing facts and arguments, dispensing with opposing attorneys.

Katherine reflected, “I think we were both pleasantly surprised by how happy we’ve been... I think a big part of that is we both really love what we’re doing for work, and because we’re really happy in our jobs, we spend a lot of

time working. If you're happy in your work it makes your life a lot happier."

Musician Mike Sopko, living just across the street from Jennifer Keiser and Dave Neundorfer, knew he wanted to return to make a home here between road tours. He moved back from the Bay Area to Shaker Heights with his wife and high school sweetheart. When he knocked on our front door and entered, he seemed to gyre through the hallway. He sat down, popped an olive into his mouth, and chuckled between sentences, interrupting his own staccato with a series of you knows, occasional head scratches, and shoulder rolls.

When he pitched the idea of returning to his wife, she hardly welcomed the idea with enthusiasm. "She thought I was crazy because I was touring." He paused. "The first time I got into the Midwest, I was really surprised how well our music was received.... we kind of do an improvised jazz kind of... I just felt like people [here] were more artistically attuned... and the distances between the cities are so much shorter... I'd be closer to New York."

I asked Mike later why didn't he just move to the city. He quipped, "New York is so expensive. It's like prison with less space," and laughed.

Mike continued to extoll Cleveland's virtues, even suggesting that as an artist, he finds it preferable to living in New York.

"A lot of times players there, at least ones that I know, even ones who have master's degrees from good schools, end up playing a lot of gigs that they don't necessarily want to do.... Unless your artistic direction is very concrete, and you know what you want to do, you can get blown around in the wind a lot."

Music is why he returned.

"When I came back here, I actually felt a burst of creativity.... [It was] just something organic and natural." And yet, however happy all of these sons and daughters were to return; they are all grateful for their time away. Katherine Hollingsworth confessed to me: "I think I needed to leave, and I needed to live other places to fully appreciate what my life was like growing up here, and what my life here could be like now."

And yet, I don't plan on staying. I began a master's program in Paris in September, and here—more than anywhere else—I feel at home. But I cannot say what the future holds and where it will take me. I try to be open. I am twenty-six. I try to allow for a future where I may want to have a family and raise children—a future, even, where I would live in Cleveland.

Christopher Alexander Gellert recently completed a master's in lettres modernes, pensée contemporaine at Paris Diderot. Since September 2016 he has been gathering testimonies of the influence of literature on readers in France, conversations they have over dinners he cooks in their homes. You can learn more about this journey and discover some of the participants' stories at whyfire.com. His verse has appeared in *Belleville Park Pages* and *FORH Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *parentheses*, a new Barcelona-based journal. He will be pursuing a doctorate in the fall on investigation as an artistic practice with Vincent Broqua at Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis.



Celebrating the Harlem Renaissance

by David Weaver

This year marks the centennial of one of the most significant creative and cultural movements in American history: the Harlem Renaissance. At its height through the 1920s and 1930s, the “New Negro Movement”—as it was then called—saw some of our greatest African American writers, musicians, poets, and painters create works that have since influenced several generations and, most importantly, served as a bond for Americans of all races through the arts.

I, Too, Sing America – The Harlem Renaissance at 100 will celebrate this historic movement over a period of months through early 2019. Many organizations, including the Ohioana Library, are joining together to present events and programs throughout Central Ohio that not only celebrate the movement’s history, but showcase some of the most talented and creative African American writers, musicians, and artists of today.

The centerpiece will be an exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art, curated by two-time Ohioana Award-winning journalist and author Wil Haygood, which will also serve as the basis for a beautiful companion book. One of the guiding forces behind the celebration is Haygood’s long-time friend, Larry James, a lawyer, civic leader, and passionate advocate for the arts.

Executive Director David Weaver recently spoke to Haygood and James and asked if they would share their thoughts about this milestone, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of *I, Too, Sing America – The Harlem Renaissance at 100*.

David Weaver: Larry, what sparked the idea for this celebration of the Harlem Renaissance?

Larry James: In September 2015, we did the rollout for Wil’s book *Showdown* at the Lincoln Theatre. Nannette Maciejunes, executive director of the Columbus Museum of Art, was in the audience and observed that each one of Wil’s biographical subjects had a strong tie to Harlem: Thurgood Marshall in *Showdown*, Adam

Clayton Powell in *King of the Cats*, Sugar Ray Robinson in *Sweet Thunder*, and Sammy Davis Jr. in *In Black & White*. Nannette asked if it would be possible to have Wil curate an exhibit of Harlem Renaissance art for the Columbus Museum of Art. She had Bill Conner, who was then president/CEO of the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), contact me, and I in turn contacted Wil, who agreed to curate. In my mind, it seemed to be a great opportunity to experience the totality of the arts and the Harlem influence. Thus, we expanded the concept.



Larry James and Wil Haygood. Photo by Lucy Wolfe.

Weaver: Wil, there are many events coming up, but clearly the centerpiece is the exhibition you’re curating at the Columbus Museum of Art that opens October 19 and runs thru January 20. How long did it take and how much of a challenge was it to choose the pieces that will be included?

Wil Haygood: I traveled over a couple months to museums and private repositories looking at collections. Drew Sawyer, who was formerly at the museum, also traveled with me and played a part in the selections.

One could only marvel at both the quality and quantity of artwork from the Harlem Renaissance. The rich accumulation of art work made it a challenge. But that was the job: curate a collection that could be put into an exhibit. I know I wanted pieces that were not already extravagantly exposed to the public. Even though the Harlem Renaissance is timeless, I want the exhibit to feel fresh.

Weaver: What do you hope people, especially young people, will learn about the Harlem Renaissance?

Haygood: I really think one of the results of this exhibit will be the many thousands of eyes that will land upon these astonishing pieces of art. It's always lovely to see the eyes and minds of youth light up when they see something magical. I think the artwork will ultimately steer them to literature, music, and movies created by black Americans. And when they dive into the fact that this art was ultimately created under duress, I think it will give them an even deeper appreciation of the Harlem Renaissance.

James: The art of the Harlem Renaissance provides an opportunity in every medium for history lessons and an appreciation of the rich heritage of African American artists, as well as a cross-pollination of the arts bringing a community together. It will also give an opportunity to witness diversity within diversity in the arts. Whether we are talking about literature, music, or the many styles of the artists who came out of the Harlem experience, it is a reawakening for America.

Weaver: Is there any one writer, artist, musician, or other creative person from that period that you particularly admire?

Haygood: Langston Hughes, for me, continues to carry the torch of the Harlem Renaissance. He just seemed so invested in its potential before it really took off. His output was so versatile, ranging from poetry to journalism to opera to fiction. He was a Renaissance man who kept inspiring so many others, as he still does to this day.

Wil Haygood is Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow. Haygood has written four biographies of major Harlem figures who were all touched by the Harlem Renaissance.

His *King of the Cats: The Life and Times of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.* was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. *In Black and White: The Life of Sammy Davis Jr.*, won the Richard

Wright-Zora Neale Hurston Literary Award, the Deems Taylor Biography Award, and the Nonfiction Book of the Year Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (ALA). His *Sweet Thunder: The Life and Times of Sugar Ray Robinson* was a PEN/ESPN Book Award Finalist. *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed America* received the Scribes Book Award, the Ohioana Book Award, and the Honor Book Award from the Black Caucus of the ALA. His most recent book, *Tigerland: 1968-1969: A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing* is the story of success at segregated East High School in Columbus, Ohio.



Larry James, the senior partner in the Columbus law firm of Crabbe, Brown & James, has been a business, legal, civic, and arts leader for more than thirty years. He helped lead the effort to renovate and restore Columbus' historic Lincoln Theater. James is one of the key figures spearheading the *I, Too, Sing America - The Harlem Renaissance at 100* project, collaborating with his long-time friend, Wil Haygood. Haygood's 2015 Ohioana Award-winning book *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America* is dedicated to James. He is also co-founder of the African-American Leadership Academy and a member of the Board of Trustees of Kenyon College.

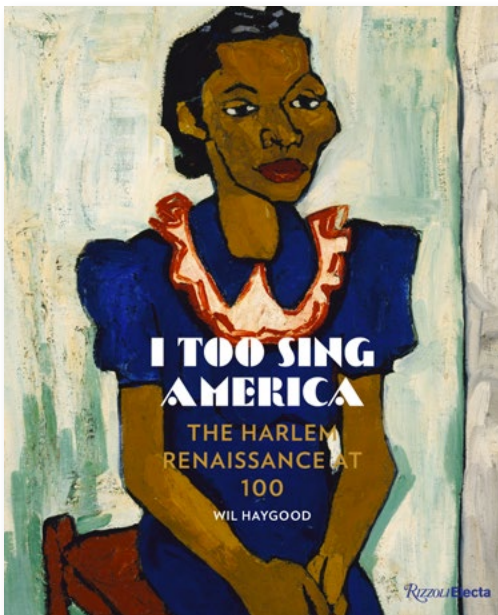


James: First, obviously Langston Hughes is at the forefront; so are Zora Neale Hurston, Louis Armstrong, Paul Robeson, Josephine Baker, Eubie Blake, and on and on. There are so many. The Harlem Renaissance led to the WPA (Work Progress Administration).

Weaver: Finally, what can the Harlem Renaissance teach us about the times in which we live today?

Haygood: Art can open both hearts and minds. In this painful period of racial repression in this country, which has been ignited by a virulent wave of nativism, I hope this exhibit fosters understanding about the beauty of respecting inclusion and diversity.

James: The Harlem Renaissance can be a healing experience. Different from sports, arts are not predicated on one individual or one team losing or winning. Art simply brings people together.



Haygood, Wil. *I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100*. Rizzoli Electa (New York, NY) 2018 HC \$55.00.

This companion catalog to the exhibition includes background and commentary that enhance a viewer's understanding of the exhibits and their importance.

“While Haygood’s narrative focuses on the impact of important intellectual, artistic, and political figures located mostly in Harlem during the interwar period, the accompanying visuals and material culture reach beyond New York to include works by artists from San Francisco to Chicago to Boston. It is this broader view, rather than the definition of the Harlem Renaissance as a historical period roughly from 1918 to the Great Crash of 1929, that has inspired this project and continues to inspire artists today,” says Columbus Museum of Art Executive Director Nannette V. Maciejunes. “For those of us in the audience, it became clear that much of Wil’s writing has been connected

to the Harlem Renaissance and its continuing legacy. For myself, it became clear that Wil was the perfect person to curate an exhibition exploring the Harlem Renaissance.”

I, Too, Sing America includes contributions by Carole Genshaft, Nannette V. Maciejunes, Anastasia Kinigopoulo, and Drew Sawyer. At the Columbus Museum of Art, Carole Genshaft is curator at large, Nannette V. Maciejunes is the executive director, Anastasia Kinigopoulo is assistant curator, Drew Sawyer is head of exhibitions, and William J. and Sarah Ross Soter, are associate curators of photography.

Ohio Voices of the Harlem Renaissance

by David Weaver

While Harlem was the epicenter of what was called at first the “New Negro Movement,” many of the black writers, artists, and musicians who became its brightest stars were not native New Yorkers. There was author Zora Neale Hurston from Alabama, songwriter Eubie Blake from Maryland, poet James Weldon Johnson from Florida, painter Aaron Douglas from Kansas, and jazz composer and bandleader Duke Ellington from Washington, D.C.

A number of the movement’s creative artists had come north during the Great Migration, in which more than one million blacks emigrated from the south following World War I. Among them were two Missouri-born writers whose literary gifts were honed while living in Ohio—and both of whose paths intersected with the Ohioana Library.

Langston Hughes

Of all the great figures who emerged from the Harlem Renaissance, none is more revered today than the man born James Mercer Langston Hughes in Joplin, Missouri, in 1902. The child of a broken home, raised first by his grandmother and then by close family friends, Hughes’ talent for writing showed itself at an early age—he was elected class poet at his grade school in Lincoln, Illinois.

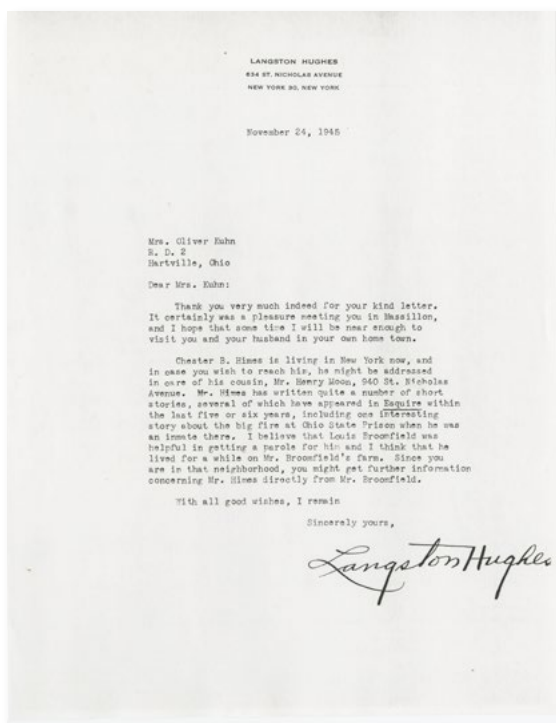
When his mother remarried, Hughes went to live with her and her new husband, settling in Cleveland, Ohio. Hughes attended Central High School, where his teacher was Helen Maria Chesnutt, the daughter of Charles Chesnutt, regarded by many as the first important black American novelist. She encouraged Hughes, who wrote for the school newspaper and edited the yearbook. He wrote short stories, plays, and poems, including “When Sue Wears Red,” a verse in a new idiom called “jazz poetry.” It was a genre in which Hughes was to become one of the masters.



Langston Hughes, photographed by Carl Van Vechten in 1936 (Photo from the Library of Congress, Carl Van Vechten Collection)

After graduating from Central High in 1920, Hughes lived briefly with his estranged father in Mexico, then went to New York to study engineering at Columbia University. Although he was a good student, Hughes encountered severe prejudice that made him decide to leave after one year. The thriving scene in nearby Harlem was of much greater interest, especially for a young man who by now was far more interested in writing than engineering.

It was that year when Hughes published, at the age of nineteen, the poem that would become his signature: “The Negro Speaks of Rivers.” In 1926, it appeared in his first collection of poems, *The Weary Blues*. The final poem in the collection, called “Epilogue,” begins with



A letter from Langston Hughes to Mrs. Oliver Kuhn of the Ohioana Library (The Ohioana Collection).

the words, “I, too, sing America,” from which Columbus has taken the title for its celebration of the Harlem Renaissance at 100.

A first edition of *The Weary Blues* is one of the treasures of the Ohioana Library’s collection. Ohioana began to trace Hughes’ career almost as soon as the library was founded in 1929. Our biographical file on Hughes is one of the most extensive and includes several original letters from Hughes in the 1940s that are among our most valued pieces of personal correspondence from any Ohio author.

Although New York City remained Hughes’ base of operations, he retained close ties to Ohio, particularly to Cleveland’s Karamu House, the oldest African American theater in the country. Hughes was involved with Karamu from the time he was a student at Central High School. A number of Hughes’ best-known plays had their world premieres at Karamu, including *Troubled Island* (which later became an opera with music by William Grant Still) and *Black Nativity*, a retelling of the story of Jesus’ birth with an all-black cast.

Except for a brief period when Hughes was caught up, as were many other writers and artists, in the “Red Scare” of the late 1940s (charges that he was a Communist were completely unfounded), his career as America’s most heralded black writer continued unabated until his death in 1967 at the age of 65. Part of the reason was his versatility: a staggering output that included essays, histories, poems, plays, short stories, novels, opera librettos, and books for children.

Seven years after his death, Hughes’ ashes were interred beneath the floor in the lobby of the new Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, fittingly enough in Harlem. A mosaic marks the spot, interwoven with the words of “The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” the poem that launched a nineteen-year-old Langston Hughes in 1921 and led him to become not only the most celebrated voice of the Harlem Renaissance, but one of America’s greatest poets of the twentieth century.

Chester Himes

Unlike his fellow Missourian, Chester Himes, who created the *Harlem Detective* series of crime novels, is not nearly as renowned as Langston Hughes. Nor did he live in Harlem. In fact, for more than half the 1930s, Himes was behind bars—an inmate at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus.

Himes was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1909. His father was a college professor. His mother, also a teacher, was light-skinned, and encouraged her children to not think of themselves as “colored.” It was an admonition that troubled young Chester, especially after his younger brother was injured in an accident that damaged his eyes. Himes was with his parents as they drove frantically to a hospital, where they pleaded for their son to be admitted and treated. The hospital refused—they did not serve blacks. Himes later wrote of watching his parents’ reaction: “My mother was fumbling in her handbag for a handkerchief. I hoped it was for a pistol.”

The family settled in Cleveland when Himes was in his teens. He graduated from East High School and entered Ohio State University. But Himes was a wild and reckless youth and was expelled because of a prank on campus. Things then went from bad to worse: Himes stole a car

and drove to a wealthy neighborhood, where he broke into a house and robbed the owners. In less than twenty-four hours he was under arrest, charged with armed robbery. The trial was swift and the sentence, stiff: twenty years in the Ohio Penitentiary.

Stuck in jail and looking for a way to release his anger, the nineteen-year-old Himes turned to a creative outlet: writing. He began cranking out stories, using a typewriter he bought with winnings from games of chance with fellow inmates. Himes' stories began to be published, mostly in black periodicals. He used his inmate number—59623—as his byline.

In 1930, Himes was an eyewitness to the worst prison fire in American history when two cellblocks of the Ohio Penitentiary went up in flames. More than 300 men were killed, most burned alive in their cells.

The horrific incident would serve as the basis for Himes' story, "To What Red Hell," published in 1934 by *Esquire* magazine. Even though he was still in prison, Himes began to attract attention from such writers as Langston Hughes and Louis Bromfield. In 1936, he was released from prison, after having served less than eight of his twenty-year sentence.

It was Langston Hughes who first brought Himes to the attention of the Ohioana Library, in the letter Hughes sent in 1940. He named Himes as one of the black writers Ohioana should be aware of. Himes would later correspond with Ohioana, sending us a biographical sheet and photograph. He also sent Ohioana a personal copy of his second novel, *Lonely Crusade*, when it was published in 1946.

That novel and its predecessor, *If He Hollers Let Him Go*, were Himes' first full-length works. They were examples of "social literature" that was beginning to come in to vogue. Himes produced five such novels. They drew mixed and at times scathing reviews from American critics. But they were more highly regarded in France—so in the 1950s, Himes moved to Paris.

There Himes began the work that would bring him the greatest fame and commercial success: the *Harlem Detective* series, also known as the *Grave Digger Jones* and *Coffin Ed Johnson Mysteries*, after its two



Chester Himes, 1946 (Photo provided by Chester Himes, The Ohioana Collection)

colorful main characters. *A Rage in Harlem* came first in 1957. The eighth and final title, *Blind Man with a Pistol*, came out in 1969, the year Himes moved to Spain, where he would remain until his death at age 75 in 1984.

Despite the success and popularity of the *Harlem Detective* series, Himes himself remains lesser known than many of his contemporaries such as Hughes, James Baldwin, and Richard Wright.

In 2002, author James Sallis, himself a crime writer, won the Ohioana Award in the category of book about Ohio or an Ohioan for his biography, *Chester Himes: A Life*. I asked Sallis if he feels Himes has grown in stature in the years since his book appeared. He replied:

"Truthfully I can't believe that Chester's position has changed a great deal from when I wrote the bio nineteen or twenty years ago. I do hear him cited more often by other writers and by readers, and the books are available—a very good thing. Also, there's a fine new biography by Lawrence P. Jackson (*Chester B. Himes: A Biography*). But Chester's presence still seems limited. He deserves far more. He always has."

Book Reviews

NONFICTION

Wanczyk, David. *Beep: Inside the Unseen World of Baseball for the Blind*.

Ohio University Press/Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2018
HC \$26.95.

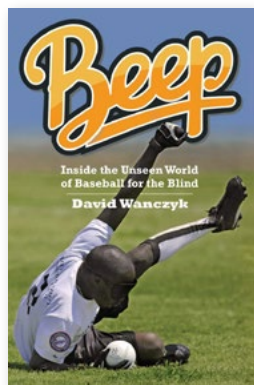
Think back to the last baseball game you attended, perhaps a Columbus Clippers AAA contest at Huntington Park. Remember the blue skies above the ball field, the outfield green grass, the Jumbotron replays, the home plate umpire throwing out his right arm to dramatically ring up a strikeout, the Wave undulating around the stands filled with fans dressed in their team's favorite colors, and that thrilling play at the plate? All are great images for those at the ballpark. But not for those baseball fans who are blind. And imagine if a blind person wanted to play baseball! No way, right? Wrong.

The earliest known precursor of what has come to be known as beep baseball goes back to 1894 when a noisemaker was placed inside a baseball—a larger orb than what we use in our backyards and official ballparks—and unsighted would-be athletes took a swing at it coming toward the plate, beeping. The game has gone through many revisions/updates since then.

The sport in 1938 was called “sound baseball,” and the ball had what was called a “jingler” in it.

In 1971, rules were devised for the sport, but the game was still seen as more therapy than a competitive sport, a “sissified” version of what would later develop when serious blind athletes would come to a sport for its intensity and competitiveness.

In 1975, the National Beep Baseball Association (NBBA) was formed, and a World Series was planned. Beep baseball had officially arrived and was to hang around for the next forty years (and counting), providing



visually impaired competitive athletes a chance to play a version of baseball similar to the version we all know.

Wanczyk writes, “This sport is not a vehicle for a vague sentimental uplift... not a consolation prize. When these guys show up to the field, it’s as athletes, and when they hit the ground diving, they want to win.”

The author lives in Athens, Ohio, and is the editor of the *New Ohio Review*. He grew up a major baseball fan, a Red Sox follower in the way many young boys are fans—who dream of playing in the major leagues themselves. (I fancied myself as a pitcher headed for the majors, but I hit as many batters as I struck out and had no curve ball. Fast and wild... and done as a pro prospect while still in high school.) So his enthusiasm for beep baseball comes from his own love of professional baseball, and it shows.

His research is impressive. Seems as if there wasn’t an organizer or key player on the many official teams that he didn’t interview.

Wanczyk found out about the sport through an article in *Harper’s* magazine: “A team is composed of a minimum of six blind or visually impaired players and two to four sighted people: a pitcher, a catcher, and two defensive spotters. There is no second base. First and third bases are four-foot padded cylinders with speakers that buzz when activated.”

The ball is a “sixteen incher chock full of spare parts from old pay phones to make it ring,” Wanczyk tells us. The pitcher activates the beep by pulling a pin, and the sound “beeps fast like a daredevil’s EKG.”

The outfield is divided into zones so that the two sighted spotters can yell to the blind players which zone the ball is going to. Players run to that imagined zone, listening for the sound of the ball to track it down. Understandably, the games are rather high-scoring.

The author followed the sport for two years, 2012 and 2013, attending dozens of games, digging for not only background on the players, but also detecting the unfolding story of the season, the teams’ identities and rosters and arguments and injuries—just like any baseball reporter would do, as the games led up to the

NBBA World Series. He even played one game, with a blindfold to give him a sense of what the blind players have to cope with—including a ground ball that skinned up his nose as he tried to field it.

“I saw right away that beep ball was no guided walk in the park; it can be a territory struggle, and arguments about playing time and decision making sometimes boil over.” The rivalries, between teams, as well as teammates, make for fascinating reading.

The book is filled with anecdotes of the players and how they came to beep baseball. Many of the stories are quite touching, detailing how some players lost their sight through disease or accident, or were born blind, and how they’ve responded to that challenge.

And yet, the players and the sport itself might be seen as underdogs. The author writes, “A successful underdog gives sports, built to have a familiar plot, a satisfying twist. Beep ball always includes this mix of impressive athletic straining and comic relief. As exciting as it is to watch three or four guys dive one after another, the game can also be a blooper video.”

And though to sighted observers, games may look looney-tune-ish, the players are extremely serious about effort and about winning. It’s an innovative and intense sport for both men and women and for teenagers through seniors who have the desire and hustle and ability to swing at and pursue the beeping baseball.

Wanczyk talks about how blind individuals have the same kind of desire to play sports as sighted people, but not with mystical insights: “No one is a possessor of secret wisdom just because of blindness; no one’s a Yoda-like caricature spewing maxims about perseverance,” Wanczyk writes.

The book is cleverly sectioned into nine chapters for nine innings, plus extra-inning material.

This is not just a thorough history of the sport, but a book full of interesting players as they pursue a championship in the NBBA World Series. Just as any sport has its characters, so does beep baseball, and Wanczyk hits a ringing home run as he introduces this sport to baseball fans who will now wonder, “What would it be like to play baseball as a blind person?”

GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN LOVES BOOKS, BASEBALL, AND TRAVELING

Wilson, Joe, and Fred Bartenstein. *Lucky Joe’s Namesake: The Extraordinary Life and Observations of Joe Wilson*.

University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2017

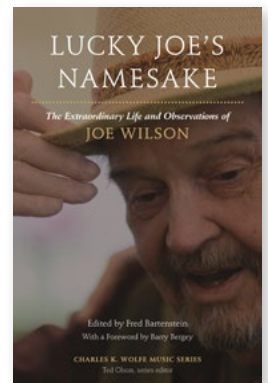
PB \$29.95.

Wilson, Joe, and Fred Bartenstein. *Roots Music in America: Collected Writings of Joe Wilson*.

University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2017

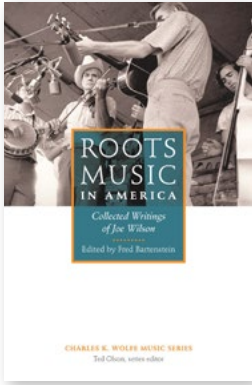
PB \$29.95.

Joe Wilson (1938-2015) loved music, especially music rooted in the diverse ethnic and regional communities to be found throughout the United States. This love began with the traditional ballads and dance tunes that he heard growing up on a family farm outside a small town in eastern Tennessee. Eventually, as he heard more kinds of music on the radio and in live performances, Wilson grew to embrace other kinds of music, such as the country and city blues of southern African Americans, or the Cajun dance tunes played with fiddles and accordions in Louisiana, or the conjunto ballads and two-step dance music in southwestern Texas that blended the polka music of German immigrants with the string music of Hispanic people to form a musical blend all its own.



To return to Wilson’s own life story, he was named for his famous and notorious great-grandfather, “Lucky Joe” Wilson, a Civil War veteran and sometimes horse thief, who escaped from his coffin and the custody of a sheriff to hightail it back to his family home after he was mistakenly pronounced dead by a county doctor. One of the modern Joe Wilson’s memories from his high school years was of a band called the Country Cousins that he and four friends started. Joe’s comments about the quality of their music includes a candid summary of his own abilities:

“We weren’t worth a whole hell of a lot, and I was the least of the bunch. I played a little bass, I knew some chords on the guitar, I sang some, and I tend to be able



to tell when things are in tune. Actually, my job was keeping the thing organized – that was what I turned out to be best at.” (*Lucky Joe’s Namesake*, p. 8)

Wilson went on to an impressive career in public service as a founder and administrator of music programs. His primary achievements as an advocate and presenter of traditional music took

place during his twenty-eight-year tenure as executive director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA). While leading the NCTA, Wilson maintained a policy of moving the National Folk Festival around the country. Subsequently, the festival made two visits to Ohio under his stewardship: at the Cuyahoga National Park outside Peninsula (1983-1985) and in downtown Dayton (1996-1998). At both locations, NCTA staff worked with local and state organizations to plan and run the festival, which was offered free of charge to the public. Ohio audiences saw and heard such performers as old-time and blues mandolin player Howard Armstrong, Louisiana Cajun singer and songwriter D. L. Menard, and Washington D.C.-based bluegrass band the Johnson Mountain Boys at the NCTA-sponsored folk festivals in the Buckeye state.

Wilson also initiated a series of fifty national and international concert tours highlighting a rich variety of traditional American music in programs such as *Green Fields of America: Irish-American Music and Dance* (1978, 1979, 1982); *Der Yiddisher Caravan: Theater, Klezmer Music, Cantorial and Folk Songs* (1981); *Raíces Musicales: Regional Styles of Music and Dance of the Hispanic Southwest* (1982); and *Masters of the Steel String Guitar: Masters of Blues, Appalachian Flat-Picking, Hawaiian Slack-Key, Dobro, Jazz and Rockabilly Guitar Styles* (1990, 1991, 1993, 1999), to mention only a few examples.

Joe Wilson’s writings cover a range of topics about the variety of vernacular genres of music that are performed in the United States. *Roots Music in America* draws upon Wilson’s appreciation of the rich musical traditions in this country, with sections titled “Old-Time Music,” “Bluegrass Music,” “The Blues,” and “Cowboy Music and Poetry.”

Another Ohio connection to the two books is with the compiler and editor, Fred Bartenstein. Bartenstein is an Ohio native with a longtime connection to bluegrass music, both in the state and beyond its borders. For six years, he edited *Muleskinner News*, a periodical about bluegrass music and musicians. Currently, Bartenstein teaches courses on country and bluegrass music history at the University of Dayton. Bartenstein culled the articles in *Roots Music in America*, as well as in the companion memoir, *Lucky Joe’s Namesake*, from Wilson’s writings previously published as record album liner notes, magazine articles, tour booklets, as well as from unpublished manuscripts. The memoir also features an autobiographical essay written by Wilson.

Barry Bergey, longtime director of the traditional arts program for the National Endowment for the Arts, writes in a foreword for *Lucky Joe’s Namesake* that Wilson’s writing is done “in a colloquial style that echoes some of Wilson’s homegrown literary heroes—H. L. Mencken, Mark Twain, Abraham Lincoln, and Will Rogers.” These are imposing figures, but Wilson did effectively use an informal style that displays his storytelling ability while giving the reader a vivid impression of his own personality. As Julia Olin, his successor as director of the NCTA, has said, “Joe wrote like he talked and talked like he wrote.”

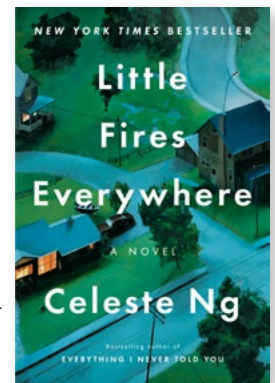
REVIEWED BY JACK SHORTLIDGE, RETIRED FOLKLORIST

FICTION

Ng, Celeste. *Little Fires Everywhere*.

Penguin Random House (New York, NY). 2017 PB \$29.00.

When photographer Mia Warren and her teenage daughter, Pearl, move to Shaker Heights near Cleveland, they are seeking something they haven’t known very often: stability. Shaker Heights is the definition of stable, where everything appears utopian, meticulously laid out, and maintained since its creation. For Mia and Pearl, who have moved often since Pearl’s birth, the possibilities are both strange and promising.



Elena Richardson and her husband, Bill, serve as Mia's landlords, while their four children become Pearl's friends. Pearl has reached high-school age seldom knowing what it's like to have a best friend or finish out a school year in one place; she eagerly attaches to the Richardson family and their life of privilege. Meanwhile the youngest Richardson daughter, Izzy, finds a mentor in Mia and her photography skills.

While the lives of the Warrens and the Richardsons tangle and commingle, the town of Shaker Heights is suddenly rocked by headlines of a custody battle involving a Chinese immigrant single mother and a white couple who happen to be two of Elena Richardson's closest friends. Mia and Elena find themselves split on the topic, and the tension creates questions about Mia's mysterious past that Elena longs to uncover. In doing so, however, she risks unforeseen consequences for her own family.

Ng's first novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, was Amazon Book of the Year in 2014, and as a follow up, *Little Fires Everywhere* has emerged as an instant hit. The plot is deceptively simple, all taking place in a sleepy suburb and largely focusing on the day-to-day lives of the characters involved. Though the story might at first seem to mostly concern Mia, Pearl, and Elena, the lens widens to investigate in turn the inner workings and silent struggles of each member of the two families.

Despite the large cast of characters, the story never feels overcrowded, and for the most part no narrative seems more or less significant than the others. Each person's hopes, fears, dreams, and secrets are brought under the microscope with tenderness and sensitivity. At times they feel like a set of very real people to whom we can relate and sometimes disagree with, but still understand. Their lives are complicated and nuanced, despite how ideal they might appear from the outside.

Though the story of the custody battle feels weighty and urgent, the individual motives and lives of the characters prove to be the most riveting aspects of the novel. Each character is handled with such detail and sympathy that readers will surely be able to connect their stories to their own lives. Celeste Ng has brought to life a time and place with startling clarity, and the lessons of those involved won't be easily forgotten.

REVIEWED BY MORGAN PETERS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
OHIOANA LIBRARY

Yocum, Robin. *A Perfect Shot*.

Seventh Street Press (New York, NY). 2018 PB \$15.95.

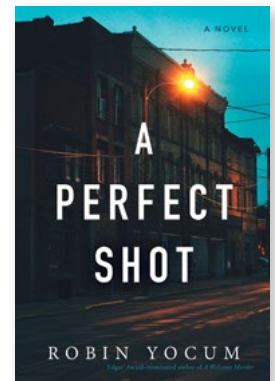
Nick Ducheski is much beloved in Mingo Junction, a small town in eastern Ohio, where he was born and has lived for forty-one years, until he disappeared in May 1994. When he dropped off the face of the earth, his family, friends, and admirers lost a hero and gained a mystery that plagues them for two decades.

Nick's local fame originated in what became known as the "Miracle Minute." In March, 1971, during the last minute and three seconds of the Class AA state championship game, he scored thirteen unanswered points to lead his high school basketball team, the Mingo Indians, to an upset win over the Dayton St. Andrews Blue Jays. Afterwards, Nick becomes known as the Duke of Mingo Junction, and the recording of these sixty-three seconds lives on inside jukeboxes all over the city.

Unfortunately, this hero's life doesn't turn out as planned. He misses out on a college scholarship and gets trapped in a loveless marriage. His only son is so severely handicapped by a medical mistake during his birth that he lives in a perpetual coma at a long-term-care facility. Just like his father before him, Duke ends up working in a steel mill that burns through the night sky and coats everything around it in black dust.

Eventually, Duke decides to capitalize on his fame and the goodwill of the people who have kept his moment of glory alive all these years. He opens a restaurant, aptly named "Duke's Place," and makes his best friend, the irresponsible and hot-tempered Moonie, a partner. This decision has catastrophic results. Moonie is a gambler who gets too involved with a Mingo Junction crime family. Duke hopes to run an honest establishment, but his brother-in-law, Tony DeMarco, has other ideas. An enforcer for the mob, Tony finally worms his way into the business, figuratively and occasionally literally holding a gun to Duke's head.

Duke needs a way out, and the choices he makes are perilous and involve committing several serious, though perhaps justified, crimes. The task of solving



the mystery of his disappearance is left to his cousin, a newspaper reporter.

The title *Perfect Shot* has multiple meanings, my favorite being the one that results in Tony DeMarco's downfall. He thinks he can perfectly predict what Duke is going to do, because it's a signature basketball move that he used to make in high school and is what he always does when he gets into trouble. But is it? Like all satisfying mysteries, this book is a puzzle whose pieces fall slowly, inexorably into place. One of my favorite things about the novel is the setting. Mingo Junction, the steel mills, dirty skies, and bright orange nights trap the characters like bugs in amber. You are who you are here, and if you want to change, you will have to leave or die trying.

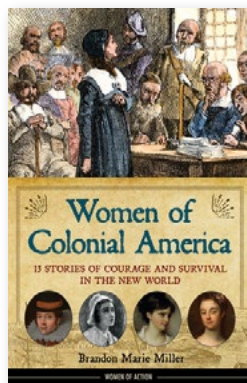
REVIEWED BY TERRI PAUL, AUTHOR AND PAST OHIOANA BOOK AWARD WINNER IN FICTION

YOUNG ADULT

Miller, Brandon Marie. *Women of Colonial America: 13 Stories of Courage and Survival in the New World*.

Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2016. PB \$19.95.

From keeping house to farming and from midwifery to running businesses, women of Colonial America worked just as hard or harder than men to build lives for themselves and their families in the New World. Some women in this slim volume are well known, such as Anne Hutchinson, Anne Dudley Bradstreet, Mary Rowlandson, and Martha Corey. Others have faded into obscurity, such as Margaret Hardenbroeck Philipse and Eliza Lucas Pinkney, whose children played valuable roles during and after the American Revolution.



Brandon Marie Miller gathers together biographical sketches of thirteen women and sets them into their historical contexts. She weaves together Colonial American history, politics, religion, and society to build a solid background into which the women's lives, roles,

and contributions are placed. Each biographical sketch stands on its own, shedding light on the narrow period or occupations and significance of the women. Miller's writing style makes history come alive while teaching the reader about the period.

The biographical sketches are relatively short and are accompanied by one or more illustrations. These sketches and illustrative materials bring the period to life, providing clear examples of what life was like in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Miller's gift is in the writing of the biographical sketches. She makes each person come alive, describing their lives in easily readable, very accessible vocabulary aimed at tweens and teens. At the same time, adults will find this slim tome engaging and enjoyable, as well as a welcome refresher of the period. The bibliography includes books and websites of interest to students and adults alike.

While men get less attention than women in this short history, they are definitely present. The author doesn't attempt to exclude men or minorities. The women selected are white, black, and Native American; free, indentured, and enslaved; rich and poor. Interestingly, there is scant mention of the growing Jewish population, and some women, such as Martha Ballard, are omitted.

Women of Colonial America is the perfect addition to the library of a young person interested in history. It supplements school curricula and will encourage children of all ages to learn more about the period.

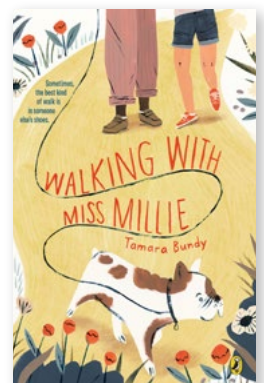
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Bundy, Tamara. *Walking with Miss Millie*.

Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$16.99.

"We might all come from different directions, but hopefully we all end up at the same place one day."



Walking with Miss Millie is the story of Alice. Alice is 10 years old in 1968, when her family moves from Columbus, Ohio, to her grandmother's hometown of Rainbow, Georgia. Her grandmother has Alzheimer's, and her deteriorating mind and body require her family's assistance. Alice deeply loves her grandma, but she resents her mother and her absent father for this move, and she is not getting along with her hearing-impaired brother, Eddie. Alice is a very angry little girl.

On the day the family moves to Rainbow, Alice meets an elderly African-American woman, Miss Millie. Alice is tasked with walking Millie's cantankerous old dog, Clarence, but Clarence won't budge unless his loyal owner walks beside him. And so, an unlikely friendship develops between this angry, lonely young girl and the wise 92-year-old lady next door.

This book is about the friendships that spring up in our lives at the most unexpected moments. Miss Millie, through her kindness and generosity of heart, becomes a calming influence in Alice's life. During their long walks, they touch on many important issues such as forgiveness, loss, friendship, bullying, memory loss, and the abandonment of a child by a parent. This book is also interesting in that it brings special attention to how Deaf people have been treated and often misunderstood by the hearing world. While there are many issues brought to light in the story, the focus is on the racism Miss Millie has experienced. The discussions of segregation and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s time setting are perfect for a middle-grade level and should foster real-life discussions about these important topics.

Miss Millie gives Alice quite a lot of good advice. One particularly striking passage is, "...it's okay to get mad. It's okay to get sad, but after all that gettin' mad and sad, ya gotta get smart. Ya gotta take a step back, away from all your hurtin', and figure out what ya can change and what ya can't." This is good advice for anyone, but it comes across as particularly arresting, as even in 2018 it still feels rare to see girls encouraged to express their anger or frustrated emotions without experiencing negative feedback.

Miss Millie has lived through rough times and is still enduring the type of hardship that that Alice, being white, will never have to experience. Despite their differences, through Miss Millie's kindly advice and

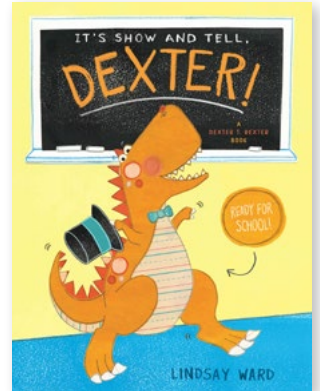
their beautiful friendship, Alice finds her way through hardship and back home.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, LIBRARY SPECIALIST,
OHIOANA LIBRARY

Ward, Lindsay. *It's Show and Tell, Dexter!*

Two Lions (New York, NY). 2018 HC \$17.99.

Dexter T. Rexter is Jack's favorite toy. He's a spotted orange dinosaur that even has his own theme song. When Jack decides to take Dexter in for show and tell at school, Dexter can't wait! But on the night before the big day, Dexter starts to get nervous. What if the other kids don't like him? His anxiety leads him on a frantic quest to make himself more fun and interesting. What if he wears a cool costume? Or performs an awesome dance routine? If he can't make himself more impressive, will Jack decide to bring a different toy?



Poor Dexter's worries snowball into a total meltdown. But with the reader's help, Dexter discovers that he's perfect just the way he is.

It's Show and Tell, Dexter! is the second Dexter T. Rexter book written and illustrated by Lindsay Ward. Dexter is an adorable character who once again needs the reader's assistance to find a solution to his problem. Kids will love the interactive nature of the story and Dexter's silly antics—from his smooth dance moves to his fluffy bunny outfit. Ward's cut-paper illustrations fill the pages with charm, making the dino 100 percent lovable for both adults and kids. The themes of confidence and self-acceptance are easy for even the youngest readers to understand, making this the perfect story to read before a big day at school, a performance, and other stress-provoking events.

Equal parts humor and heart, *It's Show and Tell, Dexter!* is a sweet book that will help worried readers discover their own confidence.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS, OHIOANA LIBRARY OFFICE
MANAGER, SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND
ILLUSTRATORS VOLUNTEER

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between June and August, 2018. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Beschloss, Michael. ***Presidents of War***. Crown (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$35.00.

Ten years in the research and writing, *Presidents of War* is a fresh, magisterial, intimate look at a procession of American leaders as they took the nation into conflict and mobilized their country for victory. This important book shows how far we have traveled, from the time of our founders, who tried to constrain presidential power, to our modern day, when a single leader has the potential to launch nuclear weapons that can destroy much of the world.

Bir, Sara. Photography by Melanie Tienter. ***Tasting Ohio: Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State***. Farcountry Press (Helena, MT) 2018. HC \$29.95.

Uncover Ohio's scrumptious culinary secrets in 100 recipes from the Buckeye State's best chefs, from summer succotash, savory goetta, and cracker-crust ed walleye to butternut squash bisque, hazelnut brownies, and buckeye pie. Clear, easy-to-follow recipes are complemented by mouthwatering color photographs of every dish. Sample Ohio's finest foods in your home kitchen.

Bristow, David L. ***Flight to the Top of the World: The Adventures of Walter Wellman***. University of

Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2018. HC \$29.95.

In his day Walter Wellman (1858–1934) was one of America's most famous men. To his contemporaries, he seemed like a character from a Jules Verne novel. He led five expeditions in search of the North Pole, two by dogsled and three by dirigible airship, and in 1910 made the first attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean by air—which the self-styled expert on aerial warfare saw as a mission of world peace.

Faust, Mark, and Rob Vickery. ***High-Growth Levers: How the Turnaround Mindset Propels Your Company***. Pelican Publishing (Gretna, LA) 2017. HC \$22.95. Corporate strategist Faust provides turnaround tactics to grow your business. His game-changing secrets have enabled countless companies to obtain long-term and systematic growth and prosperity.

Gamble, Terry. ***The Eulogist***. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$12.99.

From the author of *The Water Dancers* and *Good Family* comes a novel set in Ohio in the decades leading to the Civil War that illuminates the immigrant experience, the injustice of slavery, and the debts human beings owe to one another, witnessed through the eyes of one Irish-American family.

Herbert, Jeffrey G., and Julie M. Ross. ***Hamilton County, Ohio Roman Catholic Baptism Records, 1850-1859: Part 1: A-L***. Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$25.00.

Herbert, Jeffrey G., and Julie M. Ross. ***Hamilton County, Ohio Roman Catholic Baptism Records, 1850-1859: Part 2: M-Z***. Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$25.00.

This index contains the names of Roman Catholic baptisms recorded in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio between January 1850 and December 1859.

Macy, Beth. ***Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America***. Little, Brown, and Company (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$28.00.

Beth Macy takes us to the epicenter of America's twenty-plus year struggle with opioid addiction. From distressed small communities in Central Appalachia to wealthy suburbs; from disparate cities to once-idyllic farm towns; it's a heartbreaking trajectory that illustrates how this national crisis has persisted for so long and has become so firmly entrenched.

Prichard, Skip. ***The Book of Mistakes: 9 Secrets to Creating a Successful Future***. Center Street (Nashville, TN) 2018. HC \$25.00. What if the world's most accomplished people are so successful because they avoid nine pitfalls in life that the rest of us are not aware of? In this self-help-wrapped-in-fiction tale, Skip Prichard introduces a young man named David. This parable is packed with wisdom that will help you discover and follow your purpose, push beyond your perceived capabilities, and achieve more than you ever dreamed possible.

Quinones, Sam. ***Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic***. Bloomsbury Press (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$18.00.

In 1929, in the blue-collar city of Portsmouth, Ohio, a company built a swimming pool the size of a football field; named “Dreamland,” it became the vital center of the community. Now, addiction has devastated Portsmouth, as it has hundreds of small rural towns and suburbs across America—addiction like no other the country has ever faced. How that happened is the riveting story of *Dreamland*.

Stockwell, Mary. ***Unlikely General: “Mad” Anthony Wayne and the Battle for America***. Yale University Press (New Haven, CT) 2018. HC \$35.00.

In the spring of 1792, President George Washington chose “Mad” Anthony Wayne to defend America from a potentially devastating threat. Native forces had decimated the standing army, and Washington needed a champion to open the country stretching from the Ohio River westward to the headwaters of the Mississippi for settlement. A spendthrift, womanizer, and heavy drinker who had just been ejected from Congress for voter fraud, Wayne was an unlikely savior. Yet this disreputable man scored a decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, successfully preserving his country and President Washington’s legacy.

Thoresen, Timothy H. H. ***River, Reaper, Rail: Agriculture and Identity in Ohio's Mad River Valley, 1795-1885***. University of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2018. PB \$59.95.

River, Reaper, Rail: Agriculture and Identity in Ohio's Mad River

Valley, 1795-1885 tells the story of farmers and technology in Ohio's Champaign County and its Mad River Valley from the beginnings of white settlement in 1795 through the decades after the Civil War. This is a story of land-hungry migrants who brought a market-oriented farm ethos across the Appalachians into the Ohio Valley.

FICTION

Black, Lisa. ***Suffer the Children***. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$28.95.

The body of fifteen-year-old Rachael Donahue—abandoned by society, raised in foster homes, and violently unapproachable—has been discovered at the bottom of a stairwell at Firebird, the secure facility for juvenile offenders in Cleveland. As a forensic investigator, Maggie knows appearances can be deceiving. And Jack knows all about deceit. That's why they both suspect a cold-blooded murderer is carrying out a deadly agenda. As Maggie's ex-husband gets nearer to the secrets that Maggie and Jack must hide, it becomes increasingly harder for them to protect a new and vulnerable victim from a killer with unfathomable demons.

Flower, Amanda. ***Premeditated Peppermint***. Kensington Publishing (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$7.99. For her first Yuletide in Harvest, Ohio, former big-city chocolatier Bailey King is recreating a cherished holiday treat: peppermint combined with molten white chocolate. But her sugar high plummets when her former boyfriend, New York celebrity chef Eric Sharp, walks into the candy shop she now runs with

her Amish grandmother to film an authentic Amish Christmas. Bailey's not about to let her beloved town—and Swissmen Sweets—be turned into a sound bite. Unfortunately, she gets more publicity than she bargained for when Eric's executive producer is found strangled to death—and Eric's the prime suspect.

Ford, Jeffrey. ***Ahab's Return or, the Last Voyage***. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99.

Captain Ahab was not pulled into the ocean's depths by a harpoon line, and the greatly exaggerated rumors of his untimely death have caused him grievous harm—after hearing about Ahab's demise, his wife and child left Nantucket for New York, and now Ahab is on a desperate quest to find them. Ahab's pursuit leads him to a newspaperman who will help him navigate the city in exchange for the exclusive story of his salvation from the the great white whale. But their investigation—like Ahab's own story—will take unexpected and ultimately tragic turns.

Huber, Anna Lee. ***Treacherous Is the Night: A Verity Kent Mystery***. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$15.95.

It's not that Verity Kent doesn't sympathize with those eager to make contact with lost loved ones. After all, she once believed herself a war widow. But now that she's discovered Sidney is very much alive, Verity is having enough trouble connecting with her estranged husband, never mind the dead. Still, at a friend's behest she attends a séance, where she encounters the man who still looms between her and Sidney. Then the medium is murdered—and Verity's investigation is suddenly thwarted.

Markley, Stephen. ***Ohio: A Novel***. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$27.00

On one fateful summer night in 2013, four former classmates converge on the rust-belt town where they grew up, each of them with a mission, all of them haunted by regrets, secrets, lost loves. At once a murder mystery and a social critique, *Ohio* captures the fractured zeitgeist of a nation through the viewfinder of an embattled Midwestern town and offers a vision for America.

Matthews, Olivia. ***Peril & Prayer: A Sister Lou Mystery***. Kensington Publishing (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$7.99.

This year's Advent retreat has been booked for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Hermione of Ephesus at the pastoral Briar Coast Cabin Resorts in New York. But when the combative Sister Marianna practically loses her religion arguing over minor details with resort co-owner Autumn Tassler, Sister Louise "Lou" LaSalle blessedly steps in as peacemaker. Only days later, Autumn is found strangled in her office, and hot-headed Sister Marianna becomes the sheriff's deputies' prime suspect.

Mayo, Wendell. ***Survival House: Stories***. Stephen F. Austin State University Press (Nacogdoches, TX) 2018. PB \$18.00.

The ten stories in *Survival House* not only look back to the collective mind of doom in the atomic age of the 1950s and 1960s, but also address its legacy in our time—the emergence of new nuclear powers, polarizing politics, and the ever-tightening grip of corporations.

Montgomery, Jess. ***The Widows***. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

Inspired by the true story of Ohio's first female sheriff, *The Widows* is a powerful debut about two women's search for justice as they take on corruption in their community.

Otis, Abbey Mei. ***Alien Virus Love Disaster: Stories***. Small Beer Press (Easthampton, MA) 2018. PB \$16.00. These short stories put humans under an alien microscope, under government control, place kids from the moon into a small beach town, and then the shove the rest of the town under the microscope as they react in ways we hope they would, and then, of course, in ways we'd hope they don't.

Waggoner, Tim. ***The Mouth of the Dark***. Flame Tree Press (London, UK) 2018. HC \$24.95.

Jayce's twenty-year-old daughter, Emory, is missing, lost in a dark, dangerous realm called Shadow that exists alongside our own reality. An enigmatic woman named Nicola guides Jayce through this bizarre world, and together they search for Emory, facing deadly dog-eaters, crazed killers, homicidal sex toys, and—worst of all—a monstrous being known as the Harvest Man. But no matter what Shadow throws at him, Jayce will do whatever it takes to find his daughter, even if it means becoming worse than the things that are trying to stop him.

White, Nick. ***Sweet & Low: Stories***. Blue Rider Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$25.00.

At first glance, the stories in *Sweet & Low* seem grounded in the everyday: they paint pictures of idyllic Southern landscapes, characters

fulfilling their roles as students, wives, boyfriends, sons. But all is not as it seems. In these stories, Nick White deconstructs the core qualities of Southern fiction. From finding an elusive bear to locating a prized timepiece to making love on the grave of an iconic writer, each story is a thrilling adventure with unexpected turns.

Woolard, Jim R. ***Raiding with Morgan: A Novel of the Civil War***. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.00.

Pursued by the Union army, Morgan's Raiders blazed a trail of destruction unparalleled in Civil War history. Only a handful of Morgan's men lived to tell the tale. For seventeen years, Ty Mattson never knew if his father survived the Mexican War. But when he receives news that his father is alive—and he's joined the Confederate forces of General John Morgan—Ty leaves home to enlist with the Raiders.

Woolard, Jim R. ***Riding for the Flag: A Novel of the Civil War***. Pinnacle Books (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$7.99.

America, 1861: battle lines have been drawn between the North and the South, pitting state against state—and brother against brother. For the three young sons of Ohio State Senator Clay Bell, the Civil War would change not only their lives, but the destinies of future generations. Jacob Bell, the eldest, defies his father's wishes to run the family law practice and enlists in Ohio's Volunteer Calvary, a decision that wins him the love of an officer's daughter—and the hatred of a dangerous childhood rival.

POETRY

Charlton, Phillitia. ***The Death of a Lie***. Charlton Publishing (Dayton, OH) 2017. PB \$14.95.

A lie is a lie even if you only tell it to yourself. This book is a poetic diary that exposes the lies women tell themselves in search of happiness.

Collins, Martha. ***Night Unto Night: Poems***. Milkweed Editions (Minneapolis, MN) 2018. PB \$16.00. How can one reconcile the irreconcilable? In this companion to *Day Unto Day*, Martha Collins finds common ground between contradictions: beauty and horror, joy and mortality, the personal and the political.

Demaree, Darren C. ***Bombing the Thinker***. Backlash Press (Gardena, CA) 2018. PB \$10.00. *Bombing the Thinker* is the eighth book of poetry by the well-known and award-winning Darren C. Demaree. It is a rumination on Middle America as told through the thoughts of the sculpture “The Thinker,” originally named “The Poet,” by Auguste Rodin. “The Thinker” Demaree is speaking from sits outside of the Museum of Modern Art in Cleveland, Ohio, and is one of twenty-seven Rodin-supervised casts.

Demaree, Darren C. ***Two Towns Over***. Trio House Press, Inc. (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL) 2018. PB \$16.00. A collection of poetry about addiction and Ohio. The winner of the Louis Bogan Award from Trio House Press.

Matambo, Bernard Farai. ***Stray***. University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2018. PB \$17.95.

Winner of the Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant and the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, Zimbabwean writer Bernard Farai Matambo’s poems in *Stray* favor a prose-shaped line as they uncover the contradictory impulses in search of emotional and intellectual truth.

YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE

Adrian, Emily. ***The Forseeable Future***. Dial Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Audrey’s life has been planned out for her since she was born. But Audrey has a different plan in mind: she’s going to earn some money and move to Seattle. And the best way to earn that money is by working the night shift at the local nursing home. Seth O’Malley works there, too, and a romance quickly blossoms between them. But things get complicated when Audrey saves the life of Cameron Suzuki, Seth’s ex. A video of her performing CPR at the beach goes viral, and suddenly, Audrey’s wanted for TV interviews. And just when Audrey starts to love life at the nursing home—and life with Seth—Seattle comes knocking.

Arnold, David. ***The Strange Fascinations of Noah Hypnotik***. Viking (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

This is Noah Oakman: sixteen, Bowie believer, concise historian, disillusioned swimmer, son, brother, friend. Then Noah gets hypnotized. Now Noah sees changes: his mother has a scar on her face that wasn’t there before; his old dog, who once walked with a limp, is suddenly lithe; his best friend, a lifelong DC

Comics disciple, now rotates in the Marvel universe. Subtle behaviors, bits of history, plans for the future—everything in Noah’s world has been rewritten. Everything except his “strange fascinations.”

Barlow, Cassie B., and Sue Hill Norrod. ***Saluting Our Grandmas: Women of World War II***. Pelican Publishing (Gretna, LA) 2017. PB \$18.95.

The stories of female World War II veterans, as told by the families of these women and those dedicated to preserving their history.

Buckley, Michael. ***Raging Sea: Book Two in the Undertow Trilogy***. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$18.99.

In the first book of Michael Buckley’s *Undertow* trilogy, the Alpha arrived and the world was never the same. At the start of the second book, most of south Brooklyn is in ruins, and the nation is terrified. Nearly everyone that Lyric Walker loves is either missing or presumed dead, including the mesmerizing Prince Fathom. It’s up to Lyric to unite the Alpha before the second wave of the invasion wipes out humankind for good.

Klages, Ellen. ***Out of Left Field***. Viking (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99.

It’s 1957, and every boy in the neighborhood knows Katy Gordon is their best pitcher. But when she tries out for Little League, it’s a whole different story. Girls are not eligible, period. It’s not fair, and Katy’s going to fight back. Inspired by what she’s learning about civil rights in school, she sets out to prove that she’s not the only girl who plays baseball.

McGinnis, Mindy. ***Given to the Earth***. G.P. Putnam's Sons (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Although she was born to save the kingdom by sacrificing herself to the rising sea, Khosa's marriage to King Vincent has redeemed her. As the Queen of Stille, she's untouchable. But being Queen hasn't stopped her heart from longing for the King's stepbrother, Donil. And it hasn't stopped her body from longing for the sea itself, which still calls for her.

Philips, L. Sometime ***After Midnight***. Viking (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

Late one night in a dingy Los Angeles club, Nate and Cameron meet and discover they have much more in common than their love of an obscure indie band. But when Nate learns that Cameron is the heir to a soul-sucking record label—the very one that destroyed his father's life—he runs away as fast as he can. The only evidence of their brief but intense connection is the blurry photo Cameron snaps of Nate's Sharpied Chuck Taylors. When Cameron's sister Tess—a famous model and socialite—posts the photo on Instagram for her legions of fans, the Internet just about breaks with the news of this modern fairy tale. But while the viral sensation begins to bring the pair back together, their own demons and pasts might get in the way of any happily-ever-afters.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Harbor Me***. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Jacqueline Woodson's first middle-grade novel since National Book Award winner *Brown Girl Dreaming* celebrates the healing that can occur when a group of students share their stories. When the six are together,

they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more prepared for the rest of their lives

CHILDREN'S

Bonilla, Lindsay. Illus. by Cinta Villalobos. ***Polar Bear Island***. Sterling Children's Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.95.

"Welcome to Polar Bear Island. NO OTHERS ALLOWED!" Parker is the mayor of this peaceful, predictable island, and he wants to keep it just the way it is. But Kirby, a penguin, thinks the place is paradise, and she wants to stay. Parker says no, but the other polar bears love Kirby—and soon they're begging Parker to let Kirby (and her family) move in. Will Parker agree and make the island fun for EVERYONE?

de la Peña, Matt. Illus. by Loren Long. ***Love***. G.P. Putnam's Sons (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99. In this heartfelt celebration of love, Newbery Medal-winning author de la Peña and bestselling illustrator Long depict the many ways we experience this universal bond, which carries us from the day we are born throughout the years of our childhood and beyond.

Ikegami, Aiko. ***Seed Man***. Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2018. HC \$16.99.

When a mysterious stranger carrying a bag of seeds comes to town, magical things start to happen. After Seed Man plants the seeds, a wonderful tree grows, bearing special "fruit" such as toys, musical instruments, and even a puppy! With assistance from some helpful fairies,

Seed Man's gifts are delivered all over town. Each gift perfectly suited to its recipient. And even if someone didn't know they needed a special gift, Seed Man and the fairies knew. But not all the gifts are welcome at first, especially to someone whose heart has been broken.

Sherbin, Jan. With photos by the Cincinnati Zoo. ***Hip, Hippo, Hooray for Fiona! A Photographic Biography***. Insights Productions (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. PB \$25.99. This is the real story of Fiona's very first days—from the day she is born until her keepers see she will be just fine and from her first spring and summer, when she learns to be a hippo, meets her parents, and meets her fans. A portion of proceeds from sale of this book goes to the Cincinnati Zoo to help it continue its outstanding work.

Ward, Lindsay. ***It's Show and Tell, Dexter!*** Two Lions (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Tomorrow is the biggest event ever in Dexter's life: his best friend, Jack, is taking him to school for Show and Tell Day! Dexter has been getting ready for weeks. But now he's a little nervous. He doesn't have ANY skills. What's a dino to do?

Woodson, Jacqueline. Illus. by Rafael López. ***The Day You Begin***. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

National Book Award-winner Jacqueline Woodson and two-time Pura Belpré Illustrator Award-winner Rafael López have teamed up to create a poignant, yet heartening, book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.

Coming Soon

Ohioana Awards

October 18, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus

Join us as we celebrate the winners of the 2018 Ohioana Book Awards and the Marvin Grant. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards presentations and a book signing. For more information, visit www.ohioana.org.

I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100

October 19, 2018 – January 20, 2019

Columbus Museum of Art,
Columbus, Ohio

The exhibition, curated by two-time Ohioana Award-winning author Wil Haygood, is the centerpiece of a community-wide celebration of the historic Harlem Renaissance's impact on African American literature, music, and art, with events taking place throughout Central Ohio. For more information, visit <https://cbusharlem100.org/>.

Books by the Banks

October 20, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Duke Energy Convention Center,
Cincinnati, Ohio

This day-long festival, which is free and open to the public, features national, regional, and local authors and illustrators; book signings; panel discussions; and activities for the entire family. For more information, visit <http://booksbythebanks.org>.

The Strange and Spooky World of James A. Willis

October 24, 2018

7 – 9 p.m., Thurber Center,
Columbus, Ohio

The popular author of more than a dozen books including *Ohio's Historic Haunts* and *Weird Ohio* makes a return appearance for the new Thurber Center Series. For more information and tickets, visit www.thurberhouse.org.

Pickerington Teen Book Fest

October 27, 2018

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pickerington Public Library,
Pickerington, Ohio

This special event, which is free and open to the public, features twelve popular authors of teen and young adult fiction. For more information, visit <https://pickeringtonlibrary.org/event/pickerington-teen-book-fest-2018/>.

Buckeye Book Fair

November 3, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fisher Auditorium, Wooster, Ohio

The 31st annual book fair is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping, with more than 100 authors and illustrators. For more information, visit www.buckeyebookfair.com.

Ohioana Book Club

November 15, 2017

10:00 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for November is 2018 Ohioana Award winner *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at 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.

Thank You!

The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from June 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018. Special thanks to Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

\$10,000 and above

The Columbus Foundation
Greater Columbus Arts Council

\$5,000 – 9,999

Ohio Humanities

\$2,500 – 4,999

Ohio Arts Council
Tom E. Dailey Foundation
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\$500 – 999

Randy & Nancy Cooper

\$250 – 499

Tom Batiuk
Ruth Deacon
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Ronald Stuckey
David & Aina Weaver

\$100 – 249

Gillian Berchowitz
Ann Bowers
Mary Citino
Lynn Elfner
Paula Harsch
William Hillenbrand
John Matthias
Kathleen Simon
Robert & Katharine Webner
Wednesday Book Club
Donna Wyland
Robin Yocum

\$50 – 99

Katherine Brandt
John Bittel
Kathleen Burgess
Dorothy Cox
Stella Dickman
Robert Flanagan
Carol Guzzo
Ann Hanning
Brett Harper
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Martha Howell
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Ellen McDevitt-Stredney
Martha Moody
Tod & Kim Powers
Janet Shailer
Leslie Shortlidge
Lisa Lopez Snyder
Soros Literary Club
Johnathan Sullivan
Kim Young

\$25 – 49

June Berkley
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Why I Support Ohioana



Photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney.

Introducing the Ohioana Library to those yet to discover it can require explanations, but this unfamiliarity often piques an interest that blossoms into a personal relationship. Ohioana is not a public library, nor a school or university library; one may ask, "What is it?" I formed an answer my first year of studies to become a librarian, and have supported Ohioana as a member and volunteer ever since.

Ohioana is a small group of professionals passionate about fostering relationships between Ohioans and their literary heritage. It is a collection started nearly a century ago, and carefully maintained, to reveal to ever new generations the peculiar personalities and common themes among those who were here before, through the imaginations, insights and memories of authors, often their neighbors.

I just finished reading a memoir of my mother's great-uncle—a Cornhusker. My father, born three years before Ohioana less than a mile down Second Avenue from the Library's current home, brought my mother back to Columbus. Institutions like Ohioana are largely what keep me here. Having learned a little about life in the Sand Hills, I'm now more curious about Flytown, Olentangy Park, and the early twentieth century Buckeyes who shaped my dad's perspectives. I know Ohioana can help satisfy that curiosity. I know every spring, the Ohioana Book Festival will create new connections with writers, and through their work, with places I see and will explore—and that's one of life's pleasures.

For these reasons, I support Ohioana.

Brian D. Stettner

Librarian



Volunteering as Library Mouse at the Ohioana Book Festival! Photo by Mary Rathke.

Yes, I want to support Ohio literature by making my tax-deductible contribution to Ohioana in the amount of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other: \$_____

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Please send your donation with this form to Ohioana Library Association, 274 E. First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43201. You may also make your gift online at www.ohioana.org. All donors of \$50 or more receive a print subscription to the *Ohioana Quarterly*, invitations to Ohioana events, and Ohioana's e-Newsletter. Questions? Call 614-466-3831 or email us at ohioana@ohioana.org.



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