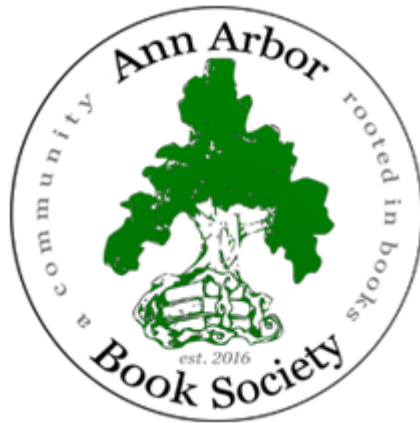


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February Newsletter

a2books.org

February Book Event Highlights

Monday, February 5th at 7 pm: Gregory Boyle, author of [Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship](#), University of Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom, 530 S. State St.

Tuesday, February 6th at 7 pm: Yaa Gyasi, author of [Homegoing](#), Washtenaw Reads 2018 Community Reads Pick, University of Michigan Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington.

Wednesday, February 14th at 7 pm: Literati Bookstore presents writer and performer Patti Smith in support of her new book, [Devotion](#), at the Detroit Film Theater at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit.

Tuesday, February 20th from 6 pm to 8 pm: Vault of Midnight presents [Enough SAID Detroit Fundraiser Game Night](#) at Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main St.

Sunday, February 25th 12 pm to 5 pm: [Detroit Book City's Second Annual African-American Family Book Expo](#), Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers Rd, Detroit.

For more February events, visit our [events calendar](#) at a2books.org.

Event Photo Highlight



Writers and organizers of AADL's Emerging Writers Series Alex Kourvo (left) and Bethany Neal pose for a photo in the West Side Room of AADL's Westgate Branch, as they await questions from writers during the Emerging Writers monthly Writing and Review Meet-Up on Monday, January 29th.

Spotlight on AADL's Emerging Writers Series

After months of inputting the Ann Arbor District Library's Emerging Writers Series events onto our website's events calendar, my curiosity was piqued by the depth and breadth of topics covered in these bi-monthly events. I was recently fortunate to connect with Alex Kourvo and Bethany Neal, the organizers of this dynamic series, to learn a little more about their work.

Rachel Pastiva: How long has the Emerging Writers Series been going on through the library, and who created it? How long have you been organizers of the series and how did you get involved?

Alex Kourvo and Bethany Neal: This was an idea the Ann Arbor District Library came up with. Patrons had been asking for workshops for writers, so the library recruited Alex and another writer to run a total of six workshops. That was in 2014. The workshops were so popular that they kept going! Bethany joined Alex in 2016 and we've been co-teaching ever since.

Rachel: How would you describe the series and workshop environment to someone who is curious about attending?

Alex & Bethany: We have two events a month. The first Monday of the month is a lecture. It's kind of like a college class, with the teachers in front of the room and a PowerPoint on the screen. Each month we focus on one aspect of writing or publishing like character development, story structure or the differences between traditional publishing and indie publishing. We get very specific, give lots of examples, and give writers action steps--things they can apply to their own manuscripts.

The third Monday of the month, we have a casual Open House meet-up. Instead of rows, the tables are arranged in groups. Bethany and Alex are on hand to give advice, share resources, and offer support. We also read sample pages and give one-on-one help. It's a chance for writers to ask specific questions and also meet their fellow Ann Arbor writers. Writing is a solitary business, so it's good to get out and meet other people who are doing the same thing you're doing.

Rachel: It's great to see that the series is open to grade six through adults. Do you find that many students attend the workshops?

Alex & Bethany: We see a handful of students. Some come with their parents, some come for extra credit for an English class, and some are just passionate about writing and aren't intimidated by a room full of adults. We love to see young people excited about writing! But the vast majority of our attendees are adults, ranging from college age to retirement age.

Rachel: What has been the response to the workshops from the attendees?

Alex & Bethany: We have some people who have attended every single workshop since we first started in 2014. Others come and go, depending on their schedules. But some of the things we've heard are, "I'm so glad I found you because I don't know any other writers," and "I've learned so much here," and "I read the books you recommended--they were so helpful."

But our favorite thing to hear are the success stories. Attendees tell us about poems and short stories they've had published and how they landed their first literary agent. We love seeing authors thrive!

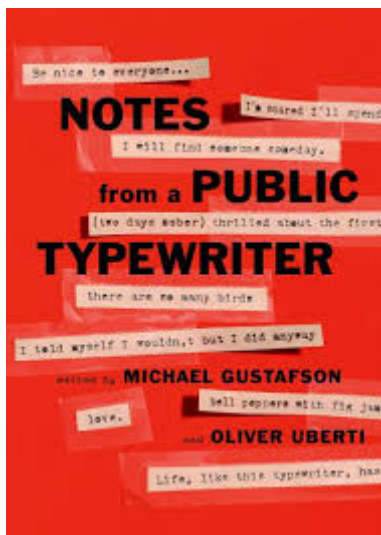
[Alex Kourvo](#) is an editor, a book blogger, and writer. She is the co-author of the Detroit Next series of science fiction novels as well as the author of numerous short stories. She

has taught writing workshops in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Colorado. Her greatest loves in life are coffee, key lime pie, and the color pink.

*[Bethany Neal](#) writes young adult fiction with a little dark side and a lot of kissing from her Ann Arbor, Michigan home. She graduated from Bowling Green State University and has worked as an interior designer, photographer, teacher's assistant and figure skating coach. When she's not writing she teaches writing workshops at the Ann Arbor Public Library. Her debut novel *My Last Kiss* was lauded as the movie *Ghost* meets *Pretty Little Liars* and has been translated internationally.*

Book Ends

Soon to be on the Shelf!



Notes from a Public Typewriter

Edited by Michael Gustafson
and Oliver Uberti

Grand Central Publishing, \$18
March 27th, 2018

Enjoy reading the notes left on Literati's typewriter? Ever left one yourself? Soon you will be able to sit in the comfort of your own home and contemplate the many short but sweet words of wisdom dispensed by anonymous book loving philosophers over the years! On March 27th, Grand Central

Little Free Library



The Brookside Book House is located on Brookside Drive, east of Pontiac Trail, in the Orchard Place neighborhood

We are coming up on our first year anniversary of hosting the [Brookside Book House & Peace Pole](#) in our neighborhood. The many wonderful Little Free Library and Peace Pole projects around the world have inspired our family for years and, thanks to local support, we are now happily

Publishing is releasing *Notes from a Public Typewriter*, a compilation of notes co-owner Mike Gustafson has been compiling into a book with the help of award-winning graphic designer Oliver Uberti over the past year. Keep an eye out for news of a book launch party the weekend of the book's release, but in the meantime, [pre-order](#) your copy today!

Congratulations Mike, on the upcoming publication of your book!

In the News

Hot off the press! Keep an eye out for your February issue of the *Ann Arbor Observer* for a [great article](#) on Megan and Peter Blackshear, owners of Bookbound Bookstore.

The Library of Michigan announced the [2018 Michigan Notable Books](#) on January 15th. Congratulations to Amy Emberling and Frank Carollo, whose [Zingerman's Bakehouse](#) cookbook made the list!

Did you know?

The occult bookstore, Circle Books (215 S. State St.), was only open for six years, from 1968 through 1974, but owner Stephen Erlewine and his brother Michael published the nationally distributed *Circle Books Astrological Calendar* for over 40 years, until 2011.

sharing books with our own community in Ann Arbor.

While searching for anyone who happened to know about building free libraries I was lucky to happen upon a video online by a [local woodworker](#) who was explaining about his book houses and how he would come install it personally for you if you also lived in Ann Arbor! Our neighborhood association happily approved our proposal to host a LFL, and as soon as I began telling family and friends and our local bookstore owners about our endeavor, they eagerly offered books to share. And that is how we were able to open the doors to our Brookside Book House in the middle of winter last year with a selection of adult and youth books on our shelves.

I love libraries and have been working on projects online as a school librarian. So I was excited to become a steward of this little library of ours, and besides stamping many of the books with our Brookside Book House label, I took the chance to use an [online cataloging method](#) which we use at school as a way for anybody to track books that come and go or find out more info about certain titles. I usually take a "shelfie" of the library whenever it looks like there's been some activity and update the catalog at least once a month but sometimes weekly.

We offer this library as a community project and have received positive feedback from

February Sale at Aunt Agatha's!

Stop by Aunt Agatha's throughout the month of February to enjoy their annual February Sale of 15% off all new titles, which includes mail and special orders. There will also be some in-store only specials too!

Save the Date!

Sunday, March 4th: [40th Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair](#)

Thursday, March 29th: [Penny Stamps Lecture with Brian Selznick](#)

Wednesday, April 18th: [An Evening with David Sedaris](#)

Saturday, April 28th: [Midwest Literary Walk](#)

our neighborhood, including guest book comments of appreciation and occasional drop offs to the shelves of the book house. We've also shared love-to-read pins and bookmarks. Activity is not overwhelming and that's okay as we expect people's engagement with the library will vary with time and season and current interests.

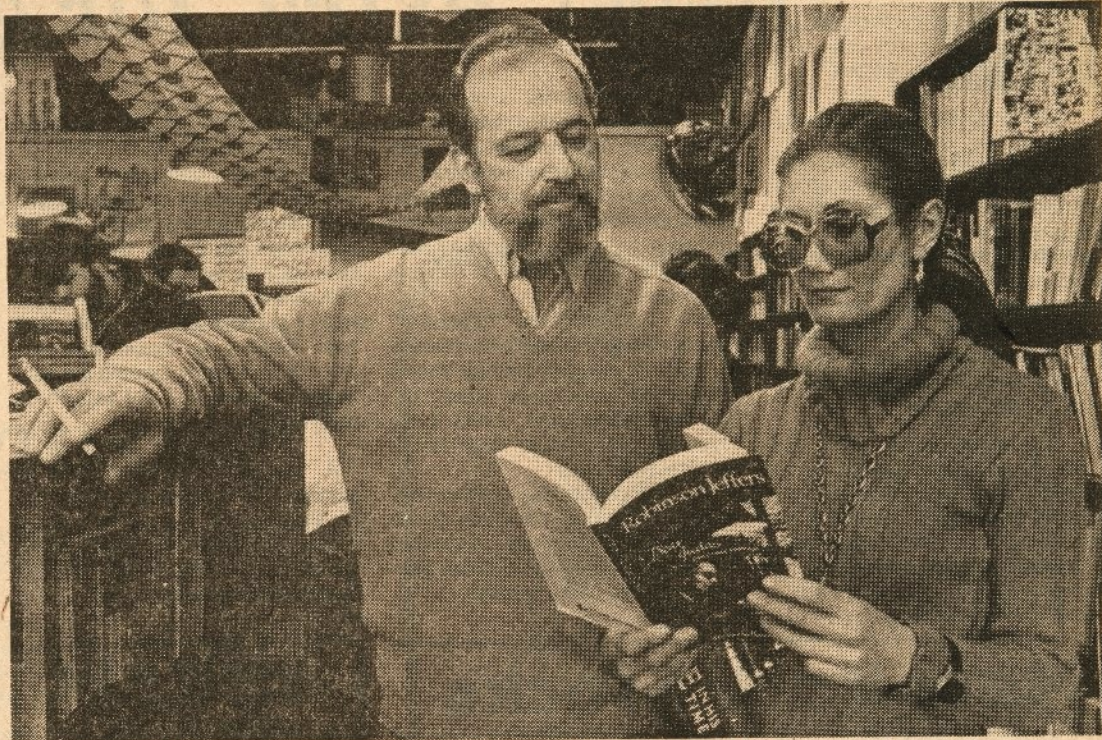
The most creative contribution we've received is a book series of short stories (mostly about how awesome soccer is and playing together as friends) authored by a group of younger boys which was handwritten on lined paper, stapled together, and left on the children's shelf. :)

Our library is open all year round and we welcome all visitors to Take a book, Leave a book, and Share a book in Peace.

--Eileen Ho

School Librarian at Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor and Taiko Drummer at Great Lakes Taiko Center

Snapshot of the Past



Jim and Adrienne Rudolph look over last batch of books in their store

Centicore stores closing

Ann Arbor's Centicore Bookstores will close Saturday after 17 years of business so their owners can pursue other interests.

Owners Jim and Adrienne Rudolph say they are retiring to pursue art dealing. But they say they will miss the bookstores they have operated for all those years on South University and Maynard Streets.

"We're happy about retiring but we're sad about giving up the stores," said Rudolph. "Both my wife and I have been moved by the number of people who said they are heartbroken to see us close. We knew we had a good store and good customers, but we marvel at it all."

Rudolph says he is sorry to leave his "excellent"

employees, and credits the staff with the good reputation the stores have enjoyed over the years.

But the past 17 years have brought many memories, he adds, such as the autograph parties at the store featuring such authors as Andy Warhol, Erica Jong and Alan Ginsburg.

Another memorable moment, he says, is the time Centicore offered 50 percent off books purchased by anyone who would "streak" the store. "We must have had 200 people do it," Rudolph says.

He adds he and his wife plan to stay in Ann Arbor for a few years and then move to the south of France. Rudolph says he will continue to act as agent for Miguel Berrocal "puzzle" sculptures and be involved in art dealings.

March, 1979, Courtesy of AADL's Old News site. (Note the cigarette in Jim's hand!)



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