



Dear Library supporter,

When new members join the American Library in Paris, we ask what inspired their choice. Their top answer, by far, is “I love to read.” Joining the Library brings them into a community founded on a shared passion for reading, which can be indulged in many ways: by wandering the stacks in our renovated building, downloading the latest digital issue of a favorite magazine, or simply sitting quietly in the reading room, surrounded by fellow readers.

Since 1920, we have cherished our fundamental identity as careful stewards of books and as supporters of writers and readers. We still do, but we also thrill to our expanded roles: as a center for culture, a forum for people to engage with ideas and each other, and a lively gathering place for patrons of all ages. Yes, libraries build book collections, but now we build communities too.

Our weekly *Evenings with an Author* speaker series has grown to include actors, comedians, artists, filmmakers, and musicians. Just this year we hosted Kristin Scott Thomas, Rachel Kushner, Jim Gaffigan, and Richard Russo, to name but a few. In the book-lined Florence Gould Reading Room, we share remarkable moments of grace and candor with our speakers. Now, thanks to technology, those events are available on our YouTube channel for viewers at home worldwide.

Our members enjoy opportunities for deep engagement with writers and thinkers. Visiting Fellows, Writers-in-Residence, and local Paris specialists all lead intensive workshops in the Library, giving the community access to our best contemporary writers, including, this year, Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Every time we visit the Library, we have the opportunity to learn something new and to participate in a community anchored in ideas. To enter the Library is to enter the world of reflection and conversation. The popularity of our book groups is a testament to that, as are our growing conversation circles for members learning English or French and our Young Author Fiction Festival, which sees close to 500 submissions from young writers throughout Paris.

Thank you for supporting our community. For ninety-eight years the Library has flourished because of the generosity of people like you. As a reminder, the Library is a completely independent non-profit and receives no government funding. Please help us continue to thrive and grow as a place for books, for ideas, and for people who love them.

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Chapuis
Director

Luis Roth
Chairman