



Old West Side News

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Stephanie Bentley and John Weise (left), and their house at 602 Eberwhite Boulevard (above).

Books and More Books on Eberwhite Blvd.

When John Weise and Stephanie Bentley moved into 602 Eberwhite, at the corner of Lutz, in 2003, they brought their new home business with them. **Books by Chance** sells used books, CDs, and DVDs on consignment. Items are inventoried and tracked, and when sold, a

percentage of the sale is returned.

John and Stephanie started **Books by Chance** about five years ago, while living on Duncan Street. John laughs that the name of the company literally came “out of the refrigerator”—“I was standing there with the refrigerator door open, and the name just popped into my head.” **Books by Chance** currently sell 12,000 books a year, and they have a neatly organized inventory of 9,000 titles in their basement.

Books by Chance offers free pick-up within Ann Arbor limits, but also allows drop-offs at the iSold It store in the Colonnade (761-6187, M-Sat, 10-6). John and Stephanie decide which items are sellable. Items that can't be sold are either returned or donated to a charity. (They'll send you a receipt.) Items are marketed through popular venues like Amazon.com. Checks and detailed reports are sent monthly. Contact John and Stephanie by phone, 239-3172, or e-mail. info@booksbychance.com. Much more information, as well as testimonials, are on the website, booksbychance.com.

The Eberwhite house had sat empty for a few years, and needed a lot of work, but John knew it

would be “liveable.” The Bentley-Weises were especially happy with the location, not just because it was in the Old West Side, but because their neighbors would be the Gargaros, whom they knew from the Ann Arbor Co-op Nursery. The Bentley-Weise's first two houses were across the street from each other on Miller, near the West Park entrance. When they bought the second house, a “fixer-upper,” they figured they'd be there four years, which was about exactly right. They then bought a house on Duncan, using some of the money from the Miller sale to finance sending their children, Sam, now 11, and Chloe, 9, to Rudolf Steiner School. After two years on Duncan, they bought the Eberwhite house.

They pulled up all the old carpeting, had the floors redone, and painted most of the rooms. They pulled up “fake tile” from the kitchen floor, and Stephanie painted it in squares of light blue and cream (then coated it with polyurethane) to give the kitchen a pleasant yet old-fashioned feeling. They've upgraded the electrical, replaced light fixtures, and had the living room “firebox” rebuilt.

John has known Stephanie since he was 7, when his family

moved from Trenton, Michigan to Hillsdale. On the first day of school, John's teacher paired him with a boy, Matthew, to ease his transition as the new kid in class. John and Matthew became friends, their families grew close, but it wasn't until 1987, when John was a junior at U-M and Matthew's sister Stephanie was a U-M freshman that they began dating. They were married in 1991.

John earned a BFA in Art and Design from U-M, where he studied graphic design, photography, and computing. He then earned a Masters from the School of Information and Library Science. After a couple years at U-M's Information Technology Division (ITD) as a library technician in the Argus Building, John moved to his present job developing digital library software for the U-M Library.

Stephanie earned a dual degree in Spanish and English, and taught Spanish at Huron High for four years, until Sam was born. She has since taught yoga classes at the Y (she studies with Laurie Blakeney at Ann Arbor School of Yoga) and has been a substitute teacher at Rudolf Steiner Schools.

— Daniel Madaj

OWS Spring Meeting

Wednesday, May 23
7:30 pm • Bach School
Multipurpose Room

Historic District Guidelines

Presentation by
City Consultant
Kristine Kidorf

Draft guidelines on
HDC website by May 4:
[www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/
CommunityServices/
Planning/Building/HDC/
preservation.html](http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/CommunityServices/Planning/Building/HDC/preservation.html)

OWS Children's Festival
Saturday, June 16 • 10-noon
Wurster Park