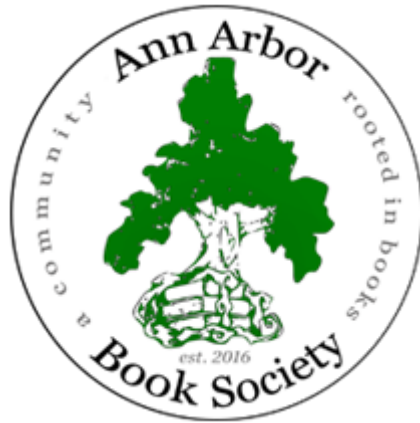


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## June Newsletter

[a2books.org](http://a2books.org)

### June Book Event Highlights

**Wednesday, June 6th at 7 pm:** [Richard Russo, author of \*Destiny Thief: Essays on Writing\*](#), at Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington.

**Saturday, June 16th 11 am to 5:30 pm and Sunday, June 17th from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm:** [Ann Arbor Comic Arts Festival \(A2CAF\) 2018](#), various locations

**Friday, June 22nd at 6:30 pm:** [Paul Selig, author of \*The Book of Truth\*](#), at Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main St.

**Sunday, June 24th at 2 pm:** [Book Launch Party with Shutta Crum and Rhonda Gowler Greene](#), Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

**Wednesday, June 27th at 7 pm:** [Fiction with Michael A. Ferro and Susan DeFreitas](#) at Bookbound Bookstore, 1729 Plymouth.

**For more information on these and other June events, visit our inclusive [events calendar](#)!**

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## Event Photo Highlight



Customers wait in line for the start of Vault of Midnight's annual Free Comic Book Day, Saturday, May 5th. (Photo courtesy of Monica-Amit Misra)

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### One Humble Post, One Thousand Online Sales

Braun Court, located in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown, is a colorful place. In the summer, there is plenty of outdoor seating, with strings of lights overhead to brighten up the evening, outside the bright yellow sign with a pink triangle of the Aut Bar and the six-colored rainbow flag of the LGBT community proudly

displayed outside locally owned and operated bookstore [Common Language](#), waving like a friendly beacon to a special kind of booklover, like me.

Common Language is welcoming to everyone, and upon entering, I am immediately enamored by the warmth and hominess of its painted accent walls and unique layout (Braun Court was comprised of private homes before the buildings were converted to businesses in the 1980s). There is even a dog, Duke, to greet you, with tail wagging, and show you around (he's very good at his job).

Recently, Common Language has enjoyed a bit of international celebrity thanks to a Tumblr post on April 16th by user dadrielle, who saw a Common Language Facebook update about low book sales. A former Ann Arbor resident, she was moved to buy a few books from Common Language's website and asked others to consider doing the same. People responded - in droves.

Not only was the original Tumblr post seen by at least 200,000 fellow users, but the story was picked up by pop culture website the Mary Sue on April 19th, and word of our own community bookstore spread. Over 1,000 online orders came in from all across the world (the stacks of order print-outs Common Language employee Kevin showed me were inches thick!), and Facebook likes went up 200%. This was a vital and incredible "shot in the arm," as Common Language's Facebook says, for this independent store that has allowed bills to be paid and new books ordered.

But we in Ann Arbor don't need to shop online, we can head to Kerrytown seven days a week to visit this incredible unique and independent bookstore that needs our ongoing support. Find graphic novels, children's books, fiction, and nonfiction. Special order a book you don't see. If you like ebooks, head to Common Language's website ([gltbooks.com](http://gltbooks.com)) where you can shop for ebooks via Kobo. And if book clubs are your thing, the Braun Court Resistance Army: Book Club meets once a month, and Common Language supplies books for the Rainbow Book Club with a 10% discount. Don't know what you're looking for? They are happy to offer recommendations. In their own words, "that's one of the things which makes a bricks and mortar store special. Caring book lovers who can help you find something you enjoy."

Sales are still up, shared Kevin, but have tapered off some from the initial boost. He also said that the Tumblr post has brought in several customers who didn't know the store was there, from a guy who has lived in Kerrytown for the past four years to a couple of students from Oakland University who drove in especially to visit the store.

The online support and sales have been wonderful and touching (many personal stories have been shared with the book orders) to all at Common Language, but they are first and foremost a brick and mortar store and a beloved part of our Ann Arbor community. They have always had our backs. We should have theirs. "No book sales today" is a Facebook update we never want to see again!

--Crysta Coburn

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## Book Ends

### On the Shelf



*Monstress Vol. 1 Awakening*

*Monstress Vol. 2: The Blood*

by Marjorie Liu and Sana Takeda

Published by Image Comics

You might think that a fantasy story set in a matriarchal world about a half-magical, teenage girl protagonist created by two women would be sweet and full of good-humored girl power. "Monstress" is not that. Writer Marjorie Liu and artist Sana Takeda have brought to life a gritty, no holds barred, deeply emotional story of survival in

### Little Free Library



[Peace Neighborhood Center](#)

1111 N. Maple Rd.

Peace Neighborhood Center's Little Free Library was a project installed in May of 2015, by the Haisley Elementary PTO, who gifted the Peace Neighborhood Center with a library due to the number of underserved youth who attend their programs. [Constructed by two Skyline High School students](#), the library is mostly utilized by students in their after-school and summer programs, but is open to the public and used regularly.



gorgeous, occasionally bloody detail. According to Liu one of the key themes is, "What does it take to hold on to one's humanity when you're forced to suffer the long, continuous, dehumanizing experience of war?" The main character, Maika, survives not only war, but enslavement, the loss of her mother and friends, and the loss of her left arm that is slowly being consumed by a demon (or is it?) that also lives inside her. Award-winning "Monstress" grapples with feminism, racism, exploitation, addiction, and confronting one's inner demons (figurative and literal) with a raw energy that is irresistible. Collected volumes I and II are currently available. Volume III will be out in August 2018. (It's going to be a long wait...)

--Crysta Coburn is a desk clerk with the Ann Arbor District Library, freelance writer, editor, author, and volunteer with the Ann Arbor Book Society



## Current and Upcoming Book Sales

Kevin Lill, Director of Development, believes the Little Free Library plays an important role in the work this nonprofit organization does for our community. "Peace Neighborhood Center serves upwards of 150 youth each year, 90% of whom come from households with a below-median income. These students are competing in an academic environment with students who come from a completely different socioeconomic background. Peace Neighborhood Center seeks to level the playing field for these young people by providing safe, supportive after-school and summer services with a focus on the individual academic and social issues each child may face. Reading is a focus subject of all of our programs and having this unique free library on-site has contributed greatly to the literacy and academic health of many of the children in our programs. We have heard nothing but positive statements from clients and members of the community at large since it went up three years ago. We operate a transitional housing facility on our property and we hear regularly from one of the residents there that their children are always checking out books from the free library. This is a great and beneficial service to our families."

Aunt Agatha's: [Store Closing Sale:](#)  
[30% off](#)

Motte & Bailey: [Shop Makeover Sale: Buy One Get One Free!](#)

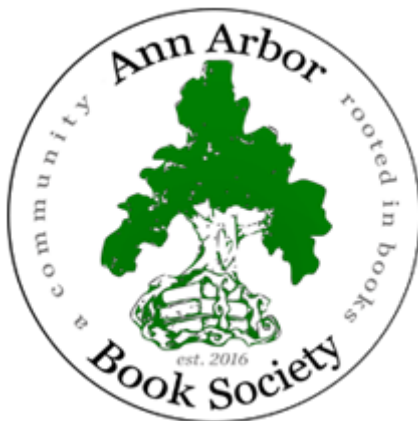
[Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library Bag Sale:](#) July 14th and 15th

[AAUW Annual Bag Sale:](#) September 7-9

To discover more used book sales throughout Michigan and beyond, check out [booksalefinder.com](http://booksalefinder.com)

### *Did You Know?*

Common Language (317 Braun Court), one of only a dozen LGBT and feminist bookstores left in the country, was first opened in 1990 by Kate Burkhardt and Lynn Kelly. Kate and Lynn purchased the inventory of a closing bookstore, Common Destinations, and opened in the same location at 214 N. Fourth Ave. The current owners, Keith Orr and Martin Contreras, have owned Common Language since 2003.



## Announcements



The Kerrytown Bookfest recently announced a new writing workshop series, [Query and First Page Writing Series](#), which will take place monthly from June through August. Led by experienced authors, the workshops will take place at various bookstores. The 3-hour workshop is \$35, and each is limited to 15 people.



Ann Arbor's homegrown nonprofit organization Book Industry Charitable Foundation (BINC) just added a new scholarship to the generous financial support they nationally give to booksellers. [The Carla Gray Memorial Scholarship for Emerging Bookseller-Activists](#) was created to give one bookseller with fewer than five years experience the opportunity to attend 2 major bookseller events in 2019 and receive financial support for a community outreach project developed by the bookseller. This unique scholarship designed to help keep the book industry thriving was announced just one day after presenting the [27 winners of their 2018 Higher Education Scholarship Program!](#)

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).



Local book manufacturer and printer, Edwards Brothers Malloy, announced they will be [closing after 125 years](#). Their last day of operation will be June 15th.

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## Snapshot of the Past



Looking south on State Street, circa 1893. In the foreground, Wahr's University Bookstore at 316 S. State promotes its law and medical books. In the background beyond the buggy, Sheehan & Co.

announces its grand opening. (Courtesy of University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library.)

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