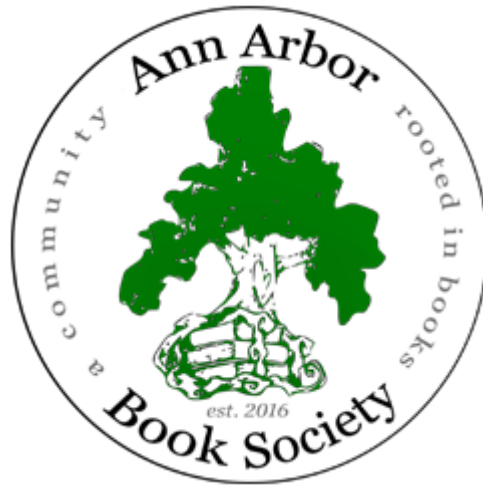


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January Newsletter

a2books.org

January Book Event Highlights

Fridays, January 5th & 12th and Monday, January 22nd (various times):
[ABCs of Washtenaw Literacy Information Sessions](#), Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

Monday, January 15th from 2:30 to 4 pm: Author and artist [Shawn Martinbrough](#) at the [Stamps Auditorium](#), 1226 Murfin Ave.

Monday, January 15th from 4 to 5:30 pm: [Dr. James Forman, author of Locking Up Our Own](#), Law School Academic Building, 701 S. State St.

Thursday, January 18th at 5 pm: Author [Claudia Rankine at the Michigan Theater](#), 603 E. Liberty.

Thursday, January 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm: [Educator's Night](#) at Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington.

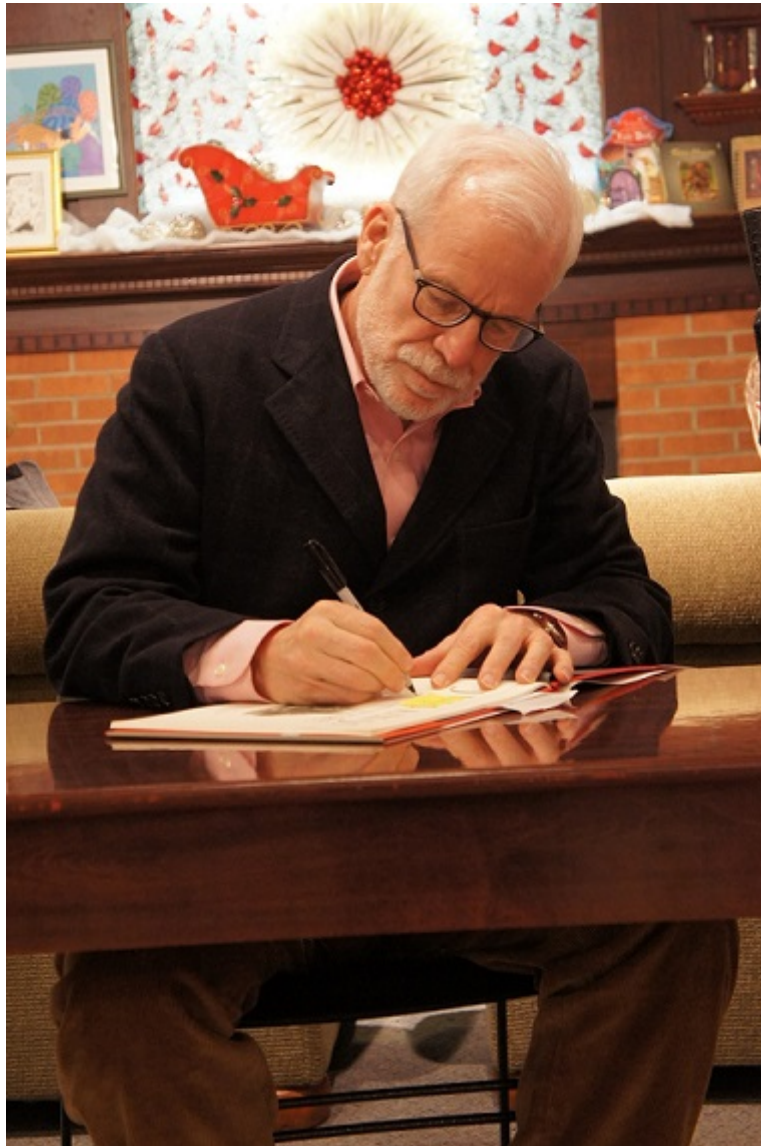
January 21st 3 pm to 5 pm: [Hot from the Oven: Zingerman's Bakehouse Cookbook!](#) Ann Arbor District Library Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower Parkway.

Thursday, January 25th from 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Zell Writers Series with poet

[Jane Hirshfield and author Brit Bennett](#), UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State St.

For more information on these and other great events taking place in January, visit our [calendar](#).

Event Photo Highlight



Author Chris VanAllsburg signs copies of *Jumanji* at Nicola's Books on Monday, December 19th, in advance of the Ann Arbor premiere of *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* at the Michigan Theater, a fundraiser for the JoElyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children at Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice. Twenty percent of the book's proceeds were donated to the JoElyn Nyman Anchors Program for Children at Arbor Hospice.

Happy New Year!

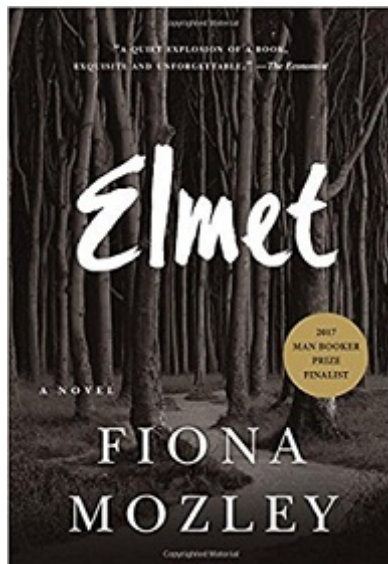
The Ann Arbor Book Society is excited to embark on another year of growing and expanding our vision and are grateful to all the bookstores, libraries, booksellers, authors, and book lovers who have contributed content, read our newsletters, and shared them with friends. In 2017 we distributed 4,000 bookstore maps, acquired three volunteers, donated hundreds of books to the [Prison Books Program](#) and hosted our first fundraiser, allowing us to start the year with a little money in the bank to help with operating costs.

In 2018 we hope to gain nonprofit status to help remain financially sustainable, add programming events to connect Ann Arbor's book loving community, and finally begin adding historical content on Ann Arbor's book culture to our website. We also look forward to doing our part to develop new and support existing programs that help get books into the hands of children and adults who don't have access to them. We hope you will join us on our journey and continue to spread the word about the Ann Arbor Book Society!

Wishing you all a year of peace, love, good health, a shelf full of good books and the time to read them!

Rachel Pastiva
Founder

On the Shelf



Elmet: A Novel

Little Free Library



The Little Free Library at the

By Fiona Mozley
Workman, \$15.95
Published 12/15/2017

The broken family in Elmet belongs in a different era. In fact, if not for the mention of modern technology like phones and cars, this book might be set in the time of Robin Hood. Strong and endlessly capable, the prize-fighting father is looking to homestead quietly with his daughter and son, living off the land. This proves very difficult, though, when you do not own the property and the owner wants payment.

There is a timeless honor and integrity about this father but there is also violence and insanity just beneath the surface. The children are odd and feral, existing best with their own pack. The characters explore aspects and disparities of wealth and poverty, community and ownership, peace and violence. The beautiful writing conjures the image of a family back to back to back in their copse, guarding each other, fighting off the outside world.

Elmet is a 2017 Man Booker Prize Finalist.

--Andy Holcomb
Publisher Representative,
Fujii Associates

Save the Date!

Tuesday, February 6th: [Author Yaa Gyasi at Rackham Auditorium](#)

February 25th: [Detroit Book City's Second Annual African-American](#)

**Jewish Community Center of
Greater Ann Arbor, located at
2935 Birch Hollow Dr.**

Rachel Pastiva: When did you put up your Little Free Library and what inspired you to create one?

Michelle Paris: Our library was built in memory of a student of ours that unexpectedly passed away from a tragic accident on October 1, 2014. Her name was Anna Schwalb. One of her great loves in her short life was reading and books. She used to spend much of her time here at school listening to and reading stories. Our Little Free Library was a dream of one of her teachers, Tonya Backstrom, who helped to plan, build and dedicate Anna's Little Free Library. Our library was dedicated on May 4, 2016.

Rachel: Did you get your library from Little Free Library or build it?

Michelle: We built our Little Free Library with the help of Rob Backstrom, husband of Tonya who was Anna's teacher, and with the help of his company he worked for at the time, Leon Speakers of Ann Arbor. Leon Speakers is owned by a parent that was a classmate of Anna's. It was designed with children in mind when many of the children discovered that some of the Little Free Libraries weren't big enough to hold a children's book that is larger than a normal adult hardcover book.

Rachel: What impact on your community have you hoped to

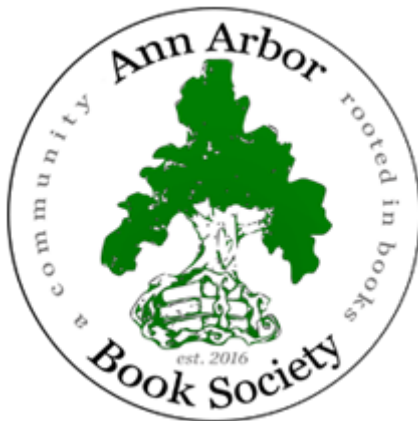
[Family Book Expo](#)

Sunday, March 4th: [40th Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair](#)

Saturday, April 28th: [Midwest Literary Walk](#)

Did you know?

The first documented bookseller in Ann Arbor was in 1832. George Corselius, editor of Ann Arbor's first newspaper, *Western Immigrant*, advertised books for sale, likely out of the newspaper's office.



We need your help!

Do you have fond memories of a bookstore from Ann Arbor's past? We are starting our research on the bookselling history of Ann Arbor and would love to hear from you! If you have a story to share or just want to reminisce about a bookstore you used to love, please contact us at rachel@a2books.org.

make by putting up a Little Free Library?

Michelle: Our hope for our library was that children could come to the library and always find books they were comfortable reading ranging from picture books, to informational books to books for young adults. The library is located on the grounds of the Jewish Community Center which houses two schools, one early childhood and one elementary. These children along with many neighborhood children use the library frequently.

Rachel: What has the response been to the library?

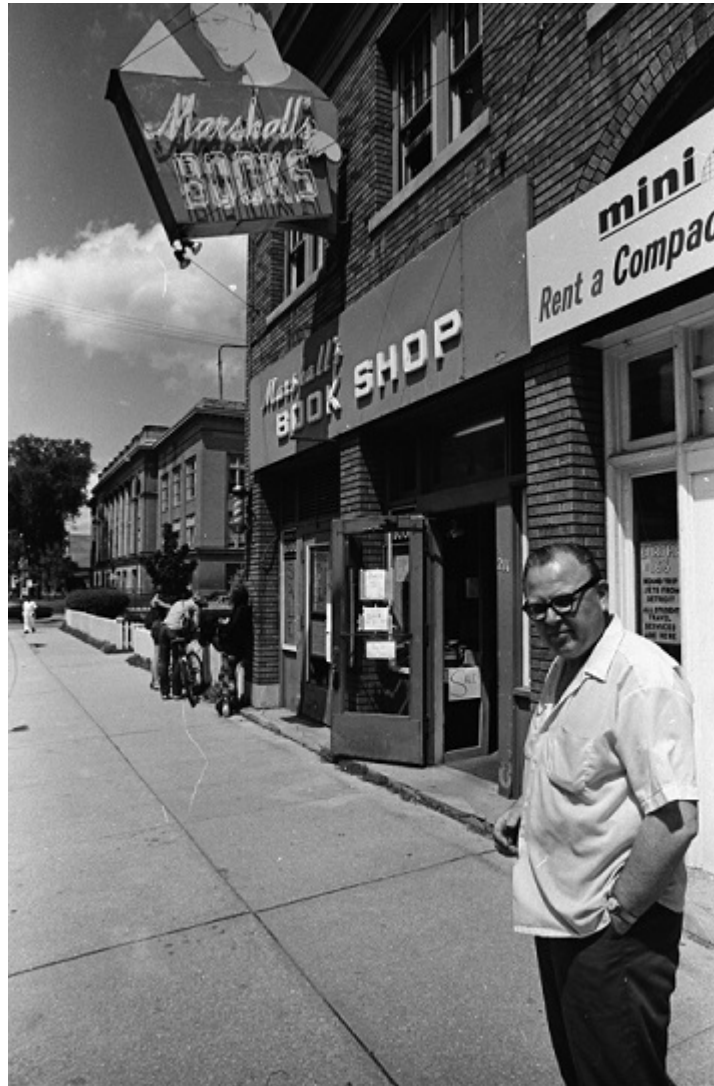
Michelle: The response has been wonderful. Children use the library every day. Sometimes you will find neighborhood children sitting on the sidewalk in front of the library, just reading book after book. We also see parents drive up and the children hop out of the car to find a book. Children from the schools also visit the library on a consistent basis.

Rachel: Are there specific age groups or subject matter that your library collection is geared towards?

Michelle: We definitely have geared our library towards children. It is quite large to house large children's books. We try to make sure it is stocked with a variety of books including picture books and chapter books for young readers.

Michelle Paris is the Head Teacher

Snapshot of the Past



Bookstore owner and Unitarian minister Bob Marshall stands in front of his store, Marshall's Book Shop, in June 1970. Marshall's opened in 1949 at 211 S. State St. and specialized in used, out-of-print, and new titles. It closed in 1970. During an appearance at the University of Michigan, author David Riesman called Marshall's "the most important educational institution in Ann Arbor." Courtesy of AADL's Old News Site.

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