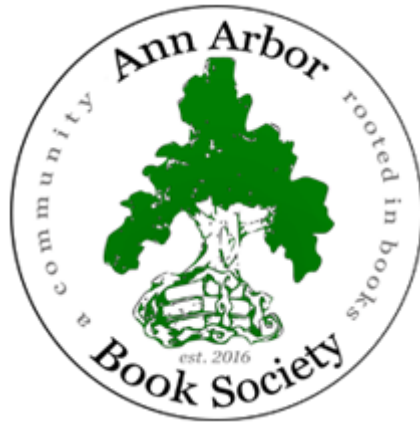


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## April Newsletter

[a2books.org](http://a2books.org)

### April Book Event Highlights

**Tuesday, April 10th at 7 pm:** [Emerging Writers Series Presents: Local Writers Live](#), AADL's Westgate Branch West Side Room, 2503 Jackson Ave.

**Wednesday, April 18th at 7:30 pm:** [An Evening with David Sedaris](#), Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

**Friday, April 20th at 7 pm:** [The Exit Interview with Keith Taylor and Cody Walker](#), Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington

**Saturday, April 21st from 10 am to 4 pm:** [Ypsilanti Comic Con](#), 1344 Borgstrom Rd, Ypsilanti

**Sunday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm:** [Pulp Presents: Ann Arbor Pub Reading Series: Vonya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang](#), Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main St.

**Sunday, April 22nd through Sunday, April 29th:** [Bookstock](#), Laurel Park Place, Livonia

**Saturday, April 28th from 1 pm to 5 pm:** [Midwest Literary Walk](#), Downtown Chelsea

For more book April book events, visit our [calendar](https://a2books.org) at [a2books.org](https://a2books.org)

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### Event Photo Highlight



The 40th annual Antiquarian Book Fair, Sunday, March 4th, in the Michigan Union Ballroom. Photo credit: Monica-Amit Misra

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### Midwest Literary Walk



The Midwest Literary Walk (MLW) was started ten years ago by former Chelsea District Library Director Bill Harmer and Wayne State University professor and poet ML Liebler, in an effort to bring poetry to the people and develop a love of the art form in their community. Backed and financed by the Chelsea Library from the very beginning, the MLW has always existed as an event that showcases poetry and literature in ways that are interactive and engaging to the community. The Chelsea Library also works with generous partners and sponsors that help to make the MLW one of the most exciting book events of the year.

So what's it like, walking around downtown, head full of poetry and arms brimming with books? Well, there's a lot offered at the MLW. Authors of all different genres and walks of life give readings, have group discussions, and do panels. But it's more than a group of authors and poets just sharing what they've written. It's readers engaging with authors about their works, their themes, their journeys. It's non-fiction authors getting to go in-depth in person, it's poets drawing in people who hear and digest. The MLW really brings writers and readers together in conversation about not only what they have written, but about what's going on in the world of writing. And poetry, of course, is always a big draw at the MLW, and it should be. It's what started the whole event in the first place!

But we can't talk about the Walk without talking about its guests of honor for this year. There are three authors giving talks and holding discussions, and it wouldn't be a Literary Walk without them! The first is Will Schwalbe, author of *Books For Living*, a book about books and their impacts on our lives. He's a big name in the publishing world, having been Editor in Chief at Hyperion, and currently working for Macmillan Publishers. Next up is Ada Limon, author of *Bright Dead Things*, and noted poet with five published works of poetry under her belt. She has been a finalist for several awards and has a new book coming out in August. The third guest of honor is Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, author of *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*. He is a professor of Sociology at Georgetown University, as well as a contributing editor to the *New York Times*, *The New Republic*, and ESPN's website *The Undefeated*. Each one of these authors comes to the Walk this year with unique experiences and points of view. They're sure to make this year's MLW inspiring and unforgettable.

This year's Midwest Literary Walk is sure to be extraordinary. There's a lot to talk about, not only about writing, but the walk will be a unique way to start dialogues about what's happening in the world beyond books (wait, there's a world beyond books?). And don't forget to check out the rest of downtown while you're there. Chelsea is home to many great local businesses, including Serendipity Books, and a lot of them will be having their own specials.

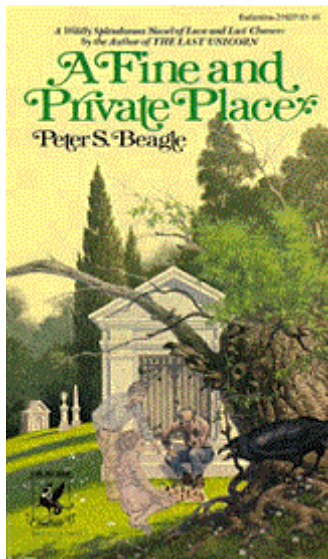
If you'd like to learn more, the Walk has a great website with all the information you'll need before heading out, including volunteer opportunities! If you think you're ready to do more, they are always looking for day-of volunteers. Be sure to check out [MidwestLiteraryWalk.org](http://MidwestLiteraryWalk.org), and then go track down those books and get reading!

--Kimberly Gray

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## Book Ends

### On the Shelf



#### **A Fine and Quiet Place**

**By Peter S. Beagle**

First published in 1960

Peter S. Beagle's best-known work is *The Last Unicorn*. However, my favorite—one of my favorite books—will always be *A Fine and Quiet Place*. The title comes from an Andrew Marvel poem in which the speaker is trying to convince a woman to go to bed with him—saying you never know when you could die and, “the grave is a fine and quiet place/ but none, I think, do there embrace.” Perhaps the grave is not a place where you can embrace, but Beagle proves it is a place where you can learn love, and to embrace today.

The book takes place inside a Yorkchester Cemetery in New York. The book was published in 1960 but has a timeless quality. In the cemetery lives Mr. Rebeck, who has been living there for nineteen years.

### Little Free Library



Bernie's Books

3237 Oakwood St.

I am a Costume Designer and Professor in the Department of Theatre & Drama at the University of Michigan, a frequent visitor at the Ann Arbor District Library and a life-long reader.

I first heard about the Little Free Library program in 2014 and immediately wanted to put up one of my own. Since I work in the theatre department at the University of Michigan I asked two of my colleagues if they would build one for me. It took three years of nagging but I finally got one made in late spring of 2017.

It was made from two small IKEA benches and the door (also an IKEA reject) was found at the

A talking raven of a grumpy and sarcastic attitude brings him his food and necessities such as books. Rebeck himself is a gentle man. He talks to the ghosts there. Once they get over the shock of being dead, they have most of the memory and all the personality of their living selves. However, over time they thin—their memories disappearing, their bodies disappearing, until they are no more than echoes. Rebeck has taken on the job of easing them through.

Into the story arrive the ghosts Michael Morgan, who remembers his wife as having killed him, and Laura Durand, who can't remember if she stepped in front of the bus without seeing it, or on purpose. Both lived unhappy lives, but learn to live in death as their love story unfolds. Rebeck meets Mrs. Klapper, who comes to see her husband and for a while believes Rebeck is there on a similar mission. The four bond together to live in the face of death, even though even the living thought their lives over.

When I number the writers I have learned from, Beagle comes in at the top. He knows what needs to go into a story, and what can be left to the imagination. His quiet prose fools you into thinking you read a quirky book about ghosts and talking ravens, despite the fact it is often defined as "literature" because those who decide such things refuse to put such a class act book into speculative fiction—genre fiction. He is the kind of writer I admire the most, where symbols and themes don't whack you upside the head, but rather in the wake and wonder of

Habitat Store on Jackson Road. A former student scenic designer put it together for me and then I painted it to match my house, sealing it with marine varnish. I kept changing my mind on how to decorate it but was inspired by my Airedale, Bernie, and a cartoon I saw online. It finally went up in my front yard last summer and the first books were borrowed within hours.

I have loved to read since I was a child when my parents would take away the flashlight I had hidden under my pillow... I am somewhat of a "biblioholic" and knew I wanted to share my love of books with my neighbors. I originally stocked it with a variety of classics, mysteries, espionage novels, children's books and some craft books for the neighbors who walk by with their dogs, children coming and going to school, and others. I found a homemade child's miniature refrigerator at a local resale shop and plan on adding an annex later this summer that will allow for larger children's books too.



Now both Bernie and Bernie's Books are known and I've been thanked for sharing both with my neighbors. I've seen cars stop so a reader could check out the latest offerings and often leave new books inside. One "problem" I had not foreseen was finding intriguing

reading, you find yourself thinking about how it is never too late to live your life, until you shut the final page, you realize it is what Beagle has been telling you all along.

*--Bets Davies writes speculative fiction, memoir, and poetry. She has out six speculative fiction novels and one chapbook, available in print or ebook at [www.fusionfantasy.net](http://www.fusionfantasy.net). She funds her writing life by working at The Dawn Treader Bookshop, where too much of her paycheck goes right back into books.*

books inside and borrowing them myself!

*--Jessica Hahn*

## Did You Know?

The original Logos Bookstore was opened in 1968 at 1205 S. University. Early success of the bookstore inspired additional locations to open across the country.

The Association of Logos Bookstores is a member-owned, nonprofit trade association of independent Christian bookstores with 20 locations across the United States, Canada, and the Bahamas.

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## Snapshot of the Past



[Logos Bookstore, October 1970](#). Donated by The Ann Arbor News. Courtesy of AADL.



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