

PRESENTING THE 2023 OHIOANA BOOK AWARDS!



On July 28, the Ohioana Library proudly announced the winners of the 2023 Ohioana Awards, including seven book awards and the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. The Ohioana Book Awards, first given in 1942, are the second oldest, and among the most prestigious, state literary prizes in the nation. Nearly every major writer from Ohio in the past 82 years has been honored.

The 2023 Ohioana Awards will be presented Thursday, September 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Atrium of Ohio's historic Statehouse in Columbus. The evening begins with a reception and complimentary drinks. The program will include remarks from the winners*, a writers' roundtable, and conclude with book signing. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information and to make your reservation, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-703365764937>

Learn more about the 2023 book award winners on the following pages.

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

I was just reading a piece about the signs of summer ending. Ohioans can definitely relate to them all:

- It's getting darker earlier
- Kids are going back to school (some already have!)
- College football fans can't wait for the season kickoff
- Signs for temporary Halloween stores are popping up everywhere
- People are eagerly awaiting these two tasty words . . . *pumpkin spice*

At Ohioana, one sure sign of the end of summer is that we're busy getting ready for one of our signature events: the presentation of the annual Ohioana Book Awards. We'll do it again, for the 82nd consecutive year, on Thursday, September 21, in the beautiful Atrium of Ohio's historic Statehouse in downtown Columbus. We'd love to have you join us!

Seven book awards will be presented. After you read our cover story, I think you'll agree that it's a stellar list of some of Ohio's most accomplished authors. We'll

Nonfiction

Ross Gay*, *Inciting Joy*, Algonquin Books

Ross Gay is the author of four books of poetry including *Against Which*, *Bringing the Shovel Down*, the PEN American Literary Jean Stein Award-winning *Be Holding*, and *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. In addition to his poetry, Ross has written three collections of essays: the *New York Times*-bestselling *The Book of Delights*, *Inciting Joy*, and the forthcoming *The Book of (More) Delights* releasing September 2023. Gay was born in Youngstown, Ohio.

Fiction

Celeste Ng, *Our Missing Hearts*, Penguin

Celeste Ng is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Everything I Never Told You*, *Little Fires Everywhere*, and *Our Missing Hearts*. *Little Fires Everywhere* won the 2018 Ohioana Book Award in fiction and was adapted into a hit miniseries on Hulu produced by and starring Reese Witherspoon. Ng is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Her work has been published in over thirty languages. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ng spent much of her childhood in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and currently lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Poetry

Saeed Jones*, *Alive at the End of the World*, Coffee House Press

Saeed Jones was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and grew up in Lewisville, Texas. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *GQ*, and he has been featured on public radio programs including NPR's *Fresh Air*, *Pop Culture Happy Hour*, *It's Been a Minute with Sam Sanders*, and *All Things Considered*. His second book, the memoir *How We Fight for Our Lives*, won the 2019 Kirkus Prize in nonfiction. Jones lives in Columbus, Ohio, and tweets @TheFerocity.

About Ohio or an Ohioan

Kelcey Ervick, *The Keeper: Soccer, Me, and the Law That Changed Women's Lives*, Avery

Kelcey Ervick is the author and illustrator of *The Keeper: Soccer, Me, and the Law That Changed Women's Lives*. She has written three previous books and co-edited *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Graphic Literature* with Tom Hart. Ervick's stories, essays, and comics have appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Believer*, *Washington Post*, and *Lit Hub*. She has received grants from the Indiana Arts Commission, the Sustainable Arts Foundation, and New Frontiers in Arts and Humanities at Indiana University. Ervick has a PhD from the University of Cincinnati and is a professor of English and creative writing at Indiana University South Bend.

also present the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a special prize for an emerging Ohio writer.

If you check out our Coming Soon calendar, you'll see that the Ohioana Book Awards is just one of a number of great literary events happening across the Buckeye State in September and early October.

Speaking of October, on October 5th, the Ohioana Library begins its 95th anniversary year. An incredible organization was born that day in 1929, thanks to the passionate and farsighted First Lady of Ohio, Martha Kinney Cooper! Her simple vision—that there should be a library within the Governor's Mansion dedicated to Ohio authors and books—has thrived and grown to make Ohioana one of America's most unique literary organizations.

Ohioana's events, programs, and collection would not be possible without friends like you. That's why I hope to see you at the Ohio Statehouse on September 21 as we celebrate the 2023 Ohioana Awards. It will truly be a night to remember. And YOU made it happen. *Thank you.*

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature

Jasmine Warga, *A Rover's Story*, Balzer + Bray

Jasmine Warga is a *New York Times*–bestselling author of books for young readers. Her first middle grade novel, *Other Words for Home*, earned multiple awards including a John Newbery Honor, a Walter Honor for Young Readers, a Charlotte Huck Honor, and a 2020 Ohioana Book Award. *The Shape of Thunder* was a *School Library Journal* and Bank Street best book of the year, and won her a second Ohioana Book Award. *A Rover's Story* was a Junior Library Guild selection and named a best book of the year by *Publishers Weekly* and *The Washington Post*. Warga teaches in the MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Originally from Cincinnati, she now lives in Chicago.

Juvenile Literature

Marcy Campbell, *The More You Give* (illus. by Francesca Sanna), Knopf Books for Young Readers

Marcy Campbell is an award-winning author of picture books and middle grade novels. Her books have earned praise from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *School Library Review*, *The Horn Book*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and many others. She is the recipient of the Comstock Read Aloud Award, the Crystal Kite Award, and the CLC Book Award from Frostburg State University, as well as the Huckepack Prize in Germany. Her picture books have been selected for the Junior Library Guild and named a Best Children's Book of the Year by Bank Street College and National Public Radio. *Rule of Threes*, her debut middle grade novel, was selected for the 2023-2024 Choose to Read Ohio list. Campbell lives in Wooster, Ohio, with her family.

Readers' Choice Award

John Scalzi*, *The Kaiju Preservation Society*, Tor

John Scalzi is best known for writing science fiction, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Redshirts*, which won the Hugo Award for Best Novel. He also writes nonfiction on subjects including personal finance, astronomy, and film. Scalzi has worked with clients including The Walt Disney Company, AOL, Oppenheimer Funds, US Trust, Zagat, and Network Solutions, and he served as the Creative Consultant for the *Stargate: Universe* television series. His latest book, *Starter Villain*, is set for release in September 2023. He enjoys pie, as should all right-thinking people. Scalzi lives in Bradford, Ohio, with his wife, daughter, and an assortment of pets.

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

Kortney Morrow

In addition to the book awards, Ohioana will present the 2023 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, a competitive prize for an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book.



This year's recipient is Kortney Morrow. Morrow spent her early years making up stories, and she never stopped. Her writing has been featured or is forthcoming in *The Academy of American Poets*, *Obsidian*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Transition Magazine*. Morrow received her MFA in poetry from The Ohio State University. When she's not writing, you can find her daydreaming on her front porch. Morrow lives in Cleveland, where she was born and raised. Her winning entry will appear in this fall's *Ohioana Quarterly*.

*Please note: all winners will join us in person except for Ross Gay, Saeed Jones, and John Scalzi, who are unable to appear but have pre-recorded their acceptances on video. We will have signed copies of their winning books available.

COMING SOON

Ohioana Book Awards

September 21, 2023, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, Ohio

Join us as we honor the winners of the 82nd annual Ohioana Book Awards and present the 2023 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. The celebration begins at 6:00 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards presentations, a winners roundtable discussion, and book signing. To make your reservation, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-703365764937>.

Inkubator Writing Conference & Book Fair

September 18-20, 2023, Various Virtual Programs

September 22-23, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., In-Person Conference

Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio

Presented by Literary Cleveland as part of Cleveland Book Week, Inkubator is one of the largest free writing conferences in the country. Attendees can participate in a variety of virtual programs September 18-20. The in-person conference takes place September 22 and 23, featuring workshops and craft talks. The center of the weekend event is a Book Fair with literary groups and organizations from throughout the region. For more information, visit <https://inkubator.litcleveland.org>.

Author Event: John Scalzi

September 25, 2023, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Joseph Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, Ohio

Inheriting your uncle's supervillain business is more complicated than you might think—particularly when you discover who's running the place. From bestselling science fiction author and 2023 Ohioana Book Award winner John Scalzi comes *Starter Villain*. Join Scalzi for a discussion and book signing. For more information, visit <https://www.josephbeth.com/event/john-scalzi-discussing-and-signing-starter-villain>.

Ohioana Book Club

September 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The title for September is Ross Gay's *Inciting Joy*, the winner of the 2023 Ohioana Book Award in nonfiction. If you would like to attend, please email us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Cartoon Crossroads Columbus

September 27 – October 1, 2023

Multiple venues, Columbus, Ohio

The annual, one-of-a-kind festival spans four days and stretches throughout the city, connecting people with a passion for the art of cartoons. The culminating weekend expo at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library on September 30 and October 1 is free and draws more than 100 cartoonists, graphic novelists, and publishers selling their creations and meeting fans. Stop by the Ohioana booth for some cool swag! For more information, visit <https://www.cartooncrossroadscolumbus.org>.