



The American Library in Paris

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The year in review

The Library's 95th year of service drew more than 80,000 visitors through the doors of an institution busy enriching its members' access to the world of printed and digital resources, and expanding their horizons with the most extensive English-language programming for adults, teens, and children in the city of Paris.

Three Visiting Fellows, including the most-talked about American author of the year, Ta-Nehisi Coates, offered their insights to the Library community for extended periods. A schedule of more than sixty evening programs in 2015 included not just distinguished writers and thinkers, but artists too, notably Jimmy Buffett. Meanwhile members were treated to an array of workshops, wine tastings, screenings, exhibits, walking tours, and special events, especially those for the Library's youngest members. Now in its third year, the American Library in Paris Book Award attracted more than 100 entries. The following pages tell these stories and more.

2015 also was a year of mounting anticipation and concerted planning for the future. After years of study, discussion, surveys, focus groups, staff and trustee retreats, visits to other libraries and consultations with experts in the field, the board of trustees in December authorized an ambitious plan to renovate most of the 1,000-square-meter premises on rue du Général Camou, and to invest decisively in the "virtual library" of digital resources to complement the strongest book collection of its kind.

The renovation in 2016 will include: a new façade and electronic security system at a newly -located entrance; a reorganization of the front of the Library as a commons encouraging interaction; enclosure of the reading room for absolute quiet; and most dramatically, an open stairway to half of the present lower level, where a new reading room and multi-use space, plus small work rooms, will accommodate still more activity.

Mindful of the need to maintain and grow its strong base of regular financial support from annual gifts and gala dinner participation, which accounts for more than 30 percent of Library operating income, the Library chose to forgo a broad fundraising campaign to carry out the nearly \$3 million project. Instead the renewal is made possible from a small number of significant donations, including leadership gifts from the Florence Gould Foundation and from Ed and Mary Lee Turner. Their vision and generosity, the dedication and creativity of the staff, and the enthusiastic support of more than 2,000 members bode very well for the immediate future of this historic institution.



E - ETAT PROJETE - FACADE SUR RUE

ENTREE BIBLIOTHEQUE

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FINANCIAL

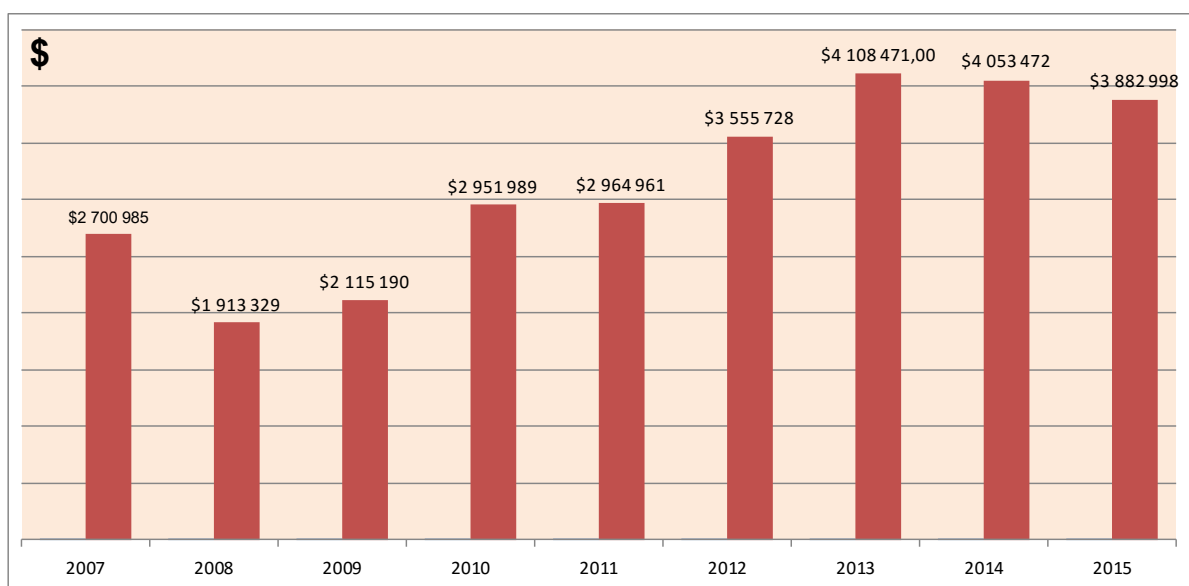
Statement of income and expenses: The American Library in Paris, Inc.

Revenues in €			Expenditures in €		
	2014	2015		2014	2015
	1€ = \$1,3288	1€ = \$1,1096		1€ = \$1,3288	1€ = \$1,1096
Membership fees	241 270	250 174	Payroll	715 639	670 041
Operating income	101 504	83 473	Building, Tax	137 952	144 539
Rent (AUP)	284 947	289 494	Depreciation	140 821	88 107
Gift ALP Foundation	269 400	140 000	Professional fees ⁽¹⁾	57 906	66 678
Donations for project	-	1 071 439	Books and periodicals	60 376	86 671
Other donations	330 955	420 259	Marketing ⁽²⁾	114 139	127 237
Other income	116 725	19 874	Other ⁽³⁾	25 472	50 635
	-	-		-	-
Total revenues	1 344 801	2 274 713	Total expenditures	1 252 305	1 233 908
...in USD	1 787 005	2 524 031		1 664 094	1 369 150

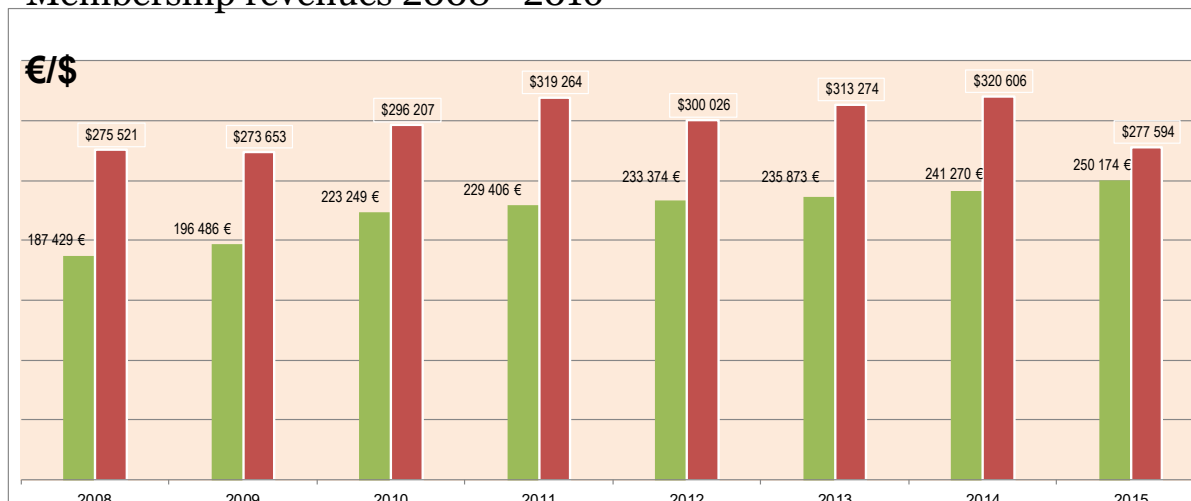
(1) Banking, accounting and insurance fees, (2) Marketing, development and gala, (3) Telephone, equipment rental & maintenance

Sources: Audited annual financial statements of the American Library in Paris, Inc. and the American Library in Paris-USA Foundation, which are available upon request and on the Library website: www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Investment assets: The American Library in Paris (USA) Foundation



Membership revenues 2008–2016



LIBRARY DATA

Collections

Total collection **101 302**

Adult book holdings 86 273		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Holdings</u>	<u>Checkouts</u>
Literature/criticism	19 479	4 299
Fiction	16 540	17 864
Geography & history	10 757	4 020
Social Sciences	9 800	4 215
Arts/recreation	5 533	2 999
Mysteries	5 014	7 112
Biographies	4 316	2 992
Applied sciences	3 314	2 380
Philosophy/psychology	3 025	2 029
Travel	1 606	4 282
Religion	2 123	724
Science fiction	2 013	1 104
Cooking/food	1 723	1 075
Languages	1 030	1 401
Youth holdings	15 029	49 645

Titles in periodical databases 3 760

Titles in periodical archive 478

Periodical subscriptions 90

Library usage

Library visits in 2015	82 442
Average daily visits	280
Library transactions in 2015	218 736
Average daily transactions	749
Visits to Library website	22 823
Visits to Library databases	6 266
Student orientation sessions	30
Orientation participants	800
Exams proctored	69
Evening programs	65
Total evening attendance	3 725
Children's and teen programs	264

Membership

Total active members **2 193**

New 1 191
Renewing 1 002

Individual 49%

Family 20%

Student 9%

Institutional 22%

(from 33 institutions; see page 12)

Members by nationality

United States	830
France	544
United Kingdom	159
Canada	46
Australia	32
India	32
Ireland	28
South Korea	26
China	22
Italy	20
Germany	17
Spain	11
Finland	10
Japan	10
Russia	10
Sweden	9
Brazil	6
Mexico	6
Saudi Arabia	6
South Africa	6
Turkey	6

...and about 65 other countries. Many members do not specify a nationality, often because their households number more than one.



EVENINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Thanks to the support of the Annenberg Foundation and growing gifts from members and supporters, the Library was fortunate to host the following events in 2015.

John Muller on **Mark Twain's** years in Washington • **Didier Fassin** on urban policing in France • Visiting Fellow **Ta-Nehisi Coates** expands on his *Atlantic* article, "The Case For Reparations" • **Ronald Rosbottom** uncovers Paris during the Occupation • **Keri Hicks** on how to talk to kids about anxiety • **Livia Manera** telling stories from her literary interviews with Philip Roth and others • **Teri Agins** on celebrities in fashion • **Ta-Nehisi Coates** giving the first public reading of *Between the World and Me* • "What We Write When We Write about Paris": A panel discussion • The life of **Nicolas Nabokov**, presented by author Vincent Giroud and with Nabokov's son, Ivan Nabokoff • **Naida Culshaw** and **Jake Lamar** on expatriate writers Richard Wright, James Baldwin, and Chester Himes • **Jonathan Beckman** reveals the scandal of Marie-Antoinettes's necklace, *How to Ruin a Queen* • Nancy Sindelar tours **Ernest Hemingway's** homes • An author and her agent, **Jessica Levine** and **April Eberhardt**, discuss their working relationship • **Dana Thomas** on the lives of fallen fashion designers John Galliano and Alexander McQueen • The memoirs of musician **Ben Watt** • The historical graphic novels of **Jason Rodriguez** and **Laurent Seksik** • The Kuwaiti fiction of **Mai Al-Nakib** • Novelist **Eduardo Halfon** • **Annie Cohen-Solal** on the art of Mark Rothko • Yale historian **John Merriman** discusses the Paris Commune • An advice panel for adults on kids matriculating to middle school, co-sponsored by AAWE • **Nina Kushner** explores the erotic Paris of old • Biographer **Meryle Secrest** on Elsa Schiaparelli • Chef **Gregory Marchand** discusses his lauded restaurant, Frenchie • **Joshua Adler's** wine tasting workshops • Photojournalist **James Hill's** images • Word for Word presents the stories of **Alice Munro** • The political cartoons of **Pat Oliphant** • Exploring *King Lear* with **Alan Riding** • Michael Mewshaw

remembers **Gore Vidal** • **Dave Barry** and **Ridley Pearson's** *Peter Pan* prequels • John Updike's biographer, **Adam Begley** • A Yeats poetry workshop led by **Michael McCaughley** • WWII's *Ghost Army*, explained by **Rick Beyer** • **Don Doyle** on the international history of the American Civil War • Novelist **Tash Aw's** *Five-Star Billionaire* • Chanteuse **Marianne Faithful** on her life and times • **Jimmy Buffett** sits down for an interview • Sixty Years After *Lolita*: A panel discussion • Novelist and memoirist **Gary Shteyngart**, in collaboration with Columbia University's Global Writers' Festival • **Sean B. Carroll's** *Brave Genius* • **Naomi Wood** on the several Mrs. Hemingways • **Susan Loomis's** French kitchen • **David Downie's** *Passion for Paris* • **Chris Boïcos** on Villa Flora • Photographer Robert Pledge and photo editor **John Morris** on the latter's Normandy 1944 photos • **Cara Black** and **Mary Lou Longworth** on writing about Paris • Clayborne Carson on the legacy of **Martin Luther King Jr.** • **Sarah Wildman's** search for the girl her grandfather left behind in pre-war Europe • **Chris Dickey** on Britain's secret Civil War agent in Charleston, South Carolina • **Peter Gumbel** on French education • **Lisa Salamandra's** expressive art • **Wendell Steavenson** reports on Egypt's revolution • **Lan Samantha Chang** on Fitzgerald's revisions to *The Great Gatsby* • Anne Berest and Denis Westhoff discuss the latter's mother, **Françoise Sagan** • **Thomas Parker** on French terroir • **Atossa Abrahamian** explains global citizenship • Filmmaker **Pola Rapaport** screens her documentary about the writer of *Histoire d'O* • **Jelani Cobb** on terrorism and citizenship today • **Alex Toledano** presents the history of the Parisian streets of the November 13 terrorist attacks • **Elaine Sciolino** presents *The Only Street in Paris: Life on the Rue des Martyrs*.

BOOK AWARD 2015

Gifts in 2012 and 2014 from the Florence Gould Foundation made possible the creation of **The American Library in Paris Book Award**, an outward sign of the Library's continuing commitment to outstanding writing that deepens and stimulates French-American understanding.

The literary prize and a \$5,000 cash award goes to the author of the most distinguished book of the year, written originally in English, whose subject matter is France and the French, or the longstanding and constantly evolving French-American encounter.

In 2015, the third year of the award, a screening committee reviewed 102 submissions and presented the jury with a shortlist of six outstanding titles. The 2015 jury, drawn from the Library's Writers Council and this year consisting of **Laura Furman, Fredrik Logevall, and Lily Tuck**, selected *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*, a biography of the French Revolutionary War hero, by **Laura Auricchio**, as the winning book.

The other shortlisted titles were *The Other Americans in Paris: Businessmen, Countesses, Wayward Youth 1880-1941*, by Nancy L. Green; *Fatal Isolation: The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003*, by Richard C. Keller; *In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse, and Modernism in Paris, 1900-1910*, by Sue Roe; and *When Paris Went Dark: The City of Light Under German Occupation 1940-1944*, by Ronald Rosbottom.

The ceremony to award the prize, on 6 November at the George C. Marshall Center in Paris, also benefited from the generous patronage of **Judith Aubry, Peter and Jeannie Fellowes, Mary Duncan, Charles and Clydette de Groot, Diane Johnson, and Susan Mallory Kayat**.

Members of the screening committee for the 2015 Book Award were **Irina Boulin-Ghica, Jacqueline Cessou, Jeanne Fellowes, Leslie de Galbert, Clydette de Groot, Brian Manning, Saara Marchadour, Ann Morrison, Don Morrison, and Charles Trueheart**.

VISITING FELLOWS 2015

Gifts from **The de Groot Foundation** make possible the **American Library in Paris Visiting Fellowship**, consisting of a \$5,000 stipend for a writer or scholar desiring to deepen his or her research on a French-related topic with a month in Paris.

Visiting Fellows also speak to Library audiences, conduct workshops for Library members, con-

sult with Library staff about its collections, and engage in the life of the Library community.

In 2015, its third year, the Visiting Fellowship went to three people: **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, author of *Between the World and Me*, **Susan Hiner**, a professor at Vassar College, and **Lan Samantha Chang**, director of the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop.

BOOK GROUPS

Volunteer-led monthly book groups continued in 2015 to attract diverse and enthusiastic members, with returning groups discussing genres such as memoirs and mysteries and themes such as the U.S. Supreme Court, new French novels read in English, poetry, technology's role in globalization, and slavery and racism in America.

Book group leaders in 2015 were **David Jolly, Peter Fellowes, Anne Raynaud, Marjorie Lallemand, Leslie de Galbert and Clydette de Groot, Morgan Thomas, Gabrielle Casavetti, Ed Turner, Mary Harries Magnusson, Deborah Singleton, Philippe Mélot, Maurice Lanman, and Laurie Calvet**.

Library members were also offered workshops on wine, novel writing, how to write and edit for Wikipedia, appreciating the poetry of W.B. Yeats,

WORKSHOPS

the work of Voltaire, sustainable farming, travel writing, along with a walking tour of American Revolution sites in Paris. These offerings were led by **Mary Jo Padgett, Joshua Adler, Jessica Levine, David Siefkin, Amy Gigi Alexander, Michael McCaughley, and Gail Noyner**, as well as Visiting Fellows **Lan Samantha Chang** and **Megan Mayhew Bergman**.

The Library also presented five reading room exhibitions during 2015: "Brothers in Exile: Three African-American Writers in Paris," "150 Years of *Alice in Wonderland*," "95 Years of the American Library in Paris," "Lolita's 60th Anniversary: An Exhibition," "The 2015 American Library in Paris Book Award Exhibition," and "Return From a Voyage: Art and Sculpture by Amélie Barthélemy."

EXHIBITS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

The children's and young adult services department remains one of the most active corners of the Library. Materials from collections for children and teens accounted for over 40 percent of circulation in 2015, while the department conducted more than 250 programs throughout the year for ages one to eighteen.

Capacity crowds attended regular Library programs of all kinds, especially Mother Goose Lap-Sits on two Thursdays a month, weekly Wednesday Story Hours, Bookworms Book Groups, and Friday Teen Nights. Two teen clubs launched in earlier years continued to thrive: The Teen Writing Group and the Master Shot Film Club.

Highlights of the year included:

- Over 20 young adult writers gathered in the reading room on 25 April for the **Teen Author Smash**, which attracted teen readers, adult fans of young adult literature, bloggers and professionals working with books for children and teens.

- The Library teamed up with Gifted in France to host the 8th Annual Paris Spelling Bee.

- Just a few of the many guests who hosted events for children and teens in 2015 included children's author **Maxine Rose Schur**, novelist and writer for the Atlantic, **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, **Eric the Magician** (who hosted sever-

al magic workshops for ages 8-12), poet **Julia Moberg**, and filmmaker **Barbara Matas**.

- In April, the annual Young Adult Fiction Festival recognized the work of writers 400 aged 5 to 18 from over 20 local schools.

- By far the most popular event for children and teens remains the annual **Halloween Extravaganza**. With over a thousand people through the doors during the day of the event, and many volunteers on hand to help out, the event was a great success — and a proven membership-builder.

Celeste Rhoads

Children's and Young Adult Services Manager



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Gifts to the Library every year are the visible expression of the institution's financial health and its importance to the community and world it serves. The donors recognized on the following pages for their generosity are remarkable for the broad range of gifts they made in 2015 both to the American Library in Paris, Inc., by responding to periodic appeals and participating in the annual Gala Dinner, and to the American Library in Paris USA Foundation.

This support allows the Library to provide its resources and services at membership prices far below the actual cost of operations. The Library is grateful to all whose names follow.

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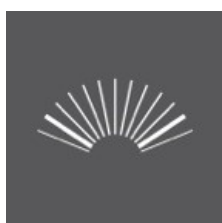
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