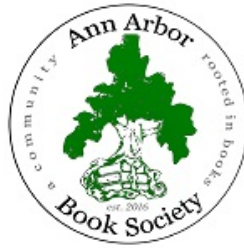


[View this email in your browser](#)



### May 2021 Newsletter

#### May Book Event Highlights

*All events are virtual*

**Monday, May 10th at 7 pm:** [At Home with Literati: Marisa Silver and Meg Wolitzer](#), Literati Bookstore

**Monday, May 17th at 4 pm:** [Unearthing Tulsa: 100 Years Later, a Conversation with Brent Staples, Fred Conrad, and Scott Ellsworth](#), University of Michigan Museum of Art

**Tuesday, May 18th at 7 pm:** [Mary Kubica in Conversation with Kimberly McCreight](#), Nicola's Books

**Sunday, May 23rd at 1 pm:** [It's All Write Teen Writing Contest Awards on AADL.TV](#), Ann Arbor District Library

**Sunday, May 30 at 2 pm:** [Book of the Month Club: Ghostwriter](#), Vault of Midnight

Click on the calendar below for more great book events taking place in May!

May 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 AADL Bookstore Poetry Author Dinner Visit of Midnight Book at The Motor Club Age 2 Plus New World Zoe Kay Community Dinner April LeafBook Poetry - The Prince Poet Poet on the Play by Louise Equiano with Lorraine	26 AADL Bookstore Poetry Bookend on AADL.TV	27 AADL Bookstore Poetry Bookend on AADL.TV Unearth: An Home with Lorraine Linda Newman Poetry & Book Margaret Randall Oakland Poetry Series UM Library Meet Author Day Book Club Lafayette Lorraine	28 AADL Bookstore Poetry Bookend on AADL.TV Every Wholen Readers & Tea Room 'til Evening of Poetry and "Wholen About"	29 Big Reads for Little Lives AADL Bookstore Poetry Dinner on AADL.TV AADL Bookstore Playing in the Sun's Reflections and the Library Imagination by Tom Marston Unearth: At Home with Lorraine Jesse Blaine, Phil Warren, & Jess Taylor	30 AADL Bookstore Poetry Bookend on AADL.TV Unearth: At Home with Lorraine Jesse Blaine, Phil Warren, & Jess Taylor	31 Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids Family Learning (Hardway Books) 19 For the Kids

Which of these famous authors went to the University of Michigan?

- A. Betty Smith: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
- B. Susan Orlean: *The Library Book*
- C. Elizabeth Kostova: *The Historian*
- D. Judith Guest: *Ordinary People*

Find the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

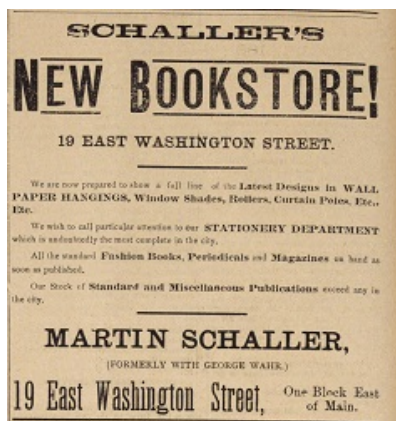
## Schaller's Bookstore

By Karen Alvarez

Schaller's Bookstore operated from 1894 to 1905 at three locations in downtown Ann Arbor. Like many bookstores then and now, it sold much more than books.

Wallpaper, stationery, fountain pens by Waterman and Laughlin, and art prints were among the offerings. Customers could order subscriptions to popular magazines of the day like *Munsey's*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *McClure's*.

Martin J. Schaller was born in Germany and came to Ann Arbor in 1885 at age 15. He gained bookselling experience in his teens and early twenties, working for the local store Osius & Company and later in New York for Rand McNally & Company. Upon returning to Ann Arbor 24-year-old Martin opened his own bookstore at what is now 203 East Washington (at the time it was 19 East Washington before the city changed its street numbers).



The bookstore's grand opening coincided with the beginning of the school year. The public was enticed with a promotional giveaway of school supplies: embroidered school bags were given to girls and book straps to boys. Schaller's also appealed to university students, promoting itself as "Headquarters for everything a Student needs in the line of Text Books, Stationery, and Miscellaneous Stock in general."

Schaller's seems to have had a successful first year; an 1895 *Ann Arbor Argus* announcement of Martin's marriage to Bertha Weinmann said he was "one of the most prominent of our young business men" and that the couple moved into "finely appointed rooms over the Schaller store." The bookstore quickly became popular in the city and beyond, gaining a mail-order clientele all over the state of Michigan and even reaching as far as Iowa.

Disaster struck one night in April 1897 when the building caught fire. News reports speculated that the fire started inside a wardrobe in the second-floor apartment.

clothes, and other personal possessions, which were not insured, were destroyed. The bookstore sustained serious water damage but it was covered by insurance and some of the stock was saved. Martin gifted the firefighters a box of cigars in thanks for saving his business from total destruction. He set about repairing his home and shop and held a fire sale soon after.



The Schallers lived in the apartment on Washington for a few more years before moving to a home just west of downtown. The bookstore moved to Main Street a few months after the fire. 203 East Washington has continued to house downtown businesses to this day, with ground floor retail space and an upstairs loft. It was the site of Metzger's German Restaurant for many years and in 2017 became part of Haymaker Public House.

The new location of Schaller's Bookstore, 116 South Main Street, has existed since at least 1871. The building's appearance changed drastically during the twentieth century; the original brick façade and upper-floor windows were covered with grey metal panels. The building received a 2017 restoration that returned it to its original design.



Martin Schaller opened an additional store in 1902 at 226 South State (the northwest corner of State and Liberty). Eager to compete with Wahr's and other booksellers close to campus, he advertised regularly in the *Michigan Daily* and installed telephone lines in both stores.

Despite appearances, though, the business was not successful enough to last much longer. Schaller's closed in 1905 and Martin declared bankruptcy the following year. He sold his inventory to Thomas H. Slater, whose family owned a local bookstore called Sheehan & Company.

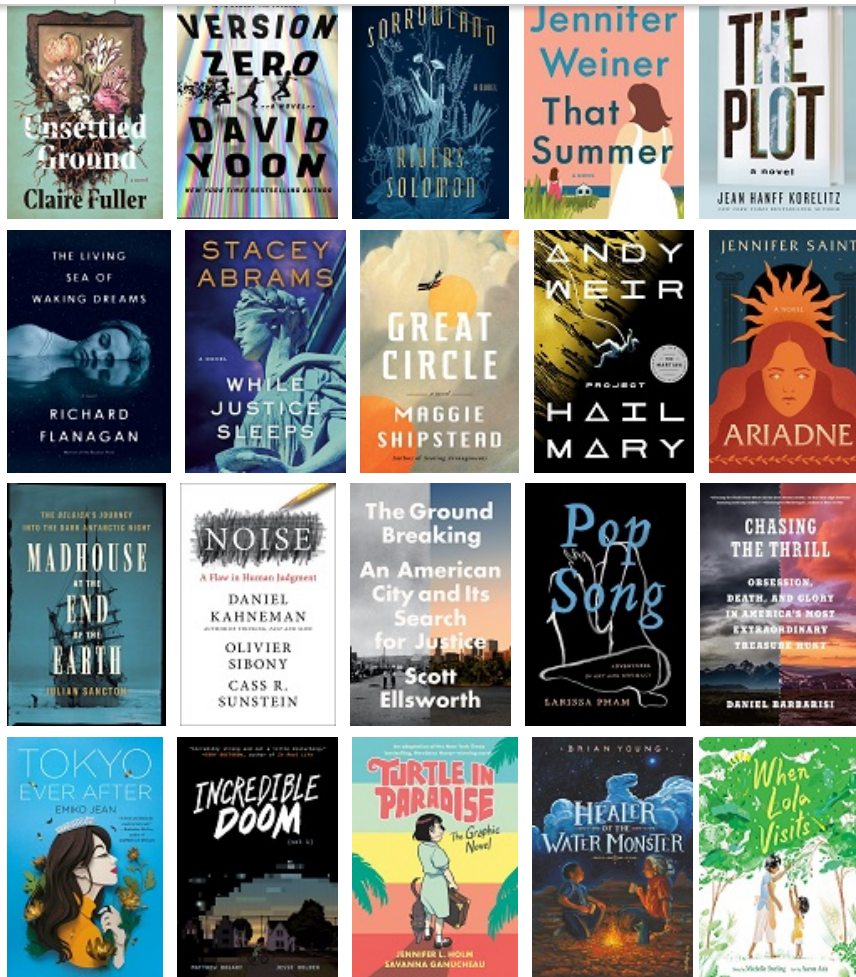
In the years after closing the store Martin Schaller worked as an agent for various newspapers. For the last five years of his life, from 1935 to 1940, he ran the College Supply Shop at 601 East William. In a stroke of irony, his lost bookstore eventually made it back into the hands of his family, in a way. His daughter, Florence, married into the Slater/Sheehan family, assumed ownership of their bookstore, renamed Slater's, and ran it successfully for more than 40 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

---

### Noteworthy New Releases

**Click on the below book covers for more information and stop by (in-person or online) your favorite Ann Arbor indie to pick them up!**



Book Ends



Edgar Awards

The winners of the 75th annual Edgar Awards were announced on Thursday, April 29th. Find the winners and nominees [here!](#)



Save the Date!

The 45th [Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair](#) will take place on Sunday, October 17th at the Michigan Union. The book fair is a benefit for the Williams L. Clements Library.



Subscribe

Past Issues

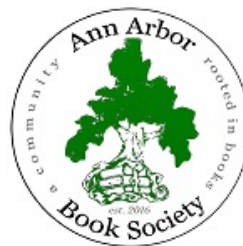
Translate ▼

RSS

now offering cardholders digital access to *The Wall Street Journal*! This new service is added to the list of many other online [newspaper databases](#) cardholders can access, including *The New York Times*, *Detroit News*, *Ann Arbor News*, and historical issues of *The Detroit Free Press* and *Los Angeles Times*.

Visit [AADL.TV](#) on YouTube daily at 12 pm throughout the month of May to watch AADL staff celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month by bringing powerful words to life with a Quote of the Day.

walk or run for 20 minutes a day during Children's Book Week, May 2nd-9th for their second annual Bookin' It For Kids Fun Run fundraiser. [Sign up](#) to participate in this great event!



Do you have friends and family who would enjoy receiving our monthly newsletters? Please forward this email and encourage them to subscribe!

**Subscribe**

---

### Snapshot of the Past



Poets Richard Tillinghast (left) and Keith Taylor canoe the Huron River, May 1997. Courtesy of the AADL.

---

### Ann Arbor Book Trivia Answer

Note of Interest: Betty Smith (Elizabeth Lillian Wehner) left her home state of New York to follow George Smith, who was pursuing a law degree at the University of Michigan, to Ann Arbor where they married in 1919. Despite not finishing high school, Smith was accepted into the University of Michigan as a special student and began developing her writing skills. She wrote several plays during her time at UM and her three-act play, "Jonica Starrs," about adultery and the break-up of a marriage, received the Avery Hopwood Award in 1930. The play was given a full production in Ann Arbor and later that year was performed at the Detroit Playhouse. When *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* was published in 1943, it quickly sold millions of copies and the film rights were sold. Still on countless required reading lists, it is considered one of the great novels of the twentieth century.

---

*Copyright © 2021 Ann Arbor Book Society, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Ann Arbor Book Society  
P.O. Box 7176  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).