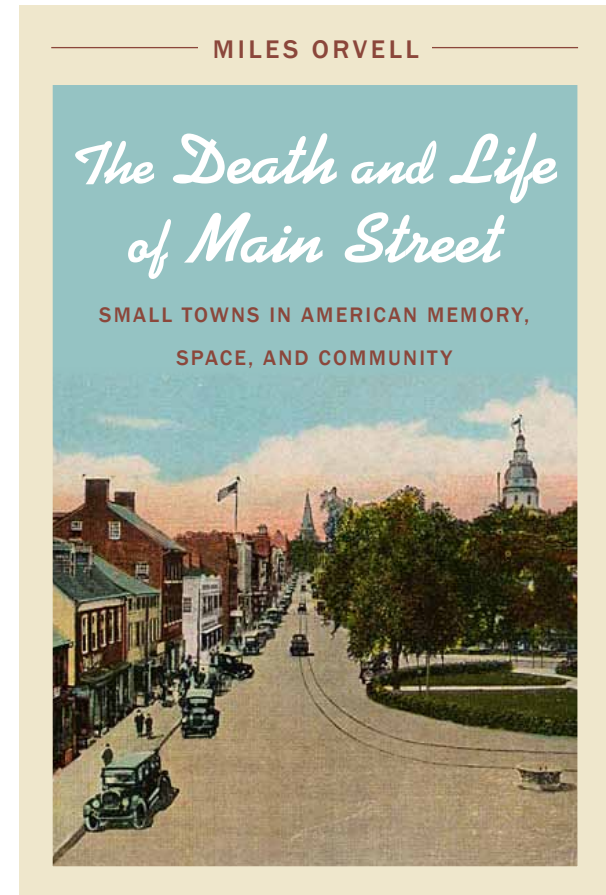


## On American Main Streets: A Conversation with Miles Orvell and Sandy Sorlien

**February 21, 2:30 PM, Paley Library Lecture Hall, 1210 Polett Walk**

What is an American Main Street? Is it a memory or image that has been perpetuated through American writing and art? A real space within new urbanist town planning? Or is it a place where some are welcome and others are shunned? Perhaps it is all of the above. Join us to examine these real and imagined notions of American main streets with Miles Orvell and Sandy Sorlien. Orvell is the author of *The Death and Life of Main Street: Small Towns in American Memory, Space, and Community* (University of North Carolina Press 2012) and professor of English and American studies at Temple. In 2009, he received the Bode-Pearson Prize for lifetime achievement, awarded by the American Studies Association. Sorlien is the author of *Fifty Houses: Images from the American Road* (Johns Hopkins 2002), and is finishing a book about main streets in America with the working title *The Heart of Town*. She has worked since 2004 on new urbanist plans and codes for walkable streets.





"In [*The Death and Life of American Main Street*] this clear-eyed and lively history of one of the most enduring icons of American life, Miles Orvell shows how Main Street as a concept has simultaneously attracted and repelled Americans, offering them both an imaginary homeland and a spiritual wasteland. While some have yearned to "get back" to the supposed innocence and small-town virtues of Main Street, others have decried its suffocating conformity. Orvell brilliantly reconsiders such figures as Walt Whitman, Walt Disney, Henry Ford, Sinclair Lewis, Frank Capra, Norman Rockwell, Robert and Helen Lynd, and Jane Jacobs, whose famous disquisition on the American metropolis Orvell alludes to in his title. This book shows why exiles on Main Street, along with more contented inhabitants, can never let it go." — David M. Lubin, Wake Forest University



"Sorlien is a true citizen spirit, dedicated to grace of place, and engaging her vision and voice to create an unusual artistic registry of Americana. *Fifty Houses* enters the road journey book category as a profound addition to the dialogue on the erosion of our regional identities and sense of place." — Mary Ann Lynch, *Camera Arts*

This program is part of Temple University Libraries' ongoing public programming series, *Beyond the Page*. This year, we explore *The American Idea*.

All programs are free and open to the public.  
Refreshments provided.

Details, directions and more at [library.temple.edu](http://library.temple.edu)

Paley Library is located on Temple University Main Campus between 12th and 13th streets, just north of Montgomery Avenue, right next to the Bell Tower.

The closest subway stop is Cecil B. Moore station; Paley is approximately one-and-a-half blocks north and east. The nearest Regional Rail stop is Temple University; we are two blocks west.  
Parking is available in lots across campus.

All lectures, book talks, exhibitions and panels are free and open to all. These programs broaden the educational opportunities taking place outside of the classroom at Temple and enhance the university's standing as an arts and cultural center in North Philadelphia.

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