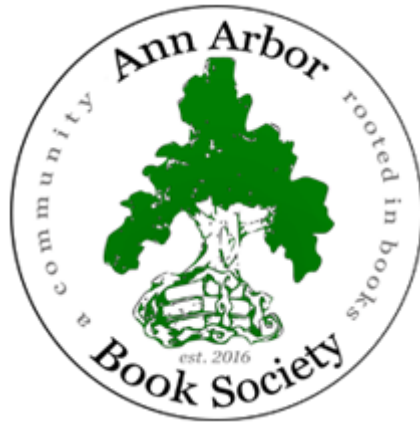


[View this email in your browser](#)



a2books.org

September Newsletter

September Book Event Highlights

Friday, September 7th, 8 am to 8 pm, Saturday, September 8th, 10 am to 8 pm, Sunday, September 9th, 10 am to 3 pm: [2018 Annual AAUW Book Sale](#), Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, September 6th at 7 pm: [Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Night](#), Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

Saturday, September 8th from 10 am to 4 pm: [Booktoberfest!](#) Sponsored by Thomson-Shore, 7300 W. Joy Rd, Dexter.

Sunday, September 9th from 10:30 am to 5 pm: [16th Annual Kerrytown Bookfest](#), Farmers Market, 315 Detroit St.

Sunday, September 9th at 5 pm: [Launch Party for Binc Bank on Booksellers Piggy Bank Auction](#), hosted by Literati, 124 E. Washington.

Thursday, September 13th at 7 pm: [Open Mic & Share Poetry Series featuring Frances Kai-Hwa Wang](#), Bookbound Bookstore, 1729 Plymouth Rd.

Friday, September 21st at 4:30 pm: [Sarah Bamford Seidelmann](#), author of

Best of Beasties: Your A to Z Guide to the Illuminating Wisdom of Spirit Animals, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main St.

Saturday, September 29th at 6 pm: [Driving Literacy: 20th Annual Gala Benefiting Washtenaw Literacy](#), Morris Lawrence Atrium, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr.

For more information on these and other September events, visit our [online calendar](#).

Event Photo Highlight



Young visitors enjoy the first Wayzgoose & Printing Festival at the downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library, Saturday, August 25th. (Photo courtesy of Monica-Amit Misra.)

Ann Arbor's First Library

If you go to the downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library (AADL) and take the main stairs down to the basement level, you would see on the wall of

the first landing, a few old plaques for the Ladies' Library Association (LLA), one from 1885. You may wonder, "What is the LLA? And what does it have to do with AADL?"

The LLA was formed in 1866 when 35 women in Ann Arbor got together to form a small lending library, based on the Benjamin Franklin model of subscription, in a space that they rented above Main Street. (A great number of now public community libraries in the United States were started by ladies associations just like this one. Anne Firor Scott in her article "Women and Libraries," published in the Spring 1986 volume of *The Journal of Library History* estimates as many as 75%.) Each woman agreed to give \$3 initially plus another \$1 each year toward the purchase of new books (or donating books themselves in lieu of the yearly dues) in support of the new library.

The library grew rapidly with nearly 900 books by the end of its first year, when it was forced to move to a larger location. Having enough space proved to be a recurring problem, and they moved several times to successively larger accommodations (including, at one point, the top level of the Court House) until, in 1885, the LLA had their [first building](#) erected at 324 East Huron Street in the Romanesque revival style (sadly, it was torn down in 1946). Thanks to rigorous fundraising, the building was paid off by 1892.

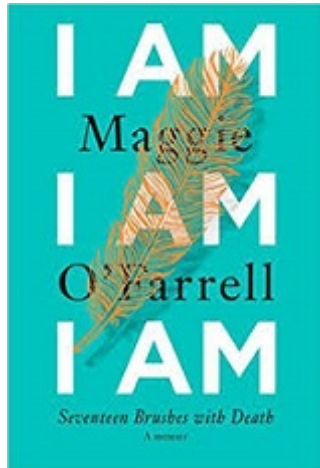
It was designed by famed architect and local boy Irving K. Pond, a University of Michigan graduate and a partner with his brother in the same Chicago-based firm that designed the Michigan Union and the Michigan League buildings. (The Pond brothers were also the architects for Chicago's celebrated Hull House.) Pond's mother, Mary, was a founding member of the LLA, and his father, Elihu, was an editor at the Argus, one of Ann Arbor's more successful newspapers of the 19th century and a strong supporter of the library.

To read this article in its entirety, visit our [history blog](#).

Book Ends

On the Shelf

Little Free Library



***I Am I Am I Am: Seventeen
Brushes with Death***
By Maggie O'Farrell
Knopf Publishing Group
Hardcover, \$25.95
February 2018

*I Am I Am I Am: Seventeen Brushes
With Death* by Maggie O'Farrell,
Irish Novelist, is the best sort of
memoir- one that encourages the
reader to pause and review their
own life experiences. That said, it is
also a fast-paced journey through a
young woman's life experiences that
left me a bit breathless (and quite
glad that my daughter was not so
adventurous in her early years!)

The book rolls along with the
concept that we are shaped by what
does not happen as often as what
does.

O'Farrell shares each story by
offering first the part of the body
involved (headers include LUNGS,
NECK, BLOODSTREAM) and a
quirky historic anatomical drawing of
that body part. She shares tales
ranging from being caught in a
dangerous riptide to encountering a
disturbed individual on a trail that
later murders another young



Butterfly Ranch Little Free Libraries
855 W. Textile Rd.

It was inevitable that our landscape
would change with the installation of
a pathway across the front of our
farm property. I love reading and I
wanted to encourage 'mental
exercise' in conjunction with physical
exercise for those using the
asphalted walking path. It was our
way to add another level of
'connectivity' between us and our
wonderful community. When I first
learned of the Little Free Library
(LFL) movement, which
was established as a way of
providing literacy around the world,
my husband drew up a plan and
shared his design of our initial LFL
with a friend of ours, Mike Cobb,
who is a great woodworker. And
about four years ago, I was
surprised by the gift of my first book
house! We installed it and curated
both adult and children's literature in
this one library. I watched as my
LFL generated interest, not just for
the walkers, but as a destination for
local readers who actually drive to
my LFL. Kids were just as
interested in peering in and
discovering books as adults. So I
decided I needed a kid's LFL to be
installed lower to the ground, to
reach our younger readers. We
thought a schoolhouse would be a

woman. Some tales are short, some a few pages longer. The format of this book encourages the reader to stay for “just one more story”.

There are a few downsides to mention besides potential sleep deprivation. I found the footnotes that the author includes to be more distraction than needed information. I also agree with folks that criticized her use of the term “near death” to describe the situations in this book.

If the definition of “near death” is clinically dying and being brought back to life, then most of the situations in the book qualify as “near misses” rather than “near death”.

The last pages of the book find O’Farrell trying to protect her daughter from a dangerous skin condition. Her love and worry are palpable and that realization that her children will have their own near misses, twists of fate, perhaps even near-death experiences brings a satisfying sense of the continuation of life to O’Farrell’s memoir. The take-away? Things can happen in a moment that impact a lifetime.

--Deb Flint

Bookstore Manager,

Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room

Save the Date!

Tuesday, October 9th: [12th Annual Prechter Lecture featuring Kay Redfield Jamison](#)

Thursday, October 11th: [Professor Peter Ho Davies Inaugural Lecture](#)

welcomed addition and once again, Mike Cobb's superior skills were put to use! Both LFLs have a great deal of charm in their design which continues to produce a lot of compliments.

Our LFLs have provided an equal amount of joy to us! And the site has evolved with their usage.

My husband and I installed some sandstone steps in front of our adult library to accommodate one of our oldest neighbors, a 98-year-old resident of the assisted living facility at the corner of Textile and State.

Every day, using his walker, he would visit our LFL as part of his daily constitutional. We installed the steps to allow him easier access up the slight incline. My husband also installed a large sitting rock in the shade of one of our remaining trees along the street.

To our delight, one day a young girl came by on her bike. She carried a pad of paper, a pen, some colored markers and a stapler. She sat on the sitting rock and all afternoon composed a series of stories under our tree. She wrote them, carefully illustrated them and stapled her finished stories in booklet form which she numbered as volumes in a series. She then added them to our library!! Observing these kinds of activities provides ongoing value to what started as a way of sharing my love of reading. I am also both amused and flattered by the amount of notice my LFLs have generated. I have been randomly introduced and recognized as living in the house with the two LFLs. One of my libraries has been used for a geocache site and I occasionally



Check out the fall schedule of ticketed events as part of the [Literati Presents Series](#). A great series including John Kerry, Susan Orlean, Jonathan Franzen, and Anne Lamott (already sold out!).



Help support our nation's booksellers by bidding on a piggy bank decorated by your favorite author, as part of the Book Industry Charitable Foundation (Binc) fundraiser, [Bank on Booksellers Piggy Bank Auction!](#) The bidding for this national auction begins Sunday, September 9th and closes at 8 pm on Sunday, September 15th. Over 100 piggy banks designed by some of the country's best-loved authors will be up for bidding, including banks decorated by Louise Erdrich, Barbara Kingsolver, Tom Robbins, Judy Blume, Celeste Ng, John Grisham, Laura Lippman and many, many more!

notice that a painted stone or a handmade bookmark has been added in addition to the contribution of books.

Come visit us and Take One, Leave One and REPEAT!! The Butterfly Ranch Little Free Libraries are located on Textile Road between State Street and Lohr Road. I welcome and appreciate the contribution of books. A current and actively curated collection of gently-used literature keeps the concept alive!! I welcome your support and enjoyment of OUR Little Free Libraries!!

--Anita Wilson

She worked, she read, she retired, she reads more. She shares her love of reading with the community!



Congratulations to Motte & Bailey Booksellers owner Gene Alloway, recipient of the Kerrytown BookFest's annual Community Award! Celebrate Gene and the kickoff to the Kerrytown BookFest at the [Kerrytown BookFest Opening Reception](#), Saturday, September 8th from 4:30 pm to 6 pm on the fourth-floor atrium of the downtown branch Ann Arbor District Library.

Snapshot of the Past



Caption: Classic Bookends! Peter Bielby and Karen Wolfe serve as bookends while (from left) Mrs. C. P. Korwin, Mrs. Stanley Bielby and Mrs. Raymond D. Martin look over some of the books which will be offered for sale at the 17th Annual Book Sale sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW). September, 1969. (Courtesy of the Ann Arbor District Library)



Copyright ©2018 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](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Ann Arbor Book Society · P.O. Box 7176 · Ann Arbor, Mi 48107 · USA

