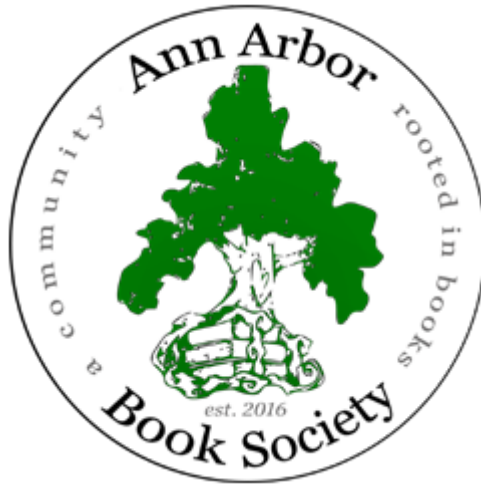


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## August Newsletter

### August Book Event Highlights

**Monday, August 7th at 7 pm:** Lynne Cox, author of [Swimming in the Sink](#), at Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington St.

**Tuesday, August 1st at 7 pm:** Tim Keenan, author of [The Good Hike](#), at Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, 343 S. Fifth St.

**Thursday, August 3rd at 7 pm:** Rhys Bowen, author of [On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service](#), sponsored by Aunt Agatha's. Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, 343 S. Fifth St.

**Wednesday, August 16th at 7:30 pm:** [Culinary Reading Group](#) discussion of Bich Minh Nguyen's memoir *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* at Motte & Bailey Booksellers, 212 N. Fourth Ave.

**Thursday, August 24th at 7 pm:** [Grown Folks Story Time](#) at Bookbound Bookstore, 1729 Plymouth Rd.

**Wednesday, August 30th at 7 pm:** [And Here: 100 Years of Upper Peninsula Writing: 1917-2017 Panel Discussion](#), Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington St.

For more August book events, visit our [events calendar](#).



## **A Brief History of the Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library**

FAADL, or the Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library, have been supporting the Library since 1953, when the library was still the Public Library. The Friends became incorporated on May 22, 1953 and was officially recognized as an independent non-profit organization. One of our first sales was in 1954 and raised \$348 for the library. That amount has continued to rise over the history of the Friends and thanks to all of the wonderful people who support the Friends and the AADL, we now raise \$100,000 annually for the Library!

Friends used to house all of the donations at their houses, which occasionally happens from time to time if we get an incredible amount of donations. However, in 1977 the library was able to give us dedicated space in the basement, which has lovingly been referred to as "The Dungeon" by volunteers since then.

The Friends now include approximately 250 members who annually support the Friends with their donations and time as volunteers. There are about 125 volunteers that actively work in the book shop or the Dungeon. These volunteers regularly put in around 1,000 hours each month sorting books, working in the shop selling them, and preparing for the 4-5 major sales each year. Most of the volunteers have been working for many, many years in the Friends, and quite a few of them retired from either the AADL or the Public School system.

For 64 years FAADL has stuck beside the library, supporting them and their mission of providing literacy services to the public of Ann Arbor and beyond.

*A Brief History of the Friends, taken from A History of the Friends of the Ann Arbor Public Library copyright 1988 Friends of the AAPL, and conversations with current volunteers.*

--Melanie Baldwin

*Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library Book Shop Director*

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### Snapshot of the Past



*Circa 1958. Courtesy of the Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library archives.*

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### Highlights from July Book Events

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## On the Shelf



*Black Hammer VOL 1*  
written by Jeff Lemire, art by Dean Ormston with Dave Stewart on color  
Published by Dark Horse

*Black Hammer* is an ancient, classic

## Odds n' Ends



## Listen Up!

Vault of Midnight has a podcast! You can subscribe to [Superskull](#), the self-proclaimed "Earth's Finest Comic Book Podcast," on iTunes. Check it out!

spell, renewed. Jeff Lemire, Dean Ormston, and Dave Stewart have dusted off all of their favorite ingredients: superheroes, monsters, and heartbreak, for immolation in their cauldron to see what still can dance and crackle in the smoke.

And crackle they do; In *Black Hammer*, pulp heroes, muck monsters, and other four colored fantasies face not the next great foe, but their exodus from super-heroics to spend their remaining days retired on a farm. Our heroes, the former champions of Spiral City, all exude a familiarity echoed from archetypes of comic characters. These references are not included as mere surface dressing but are instead a quicksand that envelops you in emotional honesty. Jeff Lemire's years of delivering passionately raw independent work like *Essex County* and *The Underwater Welder* shines through his writing in *Black Hammer*.

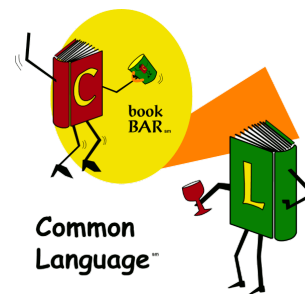
This indie comics sensibility combined with the expressively evocative comic book-y goodness delivered by Ormston and Stewart makes *Black Hammer* all the more fitting for Vault of Midnight's choice as book of the month.

In spite of all of these mature themes present, there is no cynicism here; *Black Hammer* still sings the enchanting song of the superhero. *Black Hammer* delivers an enriching experience that renews faith in cape comics through an independent lens even when said capes are left hanging out to dry.

-- Justin Micallef

### *Did you know?*

Common Language has a new [website](#)! With assistance from the American Booksellers Association and funds received from last year's fundraiser, Common Language updated their website in May. Now you can purchase just about any book online! As one of the last surviving LGBTQ and feminist bookstores left in the country, it's important to support this local independent!



Bookbound Bookstore will be closed Monday, August 7th through Monday, August 14th so that owners Megan and Peter Blackshear can take a well-deserved vacation. Bookbound will reopen for normal hours Tuesday, August 15th.

### **Save the Date!**

September 8th-10th  
[AAUW Annual Book Sale](#)

September 10th:  
[Kerrytown BookFest](#)

September 24th and 25th:  
[Friends of AADL Book Shop Special Sale](#)

*Comic Book Critic/Team Vault of  
Midnight*

September 29th-October 1st:  
[Harbor Springs Festival of the Book](#)

## In the News

The Man Booker Prize Longlist was announced on July 26th. Click [here](#) to see what books made the list. the shortlist will be announced on September 13th.

October 6th-8th:  
[Michigan Hemingway Society Fall Conference](#)

December 2nd and 3rd:  
[Friends of AADL Book Shop Holiday Sale](#)



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