



# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris

March 2018

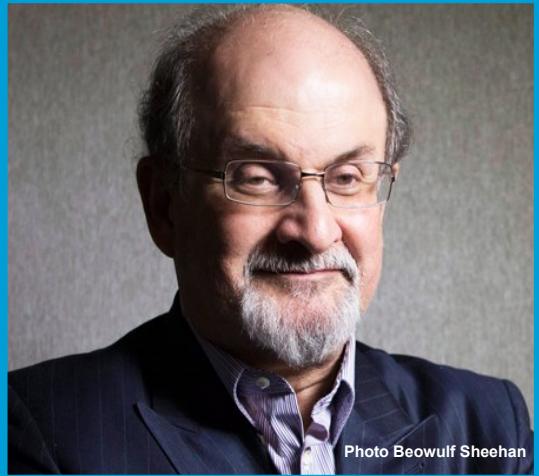


Photo Beowulf Sheehan

## THE 2018 AMERICAN LIBRARY GALA A literary evening with Salman Rushdie

The gala dinner will take place on **Friday 8 June** featuring literary luminary Rushdie as the keynote speaker. Invitations to the event, with cocktails and dinner at the Westin Paris Vendôme, will be mailed in the coming weeks. However, reservations for this traditionally sold-out fundraiser for the American Library are being accepted now. Please contact [gala@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:gala@americanlibraryinparis.org) for early RSVP information.

## The Library, Six Months In

### *A message from the director*

One of the many fun things I get to do as director of the Library is root around in the archives. This 98-year-old institution has an illustrious history, and I'm constantly surprised and delighted by elements of it. I learned today, for example, that immortal actor Gregory Peck, the star of one of my favorite movies of all time, was our gala speaker twenty years ago. We've seen Hemingway and Ta-Nehisi Coates in our reading room. We continued to provide intellectual sustenance to our members throughout the Nazi occupation of Paris.

I love the history, but I love the present, and future, of the Library even more. My first six months in the Library taught me just how dynamic this place is. Our programming is absolutely top-notch, and wonderfully eclectic. At our evening events, I've laughed with famous comedian Jim Gaffigan, learned about wallpaper as an art form, and discussed foreign policy in the Trump era with a distinguished Princeton professor. I've sat in on book groups with exceptionally high levels of literary discourse, which has been higher still when the authors themselves were present to lead the discussion on their work. I've enjoyed meeting our Visiting Fellows, and I was proud to help bestow the honors upon this year's Book Award winner, whose work on the writing of *Les Misérables* was outstanding. Perhaps most of all, as a father of young children, I've loved watching those little ones stream in to the Library for weekly Story Hour or Halloween and winter events.

The future looks just as bright as our present. We're now preparing for our annual gala, and we are absolutely thrilled to be hosting world-renowned author Salman Rushdie. (Don't forget to reserve your tickets now before they sell out.) We've just added a new "writer-in-residence" program to allow our members to spend time with important authors (more on page 5). Our preparations for the sixth annual American Library Book Award, which is generously funded by the Florence Gould Foundation, are just getting under way; a distinguished jury has just been announced (see page 4).

Longer term, too, we want to build on the success of this undertaking. Our active and committed Board of Trustees, Library staff, and I have begun a strategic planning process to define our shared vision for the Library for the next few years. Our centennial year, 2020-21, is just around the corner.

There is much to do. I'd like to grow our membership, particularly among French families. Connected to that, I'd like to increase our name recognition in Paris and beyond and ensure that our programs and services are well known to the public. I also would like to increase our service to the community. We are just getting a sponsored membership program underway to provide memberships to underserved groups (more on page 2). Finally, I'd love for our centennial plans to include enhanced facilities for our children's activities. Those kids are, of course, the future of the Library.

A hundred years from now, when a future director is rooting around in the Library archives, I do hope she will look back on this period as one of sustained growth and development of this excellent institution.

*Jeff Hawkins*  
**Director**

## EX LIBRIS

The newsletter of the American Library in Paris is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Back issues available online.

## INITIATIVES AND INNOVATIONS

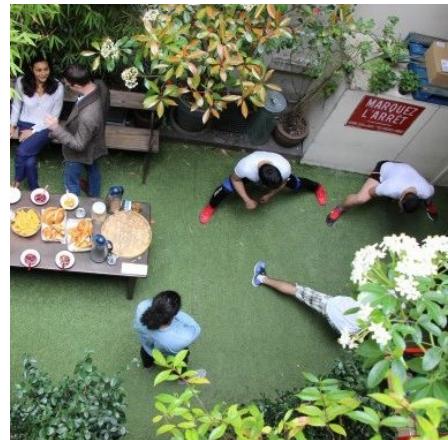
# A New Way to Give: Sponsored Memberships

As part of the Library's goal to be an institution that provides access to information to as wide an audience as possible, we are pleased to establish a sponsored membership program to help connect people in need with Library resources and services. Our new sponsored membership program aims to offer annual membership to individuals and families with official refugee status in France and other Paris-based students. Full membership benefits include: access to our collection of over 100,000 books and magazines; digital resources; comfortable, quiet study spaces; programs for children, teens, and adults; and research assistance.

To help identify prospective recipients of our sponsored membership program, the Library will partner with organizations that aid refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom speak English and are eager to access English materials and resources for their academic and career goals. Current partners include the Association Pierre Claver, AAWE Community-wide Refugee Task Force, and Wintegreat.

These organizational partnerships are essential in the launch of the Library's sponsored membership program as they provide the network of individuals and families who need information resources in English and have little means to afford membership fees. All of our current partners work towards helping refugees and asylum seekers better integrate into French society by offering a range of services including French classes, career placement, mentoring and coaching, and social activities.

As a private, non-profit institution, the Library receives no government subsidies and therefore requires membership to help support operations and programs. However, the Library aims to be an institution that reflects the core values of access, democracy, diversity, and social responsibility. With the launch of the sponsored membership program, the Library hopes to further our goal of promoting easy access to information for all.



## How you can sponsor a Library membership

The Library's sponsored membership program is part of the mission of the Library to extend our resources and programs to underserved populations. The Library relies on your donations of all sizes in order to offer no-cost annual memberships to eligible individuals and families. You can support sponsored memberships in the following ways:

Sponsor an annual family membership (donation value: 205€)

Sponsor an annual adult membership (donation value: 135€)

Sponsor an annual student (ages 12-25) membership (donation value: 100€)

Sponsor an annual youth (children under 12) membership (donation value: 80€)

Make a donation of any amount towards the administration of the sponsored membership program

Organize an event at your school or organization to benefit the sponsored membership program

Donations can be made by cash, credit card, bank wire or check, in person or online, directly to the American Library in Paris. If you would like more information about the sponsored membership program, including how to host an event at your school or organization to benefit the program, please contact strategic partnerships manager **Pauline Lemasson** at [lemasson@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:lemasson@americanlibraryinparis.org).

All contributions to the sponsored membership programs are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged with a tax receipt. Donors will also be thanked in the Library's Annual Report. Recipients of sponsored memberships remain anonymous.

## LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY

As part of a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan that the Library has begun, a steering committee is seeking to compose several focus groups with Library members of all ages to provide input on the future of the institution. Members' feedback about how they use the Library and where they see it going will be invaluable. If you are interested in participating, please contact [hawkins@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:hawkins@americanlibraryinparis.org).

## A Library gift, in the bag

The Library will soon receive a fresh supply of its classic tote bags. These durable, all-cotton, American-made totes are perfect to stow your books and magazines and a great way to show your love of the Library. Buy one for yourself or give one to your favorite bibliophile today.

# Staff appointments and news

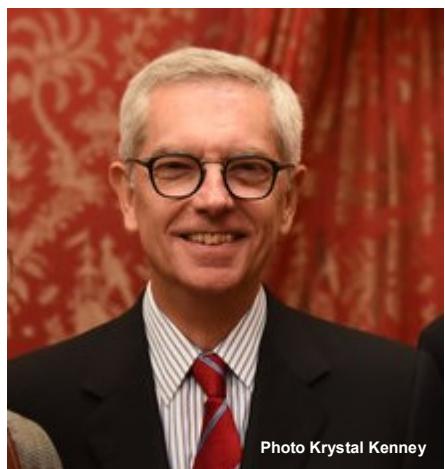


Photo Krystal Kenney

## Farewell to Ed Aguila

After a decade of distinguished service, the deputy director of the Library **Ed Aguila** will retire at the end of March. Aguila joined the Library team in 2008 after a career managing information technology for large business enterprises, and rose through the Library's ranks, becoming circulation manager, then assistant director, and finally senior librarian and deputy director.

In Ed's tenure he oversaw two Library renovations, serving as the project manager for the extensive 2016 reimaging of the institution's space and services. With his expertise in information technology, Ed was instrumental in transforming the Library's technology infrastructure and digital offerings, bringing patrons the latest innovations in the library world.

In his role as senior librarian, Ed served as an important mentor to his colleagues, always providing reassuring, objective, and thoughtful guidance. From his sage presence overseeing the member services desk to the native intelligence he brought to troubleshooting operational conundrums, Ed demonstrated time and again a certain elegance of thought and demeanor that will be sorely missed by members, volunteers, and staff alike.

A passionate golfer and traveler, Ed plans to combine those two interests and embark upon an extensive *Tour de France*, exploring the country's most interesting golf courses.

The Library is also sorry to bid farewell to its resident artist and valued member services assistant **Alexandra Vangnnes**.

Alexandra joined us as an intern in the spring of 2015, and was hired later that year. She was the Book Award coordinator for the 2016 and 2017 prizes, soliciting submissions, assigning books to screeners, and championing books in genres that are often underrepresented on awards shortlists.

Alexandra enlivened the Library with her wide range of artistic and scholarly interests, from curating our book displays to drawing original art for our children's and teens' programming. We'll miss her and the Nordic spirit of *hygge* that surrounds her.



## NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Audrey Chapuis** was appointed deputy director of the Library and will continue to oversee institutional advancement, including development, programming, and outreach. She is a former library department manager at Northwestern University School of Law with a master's in library science from the University of Illinois. **Abigail Altman**, the assistant director of the Library in charge of collections and reference, will now oversee member services in addition to the children's and teens services department headed by Celeste Rhoads. Altman worked in the Library's "back offices" in 2008-2009 and returned to join the "front of the house" in 2014. **Pauline Lemasson**, who over the past 6 years has substantially grown the Library's institutional partnerships has been named strategic partnerships manager. She is also spearheading the Library's new sponsored membership project

## INTERNSHIP UPDATES

**Veera Laine**, a literary studies student from Finland joined the Library in February for a three-month Erasmus internship. Assistant librarian **Bojan Kupirović**, who was first introduced to the Library on a

Erasmus internship himself, is mentoring her in collections and member services.

Under the guidance of programs manager **Grant Rosenberg**, intern **Sabina Christian**, who studies French at University College London, is editing and making videos of past programs available on the Library's new website. Graphic design intern **Jessica Botney** will be joining the Library in the spring and will be working under **Pauline Lemasson** and the advancement team on marketing and communications projects. She studies at Boston University.

## A BELOVED LIBRARY MEMBER PASSES

A longtime supporter and member of the Library, **Anne Raynaud** passed away on 21 January. Anne gave generously of her time and resources, most notably as a leader, along with Maureen Paget, of one of the Library's longest-running book groups. She also managed the outreach program for the Fides bilingual school and provided arts and literary publications for many years. She was a true and dedicated reader who inspired others with her passion and informed opinions. She will be greatly missed.

## BOOK AWARD

# A jury for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Book Award



Photo Miriam Berkley

Diane Johnson



Photo credit Princeton

David Bellos

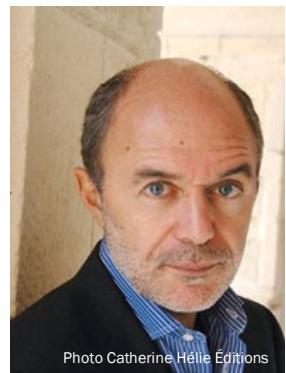


Photo Catherine Hélène Éditions

Pierre Assouline

A distinguished jury for the 2018 American Library in Paris Book Award has been selected. Authors Diane Johnson, David Bellos, and Pierre Assouline, all members of the Library's Writers Council, will choose the winning book after the shortlist for the annual prize is announced during the summer.

Diane Johnson, who chairs the Writers Council, is the author of *Le Divorce*, *Le Mariage*, *L'Affaire*, and *Persian Nights*, among many

other novels. Her fiction includes a memoir, *Flyover Lives*, and a portrait of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, *Into a Paris Quartier*. She writes regularly for *The New York Review of Books*.

David Bellos is the author most recently of *The Novel of The Century*, about Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, which won the 2017 American Library Book Award. He teaches literature at Princeton University, won the Man Booker Prize for translation, and has written biographies of Georges Perec, Jacques Tati, and Romain Gary.

Pierre Assouline is the author of eight novels as well as biographies of, among others, Georges Simenon, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Gaston Gallimard, and Hergé. A former editor of *Lire*, the French literary magazine, he now blogs at *larepubliquedeslivres.com*.

A Paris-based screening committee will make the shortlist selection during the month of June.

The American Library in Paris Book Award is supported by generous gifts from the Florence Gould Foundation. The \$5,000 prize is awarded to the author of the most distinguished book of the year, written in English, about France and the French, in any genre. The past winners include a history of the French in postwar Indochina; a novel about the Dreyfus case; a biography of Marquis de Lafayette; a study of Muslims and Jews from North Africa to France; and Bellos's exploration of the *Les Misérables* phenomenon.

The winner of this year's award will be announced at a special ceremony in Paris in November. Please follow e-Libris for the latest news about the 2018 shortlist and the prize.

## CALLING AWARD NOMINEES

The deadline for submissions for the 2018 award is **1 May**. Books published since 1 July 2017 or scheduled for publication on or before 30 June 2018 may be nominated. More about eligibility requirements, nomination guidelines, and frequently asked questions can be found on the Library website.



Shortlisted books and other nominated titles at the 2017 Award ceremony

## WRITERS AMONG US

### SPRING 2018 VISITING FELLOW

## Vanessa Manko on dance and exile and more



Photo by Stephen Lovekin

Foundation. It brings authors to the Library for a month of concentration on a writing project and the opportunity to interact with the Library community. Says Manko about her upcoming fellowship, "as I delve deeper into my novel inspired by Loïe Fuller, I am so grateful for the opportunity to write and conduct research at the American Library in Paris in the very city where Fuller forged a new dance style to help invent what we now know of as American modern dance. Being in Paris will allow me to more deeply imagine her life and career and those she influenced, and I am looking forward to following in her footsteps, exploring the sites, places and theaters where she found an artistic home for her particular aesthetic. I couldn't be more thrilled to get started!"

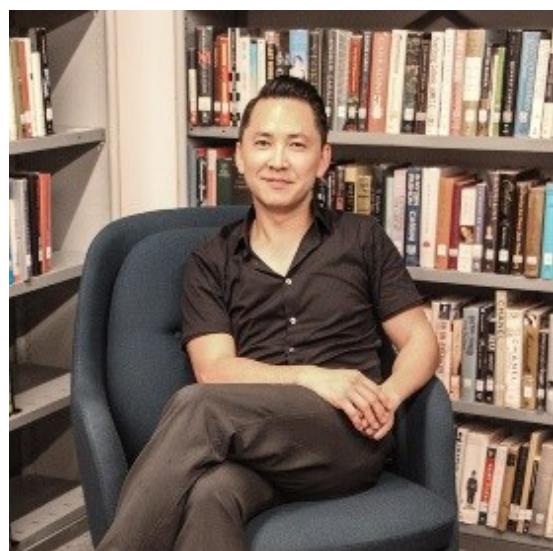
During her month-long residence, the Brooklyn-based Manko will speak at an evening event on **Wednesday 25 April** at 19h30. She will also conduct a workshop on researching family history for fiction, as she did so thoroughly for *The Invention of Exile*.

The Library's previous Visiting Fellows include Anthony Flint, the late Alex Danchev, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Susan Hiner, Lan Samantha Chang, Megan Mayhew Bergman, Anna Leahy and Doug Dechow, Jacqueline Woodson, and James Verini. More about the Visiting Fellowship can be found on the Library website.

### Summer residency

## Writer in residence— Viet Thanh Nguyen

The American Library in Paris has recently launched a two-week-long Writer-in-Residence program, which will be inaugurated by Viet Thanh Nguyen, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*, who spoke at the Library in June 2017. This residency is made possible through the generous support of The de Groot Foundation. It is designed to foster cultural and artistic exchange between prominent writers and the Library community. The Library will select a writer for a two-week residency that will provide a unique opportunity for engagement. The Writer-in-Residence receives a 3,000€ stipend. The award, to be spent at the recipient's discretion, is designed to cover travel to Paris, accommodation, and expenses associated with the residency. Dates for his program and workshops in July will be forthcoming.



## Spring 2018 events for teens

Our inaugural session of Capture the Flag on the Champ de Mars was so popular that we've scheduled another game! We'll play on **Friday 16 March**, rain or shine. On **Friday 13 April**, we'll create posters during a Teen Night dedicated to creativity, and we'll take a look at some excellent posters—new and vintage. Save the date for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Literary Reaping (a night of literary games and life-sized challenges in the Library) which will be held on **Friday 25 May**.

The Library's popular Master Shot Film Club and Teen Writing Group continue this spring, with meetings each Saturday. While both clubs are currently full, you can send an email to our children's and teens' services manager to be put on the waiting list in case a spot opens up. Registration for the clubs will open again in the fall.



## The 2018 Young Authors Fiction Festival

Interested in submitting a short story for our Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF)? YAFF is open to all students ages 5-18 in the greater Paris area who write in English. It is free to enter. The deadline for submission is **Friday 30 March by 22h00**. To see the full guidelines and submission instructions see the YAFF page on the Library website.

The winning stories will be published by the Library in the YAFF Celebration Booklet and an event celebrating young authors and their writing and announcing the YAFF 2018 winners will be held at the Library on **Friday 15 June**.

Last year YAFF received over 500 story submissions and we expect this year's festival to be even larger! Remember, whether you're writing a short story for the Young Authors Fiction Festival, for school or just for pleasure, the Library can help. We have books in our collection that are sure to inspire you and help you out with your writing, as well as writing workshops and clubs for all ages. Be sure to check the website for all upcoming Children's and Teens' events.

**Wednesday 21 March 19h30**

### An evening with Kwame Alexander

Join us for a discussion and book signing with award-winning author Kwame Alexander. Kwame will read from one of his books, then be interviewed by several members of the Library's teen clubs. A Q&A with audience members will be followed by a signing. Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and *The New York Times*-bestselling author of 25 books,

including *Rebound*, the follow-up to his Newbery medal winning middle grade novel, *The Crossover*. Kwame writes for children of all ages. Some of his other works include *The Playbook: 52 Rules to Help You Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life*; the picture books, *Surf's Up*, *Animal Ark*, and *Out of Wonder*; and the novels, *Solo* and *Booked*.

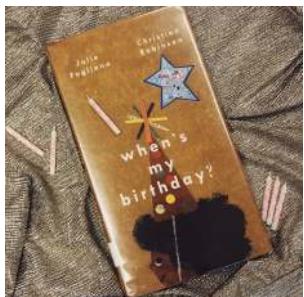
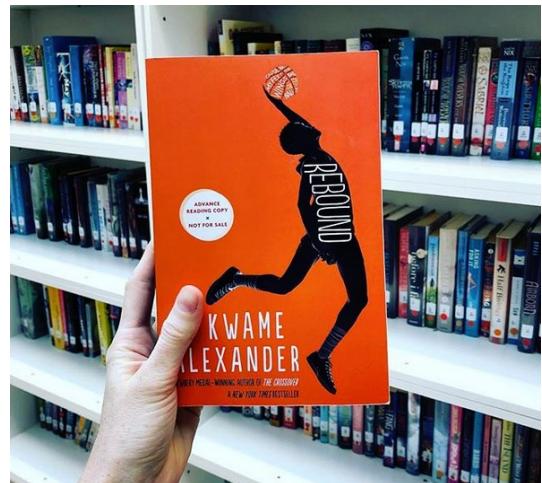
No advance registration is required for this event, however seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is free and open to members and non-members alike. A suggested donation of 10€ is requested to help support Library programming.



## CHILDREN

“Who needs color TV  
When you can read  
At the American Li-Bra-ry?”

That catchy rhyme was sent in via Facebook from Madina Sarsembayeva. We’re excited about the Library’s event with Kwame Alexander on Wednesday 21 March, and so are our members. In anticipation we asked members and readers in Paris to send in a rhyme about the Library in honor of Kwame’s latest novel in short verse, *Rebound*, and we received some great responses!



### And the winner is...

Thanks to everyone who voted for their favorite illustrated book of 2017! During the month of February a selection of illustrated children’s books was made available at the Library. You voted for your favorite, and the winner of the Library’s Mock Caldecott 2018 is *When’s My Birthday?* by Julie Fogliano and Christian Robinson! Runners up were *Things to Do With Dad* by Sam Zuppardi and *Town is by the Sea* by Joanne Schwartz.

## Calling aspiring authors!

Are you writing a story for the Library’s 2018 Young Authors Fiction Festival? If so, we have all the inspiration you need, from great novels to biographies of famous authors. Our collection also includes writing handbooks, guides to punctuation and grammar, and books of writing prompts. You can see some recommendations on our Pinterest board! Scan the QR code here to see the board.



## Events for young children

### Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours continue with two sessions every Wednesday from **10h30-11h30** and from **14h30-15h30**. Story Hour is an institution at the Library, with records of this event dating back to our earliest years. This Wednesday activity has become so popular that we are now hosting our afternoon Story Hour in the Library’s Lower Level reading room in order to accommodate more young readers and their families. Join us for an hour of stories, songs, hand-rhymes and crafts!

*No reservation required!*



### Ages 1-3: Toddler Time Lap-Sit

The Library’s popular Toddler Time program continues with sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** this spring on **15 March, 5 & 19 April** and **3 & 17 May**.

***Sign-up is required for this activity as space is limited. Please register online using the link at the bottom of each individual event page.***

*Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!*

*Unless otherwise stated, programs are free for Library members and 10€ for non-members. Children attending Library programs must have their own membership card or be covered by a family membership or day pass. Please contact us for more information about children’s programs: [kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org).*

## CALENDAR

Wednesday 14 March 19h30

### Emmanuel the man, Macron the president



Journalist Adam Plowright of *Agence France-Presse* has written the first book in English about the French president, chronicling in great detail his improbable fast rise to the *Elysée* and his first year as *chef d'état*. In its review of the book, the newspaper *The Hindu* wrote, "Plowright's book is therefore a fine addition to the bookshelf of anyone interested in France, Europe and international geopolitics. The student of human psychology will not be disappointed either."

Wednesday 21 March 19h30

### Kwame Alexander



In an event intended for both teens and adults, YA author, poet, and educator Kwame Alexander speaks about his work and career. See page 6 for additional details.

Tuesday 20 March 19h30

### The era of fake news

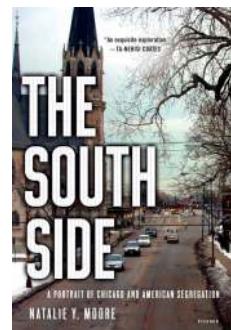
Join us for a panel discussion about the prevalence of "fake news," its corrosive effect on society, and how it is challenging efforts to maintain an informed electorate. This panel features *New York Times* Paris bureau chief Alissa Rubin, retired American University of Paris global communications professor Peter Barnet, and a speaker representing the tech aspect. They will discuss how it came to be and what can be done to better address and combat it.



Tuesday 27 March 19h30

### Chicago's segregation

Chicago radio journalist Natalie Moore presents her book *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*, in which she explores the contemporary segregated reality in the third most populated American city. *The Chicago Reader*, reviewing the book, writes, "The South Side is a powerful political document, but the book also constitutes its own argument, unspoken but unmistakable, for how badly the media needs to represent a diverse array of perspectives and backgrounds—as a matter of accuracy, empathy, and understanding."



## Upcoming programs...

**David Lebovitz** returns to the Library to share the frustrating and humorous odyssey of renovating his apartment as chronicled in his new book *l'Appart* (4 April), in an interview with **Alexander Lobrano** ... **Word for Word** presents its 2018 performance for one night only, *Lucia Berlin: Stories* (9 April at the Théâtre de la Tour Eiffel—RSVP on the Library website) ... **Nilofer Merchant** on *The Power of Onlyness* (11 April) ... **Joshua Adler**'s favorite wines tasting workshop (17 April) ... **Isabel Vincent** with special guest, actor **David Suchet** on *Dinner with Edward: The Story of an Unexpected Friendship* ... Visiting Fellow **Vanessa Manko** on her novel in progress (25 April—see page 5) ... **Wendell Steavenson** for her novel about the Paris terrorist attacks, *Paris Metro* (9 May) ... **Clotilde Dusoulier** on *Tasting Paris* (15 May), **Karine Tuil** in French, **Agnès Poirier** on Left Bank history, **Rachel Kushner** for her novel *The Mars Room*, and **Pamela Druckerman** for *There Are No Grown-ups: A Midlife Coming-of-Age Story*...

Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the American Library are free and open to the public (except as noted) thanks to support from the Annenberg Foundation, our members, and those who attend programs.

## The American Library in Paris

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[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)

