



EXLIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris

September 2010

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Joining, renewing, and giving — on-line

Beginning this fall, joining the Library, or renewing your membership, and making a donation will all be possible on line through the Library website. When it is active, this secure service, using the Paypal system, will accept all major credit cards as well as fund transfers from personal Paypal accounts.

To join or renew your membership in three easy steps, you'll be asked to identify the membership category of your choice, complete a short on-line membership form and then process payment electronically. Similarly, donating to the Library will become just a few clicks away.

Watch *e-Libris* for details of these new services as testing is completed and they go "live" — one in good time for the annual fall appeal for contributions to the work and mission of the Library.

A roof over our heads

The new roof over the corner research center of the Library is finally in place. No more floods and drip buckets, we hope and believe. Thanks again to the Annenberg Foundation for making this needed repair possible. Watch for new carpeting and furnishings in this space in the coming weeks... and thanks for your patience during eons of construction. Most importantly, we are back to his and hers restrooms!

'Lost' — and found

Over the summer the Library undertook a long-overdue comprehensive inventory of its holdings. This may seem the dry stuff of library management, but technology has made it a simpler, smarter, and revealing exercise.

Recent inventories have consisted of what's called "shelf-reading" — tracking the sequence of titles on the shelves to verify and correct the placement of books. What has now begun is systematic "shelf-checking" using wireless scanners on the bar codes in each book and

Continued on page 2

A garden of authors

The Library's fall season of evening programming begins with the bestselling novelist and Paris favorite, **Douglas Kennedy**, unveiling his latest novel, "Leaving the World," on September 15. He'll be followed on the 22nd by a documentary film on the great photographers **Eugène Atget** and **Berenice Abbott**.

On the 23rd, we'll hear from Pulitzer Prize winner **Richard Russo**, author of "Empire Falls" and "That Old Cape Magic," who is among dozens of American writers participating in Festival America in Vincennes and across the city at the end of the month. Have a look at www.festival-america.com — and at Russo on page 5.

On the last Wednesday of September, the first of a four-part series of talks on great French gardens — *Evenings with Gardens* — will feature **Valentine de Ganay**, co-author of "Courances," who will discuss her family's distinguished chateau and garden near Fontainebleau. The series is supported by garden enthusiasts Sarah de Lencquesaing, Judith Pillsbury, Shelley de Rouvray, and Mark Rudkin.

Judith Merians returns September 29 for another season of "A Night at the Movies, this time with "To Kill a Mockingbird," marking its 50th anniversary this year.

Coming in October: **Jonathan Fenby** on Charles de Gaulle. Coming in November: **Alan Riding** on "And the Show Went On: Cultural Life in Nazi-Occupied Paris." Coming in December: **David Ignatius** on his new novel, "The Increment." Watch the calendar!

The house is open!

Sunday 26 September 13h00–19h00

The fall Open House is a chance to discover the Library and introduce it to others.

Participate in activities for adults and children. Learn about the Library's resources and services. Browse the collection. Take a staff-led tour of the Library and peek behind the scenes.

Share the Library with a friend — and bring more than one! Our members are our most credible ambassadors, so we encourage you to bring someone new to the Open House and help us make a new member.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

checking that harvest against the database.

Inevitable re-shelving errors mean that books may be counted as lost even though they are somewhere else – just in the wrong place. So the inventory allowed us to recover many supposedly “lost” books – under our noses.

The inventory, which continues now year-round, was overseen by Ed Aguila, circulation manager, with the help of staff members and a team of special summer inventory volunteers: **Anna Bogutskaia, Becca Frank, Dan Huehn, Rebecca King, Daniel Murray, Jacqueline Nafziger, Isabelle Rater, Anne Raynaud, Neejoo Shrestha, and Sandrine Tesner.**

Anyone browsing?

After a sleepy summer, Browser, our Library blog, is coming back to life. Have a look at “What I Read on My Summer Vacation” – and share with us what you read.

New faces on the staff

Celeste Rhoads, known to many children and teens as a sparkling and energetic volunteer for years, has become the Library’s interim youth librarian during the leave of **Helen Stathopoulos Géhin**. Celeste is a native of Salinas, California, a graduate of the American University in Paris, a music blogger, and a cupcake entrepreneur. See the facing page for a taste of some of her plans – especially the teen workshops on blogging, songwriting, and ‘zines.



Celeste Rhoads

We’re bidding farewell to circulation assistants **Bradley Smith**, as he moves to teaching English at Paris 3 Sorbonne-Nouvelle, and to **Anita Castanho**, who successfully launched our Sunday afternoon hours last March. Joining our circulation team this month are **Pierre Berthou** and **Holly Tisseyre**.

Pierre, a native of Limoges, comes to us from the Hackney Libraries in London, with prior experience serving the public at the National Portrait Gallery in London and at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. Holly, born in Wilmington, Delaware, recently moved to Paris from Baltimore after working in law offices and insurance companies as an assistant to Baltimore’s mayor. Our new staff members join circulation manager **Ed Aguila** and assistant **Matthew Bennett** on the front lines at the Library.

A tote of many colors

Holly Tisseyre The American Library’s popular tote bags now come in three colors – navy, burgundy, and

dark green. These bags are American-made, 100 percent cotton with shoulder-length straps. A steal at 10€.

We’ve already had suggestions to add a black version (for evening wear?) and bright colors for kids. As soon as these disappear, we’ll do it.



The summer interns

The Library enjoys the services and company of student interns year-round, but especially during the summer.

This year the Erasmus Exchange Program brought us **Katarzyna Zabinska**, from the American University in Bulgaria, and **Anna Mackowiak**, from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Other university interns were **Julia Vilain** from Paris 3 Sorbonne-Nouvelle, **Erin Shea** from the Pratt Institute, and **Susan Gilman** from the University of Washington. Also with us was **Jessica Collinson** of Norwich High School for Girls.

Thanks to all of them for bringing us so much.

Librarians in Washington

Director **Charles Trueheart** and youth librarian **Helen Stathopoulos Géhin** represented your library at the annual conference and trade show of the American Library Association Conference in Washington in June.

Helen attended workshops on issues in children’s and teen librarianship, and along the way, she reports, “I had the pleasure of speaking with many dedicated librarians, book professionals, writers and illustrators, including Brian Selznick (writer and illustrator of the super children’s book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*) and Mo Willems (creator of the hilarious Knuffle Bunny series.) I was also starstruck at lectures given by David Small, Toni Morrison and Sir Salman Rushdie.”

Charlie also took in workshops on library space planning, the future of the book, programming ideas and resources, development strategies, and a delightful presentation by Will Shortz, crossword puzzle editor of the New York Times. Charlie briefly addressed the international relations committee of the ALA about the American Library in Paris, and spoke as well before state representatives gathered at the Center for the Book’s annual seminar at the Library of Congress.

THE YOUTH LIBRARY

Sunday Musical Event



Uncle Jim!

All the way from Nashville, USA, join award-winning children’s music performer **Uncle Jim Mayer** as he shares songs from his albums “Let There Be Fun” and “Funky as a Diaper.” Uncle

Jim has written, recorded and performed with Jimmy Buffet’s Coral Reefer Band, among others.

Sunday 19 September
15h00-16h30, all ages

We are the World



Join the participants of the Library’s 12th annual summer reading program and show off your accomplishments. We’ll share facts, fiction and fun in keeping with the “We are the World” theme and there will be plenty of treats and prizes for all

you readers!

Saturday 25 September, 15h00-16h30

Back by popular demand...

BOOKWORMS!

The book club for 9-12 year-olds



This season, we’ll be reading *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, a Newbery Award-winning novel about a boy stranded in the Canadian wilderness.

Three consecutive Saturday afternoons from 16h30 - 17h30:

2 October, 9 October, 16 October

Young people are welcome to sign up even if they cannot attend all of the sessions. Space is limited and sign-up is mandatory. Please sign up early to reserve a copy of your book, which costs 5€, payable at the first session.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join us for jack-o-lanterns, costumes and Halloween fun! Dress up for a chance to win prizes for scariest, silliest, prettiest and most original costume! This year, the party will be held in the reading room. All are welcome!

Saturday 30 October, 15h00-16h30

BE A STAR

A special introduction to theater, including improvisation, expression and movement, led by **Nikki Petersen** of Paris Theatre Company!

Saturday 18 September
15h00-16h00, ages 8+

Sunday Event Calligraphy Workshop

Join us during our Fall Open House and discover the world of calligrapher **Abdessatar Jmei** as you make your own ink and learn the basics of calligraphy.

Sunday 26 September
15h00-16h30, ages 8-12

Attention TEENS

Self-Made



A three-part writing series on self-publishing

Learn more about blogging, ‘zines and songwriting.

Three consecutive Friday evenings 19h00-21h00:
8 October, 15 October, 22 October, ages 12+

Sign-up is required as space is limited. Teens are welcome to participate, even if they cannot attend all three sessions.

Gross-out!

That’s the weird theme of the story hour this day – where you can also meet **Celeste Rhoads**, the interim youth librarian who is helping while Helen is away!
Saturday 11 September
15h00-16h00

Attention TEENS

HOWL!

A full-moon workshop



with **Pedro de Alcantara**

Learn to use your voice to make the biggest and baddest sounds in the jungle. No previous experience needed. Bring your throat.

Friday 24 September
19h00-21h00, ages 12+

Celebrate Thanksgiving!

Give thanks and learn about the harvest holiday at our annual Thanksgiving program, featuring fun facts and stories!



Saturday 20 November,
15h00-16h00

Reading aloud for the very young



Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap Sit. Thursdays 10h30-11h00 Drop in sessions: No sign-up needed. **2 & 30 September, 7 & 28 October, 4 & 25 November.**

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30 Drop-in sessions: No sign-up needed.

BOOK GROUPS FOR AUTUMN

Signing up

Six seasons into this "experiment," the Library this fall is offering four new book groups, each with four monthly sessions through January, and a new art appreciation workshop. (Three other book groups continue from last year, fully subscribed.)

Any member of The American Library in Paris may participate, and anyone who wishes to participate may join The American Library. There is no fee for the groups, which are led by volunteers with special skills and interests.

Here are a few tips to signing up and getting started:

- Please write us at the email address below and indicate — in the subject line — which group you wish to join, as well as your Library membership number. The group leader will confirm your participation (up to twelve members per group) and send further details.

bookgroups@americanlibraryinparis.org

- Library membership is required to participate. If you are not a Library member, be prepared to register or renew at the first session (check/cash/credit card, photo ID and proof of residence required).

- Come to the first session prepared to discuss the first book or topic on the list. Arriving 15 minutes early will allow everyone to become acquainted.

- Men are most welcome in the book groups.

- The book groups are organized at the Library's initiative, but the group leaders — and members — will have broad discretion in how they unfold.

- The book group meetings will take place in the Library. The Library is otherwise closed to the public on Mondays. (Please ring the doorbell.) The Library will provide coffee, tea, and bottled water for the book groups, whose members may also wish to bring other refreshments or snacks. Book group members are responsible for cleanup in the reading room and the kitchen.

- For more information, contact Ann Mah at mah@americanlibraryinparis.org.

About the house

If the abode we choose to call home is partly an accident of circumstance, it is also an expression of our values — our aspirations, loyalties, unacknowledged hypocrisies, personal mythologies. Our home may also become a place sacred to our personal or familial histories. In reading two novels and two personal histories, we will consider how houses reflect who we are or wish to think we are.

Walden, Henry David Thoreau

Spoils of Poynton, Henry James

Brideshead Revisited, Evelyn Waugh

Sissinghurst, Adam Nicolson

A graduate of Colgate University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University Virginia, **Peter Fel-lowes** was formerly Dean of Faculty and Professor of English at North Park University. Today he is Senior Warden of the American Cathedral in Paris and a trustee of The American Library in Paris.

10h00 to 11h30 Mondays:
27 September, 18 October,
15 November, 6 December

Vanished worlds

The violent upheavals of the 19th and 20th centuries — war, revolution, long-delayed national independence — caused some whole societies, some deeply embedded or fanatically embraced ways of life, to suddenly cease to exist. And sometimes there was a writer of genius to capture, as in a snapshot, such a world on the brink of extinction. The resulting work has a peculiar power to fascinate and to haunt.

A Passage to India, E.M. Forster

The Last September, Elizabeth Bowen

The Leopard, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa

Berlin Diaries, 1940-45, Marie Vassiltchikov

Morgan Thomas holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and Princeton University. Since 2008, he has been making the first English translations of works by the contemporary French playwright Jean-Claude Brisville.

14h00 to 15h30 Mondays: 11 October,
8 November, 6 December, 10 January

Food, wonderful food!

We will read four books relating to cooking and eating in restaurants in various parts of the world. There will be an optional after-the-session lunch at different restaurants within walking distance of the American Library.

The Man Who Ate the World, Jay Rayner

Heat, Bill Buford

Medium Raw, Anthony Bourdain

Au Revoir to All That, Michael Steinberger

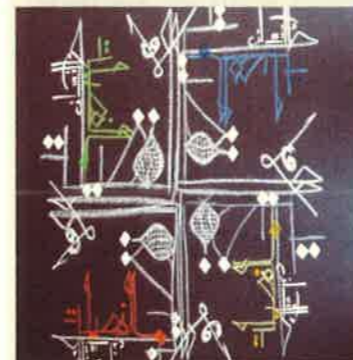
William Cagle spent 35 years at Indiana University and has co-authored two books on gastronomic literature, *A Matter of Taste* and *American Books on Food and Drink*. He is currently a Distinguished Visiting Librarian at the American Library in Paris. **Terry Cagle** has a background in art history and is a former managing editor of the Indiana University Press.

ART ON VIEW

The North Star Project -
Authors from the Americas

Saturday 18 September & Sunday 19 September

Meet artist **Jérôme E. Conquy** on September 18 & 19 from 14h00 - 17h00. Talk about his passion for video-making and photography as well as his "North Star Project" currently on exhibit — including a photo of Richard Russo, above.



Otherness: Outside the Borders

21 September through 14 November

Artist and calligrapher **Abdessatar Jmei** intertwines and overlaps letters, words, and texts from Latin, English, and Arabic in exuberant and generous ways.

Meet Abdessatar Jmei at the **Open House**
Sunday 26 September
13h30 - 14h30 and 17h00 - 18h00

Calligraphy workshop 15h00 - 16h30 (ages 8-12)
Abdessatar Jmei teaches you how to make your own ink and learn the basics of calligraphy. Parents may join in!

Looking closer...

Take a closer look at great works of art in this discussion group. Two slideshow presentations and two museum tours will be offered.



All sessions 14h00 to 15h30
Please see dates below

Caravaggio: Four hundred years after his sudden death at age 39, a retrospective of his work in Rome recently drew huge crowds. Looking carefully at his paintings will be helpful in understanding why the fascination is still so strong. (**Monday 4 October** at the Library.)

Landscape painting once was the lowest category in the hierarchy of the French Academy, yet in the 19th century, a group of young painters decided to make it their main subject matter. Let's look at their work, which changed the course of art history. (**Tuesday 9 November** at the Musée d'Orsay. Group members are responsible for entrance fees.)

Auguste Rodin is often considered to be the father of modern sculpture. By the time of his death in 1917, sculpture had been redefined from a selective imitation of nature to the art of the "hole and the lump." A closer look will make us understand why. (**Monday 6 December** at the Musée Rodin. Group members are responsible for entrance fees.)

20th-century sculpture further contradicted many rules of traditional sculpture by introducing new materials (including re-used ones), movement, energy and often humor. It quit the art gallery and the city. It's time to have a better look now. (**Monday 17 January** at the Library.)

Caroline de Navacelle is a Conférencière Nationale (lecturer) of the Ministère de la Culture and Ministère du Tourisme, a professional qualification she earned partly through her work experience as a docent at the Art Institute of Chicago and a guide at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago. A graduate of the Sorbonne, NYU, and the Ecole du Louvre, she currently lectures at the Grand Palais and the Gobelins and conducts architecture tours in Paris.

Ex Libris, the newsletter of the American Library in Paris, is published four times a year, in March, June, September and December.

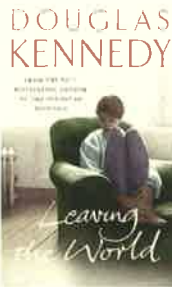
Current and past issues of the newsletter are available at www.americanlibraryinparis.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 15 September 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Novelist **Douglas Kennedy** on "Leaving the World."



Tuesday 21 September 19h30

Writers on Writing

Susan Loomis on cookbook writing and the sociology of food.

Wednesday 22 September 19h30

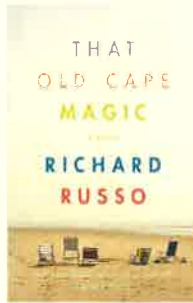
Evenings with an Expert

Michael House presents a documentary film on legendary photographers Eugène Atget and Berenice Abbott.

Thursday 23 September 19h30

Festival America@The Library

Bestselling author of "Empire Falls" and "That Old Cape Magic" **Richard Russo**.



Sunday 26 September

13h00-19h00

Open House at the Library

Tours, demonstrations, activities for children.

Tuesday 28 September 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Judith Merians on "To Kill a Mockingbird" - what makes a movie a classic, a universal theme embodied in the perfect cast with the deft director's touch.

Wednesday 29 September 19h30

Evenings with Gardens

Valentine de Ganay, co-author, with Laurent Le Bon, of *Courances*, discusses one of the great gardens of France, surrounding her family's chateau, in the debut of the Library's four-part 2010-2011 series on gardens.

Saturday 2 October 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale all day at the Library.

Tuesday 5 October 19h30

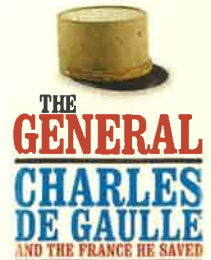
WWW@The Library

Africa's future: Powerhouse or tinderbox?

Wednesday 6 October 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Jonathan Fenby on his new biography of Charles de Gaulle, 'The General.' An interview with **Morgan Thomas**.



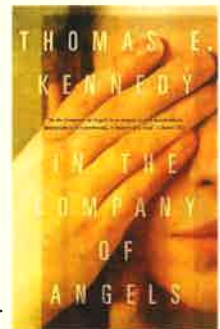
Tuesday 12 October 19h30

Self-production from script to short film, the experience making "**Bitchy Witchy**."

Wednesday 13 October 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Melinda Blau on "Consequential Strangers."



Wednesday 20 October 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Thomas Kennedy on "In the Company of Angels."

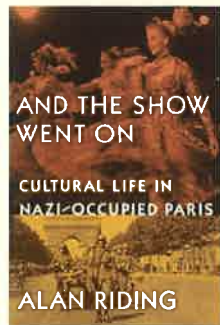
Saturday 6 November 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale at the Library.

Tuesday 9 November 19h30

Talk About Art

Chris Boicos on Mary Cassatt.



Wednesday 10 November 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Alan Riding on "And the Show Went On: Cultural Life in Nazi-Occupied Paris."

Wednesday 17 November 19h30

Evenings with Gardens

Charles Quest-Ritson, author of *Ninfa*, presents the garden of the same name built into the ruins of an Italian village. Part two of series on gardens.

10, rue du Général Camou
75007 Paris

01 53 59 12 60

www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Tuesday- Saturday, 10h00-19h00

Sunday, 13h00-19h00



Métro: Ecole Militaire (line 8)
or Alma-Marceau (line 9)

Bus: 42, 63, 69, 80, 82, 87, 92

RER C: Pont de l'Alma

Vélib': 43, av. Rapp station n° 7024