

The Director’s Chair ..... 1  
 Ohioana Book Award Finalists..... 1  
 Festival Kids’ Contest..... 3  
 Coming Soon ..... 4

## OHIOANA ANNOUNCES 2021 BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the finalists for the 80th anniversary Ohioana Book Awards. First given in 1942, the awards are the second-oldest state literary prizes in the nation and honor outstanding works by Ohio authors and illustrators in five categories: Fiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature, and Nonfiction. The sixth category, About Ohio/An Ohioan, may also include books by non-Ohio authors.

Among the literary honors this year’s finalists have previously received are the National Book Award, the Pulitzer Prize, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Newbery Medal, the Kirkus Prize, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Cleveland Arts Prize. Five authors are finalists for their debut books. Six have previously won Ohioana Book Awards and one is a past recipient of Ohioana’s Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant for emerging writers.

Beginning June 1, Ohioana will profile all the finalists with “30 Books, 30 Days,” a special feature on our social media in which one finalist is highlighted each day. Later in June, Ohioana will launch its sixth Readers’ Choice Award poll, allowing the public to vote online for their favorite book from the finalists.

Winners will be announced in July. The 80th anniversary Ohioana Awards ceremony will be held at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on Thursday, October 14. The finalists are:

### **Fiction**

- Martin, Lee. *Yours, Jean*, Dzanc Books.
- McDaniel, Tiffany. *Betty*, Knopf.
- Nesbit, TaraShea. *Beheld*, Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Schultz, Connie. *The Daughters of Erietown*, Random House.
- Sickels, Carter. *The Prettiest Star*, Hub City Press.

### *The Director’s Chair*

Dear Friends,

We are still basking in the glow of April’s Ohioana Book Festival. Our 15th anniversary (and second virtual!) event drew nearly 140 Ohio authors and more than 4,500 viewers. If you missed any of it, or would like to watch a favorite panel again, the entire festival is now online. You can view every program on Ohioana’s YouTube channel and find individual links on the festival schedule page: <http://www.ohioana.org/programs/ohioana-book-festival/schedule/>

Don’t forget to check out our special Ohioana Book Festival contest for children, “Color, Cut, Create,” which is taking submissions until June 11 (see page 3).

Now we move from one major celebration of Ohio literature to another—it’s never dull at Ohioana! Since 1942, the Ohioana Book Awards have recognized outstanding literary achievement by Ohio writers and about Ohio subjects. In this issue, we proudly announce the finalists for the 80th anniversary Ohioana Book Awards.

## Nonfiction

Downs, Maggie. *Braver Than You Think: Around the World on the Trip of My (Mother's) Lifetime*, Counterpoint.

Jones, Saeed. *How We Fight for Our Lives*, Simon & Schuster.

Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments*, Milkweed Editions.

Ricca, Brad. *Olive the Lionheart: Lost Love, Imperial Spies, and One Woman's Journey into the Heart of Africa*, St. Martin's Press.

Sutter, Paul M. *How to Die in Space: A Journey Through Dangerous Astrophysical Phenomena*, Pegasus Books.

## About Ohio or an Ohioan

Backderf, Derf. *Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio*, Harry N. Abrams.

Genshaft, Carole. *Raggin' On: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson's House and Journals*, Ohio University Press.

Giffels, David. *Barnstorming Ohio: To Understand America*, Hachette Books.

Goldbach, Eliese Colette. *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit*, Flatiron.

Heyman, Stephen. *The Planter of Modern Life: Louis Bromfield and the Seeds of a Food Revolution*, W.W. Norton.

## Poetry

Black, Ali. *If It Heals At All*, Jacar Press.

Chan, Marianne. *All Heathens*, Sarabande Books.

Gay, Ross. *Be Holding: A Poem*, University of Pittsburgh Press.

Lambert, Paula J. *How to See the World: Poems*, Bottom Dog Press.

Majmudar, Amit. *What He Did in Solitary*, Knopf.

## Juvenile Literature

Hubbard, Rita Lorraine. Illus. by Oge Mora. *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*, Random House Children's Books.

Metcalf, Lindsay H., Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley, eds. Illus. by Jeanette Bradley. *No Voice Too Small*, Charlesbridge.

Muth, Jon J. *Addy's Cup of Sugar: Based on a Buddhist Story of Healing*, Scholastic Press.

Rex, Adam. *On Account of the Gum*, Chronicle Books.

Umrigar, Thrity. Illus. by Khoa Le. *Sugar in Milk*, Running Press Kids.

## Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature

Creech, Sharon. *One Time*, HarperCollins.

Pearsall, Shelley. *Things Seen from Above*, Knopf Books for Young Readers.

Reynolds, Justin A. *Early Departures*, Katherine Tegen Books.

Taylor, Mildred D. *All the Days Past, All the Days to Come*, Viking Books for Young Readers.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After*, Nancy Paulsen Books.

Some of these authors have enjoyed prolific writing careers, while others are finalists for their very first book. What they all have in common is that their works have struck a chord with readers in a way that makes them deserving of special recognition.

Join us on Facebook and other social media throughout June as we shine the spotlight on one finalist a day in our annual "30 Books, 30 Days" feature. And don't forget to vote for YOUR favorite book from all thirty finalists in our 6th annual Readers' Choice poll, which opens June 16. Then stay tuned as we announce ALL the winners in mid-July.

Stay safe . . . and happy reading!

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

# COLOR CUT CREATE

## CONTEST!

UNLEASH

YOUR CREATIVITY!

**J**oin us for a kick-off event **April 24th & 25th** at noon with Author/Illustrator/Paper Engineer Merrill Rainey

to learn more about the Color, Cut, Create Contest! and pick up some tips & tricks on how to add that WOW factor to your submissions!

A contest Q&A will follow the April 25th session.



The first 10 registrants on both **April 24th** and **April 25th** will receive a **FREE** copy of either **Color, Cut, Create • Dinosaur World**, or **Horse Ranch**.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- April 24th • Kick-off event for Kids ages: 5-8
- April 24th • Registration Opens
- April 25th • Kick-off event for Kids ages: 8-12
- April 25th • Q&A
- June 11th • Submission Deadline
- June 14th - 18th • People's Choice Awards Voting
- June 28th • Color, Cut, Create awards LIVE!

✱ Please check festival schedule for times.

# 2

categories to enter!

**1** Color, Cut, Create, and Photograph • For Kids ages: 5-8

**2** Color, Cut, Create, and Animate • For Kids ages: 8-12

To find out more about the contest & rules visit:

[www.color-cut-create.com](http://www.color-cut-create.com)

## WINNING CATEGORIES & PRIZES!

Our **GRAND PRIZE** winners (1 per category) will be chosen by Merrill Rainey. Winners will be announced live on June 28th and will receive:

- \$50 credit to The Book Loft of German Village.
- An Odd Dot book bundle.
- An Easurax iPad Tripod for iPhone/Tablets.
- Each winning entrant's work will be displayed on the Ohioana website and shared on our social media channels.

Our **PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD** entries for each category will be posted to an online gallery to be voted on by the public the week of June 14th. Winners (1 per category) will be announced live on June 28th and will receive the following:

- \$25 credit to The Book Loft of German Village.
- An Odd Dot book bundle.
- Each winning entrant's work will also be displayed on the Ohioana website and shared on our social media channels.



# COMING SOON

## **Author Event: Paula McLain in Conversation with Connie Schultz**

May 20, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Gramercy Books Bexley, online event

Ohioana is pleased to be a Community Partner with Gramercy Books as it presents best-selling and Ohioana Award-winning novelist Paula McLain (*The Paris Wife*) in the launch of her highly-lauded crime novel, *When the Stars Go Dark*. Paula will be in conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Connie Schultz, author of *The Daughters of Erietown*. For more information visit

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paula-mclain-in-conversation-with-connie-schultz-tickets-143246938449?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc\\_cid=247491d5fa&mc\\_eid=59d5c3bf6f](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paula-mclain-in-conversation-with-connie-schultz-tickets-143246938449?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=247491d5fa&mc_eid=59d5c3bf6f).

## **Thurber Prize in American Humor**

May 21, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Thurber House, online event

The Thurber Prize for American Humor event is a night that shines a spotlight on writing, humor, James Thurber, and the city of Columbus itself. Join finalists Dave Barry, Kira Jane Buxton, and Damon Young for this free virtual celebration to see which of them will claim the 2020 prize. For more information visit

<https://www.thurberhouse.org/thurber-prize-for-american-humor>.

## **Ohioana Virtual Book Club: The Daughters of Erietown**

June 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – noon, online event

The book club's spring pick is *The Daughters of Erietown* by author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Connie Schultz. Free. If you would like to attend, please email us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## **Wright Memorial Public Library: Ohio Literary Trail**

June 16, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., online event

Join us for a tour of the Ohio Literary Trail from the comfort of your home and discover Ohio's rich literary heritage through more than 70 sites. This presentation will focus on Southwest Ohio and include highlights from other regions around the state. Whether you are an armchair traveler or a road warrior, you will discover gems for explorers of all ages. For more information visit <https://www.wrightlibrary.org/ohioliterarytrail>.

## **Literary Cleveland: Inkubator Writing Conference**

July 11–25, 2021, online event

This year's virtual conference will feature 31 free events including interactive classes, craft talks, open mics, panel discussions, and 11 multi-session workshops. Nationally-recognized writers participating include Andy Borowitz, Mary Norris, Kathryn Schulz, and Thrity Umrigar. Free. For more information, visit <https://www.litcleveland.org/events-programs/inkubator-conference-2021>.

## **University of Findlay: Mazza Summer Conference**

July 12–14, 2021, online event

The University of Findlay's Mazza Museum celebrates the original art of picture books using education, exhibits, events, and artist events. Join them for the 2021 Mazza Summer Conference, a three-day virtual and interactive conference full of educational and engaging presentations from top authors and illustrators in the picture book industry. For more information visit <https://www.mazzamuseum.org/adults/conferences/summer-conference/>.