

PRESENTING THE 2021 OHIOANA BOOK AWARDS!



This year marks a milestone for the Ohioana Book Awards—their 80th anniversary. First given in 1942, the awards recognize outstanding books by Ohioans or about Ohio and are the second oldest state literary prizes in the nation. In addition to seven book award categories, we also celebrate the 2021 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant.

Join us online for the free awards presentation on Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-173723941987>

The 2021 award winners are:

Fiction

Carter Sickels, *The Prettiest Star*, Hub City Press

Carter Sickels (cattersickels.com) is the author of the novel *The Evening Hour*. He is the recipient of the 2013 Lambda Literary Emerging Writer Award and has been awarded scholarships to Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, VCCA, and the MacDowell Colony. His essays and fiction have appeared in various publications including *Guernica*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, and *BuzzFeed*, and he is the editor of *Untangling the Knot: Queer Voices on Marriage*,

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

The arrival of fall brings with it one of my favorite events—the Ohioana Awards. It's an exciting year as we mark their 80th anniversary. Our cover story introduces 2021's stellar list of winners.

We looked forward to presenting the event live once again at the Ohio Statehouse. Alas, the alarming rise in COVID cases caused us to change our plans. For the second year, we'll be holding the awards ceremony virtually. This way we can celebrate while keeping everyone safe. The event is free, and we would love to have you join us.

Summer was a busy time at Ohioana. The highlight was the August dedication of the Toni Morrison Historical Marker in her native Lorain, which Ohioana was pleased and honored to sponsor. It's located in front of the Lorain Historical Society's renowned Carnegie Center, which at one time was the public library where a teen-aged Chloe Ardelia Wofford (Morrison's birth name) had her first job as a book shelver.

Relationships & Identity. Carter is assistant professor of English at Eastern Kentucky University, where he teaches in the Bluegrass Writers Studio Low-Residency M.F.A. program.

Nonfiction

Aimee Nezhukumatathil, *World of Wonders*, Milkweed Editions

Aimee Nezhukumatathil (aimeenez.net) is the author of *World of Wonders*, an illustrated essay collection published by Milkweed Editions in September 2020, as well as four books of poetry, including, most recently, *Oceanic*, winner of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award. Other awards for her writing include fellowships and grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Mississippi Arts Council, and MacDowell. Her writing appears in *Poetry*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *ESPN*, and *Tin House*. She serves as poetry faculty for the Writing Workshops in Greece and is professor of English and creative writing in the University of Mississippi's M.F.A. program.

About Ohio or an Ohioan

Carole M. Genshaft, *Raggin' On*, Ohio University Press/Swallow Press

Carole M. Genshaft is curator-at-large at the Columbus Museum of Art and enjoyed a close relationship with Aminah Robinson beginning in the late 1980s. Since Robinson's death in 2015, she has supervised the organization and documentation of the artist's estate, which was left to the museum. She has curated and co-curated many exhibitions about Robinson's life and work, including *Symphonic Poem*, a retrospective of the artist's work that travelled nationally in 2006. In 2018, she organized *Kindred Spirits*, an exhibition about the relationship between Robinson and her friend and mentor, folk artist Elijah Pierce. In addition to contributing articles about Robinson to many publications, Genshaft has written *Aminah's World*, a children's book about Robinson's life and art.

Poetry

Marianne Chan, *All Heathens*, Sarabande Books

Marianne Chan (www.mariannechan.com) is the author of *All Heathens*, which was the winner of the 2021 GLCA New Writers Award in Poetry. Her poems have appeared in *New England Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *West Branch*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. Between 2017-2019, she served as poetry editor for *Split Lip Magazine*. She lives in Cincinnati with her partner, Clancy, and her cat, Bella. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in English & creative writing at the University of Cincinnati and serves as the assistant poetry editor at Acre Books.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature

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

Jacqueline Woodson (www.jacquelinewoodson.com) is the author of dozens of award-winning books for young adults, middle graders, and children. She has received numerous honors and awards for her many books including a 2020 MacArthur Fellowship, the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award, the 2018 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, and the

The marker is one of seven new sites we added to the Ohio Literary Trail this summer. Check out the new and expanded map on our website: <http://www.ohioana.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Ohio-Literary-Trail-Updated-8-2021.pdf>

The marker, the trail, and the awards remind us of how fortunate we are to live in a state that so many wonderful writers and illustrators have called home. And fortunate to have so many friends, like you, who share our love of reading their books, especially in this past challenging year. *Thank you.*

David E. Weaver
Executive Director



The Toni Morrison Historical Marker, honoring the Nobel Prize-winning author at the Lorain Historical Society's Carnegie Center.

2018 Children’s Literature Legacy Award. She was the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, and in 2015, she was named the Young People’s Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation. She is a four-time Newbery Honor winner, a four-time National Book Award finalist, and a three-time winner of both the Coretta Scott King Award and Ohioana Book Awards. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Jacqueline grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from college with a B.A. in English. She currently lives in New York with her family.

Juvenile Literature

Thrity Umrigar, *Sugar in Milk* (illustrated by Khoa Le), Hachette Book Group

Thrity Umrigar (umrigar.com) is the best-selling author of the novels *Bombay Time*, *The Space Between Us*, *The Secrets Between Us*, *If Today Be Sweet*, *The Weight of Heaven*, *The World We Found*, and *The Story Hour*; the memoir, *First Darling of the Morning*; and three picture books for kids—*When I Carried You in My Belly*, *Binny’s Diwali*, and *Sugar in Milk*. Her books have been translated into several languages and published in more than fifteen countries. She is a Distinguished University Professor of English at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Born in Bombay, India, Umrigar came to the United States when she was twenty-one. She is the winner of the Cleveland Arts Prize, a Lambda Literary award, and the Seth Rosenberg prize, and was a recipient of a Nieman Fellowship to Harvard. Her latest novel, *Honor*, will be published by Algonquin in January 2022. Umrigar lives outside Cleveland, Ohio.

Readers’ Choice Award

Tiffany McDaniel, *Betty*, Alfred A. Knopf

Tiffany McDaniel (www.tiffanymcdaniel.com) is an Ohio-born poet and visual artist whose writing is inspired by the rolling hills and buckeye woods of the land she knows. Her debut novel, *The Summer That Melted Everything*, won the *Guardian’s* Not the Booker award and the 2017 Ohioana Readers’ Choice Award. She is the author of *Betty*, an international bestseller with accolades from the Friends of American Writers Chicago, the Society of Midland Authors, and Nautilus Book Award, among others.

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, named for Ohioana’s second director, is a competitive prize for an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book.

This year’s recipient is Hagan Faye Whiteleather. A writer, editor, and professor based in Northeast Ohio, Hagan Faye holds dual B.A. degrees in English and psychology from Kent State University and an M.F.A. in creative writing and environment from Iowa State University. She served as editor-in-chief of KSU’s literary arts journal, *Luna Negra*, and as nonfiction editor for ISU’s *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment*. Her in-progress memoir, *Tangled in the Roots*, explores the grounds and graves of Moultrie Chapel Cemetery, familial ties, parental loss, and the experience of providing end-of-life care. When she isn’t reading, writing, or out walking, she’s teaching creative and critical writing at her alma mater, Kent State.



CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2022 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit www.ohioana.org.

COMING SOON

Explore the Ohio Literary Trail

October 5, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Grandview Heights Public Library, Grandview Heights

Take an armchair tour of literary sites in Central Ohio and across the state with David Weaver and Katie Brandt from the Ohioana Library. Free. Masks required. At the event, copies of *The Ohio Literary Trail: A Guide* will be available for purchase. For more information visit <https://ghpl.libnet.info/event/5384821>

Author Event: Anthony Doerr

October 12, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Gramercy Books Bexley, online event

Join Pulitzer Prize-winner Anthony Doerr (*All the Light We Cannot See*) in a live, virtual conversation with #1 bestselling author Jess Walter to celebrate the publication of Doerr's extraordinary new novel, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/literary-legend-anthony-doerr-in-conversation-with-author-jess-walter-tickets-161269498411>

Ohioana Book Awards

October 14, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., online event

Join us to celebrate the winners of the 80th anniversary Ohioana Book Awards. Free. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-173723941987>

Author Event: Wil Haygood

October 24, 2021, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Columbus Metropolitan Library Main Library, Columbus

Author Wil Hagyood (*The Butler, Showdown*) comes to the Main Library to discuss his latest book, *Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World*. Free. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carnegie-author-series-featuring-wil-haygood-registration-166067551517>

Thurber House Halloween Extravaganza

October 31, 2021, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Thurber House, Columbus

During this free family-friendly event, come tour haunted Thurber House (which will be decked out for Halloween), hear strange and spooky tales about what goes bump in the night, and enjoy Halloween treats and activities (including *The Night the Ghost Got In Thurber Word-Libs!*). For more information, visit <https://www.thurberhouse.org/special-events/halloween-extravaganza>

Buckeye Book Fair

November 6, 2021, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Greystone Event Center, Wooster

The 34th annual book fair, presented for the first time in a new location, is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping, featuring books by Ohio authors and illustrators. For more information, visit <https://buckeye-bookfair.org>