

## July Newsletter

### Raffle Winner!

Thanks to all the book lovers who stopped by the Ann Arbor Book Society display at the Ann Arbor Book Festival Street Fair on Saturday, June 17th. Congratulations goes to Therese Marz, who won a \$25 gift certificate to her favorite Ann Arbor bookstore, Aunt Agatha's. Happy browsing Therese!

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### July Book Event Highlights

**Through August 6th:** [Building Blocks of Picture Book Art](#): International children's book illustrations exhibit on loan from the Mazza Museum, Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Rd., Saline.

**Friday, July 7th from 6 pm to 9 pm:** [Game Night at the Ultralounge](#), Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main St.

**Wednesday, July 12th at 7 pm:** Greg Fournier, author of [Terror in Ypsilanti: John Norman Collins Unmasked](#), Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Rd.

**Saturday, July 15th from 10 am to 4 pm:** Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library [Half-priced Book Sale](#), Multipurpose Room of Downtown AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

**Sunday, July 16th from 1 pm to 4 pm:** Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library [Bag Sale](#), Multipurpose Room of Downtown AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

**Sunday, July 16th from 10 am to 4 pm:** First Annual [Detroit BookFest](#), Eastern Market, Shed 5, Detroit. (See below newsletter for an interview with the organizer!)

**Tuesday, July 18th at 7 pm:** Billy Bragg, musician and author of [Roots, Radicals & Rockers: How Skiffle Changed the World](#), presented by Literati and The Ark, 316 S. Main St.

**Saturday, July 29th from 2:30 to 4 pm:** Membership event for the new Michigan chapter of [Sisters in Crime](#), sponsored by Aunt Agatha's, Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 212 S. Fourth Ave.

For more book events in the month of July, check out our all-inclusive [events calendar](#) at [a2books.org](#).

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## A New Book Festival



# Detroit Bookfest

I recently had the pleasure of connecting with Ryan Place, vice president of the Book Club of Detroit, and creator of the Detroit BookFest, who generously took some time to share with me details on what we can look forward to at the first ever Detroit BookFest. Fun fact: Ryan is the creator of the corner library at Ypsilanti's Corner Brewery, which he's been tending since he was a student at EMU in 2006. Now you know where all those fun board games come from!

**Rachel Pastiva:** The Detroit BookFest is organized by the Book Club of Detroit. What exactly is the Book Club of Detroit, and how long have you been a member?

Ryan Place: The Book Club of Detroit is a non-profit group of 150+ bibliophiles, primarily rare book collectors, whom enjoy converging monthly for drinks and discussions at various book-related events in the Metro Detroit area. We have been around since 1957. John King is a lifetime member of our club, along with a good cross-section of antiquarian booksellers. I joined the BCD in 2014. At 32 years old, I'm the youngest member of the BCD. Millennials are not joining clubs or collecting things the way previous generations used to. Plus, our membership is literally dying off, so we are worried about the viable future of the club.

**RP: Does the Book Club of Detroit sponsor other events throughout the year?**

Ryan: The Book Club of Detroit does try to host book-related talks at various venues when we can. We just had a lovely tour of the Clements Library in Ann Arbor and beheld a collection of books with an approximate valuation of \$1 billion dollars! Probably one of the greatest gifts the University of Michigan has ever received, since it will only continue growing and appreciating in value. Other talks, for example, later this year we will hear Dr. Catherine Cangany discuss "Reading in Detroit". We will be touring the DIA's Research Library. We will tour the Detroit News Production Facility in Sterling Heights. And for our 60<sup>th</sup> annual dinner meeting, Jim Melikian will be showing us rare books and manuscripts of global religious significance while we listen to a live gypsy jazz band and eat dinner and drink wine.

**RP: What inspired you, Ryan Place, to create the Detroit BookFest and what is your hope for it's role in the Detroit community?**

Ryan: Aside from a lifelong love of collecting books and reading and writing, my main inspiration was a deep love for Detroit and Michigan and all of the amazing people here who continually astound and impress me with their creativity, resilience, endurance, and uniqueness. In my travels, I've found that Detroit is often perceived as an ignorant wasteland of non-readers, which just isn't true. So, the Detroit Bookfest is an effort to help counteract that enormous misperception and encourage a greater love of books in the community.

**RP: The website describes the festival as Detroit's "first used and rare book festival," but the vendor information mentions that vendors can sell a variety of items, including vinyl LP records, rare musical instruments, and vintage board games. What are some of the most unusual items attendees will see at the festival?**

Ryan: Attendees should expect the unexpected! (laughs). We will have books of all sorts, vinyl records and other various trinkets and unusual items. Since we have not done this festival before, the truth is that no one really knows what to expect. An event of this scale will not be perfect the first time around. Please be patient with us and just know that it's all about the Love. Love of books, love of community, love of Detroit, of Michigan, the USA, love, love, love!

**RP: The role of the festival seems to be beyond connecting with book lovers, as in addition to the variety of vendors, there will be food trucks, beer from Black Lotus Brewing Co., and a DJ spinning music all day. Who else do you hope will be drawn to attend the bookfest?**

Ryan: In addition to drawing the obvious book enthusiasts, we are hoping to attract non-readers, occasional readers, vacation readers, people who want to experience a joyous day of listening to funk music and eating great food, and people who are open to stepping out of their comfort zone into a new experience, even if you think you have zero interest in the printed word. Maybe you'll come to this festival, buy a book, read it and it will change your life. Nothing quite like this festival has ever been done that I know of, not the way I've structured it. So we're really hoping people just

come out and have a great time. We're also hoping the local, national and international media notices that Michigan is a dynamic area with great people and fun events.

**RP: Thank you for your time Ryan. Is there anything else you would like to share about the festival?**

Ryan: Organizing this event is an enormous undertaking. I feel like my life has become as zany as "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World," complete with the sense of being whirled through hyperspace and tumbling down wormholes into alternate dimensions of epicycles of busyness rotating within counter-clockwise turning loops of busyness. But it's all good. 50 years ago this July we had the Detroit Riots. Now, 50 years later, we'll have the Detroit Festival of Books. Detroit is on the verge of revitalization and it's exciting that you and I and all of us are a part of its transformation. In the Bardo Thodol it is written that "Things can be transformed to limitlessly positive configurations" and that is one of the guiding principles of this super-effort. Everyone has been so great, the entire community, there's been nothing but love and support and I just want everyone to know that we love all of you! Thank you!

**Mark your calendars! The [Detroit BookFest](#) will take place on Sunday, July 16th from 10 am to 4 pm at Eastern Market, Shed 5.**

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**Bookstore Road Trip!**



## A Visit to Pages Bookshop

Bringing a vision into reality isn't easy. Just ask Susan Murphy, owner of Detroit's newest bookstore, Pages Bookshop, located in the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhood of Detroit's northwest side. Opened in 2015, Susan endured many setbacks before her vision of doing community outreach through the written word finally took root.

With degrees in IT and finance, Susan's career was anchored in the corporate world for almost two decades, until she and her husband moved to Chicago, where she took a job teaching IT and finance at a community college. It was there that she began to think about the relationship between reading and writing. "I didn't teach any classes that required a lot of writing; however, students had to write their answers and the writing I saw really lacked the basics. It was disheartening and got me thinking about

what would make people better writers.” Susan's solution? Get a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Wayne State University and get a job at the public library. But it wasn't long before she realized her plan wasn't the right path. “I went back to school in 2008, and I knew the first semester I wasn't getting a job in the library because of the big financial downturns and lack of funding.”

After receiving her master's degree in 2010, Susan started a company doing market research for small businesses. But she hadn't given up on her vision. In fact, she had another idea. “I thought, 'I could do it a much more expensive way. I could do it with a bookstore.’” In 2013 she applied for and received a grant to open a bookstore. But the building fell through and she lost the grant. After three more attempts at securing a location fell through, Susan was ready to give up. Until she got a call from Amanda Brewington, owner of Always Brewing Coffee Company. “I put something online and Amanda called me and said, 'If you want to set up in a corner of my store you are welcome to do so and stay as long as you want.’” By then Susan was familiar with pop-ups, as she had spent six months selling books at a pop-up bookstore on weekends at the Rust Belt Market in Ferndale. Susan set up two bookcases full of classics and some best-selling fiction she enjoyed and got to know the customers at Always Brewing. “I got to talk to her customers and the people who lived in the neighborhood because they really supported her. I got to see what they were reading and discovered they read stuff that I read, which was really in my comfort zone and helped me learn what to order. It wasn't a big business, but it made me think, 'this is the neighborhood.’”

Susan had a pop-up at Always Brewing for three months, until finally opening her bookstore, Pages Bookshop, in early 2015. With 5,000 titles and still growing, Pages Bookshop has a strong literary fiction presence, as well as books for children and middle grade readers. History is also well-represented, though there are plenty of other subjects to draw the interest of most readers. “It's a comfortable, quiet, safe space to just come and browse. You can find new authors and new titles by authors you may know. It's got an eclectic mix of books, so likely you'll find something you didn't even know about but now you need.”

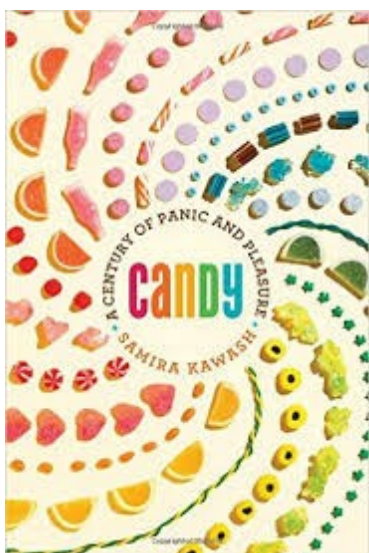
Although her journey was a long one, it seems that Susan has finally realized her vision of community outreach through books. She loves connecting with her customers and feels the impact her store has on its community is an important one. “It's a place for people to interact with books. When people come to events they get to meet the authors. It's such a different experience reading a book if you've met the author. And we have book clubs, which are about interaction as well. I also do cultural events and neighborhood-type events in the store. I think it's a place that's like an anchor in the neighborhood.”

***Be sure to make [Pages Bookshop](#) a stop on your next trip to Detroit, or plan a special trip. It will be well worth it! Pages Bookshop is located at 19560 Grand River Ave., in Detroit. For more photos, click [here](#).***





## On the Shelf



*Candy: A Century of Panic and  
Pleasure*

Samira Kawash

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013

You can't go too wrong with a book about the evolution of candy in the United States and how we view it by an author known as the Candy

## Reminders

### *Save the Date!*

August 11th-12th

[Once Upon a Book](#)

September 8th-10th

[AAUW Annual Book Sale](#)

September 10th:

[Kerrytown BookFest](#)

September 24th and 25th:

[Friends of AADL Book Shop Special  
Sale](#)

September 29th-October 1st:

[Harbor Springs Festival of the Book](#)

December 2nd and 3rd:

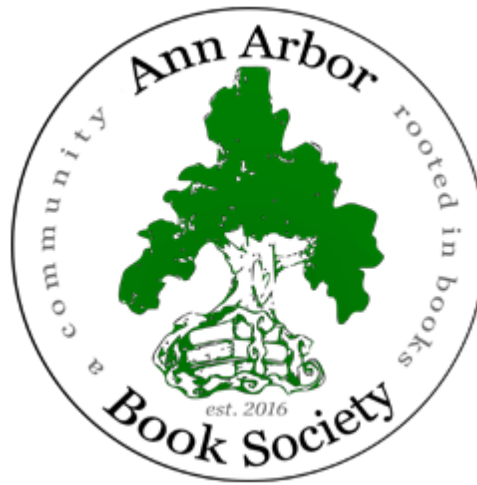
[Friends of AADL Book Shop Holiday  
Sale](#)

Professor. Professor Kawash spent a number of years researching this book and running a [blog](#) about her discoveries, and the result is a great book that shows us the ups and downs with our relationship to these treats.

Starting with handmade candies, Prof. Kawash takes us through both the creation of candies over the years and our complex relationship with them. From being a source of eroding the national moral fiber to the modern fears of "candification" of food, Prof. Kawash manages to keep a steady hand on what candy actually is : just a fun treat that is only bad if we overindulge. Along the way she introduces us to a world of facts - like how cattle are fed expired or "salvaged" candy, wrappers and all - and gives a sharp look at the roots of our love and fear of one of our more common and enjoyable foods.

--Gene Alloway

Owner of [Motte & Bailey Booksellers](#)



Do you know any book lovers who would appreciate learning about local and regional book news? Please pass along this email and encourage them to sign up for our monthly newsletter at [a2books.org](http://a2books.org).

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## Snapshot of the Past

### **A Few Words on Books.**

A good remark somebody made once is that if you own books you do not have to read them. That is, if you hear of a certain book, you say, "I must get that out of the library and read it." If



you do so, it is necessary to read it at once and return it. If you can buy it, you read what portion satisfies your particular want at the moment, and then there it stands among your other good friends, always ready, like any real friend, to serve you at a moment's notice in any way it can. Indeed, it is a real friend, because it never deserts you, never goes back on you, never changes, unless somebody borrows it, and that is not the book's fault. The mere fact that your room is filled with books is a good kind of influence, for there is something in the mere proximity of books that makes a chap serious occasionally and induces him to sit and ponder once in awhile in the midst of his grind, his sport, his daily work and his other and less valuable friends at school or college.

Then, too, in these days, when there are so many hundreds of books a year and so many millions already published, it is utterly impossible to try to read, as the old fellows in the later middle ages used to, everything that is published. It is far better to read some good books



It is far better to re-read some good, familiar things again and again. They are good books, they are your especial favorites, and you will seldom fail to find something new in them each time you read them. It gives you a little idea of how much the writing of them must have meant to their author if you can read them, say, 20 times and still go on finding something you had not succeeded in discovering in them before. —Harper's Round Table.

Ann Arbor Argus, March 12, 1897

Courtesy of [AADL's Old News](#) site



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