

OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

Spring 2022 | VOL. 65 NO. 2



OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2022

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From the Director



Dear Friends,

Festival /'festəvəl/ *noun* 1. A day or period of celebration, 2. An organized series of events, typically held annually in the same place.

Ohioans love festivals. According to Kristian Campana, who runs a wonderful website called Ohio Festivals (www.ohiofestivals.net), there are more than 2,300 festivals in the state! From arts and crafts, music and drama, sports and nature, cooking and food, wine and beer—there is something happening somewhere in Ohio almost every day, regardless of the season or weather.

The Ohioana Book Festival is one of those 2,300-plus events. And we're proud to say that it is the largest one dedicated to celebrating Ohio literature. A remarkable achievement, given that the first festival held in 2007 had ten authors and a few hundred attendees. The 16th annual festival, taking place virtually from April 29-May 1, will feature more than 110 authors and draw an audience of thousands in Ohio and beyond.

We're delighted to introduce you to this year's authors in the following pages. One of them is Terri Libenson, children's book author, illustrator, and award-winning cartoonist who created the official poster artwork for the 2022 festival. I know you'll enjoy reading Kathryn Powers' interview with Terri. We are also pleased that festival author Bayyinah Monk-Nduaka has let us share one of the recipes from her new cookbook in a mouthwatering special feature.

In addition to our festival features, you'll find a selection of book reviews in this issue, including several books by authors who will be appearing in the April-May event. You'll also find a list of titles recently added to our collection.

The Ohioana Book Festival, whether virtual or live, lives up to the definition of that word above. It is an organized series of events, as it has been since 2007, and it is truly a celebration that brings us together through our mutual love of books and reading.

A celebration that would not be possible without you. *Thank you.*

We look forward to seeing you on April 29-May 1.

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

David Weaver
Executive Director

ON THE COVERS

Front Cover: Adapted by Kathryn Powers from the official 16th annual Ohioana Book Festival poster art created by Terri Libenson. Read the interview with Terri on page 14.

Back Cover: Special thanks to Tom Batiuk for once again setting his comic strip *Crankshaft* at the Ohioana Book Festival for an entire week.

The 2022 Ohioana Book Festival: A Virtual Celebration!

by David Weaver

Connecting readers and Ohio writers is not only the Ohioana Library's tagline; it's what we're all about. No event captures this idea better than the Ohioana Book Festival, a celebration of reading, writing, books, and Ohio authors.

We invite you to join us online for the 16th annual Ohioana Book Festival, which will be held April 29-May 1. Over 110 Ohio authors and illustrators will take part, including forty-two making their first-ever festival appearance and seventeen who will be here for their debut book.

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of detailed planning to produce an event like this. It would have been wonderful to hold the festival live at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library. However, in light of the uncertainties surrounding Omicron and the COVID conditions going into spring, we made the difficult decision to pivot the festival to a virtual format again. This will allow us to keep everyone safe, as well as open the event to as many authors and attendees as possible.

We're already looking ahead to 2023, when our goal is to present the Ohioana Book Festival in person. It should

be especially exciting, as next year marks Columbus Metropolitan Library's 150th anniversary.

The good news is that you don't have to wait until next year to enjoy all the things you know and love about the festival. It's all here this spring: panel discussions, conversations, and readings. There will be fun things just for kids, and a few surprises, too! You'll be able to experience it all from the comfort and safety of your own home.

There's something for every reader of every age at the Ohioana Book Festival. Speaking of books, don't forget you can get copies of all the titles featured at the festival from the Book Loft of German Village, our official bookseller since 2017. A portion of every festival purchase you make through the Book Loft will help support Ohioana and make programs like this possible.

So, mark your calendar now for April 29-May 1. For a complete schedule of festival programs, visit our website, www.ohioana.org, and also be sure to check out our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

We'll see you at the festival!



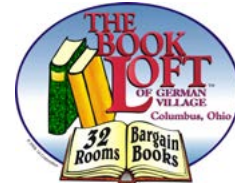
From the 2021 Ohioana Book Festival: the Choose to Read Ohio virtual panel featuring (clockwise from top left) program coordinator Janet Ingraham-Dwyer, moderator Meg Brown, and authors Jasmine Warga, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Tricia Springstubb, and Will Hillenbrand. (Photo credit: Ohioana Library)

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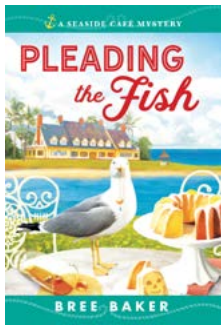


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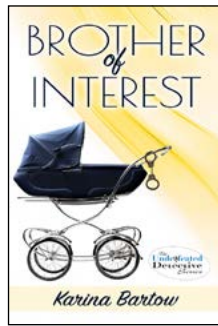


Festival Authors

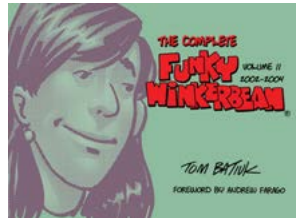
FICTION



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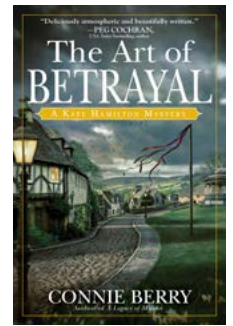
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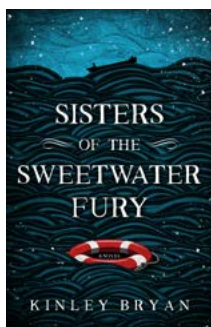
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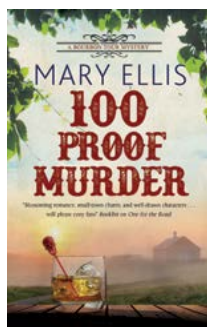
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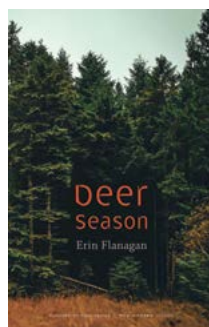
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Kinley Bryan



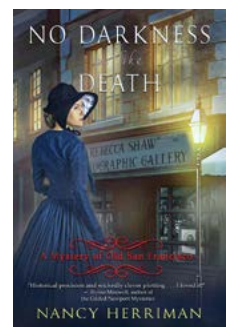
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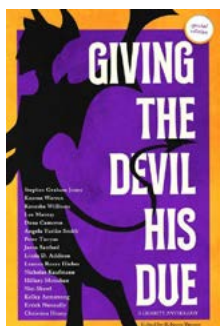
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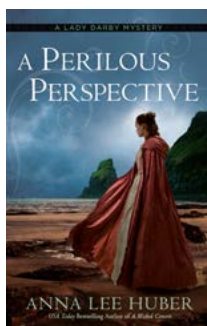
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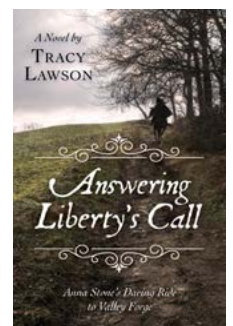
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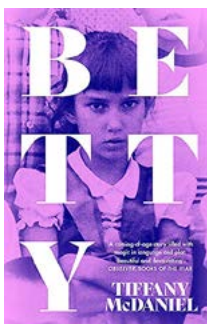
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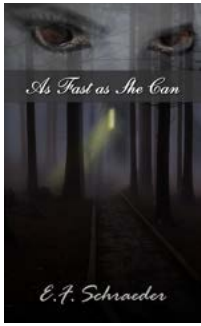
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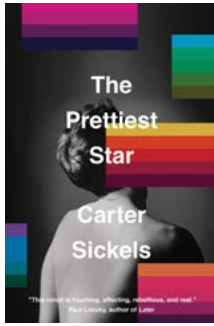
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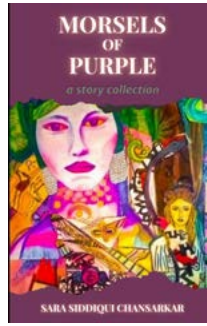
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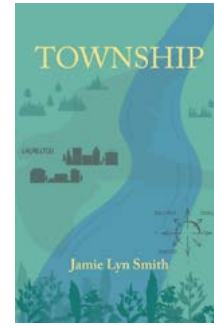
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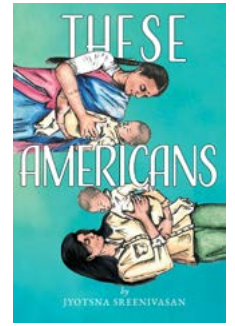
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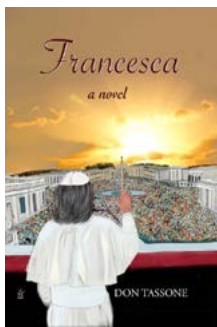


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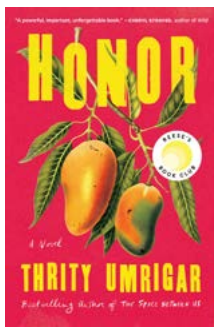


Jyotsna Sreenivasan

NONFICTION



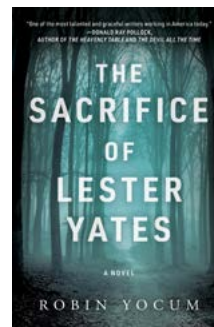
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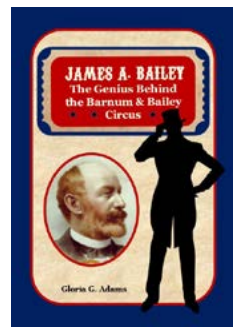
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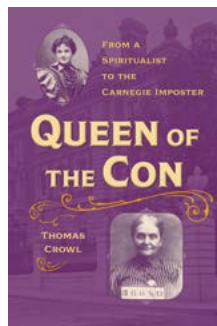
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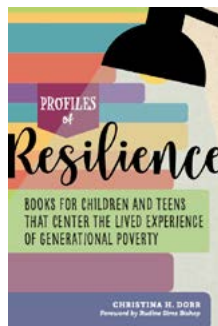
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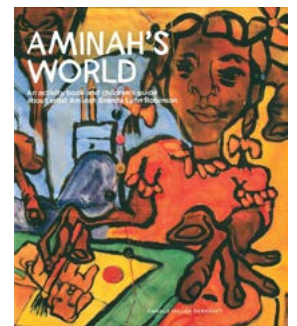
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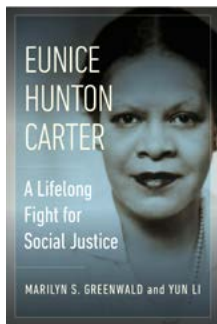
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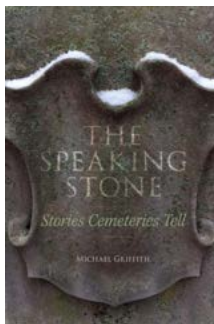
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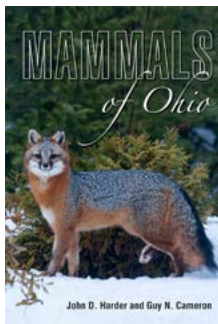
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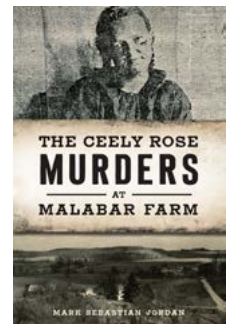
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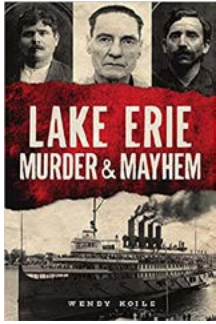


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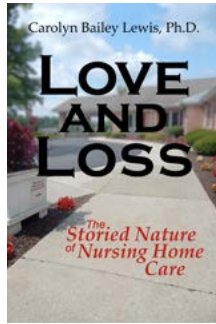


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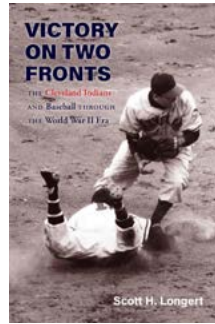
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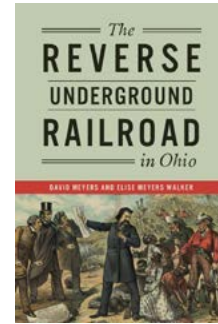
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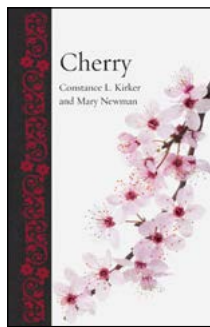
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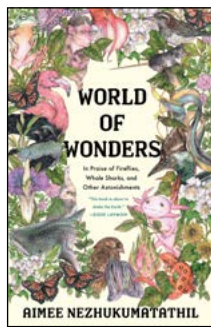
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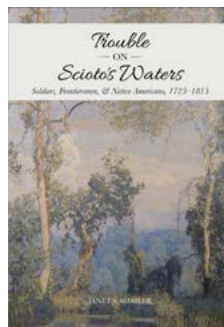
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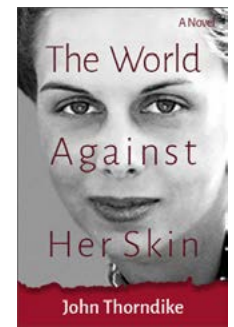
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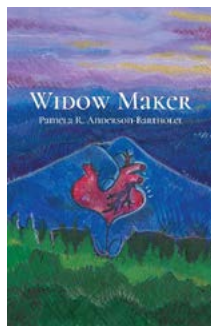


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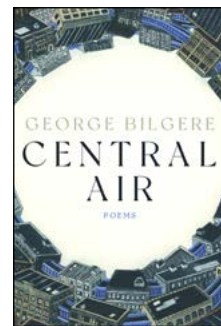
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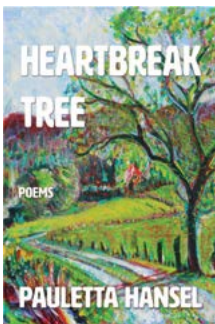
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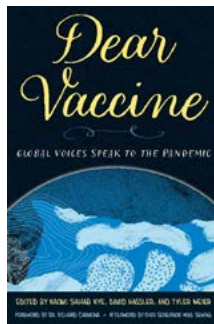
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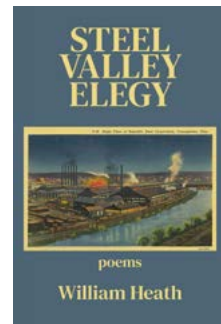
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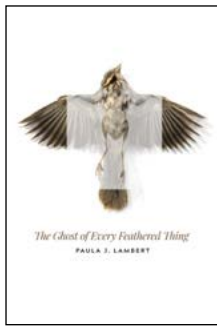
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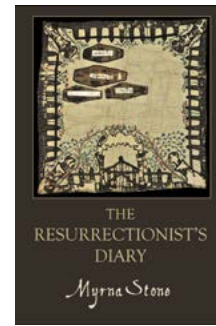
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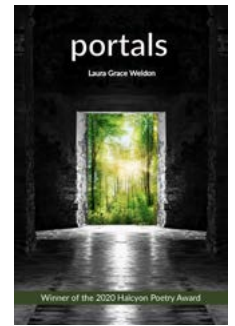
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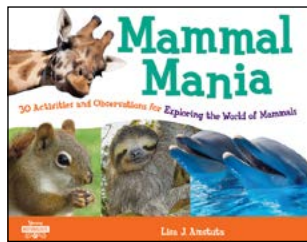


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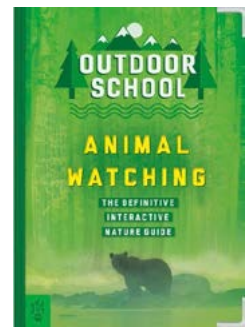
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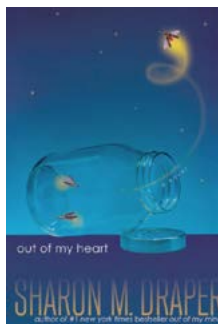
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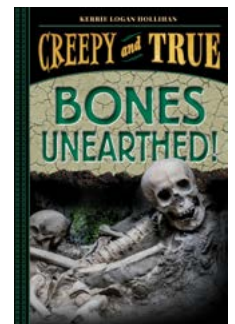
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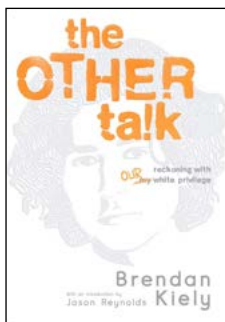
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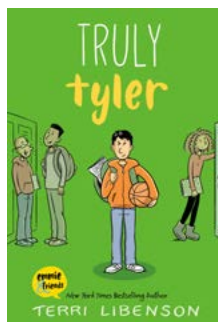
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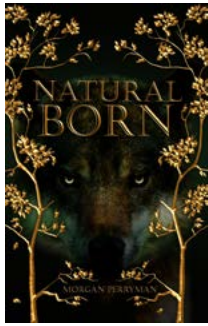


Allison Marks &
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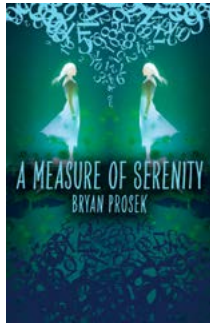


Mindy McGinnis

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT (contd.)



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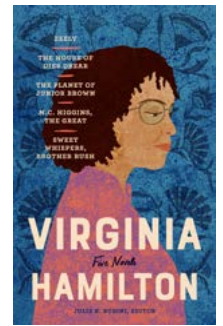
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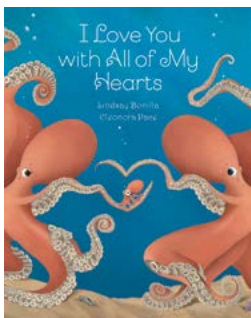
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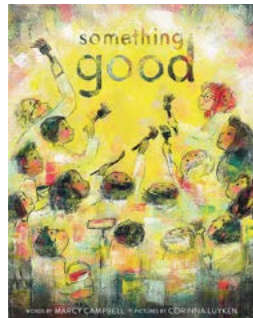
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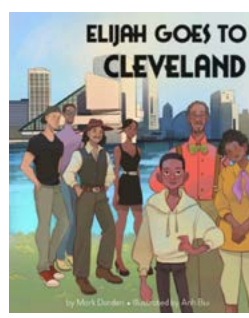
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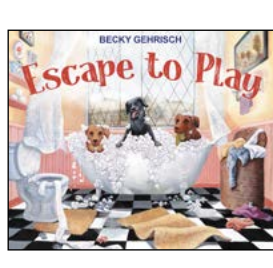
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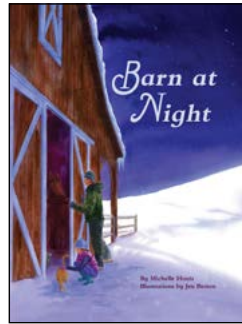
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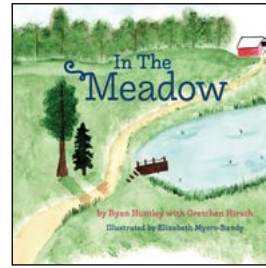
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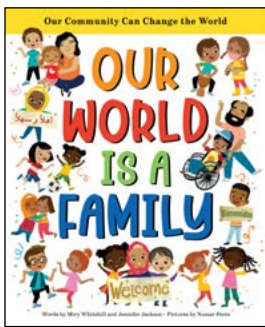
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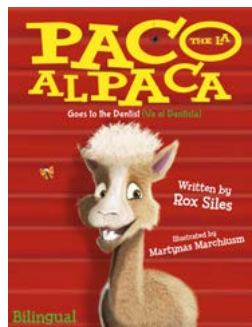
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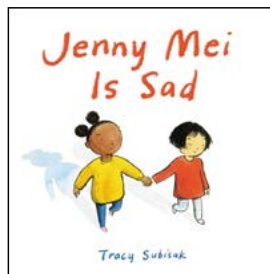
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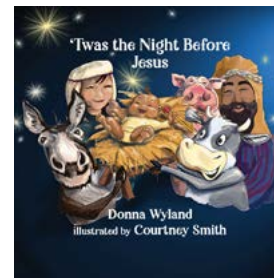
Nomar Perez



Rox Siles



Tracy Subisak



Donna Wyland

Cream of Wheat Bread

A recipe from 2022 Ohioana Book Festival author Bayyinah Monk-Nduaka. This alternative for corn bread is so smooth and yummy, the entire family will enjoy it!

Ingredients

2 cups flour
1 3/4 cups cream of wheat (regular, not instant)
3/4 cups brown sugar
1/2 teaspoons salt
5 teaspoons baking powder
10 teaspoons butter, softened or melted
1 1/4 cups milk
1 cup cream
2 eggs

Directions

In a mixing bowl, combine cream of wheat with 1 1/4 cups of milk. Set aside. Allow the batter to sit for 5-10 minutes. This allows the cream of wheat to soften. In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients together. Combine wet ingredients and mix.

Add the cream of wheat mixture and mix well to incorporate. Pour in a lightly oiled or sprayed baking pan and bake in a preheated oven at 350°F for 20-25 minutes. Serve warm.



Two-time Amazon bestselling and award-winning author Bayyinah Monk-Nduaka has a passion for creating recipes, cooking good food, and feeding her family and friends. Celebrate the season with *Gimme That Recipe's Spring Cookbook*.

Spring is the ultimate season for fresh produce and bright dishes, awakening your taste buds after winter's heavy meals. This is the fourth cookbook in Monk-Nduaka's *Gimme That Recipe* series, with sixteen new recipes that will make your Easter brunch, spring happy hour, or dinner a memorable occasion.

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An Interview with Terri Libenson

by Kathryn Powers



Terri Libenson

The 2022 Ohioana Book Festival poster was designed by Terri Libenson, a New York Times bestselling children's book author and award-winning cartoonist of the syndicated daily comic strip, The Pajama Diaries, which ran from 2006-2020. We spoke with Terri about her artistic process, creating books for kids, and her featured festival book.

Q What was your inspiration behind the design of the 2022 book festival poster art?

A I was trying to think along the lines of slowly starting to read, becoming absorbed in the story, and then being completely overtaken by it—something many readers can relate to. That sounds intense, but I tried to do it in a fun, imaginative way. Also, as a cartoonist, I love working in panels . . . it's in my wheelhouse, but it's also something unique I could offer.

Q Your *Emmie and Friends* middle grade series has been a huge success! What inspired you to become an author-illustrator of books for young readers?

A Around 2014, I had cartoonist friends who were starting to write illustrated books. I was inspired and encouraged to take a stab at it, too. This was right before the big graphic novel boom, so the timing was great. I had always thought about writing kids' books, but for a younger audience. It never occurred to me to write middle grade books until I tried it and discovered I loved it. But maybe it shouldn't be surprising—I've always felt about twelve years old at heart.

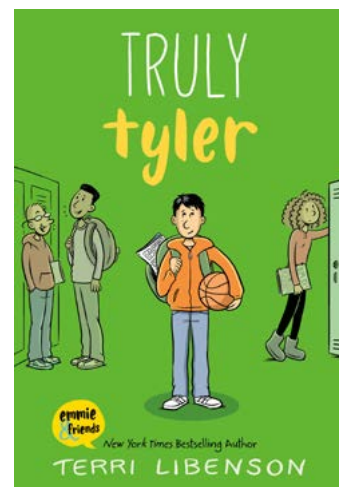
Q Can you tell us about your creative process? Do the words come to you first, or do you start with a visual idea and add text later?

A It's a little complicated since my books are hybrid format: part illustrated novel (text chapters mixed with spot art), and part graphic novel. Usually, the words come first and the illustrations follow. But sometimes it's a mix. For example, when I'm writing the textier (is that a word?) parts of a book, the small illustrations bridge whatever I'm writing, if that makes sense.

I've learned the hard way not to draw anything until the entire manuscript is approved. I've had to start batches of sketches over from scratch and that's the worst. So, starting out, I'll indicate what the art will be and where it will go (typed in red). When everything is approved, I'll plug in rough sketches, and then eventually create the final art.

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

A Sure! *Truly Tyler* is the fifth book in my series and the only one—so far—to have a male main character. I loved Tyler's budding friendship with Emmie in *Invisible Emmie* (my first book), and I thought it would be fun to expand on that in *Truly Tyler*.



Book Reviews

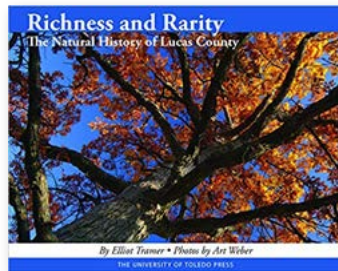
NONFICTION

Tramer, Elliot. *Richness and Rarity: The Natural History of Lucas County.*

Photography by Art Weber.

Toledo, OH: University of Toledo Press, 2020.

Once the bottom of an ancient lake, the flat and featureless topography of Lucas County holds little interest to the casual observer. It takes the eye of an artist and the research of a scientist to uncover and reveal the “richness and rarity” left by the dense swamp and sunlit prairie that existed here for millennia. Local residents can still glimpse a remnant of the county’s historical biodiversity, but mostly in its 12,000 acres of metropolitan parks, state forests, national refuges, and on the scenic Maumee River that forms the southern boundary of the county.



The northern part of Lucas County lies within what is called the Oak Openings Region, which is mostly prairie and oak tree savanna. Over 200 of Ohio’s threatened plant species are still found here in the sand ridges and undisturbed wet meadows. The southern part of the county skirts the legendary Great Black Swamp, formerly a forbidding wilderness that spanned 1,500 square miles over the northwest corner of Ohio. The forty-eight essays in this book explain the geological origins of these two different earth and aquatic ecological systems and how they were transformed by two centuries of economic development. They highlight the plant, fish, and animal species that survive here and recommend ways to preserve rare plants and expand natural habitats.

Although much has been done to conserve Lucas County’s biodiversity in recent years, author Elliot Tramer warns that the area is still seriously threatened by intensive agriculture, urbanization, and land and

aquatic invasive species. Tramer, a plant and animal ecologist, explains that *Richness and Rarity: The Natural History of Lucas County* is a “snapshot of conditions as they exist at the time of writing but will inevitably change.” He hopes that his book will have value in the future as a basis for comparison because human activity will continue to transform the landscape.

As a whole, the essays in this book reflect a positive outlook for conservation of rare species and restoration of the county’s vital wetlands. Steven Madewell, the former executive director of Metroparks Toledo who provided the inspiration for this book, writes, “Somehow, something nearly miraculous has occurred. Remaining relic plants and animal populations have been discovered and protected. In many instances they have been nurtured and expanded thanks to decades of collaborative efforts to protect and restore examples of the landscape that were once here.” However, the book also includes a gloomy report on the periodic toxic algae blooms that suffocate fish in the southwestern shallow arm of Lake Erie, where Lucas County has ten miles of shoreline.

The most visible spectacle of the county’s richness of wildlife occurs every spring when up to 500,000 walleye make their way up the Maumee River from Lake Erie to spawn. Hundreds of fishermen wade into the icy rapids at Side Cut Park to catch the prized fish. Contributor Dr. Todd Crail writes, “I have personally experienced aggregations of walleye so dense that one cannot help but trip or step on the fish. Many fishermen return later in the year to angle for smallmouth bass and channel and flathead catfish.”

The pleasure of this book lies in the juxtaposition of artistic photography and natural history written in common prose. Lavishly illustrated, mostly with photos by Art Weber, a celebrated Metroparks Toledo nature photographer, it combines elegant images and elemental science in a highly satisfying way. Many half-page and full-page photographs enthrall the reader. Essays by nineteen guest authors—including specialists in meteorology, geology, botany, ornithology, herpetology,

entomology, limnology (the study of lakes and streams), ecology, and human history—augment Tramer’s text.

REVIEWED BY CARROLL MCCUNE, FREELANCE WRITER,
HASKINS, OH

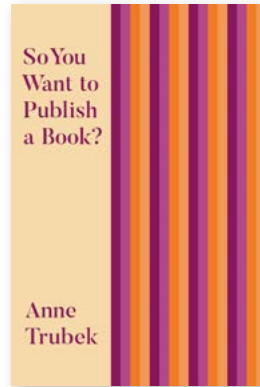
Trubek, Anne. *So You Want to Publish a Book?*

Toledo, OH: University of Toledo Press, 2020.

Anne Trubek’s clever title of her newest book, *So You Want to Publish a Book?*, immediately piques one’s interest as it presents the perfect platform to inform the reader of her book’s purpose. When I selected this book to review, I thought it would be ideal for gaining ideas on how to write and publish my own books. I was correct with that thought, but I also gained many more insights into the world of book publishing. Trubek’s perspective as both an author and publisher helps readers develop a clear understanding of the book publishing process.

In *So You Want to Publish a Book?*, Trubek chronicles the book creation process from the development of an idea to the sale of the book. She provides important details, such as a book’s true cost. While you and I can easily go to the bookstore or the Internet to buy the completed product, there are many more steps that a publisher must take. For a small independent publisher, these extra steps can cost a lot of money, and often the money is not seen for several months or longer. Trubek suggests that a good way to help support independent publishers is to purchase books directly from the publisher’s online site. I was amazed at how much money independent publishers lose as they go about shipping and working with the different book distribution centers. Trubek also encourages the reader to support local independent bookstores. For authors, Trubek includes a chapter with tips on selling books, offering practical, realistic ideas.

Throughout the book, Trubek’s voice and sense of humor appear, making the topics extra interesting and enjoyable. She also includes tags to identify different parts of the book, like the copyright page, the colophon, and the signature. Be sure to read the entire book to



discover some of the hidden details, such as why some pages are left blank at the end of the book, and that she deliberately included seven typographical errors for aspiring proofreaders.

If you are thinking about starting your author journey, be sure to read Trubek’s *So You Want to Publish a Book?* to discover more about the publishing world and how to go about publishing your own book. You will come away with many ideas and a deeper appreciation of the publishing process.

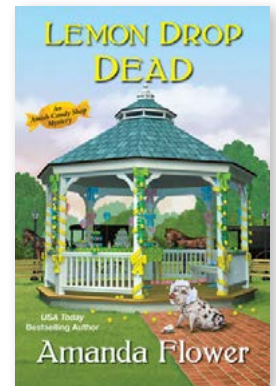
REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN’S AUTHOR

FICTION

Flower, Amanda. *Lemon Drop Dead: An Amish Candy Shop Mystery #6.*

New York, NY: Kensington, 2021.

It’s easy to jump right into Amanda Flower’s sixth installment of the *Amish Candy Shop Mysteries*. All the familiar and quirky characters are back again: Bailey King, the chocolatier and co-owner of Swissmen Sweets; Aiden, Bailey’s boyfriend and also the sheriff’s deputy; Esther, the grumpy Amish woman next door who makes pretzels; along with Juliet, Reverend Brook’s wife, her comfort pig Jethro, and the rest of the Amish and Englisher cast of Harvest, Ohio.



The women of Harvest are throwing Emily Keith, Bailey’s part-time helper and mother-to-be, a baby shower, even though it isn’t a usual Amish tradition. Juliet and Margot plan a big lemon-themed event—Emily’s favorite flavor—with Charlotte (Bailey’s assistant candy maker) helping. On the day of the party, a strange Amish woman shows up, asking Emily all kinds of personal questions. Emily and Bailey are puzzled, but shrug it off when the woman leaves in a huff.

As night falls and Bailey is finishing her paperwork, Emily’s estranged sister, Esther, comes to Bailey with a

problem. It turns out there's a dead woman in her pretzel shop—the same mysterious stranger who showed up at the party. Just who is the dead Amish woman? And what did she want with Emily? Are these questions even related?

When Esther is accused of the murder, Emily swears to her innocence. They may not get along, but Emily knows her sister would never do such a terrible thing. Of course, Bailey investigates the murder, and yes, Aiden gets very frustrated.

There are lots of mysteries going on in this cozy thriller. You'll have to read all the way through to find out who is the killer and how Jethro the pig helps out.

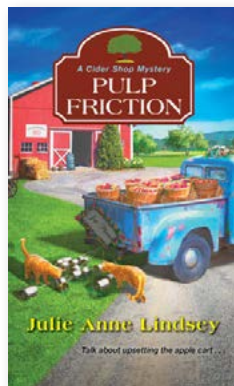
Talented Ohio author Amanda Flower knows how to spin a cozy mystery that pulls you right in and holds your attention to the very end. You can jump into the series with *Lemon Drop Dead* or start at the beginning with *Assaulted Caramel*. Either way, you are in for a sweet and sugar-filled ride through Amish country and crimes solved the “cozy” way.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

Lindsey, Julie Anne. *Pulp Friction: A Cider Shop Mystery #2*.

New York, NY: Kensington, 2020.

Winona Mae “Winnie” Montgomery and Granny Smythe are back for their second cozy mystery in Blossom Valley, West Virginia. Thanks to Winnie's new cider shop, Smythe Orchards is booming with business. In addition to selling gourmet apple ciders and homegrown produce, Smythe Orchards is even being booked for events!



Winnie is thrilled that Elsie Grace Sawyer and Jack Robert Warren have picked the orchard as their wedding venue. Everything goes smoothly until the reception. First Elsie and Jack have words, then Winnie's former boyfriend, Hank Donovan, has a heated argument with the groom. Everyone is relieved when the two men break apart, but then there's a scream. Winnie follows the noise and quickly discovers that the scream belongs to

Elsie. She finds the new bride clutching Jack's dead body after he was supposedly hit by the honeymoon getaway car—and Hank is the main suspect. What a beginning to this intense cozy!

Sheriff Colton Wise and his deputies interview the wedding attendees, wrapping up the evening by asking pointed questions of Winnie. It won't surprise fans of cozy mysteries that Sheriff Wise warns Winnie against investigating, but of course she doesn't listen. Winnie and her friend Dot, a National Park Service Ranger, take the case into their own hands. But the two women are shot at during their investigation, heating up the action while the sleuthing moves to the next level.

Winnie ultimately joins forces with her friends, her granny, and the Sheriff in order to track down the killer and set things right in Blossom Valley. You'll have to read this exhilarating cozy to find out who is wielding the gun and just what's happening in the National Park.

Julie Anne Lindsay lives in Kent, Ohio, and writes mysteries, cozies, and other tales set in Ohio and the surrounding states. *Apple Cider Slaying* is the first title in her *Cider Shop Mystery* series, but you can still get great enjoyment out of *Pulp Friction* if you haven't read the first book.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

Mitchell, Tonya. *A Feigned Madness*.

Malver, PA: Cennan Books, 2020.

Wow, what a story Mitchell conveys in *A Feigned Madness*! From the first pages when we are introduced to Elizabeth Cochrane—better known as Nellie Bly—to the last pages when we understand her ten days on Blackwell Island's Asylum, this story keeps the reader totally immersed on a nonstop adventure.

Told in first person from the perspective of Elizabeth, readers deeply feel and understand her emotions throughout the story. As a young woman struggling to work in a man's field, as well as provide income for boarding house lodging with her mom, Elizabeth is determined to meet her goals and conquer many hurdles. She feels



the innumerable frustrations of a woman trying to break into the field of journalism in the nineteenth century. She deals with the inequalities of women reporters not being permitted to use their own name, of the male reporters getting to choose her pen name of Nellie Bly, and of women being permitted to cover only “women’s topics” such as gardening and fashion. But Elizabeth’s determination and persistence enable her to report on other subjects and open doors for other women journalists.

At Blackwell’s Asylum, Elizabeth witnesses and experiences the cruelty from the nurses and the doctors, as well as the lack of medical patient documentation needed to determine if a patient truly fits the description of “insane.” So many of the asylum inmates were not actually mentally ill, but ended up at Blackwell’s due to falling on hard times. Elizabeth takes on the guise of a mentally ill woman with amnesia in order to spend ten days in Blackwell’s Asylum, gathering information for a story she has been challenged to write that will earn her a reporter position at the *World*, a leading newspaper in New York City. While her time in Blackwell’s is relatively short, she quickly sees how the system works—or rather, doesn’t work—for the many residents. The ten days give her enough time to gather the material she needs for her articles, which she eventually turns into a book titled *Ten Days in a Mad-House*.

The atrocities that occur to the residents are shocking and almost unbelievable, especially from the perspective of twenty-first-century ideals. Elizabeth’s strength allowed her to endure these ten days, develop a deeper level of empathy, share her new knowledge with her readers, and work to change the inhumane system. Elizabeth Cochrane, aka Nellie Bly, is a role model for everyone, especially for women. She encourages others to speak up in order to make positive changes in the world.

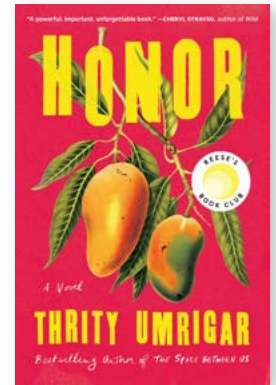
While *A Feigned Madness* is classified as historical fiction, most of the story is based on fact. At the end, Mitchell identifies areas where she took liberties to fill in the missing pieces, which are very minimal and serve to add emotions and connections to the story. It is a fabulous, well-written, and informative book. Tonya Mitchell’s *A Feigned Madness* is highly recommended.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN’S AUTHOR

Umrigar, Thrity. *Honor*.

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2022.

Ohioana Book Award winner Thrity Umrigar was born in Bombay, India, and came to the United States when she was twenty-one years old. After she earned her MA in journalism, Umrigar worked for several years as an award-winning journalist. She was a reporter, columnist, and writer for several magazines before she became a Distinguished Professor of English at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where she has lived and worked for several years. The impact of her experiences as an Indian-American woman and her journalism career can obviously be felt in her newest best-selling novel, *Honor*.



Honor is a novel that tells of the sacrifice, beauty, and horror of modern-day life as a woman in India. Our narrator, Indian-American journalist Smita, is thrust into reporting on the story of an interfaith marriage of a Hindu woman, Meena, and a Muslim man, Abdul. This marriage leads to Meena’s brothers killing Abdul to save their family’s honor. Abdul’s murder is now being tried in court, and Smita covers the story, all while confronting her own history with the country of India.

Smita is accompanied by Mohan, a friend of the injured reporter that led Smita to the story, and the relationship between the two unveils what truly has happened in Smita’s past, but not without revealing the prejudices that both feel about India and America. Within the situations in this book, social constructs from both cultures are explored through lyrical prose.

This novel is one that should go hand-in-hand with works like *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Runner*. Heartbreaking, shocking, and deeply rooted in the current political climate, *Honor* is a novel that should not be taken for granted.

REVIEWED BY MARCY FORD, MANAGER, GRAMERCY BOOKS IN
BEXLEY, OH

POETRY

Lambert, Paula. *The Ghost of Every Feathered Thing*.

Athens, GA: FutureCycle Press, 2022.

As I opened this daring book of poetry, I had no idea I would learn so much and be so moved. I have always been fascinated by birds, but they also give me a mysterious uneasiness. As Lambert discusses, this could be due to the evolutionary past of the avian. As a kid, I always dreamed of getting to see a dinosaur in real life, but now I am starting to see the world through a different lens.

While I was already aware that birds have been linked to theropods, Lambert's words have enlightened me into truly seeing birds as living dinosaurs. It is only natural that humans have adapted the hobby of observing such incredible creatures.

My mom has recently picked up birdwatching, and it is so impressive to me how she can name so many different types of birds. The hobby seemed peculiar to me at first, yet while reading *The Ghost of Every Feathered Thing*, I found myself researching every bird that was mentioned. I googled hoatzin and was shocked as I read how hoatzin chicks are born with claws on their wings like the Archaeopteryx. Additionally, I found out that genetic research was done in 2015 estimating "that the species branched off from the rest of the avian tree about 65 million years ago," around the time dinosaurs became extinct (Deatrick 2015). I truly love books that excite me to the point of doing further research.

Lambert writes about the avian world with an awestruck voice, inviting the reader to explore and dig deeper into what drives one's curiosity. You do not need to have an interest in ornithology to get something out of this book. The poet's affinity and passion for studying birds is wholly inspiring in and of itself. Lambert is not demanding the reader to be fascinated by birds or the divine, but she is exemplifying the fountain of wisdom that comes from finding a stronger will for life through one's passion.



The poet speaks of birds with a sacred simplicity, allowing the wonder of nature to shine through while describing anatomy and behavior in accessible language. Lambert explains how we wish the dove to be holy and see the vulture as an omen—focusing in on the human journey of ascribing meaning to life. The poet exclaims, “Listen to that lovely sound: / the train, the toad, the ten-year-old. The skull / beneath our skin. There’s a Temple of Knowing, / and it’s not within.” While certain tenets of mindfulness say to go inward, Lambert asks the reader to look outside oneself. In an educational context, this makes complete sense. Knowledge rarely appears out of nowhere, but rather awaits us at the end of an experience, observation, or period of reflection. We must study nature and observe life to learn more about living. I have been practicing mindfulness in an effort to be more present as I experience the world, and in my opinion, *The Ghost of Every Feathered Thing* embodies the fruits of mindful observance and study.

Deatrick, Elizabeth. “The Hoatzin: Misfit, Belcher, Genetic Mystery.” Audubon.org. October 9, 2015. <https://www.audubon.org/news/hoatzin>.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM NORDINE, OHIOANA LIBRARY ASSISTANT

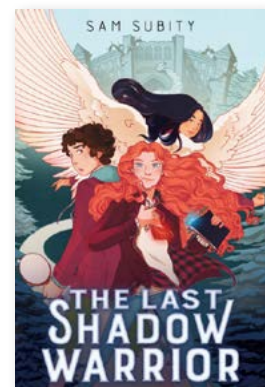
YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE

Subity, Sam. *The Last Shadow Warrior*.

New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2021.

The Viking civilization is alive and well, they eat fish. Jell-O called “lutefisk,” and they live in a technologically advanced, secret society underground in Minnesota. (Their choice of NFL team mascot should have tipped you off.)

Twelve-year-old Abby Beckett is descended from a long line of Aesir—an elite group of Viking warriors who have hunted the terrible creatures known as Grendels for centuries. Abby has been training since she was young to follow in the footsteps of her courageous mother, who died serving her lifelong mission to protect the world from these



monsters. But Abby doesn't realize how little she actually knows about modern-day Viking society until she and her non-Norse father are attacked and forced to take refuge at Vale Hall, a mysterious school outside of Minneapolis.

With her injured father in the hospital, Abby faces her new school alone. She soon learns that Vale Hall is not as it seems—nor is the world as she knows it. Beneath the sprawling campus is a top-secret Viking metropolis, boasting everything from a weapons forge to a Starbucks. The Viking Council even knew her mother! But instead of praising her legacy, they claim Abby's mother was only an attention-seeker chasing shadows; no one has seen a Grendel for centuries.

Then Abby's father declines in the hospital, inexplicably getting worse instead of better. It seems dark forces are at play, and the more Abby digs, the more she becomes certain a Grendel is at the root of everything. With the help of her quirky new friends, an old botanist's journal, and plenty of Viking spirit, Abby sets out to save her father and clear her mother's name. Nothing will stop her—not even the jerk from her history class or a Ping-Pong-playing sea monster.

The Last Shadow Warrior can be summarized in one word: fun! Debut author Sam Subity's take on Norse mythology is imaginative and fresh, with surprises around every corner. Abby is an engaging and compelling protagonist. She can wield a sword as expertly as her Viking ancestors, but also battles internal doubts and fears like any kid in middle school. Luckily, her new friends are there to support her on every step of her journey—whether she needs a shoulder to cry on, eyes to watch her back, or someone who keeps pastries in their pockets and is really good at playing bingo. The story is also bursting with humor. I found myself chuckling on almost every page. Whether you're a middle grader or an adult, in these times, we could all use more of that!

Packed with heart, humor, and tasty lutefisk, *The Last Shadow Warrior* is a fantastic romp. Fans of the *Percy Jackson* series, Norse mythology, *Beowulf*, and extraordinary schools will enjoy this book. I can't wait to see what adventure Abby and her friends have next.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS, OHIOANA LIBRARY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND SCBWI REGIONAL ADVISOR

JUVENILE

Brain, Erin Alon. *Fun For Anyone!*

Columbus, OH: Dfmi Designs, 2020.

Fun doesn't adhere to the gender binary. That's exactly what this picture book explains, but that would be a very long title, so *Fun For Anyone!* works perfectly.



Some people like glitter, sharks, and nail polish. Other people love baking, taking pictures, and making slime. Some kids like aliens, dinosaurs, and rainbows. And other kids like ALL of those things. One of those people is a little boy named Weston and his story has completely enthralled my three-year-old niece.

For a picture book, there are a fair amount of words. But even young toddlers can find joy in the story because of the accompanying illustration style. There's enough on each page to capture their attention. The illustrations are lovingly hand-drawn, as if the author recently finished writing the book just for you.

Ohioan and graphic designer Erin Alon Brain (what a cool name) has written and illustrated a picture book that helps kids recognize that what they love to do doesn't have to be dictated by their gender. It goes a step further, weaving a story that doesn't just celebrate being yourself, but also helps young readers figure out what to do when others bully you for what makes you special. Fun isn't gendered, nor should it be.

REVIEWED BY RAINA BRADFORD-JENNINGS, CHOCOLATE CHIP
COOKIE ENTHUSIAST AND PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between December 2021 and March 2022. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Abbott, Anneliese. ***Malabar Farm: Louis Bromfield, Friends of the Land, and the Rise of Sustainable Agriculture***. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 2021. Anneliese Abbott tells the story of Malabar Farm within the context of the wider histories of soil conservation and other environmental movements, especially the Ohio-based organization Friends of the Land. As one of the few surviving landmarks of this movement—which became an Ohio state park in 1976—Malabar Farm provides an intriguing case study of how soil conservation began, how it was marginalized during the 1950s, and how it now continues to influence the modern idea of sustainable agriculture.

Butcher, Amy. ***Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America***. Seattle, WA: Little A, 2021. Amy Butcher was an accomplished college professor, mentor, and writer, but in her own home, she was embarrassed and emotionally burdened by an increasingly abusive relationship. Exhausted and terrified of the ways her partner's behavior could escalate, Amy reached out to Instagram celebrity Joy “Mothertrucker” Wiebe. Joy was a fifty-year-old wife, mother, and the nation's only female ice road trucker,

a woman who maneuvered big rigs through the Alaskan wilderness along the deadliest road in America. Invited by Joy to ride shotgun, Amy found her escape on a road that was treacherous, beautiful, and exhilarating—an adventurous ride through the Alaskan wilderness that was profoundly life-changing.

Cerankowski, KJ. ***Suture: Trauma and Trans Becoming***. Goleta, CA: Punctum Books, 2021. Combining memoir, lyrical essay, and cultural criticism, KJ Cerankowski's *Suture: Trauma and Trans Becoming* stitches together an embodied history of trauma and its ongoing impacts on the lived realities of trans, queer, and other marginalized subjects. *Suture* is a conjuration, a patchwork knitting of ghost stories attending to the wound as its own archive. It is a journey through many “transitions:” of gender; through illness and chronic pain; from childhood to adulthood and back again; of psyche and form in the wake of abuse and through the work of healing; and of the self.

Denny, Guy L. ***Peatlands of Ohio and the Southern Great Lakes Region***. Photographs by Gary Meszaros. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 2022. Peatlands—and specifically “bogs”—have long been a source of fascination for humans. These amazing places are truly living relics of the Ice Age. More recently, bogs have come to be regarded as complex and fascinating wetland ecosystems. *Peatlands of Ohio and the Southern Great Lakes Region* focuses on the sphagnum peat bogs and rich fens of the lower Great Lakes states of

Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, southern Michigan, and the glaciated northern corners of Pennsylvania.

Fletcher, Angus. ***Wonderworks: The 25 Most Powerful Inventions in the History of Literature***. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2021. This examination of literary inventions through the ages, from ancient Mesopotamia to Elena Ferrante, shows how writers have created technical breakthroughs—rivaling scientific inventions—and engineering enhancements to the human heart and mind.

Heaton, Patricia. ***Your Second Act: Inspiring Stories of Reinvention***. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2020. An entertaining, inspirational book about second acts in life and reinventing yourself from beloved television actress Patricia Heaton—Emmy Award-winning star of *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *The Middle*, and *Carol's Second Act*.

Jordan, Brian Matthew. ***A Thousand May Fall: Life, Death, and Survival in the Union Army***. New York, NY: Liveright, 2021. From a Pulitzer Prize finalist, this pathbreaking history of the Civil War is centered on a regiment of immigrants and their brutal experience of the conflict.

Kane, Phillip. ***The Not So Subtle Art of Caring: Letters of Leadership***. Alesford, UK: John Hunt Publishing, 2022. Virgin's Richard Branson, Zappos' Tony Hsieh, and Tesla's Elon Musk: apart from their obvious success, all share another thing

in common—each man utilizes storytelling to maximize their effectiveness as leaders. Encouraged by these influences, Phillip Kane—a father, author, Nigerian priest, and successful businessperson—used stories each Friday throughout his career to help business associates relate to key issues facing the organizations he had the privilege to lead. These weekly letters had less to do with what was going on in the business and more on how people thought about what was going on in the business. By helping shift and align his teams' viewpoints, Kane and the organizations he led were able to accomplish their goals and achieve success more often. Many of the stories he told are assembled here for the first time.

Kirker, Constance L., and Mary Newman. *Cherry*. London, UK: Reaktion Books, 2021. In this intriguing natural and cultural history, Constance L. Kirker and Mary Newman recount the origins, legends, celebrations, production, and health benefits of the cherry tree.

Kondik, Kyle. *The Long Red Thread: How Democratic Dominance Gave Way to Republican Advantage in US House Elections*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2021. An incisive study that shows how Republicans transformed the United States House of Representatives into a consistent GOP stronghold—with or without a majority.

Kristofco, John P. *The Alex Chronicles: Growing Up in the '50s and '60s*. Gates Mills, OH: The Orchard Street Press, 2021. The latest collection of short stories from the author of *The Timekeeper's Garden*.

Kuron, Frank. *Sketches of Intriguing People and the Curious Events They Suffered While Living in the Wilderness of the Northwest Territory*. Toledo, OH: Kuron Publishing, 2020.

In 1787 the Northwest Territory was opened for settlement. Citizens of the new United States ventured from the civilized communities established along the Atlantic to the expansive wilderness beyond the Appalachians. In response, the Native Americans who already inhabited the land were instinctively driven to defend it. Through sketches, diaries, letters, and excerpts from newspapers of the day, intriguing episodes of this era are retold, giving readers a rare and raw glimpse into some of the most daring lives lived on the frontier.

Lewandowski, Marcia. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Yerba Mate: The Culture, Ceremony, & Curiosities of South America's Favorite Tea*. Illus. by Nathan Vieland and Kelly Lincoln. Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2021. This book is a practical manual on how to authentically drink yerba mate and a deep dive into the ceremony, hospitality, and engaging cultural norms and nuances of the mate circle. Read about yerba mate's not-so-insignificant role in history, its evolving folklore, and its role in promoting health physically, socially, and spiritually. The author learned the art of drinking yerba mate while living in a tiny village in the Bolivian Chaco. She was introduced to the broader world of yerba mate while hitchhiking through the other mate-drinking hot spots of South America.

Lewis, Carolyn Bailey. *Love and Loss: The Storied Nature of Nursing Home Care*. Buchtel, OH:

Monday Creek Publishing, 2021. Whether you are aging yourself, have aging parents, or have a disability, the same questions often come up: Who will provide for you? Is skilled nursing the answer, and what will it cost? Are you “putting family away” or taking on the care responsibilities yourself as families in many cultures do? Carefully choosing options, knowing what those selections mean, and demystifying the process is the central theme of *Love and Loss: The Storied Nature of Nursing Home Care*.

Maroukis, Thomas Constantine. *We Are Not a Vanishing People: The Society of American Indians, 1911-1923*. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press, 2021.

In 1911 a group of Native American intellectuals and activists joined together to establish the Society of American Indians (SAI), an organization by Indians for Indians. It was the first such nationwide organization dedicated to reform. They used a strategy of protest and activism that carried into the rest of the twentieth century. Some of the most prominent members included Charles A. Eastman (Dakota), Arthur Parker (Seneca), Carlos Montezuma (Yavapai), Zitkala-Ša (Yankton Sioux), and Sherman Coolidge (Peoria). They fought for U.S. citizenship and quality education. They believed these tools would allow Indigenous people to function in the modern world without surrendering one's identity. They believed this could be accomplished by removing government controls over Indian life. Historian Thomas Constantine Maroukis discusses the goals, strategies, successes, and failures of the Indigenous intellectuals who came together to form the SAI.

Meyers, David, and Elise Meyers Walker. ***The Reverse Underground Railroad in Ohio***. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2021.

Prior to the Civil War, thousands escaped slavery via the Underground Railroad. Untold others failed in the attempt. These unfortunate souls were dragged into bondage via the Reverse Underground Railroad, as it came to be called. With more lines on both roads than any other state, the Free State of Ohio became a hunting ground for slave catchers and kidnappers who roamed the North with impunity, seeking “fugitives” or any person of color who could be sold into slavery. And when they found one, they would kidnap their victim and head south to reap the reward. Authors David Meyers and Elise Meyers Walker reveal not only the terror and injustice, but also the bravery and determination born of this dark time in American history.

MillerUpton, Joy S. ***Journeys: Finding Joy on Horseback***. Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2021. With two horses, a dog, and a used Gibson guitar, a young woman set out in 1973 for a month-long adventure, following trails and backroads deep into Appalachia in southeastern Ohio. A few weeks before, Joy MillerUpton had been a journalism student at Ohio University, but now, with a BS degree in hand, she was taking time off before beginning her writing and photography career. At first riding with her twelve-year-old son for a week, then by herself, Joy had time to contemplate the first thirty-one years of her life. That journey was the first in a series of horseback adventures Joy and her horses took over the next three decades.

Morrone, Michele. ***Ailing in Place: Environmental Inequities and Health Disparities in Appalachia***. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2020.

In *Ailing in Place*, Michele Morrone explores the relationship between environmental conditions in Appalachia and health outcomes that are too often ascribed to individual choices. She applies quantitative data to observations from environmental health professionals to frame the ways in which the environment, as a social determinant of health, leads to health disparities in Appalachian communities. These examples—these stories of place—trace the impacts of water quality, waste disposal, and natural resource extraction on the health and quality of life of Appalachian people.

Parker, Dave, and Dave Jordan. ***Cobra: A Life of Baseball and Brotherhood***. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2021. Dave Parker was one of the biggest and most badass baseball players of the late twentieth century. He stood at six foot five and weighed 235 pounds. He was a seven-time All-Star, a two-time batting champion, a frequent Gold Glove winner, the 1978 National League MVP, and a World Series champion with both the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Oakland A's. This long-awaited autobiography is an authoritative account of Black baseball during its heyday as seen through the eyes of none other than the Cobra. From Parker's earliest professional days learning the game from such baseball legends as Pie Traynor and Roberto Clemente to his later years mentoring younger talents like Eric Davis and Barry Larkin, Cobra is the story of a Black athlete making

his way through the game during a time of major social and cultural transformation.

Rosen, Steven. ***Lost Cincinnati Concert Venues of the '50s and '60s: From the Surf Club to Ludlow Garage***. Mount Pleasant, SC: The History Press, 2022.

Cincinnati in the 1950s and 1960s offered a stunning array of live music and entertainment venues. Although many of them no longer exist, their memories live on. Fulfilling an “obligation” to mobsters, blues crooner Charles Brown played a residency at the Sportsman's Club in Newport. Incendiary comedian Lenny Bruce performed at the Surf Club on the city's conservative west side. Signaling an end to the '60s, Iggy Pop created a sensation at the 1970 Cincinnati Summer Pop Festival at Crosley Field. Join seasoned journalist Steven Rosen on a tour through historically heady days in the Queen City's music scene.

Schillace, Brandy. ***Mr. Humble & Dr. Butcher: A Monkey's Head, the Pope's Neuroscientist, and the Quest to Transplant the Soul***. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2021. In the early days of the Cold War, a spirit of desperate scientific rivalry birthed a different kind of space race: not the race to outer space that we all know, but a race to master the inner space of the human body. While surgeons on either side of the Iron Curtain competed to become the first to transplant organs like the kidney and heart, a young American neurosurgeon had an even more ambitious thought: Why not transplant the brain? Dr. Robert White was a friend to two popes and a founder of the Vatican's Commission on Bioethics. He

developed lifesaving neurosurgical techniques still used in hospitals today and was nominated for the Nobel Prize. But like Dr. Jekyll before him, Dr. White had another identity. In his lab, he was waging a battle against the limits of science and against mortality itself—working to perfect a surgery that would allow the soul to live on after the human body died.

Shailer, Janet S. ***Trouble on Scioto's Waters: Soldiers, Frontiersmen, & Native Americans, 1725-1815.*** Wilmington, OH: Orange Frazer Press, 2021.

The tranquil waters of the Scioto River and its tributaries, such as Big Darby Creek, Big Walnut Creek, and the Olentangy River, were once hotbeds of activity as Prehistoric and Woodland Indians used them as major transportation routes. Later, the European fur trappers and frontiersmen understood their significance, followed by soldiers from three different countries. The years 1754-1814 were violent ones in Ohio's history, but vital to understanding the state. They set the table for chapters on five famous early Ohioans from the mid-eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries—Blue Jacket, Tecumseh, Simon Girty, Col. William Crawford, and Jonathan Alder. All of them used the Scioto River watershed to reach certain destinations. *Trouble on Scioto's Waters* chronicles the importance of the Scioto River watershed to Ohio's early history.

Shores, Elizabeth Findley. ***Shared Secrets: The Queer World of Newbery Medalist Charles J. Finger.*** Fayetteville, AR: The University of Arkansas Press, 2021. For nearly a century, British expatriate Charles Joseph Finger

(1867–1941) was best known as an award-winning author of children's literature. In *Shared Secrets*, Elizabeth Findley Shores relates Finger's untold story, exploring the secrets that connected the author to an international community of twentieth-century queer literati.

Sukrungruang, Ira. ***This Jade World.*** Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2021.

This Jade World centers on a Thai American going through a series of life changes. Ira Sukrungruang married young to an older poet. On their twelfth anniversary, he received a letter asking for a divorce, sending him into a spiral of despair. How would he define himself when he was suddenly without the person who had helped shape and mold him? Through ancient temples and the lush greenery of Thailand, to the confines of a stranger's bed and a devouring couch, *This Jade World* chronicles a year of mishap, exploration and experimentation, self-discovery, and eventually, healing. It questions the very nature of love and heartbreak, uncovering the vulnerability of being human.

Thorndike, John. ***The Last of His Mind: A Year in the Shadow of Alzheimer's.*** Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2021.

The second, expanded edition of this acclaimed memoir by an Alzheimer's caregiver living with his father during his final year includes a new introduction that illustrates the immense toll of the disease, important lessons from the author's experience, and a readers' guide.

Tully, John A. ***Labor in Akron, 1825-1945.*** Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2020. Akron, Ohio, is of special interest

in the story of U.S. labor as it has a history of intense struggle, both between Capital and Labor and between conflicting forms of labor organization. The book powerfully describes this conflict in Akron, including the massive rubber workers' strike of 1913. Dr. Tully illustrates these struggles with the individual stories of rank-and-file workers and radical activists. In the mid-1930s, Akron became a bastion of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and, briefly, of the Farmer-Labor Party. The leaders of this "home-grown" social union movement understood that workers were a class whose interests went further than just a bargaining relationship with employers. By the end of the decade, however, the "business industrial unionism" model had blocked the great upsurge of social unionism, and the impetus for independent labor politics was channeled back behind the Democratic Party. This book explains why and how socially progressive unionism was defeated. It argues that rebuilding the working-class movement along the lines supported by Tate and others in Akron in the 1930s is the great, unfinished business of labor in the United States.

Wilkinson, Marco. ***Madder in Weeds: A Memoir.*** Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2021. Marco Wilkinson uses his deep knowledge of undervalued plants, mainly weeds—invisible yet ubiquitous, unwanted yet abundant, out-of-place yet flourishing—as both structure and metaphor in these intimate vignettes. *Madder in Weeds* combines poetic meditations on nature, immigration, queer sensuality, and willful forgetting with recollections of Wilkinson's

Rhode Island childhood and glimpses of his maternal family's life in Uruguay. The son of a fierce, hardworking mother who tried to erase even the memory of his absent father from their lives, Wilkinson investigates his heritage with a mixture of anger and empathy as he wrestles with the ambiguity of his own history.

Woods-Spikes, Donte. ***So. Long.: Unfinished Good-byes with the Children of COVID-19***. Columbus, OH: Donte Woods-Spikes, 2021. As a young Black teacher's aide in the Columbus City Schools, Donte Woods-Spikes explored the connections to his own childhood in the interactions with the students from a Black neighborhood near downtown. He often found that they taught him lessons that adults had missed in his own education. When the pandemic suddenly broke his connection to these wonderful children, he documented their stories as a tribute to their resilience moving through the unprecedented times. He gives insights into their challenging and sometimes heartbreaking world—a world often unseen, even by their parents.

FICTION

Balaskovits, A. A. ***Strange Folk You'll Never Meet***. Santa Fe, NM: SFWP, 2021.

From the author of the bestselling *Magic for Unlucky Girls* comes a new collection of magical short stories with a fabulist, feminist edge.

Batiuk, Tom. ***The Complete Funky Winkerbean Volume 11: 2002-2004***. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 2021.

Relationships move to the front of the stage in this eleventh volume of *The Complete Funky Winkerbean* as the lighthearted dalliances of the past segue to the more mature partnerships of the adult world. Marriages are tested as Funky and Cindy's relationship begins to break apart, and Becky and Wally are separated by the war in Afghanistan. At the same time, Lisa and Les begin a family and go house hunting, while Crazy Harry meets an unlikely soulmate from his high school video gaming days.

Beard, Janet. ***The Ballad of Laurel Springs***. New York, NY: Gallery Books, 2021.

Ten-year-old Grace is in search of a subject for her school history project when she learns that her fourth-great-grandfather once stabbed his lover to death. Her aunt tells her that his grisly act was memorialized in a murder ballad, so it must be true. But the lessons of that revelation—to be careful of men and desire—are not just Grace's to learn. Her family's tangled past is part of a dark legacy in which the lives of generations of women are affected by the violence immortalized in folksongs like “Knoxville Girl” and “Pretty Polly,” reminding them always to know their place—or risk the wages of sin.

Brundrett, Robert. ***Girl from the Racetrack: A Novel of the Vietnam War***. Wilmington, OH: Orange Frazer Press, 2021.

The story of Charlie, an American serviceman, and Kim, a Vietnamese horse jockey, who fall in love during the war.

Castillo, Linda. ***Fallen (Kate Burkholder #13)***. New York, NY: Minotaur Books, 2021. In *New York Times* bestselling

author Linda Castillo's new thriller, a rebellious Amish woman leaves the Plain life, but the secrets she takes with her will lead Chief of Police Kate Burkholder down a dark path to danger and death.

Chiddister, Diane. ***One More Day***. Zanesville, OH: Columbus Press, 2021.

Growing old, facing death, seeking home, and opening to love . . . at Grace Woods Care Center, residents and staff face life's greatest challenges with yearning, wisdom, trepidation, and hope. Thomas, an anthropologist, approaches old age with fear and curiosity, while Lillian, a woman with dementia, searches for home. A shy and compassionate nurse's aide, Sally, pushes back when love appears, unable to see herself worthy of the same happiness she instills in the residents. The center's director, Beth, navigates hard changes that threaten to derail her career and the quality of care she's worked so hard to foster. These tough topics are explored with compassion and candor in Chiddister's debut novel.

Eding, Stephanie. ***The Unplanned Life of Josie Hale***. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Casablanca, 2022.

When Josie discovers that she's unexpectedly pregnant with her ex-husband's baby (darn that last attempt to save their marriage), she seeks comfort in deep-fried food at the county fair. There she runs into her two old friends, Ben and Kevin. While sharing their own disappointments with adult life, they devise a plan to move in together and turn their lives around. Soon Ben and Kevin make it their mission to prepare for Josie's baby, not least by making sure Josie always has the food she's craving. Maybe together

they can discover the true meaning of family and second chances in life.

Fearnside, Jeff. ***A Husband and Wife Are One Satan: Stories.***

Asheville, NC: Orison Books, 2021.

This new collection of linked short stories from award-winning author Jeff Fearnside explores the lives of ordinary people in Kazakhstan as they face the challenges of post-Soviet transition in the early twenty-first century. Winner of the 2020 Orison Chapbook Prize.

Flanagan, Erin. ***Deer Season.***

Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2021.

A drama about the complicated relationships connecting the residents of a small-town farming community, *Deer Season* explores troubling questions about how far people will go to safeguard the ones they love and what it means to be a family.

Graff, Andrew J. ***Raft of Stars.*** New York, NY: Ecco, 2021.

In the summer of 1994 in Claypot, Wisconsin, the lives of ten-year-old Fischer “Fish” Branson and Dale “Bread” Breadwin are shaped by the two fathers they don’t talk about. One night, tired of seeing his best friend bruised and terrorized by his no-good dad, Fish takes action. A gunshot rings out and the two boys flee the scene, believing themselves murderers. They head for the woods, where they find their way onto a raft, but the natural terrors of Ironsforge Gorge threaten to overwhelm them. Four adults follow them into the forest, each one on a journey of his or her own. This timeless story of loss, hope, and adventure runs like the river itself amid the vividly rendered landscape of the Upper Midwest.

Henson, Michael. ***Secure the Shadow.*** Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2021.

An interconnected web of lives in one midwestern city captures the surprising humanity of people searching for their authentic selves amid the 1990s drug crisis.

Lawson, Tracy. ***Answering Liberty’s Call: Anna Stone’s Daring Ride to Valley Forge.*** Sterling, VA: Fidelis Publishing, 2021.

When her soldier husband and brothers face starvation at Valley Forge, Anna is not content to pray and worry. She gets on her horse and strikes out alone over two hundred miles of rough roads to bring them life-sustaining supplies. Eighty miles from her destination, Anna learns of a plot to overthrow General Washington and replace him with a commander who will surrender. With the fate of the American Revolution in her hands, she agrees to carry a message of warning and races to reach Valley Forge before one of the conspirators, who is in hot pursuit, can intercept her.

Norgard, R. J. ***Road Kill: A Sidney Reed Novel.*** Huron, OH: Bird Dog Publishing, 2021.

In *Road Kill*, the second installment in the *Sidney Reed Mystery* series, Alaska Private Investigator Sidney Reed is still haunted by the memory of his late wife Molly, even as his doubts about her alleged suicide grow. Still smarting from the loss of his beloved Subaru to a huge bull moose, Sidney is lured away from his dingy apartment above an Anchorage coffee shop by his friend, renowned Alaska attorney Eddie Baker, who persuades Sid to help him defend a drug-addicted snowplow operator accused of the hit-and-run death of Willie Olson, the son of a prominent

Indigenous community leader. With the trial dominating the headlines and the Alaska Native community on edge, tensions are running sky-high, but Eddie assures Sid that he is only there to provide routine trial support. But as the road-weary P.I. delves into the case, he begins to doubt his client’s guilt.

Umrigar, Thrity. ***Honor.*** Chapel Hill, NC: Algongquin Books, 2022.

This new novel about love, hope, familial devotion, betrayal, and sacrifice, by Ohioana Book Award winner Thrity Umrigar, tells the story of two couples and the sometimes dangerous and heartbreaking challenges of love across a cultural divide.

POETRY

Abbott, Steve, ed. ***Common Threads 2021.*** Mansfield, OH: Ohio Poetry Association, 2021.

Published annually and edited by Steve Abbott, *Common Threads* is an Ohio Poetry Association members-only journal and is one of the privileges of membership. The journal features poetry of OPA members and contest winners, such as those who win the Ides of March and Ohio High School Poetry contests.

Bilgere, George. ***Central Air (Pitt Poetry Series).*** Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022. With humor and compassion, George Bilgere continues his explorations of the human predicament. The settings of these poems range from Cleveland to Berlin, from childhood to old age. Bilgere’s subject, in the largest sense, is America, in all its craziness, its haunted past, and its

imperiled future. But what really centers this book is the English language itself, which these poems endeavor to renew, reinvent, and reinvigorate.

Foster, Linda Nemec. *The Blue Divide*. Kalamazoo, MI: New Issues Poetry and Prose, 2021.

The poems in this powerful new collection explore the history of conflict and resilience—whether it occurs during the Nazi occupation of Poland, the Balkan wars in Bosnia and Croatia, or within the intimate tableaux of a family’s dissonance. Weaving poems into three distinct sections, Linda Nemec Foster pays close attention to not only what divides us, but also to what can heal and redeem our common journey.

Hansel, Pauletta. *Heartbreak Tree*. Lake Dallas, TX: Madville Publishing, 2021.

Heartbreak Tree is a poetic exploration of the intersection of gender and place in Appalachia.

Hsiung, Valerie. *Outside Voices, Please*. Cleveland, OH: Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 2021.

In this shifting assemblage of verse, prose poems, scenes, performance scores, charts, and maps, Hsiung’s speaker emerges through clashes of language and its structures—its traumatized syntax, its colonialist dictionaries, its abusive evasions, its obfuscating corporate speak, its xenophobia and its patriarchalism, and its capacity to scorch and dazzle.

Iris, Manuel. *The Parting Present / Lo Que Se Irá*. Loveland, OH: Dos Madres Press, 2021.

The Parting Present is not a book of poems about fatherhood, but a book written about various life

experiences, both private and shared, from the perspective of an individual who is interested in, and worried about, reality and poetry after such a transformative event.

Kristofco, John P., ed. *Quiet Diamonds 2021*. Gates Mills, OH: The Orchard Street Press, 2021. The Orchard Street Press presents *Quiet Diamonds 2021*, the fourth edition of its annual poetry journal.

Leahy, Anna. *What Happened Was*. Madison, CT: Small Harbor Publishing, 2021.

Written in the wake of Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony in the Supreme Court confirmation hearing and steeped in the memory of Anita Hill’s testimony thirty years ago, *What Happened Was* explores the cumulative effect of what women have been told is “not that bad.” The title series of *What Happened Was* includes ten poems; each uses seven repetitions of “what happened was” to tell its story.

Moore, Jennifer. *Easy Does It (Akron Series in Poetry)*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2021.

In *Easy Does It*, Jennifer Moore’s second full-length collection, the speaker brings the reader on an exploration of multiple worlds: the social, the domestic, and the pastoral, considering the difficult questions and problems of the self—of memory, history, grief, and desire.

Sanders, David. *Bread of the Moment*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2021.

A collection of poems about time, solitude, and wisdom that leads readers to hover between acceptance of and alienation from our fragility.

Schubert, Karen. *The Compost Reader*. Lexington, KY: Accents Publishing, 2020.

Accents Publishing is proud to present the first full-length poetry collection by Karen Schubert. *The Compost Reader* features a number of the best poems of her journey as a poet.

Spencer, Emily. *East Walnut Hills*. Clarksville, TN: Zone 3 Books, 2021.

East Walnut Hills is the debut collection of poems by Emily Spencer, consisting of meditations on biodiverse community and dwelling across the past, present, and future.

Weigl, Bruce. *Among Elms, In Ambush*. Rochester, NY: BOA Editions, 2021.

This powerful new work by Bruce Weigl follows the celebrated poet and Vietnam War veteran as he explores combat, survival, and PTSD in brief prose vignettes.

Weldon, Laura Grace. *Portals*. Beulah, CO: Middle Creek Publishing, 2021.

The poems in *Portals* seek new connections between our inner and outer worlds. This vibrant collection is packed with poems about wild places, ancestors, quicksand, the microbiome, protests, yeast, consequential strangers, and the fierce persistence of hope.

Wells, Sarah M. *Between the Heron and the Moss*. Telford, PA: Dreamseeker Books, 2021.

The poems in *Between the Heron and the Moss* strive to magnify the Spirit’s incarnation in the natural world in contrast with the losses we all suffer. There is growth to be gained through suffering and beauty to be made out of ashes. Travel into

the wilderness of memory, violence, aging, motherhood, lament, and loss, and find the fruits of celebration, comfort, joy, love, and peace.

Zamora, Felicia. *I Always Carry My Bones*. Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 2021.

The poems in *I Always Carry My Bones* tackle the complex ideation of home—the place where horrid and beautiful intertwine and carve a being into existence—for marginalized and migrant peoples. Felicia Zamora explores how familial history echoes inside a person and the ghosts of lineage dwell in a body. Sometimes we haunt. Sometimes we are the haunted. Pierced by an estranged relationship to Mexican culture, the ethereal ache of an unknown father, the weight of racism and poverty in this country, the indentations of abuse, and a mind/physicality affected by doubt, these poems root in the search for belonging—a belonging inside and outside the flesh.

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Alpine, Rachele. *Art with Heart (The Invincible Girls Club #2)*.

Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

Emelyn and her three BFFs spread positive messages to fight back against bullying in this second installment of *The Invincible Girls Club* chapter book series. Features backmatter with profiles on real-life anti-bullying activists.

Alpine, Rachele. *Back to Nature (The Invincible Girls Club #3)*.

Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

Ruby and her three BFFs go camping in this third installment of *The Invincible Girls Club* chapter book series. Features backmatter with profiles on real-life girls who have done remarkable things outdoors.

Alpine, Rachele. *Home Sweet Forever Home (The Invincible Girls Club #1)*.

Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

Lauren and her three BFFs find creative ways to help shelter dogs get adopted in this first installment of *The Invincible Girls Club* chapter book series. Features backmatter with profiles on real-life animal activists.

Bishop, Jenn. *Where We Used to Roam*. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2021.

As Emma navigates sixth grade, she experiences the social growing pains of new friendships forming and old ones falling apart, while her older brother, Austin, fights to overcome opioid addiction after a football injury. After surviving an overdose, Austin is sent to rehab and Emma is sent to stay with family friends in Wyoming for the summer. Emma questions herself for missing her brother's signs of addiction, as well as acting horribly to her former best friend. Wyoming provides a haven for healing and contemplation, but Emma can't hide forever—or live in the past—and must find a way to face her family and friendship problems back home.

Bobulski, Chelsea. *All I Want for Christmas is the Girl Next Door*.

Las Vegas, NV: Wise Wolf Books, 2021.

It's a Wonderful Life meets *Wish Upon a Star* in this Christmas-themed young adult contemporary romance.

Marks, Allison and Wayne. *The \$150,000 Rugelach*. Illus. by Ariel Landry. Brooklyn, NY: Little Bee/Yellow Jacket, 2021.

A delicious tale of rivalry, friendship, heartache, and dessert! Fame-obsessed Jack and somber Jillian, who is mourning the loss of her mother, become a mismatched duo selected to compete for \$150,000 in a high-stakes baking contest jam-packed with hilarious hijinks.

Prosek, Bryan. *A Measure of Serenity*. Brentwood, TN: CamCat Books, 2021.

Eighteen-year-old Serenity Ashdown has a brilliant mind: she counts, calculates, and analyzes *everything*, even when she doesn't want to. After her physicist father suddenly disappears, Serenity follows his trail to a parallel dimension. The feds on the other side claim to want to help her go home, if she helps them reconstruct the right codes for the portal between worlds. But it's soon clear they want something more: a gateway for invasion, because the parallel version of Earth is dying. When Serenity learns that her alter-ego was killed in battle, she assumes "the other Serenity's" identity and uses her unique abilities to lead the resistance against the tyrannical super-government that is poised to invade her universe. Serenity has no idea how to be someone she's not, but she has to try—or she may not have a home to return to.

Richards, Natalie D. *Seven Dirty Secrets*. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Fire, 2021.

On her eighteenth birthday, Cleo receives a mysterious invitation to a scavenger hunt. As she and her best friend, Hope, embark on the hunt, the seemingly random locations and

clues begin to feel chillingly familiar. In fact, all the clues seem to be about Cleo's dead boyfriend, Declan, who drowned on a group rafting trip exactly a year ago. But as the clock on the scavenger hunt ticks down, it becomes clear that someone knows what *really* happened to Declan. And that person will stop at nothing to make sure Cleo and her friends pay. Can they solve the hunt before someone else winds up dead?

Rogerson, Margaret. ***Vespertine***. New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2021.

Artemisia is training to be a Gray Sister, a nun who cleanses the bodies of the deceased so that their souls can pass on; otherwise, they will rise as ravenous, hungry spirits. When her convent is attacked by possessed soldiers, Artemisia defends it by awakening an ancient spirit bound to a saint's relic. It is a revenant, a malevolent being whose extraordinary power almost consumes her—but death has come, and only a vespertine, a priestess trained to wield a high relic, has any chance of stopping it. With all knowledge of vespertines lost to time, Artemisia turns to the last remaining expert for help: the revenant itself. As she unravels a sinister mystery of saints, secrets, and dark magic, Artemisia discovers that facing this hidden evil might require her to betray everything she believes—if the revenant doesn't betray her first.

Tharp, Jason. ***All Ketchup, No Mustard!: Ready-to-Read Graphics Level 2 (Nugget and Dog)***. New York, NY: Simon Spotlight, 2021. Nugget is a chicken nugget. Dog is a hot dog. They are friends, and they like ketchup. Their town of

Gastropolis is a peaceful place . . . until a spicy mustard packet named Dijon Mustard tries to make everyone grumpy. Nugget and Dog want to help, so they start a K.E.T.C.H.U.P. club, standing for Kind, Empathetic, Thoughtful, Courageous, Helpful, Unique, and Powerful. Can Nugget and Dog save the day with ketchup and kindness?

Tharp, Jason. ***Yum Fest Is the Best!: Ready-to-Read Graphics Level 2 (Nugget and Dog)***. New York, NY: Simon Spotlight, 2021.

Nugget and Dog and everyone in Gastropolis are excited about Yum Fest. It's the coolest fair around, with fun food and sweet rides, like the Cherry-Go-Round and Relish Wheel. But this year, a unicorn-puppy tries to spoil all the fun. Can Nugget and Dog use K.E.T.C.H.U.P.—their club that spreads kindness, empathy, and more—to save the day?

Wyatt, Merrill. ***Tangled Up in Luck***. New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2021.

When seventh-grade frenemies Sloane and Amelia are assigned to research a missing set of jewels for a class project, they find themselves caught in the middle of a centuries-old treasure hunt, with a mysterious person hot on their trail. Despite their differences, the girls will have to work together to solve the clues and unravel their town's past before the jewels fall into the wrong hands.

JUVENILE

Berne, Emma Carlson. ***Books by Horseback: A Librarian's Brave Journey to Deliver Books to Children***. Illus. by Ilaria Urbinati.

Brooklyn, NY: Little Bee, 2021. *Books By Horseback* is a breathtaking adventure of Edith, a heroic Pack Horse Librarian who braves the harsh terrain of rural Kentucky to bring books to children who need them during the Great Depression. This tale of courage and dedication won the 2021 Northern Lights Book Awards—Historical category.

Clark, Zion, and James S. Hirsch. ***Zion Unmatched***. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2021.

An extraordinary, deeply inspirational photo essay follows elite wheelchair racer, wrestler, and Netflix documentary star Zion Clark. This stunning photographic essay showcases Zion's ferocious athleticism and undaunted spirit. Cowritten by *New York Times* bestselling journalist James S. Hirsch, this book features striking images and engaging text, including pieces of advice that have motivated Zion toward excellence and passages from Zion himself. Explore Zion's journey from a childhood lost in the foster care system to his hard-fought rise as a high school wrestler to his current rigorous training to prepare as an elite athlete on the world stage.

Dawson, Keila V. ***Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book***. Illus. by Alleanna Harris. Minneapolis, MN: Beaming Books, 2021.

In the late 1930s when segregation was legal and Black Americans could not visit every establishment or travel everywhere they wanted to safely, a New Yorker named Victor Hugo Green decided to do something about it. Green wrote and published a guide that listed places where his fellow Black Americans could be safe in New York City. The guide sold

like hot cakes, and soon customers started asking Green to make a guide to help them travel and vacation safely across the nation, too. With the assistance of his mail carrier co-workers and the African American business community, Green's guide allowed millions of African Americans to journey safely and enjoy traveling across the nation.

Deak, JoAnn, and Terrence Deak. ***Goodnight to Your Fantastic, Elastic Brain***. Illus. by Neely Daggett. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Explore, 2022.

During the day, your brain helps you do things like eat, walk, play with friends, and learn new things—and using your brain helps it stretch and get stronger. But did you know that you have the power to grow and train your brain just by going to sleep? In fact, your brain is doing some of its most important work while you're resting. Written by two brain experts, *Good Night to Your Fantastic Elastic Brain* is packed with fascinating science and fun facts that will have kids excited to get a good night's rest.

Elkins, Rebecca. ***Max's Great Big World***. Illus. by Kelly Lincoln. Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2021.
Five-year-old Max has a wild imagination, and the backyard at his new house holds many opportunities for fun. Day after day, Max goes on adventures. But every day, Max notices his neighbor, Ellie, watching him through her window. Max wonders why Ellie only plays on her tablet. Then one day, Max convinces Ellie to come over and play. Will Max's enthusiasm be enough for Ellie to see the world through his eyes?

Hillenbrand, Will. ***Mighty Reader Makes the Grade***. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2021.

It's the night before a big test at school and pup Lulu's worries have come to life in a horrifying nightmare. How can she defeat the evil beasts of her imagination? With kicking and punching? No! Classroom hero Mighty Reader reminds Lulu how to knock out her fears with reading and partner power—they'll read together! Mighty Reader's latest adventure is a reassuring and fun book for any reader with test anxiety.

Rubin, Adam. ***Gladys the Magic Chicken***. Illus. by Adam Rex. New York, NY: G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2021.
From the mega-bestselling author of *Dragons Love Tacos* and the mega-bestselling illustrator of *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors*, this hilarious new picture book chronicles the adventures of an irresistible chicken who unexpectedly finds herself on an epic journey during Ancient Times.

Stephens, Ann Marie. ***CATastrophe! A Book of Patterns***. Illus. by Jenn Harney. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2021.
Nine kittens go on an exciting boating adventure that's a (funny) catastrophe in this playful picture book that demonstrates the key math concept of patterns.

Ward, Lindsay. ***Between the Lines***. Seattle, WA: Two Lions, 2021.
With vibrant art that shifts to a colorless world and back again, *Between the Lines* is a story of a community lost and rediscovered—and how one child's actions can cascade into something that makes all the difference.

Whitehall, Miry, and Jennifer Jackson. ***Our World is a Family: A Book About Being a Good Neighbor***. Illus. by Nomar Perez. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Explore, 2022.
Learn how to welcome new neighbors into your community, particularly when they might be far from home, in this uplifting and diverse picture book that champions human connection and inclusivity. After all, the world is everyone's home and we're one big family!

Williams, Abbey. ***An ABC of Families***. Illus. by Paulina Morgan. Lincoln, UK: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2021.
A is for Adoption, B is for Blended Family, C is for Co-Parenting. *An ABC of Families* is a board book for young children that celebrates families in every single shape and size, no matter what they look like or who they include.

Wynter, Anne. ***Everybody in the Red Brick Building***. Illus. by Oge Mora. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2021.
Full of delightful onomatopoeia, this story follows a chain reaction of noises that wakes up the residents of an apartment building then lulls them back to sleep again. From debut author Anne Wynter and Caldecott Honoree Oge Mora, *Everybody in the Red Brick Building* is a fresh, urban take on bedtime stories in the spirit of *The House That Jack Built* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*.

Thank You!

The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from December 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022. Special thanks to Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

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Why I Support Ohioana

I have a confession: before 2021, I didn't know what the Ohioana Library was or what they did. That all changed last summer, just a few weeks into my new role as Executive Director of Ohio Humanities. As I learned about our long-standing relationship with Ohioana as a sponsor of the book festival and a collaborator in supporting storytellers across the state, I was determined to learn more about the organization and the important work they do to celebrate Ohio writers and connect the public with their work and ideas.

I began by reading all of 2021's Ohioana Book Award winners. Tackling this list was pure joy. I read books that I never would have picked up on my own. I read poetry for the first time in ages. My ten-year-old son and I read two of the books together. I laughed, I cried, and I was blown away by how each book brought the experiences of someone else to life in a way that I could empathize and connect with.

I support Ohioana because of the connections they facilitate—with authors, with ideas, with my family, and with my fellow Ohioans. I support Ohioana because I know that they help others make these same, meaningful connections. I look forward to continuing my support of Ohioana and to the connections I will make with other supporters along the way. Happy reading!



Rebecca Asmo

Rebecca Asmo became Executive Director of Ohio Humanities in June 2021. Ohio Humanities is a Presenting Sponsor of the 2022 Ohioana Book Festival.

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Who we are

Ohio Humanities is a nonprofit organization that shares stories to spark conversations and inspire ideas. We host programs and award grants that support storytellers statewide, from museums to journalists to documentary filmmakers.

Impact we make

We share and support stories that reach tens of thousands of people across Ohio each year.

Projects we fund

We have helped fund thousands of powerful projects and are especially proud of our rich history supporting interesting and impactful documentaries, including:

QUEEN CITY KINGS Cincinnati's King Records birthed funk and soul rock, launched the careers of performers like James Brown, and changed the course of American music.

G IS FOR GUN After tragic shootings that have led to hundreds of deaths, should faculty and staff inside America's K-12 schools be armed? This film explores the controversy.

BLIMP! From a glorified kids' ride on the verge of being put to bed to a sports broadcasting cultural icon, the Goodyear Blimp is the pride of Akron.

THE LINCOLN SCHOOL STORY When their Hillsboro school wouldn't integrate even after Brown vs. Board of Education made segregation illegal, The Marching Mothers crusaded for their children.

9 TO 5: THE STORY OF A MOVEMENT The women's movement and the labor movement intersect in this documentary, which explores women's issues through the story of a group of female workers in the 70s.

Conversations are kind of our thing. *Let's talk.*

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