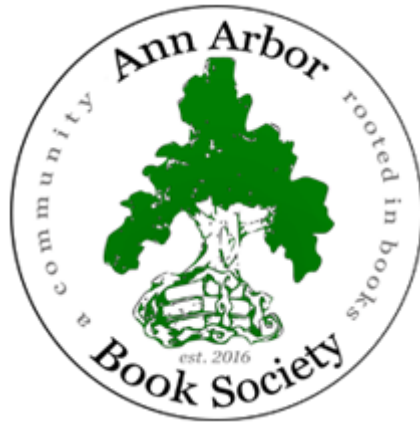


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a2books.org

August Newsletter

August Event Highlights

Wednesday, August 1st at 7 pm: [Lucy Tan, author of *What We Were Promised*](#), at Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington.

Saturday, August 4th at 12 pm through Sunday, August 5th at 3 pm: [Detroit Institute of Arts Family Comic Book Day](#), 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sponsored by Vault of Midnight.

Wednesday, August 8th at 7 pm: [Jennifer Pharr Davis, author of *The Pursuit of Endurance: Harnessing the Record-Breaking Power of Strength and Resilience*](#), Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Thursday, August 13th at 6:45 pm: [Wordfest 3! A spoken word variety show](#) at Bookbound Bookstore, 1729 Plymouth Rd.

Sunday, August 26th at 2 pm: [Farewell event for Aunt Agatha's with William Kent Krueger, Lori Rader-Day & Sarah Zettel](#), Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch Multi-purpose Room, 343 S. Fifth. In partnership with Aunt Agatha's.

Wednesday, August 29th at 7 pm: [ESPN Analyst Adam Schetter in conversation with Michael Rosenberg](#), at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University. Sponsored by Nicola's Books.

For more information on these and other book events, visit our [calendar!](#)

Event Photo Highlight



A docent from the DIA presents "In Our Own Voices," a presentation on the museum's African American collection, as part of Literati's [Local Learning Series](#), Monday, July 16th. (Photo courtesy of Monica-Amit Misra)

Independent.

Ann Arbor—Deep. Local. Independent. Brick and mortar. Despite my own criticisms and uncertainties, these are words I hold on to. From iconic storefronts in the heart of downtown to the literary bustle of the peripheries—the book culture of Ann Arbor holds on too.

Independent can mean a lot things: free from outside control, freethinking, impartial. To be independent is to be creative and to be creative is to take risks. And while the word also implies self-sufficiency and self-reliance, it does not need to entail single-handedness. Cities must grow but the independent spirit can grow with them.

The Ann Arbor Book Society grew out of a desire to connect the public with independent bookstores and to celebrate the community that supports them. But it quickly became apparent that the presses and the writers and the readers and the libraries and the literacy organizations rooted in this community were all vital parts of this ecosystem—and that we had a lot to celebrate.

To celebrate is to acknowledge, observe, recognize, and remember—to assemble in order to appreciate. While book festivals and events continue to be essential gatherings in our community, celebration can also be quiet and routine, both a private conviction and public act—a walk in a park or browsing your favorite bookshelves. To celebrate is to keep alive.

The loss of a bookstore undoubtedly leaves a mark on a community. As centers of creativity and civility, when one door closes a balance shifts. But storefronts will come and go. As will people and the energies they bring. But the independent spirit of a community can live on.

Walk the streets of Ann Arbor, walk into bookstores—listen—and you will still hear and see the echoes of Shaman Drum, Borders, Ardis, Wahr's. But don't forget to look up, too, and celebrate what is present.

I often write to remind myself. To collect my thoughts and recollect them. And sometimes the best opportunities for reflection arise with distance. As I finish this note, I sit in Falling Rock Café and Bookstore in Munising, MI. Even 400 miles away from home the feeling resonates.

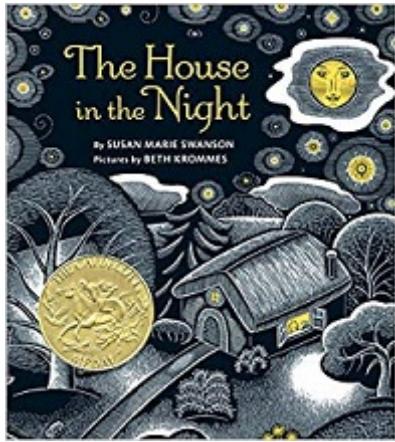
--Jaclyn Sipovic

Book Ends

On the Shelf

Little Free Library





The House in the Night

Written by Susan Marie Swanson

Illustrated by Beth Krommes

Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008

\$17.99

Unlike books for adults, children's books have two audiences: the reader and the listener. I've grown to appreciate titles with a solid, soothing, poetic rhythm, and to dread books with sing-songy verse that feels absurd to say out loud. *The House in the Night* (2008), written by Susan Marie Swanson and illustrated by Beth Krommes, is composed of a pleasing series of declarative statements that build up from bedtime scenes within a cozy house to a subtle science lesson about the moon's glow ("on the moon's face shines the sun") before coming back down again into a child's bedroom. The primarily black and white illustrations remind me of Grant Wood's painting *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*; a literal bird's eye view of houses tucked into rolling hills. They have the best elements of a Thomas Kincade painting--highlights of warm light, a charming collection of homes--and none of the cheese. As a parent, the book's celebration of banal details gives me joy. I enjoy how a dog follows the mom in the book from room to room as the child prepares for bedtime, finally settling into a dog bed with his

Our Little Free Library

3830 Delhi Court

Rich Cook and Mary Walsh

My wife and I are voracious readers, and so are our two kids. We have lived in our little blue house on Delhi Court, just west of Ann Arbor, for 27 years. We raised two kids in our little home. The kids went off to college and left behind shelves of books, in addition to our mountain of books. We definitely needed to clear some out! We had been donating books to the Dexter Library, but we had also read about Little Free Libraries and thought it would be fun to put one in the front yard. Although we live on a dead end, a lot of people stroll up and down the road because it's surrounded by the east and west ends of Delhi Metropark.

We bought an already assembled library online, painted it to match the house, stuck it on a post in the front yard, and filled it with books. We went a long time without anyone taking a book, and we were excited to notice one day that someone had taken a couple kids books. Every once in a while someone will take a book to read, and we hope that, over time, our Little Free Library will get more use. We love the whole concept of neighbors sharing. If you are ever in Delhi, stop by and see if anything tickles your fancy.

--Rich Cook and Mary Walsh are environmental scientists with the U. S. EPA. They have a son, 22, and a daughter, 19

own miniature version of the child's teddy bear.

When my daughter was a little younger she delighted in pointing out the dog, cats, and bird as they made appearances throughout the book. I've watched her interest in a particular book evolve, from a focus on one element to another. Now the short sentences and similarity to her own routine seem to resonate with her, and I love to catch her sitting with the book, attempting to read it aloud to herself from memory: "Here is the key to the house." Babies turn out to be highly focused literary critics, giving insight on books that is cumulatively fascinating.

Though it won a Caldecott Medal, I rarely see *The House in the Night* among gifts at baby showers, and haven't heard other parents talk about it much. A friend happened to send it to us, and now it's one of my favorites that I reach for again and again at bedtime.

--Jamie Lausch Vander Broek
Librarian for Art & Design,
University of Michigan
President, Board of Trustees,
Ann Arbor District Library

A Fond Farewell

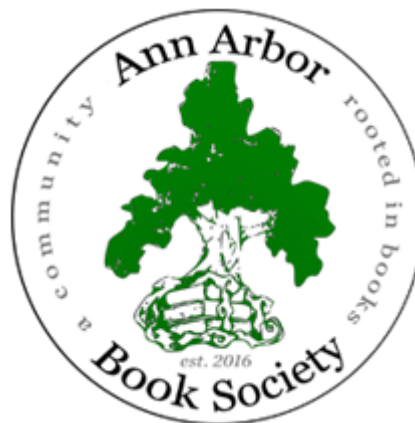


Motte & Bailey Gets a New Look!

Have you seen the makeover of [Motte & Bailey Booksellers](#)? Owner

Gene Alloway has been hard at work for months clearing out the old to make way for the new! In addition to minimizing and eliminating slow-selling sections, Gene has rearranged the store to create a better flow and more accessibility. The new arrangement will also allow for the expansion of several popular history-related sections, as well an expanded science fiction section of both new and used books. Stop by and check it out!

New Volunteers Welcome!

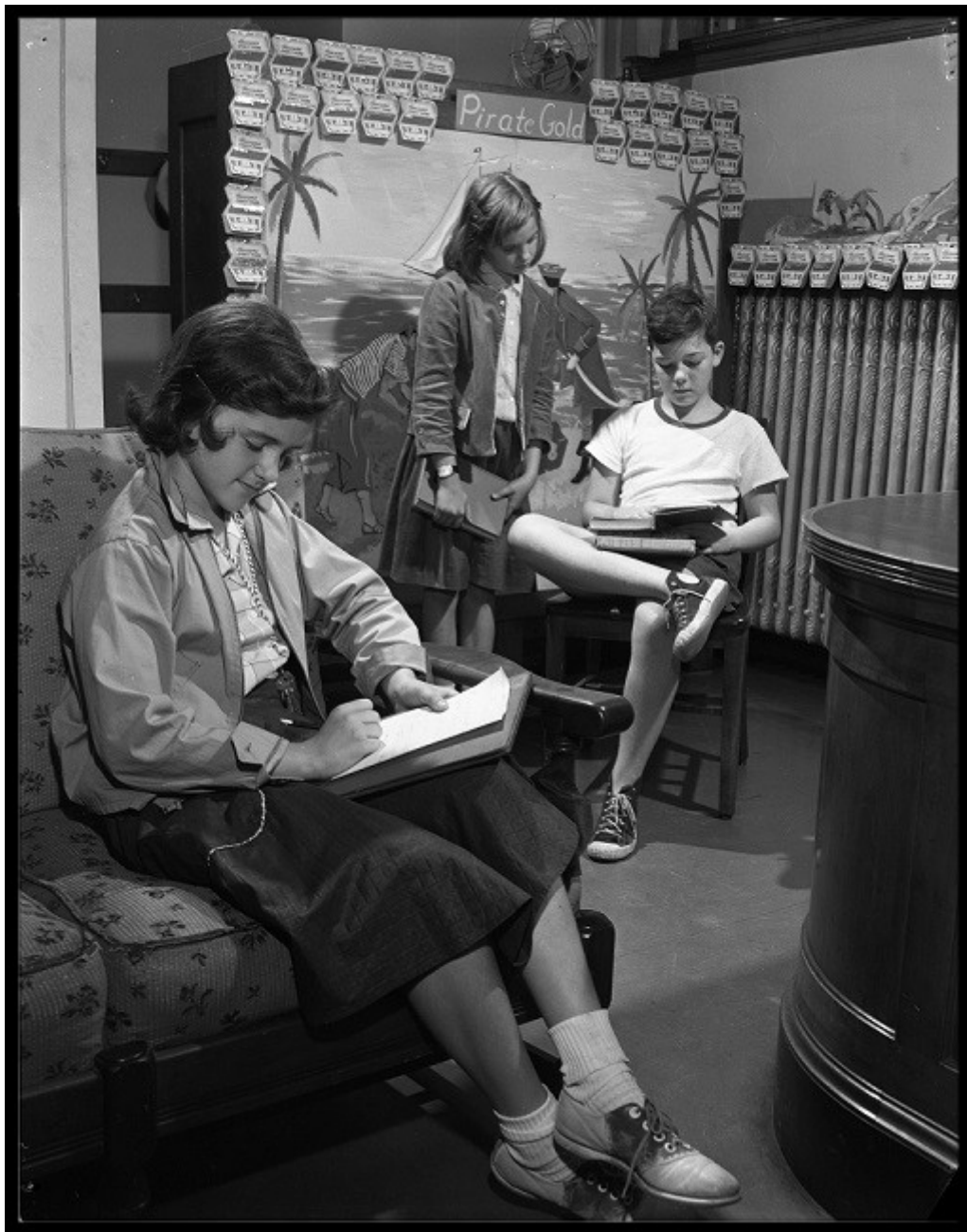


The Ann Arbor Book Society is a small but dedicated group of volunteers always hard at work

August marks the month many Michigan and out-of-state book lovers (and authors!) have been dreading: the closing of Aunt Agatha's Bookshop. This specialty bookstore built a community of mystery readers that it grew and sustained for 26 years through its popular author events and book discussions, and the passion and knowledge of owners Robin and Jamie Agnew. Though their storefront may be closing, the impact Aunt Agatha's has had on our community will remain, and we look forward to their future contributions (like an [author event](#) November 18th at AADL!). Be sure to stop by the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch on Sunday, August 26th, at 2 pm for a [farewell author event](#), and share with Robin and Jamie what Aunt Agatha's has meant to you!

developing content and building relationships to connect the book lovers of Ann Arbor and beyond. To learn more about our mission and ways you can help, email rachel@a2books.org, or stop by one of our monthly volunteer meetings in the Lamplighter Room of the Downtown Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library, the first Monday of the month at 7 pm. Our next meeting takes place on **Monday, August 6th.**

Snapshot of the Past



Children "fill" their treasure chests with titles of books they read as part of the pirate-themed summer reading club of the Ann Arbor Public Library. September 9, 1953. (Courtesy of the [Ann Arbor District Library](#))

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