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2018: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was another memorable year for Ohioana, filled with great people and record-breaking events. Following are some of the year's highlights.

Winter

- Governor John Kasich named 2012 Ohioana Poetry Book Award winner Dave Lucas of Cleveland as Ohio's second Poet Laureate.
- The *Ohioana Quarterly* began its seventh decade of publication, with our winter cover story about the historic Paul Laurence Dunbar House in Dayton, the sixth in our series of "Ohio's Literary Landmarks." The issue also featured a look at Ohio poets and poetry.
- Morgan Peters, previously our Mount Intern and part-time Program Assistant, became Ohioana's full-time Program Coordinator, bringing Ohioana's staff to four people for the first time since 2013.
- The official poster of the 2018 Ohioana Book Festival poster was unveiled, designed by Cincinnati artist and illustrator Christina Wald.
- Elizabeth (Libby) Vasey, a recent Bachelor of Music graduate of The Ohio State University, joined Ohioana as our 2018 Ruth Weimer Mount Intern.

Spring

- Ohioana and the State Library of Ohio jointly presented an event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of National Library Week and the kickoff the 2018 Ohioana Book Festival. The highlight of the event was the announcement of the 2019-20 Choose to Read Ohio list of twenty books. Nearly a dozen current and past CTRO authors attended, along with State Representatives Laura Lanese and Jay Lawrence.



Illustrator Jeffrey Ebbeler signs copies of his books at the Ohioana Book Festival. Photo by Mary Rathke.

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

Another year is quickly winding down! It's been a busy one for the Ohioana Library, as you can see from our cover story. Looking back, we want to thank the many people who made it possible:

- Governor John Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich, who have enthusiastically supported Ohioana these past eight years. As they prepare to leave office next month, we give them our sincere thanks and best wishes.

- The Ohio General Assembly, which through the state budget provides a stable base of core operating support that sustains the library and makes our programming possible.

- Ohioana's Board of Trustees, comprised of dedicated members from throughout the state who generously share their time, treasure, and talent in support of our mission.

- Ohioana's staff, a "small but mighty" band of professionals

- For the second consecutive year, the nationally-distributed comic strip *Crankshaft*, written by Tom Batiuk and illustrated by Chuck Ayers, featured characters at the Ohioana Book Festival for an entire week.
- The 12th annual Ohioana Book Festival was presented at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square on April 14. More than 120 Ohio authors participated, and our bookseller, The Book Loft of German Village, set a new festival sales record. Outreach and media activities helped the 2018 festival reach more than 50,000 people statewide.
- Thirty finalists were announced for the 2018 Ohioana Book Awards. The third annual Readers' Choice Award was launched, inviting members and the general public to choose their favorite book among the finalists.
- Ohioana announced that the Columbus Metropolitan Library will be the new host venue for the Ohioana Book Festival, starting in 2019.

Summer

- Celeste Ng, Brian Alexander, Deanne Stillman, Ruth Awad, Sally Derby, and Tamara Bundy were announced as the juried winners of the 2018 Ohioana Book Awards. Tamara also was announced as the winner of the third Ohioana Readers' Choice Award.
- Christopher Alexander Gellert of Cleveland was announced as the 2018 recipient of the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, awarded to an Ohio writer age 30 or younger who has not published a book.
- The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theater Research Institute at The Ohio State University, named in honor of the renowned and three-time Ohioana Award-winning playwrights, was profiled in the summer *Ohioana Quarterly* as our seventh "Ohio Literary Landmark."
- Ohioana joined with more than twenty other organizations as a program partner for "I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100," a centennial celebration of the historic literary and art movement.
- Governor Kasich appointed Brian M. Perera of Upper Arlington and re-appointed Carol Garner of Mount Vernon as members of the Ohioana Board of Trustees.

Autumn

- Ohioana Director David Weaver joined Two Dollar Radio HQ owner Erik Obenauf to talk about Columbus books and authors for WOSU's "Columbus Neighborhoods," hosted by Charlene Brown.
- The 77th annual Ohioana Awards were presented before a sellout crowd in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on October 18. All the book award winners were present, while Marvin Grant winner Christopher Alexander Gellert appeared on video. Special guests included Ohio Poet Laureate Dave Lucas. The awards were streamed live by The Ohio Channel and can be viewed on their website: <https://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohioana-awards-2018>



Ohio Poet Laureate Dave Lucas presents the Ohioana Poetry Book Award to Ruth Awad. Photo by Mary Rathke.

whose daily efforts turn plans on paper into events, publications, and programs that directly serve more than 150,000 Ohioans each year.

- Ohio's talented authors, both from here and living here, whose novels, stories, poems, and picture books enthrall millions of readers each year...celebrating your work is why Ohioana exists.

- Our contributors—individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations—whose generosity makes everything we do possible.

To each and everyone one of you... our most heartfelt THANKS!

Next year marks the 90th anniversary of our founding by First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper—truly a significant milestone. Keep watching here, on our website, and our social media as we share the highlights of this exciting year.

From all of us at Ohioana, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! We'll see you in 2019!

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

- Ohioana held its 89th annual meeting at the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Ellen McDevitt-Stredney was elected as a new trustee, joining re-elected board members Gillian Berchowitz, Louise Musser, John Sullivan, and Jacquelyn Vaughan. Daniel Shuey, John Sullivan, Bryan Loar, and Jay Yurkiw were elected as officers for 2019-21.
- The fall issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* profiled the 2018 Ohioana Book Award winners and featured a story by Marvin Grant recipient Christopher Alexander Gellert. There was also a two-part feature on the “I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100” project, including an interview with Larry James and Ohioana Award-winning author Wil Haygood, and a profile of two Ohio authors who were part of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes and Chester Himes, featuring rare items from the Ohioana Collection.
- Ohioana announced that children’s picture book illustrator Tim Bowers of Mount Vernon will design the official poster for the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival.

In addition to the events mentioned above, Ohioana hosted four book club meetings, library tours, and school visits from second graders through college; participated in the annual Books by the Banks Cincinnati USA Book Festival and Pickerington Public Library Teen Fest events (October) and the Buckeye Book Fair (November); and sponsored the annual Ohioana Hamilton County Authors Reception (April).

Now we look ahead to 2019 and a very significant milestone as Ohioana celebrates the 90th anniversary of our founding by First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper. Among the highlights of this exciting year will be the presentation of the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival (April 27) at our new venue, the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the 78th annual Ohioana Awards (October 17) at the Ohio Statehouse. We’ll also join our friends at Thurber House as they celebrate their 35th anniversary (and also the 125th anniversary of the humorist’s birth) with a profile in the winter issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* that will also include a story by past



YA author Mindy McGinnis presents an Ohioana Book Festival outreach program to enthusiastic students at Weaver Middle School in Hilliard. Photo by Christina Dorr.

Thurber writer-in-residence and Ohioana Book Festival featured author Jess Montgomery. Connecting readers and Ohio writers: it’s what Ohioana is all about. We look forward to sharing all this and more with you!

COMING SOON

The Write Stuff January 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Upper Arlington Main Library, Upper Arlington, Ohio
The fourth annual day of information and inspiration for writers will feature sessions and workshops by local authors as well as an expo of local publishers and literary organizations. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-write-stuff-registration-51335229052>

Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant application deadline is January 31, 2019

This annual competition awards \$1,000 to an Ohio writer, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. For more information and an application, click on the Marvin link at the bottom of this page: <http://www.ohioana.org/programs/ohioana-book-awards/>

Ohioana Book Club meets February 13, 2019 at the Ohioana Library
The book for February is *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes* by Brad Ricca, a 2018 Ohioana Book Award finalist in nonfiction. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Do you have a literary event you’d like to list in the next newsletter or the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in October and November. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

About Ohio/An Ohioan

Al-Marashi, Huda. *First Comes Marriage: My Not-So Typical American Love Story*. Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. HC \$24.00.

When Huda meets Hadi, the boy she will ultimately marry, she is six years old. Both are the American-born children of Iraqi immigrants, who grew up on opposite ends of California. Hadi considers Huda his childhood sweetheart, the first and only girl he's ever loved, but Huda needs proof that she is more than just the girl Hadi's mother has chosen for her son. She wants what many other American girls have—the entertainment culture's almost singular tale of chance meetings, defying the odds, and falling in love. She wants stolen kisses, romantic dates, and a surprise proposal. As long as she has a grand love story, Huda believes no one will question if her marriage has been arranged. But when Huda and Hadi's conservative Muslim families forbid them to go out alone before their wedding, Huda must navigate her way through the despair of unmet expectations and dashed happily-ever-after ideals. Eventually she comes to understand the toll of straddling two cultures in a marriage and the importance of reconciling what you dreamed of with the life you eventually live. *First Comes Marriage* is the first Muslim-American memoir dedicated to the themes of love and sexuality. Huda and Hadi's story circles around a series of

firsts, while also challenging long-standing taboos within the Muslim community and the romantic stereotypes we unknowingly carry within us that sabotage some of our best chances for finding true love.

Hatfield, Sharon. *Enchanted Ground: The Spirit Room of Jonathan Koons*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2018. HC \$28.95. In *Enchanted Ground*, Sharon Hatfield brings to life the true story of a nineteenth-century farmer-turned-medium, Jonathan Koons, one of thousands of mediums throughout the antebellum United States. In the hills outside Athens, Ohio, Koons built a house where it was said the dead spoke to the living, and where ancient spirits communicated the wisdom of the ages. Curious believers, in homespun and in city attire, traveled from as far as New Orleans to a remote Appalachian cabin whose marvels would rival any of P. T. Barnum's attractions. Yet Koons's story is much more than showmanship and sleight of hand. His enterprise, not written about in full until now, embodied the excitement and optimism of citizens breaking free from societal norms. Reform-minded dreamers were drawn to Koons's seances as his progressive brand of religion displaced the gloomy Calvinism of previous generations. As heirs to the Second Great Awakening, which stretched from New York State to the far reaches of the Northwest Territory, the curious, the faithful, and Koons himself were part of a larger, uniquely American moment that still marks the cultural landscape today.

Kaukonen, Jorma. *Been So Long: My Life and Music*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$29.99.

From the man who made a name for himself as a founding member and lead guitarist of Jefferson Airplane comes a memoir that offers a rare glimpse into the heart and soul of a musical genius and a vivid journey through the psychedelic era in America. In a career that has already spanned a half century—one that has earned him induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, among other honors—Kaukonen is best known for his legendary bands. But before he won worldwide recognition he was just a young man with a passion and a dream. *Been So Long* is the story of how he found his place in the world of music and beyond. The grandson of Finnish and Russian-Jewish immigrants whose formative years were spent abroad with his American-born diplomat father, Kaukonen channeled his life experiences—from his coming-of-age in Pakistan and the Philippines to his early gigs with Jack Casady in D.C. to his jam sessions in San Francisco with Jerry Garcia, Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, and other contemporaries—into his art in unique and revelatory ways. *Been So Long* charts not only his association with the bands that made him famous but goes into never-before-told details about his addiction and recovery, his troubled first marriage and still-thriving second, and more. Interspersed with diary entries, personal correspondence, and song lyrics, this memoir also includes a CD of Kaukonen's music.

Parker, Sandra. *Side Saddle on a Comet's Tail: The Life of Frances Dana Gage*. KDP (Port Charlotte, FL) 2018. PB \$25.00.

Born among Rufus Putnam's Ohio Company settlers in 1804, Frances Gage became the state's most prominent reform advocate. She fought for abolition, temperance, and women's rights over a career that ended in 1867 when she was felled by a stroke. During that long career, Gage raised eight children, wrote for regional and national journals, and cared for abandoned freedmen on Parris Island during the Civil War. She became a noted speaker alongside Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, William Lloyd Garrison, Henry Ward Beecher, and Lucy Stone. She was proud in 1850 to be the first to remove the words "white and male" from Ohio's proposed Constitution and worked tirelessly to bring her Middle Western sisters into contact with the East. Beyond her famous reprinting of "Ain't I a Woman" in 1863, the indefatigable Buckeye's reputation reached its zenith after the Civil War when she hoped to inject citizenship for all women into Reconstruction planning. This plan went awry, and the famous pair Anthony and Stanton muddied the waters by joining with George Francis Train, who was a noted racist, and Victoria Woodhull, who was imprisoned for printing "gossip" Stanton passed on. This post-war tumult among reformers reflected their aging and the country's healing. Frances Gage watched the women's movement split into two factions and lose some of the public's trust. Only Temperance retained its reform vigor, so the bedridden idealist wrote several novels in its support.

One of these, *Elsie Magoon: or the Old Still House in the Hollow*, is a vital recreation of Ohio Valley life in the 1820s. Known alternatively as Aunt Fanny to kin and to readers of Middle Western farm publications and children's books, she was a complicated and generous person who befriended Clara Barton during the Civil War.

Robenalt, James. *Ballots and Bullets: Black Power Politics and Urban Guerrilla Warfare in 1968 Cleveland*. Lawrence Hill Books (Chicago, IL) 2018. HC \$27.99. On July 23, 1968, police in Cleveland battled with black nationalists. The dramatic shootout in the Glenville neighborhood left ten dead and over fifteen wounded. The event sparked days of heavy rioting and raised myriad questions. Were these shootings an ambush by the nationalists? Or were the nationalists defending themselves from an imminent police assault? Mystery still surrounds how the urban warfare started and the role the FBI might have played in its origin. Cleveland's story intersected with some of the most important African American figures of the time. Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X both came to Cleveland, shaping the debate over how to address systemic racism. Should it be with nonviolence or armed self-defense? Malcolm X first delivered his iconic "The Ballot or the Bullet" speech in Cleveland. Three years later, in 1967, Carl Stokes, with King's help, became the first black mayor of a major U.S. city. The ballot seemed to have triumphed over the bullet—and then Dr. King was assassinated. In the spring of 1968, while Mayor Stokes kept peace in Cleveland and

Bobby Kennedy came to deliver his "Mindless Menace of Violence" speech, nationalists used an antipoverty program Stokes created in King's honor to buy rifles and ammunition. *Ballots and Bullets* examines the revolutionary calls for addressing racism through guerrilla warfare in America's streets. It also puts into perspective the political aftermath, as racial violence and rebellions in most American cities led to white backlash and provided lift to the counterrevolution that brought Richard Nixon to power, effectively marking an end to President Johnson's "War on Poverty."

Stever, Margo Taft, James Taft Stever, and Shen Hong. *Looking East: William Howard Taft and the 1905 U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Asia—The Photographs of Harry Fowler Woods*. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2015. HC \$39.95.

In 1900, Cincinnati William Howard Taft successfully completed his tenure as Dean of the University of Cincinnati College of Law and began an appointment under President William McKinley as Governor-General of the Philippines. As a federal administrator and diplomat, Taft negotiated amicable trade and cultural interactions between East and West, and in 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt dispatched him on a mission to China, Japan, and the Philippines to further improve U.S.-Asian relations. His large entourage included prominent fellow Cincinnatians and the president's daughter, Alice, as well as photographer Harry Fowler Woods and a host of American diplomats. This is the remarkable story of Taft's mission and

Woods' fascinating documentary photographs.

Turzillo, Jane Ann. *Wicked Women of Ohio*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2018. PB \$23.99. The Buckeye State produced its share of wicked women. Tenacious madam Clara Palmer contended with constant police raids during the 1880s and '90s. Only her death could shut the doors of her gilded bordello in Cleveland. Failed actress Mildred Gillars left for Europe right before World War II. Because she fell in love with the wrong man, she wound up peddling Nazi propaganda on the radio as "Axis Sally." Volatile Hester Foster was already doing time at the Ohio State Penitentiary when she bashed in the head of a fellow inmate with a shovel. The sinister Anna Marie Hahn dosed at least five elderly Cincinnati men with arsenic and croton oil and then watched them die in agony while pretending to nurse them back to health. Award-winning crime writer Jane Ann Turzillo recounts the stories of Ohio's most notorious vixens, viragoes, and villainesses.

Nonfiction

Aldama, Frederick Luis. *Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics*. The University of Arizona Press (Tucson, AZ) 2017. PB \$22.95. Winner of the 2018 Eisner Award for Best Scholarly/Academic Work. Whether good or evil, beautiful or ugly, smart or downright silly, able-bodied or differently abled, gay or straight, male or female, young or old, Latinx superheroes in mainstream comic book stories are few and far between. It is as if finding the Latinx presence in the DC and Marvel worlds requires

activation of superheroic powers. *Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics* blasts open barriers with a swift kick. It explores deeply and systematically the spaces inhabited by brown superheroes in mainstream comic book storyworlds: print comic books, animation, TV, and film. It makes visible and lets loose the otherwise occluded and shackled. Leaving nothing to chance, it sheds light on how creators (authors, artists, animators, and directors) make storyworlds that feature Latinos/as, distinguishing between those that we can and should evaluate as well done and those we can and should evaluate as not well done. The foremost expert on Latinx comics, Frederick Luis Aldama guides us through the full archive of all the Latinx superheroes in comics since the 1940s. Aldama takes us where the superheroes live—the barrios, the hospitals, the school rooms, the farm fields—and he not only shows us a view to the Latinx content, sometimes deeply embedded, but also provokes critical inquiry into the way storytelling formats distill and reconstruct real Latinos/as.

Aldama, Frederick Luis, ed. *Tales from La Vida: A Latinx Comics Anthology*. Mad Creek Books/OSU Press (Columbus, OH) 2018. PB \$17.95. In the Latinx comics community, there is much to celebrate today, with more Latinx comic book artists than ever before. The resplendent visual-verbal storyworlds of these artists reach into and radically transform so many visual and storytelling genres. *Tales from la Vida* celebrates this space by bringing together more than eighty contributions by extraordinary Latinx creators.

Their short visual-verbal narratives spring from autobiographical experience as situated within the language, culture, and history that inform Latinx identity and life. *Tales from la Vida* showcases the huge variety of styles and worldviews of today's Latinx comic book and visual creators. Whether it's detailing the complexities of growing up—mono- or multilingual, bicultural, straight, queer, or feminist Latinx—or focusing on aspects of pop culture, these graphic vignettes demonstrate the expansive complexity of Latinx identities. Taken individually and together, these creators—including such legendary artists as Jaime and Gilbert Hernandez, Roberta Gregory, and Kat Fajardo, to name a few—and their works show the world that when it comes to Latinx comics, there are no limits to matters of content and form. As we travel from one story to the next and experience the unique ways that each creator chooses to craft his or her story, our hearts and minds wake to the complex ways that Latinxs live within and actively transform the world.

Farland-Smith, Donna, and Julie Thomas. *Eureka, Again! K-2 Science Activities and Stories*. NSTA Press (Arlington, VA) 2018. PB \$44.95. It's never too early to put a human face on science and engineering! Research shows that a child's ideas about how scientists and engineers look and what they do start to form in the earliest grades. Teachers can help students understand that everyone can do science by introducing inquiry activities in the primary grades. Like its best-selling counterpart for grades 3-5, *Eureka, Again! K-2 Science Activities and*

Stories evokes Archimedes's famous cry. That's because it helps children make discoveries of their own about who scientists and engineers are and what they do. The book is so engaging and easy to use that it will become a resource you'll be excited to teach with every year. *Eureka, Again!* is appealing because of its lively lessons, which are grounded in twenty-seven children's trade books. Some of the biographies feature famous individuals, such as Rachel Carson and George Washington Carver. Others are not as well known, such as paleontologist Mary Anning and recycler Isatou Ceesay. All of their stories will help students see scientists and engineers not as stereotypes in lab coats but as real people whose success grows out of their life experiences and character traits. They may even inspire children to consider STEM-related careers. Each chapter is designed to do the following: Focus on science and engineering practices. These include asking questions and defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, and analyzing and interpreting data. Bring the processes to life through the trade books and related lessons. You'll introduce a skill-building, inquiry-based investigation while highlighting the scientists' and engineers' work and the character traits that helped each succeed. You can teach one lesson or all three from each chapter—whatever will enrich your curriculum the most. Be easy to use. In addition to supporting the Next Generation Science Standards, each chapter uses a learning-cycle format and begins with a personal story from the authors that provides valuable insights into teaching this exciting grade range.

Haygood, Wil. *I Too Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100*.

Rizzoli Electa (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$55.00.

One hundred years after the Harlem Renaissance emerged as a creative force at the close of World War I, *I Too Sing America* offers a major survey on the visual art and material culture of the groundbreaking movement. It illuminates multiple facets of the era—the lives of its people, the art, the literature, the music, and the social history—through paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, and contemporary documents and ephemera. The lushly illustrated chronicle includes work by cherished artists such as Romare Bearden, Allan Rohan Crite, Palmer Hayden, William Johnson, Jacob Lawrence, Archibald Motley, and James Van Der Zee. The project is the culmination of decades of reflection, research, and scholarship by Wil Haygood, acclaimed biographer and preeminent historian on Harlem and its cultural roots. In thematic chapters, the author captures the range and breadth of the Harlem Renaissance, a sweeping movement which saw an astonishing array of black writers, artists, and musicians gather over a period of a few intense years, expanding far beyond its roots in Harlem to unleash a myriad of talents upon the nation. The book is published in conjunction with a major exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art.

Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$28.00.

On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los

Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. As one fireman recounted, "Once that first stack got going, it was 'Goodbye, Charlie.'" The fire was disastrous: it reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who? Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning *New Yorker* reporter and *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a mesmerizing and uniquely compelling book that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before. In *The Library Book*, Orlean chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries across the country and around the world, from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity; brings each department of the library to vivid life through on-the-ground reporting; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; reflects on her own experiences in libraries; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago. Along the way, Orlean introduces

us to an unforgettable cast of characters from libraries past and present—from Mary Foy, who in 1880 at eighteen years old was named the head of the Los Angeles Public Library at a time when men still dominated the role; to Dr. C.J.K. Jones, a pastor, citrus farmer, and polymath known as “The Human Encyclopedia” who roamed the library dispensing information; from Charles Lummis, a wildly eccentric journalist and adventurer who was determined to make the L.A. library one of the best in the world, to the current staff, who do heroic work every day to ensure that their institution remains a vital part of the city it serves. Brimming with her signature wit, insight, compassion, and talent for deep research, *The Library Book* is Susan Orlean’s thrilling journey through the stacks that reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country. It is also a master journalist’s reminder that, perhaps especially in the digital era, they are more necessary than ever.

Romine, Stefanie. *Cooking with Healing Mushrooms*. Ulysses Press (Berkeley, CA) 2018. PB \$15.95. Don’t fear the fungi! Mushrooms have been used to heal, nourish, and nurture the body, mind, and spirit for millennia. This book quickly and clearly details the healing properties of various mushrooms from the common button mushroom to exotic varieties like shiitake and enoki. Luckily, you don’t need to be an herbalist, chef, or mycologist to reap the benefits of delicious, nutritious mushrooms. This handy cookbook serves up

150 easy-to-make dishes that incorporate these adaptogen-rich superfoods into recipes that are equally tasty and medicinal.

Stross, Amy. *The Suburban Micro-Farm: Modern Solutions for Busy People*. Twisted Creek Press (Milford, OH) 2018. PB \$34.95. Reduce your lawn and your grocery budget. Take gardening to the next level! Would you like to grow healthy food for your table? Do you want to learn the secrets of farming even though you live in a neighborhood? Author Amy Stross talks straight about why the suburbs might be the ideal place for a small farm. *The Suburban Micro-Farm* will show you how to grow your own fruits, herbs, and vegetables even on a limited schedule. From seed to harvest, this book will keep you on track so you feel a sense of accomplishment for your efforts. You’ll learn gardening tricks that are essential to success, like how to deal with a ‘brown thumb’, how to develop and nurture healthy soil, and how to manage garden pests. Although this book has everything a new gardener needs to get started, experienced gardeners will not be disappointed. With helpful tips throughout, you will love the in-depth chapters about permaculture and making money on the micro-farm.

Sundberg, Kelly. *Goodbye, Sweet Girl: A Story of Domestic Violence and Survival*. Harper (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99. In this brave and beautiful memoir, written with the raw honesty and devastating openness of *The Glass Castle* and *The Liar’s Club*, a woman chronicles how her marriage devolved from a love story into a shocking tale of abuse—examining

the tenderness and violence entwined in the relationship, why she endured years of physical and emotional pain, and how she eventually broke free. “You made me hit you in the face,” he said mournfully. “Now everyone is going to know.” “I know,” I said. “I’m sorry.” Kelly Sundberg’s husband, Caleb, was a funny, warm, supportive man and a wonderful father to their little boy Reed. He was also vengeful and violent. But Sundberg did not know that when she fell in love, and for years told herself he would get better. It took a decade for her to ultimately accept that the partnership she desired could not work with such a broken man. In her remarkable book, she offers an intimate record of the joys and terrors that accompanied her long, difficult awakening, and presents a haunting, heartbreaking glimpse into why women remain too long in dangerous relationships. To understand herself and her violent marriage, Sundberg looks to her childhood in Salmon, a small, isolated mountain community known as the most redneck town in Idaho. Like her marriage, Salmon is a place of deep contradictions, where Mormon ranchers and hippie back-to-landers live side-by-side; a place of magical beauty riven by secret brutality; a place that takes pride in its individualism and rugged self-sufficiency, yet is beholden to church and communal standards at all costs.

Sutter, Paul M. *Your Place in the Universe: Understanding Our Big, Messy Existence*. Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. PB \$24.00. An astrophysicist presents an in-depth yet accessible tour of the universe for lay readers, while

conveying the excitement of astronomy. How is a galaxy billions of light years away connected to us? Is our home nothing more than a tiny speck of blue in an ocean of night? In this exciting tour of a universe far larger than we can imagine, cosmologist Paul M. Sutter emphasizes how amazing it is that we are part of such a huge, complex, and mysterious place. Through metaphors and uncomplicated language, Sutter breathes life into the science of astrophysics, unveiling how particles, forces, and fields interplay to create the greatest of cosmic dramas. Touched with the author's characteristic breezy, conversational style—which has made him a breakout hit on venues such as The Weather Channel, the Science Channel, and his own popular *Ask a Spaceman!* podcast—he conveys the fun and wonder of delving deeply into the physical processes of the natural universe. He weaves together the past and future histories of our universe with grounded descriptions of essential modern-day physics as well as speculations based on the latest research in cosmology. Topics include our place in the Milky Way galaxy; the cosmic web—a vast, web-like pattern in which galaxies are arranged; the origins of our universe in the Big Bang; the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy; how science has dramatically changed our relationship to the cosmos; conjectures about the future of reality as we know it; and more. For anyone who has ever stared at the starry night sky and wondered how we humans on Earth fit into the big picture, this book is an essential roadmap.

Fiction

Baker, Bree. *Live and Let Chai*. Sourcebooks Landmark (Naperville, IL) 2018. PB \$7.99. Life hasn't been so sweet for Everly Swan over the past couple of years, but now that she is back in her seaside hometown and the proud owner of a little iced tea shop and café right on the beach, things are finally starting to look up—until a curmudgeonly customer turns up dead on the boardwalk. With one of her hallmark glass tea jars lying right next to him and an autopsy that reports poison in his system, it doesn't look good for Everly or her brand new business. As the townspeople of Charm, formerly so welcoming and homey, turn their back on Everly, she fights to dig up clues about who could have had it in for the former town councilman. With a maddeningly handsome detective discouraging her from uncovering leads and a series of anonymous attacks on Everly and her business, it will take everything she's got to keep this mystery from boiling over.

Bartow, Karina. *Forgetting My Way Back to You*. Vinspire Publishing (Ladson, SC) 2018. PB \$12.99. At one point or another, everybody finds themselves wanting a second chance, whether it be missing the mark on an investment, failing to live up to a certain goal, or letting a true love slip away. It's very seldom, however, that one receives the proverbial do-over. Charlee Stoll and Hunter Jett become the modern-day exception. After a decade-long estrangement, the high school sweethearts reconnect and enjoy the reunion neither of them expected. As their past struggles begin to mar their present happiness, tragedy strikes. Charlee's thrown off a horse and sent into

a week-long coma. When she awakens with no clue who Hunter is, he seizes the chance to right his wrongs. To do so, though, he has to overcome her father's displeasure, another ex-boyfriend vying for Charlee's love, and her mission to regain her memory. Through charm and deception, can he win back her love before she discovers the truth?

Ellis, Mary. *Sweet Taste of Revenge*. Severn House (London, UK) 2018. HC \$21.99.

Private investigator Kate Weller must confront her troubled past and clear her brother's name in the second gripping *Marked for Retribution* mystery. When a wealthy socialite is found dead on her luxury yacht, her daughter Lainey hires Kate Weller to investigate. Agnes Westin created plenty of enemies during her climb to the top of society, many with a taste for revenge—but did any of them feel strongly enough to kill her? But Kate has another reason altogether for returning to Pensacola, Florida, the only town she has ever called home. Her brother Liam has spent the past sixteen years in jail for his part in a robbery homicide—and unless Kate uncovers the truth of what really happened that day, she will never be safe. Now someone wants to make sure her repressed memories stay buried. Can Kate clear her brother's name before the real killer silences them both forever?

Erickson, Alex. *Death by Espresso*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. ARC.

Bookstore-café owner Krissy Hancock has plenty to keep her occupied outside business hours, like preparing for her best friend's wedding and solving a murder.

Krissy is meeting Vicki's parents at the Pine Hills, Ohio, airport—it's the least she can do as maid of honor, even if her relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Patterson is a bit strained. Besides, her own dad is coming in on the same flight. But there are a few additional arrivals, too. Her father's brought a date—and the Pattersons, both actors, seem to have an entire entourage trailing behind them. Uninvited guests are a headache—especially when one turns out to be, allegedly at least, the most important wedding planner in all the world. Though Vicki and Krissy have already made arrangements for a small, simple party, Vicki's snobby drama queen mother has her own ideas. Cathy the wedding planner is raring to go, possibly energized by the chocolate-covered espresso beans she compulsively munches. But while the caffeine keeps her awake, it doesn't keep her alive—and when Cathy chokes on an espresso bean after being hit in the head, Krissy has to find out who ended her supposedly stellar career.

Ervin II, Terry W. *Outpost: Monsters, Maces, and Magic #1*. Gryphonwood Press (Santa Fe, NM) 2018. PB \$9.99.

Glenn, a college sophomore, has a Sociology 102 paper that requires spending time with an unfamiliar group or culture. Luckily, two hot girls from his class have the same idea: Attend the university's game club to get reaction material for their papers. A creepy game moderator shows up, ready to start a game of Monsters, Maces and Magic. Glenn doesn't fret over the GM's disturbing vibe, figuring it'll lead to potential fodder for his paper. Moments after rolling up his character and beginning

the adventure, Glenn, his two classmates, and three other players are drawn into the game, literally. How and why they got trapped in the game transformed into their RPG characters are important questions. But simply surviving a world filled with horrific creatures, unknown magic, and perilous roads is first on the list.

Gawell, Donna B. *In the Shadow of Salem: A Novel Inspired by True Events*. Heritage Beacon Fiction (Raleigh, NC) 2018. PB \$7.95.

In 1692, the residents in Salem and Ipswich live with stories of witchcraft, religious extremism, and false accusations. Mock trials lead to questionable convictions and speedy executions. Most of the condemned are women; all but one are hanged. Others, including two infant children, die in prison. For Mehitabel Braybrooke, life began as the illegitimate child of a prosperous landowner. Now her stepmother is convinced the girl is a pawn of the Devil. During a time when women have few rights and even fewer allies in the courts, what will become of the falsely accused?

Gianna, Robin. *The Family They've Longed For*. Harlequin (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2018. PB \$6.25. She's always wanted love. A family. Him. Pediatric surgeon Rory Anderson is dreading returning to her small Alaskan hometown and seeing her ex, local doctor Jacob Hunter. After everything they lost, discovering he's a single dad brings back painful memories. When it becomes clear their chemistry's as powerful as ever, Rory dares to hope Jacob and his son could be the family she's longed for.

Gianna, Robin. *Tempted by the Brooding Surgeon*. Harlequin

(Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2018. PB \$6.25.

The one man who won't let her in is the only man she wants! Annabelle Richards arrives in Peru to find she'll be working with renowned surgeon Daniel Ferrera—the man who almost ruined her career! She's worked too hard to let him get in her way again. But when Annabelle learns that Daniel's brooding exterior hides a wealth of pain, an unexpected passion ignites between them. Will temptation prove too much to resist?

Harper, Karen. *American Duchess: A Novel of Consuelo Vanderbilt*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

Before there was Meghan Markle, there was Consuelo Vanderbilt, the original American Duchess. Karen Harper tells the tale of Consuelo Vanderbilt, her “Wedding of the Century” to the Duke of Marlborough, and her quest to find meaning behind “the glitter and the gold.” On a cold November day in 1895, a carriage approaches St. Thomas Episcopal Church on New York City's Fifth Avenue. Massive crowds surge forward, awaiting their glimpse of heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt. Just 18, the beautiful bride has not only arrived late, but in tears, yet her marriage to the aloof Duke of Marlborough proceeds. Bullied into the wedding by her indomitable mother, Alva, Consuelo loves another. But a deal was made, trading some of the vast Vanderbilt wealth for a title and prestige, and Consuelo, bred to obey, realizes she must make the best of things. At Blenheim Palace, Consuelo is confronted with an overwhelming list of duties, including producing an “heir and a spare,” but her relationship with

the duke quickly disintegrates. Consuelo finds an inner strength, charming everyone from debutantes to diplomats including Winston Churchill, as she fights for women's suffrage. And when she takes a scandalous leap, can she hope to attain love at last? From the dawning of the opulent Gilded Age to the battles of the Second World War, *American Duchess* is a riveting tale of one woman's quest to attain independence—at any price.

Harper, Karen. *Silent Scream: A South Shores Novel*. Mira (Toronto, Ontario Canada) 2018. HC \$26.99. A violent past leads to a present danger... When an old college roommate invites Claire Britten to join her on an archaeological dig at a Florida peat bog, it's an offer the renowned forensic psychologist can't refuse. Claire's husband, criminal lawyer Nick Markwood, is comforted to see Claire working on a prehistoric burial site instead of an open grave for once. But Claire's investigative instincts kick in when some of The Black Bog's perfectly preserved corpses show signs of a grisly fate. What really happened to these people? What started as an exploration of the past soon escalates into an all-too-current danger. Someone is watching—someone who really doesn't want Claire digging into the past or Nick making connections to a current, violent murder case he's investigating. The bog's corpses may be long dead, but if Claire and Nick don't figure out who's gunning for a fresh kill, the next bodies to be discovered will be their own.

John, Jeffrey Alan. *Lab Rats Can't Say No: A Story in the Future*. Lucid Books (Houston, TX) 2018. PB \$12.99.

Although futurists predict flying cars and delicious meals that pop out of machines, *Lab Rats Can't Say No: A Story in the Future* suggests coming tensions between humanity and technology. The story follows an aspiring journalist of the future who searches for the truth about a murder, but stumbles instead into fantastic applied science that enables incredible life enhancements and power, but only for a select segment of society.

Loewenstein, Laurie. *Death of a Rainmaker: A Dust Bowl Mystery*. Kaylie Jones/Akashic Books (Brooklyn, NY) 2018. PB \$16.95. When a rainmaker is bludgeoned to death in the pitch-blackness of a colossal dust storm, small-town sheriff Temple Jennings shoulders yet another burden in the hard times of the 1930s Dust Bowl. The killing only magnifies Temple's ongoing troubles: a formidable opponent in the upcoming election, the repugnant burden of enforcing farm foreclosures, and his wife's lingering grief over the loss of their eight-year-old son. As the sheriff and his young deputy investigate the murder, their suspicions focus on a teenager, Carmine, serving with the Civilian Conservation Corps. The deputy, himself a former CCCer, struggles with remaining loyal to the corps while pursuing his own aspirations as a lawman. When the investigation closes in on Carmine, Temple's wife, Etha, quickly becomes convinced of his innocence and sets out to prove it. But Etha's own probe soon reveals a darker web of secrets, which imperil Temple's chances of reelection and cause the husband and wife to confront their long-standing differences about the nature of grief.

Logan, Kylie. *The Scent of Murder*. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

The way Jazz Ramsey figures it, life is pretty good. She's thirty-five years old and owns her own home in one of Cleveland's most diverse, artsy, and interesting neighborhoods. She has a job she likes as an administrative assistant at an all-girls school, and a volunteer interest she's passionate about—Jazz is a cadaver dog handler. Jazz is working with Luther, a cadaver dog in training. Luther is still learning cadaver work, so Jazz is putting him through his paces at an abandoned building that will soon be turned into pricey condos. When Luther signals a find, Jazz is stunned to see the body of a young woman who is dressed in black and wearing the kind of make-up and jewelry that Jazz used to see on the Goth kids back in high school. She's even more shocked when she realizes that beneath the tattoos and the piercings and all that pale make up is a familiar face. The lead detective on the case is an old lover, and the murdered woman is an old student. Jazz finds herself obsessed with learning the truth.

Mastran, M.L. *Albion Moon: Albion Moon Chronicles, Book 1*. Champagne Book Group (Oregon City, OR) 2018. PB \$14.95.

Evaline needs to find out what happened to her brother Jimmy. As she digs deeper into his disappearance, the search reveals an ancient family secret carried through the bloodline that began centuries ago in the Scottish Highlands. As this secret from the old world closes in on Evaline, she also needs answers for her disconcerting feelings toward the mysterious Mason. He not only

seems to always know when she is in danger, but he is insistent on protecting her, no matter the cost. She must also find the answers for all the strange visions and dreams she is having about Jimmy. What does it all mean? Is it connected to the secret closing in on Evaline and friends? As the old world collides with the new, Evaline quickly finds that she must choose to stand and fight or risk losing everything she holds dear.

McWhorter, Tim. *Let There Be Dark: Collected Stories*. Hydra Publications (Goshen, KY) 2018. PB \$11.99.

From an oddities shop looking to expand their macabre collection, to a back-roads bridge with a horrifying past, *Let There Be Dark* is a collection of eight sinister stories full of ghostly phantoms, savage beasts, and the most frightening creature of all: humans. This first horror collection from the author of the best-selling novel *Bone White* thrusts you beyond the fringe and reminds us why we should all fear the dark.

Moore, Christopher. *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*. Harper Perennial (New York, NY) 2002. PB \$14.99.

The birth of Jesus has been well chronicled, as have his glorious teachings, acts, and divine sacrifice after his thirtieth birthday. But no one knows about the early life of the Son of God, the missing years—except Biff, the Messiah's best bud, who has been resurrected to tell the story. Verily, the story Biff has to tell is a miraculous one, filled with remarkable journeys, magic, healings, kung fu, corpse reanimations, demons, and hot babes. Even the considerable wiles

and devotion of the Savior's pal may not be enough to divert Joshua from his tragic destiny. But there's no one who loves Josh more—except maybe "Maggie," Mary of Magdala—and Biff isn't about to let his extraordinary pal suffer and ascend without a fight.

Parker, Eliot. *A Knife's Edge*. Publisher Page (Terra Alta, WV) 2018. ARC.

Six months after a drug cartel infiltrated Charleston, Ronan McCullough continues to fight the drug war that plagues the city. His investigations are halted when the body of a mutual acquaintance, Sarah Gilmore, is found in the trunk of a burning car. In an investigation that takes him deep into the professional and personal life of the victim, McCullough discovers secrets lurking in her past and a tangled web of personal and professional conflicts, suspicion, and betrayal. Was Sarah killed for those reasons or something larger? As Ronan seeks answers, his life and the lives of those closest to him are used as pawns in a deadly game that has no ending.

Poland, Tim. *Yellow Stonefly*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2018. HC \$26.95.

Haunted by her past and the deaths that marked it, Sandy Holston wields her fly rod with uncanny accuracy as her life plays out along a tight line between herself and a fish on the other end. In this rare fly fishing novel with a female protagonist, Tim Poland weaves suspense and introspection into an unforgettable read. Fall 2018 Okra Picks List of best Southern books.

Sapp, Gregg. *Fresh News Straight From Heaven: A Novel Based Upon*

the True Mythology of Johnny Appleseed. Evolved Publishing (Butler, WI) 2018. PB \$18.95. WINNER: Pinnacle Book Achievement Award, Summer 2018, Best Novel. John Chapman—a.k.a. Johnny Appleseed—knows this land better than any white man. Everywhere he goes, he shares the "Fresh News Straight from Heaven," which he hears right from the voices of angels who chat with him regularly. God had promised him personally that he could build peace by growing fruit. Convincing people of that vision, though, is no easy task. Most folks consider him mad. This land teems with a miscellaneous assemblage of soldiers, scoundrels, freebooters, runaway slaves, circuit riders, and religious cultists. Ambitious politicians, like Aaron Burr and William Henry Harrison, dream of creating a new empire there. Meanwhile, a reformed drunkard emerges among the Shawnee as a Prophet, one who spoke with the Great Spirit, Waashaa Monetoo. Along with his brother, the war chief Tecumseh, the Prophet begins building an Indian coalition to take back their land. Even while the tensions mount, Johnny, with angels urging him on, skates blithely through the crossfire and turmoil, spreading his message, impervious to the mockery and derision being heaped upon him. Finally, however, his faith is challenged when war breaks out in the land, leading to the bloody battle of Tippecanoe between Harrison's army and the Shawnee Prophet's warriors, and ultimately to the declaration of the War of 1812. A violent massacre near the northern Ohio town of Mansfield leaves its citizens terrified and vulnerable. In a desperate act of

faith, Johnny promises the people that he can save them. Thus, he dashes off on a midnight run, seeking to spread peace across a land on the brink of war. With so many lives at stake, Johnny must confront the ultimate test of his convictions.

Scibona, Salvatore. *The Volunteer*. Penguin Press (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

The long-awaited new novel from a National Book Award finalist, the epic story of a restless young man who is captured during the Vietnam War and pressed into service for a clandestine branch of the United States government. A small boy speaking an unknown language is abandoned by his father at an international airport, with only the clothes on his back and a handful of money jammed in the pocket of his coat. But in order to understand this heartbreaking and indefensible decision, the story must return to the moment, decades earlier, when a young man named Vollie Frade, almost on a whim, enlists in the United States Marine Corps to fight in Vietnam. Vollie puts in motion an unimaginable chain of events, which sees him go to work for insidious people with intentions he cannot yet grasp. From the Cambodian jungle, to a flophouse in Queens, to a commune in New Mexico, Vollie's path traces a secret history of life on the margins of America, culminating with an inevitable and terrible reckoning.

Sittenfeld, Curtis. *Eligible*. Random House (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$28.00.

A modern-day *Pride and Prejudice*. This version of the Bennet family—and Mr. Darcy—is one

that you have and haven't met before: Liz is a magazine writer in her late thirties who, like her yoga instructor older sister, Jane, lives in New York City. When their father has a health scare, they return to their childhood home in Cincinnati to help—and discover that the sprawling Tudor they grew up in is crumbling and the family is in disarray. Youngest sisters Kitty and Lydia are too busy with their CrossFit workouts and Paleo diets to get jobs. Mary, the middle sister, is earning her third online master's degree and barely leaves her room, except for those mysterious Tuesday-night outings she won't discuss. And Mrs. Bennet has one thing on her mind: how to marry off her daughters, especially as Jane's fortieth birthday fast approaches. Enter Chip Bingley, a handsome new-in-town doctor who recently appeared on the juggernaut reality TV dating show *Eligible*. At a Fourth of July barbecue, Chip takes an immediate interest in Jane, but Chip's friend, neurosurgeon Fitzwilliam Darcy, reveals himself to Liz to be much less charming. . . . And yet, first impressions can be deceiving.

Snyder, Lucy A. *Garden of Eldritch Delights*. Raw Dog Screaming Press (Bowie, MD) 2018. PB \$14.95.

Master short story author Lucy A. Snyder is back with a dozen chilling, thought-provoking tales of Lovecraftian horror, dark science fiction, and weird fantasy. Her previous two collections received Bram Stoker Awards and this one offers the same high-caliber, trope-twisting prose. Snyder effortlessly creates memorable monsters, richly imagined worlds, and diverse, unforgettable characters. Snyder is known for short fiction that

expands tropes and puts a new spin on old genres. In these twelve stories you will find influences from classic horror figures like H.P. Lovecraft and Ambrose Bierce, but you won't find the same characters or plot devices. With the ability to write across many genres and a keen eye for injustice, Snyder brings new voices to life amidst some very traditional trappings.

Soli, Tatjana. *The Removes*. Sarah Crichton Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$27.00.

As the first wave of pioneers travel westward to settle the American frontier, two women discover their inner strength when their lives are irrevocably changed by the hardship of the wild west in *The Removes*, a historical novel from *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author Tatjana Soli. Spanning the years of the first great settlement of the West, *The Removes* tells the intertwining stories of fifteen-year-old Anne Cummins, frontierswoman Libbie Custer, and Libbie's husband, the Civil War hero George Armstrong Custer. When Anne survives a surprise attack on her family's homestead, she is thrust into a difficult life she never anticipated—living among the Cheyenne as both a captive and, eventually, a member of the tribe. Libbie, too, is thrown into a brutal, unexpected life when she marries Custer. They move to the territories with the U.S. Army, where Libbie is challenged daily and her worldview expanded; the pampered daughter of a small-town judge, she transforms into a daring camp follower. But when what Anne and Libbie have come to know—self-reliance, freedom, danger—is suddenly altered through tragedy and loss, they

realize how indelibly shaped they are by life on the treacherous, extraordinary American plains.

Strawser, Jessica. *Forget You Know Me*. St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

When a video call between friends captures a shocking incident no one was supposed to see, the secrets it exposes threaten to change their lives forever. Molly and Liza have always been enviably close. Even after Molly married Daniel, the couple considered Liza an honorary family member. But after Liza moved away, things grew more strained than anyone wanted to admit—in the friendship and the marriage. When Daniel goes away on business, Molly and Liza plan to reconnect with a nice long video chat after the kids are in bed. But then Molly leaves the room to check on a crying child. What Liza sees next will change everything. Only one thing is certain: Molly needs her. Liza drives all night to be at Molly's side—but when she arrives, the reception is icy, leaving Liza baffled and hurt. She knows there's no denying what she saw. Or is there? In disbelief that their friendship could really be over, Liza is unaware she's about to have a near miss of her own. And Molly, refusing to deal with what's happened, won't turn to Daniel, either. But none of them can go on pretending. Not after this.

Wolfe, Casey. *A Mage's Power: Book One of the Inquisition Trilogy*. NineStar Press (Albuquerque, NM) 2018. PB \$5.99.

Built on the bones of an ancient city, modern-day Everstrand is where master mage, Rowan, has set up his enchantment shop. When not hanging out with his werewolf

best friend, Caleb, or studying, he dabbles in herbology and the controversial practice of blood magic. A prodigy who has already earned two masters, Rowan's bound and determined to reach the distinction of grandmaster, a mage who obtains a masters in all five Schools of Magic. Shaw works for the Inquisition, the organization charged with policing the magical races collectively known as *magicae*. Recently, it has come under scrutiny as *magicae* begin to disappear and reports of violence increase. With secrets of his own on the line, Shaw is willing to risk everything to find out just what is going on behind all the locked doors. When Rowan and Shaw are entangled in each other's worlds, it becomes evident that their hearts are as much at risk as their lives. They must find the truth and stop a conspiracy before it's too late.

Poetry

Abbot, Steve, ed. *Common Threads 2018*. Ohio Poetry Association (Mansfield, OH) 2018. PB \$10.00. Published annually and edited by Steve Abbott, *Common Threads* is an OPA 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.

Baker, David. *Swift: New and Selected Poems*. W.W. Norton (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

A sweeping poetic achievement, *Swift* represents David Baker's evolution as one of American poetry's most significant voices. Gathering poems from eight collections—including the widely acclaimed *Changeable Thunder*

(2001) and his masterful latest, *Scavenger Loop* (2015)—and adding three suites of new poems, David Baker proves himself once again “the most expansive and moving poet to come out of the American Midwest since James Wright” (Marilyn Hacker). With equal curiosity and candor, he explores the many worlds we all inhabit—from our most intimate relationships to the wider social worlds of neighborhoods, villages, and our complex national identity, to the environmental community we all share.

Bentley, Roy. *Walking with Eve in the Loved City*. University of Arkansas Press (Fayetteville, AR) 2018. PB \$17.95.

Finalist, 2018 Miller Williams Poetry Prize. *Walking with Eve in the Loved City* is an ambitious collection. Using a variety of male figures—Jeff Goldblum, Ringo Starr, and the poet's uncle Billy, to name a few—these poems skillfully interrogate masculinity and its cultural artifacts, searching for a way to reconcile reverence for the father figure with a crisis of faith about the world as run by men. And yet, despite the gravity of the subjects these poems engage, this is a hopeful, frequently funny book that encourages the reader to look deeply at the world and then to laugh if she can. *God too* features prominently—as does *doubt*. Drawing from the vernacular of his childhood, Bentley accesses the simultaneous austerity and lyrical opulence of the King James Bible to invent stories in which the last note struck is often a call to pay kinder attention. More than anything, these poems serve as humanistic advocates, using the power of narrative—film, interview,

imagination, memoir—to highlight how people matter. *Walking with Eve in the Loved City* invites the reader to take part in renewing how we see.

Bohinc, Katy. *Scorpio*. Miami University Press (Oxford, OH) 2018. PB \$12.99.

SCORPIO's poems are at turns dramatic and mundane as a lust-filled pop song. They take us back to the poet's youth in suburban Ohio and move forward through the economic collapse of 2008 into a present where democracy often seems at risk. One poem hopes that a "SWOLLEN HEART" will "BURN BRIGHTER THAN THIS" while declaring that "MONOGAMY IS LIKE MARXISM" because "IT EXISTS BEST ON PAPER." Another is white hot with the memory while still another explores the simple social awkwardness of a houseguest asking for a towel. Author of the celebrated *Dear Alain* (Tender Buttons Press, 2014), letters about love, poetry, and philosophy addressed to French philosopher Alain Badiou, Bohinc employs a variety of prose and verse forms to write about eros colliding with ego as all our explanations fail. Much as the scorpion is the ultimate survivor, these poems confront the damage done to us but do not succumb to it, naming Love, personal and abstract, as its remedy.

Burgess, Kathleen S. *What Burden Do Those Trains Bear Away: A Memoir in Poems*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$16.00.

In 1971-72, Kathleen Burgess hitchhiked through Mexico, Central and South America with a lover. These poems tell the story.

They are hip, astute, sumptuous, simultaneously accessible and cultured, their hint of the classical journey spun with the unique dangers a woman faces on the road, which couldn't be more timely given recent issues of sexual abuse. Her lyric poems sing of the trek, of love, of time, place, and sensibility. Readers can identify with a young, nubile, daring young woman, indignant about injustice, hungry for the lilt of another language, new foods, and a culture so close yet so far away. The experience transcends the vicarious, in poems so lush, your body slides right in, and wither it goes, the mind and heart follow. Her poems, Chekhovian in their toggle between humor and struggle, hardship and sensory opulence, revivify memories. It is no accident, in terms of the gist of the collection, that laughter at times averts tragedy.

Eisenberg, Susan. *Stanley's Girl: Poems*. Cornell University Press (Ithaca, NY) 2018. PB \$14.95. The fiercely lyrical poetry of *Stanley's Girl* is rooted in Susan Eisenberg's experience as one of the first women to enter the construction industry and from her decades gathering accounts of others to give scaffolding to that history. Eisenberg charts her own induction into the construction workplace culture and how tradeswomen from across the country grappled with what was required to become a team player and succeed in a dangerous workplace where women were unwelcome. The specifics of construction become metaphor as she explores resonances in other spheres—from family to other social and political issues—where violence, or its threat, maintains

order. Prying open memory, her poems investigate how systems of discrimination, domination, and exclusion are maintained and how individuals and institutions accommodate to injustice and its agreed-on lies, including her own collusion. Poems in this collection probe workplace-linked suicide, sexual assault, and sometimes-fatal intentional accidents as well as the role of bystander silence and the responsibility of witness.

Hirt, Jen. *Too Many Questions About Strawberries*. Tolsun Books (Tolleston, AZ) 2018. PB \$10.00. *Too Many Questions About Strawberries* is a chapbook about concern. What are we concerned about? Why? Should we be concerned about this in this way? Hirt plays with language and sees how it changes, how a poem develops, grows from the needs of the voice of the poem: "We live in an age that is a kaleidoscope of concern; sometimes I feel like it cripples us, because we can just keep asking questions about the strawberries instead of buying them." Hirt was the winner of the 2003 Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant.

Smith, Larry. *Tu Fu Comes to America: A Story in Poems*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$15.00.

A story in poem form of contemporary poet Tu Fu come to the streets of Cleveland, Ohio. Translator Smith brings East and West together in this stunning work. Second edition originally published in 2010.

Wiley, Rachel. *Nothing is Okay*. Button Poetry (Minneapolis, MN) 2017. PB \$16.00.

Nothing is Okay is the second full-length poetry collection by Rachel Wiley, whose work simultaneously deconstructs the lies that we were taught about our bodies and our beings and builds new ways of viewing ourselves. As she delves into queerness, feminism, fatness, dating, and race, Wiley molds these topics into a punching critique of culture and a celebration of self. A fat positive activist, Wiley's work soars and challenges the bounds of bodies and hearts and the ways we carry them.

Middle Grade & Young Adult

Alt, Jeff. Illus. by Hannah Tuohy. *The Adventures of Bubba Jones #3: Time Traveling Through Acadia National Park*. Beaufort Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$9.99. After Tommy "Bubba Jones" and his sister, Jenny "Hug-a-Bug," inherit legendary time travel skills from their Papa Lewis, they quickly earn a reputation for solving National Park mysteries by using their magical skills. Now, they are in Acadia National Park in a race against time to solve another mystery. They time travel back hundreds and thousands of years and experience the formation of the mountains. They meet the park founders and Wabanaki Native Americans, witness the construction of the park, and learn about park secrets. They explore the park on land and sea and experience all sorts of wild creatures. Discover Acadia National Park with Bubba Jones and family in a whole new way.

Carson, Mary Kay. *Alexander Graham Bell for Kids: His Life and Inventions with 21 Activities*. Chicago Review Press (Chicago, IL) 2018. PB \$16.99.

Alexander Graham Bell invented not only the telephone, but also early versions of the phonograph, the metal detector, airplanes, and hydrofoil boats. This Scottish immigrant was also a pioneering speech teacher and a champion of educating those with hearing impairments, work he felt was his most important contribution to society. Bell worked with famous Americans such as Helen Keller and aviators Glenn Curtiss and Samuel P. Langley, and his inventions competed directly with those of Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers. This unique biography includes a time line, a list of online resources, and twenty-one engaging, hands-on activities to better appreciate Bell's remarkable accomplishments.

Charlton-Trujillo, e.E. *Fat Angie: Rebel Girl Revolution*. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2019. ARC.

More trouble at school and at home—and the discovery of a missive from her late soldier sister—send Angie and a long-ago friend on an RV road trip across Ohio. Sophomore year has just begun, and Angie is miserable. Her girlfriend, KC, has moved away; her good friend, Jake, is keeping his distance; and the resident bully has ramped up an increasingly vicious and targeted campaign to humiliate her. An over-the-top statue dedication planned for her sister, who died in Iraq, is almost too much to bear, and it doesn't help that her mother has placed a symbolic empty urn on their mantel. At the ceremony, a soldier hands Angie a final letter from her sister, including a list of places she wanted the two of them to visit when she got home from the

war. With her mother threatening to send Angie to a "treatment center" and the situation at school becoming violent, Angie enlists the help of her estranged childhood friend, Jamboree. Along with a few other outsiders, they pack into an RV and head across the state on the road trip Angie's sister did not live to take. It might be just what Angie needs to find a way to let her sister go and find herself in the process.

Crane, C.A. Illus. by Bryan Janky and Elizabeth Wells. *All About Winston Churchill*. Blue River Press (Indianapolis, IN) 2018. PB \$5.99. As Prime Minister, he helped lead Great Britain through the darkest hours of World War II. He was a statesman, author, painter, and an inspiring speaker. Born into an aristocratic British family with an American mother, he considered the United States his second home. Winston Churchill is considered one of the greatest men of the twentieth century. At a young age, he was an army officer and a celebrated war correspondent. For most of his long life, he served in various political positions, most famously as Prime Minister. He is known for his defiant resolve against Nazi aggression and encouragement to the British population during dark periods of WWII. Known worldwide for his great leadership, his speeches and clever sayings are still quoted today.

Garretson, Dee. *All is Fair*. Swoon Reads (New York, NY) 2019. ARC. When Lady Mina Tretheway receives a telegram at boarding school, she doesn't want to read it. In 1918, with war raging, she dreads telegrams, knowing they never bring good news. At first she doesn't understand the cryptic

message. Then she realizes it's written in code, and the message leads her home to Hallington Manor. When Lord Andrew Graham appears with a dashing young American, Lucas Mueller, Mina learns that the two of them must work together on dangerous project for the war effort. Thinking Mina is just a spoiled aristocrat, Lucas tries to complete the project alone, fearing her inexperience will give them away. But when the project goes very wrong, Mina and Lucas must complete the mission together before more soldiers disappear into the darkness of war.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *The Strangers: Greystone Secrets #1*. Katherine Tegen Books (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

What makes you you? The Greystone kids thought they knew. Chess has always been the protector over his younger siblings, Emma loves math, and Finn does what Finn does best—acting silly and being adored. They've been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach the Greystone kids, and they're shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these complete strangers. The other kids share their same first and middle names. They're the same ages. They even have identical birthdays. Who, exactly, are these strangers? Before Chess, Emma, and Finn can question their mom about it, she takes off on a sudden work trip and leaves them in the care of Ms. Morales and her daughter, Natalie. But puzzling clues left behind lead to complex codes, hidden rooms, and a dangerous secret that will turn their world upside down.

Hager, Krysten Lindsay. *Can Dreams Come True? Book One in the Cecily Taylor Series*. Clean Reads (Athens, AL) 2018.

PB \$14.00.

Cecily has always had a huge crush on singer Andrew Holiday and she wants to be an actress, so she tags along when her friend auditions for his new video. However, the director isn't looking for an actress, but rather the girl next door—and so is Andrew. Cecily gets a part in the video and all of Andrew's attention on the set. Her friend begins to see red and Cecily's boyfriend is seeing green—as in major jealousy. A misunderstanding leaves Cecily and her boyfriend on the outs, and Andrew hopes to pick up the pieces as he's looking for someone more stable in his life than the models he's dated. Soon Cecily begins to realize Andrew understands her more than her small-town boyfriend—but can her perfect love really be her favorite rock star?

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *Creepy and True: Mummies Exposed!* Abrams Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2019. ARC.

Just when you think that you know everything there is to know about mummies, new ones are discovered! Packed with facts but light in tone, this book introduces young readers to the most compelling examples of mummies from all over the world. There are many books about Egyptian mummies, but *Mummies Exposed!* goes beyond what you expect and uncovers both old favorites and recent discoveries—among them a Moche princess in Peru, the bog people of England and Ireland, and a Buddhist monk discovered within a sculpture! Featuring the most

contemporary research, a touch of humor, and full-color illustrations, this exciting read is perfect for curious young minds. The book includes endnotes, bibliography, and index.

Van Vleet, Carmella. *Eliza Bing is (Not) a Star*. Holiday House (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99.

How will Eliza make it through the sixth grade? Her ADHD tends to complicate things. Eliza Bing stuck with taekwondo and earned her yellow belt even though her family expected her to quit. She's tough enough to break boards with her bare hands! Next up: middle school, and hopefully a best friend. The school play turns out to be the perfect opportunity to befriend confident, stage-obsessed Annie. But can their friendship survive the spotlight? The joys and sorrows of middle school come to life in this funny and heartfelt sequel to *Eliza Bing Is (NOT) a Big, Fat Quitter*, recipient of the Christopher Award and four child-voted state award nominations.

Vogel, D.W. *Horizon Alpha: Homecoming*. Future House Publishing (Provo, UT) 2018. PB \$13.95.

The thrilling conclusion to the *Horizon Alpha* series. "We are alive." Three words in Morse code change everything. Caleb Wilde thought his days outside Carthage Valley were over. Safe behind high mountains, the last of humanity was secure and thriving. But everything changes when a message comes through from the spaceship they abandoned in orbit. Twelve crew members, including Caleb's father, are still alive on the failing ship. And they know of someone who might be able to get them

down, except she's at another crash site across a deep sea channel. As the foremost expert on surviving in the wilds, Caleb is the obvious choice to lead the expedition. He is determined to bring everyone safely back to Carthage. But while exploring new reaches of Tau Ceti e, he learns of an impending migration of piranha-like 'saur called the Flood. The migration path leads right through humanity's cavernous paradise. On the first full moon after the summer solstice, the Flood will arrive in Carthage. Across the jungles and mountains of Ceti, Caleb has taken on 'saur of all types and sizes and come out on top. Now, he must find a way to stop the Flood from invading his home. If he fails, everyone left on Ceti will fall to the jaws of a million hungry beasts.

Winfrey, Kerry. *Things Jolie Needs to Do Before She Bites It*. Feiwel and Friends (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Jolie's a lot of things, but she knows that pretty isn't one of them. She has mandibular prognathism, which is the medical term for underbite. Chewing is a pain, headaches are a common occurrence, and she's never been kissed. She's months out from having a procedure to correct her underbite, and she cannot wait to be fixed. Jolie becomes paralyzed with the fear that she could die under the knife. She and her best friends, Evelyn and Derek, decide to make a "Things Jolie Needs to Do Before She Bites It (Which Is Super Unlikely, but Still, It Could Happen)" list. Things like eat every appetizer on the Applebee's menu and kiss her crush, Noah Reed. But since when did everything ever go exactly to plan? Filled with humor,

heart—and an honest look at today's beauty standards—Jolie's journey is a true feel-good story.

Juvenile

Davis, Tonya L. Illus. by Elizabeth A.R. Davis. *Myra and Elmyra: A Tale of Two Sisters*. Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, OH) 2018. HC \$16.99.

Myra and Elmyra are two sisters living on a small farm with many animals. One stays up all day and one stays up all night. What happens when many people have a hand in cooking a pot of stew?

Grant, Jacob. *Bear's Scare*. Bloomsbury (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.99.

Bear likes to keep his house clean and tidy. The only thing Bear loves more than cleaning is taking care of his small stuffed friend, Ursa. Then Bear sees a sticky spiderweb...and where there's a web there is certainly a spider! The messy guest must be found, but what Bear and Ursa finally discover might just be an unlikely friend. Opposites attract in this adorable story, where new friends come in all shapes and sizes.

Krisher, Trudy. Illus. by Brooke Boynton-Hughes. *Bark Park!* Beach Lane Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99.

Come along and play with the dogs at Bark Park in this exuberant rhyming picture book that's a treat for animal lovers of any age. Welcome to Bark Park! There are dogs running and dogs relaxing, dogs riding and dogs sliding, dogs with a buddy and dogs getting muddy—all before returning home to bubble bath, a cozy dog bed, and sweet dreams of—what else—being back at the park. Bark! Bark!

Kulich, Kaitlin. Illus. by Laura Dobrota. *Pawpaw is My Favorite Flavor!* Monday Creek Publishing (Buchtel, OH) 2018. HC \$15.00. Henry loves to go visit his Grandpa on his farm in Athens, Ohio. During this visit, Henry and Grandpa come across a pawpaw tree and decide to pick the fruit to make homemade ice cream. Henry finds out it's fun to try new things and even learns about pawpaws along the way.

Many, Paul. Illus. by Stan Jaskiel. *Dinomorphosis*. Pelican Publishing Company (Gretna, LA) 2018. HC \$16.99.

When a scary situation causes a dinosaur-sized transformation, how will Gregory adapt? When Gregory wakes up in the body of a dinosaur on the morning of his big class presentation, he's worried. He's scheduled to talk about the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs and he's practiced all week so he won't be scared in front of the class. But he didn't plan for this! As soon as Gregory gets out of bed, everything starts to go wrong. He accidentally spills the orange juice with his clumsy tail, forgets his diorama, and can only speak in ROAR. What will he do when his favorite teacher, Mrs. Anning, calls on him to present his project? In this loose adaptation of the literary classic by Franz Kafka, author Paul Many encourages children not to give up when things get scary.

Stanek, Linda. Illus. by Shennen Bersani. *Cheetah Dreams*. Arbordale Press (Mt. Pleasant, SC) 2018. HC \$17.95.

Cheetahs are the most rapidly vanishing cat in Africa. Share the dreams of a bright future for

cheetahs while engaging sidebars provide a wealth of natural history information. From cleat-like feet to tear-marked faces, these majestic cats are well adapted to life on the African plains. The fierce predators sprint after their prey at high speed, an exhausting dash that leaves them ready for a nap! This rhythmic text will lull readers into cheetah dreams of their own.

Stortz, Diane. Illus. by Diane LeFeyer. *I Am: The Names of God for Little Ones*. Tommy Nelson (Nashville, TN) 2018. HC \$9.99. God is the Creator, the Healer, our Savior, and our Friend. And it is through God's names that we understand His character. Now little ones will understand how great our God is by learning His names and all the ways He cares for them. Capturing the names

and characteristics of God through short Bible stories, scripture, and bright illustrations, *I Am: The Names of God for Little Ones* helps you learn about God in a way that will draw even the youngest child. Children will close the book feeling loved, protected, and secure in the arms of the great I AM.



***From all of us at Ohioana -
best wishes for a joyous
holiday season and a
Happy New Year!***