

OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2019 | VOL. 62 NO. 2



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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SPRING 2019

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From the Director



Dear Friends,

Some people suffer from triskaidekaphobia, a fear of all things 13.

But for Ohioana, 13 is a winning number! And we definitely think the 13th Annual Ohioana Book Festival is going to be a winner, as we present the event for the first time at the wonderful Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library on Saturday, April 27!

As you can see from our cover story, a stellar lineup of 150 Ohio authors (a record!) will join us. And as has been since the very first festival, the family-friendly event is free and open to the public, with no ticket and no advance registration required. We hope you'll join us at the Main Library for the festival. It will definitely be one of the highlights of this very special year for Ohioana, as we celebrate our 90th anniversary.

Another Ohioana event that promises to be a memorable highlight: a special program with the incomparable David McCullough at the Ohio Statehouse on June 3.

Also in this issue, we continue our Thurber@125 salute to humorist James Thurber, talking with the two visionary leaders most responsible for the saving of Thurber House and the creation of the Thurber Prize for American Humor: Donn Vickers and Michael J. Rosen.

As always, you'll also find reviews and descriptions of books recently received in our collection and a list of literary happenings across the state. Spring is a great season for readers!

We hope triskaidekaphobia doesn't keep you from attending spring's biggest celebration of reading, the Ohioana Book Festival. From ten authors and a few hundred attendees at the first festival in 2007, the Ohioana Book Festival has grown steadily, to become the state's single largest event celebrating Ohio literature. And it's all thanks to you.

We'll see you April 27 at the Main Library!

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

David Weaver
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

This issue's front cover comes from the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival. The artwork was created by artist and illustrator Tim Bowers, who will appear at the event on April 27.

Special thanks to Tom Batiuk for once again setting his comic strip *Crankshaft* at the Ohioana Book Festival for an entire week. See *Crankshaft* on the back cover, and meet Tom on April 27.

Ohioana Book Festival: A New Chapter!

by David Weaver

Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers

No event fulfills Ohioana Library's tagline better than the Ohioana Book Festival. With something for every reader of every age, it's a book lover's dream. And this year's festival promises to be the biggest and best ever, as we move to a fabulous new space: the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library. We'll present the 13th Annual Ohioana Book Festival at the Main Library on Saturday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. And ... it's FREE!

AUTHORS! AUTHORS! AUTHORS!

One exciting opportunity that our move to the Main Library has created is that we'll be able to increase the number of authors to more than 150 – the most in festival history!

These authors (check out the complete list starting on page 6) represent every genre, from picture books to poetry, from novels to nonfiction. Among them are Ohio's Poet Laureate, more than a dozen Ohioana Book Award winners, and nearly twenty authors from Choose to Read Ohio, a special project that encourages everyone to "Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life."



Readers and writers at the 2018 Ohioana Book Festival. Photo credit: Mary Rathke.

Many authors who are fan favorites will be returning, and we'll also be welcoming nearly two-dozen debut authors. Meet them all at the festival!

A NEW HOME

We were thrilled when the Columbus Metropolitan Library invited us to hold the festival in the Main Library. One of the nation's leading public library systems, Columbus Metropolitan Library has been a partner with Ohioana since the first book festival in 2007. Several years ago, the Main Library underwent an extensive, multi-million-dollar renovation and expansion of the historic and beautiful Carnegie building that first opened in 1907. The result is an open and spacious facility designed to meet the growing needs of the hundreds of thousands of patrons the Main Library serves annually.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Ohioana's founding. Presenting the festival for the first time at the Main Library will definitely be one of the highlights of this celebratory year.



2018 Ohioana Book Festival. Photo credit: Mary Rathke.

DIALOGUES & DISCUSSIONS

Festival-goers tell us that two of the things they love best about the event are the panels and roundtables. It's a chance to get up close and personal with authors, to hear them talk about their books, and to discuss their creative process. Each discussion lasts forty-five minutes and includes ample time for questions from the audience.

Panels are scheduled throughout the day, covering almost every literary genre. Check out our website for the list of the panels and participating authors. They'll also be in the printed program you can pick up for free at the festival.

FUN FOR KIDS

The Ohioana Book Festival is a family-friendly event, and once again we'll be offering a full day of fun activities just for kids – from storytime and drawing pictures to crafts and games to building with Legos® and balloon twisting. We'll also have visits throughout the day from festival authors who write for kids. And some special surprises, too!

If you've never seen the children's space at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library, you're in for a treat! It's a literal Treasure Island for young readers.

JUST FOR TEENS

Young adults will have their own special place at the festival, as Ohioana teams up once again with the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA) to present our popular Teen Space. Activities will include a Makerspace filled with exciting materials you can use to explore, imagine, and create. School librarians will be on hand to help guide you through these hands-on activities. In addition, the Teen Space will offer special sessions with a number of Ohio authors and illustrators who will discuss tips for writing and illustrating for publication. It lets the teens meet and mingle with these authors to ask questions, get autographs, and take selfies.

COME JOIN US!

As we've said before, the Ohioana Book Festival is a book lover's dream. And moving the festival to the Main Library is truly an exciting new chapter!

It wouldn't be possible without the authors, sponsors, donors, partners, and volunteers who play a part. Most of all, it wouldn't be possible without readers like you.



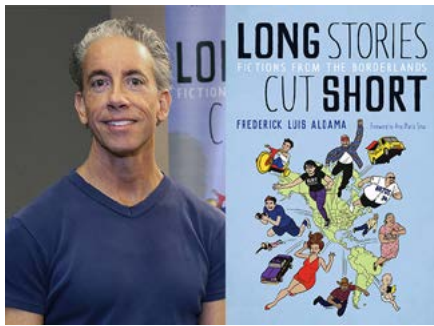
A panel discussion during the 2018 Ohioana Book Festival. Photo credit: Mary Rathke.

The Ohioana Book Festival was created for you. And it exists because of you. We'll see you at the Main Library on April 27!

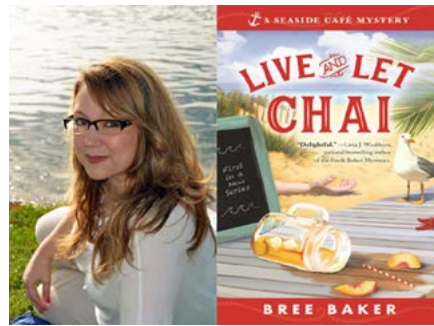
For updates and further information, visit www.ohioana.org. Also check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Festival Authors

FICTION



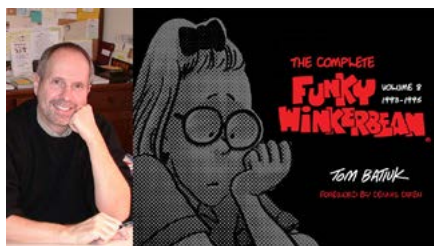
Frederick Luis Aldama



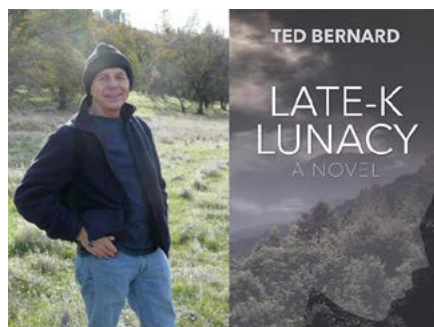
Bree Baker



Karina Bartow



Tom Batiuk



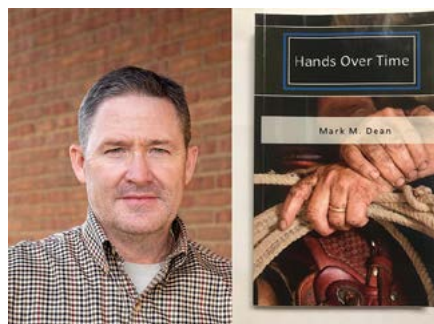
Ted Bernard



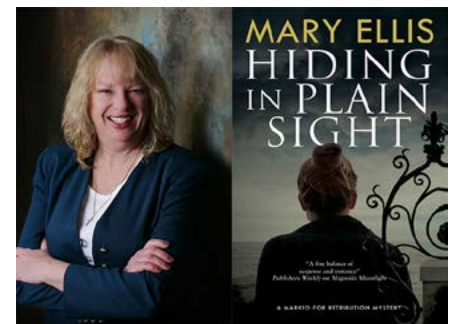
Matt Betts



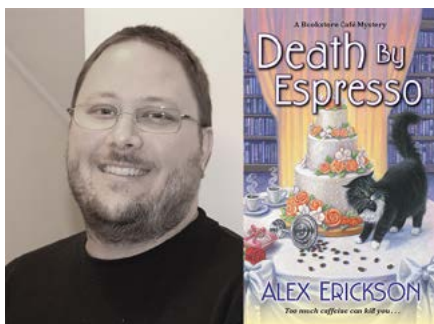
Laura Bickle



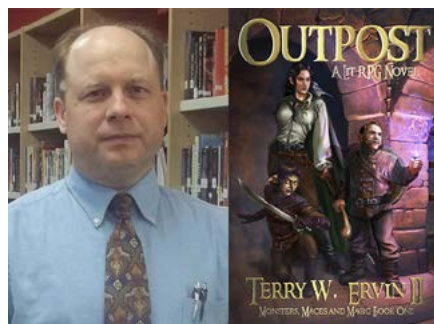
Mark M. Dean



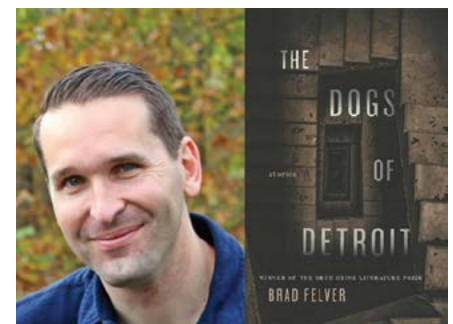
Mary Ellis



Alex Erickson



Terry W. Ervin II



Brad Felver



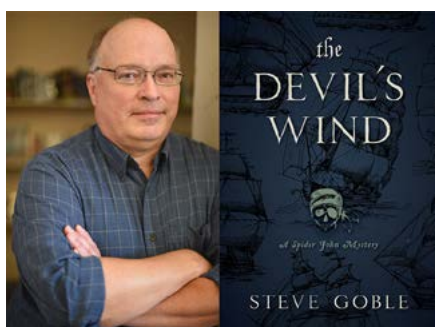
Amanda Flower



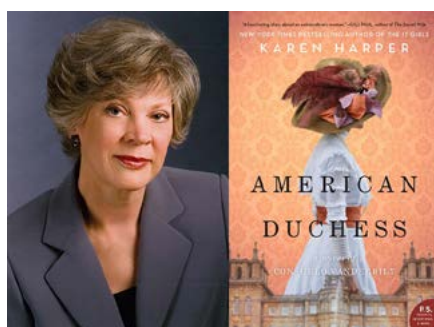
Donna B. Gawell



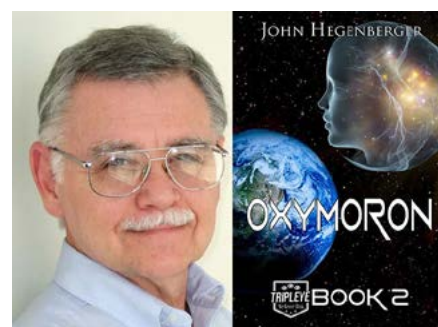
Robin Gianna



Steve Goble



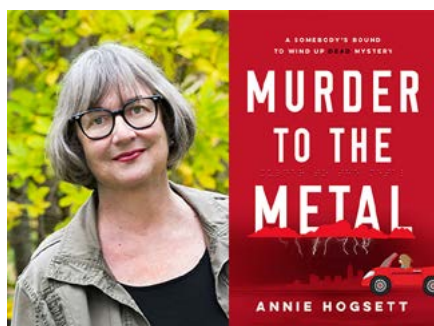
Karen Harper



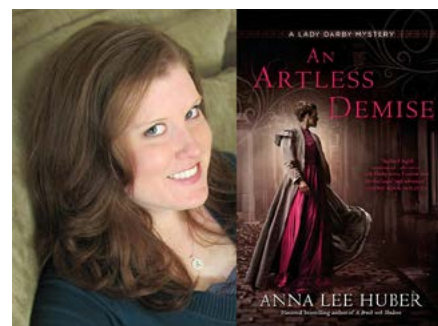
John Hegenberger



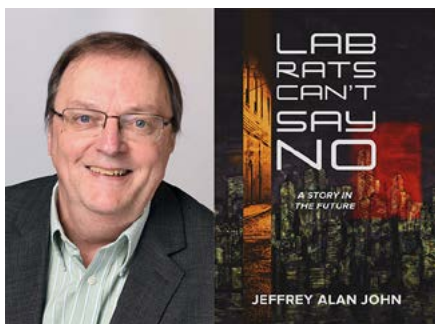
Nancy Herriman



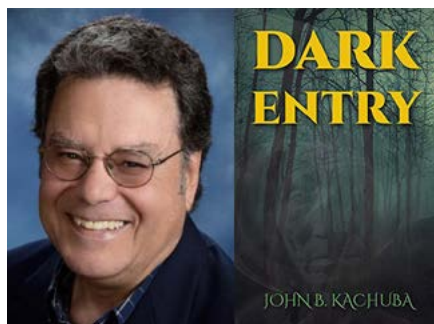
Annie Hogsett



Anna Lee Huber



Jeffrey A. John

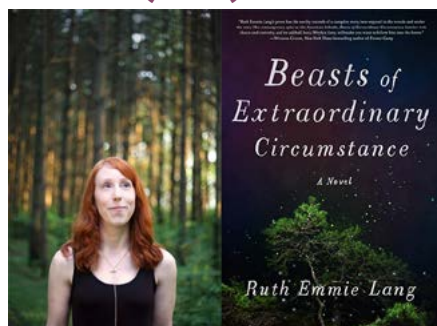


John Kachuba

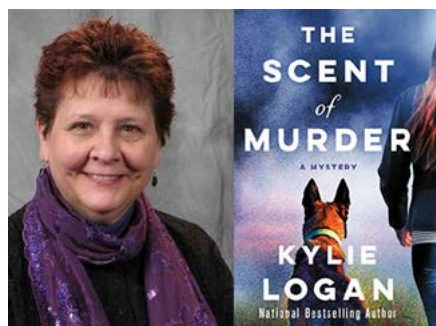


Jennifer Lane

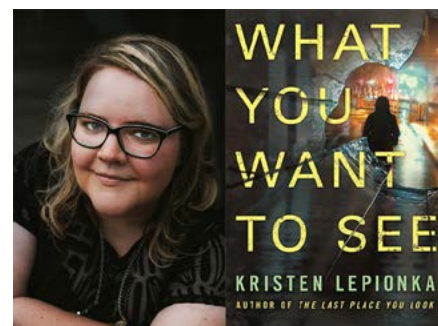
FICTION (cont.)



Ruth Emmie Lang



Kylie Logan



Kristen Lepionka



Laurie Loewenstein



Stephen Markley



M.L. Mastran



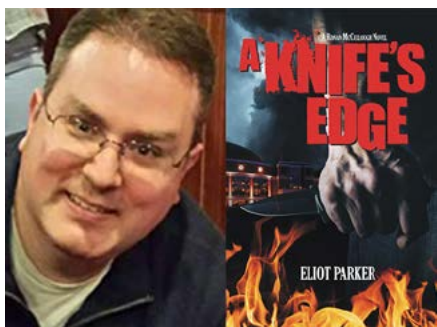
Olivia Matthews



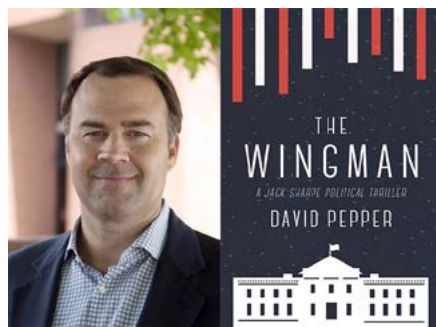
Tim McWhorter



Jess Montgomery



Eliot Parker



David Pepper



Moriel Rothman-Zecher



Gregg Sapp



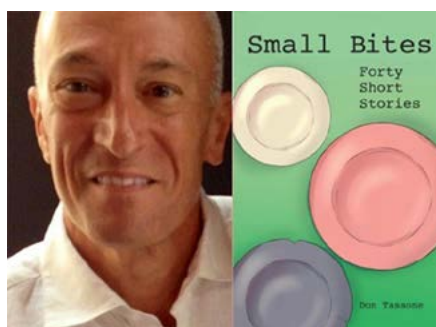
Lucy A. Snyder



Dan Stout



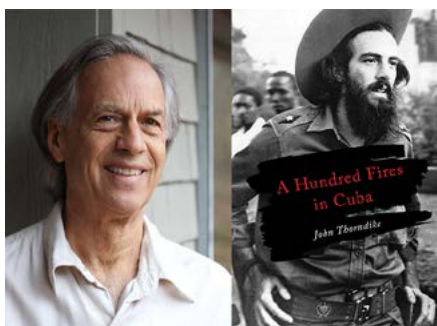
Jessica Strawser



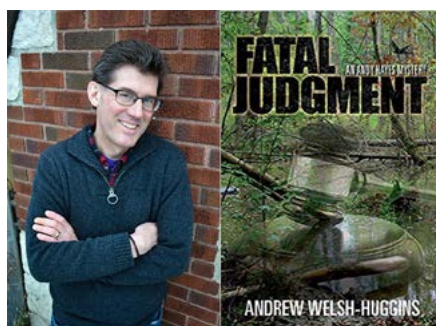
Don Tassone



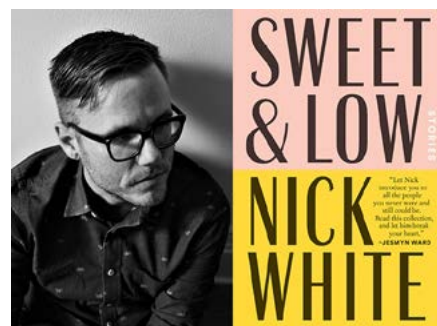
Cindy Thomson



John Thorndike

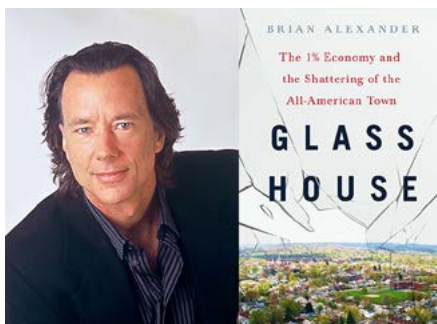


Andrew Welsh-Huggins



Nick White

NONFICTION



Brian Alexander



Jane Congdon



Christina Dorr and Liz Deskins

NONFICTION (cont.)



Scott Edwards



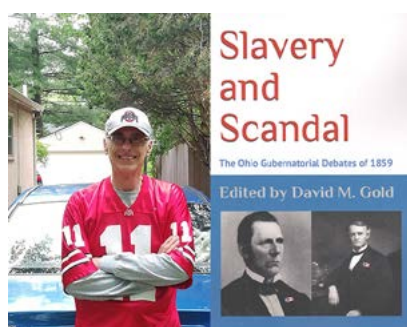
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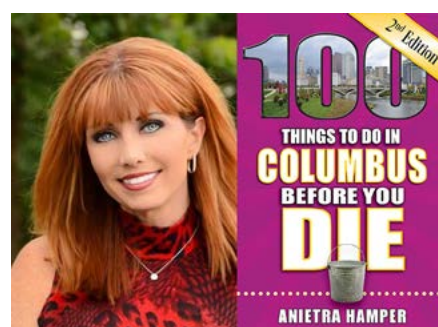
Donna Farland-Smith



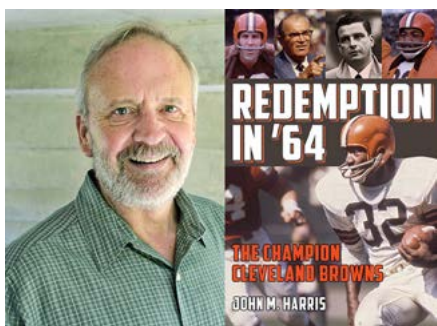
Chris Garber and Chad Dotson



David M. Gold



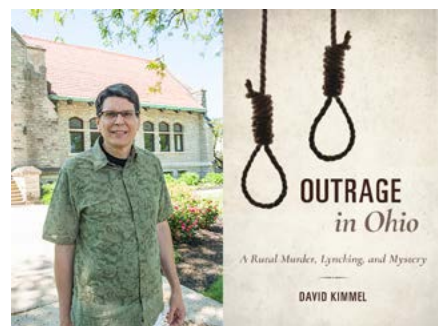
Anietra Hamper



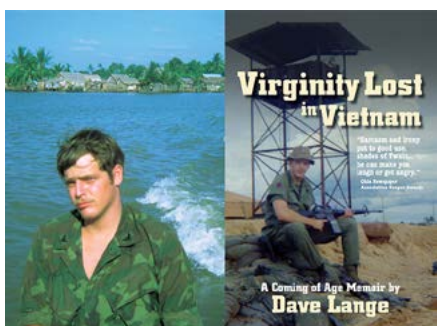
John M. Harris



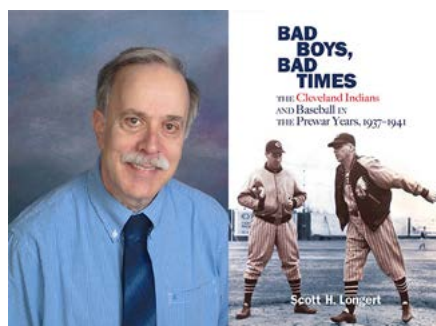
Sharon Hatfield



David Kimmel



Dave Lange



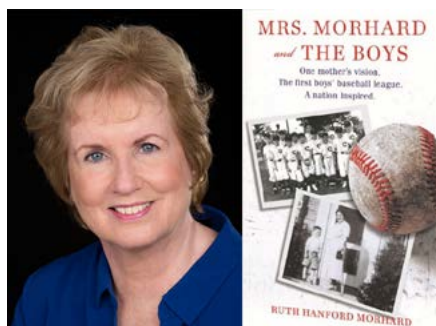
Scott H. Longert



Susannah Maynard



David Meyers and
Elise Meyers Walker



Ruth Hanford Morhard



Garin Pirnia



Jason Prufer



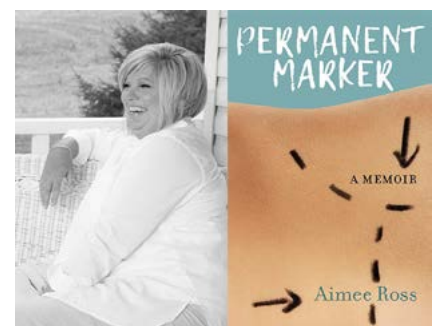
Matt Rapposelli



David E. Rohr



Stephanie Romine



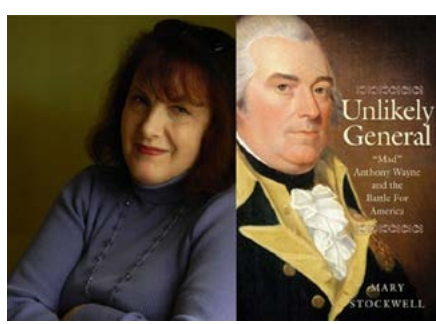
Aimee Ross



Jillian Scudder



Deanne Stillman

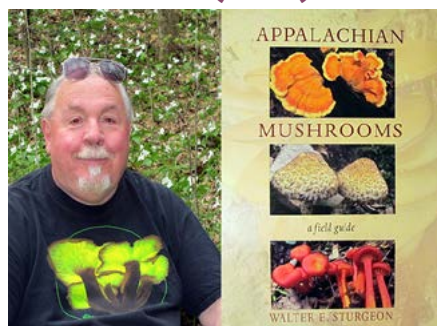


Mary Stockwell

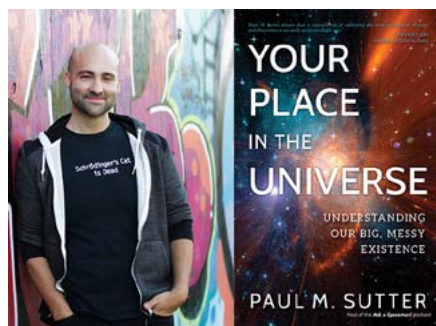


Amy Stross

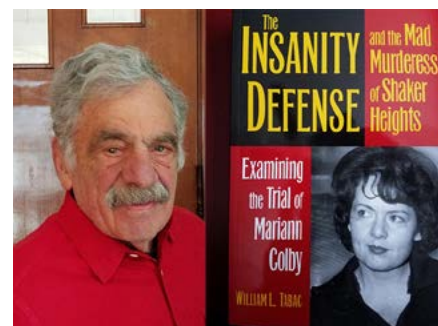
NONFICTION (cont.)



Walt Sturgeon



Paul M. Sutter



William L. Tabac



Dylan Taylor-Lehman



Melanie Tienter



Jane Ann Turzillo

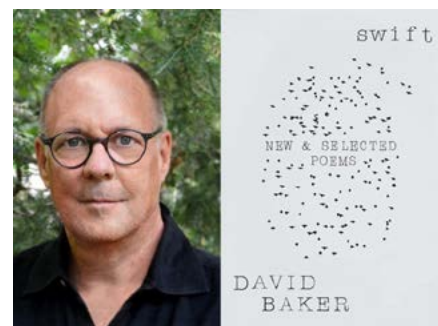
POETRY



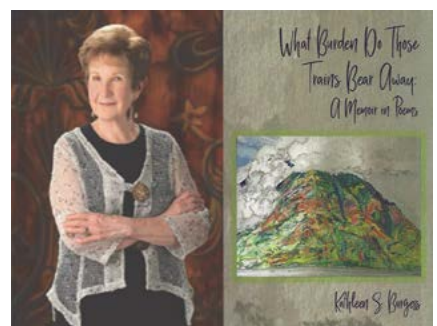
David Wanczyk



Ruth Awad



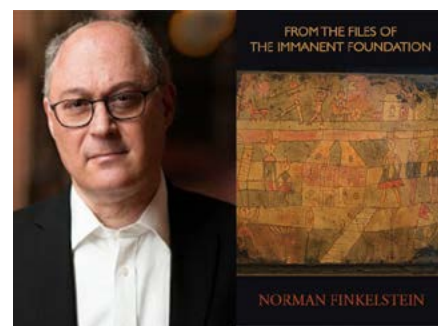
David Baker



Kathleen S. Burgess



Darren C. Demaree



Norman Finkelstein



Charlene Fix



Dave Lucas



Sarah Rose Nordgren



Doug Ramspeck



E.F. Schraeder

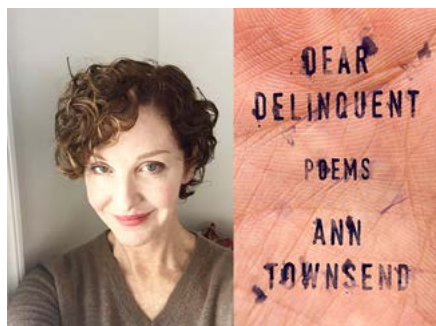


Anna O. Soter

YOUNG ADULT



Kezia V. Sproat



Ann Townsend



Mindee Arnett



e.E. Charlton-Trujillo



Ellen Fritz



Dee Garretson

YOUNG ADULT (cont.)



Krysten Lindsay Hager



Josephine Rascoe Keenan



K. B. Laugheed



Mindy McGinnis



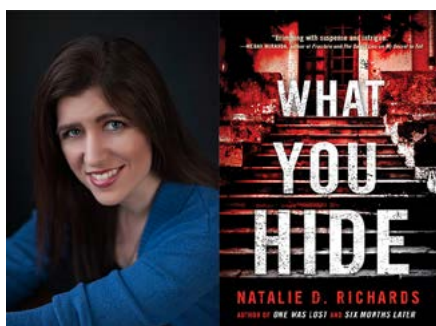
Kristen Orlando



Edith Pattou



L. Philips



Natalie D. Richards



D. W. Vogel

CHILDREN'S & MIDDLE GRADE



Kerry Winfrey



Jeff Alt



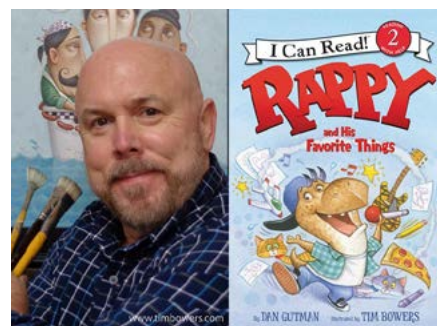
Lisa Amstutz



Lindsay Bonilla



Louise Borden



Tim Bowers



Gary Buettner



Tamara Bundy



Marcy Campbell



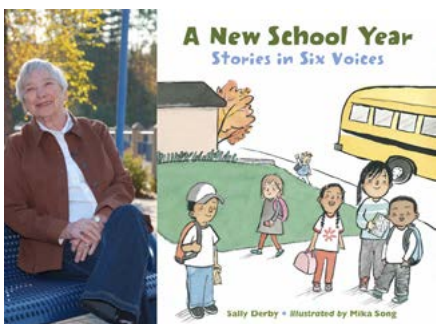
Judy Carey Nevin



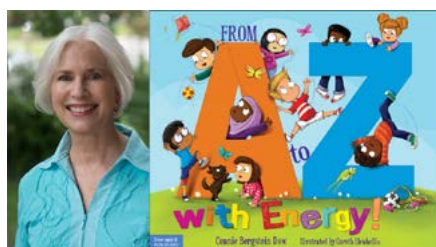
Mary Kay Carson



Cynthia A. Crane



Sally Derby



Connie Bergstein Dow



Sharon M. Draper

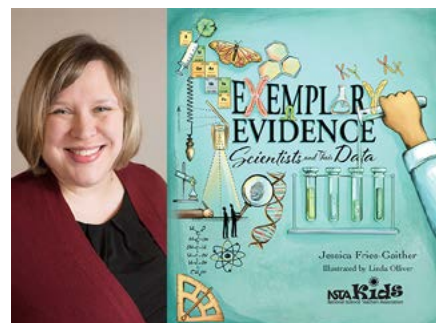
CHILDREN'S & MIDDLE GRADE (cont.)



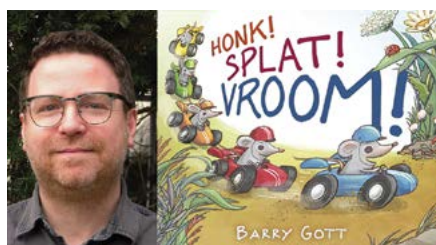
Martha Dunsky



Jeffrey Ebbeler



Jessica Fries-Gaither



Barry Gott



Jacob Grant



Margaret Peterson Haddix



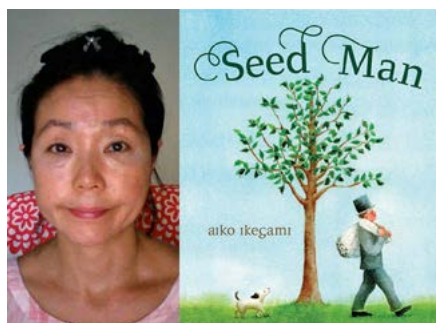
Will Hillenbrand



Kerrie Hollihan



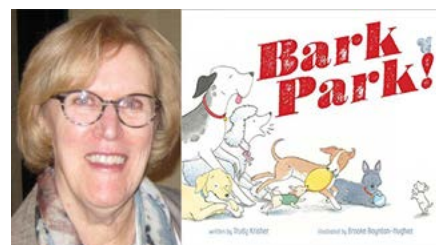
Michelle Houts



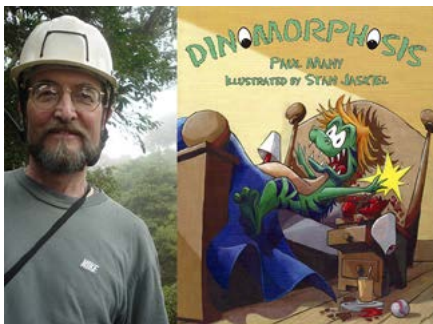
Aiko Ikegami



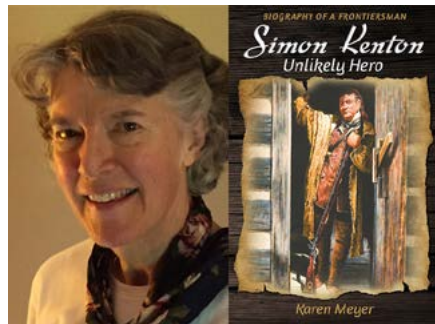
Artie Knapp



Trudy Krisher



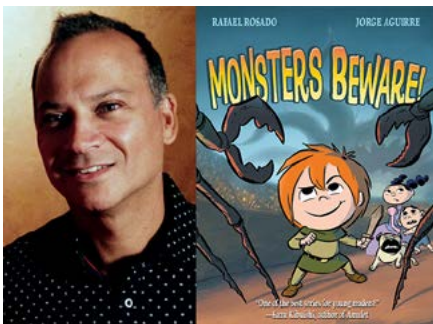
Paul Many



Karen Meyer



Nancy Roe Pimm



Rafael Rosado



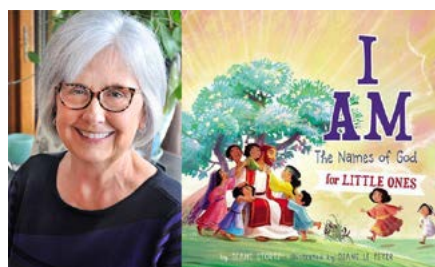
Julie K. Rubini



Betsy Snyder



Linda Stanek



Diane Stortz



Joe Sutphin



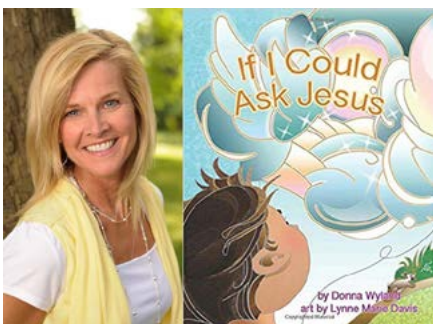
Tara Tyler



Carmella Van Vleet



Christina Wald



Donna Wyland

An Interview with Tim Bowers

by Kathryn Powers



Photo courtesy of Tim Bowers.

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

A I was very excited to be chosen to create the art for this year's poster. I wanted to make an illustration that incorporated several literary genres, including children's, so I created characters and images reflecting subjects such as history, sports, cooking, fantasy, and others. To pull all those different images together, I used open books as platforms to stage the various characters. I then arranged the books as if they were flying toward the top of the poster and into the "O" of Ohioana. It was a fun image to piece together, much like a puzzle.

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

A I struggled with subjects in school as a child. Reading was a challenge but books with pictures always got my attention. I remember *Clifford, the Big Red Dog* as a favorite. As I got older, I began to pay more

attention to those who were illustrating children's books, such as Maurice Sendak and Tomie dePaola. In college, other great visual storytellers grabbed my attention, such as Norman Rockwell and N. C. Wyeth. I've always had an equal appreciation of cartoon and realistic illustration. I think much of my art is a combination of the two.

Q Can you tell us about your creative process? Do you plan, or do you paint by the seat of your pants?

A My usual creative process starts with understanding the needs of the client or book publisher. Next, I dive into any research that might be involved, including any photo references that will be needed. Then I create sketches to communicate my ideas and after sketches are approved, paint the final artwork. Following these steps is pretty much standard for my work. The big difference with this project is that it was the first entirely digital illustration that I've created for print. There was no waiting for paint to dry, or scraping palettes and cleaning brushes. It was a much different process in the "painting" of the work, but some things never change. I usually have coffee nearby and some tunes in the background, keeping me company.

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

A *Rappy and His Favorite Things* is the sixth Rappy book in the series, written by Dan Gutman. It's about a fun character who always talks in rhyme. Rappy is a raptor, and after doing some research, I discovered that raptors had some bird-like qualities, so I put three purple feathers on his head. Although I didn't find this mentioned in the raptor research, I'm pretty sure they wore plaid shirts, blue jeans, and baseball hats. Well, at least, this one did. The previous books in this series are set in different places, including a school, a library, a supermarket, and Mars.



Concept art for the 2018 poster

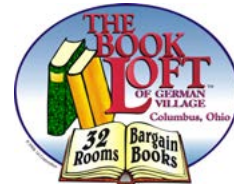
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Founders of Thurber House

A Cultural Hub of Literature

by David Weaver

In this second part of our year-long celebration of Thurber@125, the Ohioana Quarterly talks with the two men most responsible for saving Thurber House and creating its renowned programs, including the Thurber Prize for American Humor: Thurber House founders Donn Vickers and Michael J. Rosen.

David Weaver: Tell me about how “Thurber House” – the place and the organization – came to be. Was saving the house the original impetus? How close was the wrecking ball?

Donn Vickers: I moved to Columbus for a consulting job with the Ohio Board of Regents; I’d been doing work in New York state that interested them. Among the first opportunities was to work with Peg Calestro and Lu Vorys in the creation of a new building and site for the Metropolitan School, a private, progressive community school. As part of seeking funding, I met with good people like Dareth Gerlach, Bob Lazarus (both became long-time board members of the Thurber House), and Art Vorys – his family had purchased the buildings on Jefferson Avenue, just west of the I-71 entrance on East Broad Street. At that point, I didn’t even know there was a house connected to Thurber among the Victorian homes badly in need of renovation. I was on the board to help the school get what it needed and to be sure that we weren’t evicting people in the houses.

I believe it was Larry Fisher, an attorney at Vorys’ firm, who first mentioned to me that one of the derelict buildings had been a home the Thurber family had rented in the nineteen-teens. Talk about serendipity. Very quickly, we gathered a board of community people who related to the name of Thurber. From Ohio State, we had Lewis Branscomb, the emeritus professor of Thurber studies, and Norm Spain from Phi Kappa Psi. Luke Feck was from the *Dispatch*, where Thurber had been a reporter in his twenties. Pat Reichel came from OSU’s communication department; she helped us start the “Thurber Circle,” a volunteer group committed to not just restoring the home, but to imagining the possibilities of a literary center within its walls.

Michael J. Rosen: I was hired at first as a designer and illustrator: The Ohio Arts Council had awarded a grant to what was then called the Metropolitan Learning Community, a dozen or so nonprofits housed in these frowsy buildings on Jefferson Avenue, to design an identity program for the organizations. I had just graduated with my MFA in poetry from Columbia (where, to my great surprise, I began to sell small illustrations to the *New Yorker* and *Gourmet*) and was working as a design intern at the council. Originally, we never even discussed anything literary – another bit of serendipity.

I drew each house. I interviewed the various groups – Action for Children, Center for New Directions – perhaps fifteen total, including the would-be Thurber House, which was in worse condition than most. No one had occupied the structure for many years.

DV: A restoration, not just a rehab, required some real talent. And money. And patience. We engaged a realtor, Dave Timmons, and a preservationist, Judith Kitchen, and after an open bidding process, we selected Curt Moody, the first African-American architect locally engaged in historic preservation. With Kathy Mast Kane’s help, the house was listed on the National



Thurber House renovation in progress. Photo courtesy of Thurber House.

Register of Historic Places. And after that, everything had to be executed exactly to comply with preservation guidelines. For instance, the floorboards, which were sporadic at best, were to be kept – not replaced – and augmented with boards from structures of similar vintage. We had to commission replacement tiles to match what remained in the fireplaces. Once the layers of wallpaper revealed what had likely covered the walls between 1914 and 1917 – Thurber’s years – we had to send sample scraps to be replicated to create new versions of the original patterns. Some \$400,000 later, with much matching support from the state, we opened the doors in 1984.

MJR: The staff had been working in a carriage house adjacent to the house. And hundreds of folks who had joined the Thurber Circle, became committee members of what was cuing up to become a very ambitious center. We hit the ground running. Writers-in-residence were being selected, one for each quarter. Each would engage with the general community but also teach at OSU’s English, theater, or journalism department (as well as serving as a coach at the *Dispatch*). We established a writing “academy” for adults and kids, a summer reading series of Ohio writers, an “Evening with Authors” of nationally known figures, and celebrations of Thurber’s life and work. Back then, we stuffed hundreds of bulk-mail envelopes to reach our members, inveigled publicists by phone with requests for writers with new books, and we spent umpteen hours waxing lines of type to paste up newsletters that had to be printed at a commercial house.

DW: Who were the key people helping you in those early days? Was it a challenge to get the community engaged?

DV: Our calling card was Thurber. Thurber and his various works, including his children’s books. And, you

can’t overlook the fact that humor builds a lot of bridges! If you’re going to create a place for a broad audience, you could do no better than to lead with Thurber’s talents. We also worked hard to keep the Thurber family involved. I met with Jim’s wife, Helen, several times. And as Rosemary, his daughter, became more involved, she would visit while I was in Connecticut. And then Sara, Jim’s one granddaughter, became more involved in the estate.

I also met Jim’s brother Robert. He was the family “rememberer” for us during the restoration. Robert knew

where the piano should go, what color the walls were, which of the upstairs bedrooms belonged to whom. He also donated a significant treasure of photographs, scrapbooks, and letters.

MJR: You can’t imagine the passion of those original Circle members. For instance, Ruth Spain re-caned all the chairs that the restoration committee found for the sitting room. Dareth Gerlach and her friends created and tended gardens by the newly sown lawn around the restored building. Our board members hosted

visiting writers for dinner. Priscilla D’Angelo personally created centerpieces for each December eighth Thurber-birthday event. Corde Robinson took on the new Thurber Center’s gallery – a neighboring building opened in 1992 to give us a larger space for readings, events, and offices – and helped to create exhibits with Edward Gorey, *New Yorker* cartoonists, and children’s book illustrators such as Robert Sabuda, Marc Simont, Aminah Robinson, and Wendell Minor.

DW: From the start, what set Thurber House apart was its great programming. How did you go about creating the varied activities and events that helped build such a large and loyal audience?



Thurber House founders Donn Vickers and Michael J. Rosen are honored by Thurber Executive Director Laurie Lathan (l) and Board President Xenia Palus at the 2018 Thurber Prize dinner in Columbus. Photo credit: Will Brenner, Andy Brown, courtesy of Thurber House.

DV: I have to point to our board. They were active in every possible way. Yes, they had access to funds, but they also participated in creating, not just rubber-stamping programs the staff had created. They were involved in key decisions.

MJR: Donn created an organizational culture that totally engaged – and entertained – board members. Yes, we got business done, but we did it with a chorus of voices who all owned a part of the house. Every meeting or event started with the humor of a Thurber reading. Every announcement or invitation carried the wit of his art.

One other thing should be underscored. In 1984, when the doors opened, the idea of buying a ticket to hear a renowned author speaker was unheard of. An “evening with an author” as a cultural event on par with a theater event or a concert was something Thurber House had to seed and then cultivate. In the eighties and for most of the nineties, there weren’t calendars of events hosted at Barnes & Noble, Little Professor, or Borders stores. Thurber House, I truly believe, gifted Columbus adults with the joy of being read to.

DW: Of course, the most celebrated program is the Thurber Prize in American Humor. How did that come to be? How has that event put Thurber House on the literary map nationally?

DV: To me, the initial and most important idea was to bring the Thurber House to the country via a media reception at the Algonquin Hotel. So, we had a presence in Thurber’s familiar place. There we were from good old Columbustown presenting to the *New Yorker* and the humor community and journalists and editors, the first national humor award.

MJR: We looked at the literary landscape, and there were awards and best-of annuals for fiction, nonfiction, poetry, kid’s books, travel writing, plays, cookbooks – but where was humor? This art form had no consummate recognition. In 1995, Donn allowed me this wayward idea of assembling a National Advisory Board to help the house conceptualize an award in honor of James Thurber, conferring that name “Thurber” alongside awards named “Oscar” and “Tony” and “Emmy.” Our advisors were Edward Albee, Gloria Naylor, Veronica Geng, Russell Baker, Frederick Busch, and Nora

Ephron, as well as Ann Beattie, Roy Blount Jr., Roz Chast, Jules Feiffer, Garrett Hongo, Calvin Trillin, and Rosemary Thurber. With this distinguished group, we conceptualized the idea of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. To be sure, Thurber himself bemoaned humor’s sidelined status in the field of literature. So we wanted to rectify this lack of attention and identify a book that represented the greatest ideal of humor for the page. Humor for humor’s sake.

DW: Finally, the two of you received the inaugural Founders Award this past December. Looking back on the past thirty-five years, what gives you the greatest pride and satisfaction?

DV: I point to how Thurber House was able to offer Columbus a cultural hub of literature. And that the house reached writers and readers, local audiences and national audiences, through its residencies, reading programs, and humor prize.

MJR: Foremost, it’s the satisfaction of carrying forward Thurber’s work. Back then and even today, his canon is either beloved and known or barely known at all – most likely, this correlates to one’s generation. So I’ve loved the chance to work with the Thurber family to bring to print works that have enduring liveliness and relevance. There is no one who rivals what Thurber accomplished. Who else achieved the reputation that he did in the field of humor, cartooning, children’s books, short stories, and memoir?



A Prize for American Humor

by David Weaver

To honor the memory of James Thurber and to recognize the art and craft of humor writing. From that simple concept, the Thurber Prize for American Humor was born, fashioned by a blue ribbon panel assembled by Donn Vickers and Michael J. Rosen in 1995. Two years later, the first award was presented to author Ian Frazier, who, like Thurber, is a native Ohioan (from Cleveland), for his book, *Coyote v. Acme*.

Given sporadically in its early years, the Thurber Prize has been awarded annually since 2004 and has recognized some of America's most celebrated contemporary humorists. Besides Ian Frazier (who won again in 2009, the only two-time recipient), the list includes such luminaries as Christopher Buckley, Jon Stewart, Calvin Trillin, and Trevor Noah. Julie Schumacher was the first female winner in 2015, which was also the first year in which all three finalists were women. Over the years, the Thurber Prize has become, along with the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize (which came a year later), one of America's most distinguished awards for humor.

The award ceremony was held through 2017 at the historic Algonquin Hotel, a New York City landmark and home of the Algonquin Round Table, of which Thurber was a member. Then last December, to coincide with his birthday dinner and the launch of Thurber@125, the Thurber House Board of Trustees brought the event home to Columbus. The dinner was a rousing success, highlighted by Patricia Lockwood's selection as the 2018 Thurber Prize winner for her book, *Priestdaddy*. It was a night of food, spirits, camaraderie, and most of all, laughter – a night Thurber himself would have enjoyed immensely.

For more information about the Thurber Prize, visit <http://www.thurberhouse.org>.



2017 Thurber Prize winner Trevor Noah with Rosemary Thurber, daughter of the legendary humorist, at the ceremony in New York City. Photo credit: Will Brenner, Andy Brown, courtesy of Thurber House.

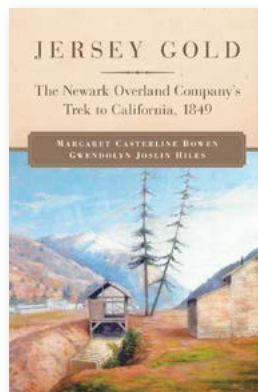
Book Reviews

NONFICTION

Bowen, Margaret Casterline, and Gwendolyn Joslin Hiles. *Jersey Gold: The Newark Overland Company's Trek to California, 1849.*

University of Oklahoma Press (Norman, OK) 2017 \$34.95.

We are all taught that gold was discovered in California 1848 by John Sutter, and thus began an important and long-lived gold rush and westward migration from the United States' east coast to the west. *Jersey Gold* chronicles the lives of New York and New Jersey (mostly Newark) men who banded together under the leadership of Dr. John Stevens Darcy to form the Newark Overland Company.



The forty-six men of the Newark Overland Company traveled by wagon train and donkey, by steamer to the Gulf of Mexico and across the Isthmus of Panama, and even around Cape Horn and up the western coast of South America. Eventually, most of them arrived in California and panned for gold. Some were very successful – discovering gold, opening trading stores, or working on steam ships. Some stayed in California; others returned home to New Jersey to family, friends, and new careers. One even went to Hawaii and made a new life for himself.

Bowen and Hiles, following the journals of these intrepid men, bring this exciting period to life. Readers will learn of the hardships suffered by those taking the overland routes through the plains and deserts, the wastelands and towering mountains of the western plains states. Despite waning strength and deteriorating health, they continued to trek west toward the promise of gold and untold riches. Even those who traveled by sea suffered from storms and poor food, from weather and loss. Most made it to California; some turned around and return east, exhausted by the hardships they encountered.

Bowen and Hiles begin their chronicle with a historical overview and brief biographical sketches that set the book in the early 1840s. The chapters then follow day by day, month by month, as the men venture west. The latter half of the book recounts the Newark Overland Company men's lives after 1850 until their deaths. A scant number of maps are supplemented by illustrations and photographic reproductions. The addition of a few more maps, particularly of North America and the Isthmus of Panama, would help visually orient readers.

In addition to the in-depth history of the Gold Rush, there's a strong theme of transportation. The speed of transcontinental travel changed dramatically from the 1840s with wagon trains and sailing ships to the railroads that crossed the Isthmus of Panama and traversed the Rocky Mountains. Steam ships sailed from the east coast to the Gulf of Mexico, and after passengers took a short railroad ride across Panama, they steamed north to California. By the time the Civil War ended, railroads transported migrants from coast to coast, shortening travel time dramatically.

The speed and ease of transcontinental communication also increased during the last half of the nineteenth century. Telegraph and regular mail routes were established, eliminating the mystery of the fate of less-communicative relatives and family members.

If you are interested in the California Gold Rush and its aftermath, this book is for you. It chronicles the lives of those who traveled by land and by sea to the California gold fields, their adventures along the way, and the fates of those who survived to record their tales.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

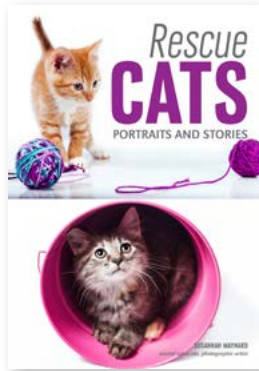
Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Cats: Portraits and Stories*.

Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2018 \$21.95.

Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Rabbits: Portraits and Stories of Bunnies Finding Happy Homes*.

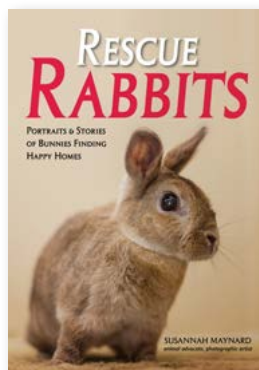
Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2019 \$21.95.

Why should we adopt stray or sheltered animals? In *Rescue Cats: Portraits and Stories* and *Rescue Rabbits: Portraits and Stories of Bunnies Finding Happy Homes*, Susannah Maynard presents the reasons why we need to remember the beauty that each animal brings into our lives. Through artistic photographs and touching stories, Maynard portrays the special qualities and personalities of each cat and each rabbit shown in these two books. Her photographs capture the inner spirit of her animal subjects. Anyone who enjoys animals will appreciate Maynard's rescue books.



As one reads through *Rescue Cats* and *Rescue Rabbits*, it is easy to be pulled into the need to care for our stray and rescue animals. The books are organized by animal ages and by special needs. Not only do the descriptions that accompany the animal photographs highlight the cat's or rabbit's special qualities; they also teach the reader about the animals and their needs. Different breeds are described, statistics are provided, and shelters are listed.

As a child, I treasured our family's Dutch rabbit, Dr. Pepper. Maynard's description and photograph of the Dutch rabbit named Pepper brought back fond memories. As Maynard suggests, rabbits make wonderful pets, but like any animal, they need love and care. I was amazed at the statistic that, in the United States, rabbits are the third most surrendered animal to rescue shelters, and



many appear after Easter when families realize the cute little bunny needs daily attention.

Cats also have long been a part of our household, with all of them arriving at our home as strays. It was surprising to learn that almost as many adopted cats were originally stray cats as ones adopted from shelters.

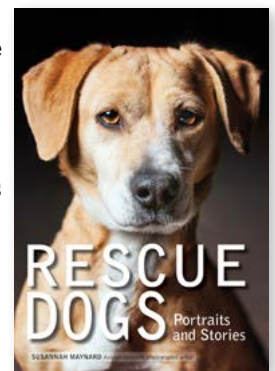
In the introductions to both books, Maynard lists local shelters that are near her home areas of Cincinnati and San Francisco. Living in Columbus, I know that there are several cat rescue shelters in the city. If you can't provide a home for a cat, most of these shelters gladly will accept supplies, volunteers, and donations. Not only has Maynard encouraged rescue adoptions through her beautifully written and illustrated books, but she sets a philanthropic example by donating a portion of the sales proceeds to some of these rescue organizations. *Rescue Cats: Portraits and Stories* and *Rescue Rabbits: Portraits and Stories of Bunnies Finding Happy Homes* make the perfect books for inspiring one to adopt and help support animals in need.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR,
COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Maynard, Susannah. *Rescue Dogs: Portraits and Stories*.

Amherst Media (Buffalo, NY) 2017 \$14.55.

Rescue Dogs is a delightful book by photographer and animal advocate Susannah Maynard. Inspired by her much-loved dog, Mr. Bojangles, Maynard discovered that there was such a profession as a pet photographer. Because of her joy in both photography and pets, she started Pet Love Photography and turned it into a career. This book, which features bundles of cute dogs, gives lots of information about all of the dogs.



Some of our favorite dogs in the book are Chip, a St. Bernard and Labrador retriever mix; Adele, a golden retriever and beagle mix; Charlotte, a Shih-Tzu and terrier mix; and Ozzy, a golden retriever and beagle mix. Most of our favorites have been adopted. Some of these

dogs did not have a good life before going into rescue, foster care, or their forever home.

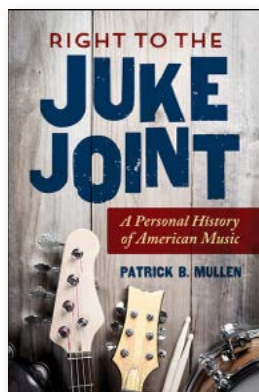
There are many different categorizations of dogs, including a disabilities category. One of them is Abraham, a Shih Tzu mix who had a bad eye that had to be taken out, and another is Buddy, a toy poodle and Shih-Tzu mix who was trampled by a larger dog when he was a puppy and lost a front left leg as a result. We recommend this book for all ages, but the disabilities section might bother younger kids under the age of five. Still, it gives a meaningful message about the importance of rescuing dogs. We adore this book and highly recommend that you read it.

REVIEWED BY VIVIAN DEMKO-GARCHA, VIVIAN KOFFLER, AND ARIYA PATEL, FORM IV STUDENTS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Mullen, Patrick B. *Right to the Juke Joint: A Personal History of American Music.*

University of Illinois Press (Champaign, IL) 2018 \$29.95.

Patrick B. Mullen's lifelong interest in music has resulted in *Right to the Juke Joint: A Personal History of American Music*, published as part of the University of Illinois Press's ongoing and prestigious series, *Music in American Life*. *Right to the Juke Joint* is taken from a line in "School Days," one of Chuck Berry's classic anthems about rock and roll.



The book's title is appropriate, since its author was a willing and at times enthusiastic witness to the birth of rock and roll in the early 1950s and its subsequent development into an international cultural phenomenon in the 1960s and beyond.

Mullen writes about the giants of this era, such as the early pioneers who gained a national audience, especially Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley. The story continues with the iconic bands those early rockers inspired, such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Bob Dylan and the Hawks, the band that the singer and songwriter toured the United States with in 1965, after

he had publicly embraced rock music at the Newport Folk Festival. While he was a graduate student at the University of Texas, Mullen attended a concert in Austin that was part of Dylan's 1965 rock tour. He describes this concert in chapter six of his book, ending with this comment: "I have now taught a course on Dylan a couple of times, and I tell my students that I may not know as much as some of them do about Dylan, but my rock creds come from being at that concert" (p. 126).

The book is not only about rock music, since Mullen's interests cover many musical genres, beginning with American country music – particularly the western swing and honky-tonk songs he first heard on the radio. Also, a large swath of the stories and history his book chronicles are based in Texas, the state where he was born. His music saga begins in the late 1940s, when as a youngster Mullen listened to the radio where he heard songs his parents and older sister Sissy enjoyed. One song he remembers from that time is "Tennessee Saturday Night" by the country singer Red Foley, a prominent country music singer who had numerous hits on the country charts through the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. "Tennessee Saturday Night" was a popular single recording after its release and reached number one on the *Billboard* country music chart in March 1949. The song is a country swing tune, accompanied by a steel guitar, fiddle, and an easy-going boogie-woogie bass that nicely highlights Foley's laidback vocals. The song is about socializing, dancing, drinking, and having fun while listening to music:

*Now listen while I tell you about a place I know
Down in Tennessee where the tall corn grows
Hidden from the world in a bunch of pines
Where the moon's a little bashful and seldom shines..*

The refrain at the end of each verse sums the story up:

*Civilized people live there all right
But they all go native on a Saturday night.*

Mullen's book is made up of reminiscences about songs that have had an impact on him throughout his life. From his childhood, he relates memories about songs by country artists such as Foley; Jack Guthrie, who had a hit with "Oklahoma Hills," which was written by Jack's cousin, the legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie; and Hank Williams, whose breakout song, "Lovesick Blues," became his first number one hit in May 1949.

Mullen sums up the influence of these songs by commenting:

"The three songs I remember best from my childhood were about cowboys roaming free in Oklahoma, country people going wild in Tennessee, and a lovesick boy going crazy from losing his girl.... I've been listening to those songs again recently. In some ways they led to my career as a folklorist because they remained in my consciousness and influenced me to study folklore in college. I still play such songs in folk music classes I teach now." (p. 3)

As this passage suggests, his book is not just a memoir about his love of music and his favorite musical artists, although that aspect is certainly present. It is also a study of the ways that these songs appealed to a young Texan as well as a wider southern audience by reflecting and celebrating their own culture.

Mullen goes on to discuss other kinds of music he has been drawn to, such as rhythm and blues singer Ray Charles and 1950s rock and roller Buddy Holly. As he grew older and went to college, his musical taste evolved to include the jazz of such musicians as Dave Brubeck and Miles Davis, as well as various kinds of music with traditional roots, such as blues and gospel music from African-American culture or conjunto and norteño ballads and dance music in Mexican-American culture.

Mullen's hometown is Beaumont, in southeast Texas. This area is rich in various kinds of music, including country music and rhythm and blues, as well as zydeco and Cajun music – Beaumont is not far from the Louisiana border. As a teenager, Mullen listened to radio music programs, including disc jockey J. P. Richardson's rock and roll show, which was broadcast on KTRM in Beaumont. (Richardson also performed under the name of the Big Bopper; he died in a plane crash that also killed singers Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens on February 3, 1959, near Clear Lake, Iowa.)

After graduating from high school, Mullen attended Beaumont Tech College, a school where Janis Joplin was enrolled for a semester or two, as well. Joplin was from the nearby town of Port Arthur and she, of course, became an international star a few years later singing blues and rock music with the San Francisco band, Big Brother and the Holding Company. Mullen relates an anecdote about the time that he saw her perform after she had moved to Austin. The Texas Folklore Society

held a meeting on the University of Texas campus and Joplin sang some blues songs during an informal hootenanny after the meeting itself was concluded.

By this time, in 1965, Mullen was enrolled at the University of Texas, where he studied under the nationally known folklore professor, Americo Paredes. Mullen eventually graduated with a Ph.D. in folklore studies, with Paredes as his dissertation director. Paredes was also an accomplished singer of corridos and other forms of Mexican ballads. Mullen recalls a time much later when Tish Hinojosa, a gifted singer and songwriter from San Antonio, contacted Paredes to learn the words to a song she remembers her mother singing. Paredes was very helpful and sang the song to her over the telephone. As a result, Hinojosa was able to record the song for *Frontéjas*, an album released in 1995 by Rounder Records. Of his own studies with Paredes, Mullen writes, "He had a profound influence on my professional life by establishing my sense of what a scholar/professor was supposed to be" (p.179).

Mullen has lived in Ohio for most of his adult life, where he taught several generations of students at the Ohio State University about folk traditions and their significance in various groups of people, whether they are made up of family members, members of a certain ethnic group, co-workers, or people living in the same community or a region of the country.

In the early 1970s, I took a music class from Mullen on the development of rock and roll from earlier American music forms, such as the acoustic delta blues of Charlie Patton and Robert Johnson, the later electrified Chicago blues of Muddy Waters and Howling Wolf, and the 1950s honky-tonk country music of George Jones and Lefty Frizzell.

When Mullen discussed the music of Elvis Presley, he illustrated the influence of African American artists on Presley by playing two versions of the rhythm and blues song, "Shake, Rattle and Roll." The song was recorded many times by R&B and rock and roll musicians, but most notably by Big Joe Turner, a singer and pianist from Kansas City who made the first recording of the song for Atlantic Records in 1954. Turner's version is driven by the rhythm of his piano and by the spark of his deep baritone vocal, as he launches some chauvinistic complaints at his lover:

*Get outta that bed and wash your face and hands
Get outta that bed and wash your face and hands
Well, you get in that kitchen, make some noise
with the pots 'n' pans*

.....
*I said shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
Shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
Well, you won't do right to save your doggone soul.*

After, Turner's record finished, Mullen played a version of the same song that Presley recorded in 1956 for RCA. The twenty-one-year-old Elvis sang with enthusiasm but his vocals literally paled in comparison to Turner's rendition of the lyrics. Mullen said he liked both versions – but he also commented that the difference between the singers was that of a not yet fully grown boy compared to the singing of a mature man. At the time, Elvis's version may have made the song more palatable for many of his white teenage fans, but the superior quality of the Turner recording was and is undeniable.

As was true with his teaching, Mullen's book is an education for readers with an interest in American roots music. His personal anecdotes and stories help enliven his discussion of his musical heroes, while his insights into the cultural significance of music with traditional roots can enlighten his readers across an expanse of generations. William Ferris, another music scholar and the former director of the National Endowment for the Humanities, sums up *Right to the Juke Joint* by commenting:

“[Professor Mullen's] personal memory merges with a lifetime of fieldwork in folklore and anthropology to provide readers with a deeply informed analysis of American roots music.... The result is a charming musical map drawn by a gifted storyteller whose boots have traveled a thousand tuneful roads.”

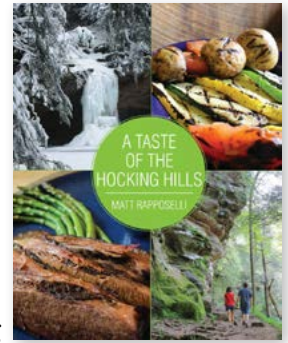
REVIEWED BY JACK SHORTLIDGE, MUSICIAN AND RETIRED PUBLIC FOLKLORIST, COLUMBUS OH

Rapposelli, Matt. *A Taste of the Hocking Hills*.

Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2018 24.95.

In *A Taste of the Hocking Hills*, author and chef Matt Rapposelli provides seasonally inspired recipes to satisfy the reader's appetite. As a chef who has lived and

worked with foods throughout Ohio, including Hocking Hills Lodge, Lake Hope Lodge, and now the Inn and Spa at Cedar Falls, Rapposelli combines his love of nature with his love of cooking. His Hocking Hills cookbook is set up by the seasons, beginning and ending with spring, and includes breathtaking photographs by Kelly Sabaiduc and from the Hocking Hills Tourism Association.



Rapposelli grew up in a home that loved food. Working in southern Ohio has enabled him to blend this love of food with his love of nature, while providing hikers and tourists to the Hocking Hills area with his delicious food samplings.

The cookbook is divided up by seasons, with each section containing an introduction by Rapposelli, photographs depicting the beauty of the Hocking Hills, and recipes appropriate for that season, often using local foods. A photograph accompanies each recipe, giving the reader an idea of the finished product and presentation possibilities.

While I enjoyed reading through all of the recipes, the Buttermilk Pancakes and the Frittata with Roma Tomatoes, Fresh Basil, and Manchego kept calling out to be tried and tasted first. This was the right choice for our winter day – yummy buttermilk pancakes in the morning and a tasty frittata eaten by the wood stove after a cold, wintery hike. These two recipes were wonderful. The directions were clear and easy to follow, and the end product was well worth it. In fact, we have made both of these several times. We plan to try his other recipes, too, but these first two had us hooked.

We made our pancakes and frittata during one of the first winter snowfalls of the year. The ground was covered in a wintery white, and it fit Rapposelli's comments about wintertime. “My favorite time of the year in the Hocking Hills is winter. The pace slows, we get to spend more time with our guests, and the locals come to catch up with one another. Combine that with a magical snowfall that blankets the dense hemlocks and a hearty meal next to the fire. It really doesn't get much better.”

If you enjoy tasty recipes, hiking in the Hocking Hills, nature-inspired photographs, and reminiscing about Ohio's treasures from food to nature, you will enjoy and appreciate Matt Rapposelli's *A Taste of the Hocking Hills*. Bon Appetit!

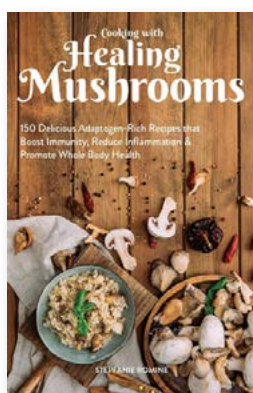
REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR,
COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Romine, Stephanie. *Cooking with Healing Mushrooms*.

Ulysses Press (Berkley, CA) 2018 \$15.95.

This is what I would call a “cookbook with context.” While much of the book consists of simple recipes crafted with the intention of enhancing the umami of mushrooms, the first fifty pages are dedicated to familiarizing the reader with such concepts as homeopathic medicine, flavor profiles of different mushrooms, the preparation of different mushrooms, as well as the science and research behind each family of mushrooms and the proper/safe ways to clean and store them. While I am not a naturopath, I am a naturalist by profession, so I have a great deal of familiarity and interest in educating the public on mushrooms, but unfortunately have very little knowledge about their medicinal uses. Luckily, the author spends a great deal of time separating the mushrooms into categories and delves deeply into both their current and historic medicinal uses.

I grew up around an extensive family of bakers and chefs, so I know my way around a kitchen, and even more so, a cookbook. But in all of my years, I have never read a book that was more interested in educating me with baseline knowledge rather than presenting step-by-step instructions about how to make a dish. While I have studied mycology both in college and on the job, there were some things in the book that I had never encountered before, all of which cited the appropriate study or research project. I was also genuinely happy to see multiple admonitions to find someone to help properly identify a mushroom and that mushrooms



are not a cure-all or replacement for other medicines/tinctures. I am very appreciative of the fact that the author is not trying to force the reader to switch to a new lifestyle or assume that readers are more knowledgeable in a subject than they might actually be.

To be honest, as much as I love to study mushrooms, I don't really eat them and have always found them to be either too dry or too slimy, but I was honestly comforted by the fact that the author once felt this way, too; she even offers ways to enjoy mushrooms without them being a slimy, spongy mess. One such piece of advice is if you want to enjoy the medicinal benefits of mushrooms, try grinding them up and mixing them with other foods (like ground meat). While I have never been interested in trying mushrooms before, this book got me genuinely excited about the prospect. I am actually so enthusiastic that I want to go out and give edible mushrooms another shot (with the help and guidance of this cookbook, of course).

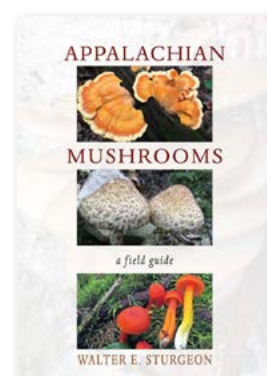
REVIEWED BY ALYSSA URSEM, PROFESSIONAL NATURALIST
AND RECREATION ENTHUSIAST, COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN
COUNTY METRO PARKS

Sturgeon, Walter E. *Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide*.

Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2018 \$35.00.

As a naturalist, I am expected to know a little about everything in the natural world. Someone recently tried to test my bird knowledge, which is by no means comprehensive, so I went to a field guide and found the answer he was looking for. For birds, this is easy, since there are dozens of great guides available for Ohio and the surrounding region. However, if someone brought me a mushroom

to identify, I would struggle to come up with the correct I.D. I could count the useful mushroom guides I've seen on one hand. Fortunately, a new book is available that will help both novices and experts in this field. In *Appalachian Mushrooms*, Walter Sturgeon has written an indispensable guide to these fascinating organisms.



Neither animal nor plant, mushrooms fall into the fungi kingdom of organisms, feeding off of other living (or more often, dead) things to obtain nutrients and energy. The mushroom itself is only part of a fungus, specifically, the reproductive organ. This is where the fungus stores its spores, which are released into the wind. Once its purpose is fulfilled, the mushroom often degenerates quickly, making it hard to identify, though some can last for years.

This is not a flashy, coffee table book. It assumes you already have an interest in the world of mushrooms and that you would like to identify something that you have found. More than 400 species found throughout the Appalachian region, including Ohio, are represented here. Generally, each species is given a full page of description, usually with only one photograph per species and very little graphic design work. This keeps the book simple and uncluttered, which is great when you're flipping through the pages, trying to identify a specimen by comparing it to the pictures.

I find that field guides live or die by their pictures. Sometimes, artwork is the way to go, as in Peterson's revolutionary bird guide. Other books use photography, but it can be difficult to capture all of the important features of an animal or plant in one photo. In this case, several photographers contributed to the book, illustrating the many mushroom varieties with carefully composed shots. Thankfully, mushrooms tend to sit still, so the photographers were able to pose their specimens so that all angles are visible. In addition, some photos include mushrooms of various ages, giving the reader even more chances to identify their "find." I can't imagine the amount of time it took to accumulate all of these images, but the photographs alone make this the most useful mushroom guide I have read.

Moving beyond the pictures and into the text, you will find that some scientific literacy is required. There were several times when I had to flip to the helpful glossary that's included, as terms like "hygrophanous" and "furfuraceous" are used without explanation. Some longtime mushroom enthusiasts may be frustrated with the change to new names for a few species, but those changes are explained in detail and justified through scientific research. Once you are comfortable with the writing style, you will find many interesting facts about our local mushrooms. For example, the Jack O'Lantern (*Omphalotus illudens*) actually glows in the dark, and if

you dig up the Caterpillar Fungus (*Cordyceps militaris*), you may find the remains of its insect host.

Many people enjoy eating mushrooms though I do not count myself among them. Sturgeon has incorporated this aspect of mushroom-hunting into his book with a note on the edibility of each species. There is an element of danger to eating wild mushrooms, since some are deadly poisonous, like the Destroying Angel (*Amanita bisporigera*). The author makes it clear if there is any question as to a mushroom's toxicity and cautions readers to eat only those mushrooms that they know are safe.

A field guide is, by design, meant to be taken into the field and used to identify live specimens. They are often light and small enough to fit into a large pocket. But this book is large: nearly 500 pages and ten inches tall. In addition, it is a paperback, so it will probably not hold up to repeated mushroom hunts. My copy, which has barely left the house, is already dog-eared. However, when identifying mushrooms you must often collect specimens and bring them back inside to study the spore print. Specimens that appear identical will reveal their true identities once they dry out a bit and release some spores, which can be any number of different colors. This is the perfect way to use this book: in the home or office, while going through photos or spore prints from the latest expedition. For this reason, even though it is a bit large and fragile, this is a guide I would recommend to anyone with even a passing interest in the strange and sometimes dangerous world of mushrooms, toadstools, and fungi.

REVIEWED BY CRAIG BIEGLER, NATURALIST, COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

FICTION

Flower, Amanda. *Premeditated Peppermint: An Amish Candy Shop Mystery #3*.

Kensington Mystery (New York, NY) 2018 \$7.99.

It's Christmas time in Harvest, Ohio, so that means it's time for the living manger and an Amish Christmas Festival. Bailey is ready with every type of peppermint candy possible when her ex-fiancé Eric Sharp shows

up with a TV film crew. Bailey is blindsided by Eric's appearance, especially when he wants to get back together during a cooking special. Is he for real?

When Eric's executive producer is found dead with Eric standing over the body, Bailey cannot believe her eyes. She's certain Eric didn't do it, but deputy sheriff Aiden Brody isn't so sure. In his steadfast and reliable manner, Aiden investigates the crime while he tries to get Bailey to stick to peppermint instead of snooping.

As usual, Amanda Flower creates a credible mystery in the imaginative town of Harvest. Her characters are well rounded, and the antics of Jethro the pet pig will make you smile. Best of all, the cast of Amish characters make repeat appearances from the earlier books in the series. Once you read this mystery, you'll want to read all of Flower's cozies and other works of fiction.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH



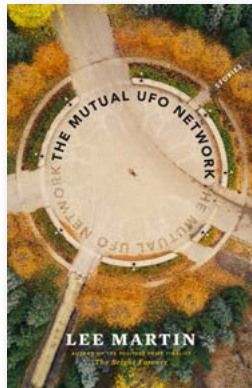
relates how his parents ran a mail-order business selling alien artifacts to people who believe in UFOs. Longing to be part of a "normal" family, Nate spies on his neighbors until he is caught and ostracized. When his parents split up, the young man is caught between conflicting loyalties. Pondering life, he muses, "...what would happen if someone you thought you knew slipped away into another world?" (p. 13). In many ways, this question sets the tone for each of the subsequent stories.

The situations in which each protagonist finds himself expose the deep and compelling questions at the heart of every life. "Across the Street" introduces us to the inhabitants of a cul-de-sac where one of the residents is known to have significant developmental issues. As the households interact with Jim, who has moved from a group home into a place of his own, each resident is forced to confront his own failings. Glory, who lives across the street, is "...of a generation bred in a time of excess, and she never quite got with the program that said she should be a lady of restraint as she aged" (p. 24). In another story, "Belly Talk," the main character, Jackie, has a unique talent – ventriloquism, which makes his mother think he is funny. But Jackie fails to see this as a positive trait. "He didn't think he was a funny man, not in his heart of hearts. There he thought he was...the saddest goddamn thing he had ever seen" (p. 99).

Martin, Lee. *The Mutual UFO Network*.

Dzanc Books (Ann Arbor, MI) 2018 \$26.95.

In *The Mutual UFO Network*, Lee Martin, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Bright Forever*, has crafted a series of short stories that examines the light and the darkness in the souls of ordinary people. From the opening tale that lends its name to the collection to the final offering – "Dummies, Shakers, Barkers, Wanderers," – the author introduces a cast of flawed and flailing humans who find themselves caught in the most unlikely situations. Frequently alienated by choice or by circumstance, his protagonists struggle to navigate an emotional network of desire, disappointment, and destruction.



The stories in *The Mutual UFO Network* take us on a journey through small town, rural America. The main streets are filled with modest homes and businesses, the farms at a distance from the business districts, each setting teetering on the ledge between hope and despair. Martin is adept at shifting description from the concrete to the abstract and using the narrative to foreshadow the tragic consequences to come. In "The Dead in Paradise," the narrator, Baby James, opens with a description of an old tree that topples over in the backyard, musing, "It'd been a winter of snow and ice and frost on the heartstrings." As the consequences of past acts and current situations pile up, James reveals the depth of that frost: "What I knew... was I'd never get it right, this thing we call living" (p. 222).

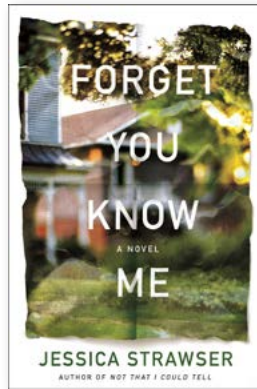
REVIEWED BY JANET E. IRVIN, CAREER EDUCATOR AND OHIO AUTHOR OF *THE DARK END OF THE RAINBOW* AND *THE RULES OF THE GAME*

Martin is a master at creating characters who reflect the beauty and the horror of the ordinary. The first story, "The Mutual UFO Network," introduces us to Nick, who

Strawser, Jessica. *Forget You Know Me*.

St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2019 \$27.99.

Two women seeking to re-establish their once-close friendship. A husband unaware of the extent of his wife's physical ailments and the lengths she has gone to heal herself. A masked intruder who upends all their lives. *Forget You Know Me*, Jessica Strawser's third novel, examines the strength of relationships forged through time and sentiment, as well as the consequences when those relationships fray under the weight of truths half-told and secrets unrevealed.



Molly and Liza have been best friends for a good part of their lives, sharing the most intimate details and able to read each other's moods – until Liza accepts a job in Chicago, and their once-frequent communication wanes. Seeking to repair their connection, the two arrange an on-line call for a long-postponed conversation. But when Molly is called away from the computer, Liza witnesses a masked man enter her friend's house. Distraught, Liza drives all the way from Chicago to Cincinnati to check on her friend. Yet, inexplicably, Molly turns her away.

Convinced their friendship is irreparably broken, Liza drives back to Chi town, only to find that her apartment has burned down. With her world shattered, she returns to Cincinnati, the place she thought she had left forever. Meanwhile, Molly struggles with the deterioration of her marriage. As the secrets she is keeping threaten to bury her, she accuses her neighbor Rick of being the intruder, an accusation that heightens the tension in her already stressful life. In this domestic thriller, every relationship becomes suspect, and the knowledge each possesses threatens to destroy their lives.

Strawser has crafted a complex exploration of the fears that hold us back and the resulting fallout from telling only partial truths. Through eloquent and insightful prose, she reveals the turmoil of her main characters as they work through the issues that confound them. Liza, for example, is almost paralyzed by the realization of what might have been had she not driven all night to see her friend: "Was life just one death dodge after

another, while people carried on oblivious to the danger until the day it was too in-their-face to ignore...?" (p. 87). Molly spends her days wrestling with the situation she has created for herself – a friendship with a neighbor that might be something more, a mountain of debts she can't pay: "Only now did she have the good sense to feel scalded by the self-deception that had carried her this far" (p. 139).

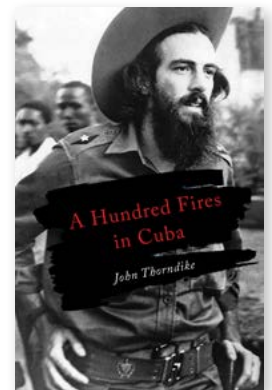
Southwestern Ohioans will recognize the references and welcome the nod to the Queen City. The author's connections to Cincinnati, both as a resident with her husband and two children, and as editor-at-large for *Writer's Digest*, headquartered in Blue Ash, Ohio, explain the strong sense of place in the novel. The city draws Liza to return to its familiar environs, where she finds a job and a potential romance at the historic Lunken Airport. The city's Nature Center provides Molly with a place of refuge from the burdens she carries... until they intrude even there.

For those who enjoy the gradual unfolding of a mystery and the triumph of hope over despair, *Forget You Know Me* provides a satisfying read.

REVIEWED BY JANET E. IRVIN, CAREER EDUCATOR AND OHIO AUTHOR OF *THE DARK END OF THE RAINBOW* AND *THE RULES OF THE GAME*

Thorndike, John. *A Hundred Fires in Cuba*.Beck & Branch (www.beckandbranch.com) 2018 \$15.00.

Clare Miller is an American freelance photographer whose portraits capture the souls of her subjects. Camilo Cienfuegos (a Hundred Fires) is Cuban, a line cook at a top New York hotel, who wants to rid his country of its corrupt regime and raise its people out of poverty. They come from different worlds – Clare from an educated upper middle-class family, Camilo the son of poor tailors. Of course, they fall madly in love. Then Camilo is deported, and Clare discovers she's pregnant. Clare resolves to raise the child, Alameda, herself, doubting she will ever see the father again.



At this point John Thorndike's novel could have followed a familiar narrative path, documenting Clare's struggle to balance her career and her role as a single parent. Instead, it takes a series of intriguing twists and turns. Clare ends up on assignment in Havana, where she meets and marries Domingo, a wealthy sugar mill owner and magazine publisher. He proves to be an attentive husband and lover, devoted to Alameda. They live in an upscale suburb, with a cook, a maid, and a chauffeur for Domingo's Chevy Impala. Life is good.

Then the world of Domingo and other wealthy Cubans collapses. It's December 1958, and Fidel Castro's ragtag columns are advancing on Havana from the Sierra Maestra. The revolutionary radio station announces that the second column is led by a charismatic commander, Camilo Cienfuegos, a trusted Castro confidante who trained with the revolutionaries in Mexico and talked his way on board the Granma that carried them to Cuba two years earlier. The dictator Batista flees, along with other "enemies of the people," taking their fortunes with them. Those who remain face revolutionary justice – a quick trial, followed by prison or execution.

Clare is torn between her comfortable life with Domingo and her passion for the bearded revolutionary hero, a passion that seems to be shared by every other woman in Havana. Can they be reunited? Can Camilo become a true father to Alameda? Will he survive the palace intrigues of the new revolutionary regime?

Thorndike, who spent two years in the Peace Corps in El Salvador and another two on a backcountry farm in Chile before eventually settling in Athens, Ohio, shows a keen grasp of Latin American culture, history, and personal relationships. His novel unfolds along the Cuban revolutionary timeline, with Fidel Castro and Che Guevara making critical cameo appearances in the plot. Thorndike's portrayal of the streets, cafes, and markets of Havana, and of rural areas, is vivid and evocative. The dialogue, liberally garnished with Cuban Spanish references to everything from cuisine to clothing, is fast-paced and nuanced, as the characters dodge, weave, and manipulate each exchange to their advantage.

With the love story as its thread, Thorndike has his characters ponder the impact of implementing revolutionary ideology in practice. It's one thing to be a guerrilla, living off the land and fighting for social justice. It's another to be governing, figuring out who should own

what and how to deal with your former enemies. Camilo knows his role as a soldier, but he is uncomfortable as a senior government official. Will he become disillusioned with the revolution? And if so, what will be his fate under the regime? Thorndike spins an intriguing plot that moves between Havana, New York, Miami, and Costa Rica, and never slows down.

REVIEWED BY DAVID MOULD, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MEDIA ARTS AND STUDIES AT OHIO UNIVERSITY AND AUTHOR OF *POSTCARDS FROM STANLAND: JOURNEYS IN CENTRAL ASIA* AND *MONSOON POSTCARDS: INDIAN OCEAN JOURNEYS*

MIDDLE GRADE

Fries-Gaither, Jessica, illustrated by Linda Olliver. *Exemplary Evidence*.

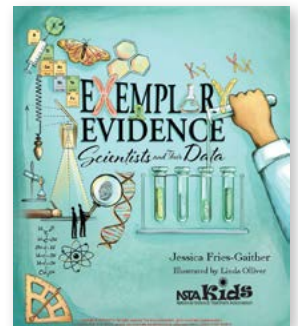
NSTA Kids Books (Arlington, VA) 2018 \$17.94.

Exemplary Evidence is a wonderful book by Jessica Fries-Gaither, who works at Columbus School for Girls as a science teacher. Fries-Gaither has also written a book called *Notable Notebooks* that was published in 2016. Her current book talks about scientists, what they did, and how their data and evidence were crucial to their discoveries. Some of my favorite scientists included in her book were Alhazen, who discovered that light does not come out of eyes but comes from a source, and Vera Rubin, who, through her telescope, discovered new things about space. I also loved how it rhymed throughout the book. One of my favorite rhymes was on page six:

Afterward, there's just one thing to do.
Analyze the data to find something new
by comparing, graphing, looking for trends.
What will it tell? Well, that depends.

It also shows at the end of the book how you can collect your own data, and I think that is a neat, extra perk to the book. I think this book is great for all ages. The amazing pictures that were illustrated by Linda Olliver also swept me away. Overall, I think this book is astounding.

REVIEWED BY VIVIAN DEMKO-GARCHA, FORM IV STUDENT, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

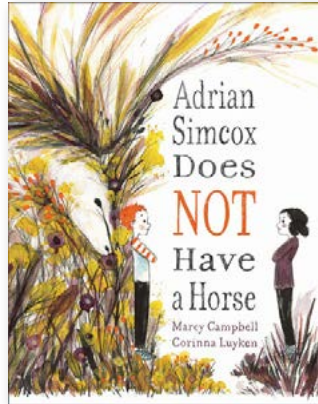


CHILDREN'S

Campbell, Marcy, illustrated by Corinna Luyken. *Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse.*

Dial Books (New York, NY) 2018 \$17.99.

In her deceptively simple picture book debut about a young boy's horse and a young girl's quest to prove that it does NOT exist, Ohio author Marcy Campbell provides a sensitive and thoughtful look at the power of kindness over "rightness" and friendship over isolation. It is with that same sensitivity that she introduces young readers to Adrian Simcox, a red-headed boy living with his grandfather in a tiny house, who gets the free lunch at school, has holes in his shoes, and tells anyone who will listen about his horse. And just as thoughtfully, she also introduces readers to Chloe – arms folded, brows furrowed, shoulders hunched – as she wants everyone, especially her mom, to know that Adrian Simcox is lying! It is Chloe's mom who provides the impetus for understanding as she teaches Chloe (and the reader) a lesson in empathy by showing her what it means to choose kindness – to take a moment to see the world through another's eyes. Corinna Luyken's beautiful illustrations provide the perfect complement to Campbell's story as she ingeniously weaves hidden images of a horse into her lush and lyrical backgrounds. In so doing, she expertly illustrates the opening of Chloe's eyes to that which is most important – the value of a person over the value of being right – a lesson all readers, young and old, can take to heart.



REVIEWED BY PAULA GEGLEIN, JUVENILE SELECTOR FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY

Grant, Jacob. *Bear's Scare.*

Bloomsbury Children's Books (New York, NY) 2018 \$17.99.

My toddler and I loved reading *Bear's Scare* by Jacob Grant! This is a cute story about a bear who likes everything neat and tidy, and what happens when he discovers a messy spider living in his home. Bear jumps to the conclusion that the spider is nothing like him and is just making messes all over his clean house. But we can see the spider is not making messes and is in fact painting, reading books, knitting, and making tea. Bear makes a huge mess out of his house searching for the spider, and in the process, he accidentally hurts his best friend and constant companion, a stuffed bear named Ursa. While Bear is rushing around trying to figure out how to help Ursa, the spider neatly stitches Ursa back together using its webbing. This small act of kindness allows Bear to see the spider in a whole new light, and he decides he doesn't mind sharing his home with a spider... or two... or a lot more!



This was a terrific read-aloud book with a great message about not making assumptions about things that seem different from you on the surface. We loved the illustrations with all the hidden details. My toddler liked finding the spider hiding on each page and counting all the spider webs she saw. I enjoyed the thoughtful touches like Bear's family portraits above the mantle, the fact that Bear is reading a book about spiders after he and spider become friends, and that Ursa is the Latin word for *bear*. This book quickly became a bedtime staple in our house, and we enjoy discovering new details each time we read it. We're now looking for more books by Jacob Grant because we loved this one so much!

REVIEWED BY KIMBERLY STROSNIDER, NATURALIST, COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

Hillenbrand, Will. *First Star: A Bear and Mole Story*.

Holiday House (New York, NY) 2018 \$17.99.

First Star: A Bear and Mole Story is the newest book in the *Bear and Mole* series by Will Hillenbrand. In this story, Bear and Mole take a hike to see the stars, but Mole is worried they will get lost in the dark. Bear helps Mole feel better by telling him the story of how the moon and stars were created by First Mother Bear, First Father Bear, and First Little Bear. Bear also points out the First Star, which stays in one place and always points north, so Mole will never get lost in the dark. "Dark is not so dark if you know where you are," explains Bear. The story ends with Bear and Mole making a wish on a shooting star.



This was our first introduction to Bear and Mole, as we were not familiar with the series. This book is a good introduction to astronomy for little kids. While I wished it included some scientific terms like *constellation*, *comet*, or *shooting star* (either within the story or as an addendum), it was easy to add this information in while we were reading. The illustrations were very cute, and my toddler liked running her fingers over the raised glittery text and pictures on the book jacket. She also liked repeating the short simple sentences and turning the book vertically to read one of the pages. This was our first Bear and Mole story, but I don't think it will be our last!

REVIEWED BY KIMBERLY STROSNIDER, NATURALIST,
COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between December 2018 and February 2019. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

ABOUT OHIO/OHIOAN

Abu-Absi, Samir, ed. ***Arab Americans in Toledo: Cultural Assimilation and Community Involvement***. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2010. PB \$22.95. *Arab Americans in Toledo* is a collection of essays, interviews, profiles, and photographs that explores one of Toledo's most diverse ethnic groups. Its members, "both Christian and Muslim, and from many nationalities," have come together to form a vibrant and important local community. The book's chapters are equally diverse, covering language, food, religion, history, and culture, as well as stories of those whose lives have enriched Northwest Ohio since the first Arab immigrants arrived in the early 1880s.

Auburn, Mark. ***In the President's Home: Memories of the Akron Auburns***. University of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2019. PB \$24.95. Norman P. Auburn (1905–2003), tenth president of the University of Akron (1951–1971), was a husband and father as well as UA's most important leader in the second half of its 150 years. His third-born child remembers the private man behind the public figure.

Beach, Patricia Ringos, et al. ***Caps, Capes, and Caring: The Legacy of Diploma Nursing Schools in Toledo***. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2018. PB \$24.95.

Between 1893 and 1999 there were eight hospital-based diploma schools of nursing in Toledo. These schools, operating for just over 100 years, sent registered nurses into our community to care for our sick and teach us how to stay healthy. Graduates from these schools are still among us and continue to provide care and comfort.

Borden, Timothy, ed. ***American Originals: Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play***. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2014. HC \$22.95.

The book is packed with historic photographs of Polish Americans, narratives of their place in the local religious community, and interviews with local Poles. It illustrates the influences on modern culture that Polish immigration had on the area and the United States in general.

Clark, Jennifer. ***Johnny Appleseed: The Slice and Times of John Chapman***. Shabda Press (Pasadena, CA) 2018. PB \$18.00.

The life and history of John Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed, told through a series of interconnecting lyric poems.

Dotson, Chad, and Chris Garber. ***The Big 50: The Men and Moments That Made the Cincinnati Reds***. Triumph Books (Chicago, IL) 2018. HC \$16.95.

The Big 50 is an amazing, full-color look at the fifty men and moments that made the Reds the Reds. Experienced sportswriters Chad Dotson and Chris Garber recount the living history of the Reds, counting down from No. 50 to No. 1. *The Big 50* brilliantly brings to life

the Reds' remarkable story, from Johnny Bench and Barry Larkin to the roller coaster that was Pete Rose to the team's 1990 World Series championship and Todd Frazier's 2015 Home Run Derby win.

Dowdy, Joanne Kilgour. ***In the Public Eye***. Commess University Press (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago) 2009. HC \$29.95.

Dowdy's photo autobiography takes us through a rich and moving forty-year personal life journey. We are made privy to her inner most thoughts growing up as a privileged child in Trinidad, her then meteoric rise to fame as a young thespian in her homeland, and her later struggle with her identity as a black immigrant in the United States.

Fisher, Andrew "Bud," ed. ***What a Time It Was: Interviews with Northwest Ohio Veterans of World War II***. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2009. PB \$24.95.

Army veteran Fisher has compiled a book based on some of the Veterans' History Project interviews that are archived in the Ward M. Canaday Center of the University of Toledo's Carlson Library.

Floyd, Barbara L., ed. ***From Institutions to Independence: A History of People with Disabilities in Northwest Ohio***. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2010. PB \$19.95.

This book is the result of a decade-long campaign to preserve and document disability history in Ohio, fusing together activism, rigorous scholarship, and preservation.

Fox, Kathleen Stuckey. ***Remembering Hamilton Royalty:***

The Families of John Woods, John F. Neilan, Homer Gard, William Beckett, Samuel D. Fitton, and Thomas Millikin. Ketmoy Printing (West Chester, OH) 2017. PB \$20.00. Genealogy and history of prominent members of Butler County, Ohio, families as compiled by Kathleen Stuckey Fox, a descendant, who has become a prominent Butler County historian.

Fox, Kathleen Stuckey, and Diana Royer. ***Fannie Hurst in Her Own Words, 1952-1968: Love Notes to Her Deceased Husband, Jacques S. Danielson.*** Ketmoy Printing (West Chester, OH) 2018. HC \$20.00. Ohio-born author and social activist Fannie Hurst continued to write weekly letters to her husband, Jacques S. Danielson, for sixteen years after he died, until her own death in 1968. Historian Kathleen Stuckey Fox and author Diana Royer present Hurst's letters in their entirety, as well as an analysis on the historical and personal impact they have made.

Harris, John M. ***Redemption in '64: The Champion Cleveland Browns.*** Black Squirrel Books (Kent, OH) 2018. PB \$20.95. The Cleveland Browns set the standard for professional football teams in the 1940s and '50s, but when they won the National Football League championship in 1964 it came as a surprise. *Sports Illustrated* called it "one of the biggest of all football upsets."

Hawley, Richard. ***On My Way Out: A Reflection on Closure.*** Orchises Press (Alexandria, VA) 2019. PB \$24.95. Several years in the life of the author, a former headmaster at

the University School in Ohio, reflections on mortality, incidents in his personal life and marriage, with an account of his activities as lecturer and writer on education. A candid and deeply personal memoir, told in the form of a diary.

Herbert, Jeffrey G., and Julie M. Ross. ***Archdiocese of Cincinnati Roman Catholic Baptism Records: Early-1859, Excluding Hamilton County.*** Hamilton County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$32.00. This index contains the names of more than 18,800 Roman Catholic baptisms recorded in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati prior to December 31, 1859. Early records from the town of Minster, Ohio, in Auglaize County list the place of origin in Germany for many of the founding families. This information has been extracted as a separate list and is included in the introduction to the publication.

Kimmel, David. ***Outrage in Ohio: A Rural Murder, Lynching, and Mystery.*** Indiana University Press (Bloomington, IN) 2018. PB \$24.00. On a hot and dusty Sunday in June 1872, thirteen-year-old Mary Secaur set off on her two-mile walk home from church. She never arrived. The horrific death of this young girl inspired an illegal interstate pursuit-and-arrest, courtroom dramatics, conflicting confessions, and the daylight lynching of a traveling tin peddler and an intellectually disabled teenager. Using a unique blend of historical research and contemporary accounts, *Outrage in Ohio* explores how a terrible crime ripped an Ohio farming community apart and asks us to question what really happened to Mary Secaur.

Kornblith, Gary J., and Carol Lasser. ***Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio.*** Louisiana State University Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2018. HC \$48.00. Before the Civil War, Oberlin, Ohio, stood in the vanguard of the abolition and black freedom movements. The community, including co-founded Oberlin College, strove to end slavery and establish full equality for all. Yet, in the half-century after the Union victory, Oberlin's resolute stand for racial justice eroded as race-based discrimination pressed down on its African American citizens.

Kuk, Yarko, ed. ***From Glaciers to Glass: A Comprehensive History of Northwest Ohio, Vol. 1.*** University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2018. PB \$24.95.

From Glaciers To Glass: A Comprehensive History of Northwest Ohio is a two-volume series that contains articles from nearly ninety years of *Northwest Ohio History* and its predecessor, *Northwest Ohio Quarterly*.

Mann, Barbara Alice. ***Land of the Three Miamis: A Traditional Narrative of the Iroquois in Ohio.*** University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2006. PB \$14.95. In this book, Barbara Alice Mann's purpose is not to prove facts or to give an interpretation of historical events but to pass along essential, traditional cultural narratives and knowledge to her granddaughter. Her readers are in the privileged and rare position of being allowed to listen.

McLaughlin, Cynthia G. ***The State Library at 200: A Celebration of Library Services to Ohio.*** Donning Company Publishers (Brookfield, MO) 2017. PB no price.

The State Library of Ohio celebrated its Bicentennial in 2017 with exhibits, publication of this book, and a culminating open house celebration on August 4, 2017.

Morales, Ben. *Hindsight: Northwest Ohio Through the Lens of Time*. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2016. HC \$39.95.

A collection of more than 100 re-photographed locations in the Toledo region, combined with relevant information describing their historical significance.

Portraying the past and present in the same frame forces the viewer to see things differently and hopefully primes their curiosity about the hidden history that is all around us.

Morhard, Ruth Hanford. *Mrs. Morhard and the Boys*. Citadel/Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. ARC (Advanced Readers' Copy) \$27.00.

Out of a dream, an empty lot, and the enthusiasm of other neighborhood kids, Josephine Morhard established the first boys' baseball league in America. Her city – and the country – was watching. Josephine Morhard's daughter-in-law recounts the extraordinary life and accomplishments of a resilient, selfless, and determined woman. Her inspiring true story – a long time coming – is something to cheer for.

Nichols, David Andrew. *Peoples of the Inland Sea: Native Americans and Newcomers in the Great Lakes Region, 1600-1870*. Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2018. PB \$29.95. Diverse in their languages and customs, the Native American peoples of the Great Lakes region – the Miamis, Ho-Chunks, Potawatomis, Ojibwas, and many

others – shared a tumultuous history. In the colonial era their rich homeland became a target of imperial ambition and an invasion zone for European diseases, technologies, beliefs, and colonists. Yet in the face of these challenges, their nations' strong bonds of trade, intermarriage, and association grew and extended throughout their watery domain, and strategic relationships and choices allowed them to survive in an era of war, epidemic, and invasion.

Pirnia, Garin. *Rebels and Underdogs: The Story of Ohio Rock and Roll*. Red Lightning Books (Bloomington, IN) 2018. PB \$15.00. From Cleveland to Cincinnati and everywhere in between, Ohio rocks. *Rebels and Underdogs: The Story of Ohio Rock and Roll* takes readers behind the scenes to witness the birth and rise of musical legends like the Black Keys, Nine Inch Nails, Devo, the Breeders, Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders, and many others who got their start in garages and bars across Ohio. *Rebels and Underdogs* is the untold story of the bands, the state, and rock itself.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Maya Lin: Thinking with Her Hands*. Chronicle Books (San Francisco, CA) 2017. HC \$17.99.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is one of the most famous pieces of civic architecture in the world. But most people are not as familiar with the reserved college student who entered and won the design competition to build it. This accessible biography tells the story of Maya Lin, from her struggle to stick with her vision of the memorial to the wide variety of works she has created since then.

Stockwell, Mary. *Interrupted Odyssey: Ulysses S. Grant and the American Indians*.

Southern Illinois University Press (Carbondale, IL) 2018. HC \$34.50. In this first book devoted to the genesis, failure, and lasting legacy of Ulysses S. Grant's comprehensive American Indian policy, Stockwell shows Grant as an essential bridge between Andrew Jackson's pushing Indians out of the American experience and Franklin D. Roosevelt's welcoming them back in.

Taylor-Lehman, Dylan. *Dance of the Trustees: On the Astonishing Concerns of a Small Ohio Township*. Trillium/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2018. PB \$21.95. While Miami Township is small, the concerns are myriad – cemeteries are filled with unknown remains, there is a fire department to oversee, and they sometimes take legal action against properties clogged with junk. The responsibilities are doubly impressive considering no trustees have backgrounds in public office. This book combines entertaining nonfiction vignettes with well-researched township history – including its history of religious cults and the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald was once in town – and elucidates the processes behind an entire civic division.

NONFICTION

Ali, Kazim. *Silver Road: Essays, Maps, & Calligraphies*. Tupelo Press (North Adams, MA) 2018. PB \$17.95.

In 1953, Yoko Ono wrote a score called "Secret Piece," an open-ended formula for musical performance in a forest at daybreak. Beginning with this invitation to creation, and

using essays, diary entries, prose maps, and verse fragments, Kazim Ali marks a path through quantum physics, sixth-century Chola Empire sculptures, the challenges of literary translation and of climate change, and destruction of a priceless set of handmade flutes by airport security. Amid shards from far-flung histories and geographies he finds the cosmos.

Bryner, Jeanne, and Cortney Davis, eds. ***Learning to Heal: Reflections on Nursing School in Poetry and Prose***. Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2018. PB \$29.95.

What is it like to be a student nurse? What are the joys, the stresses, the transcendent moments, the fall-off-your-bed-laughing moments, and the terrors that have to be faced and stared down? Through strong, moving essays and poems that explore various aspects of student nursing and provide historical perspective on nursing and nursing education, all have stories to tell. *Learning to Heal* tells them in ways that will appeal to many readers, both in and out of the nursing and medical professions, and to educators in the medical humanities.

Dowdy, Joanne Kilgour, and Rachael Fleischaker, eds. ***Text Sets: Multimodal Learning for Multicultural Students***. (Leiden, The Netherlands) 2018. PB \$116.00. *Text Sets* integrates a multicultural approach to teaching with standards-based instruction and multimodal learning opportunities in a variety of content areas. In addition to providing ready-made text sets, it models a framework for teachers to build their own text sets based on the individual needs of their schools and communities.

Edwards, Scott. ***Quintessential Jack: The Art of Jack Nicholson on Screen***. McFarland & Company Inc. (Jefferson, NC) 2018. PB \$35.00. This critical study examines each of Nicholson's film roles, as well as his screenwriting and directorial efforts. Fascinating personal insights are provided through interviews with stars such as Mews Small, James Hong, Millie Perkins, Michael Margotta, Shirley Knight, Joe Turkel, Ed Nelson, Hazel Court, the Monkees, several Apollo astronauts, Hell's Angel Sonny Barger, Peter Fonda, Bruce Dern, and many more.

Ewing, Tom. ***Bill Monroe: The Life and Music of the Blue Grass Man***. University of Illinois Press (Urbana, IL) 2018. HC \$34.95.

The Father of Bluegrass Music, Bill Monroe was a major star of the Grand Ole Opry for more than fifty years; a member of the Country Music, Songwriters, and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame; and a legendary figure in American music. This authoritative biography sets out to examine his life in careful detail – to move beyond hearsay and sensationalism to explain how and why he accomplished so much. Filled with a wealth of previously unknown details, *Bill Monroe* offers even the most devoted fan a deeper understanding of Monroe's towering achievements and timeless music.

Gebben, Claire. ***How We Survive Here: Families Across Time***. CoffeeTown Press (Kenmore, WA) 2018. PB \$21.95.

As far back as Claire Gebben can remember, her grandmother wrote letters to the “relatives in Freinsheim,” relatives living in a rural wine-making town in Germany. In 2008, relative Angela Webber

travels from Germany to visit Claire in the Pacific Northwest and brings with her a surprise – fifteen letters, dated 1841 to 1900 – discovered in an attic in Freinsheim. Via nineteenth-century correspondence, twenty-first-century emails, and present-day relationships and experiences, *How We Survive Here: Families Across Time* weaves together how we strive and survive amid connections past and present and the broader sweep of history as it affects our families across time.

Grubb, Blair. ***The Calling***. University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2011. PB \$14.95.

These stories deal with the uniquely intimate relationship between patients and their physicians. It is a relationship based on the patient's history, secrets, and deepest fears, but also those of his or her doctor. In these touching essays, Dr. Grubb recounts stories that have stayed with him, influenced him as a physician, and touched him as a person. He depicts memorable encounters he has had in his calling as he strives to be a good healer and a good human being.

Kendhammer, Brandon, and Carmen McCain. ***Boko Haram: Ohio Short Histories of Africa***. Ohio University Press (Athens) 2018. PB \$14.95. From its small-time origins in the early 2000s to its transformation into one of the world's most-recognized terrorist groups, Boko Haram has conducted a bloody, decade-long war in northeastern Nigeria. This remarkable book is a social history, one that tells the story of Boko Haram's violence through the journalism, literature, film, and music made by people close to it.

McCoy, David B. ***The 1920s: Early Jazz and the Harlem Renaissance***. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2018. PB \$8.99.

The second edition of *The 1920s*, originally published in 2013, discusses the roots of jazz, its development in New Orleans, and the dawn of the Harlem Renaissance.

McCoy, David B. ***The 1920s: Volumes 1-5***. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2018. PB \$10.99. A collection of the previously released e-books *The Rise of Modern America*, *Early Jazz and the Harlem Renaissance*, *Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement*, *The Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan*, and *The Scopes Monkey Trial*. Includes detailed sources.

McCoy, David B. ***Gullah Culture: 1670 to 1950***. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2017. PB \$8.99. It was a mystery to author David B. McCoy how the Gullah culture has been so overlooked by the American educational system, considering their "story represents a crucial component of local, regional, and national history." McCoy takes readers inside the world of the Gullah, their roots, traditions, beliefs, and languages.

McCoy, David B. ***Join the Parade of Horses and Heroes: Knowledge About Volunteering at an Equine-Assisted Therapy Program for Special-Needs Individuals***. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2017. PB \$8.99.

The purpose of this publication is threefold: 1) to share some of the therapeutic benefits horses provide individuals with disabilities, 2) to stress that certified instructors are primarily responsible for imparting

physical, cognitive, and emotional skills, and 3) to explain the role volunteer sidewalkers play in keeping riders safely on the saddle and in encouraging riders to perform all assigned tasks to the best of their abilities. This is also a great reference book for anyone involved with equine-assisted activities and therapies. Royalties are donated to nonprofit organizations.

McCoy, David B. ***The Military Career of General Lew Wallace: Mexico to Monocacy***. Spare Change Press (Massillon, OH) 2018. PB \$8.99.

Prolific author David B. McCoy takes an in-depth look at the military career of General Lew Wallace, a Union general from Indiana who was also a lawyer and the author of *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*.

Niehoff, Buck. ***Walking Hadrian's Wall***. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2018. PB \$14.95. On the orders of Emperor Hadrian in 122 A.D., a great wall was constructed coast to coast across northern England. Separating the tribes in what is now Scotland from the Roman-occupied area of Great Britain, this massive structure was one of the glories of the Empire. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes a path along its eighty-four-mile length. Walking this trail to celebrate his seventieth birthday, the author shares the camaraderie of his three companions and other hikers, including a couple of dogs who join them along the way.

Rockwood, John Gibbs. ***Can I Get a Witness?*** University of Toledo Press (Toledo, OH) 2014. PB \$22.95. Featuring a variety of rock and roll, blues, folk, and pop performers

from the early 1970s through the 2000s, Rockwood has accumulated a plethora of images that depicts venues in the southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio regions. Performers such as Bob Dylan at the University of Toledo, Ritchie Blakemore in Detroit, and Buddy Guy in Clarkston, Michigan – John Rockwood captures all parties involved doing what they do best, crafting and engaging in their preferred art forms.

Scott, Sophronia. ***Love's Long Line***. Mad Creek Books/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2018. PB \$19.95. Inspired by Annie Dillard's observation in *Holy the Firm* that we all "reel out love's long line alone... like a live wire loosed in space to longing and grief everlasting," Scott's essays acknowledge the loneliness, longing, and grief exacted by a fearless engagement with the everyday world. But she shows that by holding the line, there is an abundance of joy and forgiveness and grace to be had, as well.

Stansberry, Matt, and David Wilson. ***Rust Belt Arcana: Tarot and Natural History in the Exurban Wilds***. Belt Publishing (Cleveland, OH) 2018. PB \$16.95.

What does the Tarot have to tell us about the flora and fauna of the industrial Midwest? *Rust Belt Arcana* uses this time-tested structure to explain, juxtaposing the characteristics of the cards of the Tarot's Major Arcana with the creatures and plants around us.

Steele, William. ***Going the Distance: The Life and Works of W. P. Kinsella***. Douglas & McIntyre (Madeira Park, BC, Canada) 2018. HC \$32.95.

This frank and authoritative biography explores the life and often controversial work of W. P. Kinsella, the author who penned such iconic lines as “If you build it, he will come.” Kinsella’s work was thrust into the limelight when, in the spring of 1989, his novel *Shoeless Joe* was turned into the international blockbuster, *Field of Dreams*.

Sturgeon, Walter E. ***Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide***. Ohio University Press (Athens) 2018. PB \$35.00.

From one of the region’s foremost mushroom hunters – Walter E. Sturgeon – comes a long-overdue field guide to finding and identifying the mushrooms and fleshy fungi found in the Appalachian Mountains from Canada to Georgia.

Sutton, Jeffrey S. ***51 Imperfect Solutions: States and the Making of American Constitutional Law***. Oxford University Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$29.95.

When we think of constitutional law, we invariably think of the United States Supreme Court and the federal court system. Yet much of our constitutional law is not made at the federal level. In *51 Imperfect Solutions*, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton argues that American Constitutional Law should account for the role of the state courts and state constitutions, together with the federal courts and the federal constitution, in protecting individual liberties.

Urano, Susan Cole. ***The Community Table: Effective Fundraising Through Events***. Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2019. PB \$24.95. In resource-challenged Athens County, Ohio, staff and volunteers

at the nonprofit Athens County Foundation came up with a daring idea: to host a locally sourced, gourmet dinner for four hundred people. The meal would be held on the brick-paved main street of the city of Athens, to raise funds for the food bank, and increase awareness of the persistent local struggle with food insecurity, as well as raise the visibility of the foundation.

Williams, John. ***Worth Going Back: A Memoir of Alaska***. Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, OH) 2018. HC \$16.99.

The sun glistening off snow-capped mountain peaks, the tall spruce of the north swaying in a gentle breeze, salmon making their final swim – this is what welcomed John and his wife Teddi on a road trip to the uppermost points of North America. Along the road, John understands that there is always something beyond that can’t be seen. Life’s ventures either harden or temper us. The latter gives one purpose and even an appreciation for where we are. John chose the latter.

FICTION

Bernard, Ted. ***Late-K Lunacy***. Petra Books (Ontario, CA) 2018. HC \$30.00.

Set in a midwest American university town, fictional pre- and post-apocalyptic environmental events lead up to the mid-2030s. Will climate change, the breakdown of myriad systems, and a global pandemic take the world over the cliff? Science lends frightening authenticity as the story unravels, while Bernard challenges readers through a new vision of tomorrow.

Bickle, Laura. ***Phoenix Falling: A Wildlands Novel***. Harper Voyager (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$7.99. Petra Dee and her immortal husband, Gabe, have been trying to gain a toehold in what passes for ordinary life in Temperance, Wyoming, a wickedly enchanted land founded generations ago by the alchemist, Lascaris. Petra may be adept when it comes to the uncanny, but as a reasoned geologist, Petra still can’t fathom the wildfires suddenly engulfing Yellowstone National Park, or why Gabe claims to have seen the sky explode in flames. The answers could lie in the past.

Croley, Michael. ***Any Other Place: Stories***. Blair (Durham, NC) 2019. PB No price.

In his debut collection, Michael Croley takes us from the Appalachian regions of rural Kentucky and Ohio to a village in South Korea in thirteen engaging stories in which characters find themselves, wherever they are, in states of displacement.

Gamble, Terry. ***The Eulogist***. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

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.

Harper, Karen. ***American Duchess: A Novel of Consuelo Vanderbilt***. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99.

Before Meghan Markle, there was Consuelo Vanderbilt, the original

American Duchess. Karen Harper tells the tale of Consuelo Vanderbilt, her “Wedding of the Century” to the Duke of Marlborough, and her quest to find meaning behind “the glitter and the gold.” Consuelo finds an inner strength, charming everyone from debutantes to diplomats including Winston Churchill, as she fights for women’s suffrage. And when she takes a scandalous leap, can she hope to attain love at last?

Hurt, Bryan. ***Everyone Wants to Be Ambassador to France: Stories.*** Red Hen Press (Pasadena, CA) 2018. ARC No price.
By turns humorous and heart-breaking, this debut collection offers weird and wonderful stories that illuminate the hidden truths of life.

Kachuba, John. ***Dark Entry.*** Hellbender Books (Mechanicsburg, PA) 2018. PB \$14.95.
In 1989, Sandy Lawrence, fleeing her abusive boyfriend, is given the use of her friend’s house in *Dark Entry*, one of the few homes in the isolated forest. She is unaware of the legends about Dark Entry but soon discovers the horrifying truth – something evil is alive and well in the deep woods, something intent upon murder. What began as a peaceful retreat from her domestic troubles now becomes a terrifying fight for her life.

Loewenstein, Laurie. ***Death of a Rainmaker: A Dust Bowl Mystery.*** Kaylie Jones Books (Brooklyn, NY) 2018. PB \$16.95.
When a rainmaker is bludgeoned to death in the pitch blackness of a colossal dust storm, small-town sheriff Temple Jennings shoulders yet another burden in the hard times of the 1930s Dust Bowl.

Martin, Lee. ***The Mutual UFO Network: Stories.*** Dzanc Books (Ann Arbor, MI) 2018. HC \$26.95.
In *The Mutual UFO Network*, Pulitzer Prize finalist and master of the craft Lee Martin presents his first short story collection since his acclaimed debut, *The Least You Need to Know*.

Nye, Michael. ***All the Castles Burned.*** Turner Publishing Company (Nashville, TN) 2018. HC \$32.99.
When Owen Webb, the son of working-class parents, receives a scholarship to the prestigious Rockcastle Preparatory Academy, the mysterious and enigmatic Carson Bly, an upperclassman from a wealthy and powerful family, befriends him. When Owen’s father is arrested for a shocking and unexpected crime, his family is torn apart, and Owen’s anger and fear are carefully manipulated by Carson’s mercurial and increasingly dangerous personality.

Ramspeck, Doug. ***The Owl That Carries Us Away.*** BkMk Press, University of Missouri-Kansas City (Kansas City, MO) 2018. PB \$15.95.
Winner of the G. S. Sharat Chandra Prize for Short Fiction, selected by Billy Lombardo. These twenty-nine short stories, set largely in the contemporary Midwest, echo such primal struggles as mortality, the hunt, growing up with parents who face desperation, and just-out-of-reach dreams for the future.

Rothman-Zecher, Moriel. ***Sadness Is a White Bird.*** Atria Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.00.
In this lyrical and searing debut novel written by a rising literary star and MacDowell Fellow, a young

man is preparing to serve in the Israeli army while also trying to reconcile his close relationship with two Palestinian siblings with his deeply ingrained loyalties to family and country. The story begins in an Israeli military jail, where – four days after his nineteenth birthday – Jonathan stares up at the fluorescent lights of his cell and recalls the series of events that led him there.

Scibona, Salvatore. ***The Volunteer.*** Penguin Press (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$28.00.
This long-awaited new novel from a National Book Award finalist is the epic story of a restless young man who is captured during the Vietnam War and pressed into service for a clandestine branch of the United States government.

Strawser, Jessica. ***Not That I Could Tell.*** St. Martin’s Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99.
When a group of neighborhood women gathers, wine in hand, around a fire pit where their backyards meet one Saturday night, most of them are just ecstatic to have discovered their baby monitors reach that far. It’s a rare free night, and they’re giddy with it. They drink too much, and the conversation turns personal. By Monday morning, one of them is gone.

Tassone, Don. ***Small Bites: Forty Short Stories.*** Golden Antelope Press (Kirksville, MO) 2018. PB \$15.95.
In *Small Bites*, Don Tassone offers readers bits of contemporary life, mostly gentle, mostly optimistic, often instructive. Stories range from flash-fiction size half-pagers to twenty-page studies of how relationships develop, how decisions

are made and unmade, how persuasion and collaboration work.

Thomson, Cindy. ***Enya's Son: Daughters of Ireland Book 3***. 7th & Cherry Publishing (Pensacola, FL) 2018. PB \$15.99.

Is love enough for a mother who must be separated from her son? Having escaped a violent childhood, Enya is safe living with her husband's powerful clan. When her long-awaited son is born, she must fulfill a vow made in desperation – the boy is dedicated to God and goes to live with the local priest. This retelling of the early life of St. Columcille and his mother will usher readers on a fateful journey through ancient Ireland's monastic centers, wild coastline islands, and the land Columcille believed was filled with holy angels, a place where he felt safe ... yet was destined to abandon.

Weisgarber, Ann. ***The Glovemaker***. Skyhorse Publishing (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$24.99.

In the inhospitable lands of the Utah Territory during the winter of 1888, thirty-seven-year-old Deborah Tyler waits for her husband, Samuel, to return home from his travels as a wheelwright. Deborah lives in Junction, a tiny town of seven Mormon families scattered along the floor of a canyon. When a desperate stranger who is pursued by a Federal Marshal shows up on her doorstep seeking refuge, it sets in motion a chain of events that will turn her life upside down.

POETRY

Abbott, Steve. ***A Green Line Between Green Fields***. Kattywompus Press (Somerville,

MA) 2018. PB \$15.00.

In *A Green Line Between Green Fields*, Steve Abbott not only asks the fundamental questions (Who am I? Who are you? Who are we together?), he dares to imagine for himself and others – an Alzheimer's patient, an aging widower, the nation – who we are when we no longer recognize ourselves as ourselves.

Arcangelini, M. J. ***Waiting for the Wind to Rise***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$14.00.

The newest collection of poetry from the author of *Room Enough* includes poems touching on subjects ranging from the poet's responses to aging, his cherished memories, and his outrage at today's political climate.

Barngrover, Anne. ***Brazen Creature***. University of Akron Press (Akron, OH) 2018. PB \$15.95.

Brazen Creature chronicles a young woman's awakening. The poems' concerns are twofold: violence against women that has become rooted in the land, and verdant female desire and self-assertion in the face of entrenched oppression.

Brady, Philip. ***Phantom Signs: The Muse in Universe City***. University of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2019. PB \$20.00.

Philip Brady's new collection of essays, *Phantom Signs: The Muse in Universe City*, assays the enthusiasms and hidden architectures of a lifetime spent in academia and in poetry. Brady, a poet, professor, basketball player, editor, and book publisher, brings tremendous erudition and empathy to bear on topics ranging from the wrath of Achilles to the flat earth theories of Kyrie Irving.

Burroughs, John. ***Loss and Foundering***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$13.00. *Loss and Foundering* contains twenty-four poems written by John Burroughs during the last nine turbulent years of his life. Confessional and raw, these poems reveal a heart both broken and healing through the power of love.

Cook, Juliet. ***Malformed Confetti***. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2018. PB \$12.00.

The latest collection from the "Queen of Grotesque," Juliet Cook, features "assembly line doll head roach motel," nominated for a 2019 Pushcart Prize.

Feen, Sandra. ***Fragile Capacities: School Poems***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$12.00. *Fragile Capacities*, subtitled *School Poems*, is the result of a career spent in the classroom. In her thirty-two-year career, Sandra Feen taught high school English, creative writing, QUEST, and humanities, and twice won Teacher of the Year at her school. Feen also taught adult evening high school for several years, along with writing workshops at Ohio State University, Clark State Community College, and Wright State University. *Fragile Capacities* contains forty pages of twenty-one poems. At times showing frustration, at other times, keen observation and an uncanny ear for dialogue, the poems range from poignant to tragic to triumphant, and Feen's voice is strong and clear.

Finkelstein, Norman. ***From the Files of the Immanent Foundation***. Dos Madres (Loveland, OH) 2018. PB \$17.00.

The Foundation is a network of spies and secrets, an infinite arcanum of hierophants and fools, residing in a mansion of closets and trapdoors, stairways and hallways, nested studies surrounding a library where the scholars sleepwalk forever and the catalogers despair.

Gildzen, Alex. *Son of Hollywood*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$15.00.

"In memory of Capitol, Lincoln, and Rivoli, movie houses of Elyria, all gone," *Son of Hollywood* is a delicious romp through decades of the Big Screen, Hollywood fantasies, and the musings of a true cinephile.

Gunter-Seymour, Kari. *Serving*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2018. PB \$8.00.

Kari Gunter-Seymour's new poetry collection features the title poem, "Serving," nominated for a 2019 Pushcart Prize.

Howey, Christine. *Citizen of Metropolis*. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2018. PB \$7.00.

This volume features nineteen poems including "Citizen of Metropolis," "I Don't Like This Title," "Things That Make Me Sit," "Satisfaction," "Rock-A-Bye Baby," "One Second," "My Muse Eats Cheetos," "Destination Vacation," "Meals," "Losing It at Age 73," "Edward Hopper, Motivational Speaker," "An Evening Out," "Beowulf at Breakfast," and the Pushcart Prize-nominated "William Randolph Hearst, Driving Alone, San Simeon."

Hurley, Pat. *Hard to Swallow*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$12.00.

Hard to Swallow is co-authored by

Pat Hurley and her late husband Bill Hurley. This book, as Pat describes it, "documents their individual perspectives on his esophageal cancer journey, through poetry."

Kress, Leonard. *Living in the Candy Store: And Other Poems*. Encircle Publications (Farmington, ME) 2018. PB \$15.95.

The latest collection from the author of *The Orpheus Complex* features "Elmo," "The Wild Rose," and many more. It is an expansion of a chapbook, also called *Living in the Candy Store*, published by Finishing Line Press in 2011.

Matthias, John, and John Peck. *Regrounding a Pilgrimage*. Dos Madres (Loveland, OH) 2018. PB \$19.00.

For many years John Matthias and John Peck, friends since their time together at Stanford in the 1960s and often paired by reviewers and critics, have wanted to combine Matthias's long poem about the pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela and Peck's long meditation on the subject, "Agensay, Agengrownde, Matthias." In this special edition, where the two pieces appear in extended dialogue, their long-standing wish has been achieved.

McIntire, Jonie. *Beyond the Sidewalk*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$8.00.

Beyond the Sidewalk is a beautiful homage to McIntire's beloved city, Toledo. Its pages contain twenty-four poems, including several of her "zip code" poems, written in response to Toledo City Paper's "Ode to the Zip Code" contest.

Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. *Oceanic*. Copper Canyon Press (Port

Townshend, WA) 2018. PB \$17.00.

In her fourth collection, Aimee Nezhukumatathil hums a bright blue note – a sensuous love song to the Earth and its inhabitants. With unmatched sincerity, *Oceanic* speaks to each reader as a cooperative part of the natural world – the extraordinary neighborhood to which we all belong.

Paulenich, Craig. *Old Brown*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$16.00.

Here's a book that dares to look into the heart of the American abolitionist John Brown. Using all of the tools that he can bring to bear, Paulenich plunges into the very heart of the man and of America.

Roberts, Andy. *Out of Blue*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$11.00.

The fifth NightBallet Press collection by Pushcart Prize nominee Andy Roberts features twenty-four poems, including "Geezers," "Egg Rolls," and "Walking Stick."

Rzicznek, F. Daniel. *Settlers*. Parlor Press (Anderson, SC) 2018. PB \$14.00.

Transversing the territory between the pastoral and the elegiac, F. Daniel Rzicznek's *Settlers* inhabits the hidden, wild places of the American Midwestern landscape. Part of Free Verse Editions, a joint venture between *Free Verse: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry & Poetics* and Parlor Press.

Salmons, Chuck. *Patch Job*. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2017. PB \$10.00.

Patch Job is a collection of poems by Salmons that, in Cathryn Essinger's

words, “are a homage to the men who shaped him, the machinists, mechanics, and carpenters, who taught him how to use spackle, to toss horseshoes, and to do a day’s work, even when he knew that his job was to not be like my father.”

Santer, Rikki. ***Dodge Tuck Roll***. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2018. PB \$15.00.

The latest collection of poetry from prolific Youngstown poet Rikki Santer includes “Afterlife,” nominated for a 2019 Pushcart Prize.

Santer, Rikki. ***Make Me That Happy***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$15.00.
Santer’s latest collection includes “Arguments for Furniture” and “Still Life with Whoopee Cushion.”

Schraeder, E. F. ***Chapter Eleven***. Partisan Press (Norfolk, VA) 2018. PB No price.
Schraeder’s vivid, barbed poems tell stories of debt-saddled college students, financially insecure adjunct professors, and a health care system that too often is, as the title suggests, morally bankrupt. These are protest poems from the part of America that’s struggling and often failing to get ahead.

Smith, Steven B. ***Where Never Was Already Is***. Crisis Chronicles Press (Parma, OH) 2018. PB \$15.00.
Steven B. Smith’s magnum opus, *Where Never Was Already Is*, is a collection of decades’ worth of his best poetry combined with a liberal array of his renowned collage art, featuring twenty-seven collages and roughly 250 poems on 324 pages. His poem “Eclipse Myths” from this collection received a Pushcart Prize nomination.

Soter, Anna. ***Breathing Spaces***. Kelsay Books (American Fork, UT) 2018. PB \$14.00.

The current co-chair (with Fred Anderle and Charlene Fix) of the Hospital Poets U.S. Program for the Ohio State University Medicine and the Arts Program/Humanism in Medicine presents her latest collection of poetry. Featuring a variety of themes from dualism to nature to teaching and renewal.

Sproat, Kezia. ***Tuwyn***. Skye’s the Limit Publishing (Galena, OH) 2018. PB \$8.99.

A compilation of poems authored by Sproat over several decades. Poems examine life in Ohio and the U.S. as well as commentary on social, economic, and political issues.

Stever, Margo Taft. ***Cracked Piano: Poems***. CavanKerry Press (Fort Lee, NJ) 2019. PB \$16.00.

From her compelling and beautiful descriptions of life inside a nineteenth-century private insane asylum to her colorful and often critical depiction of elements of contemporary society, Margo Taft Stever’s poems are profound.

Trautman, Kerry. ***Artifacts***. NightBallet Press (Elyria, OH) 2018. PB \$8.00.

Artifacts is a stunning journey of discovery. Its thirty-two pages contain twenty-two poems, all rich in language and masterfully written. Among Trautman’s “Archeological Surveys” are those of “The CD Collection of a Somewhat-Poor Girl,” “A Curated Native American Clothing Exhibit,” and “Drummers and Poets.” Trautman does not hold back, does not flinch, as she explores themes of both darkness and light.

YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE

Arnett, Mindee. ***Onyx & Ivory***. Balzer + Bray (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

She’s called Traitor Kate because her father tried to assassinate the high king of Rime. Cast out of the noble class, she now works for the royal courier service. Only those most skilled ride for the Relay and only the fastest survive. Fortunately, Kate has a secret edge: she is a wilder, born with forbidden magic that leads her to a caravan mysteriously massacred by drakes in broad daylight – the only survivor, Corwin Tormane, the son of the king. With their paths once more entangled, Kate and Corwin face this new threat of drakes who attack in the daylight and the darker menace behind them.

Clark, Jay. ***Finding Mr. Brightside***. Henry Holt and Company (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$9.99.

She didn’t expect her silver lining to be wearing gray sweatpants. Abram and Juliette know each other. They’ve lived down the street from each other their whole lives. But they don’t really know each other – at least, not until Juliette’s mom and Abram’s dad have a torrid affair that culminates in a deadly car crash. Sharing the same subdivision is uncomfortable, to say the least. They don’t speak. Fast-forward to the neighborhood pharmacy, a year later. Abram decides to say hello. Then he decides to invite Juliette to Taco Bell. To her surprise, she agrees, and the real love story begins.

Meyer, Karen. ***Simon Kenton Unlikely Hero: Biography of a Frontiersman***. Sable Creek Press (Glendale, AZ) 2018. PB \$12.99.

He lived on the edge of danger, and the frontier provided plenty of it! Indian attack, disease, even near-starvation – early pioneers faced these and more. Never one to run away from danger, frontiersman Simon Kenton used his scouting skills to aid the settlers whenever he could. Read the fascinating story of this mostly unsung hero of our nation's early history.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild (Dog Man #6)***. Graphix/Scholastic (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$9.99.

Is Dog Man bad to the bone? The heroic hound is sent to the pound for a crime he didn't commit! While his pals work to prove his innocence, Dog Man struggles to find his place among dogs and people. Being a part of both worlds, will he ever fit in?

Woolard, Jim. ***Colorado Sam***. Goldminds Publishing (Springfield, MO) 2010. PB \$15.95.

Paid assassins murdered young Nathan Tanner's parents at their St. Louis mansion. To protect Nathan from harm, he is spirited west to stay at a Colorado ranch owned by Alana Birdsong, an aunt he's never met. Nathan soon discovers his new aunt totes a rifle everywhere and owns a huge black guard dog named Sam, with fangs the size of a man's thumb. Maybe the assassins won't locate Nathan, and the most he'll have to worry about is staying in Sam's good graces until he returns to St. Louis.

Woolard, Jim. ***Jersey Red***. Goldminds Publishing (Springfield, MO) 2008. PB \$14.95.
Josh Benson is miserable. He has lost his beloved mongrel dog, Shep. The school bully is out to get him. He is afraid to approach the girl he loves.

Worse yet, on top of these woes, he is convinced he'll never win the respect of his father, a local legend. Things hit rock bottom when he is given a runt of a redbone coonhound that he doesn't want. But it is the friendship and courage of the unwanted Jersey Red that provides Josh the strength to face his challenges.

Woolard, Jim. ***Ozark Red***. Goldminds Publishing (Springfield, MO) 2007. PB \$14.95.
Walt Hannar blames his son, Ben, for the death of his prized coonhound, Sweet Lou. Ben prays for an opportunity to regain the closeness he once enjoyed with his father. His hopes soar when his father purchases a redbone hound from a kennel in far off Arkansas to take Sweet Lou's place. Perhaps the new coonhound will help his father forget the past and eventually forgive Ben.

JUVENILE

Bunting, Eve. Illus. by Will Hillenbrand. ***I'm a Duck***. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2018. HC \$15.99.
Sometimes it takes a lot to get your webbed feet wet! An adorable picture book makes a splash with a story about conquering your fears. "I cannot swim, and that is bad. A landlocked duck is very sad."

Dow, Connie Bergstein. ***From A to Z with Energy!*** Free Spirit Publishing (Minneapolis, MN) 2019. ARC \$15.99.

Watch the alphabet come to life as children run and twirl and jump and play their way through the ABCs with energy! This imaginative book teaches young learners not only how to move from A to Z but also how

to have fun as they stay active and keep their bodies healthy and strong. The book includes a special section for parents and caregivers with tips for using movement to teach social-emotional skills.

Jenkins, Betty White. Illus. by Marjorie McVey White. ***How Do We Know That Spring's Aglow?*** Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, Ohio) 2018. HC \$17.99.
Experience the magic of spring-time as it comes to life with flowers blooming, birds singing, and many other signs that make spring aglow. The inspiration for this book was the result of the author's final exam for a children's literature class at Ohio University in the spring of 1966.

Coming Soon

Ohioana Book Festival

April 27, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Main Library, Columbus, Ohio

Join us for the 13th annual Ohioana Book Festival in a fabulous new venue. The event features a book fair, book signings, panel and roundtable discussions with your favorite Ohio authors, a children's activity room, teen space, food trucks, and more. Free – no ticket and no advance registration required. For more information, visit www.ohioana.org.

Carnegie Author Series: Author Talks at Main Library

May 5, 2019

2:00 p.m.

Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Main Library, Columbus, Ohio

The 2019 series continues with Craig Johnson, *New York Times* best-selling author of the Longmire mysteries, the basis for the hit Netflix series, *Longmire*. The program is free and open to all. For information and to register, visit www.columbuslibrary.org/special-events.

Thurber House Evenings with Authors

Columbus Museum of Art,
480 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio

The 2019 winter/spring series concludes with Helen Ellis (*Southern Lady Code*) on April 23 and Shawn Levy (*The Castle on Sunset*) on May 9. For tickets and information, visit www.thurberhouse.org.

An Evening with Celeste Ng

May 13, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Grandview Heights High School
Columbus, Ohio

The Grandview Heights Public Library Foundation, in partnership with Gramercy Books Bexley and the Grandview Heights Public Library, presents *New York Times* best-selling and Ohioana Award-winning author Celeste Ng (*Little Fires Everywhere*, *Everything I Never Told You*). For tickets and information, visit www.ghpl.org/support/ghpl-foundation/.

Ohioana Book Club

May 15, 2019

10:00 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library
274 East 1st Ave., Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio

The title for May is the historical novel *The Removes* by Tatjana Soli. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Claire's Day

May 18, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library,
Maumee Branch
Maumee, Ohio

Claire's Day is a celebration of life, authors, illustrators, and reading excellence. Held annually for the past seventeen years in Maumee, Ohio, in memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini, the festival is Northwest Ohio's largest celebration of literacy! Claire's Day events are also held May 4 in Defiance and May 11 in Toledo. For more information, visit www.claresday.org.

Ohioana Presents: David McCullough

June 3, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, Ohio

One of America's most honored historians and authors appears in this special Ohioana 90th Anniversary event to discuss his latest book, *The Pioneers*, about the settling of Ohio and the Northwest Territory. For more information, visit www.ohioana.org.

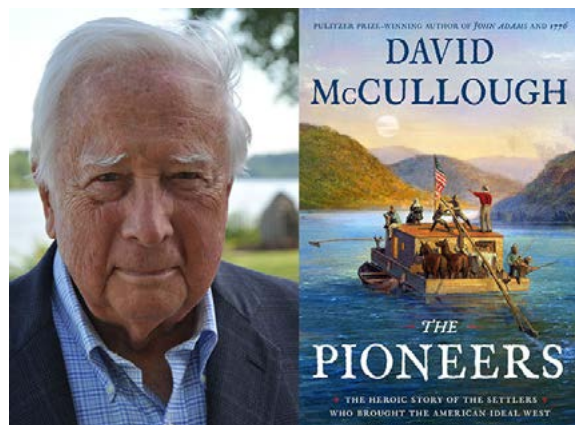


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Thank You!

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Karen Harper Supports Ohioana

I support the Ohioana Library partly because Ohioana supports me, and I don't mean only because I am a longtime published author. I am also a proud Ohioan and an avid reader. For anyone who cares about Ohio, books, knowledge, and the arts in general, Ohioana is worth supporting.

Ohioana actually is a specialized library that houses a vast collection of Ohio-related books and literary materials. I recently wandered its climate-controlled aisles, featuring shelves of fiction and nonfiction overseen by a friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable staff. I am honored to have my thirty-six-years-and-counting author collection preserved and stored there along with the work of such names as James Thurber, Zane Grey, R. L. Stine, Toni Morrison, and myriad others, past and present.

But Ohioana is much more than a library. One of the top state-wide literary events of the year is the Ohioana Book Festival, held in April. This year the festival will take place at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library in downtown Columbus. More than 100 authors with Ohio ties will gather to sign books, chat with readers, and discuss their writing. Many local sponsors support this stellar event. Over the years, I have also made many friends at Ohioana, including two great executive directors, David Weaver and Linda Hengst. Traditionally, Ohio's current First Lady is ex-officio on the Board of Trustees, so I have been honored to know several of them.

Ohioana's monthly online newsletter and the *Ohioana Quarterly* print journal, with reviews and interviews, are beautifully done and of interest to any Ohioan who loves to read. That's me. Is that you?



Karen Harper. Photo credit: Jeffrey A Rycus.

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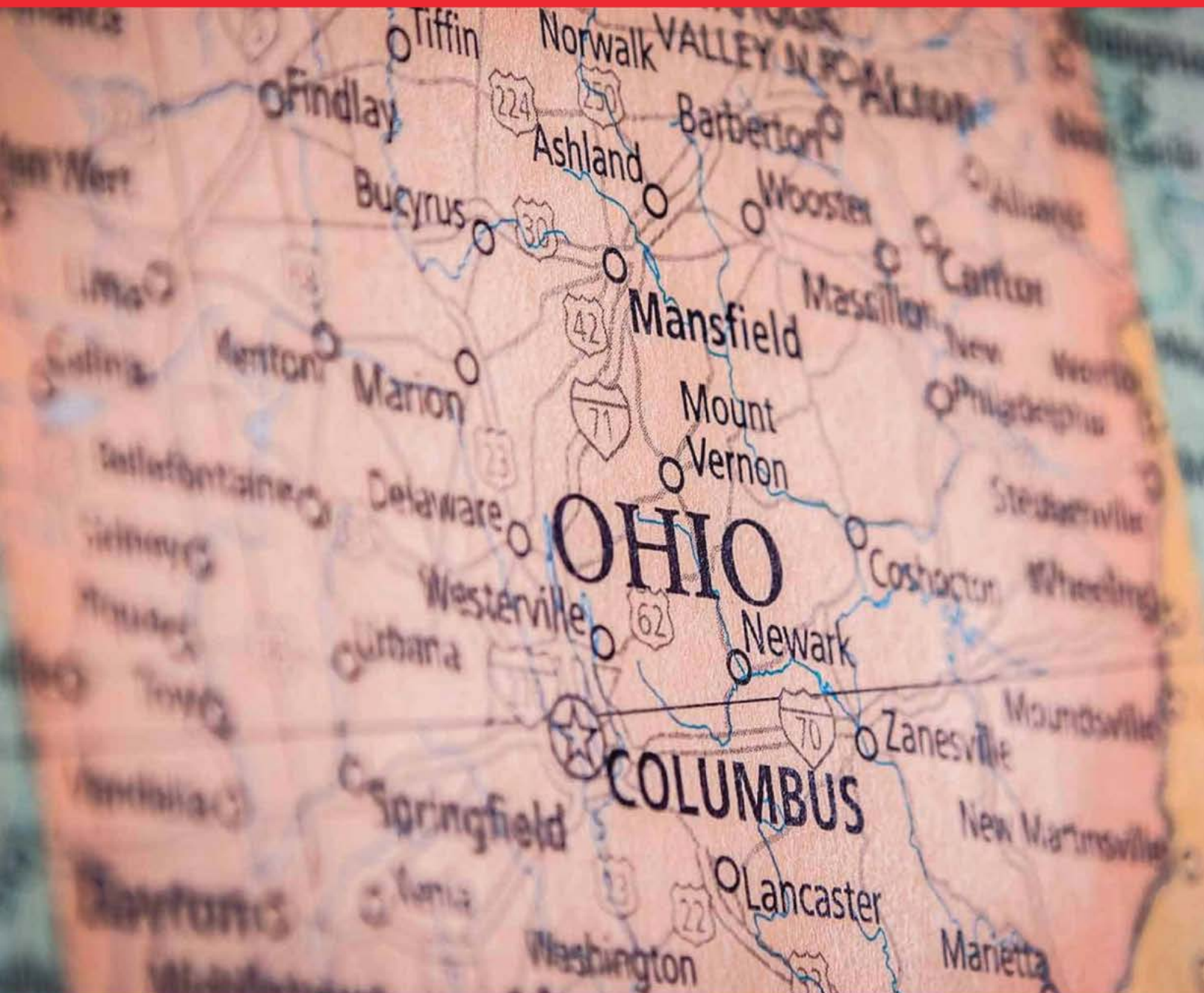
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Join us April 27
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Crankshaft comes to the Ohioana Book Festival! See page 3.