



EX LIBRIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

SUMMER 2019

2019 Gala

More than two hundred supporters of the Library celebrated ninety-nine years of Library history at the Automobile Club de France on 6 June. The evening started with a reception on the Club's terrace overlooking Place de la Concorde. Champagne was then served in the Concorde Salon, where the Library staff displayed copies of historical documents from the archives.

The theme of honoring the history of the Library continued in the dining room, where all tables were named after influential writers who have been affiliated with the Library. Guests were seated around tables named for Sylvia Beach, Samuel Beckett, Ernest Hemingway, and many other literary figures in the Library's history.

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Photo credit: Krystal Kenney

Reception on the Automobile Club's terrace

The Library turns 99



Photo credit: Library staff

The Library celebrated its 99th birthday with a fundraising party that attracted more than fifty people. To start the countdown to the Library's centennial, staff, volunteers, and patrons donned costumes from different decades to highlight the institution's long history. Guests admired large-format copies of iconic items and memorabilia from the Library's archives and special collections.

Summer Visiting Fellow Rhae Lynn Barnes



Photo credit: Rhae Lynn Barnes

The Library is pleased to welcome Rhae Lynn Barnes, Assistant Professor of American Cultural History at Princeton University, who specializes in the globalization of American popular culture and racism.

While at the American Library in Paris, Barnes will complete her first book, *Darkology: When the American Dream Wore Blackface* which maps the political, economic, and global cultural geography of amateur blackface minstrelsy, and will speak on the topic on 3 July (see page 8). During her residency, she will also conduct research for a new edition of *the Image of the Black in Western Art* series.

Barnes is Executive Advisor with Henry Louis Gates Jr. to the four-part PBS documentary series "Reconstruction: America After the Civil War" (now streaming online). Barnes earned her PhD from Harvard University and BA from the University of California, Berkeley.

Future Library Stars

This spring, the Library benefitted from the hard work of a lively cohort of enthusiastic interns, all of whom are rising information professionals. **Olivia Bowman**, a library science master's student at the University of East Carolina, worked on various collections projects, including cataloging and catalog maintenance. Ms. Bowman graduated this May. **Amandine Pin**, a third-year student of English language, literature, and civilization at the University of Corsica, worked on a project in our vast periodical archive, and assisted at the Member Services and welcome desks. **Lucie Buée**, a second-year student at L'Institut universitaire de technologie Nancy-Charlemagne performed a two-month professional internship in April and May. She sharpened her library skills in the collection department and worked alongside Ms. Pin in the periodical archive. In the children's and teens' services department, **Cait Dalzell** of North Carolina, also working to finish her master's in information science, helped host Story Hours and created a Paris scavenger hunt for readers.

This summer, **Brianna Gibson**, who is studying English and Theater at Maryville College (TN), will assist the Advancement team on evening programs, marketing, and external relations. **Charlotte Clough**, our Erasmus intern who arrived at the Library in December 2018, will complete her internship at the end of June. All of these talented students quickly became valuable members of the Library team and our community as a whole. We wish them all great success in the library world and thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

New Library Trustees Elected

At the Annual General Meeting of the American Library in Paris, Inc., on 11 June, five new trustees were elected to their first terms on the board. Joining the Board as secretary is **Alex Bafi**, who is a US securities partner at Clifford Chance, where he advises companies in Europe and the Middle East. Alex and his wife, Claudine, have three children, and have been dedicated Library members since they arrived in Paris in 2015 from London. **Ashley Maddox** is the founding principal at Studio Maddox, a property development firm, and has past experience with McKinsey & Company, Bertelsmann, Inc, and USAID. Like Alex, Ashley and her three children have been enthusiastic participants at the Library since they moved to Paris. New to the Library community is **Enrique Martinez**, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Fnac Darty. **Charles Trueheart** will bring significant institutional knowledge to the board gleaned from ten successful years as the director of the Library. He also administers the Book Award. **Laura Wenke** is a retired marketing executive with international retail experience honed in Asia, Europe, and the United States. She is the former Chief Marketing Officer for McArthurGlen UK Ltd.



Left to right: Alex Bafi, Ashley Maddox, Enrique Martinez, Charles Trueheart, Laura Wenke

Forrest Alogna, a partner at Darrois Villey, who joined the Board in 2015, was elected chairman and **William Kelly**, founder and chief executive of Eaton Energy Partners, was elected vice chairman. Former chairman **Luis Roth** will continue to serve on the Board as an observer. **Alex Bafi** will act as assistant secretary. Continuing as treasurer is **Stephanie de La Rochefoucauld** with **Rob Johnson** as assistant treasurer. **Leslie de Galbert** is stepping down to join the Advisory Council, and **René de Montseignat**, **Mary Lee Turner**, and **Nadine Voisin** completed their esteemed tenures.

Remembering Fanny Lalande-Isnard (1930–2019)



Photo credit: Lalande-Isnard family

If you can't recall what the Library was like before Fanny joined our community, that's understandable. Fanny was an habitu e of the American Library in her childhood and a staunch supporter in her later years. She was a member of at least one of our previous addresses (at the top of the Champs-Elis ees), if not all three of them, once her family returned to Paris from Tarbes, where Fanny was born.

Her anglophile parents shared a Library card before they were even married (her father lamented its expense in a letter), and instilled a love of English in Fanny from a very young age. Her mother, a lawyer, had had a British nanny, and worked as a French-English interpreter after the untimely death of Fanny's father.

Fanny herself was a diplomaed librarian (L'Ecole de Biblioth caires/Institut Catholique, Paris), and spent much of her professional life in West Africa. She lived in Senegal and Cameroon, and worked in Benin (Dahomey at the time), where she was librarian at the Centre Culturel Fran ais de Cotonou, now the Institut fran ais du B nin. While in Guinea, where her two daughters were born, Fanny was librarian at the Institut national de recherches et documentation de Guin e in Conakry. Her 1977 doctoral thesis (Universit  de Bordeaux III) was entitled, "Biblioth ques publiques dans quelques pays de l'ouest africain."

Upon her retirement, once back in Paris, Fanny was able to resume her Library membership. She spent time researching in the Library's archives, working on an informal history of the Library, and examining our documents pertaining to the Paris Library School, a precursor to her own alma mater. A mentor of hers, Yvonne Oddon (known for her work at the Mus e de l'Homme and with the Resistance), had been trained there when the school shared the Library's premises at 10, rue de l'Elis ee in the late 1920s.

Fanny was a dedicated volunteer at the Library for well over a decade, perhaps closer to two. She enjoyed spending time among the books in the stacks, and at the circulation desk processing loans. Even after she stopped her regular volunteer shifts, it wasn't surprising to run into her holding court in the Library's kitchen, regaling staff and volunteers with first-hand stories going back farther than anyone else at our institution can remember. Thank you, Fanny, for being part of the Library's history.

Martin Amis and Isabel Fonseca visit the Library

The staff of the American Library, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, had the opportunity to meet with Gala speaker Martin Amis and his wife, author Isabel Fonseca, the evening before the Gala. For over an hour, a free-flowing dialogue touched on their writing processes, their thoughts on current events, living abroad, and many other topics.

Amis graciously signed over 200 copies of his book, *The Rub of Time*, which were gifted to all Library patrons who supported the annual fundraising event. The highlight of the evening was the genuine excitement and gratitude shown by Amis and Fonseca when they received their new Library membership cards.



Amis signing copies of his latest book for Gala guests



Amis and Fonseca posing with their new Library cards

2019 Book Award submissions

This is the seventh year of the American Library in Paris Book Award, which recognizes the most distinguished books of the year, written in English, about France. In this cycle, eighty-two titles were submitted by authors and publishers for consideration. The Book Award, which carries a \$5,000 prize, is supported by generous funding from the Florence Gould Foundation. The Book Award laureate will be announced in the presence of the winning author and Library supporters at an invitation-only ceremony in Paris in November.

The shortlist will be announced mid-July. The winning title will be chosen by this year's independent jury: **Alice Kaplan**, professor of French at Yale University and author of seven books, including *Looking for the Stranger: Albert Camus and the Life of a Literary Classic*; *New York Times Magazine* contributing writer **Thomas Chatterton Williams**, author of *Losing My Cool: Love, Literature, and a Black Man's Escape from the Crowd* and the forthcoming *Self-Portrait in Black and White: Unlearning Race*; and **Pamela Druckerman**, Paris-based *New York Times* columnist and author of *There Are No Grown-Ups: A Midlife Coming-of-Age Story* and four other books.

The nominees this year include books for adults, teens, and children, and include a wide range of writing. Genres from literary and historical fiction to poetry, to memoir, biography and history are represented. Picture books, novels, and non-fiction for younger readers round out the field.

All the submissions for the 2019 Book Award are on display in the Members' Lounge, and are available for checkout by members.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

American Women's Group

Earlier this spring, the Library received the archives of The American Women's Group in Paris (AWGP) as a permanent deposit to its collection. The AWGP was first organized in 1921 as the American Women's Club of Paris with the objectives of serving American women either resident or visiting in France; encouraging friendly relations between women of the United States and women of nations associated with the United States in the Great War; creating a center of social and educational activity, and assisting in furthering American philanthropy. The association included members of the same postwar



AWGP board members, including president Sharon Nossiter (second from right) present the archives to Library director Audrey Chapuis (far right)

community that originally supported the American Library, and is still as active and vibrant today.

The archives include early issues of the AWGP *Bulletin*, dating back to 1927, which complement the Library's extant collection of historic English-language periodicals published in Paris. Other items of note are policies, reports, and board meeting minutes, as well as member lists, photos, and various fundraising documents.

The Library gratefully acknowledges this important addition to its archives.

PRESS ROOM

Library news outside our walls

Website **Bonjour Paris** featured an article about the Library by Roni Beth Tower titled "American Library: Creating Community in the Center of Paris."

"A Sparkling Gala for the American Library in Paris" by Barbara Gerber appeared in **France Today**.

Director Audrey Chapuis published a piece on the Library on **Literary Hub** titled "The Timeless Appeal of an American (Library) in Paris."

The Library Visiting Fellowship was featured on website **ProFellow's** piece "45 Fellowships for Creative Writers in Any Career Stage."

Assistant Director Abigail Altman presented at the **Bibliothèque nationale de France's** conference "Naissance et diffusion du roman anglophone."

Altman and architect Lia Kiladis spoke about library space planning and renovations at the **Instituto Cervantes**.

Library member Michael Bartley wrote to the Member Services team describing the Library as "the **brightest star within the constellation** of anglophone cultural, intellectual, and social resources in Paris."



All photo credits: Krystal Kenney

Left to right, top to bottom: Chairman Luis Roth, Gala speaker Martin Amis, Director Audrey Chapuis; Ed Turner, Maria Kelly, Isabel Fonseca, Pauline Lemasson, Peter Barnett; Ed and Mary Lee Turner; Sherry and Rob Johnson; View from the terrace of the Automobile Club; Marshall and Deborah Wais, Maria and Bill Kelly; Bob Lewis and Martin Amis; Charmaine Donnelly; Forrest Alogna and Catherine Olien; Adam and Sharon Nossiter, Isabel Kaplan, James McAuley; Deputy Chief of Mission Henry Wooster and Patrick Chapuis



All photo credits: Krystal Kenney

Left to right, top to bottom: Don and Ann Morrison; Enrique Martinez and Emeline Coates; William Torchiana, Ed Turner, Steven Bawol; Ishtar Méjanès (right) and guests; Martin Amis; Tiffany Gassouk, Pascal Thuot, Christelle Pestana; Celeste Rhoads, Damon Austin, Mary Lee Turner; Ashley Colley and Mark Mayer; Walter Dickerson, Morgan Wurzburger, Susan Guillory; Jean-Patrick and Nadine Voisin; Audrey Chapuis, Martin Amis, Luis Roth, Pamela Druckerman

The American Library in Paris is grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support of this year's Gala dinner:

- Forrest G. Alogna and Sandrine Poisson Alogna
- Rob and Sherry Johnson
- Robert and Heather Keane
- William and Maria Kelly
- Ishtar Méjanès
- René de Monseignat
- Don and Ann Morrison
- Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple
- William D. and Françoise Torchiana
- Ed and Mary Lee Turner
- Marshall and Deborah Wais

Continued from front page

Keynote speaker and honoree Martin Amis entertained the audience after a dinner in the Automobile Club's stately *Bibliothèque Clément-Bayard*. Amis spoke about three subjects that have proven to challenge writers throughout history: sex, dreams, and religion.

Guests also heard from the Board of Trustees Chairman Luis Roth, Library Director Audrey Chapuis, and incoming Chairman Forrest Alogna, who spotlighted the commitment and dedication of the outgoing Board members.

The Annual Gala dinner is the Library's primary fundraising initiative of the year and contributes directly to the Library's vitality and health. The event's official sponsors, listed to the left, and corporate sponsors, listed to the right, ensured that the event was a success and that the Library will be able to provide a very exciting 100th year for its entire community.

Gala gifts were donated by our corporate sponsors:

- Penguin Random House UK
- Calmann-Lévy
- Chocolaterie de Puyricard

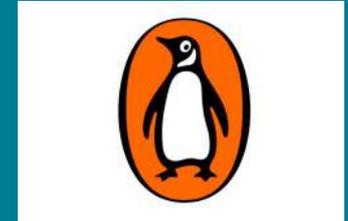


Photo credit: Krystal Kenney

Many individuals contributed to the night's success, including every single guest who attended.

The Gala was organized by the Library staff and also included the following volunteers: Hilary Hodge, Lucy McCloskey, Nat Nealeigh, Danielle Typinski, and Erik Stylianidis.

For photos of the event see pages 4 and 5, and the Library's Flickr gallery, linked from our website's homepage.

Library Summer Schedule

From Tuesday 16 July through Saturday 24 August inclusive, the Library will operate on its summer schedule. The Library's summer hours are 13h00–19h00, Tuesday–Saturday. We are closed for French bank holidays on Sunday 14 July and Thursday 15 August. Normal hours, including Sunday afternoons and Thursday evening *nocturnes*, resume Tuesday 27 August.

If you are travelling with books, you may ask for extended due dates directly at the Member Services desk. Don't forget that members can read eMagazines on RBdigital and eBooks on OverDrive all summer long.

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The newsletter of the American Library in Paris is published quarterly. Back issues available online.

2019 Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration

The 2019 Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF) culminated with a celebration held at the Library on Friday 14 June. Over 200 people, including the young author finalists, parents, and teachers attended the event, where each finalist was awarded a certificate and a personalized bookmark with a comment from a judge about their story. Two YAFF celebration booklets were printed with the full stories of the 1st to 5th place winners in each grade. The two booklets, Kindergarten to 5th grade in one booklet and 6th to 12th grade in another, were available for sale at the event and have been added to the Library collection.

YAFF 2019 received a record-breaking 841 entries from fifty schools and writing programs in and around Paris.



2nd grade/ CE1 winners and a surprise guest



K/1st Grade finalists Jules Accioly Menezes and Lewis Bunn with YAFF Coordinator Kirsty McCulloch Reid



5th grade winner Liam Ross, with his family



10th grade finalist Meghana Vasantharao with her father

The Library thanks the ninety-four judges who volunteered their time and expertise to read all the stories and choose the winners, as well as the volunteers who helped with graphic design for the festival.

YAFF 2019 was coordinated by the Library's Assistant Children's and Teens' Services Librarian, Kirsty McCulloch Reid, with the support of a small committee of Library staff and volunteers. The Library is grateful for their time, dedication, and enthusiasm which made YAFF 2019 a resounding success.

More photographs from the Celebration can be seen on the Library's Flickr and a full list of winners can be found on the Library blog.

How to pack for your summer vacation

Children

Check our web calendar for information about our events for children in June, July, and August, including our Summer Reading Challenge. While our programming slows down during the summer months as children and families head out for their vacations, we still host our regular afternoon sessions of Wednesday Story Hour, Thursday Toddler Time, and Saturday children's events during July and August. Morning sessions of Story Hour and Toddler Time will resume in September.

Teens

If you're traveling this summer, our teen librarians can help you select a few good books to take along, no matter what you're craving. Before you go, set up an account on one of our e-reading platforms so that you can check out books and magazines from wherever you are! Head to our website, and click on "using the Library" and then "eResources" to connect!



Photo credit: Library staff

Summer Reading Challenge ages 0–18!

Even if you'll be traveling the world, you can still participate in our Summer Reading Challenge for children and teens. Stop by the Children's and Teens' Services Desk anytime during open hours to sign up, and collect bookmark review forms to complete. Then, track your reading over the summer. As long as you turn in your bookmark reviews by 21 September, you'll win prizes!

Connect with us:



Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for Library members and €10 for non-members. Children and teens attending Library programs must have their own membership card or be covered by a family membership. Please contact the Children's and Teens' services department for more information about our programs for ages 0–18: celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org.

SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

Monday 24 June 19h30

Timothy Jay Smith on espionage in post-Cold War Poland

Timothy Jay Smith captures post-Cold War Poland and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe with his new literary thriller, *The Fourth Courier*.

Tuesday 25 June 19h30

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall on the 400th anniversary of forced African migration

Commemorations are taking place throughout the US as African Americans and the African diaspora reflect on four centuries of perseverance. Gloria J. Browne-Marshall will discuss this courageous journey from 1619 to 2019.



Wednesday 26 June 19h30

Actor Denis O'Hare on his work and career

American actor Denis O'Hare, noted for his award-winning performances in the plays *Take Me Out* and *Sweet Charity*, will talk about his career and most recent work, *Being An Iliad*, a modern adaptation of Homer's classic Greek epic.

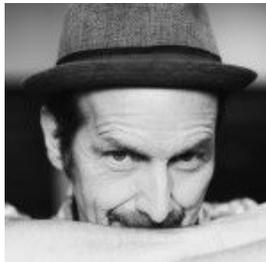


Photo credit: Eoin Higgins

Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs. Please note that doors for evening events open at 19h00, which begin promptly at 19h30.

Tuesday 2 July 19h30

Nancy MacLean and Margaret R. Somers on American politics

Authors Nancy MacLean and Margaret R. Somers will talk about the current American political landscape. Nancy's most recent book is *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*, and Margaret is the co-author of *The Power of Market Fundamentalism: Karl Polanyi's Critique* and a book-in-progress, *Free-Market Utopianism: Dedemocratization and the Alchemy of Predistributive Political Economy*.

Wednesday 3 July 19h30

Visiting Fellow Rhae Lynn Barnes on blackface minstrelsy

Library Visiting Fellow Rhae Lynn Barnes will tackle how blackface became an important form of cultural currency between Americans and Parisians as far back as the mid-nineteenth century. Rhae Lynn will provide an overview of blackface history in America and France.

Tuesday 9 July 19h30

The artistic use of the black model

Join Dr. Denise Murell, co-curator of *Le Modèle Noir de Géricault à Matisse*, and Henry Roy, Franco-Haitian photographer and author, for a talk about their artistic journeys, the substance of their groundbreaking works, and the use of the black model in historical and contemporary art forms. This discussion will be moderated by award-winning author Jake Lamar.

Authors, publishers, publicists, and literary agents should direct *Evenings with Authors* speaking inquiries and proposals to programs@americanlibraryinparis.org

COMING IN FALL 2019 Whitney Scharer on *The Age of Light* | Peter Martin on *The Dictionary Wars: The American Fight Over the English Language* | Will Hitchcock on *The Age of Eisenhower* | Ladee Hubbard on *The Talented Ribkins* | Dana Czapnik on *The Falconer* | Anissa Bouziane on *Dune Song* | and much more...

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