

OHIO *ana*
QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2024 | VOL. 67 NO. 3

OHIOANA LIBRARY

MARTHA KINNEY COOPER

COLLECTION

ESTABLISHED 1929

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2024

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From the Director

Dear Friends of Ohioana,



Photo by Chris Walker

I am thrilled to be writing my first letter as the Executive Director of the Ohioana Library Association! I come to the position having been a tenured professor at The Ohio State University and a nonprofit executive at COSI, the Smithsonian, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Most importantly, I come to you as an avid reader and lover of books. I was born at the Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio, and grew up in Corning, New York. I am so honored to be leading a place that preserves the stories written and illustrated by Ohioans, the stories written about Ohio, and the music and scrapbooks of Ohioans. The items that live inside Ohioana's walls tell the stories of the people and the places of the state, including the stories and artwork from the minds of Ohio's authors and illustrators. These stories must be preserved for future generations, and we are honored to be the place where they are held.

We are making plans for exciting new things to come around the state in the future, which we will be sharing with you soon! In the meantime, we are delighted to bring you the summer issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*. As I step into the role as the seventh director of this amazing organization, and as we approach our 95th anniversary in October, we thought it would be fun to share profiles of the preceding six directors. These are incredible people, and we hope you enjoy learning a little more about the leaders who have helped us grow for nine-and-a-half decades!

Also in this issue, you will find a piece about Rod Serling written by River Esquivel, a student at Antioch College. He takes a new look at Serling, particularly in terms of his relationship with Antioch, the place where his writing career began. Another piece, written by our most recent Mount Intern, Charlotte Houghton, shares the fascinating information she found in past *Ohioana Quarterly* issues during her digitization project. Finally, we share Julia Kuo's interview about her beautiful book *Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night*, which is the 2024 Floyd's Pick Book Award winner.

Each fall, we look forward to honoring the winners of our annual Ohioana Book Awards with a ceremony and reception. This year, we're also celebrating a name change for this prestigious program: the Ohio Book Awards presented by the Ohioana Library. We invite you to join us for this special event on Tuesday, October 29, in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Watch our website and social media for more information coming soon!

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberlee L. Kiehl".

Kim Kiehl
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

Welcoming all who come through Ohioana's doors, this historic plaque commemorates the 1929 founding of the Ohioana Library.

Ohioana's History: Celebrating the Directors Emeriti

By the Ohioana Library Staff

As the Ohioana Library approaches its 95th anniversary on October 5, 2024, and welcomes its seventh director, Kimberlee Kiehl, we're taking a look back to spotlight the directors emeriti. Since Ohioana's founding in 1929, six women and men have led this special organization, growing and nurturing it over the decades. Join us as we celebrate their accomplishments and examine how Ohioana has evolved over ninety-five years.

Florence Roberts Head 1929-1953



Photo courtesy of the Ohioana Library

Florence (Mrs. Depew) Roberts Head was the Executive Head of the founding committee of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association, eventually becoming its first professional director. Born in 1887 in Bucyrus, Ohio, Head was a 1907 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University. She also earned a master of science degree from the University of Chicago, a doctor of letters degree from Marietta College, and was later awarded an honorary doctor of literature degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. Head was at Cooper's side from the beginning of the library, championing its start, making it the first-

of-its-kind library of works of authors of a particular state, and speaking about it publicly at a variety of organizations and meetings. She also provided oversight to the library's move from the Governor's Mansion to the Ohio Departments Building as it outgrew the home. A longtime member of the American Association of University Women, Head was named "Woman of the Month" by the Ohio branch in February 1953.

Under Head's direction, the library gained much publicity and grew the number of books in the collection from several hundred to several thousand. In 1942, she worked with Louis Bromfield on a competition to award a United States Federal Defense Bond to the Ohio author whose book had contributed the most to the "understanding of present-day America." Additionally, Head was the editor of the *1803-1953 Sesquicentennial Year Book* celebrating Ohio's 150th anniversary. Published by the Ohioana Library Association, this combination desk and engagement calendar contained Ohio historical data, photos, and birthdates of famous Ohioans. Head, along with Dr. Walter Rumsey Marvin, was also instrumental in gathering the information for a book titled *Ohio Authors and Their Books: Biographical Data and Selective Bibliographies for Ohio Authors, Native and Resident, 1796-1950*, edited by William Coyle and published by the Ohioana Library. She was also the editor of several additional publications related to Ohio authors, composers, and notable residents, and volunteered her time with a variety of organizations.

Head served as director of the Ohioana Library for twenty-four years, retiring in 1953. She was well known for her book reviews, presented around Ohio and nearby states. Some of the original notes, handwritten for these talks, live in the Ohioana Library's archives. She was also pivotal in getting a bill for providing financial aid to the library through the Legislature, and the appointment of four of the twenty-five members of the Board by the Governor—a tradition and connection that continues today. She died in April 1962 at seventy-five years of age.

and was buried just one day before she was to be honored for her part in the publication of *Ohio Authors and Their Books*. In 1963, the Florence Roberts Head Memorial Award was created in her honor in collaboration with the American Association of University Women. The award was presented for forty years, ending in 2003.

Martha Kinney Cooper and Florence Roberts Head were dear friends until Head's passing. As Cooper wrote in tribute to Head in the fall 1962 *Ohioana Quarterly*, "We, of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library, owe much to this outstanding woman . . . Our gratitude to her is great and we say of her life—'Her work speaks for her. She has accomplished much and will not be forgotten.'"

Walter Rumsey Marvin 1954-1965



Photo courtesy of the Ohioana Library

Born in Montclair, New Jersey, Walter Rumsey Marvin graduated from Yale University in 1922, and later earned his PhD in American History from The Ohio State University. His doctoral dissertation was on the growth and development of American railroads, titled "Columbus and the Railroads of Central Ohio Before the Civil War." Before his time as director of the Ohioana Library, Marvin was a newspaperman, railroad historian, public official, and educator. He also served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945.

After moving to Columbus in 1946, Marvin and his wife, Beatrice Talbot Constant, became the new heads of the Columbus School for Girls. The connection between Ohioana and the Columbus School for Girls has been reinvigorated in the last decade, with children's book reviews written by CSG elementary students published in the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

After a few years at CSG, Marvin returned to graduate school, and Beatrice continued on as headmistress. Marvin became very active in the local community and beyond, serving as board secretary of the Columbus Museum of Art, president of the English-Speaking Union, and joining the Columbus Rotary Club, Planned Parenthood of Columbus, and the Rowfant Club of Cleveland (a bibliophilic society and library that is still active today). He also spent time on the vestry of St. Paul's Church in Columbus.

Marvin became Ohioana's second director in 1954. A few years into his directorship, he founded and launched the *Ohioana Quarterly* with the spring 1958 issue, continuing to develop the publication in the following years as editor. Ohioana commemorated its 30th anniversary under Marvin's leadership with a celebratory Annual Meeting and Luncheon for Ohio Authors and Composers. The festivities also entailed a special, double-size issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* in the fall of 1959 with many interesting articles, including the story of Ohioana's founding by Martha Kinney Cooper.

Marvin worked to recruit volunteers and members throughout Ohio's many counties via the *Quarterly*, and he also cared deeply about expanding the holdings of Ohioana's collection. In 1965, a Dayton newspaper described Marvin as the "Keeper of the Culture" because he was so knowledgeable about Ohio's authors and creators.

Even after retiring, Marvin continued to support Ohioana as a trustee and as a contributor to the *Ohioana Quarterly*; his last book review appeared in the fall 1979 issue. Upon his passing in 1980, Marvin was survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. To honor his memory, his family established a fund to encourage and support young writers. The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant is now a competitive annual prize for an Ohio writer aged thirty or younger who has not yet published

a book. The grant was first presented in 1982, given every other year until it became an annual award in 1998.

Dr. Walter Rumsey Marvin had a strong passion for publications and their capacity to support and empower the Ohio literary community. From celebrating Ohio's authors and emerging writers to creating a popular publication to expand the goals of the organization, Ohioana's second director took the library in an inspiring direction that still aligns with Ohioana's mission today.

Bernice Williams Foley 1966-1977



Photo courtesy of the Ohioana Library

Bernice Williams Foley was born in 1902 in Wigginsville, Clermont County, Ohio. The daughter of Bertye Young—better known as celebrated poet B. Y. Williams—Foley grew up alongside her mother's budding career. Williams' professional accomplishments included publishing five books of poetry and contributing poems to the *New York Times*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Saturday Evening Post*. It's no surprise that Foley gravitated to writing and literature like her mother, scoring high marks in all of her English classes and volunteering for her school writers' clubs and publications.

Foley's school years in Cincinnati also planted an important seed for her future involvement with the

Ohioana Library: she became friends with Martha Cooper Judy, the daughter of Martha Kinney Cooper.

Foley's education, family, and employment took her beyond her home state's borders many times. For her college education, Foley attended both the University of Cincinnati in Ohio and National Park Seminary in Forest Glen, Maryland, majoring in English. In 1923, she married Warren "Massey" Foley. Massey's job with Standard Oil took the couple to China for three years, where Foley wrote newspaper columns for the *Cincinnati Times Star* about her life and experiences on the other side of the world. The couple moved back to the United States when Foley became pregnant. They spent time in both Ohio and New Jersey, growing their family with a son, Bill, and daughter, Karlanne "Kay." In New Jersey, Foley took courses at Columbia University on her newfound literary interest: writing children's books. The family returned to Cincinnati shortly before the Great Depression, and Foley got a job at WKRC. Reporting on fashion, Foley had a successful career in the field of radio and television, earning her own half-hour show on WCPO-TV, Cincinnati, before becoming Fashion Director of Rollman's Department Store and covering fashion shows abroad in London, Paris, and Russia.

In 1966, Foley was contacted by her childhood friend Martha Cooper Judy and offered the director position at the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library. Foley accepted the role and moved to Columbus, swapping her view of the Eiffel Tower for the State Office Building at 65 S. Front Street. Like Marvin before her, Foley became editor of the *Ohioana Quarterly* magazine and annual *Ohio Year Book*, which she took great pride and care in publishing. But her biggest ambition was expanding Ohioana's reach to a global scale. Each summer, Foley traveled around the world, promoting Ohioana's mission and gifting books by Ohio authors to national libraries including Belgium, England, Greece, Japan, Spain, and Taiwan.

Foley's time as director included many personal accomplishments, too. In 1970, she published *Star Stories*, her first of five children's books. In 1974, she was named Woman of the Year by the sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma, and also won first-place awards for her editing work on both the *Ohioana Quarterly* and *Ohio Year Book* from Ohio Press Women.

In 1977, at the age of seventy-five, Foley began to suffer from kidney disease and retired. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1982, taking her place in Ohio's history alongside Martha Kinney Cooper. In 1987, Foley passed away at the age of eighty-five. Her time as director was a true testament to Ohioana's tagline: connecting readers and Ohio writers. From her own backyard to countries across the globe, Bernice Williams Foley endeavored to share Ohio's literary treasures with the world.

James P. Barry 1977-1988



Photo courtesy of the Ohioana Library

James Potvin Barry was born in Illinois in 1918. Before taking the reins of the Ohioana Library in May 1977, Barry was a prolific author, writing over twenty books, both juvenile and adult. Many of his writings were related to his love of the Great Lakes, including *Old Forts of the Great Lakes*, *The Great Lakes*, and *The Fate of the Lakes: A Portrait of the Great Lakes*. He was also an illustrator and an avid photographer.

Barry was a 1940 graduate of The Ohio State University, where he published his first article in *Yachting* magazine. He entered the United States Army after graduation as a 2nd Lieutenant and served until 1966, when he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Among numerous other posts, he served in the Normandy Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, and wrote a variety of technical publications for

the military. He then became an administrator at Capital University in Columbus from 1967 to 1971.

Barry took great pride in Ohioana's publications. Under his leadership and editorship, the *Ohio Year Book* and *Ohioana Quarterly* won multiple awards. Programs during his tenure included the fall tea honoring authors of the year in Hamilton County—a tradition started by Martha Kinney Cooper; a second tea held for county chairs of the libraries around the state; and the "Lunch and Learn" club sponsored by Ohioana, which met at the Columbus Athletic Club. He also began a radio series, "Book Browsing with Ohioana," which was distributed to nineteen radio stations across the state and used in the classrooms of the Columbus Public Schools. During his years as director, Ohioana created a committee to determine how the organization could provide more services to teachers and school librarians, implementing many of the committee's recommendations.

To celebrate Ohioana's 50th anniversary in 1979, a new award was established: the Award for Editorial Excellence. It honored the editor of a magazine or journal published in Ohio. When Barry retired in 1988, the award was renamed and became the James P. Barry Award for Editorial Excellence. It was given until 2010.

In addition to earning honors for the Ohioana Library during his tenure, Barry was the recipient of several personal awards over his lifetime, including being named Historian of the Year in 1995 by the Marine Historical Society Detroit, winning the Nonfiction History Award from the Society of Midland Authors in 1982, and being honored as the Editor Recipient of the American Society of State and Local History Award in 1974. The James P. Barry Collection at Bowling Green State University contains over 50,000 of Barry's photographs, slides, and negatives, as well as various pieces of correspondence, manuscripts, publications, articles, and artwork.

Barry was married to his wife, Anne, for forty-five years before his death at age ninety-two in 2011. Barry's successor, Linda Hengst, greatly admired his impact on Ohioana and beyond as she expressed after his passing: "James Barry left a great legacy with his research and writing about the Great Lakes, [and] through his service and dedication to the Ohioana Library. I see his influence every day as I walk through Ohioana's collection."

Linda R. Hengst 1988-2013



Photo courtesy of *The Columbus Dispatch*

Linda Ruth Hengst grew up in Warren, Ohio, and received a degree in Social and Behavioral Science from The Ohio State University. Hengst was a great fit for Ohioana's director role because she had an extensive background in social services; she served as assistant regional director of CARE and executive director of the YWCA of Licking County. She also served as president of Ohio Women, Inc.

When Hengst joined Ohioana in 1988, the organization had fallen on hard times. The financial situation was dire, and many people thought it would permanently close. *Columbus Monthly* named Hengst one of its "People to Watch" in 1989, wondering if she would be able to turn Ohioana around.

Turn it around she did—and much more. Under Hengst's leadership, Ohioana not only achieved financial stability, it reached heights no one had imagined. Starting with Ohioana's 60th anniversary in 1989, Hengst was able to bolster the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, which had been given since 1982, into a yearly \$1,000 grant for writers under age thirty who had not yet published a book. Many of the writers selected for the grant during Hengst's tenure have gone on to great success, including Laura Maylene Walter, the late Ellis Avery, Shari Goldhagen, Carter Sickels, and Anthony Doerr.

Hengst also championed and directed Ohioana's move from Front Street to its current location on East First Avenue in 2001. This was a massive undertaking, involving the relocation of more than 40,000 items, some of them in fragile condition, from the previous cramped location to the current temperature-controlled, sprawling collection room. The collection has since grown to over 90,000 items, with much more room to continue expanding. Hengst's leadership and dedication to the collection's preservation resulted in the state-of-the-art archival space being named in her honor: The Linda R. Hengst Ohioana Collection Room. A plaque beside the collection door shares this legacy with library patrons.

Hengst's twenty-five years as executive director were filled with innovation and technological advancements. During her tenure, Ohioana updated its traditional card catalog to join the digitized catalog of OhioLINK, extending its reach to library patrons across the entire country. In 2009, Ohioana joined social media, thrusting the organization even further into the twenty-first century, and truly achieving the vision of connecting readers and Ohio writers in exciting new ways. The inaugural Ohioana Book Festival in 2007 also reached a whole new audience, eventually growing into one of the largest book festivals in Ohio.

Linda Hengst announced her intention to retire in summer 2013. Ohioana's development director, David Weaver, was chosen as her successor, and she officially retired in July 2013. She has since moved to Florida, but continues to support Ohioana and its programs and maintains strong ties to Ohio, especially the Buckeye Lake area, where she lived for many years.



Photo courtesy of the Ohioana Library

David Weaver 2013-2024

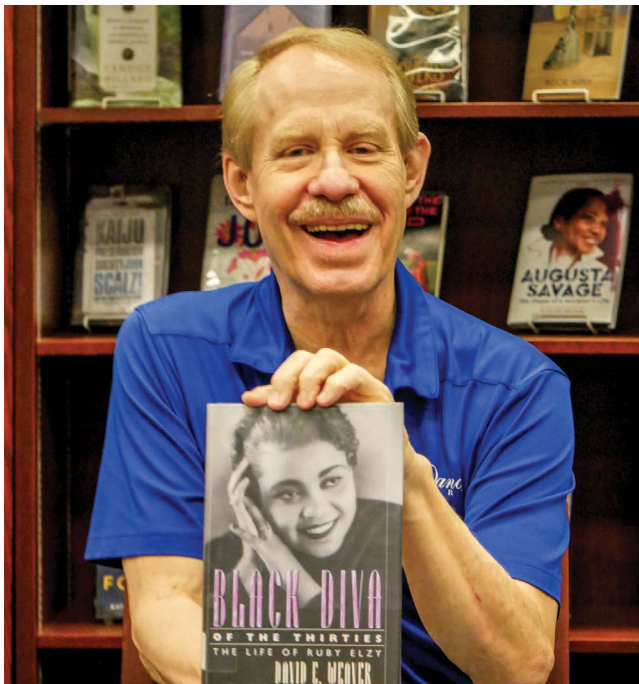


Photo courtesy of the Ohioana Library

A native of Columbus, David Weaver was first introduced to the Ohioana Library as an author. In 2004, he published *Black Diva of the Thirties* with the University Press of Mississippi, a biography about Ruby Elzy, the pioneer Black opera soprano. He met then-director Linda Hengst at Ohioana’s Central Ohio Authors Tea in May 2005, attending as an author with his debut book. Coincidentally, this was also at the time Hengst and the Board of Trustees were investigating adding a fundraising expert to the Ohioana staff. With twenty-five years of experience in the nonprofit field—including time with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Central Ohio Breathing Association, and WOSU—Weaver and Hengst’s meeting was serendipitous. Weaver was brought on as Ohioana’s first development director in November 2005, combining his nonprofit experience with his love for literature and his home state of Ohio.

During Weaver’s time as development director, he expanded Ohioana’s programming and public visibility with the creation of the Ohioana Book Festival in 2007. When Hengst announced her retirement plans, Weaver interviewed to become her successor. In September 2013, he became Ohioana’s sixth executive director.

Weaver accomplished much during his eleven years as director. Under his guidance, the Ohioana Book Festival became the state’s largest book festival in 2019, growing to nearly 150 Ohio authors and illustrators. He was also a champion of the Ohioana Book Awards, which flourished under his leadership. In 2014, cash prizes were given to winners of the Ohioana Book Awards in all five categories for the first time: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Juvenile, and About Ohio or an Ohioan. In 2015, a sixth Ohioana Book Award was added with the separation of the Juvenile category into two distinct awards: Middle Grade & Young Adult Literature, encompassing longer books and novels for tween and teen readers, and Juvenile Literature, featuring picture books and titles for children. The slate expanded again in 2016 when a seventh award was added—the Readers’ Choice Award—bringing the general public into the voting process.

While Weaver’s tenure was full of celebratory times, including the 75th anniversary of the Ohioana Book Awards in 2016 and the Ohioana Library’s 90th birthday in 2019, it also saw difficult times—most notably the COVID-19 pandemic. The unprecedented health crisis brought the closure of the library to the public in March 2020, as well as the postponement of the Ohioana Book Festival. As the stay-at-home orders progressed, Ohioana pivoted to offer online programs, including virtual Ohioana Book Festivals and Ohioana Book Awards until it was safe to gather in-person again for the 81st Ohioana Book Awards in the fall of 2022.

In October 2023, Weaver announced his decision to retire in 2024. After a nationwide executive search, Kimberlee Kiehl was selected as his successor. Weaver retired in June 2024 at the age of seventy-two. His retirement plans consist of focusing on his loves and interests: spending time with his family, enjoying classic movies and opera, and continuing to support the literary community in Ohio.

Weaver often described Ohioana as “the cheerleading squad for our state’s literary community.” On his final day as director, Weaver shared, “It’s been gratifying, working side by side with Ohioana’s incredible staff and volunteers, to celebrate and promote the truly fantastic authors and illustrators about whom we are proud to say, ‘They’re from Ohio.’”

Treasures of the Past

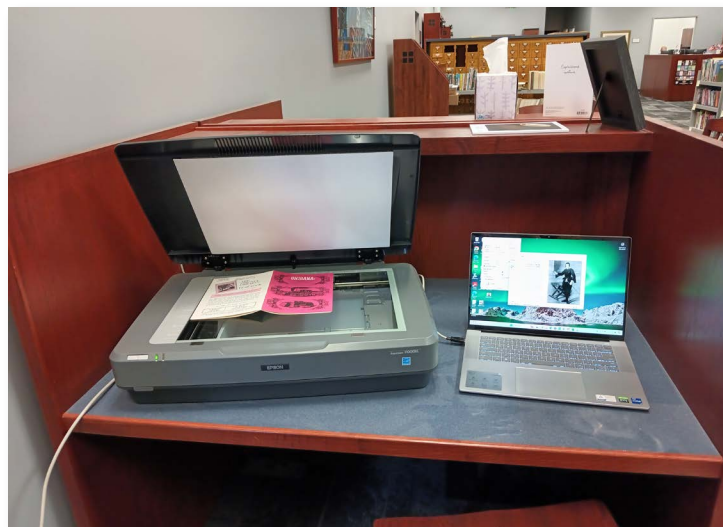
By Charlotte Houghton

When I started working as the Ruth Weimer Mount Intern at the Ohioana Library on September 1, 2023, I had lived in Ohio for a grand total of two weeks. I was a master's student studying library science, and I needed an internship to fulfill a graduation requirement. The next several months were a crash course in not just library science, but Ohio literary history as well.

My main project was to digitize historical issues of the *Ohioana Quarterly*, starting with the very first issue in 1958. While Ohioana started publishing issues on its website in 2014, there are decades of back issues sitting on shelves in the collection, waiting to be read or used for research. For years, Ohioana has aspired to put these historical issues online to reach a wider audience, but needed someone who could focus solely on the time-consuming digitization project. So, I spent weeks holed up with a library cart full of yellowing *Quarterlies*, a flatbed scanner, and a laptop. The digitization process is a straightforward but tedious one: scan the cover and each page of an issue, check that pages and images aren't crooked or cut off, and convert the scans to searchable PDFs. Once everything is cleaned up and compiled again, the digitized issue is ready for the public.

There was one special benefit to this time-intensive editing process: I got to read through these historical *Quarterlies* page by page. These early issues contain a treasure trove of Ohio history, Ohioana projects and events, book reviews, and author biographies. For a history lover and future librarian, it was the perfect internship.

But what good are those articles and stories if they aren't shared? That was the original impetus behind the project: to share Ohioana's—and Ohio's—history with readers across the state, country, and hopefully, even the world. To celebrate completing and publishing online the first fifteen years of issues (1958-1972), I wanted to share a small fraction of the fascinating articles I encountered from the past.



Ohioana's large format scanner and workstation for digitizing collection materials.

The *Ohioana Quarterly*, particularly in its early years, covered much more than just Ohio literature. A sampling of highlights includes:

- A history of pewter in the state, and one on silversmithing
- Biographies of famous—or infamous—Ohioans, from Sherwood Anderson and Ulysses S. Grant to “the Immortal J. N.”
- Articles about art and museums across the state
- An 1877 ballad recording a Hocking County murder
- Ohioana's programs of the era, such as the annual Ohioana Pilgrimages to historical landmarks and towns around the state

But some features in these historical issues will also be familiar to contemporary readers. There are winning entries from Ohio Poetry Day contests, started by Tessa Sweazy Webb, an active member in Ohioana since its founding. These pieces parallel the current Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant winners, whose work is published annually in the *Ohioana Quarterly*. There are also

interviews with authors peppered throughout the past issues—a regular feature of today’s publication. Starting in 1966, the fall issues contain programs from the yearly Luncheon for Ohio Authors and Composers, including information about the year’s Ohioana Book Award winners. This tradition is still honored today with a celebration of the Ohio Book Award winners and annual Awards event in every fall issue. And the covers, then as now, are works of art in their own right.

Two of my favorite columns in the historical *Quarterlies* are “Ohioana Library Notes,” which always included an illustration of the Frank B. Dyer wrought-iron gates from Ohioana’s first home at the Governor’s Mansion in 1929 and still used in the library today; and the short-lived “Ohio Oddities,” where readers and Ohioana members could ask (or answer) questions about Ohio history or literature. A personal favorite “Ohioana Library Note” is from the first-ever issue that published in spring 1958: a regular patron brought the staff a homemade chocolate cake one day. Not only was this worth sharing, but the editor added the note, “People who follow good examples are called blessed.”

These are just snippets of the many incredible articles you can read in the digitized historical *Ohioana Quarterlies*. And the digitization is far from over!

Ohioana aims to digitize and publish all of the additional years of *Ohioana Quarterly* issues on the website, making them available for everyone to read.

Throughout all of this, the things that strike me most about Ohioana’s decades-old publication are the deep love for Ohio and its writers, illustrators, publishers, and readers; and the strong sense of community, which continues to this day. While many of these anecdotes may seem outdated, they are anything but. By reading about the history of Ohio—and about the work Ohioana and Ohio authors, artists, historians, and teachers have done to celebrate and preserve that history—we gain a sense of belonging to a community that values the creative output of all Ohioans. I have found that the stories in these historical *Ohioana Quarterlies* provide me with inspiration for the future as much as they do appreciation of the past.

Find the digitized historical *Ohioana Quarterly* issues online at <https://www.ohioana.org/programs/publications/historical-ohioana-quarterlies-1958-1972/> or make an appointment to read them in person!



A DIMENSION OF LOVE, A DIMENSION OF KNOWLEDGE: ROD, CAROL, AND ANTIOCH COLLEGE

By River Esquivel

It starts, as it always does, with a story.

The story of Rod and Carol Serling began at Antioch College, a place that continues to bring people from all walks of life together and shapes their minds to be outstanding citizens.

Now, I could tell you all the facts. I could list the generalities of Rod and Carol's time at Antioch in a neat timetable with all of their achievements. But such a unique place that produces such unique people deserves more. A fresh take on a familiar history is just what the Serlings' Antioch story needs, and what I plan to share.

Rod was a self-admitted flirt, a skill that would catch the attention of Columbus native Carol Kramer. They married in the summer of 1948, only two years into their college careers. The campus trailer "town" for married couples housed the Serlings post-nuptials. Carol wasn't the biggest fan of this arrangement, as it came with its fair share of issues not found in the dorms. But, like everyone else around, they made do and formed a community.



Newlywed students Rod and Carol Serling at Antioch College in 1949. (Photo courtesy of Antiochiana, Antioch College)

Both Rod and Carol entered college with vague ideas of their educational pursuits and came out with defined paths, acquiring skills along the way that the two felt were an essential part of the Antioch experience. The cooperative-education program, a notable part of Antioch for the last hundred years, turned out to be pivotal to both of them, but for different reasons. It was during a co-op job that Rod made the self-discovery that his interest in physical education lacked the passion of his other interests, writing and radio—interests that he would later dedicate his life to, but owed the start to Antioch. Carol, on the other hand, found the real-life job experience to be affirming, making her feel secure in her choice to pursue education and psychology. During one co-op, she learned about the needs of children, and the patience it takes to provide for them, at a New York playschool—something that would go on to give her positive parenting skills for her future daughters. Self-education became an important tool to Carol in her four years as she endeavored to better herself and expand her knowledge of the world.

Carol was Rod's biggest supporter of his decision to return to Antioch to teach in 1962, just as she was when they left Antioch and Rod worked to create *The Twilight Zone*. When Rod returned to Antioch, he found that his observations on the culture that he had known during his four years of education stayed consistent. The students treated him like any other professor. Mostly. The brutal honesty that the students shared when Rod would show them one of his works was admittedly welcomed, if not a bit jarring. More of the expected celebrity treatment came from his adult writing class.

The appeals of Antioch not only brought Rod here, but also brought him back, along with the chance for much-needed rest, encouraged by Carol. In a 1963 interview, Rod admitted that he owed so much to Antioch. He delighted in the fact that the institution remained a place of question, always encouraging change instead of



Rod Serling in his professor role at Antioch College. (Photo courtesy of Antiochiana, Antioch College)

becoming a slave to tradition. Antioch was a place that centered humanity in its experience, something that he and Carol found valuable.

The Serlings' story is not just about the love between the two of them and what it led to in their lives. No, their story comes from a shared appreciation of the institution that brought them together in the first place. Antioch College was the setting that allowed Rod and Carol to flourish and be brought together under circumstances that aligned *just* right, as Antioch had aligned with them before attending. Carol and Rod were *always* intellectual equals, sharing many of the same ideas around what makes for a worthwhile life, and that the root of it all is happiness.

Rod Serling's connection to Antioch can and should be summarized by more than just the usual facts. Sure, he won awards and gained notice as a writer. What doesn't get talked about enough, though, were his and Carol's feelings about the now-resurrected institution. So much has changed in the seventy-four years since they graduated, and yet the thoughts they shared—about the appeal, benefits, and overall standing of Antioch—are still reflected in our modern day.

As a current student, I feel that pull; the security of knowing that this is the right place for me as I walk the paths they once did while discovering who I am. The comfort of having the space to make mistakes and, more importantly, learn from them as I go through my remaining years, is priceless. I'm not a spiritual person, but I found Antioch through Rod. I think every failure, every plan that falls through, has been his way of guiding me here. Hey, stranger things have happened. I'm just another one of the Antioch weirdos.

It starts, as it always does, with a story. Antioch is **ours**.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Rod Serling's birth, the Ohioana Library is honoring Rod's connection to Ohio with a series of articles in each 2024 Ohioana Quarterly issue. Special thanks to River Esquivel, Scott Sanders, and Antioch College for their contributions to this year-long tribute.



River Esquivel entered *The Twilight Zone* in the seventh grade and never left. He graduated from Cleveland School of the Arts High School in 2015. At Antioch, River pursues his passions for filmmaking and writing, serves in student government, and keeps it weird. He's a proud trans man, a Cleveland native, and Rod Serling's biggest fan.

A Conversation with Julia Kuo: 2024 Floyd's Pick Book Award Winner

by Kathryn Powers



Photo by Evan Wang Photography

Julia Kuo is the author and illustrator of *Let's Do Everything and Nothing* and *Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night*. She is the illustrator of many picture and specialty books including the bestselling book *RISE*. Julia has created editorial illustrations for publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Economist*. You can visit her online at www.juliakuo.com.

Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night is the winner of the 2024 Floyd's Pick Book Award. Created in 2015 to celebrate the legacy of children's librarian and advocate Floyd Dickman, Floyd's Pick is given annually to a book written or illustrated by an Ohioan that is representative of high-quality literature for children. Each year's winning title is selected by the Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) Advisory Council.

Q Your book *Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night* is the 2024 Floyd's Pick Book Award winner. How did the concept for this story come to you?

A Twelve years ago, my family and I visited New Zealand, and we took a tour to see glow-worms in

the Te Anau caves. In the following years, I kayaked in the bioluminescent waters of Point Reyes, California, and went on a moonlit hike to see foxfire in Taroko Gorge, Taiwan—all otherworldly events that piqued my curiosity!

After these experiences, I was inspired to make personal artwork about this phenomenon. I collaborated with a friend on a short animated video about bioluminescence and also made paintings for a gallery show. These pieces eventually found their way to editor Kallie George at Greystone Books, who asked if I'd like to adapt them into a book about bioluminescence.

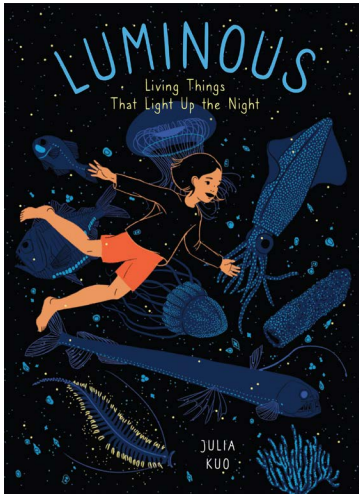
Q For *Luminous*, you created both the words and art, but you have also illustrated books that have been written by other authors. How does the process differ when you are both the author and illustrator on a book project versus illustrating another creator's words?

A When I'm the illustrator, my role is envisioning and executing the best art I can make for someone else's words. It is just as much about problem solving as it is about creativity. My background is in illustration, so this role is where I feel the most comfortable.

As the author and illustrator, my creative process expands with the added role of writing and considering how that might shape my illustrations. It may appear that an author-illustrator is responsible for the entire project, but in reality, I am still collaborating with a whole team: an editor, an art director, and in the case of *Luminous*, a really wonderful scientist/fact checker.

Q You currently reside in Seattle, Washington, but spent several years living in Cleveland. Can you tell us about your experience living in Ohio and how that has influenced your work?

A I lived in Cleveland for two periods: for five years starting in 2007 (right out of college), and for three years starting in 2018. This time in Cleveland was very formative; I had grown up in a suburb of Los Angeles and was new to living in a smaller city where every bit of love and investment seemed to be appreciated.



I learned to love the city and found an outlet via artwork. A series of 100 drawings of my favorite Cleveland spots became a self-published guidebook, as well as a new connection to passionate Clevelanders in the intersection of urban planning, journalism, and community organizing. It expanded my understanding of working

as an artist within a community, and led me to new mediums like murals and public art.

Sadly, Cleveland also exposed me to racism on a not-infrequent basis. This shaped my desire and urgency to create illustrations of any type—whether they were murals, editorials, or books—that normalized and uplifted people who looked like me.

Q Floyd Dickman was a dedicated advocate for children’s literature. How does it feel to be a representation of his legacy in supporting literacy for children and families?

A I feel very honored and pleasantly surprised, because I know that *Luminous* is not the most traditional of picture books! I firmly believe that there is space for all types of stories told by a variety of creators with different backgrounds and interests, and the more nuance and specificity we can portray, the better we are for it!

Q What is your artistic process? Do you have a preference between digital or traditional tools? Do you do a lot of planning in advance, or do you let your muse guide you as you work?

A These days I work digitally, using a Cintiq tablet and Photoshop. I would love to do more traditional work if I had more time and space to experiment, but there are often too many great projects to take on, and they compete for those same work hours.

The amount of planning tends to change from story to story. Some books are very research-heavy where accuracy is important, and so those details must be considered from the beginning. Other books are more open to interpretation, where I can be much looser!

Q I’ve read that when you were young, you loved the *Calvin and Hobbes* comics by Bill Watterson—who is another talented Ohioan! Were there other artists or books that inspired you to become an illustrator?

A Oh yes, indeed. I used to go to Chagrin Falls for ice cream on hot days and wonder if Bill Watterson was wandering around! Hayao Miyazaki’s Studio Ghibli movies left a very strong mark on me with their artistic sensibility, as well as their perspective on the world: awe, wonder, and shades of gray. Later on, I pored over *Giant Robot* magazine’s issues documenting Asian American visual artists doing exciting things in the West Coast gallery scene.

Q The passion you have for nature and the pride you feel for your heritage both shine through in your work. What message(s) do you hope young readers take away from your books?

A I want to share my feelings of wonder and adventure out in the natural world, and to show people who reflect my community having these experiences. This is not only for readers who look like me to see themselves in a book, but also for readers who don’t look like me to see us represented as well.

Q Can you share anything with us about book projects you are currently working on?

A Yes! I’ve got two wonderfully different books coming out this fall. In August, we will publish *The Next Scientist*, written by Kate Messner, which is all about famous scientists and the playful, curious, experimenting children they previously were! Then in October, we’ll have Jocelyn Chung’s debut book, *When Love is More Than Words*, a really sweet book about all the ways a Taiwanese American coded family shows love.

Book Reviews

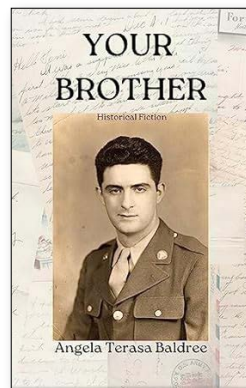
NONFICTION

Baldree, Angela Terasa. *Your Brother*.

Columbus, OH: Trillium Publishing, 2023.

Can you imagine having four sons enlisted and fighting during World War II? This is a tale of one such Italian American family: the Julians.

Ohio native Angela Baldree writes of the life of her great-grandparents Maria and Sebastiano (Sam) Julian, who immigrated from Italy to the United States, their eleven children, and their experiences during WWII.



In 2019, Baldree began reading her family's WWII letters, which were carefully saved by her great-uncle Rocco. They tell the story of training for war, battles and hardships, and most of all, love of family.

For four long years, brothers Nick, Lou, Tony, and Chini served in the military, enlisting after they heard the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Their two other brothers stayed on the home front.

Lou fought in the Pacific, from Hawaii to the islands to Japan. Tony trained as a medical and surgical technician, ultimately going to Europe. Nick fought in North Africa and Italy, but ended up a German POW and, after his release, recuperated in England. Chini also trained in the medical corps, joining the others in Europe and on the mainland.

Each brother played his part, fought for his country, and wrote home to let the family know he was safe. Miraculously, all four brothers came home.

Your Brother is a blend of local and military history, genealogy, letters, and family stories. You'll laugh and smile at family gatherings, cry at partings, and anxiously await each letter for a clue of what's happening to each brother.

The letters contain both trivial and serious topics, from daily life and accomplishments to battles and wounds, from the Pacific front to the European and North African battlefields. Rocco, the eldest brother, writes to his younger brothers of happenings in their hometown of Kingmont, WV. He describes events in the mines, of their father's injuries and death, and of life in the surrounding small towns.

Baldree uses the cache of letters to and from her great-uncles, diary entries, and family lore to weave the story of her family. A smoothly written narrative blends well with the texts of letters which always end with the words, "Your Brother."

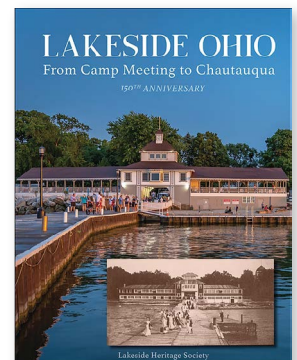
Kudos to local author, librarian, and now publisher, Angela Baldree, for her engaging and fascinating book about WWII at home and abroad.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Boling, David, et al., eds. *Lakeside, Ohio: From Camp Meeting to Chautauqua*.

Lakeside, OH: The Lakeside Heritage Society, 2023.

If you have ever visited Lakeside on Lake Erie's Marblehead Peninsula, you will want to get a copy of this magnificent book—because if you've been to Lakeside, you love it. And if you haven't been, this book will joyously recommend Lakeside to you.



From the first days of Lake Side (as it was first known) in 1872 right up to 2023, the fascinating photos and detailed text are attractively laid out, including the first newspaper articles about the original purchase of land which would become Lakeside. In one of the pictured newspaper announcements of the purchase of land along the lake, it states that "a main idea is to furnish a pleasant summer resort . . . disconnected with drinking saloons, gambling hells, and their attendant evils." The first name of this

resort was Lake Shore Christian Home. Methodists turned the 1870s development into a place for their camp meetings, beginning the connection with religious organizations which has held steady all these many years.

The large volume is a well-written immersion into the history of Lakeside, with extensive black and white and color photographs to illustrate the text. It seems like contributing Lakeside visitors, residents, and officials were determined to capture the resort visually as well as in written records.

There are some then-and-now photographic features which are fascinating, and the photos from the early days of the community will hold your interest for hours. You'll marvel at the photos of large, docked steamboats, of the early days of railroad's presence, of churchgoers, of ice fishers, of beautiful weddings overlooking the lake waters, and of well-known entertainers and speakers—including Eleanor Roosevelt in 1940. You'll see photos of early building development and how things have changed over the years, always remaining a small community of just a few hundred buildings, many of which stayed in one family through generations.

And if you and your family have ever summered at Lakeside, you just might find a photo of yourselves in the sections about the many wide-ranging activities on the grounds: recreation, sports, music, clubs, classes, organizations, church activities, gardening, visiting stores and eateries—some of which burned down, to be replaced by others.

This book was printed on 300 pages of high-quality paper and produced by the Lakeside Heritage Society. They maintain a two-building museum filled with history, which is highly recommended as a fascinating place to absorb several hours, featuring thousands of pieces of memorabilia and photographs—perfect for a rainy Lakeside afternoon. The very knowledgeable staff can point you in the direction of anything you're looking for. The museum and staff are the embodiment of this book.

Full of nostalgia, yet enthusiasm for the future, the book will be bought, read, and placed on the shelves of many homes, not just in Ohio, but around the country, reflecting the diversity of Lakesiders. History comes alive in these pages.

It is very touching to read stories of this place, which is held so dear to the hearts of thousands of Lakesiders. *Lakeside, Ohio* is perfect for a warm summer evening reading—and for planning your own visit.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN, WHO WILL BE AT LAKESIDE AGAIN THIS YEAR

Cook, Renee Casteel. *Ohio Buckeye Candy: A Sweet History.*

Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2023.

Renee Casteel Cook has created another informative book about tasty treats in Ohio. While her last book, *Ohio Ice Cream: A Scoop of History*, provided a valuable resource about the many ice cream establishments throughout Ohio, her newest book, *Ohio Buckeye Candy: A Sweet History*, acquaints the reader with Ohio's role in the confectionery world, especially as it relates to candy buckeyes. Cook begins the buckeye candy story with a historical approach, in order to provide the reader with fascinating details about the long-established chocolate shops scattered throughout the state. She continues on to describe the newest generation of chocolate shops, many of which are included on the Ohio Buckeye Candy Trail list.



As an Ohio native and chocolate lover, I found this book to be a fun and fascinating read. It is filled with information about the many chocolate establishments that Ohioans are familiar with: Anthony-Thomas Candy Company, Esther Price Candies, and Honadle's Fine Chocolates. Having lived near an Anthony-Thomas store for many years, I enjoyed discovering more about the company's history and learning about its founder, Anthony Zanetos, and the fifth generation of his family, which is now involved in the business.

Cook's description of The Original Goodie Shop brought up many fond memories. As a child, I used to ride my bike there to purchase pastries for our family breakfasts. As an adult, I was saddened to hear that The Goodie Shop was closing. But in *Ohio Buckeye Candy: A Sweet History*, Cook provides the details of how The Goodie Shop, now known as The Original Goodie Shop, survived

thanks to the determination of the local residents and the original owner's daughter and granddaughters. Not only does The Original Goodie Shop bake and sell yummy pastries, but they create many buckeye treats, from traditional chocolate peanut butter buckeyes to Ohio State cakes that include buckeye figures.

Many of the modern chocolate shops continue the tradition of making chocolates while spicing up their options. At The Buckeye Lady, you might want to try a sugar cookie or a turtle "Stuffed Buckeye." At The Buckeye Company, Danika Romick provides many buckeye options including classic s'more buckeyes or "Bursting Buckeyes," which are filled with a sweet treat, such as cookie dough or jam. The buckeye flavor combination has been adapted to many food groups, including coffees, chips, pizzas, waffles, and ice cream. At the Cakehound, even our four-legged friends can enjoy doggy buckeyes.

While some of these shops focus on more than just candies, Cook weaves them all together by describing how each establishment has perfected its approach to making the candy buckeye. I never realized that there were so many options of the buckeye available. Does one want the buckeye to include milk, dark, or white chocolate? Does it have only a peanut butter center or is another flavor included? Is the toothpick hole from dipping left visible or smoothed over? While many of the chocolatiers have different perspectives on how to make the candy buckeye, they all sell their candies to customers for personal enjoyment, as well as for gifts that have traveled nationwide and beyond. Cook's *Ohio Buckeye Candy: A Sweet History* provides the perfect resource for discovering more about Ohio's chocolate shops and the candy buckeye. After devouring this delightful book, a Buckeye Candy Trail tour is now on my list.

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

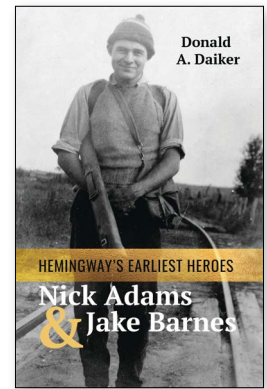
Daiker, Donald A. *Hemingway's Earliest Heroes: Nick Adams and Jake Barnes.*

Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2024.

Almost twenty years after retiring from Miami University, Donald A. Daiker is having a moment. In

late 2022, Mark Cirino, host of the popular Hemingway Society-sponsored podcast, *One True Podcast*, introduced his guest as "the man who knows more about Nick Adams and the Nick Adams stories than anyone alive."

Now, Daiker's most important essays about the character Jake Barnes from *The Sun Also Rises* and about Ernest Hemingway's short story alter ego, Nick Adams, have been collected in one book.



Intimidated by literary essays? Don't be. Daiker's essays work on three levels.

If you're a Hemingway aficionado or you are a want-to-be Hemingway aficionado, *Hemingway's Earliest Heroes* is a must for your bookshelf. Daiker is not afraid to dissent from common Hemingway analyses. For example, two essays defend Nick's father Dr. Henry Adams; while most scholars describe the character as cold-blooded, castrating, sexist, or racist, Daiker defends him as one who demonstrates the power of love.

In "One True Sentence from *The Sun Also Rises*," he begins the essay with, "When asked to choose a 'true sentence . . . many readers would choose the novel's famous final sentence"; and then Daiker breaks from tradition and proposes a seemingly ordinary sentence. That's the beauty of Daiker's scholarship—he sees what others don't, and he reads what others won't. His theses are products of long, thoughtful reflections.

If you have no ambition for Hemingway scholarship, first, shame on you. Second, that's okay, but do you ever feel guilty that you're not indulging in classic American literature? It should be on your to-do list, like spending less time on social media and learning to identify wines.

Let me offer you an exercise to raise your current level of culture, so you can dazzle friends at your next dinner party. Read Daiker's essay "In Defense of Hemingway's Young Nick Adams," and then read Hemingway's short stories "The End of Something" and "The Three-Day Blow." The practice of pairing an essay with the original text is simply adding the hot fudge and Reddi-wip to your vanilla ice cream.

Interested in re-reading *The Sun Also Rises*? I suggest “Don’t Get Drunk, Jake.” Try reading the book with a focus on drunkenness and sobriety.

Finally, *Hemingway’s Earliest Heroes* should be required reading for high school and university American literature teachers. Daiker’s reputation for quality classroom teaching was legendary in Oxford, Ohio. He valued his role as teacher more than his role as researcher. His work will elevate the curriculum for any class reading *The Sun Also Rises*. Start with “Teaching Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises* as Novel and Film.” The essay serves as a guide to studying the book along with the movie, which will improve the accessibility for high school students across most learning levels. I suggest trying pop-up discussions by creating prompts from the essay “One of the Filthiest Books of the Year,” which explores *The Sun Also Rises* as a banned book.

Daiker’s voice is friendly and considerate. The essays are void of pompous professor speak that segregates the vast majority of literary essays to university libraries and scholarly communities. *Hemingway’s Earliest Heroes* is an olive branch to any reader interested in Hemingway by America’s most interesting Hemingway scholar.

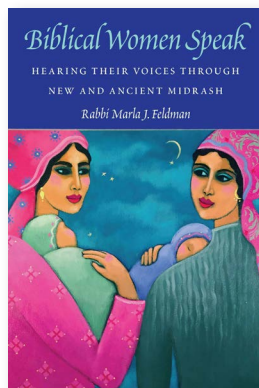
REVIEWED BY J.M. GREEN, WRITER AND POET, MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Feldman, Marla J. *Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices Through New and Ancient Midrash.*

Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2023.

Have you ever wondered just who the women of the Bible were? We barely know their names. We have a vague idea of how they lived, and of how they influence our understanding of the role of women in the Biblical period. But *Biblical Women Speak* by Rabbi Marla J. Feldman answers all of this.

Rabbi Feldman brings together verses from the Torah (the five books of Moses), and adds in Midrash (rabbinic literature) and Biblical commentaries to flesh out the lives and



accomplishments of ten women including Keturah, Leah and Rachel, Miriam, and Pharaoh’s daughter. Slowly, the ten women come to life, along with lessons gleaned from their place within the Torah.

Feldman compiles a fascinating collection of biographical sketches of Biblical women from the Old Testament. Each woman’s life is presented in four stages: through Biblical verse, modern Midrash, Classical Commentary and Midrash, and finally, the author’s commentary or point of view. Each biographical sketch is drawn partly from the texts and partly from context, and Rabbi Feldman sparingly uses fictional license to make the woman’s life relatable today.

Each chapter stands on its own, which makes this volume the perfect text for a year-long study group, for one-on-one study, for sermons, and for casual reading. The author, through the sources, provides talking, discussion, and thinking points on our lives today.

Feldman includes a bibliography of Classical Jewish and Biblical era sources, as well as endnotes pointing to the original sources for more in-depth study. A bibliography is the jumping off point for expanding one’s reading list and grasp of traditional sources for studying the Old Testament, Jewish scripture, and commentaries.

Written for Jewish and non-Jewish readers with all levels of Jewish/Biblical knowledge, this is a must-read for anyone interested in the lives of women in the Biblical era.

I found this to be the perfect book for the High Holy Days. *Biblical Women Speak* promises to be a wonderful inspiration for study throughout the year—and for years to come.

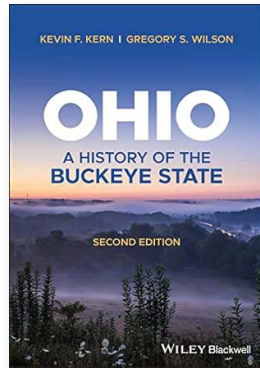
Rabbi Marla J. Feldman is from Toledo and now lives in New York City. She is the executive director of Women of Reform Judaism and the author of numerous articles and manuals including *Speak Truth to Power*.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Kern, Kevin F., and Gregory S. Wilson.
Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State,
Second Edition.

Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2023.

Kevin Kern and Gregory Wilson have updated *Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State*, their survey textbook originally published in 2012, with the latest scholarly research, new biographical material, recent archeological findings, and an added decade of historical narrative up to the early 2020s. Starting with the ancient geological forces that fashioned today's landscape and available natural resources, this tour de force covers the epochs and pivotal events in sequence: Native Americans in Ohio prior to European arrivals; interactions between Indigenous peoples and European arrivals; the American Revolution and establishment of the United States; the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and events leading to Ohio statehood in 1803; the evolving societal, political, and economic structures of the state before the Civil War; Ohio in the Civil War and Reconstruction; the emerging industrial economy of the late 1800s and early 1900s; and on through the world wars, major migrations, struggles for civil rights, pandemics, and shifts in political party allegiances. Clearly, this is not a work one devours from cover to cover in one sitting.



Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State is a timely book for those thinking about the state's future. In relating Ohio's past, recurring and vexing topics such as race, class, economic competitiveness, and this state's place in the life of the nation are addressed in a straight-forward, objective manner.

The publishers accurately say on the back cover that this is "an essential resource for undergraduate students, professionals working in historical societies and museums, and general readers looking for a highly readable study of Ohio history." Yet, the term "general reader" feels a bit vague to this reviewer. Numerous specific categories of interested readers come to mind.

Ohioans of a certain age will nostalgically recall a time when Ohio History and Government was taught in

seventh grade. Ohio History is now covered in fourth grade. Though this text is not suited for that young cohort, their Social Studies teachers will find it an invaluable resource!

The review copy is now full of marginalia at various passages, noting both favorite authors and fondly remembered visits to Ohio sites. For example: *Harlan Hatcher and The Western Reserve* is noted when discussing the settling colonial claims to land in the Northwest Territory on page 101. The memoirs of Carl Stokes (*Promises of Power*) and his brother Louis (*The Gentleman from Ohio*) are inked next to their biographical sketches on page 428. A tour of the John Rankin House in Ripley is scribbled on page 158, where the Underground Railroad is discussed. Remembrance of standing atop the Perry Monument at Put-in-Bay is marked on page 197, where discussion of the Battle of Lake Erie begins. Deep readers with Ohio roots surely will place such marks of their own if fortunate enough to own a copy.

Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State will appeal to many readers due to content related to their particular livelihood. Lawyers and state government officials will be interested in the analysis of Ohio's government derived from the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, Ohio's original constitution of 1802, and major constitutional revisions in 1856 and 1912. Planners and economic developers can consider descriptions of the evolution of Ohio's land use, workforce, transportation systems, and environmental challenges. Labor organizers, public health professionals, educators, and those pursuing a host of other occupations will each find in this text historical roots to their chosen fields.

This book is not for formal study only. For example, amateur genealogists can use this work to better situate their Ohio ancestors in time and place. *Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State* makes a great companion to enrich a one-tank trip. Many will find it fascinating to read about and relive events of their past.

Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State is so engaging, in part, because it is replete with well-chosen photographs, maps, and illustrations. Suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter and a curated index also contribute to the usefulness of this book. Kern and Wilson—both history professors at the University of Akron—write beautiful, naturally flowing prose.

The Ohioana Library’s mission is “Collecting, Preserving, & Celebrating Ohio Literature.” *Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State*, given its subject and quality, is a quintessential work for Ohioana to collect, preserve, and celebrate.

ROBERT JAQUAY IS A SENIOR FELLOW OF THE LEVIN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY AND RECALLS HIS KEEN INTEREST IN HIS OHIO HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT CLASS OF 1967-1968 AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL IN EUCLID

FICTION

Black, Lisa. *What Harms You: A Locard Institute Thriller*.

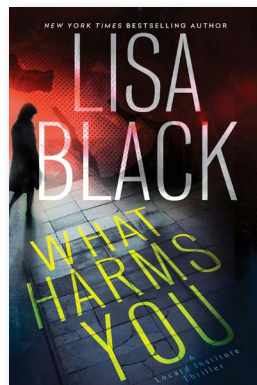
New York, NY: Kensington, 2023.

Get ready for a forensic mystery set just outside Washington, DC, where there’s a killer loose at the Locard Institute, a forensic research center where CSI techniques are taught to forensic technicians and law enforcement personnel.

Ellie Carr, expert forensic tech hired away from the FBI to teach at Locard, begins her first day with a bang. First, her electronic key doesn’t work in the front door or her new office. Next, she’s thrust into the classroom by Barbara Wright, who she’s replacing. Then, just as lunch ends, she discovers Wright’s body in a puddle of hydrochloric acid!

That evening, a student from Saudi Arabia, Farida, goes missing in a pouring rainstorm. She turns up dead on the Locard Institute’s grounds the very next day.

Since both crimes were committed at the Institute, the trained Locard staff are sidelined as professionals and treated as suspects, as are the fifty seminar participants. Those participants come from across the United States and work in forensic labs and law enforcement, so they know the drill from the investigator’s side. Instead, the FBI takes over the investigation, dealing with all the nitty-gritty evidence collecting and, most of all, interviewing suspects. Of course, curious minds at the Locard Institute, meaning Ellie Carr and her coworker



Rachael Davies, continue to work on supposedly extraneous clues.

Author Lisa Black fills this tale with lots of scientific facts and terms as the Locard staff teach about DNA, tests, and chemicals. Sometimes the technical details overshadow the mystery. There are bits and clues that are seeded, then seemingly forgotten, then picked up in surprising ways as the investigation heats up.

Black worked as a forensic scientist in Cleveland, giving authenticity to *What Harms You*. She now lives in Florida examining lots of evidence, including fingerprints and crime scenes.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Erickson, Alex. *Death by Iced Coffee (Bookstore Café Mystery #11)*.

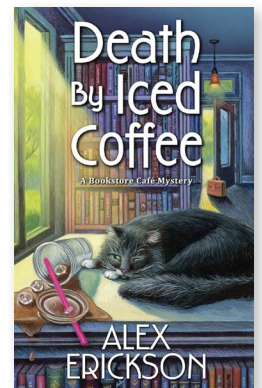
New York, NY: Kensington, 2023.

Krissy Hancock is the owner of the bookstore café, Death by Coffee, in Pine Hills, Ohio. She is running in a town marathon, and of course, since this is a cozy mystery, a murder takes place when one of the runners is slain.

Ohio author Alex Erickson gives readers a complicated plot with many suspects. Krissy jumps into the hunt for the killer, trusting that she can figure things out faster than the local police, as she has before—ten times before—in the previous books in this series.

This cozy mystery is in the long literary tradition of women who own bookstores but spend more time solving murders than they do running their bookshops. This history goes back at least as far as Carolyn G. Hart with her *Death on Demand* series, as well as Joan Hess’ *Claire Malloy Mysteries* series, and many in between, and all are enjoyable in their own way.

The women protagonists are often egotists, and rather nosy, to the point that they think they can pursue the murderer both better and faster than the cops. They usually do beat the police, but not without risking



their lives and their bookstore. Krissy even frequently describes those traits in herself with lines like, “I did tend to stick my nose where it didn’t belong,” and, “I was poking around in a murder investigation I should have left for the police to handle,” and, “It wasn’t in my DNA to stand aside when I thought I could help.”

When the bibliopole is dating a cop, as in this book, the protagonist frustrates him by telling him she’ll behave, and then going right back to her sleuthing. In *Death by Iced Coffee*, Krissy’s cop boyfriend acknowledges her abilities and says, “You tend to ask questions and notice things that some people would overlook.” But another cop tells her, “Stay out of these investigations. If you insist on showing up where you don’t belong, I’ll have no choice but to arrest you.” Krissy herself admits, “I always found a way to end up exactly where I didn’t belong.”

I found it astounding, though, that Krissy has helped solve a dozen previous murders in this small town—at least one, if not more, in each of the previous books in this series—but instead of welcoming her obvious crime-solving abilities, the police chief treats her in an antagonistic way!

Puzzling elements like this require readers to go into these types of series with a suspension of disbelief. The same goes for the protagonist’s sense of invulnerability. Of course, Krissy has to follow the cozy mystery formula and put herself in danger, becoming the target of (unsuccessful) violence, and going into threatening areas without backup. But with book after book of near-death encounters, one would think she’d learn a lesson or two along the way, and maybe reevaluate some of her sleuthing tactics.

As a lifelong bookseller, I often get frustrated to see the bookstores in these series used mainly for adornment. There’s not much attention given to operating the shop or taking care of customers, especially once a murder has taken place. In reality, running a bookstore takes a great deal of time and effort. Fortunately, Erickson brings Krissy’s bookstore café into scenes often, and her place sounds wonderful. The shop even has a fluffy store-cat named Misfit.

If you’re looking for a fun, cozy read with lots of plot twists and many possible suspects—with a bookstore in the middle of everything—then you’ll get your java

and mystery fix with *Death by Iced Coffee* in this popular series.

GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN IS A RETIRED BOOKSHOP OWNER WITH AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF BIBLIOPOLIC LITERATURE AND WRITES SUCH STORIES HIMSELF.

Roth, Jerry. *Throwing Shadows: A Dark Collection*.

Bucyrus, KS: Brigids Gate Press, 2022.

Ohio author Jerry Roth brings us *Throwing Shadows: A Dark Collection*, which will chill you to the bone. These nine spine-tingling tales will shock you, unnerve you, and send you running for the safety of a well-lit room.



The collection opens with a tale about a scarecrow with glowing eyes who haunts its farmhouse. This creepy scarecrow appears to protect the woman living there with her husband and mother-in-law. Told as a folktale, readers will shiver as the tale reveals the secret of “A Mother’s Strength.”

The other short stories are equally frightening. There’s a tale of a Ouija board that sucks souls. Another is about a psychic who must find a missing child that is somehow connected to “The [scariest] Teddy Bear” you’ve ever read about. (This story admittedly left me with bad dreams.) “My Soul to Take” is about a man who doesn’t really believe the bargain he’s made with the devil.

Each story is filled with horrors and will give you nightmares galore. Roth’s tales are dark—so dark you’ll wonder why you picked up the book and how you’ve been sucked into reading it.

Roth knows his stuff. He crafts short stories perfect for Halloween, fright-night, and campfires. He takes “things that go bump in the night” and brings them to life, one terrifying scene after another. Each of the tales is creepy, suspenseful, and filled with nail-biting moments.

For the best effect and the highest impact, read the tales one at a time while the sun shines. Once it’s dark, there’s no telling how the tales will seep into your dreams.

Jerry Roth's other books include *On the Tip of Her Tongue* and *Bottom Feeders*. These books and his latest, *Throwing Shadows: A Dark Collection*, are perfect for fans of horror everywhere.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Strawser, Jessica. *The Next Thing You Know*.

New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2022.

After hearing Jessica Strawser talk about her newest book featuring death (end-of-life) doulas, I knew I had to read it.

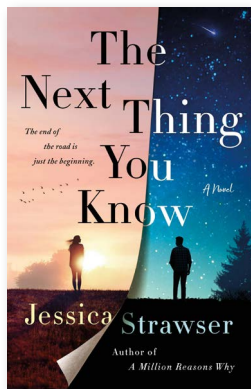
What's a death doula, you ask? It's a person who works with the terminally ill to settle their affairs, to create a bucket list, or to help complete those pesky chores and to-do lists before dying. There's nothing morbid about what they do.

In fact, I'd be surprised if we don't see a lot more people offering these services to the baby boomer generation.

In *The Next Thing You Know*, Nova Huston works for Kelly Monroe at Parting Your Way. Both are death doulas living in Cincinnati. Kelly is not only the owner, but she's very much a play-by-the-rules person. She lives where she works with her daughter, Willow. Nova rents a room in the refurbished garage at the back of the property. They've all gotten to know one another pretty well—at least they think they do. Then Mason Shaylor arrives one day.

Mason is much younger than Kelly's usual clientele. She's more comfortable with the older clients, so she asks Nova to handle his case. Mason is decidedly closed-mouthed about his medical condition. He's not too keen on filling out forms or providing information about himself, let alone his family.

When the mysterious Mason dies in a car accident which may have been a suicide, the death doulas are left "holding the bag," so to speak. Both police and insurance investigations ensue. To say more would spoil the mystery of what actually happened to Mason.



As always, Strawser sets up a scenario where the setting seems straightforward, then there's a dramatic break where someone disappears or goes silent.

Strawser's tales are always a little over-the-top and inevitably include some kind of mystery or disappearance. That being said, the resolution of the story is a surprise worth waiting for.

Jessica Strawser lives in Cincinnati and has been writing fiction for many years. Check out her backlist for more titles including *Almost Missed You* and her most recent, *A Million Reasons Why*.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

POETRY

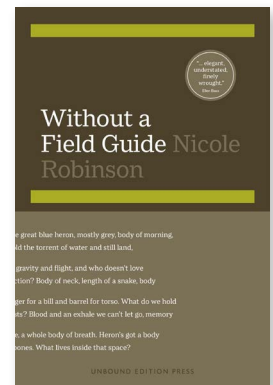
Robinson, Nicole. *Without a Field Guide*.

Atlanta, GA: Unbound Edition Press, 2023.

"This is a book that never flinches . . ." –Ruth L. Schwartz

Nicole Robinson's debut poetry collection, *Without a Field Guide*, is brimming with insightful reflections on healing, memory, the present, the natural world, and more. Going through life without a field guide resonates for many of us, and this concept has given me a new perspective on both poetry and living. There is often a sentiment shared that there is a correct way to move through life. Of course this is not true, yet many of us struggle to live in a way that feels natural to us due to societal pressures of conformity. Robinson reckons with the reality that we are all living without a field guide, yet her poems offer hope and even a model for finding and creating our own field guides as we journey through life. Perhaps poetry itself is a field guide.

I devoured this book poem after poem, and I kept thinking about my own personal field guide: I keep a notebook on me at all times, often jotting down my thoughts or moments that grab my attention. When I read the poem, "Fieldnotes in February at Dawn," I



started to imagine my notebooks as field notes helping me process and make sense of the world rather than meaningless scribbles. I felt empowered and excited at the idea of my tendency to take field notes. It's amazing how a small change in language can open the mind.

This collection addresses trauma and shame in meaningful ways, but it is not a book about trauma. This is a book about living in the present and the power of truly noticing what's in front of us, appreciating the mundanities of life and the natural world.

In "Folly Beach: Surf," the poet writes, "The sea follows its tide and my surfer / follows the sea, knows there's a present / that passes so quickly it can't be seen / but it can be felt with the ride and push of a board." These lines perfectly encapsulate experiencing mindful awareness in the present—movement and flow as the catalysts that get us out of our heads and into our bodies.

In the poem "Girl on the Playground," the speaker inquires, "What leads a heart back to itself? / the creak of the swing when it starts / to move? her small legs pushing the air / her arms pulling her weight." This triumphant image exemplifies Robinson's narrative and lyrical prowess.

Nicole Robinson's debut is masterfully and tenderly executed—I am already looking forward to reading more of her work. Robinson is a recipient of an Individual Excellence Award for poetry from the Ohio Arts Council and the Humanities Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Her poems have appeared in *Columbia Journal*, *The Fourth River*, *Great River Review*, *The Louisville Review*, *Spillway*, *Tahoma Literary Review*, and elsewhere. Robinson currently serves as the narrative medicine coordinator at Akron Children's Hospital.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM NORDINE, OHIOANA LIBRARY PROGRAM MANAGER

JUVENILE

Bentley, Tadgh. *One Chicken Nugget*.

New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2023.

Do you love chicken nuggets? How many would you be willing to eat to earn free nuggets for life? *One Chicken Nugget*, by Tadgh Bentley, may help you answer that burning question.



Frank is a nugget-loving purple creature who has discovered the Nuggets by Celeste food truck. However, Celeste, the owner of the food truck, is not happy with her biggest customer; Frank has no manners and scares her other customers with his poor behavior. In an attempt to rid herself of Frank, Celeste devises a cunning challenge that tests Frank's dedication to nuggets.

I first came across *One Chicken Nugget* while screening for the Ohioana Book Awards. The book immediately stood out to me because of its silly sense of humor and lighthearted approach to what is, ultimately, a big math problem. I love Celeste, the wily and persistent food truck owner who studies broadly to come up with a solution to her Frank-problem. As a youth librarian, I could tell this book would be popular with nugget-loving, school-age kids. Sure enough, when I read this book to a classroom, it was inevitably a big hit.

There is more to *One Chicken Nugget* than meets the eye. If you want to dive deeper, the end pages provide insight into Celeste's research process as she devises her plan in the story. This includes an author's note explaining the origins of the nugget challenge, which is steeped in folklore from cultures around the world. You can also approach the book as a STEM activity and talk about compounding numbers, or find out how many nuggets it would take to reach from the Earth to the Moon.

Tadgh Bentley is an author and illustrator from the United Kingdom who now lives in Athens, Ohio. His books often feature food, so if you're feeling hungry, his books are perfect for you.

REVIEWED BY JESSICA SMITH, YOUTH LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between December 2023 and March 2024. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Bauer, Paul J., and Mark Dawidziak. *Jim Tully: American Writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler*. 2nd ed. St. Martin, OH: Commonwealth Book Company, 2023.

The second edition of this award-winning biography of the vagabond, hard-boiled writer who rocked Hollywood during the Roaring Twenties, originally published by The Kent State University Press.

Bona, Marc, and Dan Murphy. *Joe Thomas: Not Your Average Joe: The Authorized Biography—From Wisconsin to Cleveland to the Hall of Fame*. Cleveland, OH: Gray & Company, Publishers, 2023.

The authorized biography of Joe Thomas, 2023 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee and one of the NFL's most reliable offensive linemen ever. This intimate portrait draws from interviews with family, friends, coaches, teammates, and Joe himself.

Bond, Jane. *Akron's Infamous Escort Case*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2023.

In the late 1990s, the Akron Vice Squad began Operation Red Light to investigate two local escort services. Little did they expect the political and legal storm their actions would unleash. Progressing step by step through the evidence, presiding judge Jane Bond goes behind the

scenes and into her courtroom to see if justice can be done.

Bordewich, Fergus M. *Klan War: Ulysses S. Grant and the Battle to Save Reconstruction*. New York, NY: Knopf, 2023.

A history of the first national anti-terrorist campaign waged on American soil—when Ulysses S. Grant wielded the power of the federal government to dismantle the Ku Klux Klan.

Brown, Austin Channing. *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. New York, NY: Convergent Books, 2018.

From a leading voice on racial justice, this eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals.

Grush, Loren. *The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts*. New York, NY: Scribner, 2023.

When NASA sent astronauts to the moon in the 1960s and 1970s, women were excluded from the corps. Eventually, NASA opened the application process to a wider array of hopefuls, and six elite women were selected in 1978: Sally Ride, Judy Resnik, Anna Fisher, Kathy Sullivan, Shannon Lucid, and Rhea Seddon. In *The Six*, acclaimed journalist Loren Grush shows how these brilliant and courageous women endured claustrophobic—and sometimes deeply sexist—media attention, underwent rigorous survival training, and prepared for years to take multi-million-dollar payloads into orbit.

Guerrieri, Vince. *Weird Moments in Cleveland Sports: Bottlegate, Bedbugs, and Burying the Pennant*. Cleveland, OH: Gray & Company, Publishers, 2022.

Cleveland sports teams have set records for futility in baseball, football, and basketball. But even beyond that, Cleveland sports fans have witnessed more than their share of weird, wild, random, and odd occurrences, from front office ineptitude to absurd losses to bizarre injuries and more.

Jones, Cardale, and Bill Rabinowitz. *Cardale Jones: Leading the Buckeyes, Finding My Purpose, and Never Giving Up*. Chicago, IL: Triumph Books, 2023.

In the days before college football's first four-team playoff field was announced in 2014, there were doubts that Ohio State would even make the cut. But by mid-January, the Buckeyes were hoisting the National Championship Trophy, led by an unlikely hero behind center: Cardale Jones. In this revealing memoir, Jones reflects on his path to Columbus to the pinnacle of college football and beyond.

Jordan, Mark S. *The Witch of Mansfield: The Tetched Life of Phebe Wise*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2023.

There are those who thought Phebe Wise was a witch, while others thought that the cranky old lady was "tetched" (a.k.a. "crazy"). Local author and historian Mark S. Jordan unravels the myth and history of Phebe Wise—an eccentric who outwitted violent robbers, a mad stalker, and a society that expected her to marry and raise children.

Judd, Robin. *Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides after the Holocaust*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2023.

Historian Robin Judd, whose grandmother survived the Holocaust and married an American soldier after liberation, introduces us to the Jewish women who lived through genocide and went on to wed American, Canadian, and British military personnel after World War II. Judd offers an in-depth portrait of how these unions emerged, developed, and helped shape the postwar world.

Kern, Kevin F., and Gregory S. Wilson. *Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State*. 2nd ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2023.

Now in its second edition, *Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State* surveys the long and rich history of Ohio from its earliest geological periods to the present day. Designed for undergraduate students and general readers alike, this accessible volume describes the pivotal events in Ohio's history while discussing the major social, economic, and political trends that have shaped the state over time.

King, Andrew, and Ben Ferree. *Friday Night Lies: The Bishop Sycamore Story*. Chicago, IL: Triumph Books, 2023.

The riveting true story of a sham school run by longtime con men whose scheme to fix Ohio high school football crashed and burned on live television. This exploitation of high school football and education systems left vulnerable students in the crossfire, culminating in a series of lawsuits and criminal charges.

Meyers, David, Elise Meyers Walker, and Jeff Chenault. *The Kahiki Scrapbook: Relics of Ohio's Lost Tiki Palace*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2023.

Years after its razing in August 2000, the legacy of the Kahiki continues to inspire artists, entrepreneurs, and other visionaries, many of whom never set foot inside the fabled tiki palace. From the authors of *Kahiki Supper Club* comes a new collection of more stories, images, and recipes that illustrates why the Kahiki was such a historically, culturally, and sociologically important artifact of the twentieth century.

Newman, Melissa. *Head Over Heels: Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman: A Love Affair in Words and Pictures*. Edited by Andrew Kelly. New York, NY: Voracious, 2023.

An invitation to the private world of Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman, one of America's most iconic couples, in a lavishly illustrated oversize photo book affectionately curated by their daughter, Melissa Newman.

Quade, Mary. *Zoo World: Essays*. Columbus, OH: Mad Creek Books, 2023.

In *Zoo World*, Mary Quade examines our propensity for damage, our relationships with other species, our troubling belief in our own dominion, and the reality that when you put something in a cage, it becomes your responsibility.

Schneider, Amy. *In the Form of a Question: The Joys and Rewards of a Curious Life*. New York, NY: Avid Reader Press, 2023.

In eighth grade, Amy Schneider was voted "Most likely to appear

on *Jeopardy!*" by her classmates. Decades later, she finally got her chance. Not only did she walk away with \$1.3 million while captivating the world with her impressive forty-game winning streak, but she made history and won an even greater prize—the joy of being herself on national television and blazing a trail for openly queer and transgender people around the world. This memoir recounts Schneider's singular journey that led to becoming an unlikely icon.

Thorndike, John. *Another Way Home: A Father's Memoir*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Beck & Branch Publishers, 2023.

John Thorndike was a young Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador in 1967 when he met Clarisa, a vibrant Salvadoran girl. They fell in love, married, and soon had a son, Janir. When Clarisa began experiencing symptoms of schizophrenia and behaving in ways that endangered their young son's life, Thorndike made the wrenching decision to bring Janir back to the United States and raise him alone. *Another Way Home* is the account of their life together: their tender moments, their pitched battles, and their heartbreaking reunions with Clarisa.

FICTION

Alam, Rumaan. *Leave the World Behind*. New York, NY: Ecco Books, 2020.

When Amanda and Clay rent a house in a remote corner of Long Island, they expect a quiet vacation with their teenage son and daughter. But a late-night knock on the door from strangers Ruth and G. H. upends the family getaway. The house belongs

to them, and Ruth and G. H. bring news that a sudden blackout has swept through New York City. But in this rural area—with no TV, internet, or cell phone service—it’s hard to know what to believe. Can Amanda and Clay trust this couple—and vice versa?

Applewhite, Kalynn. *Awakening Anne (The White Crow #1)*.

Chagrin Falls, OH: Kalynn Applewhite, 2023.

At first glance, Margaret Ward appears like any other heiress living a charmed life on the upper east side of Manhattan. Behind the door of her peculiar parlor, Maggie delves into the secrets of the unknown, exploring her talents as a spiritualist medium. When she holds a séance for a grieving widower, she discovers the dark mystery behind his wife’s death. The farther she goes to discover the truth, the more she uncovers about the nature of the world beyond life itself, and the more dangerous her pursuit becomes.

Barzak, Christopher. *Monstrous Alterations*. Amherst, MA: Lethe Press, 2023.

In this new collection from Shirley Jackson Award winner Christopher Barzak, discover stories where fairy tales, gothic narratives, and classic monster stories are transformed into new wonders.

Baumgartner, S. F. *Forgotten Secret (Mirror Estate #2)*. Freeport, NY: FB Publishing, 2024.

For two decades, forty-four-year-old magazine writer Clara Khoury has lived with missing pieces of herself—her memory. When the recent discovery of a young woman’s remains triggers her, she’s

compelled to investigate. Now, her disturbing past threatens her contented present, someone frames her husband, and their daughter is abducted. If she can’t uncover the truth, she might lose everyone she loves.

Baumgartner, S. F. *Living Secrets (Mirror Estate #1)*. Freeport, NY: FB Publishing, 2023.

Lily Tso is bored and unfulfilled. Orphaned at birth, the twenty-two-year-old Hotel Guest Service Officer is overwhelmed to discover her parents are alive. But the young woman fears she’s woefully unprepared for a treacherous operation to save America and to meet her parents.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. *Canary Girls*.

New York, NY: William Morrow, 2023.

Rosie the Riveter meets *A League of Their Own* in *New York Times*–bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini’s lively and illuminating novel about the “munitionettes” who built bombs in Britain’s arsenals during World War I, risking their lives for the war effort and discovering camaraderie and courage on the football pitch.

Christie, Nancy. *Mistletoe Magic and Other Holiday Tales*. Portland, OR: Unsolicited Press, 2023.

Mistletoe Magic and Other Holiday Tales is about the wonder and excitement of the holiday season, as shown through eight stories with a cast of memorable characters.

Christie, Nancy. *Reinventing Rita (Midlife Moxie #1)*. Youngstown, OH: Nancy Christie, 2023.

Is fifty too old to start over and reinvent yourself? That’s what Rita

Reynolds has to decide after a series of unwelcome occurrences arrives in time for her fiftieth birthday. Tired of coasting along the highway of life, it’s time to hit the gas and start moving ahead, despite the bumps in the road that keep slowing her down.

Erickson, Alex. *A Pose Before Dying*. New York, NY: Kensington Cozies, 2024.

From the bestselling author of the Bookshop Café Mysteries, this new mystery series features Ashley Branson, a young female entrepreneur who’s just opened her dream business—a yoga studio filled with adorable, adoptable cats! If only helping humans find balance and felines find homes didn’t also require investigating the purrfect murder.

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *An Amish Cinderella (The Amish of Apple Creek #3)*. New York, NY: Kensington, 2023.

Heart doesn’t know why her pulse hammers every time she sees Clayton. She only knows that yielding to such emotions will mean trouble. But maybe with a little faith—and a special shoe—Clayton can convince her to join him on the road to happily ever after.

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *Amish Fugitive*. Toronto, Canada: Love Inspired, 2023.

Daniel Miller’s Amish community won’t accept him, even though he’s been acquitted of a crime he didn’t commit. When Lela Borntreger offers to help him find the real culprit, Daniel has a chance to prove his innocence. But a killer on the loose puts them both in danger. Will Daniel accept Lela’s help, or will he sacrifice clearing his name to keep her safe?

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *Moving Forward (A Woodland Park Firefighters Romance #2)*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2023.

When a call comes in about a possible heart attack at the scene of a fire at the Garden Center, firefighter Greg assumes he'll be assisting an elderly customer—not the beautiful, feisty proprietor, Kristen Werner. Greg is drawn to Kristen and hopes romance will flower. But Kristen has had enough trouble with her heart to last a lifetime and fears Greg will break it—especially if he finds out she can never give him the houseful of children he longs for.

Guay, D. M. *The Graveyard Shift: A Lovecraftian Horror Comedy (24/7 Demon Mart #1)*. Columbus, OH: D. M. Guay, 2019.

When the devilish owner of the 24/7 corner store gives Lloyd a job, he doesn't realize the shop's beer cave is actually the gateway to hell. The gate needs a hero—not a zero like Lloyd. But his coworkers—a karate-chopping bombshell and a talking roach with a bad attitude—need Lloyd's help to keep the demons in line. Can he man up and become a world-saving hero?

Guay, D. M. *Revenge of the Furballs: A Vampire vs. Werewolf Comedy (24/7 Demon Mart #5)*. Columbus, OH: D. M. Guay, 2023.

The 24/7 Demon Mart is infested with hamsters. Lots and lots of hamsters. Can Lloyd and the Demon Mart crew maintain the delicate balance that holds the magical community together? Or will the entire neighborhood—and Lloyd's life—fall apart amidst the menacing army of adorable, chubby rodents?

Harvey, T. W. *From Vicksburg to Bennett Place: The Long March to Victory*. Illus. by Dan Hoffbauer. Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2023.

In *Answering Lincoln's Call*, T. W. Harvey told the story of his great-grandfather and his great-grandfather's best friend as they fought with the 78th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the early days of the Civil War. *From Vicksburg to Bennett Place* is the conclusion to that tale, providing readers with a chronicle of America's bloodiest war as told by the men who fought in it.

Hastings, Anastasia. *Of Hoaxes and Homicide (Dear Miss Hermione #2)*. New York, NY: Minotaur Books, 2023.

Violet Manville secretly lives as Miss Hermione, Britain's best-loved Agony Aunt. When Violet receives a mother's letter about a daughter who has fallen prey to a cult, she sets off to investigate. But the case collides with Violet's real life when she discovers her own surprising connection to the cult.

Kalan, Andy. *Finding the Place Where Everything Lives*. Newark, OH: Boyle & Dalton, 2023.

Daniel and Claire Morrow are newlyweds with different pasts: Daniel has always lived a life of privilege, while Claire was born into poverty. When they move to Manhattan from their Midwestern college in the days leading up to the Great Recession, the disparities in their background become more prevalent. As their romanticized ideas start to erode under the pressure, they're forced to question who they are becoming—both as individuals and to each other.

Long, Kathryn. *Blooming with Murder (A Sierra Pines B&B Mystery #3)*. Kenmore, WA: Camel Press, 2023.

Ali Winston, owner of the Sierra Pines B&B, is excited for the Spring Fling Festival. But when the school board president is poisoned with face paint and Ali's best friend is accused of his murder, Ali must do whatever she can to discover the true culprit.

McBride, James. *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*. New York, NY: Riverhead Books, 2023.

From James McBride, author of the bestselling Oprah's Book Club pick *Deacon King Kong* and the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* is a novel about the challenges people face who live on the margins of white, Christian America—and what they must do to survive.

Rhyan, Dianna. *Staff of Laurel, Staff of Ash: Sacred Landscapes in Ancient Nature Myth*. Hampshire, UK: Moon Books, 2023.

At the crossroads of nature and the human imagination, Earth is sentient, fertile, and eloquent. When ancient goddesses, outcasts, heroes, and poets speak, they speak on her behalf to reveal living myths that first enchanted sacred landscapes. Their primal stories emerge from wilderness and rise from buried libraries to jolt us awake in this unique and timely collection.

Rouda, Kaira. *Beneath the Surface (The Kingsleys #1)*. Seattle, WA: Thomas & Mercer, 2023.

On a weekend voyage, the power-hungry children of an aging billionaire are unprepared for a storm of deceptions. *Beneath the*

Surface is a novel about ruthless family ambition from *USA Today*–bestselling author Kaira Rouda.

Ruhlman, Michael, and Miesha Wilson Headen, eds. ***Cleveland Noir***. New York, NY: Akashic Books, 2023.

The Akashic Noir series continues its tour of Ohio with *Cleveland Noir*, featuring new stories by Ohioans Paula McLain, Jill Bialosky, Thrity Umrigar, Michael Ruhlman, Alex DiFrancesco, Abby L. Vandiver, and more.

Scalzi, John. ***Starter Villain***. New York, NY: Tor Books, 2023.

Charlie’s life is going nowhere fast. Then his long-lost uncle Jake dies and leaves his supervillain business (complete with island volcano lair) to Charlie. Unfortunately, Jake had enemies—and now they’re coming after Charlie. It’s up to Charlie to win the war his uncle started against a league of supervillains. With unionized dolphins, hyper-intelligent talking spy cats, and a terrifying henchperson at his side, going bad is starting to look good.

Umrigar, Thrity. ***The Museum of Failures***. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2023.

A Book Riot Best Book of 2023, *The Museum of Failures* is an immersive story about family secrets and the power of forgiveness from Thrity Umrigar, the bestselling author of Reese’s Book Club pick *Honor*.

Watterson, Bill. ***The Mysteries***.

Illus. by John Kascht. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2023.

From Bill Watterson, bestselling creator of the beloved comic strip *Calvin and Hobbes*, and John Kascht,

one of America’s most renowned caricaturists, comes a mysterious and beautifully illustrated fable about what lies beyond human understanding.

Webber, Heather. ***At the Coffee Shop of Curiosities***. New York, NY: Forge Books, 2023.

Maggie Mae Brightwell runs Magpie’s, a beachside coffee and curiosity shop where magic is found in pairing the old with the new. Ava Harrison is looking for a new start when she accepts a live-in caretaker job in Driftwood, Alabama. When Ava and Maggie meet, they discover they’re kindred spirits. Together, they realize that the waves of change can bring you to the place where you most belong.

Winfrey, Kerry. ***Faking Christmas***. New York, NY: Berkley, 2023.

Laurel Grant is playing house for the holidays—complete with a fake husband and kids—in this delightful, charming romantic comedy by Kerry Winfrey.

Wolff, T. G. ***Psycho Therapy (A Diamond Mystery #3)***. Lutz, FL: Down & Out Books, 2023.

Before Diamond was a widow, she was a CIA agent with lethal skills. When an intervention puts her on Dr. Robin Ransom’s couch—and squarely in the middle of a high-stakes game of blackmail, kidnapping, and murder—Diamond jumps into her biggest case yet, bringing along her signature flair for chaos and destruction.

Zeineddine, Ghassan. ***Dearborn***. New York, NY: Tin House Books, 2023.

Spanning several decades, Ghassan Zeineddine’s debut collection

examines the diverse range and complexities of the Arab American community in Dearborn, Michigan. In ten tragicomic stories, Zeineddine explores themes of identity, generational conflicts, war trauma, migration, sexuality, queerness, home and belonging, and more.

POETRY

Abbott, Steve, ed. ***Common Threads 2023***. Mansfield, OH: Ohio Poetry Association, 2023.

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.

Agatep, Renée. ***Ohio Radio: Poems***. South Bend, IN: Wolfson Press, 2023.

The poems in Renée Agatep’s *Ohio Radio* document the complicated relationship of a heartland native with a past that won’t stop announcing itself in the present. Whether it’s childhood trauma or adolescent love affairs, the characters in Agatep’s poems appear as ghosts in the windows of memory.

Brennan, Matthew. ***The End of the Road***. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2023.

The newest poetry collection from poet and critic Matthew Brennan, *The End of the Road*, is a recollection of Brennan’s life, from his Midwestern Catholic boyhood to his mature years of study, writing, and travel.

Byas, Taylor. *I Done Clicked My Heels Three Times*. New York, NY: Soft Skull Press, 2023.

Inspired by *The Wiz*, this full-length poetry collection celebrates South Side Chicago and a Black woman's quest for self-discovery—one that pulls her away from the safety of home and into her power.

Demaree, Darren C. *The Luxury*. Glenview, IL: Glass Lyre Press, 2023. In *The Luxury*, Darren C. Demaree constructs a response to the catastrophic death of the natural world that enacts rage, love, and grief all at once.

Demaree, Darren C. *neverwell*. Madison, CT: Harbor Editions, 2023. Darren C. Demaree writes, "I've been waiting for a collection of poetry about addiction that holds no metaphors at all." Instead of waiting for someone else, he wrote it.

Glaser, Elton. *Ghost Variations*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023. Elton Glaser's ninth book of poems is about grief, family, and joy—intensely emotional and biting witty.

Grace, Carolyn. *Grenadine and Other Love Affairs*. Lexington, KY: Shadelandhouse Modern Press, 2023. In this debut poetry collection, Carolyn Grace explores meaning through body, image, form, music, myth, and history.

Hague, Richard. *Continued Cases*. Loveland, OH: Dos Madres Press, 2023. *Continued Cases* is a collection of satirical, social, and political poems. It addresses practices, policies, and

personalities, as well as opines on education, the arts, and the fate of the environment.

Hartsock, Katie. *Wolf Trees: Poems*. San Jose, CA: Able Muse Press, 2023. Including musings ranging from family, motherhood, classical and modern figures, and the lot of the diabetic, the poems in Katie Hartsock's new collection are as strong and enduring as the trees from which the book takes its title.

Hermesen, Terry. *Tiny Songs: Haiku & Meditations*. Illus. by Cardine Navarro. Huron, OH: Bottom Dog Press, 2024. Terry Hermesen's new poems travel—from Ohio prairie to the Strait of Magellan, from galleries of art to the earth's "museum of eternity down the spine of the Andes," through loneliness and loss to deeper capacities for love.

Hessenauer, Anita M. *Let Go*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2023. *Let Go* is a collection of poems that challenges the reader to look beyond the gamut of preconceived ideas, prejudices, egotism, and superiority.

Knott, Kip. *The Other Side of Who I Am*. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2023. Kip Knott's new collection brings attention to contemporary problems including the pandemic, social distancing, and school shootings.

LaMar-Thomas, Michele. *Brown Girl Rising: A Poetry Memoir*. 2022. Michele LaMar-Thomas' stunning debut poetry collection exemplifies the brown girl experience, offering inclusion, hope, and an example

of how one can take various oppressions and turn them into catalysts for inner growth.

Lentes, Cathy Cultice, and Wendy McVicker. *Stronger When We Touch*. Gates Mills, OH: The Orchard Street Press, 2023. A remarkable and engaging collection of letter-poems exchanged by Cathy Cultice Lentes and Wendy McVicker during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

McVay, Craig Bruce. *Beginning to Figure Things Out*. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2023. Flowing with nostalgia and brought to life with stunning language, Craig Bruce McVay's newest collection takes readers on a vivid journey through farm life in Indiana.

Moeller, Susann, ed. *Open Earth III: Eco-Poems*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Poetry Association, 2023. The long-anticipated third volume of eco-poems, *Open Earth III* is chock-full of thought-provoking poems, topical information, and resources.

Patterson, Emily. *To Bend and Braid*. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2023. In spare couplets that echo the intensity of the mother-child relationship, Emily Patterson's new collection captures the intimacy, fear, and beauty of early parenthood.

Rivers-Gill, Sandra. *As We Cover Ourselves with Light*. Russell, KY: Sheila-Na-Gig Editions, 2023. *As We Cover Ourselves with Light* is a debut collection that gathers illumination flowing from memory, weaving words into the fabric of family.

Sabol, Barbara. *Watermark: Poems of the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889*. Boulder, CO: Alternating Current Press, 2023.

Giving voice to figures both real and imagined, *Watermark* is a lyric documentary of the Johnstown Flood of 1889.

Sweeney, Dennis James. *You're the Woods Too*. Buffalo, NY: Essay Press, 2023.

You're the Woods Too takes readers on a wilderness journey through documentary essay, flash-fictional performances, and poems recited by moss.

Weyer-Bentley, Jessica. *Down Below Where the Canary Sings: Love, Loss, and Appalachia*. Illus. by Laura Bentley. Roundhead, OH: Jessica Weyer-Bentley, 2023.

A collection of poetic prose that reflects the social life, cultural heritage, and the heart of the Eastern Kentucky Appalachian people.

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Adams, Richard, and James Sturm. *Watership Down: The Graphic Novel*. Illus. by Joe Sutphin. New York, NY: Ten Speed Graphic, 2023. *Watership Down* is a classic animal tale of survival, hope, courage, and friendship that has delighted and inspired readers for over fifty years. Masterfully written by award-winning author James Sturm and gorgeously illustrated by bestselling artist Joe Sutphin, this graphic novel adaptation brings *Watership Down* to a new generation of readers.

Aldama, Frederick Luis. *Through Fences*. Illus. by Oscar Garza. Columbus, OH: Mad Creek Books, 2024.

Through Fences follows the ups and downs of Latino kids and young adults in the US–Mexico borderlands: San Ysidro, Calexico, McAllen, and back and forth across the border.

Alt, Jeff. *Time Traveling Through Yellowstone National Park (The Adventures of Bubba Jones #5)*. Illus. by Hannah Tuohy. New York, NY: Beaufort Books, 2023.

In the fifth book of this award-winning series, Tommy “Bubba Jones” and his sister Jenny uncover amazing facts about Yellowstone National Park while on a mission to solve a park mystery.

Arnold, David. *I Loved You in Another Life*. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2023. *New York Times*–bestselling author David Arnold returns with a poignant love story about two teens whose souls come together time and again through the ages.

Boyce, Kristy. *Hot Dutch Daydream*. New York, NY: HarperTeen, 2023.

Studious Sage Cunningham is spending her summer abroad in Amsterdam, interning in Dr. Reese’s lab. To help cover travel expenses, she’s also agreed to be a summer nanny for Dr. Reese’s three-year-old son—a task that seemed easy, until she met the rambunctious toddler. When Dr. Reese’s flirtatious but flighty teenage son, Ryland, arrives unannounced, Sage strikes a deal with him: he’ll assist Sage with babysitting if she helps him convince Dr. Reese that he’s serious about

pursuing a career in art. It sounds like a perfect plan, but soon Sage realizes that toddlers and handsome teenage boys both have a talent for throwing her plans out the window.

Brown, Austin Channing. *I’m Still Here: Loving Myself in a World Not Made for Me (Adapted for Young Readers)*. New York, NY: Convergent Books, 2023.

An adaptation of the powerful *New York Times*–bestselling account of growing up Black and female in America by Austin Channing Brown, completely rewritten with new stories for young readers.

Chen, Kara H. L. *Love & Resistance*. New York, NY: Quill Tree Books, 2023.

Thanks to her mother’s military job, seventeen-year-old Olivia Chang has attended four schools in seven years. Olivia plans to keep to herself at Plainstown High—just like she has at every other school—until infamous it-girl Mitzi Clarke makes a racist comment in class. When Olivia defends herself, she’s suddenly at the center of everyone’s attention, including a secret society of students called the Nerd Net who are intent on thwarting Mitzi’s reign of terror. With Olivia’s help, the Nerd Net could create true change at school. Olivia might even make her first real friends along the way.

Ellis, Grace. *Diana and the Hero’s Journey*. Illus. by Penelope Rivera Gaylord. Burbank, CA: DC Comics, 2023.

It takes a village to raise a warrior—and the Amazons have a lot on their hands with Diana. Can she harness the power of truth and community to become the hero we know as Wonder Woman?

Erebia, Federico. *Pedro & Daniel*. Hoboken, NJ: Levine Querido, 2023. Pedro and Daniel are Mexican American brothers growing up in 1970s Ohio. Their mother resents that Pedro is a spitting image of their darker-skinned father, that Daniel likes dolls, and that neither boy plays sports. Despite an abusive home life, the brothers have each other; together, they experience joy and laughter, coming out, first loves, first jobs, and the AIDS pandemic, in a coming-of-age story unlike any other.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *The Ghostly Photos (Mysteries of Trash and Treasure #2)*. New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books, 2023. *New York Times* bestselling—author Margaret Peterson Haddix returns to the Mysteries of Trash and Treasure series as Colin and Nevaeh unravel a mystery from the 1930s. The friends are great at finding things, but when they started Mystery Solvers, Inc., they never expected to be asked to find a ghost. Will history be able to help them solve this mystery?

Hendrix, M. *The Chaperone*. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Fire, 2023. Like all girls in New America, Stella must have a chaperone with her at all times. She can't go out by herself, or learn about the world, or spend time with boys except at formal Visitations. When Stella's chaperone dies suddenly, she is assigned to Sister Laura. Sister Laura gives Stella freedom like she's never had before—and a dangerous glimpse into the dark truth behind New America.

Jeter, M. C. *The Gems*. Westlake, OH: M. C. Jeter Books, 2023. Stressed with school and her

stepmother's cruelty, seventeen-year-old Ruby Jenkins just wants to finish high school and get the hell out of Ohio. But when Ruby discovers that she is anything but normal, nothing she wants seems to matter anymore.

Libenson, Terri. *Surprisingly Sarah (Emmie & Friends #7)*. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2023.

Two choices, two storylines—one surprise ending! Will Sarah be brave enough to ask out her crush or will she lose her nerve? Both stories play out in this funny and heartfelt seventh book in the *New York Times*—bestselling Emmie & Friends series.

Miller, Patricia. *Mysterious Tales of the Unexplained, Volume 3*. Sugarcreek, OH: Patricia Miller, 2023.

Bursting with more creepiness, suspense, and mystique than ever before, this third volume in Patricia Miller's mystery series features four new thrilling—and chilling—stories.

Okorafor, Nnedi. *Shadow Speaker (The Desert Magician's Duology #1)*. New York, NY: DAW, 2023.

When fifteen-year-old Ejii witnesses her father's beheading, her world shatters. In 2074 Niger, West Africa—a time of mind-blowing technology and seductive mysticism—Ejii embarks on a journey to track down her father's killer. With a newfound friend by her side, Ejii comes face to face with an earth turned inside out—and with her own mystical abilities.

Rex, Adam. *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard: Book One*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2023.

This is a story about magic, if you like that kind of thing. It is also a story about a ghost with amnesia, an unpopular fairy, an ungrateful town, and an extremely wise and helpful raven (who happens to be a pretty talented storyteller). But mostly, it is about a friendly little wizard who lives inside a big hill and really, really, really wants to be a hero. His name is Gumluck.

Simmons, Kristen. *Find Him Where You Left Him Dead (Death Games #1)*. New York, NY: Tor Teen, 2023.

Four years ago, five kids started a game. Not all of them survived. Now, at the end of their senior year of high school, the survivors—Owen, Madeline, Emerson, and Dax—have reunited for one strange and terrible reason: they've been summoned by the ghost of Ian, the friend they left for dead. It's up to them to find Ian and bring him home. So, they restart the deadly game they never finished—an innocent card-matching challenge called Meido. The game doesn't come with instructions . . . or guarantees that any of the players will make it out alive.

Smith, Jeff, and Tom Sniegowski. *Bone: More Tall Tales*. New York, NY: Graphix, 2023.

Smiley Bone, Fone Bone, and their Rat Creature pal, Bartleby, take a group of young scouts to a legendary landmark that the Bone cousins found when they were kids. They share stories around a campfire, spinning tales of trips to the moon, the delights of quiche, an imagined monster come to life, and an encounter with two stupid Rat Creatures gone hilariously wrong.

Somodi, Glenn. *Olly & the Spores of Oak Hill*. Glenn Somodi, 2022.

Olly and his new friend, Ember, fight off school bullies, greedy mall developers, and nosey townspeople to protect their secret—that there’s a community of nature-loving creatures that have peacefully lived under Oak Hill for hundreds of years.

Stamper, Phil. *Eli Over Easy*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2023.

When Eli’s mom dies unexpectedly, his whole world is shattered. Dad refuses to talk about her, leaving Eli alone in his grief. Then Eli finds a stash of instructional cooking videos his mom made, revealing her dream of becoming a celebrity chef. With encouragement from the cute new neighbor boy, Eli decides to watch the videos and follow the recipes. If he can re-create his mom’s special dishes, maybe a part of her can stay with him forever. But what happens when the videos run out?

Stine, R. L. *Scariest. Book. Ever. (Goosebumps House of Shivers #1)*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2023.

Twins Betty and Billy are visiting their Uncle Wendell at his secluded house in the Wayward Forest. What they think is going to be a boring stay quickly turns into a nightmare when they learn that Wendell is in possession of the scariest book in the world—and someone is coming after their uncle to get it. Now, it’s up to the twins to keep the book out of the wrong hands.

Stine, R. L. *Slime Doesn’t Pay!* Ashland, OR: Blackstone Publishing, 2023.

Friends Amy and Lissa have had enough of Amy’s brother, Arnie. The little monster is ruining their

lives with his mean jokes, bullying, and bad-boy behavior. When the girls find a recipe for blue slime on a YouTube channel, they decide it’s payback time and mix a big bucket to pour over Arnie at his birthday party. But the slime turns Arnie into a real monster. Can Amy and Lissa save their town from the raging Arnie Monster—and figure out how to turn him back into a brother?

Stine, R. L. *Stinetingslers 2: 10 MORE New Stories by the Master of Scary Tales*. New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends, 2023.

From R. L. Stine, the master of horror for young readers, comes a collection of ten new stories that are sure to send shivers down your spine. Each story comes with a personal introduction from Stine himself.

Swan, Jordan Riley. *Through an Emerald Gale (A Snowfall in Oz #1)*. Zanesville, OH: Story Garden Publishing, 2023.

When Dorothy Gale is swept into the wild world of Oz, the Wicked Witch takes her hostage and places a curse on her cousin—one that can only be broken if Dorothy completes a quest for the heartless green hag. Dorothy will need the help of three unlikely companions—and her own wits—in this reimagining of the classic tale.

Wang, Andrea. *Summer at Squee*. New York, NY: Kokila, 2024.

From Newbery Honor-winning author Andrea Wang, *Summer at Squee* is a middle grade novel about a Chinese American tween who attends a Boston-based Chinese cultural overnight camp—and the many ways it transforms her.

White, Randy Wayne. *Megalops (Sharks Incorporated #4)*. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press, 2023.

The Professional Tarpon Rodeo has returned to Sanibel Island. When Doc Ford suspects that contestants are cheating, he enlists help from the trio of brave friends who make up Sharks, Inc.—Luke, Maribel, and Sabina. But with everyone after the million-dollar prize, hooking the culprit is no easy catch.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Remember Us*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023.

Ohioana and National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson brings readers a powerful story that delves deeply into life’s burning questions about time and memory—and what we take with us into the future.

JUVENILE

Awan, Jashar. *I’m Going to Build a Snowman*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2023.

In this picture book celebration of winter and creativity, a boy’s snow day efforts show that perfection is relative, and what’s important is taking pride in what you do.

Bentley, Tadgh. *One Chicken Nugget*. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2023.

Inspired by the classic folktale “One Grain of Rice,” *One Chicken Nugget* is a monstrously funny picture book with a mathematical twist.

Blom, Tracy. *Starry Nights in Mexico*. Illus. by Eduardo Paj. Columbus, OH: Tracy Blom Publications, 2023.

When Ali's mom surprises her with a holiday road trip to Mexico, she can't help but think she'll be missing out on loads of fun. She's never met this side of the family, and driving in the opposite direction of snowball fights and hot chocolate seems like a bad idea. As Ali and her mom navigate their way through the unfamiliar landscape, they encounter a mysterious Christmas star that guides them through various places.

Cowdrey, Richard. *You've Got This, Fiona: A Book About Change*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2023.

Join your favorite hippo, Fiona, the adorable internet sensation from the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, as she learns about change. When everything seems to change around her, will her friends and family someday change, too?

Creech, Sharon. *A Smart, Smart School*. Illus. by Anait Semirdzhyan. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2023. Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech delivers a companion to the *New York Times*-bestselling picture book, *A Fine, Fine School*. Beloved characters Tillie, Beans, and Mr. Keene return with a timely message about the importance of creativity in the classroom.

Dawson, Keila V. *Yumbo Gumbo (Storytelling Math)*. Illus. by Katie Crumpton. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2024.

Annabelle's grandparents are finally going to teach her how to cook gumbo! But the family can't agree on what type of gumbo to make. They vote for their favorite, but the vote results in a tie. Now what? *Yumbo Gumbo* is a playful exploration of data and social-emotional

reasoning, featuring Louisiana Creole characters and a glossary of Louisiana Creole words.

Dendy, Christina. *Hide and Shh! A Not-So-Sneaky Sister Story About Inclusion*. Illus. by Nathalia Takeyama. Wixom, MI: Cardinal Rules Press, 2023.

Dinah, a young girl with Down syndrome, loves to play games with her older sister, Chloe, but she's not very good at the still and quiet kind. When her not-so-sneaky plan to get into the big kids' game backfires, Dinah realizes she might need to adapt a few of her own behaviors. In the process, she shows Chloe and her friends that there's more than one way to play.

Gillum, Andra. *Doghouse Drama*. Illus. by Andy Case. Herndon, VA: Mascot Books, 2023.

Rosy is moving into a brand-new home, and she's feeling nervous. Change can be scary, even for a puppy. But after a few adjustments and a bit of drama, Rosy learns to look on the bright side. Home is simply the place where she feels safe and loved.

Givens-Hayes, MaryAnn. *Corn Dolls*. Meadville, PA: Christian Faith Publishing, 2023.

A story of friendship and the perseverance of children set against fields of corn and sunny days.

Graham-Barber, Lynda. *Ten Dragon Eggs: A Book About Counting Down*. Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishing, 2023.

Mama Dragon is tending to ten colorful eggs, and she needs your help to hatch them all. Count down

from ten with Mama Dragon as each of her draglings jiggles, thumps, and cracks its way into the world.

Gray, Gary R., Jr. *I'm From*. Illus. by Oge Mora. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2023.

Early wakeups and homemade pancakes, raucous bus rides and schoolyard playtime, family games and bedtime rituals. These are the small moments that shape a child's day. *I'm From* is an invitation into the vivid world of one small boy—a poetic account of all the people, places, and things that shape who he is and define where he is from.

Harris, S. R. D., and Camryn Brooke. *Morgan Manages Her Money*. Illus. by Barry Davian. Pickerington, OH: S. R. D. Harris Books, 2023.

Come on a journey with Morgan as she learns how to manage her money. Can a dream help her resist temptation and balance her wants and needs?

Heide, Florence Parry. *Giants Are Very Brave People*. Illus. by Merrill Rainey. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2023.

Revisit the sweet, funny story of a giant finding his courage from Florence Parry Heide, author of *The Shrinking of Treehorn* and *Princess Hyacinth*. Illustrator Merrill Rainey puts a contemporary spin on this fractured fairytale with his bright, playful cartoon style.

Hillenbrand, Jane, and Will Hillenbrand. *Turtle-Turtle and the Wide, Wide River*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2024.

Whish! Whoosh! When the river rises, Turtle-Turtle needs his friends' help reaching higher

ground in this epic, but ultimately reassuring, ode to friendship and resilience.

Hillenbrand, Will. *The Voice in the Hollow*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2023.

When a blizzard closes the library early, Hubert decides to take a shortcut home through the spooky Hollow. Just as Hubert is gathering his nerve to press on, another mouse appears and offers to take his paw, leading him on a journey unlike any other.

Houts, Michelle. *Hopefully the Scarecrow*. Illus. by Sara Palacios. New York, NY: Flamingo Books, 2023.

Hopefully is a scarecrow who befriends a young girl. She reads to him every day in the field and places him in the warm shed each winter. When the girl doesn't come to fetch him one spring, Hopefully must draw from the stories she told to find the strength, hope, and courage to face an unpredictable future.

Hunter-Eriksen, Annie. *Along Came a Radioactive Spider: Strange Steve Ditko and the Creation of Spider-Man*. Illus. by Lee Gatlin. New York, NY: Page Street Kids, 2023.

Swing into the life of Steve Ditko and discover how he transformed a brawny, super-powered Spiderman into the perpetually awkward teenager we know and love: Spider-Man, a character who relies on his inner strength more than super strength. This biography takes the mask off the famously reclusive artist and shares the story of how his wall-crawling hero became a friendly neighborhood icon.

June, Jason. *Never Forget Eleanor*. Illus. by Loren Long. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2023.

From *New York Times*–bestselling author Jason June and *New York Times*–bestselling illustrator Loren Long, *Never Forget Eleanor* is a tribute to the life-changing power of words and the ways we remember loved ones who have been affected by Alzheimer's or dementia.

Jungkunz, Mariel. *Dreams of Green: A Three Kings' Day Story*. Illus. by Monica Paola Rodriguez. New York, NY: Astra Books for Young Readers, 2023.

In this story about Día de los Reyes, or Three Kings' Day, a girl and her family discover new ways to celebrate their Puerto Rican heritage in Ohio.

Khalil, Aya. *The Great Banned-Books Bake Sale*. Illus. by Anait Semirdzhyan. Thomaston, ME: Tilbury House, 2023.

Kanzi, the immigrant girl from Aya Khalil and Anait Semirdzhyan's bestselling picture book *The Arabic Quilt*, has come to feel welcome in her American school—until an entire shelf of books about immigrant kids and kids of color suddenly disappears from the school library. When she learns that the books with kids who look like her have been banned by her school district, Kanzi descends into fear and helplessness. But her classmates support her, and together—with their teacher's help—they hatch a plan to hold a bake sale and use the proceeds to buy diverse books to donate to libraries.

Khalil, Aya. *The Night Before Eid: A Muslim Family Story*. Illus. by Rashin Kheiriyeh. New York, NY: Christy Ottaviano Books, 2023.

Celebrate the end of Ramadan with this luminous Muslim family story about faith, history, and delicious foods.

Louran, Lori Haskins. *Jane Goodall: A Little Golden Book Biography*. Illus. by Margeaux Lucas. New York, NY: Golden Books, 2024.

Help your little one dream big with a Little Golden Book biography about primatologist and conservationist, Jane Goodall. Little Golden Book biographies are the perfect introduction to nonfiction for young readers—as well as fans of all ages.

Makhsimova, Sabrina. *North Pole Village*. Illus. by Dinara Mirtalipova. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2023.

Step into a pocket-sized winter wonderland with this whimsical Christmas village made of books! The trifold case opens to reveal three cleverly disguised books with charming, wintry locations just waiting to be explored.

Mazeika, Katie. *Beulah Has a Hunch! Inside the Colorful Mind of Master Inventor Beulah Louise Henry*. New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2023.

Meet Beulah Louise Henry, a girl with a knack for problem-solving who grew up to be a world-famous inventor, in this captivating picture book biography.

McBeth, T. L. *I am NOT the Easter Bunny!* New York, NY: Flamingo Books, 2024.

A hilariously clever picture book about a regular ol' bunny who, despite all the evidence to the contrary, says he is definitely NOT the Easter Bunny.

Mills, Deborah, and Alfredo Alva. *La Frontera: El viaje con papá*. Illus. by Claudia Navarro. Concord, MA: Barefoot Books, 2018.

Join a young boy and his father on a daring journey from Mexico to Texas to find a new life. They'll need all the resilience and courage they can muster to safely cross the border (la frontera) and to make a home for themselves in a new land.

Morrison, Toni, and Slade Morrison. *A Toni Morrison Treasury*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2023. Presidential Medal of Freedom, Nobel Prize, Pulitzer Prize, and Ohioana Book Award winner Toni Morrison's eight children's books, co-written with her son, are collected in one hardcover volume for the first time in this beautiful keepsake treasury with a foreword by Oprah Winfrey.

Neal, Paula Johnson. *Breathe, Gabby, Breathe!* Illus. by Tyrus Goshay. Columbus, OH: Paula Johnson Neal, 2023.

Breathe, Gabby, Breathe! is a sequel to *I'm Gonna Have A Good Day*. Gabby's promise for a better day takes the reader on a bumpy ride as she continues to struggle with being kind to others. Is the promise just too hard for little Gabby to keep? Gabby's classmates and teacher come together to help her. Will Gabby have a better school day?

Peot, Margaret. *At Night*. Essex, CT: Muddy Boots Books, 2021.

What animals forage by night and sleep by day? This picture book describes the nocturnal lives of nine common animals: foxes, porcupines, racoons, skunks, opossums, bobcats, owls, mice, and rabbits.

Peot, Margaret. *The Science of Light: Things That Shine, Flash, and Glow*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2022.

With a striking glow-in-the-dark cover, this intriguing science book introduces young readers to sources of light, both natural and manmade. Dramatic paintings of lightning, fire, fireworks, and more encourage children to observe the world around them.

Pizza, Andy J., and Sophie Miller. *Invisible Things*. Illus. by Andy J. Pizza. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2023.

This creatively wacky exploration of the invisible things that make up the human experience inspires readers to look past the visible and connect with the things that are not seen.

Rigaud, Debbie, and Carlotta Penn. *Step by Step! How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice*. Illus. by Nysha Lilly. Columbus, OH: Daydreamers Press, 2023.

Twelve-year-old Joyce Clemons narrates a fictional memory book documenting the little-known true story of nineteen Black mothers, thirty-seven children, and their two-year march to integrate an Ohio elementary school.

Rovtar, Cindy. *Welcome to the World, Squirrelly Q*. Illus. by Cheryl

Crouthamel. Herndon, VA: Mascot Books, 2022.

Join Squirrelly Q on a great adventure as he wakes up alone in snowy Central Park. Even though he is cold and scared, he knows he must leave the darkness and search for the one who makes him feel warm and fuzzy on the inside.

Schultz, Connie. *Lola and the Troll*. Illus. by Sandy Rodriguez. New York, NY: Razorbill, 2024.

A debut picture book by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and *New York Times*-bestselling author Connie Schultz, about a young girl named Lola who decides to be brave and stand up to a bully.

Smith, Amanda J. *Daddy Can Do Anything (Except Kill a Spider)*. Columbus, OH: Amanda J. Smith, 2022.

Daddy Can Do Anything (Except Kill a Spider) is a look inside how children see their parents while rethinking traditional gender roles.

Smith, Amanda J. *Daddy Likes to Dance*. Columbus, OH: Amanda J. Smith, 2021.

With parents' busy lives full of work and other obligations, making time for your child or children is essential. *Daddy Likes to Dance* shows that being silly and playful helps form special bonds between parents and children.

Smith, Maggie. *My Thoughts Have Wings*. Illus. by Leanne Hatch. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2024.

Maggie Smith, bestselling author of the viral poem "Good Bones" and the memoir *You Could Make This Place Beautiful*, delivers a lyrical and reassuring picture book perfect for

calming active minds at bedtime (or anytime).

Stine, R. L. *Why Did the Monster Cross the Road?* Illus. by Marc Brown. New York, NY: Orchard Books, 2023.

From beloved, bestselling children's book icons R. L. Stine and Marc Brown comes a storybook filled with hilariously spooky jokes and fun-loving monsters that will have everyone giggling.

Tosi, Christina. *Milk Bar Kids Only: A Cookbook*. New York, NY: Clarkson Potter, 2020.

More than eighty-five stellar, totally do-able desserts and other fun-fueled treats for kids (or adults!) to make, from the founder of Milk Bar and host of *Bake Squad*.

Ward, Lindsay. *Pockets for Two: A Collection of Girlhood*. Illus. by Brizida Magro. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2024.

A sweet friendship begins between two young girls on the first day of school. Throughout the year, they fill their pockets with everything from cookies to wiggly worms, to wonders, memories, and more as their friendship blooms.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *How Do You Spell Unfair? MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee*. Illus. by Frank Morrison. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2023.

In 1936, eighth grader MacNolia Cox became the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio, spelling bee. And with that win, she was asked to compete at the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, where she and a girl from New Jersey were the first

African Americans invited since its founding. She left her home state with a military band and a crowd of thousands cheering her on. But the celebration ended when the train crossed the state line into Maryland, where segregation was the law of the land.

Weller, Marie, and Paula Vertikoff. *Cranium Critters: Einstein Acts When Squirrels Distract*. Illus. by Marina Halak. Columbus, OH: Cranium Kids Media, 2023.

Einstein the Owl and Scout the Safety Pup team up to assist a group of campers who are struggling to set up their tent. But uh-oh, mischievous squirrels are trying to derail their plans! Will Einstein and Scout be able to overcome the squirrels and save the day?

Wheeler, Lisa. *Dino-Hanukkah (Dino-Holidays)*. Illus. by Barry Gott. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2023.

Dinosaurs big and small gather to celebrate Hanukkah! It's a prehistoric party as carnivores and herbivores make brisket and latkes, play with dreidels, act out the Hanukkah story, open gifts, and eagerly await their turn to light the Menorah.

Whitney, Julie. *Astra in Hollywood (Astra the Lonely Airplane #2)*. Illus. by Michelle Simpson. Richmond, VA: Belle Isle Books, 2024.

Astra the lonely airplane never has to be lonely again! Her new hangar in sunny LA is home to three amazing new friends: Lana, a sleek, beautiful Learjet; a giant cargo plane named Hank; and Helen, the crime-fighting helicopter. In fact, they're all so cool

that Astra soon starts to wonder if she's cut out for life in Hollywood. But when Lana, Hank, and Helen are each faced with unexpected problems, Astra discovers that you don't need to be the fastest, the strongest, or the bravest to be important. It's being a good friend that makes you a star.

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 March 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024. Gifts marked with an asterisk were received during our "Friends of the Ohioana Book Festival" campaign. 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

When I was hired as the Ohioana Library’s first Development Director in 2005, I’d been a professional fundraiser for twenty-five years. I had worked for five different nonprofits, spending an average of five years at each organization. So, while I was delighted to join the Ohioana staff, I had no inkling at the time that it would be where I spent the next eighteen-and-a-half years of my life—or that it would be my dream job.

From the start, there was something about Ohioana that made it more than just another organization. Its unique purpose and programs to connect readers and Ohio writers, and promote our state as one of America’s great literary centers—what could be a more fun and rewarding way to spend a day at work?

Not long after I arrived, I was given a copy of a thin, little blue-bound book: *The Founding of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library*, containing the recollections of the First Lady who started it all in 1929, as told to her daughter. Reading about what Martha did, how she did it, and why—to me, it was a story more exciting than any novel. I really felt that Martha Kinney Cooper and I were kindred spirits.

I often revisited that little book, especially after I became Ohioana’s sixth Executive Director in 2013. The last paragraph, in which Martha shared her vision for Ohioana, has never ceased to inspire me:

As we have grown, we have broadened our scope. The future of the library seems very auspicious. As long as we have Authors, Poets, and Musicians, I trust that we shall be able to provide a suitable home for their splendid works, providing also a means to give them the publicity and the thanks they so richly deserve.

I have been so proud to be a part of this remarkable legacy, as both a member of its staff and as a contributor. Although I’ve hung up my director’s hat, I’ll always be proud to support Ohioana.



David Weaver



David Weaver (second from left) and his family at his retirement party, May 2024. (Photo by Lunar Pine Creative)

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