



Ann Arbor Independent Booksellers Association

A community rooted in books

February Newsletter

February Book Event Highlights

Tuesday, February 7th: Washtenaw Reads 2017: *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* with co-authors Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer, 7 pm at Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St.

Wednesday, February 15th: Culinary History Reading Group at Motte & Bailey Booksellers at 7:30 pm, 212 N. Fourth Ave. All invited to discuss *32 Yolks: From My Mother's Table to Working the Line*, renowned French chef Eric Ripert's memoir, co-written with Veronica Chambers.

Saturday, February 18th: Kaleidoscope auction at 10 am at the Saline County Fairgrounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.

Monday, February 20th: Writer, historian and activist Rebecca Stolnit, author of *Hope in the Dark* at 5:30 pm, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St. Books provided by Literati Bookstore.

Tuesday, February 21st: Launch for Michigan Children's Authors, at 7 pm, Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

Through April 2nd: Protecting Wisdom: Tibetan Book Covers from the

For more book events taking place in February, visit our all-inclusive events calendar [here](#).

Closing Kaleidoscope



Kaleidoscope owner Jeff Pickell sorts through his inventory in preparation of moving out of his storefront at 200 N. Fourth Ave.

After 26 years of business, Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles, on the corner of S. Fourth and Ann St., closed its doors for the final time on Monday, January 16th. Owner Jeff Pickell and his wife Deborah Greene each suffered separate, yet equally life-threatening health crises over the past two years, and decided it was time to focus on spending more time together. “Deborah and I get along very well. We enjoy each other's company, and after my heart attack, she said, 'Y'know, I'd like to enjoy your company some more. You've been doing this seven days a week for 26 years.”

But fortunately, as no true book lover can, Jeff will not retire completely from books. “In talking with Deborah we decided we can continue to do an online business intensively. I have 500 or 600 books online* right now.” In addition to these books, Jeff plans to make room for 5,000 to 10,000 books in his home to add to his online store, and to sell at book fairs, both locally and nationally. But what about the rest of the 100,000 books that packed the shelves and lined the aisles of Kaleidoscope? They're on their way to the Saline County Fairgrounds, where they'll await an auction that will take place Saturday, February 18th (and Sunday, February 19th, if necessary).

In addition to the books from Kaleidoscope's storefront, 80,000 titles that have been in storage for up to 20 years will be auctioned off. The auction service Braun and Helmer is handling the auction, and while there will not be a formal preview, Jeff encourages book collectors to come at 8 am to look at the collection before the 10 am auction begins. The collection will include a lot of first editions, sci-fi, mysteries, and children's books, as well as modern firsts, prints, and posters. They will also be auctioning off many of the beautiful, antique cabinets and bookcases from the store. You may find more information about the upcoming auction [here](#).

*Jeff uses [abebooks.com](#) to sell his books online. However, his page is currently unavailable as he prepares for the auction. It should be available again by the end of the month.

--Rachel Pastiva

Michigan Notable Books for 2017 Announced



First begun as "Read Michigan" in 1991 as part of Michigan Week, the Michigan Notable Books are selected annually by the Library of Michigan. Up to 20 titles written by Michigan authors, about the state of Michigan, or on the Great Lakes, are honored the year after their publication date. The selections embody Michigan's "rich cultural, historical and literary heritage." Congratulations to this year's [honorees](#)!

Bookstore Spotlight



In downtown Ypsilanti on Michigan Avenue, nestled between a MaddGear store and a

music shop, stands a bookstore that aims to fill a void in local literature.

[Black Stone Bookstore and Cultural Center](#) was conceived in 2013 and sells only African American literature. “I saw that it was a need,” said Carlos Franklin, owner of Black Stone, as we chatted on the phone about his inspirations. “Going to these major bookstores, there wasn’t anything for African Americans. I wanted to provide.”

Even if a bookstore has a selection of African American literature, it might be small, especially compared to other genres. Black Stone is the only bookstore in Washtenaw County that sells only African American literature. “I believe black writing has always been around and an important part of my culture and community; however, the mainstream plays it down and does not give it the credit it deserves,” he said. “The only thing different now than before is that with the information age and the access to millions through social media it has gained a new spotlight.”

Bringing exposure to African American literature has come with other challenges. “To be an African American business owner and/or trying to open an African American business, the obstacles are so much higher than other nationalities,” Franklin said. “There is no funding, support, ownership or encouragement.”

Running a bookstore, you find yourself surrounded by books but never finding the time to read any of them. This is something Franklin knows all too well. Despite this, he has a few authors that he considers favorites. He prefers urban literature, a genre which focuses on issues of race and city life. One of Franklin's favorite authors of this genre is Donald Goines. Goines has written such books as *Dopefiend* and *Daddy Cool*.

Although he prefers urban literature, Franklin said he also enjoys the classics of African American literature. “I like urban literature, but then I also like Richard Wright and Robert Greene,” Franklin said. *Native Son* and *Black Boy* are among Richard Wright's most well-known works.

Black Stone is just down the street from Eastern Michigan University’s campus. Franklin said that he gets a lot of support from EMU’s African American students and professors, but he wishes that EMU as a whole would show the store more support. “Not because it is my business, but because it is a bookstore that is local and that promotes knowledge and African American culture,” he said.

Black Stone is located at 214 W. Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti, and is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

--Shelby Taylor

I share this book's obsession with status: I grew up in a solid and proud working-class family and held a number of blue-collar jobs on my way to my lifelong career, but that career changed the color of my collar; I teach at a university now. Negotiating the breach between these two worlds—my working-class home and white-collar vocation—is difficult, in turns frustrating, infuriating, and sad.

When I have nightmares, they often involve staircases—steep spiral stairs, stairs that move or fold up under me, uneven or missing stairs, high landings or deep basements that I can't figure ways out of. I know what haunts the ghosts of Bly. Both ghosts, Quint and Jessel, appear to the governess on staircases – trying in death to gain some symbolic advantage in the class system that had previously relegated them to a certain kind of life. I don't think they are successful; they never seem to make it up the stairs. That's part of why the story stays with me, worries me, remains one I return to again and again, even decades after I first read it.

--Gina Brandolino

Save the Date!

April 29th:

[Midwest Literary Walk](#)

May 21st:

[Ann Arbor Antiquarian
Book Fair](#)

June 15-17:

[Ann Arbor Book Festival](#)

July 16th:

[Detroit Festival of Books](#)

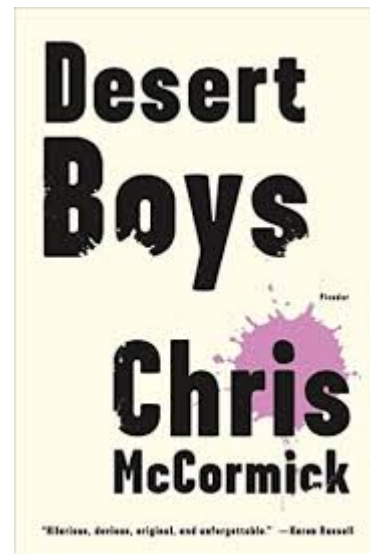
September 10th:

[Kerrytown BookFest](#)

Welcome Shelby Taylor!

We are delighted to welcome Shelby

On the Shelf



Desert Boys by Chris McCormick
Picador, \$25

The desert, like the past, can be a thorny and sometimes serpentine place for people to live; in the interweaving stories throughout *Desert Boys*, debut author Chris McCormick offers a stirring examination of those who live, leave, and—in the case of protagonist Daily Kushner—return.

Taylor as an intern to A2IBA. Shelby Taylor is a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in English language and communications at Eastern Michigan University. She has spent most of her time at EMU working at the student paper as an editor and writer, and loves to read fantasy and sci-fi novels. She will be helping to expand our social media presence, develop our website and create content for our monthly email newsletters.

Interested in helping out? We're always looking for book lovers who share our excitement for spreading the word about the dynamic book culture in our community! Please email rachel@a2books.org

With McCormick's smart, witty prose and equally gratifying storytelling, we are offered a refreshing, nuanced, and much more complicated take on the stereotypical male coming-of-age tale. It is an unforgettable kaleidoscope of not just childhood friendship and the small-town American West, but, seemingly, anyone's nostalgic, binary star quandary of simultaneously loathing and longing for the past. *Desert Boys* is an unforgettable, startling debut by the talented and skilled McCormick — one that will surely gain him a loyal and career-long mainstream following. It will resonate with those who have sought identity in far-away places, only to find it lurking in one's own rattlesnake-filled childhood backyard.

--Mike Gustafson
Co-owner of Literati Bookstore



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