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## CELEBRATING THE 2019 OHIOANA AWARDS!

Ohioana's momentous 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year concluded with the perfect epilogue for a library dedicated to books, reading, and writing when we presented the 2019 Ohioana Awards on Thursday, October 17, in the beautiful Atrium of Ohio's historic Statehouse. It was a wonderful evening of good food, good people, and good times.

First presented in 1942, the Ohioana Awards are the second oldest, and among the most prestigious, state literary prizes in the nation. The inaugural winner was James "Scotty" Reston, who went on to win two Pulitzer Prizes. Since then, there have been few major Ohio authors who have not been honored with an Ohioana Award. Many distinguished non-Ohio authors have also been recognized for their books on Ohio subjects.



Winners of the 2019 Ohioana Awards: Rachel Wiley, Dr. Amelia Marie Adams (representing her cousin, Jacqueline Woodson), David Grandouiller, David Giffels, Ellen Klages, Moriel Rothman-Zecher, Marcus Jackson, and Wil Haygood. (Photo by Mary Rathke)

### *The Director's Chair*

Dear Friends,

Fall is always a busy time at the Ohioana Library. But this fall has been especially busy, as we wrapped up the year-long celebration of Ohioana's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In September, we held a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Cincinnati, the hometown of our founder, First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper. Then on October 17, we presented the 2019 Ohioana Awards, which, as you can see from our cover story, was a night to remember.

There are many other great events on tap throughout the state in the coming weeks, including our own Ohioana Book Club on November 20. Check them out in our Coming Soon calendar. And if you should happen to be in Columbus sometime this month, stop by and see the special Ohioana 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit on display in the lobby of the State Library of Ohio.

Finally, to put a fitting epilogue to this 90<sup>th</sup> year, we will soon be posting a special blog we're calling 90 Years, 90 Books. We got the idea from our popular annual series called 30 Days, 30 Books – where

Ohioana President Dan Shuey, Vice-President John Sullivan, and board member Katie Brandt served as co-emcees for the night. A special video greeting from Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine opened the program. Avid lovers of books and reading, Ohio's First Couple sent their congratulations to the 2019 award winners and paid tribute to Ohioana's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The award ceremony began with the presentation of the 30th Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant to David Grandouiller of Jamestown. A competitive award for Ohio writers age 30 or younger who have not yet published a book, the Marvin Grant has helped launch many successful authors, including 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Doerr. Grandouiller is a third-year MFA candidate in creative writing at The Ohio State University. His prize-winning story, "In the Beginning, Bada Bing," is featured in the fall issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

The presentation of the Ohioana Book Awards followed:

Readers' Choice: Rachel Wiley, *Nothing Is Okay*  
Juvenile Literature: Jacqueline Woodson, *The Day You Begin*  
Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature: Ellen Klages,  
*Out of Left Field*  
Poetry: Marcus Jackson, *Pardon My Heart*  
Fiction: Moriel Rothman-Zecher, *Sadness Is a White Bird*  
Nonfiction: David Giffels, *Furnishing Eternity*  
About Ohio or an Ohioan: Wil Haygood, *Tigerland*

All the winners were present except for Jacqueline Woodson, who appeared on video and whose award was accepted by her cousin, Dr. Amelia Marie Adams. After the ceremony, winners signed copies of their books, which were available at the event, thanks to the Statehouse Museum Shop.

The Ohio Channel streamed the awards ceremony live. The program is now airing statewide via cable on public television stations and can also be viewed online: <https://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohioana-awards-2019>.

Our thanks to all who attended, and a special thanks to the sponsors and contributors whose generous support made the event possible. Finally, thanks and congratulations once again to this year's winners!

we featured one of the Ohioana Book Award finalists every day during the month of June.

So we thought – how about selecting what we feel are the 90 most significant books by Ohio authors since Ohioana was founded in 1929? Books and authors that everyone should know. From writers like Fannie Hurst, Langston Hughes, and James Thurber in our early years to the great authors of today like Wil Haygood, Anthony Doerr, and Celeste Ng. We'll be announcing this feature on our social media before Thanksgiving – we hope you will enjoy it.

And speaking of Thanksgiving, which will be here before you know it, may I say how thankful all of us are for wonderful friends like you. Ohioana would not have been here for 90 days, let alone 90 years, without every one of you who shares our love of books and reading. *Thank you.*

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2020 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

The Ohioana Library Association thanks the following sponsors  
for their generous support of the 2019 Ohioana Awards:

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OHIOANA!

It was a very special day as the Ohioana Library celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the hometown of its founder, Ohio First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper. The University Club of Cincinnati was the setting for the event on September 22, the highlight of which was Ohioana Award-winning author Wil Haygood in a conversation with David Weaver about the art of biography.

The program opened with remarks by Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine, who graciously served as Honorary Chairs for the celebration. Among the nearly 100 guests also attending were former Governor and First Lady Bob and Hope Taft and Randy Cooper and Mike Judy, two of the great-grandsons of Ohioana's founder and her husband, Governor Myers Y. Cooper. Their companies, the Myers Y. Cooper Company and Hyde Park Lumber and Design Center, sponsored the event, along with Buck and Patty Niehoff.



Pictured here singing “Happy Birthday, Ohioana!” before the cutting of the anniversary cake are David Weaver, Randy Cooper, First Lady Fran DeWine, and Wil Haygood.

## 90TH ANNUAL MEETING

October 17 not only marked the celebration of the 2019 Ohioana Awards, but also the presentation earlier in the day of the Ohioana Library Association's 90<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the membership, held at the State Library of Ohio.

Two new trustees were elected at the meeting: Daniel M. Best and Betty Weibel. Best is an attorney based in Columbus. He's also a writer, and is a contributor to



the forthcoming book, *Columbus Noir*, due out next March. Weibel, a resident of Chagrin Falls, is a veteran journalist and public relations professional. An avid equestrian, Weibel is the author of *The Cleveland Grand Prix: An American Jumping Show First* and the recently published *Little Victories: A True Story of the Healing Power of Horses*.

Re-elected as trustees at the annual meeting were Rudine Sims Bishop, Helen Bolte, Bryan Loar, and Cindy Puckett, all of Columbus; and Daniel Shuey of Westerville.

Officers for 2019-20 are Daniel Shuey (President), John Sullivan (Vice-President), Geoff Smith (Secretary), and Jay Yurkiw (Treasurer).

Following the meeting, all trustees who were present posed for a photo in front a special exhibit tracing Ohioana's 90-year history, which is on display in the State Library of Ohio lobby through the end of November. (Photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney)

Congratulations to all these new and returning trustees, and our thanks for their dedicated service.

## NEW BOOKS

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

### **Nonfiction**

Hunter, Bob. ***Players, Teams, and Stadium Ghosts: Bob Hunter on Sports***. Ohio University Press (Athens, OH) 2019. PB \$24.95. In *Players, Teams, and Stadium Ghosts*, sportswriter Bob Hunter has assembled a Hall of Fame collection of his best writing from the *Columbus Dispatch*. Fans will encounter some of the biggest names in sports and relive great moments from games played by amateurs and pros. They'll encounter forgotten players and teams that struggled. Hunter shows us LeBron James when he was a 15-year-old high school freshman, already capturing the world's attention; 20-year-old Derek Jeter's meteoric rise through the minors, including the Columbus Clippers; a strange encounter with Pete Rose hustling frozen pizzas; and the excitement of watching future WNBA star Katie Smith dominate a Columbus Quest championship game. The common thread is the personal touch that Hunter uses to take readers beyond the final scores and the dazzle of lights. These are the people behind the athletes. They're remembered for how they played, but Hunter reminds us who they were.

Ketteler, Judi. ***Would I Lie to You? The Amazing Power of Being Honest in a World That Lies***. Citadel Press (New York, NY) 2020. HC. \$26.00.

We all want the truth, don't we? In fact, we demand it. We divorce

spouses who withhold it. We insist our children practice it. We're hurt when our friends don't divulge it. We're incensed by politicians who invent it. But when it comes to our own behavior, how often do we transgress? Out of diplomacy, kindness, sympathy, and privacy we don't always tell the truth. Yet we often barely notice. So, what happens when we *do* notice? When we focus on the decisions we're making around honesty and view our life through the lens of honesty? Award-winning journalist and *New York Times* contributor Judi Ketteler looked at her Facebook page and saw a content mother, a generous friend and sister, a good daughter, and a wife with a happy marriage. It wasn't *quite* the whole story though. In thinking about all the truths she wasn't revealing, Judi realized that the line between truth and deception was beginning to blur. How often had she herself paltered, exaggerated, concealed, side-stepped, or spun the truth? To answer that question, Judi started her "Honesty Journal." She set out to get to the bottom of her complicated relationship with honesty and confronted her perennial fear of speaking the truth in social situations, among friends, in the workplace, with her kids—and finally, inside her complicated marriage. Blending her personal journey with the latest research into the psychology of deception, *Would I Lie to You?* is a timely consideration of the joys and pains of truth in a world that seems committed to lying.

### **About Ohio/An Ohioan**

Hanna, Eric. ***Fight to the End: A True Story of Determination***. Warren Publishing (Charlotte, NC) 2019. PB \$15.95.

Ever since he was a kid growing up in Youngstown, Ohio, Eric Hanna knew he was born to play basketball. Despite setbacks and criticism from all angles, he never stopped practicing, always worked to improve his game, and learned about true focus and commitment along the way. In *Fight to the End*, Eric shares his journey from an awkward nine-year-old basketball hopeful; to a scrawny but promising high school athlete; to a 6'7", award-winning walk-on player for The Ohio State University. Eric's coming-of-age story is one of perseverance, dedication, and redefining glory through the lens of college basketball.

Hinds, Conrade C. ***Lost Circuses of Ohio***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2019. PB \$21.99. The nineteenth century was the golden age of the circus in Ohio. Before the Ringling brothers became synonymous with the American circus, Cincinnati's John Robinson and the Sells brothers of Columbus wowed audiences with stunning equestrian feats and aerial exploits. For good measure, the Sells brothers threw in a sharpshooting show with a young Ohio woman by the name of Annie Oakley. The Walter L. Main Circus of Geneva and other smaller shows presented their own spectacles with exotic animals and daring acrobats. But for all the fun and games, Ohio's circus industry was serious business. As competition intensified, advertising wars erupted, and acquisitions began. Eventually, Ringling Brothers swallowed many of these circuses one by one, and they dropped out of memory. Hinds brings this fascinating piece of Ohio show business back into the spotlight.

Jackson, Zac. **100 Things Browns Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die.** Triumph Books (Chicago, IL) 2019. PB \$16.95. Most Browns fans have taken in a game at FirstEnergy Stadium, remember the way they felt when it was announced that Cleveland was getting back the Browns, and are psyched to see Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry lighting up scoreboards together. But only real fans know the exact number of Joe Thomas' consecutive snaps streak, remember who the Browns were playing when Jerome Harrison rushed for 286 yards, or have barked with the Dawg Pound. Featuring traditions, records, and lore, this lively, detailed book explores the personalities, events, and facts every Cleveland Browns fan should know. Whether you were there for the rise of Bernie Kosar or are a more recent supporter of Baker Mayfield, these are the 100 things every fan needs to know and do in their lifetime. Beat reporter Zac Jackson has collected every essential piece of Browns knowledge and trivia, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist as you progress on your way to fan superstardom.

Rieland, Thomas M. **Sparks Flew: WOSU's Century on the Air.** Trillium (Columbus, OH) 2019. HC \$27.95. Wireless Morse code began a new age of communications, magically sending invisible waves through the ether to be received at some distant place. Among the first universities to experiment in this unknown world was The Ohio State University, which became one of the first educational broadcast

stations and a think tank for the future of public service radio—pioneering radio audience research and serving as an innovative school of the air. *Sparks Flew* is the story of creative, tenacious men and women working in a new medium that commercial enterprises soon dominated. At any moment in time, educational broadcasting could have failed if not for a few land-grant institutions like The Ohio State University and prominent stations like WOSU that supported the medium. *Sparks Flew* is the untold story, a century in the making, of one institution and one educational station that represent the roots of today's public broadcasting system.

Swenson, Kyle. **Good Kids, Bad City: A Story of Race and Wrongful Conviction in America.** Picador (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$29.00.

In the early 1970s, three African-American men – Wiley Bridgeman, Kwame Ajamu, and Rickey Jackson – were accused and convicted of the brutal robbery and murder of a man outside of a convenience store in Cleveland, Ohio. The prosecution's case, which resulted in a combined 106 years in prison for the three men, rested on the more-than-questionable testimony of a pre-teen, Ed Vernon. The actual murderer was never found. Almost four decades later, Vernon recanted his testimony, and Wiley, Kwame, and Rickey were released. But while their exoneration may have ended one of American history's most disgraceful miscarriages of justice, the corruption and decay of the city responsible for their imprisonment remain on trial. Interweaving the dramatic details of the case with Cleveland's history – one that, to

this day, is fraught with systemic discrimination and racial tension – Swenson reveals how this outrage occurred and why. *Good Kids, Bad City* is an exploration of race in America, the struggling Midwest, and how lost lives can be recovered.

### **Fiction**

Ellis, Mary. **Island of Last Resorts.** Severn House (London, UK) 2019. HC \$24.99.

Kate Weller's boss, Nate Price, has some exciting news: Julian Frazier, a friend of one of the agency's wealthy clients, has invited the Nate Price Investigations team and their partners on a trip of a lifetime to his home on Elysian Island, an exclusive retreat off the Georgian coast. But there's a catch. Frazier has written his own murder mystery script, and the PIs must work out whodunnit. As they're about to discover, though, the murder Frazier wants them to solve is a real cold case, and there's a killer twist that isn't in the script. Unable to reach Elysian Island and her co-workers, Kate is sure that someone wants her to stay away. Can she stop a killer and uncover the truth behind a deadly game?

Erickson, Alex. **Death by Café Mocha.** Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$7.99.

Krissy Hancock and her pals are taking a coffee break – leaving their bookstore-café in Pine Hills, Ohio, and heading to a convention. But this road trip will be more dangerous than they expected. Coffee lovers are gathering from far and wide at the hotel, and Krissy, Rita, and Vicki are excited. But some of the attendees may need to switch to decaf, as a public argument breaks out soon after they check in and then a flavor

competition leads to bitter feelings. When the winner of the contest is beamed with a carafe full of café mocha, suspicions swirl—along with accusations of bribery. Was the dead man offering perks to the judges—or was something sinister going on in his personal life? This case is going to keep Krissy up all night long.

Farkas, Andrew. *The Big Red Herring*. KernPunkt Press (Hamilton, NY) 2019. PB \$16.99. In this latest work by Andrew Farkas, the United States and the Soviet Union were allies, not enemies. The moon landing was a hoax filmed by Stanley Kubrick. The Space Race and the Cold War were diversions enacted to cover up the biggest secret ever kept. But Wallace Heath Orcuson (Wall to his friends) has more immediate problems to deal with. He's just woken up in an apartment he's never seen before. There's a dead body under his couch. It's his girlfriend's husband, a man named "Senator" Kipper Maris. Meanwhile, at a donut shop, a radio narrator, who's been forced to adopt the name Edward R. Murrow, reads Wall's story. He hates it. He wants to change it. The problem: Murrow is a narrator, not a writer, and the penalty for altering a manuscript is death. Luckily for Murrow, his boss, "Senator" Kipper Maris, was recently murdered. So maybe no one will notice. Or maybe there's a reason for the rule. But you can't find out what's in Pandora's box until it's opened, right? Who wants to see what's inside?

Farkas, Andrew. *Sunsphere*. Blazevox Books (Buffalo, NY) 2019. PB \$16.00. The Sunsphere is a 266-foot-tall

green truss structure topped by a gold glass sphere that was built as the symbol of the 1982 World's Fair (also known as the Knoxville International Energy Exposition). Actually, the Sunsphere stands 6,520 feet tall and is composed of a black, cylindrical base capped by a miniature neutron star. Well, the Sunsphere Shot Tower, made entirely of brick, manufactures shot for shotguns. But then, the Sunsphere is 1,000 feet tall and composed of a green tower and a pulsing orb of blue lightning. Really, the Sunsphere is dilapidated, covered in tarps, and likely to be torn down soon. Or maybe, Sunsphere Ziggurat is a massive conceptual art installation constructed by an underground organization called the KnoxVillains. Certainly, Sunsphere, a collection of nine formally innovative fictions, focuses on characters obsessed with ideas of energy and entropy, focuses on characters who are trying to figure out how to continue on in a world that is falling apart, who are trying to learn how to act in a world that is constantly changing. In the face of social collapse, some characters find solace in the logic of puzzles, in the conventions of art, in outdated ideas of empire and romance, in the lure of pop culture, in academia and politics. But at the core of this collection is a search for humanity, even when the very atmosphere appears to demand the inhumane.

Flower, Amanda. *Matchmaking Can Be Murder*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$7.99. When widowed Millie Fisher moves back to her childhood home of Harvest, Ohio, she notices one thing right away—the young Amish

are bungling their courtships and marrying the wrong people! A quiltmaker by trade, Millie has nevertheless stitched together a few lives in her time, with truly romantic results. Her first mission? Her own niece, widowed gardener Edith Hochstetler, recently engaged to rude, greedy Zeke Miller. Anyone can see he's not right for such a gentle young woman – except Edith herself. Pleased when she convinces the bride-to-be to leave her betrothed before the wedding, Millie is later panicked to find Zeke in Edith's greenhouse – as dead as a tulip in the middle of winter. To keep her niece out of prison – and to protect her own reputation – Millie will have to piece together a patchwork of clues to find a killer, before she becomes the next name on his list.

Huber, Anna Lee. *Penny for Your Secrets: A Verity Kent Mystery*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$15.95. *England, 1919*. In Anna Lee Huber's latest mystery, former Secret Service agent Verity Kent is finding that life after wartime offers its own share of danger. The Great War may be over, but for many, there are still obstacles on the home front. Reconciling with her estranged husband makes Verity sympathetic to her friend Ada's marital difficulties. Bourgeois-bred Ada, recently married to the Marquess of Rockham, is overwhelmed trying to navigate the ways of the aristocracy. And when Lord Rockham is discovered shot through the heart with a bullet from Ada's revolver, Verity fears her friend has made a fatal blunder. While striving to prove Ada's innocence, Verity is called upon for another favor. The sister of a former Secret Service

colleague has been killed in what authorities believe was a home invasion gone wrong. The victim's war work – censoring letters sent by soldiers from the front – exposed her to sensitive, disturbing material. Verity begins to suspect these two unlikely cases may be linked. But as the connections deepen, the consequences – not just for Verity, but for Britain – grow more menacing than she could have imagined.

Lindsey, Julie Anne. ***Apple Cider Slaying***. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$7.99. Blossom Valley, West Virginia, is home to Smythe Orchards, Winnie and her Granny's beloved twenty-five-acre farm and family business. But any way you slice it, it's struggling. That's why they're trying to drum up business with the "First Annual Christmas at the Orchard," a good old-fashioned holiday festival with enough delicious draw to satisfy apple-picking locals and cider-loving tourists alike – until the whole endeavor takes a sour turn when the body of Nadine Cooper, Granny's long-time, grudge-holding nemesis, is found lodged in the apple press. Now, with Granny the number one suspect, Winnie is hard-pressed to prove her innocence before the real killer delivers another murder.

Tassone, Don. ***Sampler: Fifty Short Stories***. Adelaide Books (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$19.60. Conventional wisdom holds that story collections should have a theme. In this way, this book is unconventional. The fifty stories in this collection are wide-ranging. Some are serious, others light. Most are gentle, but a few are disquieting. Many of these stories are slices of

life. There are fantasy, spirituality, and politics here. All are an invitation to think more deeply.

Taylor, Ali. ***The Chronicles of WaterWorld After the Hough Riots***. Rosedog Books (Pittsburgh, PA) 2018. PB \$17.00. In Cleveland, Ohio, drugs, rape, violence, and mayhem became a part of a neighborhood called Hough Heights. After the Hough riots in 1966 and 1968 and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the children of Hough were growing up experiencing the aftermath from a society whose forefathers knocked down obstacles of those who were abused, neglected, discriminated, and hated due to the color of their skin. Now the next generation is experiencing new obstacles which cause them to neglect the ones our leaders risked their lives to put in place. Crime bosses Frank Burton, King George, and others come up with a plan to get rich from the negative environment of Hough. Consequently, two undercover FBI agents mysteriously disappear. King George realizes the criminal underworld activities will be threatened by the agents' disappearance and his past will catch up with him if he doesn't stop. King George decides to change his ways and give back to the community. However, King George's son, Ali, is now caught up in the criminal activities surrounding him. King George and Ali's girlfriend, Monique, attempt to persuade Ali to leave the criminal life behind before it is too late.

Thurber, James. Edited by Michael J. Rosen. ***Collected Fables***. HarperPerennial Modern Classics (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$15.99.

James Thurber has been called "one of the world's greatest humorists" by Alistair Cooke (*The Atlantic*), and "one of our great American institutions" (Stanley Walker) – and few works reveal Thurber's genius as powerfully as his fables. Perennially entertaining and astutely satirical, Thurber pinpricks the idiosyncrasies of life with verbal frivolity, hilarious insights, political shrewdness, and, of course, quirky, quotable morals. Now, readers can savor 85 fables by the twentieth century's preeminent humorist collected for the first time in a single anthology. Here, *Fables for Our Time*, *Further Fables for Our Time*, and ten previously uncollected fables – illustrated by ten contemporary artists including Seymour Chwast, Mark Ulriksen, Laurie Rosenwald, and R. O. Blechman – are presented in *Collected Fables*, a must-have for readers of all ages.

Vanek, John A. ***Miracles***. CoffeeTown Press (Kenmore, WA) 2019. PB \$16.95. Father Jake Austin's life is hurled into the vortex of three storms: a dying sister, a bleeding statue, and a comatose infant in the intensive care unit. What will be left standing after these tempests have passed? With each challenge, his faith is tested. One thing is for certain, Jake is not your conventional priest.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew, ed. ***Columbus Noir***. Akashic Books (New York, NY) 2020. PB \$15.95. Akashic Books continues its award-winning series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with *Brooklyn Noir*. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective



city. Brand-new stories by: Lee Martin, Robin Yocum, Kristen Lepionka, Craig McDonald, Chris Bournea, Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Tom Barlow, Mercedes King, Daniel Best, Laura Bickle, Yolonda Tonette Sanders, Julia Keller, Khalid Moalim, and Nancy Zafris.

Wortman, Jennifer. ***This. This. This. Is. Love. Love. Love. Stories.*** Split Lip Press (Wyncote, PA) 2019. PB \$16.00.

Thirteen stories, full-length and flash, that explore love – sexual, platonic, filial, and beyond – in its gritty and beguiling forms. A small-town teenager pursues an eccentric pinball wizard after her grandfather's move to her home shakes up her parents' marriage; a chronic depressive turns to a TV animal psychic in hopes of mending her relationship with her dog-loving dad; a middle-aged recovering alcoholic goes back to college and becomes fixated on his stern professor. Throughout the collection, as characters in various stages of life try to navigate love, they court obsession, madness, and transcendence.

Young, John. ***When the Coin is in the Air.*** Golden Antelope Press (Kirksville, MO) 2019. PB \$19.95. Like most boys, Jason Blake wants to please his father and older brother. But this erratic father and hyper-competitive brother challenge beyond the norm. To find his way, Jason tries on different roles: schoolyard bully, football player, actor, student. At 20, Jason escapes his Midwest home and seeks independence and adventure: first to Cape Cod, later in Europe. Each adventure takes Jason farther from his father and brother. Each brings him closer to finding

himself. When he returns home, the world as he knew it explodes and Jason risks all to protect his mother from his violent father. The dramatic and unforgettable course of events changes this family forever.

### Poetry

Biddinger, Mary. ***Partial Genius: Prose Poems.*** Black Lawrence Press (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$16.95.

What happens when you finally realize that you are really good, but only at unremarkable things? What value does memory hold when weighed against heavier commodities such as money and time and conventional beauty? The prose poems of *Partial Genius* build upon the form in a collective narrative, working in unison to craft a larger story. Post-youth and mid-epiphany, *Partial Genius* ponders the years spent waiting for reconciliation of past wrongs, the acknowledgment of former selves, and the desire to truly fit into one landscape or another.

Friebert, Stuart. ***A Double Life: In Poetry & Translation.*** Pinyon Publishing (Montrose, CO) 2019. PB \$18.00.

As recounted in the memoir-essays and poignant late poems in *A Double Life*, the distinguished co-founding editor of *Field* and poet-translator, Stuart Friebert, has led the kind of globe-trotting “double life” that makes for the stuff of legend. There are fabled meetings with the likes of Günter Grass in Berlin and Paul Celan in Paris (not to mention the stray run-in with secret police in Bucharest before the fall of Ceausescu!). But Friebert also includes a sparkling homage to his late colleague, the co-founder

of *Umbra* (with Langston Hughes and Alice Walker), Calvin Hernton. The volume richly concludes with an expert's guide to teaching literary translation.

Heath, William. ***Night Moves in Ohio.*** Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, KY) 2019. PB \$14.99.

When William Heath began writing poetry in the 1960s, James Wright hailed him as “one of the most brilliantly accomplished and gifted young poets to appear in the United States in quite some time.” Now after an award-winning career as a novelist, historian, and literary critic, he has returned to his first love. *Night Moves in Ohio* vividly captures his memories of growing up in Poland, Ohio, a suburb of mobbed-up Youngstown, the city at the heart of the thriving Steel Valley but notorious as Little Chicago for its numerous gang-land bombings (“Youngstown tune-ups”). Heath's poems, by turns raunchy and poignant, evoke via his unblinking eye, irony asides, and acute ear for the American idiom, the dangers and delights of a by-gone era.

Weldon, Laura Grace. ***Blackbird.*** Grayson Books (West Hartford, CT) 2019. PB \$15.95.

This collection casts a bright glow. In clear language, these poems explore themes of connection and healing through subjects as unusual as cow pastures, dictionaries, to-do lists, and astrophysics. Beauty is revealed in what one reviewer calls “sacraments of the ordinary.” Perfect for poetry lovers and those who haven't read a poem in years. A portion of all royalties will be donated to the nonprofit Medina Raptor Center, which rescues, rehabilitates, and releases injured and orphaned birds.

## Children's

Daigneau, Jean. ***Code Cracking for Kids: Secret Communications Throughout History, with 21 Codes and Ciphers***. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2019. PB \$16.99.

People throughout history have written messages in code and ciphers to pass along closely held, secret information. Today, countries around the world enlist cryptanalysts to intercept and crack messages to keep our world safe. *Code Cracking for Kids* explores many aspects of cryptology, including famous people who used and invented codes and ciphers, such as Julius

Caesar and Thomas Jefferson; codes used during wars, including the Enigma machine, whose cracking helped the Allies gather critical information on German intelligence in World War II; and work currently being done by the government, such as in the National Security Agency. Readers also will learn about unsolved codes and ciphers throughout history, little-known codes used today, and devices used over the years by governments and their spies to conceal information. *Code Cracking for Kids* includes hands-on activities that allow kids to replicate early code devices, learn several different codes and ciphers

to encode and decode messages, and hide a secret message inside a hollow egg.

Narh, Samuel. Illus. by Jo Loring-Fisher. ***Maisie's Scrapbook***. Lantana Publishing (London, UK) 2019. HC \$17.99.

As the seasons turn, Maisie rides her bull in and out of Dada's tall tales. Her Mama wears linen and plays the viola. Her Dada wears kente cloth and plays the marimba. They come from different places, but they hug her in the same way. And most of all, they love her just the same. A joyful celebration of a mixed-race family and the love that binds us all together.

## COMING SOON

**A Mile-and-a-Half of Lines: The Art of James Thurber** Now through March 15, 2020, Columbus Museum of Art. A special exhibition curated by Michael J. Rosen that showcases the drawings of the Columbus native and beloved humorist. For more information, visit [www.columbusmuseum.org](http://www.columbusmuseum.org).

**Authors! Sen. Sherrod Brown: Desk 88** November 10, 2019, 2:00 p.m., Main Library/McMaster Center, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo. Senior U.S. Senator from Ohio Sherrod Brown discusses his new book, *Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America*. Tickets are \$25 each and include a copy of the book. For more information visit <https://www.toledolibrary.org/authors>.

**Brews + Prose** November 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Market Garden Brewery, Cleveland. Ohioana Award-winning novelist Mary Doria Russell (*The Women of the Copper Country*) and poet-journalist Marwa Helal (*Invasive Species*) read from their works for the popular literary series, now in its eighth season. For more information visit <http://www.brewsandprose.com/>.

**A Visit with Author and Illustrator Loren Long** November 16, 2019, 11:00 a.m., Bexley Public Library, Columbus. The Ohioana Award-winning creator of the beloved picture book series featuring Otis the tractor shares his latest work for young readers, *If I Were the Sunshine* (written by Julie Fogliano) in a special program presented by Gramercy Books Bexley. For more information visit <https://www.gramercybooksbexley.com/event/visit-author-and-illustrator-loren-long>.

**Thurber House Evenings with Authors: Scott Woods** November 19, 2019, 7:30 – 9 p.m., Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus. Thurber House presents nationally renowned poet Scott Woods, a Columbus Foundation Spirit of Columbus Award recipient and Columbus Alive's first-ever "Face of Columbus," in a reading and discussion from his collection, *Urban Contemporary History Month: Poems*. For information and tickets, visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

**Ohioana Book Club** November 20, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus. The book for November is 2019 Ohioana Award-winner *Furnishing Eternity* by David Giffels. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).